

# H.M.S. Kent



The memorial tablet as shown above, is located in Canterbury Cathedral, and commemorates the eight casualties serving on the 9,800 ton Monmouth-class armoured cruiser H.M.S. Kent, who died resultant of the naval engagement fought off the Falkland Islands on 8 December 1914. The Germans had sunk H.M.S. Good Hope and H.M.S. Monmouth during the 'Battle of Coronel,' off the coast of Chile on Sunday 1 November 1914. The Royal Navy was therefore keen to avenge the loss of the two ships and their crews, and in order to do so a squadron of British ships was sent to the Falkland Islands to engage the German Fleet. Ships of the two navies met on Tuesday 8 December 1914, when at 0730 hours the German ships SMS Scharnhorst, SMS Gneisenau, SMS Nürnberg, SMS Leipzig, and SMS Dresden, were sighted near the Falkland Islands, and ultimately the battle ended in a decisive victory for the Royal Navy. Only ten British sailors died in the conflict, whereas 1871 German sailors lost their lives. Stanley Cemetery where the following casualties are at rest contains 21 Commonwealth burials of the Great War and 12 from the Second World War. A number of the burials are of men of the Falklands Islands Defence Force. There are also 21 non World War service burials now in the care of C.W.G.C. The cemetery also contains a memorial set up by the officers and men of H.M.S. Kent over the graves of the sailors killed in the Battle of the Falkland Islands 1914.



## Roll of Honour

**SPENCE, THOMAS.** Serjeant, PO/5674.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Saturday 12 December 1914.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Thomas was one of the ships six inch gun's crew in A.3 casemate. He is very severely burnt about the head, face, trunk and limbs. After being treated for his injuries on H.M.S. Kent, Tom was taken to the Falkland Islands Hospital at Port Stanley. His condition on arrival at the hospital was recorded as being of a serious nature, and his ultimate recovery was doubtful. Whilst being treated at the hospital, Tom ultimately succumbed to his injuries on Saturday 12 December.

**KIND, WALTER JAMES.** Private, PO/15049.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Wednesday 9 December 1914.

Born Leicester, Leicestershire.

Son of James and Mary A. Kind (née Makin).

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Walter was one of the ships six inch gun's crew in A.3 casemate. He was very seriously burnt about the head, face, trunk and limbs. He was put to bed in the sick bay. Picric acid dressings were applied and morphia administered, but he died of shock at 1500 hours on Wednesday 9 December.

**WOOD, WALTER.** Private, PO/16920.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Tuesday 8 December 1914. Aged 20.

Born Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Son of Charles and Hannah Wood of 1, Clarkes Road, Kingston, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Walter was serving in one of the ships six inch gun's crew in A.3 casemate when an explosion occurred. He appears to have been killed instantly, his body being rigid with the hands and arms in the position he would have been in when holding a cartridge. He was very severely burnt about the face, trunk and limbs.

**KELLEY, SAMUEL.** Private, PO/3793.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Tuesday 8 December 1914. Aged 45.

Husband of Kate E. Kelley (née Mayes) of 62, Chevening Road, Kensal Rise, London.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Samuel was injured by a shell which took off both his legs below the knees. He also had a scalp wound and fracture of the occiput. He was attended during the action and later removed to the sick bay. He was in extremis when seen, and died about two hours after the action ceased at 2100 hours.

**SNOW, GEORGE.** Private, PO/16958.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Tuesday 8 December 1914.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

George was one of the ships six inch guns crew in A.3 casemate. He is very severely burnt about the head face, trunk and limbs. He is removed the Sick Bay, where at the time of receiving treatment for his injuries, his condition was recorded as being very serious.

**TITHERIDGE, ARTHUR CHARLES.** Private, PO/11220.

Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died Tuesday 8 December 1914.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Commemorated on the East Meon, Hampshire civic war memorial.

Arthur was Gunlayer of the six inch gun in A.3 casemate. He was very severely burnt about the head, face, trunk and limbs. He was removed to the Sick Bay where picric acid dressings were applied and morphia administered, but he died of shock at 2340 hours the same night.

**DUCKETT, GEORGE ALFRED.** Officer's Steward 1st Class, L/2428.

Royal Navy.

Died Wednesday 9 December 1914. Aged 21.

Born Brixton, London 22 October 1893.

Son of Alfred and Isabel E. Duckett of 4, Tasman Road, Stockwell, London.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

George was working as one of the ambulance party in A.3 casemate. He was very severely burnt about the head, face, trunk and limbs. He was conveyed to the Sick Bay. Picric acid dressings were applied and morphia administered. He died from shock at 2155 hours on Wednesday 9 December.

**YOUNG, WALTER.** Seaman, C/2453

Royal Naval Reserve.

Died Tuesday 8 December 1914.

Buried Stanley Cemetery, Falkland Islands. Grave Ref: I. 783.

Walter was injured by a splinter. He received a perforating wound of the chest, the splinter entered below angle of left scapula behind, perforating pleura lung and ribs behind and in front and lodged below the outer side of left nipple just beneath the skin. He was attended to during the action and later removed to the Sick Bay. He was in extremis and died at 2130 hours on 8 December.