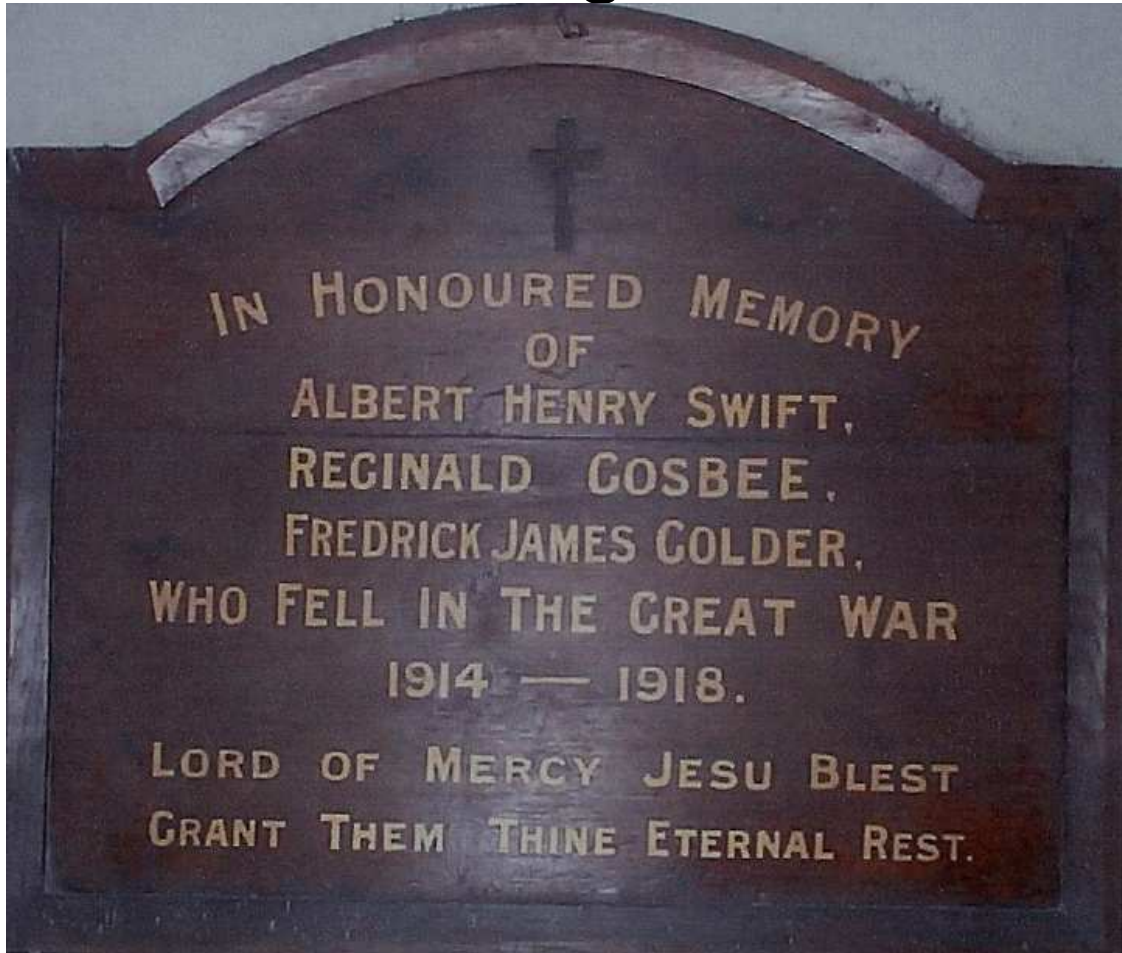


Snargate



The oak memorial plaque as shown above is located on the south wall of the interior of the parish church of St. Dunstan, Snargate, and is the parish tribute to its fallen of the Great War. When viewing the above form of commemoration, which we are given to understand was made by a local craftsman during the 1920's, and dedicated by the Reverend Robert Granville Cooper M.A., who was the Vicar of Snargate with Snave from 1916 to 1923. The fact that it was fixed to the wall by three brackets which resulted in the memorial plaque not being exactly plumb, seems to be somewhat fitting, personal and apt, as it was probably erected by a member or members of the congregation, as opposed to those erected by professionals i.e. stonemasons and the like at other churches. The overall result of the plaque makes it somehow more poignant, and doubtless whoever fixed the plaque would have known all of those who it honours, and may even have been related to one or more of them. Although only a small parish, two other Snargate casualties were revealed during the transcribers researches, and have been added as 'Lost Men' below, following those who are commemorated at St. Dunstan's.

The Great War

1914 -1919

GOLDER, FREDERICK JAMES. Private, 41311.

6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died Sunday 30 June 1918. Aged 35.

Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Thomas Edward Golder and Amelia Jane Susannah Golder (née Ellis).

Husband of Rose Golder (née Fielder) of Red Lion Cottages, Snargate, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot II. Row G. Grave 3.

Formerly Private, 326272, 3/8th (Cyclist Battalion), Essex Regiment, (T.F.)

Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial, and on Great War memorial plaque, which is located in St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, The Durlocks, Folkestone, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Golder family resided at 19 Richmond Street, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Folkestone, Kent, native Thomas Edward Golder, who was an Own Account Greengrocer. It would appear that the census enumerator made an error regarding the occupation of the then 17 year old Frederick, as he too was recorded as being an Own Account Greengrocer, but he was probably actually employed by his father in the family Greengrocers shop. The 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, in which both Frederick Golder, and Norman Gosbee were serving at the time of their respective deaths, was formed at Northampton, Northamptonshire in September 1914, as part of the New Army of Lord Kitchener, and attached as Army Troops to 18th (Eastern) Division. In November 1914 the battalion moved to Colchester, Essex, and was transferred to the 54th Brigade in same Division. The battalion moved to Salisbury Plain in May 1915 for battle training in preparation for the inevitable move to France, which took place on 26 July 1915. During the months of May, June, and July 1918, the 18th (Eastern) Division to which the 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment belonged, held the line opposite the Somme town of Albert. Over the three month period the battalions of the division carried out patrols, plus a series of minor raids, during the course of which, the battalions of which the 54th Brigade was comprised, which included Frederick Golder, and Norman Gosbee's battalion made determined efforts to breach and capture the enemy defences at the north-west corner of Albert, known as the "hairpin system." The attacks carried out by the division, and by the Germans were to probe each others strength prior to the larger battles which were to follow. It was something of an indication of the part played by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, that of the six Victoria Crosses that were awarded to the regiments personnel during the Great War, four were won by the soldiers of Frederick and Norman's battalion, albeit they including an officer from the Bedfordshire Regiment, and one from the Army Service Corps that were attached to their battalion at the time.

GOSBEE, NORMAN REGINALD. Private, 59432.

6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died Sunday 29 September 1918. Aged 19.

Born Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted New Romney, Romney Marsh, Kent.

Son of Albert and Edith Jane Gosbee of Bentley House, Snargate, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Gosbee family resided at Farm House, Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Stone-in-Oxney, Kent, native Albert Gosbee, who was employed as a Shepherd. Please see the brief commemoration of Frederick Golder above, re the forming and initial movements of the 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. Norman fell on the first day of the 'Battle of the St. Quentin Canal,' which was fought from Sunday 29 September 1918 to Wednesday 2 October 1918, as part of the attacks on the formidable 'Hindenburg Line.' All along the Western Front, the German Army had been withdrawing since early August 1918 after the failure of its mighty spring and summer offensive to break through the British and French lines. In unison with the 12th (Eastern) Division, the roles assigned to the 18th (Eastern) Division which had included Norman's battalion, on the day he fell, had been to protect the left flank of the 27th American Division, by gaining complete observation over Vendhuile and the St. Quentin Canal, and keeping up constant pressure on the enemy forces in the area. The follow up role by both divisions was by way of carrying out the "mopping-up" of Vendhuile, and at the earliest opportunity for the preparation of a way through for the divisions which comprised the British V Corps. At 0540 hours on Sunday 29 September 1918, having assembled in rain and darkness, the infantry battalions of the British Fourth Army, which had included Norman's battalion, attacked on a twelve mile front through dense fog and smoke amid the cover of protective artillery barrages. The 54th Brigade, to which Norman's battalion belonged, was detailed to work with the 107th American Infantry Regiment for the days events on Sunday 29 September 1918, and they were assisted by a company of the 18th Battalion Machine Gun Corps. In the northern sector, the drive eastwards towards the tunneled sector of the St. Quentin Canal was led by tanks and two inexperienced American Army Divisions. Confounded by the fog and barbed wire entanglements, their progress was slow and casualties heavy, with the tanks being virtually unable to operate in the dark. Supporting Australian units were drawn into a bitter slogging match for the ridges, and by late afternoon had made far less ground than anticipated. Much better success attended IX Corps' attack in the south, where the 137th Brigade, 46th (North Midland) Division in a breathtakingly audacious thrust, overran the German outer defences, stormed across the canal and captured intact the surviving bridges. Norman was numbered amongst the 44 other ranks of his battalion who died on Sunday 29 September 1918. At least two of Norman's brothers served in the British armed forces during the Great War; they being Arthur, who served as a 2nd Class Air Mechanic in the Royal Air Force, and Harold who served as a Private in the 1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers.

SWIFT, BERT. Private, L/7545.

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

Died Saturday 18 March 1916. Aged 30.

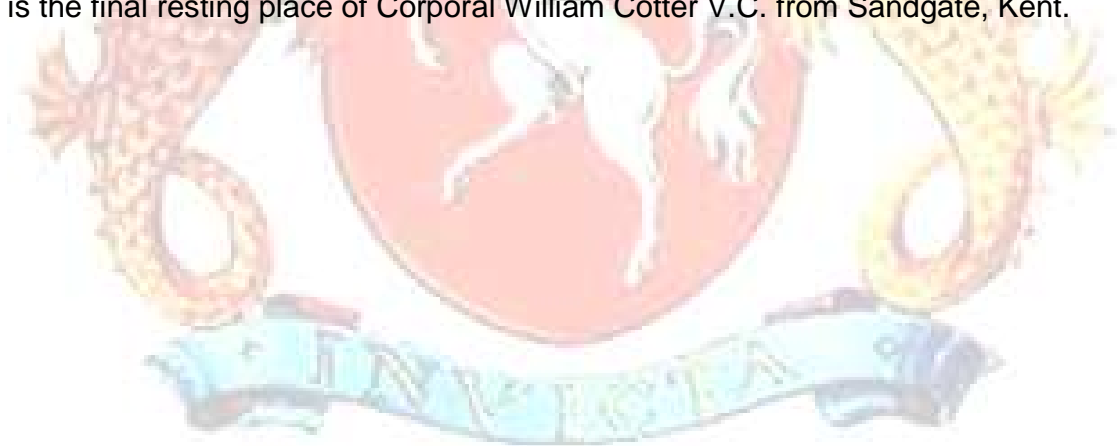
Born Kennington, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Snargate, Ashford, Kent.

Son of George and Clara Swift (née Thurstun) of Nest Cottage, Snave, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 19.

Although all other data checked, shows the Christian name Bert, it was noticed on both the 1891 and 1910 census's that on both occasions the respective enumerators have recorded Bert with his name spelt Bertie, which was doubtless the name by which he was known by all and sundry. At the time of the 1901 census, the Swift family resided at 26 Tuffon Road, Ashford, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Great Chart, Ashford, Kent, native George Swift, who was a Journeyman Bricklayer. Aged 16 in 1901, 'Bertie' was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Post Boy & Grocers Errand Boy. As the L prefix on Bert's regimental number signifies that he was a regular soldier, and that the date shown on his medal index card appertaining to his posting to France was on Monday 7 September 1914, it would be reasonably safe to assume that he was formerly a member of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). In view of the events involving the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' and during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year, it is not really surprising that the happenings effecting the battalion during the intervening period between those two battles, often only gets scant mention. Possibly over the years, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not been alone in being guilty when reading about the events regarding the 6th (Service) Battalion during March 1916, to be drawn, or more correctly probably fixated, on the heroism of Corporal William Cotter V.C., on Monday 6 March 1916 near the Hohenzollern Redoubt. William being the sole recipient of a Victoria Cross awarded to a member of the regiment during the Great War, but of course like William, many other members of his battalion forfeited their lives that same month; including at least 33 other ranks on Saturday 18 March 1916, one of whom was Bert Swift. In an attempt to add additional information at these brief commemorations, for the relatives of those who died serving in the regiment during the Great War, the transcriber has resorted to the use of various data sources, and as regards to the events of Saturday 18 March 1916 involving the 6th (Service) Battalion, the relevant pages contained in 'The History of the 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War 1914-1918,' which was edited by Major-General Sir Arthur B. Scott, K.C.B., D.S.O., and compiled by P. Middleton Brumwell M.C., C.F. In addition to describing the fate of some of the 6th (Service) Battalion personnel, reference is also made regarding the loss of the divisional canteen when recording the days events in the book, which has been added here verbatim: - "On the 18th of March, at 5 p.m., the Germans opened up a violent bombardment on the craters, blew some mines and attacked. Vermelles was heavily shelled, and in two hours some 2,000 shells fell in its vicinity. One, unfortunately, hit the divisional canteen, and

biscuits, chocolate, cake and cigarettes went sky high. A barrage was placed on our communications as far back as Annequin and Noyelles, a large number of lachrymose shell being used. The minenwerfers did much damage to the craters and front line defences. All communication wires were cut, and initiative passed to the lower commanders and frequently to non-commissioned officers. On the right of the line, held by the 6th Buffs, the garrisons of Nos. 1 and 2 and "A" craters were all killed or buried, and confusion rendered worse by the fact that West Face and the top end of Saville Row, Saps 9 and 9a, had been filled in by the debris from the explosions. The Germans seized the craters, and our counter-attack was delayed until these saps were cleared. Eventually three companies of the 6th Royal West Kent delivered a counter-attack and regained the near lips of these craters. The 7th East Surrey were holding the left of the line, and here "C" crater was blown up, and the Germans rushed "B" and No.4, and for some time held Sap 12 and Russian Sap, penetrating to Sticky Trench. Company-Sergt-Major Palmer and three others appear to have been all that were left of the garrison of "C" crater after the explosion. They continued bombing and firing until driven back to "B," and thence to No.4, and finally out of that. A very gallant counter-attack by a party of the 7th East Surrey, led by Captain Scott, bombed the enemy out of No.4, and established posts overlooking "B," somewhat restoring the position in this sector. Meanwhile blocks had been established in Sap 12 and Russian Sap, and by 9.25 p.m. these positions had been consolidated. No.3 crater had been held throughout the attack. At 3.15 a.m. on the 19th inst, some of the 6th Queen's, under captain Cannon, regained the near lips of "B" and "C" craters, but had to withdraw from the latter at daylight." When the 6th (Service) Battalion was later withdrawn from the sector for a period of rest, it did so near the small town of Lillers, which is located about eleven miles north west of Bethune, Pas de Calais, and where the town Communal Cemetery is the final resting place of Corporal William Cotter V.C. from Sandgate, Kent.



The Great War

1914 -1919
Lost Men

ASHDOWN, IVAN FREDRICK. Driver, 142183.
XII Corps H.Q. Signals, Royal Engineers.
Died Wednesday 13 December 1916. Aged 28.
Born Snargate, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Brabourne Lees, Ashford, Kent.
Son of Thomas Isaac and Jane Maria Ashdown of North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta. G.C. Grave Ref: D. XVI. 4.
It would appear that from quiet a young age, Ivan had been brought up by his paternal grandparents, as at the time of the 1891 census, he resided with them at Black House, Snargate. Head of the house was 54 year old Snargate native Isaac Ashdown who was employed as a Gardener, and was also the Parish Clerk. By the time of the 1901 census Ivan resided with his widowed grandmother; 64 year old Annie E. Ashdown at 3 Godden Cottages, Orlestone, Ashford, Kent, who was a native of Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent. Before the commencement of the Great War, Isaac worked for Mr. T. Wilson who was a Poulterer at Appledore, Kent.

PERIGO, CHARLES JOHN. Petty Officer, 1st Class 193472.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Bulwark.
Died Thursday 26 November 1914. Aged 33.
Born Appledore, Kent 25 September 1881.
Son of the late Joseph and Louisa Perigo (née Webb) of Snargate, Ashford, Kent.
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 1, and on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Eanswith, Brenzett, Kent.
Commanded by 45 year old Captain Guy Lutley Sclater R.N. of Odiham, Hampshire, H.M.S. Bulwark, a 15,700 ton London class battleship exploded at 0753 hours on Thursday 26 November 1914. The massive explosion was probably due to an accidental ignition in the shell magazine, whilst she was anchored at buoy 17 at Kethole Reach on the River Medway, some four miles off Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. The explosion killed 51 officers and 745 ratings. Five of the 14 naval ratings who survived the initial explosion died later of their wounds, and virtually all of the others were seriously wounded, although a few were virtually unscathed. There are mass and individual graves at Woodlands Cemetery Gillingham, Kent, of the ships crew that lost their lives.