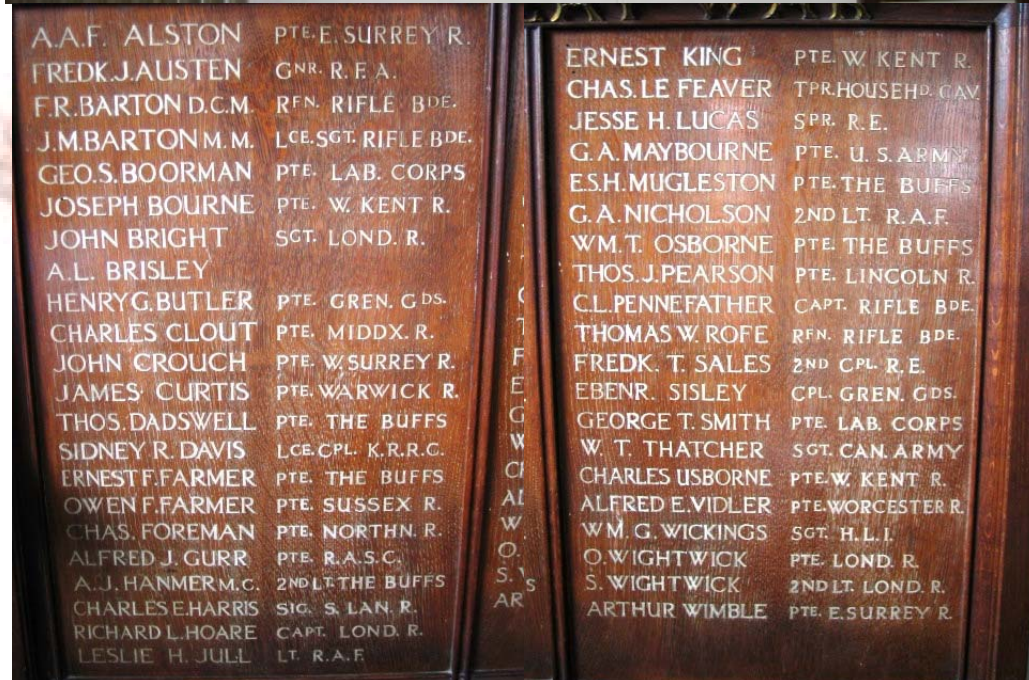


# STAPLEHURST

Maidstone



The appearance of this beautiful memorial has been vastly enhanced by the placing of wreaths around the window area.

# The Great War

## 1914 -1919

### ALSTON A.A.F

**Private 23279 Alfred Arthur Freeborn ALSTON. 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.** Died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917. Born India. Enlisted Canterbury. Commemorated on the Arras memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel reference - Bay 6.

### AUSTEN F.J

**Gunner 148220 Frederick John AUSTEN. 129<sup>th</sup> Battery, 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A).** Died 25<sup>th</sup> April 1917 aged 36 years. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Woolwich, London. Son of William and Ellen Austen of Staplehurst. Husband of Alice J Austen of Sycamore House, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Hibers Trench Cemetery, Wancourt, Pas de Calais, France. Grave reference - D. 5.

### BARTON F.R (brother)

**Rifleman S/14154 or S/14454 Ronald BARTON DCM. 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade.** Died 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918 aged 23 years. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Goudhurst. Resided Staplehurst. Son of John and Ellen Barton of Ellen Barton of 3, Willow Cottages, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried in the Caudry British Cemetery. Grave reference IV.F.15.

Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for bravery in the field. This is a high ranking decoration for other ranks just below a Victoria Cross.

### BARTON J.M (brother)

**Lance Sergeant 4066 James Miles BARTON MM. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade.** Died 29<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 26 years. Born Tenterden. Resided Staplehurst. Son of John and Helen Barton of 3, Willow Cottages, Staplehurst, Kent.. Buried in the Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference I.C.19.

James was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery in the field.

### BOORMAN G.S

**Private 60072 or G/53537 George Spencer BOORMAN. 34<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Attached 101<sup>st</sup> Company, Labour Corps (3<sup>rd</sup> Army). Formerly (17777) Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).** Died 14<sup>th</sup> May 1918 aged 36 years. Born Bethersden. Husband of Hannah Boorman of

"Newstead Cottage", Staplehurst, Kent. Buried in the Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, France. Grave reference I.F.7.

#### BRIGHT J

**Sergeant 630989 Alfred John BRIGHT. London Regiment. "B" Company, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment.** Died 6<sup>th</sup> July 1917. Age 35. Enlisted Blackheath. Resided Catford. Son of William and Jane Bright of Staplehurst, Kent. Husband of Emily Bright of 172 Verdant Lane, Catford, London. Schoolmaster, Hither Green School. Buried Bedford House Cemetery, Ieper, Belgium. Enclosure No4 XIV. A. 24.

#### BRISLEY A.L

**Private 47469 Lewis Alfred BRISLEY. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Formerly 157766 Royal Field Artillery.** Died 29<sup>th</sup> April 1917. Age 26. Born Alkham. Enlisted Hythe. Husband of Alice May Brisley of Rabbits Cross Farm, Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.

Listed as A.L Brisley.

#### BUTLER H.G

**Probably this man -**

**Private 12149 Garnett Henry BUTLER. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards.** Died 20<sup>th</sup> September 1914. Born Burford, Oxfordshire. Enlisted Cirencester. Husband of A A Butler of 114 London Road, Southborough, Kent. Buried Guards Grave, Villers Cotterets Forest, Aisne, France. Grave 15.

#### CLOUT C

**Private G/27484 Charles CLOUTT. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.** Died 4<sup>th</sup> October 1918. Age 20. Born and resided Cranbrook. Enlisted Canterbury. Son of Mr Cloutt and Mrs Jane Clout of Throxbridge (probably should be Knoxbridge), Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Perreuse Chateau Franco British National Cemetery, Seine-et-Marne, France. Grave 1.C. 6.

#### CROUCH J

**Private G/13007 John CROUCH. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).** Died 21<sup>st</sup> September 1918. Age 33. Born Headcorn. Enlisted Cranbrook. Resided Staplehurst. Brother of Gladys Crouch of Cork Farm, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Pigeon Ravine Cemetery, Epehy, Somme. Grave III. B. 9.

CURTIS J

**Private 542 James CURTIS. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.** Died 18<sup>th</sup> December 1914. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Maidstone. Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

DADSWELL T

**Private T/293 Thomas DADSWELL. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 21<sup>st</sup> January 1916. Age 26. Born Paddock Wood. Enlisted Headcorn. Resided Staplehurst. Son of Mr and Mrs L Dadswell of Little Harts Heath, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave XVII. J. 15.

DAVIS S.R

**Lance Corporal R/8471 Sidney Robert DAVIS. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC).** Died 6<sup>th</sup> May 1916. Age 21. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Staplehurst. Son of Charles R and Elizabeth A Davis. Buried Agny Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave C. 10.

FARMER E.F

**Private G/9634 Ernest Frank FARMER. 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Age 28. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Cranbrook. Resided Staplehurst. Son of Mrs Jane Farmer of Lovehurst Cottage, Staplehurst, Kent. Commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel 17.

FARMER O.F

**Private SD/1033 Owen F FARMER. 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.** Died 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916. Age 28. Born Frittenden. Enlisted Wadhurst, Sussex. Son of Edwin and Mary Farmer of "Sweetlands," Staplehurst, Kent. Husband of Dora Farmer of 10 Northcote Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Buried Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France. Grave II. A. 33.

FOREMAN C

**Private 59433 Charles FOREMAN. 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.** Died 29<sup>th</sup> September 1918. Age 20. Born Pembury, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge. Son of Mr and Mrs E Foreman of Goldsmid Cottages, Five Oak Green, Paddock Wood, Kent. Buried Unicorn Cemetery, Vend' Huile, Aisne, France. Grave I. B. 22.

GURR A.J

**Driver S2/018247 Alfred John GURR. 63<sup>rd</sup> Depot Unit, 13<sup>th</sup> Division, Army Service Corps (ASC).** Died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Age 33. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Goudhurst. Son of Alfred and Eliza Gurr of High Street, Staplehurst, Kent. Husband of Merrella Mary Reeves (formerly Gurr) of 14 Lancaster Road, Canterbury. Buried Aldershot Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave AF 1845.

HANMER A.J

**Second Lieutenant Alexander John HANMER MC. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.** Died 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916. Age 20. Born Newington, Sittingbourne, Kent. Son of John and Constance Catherine Hanmer of Saynden, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave (Officers) B. 1. 30.

HARRIS C.E

**Private 43037 Charles Edward HARRIS. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment. Formerly (181093) Royal Field Artillery.** Died 30<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Age 21. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Staplehurst. Son of John and Mary Ann Harris of Victoria Cottage, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Terlincthun British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave VII. A. C. 18.

HOARE R.L

**Captain Richard Lennard HOARE. 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment. (The Rangers) (TF).** Died 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. Age 33. (The first day of the Battle of The Somme 1916). Born Staplehurst. Son of Laura Hoare of Summerhil, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent and the late William Hoare. Buried Gommecourt British Cemetery No2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France. Grave I.C. 1. Also commemorated on Benenden war memorial.

JULL L.H

**Lieutenant Leslie Hubert JULL. Royal Flying Corps (RFC). Formerly North Staffordshire Regiment.** Died 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1918. Buried locally in Staplehurst (All Saints) Churchyard.

The memorial lists Leslie's unit as the Royal Air Force. In fact when Leslie died the RAF did not exist. He died serving in the army RFC.

KING E

**Private 10257 Ernest A King. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly Private (459393) 437<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Company, Labour Corps.** Died 18<sup>th</sup> December 1918. Age 33. Husband of Rose Ellen King of Parsonage Cottage, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent. Buried East Sutton (SS Peter and Paul) Churchyard Extension. Grave 4 (in North-West part).

Ernest's name also appears on the nearby East Sutton war memorial.

LE FEAVER C.

**Trooper 1637 Charles LE FEAVER, Household Battalion, Household Cavalry.** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1917. Age 30. Born Malden (SDGW) (but it was probably Marden). Enlisted Windsor. Resided Staplehurst. Son of John and Ellen Le Fever of Stile Bridge, Marden, Kent. Husband of Norah H J Le Fever of Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Roeux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave D. 28.

Charle's brother Victor Charles also fell and both are commemorated on the nearby Marden civic war memorial.

LUCAS J.H

**Sapper 40963 Jesse Henry LUCAS. 69<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (RE).** Died 7<sup>th</sup> September 1915. Age 20. Born Willesden, London. Enlisted Willesden, London. Resided Staplehurst. Son of Henry Richard and Annie Louisa Lucas of Willesden, London N W. Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave IV. E. 4.

MAYBOURNE G.A

**Private George A MAYBOURNE. Company "B," 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. United States Army.** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1918. Buried Arlington National Cemetery, USA. Site 4013.

Listed on the memorial as U.S Army.

MUGLESTON E.S.H

**Private 35562 Eric Stanley MUGLESTON. 10<sup>th</sup> (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)).** Died 12<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Age 21. Son of Mr R H and Mrs A A Mugleston of Spills Hill Farm, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France. Grave X. F. 10.

NICHOLSON G.A

**Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Arnold NICHOLSON. Royal Flying Corps.** Died 19<sup>th</sup> May 1917. Son of Mr and Mrs A G Nicholson of Surrenden, Staplehurst, Kent. Buried locally in Staplehurst (All Saints) Churchyard, Staplehurst, Kent.

Erroneously commemorated on the memorial plaque as being of the RAF. The RAF was not formed until April 1918.

### OSBORNE W.M.T

Private W.M.T OSBORNE. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) – Probably this man -

**Private G/13648 William Thomas OSBORNE. 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Marden. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais. Bay 2.

### PEARSON T.J

**Private 42730 Thomas John PEARSON. 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.** Died 5<sup>th</sup> April 1918. Age 19. Born Pembury, Kent. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Staplehurst. Son of Charles and Minnie Pearson of 1 Pagehurst Cottages, Staplehurst, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 4.

### PENNEFATHER C.L

**Captain Charles Louis PENNEFATHER. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade.** Died 14<sup>th</sup> June 1916. Age 22. Son of Major and Mrs L M Pennefather of The Green Court, New Romney, Kent. Gazetted 15<sup>th</sup> August 1914. Overseas November 1914. Wounded at Fromelles May 1915. Gazetted Captain 14<sup>th</sup> January 1916. Buried Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave B. 35.

Also commemorated on memorial plaque located in St Nicholas Church, New Romney, Kent.

### ROFE T.W

**Lance Corporal S/18993 Thomas William ROFE. 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade.** Died 15<sup>th</sup> February 1917. Born Frittenden. Enlisted Lewisham, London. Resided Sydenham, London. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

### SALES F.T

**Corporal 52678 Frederick Thomas SALES. 95<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (RE).** Died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1917. Born Lenham. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Lenham. Son of Mr T Sales of Royal Exchange, Burham, Rochester, Kent. Buried Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France. Grave II. E. 8.

### SISLEY E

**Corporal 24859 Ebenezer SISLEY. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards.** Died 7<sup>th</sup> October 1918. Died 7<sup>th</sup> October 1918. Age 26. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Staplehurst. Son of John and Jane Sisley of New Town, Staplehurst, Kent. Pas de Calais, France. Grave III. C. 20.

SMITH G.T

**Private 255405 George Thomas SMITH. Labour Corps. Formerly (45827) Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).** Died 8<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Canterbury.

This man does not appear to be recorded by the CWGC on their indexes. This needs looking at because his death is recorded on Soldiers Died Great War!

THATCHER W.T

**Sergeant Wilfred T THATCHER. 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment).** Died 25<sup>th</sup> June 1918. Age 32. Born Staplehurst 27<sup>th</sup> October 1886. Enlisted Calgary, Alberta, Canada. 17<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

USBORNE C

**Private G/12474 Charles USBORNE. 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916. Born Frittenden. Enlisted Sevenoaks. Buried AIF Burial Ground, Flers, Somme, France. Grave XIII. C. 19.

VIDLER A.E

**Private 9262 Alfred Ernest VIDLER. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.** Died 7<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Age 28. Born Dover. Enlisted Dover. Son of William and Harriett Vidler of 49 Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, Belgium. Panel 34.

WICKINGS W.M.G

**Sergeant 242650 William M.G WICKINGS. 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (H.L.I). Formerly (1015) West Kent Yeomanry.** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Staplehurst. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Bay 8.

WIGHTWICK O (brother)

**Private 1882 Oswald WIGHTWICK. 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment. (Royal Irish Rifles).** Died 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915. Age 23. Enlisted Chelsea, London. Resided Staplehurst. Son of William Jeffery and Minnie Clara Wightwick of Tonbridge, Kent. Buried La Treport Military Cemetery, Seine-Maritime, France. Plot2. Row J. Grave 4A.

Brother of Sydney (below).



WIGHTWICK S (brother)

**Second Lieutenant Sydney WIGHTWICK. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles), London Regiment. Formerly Private 77335 Canadian Infantry.** Died 9<sup>th</sup> September 1917. Age 28. Born Tonbridge, Kent 9<sup>th</sup> February 1889. Enlisted Victoria, British Columbia 9<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Son of the late William Jeffery Wightwick and Minnie Clara Wightwick of Tonbridge, Kent. Buried Divisional Collecting Post Cemetery and Extension, Ieper, Belgium. Grave I. C. 1.

Prior to emigrating to Canada and becoming a rancher Sydney had served for four years in a London based Territorial Force unit.

WIMBLE A

**Private 24960 Arthur WIMBLE. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.** Died 13<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Age 19. Born Staplehurst. Enlisted Croydon, Surrey. Son of the late Jonathan and Mary Ann Wimble. Commemorated on the Menin Gate Ieper, Belgium. Panel 34.

The Second World War  
1939 - 1945



ANDERSON J.B

**Driver 119421 John Barr ANDERSON. Royal Army Service Corps (RASC).** Died 17<sup>th</sup> November 1942. Age 23. Born British Guiana. Resided Kent. Son of George Ernest Anderson and of Janet Anderson Anderson of St Mawes, Cornwall. Buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Grave 1. D. 6.

DEAN W.J

**Seaman LT/JX 193874 William John DEAN. Royal Naval Patrol Service. HM Trawler Marsoma.** Died 4<sup>th</sup> August 1940. Age 35. Son of Alfred James Dean and Annie Kate Dean. Husband of Stella Charlotte Dean of Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Rosskeen Parish Churchyard Extensions (Or Burial Ground), Ross and Cromarty, Scotland.

BAYFORD C

**Leading Motor Mechanic C/MX 125979 Charles BAYFORD. Royal Navy. HMLCT 494. Royal Navy.** Died 18<sup>th</sup> October 1944. Age 19. Son of Charles Alfred and Maud Bayford of Staplehurst, Kent. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 78, 2.

JOHNSON H.A

**Bombardier 1713388 Henry Alfred JOHNSON. 209 Battery, 70 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.** Died 29<sup>th</sup> September 1943. Born and resided Kent. Age 37. Son of Harry and Edith Mary Johnson. Husband of Minnie Joan Johnson of Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Syracuse War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave VII. E. 12.

COLLISON W.E

**Trooper 14524689 Walter Edwin COLLISON. 8<sup>th</sup> King's Royal Irish Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps.** Died 30<sup>th</sup> March 1945. Age 27. Born and resided Kent. Son of Edward Samuel and Elsie May Collison of Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Grave 62. B. 15.

ROAN P.H

**Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) 934278 Peter Harding ROAN. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 77 Squadron RAF.** Died 16<sup>th</sup> February 1942. Age 19. Son of Acton Wallis Roan and Elsie Roan of Staplehurst, Kent. Buried Stratford-on-Avon Cemetery, Warwickshire. Grave 4017.

Returning from a mission to St-Nazaire, Peter's Leeming based Whitley bomber Z9229 KN-M failed to maintain height and crashed at Sherbourne, Warwickshire, four crew lost their lives in the crash, John Giffin (RCAF) and William Paterson (RCAF) are buried each side of Peter, Edwin Hooper (RAFVR) is buried in Reigate, Surrey, the other member of the crew James Spalding (RAFVR) parachuted to safety but lost his life less than a month later on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1942. Age 29 and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Panel 71.

SOWERY J.J

**Gunner 964401 John James SOWERY. 118 Field Regiment, Royal Field Artillery.** Died 12<sup>th</sup> August 1943. Age 23. Born Manchester. Resided Kent. Son of William and Olive Sowery of Staplehurst, Kent. Commemorated Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Special Memorial 9. M. 9.

