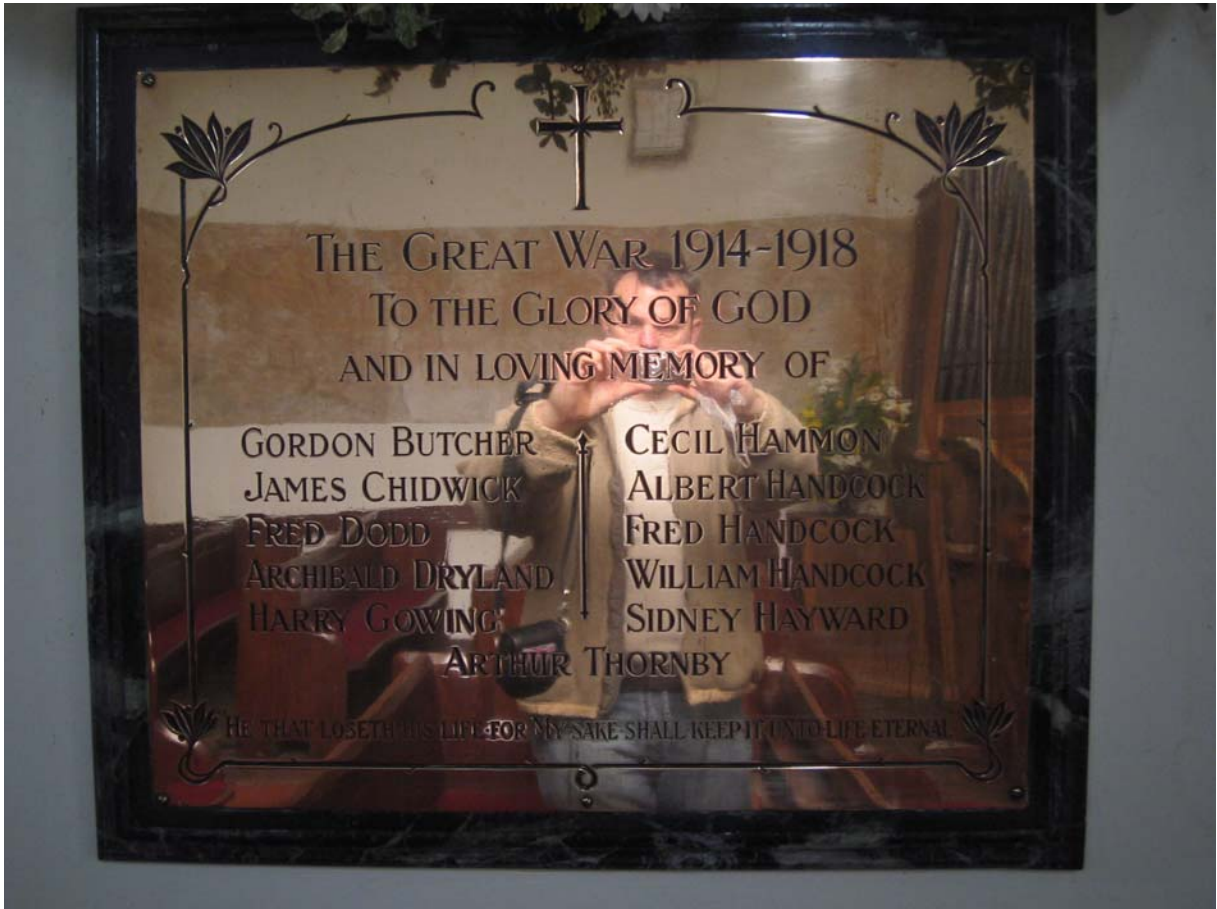


# BROOK



There are two Ashford men on this list that were killed on the same day in the same unit – G Butcher and S Hayward. They must have been friends and served (died) together.

Very sadly the Handcock family lost three sons...

**The Great War**  
1914 - 1919

## BUTCHER G

**Private 202478 Gordon Frederick BUTCHER. 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly Kent Composite Battalion and (1940) 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 22 years. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Brook. Son of Thomas F and Catherine Butcher of Sankey House, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Grave reference G.29.

Gordon originally joined up with the 2/4<sup>th</sup> battalion The Buffs which was based in Ashford. He was selected for service in the Kent Composite Battalion and went to Gallipoli with this unit in 1915. In 1916 the Kent Composite Battalion was shortly afterwards redesignated the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own when in Egypt.

The day that Gordon was killed the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion were engaged in extremely heavy fighting in and around Tel el Khuweilfeh in what was then Palastine. This area is now within the bounds of Israel. The battalion had its headquarters at Sheria.





CHIDWICK J

**Lance Corporal 723459 James William CHIDWICK. 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion (The Queen's), London Regiment. Formerly (2150) 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aged 24 years. Born Alkham near Dover. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Brook. Husband of Mrs Ralston (formerly Chidwick) of 18, Grougar Row, Galston, Ayrshire. Buried in the Hedge Row Trench Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium. Grave reference sp mem D.II.

The 24<sup>th</sup> London Regiment was formed at New Street, Kennington Park Road, London August 1915 (K1). It was attached to 6<sup>th</sup> London Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> London Division. Landed France 16<sup>th</sup> March 1915 (142<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 47<sup>th</sup> London Division). It remained on the Western Front for the remaining duration of the war.

## DODD F

**Private T/207481 Frederick Walter DODD. 3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Formerly (240514) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Born Brook. Enlisted Ashford. Residence Ashford. Son of Walter and Jane Dodd of Brook Street, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Frederick has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 14 to 17 and 162 to 162A.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Red Lodge, Brook

**Private T4/037939 Charles Henry DODD. Army Service Corps.**

The 1901 census gives –

Brook Street, Brook

Walter	DODD	42	Labourer	Wye
Jane		42		Elmsted
Annie		11		Brook
Beatrice M		8		Brook
<b>Frederick W</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>Brook</b>
Lilian J		2		Brook

On the 4th October 1917 the 3/4<sup>th</sup> battalion took part in the Second Army's attack where the 21<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Divisions assaulted the Broodseinde and Becelaere Ridge's (3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres). At 0300 hours the battalion moved to the start position and at 0600 hours the attack commenced proper. Juniper Trench and Judge Trench systems were taken albeit with heavy casualties. Frederick must have lost his life taking these enemy trench positions.



DRYLAND A

Railway

**Rifleman 14/40162 Archibald W DRYLAND. 14<sup>th</sup> (Young Citizens) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. Formerly (1956) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Brook. Third son of Richard Dryland of Brabourne, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Lone Tree Cemetery, Mesen, Belgium. Grave reference II.A.1.

Educated in the Brabourne National School. Upon leaving school Archibald was employed by Mr Amos as a Tilemaker. He married Dorothy Revell of Naccolt Farm, Brook, Ashford, Kent. He left his wife with one daughter.

Before the outbreak of war Archibald was working as a Labourer in the Ashford Railway Yards. His name appears on the Ashford (SE&CR) Railway Works Rolls of Honour.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Ferne Villas, Brook

**Bombardier 120203 Albert Victor DRYLAND. 175<sup>th</sup> Seige Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Private 8487 Walter Reginald DRYLAND. 8<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

Kiln Cottage, Brabourne

**Able Seaman Alfred John DRYLAND. HMS Hisbiscus, Royal Navy.**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, RIR was formed September 1914 from the Belfast Volunteers (109<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 36<sup>th</sup> Irish Division). Landed France October 1915. Disbanded 18<sup>th</sup> February 1918 in France.







### GOWING H

Railway  
Dover Marine

**Company Sergeant Major (CSM) 1582 Harry GOWING R.H.S. Kent Fortress Royal Engineers (KFRE). Formerly (9 years regular service) Grenadier Guards.** Died of Pneumonia at Chatham Naval Hospital Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1916 aged 40 years. Born Speckshall, Suffolk. Son of Benjamin and Caroline Gowing. Husband of Mary A. Gowing of Troy House, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Brook churchyard, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Grave reference – Between West gate and West door.

Harry's name appears on the Ashford SE&CR railway rolls in the Ashford Library and the Dover Marine War Memorial that commemorates the fallen men of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company. He is recorded on the roll as a Gas Stoker.

Harry died in hospital from Pneumonia. Before the outbreak of war he worked at the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Works (SE&CR). Harry was a very experienced soldier having served in the British Army during the Sudan Campaign and the 1899-1902 Second South African (Boer War). He held four medals including the Royal Humane Society's Certificate for saving life in 1908. On the outbreak of war Harry volunteered and was sent to Chatham with the Kent Fortress Royal Engineers as a Instructor. Harry left a widow and **Nine** children the oldest being only 9 years old!



### HAMMON C

Baptist

**Gunner 115660 Cecil Nelson Frederick HAMMON. 233<sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA).** Died Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 1917 aged 29 years. Born December 1887 at Hassle Street, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Resided Willesborough Lees, Ashford. Son of Frederick and Susannah Hammon of Barbary House, 70 New Street, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium. Grave reference XXXV.D.20A.

Cecil's name also appears on the Baptist church war memorial, Station Road, Ashford. He obviously attended that church before the outbreak of war.

Cecil's father Frederick was from East Grinstead, Sussex. His mother Susannah was born locally in Brabourne abt. 1852. They had two other children -

Stuart Edmund John Hammon born June 1879 Deal  
Betha Ada S Hammon born September 1882 Deal

Cecil was struck by shrapnel and was evacuated to an Advanced Dressing Station (ADS). Sadly, later on that day he died of his wounds. His battery commanding officer was Major Beverley who wrote a letter to his parents informing them that their son had been mortally wounded and that he died gloriously for his country.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

132 Gladstone Road, Willesborough

**Sapper 354497 Archie HAMMON. Railway Operating Division, Royal Engineers.**

Island Farm, Egerton

**Private 484613 Reginald HAMMON. Labour Corps.**

Daniels Water, Great Chart

**Bombardier 122230 Reginald Arthur HAMMON. Royal Field Artillery.**

9, The Street, Mersham

**Staff Farrier 2229 William HAMMON. 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards.**

Another member of Cecil's family was also killed who came from Aldington - **Lance Corporal G/23517 Charles Francis HAMMON. 10<sup>th</sup> (Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Formerly Royal East Kent Yeomanry.** Died 11<sup>th</sup> March 1918 aged 28 years.

Additional information provided by Dave Dixon at <http://www.fadedgenes.co.uk>.

2. **Frederick HAMMON**, born Abt 1855 in East Grinstead (Sussex), census 1861 at Pains Farm House, Shoreham (Kent), census 1871 at Greenstreet, Lynsted (Kent), census 1891 at Hassle Street, Brook (Kent), census 1901 in Willesborough Lees, Ashford (Kent), resided 1917 at Barbary House, 70 New Street, Ashford (Kent), occupation 1871 Apprentice to Frederick GEORGE, Tailor, occupation 1901 Farmer - Own Account. He married **Susannah HAMMON**, 9 Apr 1877 in Deal (Kent). – *Frederick and Susannah were second cousins.*

*Children:*

- i **Stuart Edmund John HAMMON**, born Jun 1879 in Deal (Kent), census 1891 at Hassle Street, Brook (Kent), census 1901 in Willesborough Lees, Ashford (Kent), died 8 Apr 1980 **Aged 101**, buried Apr 1980 at St Mary, Brook (Kent). He married **Louisa Blanche PAY**, 16 Oct 1905 at St Mary, Brook (Kent).
  - ii **Bertha Ada S HAMMON**, born Sep 1882 in Deal (Kent), census 1891 at Hassle Street, Brook (Kent), census 1901 in Willesborough Lees, Ashford (Kent). She married **Richard WORRALL**, 13 Jun 1914 in Ashford District (Kent).
  1. iii **Cecil Nelson Frederick HAMMON**, born Dec 1887 in Brook (Kent), census 1891 at Hassle Street, Brook (Kent), census 1901 in Willesborough Lees, Ashford (Kent), Died 28 Sep 1917 from wounds received earlier the same day - France - Aged 29, buried 1917 at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery - XXV D.20A, Gunner 115660 - 233rd Siege Bty. - Royal Garrison Artillery.
3. **Susannah HAMMON**, born Abt 1852 in Brabourne (Kent), census 1861 at Court Lodge Farm, Brabourne (Kent), census 1871 at Court Lodge Farm, Brabourne (Kent), census 1891 at Hassle Street, Brook (Kent), census 1901 in Willesborough Lees, Ashford (Kent), resided 1917 at Barbary House, 70 New Street, Ashford (Kent).





HANDCOCK A (brother)

**Private T/206826 Albert George HANDCOCK. 3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Formerly (27683) Middlesex Regiment. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1917. Born Wye. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Ashford. Son of William and Ann Handcock of Pickersdane, Brook, Wye, Ashford, Kent. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium.**

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Pickersdane, Wye

**Private 240560 Frederick James HANDCOCK. 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Private 34462 Thomas Allen HANDCOCK. 6<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment.**

The 1901 census gives –

Pickersdane, Brook, Wye

William	HANDCOCK	40	General Labourer	Wye
Annie		36		Dover
Jane		12		Lyminge
William Thomas		10		Wye
Grace		6		Wye
<b>Frederick</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>Wye</b>
<b>Albert</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>Wye</b>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917 the battalion numbered 44 officers and 938 men. On the night of the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> October the battalion moved into the front line east of Polygon Wood. The wood was a morass of mud and water. The battalion lost many men to enemy shelling throughout the day. It appears that Albert was one of these men and that he met his maker somewhere in or near Polygon Wood.

HANDCOCK F (brother)

**Private 240560 Frederick James HANDCOCK. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1918. Son of William and Ann Handcock of Pickersdane, Brook, Wye, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave reference IV.C.2.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Pickersdane, Wye

**Private 240560 Frederick James HANDCOCK. 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**  
**Private 34462 Thomas Allen HANDCOCK. 6<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment.**

The 1901 census gives –

Pickersdane, Brook, Wye

William	HANDCOCK	40	General Labourer	Wye
Annie		36		Dover
Jane		12		Lyminge
<b>William</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>Wye</b>
Grace		6		Wye
<b>Frederick</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>Wye</b>
<b>Albert</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>Wye</b>

The 5<sup>th</sup> battalion did not return home until January 1920. This man appears to have died precisely one month after the war had ended in Europe. The 5<sup>th</sup> battalion had effectively finished their active service in late 1917 when the Turks surrendered throughout Mesopotamia. It is probable that this man died of disease or illness whilst on garrison duty.





HANDCOCK W.E (brother)

**Private T/2010 William Edward HANDCOCK, Kent Composite Battalion. Formerly 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 1915. Born Brook. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Brook. Son of Mr William and Ann Handcock of "Pickersdane", Brook, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta. Grave reference B.VII.1.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission wrongly list William's unit as the 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs.

William died of wounds from injuries received in Gallipoli Turkey. The 5<sup>th</sup> battalion were never in Turkey (in fact no Buffs battalion ever served there). The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Buffs did contribute one company towards the Kent Composite Battalion which did move to Gallipoli. It is probable that William was a former member of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> battalion The Buffs and that when he actually died he was serving with the Kent Composite Battalion. The 2/5<sup>th</sup> battalion was an Ashford based second line territorial battalion raised to replace the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion who had moved overseas they provided one full company for this unusual unit. The Kent Composite Battalion landed in Gallipoli on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915. William was probably wounded in Gallipoli and then evacuated to Malta where he succumbed to his wounds. This explains why his body was buried in Malta.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Pickersdane, Wye

**Private 240560 Frederick James HANDCOCK. 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**  
**Private 34462 Thomas Allen HANDCOCK. 6<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment.**

The 1901 census gives –

Pickersdane, Brook, Wye

William	HANDCOCK	40	General Labourer	Wye
Annie		36		Dover
Jane		12		Lyminge
<b>William</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>Wye</b>
Grace		6		Wye
<b>Frederick</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>Wye</b>
<b>Albert</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>Wye</b>

### HAYWARD S

**Lance Corporal 202502 Sidney HAYWARD. 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly Kent Composite Battalion. Formerly 2/5<sup>th</sup> Buffs.** Died Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 20 years. Son of William and Kate Hayward of Troy Town, Brook, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery, (Palestine) Israel. Grave reference G.41.

Sidney may have originally joined the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Buffs and was then selected for service with the **Kent Composite Battalion** in Gallipoli. If so, then Sidney survived Gallipoli only to be killed later on in Palestine.

The day that Sidney was killed the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion were engaged in extremely heavy fighting in and around Tel el Khuweilfeh in what was then part of Palastine. The battalion had its headquarters at Sheria.

### THORNBY A

**Private T/2100 Arthur THORNBY. 3/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 1916 aged 21 years. Born Brook. Son of John William and Jane Thornby of Spelders Hill, Brook, Kent. Buried in the Brook (St Mary) Churchyard, Brook, Kent. Grave reference – North of church tower.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Nats Lane, Brook

**Private 205295 Wilfred THORNBY. 1<sup>st</sup> Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).**

Cottage Lees, Brabourne

**Private 12487 Charles William THORNBY. 7<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

Crows Hill, Brabourne

**Private 41502 Arthur THORNBY. Middlesex Regiment.**

Morley Cottage, Brabourne

**Private 25209 Robert Alfred THORNBY. Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).**



**Corporal 41501 Sidney Arthur THORNBY. 18<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment.**

The 1901 census gives –  
Troy Town, Brook

John	THORNBY	45	Farmer	Wye
Jane		38		Kennington
Charles		10		Brook
<b>Arthur</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>Brook</b>

The 3/5<sup>th</sup> battalion was a home service battalion that did not move overseas as a unit. It is therefore likely that Arthur died in a training accident or of disease or illness. The 3/5<sup>th</sup> Buffs spent much of its time guarding key points throughout the south east (Chatham Dockyard/River Medway/Dover Port).



# LOST MEN

## CHAPMAN J.H

**Private 324674 John Howland CHAPMAN. Labour Corps. Formerly (5257) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1917. Born Brook. Enlisted Margate, Kent. Buried Canterbury (St Martins) Cemetery, Canterbury, Kent.

John died of wounds after being evacuated to the UK from frontline service with the infantry (Buffs). He was medically downgraded and sent to the Labour Corps. He died of these wounds after being transferred into the non-combatant unit.



## HARRISON G

**Sergeant 13491 George Herbert HARRISON. 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards.** Died 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916. Born Folkestone. Enlisted Ashford. Resided The Potteries in Nacolt, Wye. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 8D.

George's death was reported in the Kentish Express with his photograph.

The day that George died his battalion was in action all day near Bernafay Wood on The Somme, France. The regimental history states that 150 Germans were killed by bayonet charges. That days objective was reached and then consolidated later in the day. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September the battalion withdrew to Carnoy having sustained 458 casualties since the 18<sup>th</sup> September. The vast majority of these casualties were sustained in the Lesboeuvs area. It appears that George must have lived his life in or very near Bernafay Wood.

## SHEAFF F.W

**Sergeant 7759 Frederick Walter SHEAFF. 3<sup>rd</sup> (King's Own) Hussars.** Died Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918 aged 30 years. Born Brook. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Cheriton, Folkestone. Son of David and Sarah Sheaff of The Square, Chilham, Kent. Formerly (1901) Beaverbank Farm, Chilham, Kent. Husband of Edith Florence Sheaff of Black Cottages, Colonels Lane, Boughton, Faversham, Kent. Frederick has no known grave. His body probably still lies where he fell on the battlefield. His name appears on the Pozieres Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 3.

According to the 1901 census Frederick was born at Brook not Canterbury.

The 1901 census gives –  
Beaverbank Farm, Chilham

David	SHEAFF	36	Farm Bailiff	Shepherdswell,
Sarah		49		Barham
Harris (Daughter)		22		Brook
William		20	Labourer	Brook
Edith A		17		Brook
<b>Frederick</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>Farm Boy</b>	<b>Brook</b>
Elizabeth		11		Brook
Gracie		5		Brook

