

# Radnor Park Church Folkestone



The well cared for "Roll of Honour of men connected with Radnor Park Church, Folkestone, who served in the Great War 1914-1918," is located in what is now the United Reformed Church, Castle Hill, Avenue, Folkestone. In addition to those who served in the armed forces, are the seven members of the congregation that died during the conflict who are briefly commemorated below.



**ANDREWS, ALFRED.** Stoker 1st Class, K/21348.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke.  
Died 3 September 1917. Aged 20.  
Born Folkestone, Kent 23 August 1895.  
Son of George and Louisa Andrews of 14 Palmerston Street, Folkestone, Kent.  
Buried Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Naval. 24. 1284.  
Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.

**CURTIS, ARCHIBALD ROBERT.** Private, 156009.  
3rd Training Battalion, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Died 1 November 1918. Aged 31.  
Born Ealing, Middlesex. Enlisted Folkestone, Kent.  
Son of Fredrick George Curtis, and the late Annie Fernandez Curtis.  
Husband of Constance Winifrede Curtis (nee Palmer) of "Llanrwst," 18, Clarence Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.  
Father of Miss Mary Constance Curtis.  
Buried Folkestone Old Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: A. "U." 2603.  
Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.  
Probably as the direct result of his profession as a Pharmacist, Archibald was not remobilized until 27 August 1918, and was called up for military service at Bordon, Hampshire on 6 September 1918. Archibald had originally enlisted at Folkestone, Kent, on 1 December 1915 and placed on the army reserve. At the time of his original enlistment Archibald resided at 25, Julian Road, Folkestone, Kent. Archibald and Constance married at Carshalton, Surrey on 31 May 1916. At the time of Archibald's death, the 3rd Training Battalion, Royal Army Medical Corps was at Blackpool, Lancashire. On 29 October 1918, Archibald was admitted to the Seafield Military Hospital, Blackpool suffering with Influenza. Whilst a patient at the hospital, Archibald developed Pneumonia from which he died on 1 November 1918, being amongst the countless thousands who died as the result of the world wide pandemic which cost more lives than the Great War.

**FEATHER, R.G.** As commemorated on the church memorial plaque, appears to be the following local officer, who is also commemorated with the use of his correct initials on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.

**FEATHER, REGINALD ALBERT.** Second Lieutenant.  
9th (Cyclist) Battalion, (Territorial Force), Hampshire Regiment.  
Died 16 August 1917.  
Born Folkestone, Kent.  
Son of Albert and Annie Flora Feather (nee Hart).  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 88.  
Formerly Acting Serjeant, 1142, 2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion.

**GIFFORD, AUBREY WILLIAM.** Private, 2229.

6th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 11 August 1915. Aged 18.

Born Folkestone, Kent.

Enlisted Little River, Victoria, Australia 17 December 1914.

Son of Maurice Winton Gifford and Ellen Maude Gifford (nee Dennis) of 16, Limes Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta. Grave Ref: B. V. 5.

Commemorated on the Australian Nation War Memorial. Panel 46.

Soon after the completion of his education at Christ's College, Blackheath, Kent, Aubrey went to Australia, and arrived there at the age of 16, quickly gaining employment in the farming industry. When he enlisted in the Australian army, Aubrey stated that he was employed as a Farm Hand, and named his mother as his next of kin, at which time she resided at 3, Landsdowne Place, Hove, Sussex. After completing his basic training, Aubrey embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 2 February 1915, sailing on the 5,023 ton H.M.A.T. Clan McGillivray (A46), which had been requisitioned from Cayser, Irvin and Co. Glasgow. Aubrey was amongst the members of his battalion who were wounded at Gallipoli. Due to the extent of his injuries he was evacuated back to Malta for treatment. But he contacted Enteric, which caused his demise. It would appear that Aubrey had taken the decision to make his own way in life, as opposed to join the family firm of Estate Agents which his family owned.

**GOLDEN, FRANK CHARLES ALLEN.** Lieutenant.

12th (Service) Battalion, Durham Light Infantry.

Died 26 December 1915.

Born Marthew, Norfolk.

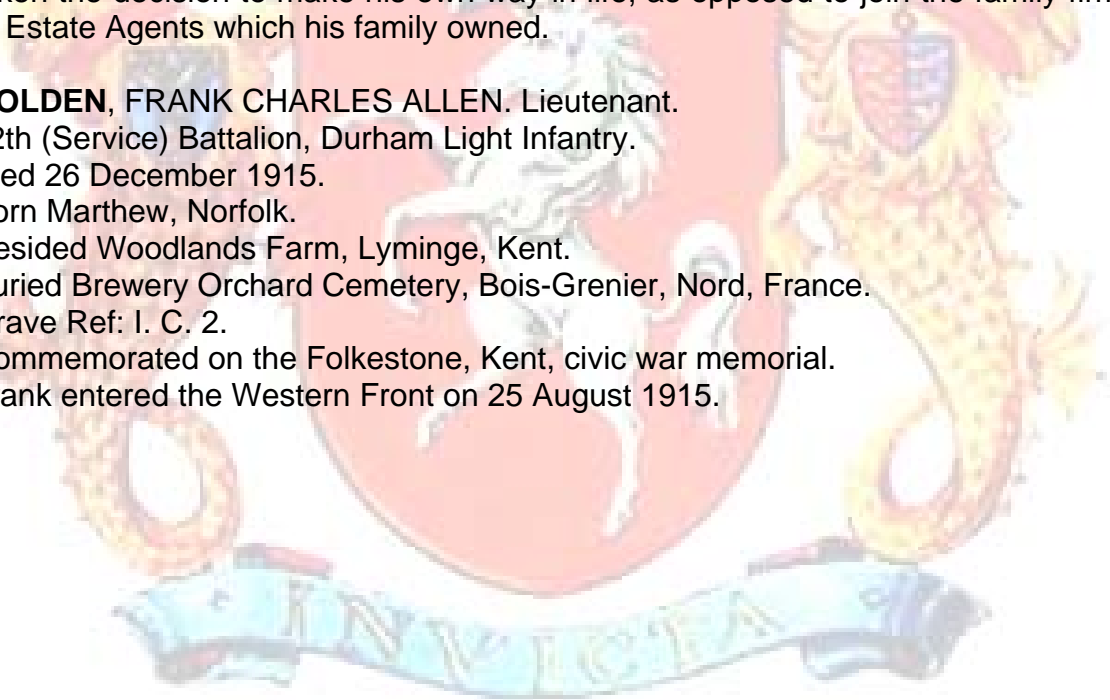
Resided Woodlands Farm, Lyminge, Kent.

Buried Brewery Orchard Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 2.

Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.

Frank entered the Western Front on 25 August 1915.



**MILLS, JAMES WILLIAM.** Private, 21638.

5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died at sea 30 December 1917.

Born Sparshott, Hertfordshire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Folkestone, Kent

Commemorated on the Chatby Memorial, Egypt, and on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.

James was onboard the 9588 ton auxiliary transport ship H.M.T. "Aragon" which was torpedoed and sunk on 30 December 1917, by the German submarine UC-34, whilst the ship was re-entering the port of Alexandria. Commanded by Captain Frank Ames Bateman, the vessel had been requisitioned by the British Government from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, at the time of her loss she had just completed a voyage from Marseilles, France to Alexandria carrying troop reinforcements to the army operating in Palestine under General Allenby. The ship was full to capacity, having approximately 2,700 persons on board, of which number about 2,500 were troops. On her initial arrival at Alexandria on the day that she was sunk, the ship was permitted to enter harbour, but due primarily to the lack of berthing space she was later ordered out to sea again. She anchored outside without any protection from submarine attack, rendering her an easy target. Depending on what publication or data source is consulted, results in wide discrepancies regarding how many people were lost resulting from the loss of H.M.T. "Aragon." It would appear that the variance in casualty figures is amongst the soldiers onboard, but it seem likely that the actual number of those who ultimately died was about 610 persons, of whom 19 were the ships crew, including her Master 37 year old Captain Frank Bateman.

**REEVE, HARRY.** Second Lieutenant.

5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

Died 18 May 1916. Aged 19.

Son of Mrs. Reeve and the late Harry Reeve of Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Douchy-les-Ayette, British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. B. 8.

Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial.

