

Harbledown



The village of Harbledown to the west of Canterbury lies on the old Pilgrims Way, and is contiguous with the city, although it remains a separate village, and now forms part of the civil parish of Harbledown and Rough Common. Constructed of granite, the immaculate civic war memorial was designed by A.S. Poile and is located in front of the parish church of St. Michael and All Angels. It was dedicated and unveiled in May 1920 by local civic dignitaries and members of the clergy, and bears the following two inscriptions:-

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN UNFADING MEMORY OF THE MEN
OF HARBLEDOWN WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1919

THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY THEIR FELLOW PARISHIONERS

The Great War

1914 -1919

BADDELEY, CHRISTOPHER. Private, S/10709.

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

Died 4 August 1916. Aged 20.

Born Chislet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown, Kent.

Son of William Ball Baddeley and Annie Baddeley of 1, Prospect Cottages, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

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

At the time of the 1901 census, the Baddeley family resided at Chislet, Canterbury, Kent, and Christopher's mother, although not a widow was recorded by the census enumerator as being the head of the house. Following the commencement of the Great War, Christopher had been quick to join the army as he enlisted on 9 August 1918, at which time he stated that he was 18 years and 43 days old and that he was employed as a Saddler. After initially serving at the Regimental Depot of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Canterbury for quite a long time, Christopher was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion of the regiment on 9 March 1916, in which he then remained until being killed in action on the Somme. On the evening of 3 August 1916 the 6th battalion prepared to take part in an attack during the fighting on the Pozières Ridge near the village of Thiepval on the Somme. The battalions' objective being a trench system of strong points called "Ration Trench", zero hour was set for 2315 hours, but just over two hours prior to the battalion going on the offensive enemy artillery bombarded their trenches, fortunately some French gunners were quick of the mark and returned fire with gas shells which silenced the German artillery and doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting Buffs, eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, after successfully attacking, capturing and consolidating their gains following the action the battalion were relieved and retired to Martinsart Wood where a roll call was taken which revealed that the 6th battalion had lost 4 officers and 114 men in this action. Following his death Christopher was recorded as missing, but in March 1917 for official purposes it was assumed that he had died on 4 August 1916.

CLEMENTS, CHARLES HAROLD. Sergeant, G/2967.

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

Died 15 November 1915. Aged 30.

Born Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Liverpool, Lancashire. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Henry Martyn Clements and Elizabeth Clements (née Smith) of Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Spoilbank Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. J. 23.

Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Clements family resided at Mill Lane, Harbledown. Head of the house was 61 year old Halstead, Essex native Henry Martyn Clements, who was a Grain Merchant and an employer. Charles was posted to serve in the British Expeditionary Force on 31 August 1915.

COOK, ERNEST EDWARD. Private, G/39705.

"B" Company, 12th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died Saturday 17 February 1917. Aged 28.

Born Northlea, Elmsted, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of George and Harriet Cook (née Twyman) of Stelling Minnis, Kent.

Husband of Annie Cook of 1, Harbledown Terrace, Harbledown, Kent.

Buried Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VI. E. 2.

Also commemorated on the Stelling Minnis, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Cook family resided at Bossingham, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Stowting, Kent native George Cook, who was employed as a Farm Yardman. Ernest married Miss Harriet Twyman at Harbledown on 14 December 1912. When Ernest enlisted in the army on 8 December 1915, he stated that he was 26 years and 326 days old, born at Elmsted, married with one child, and that he was employed as a Horseman. He named his wife as his next of kin, who was residing at 1, Harbledown Terrace, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. As the result of his army medical examination which was conducted at Canterbury, Ernest was not deemed to be of the required medical standard by the army for active service, primarily due to having flat feet and a hernia. He was considered to be of the requisite medical standard for 'Garrison Duty at Home,' and was placed on the reserve. On 8 April 1914, Ernest was mobilised and posted to serve in the 25th (Garrison) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment at Aldershot, Hampshire. Doubtless it was due to the casualties that the British army had suffered by 8 January 1917, was the reason why Ernest was transferred to the 12th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment on that date, and was posted to France. When Ernest joined his new battalion on the Western Front, he was assigned to serve in "B" Company. Ernest fell during the 'Battle of Boom Ravine' which is a road in a valley of the Ancre on the Somme. Ernest's battalion was in the 54th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, and as such the battle that was fought on 17 February 1917 was in an area very

familiar to the soldiers in his battalion who had fought in the 1916 Somme battles in the area. On the night of 15/16 February the 54th Brigade took over the battle front for the operations on the day that Ernest died. These were part of a big attack on both banks of the Ancre, and were intended to seize the high ground giving observation over the upper Ancre Valley, to the south of the Ancre below Miraumont. The 54th Brigade had to attack from in front of Desire Trench due north towards South Miraumont Trench, first across Grandcourt Trench, and then across the deep sunken road known as Boom Ravine. The assaulting battalions were the 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment on the right, and the 11th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) on the left. Ernest's battalion was in support, and the 7th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment was in reserve. The following is a brief extract from the 54th Brigade History, re Boom Ravine: - "It will be remembered that the Middlesex Regiment, as supporting battalion, pushed two companies into the front line at a critical moment when we were getting some pretty bad hammering on the spur before South Miraumont Trench. 2nd-Lieutenant W. B. Godwin, of the Middlesex Regiment, did gallant work at this point. With a few men he got about 200 yards to the northeast of our objective, owing to a fog that had come down. The enemy counter-attacked, and though greatly outnumbered, 2nd-Lieutenant Godwin and his men stood their ground and fought till all but one were killed. This fine stand was effective in breaking up a threatening counter-attack. Unhappily, the gallant officer himself was killed. Lieutenant V. D. Corbett was another Middlesex officer who did good work in fixing and consolidating our final line of defence under heavy rifle and shellfire. Acting Company Sergeant-Major Kerr of the same battalion will also be remembered. All the officers of his company having become casualties, he reorganised the company, and directed the work of clearing dug-outs in the Ravine until killed." Initially Ernest was numbered amongst those from his battalion posted as missing, but later for official purposes it was assumed that he died on Saturday 17 February 1917.

CORK, FRANK, Lance Corporal, L/10577.

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

Died 11 August 1916. (Please see below). Aged 19.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Eli George Cork and Jane Cork of 1, Glemsford Cottages, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

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

At the time of the 1901 census, the Cork family resided at Plough Row, Harbledown. Kent. Head of the house was 32 year old Chartham, Canterbury, Kent native Eli George Cork, who was employed as a Farm Labourer. The date of Frank's death as shown above, is as is shown at his CWGC commemoration details, but all other data sources which were accessed whilst compiling this brief commemoration of Frank on this website, records his date of death as 18 August 1916, and as such, on this occasion it would appear that the CWGC entry contains a date error. When Frank enlisted in the army as a regular soldier for 7

years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve on 19 July 1915, he stated that he was born at Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent on 9 April 1897, and that he was employed as a Farm Labourer. Initially Frank served in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent, which is where he was serving when he was appointed an acting (paid) Lance Corporal on 26 September 1915. On 19 May 1916, Frank was posted to serve in France with the 8th (Service) Battalion of his regiment. Frank took part in a number of engagements with the enemy prior to his death in Delville Wood. The immediate chain of events that led up to his demise began on 6 August 1916, when plans were put in place for his battalion along with the rest of the 72nd Brigade of the 24th Division, to take over frontline trenches between Guillemont and Deville Wood on the Somme, but as so often happened due to the ebb and flow of battle during the Great War, plans were altered at the very last moment, one of the resultant changes found Frank's battalion on 9 August, in reserve positions situated on the Carnoy to Montauban road, where the following day several casualties occurred when British artillery fired shells which dropped short. On 12 August the battalion which was still near Carnoy was heavily shelled all day, but on that occasion by the enemy. During the night of 17 August the battalion moved forward under the cover of darkness to take up assembly points in readiness for an attack near Waterlot Farm, which had been a German strong point in their second line of defence, which was situated between Longueval and Guillemont, although it was called a farm, in fact it was a sugar refinery that had been captured from the Germans in mid July 1916. The battalion was in action all day, with the location known as Machine Gun House eventually falling to the officers and men of "A" Company, the northern end of a trench complex named ZZ Trench was taken by "C" Company, although in terms of objectives being captured etcetera the day was a success for the battalion but it had been costly as casualties that day were 1 officer and 60 other ranks killed, plus 6 officers and 297 men wounded. Frank was amongst the 60 other ranks who were recorded as having been killed in action on 18 August 1916. Frank's mother received a letter from Second Lieutenant S.L. Priest of the No. 10 District, Infantry Records Office, Hounslow, Middlesex, dated 24 August 1918 and which says "It is with the utmost regret I have to inform you that your son L/Cpl Cork was killed in action, on 18th. instant, after entering a German trench. He was killed by a high velocity shell. He was buried on the scene of our victory, with his comrades, and a cross erected to his memory." The above letter from Second Lieutenant S.L. Priest which was sent on behalf of the Colonel Commandant of the Record Office was certified to be a true extract.

FISHER, T. No clear trace at this time. Numerous data sources have been checked but regrettably all to no avail. Possibly this casualty served in the Great War whilst using an alias, or he has been commemorated at Harbledown by the use of the wrong initial. Unfortunately of course, he might be numbered amongst the thousands of Commonwealth casualties' resultant of both world wars, who are still not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

GREEN, STANLEY. Private, G/11912.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 22.

Born Broad Oak, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Frederick Paul Pierce Green and Elizabeth Green (née Barnes) of 2, Woodlawn Cottages, Rough Common, Blean, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: XV. F. 14.

Stanley enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on 17 January 1916. When he enlisted, Stanley stated that he was 22 years and 154 days old, employed as a Gardener, and that he resided with his parents at 2, Woodlawn Cottages, Blean, Canterbury, Kent. He was attested to serve in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and completed his basic training in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the regiment. From 13 May 1916 to 22 May 1916, Stanley was a patient at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, Kent, suffering from German measles, following which he was granted 5 days home leave. On 31 May 1916 he was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and posted to France. Following his death during the Battle of the Somme, Stanley was initially posted as missing, but on 28 April 1917 the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes, Stanley was assumed to have died on 22 July 1916.

HASTE, W. No clear matching trace of casualty as commemorated on the Harbledown civic war memorial. Purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but it might be the case that this casualty was commemorated by the use of the wrong initial. During the research process the following post Great War casualty was noted, who is possibly this casualty:-

HASTE, SAMUEL. Sergeant, 5645.

6th Dragoons (Inniskilling).

Died 4 February 1919. Aged 29.

Husband of Edith Mary Haste (née Robinson) of 11, St. Jacobs Place, Wincheap Street, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried St. Nicholas Churchyard, Thanington, Canterbury, Kent.

Grave Ref: 326 (North of Chancel).

Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Samuel was posted to France on 11 January 1915. After being wounded he was discharged from the army and awarded a Silver War Badge. It would seem likely that Samuel was a native of Upton Park, Essex, and that he was the son of Samuel and Isabella Haste. At the time of the 1901 census, the Haste family resided at 92, Shrewsbury Road, East Ham, London E7. Head of the house was 49 year old Bradford, Yorkshire native Samuel Haste (senior), who was employed as a Dock Clerk.

HOME, WALTER GABRIEL. Major.
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers).
Died 31 October 1914. Aged 41.
Son of the late Reverend Robert Home and the late Anna Lydia Keith Home (née Swinton).
Husband of Helen Gordon Cole (formerly Home), (née Davidson) of "Avondale,"
Chesterfield Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5.
Walter had served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War 1899-1902)
(Brevet Major). Prior to his death, Walter was Mentioned in Despatches. Walter's
father, who was a Minister at Swinton, Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland died in
1875, and his mother died on 19 January 1909.

HOLNESS, E.L. No trace. Please see comments at T. Fisher? As the same
unfortunate situation is also probably applicable with this casualty. It was noted
whilst researching, that of the Holness Great War casualties who are
commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission a significant
number had 'Kent' connections. Of the 14 casualties Holness who are
commemorated in/on 'Soldiers Died in the Great War,' 9 of them were either
natives or residents of the county, and in some cases fell into both categories'
including members of the same branches of the Holness family.

HOOKER, BERTRAM THOMAS. Sapper, 149019.
B.P. Cable Section, Royal Engineers.
Died 28 September 1918.
Born and resided Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.
Thomas Henry Hooker and Louisa Hooker (née Harris).
Husband of Harriett Kate Hooker (née Kley) of 48, York Road, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IV. B. 37.
Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Hooker family resided at 61, Broad Street,
Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 30 year old Canterbury, Kent native
Thomas Henry Hooker, who was employed as a House Painter. Bertram was
recorded by the census enumerator as being 7 years old.

IDDENDEN, EDWARD ALBERT. Private, 79828.
90th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died Friday 30 November 1917. Aged 22.
Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown,
Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Esther Ann Iddenden (née Silk) of St. Nicholas Hospital, Harbledown,
Canterbury, Kent, and the late Edward Iddenden.
Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Krombeke, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Grave Ref: XV. E. 17.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Iddenden family resided at 1, Beehive Cottage, Notley Street, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Canterbury, Kent native Edward Iddenden who was employed as a Foreman Bread Baker. When Edward (junior) was attested to the Royal Army Medical Corps on Monday 15 November 1915, at which time he named his widowed mother Esther Ann Iddenden as his next of kin, and gave his home address as being at 13, The Mint, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. He stated that he was aged 20 years and 256 days, and employed as a Carpenter and Undertaker. The day after being attested, Edward was placed on the army reserve until being mobilized and posted on Thursday 20 January 1916. Having by then completed his training at Aldershot, Hampshire, Edward received 5th Rate of Corps Pay (R.A.M.C.) from Friday 14 April 1916. On Monday 7 August 1916 Edward sailed from the port of Southampton, and arrived at Rouen, Seine-maritime, France the following day. Following time spent at a Base Camp, on Monday 14 August 1916 Edward was posted to serve at the No. 45 Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. in the 15th (Scottish) Division. On Thursday 24 August 1916, Edward's status at the No. 45 Field Ambulance changed, when he became a patient there as opposed to being a member of its staff. Shortly after being discharged as a patient from the No. 45 Field Ambulance on Wednesday 30 August 1916, Edward was transferred to the 16th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. in the 6th Division., where he remained until being admitted as a patient at the 14 Casualty Clearing Station on Sunday 24 September 1916, and from which he was discharged on 28 September 1916 to resume his duties. On Sunday 22 April 1917, Edward was hospitalized again having been wounded in action. Edward was wounded again on Wednesday 28 November 1917, but on that occasion with far more serious wounds than those which he had received on Sunday 22 April 1917. Following a number of rapid moves, Edward succumbed to his wounds at one of the Casualty Clearing Stations at Dozinghem on Friday 30 November 1917.

JULL, JAMES. Private, 3/3330.

Home Service Section, New Zealand Military Forces.

Died 6 August 1918. Aged 28.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent 24 June 1889.

Son of William Jull and Agnes Jull.

Husband of Mrs. Gertrude Annie Owen (formerly Jull) (née Wallis) of Lyttelton Street, Spreydon, Christchurch, New Zealand, and formerly of Te Kumi Road, Te Kuiti, New Zealand

Buried Wellington (Karori) Cemetery, Karori Road, Wellington, New Zealand.

Grave Ref: E. 16. (S).

James married Miss Gertrude Annie Wallis in 1913, and they had no children. At the time of his enlistment in the New Zealand Military Forces, James resided at 86, Westminster Street, Christchurch, New Zealand, and stated that he was employed as a Simplex Operator. James died from syncope, peritonitis and empyaemia secondary to appendicitis, at the Victoria Military Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand.

LEGGE, ALFRED EDWARD. Private, G/51496.

2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 27 May 1917. Aged 32.

Born St. Dunstons, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Annie Maria Legge (née Noble) and the late Benjamin Legge.

Husband of Ellen Legge of 2, Cobden Place, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 5629, Middlesex Regiment.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Legge family resided at 40, Ivy Lane, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was widowed 39 year old Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, native Annie Maria Legge, who worked as a laundress from home. Alfred was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Errand Boy for a Grocer.



LOTT, WILLIAM. Second Lieutenant.

14th (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, attached to the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 7 October 1916.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Youngest son of Walter William Lott and Bertha Annie Lott (née Askew) of "The Yews," Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C.

At the time of the 1901 census, the then 6 year old William was residing at the above address. Head of the house was his grandfather, 63 year old Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent native William Lott.

Formerly Trooper, 2385, Horse Guards, Household Cavalry, from which he was discharged on being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 26 January 1916. One of William's brothers; Walter Lewis Lott who was born at Stornaway, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland on 8 November 1890, served in the Grate War as a Rating in the Royal Navy with the official number F2173. Former Captain Stanley Herbert Jennings, resided at "The

Yews,' Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent, when he applied for his British War Medal and Victory Medal in July 1920, which were for his war service as Lance Corporal, 6999, 28th County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Artist Rifles), and service as a Captain the of the Army Printing Stationery Service. Stanley married William's sister Amy in 1917, and he later became the Mayor of Canterbury, Kent.

MORRIS, CHRISTOPHER MOWBRAY. Captain.

7th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment.

Died 9 August 1915. Aged 25.

Born Folkestone, Kent 7 February 1890.

Son of Edward Henry Morris and Susan Kathleen Morris (née Brett) of 18, The Beach, Walmer, Kent.

Husband of Dorothy Morris (née Kincaid-Smith).

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 134, and at Kings School, Canterbury, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, Christopher resided at "Oswalds," Bishopsbourne, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 75 year old Haverfordwest, South Wales native Georgina Brett, living on own means and who was Christopher's grandmother. Christopher's parents were also residing at the same house, and his father was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 39 year old native of Ascot, Berkshire, and of living on own means. Having been educated at Kings School, Canterbury, Kent, Christopher entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst in 1908, from where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the 1st Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment on 18 September 1909. He gained rapid promotion and was promoted to a Lieutenant on 1 April 1910. On 20 September 1914, Christopher was promoted to the rank of Captain and posted to serve in the 7th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment as the Adjutant. He was posted to serve at Gallipoli with the battalion as part of the 33rd Brigade, 11th (Northern) Division on 1 July 1915, on which date his battalion sailed from Liverpool, Lancashire, on the 14,189 ton liner RMS Empress of Britain. The ship arrived at Malta on 8 July 1915, where it remained for three days prior to sailing for the Egyptian port of Alexandria, where it arrived the following day. On 16 July the RMS Empress of Britain left Alexandria and arrived at Lemnos two days later, finally reaching Mudros on 18 July 1915. At Mudros the battalion was transhipped to the troopship Abassieh, and sailed for Cape Helles on 20 July. Christopher's battalion was then attached to the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. On 1 August 1915, the 7th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment embarked on the Osmanieh and sailed for Imbros. It sailed for Suvla during the night of 6/7 August, and landed at "B" Beach, Suvla Bay on 7 August. The battalion moved forward and dug in on a reserve line running from the south west corner of the Salt Lake to the sea. The battalion moved forward during the night of the 7/8 to Chocolate Hill. On the day that Christopher fell, the battalion attacked Ismail Oglu Tepe, where it soon came under heavy enemy fire from Scimitar Hill. Major Alec Hutchinson Ashcroft D.S.O. writing in his of the battalion, recorded that "Every single officer in "A" and

“D” Companies (in the firing line) and in “B” Company (in the supporting line) was either killed or wounded in the first ten minutes. At about 1800 hours support arrived from the 10th (Irish) Division, but even with this assistance no headway could be made.” At the end of the day on 9 August 1915, the surviving personnel of the 7th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment, were relieved at the Green Line on Chocolate Hill, by the 5th (Service) Battalion, Princess Victoria’s (Royal Irish Fusiliers), of the 31st Brigade, 10th (Irish) Division, by which time casualties to Christopher’s battalion were in the order of some 400 officers and other ranks.

NORRIS, FRANK. Private, L/7781.

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

Died 21 June 1915. Aged 35.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Mary Norris of The Cottage, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: B 16.

Commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Frank was one of only two members of his battalion that were killed in action on 21 June 1915, whilst in the Potijze sector trenches near Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. As a regular soldier, Frank was serving in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) prior to the Great War, and had served in France from 9 September 1914.

SADDLETON, STEPHEN FREDERICK. Private, G/13641.

“A” Company, 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 13 March 1918. Aged 31.

Born Blean, Canterbury, Kent 7 December 1886.

Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Ellen Elizabeth Saddleton of Rough Common, Blean, Canterbury, Kent, and of the late Stephen Saddleton.

Husband of Florry Eliza Saddleton (née Wade) of 48, Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Anzac Cemetery, Sailly-sur-la-Lys, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. D. 6.

Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1891 census, the Saddleton family resided at Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent native Stephen Saddleton (senior), who was employed as a Sawyer in a Timber Yard. Stephen (junior) married Miss Florry Eliza Wade at Whitstable, Kent on 10 May 1913. When Stephen enlisted in the army on 10 December 1915, he stated that he was employed as a Gardener and that he resided at 48, Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury, Kent. Having initially been placed on the army reserve following his enlistment, Stephen was then mobilized on 26 July 1916 and attested to serve in the 1/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East

Kent Regiment) and was given the regimental number 4/5032. On 9 August 1916 Stephen was posted to the 3/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and on 29 December 1916 for administration purposes he was officially posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment, prior to being transferred to the 6th (Service) Battalion on 30 December 1916 when he was posted to France, and then served in "A" Company, 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on the Western Front until his death. Stephen died of shell wounds to his abdomen and right thigh, whilst he was a patient receiving treatment for his wounds at the 38th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, which was attached to the 12th (Eastern) Division to which the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) belonged.

SHEPHERD, FRANK. Private, 5114.

9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers.

Died 18 June 1917.

Born Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Enlisted Swindon, Wiltshire. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of George and Alice Shepherd.

Buried Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: IV. A. 13.

Also commemorated on the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, Great War memorial, which is located on a wall in the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Shepherd family resided at Bassett Down Lodge, Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire. Head of the house was 40 year old Leamington, Warwickshire native George Shepherd, who was employed as a Butler. Frank was recorded by the census enumerator as being 14 years old, which would mean that he was about 30 years old when he died. Frank was numbered amongst the 274 members of his regiment that fell in the Great War, and Frank's death was the sole fatality suffered by the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers on 18 June 1917.

STREETING, WILLIAM. Private, T/3338.

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

Died 30 September 1916.

Born Chatham, Kent? Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried St. Michael's Churchyard, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Grave Ref: 60 (In North West corner).

Places of birth, enlistment and residency are as entered in/on 'Soldiers Died in the Great War,' which unfortunately contains thousands of errors. When the transcriber of these brief commemorations transcribed the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial a few years ago, it was noted that SDGW records several Chartham casualties who were natives of the parish, as having been born at Chatham, Kent, and it would seem likely that the same is applicable in the case of William.

WOODCOCK, HORACE. Private, 20177.

1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Died 12 September 1915. Aged 18.

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

Son of Norman Woodcock and Emily Woodcock of China Farm, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Z. 8.

Formerly Private, 11320, Dragoon Guards. At the time of the 1901 census, the Woodcock family resided at Plough Lane, Upper Harbledown. Head of the house was 32 year old Bethersden, Ashford, Kent native Norman Woodcock, who was employed as a Farm Labourer.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men

HANCOCK, WILFRED JOHN. Rifleman, R/17405.

11th (Service) Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 3 September 1916. Aged 21.

Born Harbledown, Kent. Enlisted Coventry, Warwickshire. Resided Malvern, Worcestershire.

Son of Sardius and Mary Jane Hancock (née Longhurst) of 1, Glenfield, Newtown, Malvern, Worcestershire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Hancock family resided at 32, Mote Road, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Sardius Hancock, who was employed as a Millers Clerk. In stark contrast to Wilfred losing his life at the age of 21, his father died at Malvern, Worcestershire in the summer of 1955, aged 90.

KEELER, STEPHEN. Private, 2561.

82nd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 13 May 1915. Aged 19.

Born St. Alphage, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of John Keeler and Kate Keeler of St. Nicholas Hospital, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 56, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

The 82nd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps in which Stephen was serving at the time of his death, was formerly the 2nd Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. At the time of the 1901 census, the Keeler family resided at 16, Castle Street, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Chilham, Kent native John Keeler, who was employed as an Oil Carter.

LINTOTT, HENRY. Rifleman, A/204870.

11th (Service) Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 24 March 1918.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 61, and on the Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, TR/10/6654, Training Reserve. Unfortunately it has not been possible on this occasion due to the constraints and time and financial outlay, to add details appertaining to Henry's parents. At the time of the 1901 census Henry was 2 years old and residing at Woodlands Valley, Lyminge, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Thomas Lintott, who was recorded by the census enumerator as living on own means, and his place of birth unknown.

NORTON, HAROLD. M.M. Sapper, 41837.

68th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 27 June 1917. Aged 21.

Born Plumstead, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of William and Constance Norton of 4, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. N. 6.

At the time of his death, Harold was the youngest of five brothers that were serving in H.M. Forces.

PRICE, ERNEST ARTHUR. Private, G/37530.

10th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 20 September 1917. Aged 24.

Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Arthur and Jane Sophia Price of Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Hooze Crater Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: X. L. 13.

SKEER, GEORGE. M.M. Sergeant, 280539.

222nd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 33.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent.

Son of John and Mary Skeer of Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent.

Husband of Lilian Skeer of "Southside," Brabourne Lees, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 10, and on the Lyminge, Kent civic war memorial, also commemorated on the Smeeth, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, and in the parish church of St. Mary, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent, and on the General Post Office Great War memorial plaque, which is located in the Royal Mail Sorting Office, Ashford, Kent.

In addition to being awarded the Military Medal, George was also a recipient of the Croix de Guerre (Belgium). Prior to enlisting in the army, George was

employed by the General Post Office as a Postman. It seems an odd decision which was probably made by a War Memorial Committee or some other similar body, to quite properly commemorate George on the Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, but to not also honour the memory of his brother on it.

SPILLETT, EDWARD. Private, G/9414.

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

Died 15 July 1916.

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

Son of Mr. G. Spillett of 87, London Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 5.

At the time of the 1901 census, Edward resided at 121, Morville Street, Bow, London, and was employed as a Kitchen Porter. Head of the house was 56 year City of London native old John Streeting, who was employed as a Commercial Clerk and was Edward's uncle.

STEELE, ERNEST. Private, L/9898.

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

Died 5 March 1915. Aged 20.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

Son of Joseph and Polly Steele of "Beaulieu," Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref. III. D. 21.

Formerly Private, 10293, 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Ernest was born at Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent on 24 November 1894. He enlisted in the Army Special Reserve, on 10 July 1912 for a 6 year engagement in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), at which time the Steele family resided at 14, Orchard Place, Faversham, Kent. At the time of enlistment, Ernest stated that he was 17 years and 7 months old, and employed as a Bakers Assistant. It would appear that Ernest had enjoyed the short time that he had served as a member of the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), because he applied to become a regular soldier in the same regiment. On 19 November 1912, Ernest was formally discharged from the Army Special Reserve, at the time of joining the regiment for 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve, at which time he was given the new regimental number L/9898, the L prefix being indicative of his regular status. Prior to the Great War, Ernest served with the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Fermoy, and at Kilworth County Cork, Ireland. Ernest is recorded on all data sources checked, as having died of wounds, but none show the date of his wounding. It was noted that despite Ernest having been a regular soldier, as well as not being commemorated at Harbledown where he was born, he is not commemorated on the Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent civic war memorial. His father had also been a regular soldier, and had served in the Band of the King's Dragoon Guards.

TUMBER, ROBERT WALTER. Private, 25919.

"C" Company, 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 12 October 1917. Aged 39.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Grove Park. Resided Rainham, Kent.

Son of Sarah Ann Tumber (née Pay) of 3, Plantation Cottages, Rainham, Kent, and of the late William Robert Tumber.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 79 to 80 and 163A.

Formerly 269800, Army Service Corps.

RICHARDS, WILLIAM. Stoker, 9111/S.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Hindustan.

Died 12 May 1918. Aged 38.

Son of the late Alfred and Mary Richards of Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. Frederic Burney (formerly Richards), of Lillyhulme, Harris Street, Paddington, Sidney, Australia.

Buried Acton Cemetery, London. Grave Ref: Section C. Row C. Grave 1.

Commemorated at Acton Cemetery on Screen Wall Panel 6.

The graves of casualties from both world wars are scattered throughout the cemetery where William is at rest. There are now 80 Great War, and 60 Second World War casualties commemorated at Acton Cemetery. Of these 140 almost 60 are named on a Screen Wall, which is to be found to the left of the main entrance, as is the Cross of Sacrifice.

Second World War

1939 -1945



BROCKMAN, ERNEST STEPHEN. Stoker 1st Class, C/KX 90754.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Duchess.

Died 12 December 1939.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 33, Column 3, as shown above.

Ernest appears to have been the younger brother of the following casualty, as both have a mother with the maiden name Epps. Ernest's birth was registered in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1919. Ernest's ship was a 1,375 ton D class destroyer which was commissioned on 24 January 1933. As can be seen by the date of her loss, the amount of time which was spent in service during the Second World War by H.M.S. Duchess of only a short duration. Initially H.M.S. Duchess served in the Mediterranean, prior to her undergoing a refit at Chatham Dockyard in 1934 for service on the China Station in the 8th Destroyer Flotilla. Following the refit she continued to serve on the China Station until the commencement of the Second World War, when she was

recalled by the Admiralty to return to the Mediterranean again in order for her to take up her war station with the Mediterranean Fleet which was based at Alexandria, Egypt. Commanded by 34 year old Lieutenant Commander Robert Charles Meadows White, R.N. she was then deployed out of Malta engaged on a variety of duties which had including Fleet screening and the interception of contraband. In December H.M.S. Duchess along with H.M.S Dainty and H.M.S Delight was assigned to escort the battleship H.M.S. Barham back to the United Kingdom, and all of the ships departed from Gibraltar on 6 December. Having safely reached Home waters, the ships were sailing through the North Western Approaches on 12 December when tragedy struck at 0400 hours in the North Channel, when both ships were zigzagging approximately nine nautical miles off Mull of Kintyre, they collided, at which time the much larger and heavier battleship H.M.S. Barham cut H.M.S. Duchess in half. At a subsequent Admiralty Board of Enquiry into the tragedy, it was deduced that the fog which prevailed in the area at the time of the destroyers loss was a major contributory factor. It also noted that there were only 23 survivors of the 160 crew. Numbered amongst those lost was the destroyers' commander, who was the son of Sir Robert Eaton White, Bt., and Lady White of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

BROCKMAN, FREDERICK LESLIE

BROCKMAN, FREDERICK LESLIE. Petty Officer Stoker, C/KX 80379.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cornwall. (56).

Died 5 April 1942. Aged 30.

Husband of Ethel Eva Brockman (née Payne) of Strood, Kent.

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

Frederick's birth was registered in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1912.

H.M.S. Cornwall on which Frederick was serving when he lost his life, was a 9,750 ton Kent class Heavy Cruiser. She was built by William Beardmore & Co. of Dalmuir, Scotland, and commissioned on 8 May 1928. Admiral Sir James Somerville, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commander in Chief Eastern Fleet, received reports on 29 March 1942, of the impending attack by the Japanese on Ceylon, H.M.S. Cornwall commanded by Captain Percival Clive Wickham Manwaring, R.N., together with her sister ship H.M.S. Dorsetshire made up 'Force A,' and were then detached to Colombo. On 4 April the Japanese carrier fleet was spotted, and the two cruisers left the Harbour, and after a hurried refueling at sea, set out for Addu Atoll shortly after midnight. At midday on 5 April, a spotter plane from the Japanese cruiser "Tone" sighted the two British cruisers in the Bay of Bengal. Bombers were immediately flown off the Japanese carriers to attack the two British vessels. H.M.S. Cornwall was sunk in 12 minutes by nine 250 to 550 pound bombs. All of her boiler and engine rooms were out of action within minutes, thereby resulting in a lack of power to the pumps and fire fighting equipment. H.M.S. Dorsetshire was also lost in this engagement. In all 1,120 men from the crews of both ships were rescued by the British light cruiser H.M.S. Enterprise and the British destroyers H.M.S. Paladin and H.M.S. Panther.

BROCKMAN, LESLIE HARRY. Gunner, 1809626.

146 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 16 June 1944. Aged 28.

Born and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Henry John Brockman and Adelaide Mary Brockman (née Saddleton) of Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Edith Mary Brockman (née Muir) of Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: XI. A. 2.

The 146 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery in which Leslie was serving at the time of his death, was formed in January 1942 and served in a (Home Forces) Home Defence role until March 1944, when it then became part of the 2nd Army prior to the invasion of Europe. From June 1944 it took part in the North West Europe Campaign.

GRAY, PHILLIP COLE. Sergeant, 580511.

139 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 12 May 1940.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 14.

On 12 May 1940, nine 139 Squadron, R.A.F. Blenheim bombers dive-bombed bridges, and German troops advancing along the Maastricht to Tongres road in Belgium. The formation was subsequently attacked by enemy fighters and only two of the Blenheims returned. Two of the missing bombers were believed to have been shot down in flames, but two of the squadrons crews later rejoined the squadron after having forced-landed near enemy lines. Phillip was one of the three crew of Blenheim N6219 XD-?, which was flown by Flying Officer G.E. Grey-Smith when it took off at 0500 hours from Plivot, Marne, France, as one of the nine 139 Squadron, R.A.F. Blenheim's that were briefed to bomb and strafe enemy troop columns advancing from Maastricht towards Tongeren. Phillip's aircraft was shot down by a Messerschmitt Me109, and he and 23 year old Sergeant Cyril Taylor of Birmingham were both killed, during the attack, but Flying Officer G.E. Grey-Smith survived the engagement and was taken prisoner but was hospitalised due injuries, and he fortunately survived the war.

HEWITT, T.

HEWITT, THOMAS. Leading Stoker, C/KX 86687.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Wryneck.

Died 27 April 1941. Aged 25.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Hewitt of Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 47, Column 1.

Built by Palmers Shipbuilding & Iron Co Ltd of Jarrow-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Wryneck was a 1188 ton V&W class fast escort destroyer, that was commissioned on Armistice Day 11 November 1918. Like the majority of her type of V&W class destroyers, H.M.S. Wryneck, a 1188 ton ship had been reduced to the reserve before the Second World War. During the early part of the Second World War these ships served on fleet duties as well as convoy escort. As the war

progressed their fleet duties were taken over by new, more modern destroyers and they were then only used as convoy escorts, to that end H.M.S. Wryneck was reconstructed to a Fast Escort which was completed on 29 August 1940. At the commencement the Second World War, H.M.S. Wryneck was stationed at Gibraltar as part of the British Mediterranean Fleet. When she was lost, the destroyer was commanded by 45 year old Commander, Robert H.D. Lane R.N. of Westward Ho, Devon. H.M.S. Wryneck was sunk in the Eastern Mediterranean, approximately twenty nautical miles East of Cape Malae, Greece, by German Stuka JU-87 dive-bombers during the evacuation of Crete. When she was sunk, 108 perished from the ships compliment of 146, including her commander. In company with the Royal Navy destroyer H.M.S. Diamond, the officers and ratings were rescuing about 700 soldiers and crew from the 11,600 ton Dutch liner 'Slamat' which had been attacked and damaged earlier. 'Slamat' had been converted as a British troopship and was at that time under British control.

KNOTT, WALTER HENRY. Driver, 2137894.
20 Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers.
Died 21 November 1944. Aged 39.
Born and resided Croydon, Surrey.
Son of Charles and Emily Jane Knott of Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Hilda Dorothy Blanche Knott of Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Meldola War Cemetery, Forli, Italy. Grave Ref: I. D. 18.

MUNTON, GORDON CHARLES. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), 1866562.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 97 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 25 April 1944. Aged 19.
Son of John Robert Munton and Ellen Munton (née Dibble) of Bishopsbourne, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Dürnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Bayern, Germany.
Grave Ref: Collective grave 2. C. 16-18.

Gordon was one of the seven crew of Lancaster bomber ND500 OF-G, which was being flown by 24 year old Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), Kenneth Robert Waugh R.A.F. (V.R.) from Morgantown, West Virginia, U.S.A., when it took off from R.A.F. Coningsby, Lincolnshire, at 2044 hours on 24 April 1944. The Lancaster was amongst 234 Lancasters and 16 Mosquitos of No.5 Group, and 10 Lancasters of No.1 Group in a No.5 Group method raid on the major German target of the city of München (Munich). At 0140 hours on 25 April 1944, Gordon's bomber was hit by Flak and crashed at the municipality of Kirchheim bei München, which is where six members of the crew who were killed were initially buried. They have been subsequently re-interred in Dürnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Bayern, Germany. 9 Lancasters were lost on the raid, during the course of which the marking and controlling plan worked well and accurate bombing fell in the centre of the city. The intense flak and searchlight defences did not prevent the low-flying Mosquito markers from carrying out their task properly, and none of them suffered serious damage.

SIMS, GEORGE. Private, 5677384.
7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry.
Died 19 July 1944. Aged 27.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Charles Spencer Sims and May Sarah Sims of Harbledown, Kent.
Buried Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: VII. A. 4.

STEVENS, THOMAS JOHN ALFRED. Sergeant (Pilot), 1685282.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 24 March 1945. Aged 22.
Son of Thomas Albert Stevens and Elizabeth Stevens of Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.
Grave Ref: 21. G. 17.



WOOD, KEITH NEWEY. Lieutenant, 289506.
"C" Troop, 53 Battery, 7 Survey Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 30 July 1944. Aged 27.
Born Canterbury, Kent 3 October 1916. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Ernest George Wood and Violet Newey Wood (née Blades) of 3, The Hermitage, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Patricia Mary Wood (née Biggs) of Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated at the Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Ref: Special Memorial I. C. 7, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
Keith was educated at the Simon Langton School, Canterbury, and was a pupil at the King's School Canterbury from September 1929 to December 1933, where he was a dayboy. Prior being called up for military service, Keith, who was a Chartered Surveyor, worked for Fielding and Pembroke of Canterbury, Kent. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 21 August 1943. As part of the ongoing reinforcements of the troops taking part in the Normandy Campaign, 53 Battery, 7 Survey Regiment, Royal Artillery commenced disembarking at 1500 hours on 25 June 1944 at Juno Beach, Courcelles-sur-Mer in Normandy. Unloading was complete at 1400 hours the following day, and it moved inland to Rocqueville. On 28 June 7 Survey

Regiment, Royal Artillery was in support of XXX Corps at Caumont. Keith was temporarily seconded to 4 Survey Regiment, Royal Artillery, and rejoined his unit on 1 July at which time it was based at Nonant to the south east of Bayeux. "C" Troop in which Keith served was specialized in the use of sound ranging to detect enemy artillery batteries. On 29 July 1944, Keith was at, or in front of the front line in an advanced post, close to the commune of Fontaine Etoupefour. He was plotting incoming enemy artillery fire, when he was hit in the head by shell fragments and evacuated to hospital. The unit war diary records this as being caused by "possible D/F" meaning possible defensive or in modern parlance "friendly" fire. The relevant war diary entry also records, that at 0400 hours on the morning of 30 July 1944, Keith had died of his wounds at 74 General Hospital.

Second World War Lost Men



BLAGROVE, HENRY EVELYN CHARLES. Rear Admiral.
Royal Navy.

Died 14 October 1939. Aged 32.

Born Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent 26 April 1887.

Son of Colonel Henry John Blagrove C.B., C.B.E., 13th Hussars, and of Alice Evelyn Blagrove (née Boothby) of Barton Fields, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Edith "Evie" Gordon Blagrove (née Lowe) of Edinburgh.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 33, Column 1.

Henry has the sad distinction of being the first Royal Navy officer of flag rank to be killed in the Second World War. He had only just received his appointment as commander of the Second Battleship Division of the Home Fleet when his flagship the 29,150 ton Royal Sovereign class battleship H.M.S. Royal Oak (08) was torpedoed and sunk by the German uboat U-47 with the loss of 833 lives. H.M.S. Royal Oak was sunk whilst at anchor at Scapa Flow, and was the largest of the 31 ships sunk, and 8 ships damaged by the uboat ace Kapitänleutnant (later Korvettenkapitän) Günther Prien, prior his death and the loss of the U-47 on 7 March 1941 in the North Atlantic.

COLLINS, FRANCIS GEORGE TIMS. M.A. (Oxon.).

Flight Lieutenant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), 107924.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 27 November 1943. Aged 28.

Son of George William Joseph Collins and Beatrice Reading Collins (née Tims).

Husband of Derah May Collins (née Cunningham) of Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Dürnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Bayern, Germany.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 11. C. 26-28.

Commemorated on the Second World War Memorial in the Chapel Passage, East Wall, Balliol College, Oxford, Oxfordshire.

EDWARDS, GORDON CHARLES. Flight Sergeant (Observer), 777621.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 153 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 26 May 1942. Aged 25.

Buried St. Michael's Churchyard, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Grave Ref: North of church.

On 14 October 1941 a flight of No.256 Squadron arrived at R.A.F. Ballyhalbert, County Down, to form 153 Squadron and began flying the next day. On the official formation of 153 Squadron on 24 October 1941 the squadron was operational with Defiant's on night patrols. The arrival of a training Blenheim on 10 December 1941 heralded re-equipment, and the first Beaufighter arrived on 29 January 1942. "A" Flight retained its Defiant's until the Beaufighters became operational in May. In view of the above dates etcetera, it would seem likely that Gordon's was one of the early Beaufighter casualties suffered by his squadron.

WANKLYN, PETER RODERICK BAWTREE. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 41760.

9 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 22 July 1940. Aged 26.

Eldest son of Roderick Henry Wanklyn and Winifred Blanch Wanklyn (née Bawtree).

Buried St. Michael's Churchyard, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

Grave Ref: North of church.

Formerly an Acting Pilot Officer on probation, Peter was graded as a Pilot Officer on probation with effect from 2 October 1939. Peter was the pilot of Wellington bomber P9205 WS-? which took off from R.A.F. Honington, Suffolk on the night of 21 July 1940, to take part in a night training circuit and landings exercise. During the training flight Peter's aircraft caught fire, and at 0010 hours on the morning of 22 July 1940 it crashed at the village of Troston, which is situated only 2 miles to the south-west of R.A.F. Honington. Peter and the Wellingtons co-pilot, 25 year old Sergeant (Pilot) Denis Bennett R.A.F. (V.R.) of Wallasey, Cheshire, were both killed in the crash. Denis is now at rest at Guildford Cemetery, Surrey. Peter's aircraft was not the only thing that came down at Troston on 22 July 1940, as nine High Explosive bombs were dropped on the village by German bombers during a raid on R.A.F. Honington. The bombs all fell in a field at Troston at 0225 hours, causing damage to windows and glasshouses.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN UNFADING MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF HARBLEDOWN,
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR.
1914 - 1919

BADDELEY, C.	MORRIS, C. M.
CLEMENTS, C. H.	NORRIS, F.
COOK, E.	PEPPER, A. H. C.
CORK, F.	PRICE, E. A.
FISHER, T.	RICHARDS, W.
GREEN, S.	SADDLETON, S.
HASTE, W.	SHEPHERD, F.
HOLNESS, E. L.	STREETING, W.
HOME, W. C.	SWALES, R. A.
HOOKE, B. T.	TAYLOR, H.
IDDENDEN, E. A.	WELLS, W. J.
JULL, J.	WOODCOCK, E.
LECCE, A. E.	WOODCOCK, H. N.
LOTT, W.	

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THEIR FELLOW PARISHIONERS.

