

# DOVER

## St Mary's (Dover National) School

Dover

Kent

*“TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN MEMORY OF THE OLD BOYS OF  
ST.MARY’S (DOVER NATIONAL) SCHOOL  
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-18”*

### The Great War

1914 – 1919

**ALLISON, WILLIAM EDWARD.** Private, T/200757.

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

Died 16 October 1917.

Born St. James's, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Loos British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XX. A. 8.

**ANDREWS, G.S.** As commemorated on the St. Mary's School tribute is probably in memory of the following casualty, who also has a brother named on the same memorial:-

**ANDREWS, GEORGE WILLIAM.** Lance Corporal, 24812.

2nd Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 26 October 1917.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of George Morley Andrews and Agnes Andrews (née Jenkins).

Buried Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: III. F. 12.

Formerly Private, G/2046, Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

At the time of the 1901 census George and his brother Richard who is also commemorated were residing with their parents George and Agnes Andrews at 9 Hartley Street, Dover, Kent, their father who was a Greengrocer was the Head of the house. Although around dusk on 25 October 1917 an officer in George's battalion, Captain Richard L. Atkinson M.C. had been wounded for a second time whilst visiting his posts, but for the rest of that day and night passed relatively quietly, apart from enemy artillery shelling nearby Dunbarton Lakes when the battalion was at an area near the castle at Gheluvelt. On German wartime documents the castle was called Weissshaus. Following zero hour at 0540 hours on the following day all changed dramatically for George and his comrades. As part of the planning for the day's events, a forward observation post had

been constructed complete with the latest telephone equipment, manned by a Lieutenant Burdon, two runners and two signallers, but prior to the attack by the battalion the telephone lines were all put out of action which resulted in difficult communications as the battalion advanced in the rain across the mud, with "D" Company on the right, "B" Centre, "C" left and "A" Company in support. Initially all seemed to be going to plan, and by 0610 hours it was noted that was progressing particularly favourably. Shortly after that time, the forward observation post referred to earlier received a direct hit and buried those manning it, miraculously they not only managed to survive but were able to verbally report that things were not going well to their front with soldiers of various units having become disorganized during the advance. The disarray which resulted in several 'log-jams' afforded the enemy perfect opportunities (and targets) which they obviously capitalized on in full. Written at the time, the 2nd Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) war diary entry for the day does not wholly reflect the true extent of the losses, mainly because at that time the actual fate of an officer and 63 other ranks posted as missing was at that time unclear, it would seem that 2 officers and 22 other ranks had either been killed or died of wounds, but SDGW shows 98 other rank deaths, including of course George Andrews.

If the above is not the casualty commemorated, the next 'best match' is the following:-

**ANDREWS, GEORGE STANLEY.** Leading Seaman, 237780.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Formidable.

Died 1 January 1915.

Born Hackney, London 30 December 1889.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 9.

**ANDREWS, HENRY RICHARD.** Stoker 1st Class, K/12672.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Arethusa."

Died 11 February 1916. Aged 22.

Born Dover, Kent 8 April 1893

Son of Henry James and Henrietta Andrews of 32, Military Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 17 and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. Henry's ship, a 4,400 ton Arethusa class light cruiser built at Chatham dockyard and commissioned in August 1914 as flotilla leader of the 3rd Harwich Destroyer Force. On 28 August 1914 she took part in the 'Battle of Heligoland Bight,' where she was seriously damaged but stayed afloat and had to be towed home, after being repaired she took part in the Cuxhaven Raid on Christmas Day 1914. The following year she fought at the 'Battle of the Dogger bank 1915' (24 January 1915), and later the same year in June 1915 was transferred to the 5th Light Cruiser Squadron Harwich Force. On 11 February 1916 H.M.S. Arethusa struck a mine and broke her back in the North Sea off Felixstowe, which was claimed to have been laid by the German minelaying submarine UC-7 of the Flandern Flotilla. At the time of the loss of Henry's ship, the UC-7 was commanded by Georg Haag, who was lost with the other 17 crew members of the submarine on 5 July 1916 when it is presumed to have blown up on a mine off the coast of Zeebrugge

**ANDREWS, RICHARD STEPHEN.** Private, 37467.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 21 March 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of George Morley Andrews and Agnes Andrews (née Jenkins).

Buried Noyon, New British Cemetery, Oise, France. Grave Ref: I. C. 7.

Richard was amongst the 15 other ranks of his battalion who lost their lives as the result of the first day of the German Spring Offensive 1918 when his battalion was outnumbered about four to one. Prior to the attacks starting, Richard's battalion and all those in the sector were issued with a warning at 1500 hours on 20 March which in today's military parlance would equate to a 'Red Alert,' it was expected that the enemy would attempt to capture the town of Noyon. As expected enemy artillery commenced shelling at 0445 hours, combined with explosives, a heavy concentration of gas shells were fired by them onto the village of Liez, and Quenet, Verger, Vieville and Vivier Woods. As dawn broke the area was engulfed in a thick mist which rendered it impossible to see more than about twenty five yards; the Battle Zone however was untouched, the exceptions being the village of Liez and Ronquet Farm Road. As the mist cleared and as the day wore on, it was realised that that the Germans had broken through both flanks having full advantage of the prevailing mist. Despite their clear numerical advantage combined with the 'smoke screen' which nature had provided, the enemy soldiers were denied the positions which were held by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Vendeuil Fort, and both the support and reserve areas were also denied to the enemy. On the right of Richard's battalion, the enemy was successful and fighting involving some of 'C' Company personnel took place, as such it would seem likely that Richard was probably numbered amongst those of that company who fell in the fighting. Two days after Richard's death, his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell D.S.O. from Neston, Cheshire won the Victoria Cross, in an action which was fought to the west of the St. Quentin Canal. Over the past fifty years or so it has been noticeable that several Kent locations (including Dover) claim Christopher Bushell V.C, D.S.O. as 'theirs.' But in truth none have any genuine claims to him, although his mother at one time resided at St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe near Dover. Christopher married Rachel Lambert who was a daughter of the Reverend Edgar Lambert a former Vicar of Wye near Ashford, Kent, at Wye on 24 August 1915. Rachel Bushell resided for a number of years with her young daughter at 114 Lower Bridge Street, Wye, Kent prior to moving to Church Lane, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent. Regrettably that is about the sum lot of connections our county really has with the Great War hero.

**BARWICK, JOHN BIRD.** Lance Corporal, T/2388.

1st/3rd (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 28 October 1915.

Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328, and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

On 10 October 1915 the British War Cabinet had taken the decision to stop sending more troops to Gallipoli, where to put it mildly operations had not strictly gone to plan. That important decision notwithstanding, the following day 231 men of the 1st/3rd (Kent)

Field Company, Royal Engineers sailed from Devonport Docks heading for the eastern Mediterranean and Gallipoli. The voyage out to the eastern Mediterranean was fortunately uneventful. At Mudros Bay, Turkey, most of the Field Company transferred to smaller ships to actually take them to Helles. H.M.S. Hythe, a former cross-channel paddle-driven ferry, with a displacement of 509 tons. She had been built in 1905 for the South Eastern and Chatham Railway to work the Dover-Calais route. Requisitioned at the outbreak of war she had been transformed into a minesweeper and armed with a couple of twelve pounder guns. In 1915, she was sent to work on troop movements in the Dardanelles. H.M.S. Hythe left Mudros Bay at about 1600 hours on 28 October 1915 at which time she was grossly overloaded, including men who were packed on the decks, many huddling under an awning that had been rigged up to give at least some form of relief from rain and spray. At about 2000 hours, as the vessel neared its destination, men made preparations for embarking putting on their kit, whilst drivers went to their respective vehicles, and the H.M.S. Hythe doused all her lights. Of significance it was a rough and squally day which had resulted in a great number of the men aboard the ship being seasick. With their discomfort of those onboard the ship almost at an end, having almost reached its destination and the soldiers preparing for disembarking, when suddenly a large vessel loomed out of the darkness and in spite of all efforts to avoid a collision it ran into H.M.S. Hythe, cutting deep into her port bow and bringing down the foremast. In ten minutes the vessel sank, leaving numbers struggling in the water or hanging on to spars and other floating matter. The boats of the H.M.S. Sarnia, the ship which had hit John's vessel did all they could and picked up many survivors, but sadly all too few, for approximately 130 men drowned. H.M.S. Sarnia was also a requisitioned ferry which had been built in 1910 for the London and South Western Railway. In war service she became an armed boarding steamer, with a displacement of 1498 tons and a top speed of 20.5 knots, H.M.S. Sarnia was a much larger and more powerful vessel than H.M.S. Hythe, which had a maximum speed of only 12 knots. Subsequent enquiries following the tragic loss of H.M.S. Hythe revealed that both vessels made at least one change of course, but it seems that neither slowed down. The H.M.S. Sarnia struck the port side of H.M.S. Hythe with such force that its bows cut halfway through the ship. That brought the H.M.S. Hythe to a dead stop and caused its mast to collapse on the awning. Numerous deaths were caused instantly by the bows of H.M.S. Sarnia and the collapsing mast, but those remaining fared little better. The massive damage caused H.M.S. Hythe to sink rapidly. It was all over in approximately ten minutes. Many soldiers were drowned trapped under the awning, or in the cabs of their vehicles. Most of the others had little or no time to gain the ships railings and throw off their kit before they were in the sea. Panic reigned as soldiers scrambled for the few life-jackets that could be grabbed before the ship sank. Most of those who jumped overboard were drowned in the chaos that followed, and sadly only a lucky few were able to scramble from one vessel to the other without even getting their feet wet.

**BAYLEY, JAMES THOMAS**, Private, 1009803.

1st Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment).

Died 12 September 1918. Aged 34.

Born Dover, Kent 24 July 1884.

Enlisted Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada 5 April 1916.

Buried Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. D. 15. James is also commemorated on page 365 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, and on the Roll of Honour at the former Congregational Church, which is now the United Reform Church, High Street, Dover, Kent. Unfortunately James's Attestation Papers are not very clear (most fortunately are), they show his Next of Kin as being an aunt, Mrs Richard Cutaoly? of 14 Liverpool Street, Dover, Kent, and that James was a Carpenter by trade. At the time of the 1901 census the above address is where James was residing with his grandmother 65 year old Jane Bayley, a native of Lympne, Hythe, Kent who was a widow and the Head of the house.

**BEERLING, ARTHUR LEWELL**. Private L/8018.

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

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Died 18 October 1914.

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

At the start of the Great War the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was stationed Fermoy, Ireland, which it had left on 12 August 1914 and proceeded to Cambridge where it arrived exactly a week later, the journey allowed the battalion which was in a state of high morale time to indulge in singing on the way, the most popular song being *It's a long way to Tipperary* which had been arranged by Bandmaster Elvin of the battalion. After having been joined by 554 reservists, many of whom were veterans of the Second Boer War or the Northwest Frontier of India, in some cases both, their experience and it as was with of some of the regulars, combined with the youthful enthusiasm of some of the younger members of the battalion set them in good stead when the battalion set foot on French soil at St. Nazaire on 9 September 1914 having crossed from Southampton aboard the SS Minneapolis. Following a number of moves, the battalion arrived at Courcelles and took over front line trenches to the north east of Vailly sur Aisne at 0230 hours on 21 September when relieving the 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers and the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Private Herbert Cole aged 21 from Battersea, became the first of at least 1120 other ranks in the battalion to die in the Great War, the second being 30 year old Private Young T.E. Town from Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent. A fairly recent innovation is the sounding of the Last Post which takes place at the Ploegsteert Memorial on the first Friday of every month at 1900 hours. We have noticed in the summer months that it is advisable to arrive early for the simple but nonetheless moving tribute as the lay-by in front of the Berks Cemetery Extension where the memorial is situated usually fills up quite quickly as 1900 hours approaches, as whilst the number of those who attend the ceremony is not comparable with those at the Menin Gate in Ieper an hour later, every time we have been at the Ploegsteert Memorial ceremony the numbers seem to grow.

Following the sounding of the Last Post, it is advisable to wait until the 'rush' to Ieper is over, as there is both plenty of time to get to the Menin Gate ceremony.

**BELSEY, ALFRED ISAAC.** Private, S/10443.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 27 July 1916. Aged 19.

Born St. Mary's, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Edward and Sarah Margaret Belsey of 13, Albion Place, Dover, Kent.

Buried Lahana Military Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref: II. E.2.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. At the time of the 1901 census the Belsey family was residing at 18, Albion Place, Dover, Kent. Edward a 33 year old Labourer and Dover native was the Head of the house.

**BISHOP, FRANKGEORGE.** Able Seaman, J/6765.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Conquest."

Drowned 28 March 1916. Aged 21.

Born Ramsgate, Kent 4 May 1894.

Son of William James and Florence Bishop of 6, Durham Place, Dover, Kent.

Buried St. Mary Churchyard, Shotley, Suffolk. Grave Ref: R.N. Plot 103.

Completed in 1915, Frank's ship was a 4,219 ton Caroline class light cruiser which was in the Harwich Force 5th Light Cruiser Squadron. On Tuesday 28 March 1916 she was damaged by enemy battle cruisers during a German Navy raid which was carried out off the North Sea coast at Lowestoft, and Yarmouth, Suffolk. Earlier in the same month of the attack which cost Frank and other members of the ships crew their lives, seventeen sailors and one Royal Marine from H.M.S. "Conquest," lost their lives when the cutter from the ship was caught in a freak snow squall in Harwich harbour, Essex, they are buried in Walton-on-the-Naze (or Walton-Le-Soken) (All Saints) Churchyard Extension, Essex. H.M.S. Conquest was later damaged by a mine in July 1918, but survived the Great War, during which time she sank the German destroyer "S 20" on 5 June 1917. Eventually H.M.S. Conquest was sold for scrap 1930.

**BLACK, NEVILLE VICTOR.** Private, G/36679.

11th (Service) Battalion, (1st South Downs), Royal Sussex Regiment,

Died 13 October 1918. Aged 21.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Bertha J. Black of 19, Tower Hamlets Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Petsamo Evangelic-Lutheran Cemetery, Russian Federation, Neville is also commemorated by a Special Memorial in Murmansk New British Cemetery, Russian Federation, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent

Formerly Private. 27839. Middlesex Regiment.

At the time of the 1901 census Neville and his parents Victor John and Bertha J Black were residing with Neville's grandfather, a 49 year old Widower who was a Furniture Porter and Head of the house, living at 8 Church Street, Dover, Kent. Where Neville is commemorated in the Russian Federation by a Special Memorial in Murmansk New British Cemetery, the cemetery was made in 1930. At which time forty burials were moved in from the Old British Cemetery that had been used by the No 86 General

Hospital during 1918 and 1919. The special memorials commemorate officers and men such as Neville who are known to have been buried in cemeteries elsewhere in the Murman area, but who were not moved into the new cemetery in 1930 or subsequently. Petsamo where Neville is buried was in Finland prior to the Second World War, and became Soviet territory as the direct result of what Finland calls the Continuation War.

**BOAKES, J.J.** No trace.

**BURNETT, H.G.** As commemorated on the St. Mary's School tribute is probably:-

**BURNETT, GEORGE HAROLD.** Sapper, 42243.

70th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 24 September 1918. Aged 26.

Son of Luke and Mary Burnett of 2, Albert Road, Dover, Kent.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Rugby, Warwickshire.

Buried Villers Hill British Cemetery, Villers-Guislain, Nord, France. Grave Ref: III. A. 2.

**CADMAN, ALBERT GEORGE.** Serjeant, L/6380.

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

Died 24 June 1917. Aged 32.

Born Buckland, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Charlotte Cadman of 8, Palmerston Cottages, Dover, Kent and the late Robert Thomas Cadman.

Husband of Alice Bertha Cadman of 164, Clarendon Place, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19 and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

Served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War).

**CARLIN, JOHN.** M.M. Serjeant, L/10559.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 30 September 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

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

John had won the Military Medal whilst serving as a Corporal in the same regiment.

**COLE, JOHN.** M.C. Company Serjeant Major, 5254. (Acting R.S.M.).

2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

Died 28 March 1918.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted York, Yorkshire.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 26.

**CORTEEN, EDWARD.** Private, 112243.

10th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

Died 18 November 1918. Aged 21.

Son of Robert Henry and Lena Corteen of 9, Duke Street, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Buried Douglas Cemetery, Isle of Man. Grave Ref: L. 26.

**COURT, BERT JAMES.** Private, S/10338.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 11 March 1915.  
Son of Stephen and Mary Court.  
Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, Nord, France.  
Grave Ref: IX. C. 66.  
Bert is also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**COUZENS, REGINALD HAROLD.** Private, 260286.  
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Died 4 October 1917.  
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. Formerly Private, 2889, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). A brother of the next casualty commemorated. Please note the original regimental numbers of the two Couzens brothers commemorated on the war memorial, when they both served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**COUZENS, SIDNEY.** Private, A/200261.  
11th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Died 17 August 1917. Aged 23.  
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Son of Eliza Emma Couzens of 49, Adrian Street Dover, Kent.  
Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: III. F. 12. Sidney is also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. Formerly Private, 2891, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**CROFT, WILLIAM JOHN.** Serjeant, 7916.  
"A" Company, 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Died 27 November 1914. Aged 29.  
Born Dover, Kent.  
Son of Charles and Emily Croft.  
Husband of Emma Eloie Adamthwaite (formerly Croft) of 38, St. Vincent Street, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire.  
Buried Brompton Cemetery, London. Grave Ref: N. 172724.  
Also commemorated on the former Dover, Kent, Holy Trinity Hall war memorial.  
The cemetery where William is buried containing 375 Commonwealth war graves is situated next door to Chelsea Football Club at Stamford Bridge, with the two locations being divided by a railway line. William is also probably the casualty commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent as J.W.CROFT. At the time of the 1901 census the Croft family was residing at 7 Church Place, Dover, Kent, a native of Brightling, Sussex, 60 year old Coachman Charles Croft was the Head of the House. Like thousands of other soldiers who had 'Home Deaths,' William has no SDGW entry, but he does have a matching MIC entry which is probably indicative of him having died



of wounds or injuries post 13 August 1914, when his battalion had arrived at Le Harve onboard (the appropriately named) SS Gloucester Castle.

**CROFTS, EDWIN LAWRENCE.** Private, G/8388.

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

Died 27 August 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3. It is unfortunate that his parents' details are not shown on Edwin's CWGC commemoration or at that of Frederick William Crofts below; as it would probably confirm that they were brothers and the sons of William and Caroline Crofts. At the time of the 1901 census the family was residing at 2 Albion Place, Dover, Kent with 45 year old Labourer and Dover native William recorded as being Head of the house.

**CROFTS, FREDERICK WILLIAM.** Private. L/9742.

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

Died 9 April 1917.

Born St. Mary's Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.

It should be noted that although Frederick was serving in one of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) service battalion's he has a regular's regimental number, and was probably a pre war enlistment.

**CURD, WILLIAM ALFRED.** Stoker 1st Class, K/35204.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Pembroke.

Died 3 September 1917. Aged 25.

Born Dover, Kent 14 November 1891.

Son of Mrs. Emily Jane Curd of 1, Biggin Court, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

Buried Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Naval. 28. 1503.

**DAWES, ARTHUR.** Private, G/23870.

"C" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 21 September 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

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

A Palestine veteran, Arthur had been amongst the officers and other ranks which had joined "C" Company after 1 March 1917. The day on which Arthur died 22 other ranks in his battalion lost their lives during the 'Advance to the Hindenburg Line,' as part of the 74th (Yeomanry) Division operations.

**DEDULLE, C.** No trace.

**DUNN, REGINALD VICTOR.** Private, 533281.

1st/15th (County of London) Battalion.

London Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own Civil Service Rifles).

Died (Accidentally shot) 4 May 1917. Aged 20.

Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Dunn of 34, York Street Almshouse, Dover, Kent.

Buried Kimmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: D. 45.

Also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial, Dover, Kent.

**DUNN, WILLIAM JAMES.** Lance Corporal, L/6842.

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

Died 24 March 1915. Aged 32.

Son of Captain and Mrs. Dunn of Dover, Kent.

Born Charlton, Dover Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Husband of Gertrude Dunn of 48, Dour Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle-D'Armentieres, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: VI. C. 11. Also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**DYER, EDWARD GEORGE.** Serjeant, T/504. (Acting Company Sergeant Major).

1st/4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 25 September 1915.

Born St. Mary's, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Heliopolis (Aden) Memorial, Egypt. Ref: T/504, also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

A veteran of the South African Campaign (Second Boer War), prior to enlisting for service in the Great War, Edward was an employee of the General Post Office. Regrettably like at least thirteen of other men in his battalion during the time spent in the Aden Protectorate, Edward died from Heat Stroke. On 26 July 1915, Edward had sailed from India with his battalion aboard the 4691 ton ship "SS Varsova" of the British India Steam Navigation Co Ltd. The 'Indian Posting' of the Aden Protectorate was in times of peace normally of only one year duration, mainly due to the heat. Several commentators have made similar comments along the lines that the English infantry battalion which the 1st/4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) replaced had also suffered badly with heat related illness and deaths. Whilst not wanting to appear pedantic to anybody viewing this brief tribute to Edward, but the 'English infantry battalion' often referred to was the 1/1st Breconshire Battalion, (Territorial Force) South Wales Borderers, who doubtless had Englishmen amongst its number, but could hardly in truth be called an English infantry battalion.

**ELLENDER, ALBERT GEORGE.** Leading Stoker, K/4464.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Formidable."

Died 1 January 1915. Aged 29.

Born Dover, Kent 23 January 1886.

Son of Joseph William and Elizabeth Ellender of 1 Strond Street, Dover, Kent.

Husband of Mabel Charlotte Ellender of 43, Liverpool Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11.

A brother of the next casualty commemorated.

Albert's 15,250 tons pre-Dreadnought Battleship, was sunk by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine U-24 commanded by Rudolf Schneider, when she was about 20 miles off Start Point, Devon at 0200 hours on 1 January 1915. The first torpedo hit the number one boiler port side; a second explosion caused the ship to list heavily to starboard. Huge waves thirty feet high lashed the stricken ship, with strong winds, rain and hail, sinking it in less than two hours. Captain Arthur N. Loxley R.N, his second-in-command, Commander Charles F. Ballard R.N, and the signaler stayed at their posts throughout, sending flares and rockets off at regular intervals. There was no panic, the men waiting calmly for the lifeboats to be lowered. Someone played ragtime on the piano, others sang. The ship's Chaplain was said to have risked his life going below to find cigarettes to distribute amongst the crew. Suddenly the ship gave a tremendous lurch, the Captain shouted "Lads, this is the last, all hands for themselves, and may God bless you and guide you to safety." He then walked to the forebridge, lit a cigarette and, with his terrier Bruce on duty at his side, calmly waited for the end, in true Royal Naval tradition. Only 199 men were saved out of the ship's complement of about 750, H.M.S. Formidable was on exercises at the time of her loss and has the sad distinction of being the first British battleship to be sunk in the Great War. On 26 October 1914 Rudolf Schneider was also in command of the U-24 when he carried out first of the attacks on an unarmed merchant ship without warning. The ship being the SS Admiral Ganteaume, which Rudolf Schneider torpedoed but was unable to sink the ship, which was later successfully taken in tow and made it safely to port.

**ELLENDER, REGINALD ALFRED.** M.M. Private, 495231.

53rd Stationary Hospital, (Territorial Force) Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 2 July 1918. Aged 31.

Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of Joseph William and Elisabeth Ellender of 1 Strond Street, Dover, Kent.

Husband of Olive May Ellender of 208, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Murmansk New British Cemetery, Russian Federation. Grave Ref: A. 9.

Also commemorated on an impressive stained glass window at the Grammar School for Boys, Dover, Kent, it being the tribute to the former pupils of the school who lost their lives during the years of the Great War. Murmansk New British Cemetery was made in 1930. The 40 burials in the cemetery were moved in from the Old British Cemetery that had been used by the No 86 General Hospital during the years 1918 and 1919, the cemetery now contains 83 burials and commemorations of the Great War. The Special Memorials commemorate officers and men known to have been buried in cemeteries elsewhere in the Murman area. Reginald had been awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the 1916 Battle of the Somme, but a few months later during the battle he

was gassed at Bullecourt, which may have played a part in his demise as his Casualty Card shows cause of death as Pneumonia. Possibly the gassing had left him unable to cope with the severity of the weather encountered by the expedition on which he was a member. His unit at the time of Reginald's death was commanded by Major D.C. Williams, R.A.M.C.

**FAIRWEATHER, WILLIAM HENRY.** Stoker 1st Class, K/6889.

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

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 24.

Born Dover, Kent 9 November 1890.

Son of William Henry and Catherine Julia Fairweather of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 5, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent, on the latter William is shown with his initials reversed. At the time of the 1901 census the Fairweather family resided at 1 Flying Horse Lane, Dover, Kent. In addition to William junior his parents also had five other children at home, William senior a 46 year old native of Marylebone, London was an Engine Driver on the railways and Head of the house. One of William's brother's, Sapper, WR/150975, George Fairweather, Royal Engineers was awarded the Military Medal whilst serving with a railway unit of the corps. He was **probably** the same George Fairweather M.M. who became an Engine Driver with Southern Railway driving the famous Golden Arrow after the Great War. 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 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 became the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming NNE 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 peace, and were able to reload 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. 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 so 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 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 quickly got underway on sighting a submarine's periscope. At about 0720 hours 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 Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch 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 18 March 1915 the German submarine U-29 was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, all 32 submariners onboard perished including Otto Weddigen who had been in command since 16 February 1915.

**FEATHERSTONE, P.**

**FITZGERALD, M.**

**FRIEND, JOSEPH BERTIE.** Second Lieutenant.

17th (Service) Battalion, (1st City) The King's (Liverpool Regiment), attached to the 13th (Service) Battalion.

Died 21 August 1918. Aged 29.

Son of Joseph Bertie and Mary Isabel Friend of 7, Priory Gate Road, Dover, Kent. Commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3, and St Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

Joseph had formerly served as a Serjeant, 1028 & 240013 in the 1st /1st Royal East Kent Yeomanry, before being commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Army Ordnance Corps, and then transferred to The King's (Liverpool Regiment). Joseph had been amongst the members of the 1st/1st Royal East Kent Yeomanry, who left Liverpool onboard the SS Olympic on 25 September 1915 en-route for Gallipoli. It would appear that whilst at Gallipoli Joseph was struck by E? Fever, (probably Enteric, faded paperwork accessed). Whatever was the fever was, it necessitated Joseph's evacuation back to the United Kingdom. After recovering from his illness, Joseph spent nearly five months at No.18 Officer Cadet Battalion, under training at Prior Park, Bath, Somerset, on the successful completion of which he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Ordnance Corps. In September 1917 he was transferred to an infantry regiment at his own request, and joined the 17th (Service) Battalion, (1st City) The King's (Liverpool Regiment). The month after his transfer, Joseph joined his battalion on the Western Front where he served as the B.T.O. (Battalion Transport Officer). In June Joseph was again evacuated back to the United Kingdom, for a period of three weeks, suffering with trench foot, which was the direct result of having spent so long in the mud of the Western Front trenches. Deemed fit for active service again, Joseph returned to the Western Front, and was posted to the 13th (Service) Battalion of his regiment. Serving as a Platoon

Commander, Joseph died instantly when he was hit by machine gun fire at the head of his platoon, in addition to Joseph, forty other ranks in his battalion also fell during the attack.

**GOLDEN, FREDERICK CHARLES.** Private, T/241871.

1st/5th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 15 February 1917. Aged 23.

Born Mooltan, India. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Timothy and Charlotte Golden of 8, Lower Row, Durham Hill, Dover, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XX. J. 1.

**HARDEMAN, ERNEST.R.T.** Serjeant (Pilot), 4411.

48 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.

Died in aerial combat 16 February 1918.

Born Dover, Kent.

Son of John and Sarah Hardeman.

Buried Ham British Cemetery, Muille-Villette, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. B. 30.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent, and on the St. Mary's Church of England School Memorial Dover, Kent.

Before undergoing pilot training, passing same and becoming aircrew, Ernest had been a Royal Flying Corps, Air Mechanic 2nd Class which is as shown on his Medal Index Card entry. At 1345 hours on 16 February 1918, the Bristol F.2b aircraft piloted by Ernest and crewed by his Observer; 22 year old Lieutenant George Wheeler Croft from Lincolnshire was shot down by the 26 year old German 'ace' Hauptmann, Wilhelm "Willi" Reinhard, who at the time was the Commanding Officer of Jasta 6. Ernest and George were shot down above Fayet near St. Quentin on the Somme, and became the eighth of Wilhelm Reinhard's twenty victories. It perhaps should also be mentioned that Ernest and his Observer were somewhat unfortunate to have engaged Wilhelm Reinhard on the day they were shot down, because he was highly regarded amongst his peers as both an outstanding pilot and aerial combat tactician. A native of Düsseldorf, Germany, Wilhelm Reinhard subsequently lost his life on 3 July 1918 at Adlersdorf, near Berlin, when he took up a Zeppelin-Lindau D.I, for a test flight, he was killed when a strut broke and the top wing of the aircraft collapsed. Twentieth century history, notably the Second World War and events leading up to it would probably have been somewhat different had the wing strut broke only a few minutes earlier, when a different 'ace' pilot had been testing the aircraft. The pilot being Oberleutnant Hermann Wilhelm Göring. Rumours still circulate to this day that the accident which cost Wilhelm Reinhard his life was due to the aircraft being sabotaged by a Mechanic, who was either being blackmailed or employed by Hermann Wilhelm Göring so to do. Leonard Mosley, when writing Göring biography in the early 1970's, stated that when one of the struts that attached the top wing to the fuselage broke off, the sound was so loud that it was quiet distinctly heard on the ground. Other commentators have made comments along the lines that no pilot would have resorted to such despicable tactics as that 'rumored' to have been carried out by Oberleutnant Hermann Göring in his quest for promotion.

**JEFFREYS, FREDERICK WALTER.** Corporal, L/9845.

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

Died 25 August 1915. Aged 20.

Born St Mary's, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Jeffreys of 14, Caroline Place, Dover Kent.

Buried La Brique Military Cemetery No.1, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: C. 8.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census the Jeffreys family was residing at the same address as set out above.

**JONES, THOMAS EDWIN.** Warrant Officer Class I.

East African Intelligence Department.

Died 5 January 1916. Aged 26.

Son of Tom and Sarah Ann Jones of 2, Belgrave Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Nairobi British and Indian Memorial, Kenya, East Africa.

**MARTIN, GEORGE STYLES,** Lieutenant. (Acting Captain).

5th Battalion, (Territorial Force) Manchester Regiment, attached to the 18th (Service) Battalion (3rd City).

Died 23 April 1917. Aged 26.

Son of George Munson Martin and Annie M. Martin of 33, Bartholomew Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7 and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. At the time of the 1901 census the Martin family was residing at 38 Albany Place, Dover, Kent, George senior was a Musician and the Head of the house. George was a pre war other rank member of the East Kent Yeomanry, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment in October 1915.

**MICKLE, FREDERICK WILLIAM.** Private, 70569.

141st Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 14 July 1917. Aged 26.

Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mickle of 8, Church Road, Maxton, Dover, Kent.

Buried Woods Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. E. 23.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

Formerly Private, 4320, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**MORRIS, REGINALD ARTHUR.** Private, 42941.

151st Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 3 September 1916.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 C and 12C.

Formerly Private, 2517, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**MORTON, HAROLD WILLIAM.** Rifleman, S/11081.  
9th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.  
Died 5 January 1916. Aged 31.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Woolwich, Kent.  
Son of the late George Maddison Morton and Mary Ann Morton.  
Husband of Mrs. H. R. Bradley (formerly Morton) of 1990, Haultain Street, Victoria,  
British Columbia, Canada.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 46 and 48 and 50, and on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**NASH, ARTHUR JAMES,** Lance Corporal, G/24262.  
8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).  
Died 1 August 1917. Aged 20.  
Born and resided Dover, Kent, Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of William and Mary Jane Nash of 24, Ladywell Place, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 11-  
13 and 14, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.  
Formerly Private, 3020, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**NEWMAN, REGINALD HENRY.** Rifleman, 374112.  
8th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).  
Died 25 April 1917. Aged 29.  
Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of William Ingram Newman and Sophia Catherine Newman of 1, Queen Street,  
Dover, Kent.  
Buried Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: II. D. 75.  
Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. At  
the time of the 1901 census William and Sophia resided with their seven children  
including Reginald (the youngest) at 1 Queen Street, Dover, Kent. William aged 52 was  
Head of the house, and a self employed Fishmonger.

**PARKER, ALFRED GEORGE.** Private, 2975.  
45th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.  
Killed in action Albert, Somme, France 5 April 1918. Aged 25.  
Born Poplar, East London. Enlisted Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia.  
Normally resided at Annandale, Sydney, New South Wales,  
Son of Alfred James Parker, of the Dolphin Inn, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France, and St. Mary the  
Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent, also on Panel 140 of the Australian  
National War Memorial Canberra, Australia Capital Territories, Australia.  
After leaving the National School, Dover, Kent, Alfred was employed as a Ships Steward  
before he emigrated to Australia at the age of 18, where he found employment as a  
Labourer. He enlisted in the 45th (New South Wales) Battalion, Australian Infantry,  
Australia Imperial Force on 14 June 1916, and after training sailed for Europe onboard  
the 10,624 ton ship SS Port Nicholson which departed from Sydney on 8 November



1916. SS Port Nicholson which was used as an Australian troop transporter was formerly the SS Makarini owned by G.D.Tyser & Co, (London); she was mined and sunk approximately 15 nautical miles off Dunkirk, France on 15 January 1917. The Australian 4th Division of which Alfred's battalion was a part was initially stationed on the Suez Canal, Egypt. In June 1916 it moved to France, taking over part of the sector near Armentieres, Nord. Its stay there was brief and soon it was accompanying the First and Second Divisions to the Somme sector. In August 1916 it relieved the Second Division on the Pozières Heights and repulsed a major German counterattack. It then drove north to the outskirts of Mouquet Farm. A second tour of the Somme at Mouquet Farm followed in September and a third at Flers in October. On 11 April 1917 the Fourth Division assaulted the Hindenburg Line in the First Battle of Bullecourt, but the battle was a disaster and 1170 Australian prisoners were taken by the Germans. In June it participated in the Battle of Messines, and in September the division took part in the Battle of Polygon Wood. In March 1918 the Fourth Division was rushed to the Somme region to help stem the German Spring Offensive. There it repulsed the advancing Germans in hard fought battles at Hebuterne and Dernancourt. In April its 13th Infantry Brigade was involved in the counterattack at Villers-Bretonneux. The Fourth Division went on to fight in the Battle of Hamel, Battle of Epehy (with distinction), Battle of Amiens and the Hindenburg Line, finally reaching the town of Bellenglise.

**PEARCE, GEORGE THOMAS.** Lance Serjeant, S/172.  
3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 4 October 1918. Aged 46.  
Husband of Ellen J. Pearce of 9, Union Row, Military Hill, Dover, Kent.  
Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: E. J. 17.  
Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**POTTER, ERNEST EDWARD.** Serjeant, 9170.  
8th (Service) Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.  
Died 8 April 1917.  
Born Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Aldershot, Hampshire.  
Buried Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. P. 11.  
Also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**POWELL, ROBERT GEORGE.** Bombardier, 93463.  
195th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 19 August 1918.  
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: O. 59.  
Also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.  
SDGW records Robert's death as occurring on 19 August 1916. In view of his place of burial, the later date is **probably** correct, as the 195th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery was part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force of 1917-1918, and attached to 'Chaytor's Force' that was commanded by Major General Sir Edward Chaytor. Although the cemetery where Robert is buried was not commenced until after the capture of

Jerusalem in December 1917, initially with 270 burials, but casualties were re-interred later in the cemetery from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood.

**RICHARDS, EDGAR GOODFELLOW.** Corporal, 4164.

1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 16 March 1915.

Born Montreal, Canada. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: J. 31.

**SCUTT, SYDNEY FRANK.** Lance Corporal, G/68586.

8th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 11 October 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Charles Savage Scutt and Ellen Scutt of 2, Stanhope Road, Dover, Kent.

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

time of the 1901 census the Scutt family was residing at 14 Queen Street, Dover, Kent.

Dover native Charles Scutt, a 37 year old Police Serjeant was the Head of the house and had 8 children at the time.

**SEDGWICK, EDWARD.** Corporal, 358040.

47th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 23 April 1919.

Son of Walter and Ethel Sedgwick of 21, Albany Place, Dover, Kent.

Buried Charlton Cemetery Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: I. H. 24.

Petty Officer Stoker Walter Sedgwick who shares Edward's grave was a brother; both are also commemorated on the St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

Inexplicably, Walter who died on 13 December 1918, aged 38 is not commemorated with

his brother or the other Sedgwick's on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, despite being

a native of the town, as he was born in Dover on 24 April 1880, his parents still resided there, and he is at rest with his brother in one of the Dover cemeteries, unbelievable!

**SEDGEWICK, ERNEST CHARLES.** Private, L/9885.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Died 28 September 1915.

Born Buckland, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 or 19, and also

commemorated on St. Martins School, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

**SEDGWICK, WALTER.** Petty Officer Stoker, 294390.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke.

Died 13 December 1918. Aged 38.

Born Dover, Kent 24 April 1880.

Son of Walter and Ethel Sedgwick of 21, Albany Place, Dover, Kent.

Buried Charlton Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref; I. H. 24.

Corporal Edward Sedgwick who died 23 April 1919 shares Walter's grave and was a brother; both are also commemorated on the St. Mary the Virgin parish church war

memorial Dover, Kent. Inexplicably, Walter was not commemorated with his brother or other Sedgwick's on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, despite being a native of the town, his parents still resided there, and he is at rest with his brother in one of the Dover cemeteries, unbelievable.

**SERGEANT, FREDERICK WILLIAM BARTEN.** Trooper, 2145.

Household Battalion.

Died 11 October 1917. Aged 31.

Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted London.

Husband of Bertha Agnes Sergeant of 5, Salisbury Road, Dover, Kent.

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

Panel 3.

The altar rails in Holy Trinity Parish and Garrison Church, Trinity Place, Windsor, Berkshire were put up in memory of those of the Household Battalion who fell in the Great War, and were unveiled on 6 October 1921 by Lieutenant Colonel W. Porter, M.V.O. Due to the confusion which Frederick's unit very often generates, which relatives of its former members, or others face when trying to glean information about same, it seemed prudent to add 'very abridged' details here. The Household Battalion was formed on 1 September 1916 at Knightsbridge Barracks, London, as an **infantry battalion** with its personnel drawn from the Household Cavalry Reserve Regiments. On 9 November 1916 the Household Battalion landed in France, and on 17 November 1916 it was attached to the 10th Brigade, 4th Division. After spending all of its time on the Western Front, it was disbanded in France on 10 February 1918. Following the disbandment drafts of both officers and other ranks were sent to various other units, but primarily to the Household Cavalry and regiments of the five Foot Guards. As if to help compound the confusion for relatives or other interested parties was the Reserve Household Battalion, which was formed about September 1916, this battalion was stationed at Windsor until being disbanded early in 1918, prior to which it constantly supplied drafts to the Household Battalion in France. Having been asked for help at various times by a number of people and organizations regarding commemoration of a member of Frederick's unit it has become patently clear over recent years, following the introduction of the excellent and timesaving C.D., 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' on which the Household Battalion is shown as being: - "Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line. Including Yeomanry and Imperial Camel Corps." A gentleman residing in Surrey who made contact a few years ago requesting help/information, was horrified to learn that the information which he had paid to a professional full time researcher some time earlier turned out to be erroneous, and having from that time proudly told all and sundry that his grandfather had served during the Great War in the "Household Battalion of the Imperial Camel Corps."

**SERGEANT, HARRY VENNER.** Serjeant, 1443.

"D" Coy. 1st/15th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own Civil Service Rifles).

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 27.

Born Charlton, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Somerset House. Resided Fulham.

Son of Frederick John and Mary Ann Barten Sergeant of 20, Park Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: V. G. 10.

**SIDDERS, JOHN JAMES.** M.M. Private, 45496.

37th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 4 October 1916. Aged 23.

Born Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Kent.

Son of Henry and Hannah Mary E. Sidders of 10, Edgar Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II. B. 3.

Also commemorated on the St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

John arrived in France with the 37th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps on 1 June 1915. He was awarded the Military Medal while serving with the 37th Field Ambulance. (London Gazette entry dated 23 August 1916). A total of four other ranks were killed by shellfire in the 37th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. on the day that John died, in addition to which five other ranks woundings occurred. Presumably John was numbered amongst the four deaths, but more checks need to be carried out in order to confirm same. Another Kent casualty who served in the same Field Ambulance with John was also decorated for bravery, he being Corporal 45659 Sidney A. Smith, D.C.M. who died 29 November 1917. Born Faversham. Enlisted Canterbury. Buried Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave III. A.16. Sidney is commemorated on Hernehill, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial.

**SMITH, CHARLES.** Private, 18411.

25th (Service) Battalion, (Frontiersmen) Royal Fusiliers.

Died 18 October 1917.

Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania, East Africa.

Grave Ref: Collective Grave 6. G. 2-11.

It is unfortunate that as with many other casualties researched, no family details or even age were added to Charles's commemoration details after the cessation of hostilities, as a Dover native Charles Frederick Smith aged 10, residing at 24 Golden Cross Passage, Dover, Kent was noted on the 1901 census. His parents were 40 year old Frank Smith and 36 year old Georgina Smith. Charles died shortly before his battalion left East Africa towards the end of 18 October 1917, having arrived at Mombasa on 4 May 1915. In view of the theatre of war Charles died in, it seemed a bit odd that he is at rest in a collective grave, but checking the CWGC cemetery details showed that it was created in 1968 when the 660 Great War graves at Dar Es Salaam (Ocean Road) Cemetery had to be moved to facilitate the construction of a new road. As the burials in the former African Christian, Non-Christian and Mohammedan plots had not been marked individually, they were reburied in collective graves, each marked by a screen wall memorial. (Memorial Gardens "B," "C" and "D"). During the early 1970s, a further 1,000 graves were brought into this site from cemeteries all over Tanzania, where maintenance could no longer be assured.

**STANBRIDGE, ROBERT MARK.** Private, 49074.  
2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.  
Died 26 March 1918. Aged 25.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of John William and Ada Mary Stanbridge of 10, De Burgh Street, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 54 to 56 and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.  
Formerly Private, 158604, Royal Army Service Corps.

**STANLEY, LESLIE GEORGE.** Lance Corporal, L/9808.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 23 October 1914. Aged 20.  
Born Christchurch, Dover Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of David and Elizabeth Stanley of 3, Saxon Street, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2, and on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**STOCK, JOHN.** Serjeant Major (Mechanic), M/150048.  
Royal Army Service Corps.  
Died 8 July 1919. Aged 25.  
Son of Edwin and Zillah Stock of 49, London Road, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Peshawar (Right) Cemetery, Pakistan. Grave Ref: B.C. XLV. 59.  
Commemorated on The Delhi Memorial (India Gate), India. Face 23.

**STOKES, CHARLES.** Private, 9535.  
"B" Company, 2nd Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment.  
Died 3 February 1915. Aged 23.  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stokes of 16, North Street, Dover, Kent.  
Born Maxton, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 21 or 31, and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**STOKES, HORACE.** Private, 35063.  
2nd/7th Battalion, (Territorial Force) Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Died 17 April 1918. Aged 23.  
Son of Henry and Annie Stokes of 16, North Street, Dover, Kent.  
Born Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.  
Grave Ref: P. IX. P. 4A.  
Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.  
Formerly Private, 012701, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

**SWABY, CHARLES.** Leading Stoker, 312044.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Formidable."

Died 1 January 1915. Aged 33.

Born Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent 27 February 1888.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Swaby of 6, Sydney Terrace, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11.

Charles's 15,250 tons pre-Dreadnought Battleship, was sunk by two torpedoes from the German submarine U-24 commanded by Rudolf Schneider, when she was about 20 miles off Start Point, Devon at 0200 hours. The first torpedo hit the number one boiler port side; a second explosion caused the ship to list heavily to starboard. Huge waves thirty feet high lashed the stricken ship, with strong winds, rain and hail, sinking it in less than two hours. Captain Arthur. N Loxley RN, his second-in-command, Commander Charles F. Ballard RN, and the signaler stayed at their posts throughout, sending flares and rockets off at regular intervals. There was no panic, the men waiting calmly for the lifeboats to be lowered. Someone played ragtime on the piano, others sang. The Chaplain risked his life going below to find cigarettes. Suddenly the ship gave a tremendous lurch, the Captain shouted "Lads, this is the last, all hands for themselves, and may God bless you and guide you to safety." He then walked to the forebridge, lit a cigarette and, with his terrier Bruce on duty at his side, calmly waited for the end, in true Royal Naval tradition. Only 199 men were saved out of the ships complement of about 750, H.M.S. Formidable was on exercises at the time of her loss and was the first British battleship to be sunk in the Great War.

**TROY, DONALD PATRICK.** Serjeant, M/22977.

3rd Divisional Ammunition Park, Army Service Corps.

Died 6 October 1917. Aged 25.

Born Malta. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of James and Annie Troy of Portlaw, County Waterford, Ireland.

Buried Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. K. 22.

**TUCKER, HORACE BENJAMIN.** Petty Officer, 182413.

Royal Navy H.M.S. "Swiftsure."

Died 6 June 1915. Aged 35.

Born Dover, Kent 28 September 1879.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 9 and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

At the time of the 1881 census the Toker family was residing at 11 Widred Road, Charlton, Dover, Kent:-

Horace J. TUCKER. Aged 32.

Born Dover, Kent. Post Office Clerk.

Sarah A. TUCKER. Aged 33.

Born Canterbury, Kent.

Sarah J. TUCKER. Aged 8.

Born Dover, Kent.

Laura K. TUCKER. Aged 5.

Born Dover, Kent.

Horace B. TUCKER. Aged 11 months.

Born Dover, Kent.

Completed in June 1904, Horace's 13,432 ton Swiftsure class battleship was something of an oddity as she had not originally been built to Admiralty specifications. Originally

designed by Sir Edward Reed and built by Sir William Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., at Elswick and Walker, on the Tyne, for the Chilean Navy, but owing to financial problems the ship was put up for sale before being completed. H.M.S. Swiftsure and her sister ship H.M.S. Triumph were purchased by the British government in December 1903 mainly to prevent their possible sale to Russia. With a crew of 729 the design of the ships emphasized speed and a heavy secondary armament at the expense of protection and main armament. During the Great War H.M.S. Swiftsure served early on as a Flagship in the East Indies Squadron, in November 1914 escorted Indian Convoy, and in December 1914 was detached to the Suez Egypt operational area. In February 1915 she joined the Dardanelles Squadron, and on 2 March 1915 took part in the bombardments of the forts. Between the 5 and 9 March 1915 she was engaged during the attacks on the forts at Smyrna. From 18 March 1915 onwards H.M.S. Swiftsure supported landings at Helles. On 18 September 1915 she was unsuccessfully attacked by German submarine thought to be the U-21 which was commanded by Otto Hersing. Another bombardment was carried out by the late Horace Tucker's ship on 18 January 1916 when she shelled the Bulgarian held Greek port of Dedeagatch. In February 1916 she was attached to the 9th Cruiser Squadron in the Atlantic, but the next year on 11 April 1917 H.M.S. Swiftsure was paid off at Chatham to release her crew. From the middle of 1917 until February 1918 she was used as an accommodation ship, and in the Autumn of 1918 she was prepared for use as a block ship but not put into use as same prior to the Armistice. In 1920 H.M.S. Swiftsure was sold for scrap, probably complete with the Captains marble bath which was installed as part of her original Chilean Navy specification.

**VIDLER, ALFRED ERNEST.** Private, 9262.

3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

Died 7 November 1914. Aged 28.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of William and Harriet Vidler of 49, Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 34. As part of the Tidworth Garrison, Wiltshire at the time of the start of the Great War, Alfred's battalion received its orders on 12 August 1914 for embarkation and deployment to France. At 0500 hours the following morning the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel B.F.B. Stuart, left Tidworth heading for the port of Southampton. Although the battalion arrived at Southampton Docks later the same day, it was not till early the following morning that the 3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment left the port on 14 August 1914 onboard the SS Bosnian. Arriving at La Harve before dawn the next day, it was not possible for the ship to dock owing to the vast amount of shipping, and she had to cast anchor off La Havre. The great roadstead was filled with crowded transports; and owing to the state of the tide it was not until the following day that it was possible for the troopship to go on to its eventual destination, Rouen. At 1330 hours on 16 August the ship stood on her way up the river Seine, as the local inhabitants on the banks cheered the troops, and excitement onboard the SS Bosnian ran high. At 2100 hours Alfred's battalion disembarked at Rouen, where they passed the night billeted in a long shed next to the ship. Early the next morning the battalion marched through the streets of Rouen to the railway station and entrained for the front. The five days which followed were very trying for battalion, as the weather was hot, and officers and other ranks became

accustomed to long periods of traveling in sluggish jolting troop trains, to sleeping anywhere they could lay their heads, and to apparently needless marching and counter-marching. Along with the rest of the British Expeditionary Force, Alfred's battalion was constantly on the move, during which time the battalion participated in the 'Battle of Mons' and the 'Battle of Le Cateau.' Having survived both costly conflicts, Alfred and his comrades arrived at Neuve-Église to the east of Bailleul, by omnibus on 1 November 1914, and later advanced via Le Romarin to positions just west of Ploegsteert. 'D' Company moved up to the south-east corner of Ploegsteert Wood in support of the 1st Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, with the remainder of the battalion taking over positions near Château de la Hutte the following day. After the members of 'D' Company rejoined the other companies, Alfred's battalion then relieved the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment on the eastern side of Ploegsteert Wood. In addition to deaths and woundings in the battalion between 3 and 5 November, on the day that Alfred lost his life it was the soldiers of 'C' Company who suffered the most when their trenches were overrun by enemy troops. As the survivors fell back into Ploegsteert Wood the enemy was checked on the edge of the wood after a counter-attack. At least 76 other ranks of the 3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment died on 7 November 1914, the bulk of whom were almost certainly of 'C' Company, and Alfred was probably amongst their number.

**WAYTE, JOHN NATHAN.** Private, 2181.  
1st/4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 19 February 1915.  
Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1919 Memorial. Face 3.

**WICKHAM, CHARLES EDWARD.** Private, 68089.  
7th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.  
Died 30 December 1917. Aged 29.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Paddington, London.  
Son of George Henry and Emily Jane Wickham.  
Husband of Grace Wickham of 17, North Road Brightlingsea, Essex.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 C 9 A, and 16A, also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.  
Formerly Private, 6858, 2/5th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

**WILLSON, ALBERT JOHN.** Private, CH/926(S).  
1st Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
Died 3 August 1916. Aged 22.  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Willson of 1, The Esplanade, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: I. C. 11. Also commemorated on St. Mary's parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. It is likely that 6 year old Albert J Willson residing with his parents at 1 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent at the time of the 1901 census is the casualty commemorated. It is unfortunate that Albert's parents are not shown with either of their Christian names



on his CWGC commemoration, on the census they are recorded as being Alfred and Charlotte, Head of house 35 year old Alfred was a Mariner.

**WILSON, WILLIAM GEORGE.** Private, 52677.  
11th (Service) Battalion, (2nd Hull) East Yorkshire Regiment.  
Died 18 May 1918.  
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.  
Son of Mrs. Ena V. Wilson of 24, Trevanion Street, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Caestre Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I. C. 20.  
Formerly Private, 283225, Highland Light Infantry.

**WILKES, H.E.** No clear trace.

**WILSHIRE, CHARLES ERIC.** Private, G/9020.  
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 6 September 1916. Aged 20.  
Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.  
Son of William Evans Wilshire and Sarah Jane Wilshire of 6, Barton Path, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

**WORSTER, ALEXANDER FREDERICK.** MC & Bar. Captain.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 23 November 1917.  
Born Hornsey, Middlesex. c1894.  
Son of Alexander and Elizabeth Worster of the 'Dublin Man of War,' River, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France.  
Grave Ref: II.E.5.  
Alexander was a brother of the next casualty commemorated, and is also commemorated on River, Dover, Kent civic war memorial which is located in the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul, also commemorated on an impressive stained glass window at the Grammar School for Boys, Dover, Kent, it being the tribute to the former pupils of the school who lost their lives during the years of the Great War. Formerly Private.1830 and 240181, East Kent Yeomanry and Captain in the Corps of Hussars. Alexander was awarded both the Military Cross and a Bar whilst serving as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Despite repeated attempts to locate London Gazette data appertaining to both awards, thus far only his 'Bar' details have been found which appeared in the Supplement to the London Gazette dated 17 September 1917, which was originally Gazetted on 18 June, 1917 :- T./2nd Lt. Alexander Frederick Worster. M.C., E Kent R:-  
"For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when commanding his company against a hostile raid. He collected every available man with the greatest coolness under intense barrage, and posted them at points of advantage, moving up and down the line encouraging his men with a complete disregard of danger. His great courage and personal example caused the raid to be repulsed with great loss to the enemy. Later though heavily sniped, he brought in a wounded enemy from "No Man's Land," thereby obtaining

important identification.” At the time of 1901 census for Dover and district, the Worster family was residing at 72 Biggin Street, Dover, Kent. Alexander was a brother of the next casualty commemorated. At Dover, Kent on 21 April 1918, Brigadier General Sir W.B. Hickey, K.C.B, presented the Military Cross and Bar which had been awarded to his late son to Mr Alexander Worster.

**WORSTER, DONALD EDWARD.** Private. G/4302.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

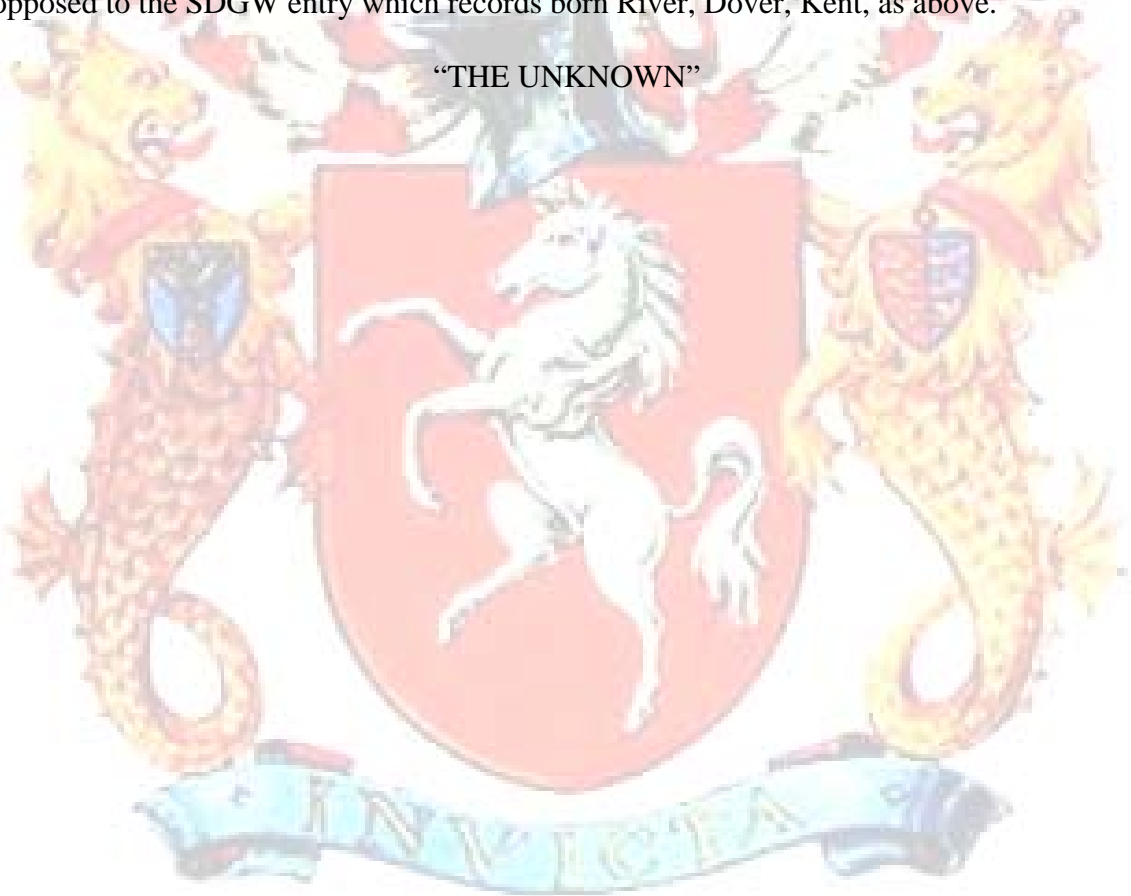
Died 11 September 1917.

Born River, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Alexander and Elizabeth Worster of the ‘Dublin Man of War,’ River, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17. Although SDGW shows place of birth as above, if the Worster casualties were in fact brothers the 1910 census entry for Donald E Worster shows born Margate, Kent as opposed to the SDGW entry which records born River, Dover, Kent, as above.

“THE UNKNOWN”



# The Second World War

1939 – 1945

The Second World War Tributes are in the form of a Book of Remembrance which is located in the Hall of St. Mary's School, Dover, Kent.

*"TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THE OLD BOYS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL, DOVERWHO FELL IN THE WAR OF 1939-45"*

**ATKINS, REGINALD ARTHUR.** Able Seaman, C/JX 151928.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Gallant. (H 59).

Died 10 January 1941. Aged 20.

Son of Joseph and Mary Hannah Atkins of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 42. Column 1.

H.M.S. Gallant was built by A. Stephen & Sons Ltd., of Glasgow, Scotland, and commissioned into the Royal Navy on 25 February 1936. Arthur almost certainly lost his life when his ship was damaged by a mine at 0834 hours on 10 January 1941 when it was some 25 miles south-west of the Sicilian island of Pantellaria. Resulting from the explosion she lost her bow and was taken in tow to Malta by H.M.S. Mohawk. At Malta she was beached in the Grand Harbour below Floriana. She was later virtually destroyed there during an enemy air raid which took place on 5 April 1942, and was subsequently declared a constructive total loss. H.M.S. Gallant which was a 1,350 ton G class destroyer was finally sunk and used as a block ship at St. Paul's Bay, Malta in September 1943. In view of the date of Reginald's death it would seem likely that he had been part of the crew of H.M.S. Gallant when she played a part in the sinking of the Italian Regia Marina submarine Lafolè, when it was sunk north off Melilla by three Royal Navy destroyers, the other two being H.M.S. Hotspur and H.M.S. Griffin.

**BENNETT, EDWARD FRANK.** No trace.

**BOOKER, FREDERICK JOSEPH.** Leading Stoker, C/KX 90859.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Lynx.

Died 28 July 1941. Aged 24.

Son of Alfred Edwin and Millicent Florence Booker of Dover, Kent.

Buried (St. Mary's) New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: Sec. J.K.X. Grave 8.

Frederick was a brother of the next casualty commemorated. From 16 December 1940 until June 1944 H.M.S. Lynx was a Dover, Kent shore establishment which was commanded by Captain F.A.H. Russell, R.N., from reading various literature it would appear that its personnel played a significant part in minesweeping undertakings in the English Channel, throughout the years of its time at Dover, Kent, and suffered casualties.

**BOOKER, ROBERT ERNEST.** Stoker.

Merchant Navy. Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 29.

Born 18 April 1915. Discharge number: S14932.

Son of Alfred Edwin and Millicent Florence Booker of Dover, Kent.

Husband of Joyce Booker of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 4,

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Robert served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**BURDETT, EDGAR ERNEST HENRY.** Able Seaman, C/JX 150678.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Arethusa.

Died 18 November 1942. Aged 22.

Son of William and Beatrice Burdett.

Husband of Gertrude Patricia Burdett of Enfield, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 53, Column 1.

Between 17 November 1942 and 20 November 1942; 'Operation Stone Age' was conducted which consisted of a convoy (MW-13) of four merchant ships escorted by the Royal Navy light cruisers H.M.S. Arethusa, H.M.S. Euryalus, H.M.S. Dido and 10 destroyers. Convoy MW-13 left Alexandria, Egypt heading for the beleaguered island of Malta, when the convoy was north of Derna, on 18 November H.M.S. Arethusa commanded by Captain A.C. Chapman, R.N, was hit by a aerial torpedo which resulted in her being heavily damaged, and she had to be towed back to Alexandria. 156 men including Edgar lost their lives during the attack. The convoy arrived safe at Malta on 20 November and effectively brought to a close the end of the heroic Malta siege. H.M.S. Arethusa was patched up and later went to the Charleston Navy Yard in the U.S.A. for full repairs, which were eventually completed in December 1943. Edgar's ship which was a 5220 ton Arethusa class light cruiser survived the Second World War and was later sold to J. Cashmore in 1950, and arrived at Newport on 9 May 1950 for scrapping.

**CAIRNS, JOHN DESMOND.** Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1894992.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 15 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 12 May 1944. Aged 20.

Son of Edward and Helen Cairns of Dover, Kent.

Buried Leuven Communal Cemetery, Leuven, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Row B. Grave 4.

John was amongst the eight crew of Lancaster bomber LL752 LS-A which was flown by 21 year old Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) Alan Amies from Robertsbridge, Sussex. At 2236 hours on 11 May 1944 the aircraft took off from R.A.F. Mildenhall on a mission to bomb the railway yards at Leuven, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium. All the crew were killed when the Lancaster was shot down by a German night-fighter 'ace,' Oberleutnant, Hans-Heinz Augenstein at 0030 hours on 12 May 1944, the bomber crashed onto the Brouwerstraat, just to the north west of Leuven. In addition to the British airman in the Lancasters crew were two members of the R.C.A.F., one belonging to the R.A.A.F., and a South African, all were laid to rest in the Leuven Communal Cemetery, Leuven, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium. Hans-Heinz Augenstein had claimed his first victory on the night of 31 July/1 August 1942, when he shot down a R.A.F. Wellington bomber near Ahlhorn, Germany. He was appointed Staffelkapitän of 12./NJG 1 on 1 March 1944, and awarded the Ritterkreuz (Knights Cross) on 9 June 1944. The loss of John's Lancaster was one of 42 to fall foul of Hans-Heinz Augenstein during 1944, he was credited with a total of 46 victories before he and one of his crew of their Bf 110 G-4 were killed on the night of 6/7 December 1944, when they were shot down approximately 7 miles northwest of Münster-Handorf, Westphalia, Germany by an R.A.F. night-fighter.

**CANNON, ARTHUR ALBERT WILLIAM.** Chief Petty Officer, C/R 112131.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vimiera. L29.

Died 9 January 1942. Aged 32.

Son of Arthur Robert Julius Cannon.

Husband of Ethel Francis Louisa Cannon of Greenwich, London.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 51. Column 2.

Built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd of Wallsend-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Vimiera, a 1188 ton V&W class destroyer was commissioned on 19 October 1917. At the time of her loss Arthur's ship was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Angus Alexander Mackenzie, R.N.R., when she hit a mine and sank off the East Spile Bouy in the Thames Estuary, on 9 January 1942 with the loss of 93 from her compliment of 134.

**CHEYNEY, GEORGE.** No trace.

**CORNWELL, WILLIAM FREDERICK.** Seaman.

Merchant Navy, Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 30.

Born 29 September 1914. Discharge number: R125243.

Son of William John and Ellen Susan Cornwell, of Dover, Kent.

Husband of Olive Cornwell, of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 4, and in the Dover, Kent Grammar School for Boys, Second World War Book of Remembrance, where William was a pupil from 1925 to 1930, having previously been a pupil at St. Mary's Church of England School, Dover, and is also commemorated in the Second World War Book of Remembrance which is in St. Mary's Church, Dover, as is the Memorial of H.M.T.S Alert upon which William is also commemorated. Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which William served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most

important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**DAY, CHARLES AISNE.** Petty Officer Airman, FAA/FX. 77376.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Gloucester.

Died 23 May 1941. Aged 26.

Son of Tom and Emily Day.

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Naval Memorial, Hampshire. Bay 2, Panel 1.

**DEVERSON, LEONARD DOUGLAS.** Air Raid Warden.

Died 13 November 1940. Aged 38.

Husband of Doris Gertrude Deverson of 23 High Street, Dover, Kent.

Leonard was injured at the High Street, Dover, Kent and died later the same day at the Casualty Hospital, Union Road, Dover, Kent.

**DRURY, FRANK ARTHUR.** Quartermaster.

Merchant Navy, Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 40.

Born 13 July 1904. Merchant Navy Discharge number: R91262.

Son of Walter and Emily Helen Drury.

Husband of Florence Lily Olivia Drury of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 5.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Frank served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine

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**DUNFORD, CYRIL AUBREY.** Guardsman, 2723363.  
2nd Battalion, Irish Guards.  
Died 11 September 1944. Aged 20.  
Born Canterbury, Kent. Resided Kent.  
Buried Leopoldsbury War Cemetery, Leopoldsbury, Limburg, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: I. D. 11.

**EDMOND, LEONARD WILLIAM.** Civilian.  
Died 26 September 1944. Aged 35.  
Son of Mrs. E. Edmond of 1 Yew Tree Cottages, Military Road, Dover, Kent and of the late E. Edmond.  
Husband of L. Edmond of 15 Churchill Road, Maxton, Dover, Kent.  
Edmond died at Military Hill, Dover, Kent.

**HAWKES, JOHN.** No clear trace.

**HOGBEN, HAROLD SINCLAIR.** Civilian.  
Died 12 September 1944. Aged 16.  
Son of Harold Alfred Sylvester Hogben, and of Kathleen Lucy Cassandra Hogben of 42 Dickson Road, Dover, Kent.  
Harold died at his home.

**KING, WILLIAM ARTHUR.** No clear trace.

**LAMKIN, GEORGE VICTOR.** Civilian.  
Died 8 October 1940. Aged 18.  
Son of William Alfred and Sarah Lilian Blanche Lamkin of 28 York Street, Dover, Kent.  
George died at Dover, Kent on one of H.M. Trawler's



**LITTLEHALES, REGINALD.** Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1268196.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 625 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 3 November 1943. Aged 33.  
Son of Joseph and Annie Littlehales.  
Husband of Kathleen Littlehales of Lydden, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.  
Grave Ref: 6. G. 6.

**MARCH, RONALD VICTOR.** No trace.

**MARTIN, LEONARD.** No clear trace.

**MURPHY, FREDERICK HENRY.** Chief Cook.  
Merchant Navy, S.S. Maid of Kent (London).  
Died 21 May 1940. Aged 36.  
Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 66.

**OLIFENT, WILFRED LANCEFIELD.** A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer.  
Died 17 April 1941. Aged 36.  
Resided at 187 Norwood Road, Lambeth, London.  
Son of H. J. and M. Olifent of The Cliff, Grove Road, Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire.  
Husband of D. Olifent.  
Wilfred died at Westminster Bridge Road, London.

**ORAM, WILLIAM GEORGE VENTRICE.** Serjeant, 1423791.  
221 Battery, 552 Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery.  
Died 26 November 1946. Aged 39.  
Son of William and Charlotte Oram.  
Husband of Gladys Louise Oram of Guston, Dover, Kent.  
Buried St. Martin Churchyard, Guston, Dover, Kent.

**PARMENTER, CECIL FREDERICK.** Sergeant, 1391928.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 179 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 23 October 1943. Aged 27.  
Son of Frederick and Frances E. J. Parmenter of Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 161.

**PLAYFORD, CYRIL THOMAS.** Civilian.  
Died 8 October 1940. Aged 20.  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Playford of 2 Pilgrims Way, Dover, Kent.  
Cyril died at the Crosswell Lockgates, Dover Harbour, Kent.

**RANSOM, BASIL DENNE.** Pilot Officer, 144157.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died 13 December 1943. Aged 38.

Son of Percy Kemp Ransom and Fanny Mary Ransom.

Husband of Winifred Beatrice Patricia Ransom of Finchley, Middlesex.

Buried Chittagong War Cemetery, Dampara, Bangladesh. Grave Ref: 6. G. 12.

**RUTTER, NORMAN WILFRED.** Bombardier, 6285270.

4 Maritime Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died at sea 2 July 1944. Aged 37.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Albert Arthur and Kate Elizabeth Rutter.

Husband of Violet Rutter of Hengistbury Head, Hampshire.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 93, Column 2.

Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

**SHARP, SYDNEY GEORGE.** Private, S/10686487.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Saturday 1 May 1943. Aged 35.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Sydney and Ellen E. Sharp of Dover, Kent.

Buried El Alia Cemetery, Algeria. Grave Ref: 12. H. 22.

Sidney was a pupil at the Dover, Kent Grammar School for Boys from 1919 to 1924, where he is commemorated in the Grammar School Second World War Book of Remembrance with his Christian name spelt Sydney, as in the St Mary's School tribute. Some other data checked shows his name spelt Sidney. He died in a military hospital of Pneumonia.

**SKELTON, WALTER GEORGE.** Quartermaster.

Merchant Navy, H.M. Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 36

Born 29 August 1908. Merchant Navy Discharge number: R909.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 5, and on H.M.T.S. Alert memorial in St. Mary's Church, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent. Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Walter served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in

a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**SNELLER, PERCY WILLIAM.** Police Constable.

Police War Reserve.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 60.

Husband of A. K. Sneller of 5, Millais Road, Dover, Kent.

Percy died at the Conservative Club, Dover, Kent, during an enemy air raid by four Junkers JU-88 bombers just before 2100 hours on the evening of 23 March 1942; he was in the company of Police Sergeant William Austen, who is also commemorated with Percy in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Remembrance. Having jointly inherited his late father Frank's haulage business with his brother Arthur in 1900, and then called it Sneller Brothers, Arthur died in 1906, after which Percy became 'sole proprietor' and the company name changed to P.W. Sneller. Over many years the company expanded and it's lorries very often seen, primarily four wheeled tippers in the Dover and East Kent area, until the company ceased trading in 1979, after having been in existence since the 1860's, during which time employing local labour.

**TERRY, STEPHEN WILLIAM.** Private, 6296483.

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

Died 24 October 1942. Aged 30.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of William G. and Grace C. Terry, of Dover, Kent.

Buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XVII. A. 23.

**TICKNER, WILLIAM JOHN.** Chief Cook.

Merchant Navy, H.M. Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 51.

Born 25 February 1893. Merchant Navy Discharge number: 587007.

Son of Thomas Charles and Elizabeth Tickner.

Husband of Rosetta Tickner of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 5.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Ernest served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer [La Combattante](#), but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**TREADWELL, ALFRED HENRY ARTHUR.** Flying Officer (Observer), 124245.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 236 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 4 February 1943.

Buried Bergen (Mollendal) Church Cemetery, Norway. Grave Ref: C. 6.

Alfred was a pupil at the Dover, Kent Grammar School for Boys from 1931 to 1937, where he is commemorated in the Second World War Book of Remembrance.

On 31 October 1939, No.236 Squadron reformed at R.A.F. Stradishall, Suffolk in Fighter Command and received Blenheim fighters in December. It moved to North Coates,

Lincolnshire at the end of February 1940 to join Coastal Command, but reverted to Fighter Command in April on arrival at R.A.F. Speke, Cheshire. During May and June the squadron flew defensive patrols over shipping in the English Channel and on 4 July rejoined Coastal Command for fighter and reconnaissance duties. A detachment was based in Northern Ireland from 18 September, which became No.272 Squadron on 19 November, but the bulk of the squadron's operations were flown from Cornwall and Pembrokeshire until 9 February 1942, when it moved to East Anglia and became a cadre unit, its Beaufighter's having been withdrawn from service with other squadrons. It became operational again on 15 March with Beaufighter's, which it used for escort and shipping reconnaissance missions. In July 1942 it began taking part in attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch coast, while detachments flew patrols over the Bay of Biscay to protect Coastal Command anti-submarine aircraft from enemy fighters. In April 1943, a strike wing was formed at R.A.F. North Coates. No.236 joined it and remained an anti-shiping unit until the end of the war disbanding on 25 May 1945.

**WAKEFIELD, RICHARD CHARLES STEPHEN.** Steward.

Merchant Navy, H.M. Cable Ship Alert.

Died 24 February 1945. Aged 43.

Born 12 April 1901. Merchant Navy Discharge number: S.14942.

Husband of Doris Wakefield of Plumstead, London.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 5.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Richard served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision

to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**WELLS, EDWARD JOHN.** Mechanician 1st Class, C/KX 82754.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Curacoa.

Died 2 October 1942. Aged 27.

Son of Robert W. and Frances J. Wells.

Husband of Doris Maud Wells of Dover, Kent, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 60. Column 3.

