

Whitstable Congregational Church

Based on information obtained locally at Whitstable, Kent, it would appear that the first local form of commemoration of any of the towns fallen of the Great War, was in the form of a brass plaque which was originally located on an external wall of the Congregational Church, which commemorated former members of the congregation or the Sunday School. As the result of the union between the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales in 1972, the former Congregational Church then became the United Reform Church, and which was eventually converted into the Whitstable Playhouse, 104 High Street Whitstable, Kent. It was also learned that the memorial plaque was last seen in the vicars' office in the hall behind the playhouse, it having been rescued from the basement of the playhouse where it had been kept for many years. With the exception of one man, all of the casualties commemorated on the memorial plaque are also named on the Whitstable civic war memorial. In view of its obvious importance not only as a local artifact, but also for what it represents, it would be nice to think that hopefully at some time in the not to distant future the memorial plaque will be put on display again, or even erected once more in Whitstable. The brass memorial plaque bears the following inscription.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN SACRED MEMORY OF THE
FOLLOWING MEN OF THIS CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR. 1914-1918.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ALLEN, THOMAS EDWARD. Rifleman, R/37540.
11th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
59th Brigade, 20th (Light) Division.
Died 21 October 1917. Aged 18.
Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Camberley, Surrey. Resided Ilford, Essex.
Son of Thomas Edward and Mary Ann Baker Allen (née Goodwin) of 99, Albert Street, Whitstable, Kent.
Buried Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: II. A. 7.
At the time of the 1901 census the Allen family resided at Essex Street, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house 49 year old Whitstable native Thomas Allen (senior) who was employed as a Postman.

AMOS. E. Airman 2nd Class as he has been commemorated on the Whitstable civic war memorial, is possibly the following casualty being arguably also the best match for the person commemorated on the brass memorial plaque:-

AMOS, JAMES ERNEST. Airman 2nd Class, 19304.

Royal Flying Corps.

Died 17 February 1916. Aged 40.

Son of James and Susannah Ann Amos (née Collar)? (Please see below).

Husband of Alice Maud Amos (née Foxtton)? (Please see below).

Buried Curragh Military Cemetery, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland.

Grave Ref: 1223.

The 'Whitstable Times' dated 17 February 1917 recorded that Airman, E. Amos of the Royal Flying Corps had died in hospital. Although purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view of the newspaper details combined with the location where James is at rest, it would probably be indicative of his death having occurred at The Curragh Military Hospital. The impressive red brick hospital which was built in the late nineteenth century is located at The Curragh Military Camp which was the largest in Ireland and the attached cemetery where James is at rest was last used in 1922. It is also probably of real significance that whilst the transcriber was attempting to ascertain the identity of this casualty, it was noted that during the first quarter of 1876 in the Blean, Kent, Registration District (which covers the town of Whitstable), the birth of a boy named James Ernest Amos was registered, and as can be seen above the dates for birth and death match exactly. It would also seem likely that James had married Miss Alice Maud Foxtton, in the Blean, Kent, Registration District during the last quarter of 1899. At the time of the 1891 census, the Amos family resided at Springfield Terrace, Oxford Street, Whitstable. Head of the house was 39 year old Whitstable native James Amos (senior), who was a Baker and Confectioner, and also an employer. Ten years later, James (junior) was residing with his wife Alice at Teynham Road, Whitstable. The census enumerator in 1901 recorded James as being a 25 year old Whitstable native and the head of the house, at which time he was employed as the Foreman at a Carpentry and Joinery shop. James's occupational details on the later census entry might be of real significance re identifying him as being the correct person who has been commemorated as this war memorial casualty, as at the time of the commencement of the Great War on 4 August 1914, it would be fair to assume that by that time James would probably have had approximately 25 years experience as a skilled Carpenter and Joiner, and in view of same he would doubtless have been welcomed with open arms by the Royal Flying Corps, to serve in the corps as an Air Frame Rigger or a similar trade.



BAKER, JOHN. Seaman, 1402D.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. "Cressy."

Died Tuesday 22 September 1914. Aged 48.

Son of Daniel and Harriet Baker of Marshside, Kent.

Husband of Margaret Ann Baker (née Jarman) of 8, Fountain Street, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 8, as shown above.

Early in the Great War the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C,' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 had become the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed, and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peacetime, and were able to reload torpedoes beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S.Aboukir which stuck her on her port side. H.M.S.Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned although only one boat had survived the attack, as the result of which most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S.Aboukir had been mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S.Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S.Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of H.M.S.Aboukir from the enemy submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy, which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but she quickly got underway on sighting a submarine periscope. At about 0720 hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed, but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace, which hit

H.M.S. Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels Flora and Titan, and the British trawlers JGC and Corainder, before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On 18 March 1915 the German u-boat U-29 was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, all 32 submariners onboard perished including Otto Weddigen who had been in command since 16 February 1915.

BULL, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, 63120.
23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), (1st Sportsmans)
Died 24 March 1917.
Born and enlisted Whitstable, Kent.
Son of Thomas Charles Bull of 14, Swanfield Road, Whitstable, Kent, and of the late Emma Jane Bull (née Pain).
Buried Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme. France. Grave Ref: VII. D. 14.
Formerly Private, G/12153, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
At the time of the 1901 census, the then 6 year old William was residing as a boarder with his widowed father who was employed as a House Painter and with his elder brother 9 year old Albert Thomas Bull at 16, Church Road, Whitstable. Head of the house was 38 year old Whitstable native Joseph Herbert Bennett, who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer.

CLARINGBOLD, EDWARD. Private, 39512.
1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.
Died 20 October 1918.
Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.
Son of Robert William E. Claringbold of 44 North Street, Kennington Road, Lambeth, London, SE1, and of the late Mrs. Claringbold.
Buried Béthencourt Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: C. 21
Commemorated on the Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, civic war memorial.
Edward enlisted in the army on 4 October 1917, and called up for service on 25 March 1918, at which time he stated that he was employed as Bricklayers Labourer, aged 18 years and 202 days, and that he was residing at 19, Alma Street, Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Following his enlistment, Edward was initially posted to the 5th (Reserve) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment at Tonbridge, Kent. On 22 August 1918, Edward was posted to France as a member of the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, in which he then remained until his death. Six of the Great War casualties that are commemorated on the Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, civic war memorial are shown devoid of their initial or initials, one of whom is Edward.

COLLAR, ALFRED VICTOR.

Deck Hand, 3261SD.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M. Drifter, "Beneficent."

Died Thursday 1 June 1916. Aged 18.

Born Whitstable, Kent June 1898.

Son of Alfred John Collar of Gordon House, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 19.

Prior to the event, the Fleet Headquarters of ships of the Austro-Hungarian Navy received the news that an enemy troop convoy was going to sail through the Strait of Otranto at the end of May, and resultant of same issued orders for some of its ships to attack the convoy. In response to the orders issued, the destroyers Balaton, Orjen, and torpedo boats No.77 T, No.79 T, and No.81 T, sailed on the night of Wednesday 31 May 1916 from the Bay of Cattaro to engage the troop convoy. When the Austro-Hungarian ships arrived at the Strait of Otranto which connects the Adriatic Sea with the Ionian Sea, they searched in vain for many hours for the troop carriers, and it was thought at the time that the news which had led to their dispatch to the area, was either erroneous or that they had simply missed the convoy. When the Austro-Hungarian ships were off the island of Saseno, four trawlers were spotted which belonged to the Strait barrage forces. Orjen, the group leader sunk one of them with gunfire, which was the 80 ton H.M. Drifter Beneficent. When Alfred's vessel was sunk, the other three drifters switched off their signal lights, and released their towed anti-submarine nets. The three drifters then scattered and vacated the area of the sinking, but all three vessels radioed for help. The pursuing Austro-Hungarian ships received the radio signals, and were afraid that the alarmed allied naval forces might cut off their escape route back to their base in the Bay of Cattaro, and sensibly abandoned the pursuit off the three fleeing drifters. Alfred was one of nine members of the Royal Naval Reserve who perished with the sinking of H.M. Drifter, Beneficent.

FOAD, WILLIAM BROWNING. Private, G/52303.

2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 24 April 1917. Aged 31.

Born Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Whitstable, Kent.

Son of Fred and Mary Ann Foad of 28, Church Road, Whitstable, Kent.

Buried Windmill British Cemetery, Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. D. 10.

HAWKES, CHARLES. No clear trace at this time.

LAWSON, ALFRED. Private, G/18496.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 2 August 1918.

Born and resided Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent.

Buried Unicorn Cemetery, Vend'huile, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: I. C. 33.

Formerly Private, G/18496, 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Alfred appears to have been the son of Whitstable natives Alfred and Mima Lawson.

MANTLE, RICHARD CHARLES. Private, TF/241582.

1st/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 24 August 1918. Aged 24.

Born, enlisted and resided Whitstable, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Clara Mantle of 41, Island Wall, Whitstable, Kent.

Buried Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: V. G. 26.

Formerly Private, 5852, 4th/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Richard attested for the army on 8 February 1916, stating that he was aged 22 and was employed as a Carman, and was then placed on the army reserve the following day. On 15 March 1916 Richard was mobilised, and posted to the 4th/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Whilst serving in the latter battalion at Purfleet, Essex, Richard was hospitalized from 9 May 1916 to 22 May 1916 suffering with Influenza. On 18 March 1918, Richard was transferred to the 1st/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, and sailed with the battalion from Folkestone to Boulogne the day after his transfer. Following Richard's death his father was informed of same on 5 September 1918. Plots I and II at Croisilles British Cemetery were made between April 1917 and March 1918, and the rest including that of Richard's was formed after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields and from some smaller burial grounds. Richard's father was sent a letter from the Infantry Record Office, Hanwell, Middlesex, dated 9 August 1920, explaining that his late sons body had been re-interred Croisilles British Cemetery, which had been carried out with due reverence and respect, and that during the reburials appropriate religious services had been observed. It was also Richard's father who was sent his late sons British War Medal and Victory Medal on 28 September 1921.

MUMMERY, ALFRED ERNEST. Private, L/10012.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 20 October 1914.

Born Seasalter, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Whitstable, Kent.

Son of George Samuel Mummery and Ellen Selina Mummery (née Bartrum) of 80, Middle Wall, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Mummery family resided at the address shown above. Head of the house was 45 year old Whitstable native George

Samuel Mummery, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Alfred enlisted in the army as a regular soldier on 10 May 1913, for a term of 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve, at which time he was aged 20 years and 11 months, and employed as a Farm Labourer. Four days after his enlistment, as instructed, Alfred reported to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) Regimental Depot at Canterbury, Kent. On the completion of his basic training in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), Alfred was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 16 August 1913, and then remained in the battalion until he was killed in action on 20 October 1914. Prior to the Great War, Alfred had served with the battalion at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, and whilst there he had passed his Army 3rd Class Education Certificate. On 12 August 1914, the Battalion left Fermoy and was joined by 554 reservists, a lot of them wearing either India General Service or Boer War medal ribbons on their tunics, and in some cases, both. From that it can be deduced that the battalion when it arrived at Cambridge on 19 August was comprised of a large number of experienced soldiers. During Alfred's battalions stay at Cambridge it was billeted at Christ's College. After leaving Cambridge, the battalion went to Southampton where it boarded the SS Minneapolis in the docks on 8 September, and sailed for the French port of St. Nazaire where it arrived the following day. As was the overall situation with all of the units which were serving in the British Expeditionary Force early in the Great War, the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), was forced to make several moves to a number of locations. During October 1914 until and including the date of his death, Alfred's battalion, it was "relieved by French troops on 12 October and went to Bazoches. The battalion entrained for Cassel on 13 October. Moved forward on 17 October and took over Divisional Reserve positions at Bois Grenier. Later the battalion held the line at Croix Maréchal - Rue de Bois. With the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, on 18 October Alfred's battalion advanced on the village of Radinghem-en-Weppes near Armentieres, with the two battalions being divided by the Bois Grenier-Radinghem road. Radinghem-en-Weppes was taken along with Chateau de Flandres. Following a German counter-attack, Alfred's battalion fell back to wood located on the south side of Radinghem-en-Weppes. Enemy troops attacked throughout the day that Alfred fell (20 October 1914), forcing a battalion withdrawal through Radinghem-en-Weppes to Grande Flamengrie Farm during night. Casualties were Lieutenants Joseph D. Phillips, R. McDougall, R.S. Glyn and Second-Lieutenant Mervyn Noott killed in action, the Commanding Officer of the battalion Colonel Julian Hasler, and 3 other officers were wounded, 17 other ranks were killed in action, plus 57 wounded, and 62 missing. The majority of the latter category of casualties (including Alfred) were subsequently found to have lost their lives, and they too are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial. Also numbered amongst the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) other ranks fallen on Tuesday 20 October 1914, who are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, was Frank George Johns who is commemorated in All Saints parish church, Whitstable and on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

PIERCE, IVESON JOHN. Private, 1777.

12th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 6 August 1915. Aged 29.

Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted and resided Perth, Western Australia.

Son of Frederick Pierce and Emily Jane Pierce (née Fryer) of 14, The Mall, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Shell Green Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey. Grave Ref: II. F. 3.

Commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 67.

Iveson's birth was registered in the Blean, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1886. At the time of the 1891 census, the then 4 year old Iveson and four of his siblings resided at Mizpah House, Whitstable with their 76 year old widowed grandmother; Mary A. Pierce who was a native of Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent. On 14 February 1914, the 9,028 ton Orient Steam Navigation Co, Ltd., ship R.M.S. Orontes, arrived in London from Brisbane, Australia, and amongst her passengers were a number of Australian soldiers most of whom (possibly all) were natives of the United Kingdom, including Private Iveson John Pierce. Following his return back to Australia, it would appear that Iveson had left the army and became a Civil Servant, but had then enlisted in the army again at Perth, Western Australia on 18 January 1915. Iveson had emigrated to Australia at the age of 23, and was employed as a Clerk at the Perth General Post Office. Prior to leaving England, Iveson had been employed in the Borough Surveyors Office at Faversham, Kent. When Iveson enlisted on 18 January 1915 at Perth, Western Australia, he gave his home address as 14, Esplanade, Perth, Western Australia, and named his father as his next of kin. Following his army enlistment, Iveson carried out his basic training at No. 5 Depot Company until being posted to the 12th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. on 16 February 1915. In a reinforcement draft for Gallipoli, Iveson sailed from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, on the 9,152 ton Australian Troopship H.M.A.T. Star of England (A15), on Sunday 14 April 1915. Australian documentation shows that Iveson was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsular on 6 August 1915, and that he was a Congregationalist who was admired by his comrades for his prowess as a Cricketer and Footballer, and also for his clean and sober lifestyle. Iveson's battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions of the Australian Infantry, A.I.F. it formed the 3rd Brigade. The battalion was raised within three weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914, and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at about 0430 hours. Regretably, 57 year old Lieutenant-Colonel Lancelot F. Clarke, D.S.O., who was the Commanding Officer of the 12th Battalion, was killed by a Turkish sniper literally within a few hours of the landing. The battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC position and in August contributed two companies to the attack on Lone Pine. It was the only battalion in the brigade to

do so. The 12th served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 12th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at the village of Pozières in the Somme valley in July 1916. Following the fighting Pozières, the battalion fought at Ypres in Belgium, and then returned to the Somme for the winter.



RICHARDS, FREDERICK WILLIAM. Petty Officer Stoker, K/3581.

Royal Navy, H.M.T.B. "No.10."

Died Thursday 10 June 1915. Aged 25.

Born Canterbury, Kent 15 November 1889.

Husband of Nora Emma Richards of 9, Harbour Place, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of All Saints, Whitstable, Kent.

Frederick was one of 23 sailors who lost their lives resultant of when H.M. Torpedo Boat 10 (formerly H.M.S. Greenfly) which was a Cricket class coastal destroyer was mined and sunk in the North Sea off the Essex coast, at a point between the Light Vessel and the Shipwash South Buoy, by the German coastal minelayer uboat UC-11. Frederick survived the actual sinking but died later the same day after being rescued by the Germans, and he is officially recorded as having died whilst a prisoner of war. The 245 ton vessel on which Frederick was serving when he died was built in 1907, and had a ships compliment of 39 officers and ratings. It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that of the 48 Royal Navy casualties who lost their lives on Thursday 10 June 1915, the majority of them were of the motor torpedo boat crews of H.M.T.B. "No.10," and H.M.T.B. "No.12," with several of their number being either natives or residents of the county of Kent. At the time of the loss of Frederick's ship, the UC-11 was commanded by 28 year old Oberleutnant zur See, Walter Gottfried Schmidt who commanded the uboat from 23 April 1915 to 11 August 1916. N.B. On some of the data sources checked it shows that H.M.T.B. "No.10" was sunk by a torpedo fired by the UC-11, as opposed to being mined by the uboat.

RICKWOOD, ALFRED HENRY. Telegraphist, J/47053.

Royal Navy, H.M. Tug, Charm.

Died Saturday 28 June 1919. Aged 20.

Born Whitstable, Kent 24 March 1899.

Son of Albert Edward Rickwood and Charlotte Rutland Rickwood of 9, Belmont Terrace, Church Road, Whitstable, Kent.

Buried Whitstable Cemetery, Milstrood Road, Whitstable, Kent. Grave Ref: H. 6.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Rickwood family resided at 30, Swanfield Road, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Bridge, Canterbury, Kent native Albert Edward Rickwood, who was employed as a General Labourer. Of the eight Rickwood children who were recorded by the census enumerator as

being at home on the night of the census, Alfred was the sole Whitstable native. Doubtless due to the date when he was drowned, Alfred is not commemorated on the Whitstable, Kent, civic war memorial. Alfred was a brother of Charles Alfred Rickwood who is commemorated on the Whitstable, Kent, civic war memorial. Both of the Rickwood brothers are commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of All Saints, Whitstable.

RIGDEN, HENRY. Private, G/2927.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 23 July 1917.

Born, enlisted and resided Whitstable, Kent.

Son of Alfred and Charlotte Rigden of Whitstable, Kent.

Buried Hooze Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: XII. B. 7.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Rigden family resided at 9, Bellevue Cottages, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Whitstable native Alfred Rigden, who was employed as the Skipper of a Fishing Smack. The then 15 year old Henry was employed as a Furniture Shop Boy. Henry was posted to France on 31 August 1915.

ROWDEN, HERBERT CHARLES. Sapper, 17191.

57th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 14 September 1914. Aged 27.

Born and resided Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of Agnes Amelia Elizabeth Rowden (née Clothier), and the late Charles Henry Rowden of Whitstable, Kent.

Husband of Beatrice Letitia Rowden (née Nicholls) of 'Jesmond Dene,' 105 Nelson Road, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated at Vailly British Cemetery, Vailly-sur-Aisne, France.

Ref: Special Memorial 36.

At the time of the 1901 census Herbert was living with his 52 year old widowed mother; Agnes Amelia Elizabeth Rowden (née Clothier) at Nelson Road, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house was Herbert's uncle, 48 year old Whitstable native Frederick Charles Clothier (senior), who the census enumerator recorded as "Living on his own means." On earlier census entries Frederick is recorded as being a Master Mariner. Also residing at the house was 12 year old Whitstable native Frederick Charles Clothier (junior), who lost his life at sea Sunday on 12 August 1917, and is also commemorated on the Whitstable civic war memorial.

Commemorated on the brass memorial plaque as Charles E. Saunders, the best match for the casualty appears to be the following soldier:-

SAUNDERS, CHARLES EDWARD. Private, 74832.

139th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 26 July 1917.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Exeter, Devon. Resided Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Son of Charles and Flora Saunders (née Higgins).

Buried Bus House Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: G. 21.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Saunders family resided at 24, Brockley Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was Margate native Charles Saunders who was employed as a Gas Fitter.

SAUNDERS, FREDERICK. Corporal, G/9430.
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 23 October 1918.
Born Greenwich, Kent. Enlisted and resided Whitstable, Kent.
Husband of Mrs. H. Saunders of 3, Victoria Street, Whitstable, Kent.
Buried Montay Neuilly Road Cemetery, Montay, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IV. B. 10.

SAUNDERS, WILLIAM CHARLES. Drummer, T/153.
1/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Saturday 15 April 1916. Aged 32.
Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Herne Bay, Kent. Resided Whitstable, Kent.
Son of William Saunders and Grace E. Saunders of Tannery Cottage, Chalkwell Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
Husband of Frances Annie Saunders (née Prett) of Leggetts Lane, Sea Street, Whitstable, Kent.
Buried All Saints Churchyard, Whitstable, Kent.
Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of All Saints, Whitstable, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Saunders family resided at 38, Middle Wall, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house was Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent native William Saunders (senior) who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. The then 17 year old William (junior) was also recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. William enlisted in the 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 4 February 1903, and stated that he was a serving member of 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when he enlisted as a member of the Territorial Force on 2 April 1908. The date of his enlistment is particular significance, it being the day after the disbanding of the Volunteer Force, and being replaced by the Territorial Force. William stated that he was aged 24 years and 10 months, and that he was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer by a Mr. Solly of Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent. At the time of his Territorial Force enlistment, William resided at Leggetts Lane, Sea Street, Whitstable. William served within the United Kingdom until 30 October 1914 when he sailed from Southampton for India with the 1/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). In India, the Home Counties Division, to which William's battalion belonged, was broken up. William also served in Aden from 5 August 1915 with his battalion, during the time he was stationed at Aden, he was hospitalized from 29 December 1915 to 3 January 1916, and on the latter date he was sent back to England suffering from Beriberi. After returning to England, William was a patient at the Woodcote Park

Convalescent Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, from 23 February 1916 to 8 March 1916. On 14 April 1916, William was admitted as a patient to the former Queen Mary's Coronation Holiday Home at Barn House, Whitstable, which during the Great War was in use as a 30 bed Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital, where at 1330 hours the following day he died as the result of the effects of Beriberi.

STROUD, RICHARD ERNEST. Deck Hand, 295DA.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M. Trawler Whooper. (688).

Died 30 June 1916. Aged 38.

Son of James and Maria Stroud of 26, Nelson Road, Whitstable, Kent.

Husband of Annie Stroud of 33, Regent Street, Whitstable, Kent.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 23.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Stroud family resided at 26, Nelson Road, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Whitstable native James Stroud, who was employed as a Sea Mariner. The then 27 year old Richard was also recorded as being a Sea Mariner by the census enumerator. Built by J. Duthie Torry Shipbuilding Company, of Aberdeen and completed in July 1914, the 302 ton steam trawler Whooper was owned by the Cygnet Steam Fishing Co Ltd, of Fleetwood, Lancashire, and had the Port No. FD15 (Fleetwood). In December 1914, the trawler was requisitioned for war service by the Board of Admiralty and was then fitted out minesweeping duties, on the completion of her refit, she was then renamed H.M. Trawler Whooper. She was mined in the North Sea and sunk with the loss of her Skipper, 50 year old Thomas G. Phipps, and eight of the ships ratings, one of whom was Richard.



TOMPSETT, FREDERICK. Private, 139242.

75th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment).

Died Saturday 18 November 1916. Aged 39.

Born Newhaven, Sussex 30 August 1877. Enlisted Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Husband of Mrs. Annie Mildred Tompsett of 452 Westmorland Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Buried Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. J. 9. Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of All Saints, Whitstable, Kent, and on the Sons of England war memorial which was unveiled at 1500 hours on Saturday 29 December 1923, and is located on University Avenue at Elm Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Frederick is also commemorated on page 174 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

When Frederick enlisted in the army on 10 September 1915, he had resided in Canada for 11 years. He named his wife Annie as his next of kin, and also stated that he was a bricklayer residing at 452 Westmorland Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Prior to being killed in action, most of Frederick's time spent in action was as a stretcher bearer, on many occasions during the performance of which he had worked under fire rescuing the wounded.



TRESIZE, OLIVER. Private, 4573.
19th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.
5th (New South Wales) Brigade, 2nd Australian Division.
Died 5 November 1917. Aged 22.
Born Epsom, Surrey.
Son of Thomas Henry and Agnes Tresize (née MacNaught) of 63, Canterbury Road, Whitstable, Kent. Formerly of Vine Terrace, Whitstable, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: XXI. EE. 10A.
Commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 90.
Oliver was educated at the Council School, Whitstable, and had emigrated to Australia when he was 17 years old, originally intending to work on a farm. Possibly the journey from England to Australia, was a contributory factor in Oliver's different form of employment in Australia. When Oliver enlisted in the Australian army at Casula Camp, New South Wales on Saturday 11 December 1915, he stated that he was a 20 year old Merchant Seaman, and named his mother Mrs. Agnes Tresize of Vine Terrace, Whitstable, Kent, as his next of kin. Oliver embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on 9 April 1916 with the 11th Reinforcements, aboard 14,501 ton Australian troopship H.M.A.T. Nestor (A71) which had been requisitioned from the Ocean SS Co Ltd, of

Liverpool. Oliver's battalion was raised at Liverpool, New South Wales in March 1915, as part of the 5th (New South Wales) Brigade. A large number of the original recruits of Oliver's battalion had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, during the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. left Australia in late June 1915, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 21 August 1915 landed at ANZAC Cove. Following its time spent fighting at Gallipoli, and after further training in Egypt with the 19th Battalion, Oliver embarked at the port of Alexandria on 29 May 1916, aboard the 5,531 ton Australian troopship H.M.A.T. Megantic which arrived at Plymouth, Devon, on 7 June 1916. Oliver served in the 5th Training battalion in England, prior to sailing for France on 9 September 1916, and arrived at the 2nd Australian Division Base Depot at Etaples in the Pas de Calais two days later. On 24 September 1916, Oliver marched out to the 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. which he joined in the field on two days later. Oliver went on leave to England on 25 August 1917, following which he arrived back at the front with his battalion on 2 September 1917. The 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. took part in its first major offensive on the Western Front, around the Somme village of Pozières between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October, and took part in an attack near Flers on the Somme between 14 and 16 November 1916, in conditions that various commentators described as the worst ever encountered by the Australian Imperial Force. In 1917 the battalion was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the 'Hindenburg Line,' and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German significantly numerically superior force, which was almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The battalion took part in three more major battles in 1917; at Bullecourt to the south of Arras, France (3-4 May). Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle, Belgium (9-10 October). Oliver died at the 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station of wounds which were inflicted on the day prior to his death, during the Battle of Passchendaele. Oliver's injuries had included Gunshot wounds to the front of his left thigh and leg, forearm and wrist.

WOOD, ROBERT. Private, 51751.

11th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Died 20 February 1917.

Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Canning Town, London. Resided Plaistow, London.

Buried Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: V. C. 36.

Formerly Rifleman, 30822, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Unfortunately it has not been possible at this time, to add any additional details about Robert or his family etcetera.