

Yalding



Situated six miles south-east of Maidstone, the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul in the picturesque village of Yalding, was reported by several commentators as being quite literally unable to accommodate everybody, at the service which was held at the church on the afternoon of Sunday 31 October 1920. The service was the start of the proceedings which culminated with the dedication and unveiling of the village civic war memorial. Situated at the top of the main road in the village, the war memorial was designed by Cecil Burns, a brother of Captain Edgar Balfour Burns, of Riverside, Yalding, who had served in both of the Kent infantry regiments during the Great War. As with numerous war memorials around the county, notably to the middle and west of Kent, the memorial was executed by Burslems of Royal Tunbridge Wells. With Lieutenant Colonel Arthur W. Reid M.C., R.E., at their head, the ex-servicemen led the procession from the parish church to the war memorial, where another brief service of dedication was conducted by the Right Reverend John Harmer, D.D. (1857-1944), who was at that time the Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. Pastor Palmer of the Baptist Church, Yalding read the lesson, prior to the unveiling of the war memorial by local and national hero, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Drummond Borton, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., (1883-1933), who resided at Cheveney, Yalding. On Sunday 27 July 1952 another service was conducted at the village civic war memorial, on that occasion it was the re-dedication of the memorial, combined with the official unveiling of the names of those who lost their lives during the Second World War. It would be remiss not to make mention of two starkly difference facts appertaining to the Yalding civic war memorial, the first of which the village is quite rightly very proud, which locals who we spoke to were keen to point out.

Since the age of four the village of Yalding was the home of the famous poet Edmund Blunden M.C. (1896-1974), who came to Yalding in 1900 when his father Charles was appointed headmaster of the village Church of England primary school. Arguably best known for 'Undertones of War' which was published in 1928, it being the memoir of his experiences as a young officer serving in the 11th (Service) Battalion, (1st South Down) Royal Sussex Regiment, on the Western Front during the Great War, having enlisted in 1916 at the age of 20. A prolific literary editor and biographer, as well as Professor, Fellow and Tutor of English in Tokyo, Oxford and Hong Kong, Edmund often tarried at the Yalding civic war memorial, doubtless at which times he reflected on the names of the Great War fallen inscribed thereon, most of whom he would have known well from his time spent at the village school. In the parish church of SS Peter & Paul, Yalding is a window in memory of Edmund, at the window dedication service which was conducted on Friday 28 September 1979, he was quoted as being "a man of peace, kindly and unassuming, whom war impelled to be a soldier, and brought him a title of poet of peace and war." When the window had been dedicated, the event received coverage in the local and national press. Unfortunately another event at Yalding civic war memorial received even international press coverage in at least ten (possibly more) countries, twenty years after the window in memory of Edmund had been dedicated. Prior to a rededication service in 1979, Yalding Parish Council commissioned Burlite Ltd, The Stone Shop, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent, to clean and restore the war memorial. As we have viewed numerous examples of the work carried out by the company, doubtless it was outstanding when completed. Gordon Newton, the Managing Director of the company which had carried out the restoration work, quite literally drove past the war memorial a few days later, and found the memorial extensively vandalised. Some of the cretins of Kent had thrown eggs at the revered memorial, cut into the stone surface with a knife, and scratched their names into it and daubed it with paint; they had also urinated over the plaques commemorating men from the parish who died in the Great War and Second World Wars. The name Shana had been written over the stone in red crayon, and beer cans, cigarette butts and broken glass littered the surrounding ground. At no cost to Yalding, Gordon Newton's company refurbished the war memorial in time for its rededication. During our conversations with a number of kindly Yalding residents, it came as no real surprise to note their reticence to reflect on the events of the summer of 1979. Edmund Blunden M.C. is at rest in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Suffolk. Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Drummond Borton, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., who unveiled the Yalding civic war memorial, is at rest in Hunton, Maidstone, Kent, burial ground. When mention of him was made at Yalding, the response was identical to that at Hunton, "never heard of him, are you sure he had a V.C?" which is probably also an indication of the lack of response from Hunton, (and elsewhere) in our efforts to get Arthur's grave a better headstone, or failing same to be allowed to at least clean it better.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ADAMS, FREDERICK. Private, S/137.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 38.

Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent 22 August 1914.

Husband of Mrs. T. Morgan (formerly Adams), of Wood Cottages, Nettlestead Green, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Watringbury school memorial panels which are held at the Kent Schools Archives, Kent County Council, Springfield, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2LH.

Also commemorated on the Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.

Frederick had served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War), and left the army (Time Expired) in 1904. The year after leaving the army, Frederick

married Miss Emily Eliza Wads on 3 April 1905 at the parish church of St.

Margaret's, Barming, Maidstone, Kent. On 5 June 1906, a son Albert Edward

was born to Frederick and Emily at Loose, Maidstone, Kent, which was where a

daughter Lilian Mary was also born on 17 February 1908. Another daughter was

born at Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, on 28 October 1909. At the time of his army

recall Frederick said that he was employed as a General Labourer. After his

initial time spent in the United Kingdom, Frederick arrived on the Western Front

on 7 December 1914.

BETSON, JAMES WILLIAM. Private, 633328.

1st/20th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Blackheath and Woolwich).

Died 10 July 1917. Aged 21.

Born Rushbrooke, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Betson (nee Markel) of King Street Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Woods Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. E. 22.

Formerly Private, G/2449, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

As only his mother is named at James's CWGC commemoration, it would seem likely that his father who was a native of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, and also called James had died.

BROWN, HENRY. Private, L/10936.

7th Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 27 June 1916.

Born Cranbrook, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Kent.

Buried Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: C. 5.

CAULFIELD, FREDERICK ARTHUR. Private, 6954.
75th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Died 29 August 1916. Aged 27.
Born Coxheath, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Kent.
Son of Mrs. A E Maddocks of Park Gate Cottage, Queen Street, Paddock Wood,
Kent.
Buried Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: Special Memorial B. 7.
Formerly Private, G/8411, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

CHEESEMAN, FREDERICK. Corporal, 17429.
15th (Service) Battalion, (2nd Portsmouth), The Hampshire Regiment.
Died Friday 15 September 1916. Aged 27.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Gosport, Hampshire.
Son of William and Mary Cheeseman of Mile Harn Cottages, Yalding, Maidstone,
Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 7 C and 7 B.

CHEESMAN, HENRY BASIL. Private, S/10950.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).
Died Friday 26 April 1918.
Born Upper Warlingham, Surrey. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of William Henry and Lucy Lavinia Cheesman (nee Williams).
Buried Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Grave Ref: V. A. 20.

CHILDS, PERCY GEORGE. Private, G/1326.
2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died Sunday 9 May 1915. Aged 19.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Son of George and Ann Elizabeth Childs (nee Standing) of Rose Cottage,
Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 20.

CLOUTT, SIDNEY GEORGE. Serjeant, 65717.
"D" Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery.
Died Saturday 2 September 1916.
Born East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Alfred and Emma Cloutt (nee Martin) of Hunton, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: IV. B. 52.
Prior to enlisting in the army, Sidney had been amongst a number of parishioners
who were employed by the Borton family at their family residence of Cheveney,
Yalding.

COOK, CHARLIE. Private, 11749.

"C" Company, 9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Saturday 25 March 1916. Aged 20.

Born Pounds Bridge, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Ellen Eliza Cook of Vicarage Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried SS Peter & Paul Cemetery, Yalding, Kent. Grave Ref: North-East corner.

Charles has the sad distinction of being numbered amongst the seven members of the 9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to die during the years of its existence between October 1914 and 1 September 1916.

COOPER, EDWIN. Private, G/30431.

2nd/20th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Blackheath and Woolwich).

Died 27 September 1918.

Born Dublin, Ireland. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Kent.

Buried Grand Ravine British Cemetery, Havrincourt, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: C. 6.

Formerly T/35007, Royal Army Service Corps. Prior to enlisting in the army Edwin had been amongst a number of parishioners who were employed by the Borton family at their family residence of Cheveney, Yalding.

ELLEN, FRANK AUSTIN. Private, L/9987.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 24 August 1914.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France.

R. FISHER. No clear trace. Best match appears to be the following soldier:-

FISHER, RICHARD. Private, L/9686.

2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 14 July 1916.

Born Wandsworth, Surrey. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Dartford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 5 D and 6 D.

FOREMAN, OWEN. Rifleman, R/14601.

2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 11 May 1916. Aged 23.

Born Paddock Wood, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Kent.

Son of Owen John Foreman and Lucy Foreman (nee Fuller) of Seaborne Cottages, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

FREEMAN, FREDERICK. Private, G/12495.
8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 2 September 1916. Aged 35.
Born Winchfield, Hook, Hampshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Luke and Elizabeth Freeman (nee Hatt) of Butchers Lane, Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: IV. B. 32.

GOLDING, JOHN. Sergeant, L/8698.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 11 July 1915.
Born Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Edwin J. and Elizabeth Golding of Kings Cottages, Yalding, Kent.
Buried Voormezele Enclosures 1 & 2, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I. B. 2.

HENLEY, CHARLES. Private, G/6180.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 23 May 1917. Aged 18.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of John and Harriett Ada Henley of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: XXV. D. 14A.

HOLLANDS, ELI. Private, G/8413.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
Died 19 April 1916. Aged 38.
Born Croydon, Surrey. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Frances Hollands of Luckhurst Lane, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12
Eli was a veteran of the South African Campaign (Second Boer War), and as a child had been an inmate of the Tunbridge Union Workhouse.

KEMBER, JOHN HENRY. Private, G/3934.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 13 July 1916.
Born Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.
John arrived on the Western Front on 11 August 1915. Originally amongst the members of his battalion posted as missing, his death was later officially assumed to have occurred on 13 July 1916.

LEIGH, JOHN CHARLES THOMAS. Captain.
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 22.
Born Gargrave, Skipton, Yorkshire.
Son of Canon John R. Leigh and Mrs Margaret L. Leigh of Yalding Vicarage,
Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Ovillers Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: IX. D. 4.

MANNERING, WILLIAM. Private, T/240650.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 5 December 1917.
Born Headcorn, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Laddingford, Yalding,
Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Ernest and Lucy Mannering
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3.

MASTERS, ALBERT EDWARD. Lance Corporal, 14789.
10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars
Died 13 May 1915. Aged 34.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Charles and Mary Masters (nee Cheesman) of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of (Linie) Esther Elizabeth Ball (formerly Masters) (nee Weston), of 4,
High Street, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5.

MASTERS, GEORGE THOMAS. Private, S/10529.
9th (Service) Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).
Died Saturday 9 September 1916.
Born Linton, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of William and Pym Masters (nee Golding).
Buried Bazentin-le-Petit Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: H. 6.
George had been amongst a number of parishioners who were employed by the
Borton family at their family residence of Cheveney, Yalding.

MERCER, HERBERT WILLIAM. Rifleman, S/37745.
9th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 14 April 1918. Aged 20.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of George and Emma Mercer (nee Burgess) of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Fouquescourt British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II. BB. 5.
Formerly Private, 10/6234, Training Regiment.

MILLS, FRANK. Private, 15593.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 10 April 1917. Aged 33.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Wychling, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of Alfred and Sarah Mills (nee Humphrey).

Husband of Phoebe Lilian Mills of "Rosemount," Wychling, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buried Bios-Carre British Cemetery, Thelus, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. A. 8.

Commemorated on the Doddington and Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent, civic war memorial.

MITCHELL, RONALD WALTER. Lieutenant.

10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 19 November 1917. Aged 41.

Son of Richard A.H Mitchell (Housemaster), Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, and of Mrs. Mary H. Mitchell of Hamsey House, Lewes, Sussex. Later residing Green Hedges, Rye, Sussex.

Buried Port Said War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: F. 45.

Commemorated on the Eton College war memorial, and on Great War memorial plaque located at Wye Agricultural College, Ashford, Kent. Ronald was educated at Eton, which is not really surprising given that his father was a Housemaster there. After two years studying at Eton, Ronald went up to Trinity College, Oxford. In 1900 he came to Wye Agricultural College and left in 1902 having obtained a P.A.S.I in 1901. After leaving Wye Ronald went to farm at Yalding, Kent. Upon the outbreak of the Great War Ronald enlisted in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry. Ronald was a keen cricketer and a member of the M.C.C at Lords, and was apparently a useful batsman for Eton in 1897 and 1898. The Agricola Club (Wye College), in 1917 was sending Ronald's mail to Laddingford, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

ONIONS, JOHN FREDERICK. Driver, 92436.

54th Field Company. Royal Engineers.

Died 21 November 1918. Aged 22.

Born Marden, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Alice Eliza Onions (nee Luxford) of Mill House, Benover, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy. Grave Ref: II. A. 30.

PAGE, J. No clear trace. The best match appears to be the following casualty:-

PAGE, JOHN. Private, L/8807.

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

Died 30 June 1916.

Born Worcester, Worcestershire. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 29.

PATTENDEN, HERBERT REGINALD. Private, S/17505.

1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.

Died 20 September 1918. Aged 24.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Tom and Emily Pattenden (nee Cheeseman) of The Lees, Yalding, Kent.

Commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel. Panel 45.

Formerly Private, S/10754, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

REISS, THOMAS. Sergeant, G/145.

6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 7 April 1918.

Born Edmonton, Middlesex. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 58.

Thomas had been amongst a number of parishioners who were employed by the Borton family at their family residence of Cheveney, Yalding.

ROBINSON, JAMES THOMAS. Private, 325084.

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

Died 6 October 1918.

Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of James and Ellen Robinson

Buried Guizancourt Farm Cemetery, Gouy, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: D. 9.

Formerly Private, 6375, Suffolk Regiment.

Possibly James's mothers maiden name was Newman.

SEDFE, HERBERT WILLIAM. Private, 225471.

1st (City of London) Battalion, (Royal Fusiliers), London Regiment.

Died 23 March 1918.

Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of the late Alfred and Emma Sedfe of Foremans Cottages, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.

Formerly Private, 3244, Suffolk Regiment. Posted to the 2/4th (City of London) Battalion, (Royal Fusiliers), London Regiment. It seems an odd decision to not also commemorate Harry Sedfe, one of Herbert's brothers who fell in the Great War. Although he was neither a native, nor a resident of Yalding at the time of his death, it would probably be fair to assume that Harry had spent the bulk of his life there. Harry has been added to the other 'Yalding' Lost Men casualties. It was noticed that all the casualties of both world wars with the surname Sedfe, came from the county of Kent.

SHOEBRIDGE, JOHN. Private, G/12315.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 5 October 1916.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

SINGYARD, ERNEST. Drummer, G/25294.
11th (Service) Battalion, (Lewisham) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 20 September 1917. Aged 31.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Ellen Singyard (nee Cheesman) of 1, Belgrave Terrace, Laddingford, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panels 106 to 108.
It would seem likely that by the time of Ernest's death, his father James Singyard who was also a fellow native of Yalding had died.

SOLMAN, CHARLES. Rifleman, R/13860.
10th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 29 August 1916. Aged 23.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Charles Henry and Lydia Solman (nee Ashby).
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

TULLY, JOHN. Private, L/10932.
"D" Company, 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 17 January 1917. Aged 19.
Born Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of John and Ada Annie Tully (nee Russell) of Fowl Hall, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Chatham, Kent. Grave Ref: 1432.

TUTT, THOMAS ROBERT. Private, T/2260.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
Died 29 January 1917. Aged 43.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of George and Mary Ann Tutt (nee Jones).
Husband of Clara Tutt (nee Barnes) of Lees Cottage, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave Ref: C.E. 1894.
Thomas had served in the Tirah Campaign, 1897-98, and also in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War).

UNDERHILL, HERBERT JAMES. Private, G/12005.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 29 August 1916. Aged 24.
Born West Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Charles and Elizabeth Underhill of Bow Meadow Cottages, Bow Hill, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

UNICUME, HARRY CECIL. Rifleman, S/34311.
8th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 21 March 1918.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Stratford, Essex. Resided Canning Town, Essex.
Son of Kate Unicum of the Woolpack Inn, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 84.

WITHERDEN, CHARLES HENRY. Corporal, 168365.
"M" Battery, 84th Anti-Aircraft Section, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died 16 February 1919. Aged 22.
Born Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Caroline Witherden (nee Morphett) of Kench Hill Cottage, Tenterden, Kent, and the late Charles Henry Witherden.
Buried Cologne Southern Cemetery, Köln, Germany. Grave Ref: II. D. 15.
Charles died of Pneumonia whilst serving as a member of the Army of Occupation. Charles Henry Witherden died at Tenterden, Kent in 1909.

WOOD, BASIL VAUGHAN. Second Lieutenant.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 28.
Son of Dr. Edward Joshua Wood and Ethel Vaughan Wood of Torr House, Yealmpton, Devon.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.



The Great War

1914 -1919
Lost Men

AKEHURST, WILLIAM CHARLES. Lance Corporal, TF/1391.

5th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 16 September 1916. Aged 23.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Hailsham, Sussex.

Son of Charles E. E. Akehurst of "South View," Hawkswood, Hailsham, Sussex.

Buried Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: J. 33.

By virtue of the fact that it is set out in alphabetical order of surnames, William is the first casualty commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Hellingly, East Sussex.

BALL, WILLIAM. Private, G/20854.

"C" Company, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 18 August 1916. Aged 18.

Born Highgate, Middlesex. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex.

Son of Annie Mayhew (formerly Ball) of North Lodge, Kenward, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, and the late William Ball.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 12 D and 13 B.

BISHOP, GEORGE WILLIAM. Gunner, 48254.

36th Battery, 33rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 10 October 1918.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent.

Buried Sarralbe Military Cemetery, Moselle, France. Grave Ref: C. 9.

The cemetery where George is at rest was begun by the Germans, but it now contains only the graves of Commonwealth soldiers who died as prisoners of war during the Great War. The cemetery contains 94 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, three of which are unidentified. Sixty-three of the graves were brought from Haboudange Communal Cemetery German Extension, Morhange, Plaine-de-Walsch, Sarrebourg, Sarreguemines and Saverne (Zabern) Military Cemeteries and Czersk and Furstenfeldbruck Prisoners of War Cemeteries.

BRENNAN, JOHN. Lance Corporal, L/14927.

4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 3 May 1917.

Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3.

CHAPMAN, CHARLES HENRY. Lance Corporal, 40224.
1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers.
Died 10 November 1917. Aged 21.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided The Bogs, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent.
Only son of Elizabeth Chapman of The Street, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: XXII.HH.8.
Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Margaret, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent.
Formerly Private, 13326, Dragoon Guards.
Charles had originally enlisted in the Dragoon Guards, but he was transferred to the South Wales Borderers for some reason, when he attended the School of Musketry at Hythe, Kent in December 1916. He moved into the trenches of the Western Front with his battalion in late October 1917, and was wounded shortly after near Goudberg, Paschendaele, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Charles was evacuated from the battlefield, and recovered through the medical evacuation chain to a Base Hospital situated near Poperinge, where he succumbed to his wounds a few days later. Charles had one sister who lived at Ashford, Kent. Second Lieutenant David A. Cathcart of the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), who fell on 14 July 1916 during the 'Battle of the Somme 1916', was a cousin of Charles.

COTTENHAM, CHARLES ALFRED. Private, G/5043.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 22 July 1916. Aged 36.
Born Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Alfred and Eliza Cottenham.
Husband of Ellen Lucy Cottenham of Pike Fish, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

DITCHER, HARRY. Stoker 1st Class, 306742.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Formidable."
Died 1 January 1915. Aged 29.
Born Maidstone, Kent 12 January 1886.
Son of Eleanor Cheeseman of the Two Brewers Inn, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11.

EVEREST, ALBERT HENRY. Lance Corporal, G/43340.
16th (Service) Battalion, (Public Schools), Middlesex Regiment.
Died 31 May 1917.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Purfleet, Essex. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Everest
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

EXCELL, SIDNEY EDWARD. Private, G/8921.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 4 August 1916.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Goudhurst, Kent. Resided Horsmonden, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D,
and on the Horsmonden, Kent, civic war memorial.

FORD, CHARLES FREDERICK. Private, T/270939.
10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 10 March 1918. Aged 23.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: A. 24.
Formerly Private, 2023, 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry.

FORD, SIDNEY. Private, G/4229.
8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 5 January 1915. Aged 20.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Marden, Kent.
Son of Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Ford of Claygate Collier Street, Marden, Kent.
Buried Worthing (Broadwater) Cemetery, Sussex. Grave Ref: A9. 9. 20.

FULLER, JAMES GEORGE. Lance Corporal, L/8163.
"B" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 7 June 1915. Aged 34.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Staplehurst, Kent. Resided Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Minnie Anne Willett (formerly Fuller), of High Street, Burwash, Sussex,
and the late James George Fuller.
Husband of the late Jane Fuller.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12.
A regular soldier prior to the Great War, James had completed nine years service
in India.

GURR, HARRY. Private, 43681.
12th (Service) Battalion, (East Anglian), Suffolk Regiment.
Died 24 November 1917. Aged 30.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Cranbrook, Kent.
Son of Harry and Nellie Gurr of Penfield Farm, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Husband of Alice Elizabeth Gurr (nee Golding) of Crouchers Farm, Horsmonden,
Kent.
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 4,
and on the Horsmonden, Kent, civic war memorial.
Harry's brother George Edward Gurr fell in 1918, whilst serving in The Buffs
(East Kent Regiment) in 1918.

JEFFREY, FRED. Private, G/12358.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 27 September 1916.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Jeffrey of 73, Melville Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France. Grave Ref: XII. C. 7.

KING, WALLACE. Private, 421004.
"B" Company, 1st/6th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.
Died 1 July 1916.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Litchfield, Staffordshire.
Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Jane King of 3, Hamlet Cottage, Tudeley Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 14 B and 14 C.

LUCAS, FREDERICK CHARLES. Private, SS/18155.
"A" Company (Aldershot), Army Service Corps.
Died 3 November 1916. Aged 47.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of William and Eliza Lucas of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Susannah Lucas (nee) Pullen of 1, Annington Terrace, Bell Lane, Ditton, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Ditton (St. Peter) Churchyard, Kent. Grave Ref: North West part.

MACHELDEN, GEORGE. Private, TF/966.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 17 July 1916. Aged 21.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Sutton Vallance, Maidstone, Kent.
Resided East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mr. E. I. Machelden of Workhouse Lane, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: IX. E. 2.
Different data sources checked shows George's surname spelt various ways, including as entered above, plus MACKELDEN, MACKLEDEN, MacKELDEN and McKELDEN.

MADDOCKS, ALBERT JEFFEREY. Private, 51213.
1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).
Died 30 September 1918.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Northampton, Northamptonshire.
Resided Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XV. B. 3.
Commemorated on the Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, 32650, Suffolk Regiment.
Albert's birth was registered in the Maidstone, Kent, District during the third quarter of 1898.

MARTIN, JOHN. Private, G/12530.
7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died 10 April 1917. Aged 34.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of the late Richard and Caroline Martin.
Husband of Annie Martin of Gidds Pond, Bexley, Kent.
Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. L. 10.

MASTERS, PERCY. Driver, 15362.
3rd Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 11 April 1917.
Born Portsmouth, Hampshire. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey.
Husband of A. Le Gault (formerly Masters) of Pennywood, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. M. 5.

MESSAGE, FREDERICK CHRISTIAN. Private, G/12309.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 27 September 1916.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. A. 19.
Frederick was probably the son of Reuben and Mary Message of Yalding.

NORRIS, WALTER ALFRED. Private, 3143.
5th Battalion, (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles), (Territorial Force), Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment).
Died 19 June 1915. Aged 43.
Enlisted Edinburgh, Scotland. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Alice Jane Norris of Killick's Cottages, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey. Grave Ref: II. F. 8.

O'LEARY, TIMOTHY. Private, 15194.
9th (Service) Battalion, (Pioneers), South Staffordshire Regiment.
Died 30 September 1916.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Barking, Essex.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 B.

PACKHAM, JOHN. Private, L/8353.
2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 31 August 1916.
Born Marden, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 29.

PEARSON, WILLIAM FRANK. Lance Corporal, G/16617.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 26 October 1917. Aged 30.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Pearson of Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Ellen Avis Pearson of 4, Glenleigh Terrace, Nettlestead, Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Hooze Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: VIA. E. 11.
Commemorated on the Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial, and on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

ROOTS, HORACE. Private, 6703.
1st/20th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Blackheath and Woolwich).
Died 1 October 1916.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 9 D 9 C 13 C and 12 C.
Formerly Private, G/3503, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

SALES, WILLIAM HENRY. Corporal, 201178.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 21 March 1918. Aged 22.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Old Hay, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Mrs. A. Mancer of Willow Lane, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panels 58 or 59.

SALES, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, G/59843.
1st/5th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 28 December 1917.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Redhill, Surrey.
Buried Baghdad (North Gate) Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: IX. E. 8.
Formerly 231553, Royal Army Service Corps.

SAUNDERS, ALBERT VINCENT. Private, L/10181.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 23 April 1915. Aged 21.
Born Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Daniel and Clara Eliza Saunders of Hop Villa, Spimo Park, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45 or 47, and on the Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, civic war memorial.

SEDGE, HARRY. Private, 19636.
1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.
Died 6 December 1917. Aged 40.
Born Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Bayford, Hertfordshire.
Son of the late Alfred and Emma Sedge of Foremans Cottages, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Mrs. Sarah Norton (formerly Sedge), (nee Cason) of Tower Road, Essendon, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 92.
Formerly Private, 7368, Bedfordshire Regiment.

SHOEBRIDGE, ALFRED. Private, G/20949.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 May 1917. Aged 38.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided East Malling, Kent.
Son of George and Mary Ann Shoebridge (nee Ashby) of Yalding Hill, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Rhoda Shoebridge (nee Watts) of Clare Lane, East Malling, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.

STURMER, ALFRED. Private, L/5178.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 10 November 1914. Aged 36.
Born and resided Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Horsmonden, Kent.
Brother of Mr. G. Sturmer of 59, Dover Street, Maidstone. Kent.
Buried Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle-d'Armentieres, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IV. C. 6.

TIBBLES, FREDERICK. Private, L/7165.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 23 October 1914.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Hartfield, Kent.
Son of the late George and Martha Tibbles.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

WAGHORN, THOMAS. Private, 97022.
2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.
Died 30 August 1918.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided East Peckham, Kent.
Buried St Souplet British Cemetery, St. Benin, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: II. E. 3.

WHYMAN, LEONARD JOHN. Lance Corporal, L/11039.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 30 November 1917. Aged 19.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Luton, Chatham, Kent.
Son of George Edward and Lilian Whyman of Capstone Farm House, Luton,
Chatham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 8.

WICKHAM, EDWARD. Gunner, 55436.
48th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died 23 March 1916.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Marden, Kent.
Buried Portsmouth (Milton) Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave Ref: I. 6. 51.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

BACK, FREDERICK JAMES. Private, 7392926.
Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died Saturday 10 July 1943. Aged 23.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Albert Ernest and Alice Back of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Syracuse War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: II. E. 6.

BEECH, WILLIAM HENRY. Private, 6355314.
261 Company, Pioneer Corps.
Died Tuesday 6 March 1945. Aged 29.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George Alfred and Ruth Beech of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium. Grave Ref: V. B. 101.
Formerly Private, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

BOARER, THOMAS GEORGE. Private, 6344680.
Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Died Friday 12 May 1944.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Emma Coulridge of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Prague War Cemetery, Czech Republic. Grave Ref: I. A. 5.
Pre war member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

BRENCHLEY, PETER REGINALD DANN. Flight Sergeant (Pilot), 1390498.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 358 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Died Tuesday 29 May 1945.
Son of Reginald W. and Lucy Brenchley (nee Dann) of Laddingford, Yalding,
Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave Ref: 2. C. 77.
Prior to his war service, Peter was employed in the Public Health Department of
the Kent County Council.

CASELTON, KENNETH. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1270868.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died Wednesday 5 August 1942. Aged 19.
Son of Tom and Daisy May Caselton (nee Little) of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried SS Peter & Paul (New Churchyard), Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

CHEESMAN, FREDERICK WALTER. Lance Corporal, T/167281.
235 Corps Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps
Died at sea Thursday 7 January 1943. Aged 26.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Alfred and Amelia Cheesman.
Husband of P Cheesman, Deptford, London.
Commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial, Surrey. Panel 16. Column 2.

COOMBER, CHARLES.
Died Sunday 13 August 1944. Aged 72.
Resided Sunnyside, Vicarage Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Charles was injured on Friday 16 June 1944, at Yalding, and died whilst he was
a patient at the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.

FARROW, ERNEST ALBERT. Special Constable.
Died Wednesday 30 October 1940. Aged 51.
Husband of Maggie Victoria Farrow of 9, Kenward Road, Yalding, Kent.
Ernest was injured on Tuesday 29 October at Beltring, Tonbridge, Kent, and died
the following day whilst he was a patient at the West Kent General Hospital,
Maidstone.

GLASSCOCK, ROBERT. Gunner, 1083372.
172 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
Died Wednesday 7 April 1943. Aged 27.
Born East London. Resided Kent.
Son of James and Bridget Glasscock.
Husband of Ivy Glasscock of Hunton, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: 12. H. 18.

LATTER, PERCY HENRY. Rifleman, 1681473.
1st Battalion, London Irish, Royal Ulster Rifles.
Died Tuesday 19 September 1944. Aged 24.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of E. C. and Hilda Latter Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Gradara War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. E. 71.

MASTERS, ERNEST EDWIN. Bombardier, 1595230.
78 Battery, 35 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died Friday 3 August 1945. Aged 34.
Son of Edwin and Rosette Masters of Benover, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Marie B. Masters of Haverah Park, Yorkshire.
Buried Labuan War Cemetery, Malaysia. Grave Ref: Q. E. 14.

MOXHAM, JAMES GERALD. Flying Officer, 151551.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 59 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Thursday 24 February 1944.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Moxham of Bridge House, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 208.

MOXHAM, PETER CLEMENT. Flying Officer (Air Gunner), 138471.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 619 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Wednesday 11 August 1943.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Moxham of Bridge House, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany. 6. K. 15.

NEWMAN, GORDON HENRY. Aircraftman 1st Class, 1809081.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 2855 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment.
Died Thursday 12 August 1943. Aged 19.
Son of Bertha Newman of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Syracuse War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: VI. F. 7.

ONIONS, ALBERT STANLEY. Warrant Officer Class II (B.S.M.), 1047843.
4 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.
Died 22 September 1940. Aged 42.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Frederick and Alice Onions of Maidstone, Kent.
Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XII. D. 19.
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery, who also probably served in the Great War as Gunner, 67847, Royal Garrison Artillery.

PAGE, ERNEST. Driver, 14215088.
161 Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 23 April 1943.
Born Hertfordshire. Resided Kent.
Buried Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria. Grave Ref: II. B. 9.

SINGYARD, HANNAH. Womens Voluntary Service.

Died 6 October 1943.

Wife of Thomas Henry Singyard of Rose Cottage, The Green, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

Hannah died at her home Rose Cottage, The Green, Yalding, as the result of being hit by flying glass during an enemy air raid.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Lost Casualties

BARLOW, PATRICK BRIAN.

Died 8 October 1940. Aged 2.

Son of Mrs. Barlow of 7, Frank Street, Plaistow, Essex.

Patrick died as the result of enemy action at Beltring Farm, Yalding, Kent.

GLEED, JESSIE IRIS.

Died 8 October 1940. Aged 17.

Daughter of Eliza J. Gleed of 24, King Street, Plaistow, Essex.

Jessie died as the result of enemy action at Beltring Farm, Yalding, Kent.

GLEED, ROBERT GEORGE HENRY.

Died 8 October 1940. Aged 17.

Son of Eliza J. Gleed of 24, King Street, Plaistow, Essex.

Robert died as the result of enemy action at Beltring Farm, Yalding, Kent.

HANSON, ARTHUR BERT. Leading Fireman.

National Fire Service.

Died 3 July 1943. Aged 38.

Born Brentford, Middlesex.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Hanson of Linton Petrol Station, Loose, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of P. M. Hanson of Chez Nous, Linton Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent.

Arthur died at Collier Street, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.

JAMES, BASIL MILNER HARVEY. Private, 6792060.
5th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died 20 May 1940. Aged 35.
Buried and resided West London.
Son of Arthur Harvey James and Louisa Harvey-James.
Husband of Erma James of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 2, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: Plot 7. Row B. Grave 8.
Second World War burials in the cemetery where Basil is at rest number 35, more than half of them being men of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment who died 20/21 May 1940.

LEIGH, ROWLAND LLEWELLYN. Captain, 8465.
103 Battery, 522 (Dorsetshire) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. (T.A.).
Died 4 February 1942. Aged 47.
Born Skipton, Yorkshire.
Son of John Rowland and Margaret Lillian Leigh.
Husband of Evelyn Mary Adeline Leigh of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried (SS Peter and Paul) Old Churchyard, Yalding, Kent.
Commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque located at the Wye Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

RAIKES, RICHARD ANTHONY. Second Lieutenant, 76453.
7th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (1st Battalion, Queen Victoria's Rifles).
Died 26 May 1940. Aged 29.
Born Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Resided Hertfordshire.
Son of Mrs. A. W. Raikes of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of L. J. Raikes of Sandown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 118.
Pre war member of the Queen Victoria's Rifles.
As part of 30th Infantry Brigade Richard's battalion played a significant and heroic part in actions fought at Calais from 23 to 26 May 1940, which bought valuable time for the main battle of Dunkirk, but at a terrible price as all were either killed or captured. Later the battalion had to be reconstituted from scratch.