

West Malling



The West Malling civic war memorial is located within the curtilage of the parish church of St. Mary. As is the same unfortunate situation at virtually every other location within the county of Kent and elsewhere, several casualties are not commemorated on the war memorial, and they have been briefly commemorated below as 'Lost Men.' In addition to the names of those who died, the West Malling civic war memorial has the following inscription.

THE NAMES OF WEST MALLING MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 ARE HERE RECORDED

THEY DIED FOR RIGHT AND FREEDOM - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR
HIS FRIENDS

Thanks are due to Susan F. for providing the transcriber of the following brief transcriptions, with the photographs from West Malling for inclusion on the West Malling commemorations. Susan is a prolific provider of photographs for this website, primarily those from the west Kent area for which we are of course always most grateful. Thanks are also due to Patrick D. Scullion for providing the photographs taken in France and Belgium. In the fullness of time it is hoped to add more information on these casualties.

The Great War

1914 -1919



ADAM, ALAN GORDON ACHESON. B.A. Captain.
5th (Weald of Kent) (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died between 21 January 1916 and 22 January 1916. Aged 28.

Born West Malling, Kent 6 July 1887.

Son of the late Doctor James Adam, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and Edith Emma Adam (née Drew) of Quarry Down, Hythe, Kent, formerly of Malling Place, St. Leonards Street, West Malling, Kent.

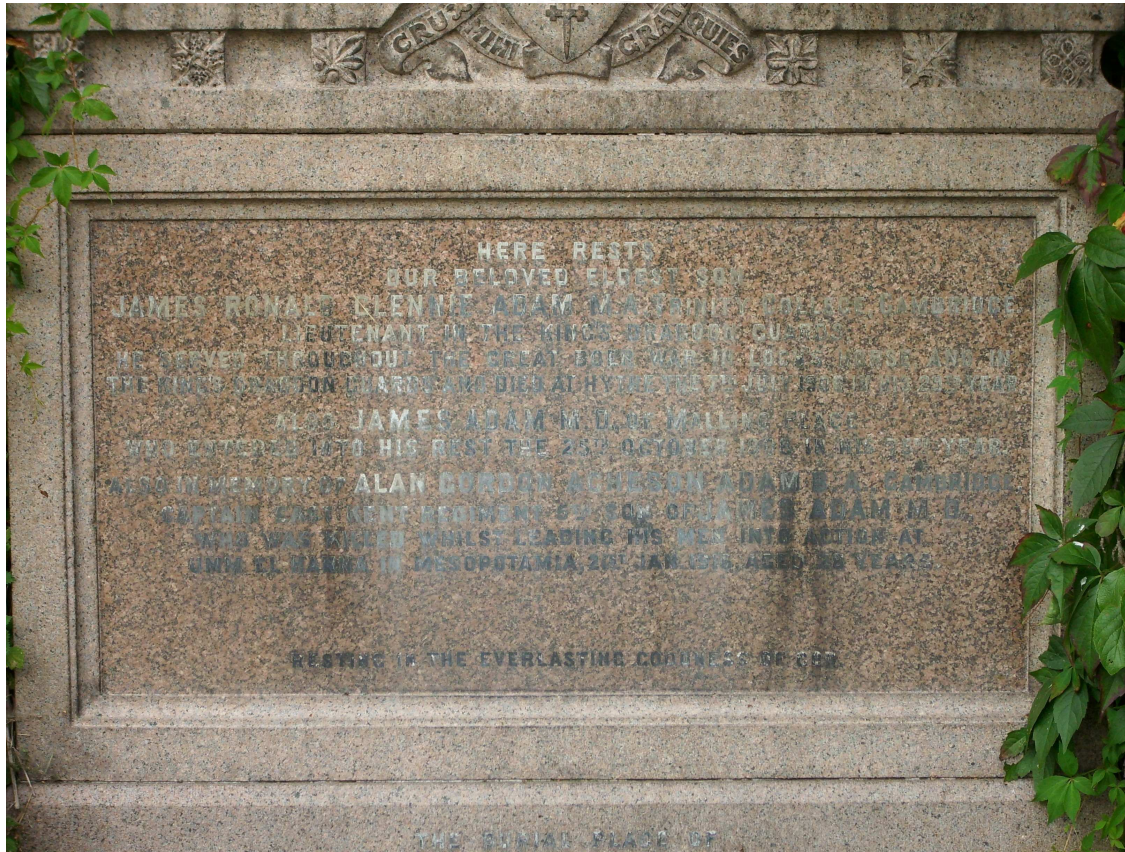
Husband of Victoria Marjory Melville Adam (née Shaw) of New Victoria Club, 30A Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XVII.J.2.

Alan has a number of forms of his remembrance within the county of Kent, in addition to the West Malling civic war memorial, he is also commemorated on the Hythe, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Saltwood, Kent civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, and on Great War memorial plaque at the former Wye College, also commemorated at Marlborough College, also on the University of Cambridge War List 1914-1919, and on an external Adam family memorial as is shown below, at the brief commemoration of his brother Captain Walter Adam. The brothers are also commemorated on the family memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling, Kent, which is shown at the end of the brief West Malling tributes. Alan was christened in the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling on 5 August 1887. At the time of the 1891 census, the Adam family resided at Malling Place, St. Leonards Street, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Scotsman, James Adam, who was a Surgeon. Alan was educated at Marlborough College, Wiltshire, where he was residing when the 1901 census was conducted. From Marlborough, Alan went up to Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, before entering the South East Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent in October 1912, where he remained until July 1913, having been awarded a College Diploma. Alan was admitted to the Bar in 1910, and had practised as a Solicitor at Cranbrook, Kent. In 1911 he joined the Territorial Force, enlisting in the 1/5th (The Weald of Kent) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Cranbrook, Kent. On the 22 January 1914, Alan was promoted to a Lieutenant, and on 29 October 1915 he was promoted to the rank of Captain. Alan married Miss Victoria Marjory Melville Shaw on 8 November 1915, at Bombay Cathedral, India. Alan was Mentioned in Despatches 20 October 1916, and was also recommended for the award of the Distinguished Service Order. Complying with his orders received from the ever optimistic Sir John Nixon, who was the regional British Commander in Chief in Mesopotamia, General Sir Fenton J. Aylmer V.C., continued with his increasingly unsuccessful operation to press on, in the attempts to relieve the beleaguered troops at Kut-el-Amara, which were commanded by General Sir Charles Townsend, C.B., D.S.O. In addition to being outnumbered approximately three to one when engaging the enemy soldiers of the Ottoman Empire, the enemy troops were not the only hazards that had faced the 1/5th (The Weald of Kent) Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), Territorial Force), and the other troops of General Aylmer's relief force, as it attempted to force its way up the river Tigris towards Kut-el-Amara during January 1916. Compounding the problems faced at that time by the relief force was the most appalling weather conditions, which consisting of heavy rain and high winds, it being the local flooding season, it was humid with dense mist during the hours of daylight, but at nighttime the temperature plummeted below freezing. Casualties of various categories amongst the relief force were not solely resultant of engagements with the Turkish soldiers, as a significantly high

proportion of deaths and other removals from General Aylmer's fighting strength, was as the result of illnesses and diseases. Only a mile or so from both sides of the river was marshy ground which the Turkish army had fully taken advantage of as part of a defensive system, by constructing several lines of entrenchments. The entrenchments were set out one behind the other, extending from the river on both sides to the Suwaikiya marshes. The first significant location of the well constructed enemy lines of defence were at Umm-el-Hanna, next was those were at Falahiyeh, followed by Sannaiyat, and behind all of these was the long entrenchment of Es Sinn. On 21 January 1916 General Aylmer ordered an attack on Umm-el-Hanna, which was carried out by troops that were not numerically sufficient in strength, due to the lack of available personnel. The attack took place following the small but costly gains of the 'Battle of the Wadi' on 13 January 1916, when the force had been repulsed, and had incurred some 1,600 casualties amongst the already inadequate relief force, and costing the life of battalion member, Private Augustus W.L. Lovell from Goudhurst, Kent. Alan died during an engagement which is now remembered as the 'Battle of the Hanna,' it effectively commenced at midday on 20 January 1916 when the Turkish defences at the Hanna were bombarded for a duration of twenty minutes, and were again subjected to shelling the following morning. The artillery bombardments were from both river banks, and from gunboats on the Tigris, during which time approximately 12,000 artillery rounds were fired. Faced with pitifully few options, General Aylmer committed his main infantry attack on a very narrow front less than a mile across, with no man's land some 600 yards deep, it got under way at 0745 hours, it being about half an hour after the cessation of the artillery bombardment. As the attacking force moved nearer the enemy, Turkish troops that had suffered remarkably few casualties resulting from the shelling, rose in the mist to man their trenches, and from that time General Aylmer's infantry was cut down in swathes, with very few men reaching their allotted objectives. Due primarily to the heavily saturated soil, plus the shelling and losses among the operators, the field telephone system broke down almost immediately, leaving Brigade, Division and Corps completely at a loss as to know what was actually occurring amongst the assaulting troops. Although a number of different orders were issued to reorganize and renew the attack, due to the appalling weather and with the chaos which ensued in the front lines, no further effort was made. The following morning, General Aylmer asked the Turkish commanders for a six hour truce, to allow for the collection of the wounded, and to be afforded the opportunity to bury those who had fallen. Instantaneously as a White flag was raised, Arabs swarmed out from the Turkish lines, and began to rob the dead and wounded of their rifles, other equipment, and personal possessions, at which time many of those who lay wounded and defenseless were killed by the scavenging Arabs. Turkish officers, to their credit, were eventually able to put a stop to the heinous activities of their Arab allies. Resulting from the combined efforts of the Ottoman soldiers and the Arabs, British losses at the 'Battle of the Hanna,' amounted to about 2,700 killed and wounded. Included amongst those who died on 21/22 January 1916, in addition to Alan, was a brother officer in his battalion, 45 year old Lieutenant Joseph

Thorp Waite, and at least twelve other ranks. Many publications have been written about the 'Battle of the Hanna,' and one of the commentators states the following: - "In any history of sufferings endured by the British Army, the collective misery of the night of 21st January 1916 is probably without parallel since the Crimea." Whilst clearly the opinions of one person, and with the passage of time shown to be not exactly correct, it does however sum up what was the opinions of many people in times past. Alan was a brother of Captain Walter Adam who is the following casualty briefly commemorated below.



ADAM, WALTER. Captain.
Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Died 3 November 1918.
Born Scotland. Resided Malling Place, West Malling, Kent.
Son of the late Doctor James Adam, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and Edith Emma Adam (née Drew) of Quarry Down, Hythe, Kent, formerly of Malling Place, West Malling, Kent.
Buried St. Mary Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.
Also commemorated on the Hythe, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Great War memorial plaque which is located at the former Wye Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent.
Formerly Second Lieutenant, Royal East Kent Yeomanry. For additional Adam family details, including census entries please also see the commemoration details in remembrance of his brother Alan Adam above.

BALDOCK, THOMAS AGNEW. Lieutenant.

8th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 3 December 1917. Aged 21.

Son of Fredrick Agnew Baldock and Emily Harriet Baldock of Courlands Cottage, Lostwithiel, Cornwall.

Buried Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: III. A. 6.

Formerly Private, 2582, Inns of Court, Officers Training Corps. Thomas was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 10th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade on 28 April 1915, and was posted to France for service in the British Expeditionary Force on 2 October 1915. At the time of Thomas's death from wounds, his home address was at New Barnes, West Malling, Kent.

BARWOOD, EDWARD JOHN. Private, 26619.

8th (Service) Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.

Died 7 June 1917. Aged 29.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.

Son of J. J. and Mary A. White of The Brickfields, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated at the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ref: Special Memorial D. 25.

Edward was born on born at West Malling on 18 November 1887, and was christened in the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling on 3 May 1895.

BOTTLE, WALLACE. Private, G/65524.

32nd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (East Ham).

Died 22 September 1917. Aged 19.

Born Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William John and Eliza Emily Bottle of "Glenburn," Town Hill, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: LXIV. J. 3.

BROOKER, E.W. As commemorated on the West Malling civic war memorial, is probably in remembrance of the following local West Malling Great War casualty.

BROOKER, FREDERICK WILLIAM. Private, 53861.

75th Battery, 263rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 11 May 1918.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Ramla, Israel. Grave Ref: U. 54.

Frederick was probably the son of Thomas A. Brooker and Harriett Brooker. At the time of the 1901 census, the Brooker family resided at Back Street, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Rochester, Kent native Thomas A. Brooker, who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. All of the nine Brooker children who were at home on the night of the census were natives of West Malling. Frederick was recorded as being aged 16 by the census

enumerator, which is indicative of him being about 33 years old when he was killed in action in Palestine. The following soldier is the only Great War casualty commemorated by the Commonwealth War graves Commission as E.W. BROOKER, and has been entered here on the off chance (although highly unlikely), that he is the casualty who has been commemorated at West Malling:-

BROOKER, EDWARD WILLIAM. Private, 210119.

98th Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

Died 23 October 1918. Aged 21.

Born Portslade, Sussex 31 August 1896.

Son of George Brooker and Sarah Brooker of 26, Kitchener Avenue, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Buried St. Marys Churchyard, Bramshott, Hampshire. Grave Ref: II. B. 7.

Edward is also commemorated on page 374 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

Edward enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Welland, Ontario, Canada on 1 December 1915. At the time of his enlistment, Edward stated that he was employed as a Labourer, and was a serving member of the 19th Canadian Militia having completed 2 years service. He gave his permanent address as Tutela Post Office, Brantford, Ontario, Canada, which was the address of his father who was his next of kin. From the autumn of 1915, to October, 1919, a Canadian Training Centre was placed in the open country on both sides of the Portsmouth road, between the turnings to Grayshott and to Bramshott; and the soldiers who died in No. 12 Canadian General Hospital, which served the camp, were buried in Bramshott Churchyard, or (in the case of the Roman Catholic soldiers) in the Churchyard of St. Joseph's Church, at the West end of Grayshott.

BULL, CHARLES. Lance Corporal, 541850.

511th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 23 June 1918. Aged 37.

Born Beckley, Rye, Sussex. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Youngest son of Alfred Bull and Frances Elizabeth Bull (née Smeed) of Paygate House, Beckley, Rye, Sussex.

Husband of Florence S. Bull of 2, Claremont Villas, New Town, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. F. 19.

Formerly Private, 77148, Durham Light Infantry and T/2827, Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1891 census, the Bull family resided at Old Paygate Beckley, Rye, Sussex. Head of the house 36 year old Beckley native Alfred Bull, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Charles was recorded by the census enumerator as being 4 months old. Mention is made here of the census entry, as the Bull family had connections with the village of Beckley, Sussex, it was noted that Charles is not commemorated on the Beckley civic war memorial, which is located within the curtilage of the parish church of All Saints, Beckley.

DAMANT, PERCY. D.S.M., M.S.M. Private, 19157.

10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County).

Died Saturday 27 April 1918. Aged 30.

Born Stoke Lyne, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Allan John Damant and Mary Ann Damant (née Twell) of Woodbine Cottage, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

Buried Hagle Dump Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. D. 11.

Also commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter, Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire.

Formerly Private, 2807, 2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion. Percy enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Friday 10 December 1915, and was then placed on the Army Reserve. At the time of his enlistment, Percy stated that he was 27 years and 30 days old, and employed as a Boot Maker. In response to the question "Have you ever served in His Majesties Forces, naval or military," Percy had replied no. Percy was mobilized for military service on Monday 28 August 1916, and posted to serve in the 2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion. Having served in the 2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Percy was transferred to the 11th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Lewisham) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Wednesday 3 January 1917. Before he could join his battalion in the field, Percy was admitted to hospital suffering from Influenza on Wednesday 31 January 1917. On his recovery from Influenza, Percy joined the 11th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Lewisham) in the field on Friday 9 February 1917, and later served in Italy with the battalion from November 1917 to March 1918. On Saturday 16 March 1918 Percy was posted to serve in the 10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County), in which he then remained until he was killed in action on Saturday 27 April 1918. There appears to be some sort of an error or errors, regarding Percy having been a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal as only 12 men were awarded the combination of both medals. As if to compound the apparent mistakes or mistakes, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has also not been able to find any supporting documentation re the award of either of the medals.

DANES, HENRY ALBERT. Private, G/5188.

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

Died Sunday 10 October 1915.

Born Leybourne, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Son of Albert John Danes and Alma Danes (née Cogger).

Husband of Mrs. Alice Annie Danes (née Bushall), c/o Mrs Browning of Edge House Cottage, Edge, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Alice had previously resided at Yew Tree Farm, Barfreston, Dover, Kent.

Buried Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 5.

Also commemorated on the Leybourne, West Malling, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Danes family resided at Snodland Road, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was Henry's father, 29 year old West Malling native Albert Danes who was employed as a Waterworks Labourer. Henry was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 8, and with one of his younger brothers being 2 year old Sidney who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. Having previously briefly served in the 3rd Hussars, Henry re-enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' at Maidstone, Kent on Tuesday 29 December 1914. At the time of his re-enlistment Henry stated that he was employed as a Plumber, and that his home address was Brickfield Cottages, West Malling, Kent. Henry married Miss Alice Bushall at the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Leybourne on Saturday 22 May 1915. Following his death Henry's widow later resided at 27, Chester Road, Forest Gate, London, E7.

DANES, SIDNEY FRANK. Private, 471211.

848th Area Employment Company, Labour Corps.

Died 7 January 1918. Aged 19.

Born Leybourne, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Albert John Danes and Alma Danes (née Cogger) of 2, Hoilick Cottages, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent.

Buried Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. C. 5.

Also commemorated on the Leybourne, West Malling, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 28270, 11th (Service) Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), and Private, 024394, Army Service Corps. Please also see the census details at the brief commemoration of Sidney's brother above.

DAY, E. No clear trace at this time.

DRIVER, F. No clear trace at this time.

FORD, CHARLES THOMAS. Private, G/13000.

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

Died 12 March 1917. Aged 27.

Born Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Snodland, Kent.

Son of Mathew Thomas Ford and Mary Ann Ford of Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent. Husband of Annie May Ford (née Crittenden) of 8, Cascade Avenue, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France. Grave Ref: VII. D. 4.

Charles married Miss Annie May Crittenden at the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling, Kent during the second quarter of 1913, the marriage ceremony probably took place at the West Malling Baptist Church in Swan Street, which is where Charles was a member and was numbered amongst the 11 members of

the congregation who lost their lives in the Great War. He enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Saturday 11 December 1915. At the time of his enlistment, Charles stated that he was 26 years and 60 days old, employed as an Agricultural Labourer, and that he resided at 1, Mayell Cottages Ballfields, Snodland, Kent. Having been placed on the Army Reserve, Charles was mobilised for military service on Saturday 8 April 1916, and attested to serve as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

FRY, ALAN JAMES. Rifleman, S/15182.

2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 16 June 1916.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Erith, Kent.

Son of Richard James of 5, Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: D. 39.

Alan enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Friday 28 January 1916, at which time he stated that he was 22 years and 180 days old, employed as a Grocers Assistant, and that he resided at 12, Manor Road, Erith, Kent. Initially, Alan served in the 5th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade, following his attestation. Having already successfully qualified as a Bomber, on Wednesday 3 May 1916 Alan was transferred to serve in France in the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, and arrived in France on Friday 5 May 1916.

GIBBONS, ALFRED. Gunner, 53862.

63rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 5 October 1916. Aged 27.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. Gibbons of 3, Bramley Road, Snodland, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 3.

A regular soldier, Alfred was posted to serve in the Balkan war theatre on Monday 16 November 1914. Prior to his death, whilst he was a prisoner of war in Turkish hands, Alfred had twice been Mentioned in Despatches.

HIGGINS, FREDERICK. Private, 9826.

2nd Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Died 24 October 1914. Aged 27.

Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Alice Fanny Higgins (née Colegate) of 1, Alma Road, New Town, West Malling, Kent, and of the late Edmund George Higgins.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Panel 19.

Frederick was born on Sunday 8 November 1885 at West Malling, Kent, and he was baptized at the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling, Kent on Thursday 27 December 1885. Frederick was serving as a regular soldier when he was posted for service with the British Expeditionary Force, and arrived with the above battalion at the Belgium port of Zeebrugge on Tuesday 6 October 1914.



HILLS, FREDERICK. Stoker 1st Class, SS/102186.

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

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 27.

Born West Malling, Kent Sunday 3 April 1887.

Son of the late William and Ann Hills of West Malling, Kent.

Husband of Mabel Hills of Mare's Nest, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 5, as shown above.

Frederick was christened with his twin sister Jane, at the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling, Kent on Saturday 26 June 1886. Early in the Great War, the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C,' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On Thursday 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 had become the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on Tuesday 22 September 1914, the same submarine under the command of 32 year old Kapitänleutnant, Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since Saturday 1 August 1914, sighted the three armoured cruisers H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming North-North-East at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed, and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peacetime, and were able to reload torpedoes beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S.Aboukir which struck her on her port side. H.M.S.Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned although only one boat had survived the attack, as the result of which most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S.Aboukir had been mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S.Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S.Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of H.M.S.Aboukir from the enemy submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy, which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but she quickly got underway on sighting a

submarine periscope. At about 0720hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed, but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace, which hit H.M.S.Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels Flora and Titan, and the British trawlers JGC and Corainder, before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On Thursday 18 March 1915 the German uboat U-29 was rammed and sunk by the 20,730 ton Royal Navy battleship H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, Scotland, and all 32 submariners onboard perished, including Kapitänleutnant, Otto Weddigen who had been in command since Tuesday 16 February 1915.

HODGE, ARTHUR PERCY. Private, G/23022.

10th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), (Battersea).

Died 18 August 1917. Aged 33.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Stanmore, Middlesex.

Son of Thomas Hodge of West Malling, Kent, and of the late Frances Hodge.

Husband of Gertrude M. Hodge (née Hales) of "Westfield," 68, Underdale Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Buried Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. E. 6.

Formerly Private, T4/160042, Army Ordnance Corps. At the time of the 1901 census, Arthur was employed as a Page at "The Lodge," East Carleton, Norwich, Norfolk. Head of the house was Arthur's employer, 72 year old Acton, Middlesex native, The Right Honourable Sir Nathaniel Lindley, Baron Lindley, (1828-1921) K.B., P.C., Q.C., S.L.

HUGGETT, JOHN. Private, TR/13/57359.

572nd Agricultural Company, Labour Corps.

Died 17 November 1918. Aged 19.

Born West Malling, Kent.

Son of David Huggett of West Malling, Kent, and of the late Mrs. Emma Huggett (née Godden).

Buried Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Chatham, Kent. Grave Ref: 1519.

Formerly Private, TR/13/57359, 16th Battalion, Training Reserve. John was born on Tuesday 1 August 1899 at West Malling, Kent, and he was baptized at the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling, Kent on Friday 3 November 1899. At the time of the 1901 census, the Huggett family resided at Ryarsh Lane, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old West Malling, Kent native David Huggett, who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer.

JACQUES, FREDERICK JAMES. Private, TF/206199.

"B" Company, 23rd (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (2nd Football).

Died Tuesday 31 July 1917. Aged 28.

Born Climping, Littlehampton, Sussex. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided East Malling, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Charlotte Jacques of the Heath, East Malling, Kent, and the late Edward Jacques.

Husband of Ada Lydia Jacques of 13, Ryarsh Terrace, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Panel 49.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Jacques family resided at the Heath, East Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old Frensham, Surrey native Charlotte Jacques, who was a widow. Frederick married Miss Emily Webb at the parish church of St. James, East Malling, Kent on Monday 8 May 1915. He enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Sunday 1 October 1916, and placed on the Army Reserve. At the time of his enlistment, Frederick stated that he was 27 years and 255 days old, employed as a Farm Labourer, and that he was married. Frederick was mobilized on Monday 16 April 1917, and attested to serve in the 7th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. On Tuesday 3 July 1917, Frederick was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force, in the 23rd (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (2nd Football). Following his death, Frederick was initially posted as 'Missing,' but the Army Council later made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed that Frederick had died on or after Tuesday 31 July 1917.

JURY, JOHN THOMS. Private, 23860.

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

Died 12 February 1917. Aged 24.

Born and enlisted West Malling, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Walter Jury and Jane Jury of 91, Cannon Heath, Watlingbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: IV. B. 22.

Also commemorated on the Watlingbury, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Watlingbury school memorial panels.

KELVIE, FREDERICK. Gunner, 156374.

56th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 28 August 1918. Aged 22.

Born East Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided East Malling, Kent.

Son of Louis Kelvie and Sarah Jane Kelvie (née Luck) of St. Leonard's Street, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Bagneux British Cemetery Gezaincourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VI. E. 23.

LARKING, CYRIL FREDERICK. Private, 1387.

3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry A.I.F.

Died at sea Tuesday 10 August 1915. Aged 23.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia.

Resided Millers Point, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Son of Martha Raven (formerly Larking), (née Skinner) of 2, Church Fields, West Malling, Kent, and of the late William George Larking.

Commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Lone Pine Cemetery, Turkey.

Panel 20, and on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 37.

A native of West Malling, Kent, Cyril's birth was recorded in the Malling, Kent Registration District during the first quarter of 1892. Cyril was educated at the National School, West Malling, Kent, and he emigrated to Australia in 1912 where he had worked as a Laundry Hand, and a Drapers Assistant, before going to sea being employed by the Adelaide Steamship Company as a Steward. Prior to his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force, Cyril had been employed as a Saloon Steward on the 7,714 ton Adelaide Steamship Company vessel SS Willochra, (pictured above) on which had made a number of voyages, initially serving on her as a Second Steward. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on Saturday 31 October 1914, at which time Cyril stated that he was 23 years and 8 months old, and that he resided with a Mrs. Dooley at 46, Kent Street, Millers Point, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. At the time of Cyril's enlistment, he named his mother Mrs. Martha Raven as his next of kin, at which time she was residing at Hampstead Cottages, Station Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent. On Thursday 11 February 1915, Cyril was serving in the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Reinforcement, Australian Infantry A.I.F. which embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on board the 5,849 ton Australian transport ship H.M.A.T. "Seang Bee" (A48), and subsequently served in Egypt and at Gallipoli. Cyril made a Will on Sunday 25 April 1915 whilst he was on the SS Derfflinger at Lemnos Island, Greece, in which he left all of his possessions to his mother. Cyril died of gunshot wounds to his abdomen which he received in action at Gallipoli, whilst he was receiving treatment for his wounds on board the 8,114 ton Union-Castle Mail Steam Ship Company vessel, the SS Dunlace Castle as shown below, and following his death Cyril was buried at sea.



LEEVEES, ALFRED. Rifleman, S/21757.
10th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 21 November 1917. Aged 30.
Born Bromley, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ealing, Middlesex.
Son of Richard and Caroline Leeves (née Older) of "Rockhurst," New Town, West Malling, Kent.
Husband of Bessie Leeves (née King).
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 10.

LEEVEES, WILLIAM. Lance Serjeant, 16919.
3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Died 27 November 1917. Aged 21.
Born Bromley, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.
Son of Richard and Caroline Leeves (née Older) of "Rockhurst," New Town, West Malling, Kent.
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 2.
William was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on 1 May 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in the Grenadier Guards.

LIPSCOMBE, HENRY WALTER. Private, 3748.
1st/20th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Blackheath and Woolwich).
Died 21 May 1916. Aged 18.
Born Plumpton, Lewis, Sussex. Enlisted Blackheath, Kent. Resided New Cross, London SE.
Son of Kate Lipscombe of Sportsman's Cottages, West Malling, Kent, and the late James William Lipscombe.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 9.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Lipscombe family resided at 5, Manor Cottages, Ditchling, Sussex. Head of the house was 40 year old Havant, Hampshire native James William Lipscombe, who was employed as a Brickmaker. Unfortunately on the West Malling civic war memorial, Henry has been commemorated with his initials shown in reverse order.

LYON, JOHN DUDLEY COULDRIDGE. Bombadier, 950654.
"A" Battery, 15th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died Sunday 28 October 1917. Aged 20.
Born Brentwood, Essex. Enlisted Kennington, London. Resided Walworth, London.
Son of William Henry Lyon and Marion M. Lyon of Newton Cottage, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: III. H. 15.
Formerly Gunner, 1781, Royal Field Artillery.

MILES, JOHN ROBERT. Private, 538.

7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died Tuesday 21 December 1915. Aged 24.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Epsom, Surrey.

Son of John Robert Miles and Minnie Marie Miles (née Pointer) of Fartherwell Cottages, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France. Grave V. A. 8.

John was born at West Malling, Kent on Monday 23 January 1891, and he was baptized at the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling on Sunday 15 March 1891. At the time of the 1901 census, the Miles family resided at Offham Lane, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Gravesend, Kent native John Robert Miles (senior), who was employed as a Farm Manager. Robert (junior) enlisted in the army on Friday 28 August 1914, at which time he stated that he was 23 years and 210 days old, and employed as a Gardener. On Monday 31 August 1914, John was attested to serve in the 7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, in which he then remained until he was killed in action on Tuesday 21 December 1915. From Monday 20 November 1915 to Thursday 2 December 1915, John suffered from a bout of Influenza which resulted in him being hospitalised. On being discharged from hospital, John went to the 12 Infantry Base Depot at Calais, from where he rejoined his battalion in the field on Saturday 18 December 1915. Three days after rejoining his battalion, John was killed in action and has the sad distinction of being the sole other rank death suffered by the 7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment on Tuesday 21 December 1915. John was originally buried near to where he had fallen, but after the Armistice, 426 German graves were removed from the Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France to other cemeteries; and the Portuguese graves of 1917-1918 were removed to the Portuguese cemetery of Richebourg-L'Avoue. British graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from smaller burial grounds, and one of the British casualties which were re-interred at the cemetery was John, who like the other men he was accorded a dignified military funeral as befitted his rank.

NEAME, GEORGE JOHN. Sapper, WR/256830.

Railway Transport Division, Royal Engineers.

Died Sunday 31 March 1918. Aged 20.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of George Neame and Minnie Charlotte Neame (née Harman) of "Ravensdale," New Town, West Malling, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

Also commemorated on the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company war memorial at the Marine Station, Dover, Kent.

Formerly Sapper, 355360, Royal Engineers. George was born in January 1898, and shortly after his birth he was baptised at the parish church of St. Michael and All Angels, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent on Thursday 20 January 1898. At the time of the 1901 census, the Neame family resided at Church Hill,

Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 30 year old Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent native George Neame (senior), who was employed as a Police Constable. George (junior) enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Saturday 17 February 1917, at which time he stated that he was 18 years and 27 days old, and was employed as a Railway Clerk by the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company. He was employed at Malling Railway Station, and had been allowed to attest for military service under the Group Scheme, which was approved by Mr. B. Bushell who was the Stationmaster. Following his enlistment, George was then placed on the Army Reserve until Monday 26 February 1917. He was then mobilized and posted to serve as a Sapper in the Railway Operating Division, Royal Engineers on Wednesday 28 February 1917. On Tuesday 27 March 1917, he was transferred to serve in the Railway Transport Division, Royal Engineers and posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force, as a member of the Railway Stores Park, Royal Engineers. In France, George served as a Clerk with the No.8 Transportation Company, Railway Operating Division, Royal Engineers, No.1 Transport Stores Depot. He was granted a period of leave to the United Kingdom from Wednesday 20 March 1918 to Tuesday 2 April 1918, but whilst he was home on leave George was taken ill and died at "Ravensdale," New Town, West Malling, Kent on Sunday 31 March 1918. Following George's death, his family was visited by the Police Doctor, Arthur Henry Roberts, L.R.C.P, M.R.C.S. of "Elwood House," High Street, West Malling, who was also the local General Practitioner. Captain William J. Munro of the Royal Army Medical Corps who was accompanied by another officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who both came from the Military Hospital, Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent, also visited the Neame residence. On the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company war memorial at the Marine Station, Dover, Kent, briefly referred to above, George is commemorated on the panel which is in remembrance of the personnel employed in Coaching Department who lost their lives during the Great War, but his army service papers would tend to suggest that whilst he was employed by the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company George had been a member of the Passenger Department. On Wednesday 14 May 1919, a memorial service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in the presence of H.M. The King and other members of the royal family, in addition to other dignitaries including the Lord Mayor of London. The memorial service was to remember the contribution made during the Great War by the 186,475 railwaymen of Great Britain and Ireland who had joined the Colours, and of these 18,957 lost their lives, one of which of course was George Neame, who was remembered as being a former South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company Clerk.



PACKHAM, ALFRED. Farrier Sergeant, 41442.

39th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died Tuesday 12 November 1918. Aged 28.

Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Youngest son of Harriet Packham (née Wood) of 1, West Street, West Malling, Kent, and of the late George Packham.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

Also commemorated on the Lewisham Hospital, London, Great War memorial plaque at Lewisham High Street.

Formerly 9073, Gloucestershire Regiment. Alfred was born at Pest House, West Street, West Malling, Kent on Friday 24 October 1890, and he was baptized at the parish church of St. Mary, West Malling on Sunday 23 November 1890. At the time of the 1901 census, the Packham family resided at West Street, West Malling. Head of the house was 55 year old Mayfield, Sussex native George Packham, who was employed as a Journeyman Butcher. Alfred enlisted in the army as a regular soldier on Thursday 5 November 1908, for 7 years with

the Colours and 5 years in the Army Reserve. At the time of enlisting in the army, Alfred stated that he was 18 years of age and employed as a Blacksmith. Prior to enlisting, Alfred had been employed for 4 years as an (unbound) Apprentice Blacksmith by William Sloman, Wheelwright and Smith of St. Leonard's Street, West Malling. Alfred originally served in the army as Private, 9073, in the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, which he joined at Bristol, Gloucestershire on Tuesday 10 November 1908. On 15 December 1908, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Possibly it was due to what his former civilian trade had been, why he was transferred to the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars on 31 January 1910, in which he initially served as Private, H/5346. Whilst he was serving in the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars, Alfred was admitted as a patient at the Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex on Saturday 30 April 1910, having been "Wounded in the execution of his military duties." Alfred's skills learned whilst still a civilian at West Malling, were put to use by his regiment. On Tuesday 8 July 1913, Alfred was admitted to the Military Hospital at Currah Camp, County Kildare, Ireland, having received injuries to an arm whilst he was shoeing a horse two days earlier, at which time he was serving as a Lance Corporal Farrier in "B" Squadron, having been appointed a Lance Corporal on Tuesday 6 February 1912. The 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars were still serving at Currah Camp when the Great War commenced, and as part of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, The Cavalry Division, Alfred was with his regiment when it was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Saturday 15 August 1914. On Tuesday 7 March 1916, Alfred was attached to the 3 Machine Gun Squadron, 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars in the field, and was appointed a Shoeing Smith Corporal and a (paid) Lance Sergeant on Saturday 10 June 1916. He was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on Tuesday 27 June 1916 in the field, and reverted to the rank of Shoeing Smith Corporal on 30 November 1917. On Thursday 4 April 1918, Alfred was posted to the 39th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), but retained his Shoeing Smith Corporal (Cavalry) rates of pay and was promoted to the rank of Farrier Sergeant. Aged 72, Alfred's father had died at West Malling on Tuesday 15 October 1918, and in order for him to attend his father's funeral, from Tuesday 22 October 1918 to Tuesday 5 November 1918, Alfred was granted a period of home leave to the United Kingdom, and left France from the port of Calais. Whilst he was home on leave Alfred became ill, and he was later admitted as a patient at the Military Hospital, Lewisham, London SE13 on Monday 4 November 1918. At 0945 hours on Tuesday 12 November 1918, Alfred died at the hospital where his cause of death was recorded as Influenza. Having completed 10 years unblemished service in the army, and survived the carnage of the Great War on the Western Front, virtually from the first day till the last, it was a cruel twist of fate that resulted in Alfred becoming one amongst the countless millions of victims of the worldwide Influenza pandemic, which ultimately claimed more lives than those that were lost due to military actions during the Great War years.

PAYNE, C. No clear trace at this time.

PHILLIPS, S. No clear trace at this time.

POINTER, CHARLES ARTHUR. Private, 65636.
104th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died 28 July 1916. Aged 38.
Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of William Pointer of 17, Church Fields, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon. Grave Ref: Church C. 4976.



ROBINSON, WALTER THOMAS. Corporal, 8176.
Army Pay Corps.
Died 17 November 1917. Aged 29.
Husband of May Robinson of "Stoneleigh," Offham Road, West Malling, Kent.
Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

SANDS, TRAYTON WILLIAM. Gunner, 794603.

"A" Battery, 155th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 20 July 1918. Aged 40.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Trayton William Sands and Harriett Sands of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Alice M. Sands of "Rockhurst," Alma Road, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Bellacourt Military Cemetery, Riviere, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. B. 6.

SKINNER, JOHN HENRY. Private. 73430.

23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), (1st Sportsmans)

Died 21 July 1918. Aged 19.

Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of James Skinner and Jane Skinner (née Barton) of 5, West Street, West Malling, Kent.

Buried St. Amand British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: IV.C.6.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Skinner family resided at Back Street, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent native James Skinner, who was employed as a General Farm Labourer. John was a brother of Robert Skinner who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

SKINNER, ROBERT. Sergeant, 200974.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 20.

Born, enlisted and resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of James Skinner and Jane Skinner (née Barton) of 5, West Street, West Malling, Kent.

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

Roberts' Medal Index Card entry shows that he was already serving as a Sergeant in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) when he was posted overseas to serve with the British Expeditionary Force. Unfortunately no date for the move is shown.

STARTUP, RALPH BARNBY. Sergeant, L/8251.

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

Died 5 August 1916. Aged 31.

Son of the late William and Eliza Startup.

Husband of Beatrice Bertha May Startup (née Morgan) of 8, Rosslyn Cottages, Ham Hill, Snodland, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier & Face 11C.

Ralph was serving as a regular soldier, when was posted to France as a Sergeant in the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Thursday 13 August 1914, for service with the British Expeditionary Force.



SUTTON, STEPHEN. Stoker 1st Class, K/6539.

Royal Navy, H.M. S/M. "H10."

Died 19 January 1918. Aged 27.

Born Offham, Malling, Kent 13 April 1890.

Son of Thomas Sutton and Ann Sutton.

Husband of Rose H. Large (formerly Sutton), (née Randall) of 2, Ryarsh Terrace, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 29, as shown above.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Sutton family resided at 2, Rose Terrace, Offham, Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent native Thomas Sutton, who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. When Stephen died, his wife who was his next of kin was residing at 3, Victoria Place, Lancaster Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

TERRY, REGINALD. Private, 285126.

2nd/1st (Buckinghamshire) (Territorial Force) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Died 22 August 1917.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Southampton, Hampshire.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 97.

Formerly Private, 1566, Hampshire Regiment.

THORPE, ARTHUR EDWARD. Lance Corporal, 18914.

2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 31 July 1917. Aged 26.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of George Thorpe and Caroline Thorpe of 34, Mote Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Cement House Cemetery, Langemark, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: V. C. 25.

Arthur was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 24 August 1915, as a Private in the Grenadier Guards.

VAUGHAN, GEORGE ARTHUR. Private, G/6881.

10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (Kent County).

Died 28 June 1917.

Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Mrs Hilda Mary Vaughan (née Cheeseman) of 29 Denmark Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried St. Gregory and Martin Churchyard, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: Near old West wall.

For additional comprehensive details appertaining to George, please also see the Wye, Ashford, Kent, Great War transcriptions by Neil Clark on this website.

WATERS, HARRY. Lance Corporal, 200179.
3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 11 November 1917. Aged 21.
Born, enlisted and resided West Malling, Kent.
Son of Harry and Phillis Waters (née Fowler).
Husband of Charlotte Waters (née Skinner) of 5, West Street, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: XIII. F. 19.

WEBB, ERNEST ARTHUR. Private, 200168.
2nd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 19 April 1917. Aged 25.
Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted and resided West Malling, Kent.
Son of Ernest Roland Webb and Lydia Webb of Ryash Lane, West Malling, Kent.
Commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel. Panel 41.
Formerly Private, 1282, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

WELLS, JAMES EDWARD. Private, L/8285.
2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 11 July 1917.
Born Watlington, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Baghdad War Cemetery, Iraq. XIV. L. 8.
Also commemorated on the Watlington, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Watlington school memorial panels.

WELLER, THOMAS JOHN. Lance Corporal, 16378.
2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Died 15 September 1916. Aged 22.
Born Boxley, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.
Son of the late James Weller and Sarah Weller.
Brother of Walter Weller of New Pound, Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 D.
A regular soldier, Thomas was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Thursday 13 August 1914, whilst serving as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

WOOD, ALBERT. Private, G/5226.
1st Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 25 July 1916. Aged 36.
Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Tottenham, London. Resided Upper Edmonton, London.
Son of the late James Wood and Mary Ann Wood (née Bristow).
Husband of Charlotte Mary Wood (née Ward) of 57, Bulwer Road, Silver Street, Edmonton, London.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11C.

WOOFF, ERNEST GEORGE. Private, G/12894.

7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 9 April 1917. Aged 37.

Born Frilsham, Berkshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of George Wooff and Jane Wooff (née Knight) of Bracknell, Berkshire.

Husband of Ethel Sophie Wooff (née May) of Offham Road, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 6.

At the time of the 1901 census, Ernest was employed as a Grocers Assistant, and was residing as a boarder at Pennsylvania Terrace West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Winchester, Hampshire native Charles Henry Fielder, who was employed as a Journeyman Tailor. Ernest's marriage to Miss Ethel Sophie May was recorded in the Malling, Kent Registration District during the third quarter of 1909.

WOODGER, GEORGE EDWARD.

Petty Officer Stoker, K/3353.

Royal Navy, H.M. S/M. "E37."

Died Sunday 3 December 1916.

Born and resided East Malling, Kent.

Son of the late Alfred James Woodger and Dorcas Pearce Woodger (née Lovelock).

Husband of Maud Ann Woodger (née Ballard) of New Hythe, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 17. Column 2, as shown above.

George was born at East Malling, Kent on Thursday 1 December 1887, and he was baptized at the parish church of St. James, East Malling, Kent on Sunday 5 February 1888. At the time of the 1901 census, the Woodger family resided at 4, Jubilee Terrace, London Road, Ditton, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was widowed 40 year old Barming, Maidstone, Kent native Dorcas Woodger, who was employed as a Field Worker. Her late husband Alfred James Woodger had died in 1900 aged 40. H.M. S/M. "E37" on which George was serving at the time of his death, was a Royal Navy E class submarine that was built by Fairfield, of Govan, on the Clyde, Scotland. She was laid down on Saturday 25 September 1915, and commissioned on Friday 17 March 1916. Commanded by Lieutenant-Commander, Robert Fellows Chisholm, the submarine had a ships complement which was comprised of 30 officers and ratings, all of whom perished on Sunday 3 December 1916, when the E37 was lost in the North Sea off the coast of Harwich, Essex. Although the exact cause of the loss of H.M. S/M. "E37" has never been established, it was suspected that she had probably been mined.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men



BELLINGHAM, THOMAS HENRY. Stoker 1st Class, K/6334.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hawke.

Died 15 October 1914. Aged 22.

Born West Malling, Kent 9 October 1891.

Son of George and Mary Bellingham of Pond Road, Offham, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 4, as shown above and on the Offham, West Malling, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Bellingham family resided at 3, Tower Hill, Offham. Head of the house was 50 year old Peckham, Kent native George Bellingham, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer.

BEVAN, NORMAN SIDNEY. Private, L/11300.

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

Died 27 December 1916. Aged 17.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Margaret Alice Bevan of Little Wrotham Cottage, Wrotham, Kent.

Buried Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. H. 9.

BLACK, RICHARD WILLIAM. Private, 225656.

1st (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), attached to the 2/4th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 33.

Born Leeds, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William and Caroline Matilda Black of 1, New Town, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 85.

Formerly Private, 204044, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

BRACHER, GUY. Lieutenant.

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

Died 3 July 1916. Aged 26.

Born Ashford, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Henry James Bracher and Marian Alexandra Bracher of Church House, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: F. 42.

Formerly Corporal, 155, 19th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (2nd Public Schools). Guy was commissioned in May 1915.

BROOMFIELD, JOHN. Private, 9086.

12th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 33.

Born Lyndhurst, Hampshire. Enlisted Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

Husband of Alice B. Hills (formerly Broomfield), of 6, Pleasant Row, Police Station Road, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: IX. H. 6.

BURFORD, ALBERT. Rifleman, 11281.

4th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

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

Son of Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Burford of King Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Harlebeke New British Cemetery, Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XIII. B. 1.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Burford family resided at Strood, Kent. Head of the house was 59 year old Rochester, Kent native Eliza Burford, who was a widow. Albert's mother 23 year old Strood, Kent native Florence Elizabeth Burford, was recorded as having no occupation by the census enumerator. Albert's sister Eliza was recorded by the census enumerator as being only 1 month old.

CHAMBERS, HERBERT WILLIAM. Serjeant, TF/212.

"H" Company, 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 31 May 1915. Aged 46.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted South Darenth, Kent.

Husband of Alice Maud Chambers of 82, Kingsley Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried in Jhansi Cantonment Cemetery.

Commemorated on the Madras 1914-1918 War Memorial, Chennai, India.

Face 20.

COLEMAN J.

COLEMAN, JABEZ. Stoker 1st Class, K/15856.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Bulldog.

Died 16 April 1916. Aged 25.

Born West Malling, Kent 30 January 1891.

Son of Jabez and Sarah Ann Coleman (née Evans) of 3. Rose Terrace, Offham, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 17, as shown above and on the Offham, West Malling, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Coleman family resided at 4. Rose Terrace Offham. Head of the house was 39 year old Wrotham, Kent native Jabez and Sarah A. Coleman (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer.

CONSTABLE, FREDERICK. Lance Corporal, 7148.
1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 18 May 1915. Aged 35.
Born Marylebone, Middlesex. Enlisted London. Resided West Malling, Kent.
Husband of Alice Lovernia Wood (formerly Constable) of St. Leonard's Street,
West Malling, Kent.
Buried Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: VII. B. 17.



DOBSON, WILLIAM ROBERT. Private, 18566.
9th Motor Machine Gun Battery, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.
Died 18 March 1915.
Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.
William is commemorated on page 12 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

William died of injuries that he had suffered in a road traffic accident. He died at Malling House, West Malling where he had been convalescing. The accompanying photograph below of William's funeral shows Malling House where he died, which was in use as a VAD Hospital from November 1914 to January 1919.



EARL, TOM. Private, S/593.

7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 25 September 1915.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of William Earl and Martha Earl.

Buried St. Mary's Cemetery, Haisnes, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Grave Ref: VI. B. 3.

In view of his Royal Sussex Regiment regimental number, it would mean that Tom was serving in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the regiment, when he was posted to France to serve in the 2nd Battalion on Tuesday 10 November 1914. The bulk of the original personnel of which the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment was comprised, had arrived at the French port of Harve on Thursday 13 August 1914. On Thursday 30 January 1919, Tom's brother; 388579 Private J. Earl (probably John) submitted a formal application to be furnished with Tom's 'Mons Star.' At the time of submitting his application, Tom's brother was a serving soldier and residing at No.5 Hut, F Squadron, Royal Army Service Corps, Remounts, Swaythling, Hampshire.

EVANS, PHILLIP. Lance Corporal, G/160.

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

Died 8 October 1915. Aged 40.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of the late Henry and Mary Evans.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 95.

EVISON, ALBERT EDWARD. Private, G/5568.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 January 1920. Aged 26.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Cowden, Kent.

Son of Charles Hatch Evison and Bessie Evison (née Ford) of The Cottage, Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent.

Husband of Lillian Evison (née Mathews) of 7 Alice Street, Lamb Lane, Manningham, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Buried Scholemoor Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Grave Ref: Section M. Grave 340.

Commemorated on the Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent civic war memorial.

Prior to enlisting in the army on 29 January 1915, Albert had been employed as a Painter. At the time of his enlistment in the army 'For the Duration of the War' he stated that he was 20 years and 319 days old, and that he resided at The Cottage, Cowden, and named his father as his next of kin. On the completion of his basic training with the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Albert was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion of the regiment on 29 May 1915 and deployed to France for active service with the British Expeditionary Force. Albert received serious shrapnel wound to his head, from a trench mortar, and another shrapnel wound to his left arm during the fighting at Vermelles, Pas de Calais, France on 15 March 1916. Soon after being wounded, Albert underwent an operation to remove a shrapnel fragment from his skull, and received treatment at the 33 Casualty Clearing Station at Bethune, and at the Millicent Sutherland Ambulance, Calais, when sufficiently stabilized he was evacuated back to England on the hospital ship "Cambria," for further medical treatment at the Bradford military Hospital, Yorkshire. For administrative purposes was posted to the Regimental Depot on 23 March 1916, and when deemed to be sufficiently recovered he was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion at Fort Darland, Gillingham, Kent on 14 July 1916. As the result of an Army Medical Board which was conducted at Chatham, Kent on 11 August 1918, Albert was discharged from the army, by virtue of being "No longer physically fit for war service," and was awarded a war pension. Sadly on 22 January 1920 at Bradford, Yorkshire, Albert succumbed to the head trauma from which he had suffered since March 1916. As can be seen on the relevant excellent photograph, it would appear that Albert is a more recent additional commemoration on the Cowden civic war memorial. For a number of years Albert's parents had been the Landlord and Landlady of the Crown Inn at Cowden, Kent, which for a number of years has been a private residence.

FOREST, FREDERICK. Private, D/7831.

5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's).

Died 14 February 1919. Aged 33.

Born West Malling, Kent.

Husband of May Driver (formerly Forest), of 62, Fortescue Road, Merton Abbey, Surrey.

Buried Ste. Marie Cemetery, Gravelle-St. Honorine, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave Ref: Div. 64. VI. K. 2.

A regular soldier, Frederick had served on the Western Front since 15 August 1914. In need of additional research, but there is every indication that having survived the carnage of the Great War from its beginning to the cessation of hostilities, he might have been numbered amongst the countless millions of victims of the worldwide Influenza pandemic aka Spanish flu, which lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919. Although many of the armed service victims that died of the Influenza were recorded as having succumbed to Pneumonia. The death toll of the pandemic will never be known, but the number is well in excess of those who died due to military actions during the Great War.

GARDINER, WILLIAM JAMES. Private, L/7909.

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

Died 1914. Aged 20 October 1914. Aged 34.

Born Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of the late William and Bertha Gardiner.

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

GILBERT, ALBERT EDWARD. Rifleman, 48544.

Rifle Brigade. Posted to the 1st/17th (County of London) Battalion, (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) London Regiment.

Died 4 November 1918. Aged 19.

Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of James George Gilbert of 3, North Down Terrace, Trottiscliffe, Kent.

Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref: IV. N. 36.

Commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Trottiscliffe, Kent.

GLADDISH, EDWARD. Stoker 1st Class, 290188.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Good Hope."

Died 1 November 1914. Aged 34.

Born Birling, Kent 28 September 1880.

Son of George and Eliza Gladdish of West Malling, Kent.

Husband of Cecilia Gladdish of 8, Aylesbury Road, Copnor, Portsmouth.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 4, and on the Birling, Kent civic war memorial.

Edward was a brother of the following casualty briefly commemorated below.

GLADDISH, WILLIAM LOUIS. Private, 1520.

23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 3 May 1917. Aged 29.

Born Chalk Cottage, Birling, West Malling, Kent. Resided 'Swan Hotel,' Church Street, Richmond, Victoria, Australia. Enlisted Richmond, Victoria, Australia 29 March 1915.

Son of George and Eliza Gladdish of West Malling, Kent.

Buried Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. D. 12.

Commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 99, and on the Birling, Kent civic war memorial.

Prior to going to Australia, William had served for three years as a British Merchant Seaman (Stoker), but was sent home due to illness.

HAFFENDEN, FREDRICK HUBERT. Driver, 141020.

127th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers.

Died Tuesday 29 October 1918. Aged 29.

Born Goudhurst, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Demas Haffenden and Harriett Haffenden (née Maynard) of Chestnut Cottage, Birling, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Mikra British Cemetery, Ntalipi, Kalamaria, Greece. Grave Ref: 702.

Commemorated on the Goudhurst, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Haffenden family resided at Sweetlands, Staplehurst, Kent. Head of the house was 56 year old Heathfield, Sussex native Demas Haffenden, who was employed as a Farm Bailiff. Frederick is also possibly the same casualty who is commemorated on the West Peckham, Kent civic war memorial as HUBERT HAFFENDEN, and on the Offham, Kent civic war memorial as HEBERT HAFFENDEN. The British cemetery at Mikra where Frederick is at rest was opened in April 1917, remaining in use until 1920. The cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from a number of burial grounds in the area. Of the 1952 burials at Mikra, a not insignificant number died of the result of illness or disease, many of whom died from Malaria. 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' records Frederick has having Died, as opposed to him having been killed in action or dying of wounds. Mention is made elsewhere on this website, at the brief tributes in remembrance of those who died of disease within a certain time span, that their deaths might have been due to the world-wide Influenza pandemic which prevailed in late 1918 and early 1919, and which is known to have claimed far more lives than those which were the result of military actions during the years of the Great War. As is the same situation with that of most of the deaths referred to above, Frederick's death certificate, or any other tangible supporting documentary evidence has not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view of his date of death, combined with the fact that a number of those at rest at Mikra British Cemetery were the victims of the Influenza pandemic, it might be the case that Frederick had been one of its countless victims.

HARLOW, SYDNEY JAMES. Private, G/33593.

12th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 3 May 1917.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex. Resided Willesden, Middlesex.

Son of Charles J. Harlow and Ellen Harlow.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

HODGE, FREDERICK. Rifleman, 5/3369.

1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died Monday 11 January 1915. Aged 25.

Son of John Hodge and Edith Hodge of Stonebridge Cottages, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent.

Born and resided West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: III. B. 46.

Frederick enlisted in the Army Reserve (Special Reservists) on 4 December 1910, at which he stated that he was 18 years and 6 months old, and employed as a Farm Labourer. Having completed almost 6 years of service in the United Kingdom, Frederick was serving as a regular soldier when he was posted to France on Monday 23 November 1914, where he served for 50 days prior to dying of wounds on Monday 11 January 1915.

HODGES W.J.

HODGES, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, L/9590.

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

Died 20 October 1914. Aged 20.

Born Birling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hodges of Stonebridge, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent.

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

William was serving as a regular soldier in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), when he was posted abroad for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 7 September 1914.

HUTT, HAROLD VERNON. B.Sc. (Lond). Second Lieutenant.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 26 January 1915. Aged 27.

Born 4 October 1887.

Son of Arthur William and Margaret Sarah Hutt, of Tudor House, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Cuinchy Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. B. 24.

Prior to enlisting in the army as a Private in the London Regiment, Harold had been employed as an Engineer by London Underground.

IZZARD, HARRY HOWARD. Sergeant, 200587.

1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 29 December 1917.

Born Penshurst Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Thomas Izzard and Elizabeth Izzard.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial. India. Face 7, and on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the in the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Penshurst, Kent.

JUPP, JOHN WILLIAM. Sergeant, 43279.

10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment.

Died 26 September 1916. Aged 21.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Ilford, Essex. Resided Upminster. Essex.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jupp of Station Road, Upminster. Essex.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 10 D.

KEMP, EDWARD JAMES. Gunner, 109333.

44th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died Thursday 21 March 1918.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted and resided Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Son of Alice Garland (formerly Kemp) of Swansea, Wales.

Husband of Georgina Kemp (née Kemp) of Vicar's Court, Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Buried Beuvry Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. A. 10. Edward married Miss Georgina Kemp at Clerkenwell, London on Sunday 17 August 1902, where their children were born in 1903 and 1904. He was residing with his family at Brockenhurst Cottage, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, when he enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Tuesday 14 July 1915, at which time he stated that he was 35 years and 5 months old, and employed as a Butler. Following his enlistment, he was placed on the Army Reserve until being mobilized for service on Wednesday 12 July 1916. On Friday 14 July 1916, Edward was posted as Gunner, 55465, to "A" Siege Artillery Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. On Tuesday 29 August 1916, he sailed from Southampton for service with the British Expeditionary Force in the 59 Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. Edward was granted a period of leave to the United Kingdom from Saturday 16 December 1916 to Tuesday 26 December 1916, and had another period of leave to the United Kingdom from Friday 23 November 1917 to Friday 7 December 1917. On Tuesday 29 January 1918, Edward was transferred from the 59 Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery to the 44th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery.

KENNARD, GEORGE. Skipper.

Mercantile Marine, "Campanula."

Died Wednesday 28 January 1920. Aged 25.

Born Wrotham, Kent.

Son of George Kennard and Alice M. Kennard (née Newman) of 4, Norman's Place, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London.

Georges' birth was recorded in the Malling, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1895. At the time of the 1901 census, the Kennard family resided at Bewley Farm Cottage, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Head of the house was 34 year old Hawkhurst, Kent native George Kennard (senior), who was employed in a Stone Quarry.

KNOWLES W. A.

KNOWLES, WILLIAM ALFRED. Able Seaman, 239360.

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

Died Tuesday 22 September 1914. Aged 22.

Born West Malling, Kent 30 October 1891.

Son of George W. Knowles and Lydia Knowles of 4, Preston Villas, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2, as shown above.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Knowles family resided at Church House, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Kennington, Ashford, Kent native George W. Knowles, who was employed as a House Painter. Early in the Great War, the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C,' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On Thursday 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 had become the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on Tuesday 22 September 1914, the same submarine under the command of 32 year old Kapitänleutnant, Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since Saturday 1 August 1914, sighted the three armoured cruisers H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming North-North-East at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed, and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peacetime, and were able to reload torpedoes beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S.Aboukir which stuck her on her port side. H.M.S.Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned although only one boat had survived the attack, as the result of which most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S.Aboukir had been

mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S.Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S.Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of H.M.S.Aboukir from the enemy submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy, which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but she quickly got underway on sighting a submarine periscope. At about 0720hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed, but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace, which hit H.M.S.Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels Flora and Titan, and the British trawlers JGC and Corairder, before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On Thursday 18 March 1915 the German uboat U-29 was rammed and sunk by the 20,730 ton Royal Navy battleship H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, Scotland, and all 32 submariners onboard perished, including Kapitänleutnant, Otto Weddigen who had been in command since Tuesday 16 February 1915. Amongst the Knowles siblings recorded on the 1901 census to which reference was made above, the then 6 year old Willesborough, Ashford, Kent George Knowles (junior), served in the Great War as 723376, Private, 24th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's), and fellow Willesborough native, Harry Hubert Knowles who was aged 4 when the census was conducted, also served during the Great War as 3543, Private, in the 13th Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. It was sad to note that William was not commemorated at West Malling where he was born, as for now he has not been commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial. In view of the two glaring omissions by both West Malling and Ashford it would appear to be the case that like thousands of other British victims of wars, both armed service personnel and civilians, William probably has no civic form of his remembrance on any war memorial or similar tribute.



LANE, PERCIVAL FREDERICK. Private, TF/4790.
4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 1 September 1916. Aged 18.
Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Gravesend, Kent.
Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Lane of Birling, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Birling, West Malling, Kent (All Saints) Churchyard).
Grave Ref: South-East Part.
Commemorated on the Birling, Kent civic war memorial.

LANGRIDGE, AMOS ALFRED. Lance Corporal, 64031.
10th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 25 August 1918. Aged 24.
Born and resided Snodland, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of John Langridge of West Malling, Kent.
Husband of Winifred Annie Fisher (formerly Langridge) of 98, Carr Road, Walthamstow, Essex.
Buried Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. B. 3.
Formerly Private, 5325, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

LARGE, LESLIE LESTER. Rifleman, 5289.

18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).

Died 17 April 1921. Aged 28.

Born West Malling, Kent.

Son of John Large and Rose Anna Rebecca Large of Rectory Cottages, Mereworth, Kent.

Buried St. Lawrence Churchyard, Mereworth, Kent.

Grave Ref: New ground, East of path, near North boundary.

Leslie had been wounded on the Somme in October 1916.

MARTIN, CHARLES RICHARD. Private, 11798.

1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Died 8 October 1915.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich. Resided Orchard Green, Kent.

Son of Richard Martin and Jemima Jane Martin.

Grave Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Ref: I. L. 25.

At the time of the 1901 census, 17 year old Charles was residing at Sportsmans Cottages, West Malling, Kent and was employed as a General Domestic Servant. Head of the house was 61 year old Mereworth, Kent native John Sudds, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Charles' mother Jemima Jane Martin was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 48 year old married native of Bexley, Kent.

MILLS, WALTER. Rifleman, 2202.

14th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles.

Died 7 December 1917.

Born Offham, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 10, and on the West Peckham, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial, also on the Offham, West Malling, Kent civic war memorial.

OLIVER, WALTER VICTOR. Private, 5699.

9th/20th Battalion, London Regiment.

Died 11 August 1916. Aged 22.

Born Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Jeremiah Oliver of the George Inn Cottage, Trosley, Malling, Kent.

Buried Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St. Eloi, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. D. 13.

Formerly Private, 80951, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Trottiscliffe, Kent

Walter's mother was Eliza Oliver (nee Jeffery).



ORPIN, HENRY. Private, S/10481.

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

Died Monday 9 August 1915.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Whitstable, Kent.

Son of Beatrice Holness (formerly Orpin), (née Linfield) of 15, Essex Street, Whitstable, Kent, and of the late Arthur Orpin.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 14, as shown above, and on the Whitstable, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Orpin family resided at Millstrood Farm, Whitstable, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old West Malling, Kent native Arthur Orpin, who was employed as a Cowman on the farm. Henry was 17 years and 9 months old when he enlisted for 6 years in the Army Reserve (Special Reservists), as a member of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of his enlistment on Wednesday 7 May 1913, Henry stated that he was employed as a Farm Labourer, at which time he worked at Millstrood Farm, Whitstable, Kent. Henry was posted to France on Wednesday 11 November 1914. He was one of the 23 other ranks in his battalion who lost their lives on Monday 9 August 1915. At the time of Henry's death, his mother Beatrice Holness resided at 16, Church Road, Whitstable, Kent, she married William E. Holness in late 1916.

PATTENDEN, PERCY. Gunner, 102517.

6th Cavalry Ammunition Column, Royal Horse Artillery.

Died 15 May 1916. Aged 27.

Born East Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Eleanor Pattenden of Aldon Farm, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XII. L. 13.

PILCHER, LEONARD GEORGE. Private, G/7639.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 21 November 1918. Aged 28.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of George Alfred Pilcher and Harriet Eliza Pilcher (née Garrad) of "The Quilletts," Forge Lane, Mid Higham, Rochester, Kent.

Buried Belgrade Cemetery, St. Servais, Namur, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. C. 6.

Formerly Private, 1512, West Kent Yeomanry.

PORTER, EDWARD GEORGE. Second Lieutenant.

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

Died 18 September 1918. Aged 22.

Son of George Robert Porter and Annie Charlotte Porter of 5, Norman's Road, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.

PYE, WILLIAM WAKELEY. Lieutenant.

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

Died Thursday 14 October 1915. Aged 23.

Born St. Mary Hoo, Isle of Grain, Kent. Resided Cobham, Gravesend, Kent.

Son of Bertha Jane Pye (née Wakeley) of London Road, West Malling, Kent, and the late James Herbert Pye.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 95, and on the Cobham, Gravesend, Kent civic war memorial.

William was commissioned as a (Temporary) Second Lieutenant on Tuesday 24 November 1914, as was announced in The London Gazette on Thursday 26 November 1914. Prior to enlisting in the army, William was a member of the Bell Ringing team at the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham, Kent. When William's mother entered into correspondence with the War Office regarding his medals; she was residing at "Clonasillagh," London Road, West Malling, Kent. William's late father who was a native of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, died at Cobham, Kent on Tuesday 27 April 1909. Mrs. Bertha Jane Pye who was a native of Upchurch, Kent died at Higham, Kent on Monday 15 January 1951.

ROOTS, HERBERT HENRY. Serjeant, 10668.

19th (Service) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

Died 30 July 1916.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Snodland, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 1 D 8 B and 8 C.

SCHURR, CECIL ALBERT. Lieutenant.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Central Supply Depot (Wormwood Scrubs).

Died 27 June 1916. Aged 28.

Born Twickenham, Middlesex 15 December 1887.

Son of Albert Ebenezer Schurr and Josephine Amy Schurr (née Kent) of Terwick, Hampshire.

Husband of Dorothy M. Baker (formerly Schurr), of Blair Lodge, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Margate Cemetery, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Grave Ref: C. B. 484.

At the time of his death, Cecil was serving at the Royal Naval Air Station, Isle of Grain, Kent. He died at 2, Madeira Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.



SILVER, HARRY GEORGE. Able Seaman, J/15370.

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

Died 9 July 1917. Aged 21.

Born Yarmouth, Isle of Wight 25 April 1896.

Brother of F. A. E. Silver of Malling Place, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 22, as shown above.

SIMMONDS, ERNEST. Private, 15296.

3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 26 April 1915.

Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Brother of Dorothy Simmonds of 76, Teignmouth Road, Cricklewood, London.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 7.

SMITH, ROBERT. Sergeant, 6897

16th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 15 July 1916.

Born Brightside, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Enlisted Sheffield, Yorkshire. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Smith of Mill House, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

STOLTON, ARTHUR WILLIAM. Private, 32604.

Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died 17 May 1919. Aged 34.

Born West Malling, Kent. (Please see below).

Buried Hatfield Road Cemetery, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

Grave Ref: Military L. 6.

Formerly Private, 204097, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that Arthur's Medal Index Card entry also shows him to have been a member of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, which in view of his date of death that information could be correct, as it was in 1919 that the regiment was renamed The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, which was in recognition of the service of men from Hertfordshire during the Great War. Arthur has been added here because he is shown as having been born at West Malling, Kent, on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details. Unfortunately the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not been able to locate any supporting data appertaining to Arthur's family or place of birth, as can usually be found on census entries etcetera. His death was recorded in the St. Albans, Hertfordshire, Registration District during the second quarter of June 1919.

STURT, JOHN EDWARD. Lance Corporal, 633419.

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

Died 24 March 1918. Aged 24.

Born Little Horsted, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Edward Arthur Sturt and Ada Birdie Sturt of Cascade Avenue, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XXXI. H. 23A.

Formerly Private, 3882, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).



TURNER, ALBERT HENRY. Private, 636308.

2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).

Died 6 November 1917. Aged

Born 11 September 1882.

Son of Mrs. Turner and the late Henry James Turner.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 26, and on page 341 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, also commemorated on the headstone of his fathers grave at St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

Albert enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 8 January 1916, at Wellington County, Ontario, Canada. When he enlisted, Albert stated that he was unmarried, employed as a Labourer, and named his mother who resided at 108, Englefield Road, Islington, London as being his next of kin.

WELLS, WALTER FREDERICK. Private, 27545.

4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 1 December 1917. Aged 24.

Born Haddington, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas Wells of West Malling, Kent.

Husband of Rosa L. K. Wells of 8, Edinburgh Cottages, Barming Heath, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France.

Ref: Addenda Panel

N.B. Walter was previously believed to be buried in Bleuett Farm Cemetery, Belgium. His name is scheduled to be added to the Cambrai Memorial, but it will not be possible to engrave his name immediately. Please contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission before planning a visit to the Cambrai Memorial re Walter.

The Second World War

1939 -1945

BAKER, JOHN WILLIAM. Chief Yeoman of Signals, C/J 26656.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Tracker.

Died 7 January 1944. Aged 46.

Son of John Silas and Annie Charlotte Baker.

Husband of Alice Ann Baker of West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 76. Column 3.

Prior to his death, John had been Mentioned in Despatches.

BELL, REGINALD RICHARD ALBERT. Private, 5784066.

7th Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Died 8 July 1944. Aged 29.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Joseph Albert Bell and Elizabeth Jane Bell.

Husband of Winifred Violet Elsie Bell (née Pope) of Larkfield, Kent.

Buried Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery, Calvados, France.

Grave Ref: Row H. 20.

BRATTEN, GEORGE PALMER. No trace as commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling. On the West Malling civic war memorial he is commemorated as being:-

PALMER, BRATTEN G. No casualties with the surname BRATTEN are recorded as Second World War related deaths by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Although the CWGC commemorates a total of 674 casualties who died during or resultant of the Second World War, none match B.G. PALMER. Whilst carrying out the research process which was required to compile these brief tributes, it was noted that apparent confusion regarding the true identity of this casualty, was possibly due to the fact that the family surname had several

variants over the years, and which probably stemmed back to the union of George Palmer and Sarah Bratten who were unmarried but had issue. The family name has been seen shown as Bratten, Palmer, and Palmer Bratten (no hyphen). Addition research revealed an excellent (Malling, Kent) match, as the birth of a GEORGE PALMER BRATTEN was recorded in the Malling, Kent Registration District during the third quarter of 1890. He was christened in the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling, Kent on Friday 11 July 1890, and was the son of Elon Palmer Bratten and Elizabeth Ann (née Hadlow). At the time of the 1901 census, the Palmer family resided at Bo Peep, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old West Malling, Kent native Elon Palmer who was employed as a Bricklayer. The then 10 year old George Palmer was one of six Palmer siblings at home on the night of the census. Elon had married Miss Elizabeth Ann Hadlow at the parish church of St. Martin, Ryarsh, Kent on Sunday 8 July 1883. He was still residing at Bo Peep, West Malling, when he re-enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Monday 16 August 1915. At the time of his re-enlistment, Elon stated that he was 56 years and 12 days old, employed as a Bricklayer, and that he had previously served for a total of 17 years in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Elon was attested to serve in the Army Cyclist Corps in which he served as Private, 8977. He joined the Army Cyclist Corps at Hounslow, Middlesex on Friday 21 April 1916, but was discharged on Monday 3 April 1916 "Being no longer fit for War Service.' On Friday 6 August 1920, Elon was awarded a Silver War Badge & Certificate in respect of his service during the Great War.

BRIGGS, RONALD DAVID. Engineman, LT/KX 153274.
Royal Naval Patrol Service, H.M.S. Dorrimee.
Died 19 June 1944. Aged 30.
Son of Ernest and Frances Briggs of West Malling, Kent.
Husband of Dorothy Molly Briggs of West Malling, Kent.
Buried Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 6. C. 12.

CONSTABLE, FRANCIS HENRY. Private, T/185035.
186 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Service Corps.
Died 31 May 1942. Aged 28.
Born Surrey. Resided Kent.
Son of Francis Stephen and Alice Lavina Constable.
Husband of Marjorie Clare Constable of West Malling, Kent.
Buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Grave Ref: 1. A. 20



HALL, EDWARD SPENCER. Petty Officer Supply, C/MX 48535.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Wakeful. (H88).
Died 29 May 1940. Aged 25.
Son of Albert Spencer Hall and Florence Hall of Westminster, London.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 39. Column 2, as above



HARRIS, LESLIE BARTON. Aircraftman 1st Class, 976057.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 64 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 18 August 1940. Aged 20.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Harris of West Malling, Kent.
Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 154.



LUCAS, ROBERT HENRY. Aircraftman 2nd Class, 1452749.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 3 March 1940. Aged 20.
Son of George Henry and Mary Lucas of West Malling, Kent.
Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 165.



PALMER, RONALD JAMES. Gunner, 14269071.

127 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 20 October 1945. Aged 21.

Son of Charles Lewis Palmer and of Marie Nella Elizabeth Palmer of West Malling, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 61C.



SABINE, ALBERT. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 61509.
Royal Air Force.
Died 22 April 1941.
Husband of Marjorie May Sabine of Bradford, Yorkshire.
Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 50.

The Second World War

1939 -1945

Lost Casualties



BARRETT, WILFRED WILLIAM. Petty Officer, D/J 106857.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Prince of Wales.

Died 10 December 1941. Aged 35.

Son of Arthur and Miriam Barrett.

Husband of Alice Barrett of West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 45. Column 2, as shown above

H.M.S. Prince of Wales on which Wilfred was serving at the time of his death, was a King George V class Royal Navy battleship. Built at the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead, she was involved in several key actions of the Second World War, including the 'Battle of the Denmark Strait' against the German battleship Bismarck, operations escorting convoys in the Mediterranean. On 25 October 1941 H.M.S. Prince of Wales departed for Singapore to join Force Z which was a British naval detachment. She docked at Singapore on 2 December 1941 with the rest of the force. At 0211 hours on 10 December 1941, Force Z was dispatched to investigate reports of Japanese landing forces at Kuantan. On arriving there they found the reports to be false. At 1100 hours the same morning Japanese bombers and torpedo aircraft began their assault on Force Z. In a second attack half an hour later, torpedoes struck H.M.S. Prince of Wales on her port side, wrecking the outer propeller shaft and causing the ship to take on a heavy list. A third torpedo attack developed against H.M.S. Repulse, but fortunately she managed to avoid all of the enemy torpedoes aimed at her. A fourth attack by torpedo-carrying aircraft later sank H.M.S. Repulse, at 1233 hours. Six aircraft from this wave of Japanese aircraft attacked H.M.S. Prince of Wales with four of their torpedoes hitting the ship, causing flooding. Finally a 500 kg bomb hit the catapult deck, penetrated through to the main deck and exploded, tearing a gash in the port side of her hull. At 1315 hours the order was given to abandon ship, and at 1320 hours Wilfred's ship sank; and he was numbered among the 327 fatalities. The photograph of Wilfred's commemoration on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, was copied from the excellent website www.webrarian.co.uk of Chris (Christopher) Goddard.



BEAL, REGINALD CYRIL. Private, 6084004.
 The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).
 Died 28 June 1945. Aged 37.
 Son of George and Sarah Sophia Beal.
 Husband of Frances Ethel Beal of Maidstone, Kent.
 Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 61.

BLACK, CAROLINA MATILDA. Civilian casualty.

Died 14 September 1940. Aged 82.

Wife of the late William Black.

Carolina resided at 8 New Town, West Malling, Kent, and died at 40 Crabton Close Road, Bournemouth, Hampshire.

BROOKER, DONALD ARCHIE. Aircraftman 1st Class, 1231177.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died 29 November 1943. Aged 20.

Son of Archie Rupert and Lilian Lora Brooker of West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Column 428.

The deaths of the Devaux family members who are briefly commemorated below, represent the largest loss of life by a single family at West Malling due to enemy action at any time, irrespective of which conflict

DEVAUX, DAVID FREDERICK EDWARD. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 5.

Son of Lance Bombadier S. Devaux, R.A., and of Irene May Freda Devaux of 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

David died at 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

DEVAUX, LEONARD CHARLES. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 8.

Son of Lance Bombadier S. Devaux, R.A., and of Irene May Freda Devaux of 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Leonard died at 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

DEVAUX, JANET LOUISA. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 6 months.

Daughter of Lance Bombadier S. Devaux, R.A., and of Irene May Freda Devaux of 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Janet died at 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

DEVAUX, IRENE MAY FREDa. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 31.

Wife of Lance Bombadier S. Devaux, R.A., of 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Irene died at 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

DEVAUX, LORNA CAROLINE JEAN. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 9.

Daughter of Lance Bombadier S. Devaux, R.A., and of Irene May Freda Devaux of 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Lorna died at 10 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent.

DRIVER, ADA. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 34.

Wife of Edward Arthur Driver of 11 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent. Ada was injured at 11 Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, and died of her injuries later the same day, whilst receiving treatment at Preston Hall Emergency Hospital, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

FALWASSER, ARTHUR GUY. Lieutenant, 140240.

6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

Died 9 July 1943. Aged 23.

Son of Arthur Thomas Falwasser, D.S.O. and Charlotte Anne Falwasser, of West Malling, Kent.

Buried Catania War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: III. H. 48.

HALL, FLORENCE 'FLORRIE'. Civilian casualty.

Died 11 November 1940. Aged 53.

Wife of the late Albert Spencer Hall.

Florrie died at her home, 9, Wickens Place, High Street, West Malling, Kent. Her son, Petty Officer Supply, Edward Spencer Hall is amongst the Second World War casualties who are commemorated on the West Malling civic war memorial.

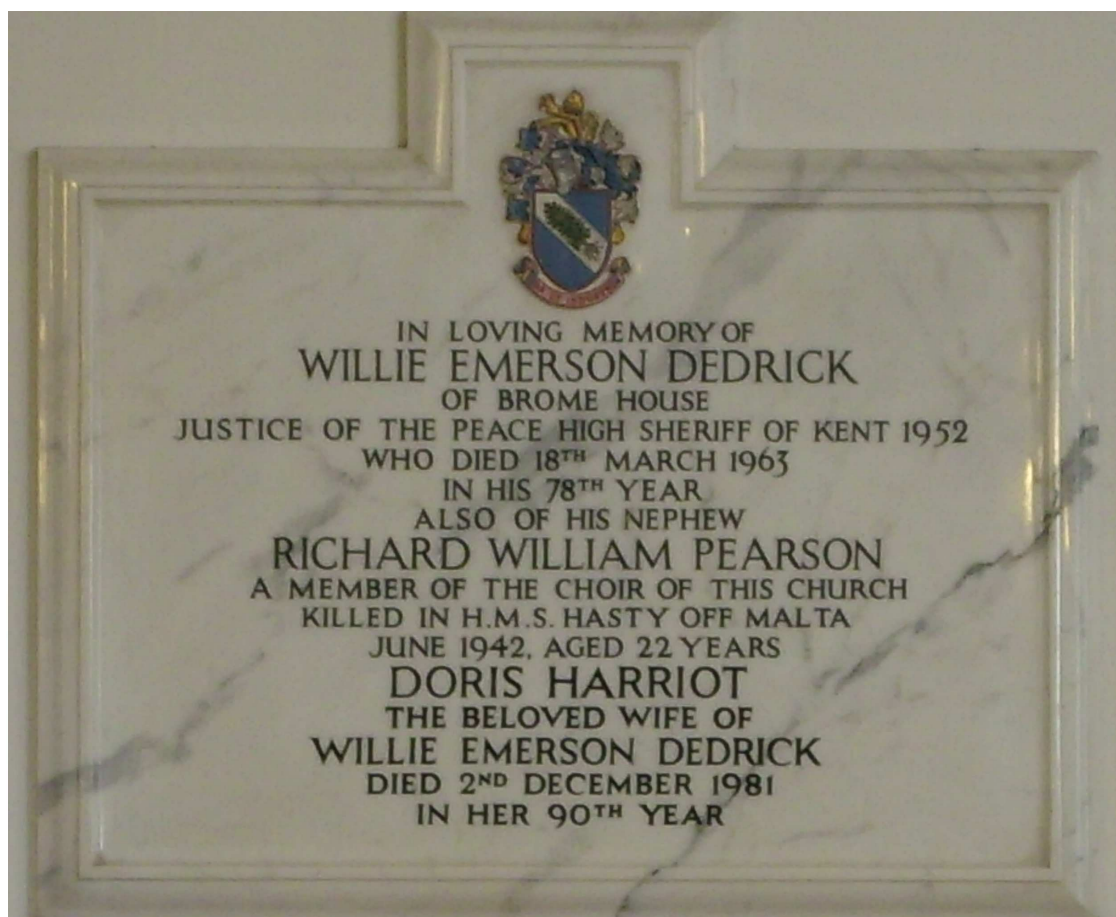
JONES, OBED. Civilian casualty.

Died 8 September 1940. Aged 72.

Husband of Ada Kate Jones of Talbot Lodge, Town Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Obed died at Talbot Lodge, Town Hill, West Malling, Kent.





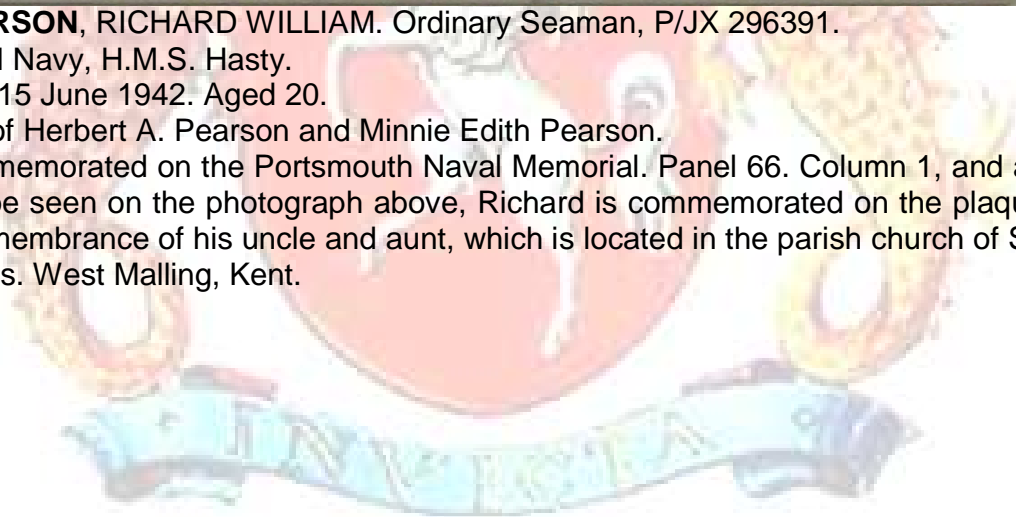
PEARSON, RICHARD WILLIAM. Ordinary Seaman, P/JX 296391.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hasty.

Died 15 June 1942. Aged 20.

Son of Herbert A. Pearson and Minnie Edith Pearson.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 66. Column 1, and as can be seen on the photograph above, Richard is commemorated on the plaque in remembrance of his uncle and aunt, which is located in the parish church of St. Mary's. West Malling, Kent.



Post Second World War

The following Roll of Honour is comprised of casualties who were associated by birth and/or residence with West Malling, Also briefly commemorated on this Roll of Honour, are casualties who are at rest in the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary's. West Malling, Kent.



BAZEN, ALBERT EDWARD. Signaller 2B, 1898534.

Royal Air Force. R.A.F. Middleton St. George, County Durham.

Died 5 April 1950. Aged 25.

Born 3 June 1924.

Husband of Brenda Brazen.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: 210.

Commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the Rolls of Honour of the Royal Air Force in the Church of St. Clement Danes, The Strand London WC2, which is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.

INNES, JOHN LESLIE WALROND. D.F.C. Flight Lieutenant, 120945.

Royal Air Force. R.A.F. Ruislip, Middlesex.

Died 30 November 1953. Aged 32.

Born 26 November 1921.

Son of Major and Mrs. Leslie Walrond Innes of Hong Kong.

Husband of Elspeth Mary Innes (née Collier).

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Roll of Honour.

John married Elspeth Mary Collier at St. Johns Wood Chapel, London NW8 on 22 June 1945. John's wife was the daughter of Air Vice-Marshall Alfred Conrad Collier, C. B., C.B.E., and Lady Gladys Mary Carmichael Collier (née Luis) of 136, Grove End Gardens, London NW8, and Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent. John's death was registered in the Westminster, London Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1953.



McKUNE, WILLIAM. Flight Sergeant, 1550986.

Royal Air Force. R.A.F. St. Eval, Cornwall.

Died 22 May 1952. Aged 29.

Born 5 March 1928.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 205.

Commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the Armed Forces Roll of Honour.

MILLS, AGNES CHRISTINE. R.R.C. Sister.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Died 12 February 1946. Aged 45.

Born Swanley, Kent.

Daughter of the late William Burton Saville Mills and Agnes Mills (née Mills) of Myrtle Cottage, Police Station Road, West Malling, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 217.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Mills family resided at The Priory, Sutton-at-Hone, Dartford, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old East Indies native William Burton Saville Mills, who was a Civil Engineer.



NIGHTINGALE, WILLIAM JOHN. Wing Commander, 31456.

Royal Air Force. R.A.F. Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Died 31 August 1967. Aged 51.

Born 26 December 1915.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Armed Forces Roll of Honour.



WATERS, BRIAN WILLIAM. Craftsman, 22613049.

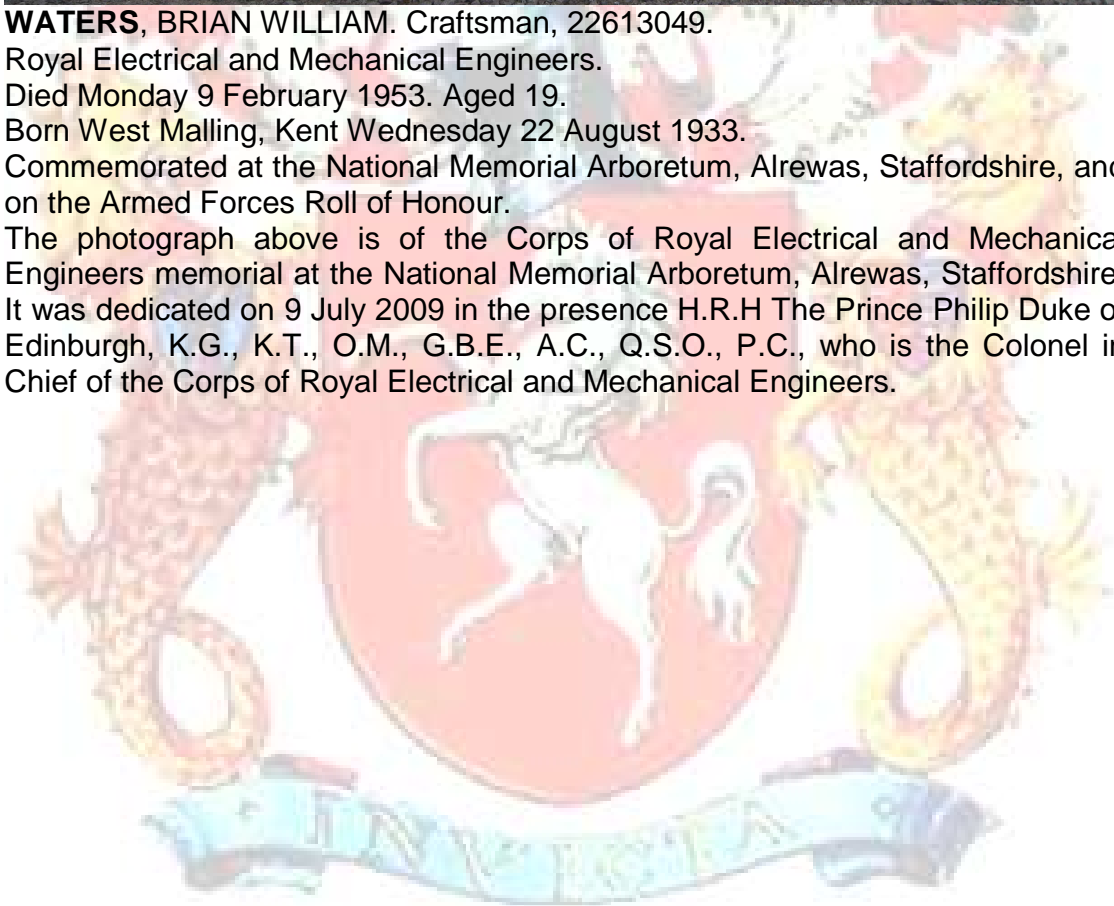
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Died Monday 9 February 1953. Aged 19.

Born West Malling, Kent Wednesday 22 August 1933.

Commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and on the Armed Forces Roll of Honour.

The photograph above is of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. It was dedicated on 9 July 2009 in the presence H.R.H The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T., O.M., G.B.E., A.C., Q.S.O., P.C., who is the Colonel in Chief of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.



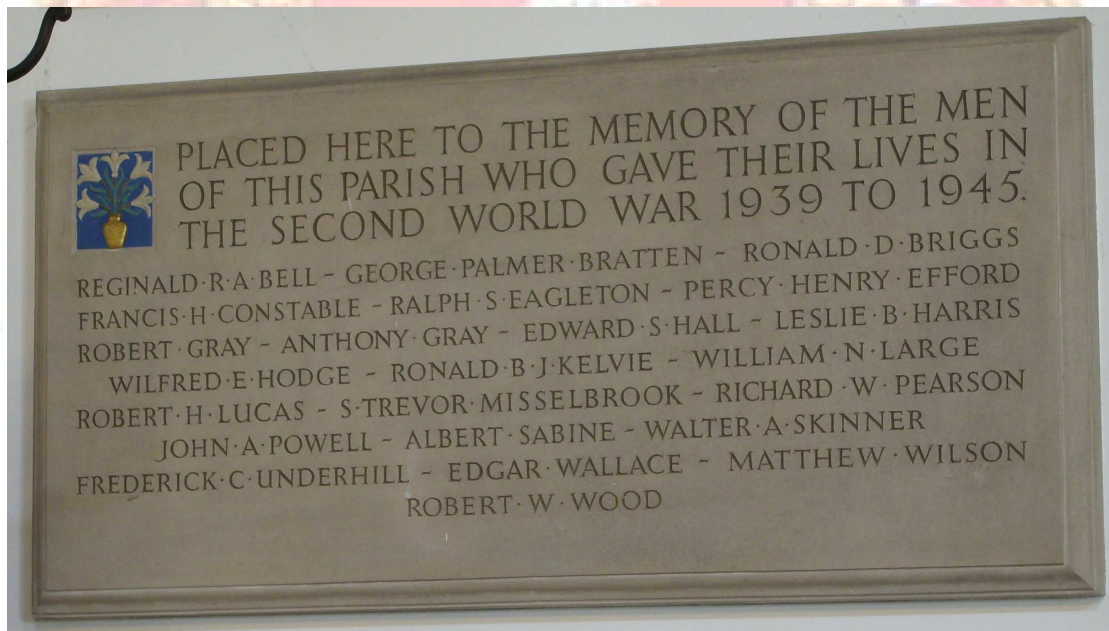


Great War panel on the West Malling civic war memorial

The image above is the combination of merging two individual photographs.



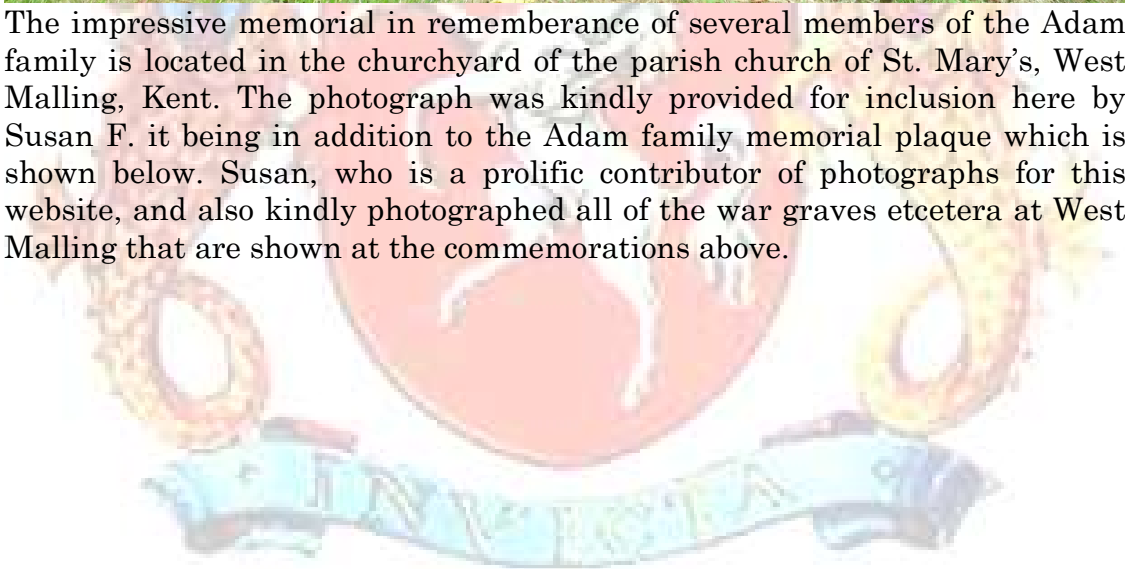
Second World War panel on the West Malling civic war memorial



Second World War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling.



The impressive memorial in remembrance of several members of the Adam family is located in the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary's, West Malling, Kent. The photograph was kindly provided for inclusion here by Susan F. it being in addition to the Adam family memorial plaque which is shown below. Susan, who is a prolific contributor of photographs for this website, and also kindly photographed all of the war graves etcetera at West Malling that are shown at the commemorations above.





TO
THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
JAMES ADAM M.D.
OF MALLING PLACE, KENT.
WHO DIED OCT 25TH 1908, AGED 74.
ALSO HIS FOUR SONS.

LIEUT. JAMES RONALD GLENNIE ADAM
KING'S DRAGOON GUARDS
WHO SERVED IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGHOUT THE BOER WAR
AND DIED JULY 7TH 1906, AGED 28.

CAPT. ALAN GORDON ACHESON ADAM
5TH BATTALION THE BUFFS
KILLED WHILST LEADING HIS MEN
INTO ACTION JAN. 21ST 1916, IN THE ADVANCE
WITH GENERAL AYLMERS COLUMN TO THE RELIEF
OF KUT, MESOPOTAMIA, AGED 28.

CHARLES EDGAR HARVEY ADAM
WHO DIED OCT 13TH 1917, AGED 33.

CAPT. WALTER ADAM
ROYAL EAST KENT YEOMANRY,
ATTACHED MACHINE GUN CORPS 8TH COMPANY
3RD DIVISION B.E.F. WHO SERVED IN GALLIPOLI AND FRANCE
AND DIED NOV. 3RD 1918, AFTER RECEIVING
SEVERE WOUNDS IN FRONT OF ARRAS DURING
THE GREAT GERMAN OFFENSIVE, MARCH 1918, AGED 37.

THEY COUNTED NOT THEIR LIVES
DEAR UNTO THEMSELVES.