

HAWKHURST

The Hawkhurst War Memorial is located in the centre of the village. It is a large and impressive monument which has recently undergone a complete restoration in association with the Friends of War Memorials.

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The Great War
1914 – 1919

BATT N

Private G/24923 Norman BATT. 3/4th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Formerly (2141908) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 5th January 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Charles and Eliza Batt of Great Nix Hall, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Heudicourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave reference F.7.

BRIDGLAND C

Lance Corporal G/24276 Charles BRIDGLAND. 6th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Formerly (2626) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 10th August 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Ville-Sur-Ancre Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave reference A.13.

BULL T

Guardisman 22149 Thomas Huam BULL. Depot, Grenadier Guards. 4th Battalion. Died 10th February 1915. Born Fairlight, Sussex. Enlisted Ashford. Son of Mr J.H Bull of Sempstead, Ewhurst, Sussex. Buried Caterham and Warlingham Burial Ground, Caterham, Surrey. Grave reference D.29.

This man was probably serving at the Guards Depot at Caterham when he died. **Guardisman 18541 George Lancelot RAWLINSON** of the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards died the same day as Thomas. He was buried in the Middlesborough (Linthorpe) Cemetery. They may have lost their lives together in the same incident.

BURT F

Lance Corporal SD/1839 Frederick George BURT. "A" Company, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 31st May 1918 aged 40 years. Born Bulverhythe (St Leonards) Sussex. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Son of Mr Burt of St Leonard's- On- Sea, Sussex. Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Etaples, France. Grave reference LXV.E.24.



BURT R.C

Gunner 70700 Robert Charles BURT. 119th Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died 23rd September 1916. Born Benenden. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Buried Dantzig Alley British Cemetery. Mametz, France. Grave reference VII.F.1.

CAMPANY F (brother)

Private G/2479 F CAMPANY. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 11th March 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Frank Campany of 30, Cambridge Gardens, Hastings, Sussex. Buried Noyon New British Cemetery. Grave reference I.D.3.

CATT G.G

Lance Corporal G/2824 George Godfrey CATT. 6th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 3rd July 1916 aged 23 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Son of George and Annie Catt of 3, Grove Terrace, Highgate, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Ovillers Military Cemetery, Ovillers, France. Grave reference VII.E.10.

COLLINS S.A

Private G/1381 Spencer Arthur COLLINS. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd May 1915 aged 25 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Henry and Charlotte Collins of, Fowlers Park Gardens, Hawkhurst, Kent. Spencer has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

CHAPMAN F

Private 76181 Frank CHAPMAN. Central Workshop, Tank Corps. Formerly (2112) Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 2nd November 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Husband of D.R Meade (Formerly Chapman) of 2, Station Cottages, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried St Pol British Cemetery, St Pol-Sur-Ternoise, France. Grave reference III.C.2.

COLVIN D

Private G/4574 Daniel COLVIN. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd April 1915 aged 18 years. Born Birkenhead, Cheshire. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Daniel Colvin of Parknook Cottage, Tenterden, Kent. Daniel has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Sandrock, Hawkhurst

**Private 204593 James COLVIN. South Staffordshire Regiment.
Private G/4436 William COLVIN. 7th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

COOPER F

Private G/1867 Frank COOPER. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 5th December 1917. Born Uidimore, Rye, Sussex. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Porte-De-Paris Cemetery, Cambrai, France. Grave reference II.A.12.

COURT F.T

Private 24270 Frederick Thomas COURT. 8th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 23rd July 1916 aged 39 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of William and Jane Court of Bridge House, Park Road, Walmer, Kent. Frederick has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 8C, 9A, 16A.

COX R.S

Lance Corporal 444366 Robert Spencer COX. 42nd Divisio, Signal Company, Royal Engineers (RE). Died 10th January 1918 aged 40 years. Born West Creting, Suffolk. Enlisted Manchester. Resided Hawkhurst. Husband of Caroline Sophia Cox of 21, Sandrock Villas, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Gorre British and Indian Cemetery. Grave reference V.B.7.

DIBLEY C

Private L/10550 Charles DIBLEY. 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 24th July 1915 aged 19 years. Born Lamberhurst. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Mrs A.S Goings (formerly Dibley) of Vale Road, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried locally in the Hawkhurst (St Laurence) Churchyard, Hawkhurst, Kent. Grave reference – South-West part, South of path.

EAST J.W

Rifleman 3655 John Wilfred EAST. 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade (Prince of Consort's Own). Died 10th March 1915 aged 26 years. Born Swanley, Kent. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Herbert and Ellen East of 3, Norman Villas, Station Road, Hawkhurst, Kent. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Le Touret Memorial, France. Panel reference – 44.

EDWARDS H

Private G/11887 Herbert EDWARDS. 8th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 1st September 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave reference II.D.2.

EDWARDS T

NO TRACE

FAULTY E

Private G/14752 Edward FAULTY / FAUTLEY. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 14th May 1917. Born Beckley, Sussex. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst.



FISHER A

Leading Seaman SS/81 Herbert (Albert) Lawrence FISHER. Royal Mount Naval Barracks, Royal Navy (RN). Died 16th March 1921 aged 36 years. Albert died of T.B (Phthisis). Born Folkestone 10th August 1884. Buried 19th March 1921 at Willesborough Cemetery, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Grave reference – Q 631.

Herbert died at 74 Albemarle Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Formerly residing (1918) at 55 Hunter Road, Willesborough, Ashford with a Private 243652 Richard Kemp Barnard (5th West Surrey's).

Before the outbreak of war Albert was employed as a Plumbers Mate and Postman. He enlisted in the Royal Navy on 2nd October 1903 and served on H.M.S Andromeda and H.M.S Achilles. He completed his contract and retired on 9th October 1908. On the outbreak of war Herbert re-enlisted and was sent to H.M.S Pembroke in Chatham to assist with training new sailors. He remained there from late 1914 to 31st December 1918.

Albert's death certificate reference is – EAST ASHFORD/BRA16/313. It is recorded on Albert's death certificate that before the outbreak of war Albert was working in Ashford as a Postman.

Herbert's death is NOT recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission because he died after he had been discharged from the navy. In any event the war had ended in Europe over two years previous. At the time of his death he was registered as a Naval Pensioner.

His Brother-in-Law Frank H Newton was present at the time of Albert's death.

Herbert is also commemorated on the Willesborough War Memorial as H FISHER. It appears that he must have called himself **Herbert** when in fact his birth name was **Albert**.

FOSTER B

Private G/43611 Bertram FOSTER. 23rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). Died 31st July 1917 aged 22 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hornsey. Resident Sevenoaks. Son of William and Sarah Jane Foster of Ellenden, Hawkhurst, Kent. Bertram has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 49 and 51.

GIBSON C

NO TRACE

GOLDING F

Lance Corporal G/8089 Frederick GOLDING. 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 18th April 1916 aged 22 years. Born Flimwell. Enlisted Cranbrook. Son of Mrs. C.W Golding of The Mount, Flimwell, Sussex. Husband of Isabel Jefferis (formerly Golding) of 10, Lomax Buildings, Bradshaw Gate, Bolton. Buried Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, France. Grave reference II.A.4.

GOSCHEN G.J

Second Lieutenant The Honourable George Joachim GOSCHEN. 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 19th January 1916 aged 22 years. Son of Colonel George Joachim (2nd Vicount) Goschen and Evelyn Goschen of Seacox Heath, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference I.B.16.

George's father commanded the 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the Great War. This battalion was rather like the Home Guard during the 2nd World War. Do not confuse this volunteer battalion with the 2nd and 3rd line Buffs territorial's (2/4th and 2/5th). Both George Joachim Goschen and his father were well known in the Ashford area and their names often appeared in the Kentish Express Newspaper. A rather posh family. Had George survived then he would have become the 3rd Vicount Goschen.

GUNTHER C.E (brother)

Lieutenant Charles Emil GUNTHER. 2nd Battalion, Life Guards. Attached to Guards Machine Gun Regiment (G.M.G.R). Died 24th September 1918 aged 28 years. Son of Charles Eugene and Leonie Gunther of 59, Princess Gate, South Kensington, London. Buried Chapelle British Cemetery, Holon, France. Grave reference II.E.15.

GUNTHER N.O.F (brother)

Second Lieutenant Norman Otto Fredick GUNTHER MC. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Formerly Royal East Kent Yeomanry (Mounted Rifles). Died 11th July 1917 aged 19 years. Son of Charles Eugene and Leonie Gunther of 59, Princess Gate, South Kensington, London. Norman has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 1.

Norman was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for courage and for his leadership skills.

This is a bit of a mystery. The memorial lists Norman's unit as the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. The REKMR was not in existence in July 1917 it had already been re-designated as the 10th (Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Yet the Buffs regimental roll of honour does not list a GUNTHER as having been killed. Soldiers Died Great War shows Norman as belonging to the East Kent Yeomanry when he was killed as does the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission also gives the additional information that Norman **attended** the 6th Buffs.

Closer inspection of the regimental history (Moody) pages 259/260 gives the circumstances of Norman's death - On the 1st July 1917 the 6th Buffs moved from Arras to the Wancourt Line mustering 33 officers and only 483 men. The battalion held positions near Long Trench 1,200 yards south of Keeling Copse. On the 10th July the battalion was ordered to raid enemy shell holes east of Tool Trench. The attack commenced at 0500 hours. The history states that 2LT Gunther was killed with 9 other men. **Norman was in fact a 6th Buffs man.** He formerly served in the East Kent Yeomanry which had become the 10th Buffs by the time he was killed.

HAINES H

NO TRACE

HARVEY L

NO TRACE

HEMSLEY F.C

No Trace

HEMSLEY R

Private 39231 Richard HEMSLEY. New Zealand Training Unit. Died 17 November 1916 aged 23 years. Son of Richard Hemsley of Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Wellington (Karori) Cemetery, New Zealand. Grave reference – I.3.S.

Wellington (Karori) Cemetery will be found on Karori Road, in the north-western part of Wellington. There are separate 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 services' areas within the public cemetery. (S) at the end of the grave location denotes these. Within the cemetery is the Wellington Provincial Memorial, which takes the form of a marble archway connecting the original Services' Cemetery with the extension which was laid out later. This memorial commemorates servicepeople from the Wellington Military District who died in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 Wars and who have no known grave. Also in the cemetery is the Wellington (Karori) Crematorium. The names of 15 casualties from the 1939-1945 War, whose remains were cremated and the ashes scattered, are engraved on a plaque set into the Servicemen's Columbarium Wall in the services' section of the cemetery. There are 267 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 123 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 1 Norwegian Foreign National and 1 French Foreign National burials here.





HICKMOTT G

Private G/1925 George HICKMOTT. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 31st January 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, France. Grave reference I.D.14.

HOADLEY N.C

Private 60421 Newton Cecil HOADLEY. 22nd (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Died 14th April 1918 aged 22 years. Born Ticehurst, Sussex. Enlisted Tenterden. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of James and Rachel Hoadley of Monkery Farm, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent. Newton has no known grave. His name appears on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines, Belgium. Panel reference 2.

KEMP C.W

Corporal 21175 Charles William KEMP MM. No 3 Company, 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 13th April 1918 aged 25 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Ashford. Son of Solomon and Harriett Kemp, of Lillesden Cottages, Hawkhurst, Kent. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Plugstreet Memorial, Plugstreet, Belgium. Grave reference – 1.

The PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave. The memorial serves the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

KEMP E.D

Private 3621 Edmund David KEMP. 16th (The Queen's) Lancers. Died 6th September 1914 aged 21 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of George Thomas and Harriett Kemp of Ashfield Cottage, Hawkhurst, Kent. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial.

KEMP S.J

Private 43011 Sidney John KEMP. 107th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (MGC). Died 24th March 1917 aged 18 years. Born Horsmonden. Enlisted Cranbrook. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Mr H.J and Mrs A Kemp of 7, Sandrock Villas, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Pond Farm Cemetery. Grave reference L.9.

KEMPTON C.E

Corporal T/1015 Charles Edward KEMPTON. 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 7th January 1916 aged 22 years. Born Tooting, London. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Godalming, Surrey. Son of Mr. J.C Kempton and Mrs. K.E Kempton of 22, George Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey. Buried Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference XXXI.C.9.

LILEY H.D

NO TRACE

LOYD A.T

Private 8853 Arthur LOYD. 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Died 16th June 1915 aged 36 years Born Stratford, London. Enlisted Stratford, London. Son of John and Arthur Ann Loyd of 8, Cottage Steet, Stafford. Arthur has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 8 and 12.

MARCHANT C.H

Lieutenant Clarence Henry MARCHANT. No 5 Fighting School, Royal Air Force 9RAF). Died 3rd March 1919 aged 25 years. Son of Mr. W.W and Mrs. E Marchant of Tickners, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried in the Cairo War Cemetery, Cairo, Egypt. Grave reference Q.277.

It is recorded that Clarence was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palms by the French Government.

MARCHANT F

Private 7101 Frank MARCHANT. "A" Squadron, 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal). Died 3rd December 1916 aged 29 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Son of John and Harriet Marchant of Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, France. Grave reference I.L.11.

MENNIE A

Private 21712 Alexander MENNIE. 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's). Died 27th May 1918. Born Dilminy, Scotland. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Alexander has no known grave. His name appears on the Soissons Memorial, France.

NOAKES G.H

Private G/7136 George Henry NOAKES. 3rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 24th May 1915. Born Robertsbridge, Sussex. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Resident Hawkhurst. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 49 and 51.

NOAKES J

NO TRACE

OSBORNE W.J

Sergeant G/415 Walter Jesse OSBORNE MM. 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 24th November 1917 aged 26 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Son of Walter Jesse and Emma Osborne of 5, Howe's Cottages, The Moor, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Tincourt New British Cemetery. Grave reference II.G.13.

Walter was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

PAGE W

Private 59245 William PAGE. 25th Battalion (Tyneside Irish), Northumberland Fusiliers. Formerly (01374) Army Ordnance Corps. Died 30th November 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Buried Heninel Communal Cemetery Extension. Grave reference F.8.

PIPER E.G

Private G/15659 Ernest George PIPER. "C" Company, 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd May 1917 aged 20 years. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of Alfred and Emily Piper of Castle Eden, 167, Osborne Road, Brighton, Sussex. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 2.

PLAYFORD A

Chief Petty Officer (RFR/CH/B/5432) 202189 Albert PLAYFORD D.S.M. H.M.S Pembroke, Naval Barracks, Chatham, Kent. Died 20th April 1919 aged 36 years. Son of John and Sarah Ann Playford. Husband of Ellen Sarah Playford of 1, Mount Pleasant, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried locally in the Hawkhurst (St Lawrence) Churchyard, Hawkhurst, Kent. Grave reference – North West part on North boundary.

Albert was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for bravery during the Great War.

PLAYFORD E

Private G/37790 Edward PLAYFORD. 7th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 11th August 1917 aged 33 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of William John and Sarah Ann Playford; husband of Florence Mabel Playford, of Front Rd., The Moor, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Mendinghem Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference – I.V.3.

Mendinghem, like Dozinghem and Bandaghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and this site was chosen for its cemetery. The first burials took place in August 1916. In July 1917, four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918, while the German offensive was at its height, field ambulances were posted at Proven. The cemetery was closed (except for one later burial) in September 1918. There are now 2,391 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery and 52 German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

POTTER C.A

Private T/202484 Charles Albert POTTER. 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). M.V "Transylvania". Died at sea 4th May 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hawkhurst. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Savona Memorial, Italy.

Charles was tragically lost at sea when the hired transport ship the "Transylvania" was sunk by German U Boat (U63) attack off Cape Vado two and a half miles south of Savona. The ship went down with the loss of more than 400 lives. The bodies that were recovered were buried in a special plot in the town of Savona. The Savona Memorial commemorates the names of 275 men whose bodies were never recovered. It not known how Charles came to be on this transport ship because the ship was being used to supply and reinforce British troops serving in Salonika, Greece. The 4th Buffs never served in Salonika but the 2nd Buffs did. Perhaps Charles was on his way to join the 2nd Buffs. He never made it.

REEVES J

Private 9304 John REEVES. 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). Died 29th January 1917 aged 22 years. Son of John and Fanny Reeves of Highgate Bakery, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, France. Grave reference Div 3. E. 18.

RELF C

Bombardier 70433 Charles RELF. 17th Battery, 41st Brigade, Royal Artillery (RA). Died 31st July 1916 aged 19 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Son of Richard and Louisa Relf of East View, The Moor, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Dive Copse British Cemetery. Grave reference II.B.46.

RELF L.F

Private T/240764 L. Frank RELF. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 23rd October 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Cranbrook. Resided Hawkhurst. Frank has no known grave. His name appears on the Vis-En- Artois Memorial, France. Panel reference 3.

RELF R

Sergeant SD/1152 Robert RELF. 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 4th June 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Buried Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Cambrin, France. Grave reference N.51.

RELF W

NO TRACE

RICHARDS J

Private G/134430 John RICHARDS. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 9th April 1917 aged 19 years. Born Hurst Green, Sussex. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Resided Hastings, Sussex. Son of John and Ellen Richards of 1, North Grove, Highgate, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France. Grave reference VII.G.51.

ROSS-THOMPSON A

Lieutenant Alexander ROSS-THOMPSON. 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. Died 30th November 1914 aged 23 years. Son of Frederick and Ellen Mary Ross-Thompson of Hensill, Hawkhurst, Kent. Alexander has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 19 and 33.

SMITH T

NO TRACE

STANBRIDGE P.W

Rifleman 374789 Percival William STANBRIDGE. 2/8th Battalion (Post Office Rifles). London Regiment. Died 10th December 1917 aged 19 years. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Son of Percival and Harriet Alice Stanbridge of Pipsden, Hawkhurst, Kent. Percival has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel reference 150 to 151.

STICKLAND F

Lance Corporal G/21401 Frederick STICKLAND. 12th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 26th September 1916 aged 22 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex. Resided Paddington, London. Son of Frederick George and Casandra Mary Stickland of 192, Portnall Road, Paddington, London. Buried Bray Vale British Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme, France. Grave reference IV.A.16.

SUTER D

NO TRACE

THOMPSON H

Lance Sergeant G/50521 Harold THOMPSON. 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 16th August 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hove, Sussex. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Harlebeke New British Cemetery. Grave reference II.D.2.

TITLEY J

Lance Sergeant 3/10736 John Titley. "D" Company, 7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. Died 27th September 1915 aged 28 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Little Bowden, Leicestershire. Son of Mrs Brockway of Mount Pleasant, The Moor, Hawkhurst, Kent. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 91 to 93.

UPTON J

Private 6725 John Edward UPTON. 14th (London Scottish) Battalion, London Regiment. Died 9th September 1916. Son of Stephen Upton of Field Green Cottage, Sandhurst, Kent. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 9C.13C.

UPTON W

NO TRACE

VENESS J

Private G/1380 James VENESS. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd May 1915 aged 36 years. Born Penshurst near Battle, Sussex. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of John and Sarah Veness of Hawkhurst, Kent. James has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

WEEKS C.E

Bombardier 77767 Charles E WEEKS. 459th Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery (RFA). Died 5th January 1916 aged 22 years. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Son of George and Emma Weeks of 104, Chaucer Road, Gillingham, Kent. Buried Maple Leaf Cemetery. Grave reference G.4.

WELLER H

Private G/41517 Henry WELLER. 18th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Formerly 93794) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 1st October 1917 aged 31 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of M Weller of Gun Green, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France. Grave reference IV.E.18.

WENHAM F

Rifleman A/1265 Edgar Frank WENHAM. 7th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). Died 15th October 1917 aged 23 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted London. Resided Tooting, London. Son of John and Anne Wenham. Edgar has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 115 to 119 and 162A,163A.

WENHAM A.H

Private G/8118 Albert Henry WENHAM. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd July 1916 aged 35 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted London. Resided Shepherds Bush, London. Husband of Alice Mary Wenham of 3, Brooklyn Road, Shepherds Bush, London. Buried Ovillers Military Cemetery, Ovillers, France. Grave reference IX.M.10.

WENHAM H

Private G/4129 Herbert WENHAM. 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 24th April 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), France. Grave reference II.D.164.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists this man as **H WENMAN**.

WICKENS H.H

Corporal G/1868 Herbert Henry WICKENS. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 13th July 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, France. Grave reference 4.G.25.

WICKENS C.W

Gunner 58360 Walter Charles WICKENS. 107th Battery, 23rd Brigade, Royal Artillery (RA). Died 12th July 1916 aged 38 years. Born Cranbrook. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Son of John and Ellen Wickens of Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Carnoy Military Cemetery, Carnoy, France. Grave reference O.21.

This man's name appears both as W.C and C.W Wickens.

WILLARD R

Private 52632 Richard WILLARD. 32nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Formerly (SPTS/5309) Royal Fusiliers. Died 22nd September 1917. Born Sandhurst, Kent. Enlisted Hawkhurst. Resided Sandhurst. Son of Richard and Mary Willard of Alms Houses, Bodiam, Hawkhurst, Kent. Husband of Annie Elizabeth Willard of Knells Cottage, Paddock Wood, Kent. Richard has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 28.30.162.162A.163A.

WRATTEN A.G

Private G/22813 Albert Gibbens WRATTEN. 6th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Formerly (21218) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 24th November 1917. Born Romney Marsh. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hawkhurst. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, Cambrai, France. Panel reference 3.



LOST MEN

BALCOMBE W.C

Private L/10562 Walter George BALCOMBE. 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 22nd July 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Cranbrook. Buried Caterpillar Valey Cemetery, Longueval, The Somme, France. Grave reference IX.G.10.

BOVIS D

Private 10174 Daniel BOVIS. 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 24 October 1915. Husband of Eliza Bovis. Son of David Bovis (Farm Labourer) of Angel Row, Sandhurst, Kent. Born 5 August 1895 at Crowland, Salehurst.

Educated Sandhurst School. Enlisted 16 August 1913 and went to France with the BEF in August 1914.

Daniel died after carrying a fellow wounded soldier to the Regimental Medical Aid Post (a distance of 1 mile). He was shot dead in the head soon after arriving back at the frontline.

CAMPANY W.C.E (brother)

Private L/9556 William Charles Ernest CAMPANY. "A" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 25th September 1915 aged 23 years. Son of Frank Campany of 30, Cambridge Gardens, Hastings, Sussex. Buried St Mary's A.D.S Cemetery, Haisnes, France. Grave reference V.C.18.

COLEY G

Private T/240055 George COLEY. 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Thursday 15th February 1917 aged 27 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Rolvenden. Son of George and Harriet Coley. Buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference XXI.M.1.

The day that George was killed the 5th battalion attacked the Turks at Kut. This was a major planned engagement and The Buffs were to be the lead attacking formation. The attack was a outright success and the battalion took almost 1,000 Turkish prisoners. Second Lieutenant Brooke and a further 12 men were killed including George.

DUNDAS R.S

Drummer 9622 Roy Stuart DUNDAS. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 18th November 1916 aged 19 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Woolwich, London. Resided Plumstead, London. Son of J.H and A.E Dundas of 26, Manthorp Road, Plumstead, London. Buried Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, France. Grave reference C.48.

ELDRIDGE E

Private 14026 Ernest ELDRIDGE. 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Attached Labour Corps. Formerly (12219 Reserve Cavalry Regiment. Died 5th November 1918 aged 33 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hammersmith, London. Husband of J Eldridge of 22, Alexander Road, Bedford Park, Chiswick, London. Buried Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey. Grave reference XIII.A.1.

GOODSELL C

Rifleman C/4677 Cecil GOODSELL. King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). Died 5th or 6th July 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted St Swithins Lane, Middlesex. Resided Wrotham Heath, Kent. Buried Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoué, France. Grave reference III.J.15.

GOODSELL J

Private G/24638 Jesse GOODSELL. 7th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly (19562) East Surrey Regiment. Died 23rd March 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Tonbridge. Resided Hadlow, Kent. Jesse has no known grave. His name appears on the Pozieres Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 14 and 15.

HARDY C

Private G/472 Charles HARDY. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 14th October 1915. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Bromley. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 95-97.

LINDRIDGE V.W

Private 5087 Victor William LINDRIDGE. 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Died 29th January 1917 aged 31 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Resided Horsell, Surrey. Buried Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France. Grave reference II.M.34.

LUCK J.E

Private L/10227 John Ernest LUCK. 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 25th September 1915 aged 22 years. Son of Harriett Luck of Flimwell, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France. Grave reference V.G.19.

MANN H

Private 1539 Henry (Harry) MANN. "C" Squadron, West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own). Died 30th November 1916. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried locally in the Sandhurst Cross (St Nicholas) Churchyard, Sandhurst, Kent. Grave reference – North West of Church.

It seems odd that this man should have been left off the Hawkhurst war memorial taking into account that he was living in Hawkhurst at the time of his death.

MARCHANT A

Private 10729 Arthur MARCHANT. 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 12th October 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Chichester, Sussex. Resided St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Son of Mrs. E Marchant of Rose Lodge Cottage, Silverhill Park, St-Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Buried Cement House Cemetery. Grave reference VII.C.20.

MARTIN T.J

Private G/231 Thomas Jesse MARTIN. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 6th September 1916 aged 30 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Canterbury. Son of Mary Jane Honeysett of Henden Farm, Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent. Thomas has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 2.

MILLS H

Sapper 2021 Herbert MILLS. 1/3rd Field Company, Royal Engineers (RE). H.M.S HYTHE, Royal Navy. Died at sea 28th October 1915. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Gillingham. Resided Tunbridge Wells. Brother in Law of M.M Hollands of 30, Woodland Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Herbert has no known grave. His name appears on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. Panel reference – 23.24.25.325-328.

Herbert was drowned at sea off the cost of Gallipoli Turkey.

HMS Hythe was a paddle driven cross channel ferry of 509 tons built in 1905 and owned by the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company (SE&CR). The ship operated on the Dover-Calais route until it was requisitioned by the government in 1914. It was quickly converted into a Screw Minesweeper and was based at Scapa Flow in Scotland. In 1915 the ship was sent to the Dardanelles to work on troop movements from Mudros Bay to the Gallipoli Peninsular in Turkey. At about 1600 hours on 28th October 1915 the Hythe was in collision with the SS Sarnia, another converted ferry but much larger than the Hythe. The Hythe quickly sank with the loss of 108 men most of whom were from Kent. Nearly all these men were from the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells area of Kent and were serving in the 1/3rd Kent Field Company, Royal Engineers.

It is recorded that men of the 1/3rd Kent Field Company, Royal Engineers (RE) were on board when the Hythe went down. This company was commanded by Captain Reggie Salomons. Men from the 1/2nd Kent Field Company Royal Engineers were nearby on another transport ship – Redbreast.

NEAL G

Private 56368 George NEAL. 17th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Died 3rd October 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hawkhurst. Buried locally in the Kilndown (Christchurch) Churchyard, Kilndown, Kent. Grave reference – South part.

OLIVER S

Sapper 541143 Stanley OLIVER. 495th Field Company, Royal Engineers (RE). Died 9th December 1917 aged 22 years. Born Wadhurst, Sussex. Enlisted Gillingham. Resided Hawkhurst. Son of George and Frances Oliver of Sunnybank, Flimwell, Hawkhurst, Kent. Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave reference J.7.

PAVEY P.A.J.M

Gunner 102286 Phillip Arthur Joseph Marchant PAVEY. No 1 Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died 7th November 1916 aged 39 years. Buried locally in the Rotherfield Burial Ground, Battle, Sussex. Grave reference 354.

PIERCE J

Private T/240268 James Pierce. 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 15th February 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Cranbrook. Resided Ashford. Buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference XXI.L.16.

PIERCE P

Private 4812 Percy Thomas PIERCE. 8th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 3rd February 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Resided Lamberden, Newenden, Kent. Buried Hargicourt British Cemetery, France. Grave reference I.I.14.

Percy's name appears on the Newenden Civic War Memorial. That memorial was in an appalling condition in 2004 when all names were almost unreadable.

POILE G

Private 87344 George POILE. 11th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Died 29th September 1918. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted London. Resided London. Buried Unicorn Cemetery, Vend'huile, France. Grave reference II.B.18.

RELF H

Private G/5695 Henry RELF. 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 25th July 1917 aged 41 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Eastbourne, Sussex. Husband of Florence R.H Relf of 8, Fairlight Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. Henry has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 6.

RYAN T

Private 11484 Thomas RYAN. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 7th August 1918 aged 34 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Dover. Resided Folkestone. Son of Mary Ryan of 55, Bridge Street, Folkestone, Kent. Husband of Josephine Ryan of 9, Kenny's Cottages, Sweetmans Avenue, Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland. Buried Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-Les-Pernoise, France. Grave reference III.C.16.

STICKLAND F

Lance Corporal G/21401 Frederick STICKLAND. 12th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 26th September 1916. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex. Resided Paddington, London.

This man is listed in Soldiers Died Great War as being Killed in Action. Despite this his name doesn't appear on the CWGC indexes...

WALKER L.B

Lance Sergeant 1666 Lionel Bertram WALKER. 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Died 17th February 1917. Lionel has no known grave. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Worthing, Sussex. Resided Ewhurst, Sussex. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 8C.9A.16A.

WELLER C.L

Private G/2129 Charles Leonard WELLER. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 9th April 1917. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Tunbridge Wells. Resided Wadhurst. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 7.

WENHAM F.H

Private L/8122 Francis Henry WENHAM. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 13th October 1915. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Benenden. Resided Goudhurst. Francis has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

WILLARD J

Private G/308 Jesse WILLARD. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 16th July 1916 aged 20 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Shepherdswell, Kent. Resided Marden, Kent. Son of Frederick and Harriet Willard of Myrtle Villa, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent. Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Etaples, France. Grave reference XIV.A.2A.

WOLFE D.R

Private 15876 Douglas Robert WOLFE. "D" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died 5th March 1917 aged 23 years. Born Hawkhurst. Enlisted Wokingham, Berkshire. Resided Bracknell, Berkshire. Son of Robert and Mary Ann Wolfe of 3, Bramshot Avenue, Charlton, London. Douglas has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 11D.

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