

Folkestone Christchurch School



The (now faded) sepia photograph above of the Christchurch School, Folkestone, Great War Memorial Plaque, was amongst a number of photographs and post cards of war memorials, and memorial plaques plus military related ephemera etcetera (mainly Kent), that were copied and given to the then schoolboy transcriber of the following brief commemorations in 1951, by Great War veteran and former Folkestone Town Sergeant and resident, the late Ernest John Black. The inscriptions of the ten former pupil's who are remembered, commemorate a member of the Royal Navy first, doubtless due to him serving in the senior service, followed by nine soldiers in alphabetical order. From memory as far as can be recalled, that at the time of providing the package of photographs etcetera sixty one years ago, unfortunately Ernest was unable to provide any positive additional information appertaining to the war memorials and plaques, such as when they were originally erected, unveiled and dedicated etcetera. Although

Ernest modestly claimed to be unable to provide additional information, the accompanying note which he had included in the bundle, drew attention to the fact that there were similar plaques in a number of schools within the Folkestone area (now Shepway), which were identical apart from the names of those who were commemorated on them. Ernest had been given to understand that the school memorial plaques were sanctioned and partially funded by the Folkestone Borough Education Committee, and that the Chairman; George Spurgen had resided at 5, Julian Road, Folkestone. Although the following is only supposition on the part of the transcriber and should therefore be viewed as such, but the above pattern of school memorial plaques are/were, probably all the work of a local arts and craft teacher Charles Hastings Stevens, who resided at 6, Bournemouth Road, Folkestone and that at least some of them if not all had C. H. Stevens engraved on them. The school memorials of this pattern also all have the following inscription:-

**IN PROUD MEMORY OF THOSE FROM THIS SCHOOL WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES IN DEFENCE OF OUR HONOUR 1914-18**



ORCHARD, ALFRED HAROLD. Ordinary Telegraphist, J/39825.

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

Died Tuesday 18 September 1917. Aged 17.

Born St. Edmunds, Salisbury, Wiltshire 12 October 1899.

Son of William John Orchard and Rosa Mary Orchard (née Jay) of 100, Radnor Park Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 23, as shown above, also commemorated on the Folkestone civic war memorial, and on the St. John's parish church, Folkestone Great War memorial plaque.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Orchard family resided at 140, Castle Street, St. Edmunds, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Head of the house was 36 year old Southampton, Hampshire resident William John Orchard, who was employed as a Greengrocer. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Orchard family resided at 4, Clare Terrace, Sidcup, Kent. William John Orchard was still the head of the house, by which time he worked from home as a Fruiterer and Greengrocer, and was recorded by the census enumerator as being an Employee. After Alfred had enlisted in the Royal Navy as a Boy at Chatham, Kent, he initially served as a Boy 2nd class, at the boys' training establishment H.M.S. Ganges at Shotley, Suffolk from Wednesday 7 April 1915 until Friday 28 May 1915. From Saturday 29 May 1915 to Saturday 7 August 1915 Alfred served as a Boy 2nd class on the boys training ship H.M.S. Impregnable, on the latter date whilst serving on the same vessel his rating was to be changed to that of a Boy Telegraphist. On Friday 10 September 1915 Alfred joined H.M.S. Vernon, which from the start of the Great War was used to carry out torpedo trials, and to train new recruits for the Royal Navy. Time spent with H.M.S. Vernon was of only a

short duration, as Alfred was assigned to H.M.S. Victory I on Friday 1 October 1915. Between Friday 5 November 1915 and Saturday 11 December 1915, Alfred was on the roll of H.M.S. Colleen which was a shore base (static ship) at Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland. During the Great War she was also depot ship for the Auxiliary Patrol Service. Between Sunday 12 December 1915 and New Years Day 1917, Alfred was recorded as being on the ships compliment of the former Royal Navy Majestic class pre dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Hannibal. From the commencement of the Great War until February 1915 H.M.S. Hannibal had been used as a guard ship at Scapa Flow. Later that year, her main armament was removed and she was converted to a troopship, and served as such during the Dardenelles Campaign. From November 1915 until the cessation of hostilities she served as a depot ship based Alexandria, Egypt. On Wednesday 27 December 1916, whilst serving on H.M.S. Hannibal at Alexandria, Alfred was invalided. Following his time spend serving as an Ordinary Telegraphist on H.M.S. Hannibal, Alfred later served at the Chatham, Kent naval barracks H.M.S. Pembroke, prior to serving on H.M.S. Victor which was a 935 ton Acasta class destroyer. From Saturday 1 September 1917 until his death, Alfred served on the 957 ton destroyer H.M.S. "Contest." The destroyer was torpedoed in the Western Approaches by the German submarine U-106 while she was assisting the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. (Hall Line, Ltd.), Liverpool owned 5,867 ton steamer City of Lincoln, which had already been torpedoed and damaged by the U-106, resulting in the deaths of at least 9 people. Commanding the U-106 at the time of the attacks was 32 year old Kapitänleutnant, Hans Hufnagel, they being the only ships sunk and damaged by the submarine prior to it being lost on Tuesday 9 October 1917 in a minefield, about 40 miles north of Terschelling whilst homebound with the loss of its 41 crew. In 2009 the Royal Netherlands Navy found the wreckage of the U-106 to the north of Terschelling, while charting sea-routes. The news of the discovery was made public in March 2011, after the submarines identity had been confirmed by the German authorities, and the crewmembers' families had been informed. The submarine U-106 will stay in place as an internationally recorded and recognized war grave. Alfred was one of three brothers who lost their lives whilst serving in the armed forces during the Great War, and all of the Orchard brothers who fell are commemorated on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

GIBSON, THOMAS JOHN. Private, 23246.

8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died Friday 4 May 1917. Aged 39.

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

Son of Thomas George Gibson and Eliza Gibson (née Parker).

Husband of Isabel Gibson (née Chapman) of 29, Shellons Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. E. 17.

Also commemorated on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Gibson family resided at 30, Shellons Street, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Sandwich, Kent native Thomas George Gibson, who was an Own Account Porter & Furniture Remover, as was his then 22 year old son Thomas. When the 1911 census was conducted, Thomas (Junior) was recoded as being the head of the house at 29, Shellons Street, Folkestone, Kent, and as being employed as an Auctioneers Porter. The combinations that Thomas's service papers no longer exist, that he was not commissioned, plus the fact that he been wounded as opposed to having been killed in action, has resulted in the transcriber of these brief commemorations being unable to add here, when, where and how Thomas received his wounding which ultimately proved fatal. His was numbered amongst the 5 other ranks deaths which were suffered by the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment on Friday 4 May 1917, when Private Ernest Hicks from Reigate, Surrey appears to have been the only one killed in action, their battalion having only recently suffered light casualties, which was doubtless due to its locations. The battalion had been at the town on Bethune, Pas de Calais until Friday 27 April, for much of the Great War Bethune was comparatively free from bombardment, but had remained an important railway and hospital centre, as well as a corps and divisional headquarters. From Bethune the battalion moved locations to Bours, Brias, and Neuville-Vitasse where it occupied 'Telegraph Hill Trench' on the Hindenburg Line, before going into front line trenches at the village of Chérisy on Tuesday 1 May. Part of the battalion war diary entry for Wednesday 2 May which might be of significance records:-"Situation Normal. Visibility – excellent. Enemy shelled support trenches intermittently throughout the day causing one casualty – Private Beck being wounded. Enemy snipers very active during the morning killing Cpl. Williams of A. Company." Thomas's battalion remained at Chérisy until Friday 4 May 1917 and its war diary entry for the day, which may or may not be of significance records:-"The enemy bring fairly inactive during the day Companies and Platoons were reorganised as far as possible and casualties estimated etc. Orders were received from the Brigade during the morning that the battalion would be relieved during the evening by the 6th Royal Berkshires and would then proceed to the Camp at Beaurains. The relief commenced at 9 p.m and was completed by 11 p.m. and the whole Bn. was present in Camp at 3 a.m. the following morning." Brief mention is made above of the (verbatim) battalion war diary entry for Wednesday 2 May, which apparently contains at least one error as the sole casualty with the surname Williams that week was Private Thomas Williams from South Kensington who fell the following day. It follows that where war diaries are found to contain a known error, it would seem likely that the same entry might also contain other (minor) errors, and as such whilst purely speculation on the part of the transcriber and should therefore be viewed as such, but Wednesday 2 May would arguably be the most likely date on which Thomas Gibson suffered the wounds to which he later succumbed. In November 1916, the village of Ficheux where Thomas is at rest was behind the German front line, but by April 1917 the German withdrawal had taken the line considerably east of the village, and in April and May, the VII Corps Main Dressing Station was posted near for the Battles of Arras. It was followed by the

20th and 43rd Casualty Clearing Stations, which remained at Boisleux-au-Mont until March 1918.

LONGLEY, WILLIAM HENRY. Private, T/2419.

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

Died Friday 7 January 1916. Aged 20.

Born, enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.

Son of Louis Sergeant Longley and Frances Longley (née Spratt).

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XXXI. D. 3.

Also commemorated on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Longley family resided at 9, Broadmead Road, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Lydd, Kent native Louis Longley, who was employed as a Fly Driver and Groom. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Longley family resided at 11, Plain Road, Folkestone, Kent. William was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Errand Boy. At the commencement of the Great War the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) had its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Newtown Road, Ashford, Kent, and was in the Kent Brigade, Home Counties Division. At the time of William's death, the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Munn-Mace, T.D. from Tenterden, Kent, who was a pre Great War Territorial Force officer and had originally served with the 2nd (Kent & Cinque Ports) Volunteer Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Cranbrook, Kent. Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on Tuesday 1 June 1909, Joseph had been in command of the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when it sailed from Southampton for India on Friday 30 October 1914. Lieutenant-Colonel Munn-Mace had remained in command when the battalion was ordered to Mesopotamia, arriving at Basra on Monday 6 December 1915 in the 35th Indian Division. On Tuesday 4 January 1916, George's battalion was at Ali-el-Gharbi, Mesopotamia, from where it moved up the river Tigris towards Sheikh Sa'ad, which is about 20 miles downstream of Kut, with all surplus stores being carried by river barges. The battalion only marched about eight miles due to the prevailing inclement weather conditions, combined with the terrain which was encountered by the battalion. During the day it was extremely hot, but at nighttime the temperature dropped to below freezing, and rations at the time consisted mainly of bully beef and hard tack biscuits. On Thursday 6 January the march was resumed and enemy outposts were reached, and engagements with the enemy commenced shortly after midday, fortunately however casualties to the battalion were surprisingly light. Friday 7 January 1916 the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, at a point where the Turkish Army had established a camp which held approximately 4,000 troops. During the battle, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) advanced towards the enemy, but as with the other units also attacking the entrenched Ottoman forces during the battle, it did so without the help of supporting artillery, it being in stark contrast to the opposition, as the battalion came under an extremely heavy Turkish artillery bombardment. As the day wore on the battalion started to suffer increasing casualties, which included the death of the battalion Adjutant, 24 year

old Lieutenant Hugh Stephen Marchant, from Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent. In addition to the loss of the Adjutant, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph M. Munn-Mace was wounded, as was Major Eric Clarke. George was numbered amongst the thirty seven other ranks in his battalion who were killed in action at Sheikh Sa'ad on Friday 7 January 1916. Despite the Turkish forces which were encamped at Sheikh Sa'ad being in clearly an advantageous position, at the end of the day the position remained a stalemate. Under the cover of darkness, several intelligence gathering patrols were sent out from various British and Empire units, all of which on returning to their lines reported that the enemy forces had by that time withdrawn further up the river Tigris. The Turkish commander General Nur-Ud-Din had taken the decision to make the move, which a number of commentators have referred to as having been carried out very quietly, and probably swiftly. No one knew why the Turkish commander had made the strange decision to move his forces from Sheikh Sa'ad,' but as the result of same he was sacked only a few days later on Monday January 10 being replaced by Khalil Pasha. The month before the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, General Nur-Ud-Din when commanding the besieging force at Kut-al-Amara had attempted to offer Major-General Sir Charles Townshend immediate terms of surrender. He sent one of his Staff Captains under a white flag, with a personal letter outlining his demand which was rebuffed, and the Turkish Captain was sent back with a scathing retort written by Major-General Townshend. As all the 37 members of the battalion who died on Friday 7 January 1916 at Sheikh Sa'ad, are recorded as having been killed in action, perhaps the way that they lost their lives could in truth be described as in some ways being fortunate. British casualties at Sheikh Sa'ad were in excess of 4000, but the provision of adequate medical capacity and supplies had not been high on the list of priorities for the limited transport from Basra, and the under equipped Field Ambulances struggled really hard to cope with the high numbers of patients. The Meerut Division had the capacity to cope with 250 casualties, but was faced with quite literally thousands. More than 1000 wounded men were still lying out in the open, with barely even basic first-aid being administered to them to ease their suffering, a full eleven days after the cessation of the fighting and the departure Turkish troops. Of these, approximately 100 of their number were also suffering from Dysentery, and many of those soldiers serving in the Territorial Force who had been wounded during the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad,' later sadly succumbed to their woundings over the subsequent days and months. Of the 37 other ranks serving in the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who fell on Friday 7 January 1916 during the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad,' 5 of them were either Folkestone natives or residents, and some were both.

MAY, JOSEPH. Private, 8404.
1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment.
Died Thursday 23 October 1914. Aged 31.
Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Shorncliffe, Kent.
Son of Joseph May and Alice May (née Gilbert).

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Berks Cemetery Extension, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Ref: Addenda Panel, and on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, Joseph was residing at 13, Castle Hill Gardens, where he was employed as a Valet. Head of the house was 47 year old Paddington, London, native Edmund J. M. Gardiner, who was recorded by the census enumerator as Living on his Own Means. In need of more in-depth research, but it would appear to be the case that Joseph was the husband of Ellen Jane May (née Mockridge). When the 1911 census was conducted, he was serving as a Private in the 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment at Salamanca Barracks Part Area 11C), Wellington Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire. The Commanding Officer of the battalion was 48 year old Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Richardson from County Down, Ireland. Joseph was still serving as a regular soldier in the 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment at the commencement of the Great War, when it was stationed at York, Yorkshire as part of the 18th Brigade, 6th Division. From York the battalion headed north and moved to the city Edinburgh, Scotland where it remained for less than a week before heading south, and arrived at the city of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire on Friday 14 August, moving into camp on Jesus Common. On Monday 7 September the battalion traveled by train from Newmarket to the port of Southampton, and embarked on the 6243 ton ship SS Cawdor Castle which sailed for France, arriving off St. Nazaire the next day, and landed on Thursday 10 September. As was the same situation with the other original units serving in the British Expeditionary Force during the Great War, due to operational necessities Joseph's battalion was forced to make numerous changes of locations. The combinations that Joseph's service papers no longer exist, he was not commissioned, and that he was wounded has resulted in the transcriber of these brief commemorations being unable to add here when, where and how he received his wounding. Joseph has the unfortunate distinction of being the sole other ranks recorded death in his battalion on the day that he died.

PENNY, FRANCIS (Frank). Private, 81117.

"Z" Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died Friday 14 December 1917? Aged 39. (Please see below).

Born Winterbourne Stickland, Dorset. Enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.

Son of John and Hannah Penny of Stickland, Dorset.

Husband of Esther Alice Penny (née Mowbrick) of 22, Geraldine Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Mory-Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. F. 7.

Also commemorated and on the Folkestone civic war memorial, and at the parish church of All Souls, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent.

Formerly Private, T/204203, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). When the 1891 census was taken, the Penny family resided 16, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 57 year old Bere Regis, Dorset native John Penny (senior), who was employed as a Bath

Chairman, and John (junior) and Francis were both Errand Boys. At the time of the 1901 census, Francis was residing at 6, Coolinge Road, Folkestone, Kent, and was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Photo Printer. Head of the house was 26 year old Folkestone native Charles Gibson. Also recorded as being at the home of Charles Gibson on the night of the above census was Francis's brother, 25 year old Blandford, Dorset native John Penny, who was employed as a Wine Merchants Clerk. Francis was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house at 22, Geraldine Road, Folkestone, when the 1911 census was conducted, and as being employed as a Photographers Printer. Unfortunately there is a discrepancy appertaining to the date of Francis' death on two important data sources; which are the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Soldiers Died in the Great War. Whilst both are invaluable and indispensable sources of information to researchers, unfortunately both contain thousands of errors. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record Francis has having died on 14 December 1917, but his entry in/on Soldiers Died in the Great War shows the date of his death as being 14 February 1917. It has been noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations whilst researching, that on a not insignificant number of occasions when additional data and/or records are available where a discrepancy is shown, that the earlier date is when a casualty had been wounded and the latter being the date of death. Usually, (but not always) it is found that the date recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as opposed to Soldiers Died in the Great War is the correct date, which is why Friday 14 December 1917 has been entered above. If the date Wednesday 14 February 1917 is in fact correct, it would mean that Francis was the sole other ranks death suffered by the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) that day.

PORTER, BERT. Rifleman, 6281.

"C" Company, 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).

Died Sunday 1 October 1916. Aged 19.

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

Son of Elizabeth Milton Porter (née Down) of 26, Darby Road, Folkestone, Kent, and of the late William Francis Porter.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 13 C, and on the Folkestone civic memorial. Bert is also commemorated on page 122 of Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

Formerly Private, G/4348, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Porter family resided at 3, Darlington Street, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Folkestone native William Francis Porter, who was employed as a Blacksmith. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Porter family still resided at the above address, but by which time William Francis Porter had changed his occupation and was employed as an Out Porter. The census enumerator in 1911 recorded 14 year old schoolboy Bert, as having the Christian name Bertie as opposed to Bert. Bert enlisted in the army on Sunday 15 August 1915, and was

initially attested to serve in the 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of being posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force, Bert was serving as a Private in the 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles), and was later assigned to serve in "C" Company. Bert has the sad distinction of being one of the two other ranks in his battalion, who were killed in action on Sunday 1 October 1916, whilst the 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles) was in support for an attack on Eaucourt l'Abbaye, on the first day of 'The Battle of the Transloy Ridges' (1-20 October 1916) which was carried out during the overall 'Battle of the Somme 1916.' Bert was a cousin of William Simpson who is also one of the casualties commemorated on the Christchurch School, Great War memorial plaque.

QUINN, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, 10592.

95th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died Friday 22 September 1916.

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

Son of Thomas Quinn and Ellen Quinn of Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Guards Cemetery, Lesboeuifs, Somme, France. Grave Ref: IX. Y. 8.

Also commemorated and on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, G/8310, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Quinn family resided at 7, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent, Head of the house was 45 year old Thomas Quinn who was in County Wicklow, Ireland, and was employed as a Night Watchman. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Quinn family resided at 14, Mill Bay, Folkestone, Kent, and Thomas Quinn was still the head of the house, and employed as a Skating Rink Attendant, the then 15 year old William was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Shop Assistant in a Beef shop. At the time of being posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force, William was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

SIMPSON, WILLIAM ERNEST. Private, G/2249.

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

Died Tuesday 11 July 1916. Aged 22.

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

Son of Mary Ann Simpson (née Down) of 25, St. Michael Street, Folkestone, Kent, and of the late William Ernest Simpson.

Buried St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref: A. 25. 33.

Also commemorated on Great War Memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe, Folkestone, Kent, and on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

The death of William's late father was registered in the Elham, Kent registration district during the spring of 1897. At the time of the 1901 census, William his sister Lilly, and their 34 year old mother Mary Ann Simpson who was a widow

and born at Folkestone, resided at 75, Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 69 year old Folkestone native Henry Down, who was employed as a General Labourer, and was the father of William's mother. When the 1911 census was conducted, Mary Ann Simpson was recorded as being the head of the house, when the Simpson family was residing at 33, Darlington Street, Folkestone, at which time the then 16 year old William was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a House or General Painter. William enlisted in the army on Monday 7 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was employed as a House Painter, residing at 25, St. Michael Street, Folkestone, Kent. William was serving in the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the time of being posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force on Wednesday 28 July 1915. Unfortunately there is a discrepancy appertaining to which battalion of his regiment it was, that William was actually serving at the time of his death, being shown on two important data sources; which are the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Soldiers Died in the Great War. Whilst both are invaluable and indispensable sources of information to researchers, unfortunately both do however contain thousands of errors. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records William as having been serving in the 2nd Battalion, which is wrong, but the relevant entry in/on Soldiers Died in the Great War, shows the battalion as having been the 7th (Service) Battalion which is correct. Unfortunately like the vast majority of those casualties who are at rest at Rouen, William died of wounds he had received in action, probably during the 'Battle of the Somme.' The second marriage of William's mother; Mary Ann Simpson who was born on Tuesday 21 August 1866, was recorded in the Elham, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1918 when she married Albert J.F. Wallace, and later resided at 299, Gladstone Street, Peterborough, Northamptonshire. William was a cousin of Bert Porter who is also one of the casualties that are commemorated on the Christchurch School, Great War memorial plaque. Bet and William's mothers were sisters.



THURLOW, JOHN WILSON. Private, 613119.
 1st/19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras).
 Died Friday 29 September 1916. Aged 17.
 Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Margaret Thurlow (née Wilson) of 9, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent, and the late Henry Thurlow.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 D 9 C 13 C and 12 C., and on the Folkestone civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, G/4634, 2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Private, 7175, 1st/19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras). When the 1901 census was conducted, the Thurlow family resided at 8, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old St. Pancras, Middlesex native Henry Thurlow, who was employed as a House Painter. At the time of the 1911 census, the Thurlow family was residing at 9, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Folkestone native Margaret Thurlow, who was a widow and employed as a Caretaker, her husband having died the previous year. The then 12 year old John was recorded by the census enumerator as being a school and News Boy. When John enlisted in the Territorial Force at Canterbury, Kent, he made a 'mistake' when asked to state his age, and as the result of doing so he was accepted by the army whilst he was under age, and initially served in the 2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Prior to being posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force, John was transferred to the 1st/19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras), in which he then remained until he was killed in action. Having gone into support trenches on Wednesday 27 September at Bazentin-le-Grand, the following day John's battalion was in the 'Flers Line' south east of Eaucourt l'Abbaye, prior to it being more engaged on the day John lost his life during bombing attacks by his battalion along the Flers Line and Flers Support. Of the casualties inflicted on the battalion as the result of the attacks, 39 other ranks lost their lives on the same day as John, and in addition to those fatalities others were wounded some of whom later succumbed to their injuries. John was numbered amongst the significant number of soldiers of both the 2/4th and 2/5th Battalions, (Territorial Force) The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) who were transferred to the 1st/19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras) during the winter of 1915 and the spring of 1916. Of the 39 other ranks of the battalion who fell on Friday 29 September 1916, 10 were Kent residents, all of which had previously served as members of the Territorial Force in The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment). John's brother William Henry Thurlow who was a Poulterer, served in the Great War, having enlisted in the Territorial Force at Dover, Kent, Tuesday 16 November 1915, as a Gunner in the 3/3rd Home Counties (Cinque Ports) Brigade Royal Field Artillery. William later served in other Royal Field Artillery units mainly in India, and having survived the war he was demobilized on Tuesday 20 April 1920. At the time of William's discharge, the Thurlow family home was still at 9, Alexandra Mews, Folkestone, Kent. In stark contrast to his late brother John; William Henry Thurlow who was born in Folkestone on Thursday 11 January 1894, was 94 years of age when his death was recorded in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1988. The death of Johns' 80 year old mother Margaret Thurlow, was recorded in the Folkestone, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1942.

WHITEHEAD, ARCHIBALD. Corporal, M2/167147.
971st Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps.
Died Friday 28 December 1917. Aged 26.
Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Grove Park.
Son of Mrs. Esther Whitehead (née Pegden) of 33, Rossendale Road, Folkestone, Kent, and of the late Robert Henry Whitehead.
Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XIV. F. 6.
Also commemorated on the Folkestone civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Whitehead family resided at 38, Harvey Street, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Folkestone native Esther Whitehead, who was a widow. Having successfully passed the requisite army medical examination at Folkestone on Tuesday 8 February 1916, Archibald enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on 21 March 1916. When he enlisted, Archibald stated that he was 25 years and 11 months old, employed as a Motor Driver, and residing at 33, Rossendale Road, Folkestone, Kent. William was posted to serve in the 891st Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps on Tuesday 6 March 1917, and was transferred to the 971st Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps on Monday 2 July. He sailed from Southampton on Sunday 8 July 1917 on board the 8841 ton Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Passenger Cargo Liner SS Kashmir, which was used as a troopship from December 1916 to March 1910. The vessel arrived at the port of Basra, Mesopotamia (now Iraq) on Thursday 30 August 1917. On Wednesday 12 September William was admitted as a patient at the 40th British General Hospital, whilst he was in the hospital he was appointed a (paid) Acting Corporal with effect from Wednesday 19 September 1917. On the completion of his treatment, William was discharged from hospital on Sunday 23 September and rejoined his unit in the field. On Tuesday 18 December 1917, Archibald was admitted as a patient to the 16 Casualty Clearing Station (Advanced Base), Royal Army Medical Corps, complaining of a pain in his back. When he was initially examined, Archibald had a temperature of 102, and a prodromal rash of small discrete slightly raised spots which were on his thighs, groin and chest. As the days passed Archibald became Dangerously Ill as was recorded on Saturday 22 December. He developed additional symptoms including Conjunctivitis and Ulceration of Pharynx and Larynx set in. Archibald was very drowsy, and eventually becoming delirious and died on Friday 28 December 1917. Captain J.S. Snipe of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who had signed the Army Form A.F.11237 (Medical Case Sheet), recorded that Archibald had died of Small Pox. The 971st Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps in which Archibald had served, was formed as a Motor Transport Supply Column on Friday 15 June 1917 and was disbanded on Thursday 17 November 1921, having served in Mesopotamia for all of the time that it existed.

AND OTHERS UNKNOWN