

Bredhurst

Medway



The parish tribute is in the form of two memorial plaques located in the parish church of St Peter's Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Kent. Those who lost their lives during or resultant of the Great War are commemorated in order of date of death, and those of the Second World War are in alphabetical order. Although with larger memorials, for easier viewing the transcriber sets out the inscriptions in alphabetical order, this has not been necessary with the Bredhurst Great War commemorations, which are as on the plaque.

The Great War

1914-1919

JOHNSON, CHARLES ALFRED. Lance Corporal, G/17557.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 9 September 1916. Aged 25.

Born Bredhurst, Kent. Enlisted Rainham, Kent.

Son of Henry and Sarah Johnson of 6, Naylor's Cottages, Bredhurst, Chatham, Kent.

Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France. Grave Ref: XVI. A. 3.

Charles was a brother of Edmund Johnson who is also commemorated on the memorial plaque. At the time of the 1910 census the Johnson family resided at Bredhurst Street, Bredhurst, Kent, Henry Johnson, the brothers' father who was a 47 year old native of nearby Lidsing, Gillingham, Kent was the Head of the house, employed as a Farm Wagoner.

AKHURST, Private, JOHN WILLIAM, G/13343.

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

Died 30 March 1917. Aged 24.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent.

Buried Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. I. P. 28.

Although John's place of birth is not shown in/on SDGW, the 1901 census shows him to have been a Bredhurst native. His parents are recorded by the census enumerator as being 43 year old Edwin Akhurst who was an Agricultural Labourer, and a native of Rainham, Kent, and 41 year old Boxley, Kent native Esther Akhurst. Residing next door to the Akhurst family on the day of the census in April 1901, was the Brooks family which included Frederick Brooks who is also commemorated on the memorial plaque. For more details appertaining to John's death, please see the "A" surnames on The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) Great War Roll of Honour on this website.

MASON, WILLIAM JAMES. Rifleman, 573848.

2nd/17th (County of London) Battalion, (Poplar and Stepney Rifles). London Regiment.

Died 20 February 1918. Aged 21.

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

Son of William Thomas and Harriet Mason of Bredhurst, Chatham, Kent.

Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: T. 85.

Formerly Private, 3054, 5th (City of London) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

JOHNSON, Private, EDMUND WILLIAM, T/270422.

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

Killed in action 11 August 1918. Aged 35.

Enlisted Rainham, Kent. Resided Bredhurst, Chatham, Kent.

Son of Henry and Sarah Johnson of 6, Naylor's Cottages, Bredhurst, Chatham, Kent.

Buried St. Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref. III. E. 3.

Formerly Private, 2955, 3/1st East Kent Yeomanry. Edmund had served with the Yeomanry in Egypt and Palestine, and had been amongst the officers and other ranks which were posted to "A" Company on 1 March 1917.

BROOKS, FREDERICK. Gunner, 138444.

269th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

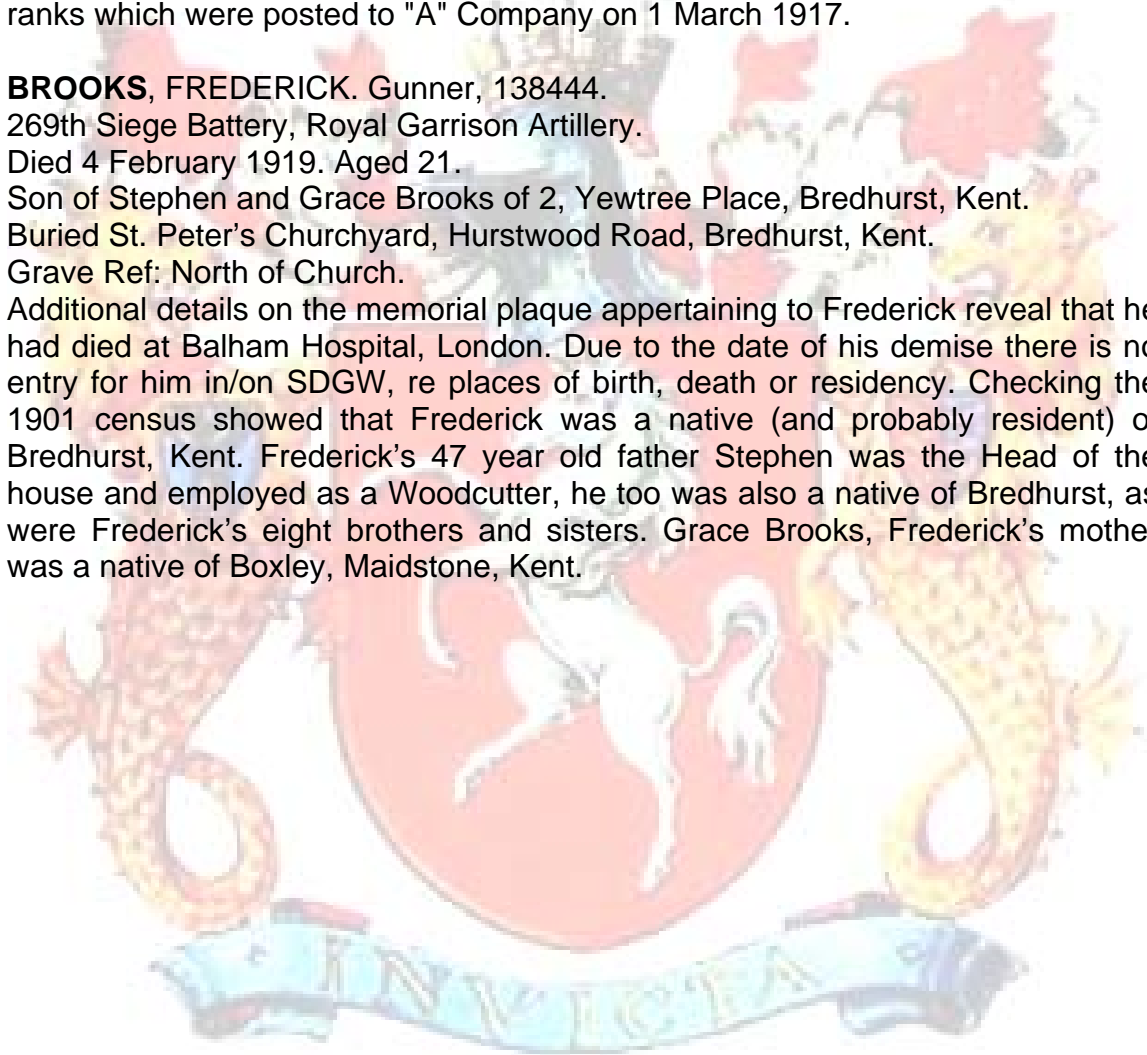
Died 4 February 1919. Aged 21.

Son of Stephen and Grace Brooks of 2, Yewtree Place, Bredhurst, Kent.

Buried St. Peter's Churchyard, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Kent.

Grave Ref: North of Church.

Additional details on the memorial plaque appertaining to Frederick reveal that he had died at Balham Hospital, London. Due to the date of his demise there is no entry for him in/on SDGW, re places of birth, death or residency. Checking the 1901 census showed that Frederick was a native (and probably resident) of Bredhurst, Kent. Frederick's 47 year old father Stephen was the Head of the house and employed as a Woodcutter, he too was also a native of Bredhurst, as were Frederick's eight brothers and sisters. Grace Brooks, Frederick's mother was a native of Boxley, Maidstone, Kent.



The Second World War

1939 – 1945

ELLIOTT, HENRY GEORGE. Chief Mechanician, C/KX 76512.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Asphodel.

Died 9 March 1944. Aged 42.

Son of Harry George and Emma Elizabeth Elliott.

Husband of Edith Elliott of Bredhurst, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 77, Column 2.

Henry was Mentioned in Despatches.

FERGUSON, ARTHUR. Petty Officer, C/JX 144667.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Lightning.

Died 12 March 1943. Aged 24.

Son of Arthur and Minnie E. Ferguson.

Husband of Hazel L. Ferguson of Gillingham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 67, Column 3.

FOSTER, ALBERT. Royal Navy. No clear trace, although it would seem likely that Albert was one of the two casualties commemorated by the CWGC.

HUNT, ERIC CYRIL. Private, 6347140.

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

Died 21 May 1940. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Amy Emma Hunt of Gillingham, Kent.

Buried Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 7. Row A. Grave 9.

Of the 1366 Commonwealth, French and German war dead at rest in the cemetery, Second World War burials number 35, more than half of them men of the Queen's Royal West Kents who died 20/21 May 1940 during the fighting withdrawal carried out by the British Expeditionary Force.

MANNERING, ERIC. Sergeant, 1330468.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died 29 January 1943. Aged 21.

Son of Charles and Ellen Mannering of Rainham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 158.

PYE, RONALD HENRY HAIG. Royal Army Service Corps. No trace.
When initially viewing the commemoration to Ronald when visiting St. Peter's Church Bredhurst, the first thought that crossed the transcribers mind was what an easy casualty to locate for inclusion here. It is possible that Ronald is amongst the thousands of Commonwealth casualties who died in or resultant of both world wars that are still not commemorated by the CWGC, despite their deaths occurring within the cut-off dates for both conflicts. In the case of Ronald it would seem more likely that his death occurred after 31 December 1947, it being the arbitrary cut-off date for Second World War related deaths. Ronald is not recorded in the General Registry Office, Second World War (Army Deaths), he is also not recorded Army Roll of Honour-World War II CD, or in the corresponding ten volume series of books.

TOMSETT, ARTHUR BENJAMIN. Private, 6347113.
6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Died 21 May 1940. Aged 21.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Edward and Bessie Tomsett of Woodside Lidsing, Chatham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 114.

PEPPER, EDITH. Civilian casualty.
It was sad to note that Edith is numbered amongst the civilian casualties who are still not commemorated by the CWGC. Very kindly two ladies who were cleaning (very thoroughly) the parish church when we visited, informed us that Edith lost her life as alluded to at her commemoration on the Second World war memorial plaque, which clearly states (**by enemy action**). It later transpired that Edith had been a pleasant and well liked young lady, and that she was killed whilst crossing a field at Bredhurst, returning home from visiting her fiancée, and was hit by fire from an aircraft overhead.

