

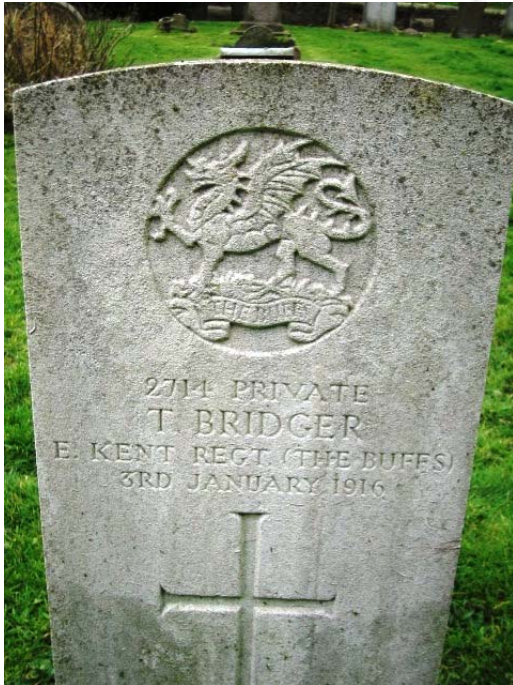
KENARDINGTON



The Great War
1914-1919

BRIDGER A.S

Private M2/226216 Albert Sydney BRIDGER. Motor Transport (MT) Depot (Grove Park) Royal Army Service Corps. Died in UK 1st November 1916 aged 27 years. Born Warehorne. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Canterbury. Son of Thomas Charles and Sarah Bridger. Husband of Eva Mary Thomas of 29, Artillery Gardens, Canterbury. Buried in the Greenwich Cemetery, London. Grave reference 3C.A.285.



BRIDGER T

Private T/ 2714 Tom BRIDGER. 3/5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Formerly (2714). Died Monday 3rd January 1916. Born Ashford. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Ashford. Buried locally in the Ashford Cemetery, Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent. Grave reference 7199.

Why this man's name was left off the Ashford town war memorial is a mystery. His name does however appear on Kenardington parish tribute. His name should have been placed on the towns civic tribute because he was born in Ashford, enlisted in Ashford, resided in Ashford and buried in Ashford! The bafoon who formulated the towns memorial list didn't bother to look for men in the local cemetery. Quite remarkable...

Tom died during training with the 3/5th Buffs which was a third line Territorial (home service) training and reserve unit based in the Ashford area. The battalion consisted mainly of young men (between the ages of 16 – 18) too young to serve overseas. Once these men became 18 they were normally drafted to 1st line battalions overseas. The 3/5th spent most of its time guarding various security sensitive military installations and facilities in the South East of England including the Thames and Medway coastal defences.

BROWN A.R

Private 242641 Albert Reginald BROWN. 6th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. Died 23rd March 1918 aged 25 years. Son of George and Elizabeth Brown of Church Road, Kenardington. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Pozieres Memorial, France. Panel reference 29 and 30.

The 1901 census gives –
House and Shop, Long Row, Kenardington

George	BROWN	54	Labourer	Woodchurch
Annie		52		Bexhill, Sussex
Walter		27	Gardener	Kenardington
George		12		Kenardington
Albert		8		Kenardington

It appears that his father may have married another women (Annie) or the information on the CWGC records is wrong.

JOY W.J

Private 108049 William John JOY. HQ Company, 1st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (MGC). Died Wednesday 10th December 1919 aged 19 years. Son of Ernest James and Edith Jane Joy of Rye Sussex. Buried in the Appledore (SS Peter and Paul) Churchyard, Appledore, Ashford, Kent. Grave reference – North east side of church.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Near The Station, Appledore

Private 108049 William John JOY. Machine Gun Corps.

William's name also appears on the Appledore War Mmeorial Plaque.

PEARSON J.B

Guardsman 25880 James B PEARSON. 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 11th December 1916 aged 20 years. Born Kenardington. Enlisted Ashford. Son of Thomas Henry Pearson of Kenardington Place, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Saily-Saillisel British Cemetery, France. Grave reference IV.D.10.

The 1901 census gives –
Woodland Cottage, Kenardington

Thomas H	PEARSON	30	Farmer	Kenardington
Bertha		28		Biddenden
James		5		Kenardington
Bertha		2		Kenardington

WILLIS F

Private SD/5926 Francis WILLIS. 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 31st July 1917. Born Woodchurch. Enlisted Ealing, London. Francis has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 20.

LOST MEN

PEARSON G

Company Sergeant Major (CSM) S/1086 George PEARSON DCM. 7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 1st July 1916 (first day of the Battle of the Somme). Born Kenardington. Enlisted London. Resided Manor Park, Essex. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 11C.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

The Shop, Kennardington

WR/323833-6 George Alfred PEARSON. Mec Sec. I.W and D.R.E.

George was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for bravery in the field. This high ranking gallantry award was just below the Victoria Cross (VC) for other ranks.

WILLIS J

Private L/10511 John WILLIS. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 14th July 1916. Born Kenardington. Resided Ashford. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 5D.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Way Street, Snave

Private L/10511 John WILLIS. 6th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

On the 3rd July 1916 the battalion was in action in the Ovillers Sector of The Somme. The day that John died the battalion was tidying the battlefield and burying dead soldiers. It is not known how John came to lose his life. Perhaps he was wounded on the 3rd of the month and eventually succumbed to his wounds on the 14th July. It is of course possible that he went missing earlier in the month and was finally reported killed two weeks later. His body was never found/identified.

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