

Tonbridge St. Peter and St. Paul Second Boer War 1899-1902 Memorial Plaque



The memorial plaque above, which was erected by public subscription, was kindly photographed for inclusion here by prolific contributor Susan F. It is located in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Church Lane, Tonbridge. All of the casualties who are commemorated on the church plaque are also commemorated on the Second Boer War Memorial at River Walk, Tonbridge. Working from a design by the Architect John W. Little, the sculptor of the plaque was Louis Fitz Roselieb (1878-1934), who later changed his name during the Great War to Louis Frederick Roslyn. On 9 April 1904, the plaque was unveiled by the General Officer Commanding Thames District, Major-General Sir Reginald Clare Hart, V.C., G.C.B., K.C.V.O. The foundry cast memorial plaque bears the following inscription:-

**IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF TONBRIDGE AND THE DISTRICT
WHO FELL IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN 1899-1902.**

BEECHING, ARTHUR T. Private, 8047.

15th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

Died 15 February 1901.

Born Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Arthur G. Beeching and Ellen Beeching.

On 7 June 1900, Arthur was officially posted as being missing in action at Heilbron, but he later rejoined his unit. Arthur was severely wounded at Modderfontein on 31 January 1901, and succumbed to his wounds on 15 February 1901.

BLACK, FREDERICK S. Private, 5708.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Killed in action on 19 November 1900 at Balmoral, South Africa.

BLACK, WILLIAM. Private, 3233

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died of disease a Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Commemorated on the Boer War Memorial, Dane John Gardens, Canterbury, Kent.

BRIDGEN, RICHARD. Private, 2930.

2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

Died of disease at Ladysmith, South Africa on 6 April 1900.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of John and Elizabeth Brigden.

Commemorated on the Sherborne Abbey, Dorsetshire, Boer War Memorial.

Richard's battalion left England onboard the SS Simla on 28 November 1899, and arrived at Cape Town, South Africa on 17 December 1899.

HENRY H. CARTER. Arguably the best match for this casualty is:-

CARTER, H. Private, 5463.

1st Battalion, Royal Scots.

Died at Sterkstroom on 17 March 1900.

EDMONDS, GEORGE E. Arguably the best match for this casualty is:-

EDMONDS, G. Private, 13347.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died at Pinetown Bridge on 11 February 1904.

HUMPHREY, GEORGE. As commemorated on the war memorial is probably:-

HUMPHREY, ALFRED GEORGE. Private, 28785.

36th Company, 11th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

Alfred was possibly the son of Henry James Humphrey and Jane Ann Humphrey. At the time of the 1881 census, the Humphrey family resided at Powder Mill Cottages, London Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 23 year old Tonbridge native Henry James Humphrey, who was employed as a Gunpowder Maker. The then 2 year old Alfred Humphrey was recorded by the census enumerator as being born at Tonbridge.

LUCAS, WILLIAM. Private, 3479.

1st Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 2 June 1900.

William was wounded at Florida on 29 May 1900, and succumbed to his wounds there on 2 June 1900.

MUNDAY, JOSEPH RICHARD. Private, 1745.

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died of wounds at Frankfort on 18 November 1900. Aged 29.

Born Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Joseph and Harriett Munday of Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) Boer War memorial window, at the parish church of All Saint's, Maidstone, Kent.

READ, FREDERICK.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to ascertain which of the three casualties who are recorded as being F. READ, that died during the Second Boer War is the Tonbridge commemorated casualty. One soldier was killed, one drowned, and the other died, the latter death probably being due to a disease or illness.

TOLHURST, JOHN A. Sapper, 146.

Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers.

Died at Kimberly on 29 May 1900.

Commemorated on The South African Memorial Arch, Brompton Barracks, Gillingham, Kent, but with his initials shown in reverse order to that as he is commemorated on the memorials at Tonbridge.

TWORT, HERBERT. Private, 6845.

1st Volunteer Active Service Company, 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died at sea of Rem Fever on 17 April 1901.

Born Tonbridge, Kent 1877.

Son of Jacob and Ellen Susannah Twort (née Miles).

At the time of the 1891 census, the Twort family resided at 127 Shipbourne Lane, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 60 year old Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent native, Jacob Twort who was a Shoemaker. The then 15 year old Herbert was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a House Boy.

WILCOX, F. Private, 6865.

2nd Volunteer Active Service Company, 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died of Enteric Fever at Norvals Pont on 15 December 1902.

Buried Colesburg Cemetery, Vetsriver, Orange Free State, South Africa.

Grave Ref: No. 27.

Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E.A.W.S. Grove, on 16 March 1900, the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) sailed for South Africa with the 2nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment, onboard the "Bavarian," and arrived at the Cape on 6 April 1900.

