

RUCKINGE



The Stickells brothers (Harry and Thomas) were serving in the **same** regiment and the **same** battalion, the **same** company and the **same** platoon. They were both killed in action on the **same** day at the **same** place and probably at the **same** time. Quite an exceptional and tragic set of circumstances and definitely worthy of special mention here...

The Great War
1914 – 1919

DRAY A.J

Private G/4862 Albert John DRAY. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 25th May 1915 aged 28 years. Born Ruckinge. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Ashford. Son of Edward John and Elizabeth Dray of Ruckinge, Kent. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

The day that Albert was killed his battalion was in action on the Menin-Ypres Road just outside Ypres itself. The battalion went to rescue elements of the 9th Lancers who had got into difficulty. The battalion moved into trenches at Hooge during the day.





FOORD J.T

Private 10070 James FOORD. 2nd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment. Died 20th November 1914. Born Ashford. Enlisted Shornecliffe, Folkestone. Buried in the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, France. Grave reference III.J.7.





STICKELLS H.W (brother)

Railway
Dover Marine

Private G/9125 Harry William STICKELLS. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Friday 15th September 1916 aged 23 years. Born Ruckinge in 1899. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Sevington. Son of Harry Robert and Harriet Stickells of 98 Church Road/ 2 May Cottages, Sevington, Ashford. Formerly Waterbrook Cottage, Sevington. Harry has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 5D.

Harry's name appears on the Mersham Wesleyan Chapel War Memorial Plaque located in what is now a private residence in Frith Road, Aldington. Apparently, the location of the former chapel comes under the administrative parish of Mersham.

Prior to the war Harry worked for the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company in the Ashford Railway Works. His name appears on the Ashford Railway Works Rolls of Honour and the Dover Marine Railway War Memorial.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –
Waterbrook Cottage, Sevington, Ashford

Private 2007712 Percy Arthur STICKELLS. 4th Reserve Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

The day that Harry was killed his battalion the 1st Buffs was in action all day. The battalion was between Morval and Le Sars holding frontline trenches on the Thiepval Ridge. The objective that day was the Quadrilateral a heavily fortified enemy redoubt on the edge of Bouteaux Wood. The Buffs went forward with the Bedford's but the attack was bought to a standstill by extremely heavy machine gun fire. On the 16th September the battalion withdrew to trenches running south east of Guillemont.



STICKELLS T.G (brother)

Private G/8915 Thomas George STICKELLS. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 15th September 1916 aged 25 years. Born Ruckinge 1891. Son of Harry Robert and Harriet Stickells of 98 Church Road/ 2 May Cottages, Sevington, Ashford. Formerly Waterbrook Cottage, Sevington. Thomas has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference 5D.

Thomas's name appears on the Mersham Wesleyan Chapel War Memorial Plaque located in what is now a private residence in Frith Road, Aldington. Apparently, the location of the former chapel comes under the administrative parish of Mersham.

Before the outbreak of war Thomas was employed by Mr D Swaffer of Kingsnorth near Ashford.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

Waterbrook Cottage, Sevington, Ashford

Private 2007712 Percy Arthur STICKELLS. 4th Reserve Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

The day that Thomas was killed his battalion the 1st Buffs was in action all day. The battalion was between Morval and Le Sars holding frontline trenches on the Thiepval Ridge. The objective that day was the Quadrilateral a heavily fortified enemy redoubt on the edge of Bouteaux Wood. The Buffs went forward with the Bedford's but the attack was bought to a standstill by extremely heavy machine gun fire. On the 16th September the battalion withdrew to trenches running south east of Guillemont.



WHITEWICK / WHIGHTWICK / WIGHTWICK R.J (brother)

G/8650 Richard J WHIGHTWICK. 9th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died of Phthisis (T.B) 2nd May 1917 aged 19 years. Son of John and Annie Whitewick of Marsh Road, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent. Buried locally in the Ruckinge (St Mary Magdelene) Churchyard, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent.

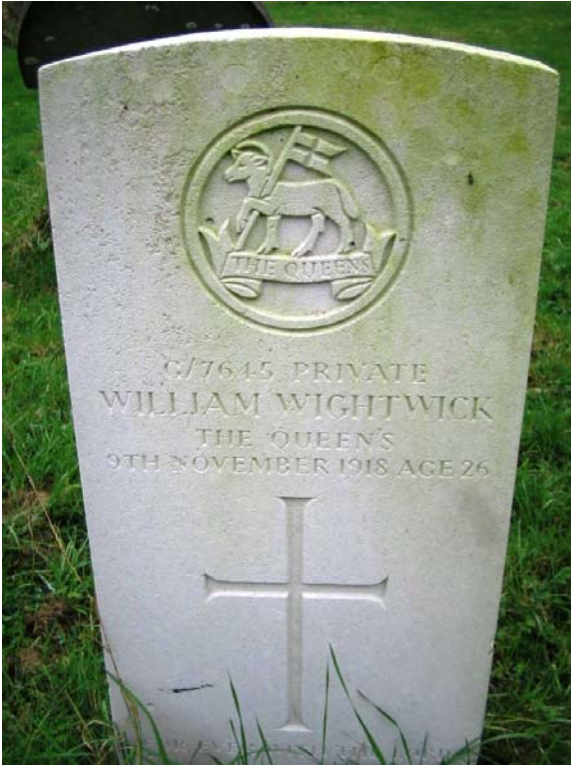
There seems some confusion as to the spelling of Richard's surname.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

Marsh Cottages, Ruckinge

Seaman Thomas Henry WIGHTWICK. H.L.R.F.A Reliance.
Private 7645 William WHIGHTWICK. 10th Queen's (R. West Surrey Regiment).

Richard contracted T.B whilst a serving soldier and training with the 9th Buffs in the Citadel at Dover. His body was recovered to Ruckinge where his family buried him locally.



WHITEWICK / WHIGHTWICK / WIGHTWICK W (brother)

Private G/7645 William WHIGHTWICK. 10th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died of Flu and Pneumonia 9th November 1918 aged 26 years. Born Ruckinge in 1892. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Ruckinge. Son of John and Annie Whitewick of Marsh Road, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent. Buried locally in the Ruckinge Churchyard, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent.

There seems some confusion as to the spelling of William's surname.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

Marsh Cottages, Ruckinge

Seaman Thomas Henry WIGHTWICK. H.L.R.F.A Reliance.
Private 7645 William WHIGHTWICK. 10th Queen's (R. West Surrey Regiment).

William was buried next to his brother Richard (above). Sadly, he died two days before the armistice.



WOODGATE E

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. His name appears on the Vimy Memorial, France.

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

LOST MEN

BULL W.J

Private G/4967 William James BULL. 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 22nd July 1916. Born Brenzett, Kent in 1895. Enlisted Lydd. Resided Ruckinge. William has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Panel reference 11C.

The day that William was killed his battalion was in action near Longueval. The 1st battalion assisted by 14th Warwickshire's attacked at Wood Lane on the Eastern side of High Wood. The attack failed because of murderous German machine gun fire. The battalion suffered huge casualties – 421 men killed or wounded. William lost his life in this attack.



COLLICK J.H

Gunner (Linesman) 64172 John Henry COLLICK MM. Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died 9th November 1916. Born Lydd. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Lydd. Youngest son of Thomas Collick of West Ripe, Lydd, Kent. Brother-in-Law of Mr William Russell of The Downs, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent. John died of his wounds at the Frensham Military Hospital, Farnham and his body was interned at Reading in Berkshire.

John was educated at the Reading School and at Lydd in Kent. He was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery in the field. This award was made when John was a Linesman in France. He went out under heavy shelling and machine gun fire and repaired field telephone lines.

The Collick's are a well known local family. Don Collick who for many years resided at Court Lodge Farm, Ruckinge died quite recently. Don Collick was the grandson of this local man who lost his life in the great war -

Corporal 130293 Joseph Mannington CAFFYN. Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died of Pneumonia 15th July 1918. Born Northiam, Sussex. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Faversham. Son of Joseph and Clara Caffyn of Hamstreet. Husband of Florence Mabel Caffyn of "Brynteg" Clifton Park, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire. Buried in the Reading (Caversham) Cemetery, Berkshire. Grave reference 2C of E.1051.

Joseph's name appears on the nearby Orlestone War Memorial.

CULLUM H.P.J

Private 24448 Harold Percy James CULLUM. 11th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment). Died 17th October 1917 aged 21 years. Born Ruckinge in 1897. Enlisted Folkestone. Resided Folkestone. Son of James Cullum of 50 Warren Road, Folkestone, Kent. Buried in the Cement House Cemetery. France. Grave reference XII.E.28.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

The Corner, Ruckinge

Sapper 3786 Thomas CULLUM. Royal Engineers.

There is a **T Cullum** on the Ruckinge Roll of Honour. No doubt this man was related in some way to Harold.



POWELL W.J

Bombardier 23881 William James POWELL. 20th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died 25th September 1915 aged 31 years. Born Kingsnorth. Son of Mr Horatio and Isabel Powell of 1, Autumn Cottage, Sevington, Ashford, Kent. Formerly (1901) Bank Cottage, Sevington, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Hop Store Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium. Grave reference Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9.

The 1901 census gives –
Bank Cottage, Sevington

George	POWELL	50	Farm Servant	Dover
Sarah R		20		Dover
William J		17	Farm Labourer Ruckinge	

Educated at Ruckinge School. Upon leaving school he went to work in the Ashford Railway Yards for the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company in the Permanent Way Department. In 1912 William then became a Police Constable in the Metropolitan Police (London). William enlisted voluntarily in August 1914 in London. He was killed by an artillery shell whilst serving in the frontline.

JELLEY W.E

Private G/25213 William Edwin JELLEY. 11th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 31st July 1917 aged 20 years. Born Hildenborough. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Falconhurst, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent. Son of Edwin and Fanny Jelley of Horton Green Farm, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent. William has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 45 and 47.



RUCKINGE

ROLL OF HONOUR

These local men joined the colours and served in the Great War.

