

# Woodnesborough

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The village of Woodnesborough is situated approximately one and a half miles to the west of the Cinque Port town of Sandwich. On the Woodnesborough civic war memorial, which is located in the churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin; the Great War deaths are set out in order of years. For the sake of ease of access when viewing the following brief commemorations, the transcriber has taken the liberty of putting them into alphabetical order. The parish church of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, also houses the cabinet containing the 'Woodnesborough Roll of Honour,' which commemorates the parish war dead from, or resultant of both the two world wars.

## The Great War

1914 -1919

**BAX**, JOSEPH THOMAS. Private, PLY/11753.

No.2 Company, Plymouth Battalion, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died 21 May 1915. Aged 30.

Born Ripple, Deal, Kent 25 June 1884.

Son of James and Emma Bax.

Buried Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

Grave Ref: M. 146.

Joseph enlisted in the Royal Marines on 22 July 1902, and prior to his death was the recipient of 3 Good Conduct Badges. He served in the Plymouth Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry at Dunkirk, and in the Defence of Antwerp 1914. Between 6 February 1915 and 21 May 1915, Joseph served with his battalion as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. On 9 May 1915 Joseph was admitted to the 2nd (Royal Naval) Field Ambulance having suffered a serious head wound, and succumbed to same on 21 May 1915. Joseph's three medals in respect of his Great War service were issued to father, who received the 1914 Star on 6 August 1919.

**BEERLING**, GEORGE ALFRED. Private, G/5297.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 13 July 1916.

Born Staple, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Summerfield, Staple, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.

**BEERLING**, THOMAS WILLIAM. Able Seaman, J/6394.

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

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 21.

Born Wingham, Kent 26 August 1893.

Son of Thomas and C. J. Beerling of Summerfield, Staple, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2.

**BURCH, ARTHUR THOMAS.** Private, 27.  
8th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).  
Died 24 April 1915. Aged 27.  
Born Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Valcartier, Quebec, Canada.  
Resided 2218, Gallagher Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.  
Son of George and Mary Jane Burch (née Oldfield) of Woodnesborough,  
Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 24,  
and on page 7 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.  
Arthur was possibly a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below,  
and had been employed as a Carpenter, working for the Canadian Pacific  
Railways at the Winnipeg freight sheds prior to his enlistment on 23 September  
1914. At the time of his enlistment Arthur stated that his date of birth was 20  
December 1887, and named his mother as his next of kin. A few months after his  
death, a short obituary in remembrance of Arthur appeared in the Winnipeg  
Evening Tribute dated 6 August 1915.

**BURCH, CHARLES DRAYSON.** Serjeant, CH/13982.  
1st Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
Died 13 November 1916. Aged 28.  
Born Woodnesborough, Kent 15 May 1888.  
Son of Mrs. Emily Swain (formerly Burch) (née Oldfield) of The Links,  
Marshborough, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1A.  
Charles had been employed as a Page Boy prior to enlisting at Deal, Kent as a  
Bugler in the Royal Marines on 18 April 1904. Charles was transferred to be a  
Private in the Royal Marines on 25 August 1910. Promoted to the rank of  
Corporal on 26 May 1915, Acting Lance Sergeant on 29 September 1915, and to  
an Acting Sergeant on 19 April 1916. Posted to the 1st Royal Marine Battalion,  
Royal Marine Light Infantry, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

**BURDEN, ALBERT FRANK.** Private, 69569.  
17th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), (Empire).  
Died 3 May 1918.  
Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: VIII. P. 2.  
Formerly Private, 18335, 29th Training Regiment Battalion.  
There appears to be a number of errors appertaining to the remembrance of Albert  
at Woodnesborough. On the civic war memorial, Albert is commemorated  
correctly as being A.F. BURDEN, but with the year of his demise as being 1917.  
The 'Woodnesborough Roll of Honour' in the parish church also shows the same  
date error, and in addition to which Albert is commemorated as Alfred. As can be  
seen when viewing the 'Woodnesborough Roll of Honour.'

**BURDEN, WILLIAM.** Private, G/5164.

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

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

Died 3 July 1916.

Born Otham, Kent. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

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

On the day that William lost his life, his battalion took part in a costly attack on the Somme village of Ovillers. Before withdrawing to Bouzincourt later the same evening the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) had suffered 394 casualties of different categories, including 124 other ranks deaths. Regretably it was noted that several of those who were wounded on at Ovillers on 3 July 1916, later succumbed to their wounds at later dates.

**CHAPMAN, CHARLES.** Private, 8312.

2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).

Died 1 May 1915. Aged 26.

Born 14 September 1888. Enlisted Valcartier, Quebec, Canada.

Son of Isaac and Helen Sarah Chapman (née Foreman) of Factory Cottage, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 10, and on page 9 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

Charles had been employed as a Moulder prior to his army enlistment on 1 September 1914, at which time he stated that he had previously served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) for 2 years, and named his mother as his next of kin. A member of the First Canadian Contingent of the British Expeditionary Force 1914, Charles had initially served in "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment), commanded by Major Herbert G. Bolster.

**COLLARD, ERNEST EDWARD.** Corporal, 85864.

"A" Battery, 165th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 8 August 1917. Aged 24.

Born Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of George and Susan Collard of The Street, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. F. 6.

At the time of the 1901 census the Collard family resided at The Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Northbourne, Kent, native George Collard who was employed as a farm Waggoner. La Targette British Cemetery where Ernest is at rest, was formerly known as Aux-Rietz Military Cemetery, it was begun at the end of April 1917 and used by Field Ambulances and fighting units until September 1918. Nearly a third of the graves including Ernest's have an artillery connection; in March-April 1917, the artillery of the 2nd Canadian and 5th Divisions, and certain heavy artillery units, had their headquarters in a deep cave at Aux-Rietz. Sixteen graves were brought into the cemetery from the immediate neighbourhood after the Armistice.

**DAVISON, FRANK.** Bombadier, 317454.  
332nd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 29 September 1917. Aged 29.  
Born and enlisted Faversham, Kent.  
Son of William and Mary Ann Davison (née Welch) of 18, Plantation Road,  
Faversham, Kent.  
Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: V.F.4.

**DILNOT, RICHARD ARNOLD.** Lance Corporal, 2376.  
1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade.  
Died 11 May 1917.  
Born and resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of William and Diana Dilnot of the Frost, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated Roeux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.  
Special Memorial C. 4.  
When Richard enlisted in the Rifle Brigade for an engagement of 7 years with the Colours, and 5 years in the Reserve, on 12 October 1907, he stated that he was aged 18 years and 5 months, and that he was employed as a Farm Labourer. Richard's basic training was carried out at the Rifle Brigade Regimental Depot at Winchester, Hampshire. From the Depot Richard was posted to serve in the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade on 1 February 1908, and prior to his death he had also served in the 5th (Reserve) and 8th (Service) Battalions of his regiment. On 31 May 1916 whilst serving in the 5th (Reserve) Battalion, Richard was appointed to be an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and paid from 1 July 1916. On 25 February 1916 Richard was posted to France. During his years of service in India prior to the Great War, Richard was hospitalized on a number of occasions for a variety of ailments including Malaria. During the Great War, Richard was wounded a number of times, including a gunshot wound to the right shoulder on 12 May 1915, which had necessitated his evacuation back to England. On another occasion Richard was evacuation back to England on 16 March 1916, on board the hospital ship H.S. St. Patrick.

**DILNOT-SMITH, ERNEST** Driver, 57186.  
82nd Battery, 104th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died 27 January 1916. Aged 24.  
Born Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of John and Annie Dilnot Smith of Beacon Lane, Woodnesborough,  
Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried Kut War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: P. 4.  
The case which contains the Roll of Honour of the Woodnesborough parish war dead was given in memory of Ernest. A photograph of the case and the Roll of Honour has been included at the end of these brief transcriptions. When viewing the photograph it will be noticed that the casualties of both the world wars are commemorated on it as they set out on the Woodnesborough civic war memorial.

**DEWELL, REUBEN JOHN.** Gunner, 58715.  
12th New Heavy Battery, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died 8 February 1916. Aged 32.  
Born Finglesham, Deal, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of William and Susannah Dewell of Finglesham, Deal, Kent.  
Husband of Mabel Hannah Dewell (née Amos), of The Street, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried Suzanne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.  
Grave Ref: E. 22.  
Formerly Private, 8276, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
At the time of the 1901 census, the Dewell family resided in the hamlet of Marley near Eastry, Dover, Kent. Reuben was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 17 year old Farm Labourer, and a native of Northbourne, Kent.

**DRAYSON, WILLIAM CHARLES.** Corporal, G/3969  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 18 March 1916. Aged 34.  
Born Eastry, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of Robert Henry Drayson, and Sarah Jane Drayson (née Hammond).  
Husband of the late Mrs. Lily May Drayson (née Weaver).  
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panels 15 to 19, and on the headstone of his parents grave in the churchyard of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, Woodnesborough, which shows that he William was killed in action at Vermelles on the date shown above, and that he was their second son. Robert Henry Drayson died on 25 October 1918 aged 60, and Sarah Jane Drayson died on 5 January 1939 aged 78.

**FAGG, JOHN THOMAS.** Lance Corporal, L/9861.  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 23 April 1916.  
Born and resided Goodnestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of Edwin and Hannah Fagg of 57 Wyndham Road, Tower Hamlets, Dover, Kent. Formerly of Dunn Court, Staple, Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. H. 26.  
Formerly Private, 10228, 3rd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). John enlisted in the army on 27 August 1912 at which time he stated that he was seventeen and a half years old, and was employed as a Farm Labourer. Following his basic training at Canterbury, John was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in Ireland, and served at Dublin and at Fermoy, County Cork where he was serving at the commencement of the Great War. At the time of the 1901 census, the Fagg family resided at Cold Blow, Nonnington, Dover, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old Edwin Fagg, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer, and was a native of Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Hannah Fagg was a native of Staple, Kent.

**FAGG, RICHARD HENRY.** Private, T/2809.  
2nd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 19 April 1917.  
Born and resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of Edwin and Mrs. Fagg of Waveney Villas, Drainless Drove, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried St. Mary the Blessed Virgin Churchyard, Woodnesborough.  
Grave Ref: In South-West part, near South boundary.  
Richard enlisted as a member of the Territorial Force on 10 November 1914, signing on for a 4 year 'Home Service' engagement. Aged 22 at the time of his enlistment

**GISBY, STANLEY GEORGE.** Private, 30368.  
1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.  
Died 9 April 1918. Aged 20.  
Born Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of George J. Gisby and Ada Gisby of Grove Cottages, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 89.  
Formerly 178200, Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1901 census the Gisby family resided at Harnden, Eastry, Kent.

**HART, T.D.** As commemorated on the Woodnesborough civic war memorial, is recorded as Thomas D. Hart on the Woodnesborough Roll of Honour in the parish church of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin. The year of death shown on both forms of the parish commemorations of Thomas is 1917, it being the same as the following casualty briefly commemorated who is the only matching casualty of the CWGC, but of whom it has thus far not been possible to find even a tenuous connection the village. One thing of note is the fact that all data sources accessed show 1917 as being the year that Thomas died of his wounds. Thomas was possibly the son of David and Elizabeth Hart, and had formerly resided at 5 St. James Place, Enfield, Middlesex, when Thomas was a boy.

**HART, THOMAS DAVID.** Gunner, 12891.  
149th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 2 October 1917.  
Born and resided Ponders End, Middlesex. Enlisted Twickenham, Middlesex.  
Buried Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Proven, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: VII. B. 6.  
Thomas's medal index card entry shows that he had entered the French war theatre on 28 August 1915, and that he had died of wounds. Those who are rest at the Mendinghem Military Cemetery were victims of woundings and injuries. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and the Mendinghem site was chosen for its cemetery, and was later used by several other Casualty Clearing Stations.



**HUMPHREY, ALFRED.** No clear trace, but possibly was a brother of George David Humphrey who during the Great War had served in the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. At the time of George's enlistment on 16 October 1916 he had resided at Drainless Drove, Woodnesborough, and later resided at Broad Oak Hill, Woodstock, Sittingbourne, Kent. George's father, Walter Humphrey, resided at White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent, and was probably the father of Ernest Humphrey who is commemorated on the Boughton Aluph civic war memorial.

**KNIGHT, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Sapper, 79816.  
171st Tunneling Company, Royal Engineers.  
Died 1 October 1916.  
Born Ash, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.  
Grave Ref: II. F. 238.  
Formerly 2375, Rifle Brigade.



**LEE, HENRY.** Driver, T4/238990.  
No. 1 Company (Southport), Army Service Corps.  
Died 17 June 1917.  
Born Camberwell, Surrey. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Lower Eythorne, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Woodnesborough St. Mary's Churchyard.  
Grave Ref: East of Church, near East boundary.  
Henry has a medal index card entry indicative of overseas active service during the Great War.



**MILES, HENRY JOHN.** Corporal, 39082.  
211th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 27 October 1918.  
Born Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Probably the son of Henry and Elizabeth Miles.  
Husband of L. M. Miles of 53, Montgomerie Road, Southsea, Portsmouth,  
Hampshire.  
Buried Tourgeville Military Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: IV. F. 1.

**MOORE, WILLIAM ISSAC.** Private, G/18672.  
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 3 May 1917.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3, and on  
the Kennington, Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial.

**PAGE, CHARLES WILLIAM.** Private, G/571.  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died Wednesday 13 October 1915. Aged 27.  
Born Godalming, Surrey. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent. Resided Woodnesborough,  
Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of Charles and Charlotte Page of Felderland Lane, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panels 15 to 19.  
A brother of the next casualty commemorated. At the time of the 1901 Census  
the Page family resided at Pittocks Down, Worth, Kent. Head of the house was  
39 year old Eastry, Kent native Charles Page (senior) who was employed as an  
Agricultural Labourer. Charles (junior) was a brother of the next casualty briefly  
commemorated below

**PAGE, FREDERICK THOMAS.** M.M. Corporal, L/9934.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 3 December 1917. Aged 24.  
Born Croydon, Surrey. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of Charles and Charlotte Page of Woodnesborough, Sandwich. Kent,  
formerly of Felderland Lane, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: VI. H. 9.  
On the Woodnesborough Roll of Honour in the parish church of St. Mary the  
Blessed Virgin, Frederick is erroneously commemorated as Frederick J. Page. The  
SDGW entry for Frederick records him as having died of wounds, and assuming  
that the information shown is correct, it has unfortunately meant that the  
transcriber of these brief commemorations has not been able to add any details  
appertaining to same e.g. where, when, or how he was mortally wounded. It  
should perhaps be pointed out for anybody viewing this entry who is not familiar  
with the Sandwich area of Kent, that the Page family former address of  
Felderland Lane, Sandwich, Kent, is a small lane which runs between the village  
of Woodnesborough and the town of Sandwich.

**ROGERS, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Private, 5922.  
12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers.  
Died 20 November 1914.  
Born Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Folkestone, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5.

**SIMMONS, EDWARD.** Private, 65504.  
66th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Died 21 September 1916. Aged 19.  
Born and resided Marshborough, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.  
Son of Frank and Mary Ann Simmons of 1, Sunnyside, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Thessalonika, Greece.  
Grave Ref: 440.  
Formerly Private, 6271, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**SOLLEY, WALTER.** Lance Corporal, L/8823.  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.  
Died Monday 9 April 1917.  
Born and resided Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: II. E. 6.

**TAYLOR, HAROLD JAMES.** Second Lieutenant.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Attached to the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.  
Died 17 October 1918. Aged 20.  
Son of Mr. J. F. Taylor of Drainless Drove, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.

**THOMAS, WILLIAM.** Lance Corporal, G/4567.  
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 28 September 1915.  
Born Leysdown, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Ash, Canterbury, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panels 15 to 19.  
William was probably the son of William and Mary Thomas. At the time of the 1901 census, the Thomas family resided at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Harty, Isle of Sheppey native William Thomas (senior) who was employed as a Farm Waggoner. Aged 16, William (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Agricultural Labourer.

**THOMAS, WILLIAM JOHN.** Private, 48855.

2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

Died 17 April 1918. Aged 24.

Born Ash, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Mrs. T. Pilcher, of Loos Villa, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Louisa Alice Holness (formerly Thomas) (née Penfold) of 14, Defoe Crescent, Mile End, Colchester, Essex.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 5.

William married Miss Louisa Penfold in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District during the last quarter of 1912.

**WANSTALL, ARTHUR CHARLES.** Private, G/42787.

16th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (Public Schools).

Died 10 August 1917.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Eastry, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 51.

Formerly Private, 21728, East Surrey Regiment.

Although only supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but Arthur was possibly a native of Ash, Canterbury, Kent, where his family was residing at the time of the 1901 census, and was recorded by the census enumerator as being a son of John S. and Eliza J Wanstall.

**WANSTALL, LEWIS GEORGE.** Lance Corporal, G/24760.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 33.

Born and resided Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.

Son of George and Emma Wanstall of The Street, Woodnesborough, Kent.

Husband of Ruth Wanstall of The Street, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 15.

Formerly Private, G/6224, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

At the time of the 1901 census, the Wanstall family resided at the address shown above. The census enumerator recorded George and Emma Wanstall and their four children who were at home on the night of the census, as all being natives of Woodnesborough, Kent.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

**ASHMAN, ERNEST GEORGE.** Serjeant, 593390.

1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).

Died 30 August 1918. Aged 28.

Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Charles (Charlie) and Clara Ashman of Marshborough, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Elizabeth Ashman of 26, Cross Street, St. Dunstons, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 10, and on the Canterbury, Kent, civic war memorial.

Formerly 3340, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**HOLLIBONE, HENRY WALTER.** Ordinary Seaman, J/57195.

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

Died 23 March 1917.

Born Hailsham, Sussex 26 December 1893.

Husband of H. Fisk (formerly Hollibone) of Park View, Coombe, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 22.

Henry was amongst the 59 crew members who lost their lives at 0430 hours on 23 March 1917, when the destroyer which was serving as part of the Dover Patrol, struck a mine in the English Channel. H.M.S. Laforey immediately broke in half, with the stern sinking immediately with all aboard. The crew of her sister ship H.M.S. Laertes which was sailing back from France with her, struggled to ultimately successfully rescue several members of the crew of Henry's ship.

**OVENDEN, FRANK.** Able Seaman.

Mercantile Marine, S.S. "Amsteldam" (Cardiff).

Died 18 October 1917. Aged 56.

Born Woodnesborough, Kent.

Son of Harry and Susan Ovenden.

Husband of Emily Ovenden (nee Burton) of 33, Alexandra Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London.

At the time of the 1901 census the Ovenden family resided at 2, Cambrian View, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Frank Ovenden who was employed as a Fisherman. Frank's 1,233 ton ship was owned by the South Metropolitan Gas Co, London. She was torpedoed and sunk by the German coastal minelaying uboat, UC-49 which was commanded by 30 year old Kapitänleutnant Karl Petri, when the ship was approximately 6 miles north of Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, en-route between Shields and London.

**RALPH, ARTHUR.** Private, L/880.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 20 April 1915. Aged 19.

Born and resided Goodnestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Fanny Ralph (née Ovenden) of Black Pond Farm, Fleming, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle-D'Armentieres, Nord, France. Grave Ref: VI. C. 8

Arthur is commemorated on the Goodnestone, Wingham, Kent, Great War parish tribute which is in the form of a white marble tablet hanging on the wall inside the (Holy Cross) Parish Church, Goodnestone. At the time of the 1901 census, the Ralph family resided at 2, Rowland Court Cottages, Goodnestone-next-Wingham, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Staple, Kent, native Richard Ralph who was employed as a Cattle Yardman, and was Arthur's father. Mrs. Fanny Ralph was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 42 and a native of Ash-next-Sandwich, Kent. As the Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details for Arthur only show his mothers details as opposed to both of his parents, it would seem likely that his father Richard Beame Ralph had also died, prior to the additional family details being added to the commemorations by the then Imperial War Graves Commission, following the cessation of the Great War hostilities.

**THORPE, ALBERT.** Private, 200614.

1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Died 9 April 1918. Aged 26.

Born and enlisted Preston, Lancashire. Resided Woodnesborough, Kent.

Husband of Edith Thorpe of Beacon Hill, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Vieille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. E. 15.

Formerly Private, 2525, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Albert's Qualifying Date for the award of his 1914-15 Star was 4 May 1915. The date is significant as it would tend to indicate that all of Albert's service on the Western Front had been whilst serving as a member of the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Originally part of the North Lancashire Brigade, West Lancashire Division, Albert's battalion was transferred to the 3rd Highland Brigade, Highland Division, which in turn later became the 154th Brigade, 51st (Highland) Division. The battalion sailed from Folkestone, Kent, on 3 May 1915 on board the SS Onward, and arrived at Boulogne the following day, it coinciding with the date for the medal award. Albert was numbered amongst the 868 other ranks of the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who died during the years of the Great War. In view of its 'Kent' connection, mention should be made of the fact that the first time a car crossed the Dover Straits by ferry was aboard the South Eastern & Chatham Railway's SS Onward in the summer of 1908, it being the same ship that had conveyed Albert to France in May 1915.

# The Second World War

1939 – 1945

**BATT**, RAYMOND HAROLD. Private, 6288403.

4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Died at sea Monday 17 June 1940. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Harold and Edith Kate Batt of Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial. Column 37.

Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Contrary to the popular belief which now seems to prevail in some quarters, the evacuation of the British and French troops from France in 1940 did not end with the Dunkirk evacuations. British and French forces were still being rescued at least two weeks later when Britain's worst maritime disaster of the Second World War took place. On Monday 17 June 1940, the 16,000 ton Cunard liner which was in use as a troopship, the H.M.T. Lancastria lay approximately five miles off St Nazaire, France in the estuary of the River Loire, and was embarking soldiers, Royal Air Force personnel, and also civilian refugees including women and children, all of whom were being evacuated from France, when the country was on the verge of collapse. The exact numbers onboard the ship will almost certainly never be known, but probably exceeded 6000; although some commentators have estimated the casualty number as high as 9000, but that figure is almost certainly wild speculation, but amongst those assumed to have been lost in the tragedy was Raymond Batt. The H.M.T. Lancastria was attacked and hit by bombs from German Junkers Ju 88 aircraft which were probably of KG 30, which caused her to roll over and sink within twenty minutes. Although it is not known for certain which Luftwaffe formation the bombers belong to, or even for certain exactly what type of aircraft they were, but the general consensus has been that they were Ju 88s. Aircraft of II./ KG 30 who exclusively flew Junkers Ju 88 aircraft, are known to have been attacking shipping in the estuary of the River Loire, at the time of the loss of H.M.T. Lancastria.

**CASTLE**, ALBERT EDWARD. Private, 14343490.

9th (The Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons) Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Died 19 September 1944. Aged 32.

Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Richard and Alice Castle.

Husband of Gladys I. Castle, of Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Riccione, Italy. Grave Ref: XVII, L, 2.

In 1942 the Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry was converted to a motor battalion while serving as a mounted unit in the Middle East. In 1943 the (The Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons) were converted for a short while into the 9th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. As the 9th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire, it became a lorried infantry battalion in 1944; the battalion fought on the Anzio beachhead, and later took part in the attack south of Rome.

**FAGG**, WILLIAM. Stoker 1st Class, D/KX 598089.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Serene. (J 354).

Died 16 June 1945. Aged 20.

Son of William George and Alice Lilian Fagg of Summerfield, Kent.

Buried Becklingen War Cemetery, Soltau, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 10. J. 6.

H.M.S. Serene was a 850 ton Algerine class minesweeper, she was built by the Redfern Construction Ltd. of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for service in the Royal Canadian Navy, and originally named H.M.C.S. Leaside. Commissioned on 14 September 1944, at the time of William's death his ship was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Wilfred George Burt, R.N.R. H.M.S. Serene survived the Second World War and was eventually scrapped on 8 March 1959.

**FARRIER**, ERNEST CHARLES. Petty Officer Stoker, C/K 41354.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Niger. (J73).

Died 6 July 1942.

Son of Charles and Kathleen Farrier.

Husband of Doris May Farrier of Swindon, Wiltshire.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 60, Column 3.

Prior to his death Ernest was Mentioned in Despatches. H.M.S. Niger sailed for the United Kingdom with Convoy QP13 which was comprised of 35 ships. Leaving the port of Murmansk on 27 June as a convoy escort vessel, resultant of an error in navigation which was caused by the bad weather, she strayed into an allied minefield off Iceland and at 2240 hours on 5 July 1942, where Ernst's ship blew up and sank.

**FILE**, FREDERICK K. Gunner, L/57630.

8 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

Died 8 August 1944. Aged 39.

Son of Frederick File, and of Nellie File of Worth, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, Calvados, France.

Grave Ref: III. C. 4.

For the most part, those who are at rest at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, died during the later stages of the Battle of Normandy 1944. The capture of Caen and the thrust southwards, was led initially by the 4th Canadian and 1st Polish Armoured Divisions, to close the Falaise Gap. Almost every unit of the Canadian 2nd Corps is represented in the cemetery which contains 2,958 Second World War burials, the majority Canadian, 87 of them are unidentified.

**FOREMAN**, VICTOR JAMES. Gunner, 985143.

5 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

Died 18 January 1943. Aged 22.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of William Henry and Rose Constant Foreman of Woodnesborough, Kent.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 6.



**FRIEND, LEONARD GEORGE.** Private, 5781603.  
6th Battalion, The King's Regiment (Liverpool).  
Died 19 November 1943. Aged 21.  
Born and resided Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of George Henry and Winifred Emily Friend of Ash, Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Kirkee War Cemetery, Poona, India. Grave Ref: 3. B. 13.

**LADD, CLIFFORD.** Private, 14626128.  
1st Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment.  
Died 1 March 1945. Aged 20.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Alfred William and Evelyn Ethel Ladd of Eastry, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.  
Grave Ref: 62. E. 4.

The Reichswald Forest War Cemetery was created after the Second World War when burials were brought in from all over western Germany, and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country. Some of those members of the land forces buried there died in the advance through Reichswald Forest in February 1945. Others died crossing the Rhine, among them members of the airborne forces whose bodies were brought from Hamminkeln, in the district of Wesel, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, where landings were made by the 6th Airborne Division from bases in England. Some of the airmen buried in the cemetery lost their lives in supporting the advance into Germany, but most died earlier in the war in the intensive air attacks over Germany. Their graves were brought in from cemeteries and isolated sites in the surrounding area.

**PHILPOTT, LEONARD JOSEPH.** Private, 5504357.  
5th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.  
Died 27 October 1942. Aged 22.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Frederick Samuel and May Philpott of Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 61.

**T. WATERS.** The following casualty appears to be the best match.

**WATERS, THOMAS.** Private, 14536473.  
7th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.  
Died 26 March 1945. Aged 20.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.  
Grave Ref: 44. E. 5.

Please note additional cemetery details about the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery at the brief commemoration to Clifford Ladd, as they are applicable to both men, having lost their lives during the advances which were made by the allied forces into Germany during March 1945.



Woodnesborough Roll of Honour





