

# Luddenham



The small parish of Luddenham is located to the north-west of the town of Faversham, Kent. The Great War parish tribute is located in the redundant parish church of St. Marys which was closed in 1971, and has been in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust since Friday 1 March 2002. St. Marys is set in a farmyard near Luddenham Court on the edge of the marshes south of the River Swale. The memorial plaque was erected by Ashley Stevens who was a local farmer at Luddenham Court for many years, having established his business in 1898. A service of dedication was conducted by the Vicar of Luddenham, the Reverend James Pullein Thompson who resided at Faversham, and had been the Vicar of the parish of Luddenham since 1916. The memorial plaque has the following inscriptions.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF HIS FAITHFUL  
SERVANTS WHO LAID DOWN THIER LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN  
THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

EMPLOYEES OF ASHLEY STEPHENS      ALSO OF THIS PARISH

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS"

THIS TABLET ERECTED BY ASHLEY STEPHENS LUDDENHAM COURT

# The Great War

1914 -1919

**ABBOTT, ERNEST WALTER.** Lance Corporal, L/10279.

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

Died Tuesday 1 May 1917.

Born Chilham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Kent.

Son of Sarah Abbott (née Andrews) of 4, Mersham Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, and the late Henry Abbott.

Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. Q. 13.

At the time of the 1911 census, the Abbott family resided at Yellow Cabbage, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 55 year old widowed Elmstead, Ashford, Kent native Sarah Abbott. The then 14 year old Ernest was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Field Worker on a Farm. Unfortunately, it would appear to be the case that Ernest's army service papers were amongst the thousands which were lost during a German bombing raid during the Second World War, and as such it is not possible to add much by way of his service details. The L prefix on his regimental number is indicative of a soldier who enlisted as a regular in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in 1914, and which was on a date post the commencement of the Great War, at which time his commitment would have been for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve. Ernest was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Wednesday 22 December 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was numbered amongst the 9 other ranks deaths which were suffered by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Tuesday 1 May 1917. Ernest died of wounds, but primarily due to the fact that he was not an officer, it has not been possible to add here when, where or how he was wounded. As can be seen on the photograph above, Ernest's year of death is shown as 1916 on the memorial plaque.

**ABBOTT, JOHN.** Private, G/9033.

10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (Kent County).

Died Sunday 17 September 1916.

Born Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C. John was one of only two other ranks that were serving in the 10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (Kent County) who fell on Sunday 17 September 1916. It was noted that a 25 year old John Henry Abbott who was employed as a Farm Labourer and was a brother of Ernest Abbott was residing at the Abbott family home on the night of the 1911 census, but was recorded as being a native of Chilham, Kent, as opposed to Chatham as is shown in/on 'Soldiers Died in the Great War,' and who might be the casualty that is commemorated at Luddenham, as SDGW is known to contain many errors.

**BAKER, DANIEL THOMAS.** Gunner, 65738.

109th Battery, 281st (1/2nd London) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died Thursday 15 March 1917. Aged 25.

Born Hernhill, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Son of Daniel Baker and Jane Frances Baker (née Smith) of Hernhill, Faversham, Kent.

Husband of Margaret Fanny Baker (née Milham).

Buried Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. G. 22.

At the time of the 1911 census, Daniel (junior) was residing as a boarder at Wingham Well, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent, and was employed as an Agricultural Labourer on a Farm. Daniel's Medal Index Card entry records him as being David as opposed to Daniel. Also shown on the card is the following entry which has been 'struck through,' as was done on numerous occasions when an erroneous entry had been made, which reads "Sentenced to 2 years H.L.17/9/14 sentence suspended 11/5/15." It has been noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations over the years, that it would appear that normally when a M.I.C. erroneous entry has been 'struck through,' it is initialed and the rank of the person making the alteration is added, but on this entry no initial etcetera has been added. The card also shows date of entry to France, it being Wednesday 19 August 1914 and is indicative that Daniel was already a trained Regular soldier (or possibly a recalled reservist) at that date, when went to France with the original British Expeditionary Force. At the time of Daniel being posted to serve with the British Expeditionary Force, 109th Battery was in the XXIII Brigade, Royal Field Artillery serving as part of the 3rd Division. On Saturday 15 April 1916, 109th Battery was regrouped with the 107th and 108th Battery to become the 281st (1/2nd London) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, but remained so for only a short duration, as on Wednesday 10 May 1916 they were regrouped again into the 283rd (1/4th London) Brigade Royal Field Artillery, along with the 93rd Battery and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Wainwright. The above formation provided artillery support for the 56 (London) Division, for its attack which was carried out on the Somme village of Gommecourt on the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme' on Saturday 1 July 1916. At some point in late 1916 following the 'Battle of the Somme,' the 109th Battery was returned to the 281st (1/2nd London) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery when the 283rd Brigade was broken up. Daniel's 35 year old brother Arthur Percy Baker; who was the husband of Anne Maria Baker (née Hodges) of 50, Albert Terrace, Ivy Street, Rainham, Kent was also killed during the Great War. Arthur married Miss Anne Maria Hodges at Chilham, Kent on Saturday 11 July 1903, and he was serving as a Private in the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), when he fell on Monday 3 July 1916 during the 'Battle of the Somme,' and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C. Prior to enlisting in the army 'For the Duration of the War' at Chatham, Kent on Tuesday 2 November 1915, Arthur had been employed as Tram Conductor.



**COOPER, HERBERT EDWARD.** Private, L/8968.

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

Died Wednesday 18 October 1916.

Born Buckland, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Eldest son of Edward Cooper and Alice Cooper of Bennett's Gardens, Four Oaks, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Heilly Station Cemetery Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: III. G. 78.

Herbert enlisted in the army as a regular soldier on Saturday 17 October 1908 for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve. When Herbert enlisted, he stated that he was 19 years and 10 months old and employed as a Farm Labourer. After being attested, Herbert joined The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Regimental Depot, Canterbury, Kent on Wednesday 21 October 1908. Herbert was posted to serve in the 1st Battalion of his regiment on Friday 6 November 1908. He was posted to serve in Singapore with the 2nd Battalion on Wednesday 4 October 1911, and was serving in the battalion when he was posted to India on Saturday 1 February 1913. At the commencement of the Great War the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was still serving in India, and sailed from Bombay on the 10,402 ton Cunard Line ship SS Ultonia on Wednesday 11 November 1914, after making a wide detour in the Atlantic to avoid enemy submarines, the SS Ultonia arrived at Plymouth, Devon on Wednesday 23 December 1914, and then joined the 85th Brigade, 28th Division at Winchester, Hampshire. Herbert was posted to France with the 2nd Battalion, for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Sunday 17 January 1915. He remained on the Western Front for only 57 days and was evacuated to England on Monday 15 March 1915 having been suffering from frostbite, for which he had been receiving treatment at No. 35 General Hospital (Rawalpindi British General Hospital), Wimereux, Pas de Calais. On his return to England, for administrative purposes Herbert was then placed on the roll of the Regimental Depot. On the completion of the treatment for the frostbite, Herbert was transferred to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Citadel, Dover, Kent on Saturday 26 June 1915. On Thursday 29 July 1915 Herbert was sent back to serve with the British Expeditionary Force, and posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion, in which he then served until dying of wounds on Wednesday 18 October 1916, having previously been posted as 'Missing' on Monday 3 July 1916 which was later cancelled. On Thursday 3 August 1916 the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was in trenches in the Orvilles sector during the 'Battle of the Somme, and attacked a number of enemy strong points during the course of which part of a position named 'Ration Trench' was captured. On the evening of Thursday 3 August the 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 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 also doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting Buffs, eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, and 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 battalion had lost 4 officers, and had suffered 114 other ranks casualties in this action, of which 35 had had lost their lives during the second day of the engagement, it being the day that Herbert suffered a shell wound to his face, for which he received treatment at the 11 Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps at Doullens Citadel. Although this is written as a brief tribute in remembrance of Herbert Cooper, mention should also be made here of the part that was played by 20 year old Second Lieutenant, Alexander John Hanmer from Staplehurst, Cranbrook, Kent, on the night of 3/4 August 1916, as possibly Herbert had been one of the men with Alexander. Quarter of an hour before the main attack by the battalion, 'Alex' Hanmer led a bombing party out of the trenches to deal with an enemy machine gun, which was expected to play a significant role in hampering the Buffs assault on 'Ration Trench' when it got under way. 'Alex' and his men successfully dealt with the offending German machine gun, but in the process of doing so the gallant young officer was mortally wounded, and he died of his wounds in one of the military hospitals at Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France on Saturday 7 October 1916. A native of Milton, Kent, Alexander had been commissioned on Saturday 5 June 1915, and for his gallantry 'Alex' was awarded the Military Cross. Following additional treatment for the wounding to his face, Herbert rejoined his battalion in the field on Saturday 19 August 1916. At least 8 officers and 121 other ranks lost their lives serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion on Saturday 7 October 1916 during the Battle of the 'Transloy Ridges.' The battalion total casualty roll for the day numbered 368 officers and other ranks, including the Battalion Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen R.A.M.C., who is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. What follows is the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) War Diary entry for Saturday 7 October 1916: - "Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's." Captain J.C. Page, the only officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion who was not either killed or wounded on Saturday 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the 'Battle of the Transloy Ridges, and for his actions was subsequently awarded the Military Cross. In addition to the fatalities suffered by Herbert's battalion on Saturday 7 October 1916, the number of officers and other ranks who were wounded was also high, of which a significant number ultimately succumbed to their injuries one of whom was Herbert, who died on Wednesday 18 October 1916 at the 36th

Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps, at the Somme village of Heilly which is approximately 5 miles from the town of Albert. The 36th Casualty Clearing Station where Herbert died was at Heilly from April 1916. The burials in the cemetery where Herbert is at rest were carried out under extreme pressure, and many of the graves are either too close together to be marked individually, or they contain multiple burials. Some headstones carry as many as three sets of casualty details, and in these cases, regimental badges have had to be omitted. Instead, these badges, 117 in all, have been carved on a cloister wall on the north side of the cemetery.

**FEAKINS, WILLIAM HENRY.** Private, F/2829.

"D" Company, 23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football), Middlesex Regiment.

Died Saturday 3 February 1917. Aged 23.

Born Westwell, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Son of William Henry Feakins and Ellen Feakins (née Hodgkins) of Four Oaks, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Dickebush New Military Cemetery, Dikkebus, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: M. 50.

At the time of the 1911 census, the Feakins family resided at The Green, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Charing, Ashford, Kent native William Henry Feakins (senior), who was employed as a Farm Labourer, as was 17 year old William (junior). William (junior) enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on Monday 21 February 1916. At the time of his enlistment, William stated that he was 22 years and 219 days old, and employed as a Labourer, naming his father as his next of kin. After being placed on the Army Reserve, William was mobilized at Canterbury, Kent on Tuesday 18 April 1916, and attested to serve in the 27th (Reserve) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. He was posted to serve with the British Expeditionary Force on Saturday 26 August 1916 as a member of the 23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football), Middlesex Regiment, in which he then remained until being killed in action on Saturday 3 February 1917. William has the unfortunate distinction of being the sole fatality suffered by the 23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football), Middlesex Regiment on Saturday 3 February 1917. When William's brother; Albert James Feakins who was born at Preston, Faversham, Kent on Saturday 31 July 1896, enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Friday 14 January 1916, the Feakins family resided at Corner House, Preston, Faversham, Kent. Prior to enlisting in the army, Albert had married Miss Gertrude Sandwell at Faversham on Wednesday 22 December 1915, and had been employed as a Labourer. Albert served in the East Surrey Regiment during the Great War, and had suffered a gunshot wound to his hand whilst serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France on Wednesday 3 May 1917. No longer physically fit for war service, Albert was discharged from the army on Monday 30 December 1918. Despite having been deemed unfit at the time of his discharge from the army in 1918, Albert was 99 years old when he died. His death was recorded in the Canterbury, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1966.





**HARRIS, THOMAS HENRY.** Private, 613097.

19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (St. Pancras).

Died Tuesday 18 December 1917.

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

Stepson of Mr. J. Revell of 11, Russell Place, Oare, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XXXI. D. 13.

Formerly Private, 4229, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Private, 7151, 19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras). Thomas appears to be the 22 year old Faversham native, who at the time of the 1911 census was residing at 55, Westgate Road, Faversham, and was employed as a General Labourer. Head of the house was Thomas's mother; 56 year old Faversham native Mary Ann Harris who was a widow. The cemetery where Thomas is at rest is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in France, and contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, the earliest dating from May 1915, and 35 of these burials are unidentified. It also contains 662 Non Commonwealth burials, which are mainly German casualties, including 6 unidentified soldiers.

**HAWKES, FREDERICK.** Lance Corporal, L/9427.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died Thursday 19 September 1918. Aged 24.

Born Nonington, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Son of Edmund Hawkes and the late Florence Mary Hawkes (née Wiles) of Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Grave Ref: 301.

Frederick enlisted in the army as a regular soldier on Wednesday 28 December 1910 for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve. When he enlisted, Frederick stated that he was 18 years of age and employed as a Farm Labourer. After being attested, Frederick joined The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Regimental Depot, Canterbury, Kent on New Years Eve 1910. On the completion of his basic training and initial service at the Regimental Depot, Frederick was posted to serve in Ireland with the 1st Battalion of his regiment on Saturday 8 April 1911 and remained there until Saturday 11 January 1913 when he was posted to India for service in the 2nd Battalion. Whilst he was serving in India, Frederick was awarded his Army 3rd Class Education Certificate on Monday 17 March 1913. At the commencement of the Great War the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was still serving in India, and sailed from Bombay on the 10,402 ton Cunard Line ship SS Ultonia on Wednesday 11 November 1914, after making a wide detour in the Atlantic to avoid enemy submarines, the SS Ultonia arrived at Plymouth, Devon on Wednesday 23 December 1914, and then joined the 85th Brigade, 28th Division at Winchester, Hampshire. Frederick was posted to France with the 2nd Battalion, for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Sunday 17 January 1915. He remained on the Western Front until Sunday 25 April 1915 when he was evacuated back to England via Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France, having suffered a gunshot wound to his left thigh. Prior to being wounded Frederick had also received treatment for the effects of the cold at the No.7 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps at the village of Locre (now Loker), Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. On returning to England he was placed on the roll of the Regimental Depot whilst receiving treatment for his wound at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester, Kent, where he remained until Monday 17 May 1915. On the completion of his treatment at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, Frederick was discharged to the 80 bed, No.14 (Kent) Voluntary Aid Detachment, Hayle Place, Maidstone, Kent, where he remained until Tuesday 8 June 1915. Having recovered sufficiently from his wounding, Frederick was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Citadel, Dover, Kent on Tuesday 14 September 1915. From the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, he was posted back to France on Christmas Eve 1915, and joined the 6th (Service) Battalion in the field on Wednesday 29 December. Frederick remained serving on the Western Front for 135 days, but having been admitted as a patient at the 18th General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps at Dannes Camiers, Pas de Calais, France on Thursday 30 March 1916, he was again evacuated back to England on Sunday 9 April 1916 on board the 1,842 ton hospital ship SS



Cambria, and was again placed on the roll of the Regimental Depot. He received treatment for Influenza at the Manor (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey from Tuesday 9 May 1916. Frederick was posted back to serve in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion on Thursday 13 July 1916, in which he remained for only a short time until being posted to serve in the 2nd Battalion, with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 8 August 1916, and embarked on the 10,132 ton Australian troopship H.M.A.T.S. Argyleshire at Devonport, Devon the following day. H.M.T.S. Argyleshire was owned by the Scottish Shire Line Ltd, London, and was leased by the Commonwealth until 24 January 1918. The ship arrived at Salonika on Tuesday 22 August 1916, and Frederick then remained in the 2nd Battalion, until he died of Pneumonia at the 28th General Hospital, Salonika at 1315 hours on Thursday 19 September 1918, to which he had been admitted three days earlier. On Tuesday 10 October 1916 Frederick had been appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and to a (paid) Lance Corporal on Friday 26 April 1918. Frederick was laid to rest at the British Cemetery, Kalamaria the day after he had died, his funeral was conducted by the Reverend Reginald Jeffcott Dickson who was the Vicar at the village of Crosscrake, Cumberland between 1910 and 1921, but during which time he had also had served as a Temporary Chaplain to the Forces from 1915 to 1919. It was noted whilst researching that Frederick's father Edmund Hawkes was recorded as being the 48 year old head of the house at Luddenham Street, Luddenham. A native of Waltham, Canterbury, Kent, Edmund was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as widowed Farm Labourer. Edmund lived to a good age, as he was aged 94 at the time of his death at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Kent on Wednesday 1 May 1957, at which time he was recorded as being a retired tractor driver and his home address was at 4, Bysing Wood Cottages, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.



H.M.T.S. Argyleshire on which Frederick had sailed from Devonport to Salonika.



**JONES, THOMAS HENRY.** Private, G/18453.

11th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (Lewisham).

Died Thursday 27 December 1917. Aged 23.

Son of Mrs. C. Jones of 2, Pheasant Cottages, Church Road, Oare, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. Grave Ref: XIII. E. 7A.

Thomas is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Regimental History of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and as is unfortunately the case with the vast majority of army other ranks war deaths, which occurred within the United Kingdom during the Great War, Thomas has no entry in/on "Soldier Died in the Great War." Due to his SDGW omission it has not been possible to add Thomas's places of birth, enlistment or residence. The best match for Thomas and his family on the 1901 census appears to be that of a family residing at 9, St. Margarets Place, Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 32 year old Yalding, Kent native Edward Jones, who was employed as a Plasterers Labourer. Amongst the seven Jones children at home on the night of the census

was 6 year old Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent native Thomas H. Jones, whose mother was Catherine Jones and possibly the lady shown above as Mrs. C. Jones. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Jones family had moved to reside at 6, Dent De Lion Cottages, Minster Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was still Edward Jones, but instead of being employed as a Plasterers Labourer, he was employed as a Labourer on a Farm, as was the then 17 year old Thomas. In view of Thomas's occupation as shown on the census entry, and the fact that the memorial plaque in Luddenham church is in remembrance of employees of Ashley Stevens the farmer at Luddenham Court, it gives additional credence to the theory that the soldier who is at rest at Brookwood is man who is commemorated at Luddenham. In 1917 an area of land in Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis) where Thomas is at rest, was set aside for the burial of men and women of the forces of the Commonwealth and Americans, who had died, many of battle wounds, in the London District. It would seem likely that Thomas had been amongst those wounded servicemen who had been evacuated back to the United Kingdom who had died. As he Thomas has a Medal Index Card entry, albeit with only the minimum of date recorded on it, but it is of course indicative of him having served overseas. Brookwood Military Cemetery where Thomas is at rest is owned by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the United Kingdom, covering approximately 37 acres.

**LAVENDER, THOMAS JAMES.** Signaller, 181560.

81st Battery, 5th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died Wednesday 23 October 1918. Aged 19.

Born Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Thomas James Lavender and Annie Lavender (née Stephens) of Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Buried La Vallee-Mulatre Communal Cemetery, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: A. 14.

When the 1901 census was conducted

At the time of the 1911 census, the Lavender family resided at Four Oaks, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Burwash, Sussex native Thomas James Lavender (senior), who was employed as a Farm Labourer. At the commencement of the Great War the 81st Battery, Royal Field Artillery was comprised of regular soldiers, and stationed at Kirkee, India. Comprised of the 64th, 73rd and 81st Batteries, 5th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery came under command of the 7th (Meerut) Division of the Indian Army. It moved to the 3rd (Lahore) Division on Sunday 22 November 1914. When the Division left France, the brigade remained and it eventually came under command of the 3rd Canadian Division between Monday 20 March and Thursday 13 July 1916, before going to the 4th Canadian Division in September 1916, with which it served until July 1917, at which time it then became an Army Brigade and served with the following: Second Army in October 1917, Third Army in December 1917, First Army in February 1918, Fifth Army in July 1918 and finally returned to serve in the Fourth Army in October 1918, it being the same month that Thomas died.



# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

Although the memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Marys at Luddenham is to commemorate the former employees of Ashley Stevens of Luddenham Court, it would clearly be remiss to not also add, and briefly commemorate here as 'Lost Men,' additional Luddenham casualties of both the world wars, which came to light whilst undertaking the research process.



**BURLEY, HENRY.** Chief Stoker, 276014.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Albemarle.

Died Friday 22 January 1915. Aged 44.

Born Battersea, London Monday 5 December 1870.

Fourth son of the late John Burley and Louisa Burley (née Ebdon) of Wandsworth, London.

Husband of Rose Burley (née Robertson) of Four Oaks Cottages, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Naval. 18. 927.

Henry was baptized at the parish church of St. Mary, Lambeth, Surrey, on Sunday 24 December 1871, at which time the Burley family resided at Seymour Place, Wandsworth, and Henry's father was a Pig Dealer. Henry was educated at Wandsworth, and prior to enlisting in the Royal Navy on Friday 1 January 1904, he had been employed by the London & Chatham Railway Company. Awarded the Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Having contacted Enteric Fever whilst on active service, Henry died at the Gillingham Naval Hospital on Friday 22 January 1915. At the time of the 1901 census, Henry was the head of the house at 2, Seafield Road, Copnor, Portsmouth, Hampshire, and was recorded by the census enumerator as being a Stoker Petty Officer in the Royal Navy. H.M.S. Albemarle on which Henry had been serving when he was taken ill, was a pre-Dreadnought Duncan class Royal Navy battleship which had been named after George Monck the 1st Duke of Albemarle. She was laid down on

Monday 8 January 1900 at Chatham Dockyard and was launched on Tuesday 5 March 1901, and commissioned on Thursday 12 November 1903. H.M.S. Albemarle's initial service was in the Mediterranean, after which she transferred to the Channel Fleet in January 1905. In January 1907 she was transferred again, this time to the Atlantic Fleet as Second Flagship. She was later paid off into reserve at Portsmouth, and from 1910 to 1913 was used for gunnery training, again at Portsmouth. At the start of the Great War hostilities she was re-commissioned and joined the Grand Fleet. Apart from a short spell with the Channel Fleet she remained there until January 1916 when she was allocated to Archangel (near Murmansk) as an ice breaker. During the autumn of 1916 she came back to the United Kingdom, and following a refit was used as an accommodation ship based at Devonport Dockyard. She was sold surplus to post war Admiralty requirements and was broken up in November 1919.

**COLE, WALTER DAVID.** Private, 34744.

10th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Battalion).

Died Saturday 18 November 1916. Aged 27.

Born Luddenham, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted and resided Faversham, Kent.

Son of Esther Cole (née Payne) of 1, Pheasant Cottages, Oare, Faversham, Kent, and the late George Robert Cole.

Husband of Ethel Gertrude Cole (née Overy) of 6, Granville Flats, Love Street, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 C 9 A and 16 A, and on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter, Oare, Faversham, Kent.

Walter was christened at the parish church of St. Peter, Oare, Faversham, Kent on 20 May 1894, which is where he was also confirmed on 1 March 1903. At the time of the 1901 census, the Cole family resided at 2, Pheasants Cottages, Oare, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Faversham, Kent native Esther Cole who was a widow. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Cole family was residing at 1, Pheasant Cottages, Oare, Faversham, Kent. Walter's marriage to Herne Hill, Faversham native Miss Ethel Gertrude Overy, who was a daughter of Jonathan D Overy and Lydia E Overy, was recorded in the Faversham, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1913. Following Walter's demise, his widow never remarried and her death at the age of 65 was recorded in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1954. Walter's brother; Faversham native Charles Cole and former Luddenham resident also fell during the Great War and is commemorated in the parish church of St. Peter, Oare, Faversham, Kent, and briefly commemorated below, as is another brother; Goodnestone, Dover, Kent native Albert Edward Cole who was a civilian casualty. Another one of the Cole brothers; Oare native Alec Cole, enlisted in the army on Friday 9 March 1917 and served in the 8th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) during the Great War having initially served in the 169 Company, M.G.C. Thankfully having survived the carnage of war, following the cessation of hostilities, Alec later served in India prior to returning to England, and was discharged as an army 'Z' Reservist on Tuesday 12 April 1921.



**COLE, CHARLES ROBERT.** Private, 82241.  
26th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.  
Died Saturday 23 November 1918. Aged 36.  
Son of Esther Cole (née Payne) of 1, Pheasant Cottages, Oare, Faversham, Kent, and the late George Robert Cole.  
Husband of Martha Cole (née Still).  
Buried Lille Southern Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I. B. 8.  
Formerly Private, 240762, Bedfordshire Regiment, and Private, 47758, Royal Irish Rifles. Charles' wife Martha; who he married at St. Magdalene Church, Davington Priory, Faversham, Kent on Saturday 17 October 1914, was his second wife. He married his first wife Jane Elizabeth Amos at St. Mary's parish church, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent on Thursday 28 October 1899. The death of 32 year old Jane Elizabeth Cole was recorded in the Faversham, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1913.

**COLE, ALBERT EDWARD.** Civilian casualty.  
Died Sunday 2 April 1916.  
Son of Esther Cole (née Payne) of 1, Pheasant Cottages, Oare, Faversham, Kent, and the late George Robert Cole.  
Albert lost his life in the explosion at the Cotton Powder Company and the Explosives Loading Company works at Uplees, Faversham, Kent at 1420 hours on Sunday 2 April 1916.

**KNIGHT, THOMAS.** Private, M/340021.  
Advanced Motor Transport Depot (Baghdad), Army Service Corps.  
Died Wednesday 22 May 1918. Aged 28.  
Born Washington, Sussex. Enlisted Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Resided Sherbourne, Dorset.  
Son of George Knight and Elizabeth Knight.  
Husband of Mollie Knight of Nash's Cottages, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.  
Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XII. L. 13.  
When the 1891 census was conducted, the Knight family resided at Freezeland, Washington, Sussex where Thomas was probably actually born. Head of the house was 39 year old Washington, Sussex native George Knight, who was employed as a General Labourer. Thomas was only 5 months old at the time of the census. At the time of the 1901 census, Thomas was residing as being a 20 year old boarder at the Stables, Barkham Manor, Wokingham, Berkshire, where he was employed as a Domestic Groom.



**PRIEST, CHARLES WILLIAM.** Private, G/13615.

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

Died Thursday 9 August 1917. Aged 22.

Born Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Son of Charles Priest and Emma Jane Priest of 34, Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent, formerly of the Water Mill, Ospringe, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Ospringe, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 19011 census, the Priest family resided at Conney Banks, Graveney, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Isle of Sheppey, Kent native Charles Priest (senior), who was employed as a Shepherd. The then 15 year old Charles (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Shepherd Boy. Formerly Private, 4423, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Charles enlisted in the Territorial Force for 4 years on Wednesday 8 December 1915. At the time of his enlistment in the Territorial Force, Charles stated that he was 20 years and 7 months old, employed as a Plate Layer, and that he resided at Nash's Farm, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent. At Canterbury, Kent on Wednesday 8 December 1915, Charles signed a copy of Army Form E.624 agreeing to serve outside the United Kingdom in the event of a National Emergency, in accordance with the provisions of Section XIII. (2) (a) of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, 1907. Charles was numbered amongst the 14 other ranks serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who fell on Thursday 9 August 1917.

**RALPH, WILLIAM JAMES.** Private, G/12834.

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

Died Monday 11 September 1916.

Born Luddenham, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Rochester, Kent. Resided Strood, Rochester, Kent.

Son of Elizabeth Ralph of 23, North Street Strood, Rochester Kent, and the late John Ralph.

Buried Serre Road Cemetery No.2, Somme, France. Grave Ref: XXXVI. D. 15.

At the time of the 19011 census, the Ralph family resided at 9, Goddington Road, Frindsbury, Strood, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Langley, Maidstone, Kent native John Ralph, who was employed as a Stableman. The then 24 year old William was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Grocers Shop Assistant. William enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on Friday 10 December 1915 at which time he stated that he was 29 years old, and a Shopkeeper residing at 23, North Street Strood, Rochester Kent. He named his mother who resided at the same address as being his next of kin. Having been placed on the Army Reserve, William was attested and mobilized on Sunday 26 March 1916, joining the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) at the Regiment Depot at Maidstone, Kent. On Saturday 22 July 1916 William was posted to the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and embarked for service in France with the

British Expeditionary Force. In France, William was posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment which he joined in the field on Tuesday 1 August, and was assigned to serve as a member of "D" Company. He was initially posted as wounded and missing on Saturday 9 September 1916, but this was later amended to having been killed in action on 11 September 1916. William was numbered amongst the 11 other ranks that were serving in the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) who fell on Monday 11 September 1916. Having moved to Citadel Camp on Tuesday 5 September, on Sunday 10 September via the Somme village of Méricourt which is located to the south west of the town of Albert, the battalion had moved into front line trenches at Leuze Wood, aka Lousy Wood by the British soldiers, which is at the village of Combles, and on the day that William fell his battalion had occupied a position named Dublin Trench.

## The Second World War

1939 – 1945



**BURFORD**, LESLIE FRANK. Able Seaman.

Merchant Navy, S.S. Audacity (London).

Died Sunday 1 March 1942. Aged 24.

Son of Osborne Thomas Burford and Emily Elizabeth Burford (née Huntley) of Four Oaks, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 12, as shown above.

Leslie's birth was recorded in the Faversham, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1917. The ton 589 coastal tanker S.S. Audacity on which Leslie was serving at the time of his death was owned by Everard F. T. & Sons Ltd, and being commanded by 51 year old Master, Claude Wingfield. The tanker was sailing from Selby, Yorkshire to Purfleet, Essex with a cargo of 600 tons palm kernel oil when she was sunk after hitting a German mine in the North Sea near the Humber Light Vessel, off the coast of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Leslie was the brother in law of Harold Lewis Willis who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below



**WILLIS**, HAROLD LEWIS. Stoker 1st Class, C/KX 87760.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Roxborough. (I 07).

Died Tuesday 23 November 1944. Aged 31.

Born Isle of Thanet, Kent 1913.

Son of Lewis Elei Willis and Ellen Mable Willis (née Kemp) of Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Husband of Marjorie Rosa Willis (née Burford).

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, Luddenham, Faversham, Kent.

Grave Ref: North of church.

Commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial as shown above.

Unfortunately at the time of the transcriber of these brief commemorations going to Luddenham, to photograph the memorial plaque in the church and Harold's grave, the height of vegetation in the churchyard (mostly stinging nettles) prevented the photographing of the grave. Whilst at Luddenham the transcriber and his wife were assured by a lady who lived locally that from time to time the churchyard is cleared of the vegetation by volunteers, and very kindly the young lady concerned assured us that she will provide us with a photograph of Harold's grave in due course, for which needless to say the Kent War Memorial Transcriptions Project will be extremely grateful. Harold enlisted in the Royal Navy as a Stoker in 1935. Prior to the Second World War he had served in Palestine during the time of civil disturbances, and in 1940 Harold was awarded the Naval General Service Medal with the clasp 'PALESTINE' which was awarded to officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines present in Palestine, or serving in ships in Haifa, or on duty ashore between Sunday 19 April 1936 and the commencement of the Second World War on Sunday 3 September 1939. Harold had also served in Spanish waters during the time of the Spanish Civil War. In 1940 he had participated in the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk. Whilst Harold was serving on board the Royal Navy destroyer H.M.S. Roxborough during North Atlantic convoy work, he contracted an illness which resulted in him being invalided out of the Royal Navy in 1943. Harold's death was recorded in the Sittingbourne, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1944. Unfortunately the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not personally sighted Harold's death certificate, and the following is purely supposition on the part of the transcriber, and should therefore obviously be viewed as such. Over the years of researching the victims of wars, it has become very apparent that whilst not on the same scale as that of the Stokers who had served during the Great War era, who died of Tuberculosis either during the war or subsequently, a not insignificant number of Stokers deaths either during or post the Second World War were due to the disease, and as such Herbert might also have been a victim of Tuberculosis. During her 34 years in existence, Harold's last ship served on H.M.S. Roxborough served with three navies. Built by the Fore River Shipbuilding Co. of Quincy, Massachusetts, U.S.A. and launched on Saturday 14 December 1918 as the USS Foote (DD 169). Harold's Town class destroyer was commissioned as H.M.S. Roxborough on Monday 23 September 1940; the destroyer crossed the Atlantic to join the Western Approaches Command, guarding convoys during the dangerous last leg of their voyages into British ports. In March 1942, she took up western Atlantic escort duty out of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Returning to the Tyne on Monday 10 January 1944, H.M.S. Roxborough lay in reserve there until transferred to Russia on Tuesday 1 August 1944, and was renamed as the U.S.S.R. destroyer Doblestnyj. On Tuesday 5 April 1949 she finished her service in the Soviet navy and was returned to Great Britain. H.M.S. Roxborough was scrapped at Dunston in 1952.