

The Great War

1914 -1919

ASHDOWN, HENRY HERBERT. Private, G/768.

6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Friday 4 May 1917. Aged 22.

Born Wrotham, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Henry James and Frances Ellen Ashdown of Platt Farm Cottage, St. Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: V. D. 7.

BALDWIN, JOHN ALFRED. Private, L/10807.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)

Died Sunday 20 August 1916. Aged 20.

Born Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted, Maidstone, Kent. Resided Seal, Kent.

Son of Benjamin and Sophia Baldwin of 1, School Lane, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: V.H.4.

COX, FREDERICK. Rifleman, 371982.

1/8th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).

Died Friday 15 September 1916.

Enlisted London. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 9 C and 9 D.

CROSS, EDWARD WILLIAM. Private, G/12673

1st Battalion, Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Thursday 10 May 1917. Aged 28.

Born Shoreham, Kent, Enlisted and resided Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Mary Ann Cross of 2, Taylor's Cottages, High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: IV. B. 5.

Also commemorated on the Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

DEERING, JAMES. Private, 201811.

2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment.

Died Thursday 11 October 1917.

Born Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Harriett E. Deering.

Buried Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent Churchyard.

Also commemorated on the Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). When James enlisted in the army on Thursday 13 January 1916 he stated that he was 30 years and 10 months old, and employed by the General Post Office as a Postman. An orphan,

James said that his next of kin was Miss Susanna Deering of 5, Church Row, Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent, with whom he resided. James was attested to serve in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Friday 17 March 1916, and transferred to the Norfolk Regiment on Saturday 15 April 1916. He died at the 3rd Northern General Hospital, Leeds, Yorkshire, at 1730 hours on Thursday 11 October 1917, the cause of James's death was recorded as being "Infected Dermoid Cyst, Septicemia leading to exhaustion." It would appear likely that James had resided with his aunt for a long time, as at the time of the 1901 census they both resided at Tree Road, Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent. Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent native 45 year old Miss Susanna Deering was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and was an own account Fruit Grower employing her 16 year old nephew James Deering. Prior to residing with his aunt, James and his mother Harriett, who was a native of Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, resided at The Tree, Plaxtol, Sevenoaks, Kent, where at the time of the 1891 census, the head of the house was James's grandfather, 65 year widower George Deering who was a native of Sevenoaks, Kent, and was employed as an Agricultural Labourer.

DUNN, THOMAS JAMES JOHNSON. M.M. and Bar. Private, G/12707.
1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died Saturday 13 April 1918. Aged 34.
Born Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent. Resided Brasted, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of Arthur and Caroline Dunn.
Husband of Amy Dunn of 2, Rectory Lane, Brasted, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Berks Cemetery Extension, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 1, and on the Brasted, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

EMERY, JESSE WILLIAM. Private, G/12257.
8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)
Died Thursday 19 April 1917.
Born and resided Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of James Emery, 5, Willow Terrace, Otford, Kent.
Buried Hamburg Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany. Grave Ref: V. C. 14.
Jesse died whilst he was a prisoner of war.

HEATH, HENRY JAMES. Rifleman, 304067.
1/5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade).
Died Wednesday 6 September 1916.
Born and resided Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted London.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 9 D.
Formerly Rifleman, 4812, 1/5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade).

HOLLMAN, FRED ARTHUR. Private, G/2104.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Sunday 23 April 1916. Aged 23.

Born Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Arthur and the late Rosetta Hollman of Church Green, Ightham, Kent.

Buried Dranouter Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. C. 19.

Also commemorated on the Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Hollman family was residing at what the enumerator has entered as "Private House." Head of the house was Ightham native Arthur Hollman, who was employed as an Ordinary Agricultural Labourer. Fred enlisted in the army for the 'Duration of the war' on 9 September 1914, which was 7 days after his twenty-first birthday. At the time of his enlistment Fred stated that he was employed as a Postman. Having carried out his basic training etcetera whilst serving in the 9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Fred was transferred to the 8th (Service) Battalion of his regiment on 1 January 1916, for service with the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front the following day.

MARCHANT, JOHN. Private, 40889.

2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died Monday 18 June 1917. Aged 37.

Son of John Marchant of Sandhurst, Kent, and the late Mrs. Marchant.

Husband of Mary Marchant of 5, Council Houses, Little Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 4.

PALMER, ASKEW WILLIAM. Company Serjeant Major, 200090.

2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Sunday 22 April 1917. Aged 29.

Born Sevenoaks, Ightham, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Friend William and Ann Palmer (née Mitchell) of The Willows, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Deir El Belah War Cemetery Israel. Grave Ref: A. 132.

Also commemorated on the Kippington, Sevenoaks, Kent war memorial, and on the Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Sergeant, TF/991, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Palmer family resided at Post Office Cottage, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Friend William Palmer, who was employed as a House Painter. The then 13 year old Askew was recorded by the census enumerator as having been employed by the General Post Office as a Telegraph Messenger. Askew was posted to the Balkan war theatre on 9 August 1915. At the time of his death when he died of wounds, he was an Acting (WO1) Regimental Sergeant Major.

SHEPHERD, CHARLES ALBERT. Private, 54885.
26th (Service) Battalion (Bankers), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died Thursday 2 August 1917. Aged 33.
Born Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent. Resided Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Shepherd of High Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 8, and on the Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

TIDY, DAVID ELIAS. Corporal, 127877.
G" Corps Signal Company, Royal Engineers.
Died Friday 25 October 1918. Aged 21.
Son of David and Catherine Tidy of Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Cambrin Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: Q. 4.
Also commemorated on the Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

WHITE, DOUGLAS UGHTRED ARCHIBALD HAROLD STURLEY.
Company Serjeant Major, 200238.
2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 8 October 1918. Aged 34.
Born Sellindge, Ashford, Kent. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.
Husband of Lizzie Mabel White of Malcolm Terrace, Golding Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: CC. 25.
Also commemorated on the Great War memorial Plaque in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent.
Late of G.P.O., Sevenoaks, Kent. Served 19 years in Post Office.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

ALLEN, T.A. As commemorated on the Sevenoaks Postal District Roll of Honour is possibly the following casualty. Only three Second World War Commonwealth casualties are commemorated as ALLEN, T.A. Arguably by a process of elimination, the following appears to be the best match

ALLEN, THOMAS ARTHUR. Flying Officer (Pilot), 170268.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Sunday 28 May 1944. Aged 21.
Buried Sommelsdijk General Cemetery, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands.
Grave Ref: Collective grave 29-32.

It might also be of relevance that the Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial commemorates a Royal Air Force Second World War casualty as A.R. ALLEN who is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and as such it might be that A.R. ALLEN was the above casualty. Please note the similarity of Thomas's brief details too that of PETER FINNIS ROWE, D.F.C.

BOOKER, GEORGE WILLIAM. Lance Corporal, 5343754.
5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.
Died Monday 14 August 1944. Aged 28.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George William Booker and Clara Booker.
Husband of Maud Alice Booker of Ash, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: V. D. 10.

PATTENDEN, ALBERT ARTHUR. Gunner, 2324197.
26 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died Wednesday 22 November 1944. Aged 28.
Son of Arthur Albert Pattenden and Beatrice Rhoda Pattenden of Sevenoaks, Kent.
Husband of Winifred Anne Pattenden of Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Cesena War Cemetery Province of Forli, Italy.
Grave Ref: VI. H. 4.
Also commemorated on the Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

ROWE, PETER FINNIS. D.F.C. Flying Officer (Pilot), 170723.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Thursday 27 April 1944. Aged 22.
Son of George Rowe and Ellen Mary Rowe of Deal, Kent.
Buried Viroflay New Communal Cemetery, Viroflay, Versailles, Yvelines, France.
Grave Ref: Row A. Grave 27.
Peter was the pilot of a 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force Lancaster bomber serial number LL860 SR-I which took off from R.A.F. Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire at 21.20 hours on Wednesday 26 April 1944, taking part in a raid on Schweinfurt. Peter's Lancaster and all 8 members of the crew were lost during the raid. Most of the Lancaster's had a 7 man crew, but in 1943 Peter's squadron had converted from Wellington bombers to Lancasters to become a specialist in "Airborne Cigar" (ABC), and flew with an additional German speaking crew member known as the Special Operator, who disrupted the enemy flight controllers with jamming and the broadcast of miss-information. 101 Squadron had the highest casualty rate of any squadron during the Second World War, mainly due to the pinpointing of their position through the ABC broadcasts. All of the crew of Peter's Lancaster, are at rest in adjacent graves at Viroflay New Communal Cemetery, Viroflay, Versailles, Yvelines, France. The crew was quite unusual as all were decorated, in addition to Peter being a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross the other members of the crew who were all non commissioned officers were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.