

MOLASH



The Great War
1914 – 1919

AMOS Charles B

Lance Corporal 28951 Charles Byron AMOS. E Company, 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, Canadian Infantry. Formerly (4 years) Officer Training Corps. Died Thursday 22nd April 1915 aged 29 years. Born 12th August 1886 at Faversham, Kent. Son of Henry Amos of Ashford, Kent formerly of Sheldwich, Faversham. Husband of Brenda G Amos of 9 Chatsworth Gardens, Acton Hill, London. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Charles was educated in the Felstead (Essex) school and then went to the Crystal Palace Engineering School in London. He was unsurprisingly an Engineer by profession. He enlisted in Canada for overseas service on the 23rd September 1914.

The Commanding officer of E Coy was Captain C.M Merritt.





KEELER William

Bombardier 56545 William KEELER. 137th (Heavy) Battery, 51st Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died Saturday 9th November 1918. Born Shottenden, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Molash. Buried in the Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maissemy, France. Grave reference I.C.18.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

The Street, Molash

Bombardier 56545 William KEELER. 137th Heavy Battery, 51st Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA)



KEMSLEY Percy J

Two possibles -

Rifleman R/7228 Percy James KEMSLEY. 8th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). Died Friday 30th July 1915 aged 21 years. Enlisted Chatham. Resided Sittingbourne. Son of Mrs J.A. Kemsley of Orchard Cottage, Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne, Kent. Percy has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 51 and 53.

Or

Private D/20610 Percy James KEMSLEY. 7th Dragoon Guards. Died 22 November 1918. Buried Halle Communal Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference – A5.

Halle Communal Cemetery was used by the Germans during the First World War, and after the Armistice, by the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station. It contains two rows of Commonwealth graves, along the west side, the nineteen in row B having been regrouped from the German plot at the north end. Two of the graves are in isolated positions elsewhere in the cemetery. The cemetery contains 105 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There are also two Second World War burials of May 1940 close to the First World War plot.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Post Office, Molash

20610 Percy James KEMSLEY. 7th Dragoon Guards.



KERRISON John

Sapper 142664 John P KERRISON. "F" Corps Signal Company, Royal Engineers (RE). Died Wednesday 11th September 1918 aged 21 years. Born Fakenham, Norfolk. Enlisted London. Resided Fakenham, Norfolk. Buried in the Vaulx Hill Cemetery, Vaulx-Vraucourt, France. Grave reference I.J.16.



LINKIN Harry S

Private SR/7069 Harry S LINKIN. 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 23rd March 1915. Born Hastings, Sussex. Enlisted London. Son of Mrs C Parish (Formerly Linkin) of 37, Bowling Green Street, Kennington Oval, London. Harry has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 49 and 51.

The 1901 census gives –
The Street, Molash

Mary A LINKIN	59	Crundale (Grandmother of Harry)
John	26	Molash
Frank	18	Molash
Harry	10	Hastings, Sussex 1891

The 4th battalion remained in the Kemmel Sector of Belgium throughout January, February, March and April 1915. The frontline trenches were around Vierstraat. When not in the trenches the battalion was resting at Scherpenberg, Locre and La Clytte.

MUIR John

John MUIR - NO TRACE – Too many John Muir's (37 with no obvious local connection)

PERRY William J

Private L/7791 William James PERRY. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Wednesday 13th October 1915 aged 32 years. Born Hoath, Canterbury. Enlisted Dover. Resided Molash. Son of Mr J.E and Mrs J. Perry of 4 Fern Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Kent. Born Hoath near Canterbury. Enlisted Dover. William has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos-En-Gochelle, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

On the 11th October 1915 the Germans attacked and captured the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Another attack near Loos village was repulsed albeit with considerable loss. On the 13th October the 6th battalion was in action all day at Hulluch. The battalion suffered enormous casualties losing nearly all its officers and over 500 men killed or wounded. William was one of those men killed at Hulluch.



VIDEON C

Private 33183 Charles VIDION. 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Formerly (23028) Lancers. Died 23rd December 1917 aged 34 years. Born Molash. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Molash. Son of Mr Vidion of Curzon House, Molash, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Happy Valley British Cemetery, Fampoux, France. Grave reference A.11.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives these probable relations of Charles all living in Wye –
Pested Lane, Wye

- Stoker Alfred Frank VIDION. Royal Navy.**
- Private 99539 Edward VIDION. 4th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**
- Private 242992 Frederick George VIDION. 5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**
- Private 200476 John VIDION. 5th Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

The 1901 census gives –

Molash, Kent

George	VIDION	Agricultural Labourer	53	Throwley
Anne			49	Molash
William			26	Molash
Charles			19	Molash
Edward			17	Molash
John			12	Molash
Alfred			6	Molash
Dorothy			1	Molash

LOST MEN

EASON F.E

Private G/5238 Frederick Edward EASON. 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 26th September 1915. Born Molash. Enlisted Faversham. Resided Faversham. Frederick has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

On the 25th September 1915 the 8th battalion marched to Bethune. It then went forward to the firing line at Hulluch. On the 26th September the battalion was in action at Hulluch. An attack was made in broad daylight on heavily fortified German positions. The carnage was enormous. By the end of the day the battalion had lost 24 officers and 610 men killed or wounded.

COLLINS T

Private L/8283 Thomas COLLINGS. 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Iraq 24th July 1915 Iraq. Born Molash. Enlisted Canterbury. Buried Basra War Cemetery, Basra, Iraq. Grave reference 11.R.D.

Thomas lost his life in the Battle of Nasiriyah. This engagement was fought on the banks of the River Euphrates. The British attacked Turkish held positions in front of a large line of Date Palms and very near Maiyadiyah Creek. The West Kent's were attached to 30th Brigade. Casualties were high – 150 men killed or wounded. The battalion was left very weak with under 400 men fit enough for active service.

HEDGCOCK J.U

Private G/18448 John Usher HEDGCOCK. 11th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly (2942) Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (REKMR). Died 7th June 1917 aged 25 years. Born Molash. Enlisted Chatham. Resided Rochester. Son of Thomas and Bertha Hedgcock of "Ringwood", Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, Kent. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 45 and 47.

On the 7th June 1917 the 11th West Kent's were in action all day. It's main objective was the Dammstrasse South East of St Eloi and a line of trenches around Englebrier Farm North East of Oosttaverne. The battalion took Oblong Trench and Oblong Reserve at considerable cost in terms of casualties. Many men were felled by a German machine gun cleverly placed in Pheasant Wood. Casualties amounted to about 100 men.

LINKIN A.J

Lance Sergeant 6581 Alfred James LINKIN. 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 23rd August 1918 aged 35 years. Born Chilham Lees. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Molash. Son of James and Eliza Linkin of Chilham. Husband of Amelia Linkin of 31 Abbeyfields Cottages, Whitstable Road, Faversham. Buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont, France. Grave reference III.H.8.

Alfred's name appeared in the Kentish Express rolls of 1915 as being a local man serving in the colours. It is remarkable that the village tribute left his name off.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

The Lees, Chilham

Private 83387 Arthur Edward LINKIN. Royal Army Medical Corps.

The 1901 census gives –

Lower Lees, Chilham

James	LINKIN 47	Labourer	Chilham
Eliza		48	Felmer ?
Charles H		14	House Boy Chilham
Arthur		11	Chilham
William G		11	Chilham

On the 6th August 1918 the 1st East Surrey's marched into billets at Racquinghem where it remained for a week. The weather and ground were fine for a spot of training. On the 14th August the battalion entrained for Doullens and marched to Barly where it went into billets. On the 19th August the battalion moved at short notice to Coigneux village and then to Bucquoy a small village between Arras and Albert. On the 21st August the battalion was in action all day. It's objective was to capture the railway line at Irlles. The next day the battle continued. On the 23rd August the battalion was asked to clear a spur north east of Irlles. Casualties were not considered high given the intensity of fighting.



OTTAWAY F.H

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.

PULLEN S.J

Rifleman A/200294 Sidney James PULLEN. 11th Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). Formerly (3375) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 4th April 1917. Born Molash. Enlisted Sittingbourne. Resided Higham, Kent. Sidney has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 13A and 13B.

The 1901 census gives –
The Street, Molash

James R	PULLEN	30	Wagoner on Farm	Isle of Sheppy
Amy		34		Throwley
Sydney James		6		Molash
Edith E		3		Teynham

WOOD E

Private G/5068 Ernest WOOD. 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly (20878) Grenadier Guards. Died 5th May 1915 aged 36 years. Born Molash. Enlisted Ramsgate. Resided Broadstairs. Son of Thomas Wood of Molash, Kent. Buried in the Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference VIII.H.16.

On the 2nd May 1915 the 1st battalion left Vlamertinghe for support lines near Brielen. On the 4th May it moved to camp at Ouderdom. On the night of the 4th it took part in an unsuccessful night attack on trenches north of Hill 60. The attack near Hill 60 lasted until the morning (5th May). The battalion withdrew to Ypres on the 8th May with casualties numbering 110 men killed or wounded. Ernest was probably killed in trenches north of Hill 60.

