

Worth



Unveiled in September 1920 by William Lygon, 7th Earl Beauchamp K.G., K.C.M.G, P.C., and dedicated by the Vicar of Worth, the Reverend Francis Douglas Hodson M.A., the civic war memorial at the picturesque village of Worth near Sandwich, Kent, is situated in a very prominent position within the central conservation area of the parish. Constructed of Aberdeen granite, the memorial is bounded by three roads, and an attractive duck pond which formerly marked the end of a navigable creek, the memorial is on the opposite side of the road from the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul. An unusual but pleasing feature of the Worth civic war memorial, is that it appears to one of very few forms of war remembrance in the county of Kent or elsewhere, which has almost all of the parish war deaths of the Great War commemorated on it, but regrettably a not insignificant number of Worth Second World War casualties have not been commemorated on it. In the summer of 2005 the civic war memorial was refurbished with the help of a grant from English Heritage. The refurbishment work which has clearly been done to a very high standard had included the removal and replacement of the surrounding paving, plus the re-pointing of the actual civic war memorial.

The Great War

1914 -1919

CHAPMAN, FREDERICK THOMAS. Sapper, 207449.

63rd (Royal Naval) Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died Saturday 23 March 1918. Aged 35.

Born Sholden, Kent. Enlisted Walmer, Kent. Resided Deal, Kent.

Son of Thomas Chandler Chapman and Ellen Chapman (née Farrier).

Husband of Edith Eleanor Chapman (née Pemble) of Fairfield Cottage, Mongeham, Deal, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 1, and on the Great War memorial plaques located in the Victoria Hospital, Deal, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Chapman family resided at the Coach & Horses Public House, Sholden, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Worth, Kent native Thomas Chandler Chapman, who was a Licenced Victualler and a Lime Burner. The then 17 year old Frederick was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Lime Burner's Labourer, which was probably indicative of him working for his father. Formerly Sapper, Deal/703/S, Royal Marine Divisional Engineers. Frederick enlisted in the Royal Marines on 23 November 1914 at Walmer, Kent, and had served in the Royal Marine Signal Company, of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from 1 March 1915, during which time he had been on active service at Gallipoli, Turkey. Frederick later served in the British Expeditionary Force from 19 May 1916, and transferred to the Royal Engineers on 31 January 1917. He was killed in action during shelling by the enemy near the commune of Neuville-Bourjonval, Pas de Calais, France.

FOSTER, CECIL PERCY. Private, 47912.

13th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died Thursday 24 October 1918. Aged 21.

Born Dartford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Demetrius Foster and Harriett Emma Foster (née Burley) of "Cholaghur," Dover Road, Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Linda Foster (née Smith) of Chase Farm Schools, Enfield, Middlesex.

Buried Ghissignies British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: A. 59.

Also commemorated on the Sandwich, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Foster family resided at 105 Overy Street, Dartford, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Sevenoaks, Kent native Demetrius Foster who was employed as a Road Foreman. Cyril's brother Demetrius Seamark Foster served in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) from 2 December 1915 until being discharged on 25 March 1919 as a Serjeant. He was in receipt of a pension for a gunshot wound to his left ankle, and a wound to his right shoulder inflicted during the Great War.



FRIEND, JAMES RICHARD. Private, G/4966.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Monday 24 May 1915. Aged 24.
Born West Langdon, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Son of William Friend and Susanah Friend of 3, Mill Lane Cottages, Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, as shown above.

FRIEND, JOHN THOMAS. Private, G/4967.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Sunday 7 October 1917. Aged 27.
Born East Langdon, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Son of Mrs. G. M. Friend, of Solly Farm, Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.
John was educated at Northbourne Church of England School, Kent.

GIBBENS, CHARLES EDWARD. Gunner, 98286.
"C" Battery, 23rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died Thursday 7 November 1918. Aged 20.
Born Eastry, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.
Son of James Henry Gibbens of Uffington Cottage, Adisham Road, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: S. III. U. 27.
Charles's demise was particularly tragic as he had enlisted in the army at start of the Great War in August 1914, and died during the final week of the conflict.

GREEN, HERBERT WALTER. D.S.O. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.
The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Attached to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died Tuesday 31 December 1918. Aged 40.
Born Watford, Hertfordshire.
Second son of Maria Jane Green of 13, Queens Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and of the late Walter James Green.
Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: S. V. L. 13.
Herbert was given a University Commission in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), at the time of the Second Boer War. At the commencement of the Great War, Herbert had been serving in Nigeria with the West African Forces. On returning to England he initially commanded the 11th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment.

HENDERSON, FRANK HANNAM. C.M.G., D.S.O., R.N. Vice Admiral.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "President."

Died Wednesday 26 June 1918. Aged 68.

Born Worth, Sandwich, Kent 2 June 1850.

Son of the late John Henderson and Laura Catherine Henderson (née Hannam) of "Felderland", Worth, Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Agnes Jane Henderson (née Burgess) of "Hakone", Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire.

Buried Haslar Royal Naval Hospital, Gosport, Hampshire. Grave Ref: H. 11. 3.

Enlisted in the Royal Navy on 9 December 1862. Specially promoted to Lieutenant in 1872 for the capture of the Slave Dhow "Jasmine," off the coast of Arabia. Served in the Ashantee Campaign of 1873-1874, and in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882-1889. Frank was the senior officer on West Coast of Africa at outbreak of the Sierra Leone Rebellion of 1898-1899. Mentioned in Despatches and made a Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George. He served as the Admiral in command of Atlantic Convoys 1917-1918. Awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his War Services. Frank had also been awarded the Royal Humane Society's Medal for saving life at sea. His death was recorded in the Alverstoke, Hampshire, Registration District during the third quarter of 1918. Although he retired to Somerset, Frank's late father John Henderson who was a Magistrate, was both a native and long time resident of Worth, residing at Upton House, Deal Road, Worth which is now a care home.

HODGSON, CYRIL FRANCIS. Second Lieutenant.

2nd Battalion, 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry.

Died Thursday 11 January 1917. Aged 19.

Born Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent December 1897.

Son of the Reverend Francis Douglas Hodgson M.A., and Margaret Hodgson (née Hassall), of Worth Cottage, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XVIII. K. 2.

Commemorated in the parish church of St. Michael, Throwley, Faversham, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census the Hodgson family resided at Cheriton Rectory, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 48 year old Croydon, Surrey, native The Reverend Francis Douglas Hodgson, who was a clergyman of the Church of England, and from 1896 to 1901 was the Rector of Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent, prior to which he had been the incumbent of St. Peter's parish church Sandwich from 1892 to 1896. Prior to his retirement and moving to Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent, Cyril's father was the Vicar of the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Worth, Kent, from 1901 to 1920. In view of the name of the Hodgson family place of residence at Broadstairs, it was probably an indication of the nineteen years that the family spent at Worth. During the Great War, the 2nd Battalion, 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry, in which Cyril served as an officer was formed in 1916, and served in Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India.

HOILE, ARTHUR GEORGE. Lance Corporal, 10769.

4th Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

Died Wednesday 6 November 1918. Aged 24.

Born and resided Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Jobe Hoile and Jane Eliza Hoile (née Ladd) of Ham, Eastry, Kent.

Buried Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: VIII. A. 4.

Also commemorated on the Ham, Kent, civic war memorial.

Prior to his death Arthur one of at least ten surviving children of Jobe Hoile and Jane Eliza Hoile, and he was their fourth son. On 21 October 1912, Arthur enlisted in the army on an engagement of 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the army reserve, and was attested to the 2nd Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. At the time of his engagement, Arthur stated that he was aged 18 and 9 months, and that he was employed as a Farm Labourer. Arthur also stated that he had already completed six months service as a member of the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in which he was still serving. After serving in the 2nd Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, Arthur was transferred to the 4th Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, and was serving at Gharial, India at the commencement of the Great War. Following his battalions return to England on 15 November 1914, Arthur went with the battalion to serve in France from 21 December 1914. Arthur later served at Salonika with his battalion, and was still in the same battalion when it returned to France. He died of his wounds after being hit in his chest by enemy machine gun fire.

JAMES, SAMUEL GEORGE. Sub-Lieutenant.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Hood Battalion, 189th Brigade, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

Died Tuesday 9 October 1917. Aged 28.

Born Dartford, Kent. 3 December 1889.

Son of Samuel George James and Rhoda James (née Palmer) of Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried La Brique Military Cemetery No 2, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

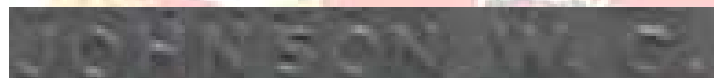
Grave Ref: I. O. 16.

Also commemorated on the Sandwich, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Acting Petty Officer, ZX/519, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

At the time of the 1901 census the James family resided at The Club House, Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Worcester, Worcestershire, native Samuel George James (senior) who was employed at the golf club as the House Steward. Prior to enlisting in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 2 October 1914, data checked shows that Samuel was employed as a Golf Club Secretary. In view of his age at the time of his enlistment, combined with his parents address, and in view of the status of the Royal St. George's Golf Club at Sandwich, Kent at that time, and indeed as is still the case today, it would seem somewhat unlikely that Samuel was the Golf Club Secretary of Royal St. George's Golf Club prior to enlisting as a rating in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. At the risk of causing unintentional offence to

past and present golfers in Kent, it did occur to the high handicap transcriber of these brief commemorations, that Samuel might have been a Golf Club Secretary of shall we say a less prestigious Golf Club, but a more likely explanation was that Samuel had been employed at Royal St. George's Golf Club, but in a different capacity. Samuel served in the Howe Battalion, 189th Brigade, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division from the time of his enlistment until 27 May 1915. Samuel received a gunshot wound to his back whilst fighting at Antwerp, which necessitated his evacuation back to the United Kingdom. After the completion of the treatment for the gunshot wound, Samuel later rejoined the Howe Battalion. During his time spent serving as a member of Howe Battalion, Samuel unfortunately suffered a number of bouts of illness, including Diarrhoea, Sycosis Face, and several abrasions to both of his legs as the result of becoming entangled in enemy barbed wire, and in addition to his illnesses and injuries he also received further wounds whilst serving on the Western Front. Despite all of his 'troubles,' Samuel was later returned to the United Kingdom in order for him to undertake officer training. On the successful completion of his officer training after he was discharged as a rating to be a Commissioned Temporary Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, effective from 29 May 1917. Samuel was drafted for the British Expeditionary Force on 7 September 1917, and had joined the Hood Battalion on 27 September 1917.


JOHNSON, WILLIAM GEORGE. Private, CH/15485.
Royal Marine Light Infantry, H.M.S. Hawke.
Died Thursday 15 October 1914. Aged 26.
Born 27 February 1888.

Son of George and Ellen Johnson of Flint Cottage, Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 7.

William enlisted in the Royal Marines (Chatham Division) on 30 April 1906. Of all the vessels of any nation that were lost during either of the two world wars without a doubt the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, has been the easiest to ascertain 'facts' by the transcriber for inclusion on this or any other website. One of the sixty survivors of the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke was Royal Naval Reservist, and peacetime Postman, Joseph Edward Cooke of Parracombe, Barnstaple, Devon. One of Joseph's grandsons Kenneth Cooke, is like his late grandfather a former member of the Royal Navy, and has been a long time friend of the transcriber of these brief commemorations. On several occasions in the past Ken has helped in explaining obscure nautical phrases, and also provided other information appertaining to the Royal Navy. About thirty years ago Ken furnished the transcriber with data appertaining to the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, including a copy of a newspaper interview that his grandfather had given after his safe return to Parracombe. The newspaper cutting is incredibly accurate and consistent with that of other data which has been accessed from books and the internet. Commanded by 40 year old Captain Hugh P.E.T. Williams, R.N. who was a recipient of a Royal Humane Society Medal. H.M.S. Hawke was a 7,770 ton

armoured cruiser of the Edgar class, which at the time of her loss was operating as part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron assigned to the Northern Patrol. H.M.S. Hawke was laid down on 17 June 1889, and had been launched at Chatham, Kent on 11 March 1891, which meant that she was one of the oldest ships still in service with the Royal Navy at the time of her loss. She had been re-commissioned in February 1913 with a nucleus crew, and had come up to her full complement at the commencement of the Great War. On 15 October 1914 H.M.S. Hawke was being used as a training ship and had many young naval cadets on board, and was sailing in company with H.M.S. Theseus. When the ships were approximately sixty miles off the coast of Aberdeen, H.M.S. Hawke turned to intercept a neutral Norwegian collier, shortly after doing so both ships were attacked by the faster German submarine U-9, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen, who had been tracking the ships for some time. When he commenced his attack Otto Weddigen fired his first torpedo at H.M.S. Theseus, but fortunately it had missed her. Quickly turning his attention to H.M.S. Hawke, Otto Weddigen then fired a torpedo which struck her amidships near the magazine. The initial detonation which shook the ship violently was followed by a second terrific explosion, which resulted in a large number of the crew of H.M.S. Hawke being killed. From when she was first hit, H.M.S. Hawke sank in less than minutes, and as such it was only possible to launch one of the ships cutters which was the mail dory, which perchance had been lowered before the torpedo had hit the ship. Captain Hugh Williams, 26 officers and approximately 500 ratings were lost with the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke, but 4 officers and 60 men survived. Although only designed to carry 29 people, the sole ships cutter which had got away, eventually contained 49 sailors who were picked up about five hours later by a Norwegian steamer, all of whom were later transferred to a trawler and safely landed at Aberdeen. In addition to those who survived in the ships cutter, another 15 of the crew clinging to a raft were spotted and picked up by a passing ship, and were all landed at Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Joseph Cooke commented that after he had plunged into the icy waters of a heavy sea, he had swam for about three quarters of a mile before being picked up by the cutter, and whilst swimming he had passed the life raft at which time it had about 150 clinging to it, and that he was later informed that only 15 of their number had survived. Joseph also made mention that shortly after firing the torpedo which sunk H.M.S. Hawke, the German submarine briefly surfaced to see the effects of its discharge, disappearing again beneath the waters immediately. H.M.S. Theseus had been under strict Admiralty orders not to attempt to pick up survivors, as on 22 September 1914 there had been the well documented disaster involving three other Royal Navy ships, they being H.M.S. Cressy, H.M.S. Aboukir and H.M.S. Hogue, all were sunk by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen with the U-9. The following is a brief account (verbatim), of the events on 14 October 1914, written by a crewman of the U-9, relevant to the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke. "I gazed at the little picture of the upper ocean. The distant three cruisers were some wide space apart, but were converging, and were steering for a point and that point was apparently in the vicinity where we lay. No wonder the Commander thought they must want a torpedo. We imagined they were bent

on joining forces and steaming together, but it presently became apparent that they intended to exchange signals, drop a cutter in the water, and deliver mail or orders, and then go their respective ways. We steered at full speed for the point toward which they were heading, our periscope showing only for a few moments at a time. The Cruisers, big armoured fellows, came zigzagging. We picked one, which afterward turned out to be H.M.S. Hawke, and maneuvered for a shot. It was tricky work. She nearly ran us down. We had to dive deeper and let her pass over us; else we would have been rammed. Now we were in a position for a stern shot at an angle, but she turned. It was a fatal turning, for it gave us an opportunity to swing around for a clear bow shot at 400 metres. We dived beyond periscope depth, ran underwater for a short distance, and then came up for a look through our tall, mast-like eye. The Hawke had already disappeared. She sank in eight minutes. Only one boat was in the water. It was the mail dory that had been lowered before the torpedo explosion. At the rudder the boat officer hoisted a distress signal on the boat's staff. That little dory with half a dozen men aboard was all that was left of the proud warship."

LONG, WILLIAM. Private, G/15444.

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Monday 28 October 1918.

Born Shatterling, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Edward and Hannah Long.

Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XVIII. F. 1/29.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Long family resided at Felderland Lane, Worth, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent native Edward Long, who was employed as a Farm Wagoner. As William was recorded by the census enumerator as being 12 years old, it would mean that at the time of his death in Mesopotamia he would have been aged about 29.

MOAT, FRANK. Able Seaman, 237033.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Agamemnon.

Died Tuesday 10 August 1915. Aged 25.

Born Dover, Kent 9 April 1890.

Commemorated at Hill 10 Cemetery, Turkey. Special Memorial 43.

Frank died of an illness as opposed to having been killed in action or dying of wounds. The cemetery where Frank is commemorated was made after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from isolated Gallipoli sites, and from the 88th Dressing Station, 89th Dressing Station, Kangaroo Beach, 'B' Beach, 26th CCS and Park Lane cemeteries. There are now 699 servicemen of the Great War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 150 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate a number of casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

PARKER, ARTHUR. Private, G/560.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died Monday 3 July 1916.

Born St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent. Resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.

It was noted that as is the case at Sandwich where he was born and enlisted, Arthur is also not commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial. His medal card entry records Arthur as having entered the French war theatre on 1 June 1915, and that he was killed in action on 3 July 1916. Although it has not thus far been possible to ascertain the following, and is purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view the matching Sandwich parish where both Arthur and Frank Ray Parker, who is the next casualty commemorated where born, combined with their regimental numbers (G/560 & G/567) being so close, it might be indicative of them having been related or may even have brothers who had enlisted in the army together. As the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) rested in a reserve position in a field near the village of Millencourt on 1 July 1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, there was a mixture of excitement, apprehension and initial relief when news came through from the front that all was going well, and that "all objectives had been gained." Later came the news, that the assault on the village of Ovillers had failed. Resulting from the first day's failure to capture Ovillers, the battalion moved at night to occupy trenches facing the village which was once again heavily bombarded by the artillery. Early on the morning of 3 July the battalion were ready to attack the enemy troops holding Ovillers, at about 0330 hours "A" Company moved forward in platoons, initially with few losses until reaching the German barbed wire entanglements, but later waves of "A" Company and those of "C" Company had a high casualty rate, those soldiers who did manage to actually get into the enemy trenches bombed the dugouts, the men who were being led with Second Lieutenant, Thomas C. Farmer carried out the bombing with noted accuracy and skill, which observers likened to a field-day work (training). Due to the high casualty rate being inflicted on the men carrying more hand grenades to the bombing parties, resulted in the supply of them running out, which in turn led to Second Lieutenant, Thomas Farmer carrying out a fighting withdrawal from the German trenches at Ovillers. 3 July 1916 cost the battalion 274 casualties in dead, wounded and missing, at least 70 of the recorded casualties were other ranks deaths in the battalion. Of course it has not been possible to ascertain at what stage, or the part that he played in the engagement it was that Arthur fell. Unfortunately it has not been possible to access as much documentary data etcetera appertaining to Arthur, when compared to Frank Ray Parker the next casualty briefly commemorated below, who as was mentioned above, was probably his brother.

PARKER, FRANK RAY. Private, G/567.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died Wednesday 13 October 1915.

Born St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent. Resided Worth, Kent. Son of Benjamin Parker and Mary Ann Parker (née Ray) of Rhoda House Cottages, The Street, Worth, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panels 17.

As is the case with Arthur Parker who is commemorated above, no positive identification of Frank was made by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, when trawling the 1901 census entries. There is what appears to be the entry for his parents on the census, which shows that Benjamin Parker and Mary Ann Parker were both natives of Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. At the time of the census they resided at 7, Marbrook Terrace, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Benjamin Parker, who was an Own Account Fishmonger working from home. Frank enlisted in the army for 3 years on 31 August 1914. When he enlisted, Frank stated that he was 26 years old, and employed as a Golf Caddie. After joining The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Regimental Depot at Canterbury on 1 September 1914, he was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion of the regiment on 3 September 1914, in which he remained until his death. Frank was posted to France on 1 June 1915. Following his death, Frank was initially posted as 'Missing,' but the Army Council later decided that 'For Official Purposes,' it was to be assumed that he had died on 13 October 1915. For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the

remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and then made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Herbert's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Frank's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

SAUNDERS W. A.

SAUNDERS, WILFRED ARTHUR. Corporal, CH/17005.

Royal Marine Light Infantry, H.M.S. India.

Died Sunday 8 August 1915. Aged 20.

Born Ash, Sandwich, Kent 10 April 1894.

Son of Alfred George Saunders and Amy Saunders of Mill Lane, Worth, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 13, as shown above.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Saunders family resided Felderland Lane, Worth, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 30 year old Twickenham, Middlesex, native Alfred George Saunders, who was employed as a Market Gardeners Labourer. Wilfred enlisted in the Royal Marines (Chatham Division) on 22 April 1911. H.M.S. India was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U.22 off the island of Helligvaer, near Bodo, Norway. She sank with the loss of 10 officers and 150 ratings. The surviving 22 officers and 119 men were taken to Narvik by the "Gotaland" and H.M. Armed Trawler Saxon. Unfortunately, Wilfred's Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details record him as being commemorated on Panel 3, as opposed to Panel 13 on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

SEYMOUR, WILLIAM GEORGE. Able Seaman, 212477.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cressy.

Died Tuesday 22 September 1914. Aged 29.

Born Stamshaw, Portsmouth, Hampshire 13 November 1884.

Son of Henry and Elizabeth Seymour.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 2.

SUTTON, JOHN. Private, CH/7764.

Royal Marine Light Infantry, H.M.S. Victorious.

Died Tuesday 5 November 1918. Aged 42.

Born Worth, Kent 23 December 1875.

Son of the late John and Ann Sutton.

Buried Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney. Grave Ref: C. 33.

John enlisted in the Royal Marines (Chatham Division) on 21 April 1894. At the time of the 1901 census, John was serving as a Private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry at H.M.S. Pembroke, Chatham, Kent. At the time of the 1891 census, John was residing at Upton House Lodge, Worth, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was widower 49 year old Ripple, Deal, Kent native John Sutton (senior), who was employed as a Domestic Gardener. In view of the Sutton family address in 1891, it would appear that John Sutton (senior) had been employed by John Henderson, whose son Vice Admiral Frank Hannam Henderson C.M.G., D.S.O., R.N. is commemorated on the Worth civic war memorial.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men

CARLTON G. E.

CARLTON, GEORGE EDWARD. Able Seaman, 228168.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Laurel.

Died Friday 28 August 1914. Aged 29.

Born Worth, Sandwich, Kent 24 September 1887.

Son of George and Charlotte A Carlton.

Husband of Harriett A. Madgwick (formerly Carlton) of 3, French Cottages, Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2, as shown above, and also on the Eastry, Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, George, his parents and his four siblings were inmates at Eastry Workhouse, Mill Lane, Eastry, Kent. George Carlton senior was recorded by the enumerator as being a 56 year old native of Coldred, Kent, and formerly as being employed as an Agricultural Labourer. At the time of George's death, the destroyer H.M.S. Laurel was taking part in the 'Battle of Heligoland Bight,' during the course of which she was damaged. In addition to those members of the ships compliment who were wounded during the battle, 11 ratings were killed, one of whom was George.

LANGLEY, HUBERT JOHN. Private, G/11528.

"A" Company 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). 118th Brigade, 39th Division.

Died Saturday 1 July 1916. Aged 21.

Born Worth, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.

Son of John and Sarah Ann Langley of 33, Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Ploegsteert, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. H. 33.

At the time of the 1901 census the Langley family resided at The Butchery, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was Journeyman Carpenter, John Ann Langley who was aged 37 and was a native of Sandwich.

Also commemorated on the St. Mary's parish church Sandwich, Kent, Great War memorial plaque, and on the Sandwich, Kent civic war memorial.

Hubert's SDGW entry incorrectly records him with the Christian name Herbert. The 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

One of the questions that the transcriber has been asked on a number of occasions over the years, mainly by relatives of men who served and/or died serving in the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was why was the battalion called the "Kent County," and some of their suppositions of same have on occasions been somewhat fanciful. The battalion was raised at Maidstone the county town of Kent on 3 May 1915 by

Lord Harris who was a Vice Lieutenant of Kent, at the request of the Army Council. Lord Harris's request from the Army Council in early 1915 had not in fact been for another infantry battalion, as the Army Council asked him to appeal to various local government bodies within the county of Kent, for assistance in recruiting a brigade of artillery, which as far as was possible was to be found by different towns and villages in Kent. Ultimately the various government bodies which were contacted by Lord Harris did not feel able to undertake the request from the Army Council, but put forward an alternative suggestion that they raised an infantry battalion on a county wide basis, much along the lines of the request for a brigade of artillery. Contained in the reply to the Army Council, was also the suggestion that Colonel A. Wood Martyn, the Secretary of the Kent Territorial Association, who was a former officer of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), should be given command of the new battalion. Another of the suggestions that as the battalion was to be raised on a county wide basis included east Kent, the traditional recruiting area of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), that the battalion should include (Kent County) as part of its official title, a suggestion which the Army Council agreed to. It was actually Colonel A. Wood Martyn who undertook by far and away most of the actual recruiting, as opposed to much input to same by the various local councils. Colonel A. Wood Martyn toured extensively around Kent, making speeches from his car, and was assisted by a band which used his own instruments; the musicians in the band came all the way from Blackpool, Lancashire, as none were available in Kent at that time. Captain C.V. Molony of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was back in England recovering from his wounds inflicted whilst fighting on the Ypres Salient in Belgium, and he was made second-in-command of the new battalion and promoted to the rank of Major. After the Great War, Major Molony authored the superb book "Invicta" with the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) in the Great War, which was published in 1923 by Nisbit and Co. Ltd. Amongst the many locations visited by Colonel A. Wood Martyn during his personal recruiting drives (no pun intended), had been Sandwich, Kent where Hubert enlisted, possibly on the same day that the Colonel was in the town. Most of the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) initial early training of its recruits was carried out at Penenden Heath near Maidstone, prior to being billeted at Maidstone on 1 November 1915. When first formed, the battalion was assigned to the 118th Brigade, 39th Division, before becoming part of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division during October 1915. Hubert's battalion was later taken over by the War Office, and in January 1916 went to Wellington Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire. It was as part of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division in the Second Army that the Hubert's battalion went to France on 4 May 1916, by which time Major Molony had returned to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the post of second-in-command of Hubert's battalion had passed to Major W.F. Soames. On the battalions' arrival in France, Captain S.H. Beattie joined it and was placed in command of "A" Company, which Hubert served in. After three weeks of additional training in May 1916, which was carried out in the area around Moolenacker, near Stranzeele, the 41st Division relieved the 9th Division

in trenches which were located between Armentières and Ploegsteert. Although the 41st Division remained in the Armentières and Ploegsteert area for almost three months, it was engaged in very few engagements with enemy forces, save for a number of fairly minor trench raids being carried out by both sides. Casualties numbering in excess of 130 of different types were inflicted on the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) during that three month period; some were resultant of the trench raids and other when being subjected to intermittent enemy artillery bombardments, some of which were at various times heavy. Five officer casualties occurred during the three month period that was spent in the Armentières and Ploegsteert area, including Captain Robert L. Pillman who was mortally wounded on 8 June 1916, and succumbed to his wounds the following day. On Saturday 1 July 1916, when Hubert died he was one of seven other ranks in his battalion.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Mention was made earlier of the one apparent single negative feature associated with the Worth, Sandwich, Kent, civic war memorial, is that for reasons which are still unclear, and in stark contrast with the Great War fallen of the parish, is that a not insignificant number of 'Worth' Second World War deaths are not commemorated on the war memorial. As can be seen below only two of the latter conflict have been commemorated. Although several additional casualties of the Second World War which have been accessed whilst researching, have been added below, unfortunately it may well be that they are not the only 'Worth' deaths.

WELBURN, JOHN RAYMOND. Sergeant, 6288524.
4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died Sunday 14 November 1943. Aged 25.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George and Fanny Welburn of Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Buried Leros War Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref: 3. C. 3.
Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Prior to his war service, John was employed by the Educational Department of Kent County Council.

WOODS, ELLISON MURRAY. Captain, 149144. B.A. (Oxon).
3rd Battalion, Irish Guards.
Died Thursday 3 August 1944. Aged 27.
Born Berkshire. Resided South West London.
Son of John Murray Woods and Margaret Edith Constance Woods.
Husband of Aileen Woods of South Kensington, London.
Buried St Charles de Percy War Cemetery, Calvados, France.
Grave Ref: V. G. 14.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Lost Men

BILLING, PHILIP LESLIE. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 39297.

502 (Ulster) Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 23 January 1941.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Billing of Worth, Kent.

Buried Glenavy (St. Aidan) Church of Ireland Churchyard, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Grave Ref: Plot B. Grave 6A.

On 28 November 1938, 502 (Ulster) Squadron, Royal Air Force became part of R.A.F. Coastal Command, and was re-equipped with Avro Anson aircraft. From the outset of the Second World War the squadron was used to fly patrols over the Atlantic off the Irish Coast. From October 1940, the squadron was equipped with Whitley bombers. Philip was the pilot of Whitley bomber P5041 YG-C which took from R.A.F Aldergrove at 1222 hours to provide air cover escort for Convoy HG50 that was coming from Gibraltar to Liverpool, which had Air Escorts from the United Kingdom from 1005 hours in position 54 56N 13 54W, on the day that Philip died, and from then on aircraft were present at intervals every day during daylight hours for the rest of the voyage which finished on 26 January 1941. Having completed their phase of the escort, Philip and his crew were on the return leg when their aircraft crashed into hills near Campbeltown, Argyllshire, Scotland. All the five crew of the Whitley were killed, one of whom also came from Kent. 20 year old Sergeant (Observer) Alec Raymond Hooker was the son of Leonard Percy Hooker and of Helen Mary Hooker (nee Wardle), of Faversham, Kent, and is at rest at Faversham Borough Cemetery. Grave Ref: Section E. Grave 25. On 30 November 1941, 502 (Ulster) Squadron, Royal Air Force was credited with being the first Coastal Command unit to make a successful attack on a German u-boat with the use of air-to-surface radar, when the U-206 commanded by 26 year old Kapitänleutnant Herbert Opitz was reported to have been sunk in the Bay of Biscay, west of Nantes, France, in position 46.55N, 07.16W, by depth charges from one of the squadrons Whitley aircraft. German documentation would seem to suggest that the attack had been on the U-71 which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Walter Flachsenberg, which escaped the attack, and that the U-206 was lost when it was mined on or about 30 November 1940.

COX, FRANK HERBERT. Petty Officer Stoker, C/KX 84647.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Suffolk. (55).

Died Wednesday 3 June 1942. Aged 26.

Son of Alfred James Thomas Cox and Alice Elizabeth Cox of Worth, Kent.

Husband of Marjorie Cox of St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent.

Buried Tynemouth (Preston) Cemetery, Walton Avenue, North Shields, Tyne and Wear. Grave Ref: Sec. K. Grave 14480.

Frank was one of the two people who were killed during an explosion on his ship.

ERSKINE, KENNETH. Rifleman, 7020024.
2nd Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles.
Died Saturday 14 October 1944. Aged 22.
Born and resided Belfast.
Son of Hamilton and Sarah Freeburn Erskine.
Husband of Agnes Elizabeth Erskine of Worth, Kent.
Buried Overloon War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.
Grave Ref: IV. D. 11.

FILE, FREDERICK KAY. Gunner, L/57630.
8 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
Died 8 August 1944. Aged 39.
Son of Frederick File and Nellie File of Worth, Sandwich, Kent.
Buried Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, Calvados, France.
Grave Ref: III. C. 4.
Commemorated on the Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent, civic war memorial, and on page 304 of the Canadian Second World War Book of Remembrance.
For the most part, those who are at rest at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, died during the later stages of the Battle of Normandy 1944. The capture of Caen and the thrust southwards, was led initially by the 4th Canadian and 1st Polish Armoured Divisions, to close the Falaise Gap. Almost every unit of the Canadian 2nd Corps is represented in the cemetery where Frederick is at rest which contains 2,958 Second World War burials, the majority Canadian, 87 of them are unidentified.

MARSH, ROBERT CHARLES.

Petty Officer Steward, C/LX 21412.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Harvester. (H19).
Died Thursday 11 March 1943. Aged 31.
Son of John and Ethel Marsh.
Husband of Olive Marsh of Worth, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 73, Column 1, as shown above.
Robert's ship was a 1,340 ton Havant type destroyer, which was built by Vickers-Armstrong Ltd, of Barrow-in-Furness, which when she was laid down had been named Jurua for the Brazilian Navy. She was requisitioned by the British Admiralty for use by the Royal Navy on 4 September 1939, and renamed H.M.S. Handy (F07), but was commissioned in February 1940 as H.M.S. Harvester. (H19). On the morning of Thursday 11 March 1943, H.M.S. Harvester commanded by Commander Arthur A. Tait, D.S.O., R.N., was the flagship of the Escort Group B3, escorting convoy HX-228, when she picked up 51 survivors from the 7,197 ton American cargo ship William C. Gorgas, that had been sunk by the German u-boat U-757 which commanded by 26 year old Kapitänleutnant Friedrich Deetz. Robert's destroyer then returned to the convoy and sighted another enemy u-boat, which was the U-444 commanded by 25 year old

Oberleutnant zur See, Albert Langfeld. The U-444 dived, but was forced to the surface following depth-charge attack by H.M.S. Harvester and then rammed by her at full speed. The high speed ramming by the destroyer resulted in her being locked into the U-444 with a propeller shaft, with both of the damaged vessels being unable to manoeuvre for a while. Eventually the crew of the damaged u-boat was able to extricate it from the destroyer and get away, but was shortly afterwards it was sighted by the Free French corvette Aconit (K 58), and unable to dive, the u-boat was rammed for the second time and sunk by the French ship with the loss of 41 of her 45 crew. The crew of Robert's badly damaged destroyer were eventually able to get one of her engines running and tried to catch up with the convoy, but around mid-day her machinery broke down again. It was whilst she was in this helpless and vulnerable situation that she was hit by a torpedo fired from the U-432 commanded by 'u-boat ace' Kapitänleutnant Heinz Otto Schultze, who was a son of the German Great War 'u-boat ace' Otto Schultze. Having crippled Robert's ship with the first torpedo, a few minutes later Heinz Otto Schultze fired a second and H.M.S. Harvester sank almost immediately. Commander Arthur A. Tait, D.S.O., R.N., seven other officers, 136 ratings and 39 survivors from the William C. Gorgas were lost in the sinking of H.M.S. Harvester. Robert's ship was destined to be the last of the 19 ships sunk, and 2 ships damaged by Kapitänleutnant Heinz Otto Schultze. As H.M.S. Harvester slipped beneath the waves the Free French corvette Aconit (K 58) returned to the scene and with depth charges, gunfire and ramming, sank the U-432. During the day, the corvette picked up four survivors from the U-432, 20 survivors from the U-432, and 60 survivors from the destroyer, including twelve survivors from the William C. Gorgas.

MOLE, GERARD HERBERT LEO. D.S.O., and Bar, M.C. Brigadier, 13782.

General Staff and Royal Ulster Rifles.

Died Tuesday 14 November 1944. Aged 47.

Born India. Resided Somerset.

Son of Philip and Annie Kathleen Mole.

Husband of Claire Marie Mole of Worth, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Brunssum War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands. Grave Ref: II. 82.

Pre war member of the Royal Ulster Rifles, Gerard had also served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Rifles, and was attached to the Machine Gun Corps during the Great War, during which time he was awarded the Military Cross. He served in the French war theatre from 16 July 1916. Following the Armistice Gerard served in Germany in the Army of Occupation. Brunssum near the German border where Gerard is at rest, was liberated in September 1944 by American forces, who were shortly afterwards followed by the British 43rd (Wessex) Division, which was commanded by Major-General Gwilym Ivor Thomas, who established their headquarters in the town. Amongst the brigades which formed the 43rd (Wessex) Division, was the 129th Infantry Brigade that was commanded by Brigadier, Gerard Mole, and which was comprised of the 4th Battalion, The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's), and the 4th and 5th Battalions, The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's). The British 43rd

(Wessex) Division was then succeeded at Brunssum by the 52nd (Lowland) Division. The first burials in the cemetery where Gerard is at rest were made by an Advanced Dressing Station and a Casualty Clearing Station, which were situated at Merkelbeek in November 1944, when the 43rd (Wessex) Division was engaged in clearing a triangle between the Rivers Roer and Maas.

TURNER, ERIC CHARLES WILLIAM. Sergeant (Pilot), 921756.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 144 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Sunday 21 September 1941. Aged 22.
Son of William Thomas Turner and Dorothy Turner of Worth, Kent.
Buried Harrow (Pinner New) Cemetery, Pinner Road, Middlesex.
Grave Ref: Section E.2. Grave 51.

Eric was the pilot of Hampden bomber AD922 PL- which took off from R.A.F. North Luffenham, Oakham, Rutland (now Leicestershire), at 1920 hours on Saturday 20 September 1941, to take part in a raid on Frankfurt, Germany. At 0420 hours on Sunday 21 September 1941 during the return leg of the mission, the Hampden ran out of fuel and Eric ordered his crew, which was comprised of three fellow Sergeants, to bale out and abandon the stricken aircraft near the airfield at R.A.F. Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk. Shortly after his crew, Sergeant R.J. Pulham, Sergeant R. Atkinson, and Sergeant T. Pearce had all safely parachuted from his aircraft, Eric's bomber crashed at the village of Foulsham to the south east of Fakenham, Norfolk, with him still at the controls of the bomber. AD922 was one of four 144 Squadron Hampdens that were lost during the mission to Frankfurt. Two of the aircraft were lost with their crews, but the other one crashed on Hutton Moor, Yorkshire, with no loss of life, at the time of that crash its crew were trying to locate and land at R.A.F. Dishforth, having been diverted away from R.A.F. North Luffenham, due to bad weather conditions.







The image above of the Worth, Sandwich, Kent, civic war memorial, shortly after it was erected, is thought to have been extracted from an old postcard.



Although as was pointed out by Mr. Kenneth Evans when he very kindly furnished the above photograph for inclusion here, it is not of excellent quality. It is however a most welcome and not insignificant contribution to the commemoration to the fallen of the Worth, Kent. Family lore has led Kenneth to believe that the people in the photograph were local Worth school children, who had attended a service of remembrance during the mid 1920's.