

HIGH HALDEN



The parish tribute is in the form of a Celtic cross located in the High Halden Churchyard.

The Great War
1914 – 1919



ADAMS C.E

Lance Corporal 52913 Charles Edward ADAMS. 2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment. Died Monday 25th March 1918. Born High Halden. Enlisted Ashford. Resided High Halden. Buried in the Brie British Cemetery, Brie, Somme, France. Grave reference - Sp Mem 12.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Bull Lane, Bethersden

Company Sergeant Major (CSM) 202936 George ADAMS. 7th Buffs (East Kent R)
Private R4/236129 John ADAMS. Army Service Corps.

Charles was killed on the 5th day of the last Great Spring offensive of 1918 (Operation Michael).

On 18-20 March 1917, Commonwealth troops repaired the bridge and took the village of Brie during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. The village and the bridge were later lost on 23 March 1918, during the German offensive, but were regained on 5 September when the 32nd

Division cleared the village. The cemetery was begun by Commonwealth units after the second occupation of the village and taken over by the 5th, 47th and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations, which were posted at Brie in September and October before being moved on along the St. Quentin road to Bihecourt, near Vermand. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from St. Cren British and German Cemeteries and from the battlefields east and south of Brie. Brie British Cemetery contains 409 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 49 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 15 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There are also 36 German war graves in the cemetery. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.





CHANDLER H.J

Bombardier 176448 Henry (Harry) James CHANDLER. 11th Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery (RFA). Died Friday 22nd March 1918 aged 28 years. Resided High Halden. Enlisted Ashford. Son of James Chandler of Bush Farm, High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium. Grave reference XIV.I.17.

Harry lost his life in the German spring offensive (Operation Michael). The British army was forced to retreat from the Southern Somme battlefields and in doing so sustained massive casualties (400,000 men were probably killed). This last great German attack ground to a halt when its supply lines became overstretched. Within 2 months the British recovered much of this lost territory and by November the war was won.



HAWKINS H.F

Private 33851 Henry Frank HAWKINS. 7th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Formerly (157904) Royal Army Service Corps (RASC). Died 15th April 1917. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Tenterden. Son of Henry George and Elizabeth Hawkins of Church House, High Halden, Kent. Buried locally in the High Halden Churchyard (St Mary), High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Church Houses, High Halden

Private 428422 William John HAWKINS. 426th Agricultural Labour Company.

HOOKER G

Private G/21441 George HOOKER. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 30th November 1917. Born Charing, Kent. Resided Pope House Farm, High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Panel reference 3.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Pope House Farm, High Halden

Private G/21441 George HOOKER. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

George was killed in the Battle of Cambrai of 1917.

On the 30th November 1917 a great German counter attack was launched. The 1st battalion was in reserve. It is recorded that 6 men were wounded or killed on this day. The next day the battalion went into action all day in a line around Gonnellieu and La Vacquerie. George was one of the 6 men who were killed or wounded on the first day of the German counter attack. The Battle of Cambrai was a major sub-battle of the Battle of Arras of 1917.

LEDGER E.J

Sapper 112311 Ebenezer John LEDGER. 32nd Reserve Battalion, Royal Engineers (RE). Died Sunday 10th February 1918 aged 22 years. Resided High Halden. Son of James Pearson Ledger of "Sunnyside", High Halden, Kent. Buried locally in the St Michael's (Jireh) Baptist Chapel Yard, Tenterden, Kent. Grave reference – North West of Chapel.

Ebenezer was obviously a non-conformist and was buried accordingly in the Baptist Chapel in nearby St Michael's.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Strawlands Cottage, High Halden

Driver 4517 Alfred LEDGER. Royal Field Artillery.

Oak Grove, High Halden

Private 38244 John LEDGER. 10th Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).



ROOTES C

Private 240612 Clement ROOTES. Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C). Formerly 6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died Iraq 30th June 1916 aged 21 years. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Kingston, Surrey. Resided Forge House, High Halden, Kent. Buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Panel reference Nisibin Mem 252.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Forge House, High Halden

Private 240612 Clement ROOTES. 6th East Surrey Regiment.
Second Lieutenant Augustus Hugh ROOTES.
Private 240641 Claude ROOTES. 6th East Surrey Regiment.

The voters list still gives his unit as the 6th East Surrey's.

Clement's name appears on a private family plaque inside the nearby High Halden parish church. His name also appears on the High Halden parish war memorial. He was taken prisoner by the Turks at the fall of Kut and died at Nissibin. The 6th Battalion, East Surrey's were never in Iraq therefore it appears that Clement must have been serving in the RFC when captured. His cause of death is not known but it is likely to be disease caused by mal-treatment whilst in captivity. It is possible that Clement was one of those unfortunate men who were taken prisoner when the city of Kut fell to the Turkish army. The Turks treated British soldiers brutally. Major General Townsend the British commander in Kut was taken to Constantinople in style whereas his men were forced marched to Turkey on foot. Only a handful of men survived this forced march.

TAYLOR R.B

Rifleman 318065 Robert Barclay TAYLOR. 5th Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade). Formerly (2538) 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Monday 14th October 1918. Born High Halden. Resided High Halden. Buried in the Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany. Grave reference VII.F.19.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Forge Hill, Bethersden

Private 39585 William TAYLOR. 4th Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Robert died whilst being held as a Prisoner of War by the Germans.





WOODGATE J

Airman 3rd Class 80344 Leonard James WOODGATE. Royal Flying Corps (RFC). Died in the UK from Fever 1st October 1917 aged 18 years. Born High Halden. Son of E.B and Sophia Woodgate of Lion Hill Farm, High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Buried locally in the High Halden churchyard, High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Leonard died of fever caught during training in the UK.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Lion Farm, High Halden

Clarence Charles WOODGATE. (No further detail).

Lance Sergeant 270043 William Peter WOODGATE. 10th (Yeomanry) 2/4th Royal West Kent's).

WRIGHT B

Lieutenant Basil Charles WRIGHT MC. 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (RSR). Died 24th September 1918. Resided Hookstead, High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Basil has no known grave. His name appears on the Vis-En Artoise Memorial, France. Panel reference – 6.

Basil was awarded the Military Cross for his courage and leadership skills.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Hookstead, High Halden

Lieutenant Basil Charles WRIGHT.

This Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. They belonged to the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing. The Memorial consists of a screen wall in three parts. The middle part of the screen wall is concave and carries stone panels on which names are carved. It is 26 feet high flanked by pylons 70 feet high. The Stone of Remembrance stands exactly between the pylons and behind it, in the middle of the screen, is a group in relief representing St George and the Dragon. The flanking parts of the screen wall are also curved and carry stone panels carved with names. Each of them forms the back of a roofed colonnade; and at the far end of each is a small building.



LOST MEN

BATT W

Gunner 143959 William BATT. 204th Anti-Aircraft Section, Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 20 November 1918 aged 42 years. Son of William and Ann Batt of High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Husband of C.A Batt of 45, High Street, Broadstairs, Kent. Buried Buried Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: VI. G. 7

BISHOP F

Lance Corporal L/8284 Frank BISHOP. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 12th April 1915. Born High Halden. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Heathfield, Sussex. Frank has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

This man was found on Soldiers Died Great War – Born **High Haldon**.

On the 10th April 1915 the 2nd Buffs marched to Zonnebeke where it relieved the 153rd French Regiment. The Buffs held the frontline on the Broodseinde cross-roads. The Germans had established a heavy trench mortar in a position secure from British artillery. This mortar was used to great effect causing casualties in the line. The battalion sustained casualties - 1 officer and 22 other ranks were killed 10th – 14th April 1915.

BLACKMAN H

Private G/12815 Harry BLACKMAN. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Friday 30th November 1917 aged 38 years. Born High Halden. Enlisted Tunbridge Wells. Son of Samuel and Louisa Blackman. Husband of Lily Frances Blackman of 41, Princes Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Harry has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Panel reference 8.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Street, Appledore

375875 Harry BLACKMAN. 22nd Corps. Patrol Offices.

On the 15th November 1917 the 6th West Kent's moved to assembly positions South West of Gonnellieu. The battalion held ground along the Bonavis Ridge as far as Lateau Wood. On the 20th November the 6th West Kent's moved into Bourlon Wood. On 30th November 1917 the battalion returned to Lateau Wood ready for an attack on Pam Pam Farm. The battalion's objective was enemy trenches at La Vacquerie.

CLARK A.J

Private L/8489 Albert James CLARK. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Monday 3rd May 1915 aged 27 years. Son of Charles Clark of Bond Cottages, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

On the 28th April 1915 the 2nd battalion Buffs took over frontline trenches at Verlorenhoek, Belgium. The battalion's commanding officer Lt Col A.D Geddes was killed by a shell that bursted near to the battalion headquarters. The day that Albert was killed the battalion was still in the trenches at Verlorenhoek. The 2nd battalion were finally relieved at 1900 hours on the 3rd May 1915. On the 4th May 1915 the battalion was moved out of the line to a wood north of the Vlamertinghe-Poperinghe Road.

CLARK R

Officers Steward 3rd Class L/3635 Richard CLARK. HMS "Goliath", Royal Navy (RN). Died 13th May 1915. Resided Ladywell Park, Lewisham, London. Son of Richard and Mary Clark of "Broombourne", High Halden, Ashford, Kent. Richard has no known grave. His name appears on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference 12.

HMS Goliath – Canopus Class Battleship built 1898

This ship was a "Canopus" class battleship built 25th March 1898. The Ship was sunk on 13th May by enemy torpedo attack (by the Turkish Destroyer "Mauvenet") in the Mediterranean off Morto Bay near Gallipoli, Turkey. The ship's captain was Captain T.L Shelford. There were 180 survivors but 570 men tragically lost their lives (including Henry).

This is another local man from Kennington who perished in the same disaster -

Boy 1st Class J/27718 Henry Robert COULTER. H.M.S "Goliath", Royal Navy. Died Gallipoli, Turkey on the 13th May 1915 aged **only 16 years**. Son of Frederick and Frances Lucy Coulter of "Forestmere", Kennington. Henry has no known grave. His name appears on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference 10.

DUNSTER A

Sergeant 45099 Albert DUNSTER MM. 39th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (MGC). Formerly (5971) East Yorkshire Regiment. Died 14th April 1918 aged 24 years. Born High Halden. Resided Bexhill, Sussex. Son of Ellen M Packham of 5, Chandler Road, Bexhill, Sussex. Buried in the Pernes British Cemetery, France. Grave reference I.B.30.

Albert was awarded the Military Medal (MM)for bravery in the field.

FARRANCE O

Private G/11179 Oliver FARRANCE. 8th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 15th July 1916. Born High Halden. Resided Newark, Nottinghamshire. Son of John and Florence Farrance. Oliver has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 45 and 47.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Stamford Bridge, Bethersden

Sergeant 61029 Harry FARRANCE. Machine Gun Corps / R.F.A.

From November 1915 to January 1916 the 8th West Kent's were resting at Bonningues near St Omer. In March the battalion moved to Berthen near Bailleul. The battalion held frontline trenches

in the Wulverghem Sector. At the end of June the battalion withdrew to Plugstreet where it held the line in Plugstreet Wood. On 8th July the battalion moved to the Somme in France. It appears that Oliver was probably mortally wounded somewhere in or near Plugstreet Wood and died a few days later of these injuries.

HOPE G.W

Private G/3541 George William HOPE. 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Sunday 26th September 1915. Born High Halden. Resided Bexhill, Sussex. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

George's name appears on the Charing Heath civic war memorial.

On the 1st September 1915 the 8th battalion was near Boulogne. The next day it went into billets at Maninghem near Etaples and remained there for 14 days. On the 21st September the battalion prepared for the forthcoming Battle of Loos. On the 25th September the battalion marched to Bethune. Col Romer was the battalion's commanding officer. On the 26th September the battalion went into captured German second line trenches. At 10.30 hours the battalion attacked enemy positions east of Hulluch alongside the 8th West Kent's. The battalion was in action all day and suffered terrible casualties – 24 officers (including Col Romer) and no less than 610 men! The battalion had been decimated in the main by murderous German Machine gun fire.

HUKINS G.R

Private 60626 Gordon Robert HUKINS. 8th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Formerly (5804) Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 9th April 1917 aged 23 years. Son of William and Edith Maud Hukins of "Ashleigh", Headcorn, Kent. Born High Halden. Resided Ashleigh. Buried in the Gourrock Trench Cemetery, Tilloy-Les-Mofflaines, France. Grave reference E.2.

Gourrock Trench Cemetery was made by units of the 15th (Scottish) and 37th Divisions in April 1917 but a few further burials were added in March and August 1918. The cemetery contains 44 burials of the First World War, four of which are unidentified. Tilloy-les-Mofflaines is a village some 3 kilometres south-east of Arras and a little south of the main road from Arras to Cambrai (D60). However, Gourrock Trench Cemetery is situated off a by-road from Tilloy to Blangy; 2 kilometres north of Tilloy, 1 kilometre south of Blangy and 128 metres east of this by-road.

Gordon's name appears on the Headcorn war memorial.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

The Street, Bethersden

Private 240090 Sidney Raymond HUKINS. 5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Norton Lane, Bethersden

Lance Corporal 240217 Rollie Edward James HUKINS. 5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Toll Cottage, Bethersden

Private S4/143327 Harold Vanamburgh HUKINS. 8th Supply Company, Labour Corps.



RING G.E

Gunner 71249 George Ernest RING. 1st (Highland) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Formerly 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Friday 17th August 1917 aged 24 years. Born High Halden. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Bethersden. Son of George and Sabina Ring of Jones Cottage, Bethersden, near Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Calais Southern Cemetery, Calais, France. Grave reference Plot H Row 2 Grave 18.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Pauls Wood, Bethersden

Private 205301 Arthur George RING. 1st Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Bull Lane, Bethersden

Private 25241 Bertram Laurence RING. 1st Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Maple Cottage, Bethersden

Private 203302 Frederick Hubert RING. 2/5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Private 290692 Walter Barford RING. 8th Royal Sussex Regiment.

The 1901 census gives –

New Town, Bethersden

George	RING	33	Farm labourer	Bethersden
Sabrina		32		High Halden
George E		8		High Halden
Percy H		3w		Bethersden

The 1st (Highland) Battery operated 6 x 60 pounder heavy guns. It served the 83rd Brigade in France and was part of the 4th Army.

TYLER A.C

Private G/8082 Arthur Charles TYLER. 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Thursday 24th August 1916 aged 26 years. Born High Halden. Enlisted Tenterden. Resided Tenterden. Only son of Mr Tyler of "Leigh Green", Tenterden, Kent. Buried in the Abbeville Communal Cemetery, The Somme, France. Grave reference III.J.19.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Dragon House, High Halden

Lance Corporal 380066 Alfred Harry TYLER. 742nd Employment Company, Labour Corps.

Burne Farm, Bethersden

Driver 122325 Herbert Horton TYLER. 123rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Arthur died of wounds that he received on the 18th August 1916. His battalion was in action all day near Guillemont. The 8th battalion attacked at Machine Gun House with the Rifle Brigade. Trones trench was taken. Later in the day the battalion plunged into the Battle of Delville Wood. At the day's end 300 men had been either killed or wounded. On the 19th August the battalion was again in action. It appears that Arthur was wounded on the 18th or 19th and then recovered through the casualty chain to a Base Hospital near Abbeville. His body was buried nearby.

VANE J

Private G/40454 Joseph VANE. 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Formerly (G/12508) Royal Sussex Regiment. Died Monday 23rd October 1916 aged 34 years. Born High Halden. Resided Rusthall, Kent. Son of John and Melinda Vane of High Halden, Kent. Husband of Agnes E. Vane of 28 Apsley Street, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery, Authuilles, Somme, France. Grave reference I.D.4.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

High Halden

Corporal M2/146824 John VANE. Mechanical Transport, Army Service Corps.

On 15th October 1916 the 2nd Middlesex Regiment marched to Huppy. On the 17th October it was at Meaulte. On 20th October the battalion held frontline trenches in Trones Wood on the Somme battlefield. On 22nd October to Spectrum Trench. On 22nd October the battalion was in action attacking enemy positions at Le Transloy. Fierce hand to hand fighting took place capturing Zenith Trench. Casualties were heavy – 230 men killed or wounded. On the 27th October the battalion withdrew to camp at Montauban.

WEAVER S.V.A.D

Sergeant 67555 Stanley Vivian Allan Drayson WEAVER. 29th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (MGC). Formerly (4923) Rifle Brigade. Died Friday 12th April 1918. Born High Halden. Enlisted Winchester, Hampshire. Stanley has no known grave. His name appears on the Ploegsteert (Plugstreet) Memorial, Belgium. Panel reference 11.

