

HOTHFIELD



The Great War
1914 - 1919



CHAPMAN C (brother)

Corporal 40224 Charles Henry Chapman. 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Formerly (13326) Dragoon Guards. Died 10th November 1917 aged 21 years. Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided at The Bogs, Hothfield. Only son of Elizabeth Chapman of The Street, Hothfield, Kent. Buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference XXII.HH.8.

Charles originally joined the Dragoon Guards but this was changed for some reason when he attended the School of Musketry at Hythe in December 1916. He moved into the trenches of France and Belgium with his battalion in late October 1917 and was wounded shortly after near Goudberg in Belgium. Charles was recovered through the medical evacuation chain to a Base Hospital near Poperinge. He died there of his wounds a few days later.

Charles had one sister who lived in Ashford. His Cousin Lt D.A Catheart (West Kent's) of Bearsted near Maidstone was also killed on 14th July 1916.

DANIELS J

Private J DANIELS – No trace, too many J Daniels (44 men)

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List fails to mention this man.





FOX A

Private 9218 Alfred FOX. 8th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 29th March 1916 aged 33 years. Born Hothfield. Resided (1914) Ashford Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent. Husband of Sarah Wilson (formerly Fox, nee Luckhurst) of 25, Rugby Gardens, South Ashford, Kent. Buried in the St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference I.D.20.

The following notice was published by the parish church, Hothfield, Kent -

"The Parish has lost another good man in Private A. Fox 8th Batt, Royal West Kent Regiment, who had recently returned from Bearsted. He married in 1903 a daughter of John Luckhurst, who then lived on the Ashford Road. Fox was killed in the trenches in France by a sniper on the 29th day of March at the age of 33. He leaves seven children, the youngest of whom is only 6 months old. His widow has our sincerest sympathy on the great loss. The regimental Chaplain speaks very highly of Fox's character and work."

St. Quentin Cabaret was an inn about 460 metres east of Kandahar Farm, near the village of Wulverghem (now Wulvergem) and the front line. At times, the inn was used as battalion headquarters. The cemetery was begun in February 1915 by the 46th (North Midland) Division and continued to be used by the divisions holding the sector until it fell into German hands with the capture of Wulverghem in April 1918. The village and cemetery were recovered in September, but only two further burials were made. There are 460 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

JONES T

Private Thomas Henry JONES. "C" Company, 8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment). Died 23rd April 1917 aged 24 years. Resided Home Farm Cottages, Hothfield. Thomas has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France.

On the 23rd April 1917 the 8th battalion attacked enemy held positions on Hill 65 near Lens, France. Thomas was killed in action during this attack.



LEIGH-PEMBERTON P

Lieutenant Percy LEIGH-PEMBERTON. 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 27th July 1916 aged 29 years. Son of Percy and Eleanor Leigh-Pemberton of 30, Old Queen Street, Westminster, London. Buried St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. Grave reference – Officers, A.5.7.

Between the 1st and 4th July 1916 the 4th battalion Middlesex Regiment was in action on The Somme in France. It held frontline trenches in front of Fricourt. During this period the battalion made numerous attacks and minor raids on the enemy frontline at Fricourt. Percy was wounded in a raid and was recovered through the medical chain to a Base Hospital near Rouen where he subsequently died of his wounds 3 weeks later.



OTTAWAY F

Private L/10196 Frederick Henry OTTAWAY. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Wednesday 23rd February 1916 aged 19 years. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Molash. Son of George and Lily Jane Ottaway of Lenacre Street, Eastwell, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France. Grave reference VIII.D.60.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Hall Farm, Hothfield

Arthur Herbert OTTAWAY. HMS Vindex. Royal Navy.
Charles James OTTAWAY. 5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
George OTTAWAY. Machine Gun Corps.

The opening of the year 1916 found the 1st battalion Buffs at Forward Cottage a mile north of St Jean and quite close to Ypres, Belgium. Later in February the battalion moved into billets at Poperinghe. It appears that Frederick died of wounds that he received in a much earlier engagement. He was recovered through the evacuation chain to a Base Hospital in Boulogne where he died of wounds.

RIDDIFORD J

Private M2/153891 John Alfred RIDDIFORD. 4th Motor Ambulance Convoy, Army Service Corps (ASC). Died Wednesday 12th July 1916. Enlisted in the field (France). Resided Hanwell, Middlesex. Buried in the Cement House Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference XXI1.A.3.

His regimental number M2 means that John enlisted in the special reserve mechanical transport Army Service Corps. This meant that he probably drove an ambulance in some kind of RAMC field ambulance unit.

LOST MEN

ATKINS E.B

Leading Stoker K/21358 Ernest Bolton ATKINS. H.M.S Vanguard, Royal Navy. ERNEST BOLTON. Leading Stoker, K/21358. Died 9 July 1917 aged 21 years. Born Hothfield, Ashford, Kent 6 September 1895. Son of William and Annie Atkins of Ivy Cottage, Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent. Ernest Has no known grave. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference 23, and on the Newnham and Doddington, Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorials.

Ernest was amongst the casualties who were remembered at the Memorial Service, which took place at the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent, on 3 August 1919. At the time of the 1901 census, the Atkins family resided at Newlands Cottages, Charing, Ashford, Kent, where Ernest's 49 year old father who was a native of Lenham, Maidstone, Kent, was the Head of the house, and recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Farm Waggoner.



BRISSENDEN A.H

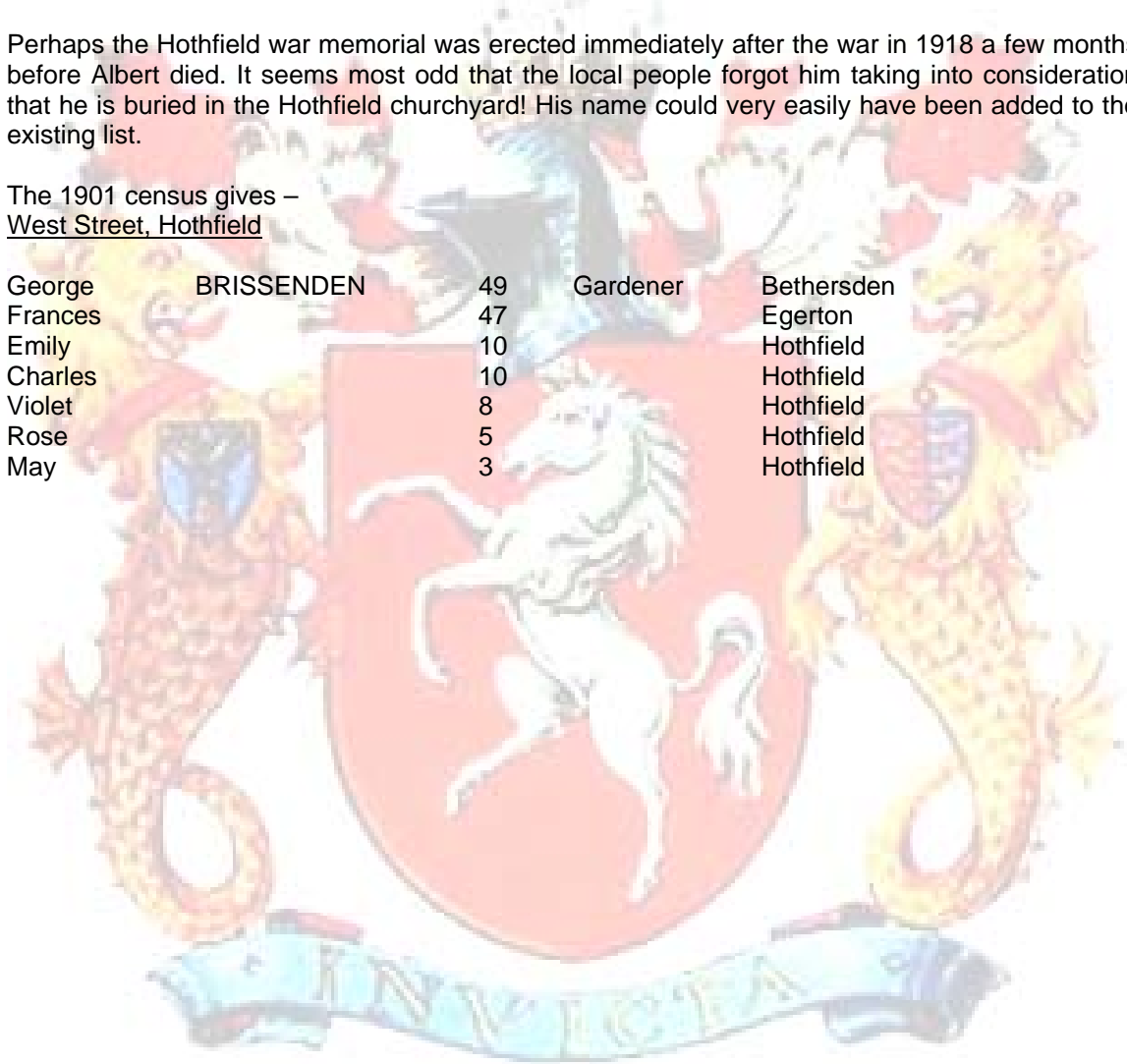
Private Empire/569 Albert Henry BRISSENDEN. 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment). Died 5th May 1919 aged 38 years. Born Hothfield. Buried in the St Margaret's Churchyard, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent.

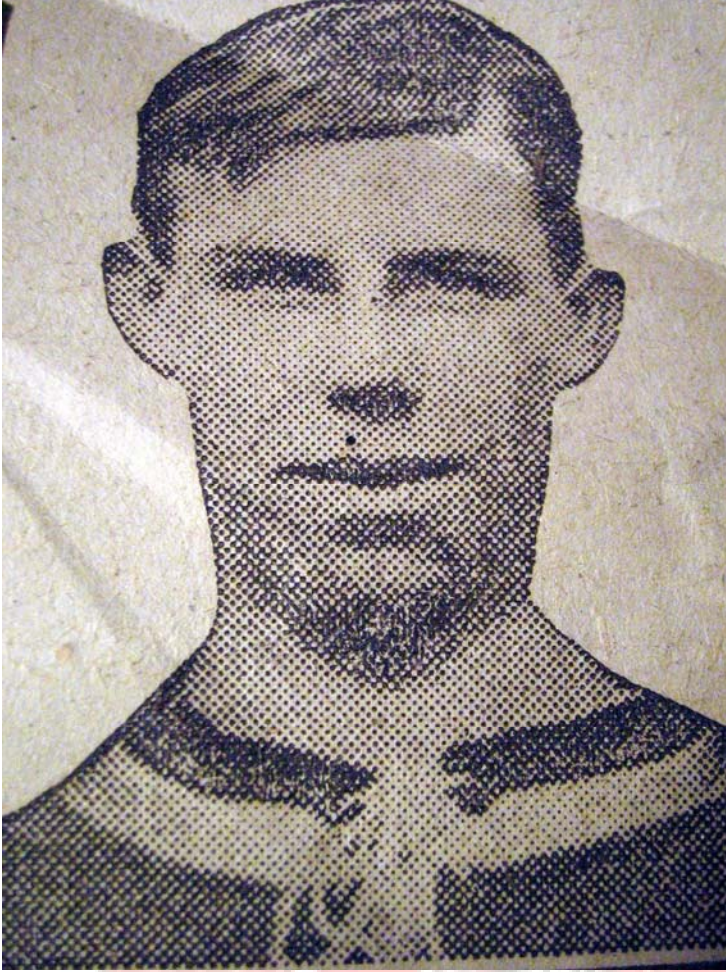
Albert was born in Hothfield. In 1900 his family moved from Hothfield to South Africa. On the outbreak of war Albert return to the UK and joined up. It appears that Albert must have been wounded towards the ending months of the war and that he was recovered to the UK where he subsequently died of those wounds. His body was bought back to Hothfield which was the last known place where his family was living. His name was probably left off the parish tribute because the family was still in South Africa.

Perhaps the Hothfield war memorial was erected immediately after the war in 1918 a few months before Albert died. It seems most odd that the local people forgot him taking into consideration that he is buried in the Hothfield churchyard! His name could very easily have been added to the existing list.

The 1901 census gives –
West Street, Hothfield

George	BRISSENDEN	49	Gardener	Bethersden
Frances		47		Egerton
Emily		10		Hothfield
Charles		10		Hothfield
Violet		8		Hothfield
Rose		5		Hothfield
May		3		Hothfield





CHAPMAN E (brother)

Lance Corporal L/10075 Edgar CHAPMAN. "D" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 10th August 1915 aged 20 years. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hothfield. Son of Isaac and Elizabeth Chapman of The Bogs, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference 4.X.H.17.

Edgar's name appears on the nearby Westwell Roll of Honour that hangs in the Westwell parish church. This role clearly shows that Edgar was killed during the Great War. Despite this his name was NOT placed on the Westwell or Hothfield tribute. Surely a real lost man...

Edgar's brother Charles was also killed in the Great War. It seems odd that Charles name was placed on the village tribute but Edgar's name was left off...

Edgar was killed in action somewhere near to Hooze in Belgium. The 1st battalion went forward from frontline trenches and came under heavy shellfire. It is probable that Edgar was killed outright by one of these H.E shells.



COLBREAY C.J

Private 10446 Charles John COLBREAY. 1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Formerly (9108) 12th Lancers. Died Gallipoli, Turkey on Saturday 12th August 1915 aged 19 years. Born Westwell. Enlisted Woolwich, London. Resided Charing. Son of Mr J. and Mrs C. Colbreay of "Palace Cottage", Charing, Kent. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel reference 185 to 190.

Charles was employed by the Post Office as a Rural Postman between Charing and Charing Heath. He was the first Charing man to volunteer for overseas service on the outbreak of war in August 1914. He lost his life in Gallipoli a year later.

The 1901 census gives –
Market Place, Charing

John	COLBREAY	31	Wagoner on Farm	Pett, Sussex
Catherine		27		Woodchurch
Charlie		4		Hothfield
Ernest		3		Charing
Leslie		1		Charing

On the 21st July 1915 the 1st battalion embarked on the SS Basilisk for Cape Helles from Y Beach. The next day the battalion landed on V beach at 0400 hours. They moved to Gully Beach. On the 6th August the battalion moved forward to reserve positions and then later in the day to the front line. On the 13th July the battalion was relieved by the 4th Worcestershire Regiment and went to Gully Ravine. On the 20th August the battalion embarked on the SS Osmanieh for Suvla Bay. On the 21st April the battalion was in action all day. Their objective was Hill 121 near Chocolate Hill. This attack was unsuccessful and the battalion lost many men – 25 men killed and 150 men wounded.

GORE G

Lance Corporal G/4129 George GORE. 7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Friday 23rd February 1917 age 21 years. Born Hythe. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Egerton. Son of John and Sarah Ann Gore of Brook Gates, Egerton, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, France. Grave reference VII.D.3.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Brook Gates, Egerton

**Private 207526 Ashley GORE. Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Sapper 310987 Raymond Percy GORE. H.A, 8th Corps, Royal Engineers.**

The 1901 census gives –

Little Houses, Egerton

John	GORE	29	Agricultural Labourer	Hothfield
Sarah A		21		Ulcombe
John		5		Hothfield
George		5		Hothfield
Raymond		4		Hythe
Ashley		3		Egerton

HAMMOND S

Private L/8087 Shirley HAMMOND. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 20th October 1914. Born Hothfield. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Ashford. Shirley has no known grave. His name appears on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Panel reference 2.

The day that Shirley died his battalion was east of Bas Champs not far from Radinghem. At 1500 hours the battalion went forward to Bois Grenier. The Germans attacked along the Le Maisnil – Radinghem Road. On the 21st October the battalion was at Grand Flamengrie Farm. The battalion had lost 90 men killed and a further 57 wounded. It is unclear why Shirley's name appears on a memorial in Plugstreet, Belgium. He may not have been with the 1st battalion in France when killed.

HOLDSTOCK E

Driver/ Rough Rider RTS/4813 Edward HOLDSTOCK. 2nd Remount Depot, Army Remount Service (ARS). Army Service Corps. Formerly London Yeomanry. Died Monday 1st January 1917 aged 43 years. Born Hothfield, Kent. Enlisted Pluckley. Resided Pluckley. Son of William and Fanny Holdstock of 75, Christchurch Road, South Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Greenwich Cemetery, London. Grave reference 3.C.A.204. The majority of burials here were from the Herbert Hospital and the Brook Hospital both in Greenwich.

The 1901 census gives –
75, Christchurch Road, Ashford

Fanny	HOLDSTOCK	52	Widow	Hothfield
Edward		27	Groom	Hothfield
Henry		13	Fishmongers Asst	Ashford
Ellen Mary		19	Dressmaker	Hothfield
Harriet		18		Hothfield

The Ashford (SE&CR) Railway Works Rolls of Honour lists –

HOLDSTOCK F	Coppersmith	RE
HOLDSTOCK Henry	Apprentice	KFRE
HOLDSTOCK Harry	Apprentice	KFRE
HOLDSTOCK L.J	Apprentice	5th Buffs
HOLDSTOCK R	Striker	5th Buffs

The fact that Edward is described as being a Rough Rider indicates that he was at some stage serving in one of the London Yeomanry units. There was an army remount depot in Pluckley during the Great War. It seems likely that Edward served at the Pluckley depot at some stage of his army career. It is quite likely that he was seriously wounded in an accident and that he was moved to the Brook Hospital in South London for the treatment of head injuries.

HOLDSTOCK W

Sergeant 32451 William HOLDSTOCK. 12th Royal Lancers. Later of 15th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Died Friday 26th October 1917. Born Hothfield. Resided Norwich, Norfolk. William has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 23 to 163A.

William was an old professional soldier and was called up from the reserve on the outbreak of war. He served in the 12th Royal Lancers during the South African War of 1899-1902.

The Ashford (SE&CR) Railway Works Rolls of Honour lists –

HOLDSTOCK F	Coppersmith	RE
HOLDSTOCK Henry	Apprentice	KFRE
HOLDSTOCK Harry	Apprentice	KFRE
HOLDSTOCK L.J	Apprentice	5th Buffs
HOLDSTOCK R	Striker	5th Buffs

JONES F.H

Private 267165 F.H JONES. 8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). Died 23rd April 1917. Born Hothfield. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Hothfield.

Can't locate this casualty on the CWGC death indexes – Investigating...

SHARP L.E

Private T/205302 Louis Edgar SHARP. 1st Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 25th September 1917. Born Hothfield. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Ashford. Son of Howard James and Kate Sharp of Potters Corner, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. Louis has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 14 to 17 and 162.

The 1901 census gives –
Potters Corner, Hothfield

George	SHARP	67	Water Miller	Kennington
Howard James		39	Miller	Dartford
Kate		40		Westwell
Dorothy Mary		16		Westwell
Hilda Grace		14		Westwell
A... Winnifred		12		Hothfield
Louis Edgar		9		Hothfield
Florence Kate		7		Hothfield
Ellen Rose		3		Hothfield
Emma Jane		1		Hothfield
Charlotte		67	Tailoress	Kennington

On the 25th September 1917 the 1st battalion was in action all day. The battalion was holding frontline trenches on the Tower Hamlets Ridge towards Reutelbeeke and east of Cameron Copse. The enemy opened a bombardment of hitherto unparalleled intensity. So vicious was this bombardment that reinforcements could not move up to the frontline. Once the bombardment was over the enemy attacked in force using 6 full divisions. The 1st battalion counter-attacked at Inverness Copse. By the days end the 33rd Division (of which the 1st Queen's belonged) had suffered 5,000 casualties.

WELLER J.E

Private T/203968 James Edwin WELLER. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Formerly (203069) 5th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 24th June 1917. Born Hothfield. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hothfield Common. Only son of Charles Robert and Rose E Weller of Hothfield Common, Ashford, Kent. Formerly (1901) Snakes Hole Lane, Westwell, Ashford, Kent. James has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

The 1901 Census gives –
Snakes Hole Lane, Westwell

Charles R	WELLER	38	Gate Maker	Westwell
Rose E		28		West Malling
James E		3		Westwell

On 1st June the 1st Buffs moved into frontline trenches at Hulluch near Loos. Nearly 30 men were killed within the first 8 days. On the 11th June the 1st Buffs went into divisional reserve at Allouagne to train for a raid. On the 24th June a large party (C & D Companies) led by Captain Jaboc made a raid on German trenches at Hulluch. Their objective was to capture prisoners and to inflict casualties on the enemy. The two companies attacked in 3 waves. 2 officers and 25 men were killed outright another 62 other ranks were wounded. The 1st Buffs remained in trenches at Hulluch until 29th June 1917 and then returned to Mazingarbe.

James was killed on the above raid.

James name appears nearby on the Westwell war memorial.





WOODGATE E.J


Corporal MCG/101 Ernest John WOODGATE. Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment). Died 15th September 1916 aged 28 years. Born Bilsington in 1889. Resided Ruckinge. Son of Mr S Woodgate of "Hurst Hill Cottage", Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. Ernest has no known grave. According to the Canadian Government Ernest's name appears on the Vimy Memorial, France. It MAY in fact have been left off in error because we searched for his name and couldn't locate it!

David Hughes the renowned local military historian from Aldington has searched the Vimy Memorial for Ernest's name but he could not locate it anywhere. It is therefore possible that Ernest's name was left off the memorial by mistake.

On the opening day of the Battle of Arras, 9 April 1917, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting side by side for the first time, scored a huge tactical victory in the capture of the 60 metre high Vimy Ridge. After the war, the highest point of the ridge was chosen as the site of the great memorial to all Canadians who served their country in battle during the First World War, and particularly to the 60,000 who gave their lives in France. It also bears the names of 11,000 Canadian servicemen who died in France - many of them in the fight for Vimy Ridge - who have no known grave. The memorial was designed by W S Allward.

ROLL OF HONOUR

The following men are listed inside the church on the parish roll of honour as having served in the colours during the Great War. Most of these local men somehow managed to survive the war. I have added other men whose names I took from the Hothfield Roll of Honour published in the Kentish Express during 1915.



BINGHAM John (CPL)
BINGHAM William (ABLE SEAMAN) HMS Kennett
BLUNT Jason (PTE) 9th Buffs
BRISLEY J (PTE)
BROOKER L (PTE)
BUDGEN W (PTE)
BULL J (PTE)
COLLYER F (PTE)
COLLYER W (PTE)
CRAMP William (PTE), RWKR
CROUCHER C (PTE)
DAINTY J (PTE)
EDMONDS C (PTE)
ELLIS Reginald (PTE) RAMC
ELLISON R.H.N (Reverend) Red Cross Driver
GILBERT George (PTE) 2nd Buffs
HILL A.F.S (MAJOR)
HILL G.C (MAJOR)
HILL R.A.S HILL (CAPTAIN)
HEATHFIELD A (PTE) 1st Buffs
HICKMOTT F (LCPL)
JUDGE A (PTE)
KERR J (PTE)
KERR Robert (CAPTAIN) **(MC)** London Regt (Sportsman's) – Awarded M.C
LEIGH-PEMBERTON P.W (CAPTAIN)
LUCKHURST E (PTE)
LUCKHURST F (PTE)
LUCKHURST F (ABLE SEAMAN)
LUCKHURST C (PTE)
LUCKHURST H (PTE)
LUCKHURST P (PTE)
LUCKHURST Robert (PTE), 9th Buffs
LUCKHURST Sidney (LCPL), 4th Buffs
LUCKHURST Thomas (PTE), 1st Buffs
MILLER H (LCPL)
MURTON C (RIFLEMAN)
NEAVES H (SGT)
NEAVES P (PTE)
NEAVES W (PTE)
OTTAWAY A (CPL)
OTTAWAY Fred (PTE) 3rd Buffs
OTTAWAY R (LCPL)
OTTAWAY Charles (PTE) **(MM)** 9th Buffs
OTTAWAY G (PTE)
PRETT E (PTE)

PALMER J (PTE)
SHORTER H (PTE)
SMITH Robert (PTE), 5th Buffs
SPICER A (PTE) Buffs
TUFTON The Rt Hon John.S.R (MAJOR), 3rd Royal Sussex Regt – Awarded D.S.O
TUFTON H.H.S.T (LT), 3rd Royal Sussex Regiment
WATERS J (PTE)
WILLIS Frank (PTE), 5th Buffs
WILLIS G (PTE) 9th Buffs
WILTSHIRE J (PTE)
WOOD E (PTE)
WOOD J (PTE)
WOOD P (PTE)
WOOLLEY B (BDR)
WOOLLEY E (PTE)
WOOLLEY H (PTE)
WILES A (ABLE SEAMAN)
WORRELL L (GUNNER)

