

Wateringbury



At the time of carrying out the following brief transcriptions in remembrance of the war dead of Wateringbury, the transcriber was unable to locate any details regarding when the recently cleaned civic war memorial was erected and/or dedicated. As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, within the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury, are a number of memorial panels commemorating the parishes fallen. In addition to the different forms of remembrance already referred to, the Kent Schools Archives, Kent County Council, Springfield, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2LH, also has memorial panels commemorating forty one victims of the Great War former pupils of the village school, a number of whom are not also commemorated in the parish church.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ADAMS, FREDERICK. Private, S/137.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 38.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. T. Morgan (formerly Adams), of Wood Cottages, Nettlestead Green, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels. Also commemorated on the Yalding, Kent, civic war memorial.

Frederick had served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War).

ADAMS, PERCY. Gunner, 163724.

434th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 16 May 1918. Aged 28.

Born and resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. E. Adams of Nettlestead Court Cottages, Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Gwalia Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. D. 27.

Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

Possibly the maiden name of Percy's wife was Ellen Kirby, and that they had married in the Malling district of Kent during the third quarter of 1914.

BOWLES, THOMAS RICHARD. Officer's Steward 1st Class, 358079.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Lion."

Died 31 May 1916.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent 8 August 1881.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 21, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

BUTCHER, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, 22564.

1st Battalion, Border Regiment.

Died 1 July 1916.

Born and resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 6 A and 7 C, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

Formerly Private, 6448, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

William stated that he was employed as a Footman when he enlisted in the army on 11 May 1915, at which time he was attested to the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). On 9 November 1915 William was transferred to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Border Regiment, and to 1st Battalion of the regiment on 24 November 1915.

CHEESEMAN, HERBERT WILLIAM FRANK. Private, G/5162.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 25.

Born Marden, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Herbert and Nellie Cheeseman.

Husband of the late Alice Cheeseman.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

At the time of the 1901 census the Cheeseman family resided at 1, Butler Cottages, Woolwich Road, Bexley, Kent. Head of the house was 34 year old Ashford, Kent native Herbert Cheeseman (senior) who was employed as a Coal Yard Number Taker.

CLEAVER, CLAUDE LOCKS. Private, G/8089.

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

Died 18 April 1916. Aged 22.

Born Marden, Kent. Enlisted Bromley, Kent. Resided Orpington, Kent.

Son of Ellen Agnes Cleaver (nee Locks) of 49, Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and the late Martyr Cleaver of Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 29.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Cleaver family resided at Howlett Farm, Chilham, Ashford, Kent, where Claude's father was employed as the Farm Bailiff.

COSTIN, WILLIAM GEORGE. Private, 48397.

21st (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 26 April 1917.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Edward and Ellen Costin.

Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XV. J. 16.

Formerly 179462, Royal Field Artillery.

William's mothers maiden name was probably Long, who like her husband was a native of Wateringbury.

COWLARD, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, 33154.

10th (Service) Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.

Born Chelsfield, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of John and Emily Cowlard of Camden Cottages, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Florence Maud Cowlard (nee Huntley) of Camden Cottages, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 3 A and 3 D, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

Formerly Private, G/12973, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

William's mothers' maiden name was probably Blundell, & a native of Sydenham.

CRONK, ALFRED. Private, 61648.

7th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 23 March 1918. Aged 33.

Born and resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Charles and Ann Cronk (nee Humphrey).

Husband of Ellen Mary Cronk (nee Costin) of 16, Bow Terrace, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

Formerly Private, G/12412, Royal Sussex Regiment.

CRUTTENDEN, FRANK. Private, 42519.

5th (Service) Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

Died 10 April 1918. Aged 31.

Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Edward and Fanny Cruttenden (nee Tompsett) of 5, Bow Terrace, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Lilly Cruttenden of 8, Bow Terrace, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 65, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

Formerly Private, 782011, London Regiment.

CUCKOW, ERNEST JOHN. Private, 20622.

7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's).

Died 17 September 1918. Aged 32.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent. Resided Paddock Wood, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Cuckow of 9, Belmont Road, Grays, Essex.

Buried Thurrock, (Grays), New Cemetery, Essex. Grave Ref: 6. 251.

It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that unfortunately Ernest is not commemorated on the 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's), Great War memorial plaque located in Norwich Cathedral, Norfolk. Possibly Ernest's parents were William and Elizabeth Cuckow.

DATLEN, GEORGE EDWARD. Lance Corporal, G/9046.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 17 August 1916. Aged 22.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Jessie Ann Denton (formerly Datlen) of 2, Springdale Terrace, Nettlestead, Wateringbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C, and on the former Dover, Kent, Holy Trinity Hall War Memorial, also on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

At the time of the 1901 census when the Datlen family resided at 4, Finniss Hill, Dover, Kent, 41 year old widow Jessie Datlen had a 7 month old baby.

DAWSON, CHARLES. No clear trace.

Also commemorated on the Waterringbury school memorial panels.

FULLBROOK, GEORGE JAMES. Lance Corporal, 7296.

1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Died 26 June 1916.

Born Waterringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Reading, Berkshire. Resided Dublin, Ireland.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

GODWIN, JOHN JONAS. Private, 232407.

2nd/2nd City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

Died 26 October 1917. Aged 22.

Born Walthamstow. Enlisted and resided Barking, Essex.

Son of James and Elizabeth Godwin.

Husband of Vera Annie Godwin of The Corn Stores, Bow Road, Waterringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 148.

GUNNER, ALFRED. Stoker 1st Class, K/21113.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Natal."

Died 30 December 1915. Aged 19.

Born Snodland, Kent 27 December 1894.

Son of Henry and Rose Gunner of Canon Lane, Waterringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11, and on the Waterringbury school memorial panels.

H.M.S. Natal was a Royal Navy 13,550 ton Warrior class armoured cruiser which was commissioned in 1907. She was at anchor in the Cromarty Firth when she quite literally exploded at about 1520 hours on the afternoon of 30 December 1915. A series of violent internal explosions tore through the ship, and within five minutes she capsized a blazing wreck. At the time of her loss, the ships commander Captain, Eric P.C. Back R.N., and his wife were hosting a party onboard the ship, which included nurses, civilians and children, all of whom were among the 388 who lost their lives when the ship blew-up. Those bodies which were recovered from the sea were interred in Rosskeen Churchyard Extensions, (or Burial Ground) Invergordon, Ross-shire, Scotland, and are included amongst the 150 Commonwealth burials from both world wars at rest at Rosskeen. Following the loss of H.M.S. Natal an Admiralty Board of Enquiry was convened; the official result from same was that the explosion onboard H.M.S. Natal was due to the deterioration of cordite in the ships magazine. For many years following the tragedy there was a story circulating in many quarters about the ship having been sabotaged. This apparently was based on 'the fact' that the Dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Vanguard had also exploded mysteriously after being visited by a particular Ordnance Chargehand, who also went into the magazine of H.M.S. Natal just before she too exploded and sank. The man in

question is reputed to have then disappeared without trace; an obvious explanation accounting for his disappearance was that he too was lost when H.M.S. Natal exploded. For comprehensive details about the ship, probably the best book to consult is "They Called It Accident" by A. Cecil Hampshire which tells the story of H.M.S Natal from when she was launched until her tragic loss.

GURR, FREDERICK JAMES. Gunner, 103278.

97th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 9 April 1918. Aged 19.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William and Emily Gurr of The Green, Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Beuvry Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. B. 10.

Commemorated on the Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent, civic war memorial.

HALL, PERCY HUBERT. Able Seaman, J/632.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Vanguard."

Died 9 July 1917. Aged 25.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent 30 November 1891.

Son of Julia Ann Friend (formerly Hall) of West Street, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent, and the late William Henry Hall.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 21.

A survivor from the Battle of Jutland in which she was part of the Forth Battle Squadron, H.M.S. Vanguard, a 19,560 ton St.Vincent class battleship commanded by Lieutenant Commander Alan C.H. Duke R.N, blew up and sank to the north of the Golta peninsula in Flotta, Scapa Flow at approximately 2320 hours on Monday 9 July 1917 with the loss of 843 lives. She went down as the result of a magazine explosion in one of the two magazines which served the 'P' and 'Q' turrets amidships. Following her loss an Admiralty Court of Enquiry was convened, with three possible causes tendered, they being: - (1) A spontaneous detonation of cordite, which had become unstable. (2) The cordite having caught fire from heating in an adjacent compartment. (3) Sabotage. To their credit Brian Budge from Kirkwall, and fellow enthusiast, Jonathan Saunders from Gillingham, Kent have carried out extensive research over a number of years into the loss of Robert's ship, and it is as the result of their findings that the actual death toll and following information has been ascertained. The vast majority of those lost with H.M.S. Vanguard numbering 622, are commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Although no formal cause for the cordite explosion was ever found by the Court of Inquiry, the most likely explanation is that a fire in a coal bunker or other neighbouring area simply smoldered away undetected long enough to heat the cordite stored at an adjoining bulkhead to dangerous levels, which eventually triggered an explosive reaction. Although dwarfed by the losses such as the S.S. Lancastria off the coast of France in the Second World War, the loss of H.M.S. Vanguard remains Britain's worst disaster in Home Waters. The wreck-site of the ship is now thankfully designated as a controlled site under the Protection of Military Remains Act.

HARRIS, GEORGE. Lance Corporal, G/5111.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 30 May 1916. Aged 35.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of A. Harris of Sebastopol Cottages, Capel, Paddock Wood, Kent.
Buried Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. J. 3.

HEAD, ROBERT ARTHUR. Lance Corporal, 8514.
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers).
Died 31 October 1914.
Born and resided Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Stratford.
Son of Mrs. Bertha Crayford (formerly Head) of Linden Cottage, Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5, and on the Nettlestead, Kent, parish tribute to the war dead of the Great War which is in the form of a memorial plaque, that is located within the Lych Gate of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent. Robert is also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels. At the time of the 1901 census the Head family was residing at The Hollow, Watringbury. Head of the house was Robert's widowed mother Bertha, who was a 41 year old native of the village. Robert was recorded by the census enumerator as being 10 years old.

HEAD, WILLIAM CHARLES. Corporal, 3132.
1st/6th Battalion, London Regiment (City of London Rifles).
Died 25 September 1915. Aged 22.
Enlisted London. Resided Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Head of Lower Road, Watringbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 130, and on the Watringbury school memorial panels.
At the time of the 1901 census the Head family was residing at Old Road, Watringbury. Head of the house was William's father, a 44 year old Fruit Farmer from Pennington, Lymington, Hampshire.

HEARN, GEORGE. Stoker 1st Class, 310098.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Princess Irene."
Died 27 May 1915. Aged 29.
Born Brambling, Kent 21 January 1886.
Son of Mr. J. Hearn of Old School Cottage, Ickham, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Louisa Mary Hearn of 2, Medway Terrace, Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11, on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

HEATH, GEORGE. No clear trace.

Also commemorated on the Waterringbury school memorial panels.

HEATH, RICHARD. Lance Corporal, CH/7675.

Chatham Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry, 63rd Royal Naval Division.

Died 30 April 1915. Aged 39. (Please see below re date of death).

Born Waterringbury, Maidstone, Kent 19 December 1873. Enlisted (originally) Chatham, Kent 17 January 1894.

Son of Richard and Charlotte Burr Heath (nee Luck) of Broomcroft Cottage, Waterringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Mary Ann Heath of Upna Lodge, Upper Gladstone Road, Deal, Kent.

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 2 to 7, and on the Victoria Hospital, Deal, Great War memorial plaques. Richard is also commemorated on the parish church of St. Leonards, Deal, Kent, Great War memorial plaque. Also commemorated on the Waterringbury school memorial panels.

Prior to originally enlisting in the Royal Marines, Richard had been employed as a Plumber & Painter's Labourer. Richard re-engaged in the Royal Marines on 17 January 1906, and on 9 April 1909 was awarded the Royal Navy Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. Richard and Mary married on 23 December 1912. At the commencement of the Great War hostilities, Richard was amongst the Royal Marines ordered to serve on the ill-fated H.M.S. Aboukir, but before he could join the ship his orders were changed, and he went to serve in France. Serving in the Chatham Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry, 63rd Royal Naval Division, Richard took part in the fighting at Dunkirk between 20 September 1914 and 2 October 1914. During the Defence of Antwerp he sustained a slight wound, and said that he owed his life to the fact that he was re-loading his rifle at the moment when another bullet came through the loophole at which he was engaged. Although during peacetime conditions, Richard would have been retired to pension in January 1915, but he like many of his peers, under war conditions any experienced man could not be released. Richard accompanied his battalion to the Dardanelles in the spring of 1915, and was appointed a Lance Corporal on 29 April 1915, it being the day before his date of death is shown at his CWGC commemoration details, other data accessed records that he was killed in action on the 27 May 1915, but his death certificate has not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief memorials. Prior to the Great War Richard's civilian building skills appear to have been put to good use, as he was employed in the Works Department at the Royal Marine Depot, Deal. On 13 June 1919 Richard's widow received his 1914 Star and clasp. Richard's brother William served in the Royal Navy as an Officers Steward 1st Class, 357289, and was at Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hampshire in 1914, and born at Waterringbury on Boxing Day 1880.

HERBERT, ALBERT THOMAS. Private, 3/5332.
1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Died 5 September 1916. Aged 19.
Born and resided Fulham, London. Enlisted London.
Son of John Edward and Emma Herbert of Gas House Cottages, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 6 B, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

HODGE, ARTHUR HENRY. Stoker 1st Class, K/30127.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Derwent."
Died 2 May 1917. Aged 36.
Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent 21 June 1880.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 24.
On some data checked, Arthur is shown with the service number 345414.
H.M.S. Derwent was a River class Destroyer which hit a mine on the night of 1/2 May 1917 which had been laid by the German submarine UC-26, and sunk off the port of Le Havre. A week after the loss of H.M.S. Derwent, the UC-26 commanded by Matthias Graf von Schmettow was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Milne off Calais, France, when only 2 of the submarines crew of 26 survived the sinking.

JAMES, EDWARD ALBERT. Corporal, 8850.
2nd Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
Died 5 September 1918.
Born Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. B. 21.
Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

JESSUP, ARTHUR. D.C.M. Rifleman, S/6207.
8th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 1 October 1917.
Son of the late Jesse and Jane Jessup.
Born Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Charing Cross, Middlesex. Resided Merton, Surrey.
Buried Kandahar Farm, Wulvergem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: II. F. 37.
Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent with his surname spelt Jessop. Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.
Although not a native of the village of Wateringbury, at the time of the 1901 census the Jessup family resided at Pizenwell, Wateringbury. Unfortunately Arthur is amongst the natives of Wrotham, Kent, who are not commemorated on the village civic war memorial.

JUKES, ARTHUR. Private, 11799.
1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.
Died 28 September 1915. Aged 24.
Born Egerton, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Harry and Ellen Jukes (nee Russell) of Old Road, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

JURY, JOHN THOMS. Private, 23860.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 12 February 1917. Aged 24.
Born and enlisted West Malling, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Walter and Jane Jury of 91, Cannon Heath, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IV. B. 22.
Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

LARGE, CHARLES ROBERT. Private, 23474.
10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 22 March 1917. Aged 31.
Born Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Henry and Alice Large (nee Flint) of Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Dikkebus, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: AA. 14.
Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

LATTER, FREDERICK ERNEST. Private, G/4103.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 30.
Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Emily Latter.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.
It would seem likely that the true name of Frederick's mother was Millie, and had the maiden surname Frost prior to marrying Frederick Latter in the Malling, Kent district during the last quarter of 1888. At the time of the 1901 census the Latter family resided at Bow Road, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent where 37 year old Yalding, Kent native Frederick (senior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house and employed as a Brewers Labourer.

LEANEY, BERTRAM. Gunner, 246086.
East Command Bombing School, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 30 October 1918. Aged 31.
Born and enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Augustus and Kate Leney.
Husband of Emily Gladys Leney of Bendrose Grange, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire.
Buried West Farleigh, Kent, (All Saints) Churchyard.
Grave Ref: South of Church Tower.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.
Formerly Acting Lance Corporal, Inns of Court, Officers Training Corps.

MARCHANT, WILLIAM ERNEST. Private, G/10196.
2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 7 November 1915. Aged 29.
Born Chiddingstone, Kent. Resided Farnborough, Hampshire.
Son of James and Sarah Marchant of Nettlestead Place, Watringbury,
Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 37 to 41 or 328.

MARTIN, FREDERICK.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

MATTHEWS, JOHN. Private, 203936.
1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.
Died 10 October 1917. Aged 19.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Robert and Louise Matthews of 38, Waterloo Street, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Panels 79 to 80 and 163A.

MAYTUM, WALTER ALFRED. Private, 47071.
9th Squadron, Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry).
Died 22 March 1918.
Born and resided Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 93, and on
the Watringbury school memorial panels.
Formerly Private, 11206, Reserve Regiment of Cavalry.

MIRES, ARTHUR HENRY. D.C.M. Private, L/9459.
2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 2 November 1915.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 29, and on the Watringbury
school memorial panels.

NEEVES, WALTER. Corporal, 209287.
Royal Air Force, No. 1 Base (Malta).
Died 20 December 1918. Aged 28.
Son of Benjamin George and Elizabeth R. Neeves of 226, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried St Germain-au-Mont-d'Or Communal Cemetery Extension, Rhone, France. Grave Ref: B. 49.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.
Walter was 10 years old at the time of the 1901 census when the Neeves family resided at 2, Prospect Place, Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

NEWMAN, LOUIS. Serjeant, G/2216.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 27 September 1916.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

ONGLEY, ARTHUR FISHER. Pioneer, SS/15577.
12th Labour Company, Army Service Corps.
Died 2 October 1917. Aged 40.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Frederick and Mary Grace Ongley (nee Styles) of Folkestone, Kent.
Husband of Annie Ongley of "Glenthorn," 41, Southwood Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Calais Southern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: Plot B. Row 1. Grave 4.
Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

PEARCE, GEORGE HENRY. Private, G/12118.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 18 November 1916. Aged 24.
Born Tovil, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of William Thomas and Catherine Pearce of 3, Medway Terrace, Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, on the Watringbury school memorial panels.
At the time of the 1901 census the Pearce family resided at 22, Tovil Hill, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Bricklayers Labourer William Pearce, a native of Maidstone, Kent. George's mother was a native of Stedham, Midhurst, Sussex.

PEARSON, WILLIAM FRANK. Lance Corporal, G/16617.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 26 October 1917. Aged 30.
Born Yalding, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Pearson of Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Ellen Avis Pearson of 4, Glenleigh Terrace, Nettlestead, Watringbury, Kent.
Buried Hooze Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: VIA. E. 11.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

PETTET, AUGUSTUS JARVIS. Sapper, T/2206.
1/3rd Kent Fortress Company, Royal Engineers.
Died at sea 28 October 1915. Aged 31.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Pettet.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328.

RALPH, ROBERT CHARLES. Lance Corporal, 39874.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
Died 19 July 1917.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Wakefield, Yorkshire.
Buried Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. C. 5.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

ROLF, FREDERICK. Shoeing Smith, 43504.
5th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 20 June 1918. Aged 20.
Born Hampstead, Middlesex. Resided Fulham.
Son of Frederick and Emma Rolf of 41, Kingsgate Road, West Hampstead, London.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.



ROGERS, ALBERT CHARLES. Private, 3698.

48th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 4 May 1918. Aged 23.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Adelaide, South Australia 30 June 1915. Resided Minlaton, Yorke Peninsular, South Australia.

Son of Mrs. Eliza Rogers of 34, Bow Terrace, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Vignacourt British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. E. 17.

Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels, and on the Australian National war memorial. Panel 164.

Formerly Private, 2942A, 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

At the time of the 1901 census the Rogers family resided at 57, King Street, Maidstone, Kent where Albert's 31 year old father Joseph, was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and a native of Paddington, London employed as a Coachman. On the completion of his army training, Albert was in a draft of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. reinforcements which embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on 21 September 1915, onboard the 9,136 ton ship H.M.A.T. Star of England (A 15), which was a requisitioned vessel of the Commonwealth & Dominion Line (London).

SALES, ERNEST JOHN. Private, 9502.

4th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

Died 30 April 1915.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 104 to 113, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

SDGW records Ernest as being a native of Chatham, Kent, but at the time of the 1901 census, when 15 year old Ernest was residing with his family, the census entered Ernest's place of birth as Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. The transcriber of these brief commemorations has taken the liberty of entering the latter location as place of birth above. Head of the house shown on the census entry was Ernest's 52 year old widowed father, a native of Uckfield, Sussex.

SMITH, LEWIS JOHN. Lance Corporal, 46310.

8th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 16 August 1917.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 19 to 23 and 162, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

SMITH, TOM. No clear trace. At the time of the 1901 census there were at least two Wateringbury natives residing in the village, they being the sons of Edward and Julia Smith, and James and Hannah M. Smith.

Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

STAPLES, STANLEY GEORGE. Private, G/12263.

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

Died 4 August 1918. Aged 21.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Frank and Clara Staples (nee Miles) of 1, London Road, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

At the time of the 1901 census the Staples family resided at Birling Road, Snodland, Kent.

STEVENS, BENJAMIN, Private, 25234.

1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 26 May 1918.

Born Offham, Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. A. 27.

Commemorated on the West Peckham, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

At the time of the 1901 census Benjamin was 5 years old, and the Stevens family resided at Moorfield Farm, Offham, Malling, Kent. Head of the house was Benjamin's 44 year old father Richard Stevens who was a native of East Peckham, Kent, and employed as the Farm Bailiff.





STEVENS, HENRY FRANCIS BINGHAM. Lieutenant.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 16/17 September 1915. Aged 25.
Born Darenth, Kent.
Son of The Reverend Canon Bingham Stevens and Mrs. Catherine Eliza Bingham Stevens (nee Bartlett), of The Beck, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Poelkapelle, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: LVI. D. 3.
Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.
At the time of Henry's birth, his father was the Vicar of the parish of Darenth, Kent.

WAGHORN, THOMAS. No clear trace.
Also commemorated on the Wateringbury school memorial panels.

WELLER, WILLIAM ARTHUR. Corporal, G/24453.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 10 February 1917. Aged 29.
Born St. Mary's, Westerham, Kent. Enlisted Westerham, Kent.
Son of Thomas Henry and Sarah Weller of Westerham, Kent.
Husband of Alice Maud Benfield (formerly Weller) of Vine House, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. C. 7.

WELLS, JAMES EDWARD. Private, L/8285.
2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 11 July 1917.
Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Baghdad War Cemetery, Iraq. XIV. L. 8.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.

WINTER, CHARLES. Private, 49434.
7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 13 November 1916.
Born Barming, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Nettlestead, Kent.
Son of Thomas William and Sarah Elizabeth Winter (nee Price).
Buried Redan Ridge Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France. Grave Ref: B. 25.
Also commemorated on the Watringbury school memorial panels.
Formerly Private, TR/10/60634.
At the time of the 1901 census the Winter family resided at Tonbridge Road, Barming, Maidstone, Kent where 36 year old Farm Labourer Thomas Winter, a native of Penshurst, Kent, was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and employed as a Farm Labourer.

WOODGER, CHRISTOPHER. Driver, 59766.
"A" Battery, 242nd Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 22 October 1918.
Born Wrotham Heath, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of H. C. S. Woodger of 93, Canon Heath, Watringbury, Kent.
Buried Lesdain Communal Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium. Grave Ref: B. 5.
Commemorated on the Wrotham, Kent, civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, Christopher was residing with his family at Turnpike Cottages, London Road, Wrotham, Kent. Head of the house was Christopher's 48 year old father, George Woodger who was employed as a Lime Burner, and was a native of nearby East Malling, Kent. Christopher's 45 year old mother was a native of Odiham, Hampshire. In addition to Christopher and his parents, also present of the night of the census were his six brothers, and two sisters.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Man

BUSS, ROBERT WILLIAM. Private, 11777.

10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 20 May 1917. Aged 22.

Born Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Robert Markham Buss and Flora Edith Buss (nee Newman).

Husband of Edith Ellen Buss (nee Bassett) of Hadlow Stair, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XII. B. 14.

Commemorated on the Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Buss family resided at Fullers Corner, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent, where 31 year old Nettlestead, Kent, native Robert Buss was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and employed as a Farm Labourer. When Robert enlisted in the army on 10 December 1915, he stated that he was a Labourer, and named his wife as his next-of-kin. Robert and Edith had married at the parish church of St. Mary, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, on 27 November 1915. Following his army enlistment, Robert was mobilised on 21 January 1916 and posted the following day. Robert was serving as one of the battalion Signallers when he was accidentally shot by one of his comrades, he being Private, G/11415, Frank Martin. Frank was tried and convicted of the offence by a Field General Court Marshall on 25 May 1917. Frank was awarded 42 days Field Punishment No.1 with nil remission, by the G.O.C., 123 Infantry Brigade. Between 0630 hours and 0700 hours on 4 May 1917, Robert was making his way down a trench to get his breakfast when he was hit in his right thigh by a bullet accidentally discharged by Frank Martin who was on sentry duty. Lance Corporal Herbert Philpott was in charge of No. 9 Sentry Post when the battalion was in front line trenches, Herbert stated that he had ordered two of the sentries to clean their rifles, one of which was Frank Martin, Herbert saw Frank remove the magazine from his rifle and place it on the ground, and said that about a minute later he heard a report when Robert was hit. Frank also submitted a statement, saying that he had not realised that there was a round in the breech when he squeezed the trigger on his rifle. Of all the different statements etcetera submitted following Robert's wounding, was that by Robert, the end of which says "It was quite an accident."

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Unfortunately as with virtually every other Kent war memorial being transcribed, those of the Watringbury Second World War casualties have also proved far more difficult to research. Due to the records of the Second World War not freely available at present, and newspaper reports etcetera on individuals are very limited, when compared to those who died in or resultant of the Great War. As can be seen when viewing these brief transcriptions, the proportion of 'no clear traces' amongst the casualties of both conflicts is clearly apparent.

BOWLES, JOHN. No clear trace.

BROOKS, KENNETH ALFRED. Sergeant (Air Bomber), 1801977.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 31 December 1942. Aged 19.
Son of Arthur Leonard and Ellen Alice Brooks of Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Watringbury Cemetery. Grave Ref: Section A. Grave 1157.

COOMBER, BASIL WILLIAM EDWIN. Sapper, 2017650.
571 Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 10 December 1943. Aged 23.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of William Henry and Ethel Annie Coomber of Watringbury, Kent.
Buried Minturno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: III. J. 21.

EVERSFIELD, JOHN ARTHUR. Gunner, 14255119.
114 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 30 April 1945. Aged 21.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George and Bessie Eversfield.
Commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Face 2.

GRIFFITHS, PETER. No clear trace.

KING, CYRIL JOSEPH. Sapper, 2005656.
66 Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 28 July 1943. Aged 26.
Born and resided Kent.
Husband of Esme Joan King of Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Catania War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: III. K 16.

KING, WILLIAM. No clear trace.

ROBBINS, GEOFFREY ALFRED. Sergeant (Observer), 924860.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 82 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 12 October 1941. Aged 24.
Son of Alfred and Nellie Robbins of Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Buried The Hague (Westduin) General Cemetery, Netherlands.
Grave Ref: Allied Plot. Row 1. Grave 11.

SLOMAN, SIDNEY. Gunner, 902732.
Died 18 June 1942. Age 26.
Born and resided Kent.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 40.
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

SPITTLES, ALBERT EDWARD.
Died 26 July 1944. Aged 68.
Son of A. E. Spittles of Rock Farm, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Husband of Florence Spittles of Cooks Cottages, Old Road, Wateringbury, Kent.
Buried Wateringbury Cemetery, Maidstone, Kent. Grave Ref: Grave 492.
Albert was the only civilian casualty in Wateringbury during the Second World War; he was badly injured by a German flying bomb (doodlebug) whilst working in a field at Manor Farm, Wateringbury. Mr. Herbert Hutchins who was working nearby heard the sound of the 'doodlebug,' and being aware that Albert was hard of hearing, shouted as loudly as possible to warn Albert but to no avail. Unfortunately to late Albert noticed the approaching flying bomb and started to run, but in the same direction as the approaching doodlebug. Albert later died of his injuries whilst a patient at the West Kent General Hospital, and was laid to rest three days later. The doodlebug which had caused Albert's death was brought down by a Spitfire on patrol from West Malling Air Station. The pilot of the aircraft later visited Albert's widow to express his regrets and offer his condolences. He explained to her that had he not taken the intercept and destroying action, inevitably more lives would have been lost had the flying bomb reached its intended target of London.

THORNEYCROFT, LESLIE WALTER JOHN. Private, 6354696.
5th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Died 3/4 September 1942. Aged 31.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Thomas Walter and Emily Florence Thorneycroft.
Husband of Gladys Rita Thorneycroft of Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 66.
As can be seen on the accompanying photograph of the Second World War memorial plaque in St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury, Leslie's surname is spelt Thornycroft but all data accessed shows Thorneycroft.

WOMACK, OLIVER FREDERICK OSWALD. Lieutenant, 210875.

2 Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 6 March 1944. Aged 21.

Born Ceylon. Resided Kent.

Son of Oswald Cedric and Agnes Christian Womack of Rose Bay, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Face 3.

During the Great War, Oliver's father a native of Hampstead, London, served as a Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps attached to the Rifle Brigade.

WOODGER, VICTOR KENNETH. Gunner, 14242331.

10 Survey Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 3 July 1944. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Edwin Albert and Nellie Woodger of Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, France. Grave Ref: V. D. 19.

HODGES, ROBERT. As commemorated on the Second World War memorial plaque in St. John the Baptist, Watringbury, is possibly the following soldier he being the closest match and a 'Kent' casualty.

HODGES, ROBERT RICHARD. Corporal, 6296100.

141st (7th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 26 June 1944. Aged 33.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of William and Elizabeth Isabella Hodges.

Husband of Edith May Hodges of Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France.

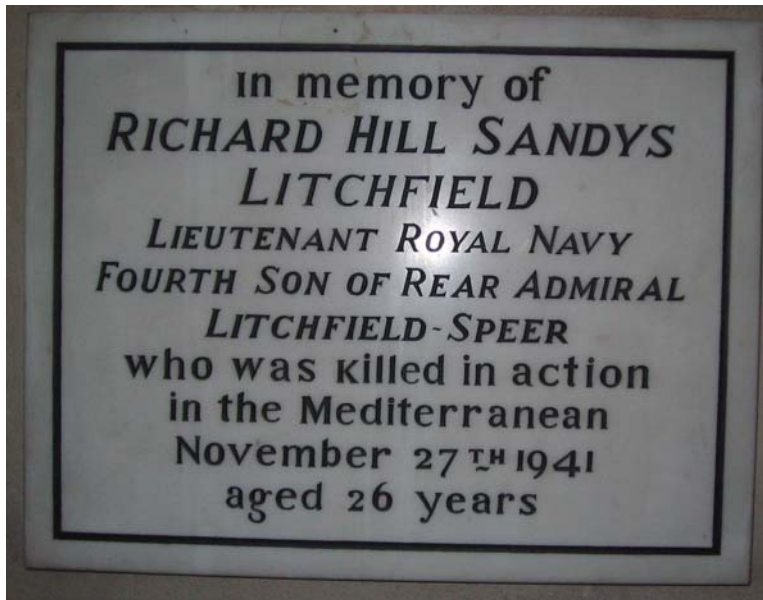
Panel 10, Column 3.



The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Lost Men



LITCHFIELD, RICHARD HILL SANDYS. Lieutenant.

Royal Navy, H.M.A.S. Parramatta.

Died 27 November 1941. Aged 26.

Son of Rear-Admiral Frederick Shirley Litchfield-Speer, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Cecilia Litchfield-Speer of Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 41, Column 1.

Richard was a brother of Captain John Shirley Sandys Litchfield, O.B.E., R.N., the one time Conservative Member of Parliament for Chelsea.

ROBINSON, BERNARD HENRY GEORGE.

Chief Engine Room Artificer, D/MX 45657.

Royal Navy, H.M. Submarine Rainbow.

Died 19 October 1940. Aged 30.

Son of Harry and Rose Robinson.

Husband of Elsie M. Robinson of Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 40, Column 1.