

Thomas Friend on the Forest
from the Peter Kirby Collection

**Men of Ashdown Forest
who fell in the First World War
and who are commemorated
on the war memorials at
Forest Row and Hartfield**

**Volume One
1914 - 1916**

Published by:

The Ashdown Forest Research Group
The Ashdown Forest Centre
Wych Cross
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5JP

Website: <http://www.ashdownforest.org/enjoy/history/AshdownResearchGroup.php>
Email: ashdownforestresearchgroup@yahoo.com

First published: 4 August 2014

This revised edition: 9 November 2018

© The Ashdown Forest Research Group

CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	4
<u>List of studies, 1914-1916</u>	5
<u>The studies</u>	7
<u>Sources and acknowledgements</u>	113

INTRODUCTION

The Ashdown Forest Research Group has carried out a project to write case studies on all the men who died while on military service during the 1914-18 war and who are commemorated by the war memorials at Forest Row and Hartfield in Sussex. These are parishes which lie on the northern fringes of Ashdown Forest and which traditionally have strong links to the Forest. Men commemorated at other locations around the Forest are not covered by this project.

We have produced 115 studies in total. This first volume deals with the 46 men who died between Britain's declaration of war on 4 August 1914 and 31 December 1916. A second volume deals with those who died from 1917 onwards.

We hope you will find these case studies interesting and thought-provoking. They highlight the contrasting backgrounds and circumstances of the men who fought and died: some were from very humble backgrounds, others from elevated social milieux; some saw action in the ranks, others were officers. A number of cases underline the severe impact that the loss of these men had on local families and communities. The studies are also a reminder of the varied activities that the men were involved in during the war, whether on land, at sea or in the air, and the different places in which they served – not only the Western Front but in more remote parts of the world such as Gallipoli, Palestine, Mesopotamia and east Africa. And, because there were various reasons why men came to be commemorated on war memorials, the studies range from those who had close connections to the area to others who had rather more tenuous links, for example, through the residency of their parents.

The Ashdown Forest Research Group consists of several independent researchers who undertake research into the historical geography of Ashdown Forest. The authors of each study are identified at the end of each article, and they would welcome any corrections, supplementary information or photographs that would help to improve them. They can be contacted by email at:

ashdownforestresearchgroup@yahoo.com

Ashdown Forest Research Group

LIST OF STUDIES, 1914-1916

Click on man's name below to jump to the corresponding case study

Name	Date of death
Bassett, James Baldwin	08-10-1915
Biddlecombe, Henry George	01-01-1915
Brooker, Charles Frederick	01-01-1915
Cook, Sidney Herbert	14-05-1916
Edwards, Frederick Robert	26-10-1916
Edwards, Frederick Sylvester	09-05-1915
Fielder, Edward Cecil	19-07-1916
Fielder, Frederick Stephen	27-06-1916
Fry, Frederick Samuel	25-09-1915
Gregory, George	13-05-1916
Grisbrook, Alfred Llewellyn	21-12-1916
Holmwood, Frederick	29-05-1915
Honeysett, Thomas E	09-05-1915
Hyder, Frank	16-04-1916
Kekewich, John	26-09-1915
Kennard, Arthur	06-08-1915
Killick, William	17-10-1916
Lawrence, Michael Charles	19-09-1916
Lawrence, Oliver John	26-05-1915
Lucas, Keith	05-10-1916
Martin, Walter	17-10-1916
Maskell, George	25-09-1915
Maskell, Harry George	01-08-1916
Maskell, Mark	10-11-1916
May, Ernest William	18-08-1916
Mellor, Benjamin Charles	03-05-1915
Melville, William Woodfall	09-05-1915
Padgham, Spencer	03-09-1916
Peel, Charles William	24-04-1915
Polehampton, Frederick William	26-04-1915
Sands, Alfred Jesse	30-08-1915
Shelley, Ewbert John	28-10-1915
Simmons, James	10-08-1915

Simpson, George	04-07-1916
Snelgrove, Sidney Henry	31-07-1915
Stevenson, George William	05-07-1916
Stevenson, John	27-10-1916
Sumner, Alfred William	21-10-1916
Sykes, William Ernest	08-01-1915
Thomsett, Philip	22-07-1916
Tibbles, Frederick Charles	23-10-1914
Upton, Albert James	24-06-1915
Upton, Arthur	01-05-1915
Vaughan, Ernest Stanley	28-10-1915
Wheatley, Doctor	09-05-1915
Wheatley, William James	07-04-1915

JAMES BALDWIN BASSETT

Private, G5497, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, 6th Battalion

Killed in Action, Flanders, France, 8 October 1915, age c. 38

Commemorated at Loos Memorial, Panel Ref 95-7. Stone No. 96a

James Baldwin Bassett was born at Hartfield in 1877, the son of William and Harriet Bassett. In 1881 he was living at Orchard Cottage in Hartfield with his parents and siblings William, Emma and Albert. Their given places of birth suggest that this family moved around as their father searched for work as an agricultural labourer. By 1891 the family was at Cotchford Cottage, Hartfield, and there were three further, younger siblings. James married Lucy Ann Neal in Hartfield on 11 September 1897, and they were enumerated in 1901 at Green Cottage in Hartfield with two children, Ada and May. James was employed as a plumber and house painter. In 1911 they gave their address as Ten Acre Wood in Hartfield, in accommodation of four rooms, although there were now five daughters – Ada, May, Lucy, Ivy and Margaret. James was now working as an agricultural labourer. A son, also named James, was born the following year.

Possibly, Ten Acre Wood was the name of the area rather than house, as when James signed up at Brighton on 14 January 1915, he stated that he was living at Green Cottage. He also gave his occupation as plumber once more. Only three of his children – May, Lucy and Ivy – appear under 'Particulars as to children' in his attestation papers; the other three died young. The medical history section of his papers shows him to have been 5'7" and 147 lbs, with an expansion of 2½" on a chest measurement of 35½". Physical development was recorded as good, and vision was 6-6.

James was posted initially on 14 and 21 January 1915, and then to the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.). After final training at Aldershot in February 1915, the Royal West Kent Regiment was sent to France as part of the B.E.F. (on 1 June 1915). They landed at Boulogne, and initially concentrated near Saint-Omer. On 6 June they were at the Meteren-Steenwerck area but had taken over a section of the front line at Ploegsteert Wood by 23 June. By the end of September they were in action in the Battle of Loos (Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais) and took over the sector from Gun Trench to Hulluch Quarries and consolidated their position under heavy artillery fire. Presumably James was involved in all these actions and survived them. However, on 8 October the regiment was engaged in repelling a heavy German infantry attack and as it was on this date that James was posted as missing he can be assumed to have been killed in action. The 6th Battalion, known as Dawson's Battalion, sustained over 350 casualties between 8 and 15 October 1915.

As his body was never recovered, James Baldwin Bassett is one of the many whose names are recorded on the panels at the Loos Memorial. His medals and any other personal belongings were presumably returned to his widow, Lucy, as directed in his army record.



Loos Memorial

James' younger brother Albert joined up in 1914 but died on 6 February 1919 of bronchial pneumonia while still on service.

Pam Griffiths

HENRY GEORGE BIDDLECOMBE

Ship's Cook, 1st Class (Officer's Steward), M4761 Chatham

Killed in action, 1 January 1915, aged 24

Serving on HMS Formidable when it was sunk by enemy action in the English Channel



HMS Formidable

Henry Biddlecombe (also sometimes known as Harry) was born on 17 November 1892 in Forest Row to his parents Joseph and Mary Ann. In the 1901 census the family was recorded as living at Oast Houses, Forest Row (now Oast House, Lower Road). In the 1911 census Henry is listed in the return for the Royal Naval barracks at Chatham. At that time his occupation was recorded as an officer's steward. He was then 18 or 19 and was one of 40 young men at the barracks training as a naval steward. The next names on the census return are listed as 'boy servant' and are all 17 or under.

Henry was serving aboard the battleship HMS Formidable when it was sunk by a German submarine in the English Channel on 1 January 1915. HMS Formidable was a pre-Dreadnought style battleship of some 15,000 tons, launched in 1898 and based at Sheerness, Kent. Through December 1914 German submarines were increasingly active along the Channel and, despite clear warnings, HMS Formidable continued to patrol Channel waters. Early on New Year's Day 1915 HMS Formidable was sunk by two torpedoes from a submarine off Start Point, Devon some 30 miles from the coast. Over 500 of the crew, including Henry, were lost.

The Formidable was the second Royal Navy battleship to be sunk by enemy action. Its loss was reported on the front page of an American newspaper, the *Boston Evening Globe* – see image below. This report is particularly interesting as the USA did not enter the war until 1917.

The crew who were killed in action that day went down with the ship and were therefore recorded as 'buried at sea'. 484 of them are commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial; Henry Biddlecombe is on Panel 12. (The names on the memorial are also recorded in the UK Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919).



Royal Naval Memorial, Chatham

The Admiralty commissioned the three main naval manning ports (Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth) after the war each to have an outstanding feature as a memorial or obelisk to act as a marker for shipping at sea. The Chatham Naval Memorial was erected as "...a memorial to the naval ranks and ratings of the Empire who fell in the Great War and have no other grave than the sea." It was unveiled on 26 April 1924 by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII. The memorial was extended after World War II, being unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh on 15 October 1952. The memorial now commemorates some 18,625 casualties, 8,517 coming from the First World War.

Henry Biddlecombe was awarded the Star, Victory and British War Medals. The Allied Victory Medal was awarded to those serving in any operational theatre of war from 5 August 1914 to 11 November 1918. The British War Medal was awarded on the same basis but also applied to civilians. The 1914-1915 Star was awarded to those serving in any theatre between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.

The entry in the Book of Remembrance in Holy Trinity Church is signed by Henry's father Joseph and his mother, Mary Ann, resident at Spring Meadow in Forest Row.

Kevin Tillet

EVENING EDITION---7:30 O'CLOCK---LATEST

Net Gain of Nearly 100,000 Circulation

For over thirty years the Globe has enjoyed the confidence and respect of its constituency.

During this long period, Globe readers, composed of the best people in all walks of life in this territory, have recognized the Globe's efforts to produce a reliable home newspaper.

Owing to their loyal support the Globe's history has been one of progress.

This has been especially true during the year 1914.

On February 1, 1914, the Globe reduced its price on the Evening Edition to one cent, the Morning Edition continuing to sell for two cents.

THE RESULT—A gain of almost 100,000 copies per day in the net paid circulation of the Daily Globe and a substantial increase in the net paid circulation of the Sunday Globe.

On this New Year's day we wish to extend our thanks to the legion of old Globe readers for their loyal and continued patronage and a hearty welcome to the almost 100,000 new families in whose homes the Daily Globe is now a welcome visitor.

We wish every Daily Globe reader a Happy New Year.

We wish every Sunday Globe reader a Happy New Year.

We wish you all your share of the prosperity which is to come during 1915.

We thank our advertisers for their support and patronage in the past and wish them all the best of everything during the present year.

It is a great source of pleasure to us to know that during 1915 we are able to offer them a better service than ever before.

The Globe, the best advertising medium in New England for many years, offers its advertisers during 1915 their share of the trade of almost 100,000 new Daily Globe readers and many thousands of new Sunday Globe readers at substantially the same prices per line that have obtained during the past year.

The following figures explain themselves:

ADVERTISING TOTALS FOR 1914

The total advertising in the four Boston newspapers (Evening, Daily and Sunday editions) for the year 1914 was:

- NUMBER OF LINES**
1. Globe **8,362,521**
(Showing a gain of 27,771 lines over 1913)
 2. Post. . . **7,485,248**
 3. American **5,780,460**
 4. Herald . . **4,345,875**

(The above totals include all of the advertising which was printed in the various papers during 1914.)

TOTAL AUTOMOBILE ADVERTISING

- NUMBER OF LINES**
1. Globe . . . **677,663**
312,649 Display—365,014 Classified
 2. Post. **316,057**
208,848 Display—107,209 Classified
 3. American . . **293,845**
223,205 Display—70,640 Classified
 4. Herald . . . **176,049**
166,777 Display—9,272 Classified

TOTAL WANT ADVERTISEMENTS

- NUMBER WANTS**
1. Globe **488,331**
 2. 2nd Paper . . **231,575**
 - Globe's Lead . . **256,756**

Now for 1915, Globe readers, Globe advertisers, everybody—do your share to make the present year one of happiness in your home and prosperity in your business. Remember, the Globe offers you the best advertising medium in New England.

BRITISH BATTLESHIP FORMIDABLE SUNK

EAST BOSTON MAN WAS MURDERED

Police Investigate Death of William Wall.

Large Sum of Money Missing—His Skull Was Smashed In.

East Boston, Jan. 1.—The police here have begun an investigation of the murder which occurred on the night of Dec. 28, 1914, of William Wall, 45, of 215 West St., East Boston, who had been in the city for a brief period of the former day of that week. Wall, a native of East Boston, was a well-known man in the neighborhood and had been in the city for a brief period of the former day of that week. Wall, a native of East Boston, was a well-known man in the neighborhood and had been in the city for a brief period of the former day of that week.

RESOLVE TODAY

to start a
Savings Account

Exchanges Trust Co.
124 Beakton St.

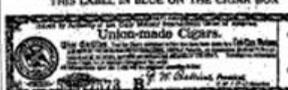
A Happy New Year to All

And a Ready-Made Resolution for Smokers
From the Cigar Makers' Union.

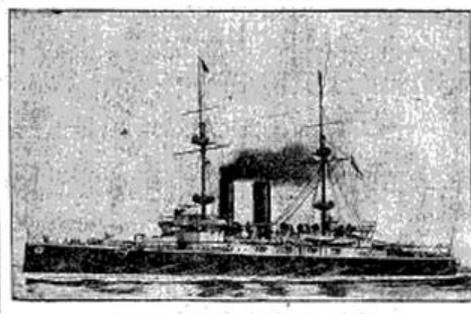
WHEREAS: The Cigar Makers' Union stands for the elevation of child labor, equal pay for men and women and for the general uplift of humanity.

RESOLVED: That I shall smoke only Union Made Cigars and likewise my friends to do the same; I shall also advocate the purchase of Union Made Cigars by organizations of which I may be a member for all festive occasions. By this resolution I recognize myself a Smoker for the Cigar Makers' Union, and a friend of the Cigar Makers' Union.

THIS LABEL IN BLUE ON THE CIGAR BOX



IS THE EMBLEM OF THE NEW YEAR'S BOOSTERS



THE SUNKEN BRITISH BATTLESHIP FORMIDABLE.

Loss About 700—Sent to Bottom by Mine Or Submarine in English Channel

GERMAN AIR FLEET AGAIN BOMBARDS DUNKIRK

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The German war of attrition found another British victim this morning and robbed the British navy of the 16-year-old, but still useful, battleship Formidable, of the same class as the battleship Bulwark, which was blown up a few weeks ago off Sheerness.

Apparently the loss of life on board the Formidable has been very heavy, as only 71 members of her crew are known to have been saved. It is believed that about 700 were drowned. The officials, however, hold out hope that others may have been picked up.

The exact locality of this disaster has not been revealed, but the fact that it occurred in the English Channel recalls the circumstances that British ships have been engaged in bombarding the German positions on the Belgian coast and that German submarines on several occasions in the past have attempted to torpedo them.

As in previous disasters to British ships, the casualty list in this case includes many misadventures, no fewer than 15 having been on board the Formidable.

The text of the bureau's statement follows: "The battleship Formidable was sunk this morning in the Channel, but whether by a mine or a submarine is not yet certain.

"Seventy-one survivors have been picked up by a British light cruiser, and it is possible that others may have been rescued by other vessels."

"COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON"
AS ENJOYED IN THE WAR ZONE

On Christmas Day British wireless and wireless attached forward-topping boats saw cyclone.

On New Year's Day the Germans, by a submarine attack on torpedo, sank the British battleship Formidable, with loss of about 700 lives.

Order next Sunday's Globe from your neighborhood dealer.



How to Utilize a Bank

October 31, 1914

Convenience and Safety

To be wiser in the future, carry 2 1/2 per cent to 3 per cent interest on your money.

You can only begin to see the interest on your money in the way of others.

Bank of America, New York, N.Y.

Capital \$100,000,000
Reserve \$25,000,000
Total Assets \$125,000,000

American Trust Company
30 State Street, Boston City Square, Charleston
Union Safe Deposit Vault
"The Best Account Policy makes the Large Account Feasible."

Mr. Clarence C. Miller

has today been admitted to membership in the firm of

Plympton and Bunting
GENERAL MANAGERS

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co.
24 Milk St., Boston

WILLIAM MCKEON BUNTING
January 1, 1915

CLARENCE C. MILLER

(above) The Boston Evening Globe, a US newspaper, announces the loss of Henry Biddlecombe's ship, HMS Formidable.

CHARLES FREDERICK BROOKER

Private L/10415 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

**Killed in Action near Le Touret, Richebourg l'Avoué,
Pas de Calais, France, on 1 January 1915, aged 25**

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20



Le Touret Cemetery and Memorial

Charles Frederick Brooker was born in Brighton, son of George and Harriet Brooker. In 1891 he and his family were living in Marlborough Street, Brighton, but in 1901 the family was in Brunswick Street, Hove, where father George was enumerated as a cab driver and groom. There were four siblings: George, Florence, Lily and Daisy. It was his sister Lily, as Lilian M. Stow – then living at Oak Cottage in Forest Row – who is recorded as having signed in the Forest Row Memorial Book. By 1911, Charles was boarding at 18 Malvern Street, Hove with the Steinhardt family (which ironically had a German-born head), and his occupation was given as fishmonger.

Presumably, Charles joined up at the outbreak of the war, but there is some confusion about which regiment and when. The medal roll, which shows him to have been entitled to the Victory and/or British War Medal, states that he was in the 2nd, while the Memorial Book puts him in the 3rd. However, the 3rd was a reserve regiment, serving at the Newhaven Garrison, while the 2nd landed in France in 1914, so it seems reasonable to speculate that Charles went to France with the 2nd Sussex Regiment in August 1914.

The 2nd Battalion's war diary shows it to have been at Cambrin, about 7 kilometres from the Le Touret memorial at the beginning of 1915, so it is possible that the following reference on 1 January to 'missing' men may have included Charles, as he has no grave:

*Casualties in last night's affair...
4 rank and file killed, 7 wounded and 10 missing.*

The next day the battalion was relieved by the Cameron Highlanders, but the diary records that a great number of men had been lost between 24 December and 2 January.

Pam Griffiths

SIDNEY HERBERT COOK

Private, 15090, 8th Somerset Light Infantry

Killed in Action, Albert, France, 14 May 1916, aged 23

Commemorated at Norfolk Cemetery Becordel-Becourt near Fricourt

Plot 1, Row B, Grave 58

Sidney Herbert Cook was killed in action on 14 May 1916 aged 23, which suggests he was born in 1892 or 3. The Memorial Book at Forest Row holds no details of his parentage or birth, and no-one signed on his behalf. However, the graves index for Norfolk Cemetery records him as the son of Jane Burley, formerly Cook, of 69, Shepherd's Bush Road, Hammersmith, London. Jane was cook by profession as well as name, and was probably in service in Croydon – where his birth was registered – when Sidney was born, presumably 'out of wedlock', in 1893. Two years earlier she had been enumerated with her parents in East Grinstead as a jobbing cook, aged 25. In 1901 she was head of her household at 56 Queens Road in East Grinstead, looking after a brother Charles and 'granddaughter' Rosina, but there is no sign of Sidney. In 1911 she was cook for a family in Kensington and two years later married John Burley in the Fulham registration district.

The first glimpse of Sidney is in the 1901 census, when he is enumerated in the household of Thomas and Minnie Whyte, a few doors away from his mother at 38A Queens Road, East Grinstead, where both he and his aunt Mary Cook (aged 22) are listed as nephew and niece respectively. Sidney is 8, and born in Croydon. Ten years later, he was possibly living in Forest Row with the Luxford family where he was enumerated as Herbert Cook, aged 18, born East Grinstead, working as a gardener.

When he enlisted in Fulham (date unknown), he was living in Hammersmith, though he gave his place of birth as East Grinstead. Given his mother's address, I suspect he was in the same household. *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919* lists him as formerly 13595, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Effects amounting to £1 18s. 7d. were granted to an aunt, Mrs Elizabeth Kimbern (née Cook), sole legatee. She in turn appeared at Ealing in the 1911 census as a widow (having married Charles William Kimber in East Grinstead in 1898) in the household of her sister Mary, also married to a William Kimber (1906, Brentford).

The 8th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry left Southampton for Le Havre on 9 September 1915, arriving the next day. They were deployed first at Vermelles on 25 September, then moved to Armentières where they saw action numerous times. In March they were on the move and by May they were at La Neuville and then marched to Buire where, between 3 and 13 May the whole battalion was engaged in working parties.

On the day that Sidney was killed, the regimental war diary records simply:

On the following night Segt Fenwick D.C.M. was killed by a bullet, and on the 15th we were relieved in the front line by the 10th York and Lancs.

The battalion was mentioned in Haig's dispatch of 19 May 1916 for especially good work while in the trenches in carrying out or repelling local attacks and raids.

Pam Griffiths



Norfolk Cemetery Becordel-Becourt

FREDERICK ROBERT EDWARDS

Private, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, SD/2668

Killed in Action, 26 October 1916, aged c.18

Remembered with Honour on the Thiepval Memorial



Thiepval Memorial

Frederick Robert Edwards was born in 1898 in Hartfield, the son of John Edwards and Annie Edwards (née Card). At the time of the 1911 census, when he was 13, he lived at Holly Cottage, Chuck Hatch, and was attending school. His father was a carter on a farm in the area and his mother a charwoman. He had an elder brother, William John Edwards, 19, who was also a carter on a farm, and a sister Mary Edwards, aged 12. We cannot find a record of William John Edwards serving in the Great War.

Frederick joined up as a private in the 13th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The 11th, 12th and 13th battalions of the regiment – the ‘*South Down*’ or ‘*pals*’ battalions – were raised and equipped by Lieutenant-Colonel Claude William Henry Lowther, Unionist MP for North Cumberland, who had acquired Herstmonceux castle in 1910, and they subsequently became known as “Lowther’s Lambs”. The battalions were formed at Bexhill on 20 November 1914, where some 1,100 men enlisted in 56 hours. All original enlistments were given an “SD” (South Downs) prefix to their regimental number, and Frederick’s number was SD/2668.

The regiment crossed to France via Southampton on 5-6 March 1916, landing at Le Havre. It served on the Western Front with 116th Brigade, 39th Division until the spring of 1918. The battles it was involved with at the Battles of the Somme included:

3 September	Fighting on the Ancre [Hamel]
26-28 September	Battle of the Thiepval Ridge

5 October - 1 November	Battle of the Ancre Heights
14 October	Capture of the Schwaben Redoubt
21 October	Capture of Stuff Trench
13-14 November	Battle of the Ancre



*11th Battalion, the Royal Sussex Regiment, at Cooden, October 1914 (©Paul Reed)
We cannot verify if Frederick is in this picture.*

The three 'pals' battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment suffered terrible casualties on 30 June 1916, twenty-four hours before the much better known "First Day on the Somme". This was in a diversionary attack, a large scale raid launched by the 39th Division at a position called the Boar's Head, near Richebourg l'Avoue. Just under 1,100 casualties (dead, wounded and prisoners) were incurred in a fruitless attack that had no effect on the enemy's abilities to withstand the next day's assault on the Somme. The vast majority of the losses were to men from the county of Sussex (source: *The Long Long Trail*).

Frederick was killed in action on 26 October 1916. The 13th Battalion was involved in a major battle in October 2013. The battalion was serving at Redan Ridge on the Western Front, a ridge which played a significant role in the Somme Offensive of 1916.

Between 19 September and 3 October 1916 the 13th Battalion were posted to Redan Ridge (part of the Battle of the Somme) having relieved the 25th Royal Fusiliers. The time spent there involved frequent fighting with the Germans including shelling of gas on both sides. They were back there on 13 October to relieve the 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. From 10 to 12 October the 13th Battalion were at Engelbelmer Wood where on the 11th a "Canteen started and proved a great success".

On 21 October his battalion moved up to the Schwaben Trench, where its headquarters were situated. The 8th Suffolks had captured Schwabengraben (Schwabian Trench) during the Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26–28 September).

Schwaben Redoubt had deep dug-outs for accommodation with multiple entrances, a battalion command post, first-aid post, signalling station and strong-points, with three heavy machine-guns and four light machine-guns. Many of the dug-outs were on the perimeter, at trench junctions (clockwise from north, using the English names): Irwin Trench (strong points 49 and 69), Lucky Way (strong point 27), Stuff Trench, Hessian Trench (strong point 45), Martin's Lane, the Strasburg Line (strong point 19) and Clay Trench (strong point 99). Inside the redoubt, along an inner trench on the south-west face, were strong-points 65, 37 and 39. Beyond the south-west face, in the maze of trenches towards Thiepval to the south and St. Pierre Division to the north-west, were nine more strong-points. The redoubt was triangular, with an extension to the east across the Thiepval–Grandcourt road and had a frontage of around 500 metres.



The capture of Thiepval and advance on Schwaben Redoubt, September-October 1916.

The battalion was involved in an attack on Stuff Trench on 21 October. They successfully captured and held the trench and a German attack on Schwaben Redoubt early on 21 October was repulsed. The majority of the fighting took place on 22 October around Stuff Trench. Both Bainbridge and Stuff Trench were heavily bombarded. Three officers were wounded in this fighting and 25 other ranks were killed, 71 wounded and 30 missing. After three days in the rear the battalion was back in Stuff Trench on 25 October when the enemy counter attacked at dawn. Although they were successfully repulsed the front line trench was heavily shelled. As Frederick is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme) it is likely that he is one of the missing from this battle.

Frederick's page in the Forest Row Book of Remembrance was signed by Annie Edwards (mother), Queensborough Cottages, Forest Row.

Carol O'Driscoll



*Commonwealth War Commission Graveyard near New Munich British Trench
with Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme in the background.*

FREDERICK SYLVESTER EDWARDS

Private, G/1302, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action near Béthune, Pas-de-Calais, France, 9 May 1915, aged 21

Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20 and 21. No known grave.



Le Touret Memorial

Frederick Sylvester Edwards was born in Hartfield on 8 May 1894. He lived at Little Reeds Farm, Hartfield and enlisted in September 1914 in Tunbridge Wells. He was killed in action on 9 May 1915 near Le Touret, Béthune, Pas-de-Calais, France, the day after his 21st birthday. He has no known grave and is listed on the Le Touret Memorial : Panel 20 and 21.

The 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment was involved in the attack at Richebourg L'Avoue on 8 May 2016. The bombardment commenced at 5am. We are not sure which Company or Platoon Frederick Edwards was assigned to but ABC and D Companies all went "over the top" that morning.

The assault had commenced at 5.30 a.m. and the 2nd Royal Sussex were unable to make any progress and were halted by the unbroken German wire. The order to withdraw was given at 6.30 a.m., but many dead and wounded still lay out in the open. The 2nd Royal Sussex lost 14 Officers and 548 Other Ranks killed, wounded and missing.

He was the son of Sylvester (b.1859) and Sarah Ann (Weeding) (b.1865) Edwards. His pre-war occupation was a Gardener. Listed on the War Memorial in Hartfield.

Sarah Ann Weeding was listed as a servant in the 1881 census and married Sylvester Edwards in 1884 at Withyham Church. In 1881 Sylvester was recorded as a labourer and In 1891 he was recorded as a railway platelayer. By 1911 he was a farmer at Little Reeds Farm, Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

EDWARD CECIL FIELDER

Lance Corporal 242012 2nd/6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

(previously 2253 Royal Sussex Regiment)

Killed in Action, 19 July 1916, aged c. 19

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panel 22-5



Edward Cecil Fielder

Edward Cecil Fielder was the fifth child of Ann (née Hooker) and William Fielder. Like his elder brother Frederick, he was born at Plaxtol in Kent, in Wrotham parish. His birth was registered in 1897 but he was not baptised until 1902, at the same time as his sister Marguerite. His father worked on the land, rising by 1911 to be a farm bailiff. In 1901 Edward was living with his family at Old Soar Cottages in Plaxtol and in 1911 he was still at home, which by now was Springfield Cottages in Shipbourne near Tonbridge. Now aged 14 he was enumerated as a farm labourer. Presumably he moved to Perry Hill in Hartfield when his family did so sometime between 1911 and 1914.

He enlisted in Hastings, and was presumably posted to the Royal Sussex Regiment. He seems to have given his address as Bolebrook, which is in Hartfield and very close to Perry Hill, so the two places could be the same. At some point he was transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which landed in France on 21 May 1916, and was killed in action less than two months later on 19 July 1916. He was killed near Pheasant Wood, Fromelles, Pas de Calais, France, aged 19. He has no known grave although his name appears on the memorial at Loos-en-Gohelle, Département du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France; he is also commemorated on both Plaxtol and Hartfield memorials.

Judging by the place and date of his death, Edward took part in the Battle of Fromelles, a subsidiary attack of the Battle of the Somme. According to Wikipedia, preparations for the attack were rushed, and

the troops inexperienced in trench warfare. In addition the German defence was seriously underestimated.

His death was a second blow to his family, as his brother Frederick had been killed in action about three weeks earlier. Their mother Ann appears as Edward's sole legatee in the register of soldiers' effects.

Pam Griffiths



E.C. Fielder on the Loos Memorial

FREDERICK STEPHEN FIELDER

Lance Corporal 20999, 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment

(previously 3rd Battalion, Bedford Regiment, Private 13243)

Killed in Action, 27 June 1916, aged c. 24

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 6A and 7C



Frederick Stephen Fielder was the son of Ann (née Hooker) and William Fielder, both Kent born, as was he. The census returns give his place of birth as Wrotham, but when he joined the army he said he was born at Plaxtol. However, as Plaxtol is in the parish of Wrotham, this makes perfect sense. His birth was registered in 1892 and he was the second of 10 children. His father started out as a farm worker but by 1911 was a farm bailiff and had moved his family from Old Soar Cottages at Plaxtol to Springfield Cottages at Shipbourne near Tonbridge. At this time, Frederick and his brother Sidney were both employed in paper-making.

By the time Frederick enlisted – at Battersea on 1 September 1914 – his parents were living at 8 Bolebrook Cottages, Perry Hill in Hartfield, and he was working as a porter for Elders and Ffyfes. This was a London shipping firm subsidiary to Elder Dempster, and not surprisingly, they imported bananas. His attestation shows that he hadn't lived outside the family home for three years, and that he had no prison record when he joined up. He gave his age as 22 years and 241 days.

A description on enlistment declares him to have been 5' 6½" and 132 lbs, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a clear complexion. He had an identifying scar on the second finger of his left hand. His physical development was considered good and his vision 6/6. He gave his religion as C of E.

He served first with the Bedford Regiment until he was transferred to the Border Regiment on 1 January 1916. In the interim, he was sent home after initial enlistment, but sent to France on 11 March 1915 and served 46 days there. On 26 April 1915 he was sent home again following a gunshot wound in his arm and hand. On 1 January 1916 he returned to France with his new regiment, presumably recovered, and

on 29 February he was promoted to Lance Corporal (unpaid). Presumably the offence recorded on 27 September 1915 of 'stating a falsehood to an NCO' for which he was disciplined was not held against him.

He was killed in action on 27 June 1916, just a few days before the onset of the Battle of the Somme. His mother and Mary Blackman seem to have been the legatees for his war gratuity. It is not clear whether she was a relative or a sweetheart. Frederick was unmarried at the time of his death. His brother Edward Cecil died three weeks after him.

Frederick Stephen Fielder is commemorated on the Plaxtol and Hartfield War Memorials.

Pam Griffiths



Cap badge of the Border Regiment

FREDERICK SAMUEL FRY

Company Sergeant Major L/5733, B Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Died of wounds at Loos, France, 25 September 1915, aged c. 35

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panel 69-73



Frederick Samuel Fry

Frederick Samuel Fry was born in 1880 in Hartfield, the son of Harriet Annie (née Grove) and Albert Edward Fry. Although his father appeared on the 1881 census as a farm labourer, the family was living at Brooks Hill or Brocks Hill Farm, and his older brother Arthur, also part of the household, was listed as a farmer of 117 acres employing three men. Presumably the younger brother was one of the employees while the elder ran the farm. Frederick's grandfather was also a farmer.

Only Frederick and his older sister had been born by the time of the census, but over the next nine years, five further children were born in Hartfield. Unfortunately, the father died in 1890, and the 1891 census shows Frederick living with his mother's uncle and aunt in Croydon, while she remained in Hartfield with the rest of the children, farming at Chartnels or Chartners Farm. By 1893, though, she too was dead, and it may have been this fractured childhood which led Frederick to join the army.

According to *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, Frederick enlisted at Chichester, but no date was given. Maybe this was a re-enlistment at the outbreak of war, as the *Hartfield History Group* gives his enlistment date as 13 September 1898 at Tunbridge Wells, in the 3rd Royal Sussex Regiment, and suggests that before this he was a labourer: no source is given. In 1901 he was living at Villa Bradford, Kingston by Sea, Sussex, with his second cousin, Herbert Summarsell, a market gardener. He gave his occupation as 'Soldier, 1st Royal Sussex Regt.'

Frederick married Alice Maud Witkowski, who had been born in either Rangoon or West Bengal, though she was living in Ireland by 1901. Their marriage took place in Belfast in 1908, with a first child born in

Antrim in 1909 and two subsequent children at Curragh in 1911 – suggesting that Frederick was stationed there. This is borne out by the 1911 census which places the family at Curragh Military Camp. Frederick signed the census form as head of household, listing himself as Colour Sergeant, 2 Royal Sussex Regt. The following year he was witness at the wedding of his brother Albert Edward Fry at Reading. By the time of the birth of his fourth child in 1913, he was at Farnham.

The Royal Sussex Regiment formed part of the British Expeditionary Force which landed in France in August 1914, and fought in the First Battle of Ypres, where, apparently, German prisoners captured during the action gave the Second Battalion the title *The Iron Regiment*. Other battles Frederick may have participated in were at Mons, the Marne, the Aisne and Aubers Ridge; his last was the Battle of Loos on 25 September.

As Frederick died of wounds, it is not possible to be certain when he received his injuries. However, the regimental diary for the first part of September records no action. The men were on the move or in billets until 23 September, then in bivouacs on ‘a very wet night’ and finally in trenches at Vermelles to prepare for ‘the coming assault’. So it seems likely that he died of wounds received on the first day of the Battle of Loos. The diary shows the battalion to have been near Hulluch where it took up position in the support line at 1.50 a.m. At 6.30 a.m. they moved into a front line trench. The British had used gas, but a change in wind direction blew some of it back into their own trenches. The advance which followed enabled many men to reach the German wire, but as it had not been cut they were either wounded or killed. Nevertheless, a second wave was able to reach Lone Tree and eventually take a section of German trench. The battalion was relieved the following day, but by then Frederick was dead. On the same day, a fellow sergeant, Harry Wells, was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his part in the attack near Lone Tree.



Loos Memorial

As well as being commemorated at Loos and Hartfield, Frederick is remembered on the headstone of his son John at Queen Alexandra’s Military Hospital, Millbank. The National Probate Calendar records that Frederick Samuel Fry of 20, Mountcollyer Avenue, Belfast died while on active service with the British Expeditionary Force. Administration was granted to his widow in Belfast although his effects, valued at £326, were recorded as in England.

Thanks are due to Frederick’s great-grand-daughter Debbie for both information and permission to reproduce Frederick’s photograph.

Pam Griffiths

GEORGE GREGORY

Private 11235, 10th Battalion Reserve, Royal Sussex Regiment

Died of 'heart failure' at Shoreham Hospital, 13 May 1916, aged 39

**Mentioned in the *Kent and Sussex Courier* on the 19 May 1916.
The cause of death was recorded elsewhere as 'sickness'.**

George was born in 1877/78 in Reading, Berkshire. His parents were Thomas and Mary Ann Gregory and the Memorial Book in Holy Trinity Church in Forest Row was signed by Thomas, of Church Cottage, Highgate Road, Forest Row.

In the 1881 census he was recorded at Mr. Gault's Cottage, Hopeful Cottages, Farnham, Surrey. By the 1891 census George, aged 12 to 13, was to be found at Chats Hill ('The Stables'), Beddington, with his parents and sister Hannah, an 18 year old general domestic servant, where he was described as a boy gardener. He has not been found in the 1901 census but in 1911 he was a single man working as a coachman in a livery yard, living at Offerton Cottage, Park Road, Forest Row. In his obituary in 1916 it was mentioned that before enlisting at East Grinstead and joining the Royal Sussex Regiment Reserve, George had worked for twelve years at the Ashdown Hotel and was well known in Forest Row.



The 10th Battalion, formed at Dover in October 1914, was part of Kitchener's New Army. It became a 2nd Reserve Battalion in April 1915 based at Colchester, then moved on to Shoreham. The camp at Shoreham was set up initially as a tented encampment for the military training of some 12,000 men. By 1915 wooden huts replaced the tents and it took on the appearance of a small town. By the autumn of 1915 most of the original recruits had left for action in France and a new wave of trainees had arrived. Also in December 1915 a convalescent department was set up for wounded men to recover and be returned for action in the front line.

A War Gratuity of £3 5s. 11d. was authorised on 15 August 1916 and this was sent to his father on 23 June 1919.



George is buried in Forest Row cemetery, grave plot 937. The memorial type is described as P.P and the type of grave as P. with Kerb. Wreaths included at his funeral included one sent by Mrs Grenville Gordon.

The cemetery on the south side of the village of Forest Row belongs to the parish council and contains thirteen World War One graves (represented by eight different regiments), partly because during the war there was a military hospital in Forest Row.

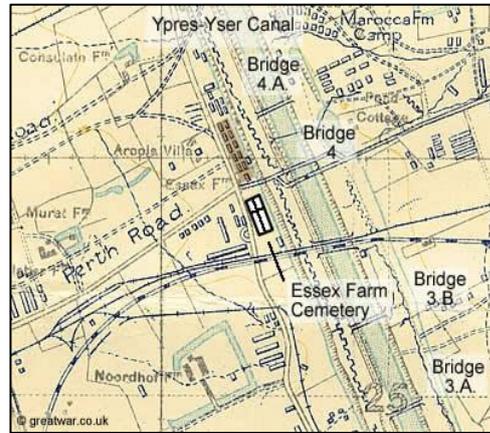
Kevin Tillet

ALFRED LLEWELLYN GRISBROOK

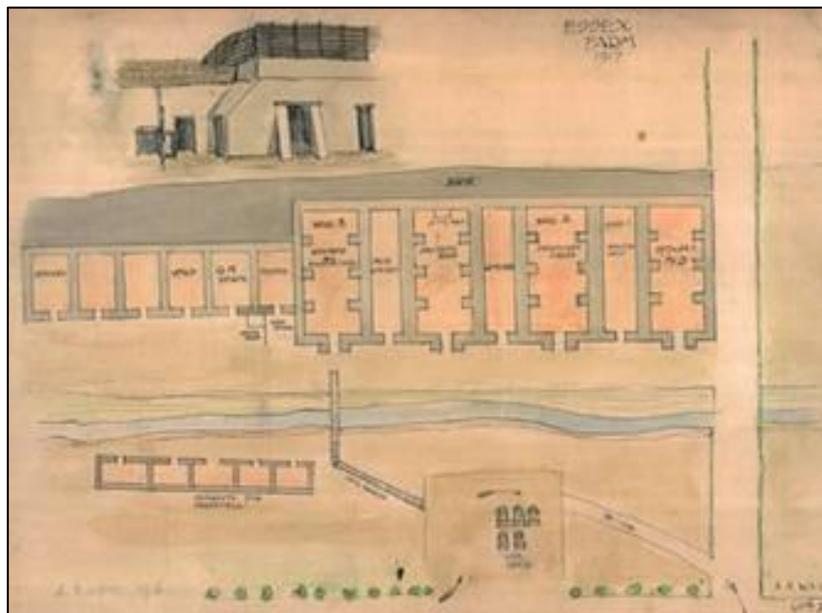
Corporal Alfred Grisbrook, Number 4596/15919, 13th Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, Ypres, Belgium, 21 December 1916, aged 27

Buried at Plot 2, Row Y, Grave 6, at the Essex Farm Cemetery at Boesinghe



The cemetery at West Vlaanderen in western Flanders, just north of Ypres, holds 1,097 identified casualties with 103 unidentified graves. Land to the south of the cemetery was used as a casualty dressing station from April 1915 to August 1917. The area was on the evacuation route for wounded soldiers from the nearby Ypres Salient.



The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield but there was no definite plan for the burials.

It was here that in May 1915, that Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian Army Medical Corps wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Alfred was born on 2 February 1890 in Forest Row, where he was also educated. His parents were Llewellyn Alfred and Emma Grisbrook (née Russell).

Alfred, aged 1, was living in the High Street, Forest Row with his father Alfred, aged 23, and mother Emma, aged 23. His father, a railway worker had been baptised in Hastings in 1867, and his mother in East Grinstead.

In 1901 Alfred, aged 11, was at the same address in Forest Row with his father and mother and a sister, Florence, born in Forest Row, aged 9. Alfred senior was now described as a coal carman. He was educated in Forest Row.

In 1911, Alfred, now 21, was residing at Morris's Cottages, High Street, Forest Row. At this time he was single and recorded as a grocer's assistant. His father, Alfred now 43, was a bricklayer's labourer in the building trade. Emma was now 42 and they had a boarder, George Grantham, aged 18, a railway porter born in Crawley, living with them.

Also, in another of the Morris's Cottages lived the family of John Jenner, also a bricklayer's labourer. Living nearby was Fanny Morris, a widow aged 47 described as of "private means" with a cook domestic aged 56. Close by was Morris's Stores where Mr. Ham and his family ran a grocer's and general stores.

On 28 April 1915, when he was 23, Alfred married Ethel Garwood, daughter of Daniel Garwood, in East Grinstead.

Alfred enlisted on 8 April 1916, joining the 13th Service Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders.

Alfred was killed in action on 21 December 1916.

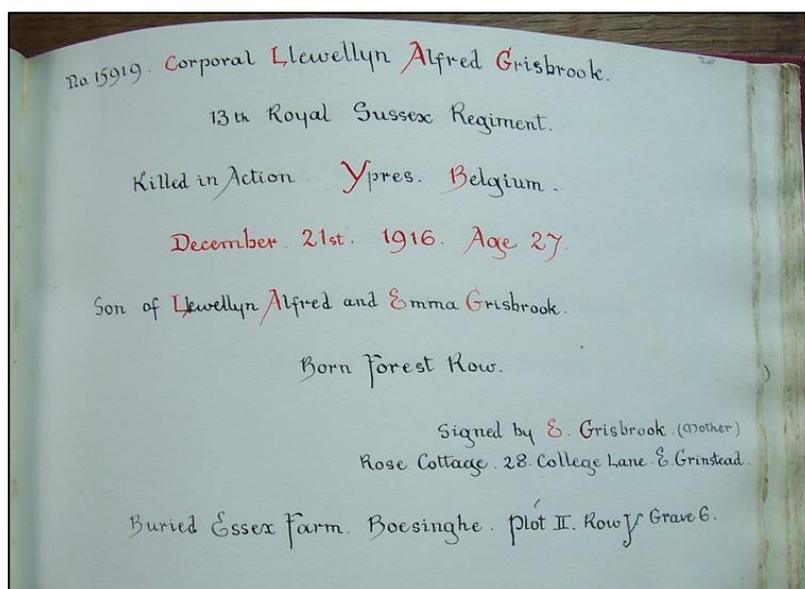
On 12 December the Battalion had relieved the 17th Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the Turco Farm Sector of the Front, near Poperinghe. On 21 December the 13th Battalion were stationed in the front line section of the Hill Top Farm sector of the Front. The Battalion Diary records: "our artillery carried out a heavy bombardment of the enemy trenches on the right of the Divisional Front, which provoked a certain amount of retaliation. The Battalion regrets the loss of Corporal Grisbrook, killed, a very valuable NCO who had done good work."

The company chaplain later wrote to Ethel, saying: "His Company Commander could speak in no higher terms of your husband than he did. He said he was one of the best men he had, and not only he, but we all deeply feel his loss."

On 17 May 1917 the sum of £1 19s. 6d. was credited to his widow Ethel his sole legitimate heir. A War Gratuity of £4 0s. 0d. was approved for Ethel on 11 November 1919. At this time she was Ethel Rowcliffe of 19, Knox Road, Portsmouth.

He was awarded the Victory Medal.

The Book of Remembrance in Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row was signed by his mother, Emma, residing at Rose Cottage, 28 College Lane, East Grinstead. Alfred Llewellyn Grisbrook is commemorated on the Forest Row War Memorial.



Kevin Tillet

FREDERICK HOLMWOOD

Private, 1151 'C' Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 29 May 1915, aged 27



Forest Row Cemetery

Frederick Holmwood was born in 1889 and lived at 2, Spring Meadow, Forest Row in 1911. He was an under gardener. His father Alex Jas Holmwood was a stock cowman. He had a sister, Beatrice Hannah, and three brothers, George, Ernest and Harry. Harry signed the Forest Row Memorial Book. George moved to Rotherfield and was listed as a gardener in 1911. He was married and does not appear to have served in the war. He had a daughter, Grace.

In May 1914 Frederick married Florence Harding. Florence came from Bexhill-on-Sea and in 1911 was listed as a servant living in London Road, East Grinstead. After the war she re-married, marrying Reginald Venn in 1922, and died aged 89 in 1981. She moved to Tadworth in Surrey.

There was a military hospital in Forest Row at the time and it is likely that Frederick died there.

The 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment on 24 April 1915 transferred to 160th Brigade in 53rd (Welsh) Division. They moved to Cambridge and in May 1915 on to Bedford. The battalion does not appear to have been serving overseas at the time of his death.

Frederick is remembered with honour in Forest Row cemetery, commemorated on Hartfield War Memorial, and also commemorated in the Forest Row memorial book.

Carol O'Driscoll

THOMAS EDWARD HONEYSETT

Private G/1306, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action at Hill 60, Aubers Ridge, France, 9 May 1915, aged 20

No known grave. He is listed on the Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20 and 21



Thomas Edward Honeysett

Private Thomas Edward Honeysett died, aged 20, on 9 May 1915 during an attack on Hill 60 near Aubers Ridge, Béthune, Pas de Calais, France. He has no known grave and is listed on the Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20 and 21.



Le Touret Memorial

He was born in Wittersham, Kent, and his birth was registered at Tenterden in 1895. The family are recorded by the census in 1911 as living at Yew Tree Cottage, Butcherfield Lane, Hartfield.

He was the son of Sophronia and Charles Honeysett, who originally lived in Horsmonden, Kent. Thomas was listed as living there aged five in the 1901 Census. He had eight siblings. In the 1911 census Charles was listed as a carter on a farm while Thomas was an agricultural labourer aged 17. Sophronia died in 1927 at the age of 59, and her death was registered in East Grinstead.

Thomas Edward had several brothers who also served in the Great War but who apparently survived (see press cutting below).

His elder brother Charles was born in Beckley, Sussex in the district of Northiam. He was aged 20 in 1911 and was listed as a farm labourer in Hope Mill Cottages, Goudhurst, Kent. In 1914 he was working as a labourer in Tonbridge and was listed by his boss at Edward Punnett & Sons as "very good". He enlisted on 13 October 1914 and served with the Royal Engineers, Kent Fortress Company. Sapper Charles Honeysett was invalided to England in December 1915. He qualified as a fitter with the Royal Engineers in 1917. He was discharged on demobilisation in July 1919. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star and the British War Victory medal in 1922.

PATRIOTIC HARTFIELD FAMILY.

Pte. T. Honeysett. Seaman W. Honeysett. Pte. F. Honeysett



Pte. C. Honeysett. Pte. J. Honeysett. Pte. A. Honeysett.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Honeysett, Yew Tree Cottage, Hartfield, have four sons serving in His Majesty's Forces, and another (Alfred) has received notice to join on Monday. The following are the details:—

Sapper Charles Honeysett, Royal Engineers, Egypt, eldest son, wounded fifteen months ago, recovered and returned; reported missing last month, but news has just been received from him.

Stoker William Honeysett, in the Royal Navy, second son, trained at Chatham, now on H.M.S. Ganges.

Lance-Corpl. Jim Honeysett, The Buffs, B.E.F., third son, went out soon after the outbreak of war. He has been wounded three times, and recently underwent a serious operation for an old wound. He has since not been fit for trench work, and is now guarding German prisoners in France.

Private Tom Honeysett, Royal Sussex, B.E.F., fourth son, was killed in the great charge at Hill 60 on May 9th, 1915.

Private Fred Honeysett, fifth son, wounded twice, now recovered and put into the Royal West Surreys.

Source: Kent & Sussex Courier, 11 May 1917

His brother Frederick Honeysett, aged 19 years and 3 months, enlisted on 10 January 1916 with the Royal Sussex Regiment at Chichester. He was listed as living at Yew Tree Cottage, Butcherfield Lane, Hartfield. He later transferred to 13th London Regiment and transferred to the Royal Engineers in May 1917. He was a farm worker before enlisting. It is assumed that he survived the war.

His brother William was registered as a cowman in Bakers Cottages, West Road, Goudhurst, Kent in the 1911 census, aged 19.

His brother William John was 20 in 1911 and was registered as a labourer in Eastbourne.

His brother Alfred married Mary Hills in East Grinstead in 1925. His brother Ernest married Sarah Willey in East Grinstead in 1927. Both were listed by the census as scholars in Pembury in 1911.

Thomas Edward Honeysett enlisted in September 1914 at Tunbridge Wells in the Royal Sussex Regiment. A private in the 2nd Battalion, he was killed in an assault on Hill 60 near Aubers Ridge, Béthune, Pas de Calais. The 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, were engaged in the assault attacking the German lines at Richebourg L'Avoue. They experienced heavy machine gun fire and high explosive shells. The action on 9 May 1915 resulted in the death and wounding of 14 officers and 548 other ranks.

Thomas Honeysett is commemorated on the Hartfield War Memorial and on the memorial in Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch.

Carol O'Driscoll

FRANK HYDER

Private, SD/2934, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, 16 April 1916, near Festubert, Pas de Calais, France, aged 26

Buried in the Post Office Rifles Cemetery, Festubert. Grave reference: I. A. 9



Private Frank Hyder, SD/2934, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was born in Tonbridge in 1889. He lived at The Rough, Coleman's Hatch. He was killed in action on 16 April 1916 near Festubert in the Pas de Calais, France, age 26 and is buried in the [Post Office Rifles Cemetery](#), Festubert: Grave I. A. 9. He is listed on the war memorials in Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield.

The son of Mary Ann (Card) (b.1857) and Thomas Pollington (b.1839) Hyder, Frank was married to Mary Ellen (Divall) (b.1884) Hyder and had four children, the eldest being Elsie Ellen (b.1911). Her sisters included Charlotte and Marge. He formerly worked for Messrs. H&E Waters of Forest Row. He also worked as a 'stone digger for road making'. Mary Ellen and Frank Hyder are listed in the 1911 census as living with their parents-in-law at The Rough, Coleman's Hatch. His father, Thomas Hyder, was a 'road carter' in 1901 and in 1911 was listed as a bricklayer – at the age of 68.

His father-in-law John Divall was also listed as a 'stone digger for road making' in the 1911 census. In 1891 John Divall was listed as a 'general labourer' and in 1901 as an 'agricultural labourer'. Mary Ellen Hyder died in 1972 aged 88. His daughter Elsie Ellen Hyder married William Awcock in Uckfield in 1940. She died aged 84 in 1994 in Crawley.

Frank was involved in the battle near Festubert, Pas de Calais. His Company moved from Verte Rue to Locon via Merville on 14 April 1916. They took over the Right Sub-Sector of Givenchy Area relieving the 13th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. They were positioned near La Bassée Canal. The trenches they occupied were found to be in very poor condition. The wire in front of the parapet was practically non-existent. The troops spent the day building dugouts and closing a gap in the parapet. On 16 April the enemy shelled the trenches and made a direct hit on the parapet killing a number of men. It is likely one

of these was Frank Hyder. That evening enemy machine guns were very active. The toll for the day was 5 killed and 16 wounded.

Carol O'Driscoll

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 18.9.20. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1 District. REPORT No. 22 SCHEDULE No. 1. c.

all concentrations in this Plot are marked in last report

PLACE OF BURIAL POST OFFICE RIFLES C. Coy. Festubert. *13230*

FESTUBERT. Certified Correct & Complete. *13230*

Map Reference- Map Ref. Sn.36a.X.29.d.9.2. *Major. D.A.D.G.R. & E. "A"*

The following are buried here:-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<i>P.3094(D)</i> <i>21102</i> PLOT 1.						
R. M. F.	5926	LEE	Pte. G.		All crosses erected	A. 1.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 2.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 3.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 4.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 5.
<i>13th Reg. Sussex Rif.</i>	<i>20</i> 2637	BUCKLAND	L/Opl. F. H.	16.4.16	<i>Ry 3242</i>	A. 6.
	<i>20</i> 2657	DABBS	Pte. S. M. P.	16.4.16		A. 7.
	<i>20</i> 2934	HYDER	Pte. F.	16.4.16		A. 8.
	<i>20</i> 3247	VOICE	Pte. A.	16.4.16		A. 9.
K. O. R. L.	38648	SMITH	Pte. H.		<i>ET 14405</i>	A. 10.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 11.
1/4 King's Own.	29157	SLACK	Pte. J.	26.4.18		A. 12.
1/4 Pld. Coy. CANADIAN ENG.	5204	STEPHENSON	Spr. G.	15.6.15	<i>Ry 3244</i>	A. 13.
" 1/4 L. N. L.	26919	CONDON	A/Opl. M.	18.4.18	<i>Ry 3246</i>	A. 14.
<i>1/4 Coy. N. L. ANG.</i>	41637	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"		<i>Ry 3240</i>	A. 15.
		EASTWOOD	Pte. J. A.	14.5.18		A. 16.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	"			A. 17.
		"	"			A. 18.
		"	"			A. 19.
		"	"			A. 20.
		"	"			A. 21.
		"	"			A. 22.
		"	"			A. 23.
		"	"			A. 24.
		"	"			A. 25.
		"	"			A. 26.
		"	"			A. 27.
		"	"			A. 28.
		"	"			A. 29.
		"	"			A. 30.
		"	"			A. 31.
		"	"			A. 32.

ENTERED

(6 51 5) W3163-P121 100,000 9/19 H.V.V. P124 Form W. 3372

11 DEC 1920

The picture below depicts Frank's children at the Convent School in Coleman's Hatch circa 1920. Dancing round the maypole are Elsie Ellen Hyder, her two sisters Marge and Charlotte and father William Awcock plus a lad called Weeding.



JOHN KEKEWICH

Killed in Action, 26 September 1915, aged 24

Captain, D Company, 8th Battalion. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Remembered with honour on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France



The Loos Memorial, above, designed by Sir Herbert Baker and unveiled in August 1930, commemorates 615 officers and men who fell in one area during the Battle of Loos in 1915. The names were recorded on memorial panels when losses in battle were officially declared but where there was no known burial or where graves could not be identified. John is recorded on panel 15-19.

John was the son of Lewis Pendarves Kekewich and Lilian Emily Hanbury of 3, Beaumont Mansions, Fourth Avenue, Hove, Brighton. The Book of Remembrance in Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row was signed by his mother, Lilian Kekewich, of 14, Adelaide Crescent, Hove.

John is commemorated on the Forest Row War Memorial because the Kekewich family lived between 1909 and 1915 at Kidbrooke Park in Forest Row. Lewis, born in 1859, was a metal broker with trading links with Germany. This connection led to a serious decline in trade on the outbreak of war in August 1914 and required the family to move from Forest Row to London. There was also another local connection in that in 1915 John was engaged to Stella Munday of Wilderwick, East Grinstead. John is also remembered with honour on the Lord's Cricket Ground Roll of Honour.

John was born in 1891 at Twysdens, a property leased by Lewis Kekewich in Fooks Cray, Kent. His birth is recorded in the Bromley birth register during the April-May-June quarter.

Lewis and Lilian had seven children, John being the sixth. Four of their sons, Major Hanbury Lewis, Captain George, Captain John and Captain Sidney, fought in the war but only Sidney survived although he was seriously injured.

In the 1901 census John is recorded as a boarder at Wellington House School, Westgate-on-Sea. He was one of 45 boy and girl pupils listed together with 12 servants and the Head, Mr Herbert Bull, described as 'in Holy Orders and Schoolmaster'. John continued his education at Eton, where he probably served in the Officer Cadet Corps. He is therefore also commemorated on the Eton College War Memorial.

John does not appear in the 1911 census possibly because he was abroad at the time. His name does appear on the incoming passenger list of the S.S. Royal Edward, a Canadian Northern steamship arriving at Avonmouth from Montreal, Canada on 20 June 1912. He was travelling first class with his elder sister Evelyn Kekewich, aged 24, and they stated that their intended future permanent residence was to be England.

John enlisted at the start of the war in September 1914, joining the 8th Battalion, The Buffs, at Shoreham Camp. The Buffs, the East Kent Regiment, were formed at Canterbury in September as part of Kitchener's Third New Army. From September 1914 to October 1915 they were part of 72nd Brigade , 24th Division.

Early organisation of John's battalion was described as 'chaotic', with rifles only being issued in July 1915 and their first experience of action proved to be disastrous.

The battalion embarked for France on 31 August 1915 and after a few days was required to make a forced march to act as a reserve for the intended British assault at Loos. On day one of the Battle of Loos they were too poorly placed by British headquarters to be of real use in the battle formation. On 26 September at 10.30am they were ordered to go 'over the top' at 11.00am. Captain John Kekewich was in command of C Company. The brigade advanced under heavy shelling and increasingly accurate machine gun fire. Despite heavy losses some soldiers reached the thick band of barbed wire in front of the German trenches but were unable to get through and were forced to retire. They suffered heavy shelling, some being out in the open for nearly four hours. Many of the wounded could not be rescued that night as German machine guns covered all the approaches. It is believed that John Kekewich was one of these wounded men left lying in No Man's Land. It was said that he was offered assistance but refused it as it would be too dangerous for his men to take the risk. The advance lasted just 55 minutes before the decision to retire. 24 Officers and 610 Other ranks of the Buffs were lost. Only one officer survived.

John Kekewich's body was never found. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal and the 1914-15 Star. The medal citation reads 'Death Accepted' September 26th 1915. In other words there was no body.

On 27 September John Kipling, son of Rudyard Kipling, also died during the Battle of Loos.

John Kekewich's eldest brother, Captain Hanbury Kekewich of the Sussex Yeomanry, died in Palestine, aged 32, on 6 November 1917. His brother, Captain George Kekewich of the City of London Yeomanry (the Roughriders), also died in Palestine, aged 28, on 28 October 1917. Both were buried, quite close to each other, in Beersheba Military Cemetery, Gaza.

Kevin Tillet

ARTHUR KENNARD

Private, 8557, 2nd Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment

Killed in Action during a charge on 6 August 1915 at Krithia, Turkey, aged 24

He has no known grave and is listed on the Helles Memorial,

Panel 125-134 or 223-226 228-229 and 328.



Private Arthur Kennard was born in Hartfield on 21 July 1891, the son of Edmund Arthur Kennard (1861-1891) and Annie Maria Kennard (née Greenfield) (1860-1931). He lived at Church Street, Hartfield and later Cairo Cottage, Southwater, Horsham. His mother was described as a dressmaker in the 1901 census and his elder sister Alice was given as a house parlourmaid in London. He also had a brother, Gilbert, born in 1889.

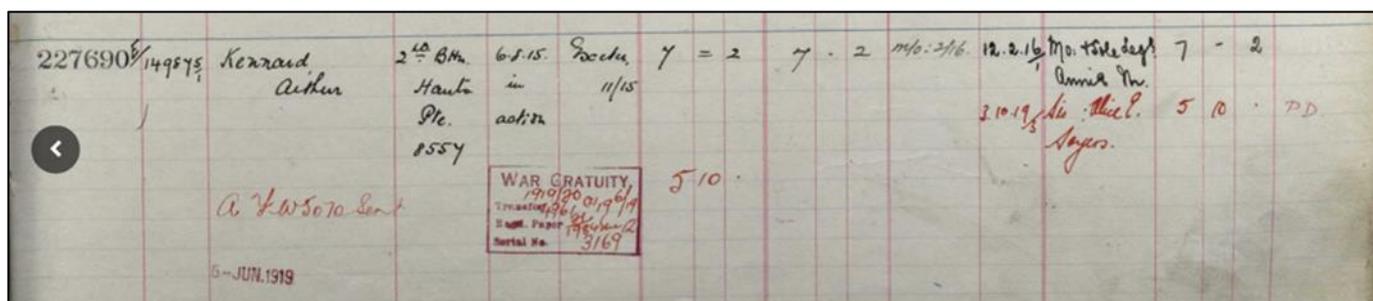
Arthur's pre-war occupation was given in the census as professional soldier. He enlisted in the 1st Hampshire Regiment on 1 January 1910 at Portsmouth. In August 1914 the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, a regular battalion, were in Mhow, India. On 16 November 21 officers, 43 sergeants, 15 drummers, and 816 rank and file boarded the steamship, *Gloucester Castle*, and headed for England, arriving at Plymouth 22 December 1914. They moved to Romsey and on 13 February 1915 to Stratford-upon-Avon. They joined the 29th Division and were attached to the 88th Brigade at Stafford-on-Avon and Warwick.

In early 1915 the 2nd Hampshire were supplied with two drafts of men: 181 on 31 January, and 50 on 20 February. It was at first allotted for France, but then was dispatched to Gallipoli, sailing from Avonmouth on 29 March 1915 and going via Egypt. Before they left the whole division passed in review of King George V on 12 March. W and X companies embarked on the troopship, *H.T. Aragon*, Y and Z in the *S.S. Manitou*, comprising in total 26 officers, 993 other ranks. They called in Malta and Alexandria, on 2 April, and Lemnos. On 24 April 1915, headquarters, Y and Z companies left Lemnos in the *Alaunia*

for Tenedos, where they transferred to the River Clyde, and headed for Gallipoli, landing at Cape Helles on 25 April.



*The 'V' Beach landing at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, 25 April 1915, at approximately 06.25 hours
(Painting by Charles Dixon, from Royal Hampshire Regiment website)*



*Document listing Arthur Kennard's effects after death, initially going to his mother.
(Source: De Ruvigny's roll of honour)*

Arthur Kennard is listed on the War Memorial in Hartfield.

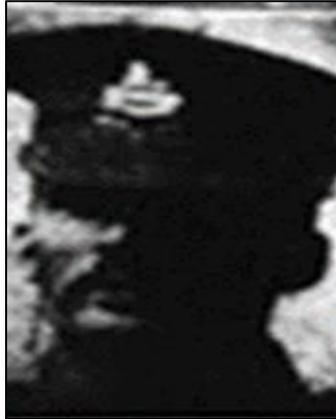
Carol O'Driscoll

WILLIAM KILLICK

Private, G/15455, 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, 17 October 1916 at Schwaben Redoubt near Thiepval, Somme, aged 28

Buried in Mill Road Cemetery, No.2, Thiepval: Grave XIX. D. 7



Private William Killick, G/15455, 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was born at Furnace Farm, Hartfield in 1888. He was still living at Furnace Farm when he enlisted at Maidstone. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Ancre Heights, Battle of the Somme, on 17 October 1916 at Schwaben Redoubt, near Thiepval, Somme, France, age 28. He is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval: Grave XIX. D. 7.

William Killick was the son of Amos (1855-1925) and Mary Mancell (née Hemsley) Killick (1869-1924). His pre-war occupation was as a gardener at East Sutton Place, Maidstone. Amos was listed as a labourer on a farm in the 1911 census, while William's brothers, Amos and Percy, were listed as scholars. He also had sisters, Alice and Ivy, who were aged 20 and 15 in 1911. Alice was a cook in Beckenham in 1911; she was single at this time. Ivy was a domestic nursemaid at Hordore House, Hartfield in 1911 at the house of Nicholas Wright, who was listed as a farmer.

The 12th Battalion took up their position at the Schwaben Redoubt on 16 October 1916 at 3am. They relieved the 118th Infantry under a heavy barrage in full darkness. While establishing their position they were attacked by flamethrowers. On the morning of the 16th the Germans launched a bombing attack which was repulsed. They launched an additional attack on the morning of 17 October which was followed by a heavy bombardment at 3pm. One officer and four other ranks were killed from 15-17 October in this battle and it is likely that William Killick was one of them.

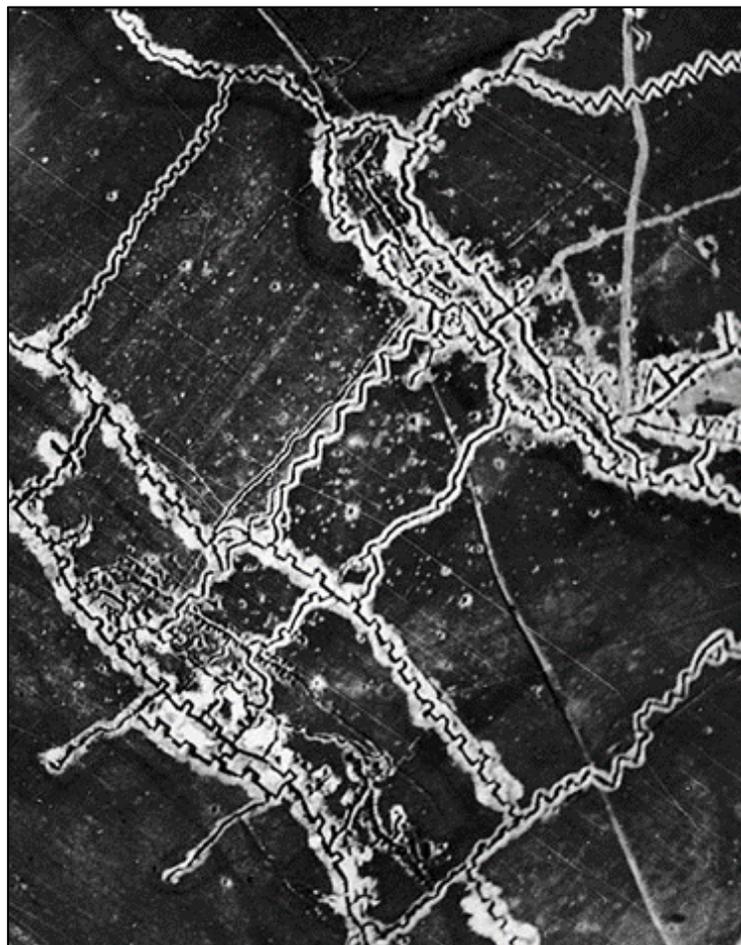
Schwaben Redoubt, formed from a roughly triangular shaped set of mutually supporting trench systems, was perhaps the most formidable in the German second line. An extensive arrangement of well-constructed field-works – effectively a battlefield fortress or 'redoubt' – it possessed all-round defences

and was linked by a maze of subterranean passages and interconnecting tunnels. The position included medical facilities



and a telephone exchange.

(above) Mill Road Cemetery, Thiépval.



*(above) British aerial photograph of German trenches north of Thiépval.
The Schwaben Redoubt is the network of trenches in the upper right of the photograph.*

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.
 3rd A.S.No. 56/ REPORT No. 56. SCHEDULE No. 82c
 3A.S. No. W/2800

COMMUNE THIEPVAL.
 PLACE OF BURIAL MILL RD. CEMETERY NO. 2. (THIEPVAL).
 Map Reference 57d.R.19.c.5.4.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 19. ROW "E" (CONTD.)						
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			All	7.
		-do-			crosses	8.
1/5 D. of Wells.	240487 2735	WARDIE	SGT. M.	3.9.16		9.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				10.
ROW "D"						
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				1.
		-do-				2.
		"				3.
		"				4.
		"				5.
11/ R.I. Fus.	2774177	CLELLAND	PTE. S	X41690		6.
12/ R. Sussex	615455 5432	KILLICK	PTE W.	17.10.16	Ru3966	7.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				8.
119 M.G.C.		HEWITT	LT. H.M.			9.
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				10.
ROW "E"						
16 R.I.R.	736	MCGROERTS	PTE D.			

ENTERED.
 SLIPS CHECKED.

(R. 21. 5). W. 4199. 17228. 100,990. 8. 19. HWV. P. 1021. Form W. 3372. 3

(above) William Killick's Graves Registration Report Form.

William Killick is listed on the war memorials in Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

MICHAEL CHARLES LAWRENCE

Captain, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards

Died of Wounds, Battle of the Somme, Mouquet Farm, Bray, 16 September 1916, aged 21

Buried in the Grove Town British Cemetery, Méaulté, France

Grave reference, Plot 1, Row C, Grave 38



Michael Charles Lawrence was born on 6 October 1894 at Wildernesse, Sevenoaks, Kent (photograph below), a year after his brother Oliver. Michael was the son of General the Honourable Sir Herbert Alexander Lawrence and his wife Isabel Mary, née Mills. In 1901 Oliver was enumerated at Wildernesse along with his widowed grandmother, his uncle the 2nd Baron Hillingdon, his mother, his father – listed as a cavalry officer – his brother and some 26 servants. His father, himself the son of a Viceroy of India, resigned his commission in 1903 and went into banking, although he returned to military life at the outbreak of war and rose to be Haig's Chief of Staff. It was he who unveiled the Forest Row War Memorial.



In 1911, Michael was a scholar at Eton College. Presumably he joined up at the outset of war, when he would have been 19. The 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards were based at Aldershot at the outbreak of war, but within a fortnight they had landed at Le Havre as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In the first year of the war they fought at the Battles of Mons, the Marne, the Aisne and the First Battle of Ypres. In 1916 they were part of the carnage that was the Battle of the Somme, in which Michael was mortally wounded.

Michael's death, just before his 22nd birthday, was reported in the *Kent and Sussex Courier* on 22 September 1916 as follows:

Captain Michael Laurence [sic], second son of General the Hon. H. Laurence and Mrs Laurence of Ashdown Place, Forest Row, has died from wounds received in action on September 15th, in France. His elder brother was killed in May last year.

Probate was granted to the Hon. Herbert Alexander Lawrence of Ashdown Place, Forest Row, Lieutenant-General in H.M. Army. Effects were assessed at £389 12s.9d.

Herbert Lawrence put Ashdown Place up for auction in November 1918. Presumably he and his wife moved to London as the CWGC grave registration notes that Michael's parents were living at 32 Rutland Gate, London.

Pam Griffiths



GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Commune: MEAULTE.

Third Area Serial No W/1089

REPORT No. 3

SCHEDULE No. 5c.

PLACE OF BURIAL GROVETOWN BRITISH CEMETERY

Map Reference 62d.F.25.c.6.4.

Cancelling Rpt.3 Sch.1 to 69,1Z to 4Z & 1X/1

The following are buried here:— do do 1c - 51c,44c(a),44c(b) & 47c(a)

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>PLOT 1 ROW C.</u>						
2nd Colds Gds.	-	Butler ✓	2/Lt. JHR	16- 9-16	GRU	25
7th K.R.R.C.	Y.276	Hacking ✓	Rfn G.	17- 9-16	E	26
<i>3rd att</i> 1st Leicester	-	Gristwood ✓	2/Lt.G.H.	16-9-16	"	27
1/7 Middlesex	5717 5716	Price ✓	Pte C.A.	17- 9-16	"	28
7th Rif.Bde.	R/20137	Ripley ✓	Pte M.M	do	"	29
2nd Dragoon Gds.	6434	Ballard ✓	Cpl. T.J.	16- 9-16	"	30
25Bty 35/Bde R.F.A.	14861 14213	Taylor ✓	Gen Bomb. D.C.	do	"	31
6th K.O.Y.L.I.	22561	Easton ✓	Pte W.	15- 9-16	"	32
1st Gren Gds.	17714	Witcher ✓	L/Cpl.A.H.	17- 9-16	"	33
1/7th Middlesex	5809	Egan ✓	Pte T.E.	16-9-16	"	34
2nd Colds Gds.	13144	Perrins ✓	L/Sgt.W.	do	"	35
- do -	16017	Cowan ✓	Pte J.	15-9-16	"	36
1st East Kent	G/6277	Keen ✓	L/C.L.R.	16- 9-16	"	37
1st Colds Gds.	-	Lawrence ✓	Capt.M.G.	do	GRU	38
2/Line. att.R.F.C.	-	Cooper ✓	Lt.C.E.N	do	GRU	39
1st Sh.L.I.	-	Lee ✓	2/Lt.E.H.	19- 9-16	E	40

(6 31 5) W3160-P2723 109,000 9/19 HWV(P1021) Forms/W3372/3

ENTERED

SLIPS CHECKED

2070
Aug 6-8-20

OLIVER JOHN LAWRENCE

2nd Lieutenant, 1/8th City of London Post Office Rifles

Killed in Action, Festubert, France, 26 May 1915, aged c. 22

Buried in the Post Office Rifles Cemetery, Festubert, Row B, Grave 9



Badge of the Post Office Rifles.



Memorial at St. Peter's Church, Seal, Kent.

Oliver John Lawrence was born in 1893 at Wildernesse, Sevenoaks, Kent (photograph below). This stately pile was the home of his grandparents, Charles Mills Baron Hillingdon and his wife Isabel, daughter of the Earl of Harewood. Oliver was the son of General the Honourable Sir Herbert Alexander Lawrence and his wife Isabel Mary Mills. In 1901 Oliver was enumerated at Wildernesse along with his widowed grandmother, his uncle the 2nd Baron, his mother, his father – listed as a cavalry officer – his brother and some 26 servants. His father, himself the son of a Viceroy of India, resigned his commission in 1903 and went into banking, although he returned to military life at the outbreak of war and rose to be Haig's Chief of Staff. It was he who unveiled the Forest Row War Memorial.



In 1911, Oliver was a scholar at Eton College. Presumably he joined up at the outset of war, when he would have been 21.

The Post Office Rifles were sent to France in March 1915. By the end of the war, 1,800 of their men had been killed. The Battle of Festubert, in which Oliver was killed, was fought between 15 and 25 May 1915 and was the first, and disastrous, British army attempt at attrition. The British forces sustained over 11,000 casualties.



Post Office Rifles Cemetery, Festubert

After Oliver's death, a memorial service was held. The Kent and Sussex Courier (4.6.1915) recorded that:

For Second-Lieutenant Oliver Lawrence a Memorial Service will be held at St. Peter's Church, Seal, Sevenoaks on Saturday next, at four o'clock.

The National Probate index noted:

Oliver John Lawrence of Ashdown-place Forest Row Sussex lieutenant 8th battalion London Regiment died 26th May 1915 on active service. Administration London 25 October to the honourable Herbert Alexander Lawrence lieutenant-general H.M. Army. Effects £224 13s. 4d.

Herbert Lawrence put Ashdown Place up for auction in November 1918.

Pam Griffiths

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1 District.

REPORT No. 22

SCHEDULE No. 2. c.

FESTUBERT

PLACE OF BURIAL POST OFFICE RIFLES B. GEM. FESTUBERT XI/3230

11 DEC 1920

Map-Reference

Map Ref. Sh.36a.X.29.d.9.2.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>P L O T 1.</u>						
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			All crosses	B. 1. } C.2
		" "	Officer 2/1762			B. 2. }
7/London Regt.	777	YATES	Pte. H.G.	14.5.15		B. 3. }
7/LONDON REGT	1276	WHITEHEAD	Pte. G.A.	16.5.15	Ru/9238	B. 4. }
7/London Regt.	2151	PAYNE	Pte. A.	11.5.15.		B. 5. }
"	2040	BOKER	Pte. W.	6.5.15.		B. 6. }
8/City of London.	2866	RAYNER	Rfn. F.J.	17.5.15.		B. 7. }
"	1914	SAWTHORNE	Rfn. A.E.	"		B. 8. }
8/London P.O. Rifs.	1614	FINE	Rfn. A.J.	18.5.15.		B. 9. }
"		MOON	Lieut. B.C.	24.5.15.		B. 10. }
"		MACLEHOSE	Lieut. N.C.	26.5.15.		B. 11. }
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				B. 12. }
		" "	" "			B. 13. }
		" "	" "			B. 14. }
		" "	" "			B. 15. }
		" "	" "			B. 16. }
		" "	" "			B. 17. }
		" "	" "			B. 18. }
4th LONDON REGT	548	BOON	Pte. J.	16.5.15	Ru/306	C. 1.
17 London	1513	SHORTER	Pte. A.E.	16.5.15.		C. 2.
7/Londons.	1248	WEEKS	Pte. S.	11.5.15.		C. 3.
"	2868	EADY	Pte.	6.5.15.		C. 4.
"	1300	ODD	Opl. F.	5.5.15.		C. 5.
Post Office Rifs.	2158	BUDLEY	Rfn. A.L.	17.5.15.		C. 6.
8/Londons.	2305	JOHNSON	Rfn. C.G.	"		C. 7.
8/City of London.	2720	McGREEVY	Rfn. E.	20.5.15.		C. 8.
"		LAWRENCE	Lt. O.J.	26.5.15.		C. 9.
2/Goldstream Gds.	10533	HANDY	Pte. J.	20.2.15.		C. 10. }

ENTERED

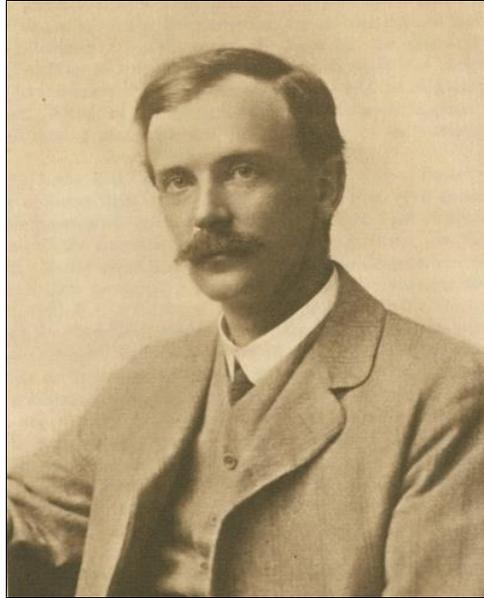
COPIES CHECKED

KEITH LUCAS

Captain, Royal Flying Corps: Sc.D., F.R.S.

Killed flying over Salisbury Plain, 5 October 1916, aged 37

Buried at Aldershot Military Cemetery, Plot A.K. Grave 348



Keith Lucas

(courtesy of the Royal Society)

Keith Lucas was born on 8 March 1879 at 3, Glen Mohr Terrace in Greenwich, Kent, and baptised at St. Alphege on 18 April the same year. He was the son of Francis Robert Lucas, a civil engineer, and his wife Katherine Mary, née Riddle. The couple had married at St. Alphege in 1875 and already had one son, Ralph, when Keith was born. By 1881 the family was living at Park Lodge, Kidbrooke, in Charlton, Kent, where the father listed his profession in the census as Engineer Telegraph. His work took him abroad, which is probably why he seems to be missing from later censuses, though directories show him living in Forest Row – at Greenhall in 1909 and Streeter's Rough in 1918. According to Colin Strachan, author of *Fair Ways in Ashdown Forest*, Katherine Lucas was founder of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club's Ladies' Club. In 1891 her son Keith was a scholar and boarder at St German's Place in Kidbrooke. An undergraduate at the time of the 1901 census, he was in Tavistock, a visitor in the household of Arthur Worthington, headmaster of the Royal Naval Engineering College.

He married sometime around 1909, as the census for 1911 shows him living with a wife Alys, born in Lichfield, and two sons, Alan and David, born in Cambridgeshire. A third son, Bryan, was born 1912. The move here had clearly been for work, as under profession or occupation is written Fellow and Lecturer, Trinity College Cambridge. He recorded two years of marriage on the census form, but the marriage doesn't seem to have taken place in England. His wife was Alice Hubbard, whose father was a clergyman, and living with his family at New Lodge in Hartfield in 1901. (He and his family apparently travelled extensively; but he died in Coleman's Hatch in 1923.) Alys died in 1954, at Borough Green in Kent, but despite the intervening 38 years, she clearly kept her husband's memory alive, as she is

recorded in the National Probate Calendar as Alys Keith-Lucas. Their two elder sons were an aeronautical engineer and university lecturer respectively, reflecting both sides of their heritage from their father. The third son was a solicitor and then an academic specialising in government. BBC weather presenter, Sarah Keith-Lucas, is a descendant of Keith Lucas.

The entry in the Forest Row Memorial book, signed by his father, who was then living at Streeter's Rough, Chelwood Gate, states that Captain Lucas was killed flying over Salisbury Plain, but he was presumably stationed at Farnborough, as the National Probate Calendar describes him as of Highfield House, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire, and having died at Farnborough while on active service. Effects of nearly £7,000 went to his widow.

Farnborough Airfield began life as the army's Balloon Factory, but became the Royal Flying Corps' headquarters when it was founded in 1912. There is also some debate about the crash site, as some experts believe it may have been at Charter Alley, Hampshire, which is near Basingstoke, and so some distance from Salisbury Plain. It seems unlikely that his father would have mixed the two places up, but good information was probably hard to come by in the chaos of war.

According to the Royal Society's website, his grandfather was a Waterloo veteran, his father an engineer who laid cables worldwide, while his mother's family featured mathematicians. He was educated at Rugby and Trinity College Cambridge, where he gained a First in Natural Sciences in 1901 before going to work in New Zealand. He also did work on neuroscience, and became a lecturer in this subject in 1908. On the back of his interest in creating precision instruments, in 1906, Lucas became a director for the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1913.

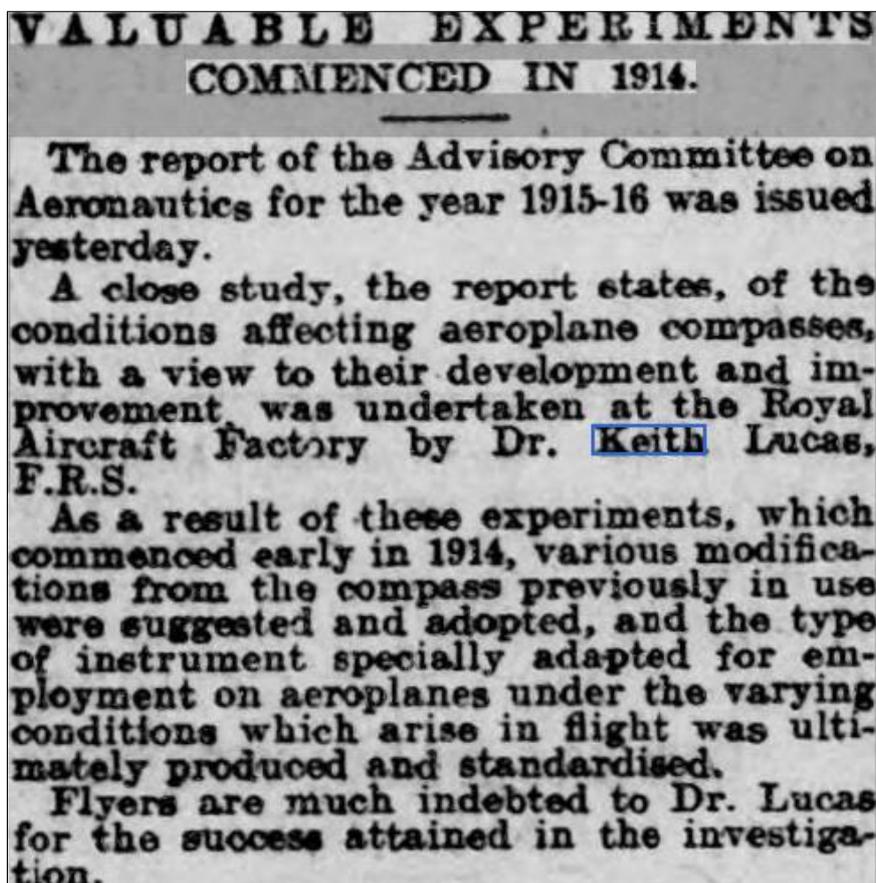
At the outbreak of war, he planned to enlist in the infantry with the Honourable Artillery Company, but was persuaded instead to join the Royal Aircraft Factory, to which his skills were eminently suited. The Royal Flying Corps had already set up an Experimental Branch of its Military Wing, with bases (among others) at Farnborough and Salisbury Plain. These worked on areas including man-lifting kites, aerial photography, the dropping of bombs, aerial gunnery, observation, wireless and meteorology.

From 14 September 1914, Lucas was at the Aircraft Factory, designing and making instruments, including the creation of accurate sights for dropping bombs from planes. He also did pioneering work on what the *Daily Mirror* of 9 August 1916 called:

A new type of compass specially adapted for the varying conditions experienced in flight...produced...as the result of experiments conducted since 1914

Strachan fleshes out the story here:

On the outbreak of War, he was headhunted for the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough. Soon after his arrival he got unending reports that biplanes on the Western Front were getting easily lost in smoke and clouds. He discovered that errors were being caused by vibration and the vertical component of the earth's magnetic field when an aircraft turned off a northerly course. From these observations he developed the RAF Mark II compass and a much improved bomb aiming device using gyroscopic principles.

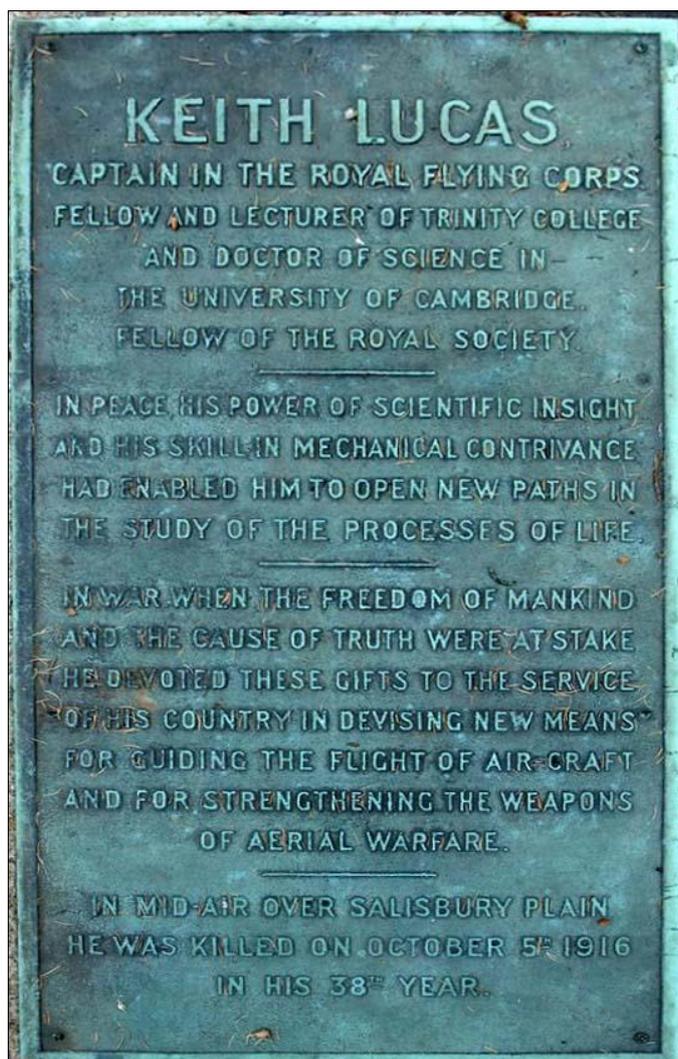
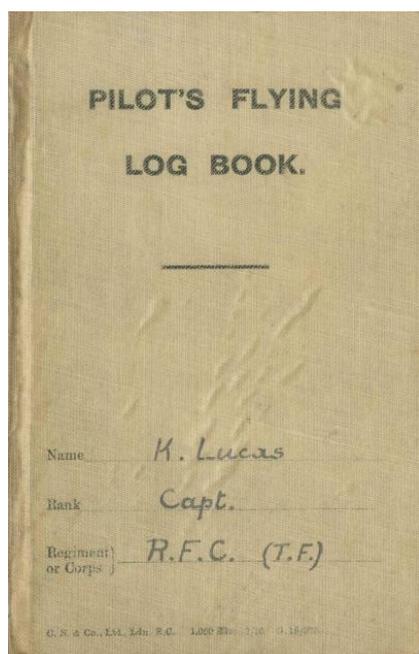


Evening Dispatch 9.8.16

When he enlisted, Lucas was quickly identified as being officer material, and, according to Strachan, took charge of a territorial unit of about 400 men. However, as the Hampshire Aircraft Park was not formed as a territorial unit until 1916, there is some confusion here. He was sure that his experimental work would be improved by empirical experience, so he took a flying course at Upavon, Wiltshire, on the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, in order to fly himself. However, on 5 October, his plane collided with another, a B.E.2 flown by 2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Jacques of the Central Flying School, aged 18. Both men were killed instantly. Strachan also suggests the incident took place at Charter Alley while a biplane was being towed out to France, but the *Findagrave* website places Jacques' death at Pewsey (which is near Upavon) in Wiltshire, so of necessity, Lucas must have died in the same area.

As well as being commemorated near his parents' home at Forest Row, Keith Lucas' name also appears on the memorial at Fen Ditton in Cambridgeshire. He also appears on the list of Trinity men who lost their lives in the First World War, where, as well as rehearsing much information about his career, there is a quotation about the man:

for he met with indomitable quiet energy the ceaseless urgency for new developments of aeroplane design, and with self-effacing devotion examined and tested them against the practical conditions of flight.



*Grave of Captain Keith Lucas,
Aldershot Military Cemetery*

Pam Griffiths

WALTER MARTIN

Private, 17882, 12th Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, Battle of the Somme, France, 17 October 1916, aged 18

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 7c

Walter Martin, baptised on 31 July 1898, was only 18 years old when he died, making him the youngest man to be commemorated on the Forest Row Memorial. He was the son of Alfred and Elizabeth Martin (probably née Baldwin) who seem to have married in Brighton in 1883. It is likely that he was born in a house called Waghorn's, which was situated on Hillside, roughly where Lloyds Pharmacy is today. In 1901, when Walter was two, he was living with his father, a brewer's drayman, his mother, and older siblings – Clara, aged 19, a laundry-maid, and Alfred, 17, a plumber. In 1911, minus Clara, the family was enumerated at Castle Cottages in Forest Row. Walter was a scholar and Alfred a plumber, but Alfred senior was now a grocer's assistant. Interestingly, although the marriage is recorded as having lasted 31 years, there is to be no sign of it in 1880, and Elizabeth only owns to having had two children. Whether this was an oversight regarding Clara is not clear.

Walter enlisted at Horsham, although when is not known, and was part of the British Expeditionary Force. The 12th Royal Sussex Regiment began the month of October 1916 at Maily Maillet, but moved to Auchonvilliers a couple of days later. The war diary for the second week of October shows the battalion alternating artillery activity with relief. The enemy was believed to have few heavy guns opposite the troops in this sector at White City. The entries were still upbeat until 16 October, but on 17 October, the following was recorded. Presumably, young Walter Martin was one of the 156 other ranks referred to:

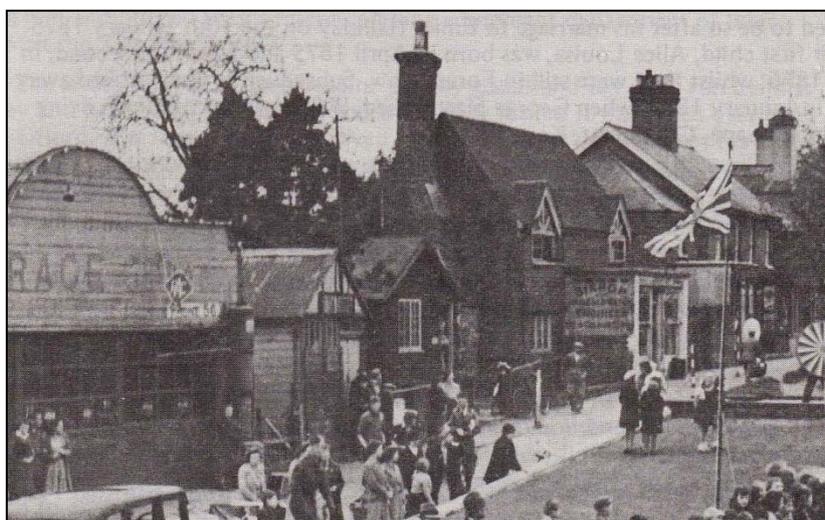
Enemy made small bombing attack which was easily beaten off in early hours of morning. Day quiet except for intermittent shelling. Another small bombing attack which was repulsed – at 3 p.m. enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of the redoubt with 5.9 28 inch shells which lasted until 8.30 p.m. Our artillery replied vigorously – During the bombardment the Battn was relieved by 14th Hampshire Regiment: Relief complete by 9 p.m. and Battn proceeded to billets at Avellay. Casualties 5 officers 156 O.R.

When his widowed mother submitted his details for the Forest Row Memorial book, she gave her address as 4, Castle Cottages (the same address is given in the 1911 census). These cottages are described on the National Archives website as being a row of six to the south of Glen View. Glen View still stands on the A22 to the south of the bridge over the River Medway. Castle Cottages, where Walter presumably grew up, would have been between Glen View and the Brambletye Hotel.

Unlike many of the men whose names appear on the Forest Row memorial, Walter came from a family long resident in the area, and was a representative of at least the seventh generation of Martins to have lived in East Grinstead and Forest Row. Walter's great-great uncle Thomas Martin had bought Castle Cottages for £160 in 1847. Deeds describe it as:

A cottage (late stabling) with buildings, yard and land (2r 20p) the northern part of assart land called Dickers ... quit rent 8d and a hen

The property was sold when Thomas died in 1865, so presumably Walter's family were tenants of a later owner. However, his family did own property in Forest Row. Walter's grandfather, George Martin, was a bootmaker, who, according to Forest Row historian Eric Byford, was reputed to be able to make a pair of hobnailed boots in a day, and apparently prospered in the 1860s making boots for railway navvies. In 1873, he bought a property named Waghorn's in Forest Row, and another only identified as the old thatched cottage. These properties, according to Byford, were on what is now Hillside. By this time, his son Alfred, Walter's father, was living with his employer, a baker (Alfred was baker's boy). Following the death of his mother, he moved in with his sister Elizabeth (three years his junior) and they looked after their much younger sister Clara, born in 1875. This is probably why, when Alfred married – to another Elizabeth, around 5 years older than him, he named his first-born child Clara.



*Hillside, Forest Row, before 1960s development.
Waghorn's, with a Victorian façade, is on the far right*

In 1881, Alfred's brother (also named Walter) sold Waghorn's and the thatched cottage to Alfred for £260 13s. 4d. Alfred then sold the cottage to his second cousin Henry William Martin, but kept, and continued to live at, Waghorn's until 1901 when he sold it to two more cousins, George Thomas and Bernard Fuller Martin. He and his family then moved to Castle Cottages where he lived until his death in 1917.

Pam Griffiths

GEORGE MASKELL

Private, G/5679, 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, Battle of Loos, Pas de Calais, France on 25 September 1915, aged c. 33

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial: Panel 71

George Maskell was born in Heathfield in the civil parish of Mayfield in 1882. His parents, Henry and Naomi Maskell (née Brabin), had married in Burwash in 1880, and already had a son, Leonard. George was the second child of an eventual family of thirteen. In 1891 the family was at Colkings Mill in Mayfield. By 1901 they had moved to Butcherfield Cottages in Hartfield, but George was working as a farm labourer at Ardingly. In 1911, aged 27, George was back at home, and still unmarried, but now working as a miller, and enumerated at Butcherfield Cottages as a Grinder at Mill.

He enlisted in Tunbridge Wells with the Royal Sussex Regiment, part of the British Expeditionary Force which landed in France in August 1914. Presumably he fought with his regiment in the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914, and at Mons, the Marne, the Aisne and Aubers Ridge. Although he is recorded as killed in action – on 25 September 1915 in the Battle of Loos, Pas de Calais, France – the *UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects* notes under Date and Place of Death:

on or since 25/28. 9. 15. Death presumed.

The same document shows his mother Naomi as sole legatee, and the authorisation of payments of small amounts (less than £5 in total) to her in 1917, 1919 and 1920.



Hartfield War Memorial

Copyright © [Marathon](#). Licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

As no body was ever recovered, there is no grave. Instead, George is recorded on the Loos Memorial, and also on the War Memorial at Hartfield. His brother Mark was killed in action on 10 November 1917.

The lead up to the Battle of Loos is recorded in the Royal Sussex Regimental Diary. The men were on the move or in billets until 23 September, then in bivouacs and finally in trenches at Vermelles to prepare for battle. The diary shows the battalion to have been near Hulluch where it took up position in the support line at 1.50 a.m. At 6.30 a.m., they moved into a front line trench. The British had used gas, but a change in wind direction blew some of it back into their own trenches. The advance which followed enabled many men to reach the German wire, but it had not been cut. It seems likely, given that the authorities were unsure of George's date of death, that he was one of the many men either wounded or killed at the wire.

Pam Griffiths

HARRY GEORGE MASKELL

Private, G/607, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action on 1 August 1916 near Thiepval, Somme, France, aged c. 20

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial: Pier and Face 7c



The name HW Maskell on Hartfield War Memorial appears at first glance to refer to Harry Walter Maskell who was born at Wadhurst in 1896 but moved to Hartfield with his family a few years later. However, despite being the obvious candidate the story turns out to be much more complex, and the memorial should actually be commemorating Harry Walter's second cousin, Harry George Maskell.

Harry George Maskell, Private G/607, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, who was killed in action on 1 August 1916, was born in Mayfield to William and Alice Maskell (née Snow). He was baptised as Henry George on 3 May 1896, so was of a similar age to his cousin. He was the third of seven children: Frederick and Ernest, his older brothers, also served in World War I. Ellen, John, Arthur and Emily were all younger than Harry. All the children were born at Mayfield, and the family was living at Fletching Street there in 1901, along with Harry's grandfather, Trayton Maskell. By 1911 they had moved to Burnt Oak Cottages in Waldron; presumably William moved his family to wherever there was work. William was an agricultural labourer, and although Harry is enumerated as a baker in the 1911 census, he later returned to the land as he is reported as working for a farmer named Mr Eaton at Mayfield.

At the outbreak of war, Harry was quick to join up, enlisting from Mayfield (as reported by the local press) in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Eastbourne on 4 September 1914. By now, his family had moved again, and had been living in Groombridge for about a year. Just over a year after he joined up, Harry was wounded. On 22 October 1915, the *Kent and Sussex Courier* reported:

LOCAL MAN WOUNDED. – Mr and Mrs Maskell of Birchden Cottages, Groombridge, have received an intimation that their son, Pte Henry Maskell, of the 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment has been wounded.... Until about two years ago the family lived in Mayfield, where Henry Maskell was employed by Mr Eaton.

Twenty-year-old Harry was in hospital in Newcastle following a severe gunshot wound to the hip. However, in a letter home, he told his parents that he was 'going on nicely'.

It may have been on his return to the front that he was transferred from the 9th battalion to the 7th, unless the newspapers placed him in the wrong battalion, and he was in the 7th all along. The following year, Harry's death was reported in three separate papers, in the first two under the various headings Mayfield and Hartfield. The *Surrey Agricultural Express* of 18 August 1916 wrote that Harry had come home:

some months ago, wounded, returning to his regiment...about eight weeks ago.

It also noted that Harry's brother Fred was in hospital wounded and that a second brother, Ernest, was also 'out doing his bit'. On the same day, the *Kent and Sussex Courier* reported that:

Harry Maskell, son of Mr Wm. Maskell, of Bolebrook Cottages, was killed in action on August 1st. He joined the 9th Royal Sussex, soon after war was declared. He was wounded on September 25th last, returned to France on July 12th, and was killed on August 1st. He was only 20 years of age. Previous to joining the Army he was employed by Mr Eaton, Hooper's Farm, Mayfield.

The report goes on to say that Harry's brother Fred was in hospital suffering from shell-shock and that Ernest had been wounded the previous year and mentioned in dispatches for great coolness under shell-fire.

The *East Grinstead Observer* added a further detail on the following day:

He [Harry] joined up at the outbreak of war and was wounded at Ypres [sic]. He was home on leave at Hartfield a few weeks ago.

The 7th Battalion was part of Kitchener's 'New Armies', formed initially in September 1914, and as all original recruits had the prefix G on their regimental numbers. The battalion, as part of the British Expeditionary Force, landed in Boulogne for active service on the Western Front on 31 May/1 June 1915. In September that year, Harry would have seen action at the Battle of Loos, which is no doubt where he was wounded. In July 1916 he may have been involved in the end of the engagement at Albert (1-13 July) and was almost certainly at Pozières (23 July). These two engagements were part of the larger Battle of the Somme. However, the likelihood, given the date of his death, is that he was killed at Gueudecourt, where 2 officers and 41 other ranks were killed on 1 August 1916.



It is not yet known definitively how Harry – or Henry George – Maskell came to be commemorated on the Hartfield Memorial as HW Maskell. His branch of the family had only fairly recently moved to Hartfield, and Harry was working at Mayfield immediately prior to joining up. I had thought that perhaps he was not well known to the local community, and someone changed his initials on a list mistaking him for Harry Walter. In fact, Harry Walter had enlisted in 1915 as Harry Henry, and lost an arm in battle before being honourably discharged as unfit to fight. He later married, and died at a relatively old age. However, it seems now that the error occurred later, as, according to Burslem Stonemasons, Pte Harry Maskell was listed as one of the names to be added to the memorial when it was re-cut in 2014. As the stone masons only had the name Harry on their list, it is still a mystery as to why the initial W was added. If anyone can shed light on this, please get in touch.

Pam Griffiths

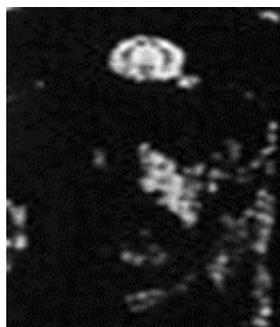
9 November 2018

MARK MASKELL

Private, 25357, 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

Killed in Action near Thiepval, Somme, France on 10 November 1916, aged 29

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial: Pier and Face 11 A and 11 D



Private Mark Maskell, 25357, 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, was born at Great Trodgers, Mayfield, Sussex, in 1888. He lived at Butcherfield Cottages, Hartfield, and enlisted in Dover. He was killed in action on 10 November 1916 near Thiepval, Somme, France, aged 29. He has no known grave and is listed on the Thiepval Memorial: Pier and Face 11 A and 11 D.

Mark was the son of Henry (b. 1856) and Naomi (née Brabin) (b. 1865) Maskell. His pre-war occupation was as a farm labourer like his father. His father died in 1915 in East Grinstead. His mother Naomi died in 1958 in Tunbridge Wells. His brother George died on 25 September 1915 in the Battle of Loos and is covered elsewhere in this document. His sister Annie was listed as a cook in the 1911 census, aged 25, and also lived at Butcherfield Cottages, Hartfield. His brother Joseph, aged 21 in 1911, was a carpenter and joiner. Another brother, aged 15 in 1911, was a farm labourer. Their younger siblings Albert and Daisy were scholars in 1911.

The Thiepval Memorial



Mark Maskell is listed on the war memorial in Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

ERNEST WILLIAM MAY

Lance Corporal, G/3753, 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, 18 August 1916, age 26

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial: Pier and Face 7 C



Lance Corporal Ernest May, G/3753, 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was born in Catsfield, near Battle, Sussex, in 1889. His pre-war occupation was as a gardener, and at the outbreak of war he was living on Ashdown Forest at The Farm, Old Lodge, Nutley, where his father was a farm bailiff to Countess Muriel De La Warr.

Ernest was the son of Harry (Henry) May (b. 1855) and Maria Markis May (b. 1856). His father was an agricultural labourer in 1881, but in the 1911 census he was listed as a farm bailiff to the Countess de la Warr; he died in March 1945 in Eastbourne, Sussex. Ernest's mother, Maria, was listed as a dairy worker in 1901; she died in 1943, also in Eastbourne. His grandfather, according to the 1861 census, was a grocer in Catsfield.

Ernest's brother Harry was listed as a farm carpenter in the 1901 census, and in the 1911 census he is listed as a domestic chauffeur at The Bakery, Brokenhurst Road, South Ascot, Berkshire. Harry married Rose Olive Turner in April 2013 aged 27. They had four children. There is no record of Harry serving in the Great War. He died in 1959 in Windsor, Berkshire.

Ernest and Harry also had a sister Lilian. In 1911 Lilian was listed as a cook, single, aged 26 at the residence of Howard Case, who was the managing director of an oil company at Coombe Grange, Coombe Lane, Ascot, Sunninghill, Berkshire. Both Harry and Lilian lived and worked close to each other in Ascot.

Ernest's parents later moved to Bracknell, Berkshire and were living at 1 Rupert Villas, Bracknell when his death was recorded in 1916.

Ernest enlisted at Eastbourne. He was killed in action during the first Battle of Delville Wood near Thiepval during the Battle of the Somme on 18 August 1916, aged 26.

In August 1916 Ernest's battalion, the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, took part in an attack on the fortified village of Guillemont in support of the 7th Northamptonshire Regiment. The plan was for the latter to launch an attack on the German front line at 2.45pm on 18 August, with the 9th Battalion attacking at 5am on the 19th, and advancing halfway through Guillemont. The 7th Northants launched their attack successfully but then lost heavily in hand-to-hand fighting. As a result men from the 9th Battalion were engaged earlier than anticipated. Some of the losses were incurred trying to navigate a way through No Man's Land. The total losses in this battle for the 9th Battalion were 3 officers killed and 4 wounded, and 23 other ranks killed, 133 wounded and 23 missing.

Ernest has no known grave and is listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

The *Sussex Express* newspaper of 6 October 1916 contained an impressive report on the death of Lance Corporal Ernest May:

Death of a very brave soldier

Lance Corporal Ernest May joined the colours at the beginning of the war and went to Chichester and Shoreham for training. He was home on June 2nd. 1916 for seven days leave. Back in the trenches, with a comrade he was taking a message to his colonel. In order to pass a wounded soldier he moved out of the trench and was shot in the chest. He told his comrade that he had been hit and died immediately.

Copies of four letters sent to his parents were printed in the newspaper. These were from a lance corporal comrade, his sergeant, lieutenant and captain. All stated that he had been a very courageous soldier and was a great loss to the regiment.

Ernest May is listed on the war memorials in Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

BENJAMIN CHARLES MELLOR

Private, 8078, Hampshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion, H Company

Died of Wounds, near Fir Tree Wood, Gallipoli, 3 May 1915, aged 25

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

Panel ref. uncertain: 125-134, 223-6, 228-9, or 328



The badge of the Royal Hampshire Regiment

Benjamin Mellor was baptised at Hartfield on 16 October 1892 as Benjamin Charles Simister Mellor, although in later life he seems to have dropped his third name. His parents were Lewis Mellor and Mary Green, both of whom were born in Staffordshire, and his father was a gamekeeper, possibly at Birchgrove or Maresfield Park, Sussex (both close to Ashdown Forest). There were two older sisters and a brother, but Benjamin was probably the youngest child as his father died two years after his birth. The family has not been found in the 1901 census. Maybe his mother remarried, or the family was split up.

By the time of the 1911 census, Benjamin was a regular soldier, serving with the Hampshire Regiment. He appears as a private on a census return marked South Africa / Mauritius. As the Hampshire Regiment had been on service in South Africa until sometime in 1911 and was then posted to Mauritius, it is possible that the regiment was in transit on census night. If he continued in the army, he would also have served in India between 1913 and 14.

Somewhat puzzlingly, a website called *Bolton Remembers* cites Benjamin Charles Mellor, son of Lewis and Mary of Maresfield Park and Hartfield, as having enlisted at Worcester in 1915 while living at Ringwood. This would imply that he had left the army at some point, maybe on completion of service, and was re-enlisting. There is apparently a report of his death in the *Salford Advertiser* dated 5 May 1915, but this has not been verified.

On 16 March 1915, the 2nd Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment left Avonmouth for Egypt. The following month they moved to Mudros, and then to Gallipoli, where they landed at Helles on 25 April. Benjamin Mellor would have fought with his battalion at the first battle of Krithia on 26 April, where allied troops tried to capture the village of that name. The regimental diary entry for the first day of the

battle records 8 killed and 33 wounded. The following two days saw advances, but then the whole battalion had to withdraw to its position of 27 April. Although the Turks made no attack, 53 men were killed and a further 246 were wounded. 46 men were listed as missing. The battalion was relieved on 30 April and was in first line trenches when the Turks made a night attack at 4 a.m. on 1 May, wounding 9 soldiers.

Presumably it was on one of those days that Private Mellor was hit. He subsequently died of wounds on 3 May, aged 25. He has no known grave, but is listed on the Helles Memorial.

Pam Griffiths



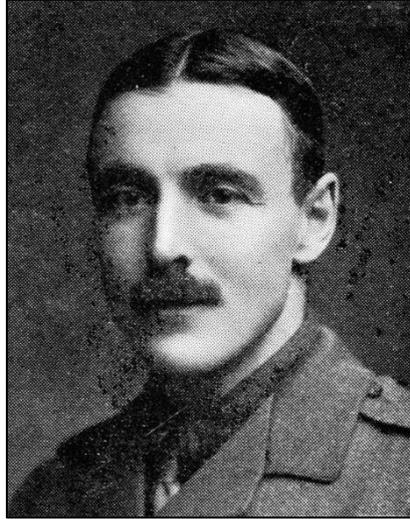
The Helles Memorial

WILLIAM WOODFALL MELVILLE

**Lieutenant, 'C' Company, 6th (Reserve) Battalion /
Attached 2nd Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps**

Killed in Action, Richebourg l'Avoué, Flanders, 9 May 1915, aged 38

No known grave. Listed on panel 32-33 of Le Touret Memorial



William was the son of Robert Melville (1841-1891), County Court Judge for Hereford and Shropshire, and Agnes Melville. He was born at The Grove, in Hartfield, on 2 April 1877. His wife was Violet S. Melville, of Maypool, Galmpton, Brixham, Devon, whom he married in 1910; Violet was the widow of Lieutenant R.J. Jelf, R.E. and daughter of General Sir Richard Harrison, G.C.B., of Ashton Manor, Devon.

In the 1881 census William is recorded at Hartfield as the fifth of eight children of Robert and Agnes, although all his siblings were born in Kensington, London. Robert Melville was described as a practising barrister, for Hereford and Shropshire, born in Sierra Leone, Africa. The Hartfield household also supported a governess, nurse, cook and five servants.

In the 1891 census William, aged 14, and six siblings were recorded as being scholars at Ashford Hall at Ashford Bowdler in Shropshire. Again there was a governess, a private tutor and five servants.

Later that year, in September 1891, William's father, Judge Robert Melville, died. It is noteworthy that the latter is commemorated in a tablet in Hartfield Church as having been 'primarily responsible for securing, in 1882, the commoners' rights on Ashdown Forest', having played a leading role in the famous Ashdown Forest dispute, 1872-1882. The conclusion of this legal case led to the creation of a board of conservators to regulate and manage the forest.

In the 1901 census William, now aged 23, was living at 8 Argyle Road, Kensington with three sisters and a brother, where he is recorded as a law officer. At the time the census was taken the head of household was not present. Three servants are also listed.

In 1911 William, aged 34, is the head of household at 3, Alfred Place West, Kensington, living with Violet and four servants. He is described as a barrister at law in the Civil Service.

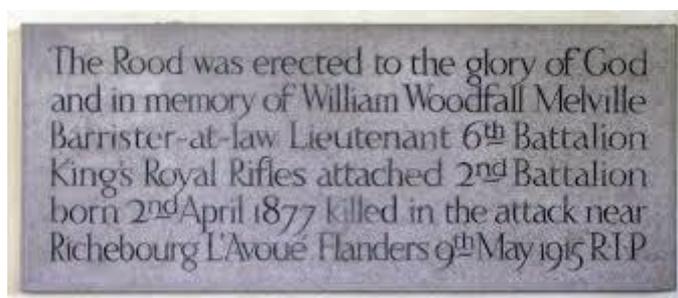
When William volunteered for the army in 1914 his previous occupation was described as a principal clerk in the Chancery Registration Office of the Royal Courts of Justice. He had previously served with the City of London Mounted Infantry Imperial Volunteers during the Second Boer War in 1899. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with six clasps. As others, he was given the Freedom of the City of London on his return.

William was killed in action at Richebourg, St. Vaast, Flanders on Sunday, 9 May 1915, aged 38, whilst leading the attack on Festubert as part of the Battle of Aubers Ridge. He has no known grave but is listed on panel 32-33 on Le Touret Memorial. The latter commemorates 13,400 British soldiers with no known grave who fell between October 1914 and late September 1915 in this part of the Western Front. The Battle of Aubers Ridge was a disastrous attack costing 110,000 British casualties for no real gain. An artillery bombardment was aimed at destroying the barbed wire ahead of the German trenches, but many shells fell short, including some on the British lines. When the order to advance was given the situation became chaotic when the wire was found to be unbroken and intense machine gun fire across No Man's Land made any movement impossible. By the time the men were called back the 2nd Kings Rifles had lost 25 per cent of their men, including eleven officers. It was an action supporting a larger French attack known as the 2nd Battle of Artois. William was later awarded the 1915 Star and the British Victory medal.

William left officers' effects to the value of £44 9s. 6d. dealt with in February 1916 by joint executors, Jasper More and Hugh Parker. Final Probate of £1357 10s. 1d. was granted to 3, Alfred Place West.

An obituary to William notes that he was a member of the Caledonian, M.C.C. and Queen's Clubs, was a keen cricketer and football player, and fond of shooting, tennis and all sports.

William is remembered on the Hartfield War Memorial, on the Memorial Cross in Portsmouth Cathedral, and at St. John the Baptist Church, Ashton, Devon (see picture below).



War Memorial to William Woodfall Melville at St. John the Baptist Church, Ashton, Devon

Kevin Tillet

SPENCER PADGHAM

Private, SD/3823, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, Hamel, France, on 3 September 1916, aged 36

Buried in Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Beaumont-Hamel, Plot J, Row H, Grave 5



Spencer Padgham was born in July 1880 in Forest Row and christened on 5 September 1880. His parents were Alfred and Mary Agnes Padgham. The Book of Remembrance in Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row was signed by his mother, Mary Agnes who was living at 1 Medway Cottage, Forest Row.

In the 1881 census Spencer, aged 'under 8 months', was recorded as living with his maternal grand parents, Thomas Martin, a 61 year old unemployed carpenter, and Mary Anne Martin, aged 51, at Marks Cottage in East Grinstead. Also present were Clarissa Martin, aged 14, and Milton Martin, aged 10, Mary Ann Padgham, aged 26, described as a carpenter's wife, Alfie, aged 4, and Thomas, aged 3.

In 1891 Spencer was living in Forest Row with his father Alfred, listed as a carpenter and joiner aged 42, and his mother Mary, aged 36, and four brothers. By 1901 Spencer was resident at 2, Medway Cottages. Now about 20 he lived with his father Alfred, aged 52, a carpenter who had been born in Rye, and his mother Mary, aged 46, born in Forest Row. Also present at the time of the census were William, aged 15, Hector, aged 12, Alexander, aged 10, and Dora, aged 7.

In October 1906 at East Grinstead Spencer married Elizabeth Jane Parris, who was born in Hove.

In 1911 Spencer was living at Oak Cottage in Forest Row where his occupation was recorded as a carpenter, working for a builder. His wife was 25 and their daughter Elsie May was 3 years old.

Spencer Padgham enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Horsham. He joined the 11th Service Battalion, the 1st South Downs, which had been formed in September 1914 at Bexhill by Lieutenant Colonel Lowther. The Battalion trained at Maidstone and Aldershot and in 1915 on mobilisation to France became part of the 116th Brigade of the 39th Division. Throughout 1916 the battalion was in action at Richebourg, Thiepval Ridge and at various times during the Battle of the Ancre.

The 39th Division had joined the V Corps Reserve Army on 1 September 1916 and had taken over positions north of Hamel on the east bank of the River Ancre. On 3 September they were preparing for a joint attack with the 49th Division. The 39th were to attack German positions east of the river on the high ground south of Beaumont- Hamel. The 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, with the 14th Hampshire Regiment, were to lead the attack, with the 13th Royal Sussex Regiment in support. The 49th were to attack on the opposite river bank.

After an initial intense artillery bombardment, the attacks set off at 5.10 am advancing into heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Despite this all the lead battalions reached the German front line trenches and some also managed to take German second and third line trenches. However, they suffered very heavy casualties and a strong German counter-attack on the evening of 3 September forced the survivors to withdraw to their own previous trenches.

Private Spencer Padgham died on 3 September 1916 aged 36. He was officially listed as “missing” in the War Office Casualty List on 13 October 1916.

He was buried at Serre Road Cemetery, north of Albert on the Arras to Amiens Road. He was awarded the Victory medal, for those serving in operations from August 1916 to November 1918, together with the 1914-15 Star. He would also have been awarded the British War Medal, automatically given to those who died on active service before November 1918.

War Credit of £3 3s. 10d. was paid to his wife, Elizabeth Jane Padgham, on 22 November 1917 and a War Gratuity of £5 os. od. was also finally paid to her on 29 November 1919.

Kevin Tillet

15 September 2018

CHARLES WILLIAM PEEL

2nd Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Killed in Action at Ypres, Belgium on 24 April 1915, aged 26

Commemorated on the Ypres Memorial: Panel 44-46 of the Menin Gate

Charles was the son of William Felton Peel (1839-1907) and Sarah Edith (née Willoughby) Peel.

In the 1891 census Charles, aged two, was living at Saltersford Hall, Church Hulme, Cheshire with his father William and mother Edith. William, aged 51, was born in Tamworth and was a cotton merchant dealing with Egypt. Edith, aged 41, was born in Bombay, India. Charles was born in Manchester and was the youngest of three girls and four boys. There was also a governess and six servants recorded in the census.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres Memorial, on panel 44-46 of the Menin Gate. This is the memorial to some 54,000 officers and men with no known grave who remained missing in the Ypres Salient during the 1st Battle of Ypres from October to November 1914 and the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915. This was the occasion when German troops first used poison gas against the Allied lines, leading to an Allied withdrawal.

Charles is also remembered on the Hartfield War Memorial he lived for a time at White House, Hartfield.

Kevin Tillet

FREDERICK WILLIAM POLEHAMPTON

Lieutenant, 8 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

Killed in Action, 26 April 1915, near Ypres, Belgium, aged 41.

Buried: Longuenesse (Saint-Omer) Souvenir Cemetery: Grave I. A. 89



Lieutenant Frederick William Polehampton, 8 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was born in Hartfield on 14 June 1873. He lived at The Rectory, Hartfield and was the son of the Reverend Edward Thomas William and Mrs. Helena Cecilia Polehampton (née Reilly). At the time of the 1881 census he had one sister and two brothers. He was educated at Lancing College where he was in School House from September 1886 to July 1891.

On 9 October 1899, at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia, he married Kate Eunice Polehampton (née Davie) (1878-1963) of Victoria, later of 10 Dorset Square, Marylebone in London. They returned to the UK from New York on the SS Oceanic landing at Liverpool on 20 November 1901. They do not appear to have had any children.

He had various pre-war occupations. For a time he was in partnership with John Lindsay Scott in the motor car dealership of Scott and Polehampton at 161 Piccadilly, London (now Caviar House and Prunier), but the business was wound up on 31 August 1912.

He had many sporting interests. He competed in twelve hour cycling races at Herne Hill Velodrome for Annerly and London Cycling Club and played football for teams in both Sussex and Surrey with reports indicating that he was a 'hard tackling defender'. By 1896 he owned a string of race horses, among them 'Miss Clifden II', who ran in the Grand National of 1902 ridden by Mr H M Ripley, and was living as a gentleman on his own means at Heyford Grange, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire.

Just after the outbreak of war he was given the temporary rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 15th Hussars, part of the 14th Cavalry Reserve. After taking flying lessons in a Grahame-White Biplane at Grahame-White

School, Hendon, he received his Aviators' Certificate No.914 on 27 September 1914 from the Royal Aero Club. He was confirmed in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, appointed as a Flying Officer, and seconded to the Royal Flying Corps on 1 January 1915. He was posted to No.8 Squadron, which was formed at Brooklands, Surrey, on 1 April. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 24 April 1915, two days before he was killed.



Frederick Polehampton – Ready for Flight

The squadron was fully assembled at Saint-Omer by 25 April 1915, and was the first to be fully equipped with the BE2c aircraft. But the day after the squadron arrived in France, assembling at Saint-Omer, Frederick Polehampton was officially listed as killed in action, aged 41. He was flying a BE2c (registration 1758). The actual circumstances of his death are unknown, but the second battle of Ypres was into its fifth day and it was near to Ypres, Belgium, that he was reported to have been killed. His squadron's first casualty, he is buried in Longuenesse (Saint-Omer) Souvenir Cemetery: Grave I. A. 89.

Frederick William Polehampton is listed on the War Memorials in Hartfield and at Walton near Wellesbourne, Stratford upon Avon. He was also commemorated in the Illustrated London News, 29 May 1915 (see following page – photo at bottom right).

Origins of the Royal Flying Corps and No.8 Squadron

At the commencement of the First World War Britain had some 113 aircraft in military service, the French Aviation Service 160 and the German Air Service 246. By the end of the war each side was deploying thousands of aircraft.

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) was formed in April 1912 as the military (army and navy) began to recognise the potential for aircraft as observation platforms. It was in this role that the RFC went to war in 1914 to undertake reconnaissance and artillery observation. As well as aircraft the RFC had a balloon section which deployed along the eventual front lines to provide static observation of the enemy defences. Shortly before the war a separate Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) was established splitting off from the RFC, though they retained a combined central flying school.



*A BE2c of No 2 Squadron prepares to start off on a reconnaissance mission,
Summer 1915, Hesdigneul, France.*

Source: <http://www.airwar1.org.uk>

The RFC had experimented before the war with the arming of aircraft but the means of doing so remained awkward because of the need to avoid the propeller arc and other obstructions such as wings and struts. In the early part of the war the risk of injury to aircrew was therefore largely through accidents. As air armament developed the dangers to aircrew increased markedly and by the end of the war the loss rate was 1 in 4 killed, a similar proportion to the infantry losses in the trenches.

For much of the war RFC pilots faced an enemy with superior aircraft, particularly in terms of speed and operating ceiling, and a better flying training system. The weather was also a significant factor on the Western Front with the prevailing westerly wind favouring the Germans. These disadvantages were made up for by determined and aggressive flying, albeit at the price of heavy losses, and the deployment of a larger proportion of high-performance aircraft. The statistics bear witness to this with the ratio of British losses to German at around 4 to 1.

When the RFC deployed to France in 1914 it sent four squadrons (Nos 2,3,4 and 5) with 12 aircraft each, which together with aircraft in depots, gave a total strength of 63 aircraft supported by 900 men. By September 1915 and the Battle of Loos, the RFC strength had increased to 12 Squadrons and 161 aircraft.

The circumstances surrounding the formation of No.8 Squadron are of interest. When the Royal Flying Corps was formed in May 1912, provision was made for eight squadrons, of which seven were either in being or in the process of formation at the outbreak of war. On mobilisation however, practically the whole strength of the RFC was concentrated into four squadrons, Nos 2, 3, 4, and 5 – the vanguard of the British air force to go overseas. Next, No 6 Sqn was completed, followed by Nos 1 and 7. Approval to proceed with No.8 squadron was given on 14 October 1914, and although formed in time of war the birth of the squadron at Brooklands on 1 April 1915 completed the peace establishment of the Royal Flying Corps.

No.8 Sqn's first commander was Major LEO Charlton, DSO. This officer had already seen service in France having served as a flight commander in No.3 Sqn and carried out valuable reconnaissance work

during the retreat from Mons. He commanded No 8 Sqn until succeeded by Major ACH MacLean in August 1915.

On 6 April 1915, the squadron moved to Fort Grange, Gosport, where nine days later with the nucleus of No.13 Sqn under training it came under the newly formed 5th Wing. This wing Major Charlton also commanded until proceeding to France with his squadron.

No.8 Squadron Moves to France

The first BE2c's with which the Squadron was equipped were allocated towards the end of January and on reaching its establishment of twelve aircraft the squadron was ordered overseas to bring the wings abroad up to a strength of three squadrons each. On 15 April 1915 eight machines arrived safely at Saint-Omer. Of the remaining four, one was wrecked at Gosport, two crashed at Folkestone, and one, which developed engine trouble, came down at Dover for repairs. Transport and personnel left a few days later, and by 25 April the whole squadron was assembled at Saint-Omer and came under the orders of OC 3rd Wing on the following day. No.8 was the first squadron to arrive overseas wholly equipped with BE2c's.



No 8 Squadron Arrives.

BE2c crash lands en route to Saint-Omer, France. April 1915 (Squadron Archive)

Early Operations

No.8 Squadron was engaged in the perilous work of strategic reconnaissance and special GHQ missions. There were casualties in an early raid with 20lb bombs, aimed at disrupting rail communications between Ghent and the Ypres salient. Some of the planes, says the official history, "either lost their way or else their bombs failed to leave the improvised racks." Within a fortnight of arrival in France, the six remaining BE2c's were transferred to Abeele to make up the strength of the 2nd Wing, with 5 and 6 squadrons.

No.8 squadron continued to serve on the Western Front throughout the remainder of the Great War.

Carol O'Driscoll

DEAD ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR: OFFICERS KILLED IN ACTION.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAFAYETTE, MAUL AND FOX, CHANCELLOR, BASSANO, ELLIOTT AND FRY, HAGON, RUSSELL, DOWNNEY, LYD SAWYER, LANGFIER, SPRAONIT, VANDYK, ILLINGWORTH, HEATH, WESTON, AND BURKETT.



Our portraits this week include that of Lieut.-Col. James Clark, K.C., C.B., D.L., a cousin of Lady Dixon, Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down. Capt. G. E. Hunter and Capt. H. T. Hunter were the elder and younger sons of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hunter, Wenyworth, Gosforth, and were killed in the same action near Ypres. Capt. Arthur Reginald French, Lord de Freyne, was the fifth Baron, and was born in 1879. 2nd Lieut. Frank Ricard, M.A., LL.B., was a barrister of the Inner Temple. 2nd Lieut. G. W. V. Hopley was the second son of the Hon. W. M. Hopley, Judge in Southern Rhodesia, of Tenterden, Wynberg, Cape Colony. 2nd Lieut.

A. C. T. Garnet-Botfield was a well-known oarsman at Cambridge, and in 1913-14 stroked his boat in the 'Varsity Trial Eights'. Capt. the Hon. Eric E. M. J. Upton was the eldest son of Viscount Templetown. His younger brother is the Hon. Henry A. G. M. H. Upton, who is a Lieutenant in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry. 2nd Lieut. R. A. Lloyd was the famous Rugby footballer, and had captained many Irish teams in international matches. Capt. George Ward Hunt was a grandson of the late Right Hon. George Ward Hunt, P.C. 2nd Lieut. K. K. C. Woodroffe was a well-known Cambridge cricketer and played last year

THE ILLUSTRATED
FIRST WORLD WAR

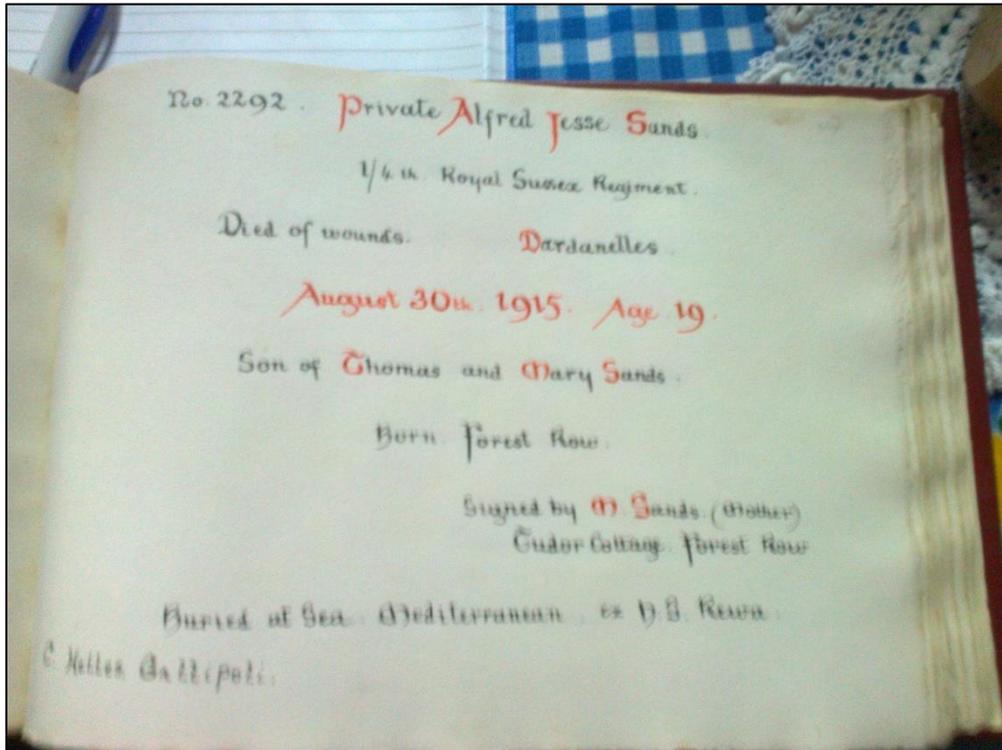
ALFRED JESSE SANDS

Private, 1st/4th Royal Sussex Regiment, TF/2292

Died of Wounds during the Dardanelles campaign, 30 August 1915, aged 19

Buried at sea in the Mediterranean

Commemorated at the Helles Memorial, Turkey, panel 125



Alfred Jesse Sands was born in Forest Row in 1896, the younger son of Thomas and Mary Sands. In the 1901 census he was living at Alpha Cottages, Golf Road (now known as Chapel Lane) but was living at Sands Cottage in 1911. "Sands Cottage" may have been used to identify the Sands' house in the row of artisans' dwellings. The next habitation on the census is Stone House Lodge, on Hartfield Road, a few hundred yards east. The line of the path between the first (Alpha) cottages in Chapel Lane and the lodge is now part of Park Crescent, developed between the wars.

The 1911 census shows Alfred as a messenger boy with the GPO, (General Post Office). This would be a typical job for a boy of fifteen. Telegraph messages received at the Post Office would be printed out on narrow strips, stuck to a form and a boy who knew the locality well would deliver them. With a uniform provided and possibly a cycle it was regarded as a good start for a working class boy.

Alfred's entry in Forest Row memorial book is signed by his mother, then living at Tudor Cottage on the north side of Hartfield Road a few hundred yards west of Chapel Lane.

The Helles Memorial is an obelisk that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardenelles. The memorial commemorates those who died in the Dardenelles campaign and those who were buried at sea or who have no known grave.

Vivien Hill

EWBERT JOHN SHELLEY

Sapper, 2209, 1st/3rd Kent Field Company, The Royal Engineers

Died at Sea, 28 October 1915, aged 20

Commemorated at the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli



Ewbert John Shelley is one of two men (the other is Driver Ernest Stanley Vaughan, also profiled in this document) commemorated on Hartfield war memorial who in 1915 were lost at sea in the sinking of HMS Hythe during the Gallipoli campaign (25 April 1915 - 9 January 1916), the unsuccessful attempt by Allied forces to seize the Gallipoli peninsula, on the northern bank of the Dardanelles, a vital part of a plan to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

Ewbert John Shelley was enumerated in the 1911 census as living at the police station in Hartfield. His occupation was given as house boy. His father was the police sergeant for Hartfield.

The background to the sinking of HMS Hythe is as follows. On 11 October 1915, 231 men of 1/3 (Kent) Field Company Royal Engineers sailed out of Devonport bound for the eastern Mediterranean and Gallipoli – just too late for the War Cabinet's decision of the previous day to stop sending any more troops to Gallipoli.

The voyage out to the eastern Mediterranean was uneventful. At Mudros Bay, Turkey, most of the Company transferred to a smaller ship, the HMS Hythe, a cross-channel paddle driven ferry built in 1905 and requisitioned from the South East and Chatham Railway to be initially used as a minesweeper, to transport them to Helles.

Major Ruston described what happened on 28 October 1915:

“We had sailed from Mudros about 4pm. It was a rough and squally day and ... a great number of the men were seasick. However, we had almost reached our destination [about 8pm] and were beginning to think about disembarking when suddenly a large vessel loomed out of the darkness and in spite of all efforts to avoid a collision it ran into us, cutting deep into our port bow and bringing down the foremast. In ten minutes the vessel sank, leaving numbers struggling in the water or hanging on to spars and other floating matter. The boats of the other

vessel did all they could and picked up many poor fellows – but all too few, for nearly 130 men drowned.”

The vessel that had run into the overcrowded Hythe was another British troop ship, the Sarnia , which was returning to Mudros Bay having left her passengers at Helles.

Some of the men were killed by the actual collision, some were trapped in the sinking ship, and others were drowned in the chaos that followed and in the scramble for the few life-jackets that could be grabbed before the Hythe went down. One hundred and fifty four soldiers and crew died that night.

HMS Sarnia was also a requisitioned ferry, built in 1910 for the London and South Western Railway. In war service she became an armed boarding steamer. With a displacement of 1498 tons and a top speed of 20.5 knots, Sarnia was a much larger and more powerful vessel than the Hythe, whose limit was only 12 knots.

Both vessels had made at least one change of course but it seems that neither slowed down. The Sarnia struck the port side of the Hythe with such force that its bows cut halfway through the ship. That brought the Hythe to a dead stop and caused its mast to collapse on the awning. Numerous deaths were caused instantly by the bows and the mast but those remaining fared little better. The immense damage caused the Hythe to sink rapidly. It was all over in a little as ten minutes. Many drowned trapped under the awning or in the cabs of their vehicles. The others had little or no time to gain the railings and throw off their kit before they were in the sea. Panic reigned as soldiers scrambled for the few life-jackets that could be grabbed before the Hythe went down. Most of those who jumped overboard were drowned in the chaos that followed.

Although HMS Sarnia survived the collision with the Hythe, it was later sunk by torpedo in the Mediterranean on 12 September 1918.

Carol O’Driscoll

JAMES SIMMONS

Private, 2117, 1/4th Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action, 10 August 1915, at the Dardanelles, aged 26

Commemorated on Panel 125 of the Helles Memorial



James Simmons was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Simmons. He was born at Standen near East Grinstead in 1889. The Remembrance Book in Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row, was signed by his mother, Elizabeth, of Charlwood Farm, Sharpthorne.

James appears in the 1891 census at Standen soon after his birth. He was the youngest of eight children (three girls, five boys). In the 1901 census he was living at 'Cottages', Charlwood Farm. His father, Joseph, was an agricultural labourer and James, 11, now had four younger brothers and sisters. His three elder brothers, Alfred, William and John, were all agricultural labourers or domestic gardeners. In the 1911 census James appears at Charlwood Farm aged 21, single and his occupation is given as domestic gardener.

James enlisted in the 1/4th Royal Sussex Regiment in August 1914 at Horsham. In April 1915 his unit was transferred to the 110th Brigade as part of the 53rd Welsh Division. Training took place at Cambridge and in May 1915 the unit moved to Bedford in preparation for the Gallipoli landings as part of an Allied attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve pressure on the Western Front and to open a supply route to Russia via the Black Sea. Commonwealth and French forces began landings in Gallipoli in April 1915, and in early August there were further landings at Suvla Bay. This was meant to be the climax of the campaign, a combined attack on three fronts. Due to the difficult terrain and the stiff Turkish resistance little further serious movement took place. The Allies successfully evacuated the Peninsula

through December and January 1916. James Simmons died on 10 August 1915 , only days after arriving at Suvla Bay.

James Simmons is buried at Helles Cemetery, Gallipoli. His name appears on Panel 125 of the Helles Memorial (pictured above) on the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula. Over 21,000 casualties are commemorated on the memorial, of which 20,881 are identified. The Memorial is an obelisk, over 30 metres high, visible to ships passing through the Dardanelles.

Kevin Tillet

GEORGE SIMPSON

Lieutenant, 18th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry

Killed in Action at the Battle of the Somme, 4 July 1916, aged 31

Buried at Euston Road Military Cemetery, Colincamp, France

George was the only son of George and Emily Simpson. He was born at The Castle Grounds, Devizes, Wiltshire in 1885. His parents were married in the same year. The Remembrance Book in Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row, was signed by his mother, Emily, then living at Quorndon in Forest Row.

George was buried at Euston Road Military Cemetery, Colincamp, France. His grave is identified as Plot 1, Row 6, Grave 59. The cemetery, located about 11 kilometres from Albert, contains 1,123 identified casualties and 170 unidentified. Here the Allied troops were stationed in the front line at the start of the Battle of the Somme. They were particularly associated with the unsuccessful attack on Serre, a strongly fortified village north of Albert, on 1 July.



In 1891 George was living at Nursted Road, in the parish of St. James St. John in Devizes. His father George, aged 36, was a newspaper proprietor and his grandfather (also George) was recorded in 1861 as aged 42 and the Mayor of Devizes, living at Wyndham Villa. His mother Emily aged 26 had been born in Paris and was recorded in the census as a British subject by parentage.

He was educated at Marlborough College where, in the 1901 census, aged 16, he was one of 308 13 to 18 year old boarders. After Marlborough he completed a three year course at the Royal School of Mines at Camborne specialising in the metallurgical aspects of goldmining.

His last appointment was as the manager of a reduction plant in a Dutch gold mine in Sumatra.

George does not appear in the 1911 census, but it is likely that he was abroad, possibly in Sumatra. On 2 April 1911 his parents were living at Castle Grounds, part of Devizes Castle.

Soon after the start of war in 1914 George joined the Public School Brigade. This was a Pals Battalion exclusively for public school boys where membership was by application only. It formed part of Kitchener's Army of 1914.



After five months as a private, George received a Commission. Moving on to the 18th Battalion Durham Light Infantry George now became one of the Durham Pals. The Battalion was formed on 10 September 1914, proceeding to train at Ripon and then on Salisbury Plain. In May 1915 they became part of the 93rd Brigade in the 31st Division. On 6 December 1915 they left Liverpool for Egypt, arriving in Port Said on 21 December. In early March 1916 they moved on to France.

The death of Lieutenant George Simpson was reported in the *Sussex Agricultural Express* on 21 July 1916. After his death the sum of £3,684 12s 3d was granted in probate to his mother.

Kevin Tillet

SIDNEY HENRY SNELGROVE

Lieutenant, 7th King's Royal Rifles Corps

Killed in Action at the Battle of Hooze, Belgium, 31 July 1915 ¹

Buried at Sanctuary Wood, south of Hooze, in an unmarked grave

Commemorated at C Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium, panel 51 and 53



Sidney Henry Snelgrove

Image source: Imperial War Museums, Lives of the First World War

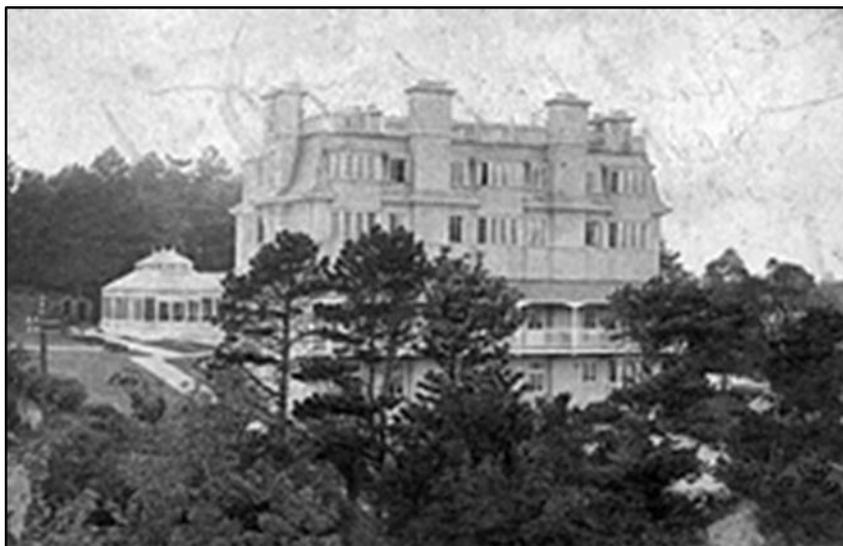
Sidney Henry Snelgrove was born at Kingswood on the Pembury Road in Tunbridge Wells on 7 December 1891. He was the younger son of barrister John Sidney Snelgrove and his wife Gertrude Emily, née Chatteris. He had an older brother John Sidney Norman and an older sister Marjorie Gertrude, both born in Hampstead. It is unlikely that he ever lived in Forest Row, but owes his place on the memorial to the fact that his father was living at The Plottage, Ryst Wood, when material for the Forest Row memorial was being collated.

Sidney Herbert Snelgrove began his education at Hurstleigh Preparatory School in Holmhurst Close, Bishops Down in Tunbridge Wells. The building began as a Victorian mansion built around 1860 and became a private prep school around 1880. While there he was head of school and captain of the cricket and hockey teams. From Hurstleigh he went to Rugby, where he was in Mr Brooke's House, in his house eleven and a signaller in the Officer Training Corps. He completed his education at Trinity College Cambridge where he was admitted as a pensioner on 25 June 1910. (Pensioners or commoners were students who paid for their own tuition and meals.)

The 1901 census shows Sidney with his family at Kingswood (though brother John is presumably away at school) in a household which included a governess and seven domestic servants, one of whom was a

¹ Some sources indicate that Lieutenant Snelgrove died on 30 July, not 31 July.

'children's maid'. The 1911 census found the family – again without John – at the Torquay Hydro (pictured below), presumably on holiday, with Mrs Snelgrove supported by a single ladies' maid. Sidney is listed as a student.



The Torquay Hydro began life as Villa Syracuse and belonged to the Romanoff family. By 1890 it had become a convalescent home for Boer War soldiers, but the home closed in 1901 and the property became a hotel, in which guise it remained until 1939. Then it became the offices for the Prudential Insurance Company for the duration before returning to life as a hotel.

On 21 November 1914 Snelgrove was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the 14th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, and on 2 February the following year became Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion. He didn't arrive in France until 16 July and was killed only 15 days later, on 31 July 1915. He had been leading his platoon under heavy shell fire in the support of another company during a counter-attack at the Chateau Hooge. It seems particularly hard that he was killed so soon after his arrival in France, although his early death no doubt spared him much unpleasantness. His commander, Lieutenant Colonel Rennie, wrote:

He was leading his men splendidly at the time.

while his erstwhile commander from the 14th Battalion described him as:

...one of my smartest officers. I was quite sure he would distinguish himself when he went to the Front.

The UK register of soldiers' effects issued £53 14s 9d to his administratrix and noted that there were no local debts outstanding. His sister-in-law, Ethel Marian Adelaide Snelgrove was granted probate on 5th April 1916, with the deceased described as:

Sydney Herbert Snelgrove of Kingswood Tunbridge Wells and the Golfers Club Whitehall Middlesex

Effects were valued at £1,514 6s 1d. Presumably there was unfinished business, as his niece, Mary Georgiana Betty Duval, was made a further grant of probate in 1939, with the effects slightly reduced at £1,468 6s 4d.

Sidney had qualified for the 1914-15 Star medal on 17 July 1915, but presumably didn't live long enough to receive it. His father applied for it in respect of his late son on 18 August 1919 from his Forest Row address, though an alternative in Bournemouth was also given.

Sidney's mother died in 1919, presumably before the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had completed their work, as she is consistently referred to in documents as the late Gertrude Emily Snelgrove. His father, still living at The Plottage, died in 1940. Both parents are buried at Tunbridge Wells cemetery² where they are commemorated on a mosaic ledger stone. It is said that Sidney's mother threw herself into war work after his death and that her own was brought on by a broken heart at the loss of her son. Marjorie never married, and died in Crawley in 1975. John Sidney Norman Snelgrove fought during World War I in the Royal West Kent Regiment and died at Richmond in 1963.

Like many men of his class, Sidney Herbert Snelgrove's name appears on a number of different memorials.



Tunbridge Wells War Memorial
With thanks to the Royal British Legion for their excellent website.
Courtesy of <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Kent/TunbridgeWells.html>

As well as the Menin Gate and the Forest Row memorials, he is commemorated at Tunbridge Wells Town memorial and at St James' Church, Tunbridge Wells – both on the Lych Gate and on a plaque inside the church. The plaque reads, partially:

*In
loving and proud memory
of Sidney Henry Snelgrove...
Killed in Action when leading his platoon
Under heavy shell fire...
Aged 23 years.*

² Information supplied by the Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery.



St James' Church Tunbridge Wells

In Rugby School Chapel a tablet in the floor reads as follows:

*THEY WHOM THIS CHAPEL COMMEMORATES
WERE NUMBERED AMONG THOSE WHO
AT THE CALL OF KING AND COUNTRY LEFT ALL
THAT WAS DEAR TO THEM, ENDURED HARDNESS,
FACED DANGER, AND FINALLY PASSED OUT OF
THE SIGHT OF MEN BY THE PATH OF DUTY
AND SELF-SACRIFICE, GIVING UP THEIR OWN
LIVES THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM.
LET THOSE WHO COME AFTER SEE TO IT
THAT THEIR NAME BE NOT FORGOTTEN*

In Trinity College Cambridge the inscription reads, in Latin:

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises,
but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them,
and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers
and pilgrims on the earth.*

(Hebrews 11:13)

Pam Griffiths

GEORGE WILLIAM STEVENSON

Private, 5546, 2nd/6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Killed in Action near Laventie, Pas de Calais, France, 5 July 1916, aged 23

Commemorated at Rue-du-Bacquerot No. 1 Military Cemetery, Laventie: Grave II. J. 10

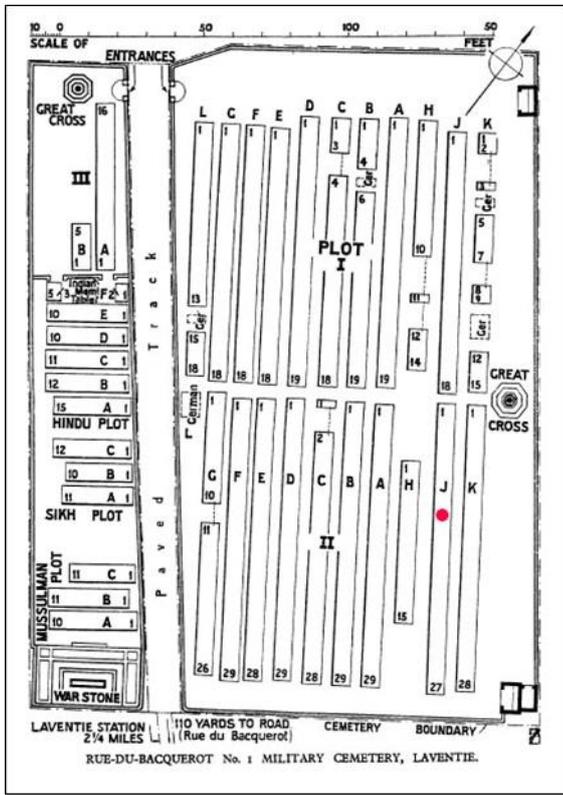
Private George William Stevenson, 5546, 2nd/6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was baptised at Hartfield on 28 May 1893, the son of Leonard John (b. 1870) and Elizabeth Stevenson née Divall (b. 1868). The couple married in East Grinstead in 1892, but may already have had a son, John, born a year earlier. The parents were enumerated in Lancashire in 1901, with John, born Hartfield, and Winifred, born Hammerwood. Ten years later they were in Kent, with two more daughters, one born in Lancashire and one in Kent. John was no longer at home.

In neither of the censuses is George with his parents, although the index for the Laventie cemetery clearly states him to be the son of Elizabeth Stevenson of 44 Manor Park Lewisham and the late Leonard John Stevenson. He was discovered at Ashdown Park in 1901, a 7 year old boy enumerated with his grandparents, John and Sarah Gurr, his place of birth listed as Nutley. The army register of soldiers' effects lists George's grandmother as Sarah A Stevenson-Gurr, so presumably this was Leonard's mother married for a second time. It seems he was exclusively brought up by his grandparents, as in 1911 he was enumerated with them again, at the Verger's Lodge, Ashdown Park, in Hartfield – still giving Nutley as his place of birth, but listed as George William Gurr, grandson. He was working as a plumber's assistant.

He gave his address as Coleman's Hatch when he enlisted for service in Horsham. The Hartfield History Group notes that he may have lived at Furnace Farm there, but this has not been corroborated. He initially served as no. 2857 in the Royal Sussex Regiment but transferred at some point to the Royal Warwickshire, which raised 30 new battalions during the course of World War I. The 2/6th was a territorial force, which mobilised for war in France on 21 May 1916. From 20 June 1916 the regimental diary simply notes their position as 'In the trenches'. On the day George was killed, the diary entry reads:

At 1.30 a.m. our artillery heavily bombarded the enemy again. He again retaliated on our left particularly, causing heavy casualties (3 killed and 24 wounded)...Day was generally quiet.

George William was presumably one of the three mortalities, as he was reported killed in action on 5 July 1916 near Laventie, Pas de Calais, age 23. His medal card shows that he was awarded the Victory and British War Medals. He was buried in Rue-du-Bacquerot No1 Military Cemetery, Laventie. George William Stevenson is commemorated on the War Memorials in Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield as well as at Laventie. His brother John also served as a soldier, and died on 27 October 1916.



Memorial plaque, Coleman's Hatch church

Rue-du-Bacquerot Cemetery, showing approximate position of George's grave

Pam Griffiths

JOHN STEVENSON

Private, 17604, 23rd Company, Machine Gun Corps

Killed in Action on 27 October 1916 near Meaulte, Somme, France, aged 24

Buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Grave II. B. 16



Private John Stevenson, 17604, 23rd Company, Machine Gun Corps, was born in Hartfield in 1892. It is possible he may have lived at Furnace Farm, Newbridge, Coleman's Hatch. He was the son of John Leonard (born 1870) and Elizabeth Stevenson (born 1868, née Divall). His parents married in East Grinstead in 1892 but may have already had John born a year earlier. He had a sister, Winifred born in 1896 at Hammerwood. He later had two sisters, Violet born in Newton Lancashire in 1902 and Mary born in Lee, Kent in 1904.

His father John Leonard died in March 1920 in Greenwich. His mother died in March 1925 in Lewisham. His mother was the eldest of seven children. Her sister Ada married Jesse Wheatley, a tile maker and lived in Hartfield in 1911. Her brother Robert was a coachman in Ringmer in 1911. Her sister Maude was a married caretaker in Eastbourne, married to Alfred Young a plumber.

His uncle Harold was listed in the 1911 census as a musician with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment based in India. He had originally enlisted in 1906. He was a butcher by trade prior to enlisting.

John Stevenson's pre-war occupation was as a regular soldier and he is listed in the 1911 census as serving in the 1st West Yorkshire Regiment as a private. He originally enlisted at New Cross. His brother George (who seemed to have been brought up by his grandparents) died on 5th July 1916. George is profiled elsewhere in this document.

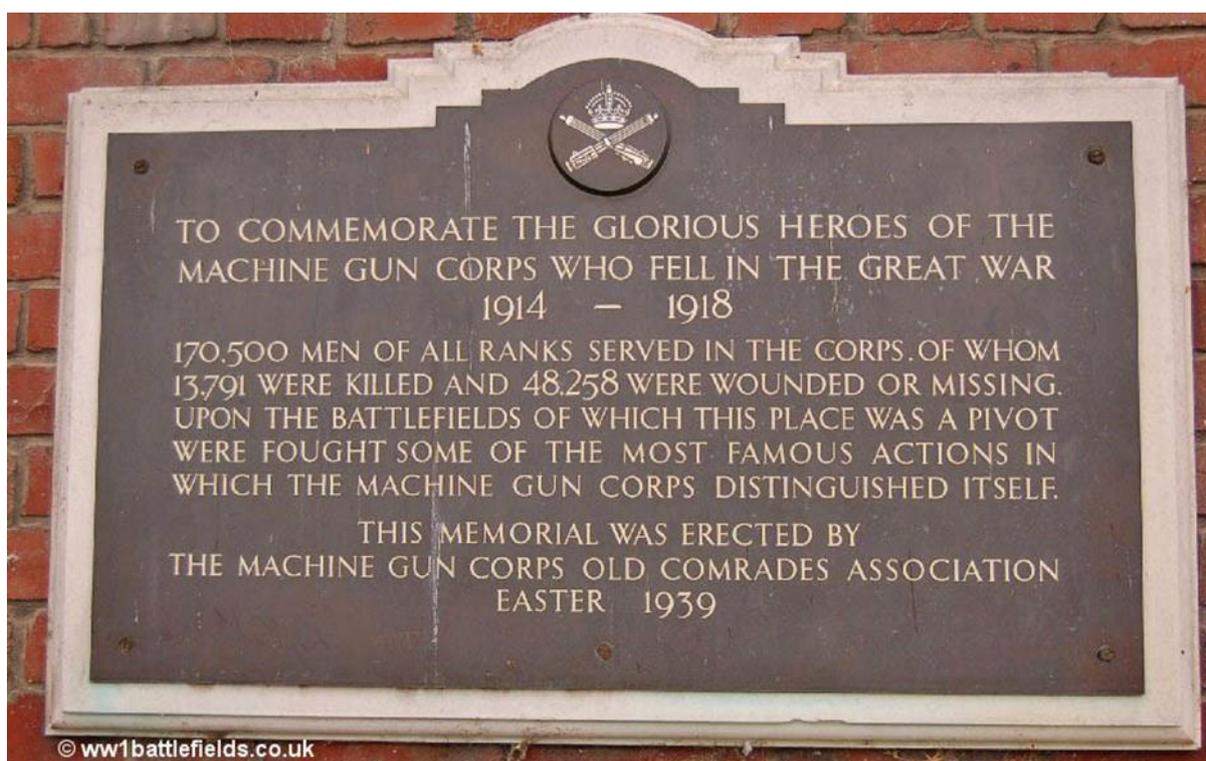
The 23rd Machine Gun Corps Division was established in September 1914 as part of Army Order 388 authorising Kitchener's Third New Army, K3. The units of the division began to assemble at Bullswater (68th Brigade) and Frensham (69th and 70th Brigades and RE) in Hampshire in September 1914.

In the Battle of the Somme the 23rd Division was involved in The Battle of Albert in which the division played a part in the capture of Contalmaison, and the Battles of Bazentin Ridge, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy, in which the division played a part in the capture of Le Sars.

In September 1916, the 34th and 2nd/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields.

John Stevenson died of wounds on 27 October 1916 near Meaulte, Somme, France, aged 24, and is buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte: Grave II. B. 16. He is listed on the war memorial in Hartfield.

In Albert, at the Hotel de Ville, on the wall by the entrance is a plaque (photo below) commemorating the Machine Gun Corps. It was unveiled just before the Second World War, and commemorates the 13,791 of the Machine Gun Corps who died, and the 48,258 wounded or missing during the Great War.



Carol O'Driscoll

Army Form W. 3372.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Third Area Serial No. W/1130
REPORT No. 3. SCHEDULE No. 46c

Commune:- MEAULTE.
PLACE OF BURIAL GROVE TOWN BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 62d.F.25.c.6.4.

The following are buried here:-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>PLOT 2. ROW B.</u>						
2/West Yorks.	28999	WILKINSON.	Pte E.	27-10-16.	E.	15.
23/M.G.C.	17604	STEVENSON.	Pte J.	-do-	E.	16.
2/Royal Berks.	10043	PLOWMAN.	Pte J.	-do-	E.	17.
1/K.O.R.Lanc.	27267	LUNN.	Pte G.	26-10-16.	E.	18.
5/att.2/Middlesex.	6649	MURRIN.	Pte A.E.	27-10-16.	E.	19.
2/West Riding.	10467	McMANUS.	Pte F.	26-10-16.	E.	20.
-do-	10753	DOBBYN.	L/cpl T.	-do-	E.	21.
2/Northants.	C/152	WILLIAMSON.	L/Cpl W.	-do-	E.	22.
2/Lincolns.	40098	GOODLEY.	Sgt H.E.	27-10-16.	E.	23.
2/Scott Rif.	8015	McPHILIPS.	Pte J.	25-10-16.	E.	24.
2/R. Dub Fus.	8855	MORGAN.	Pte W. A.	-do-	E.	25.
2/K.Liverpool.	12251	LAWLESS.	Pte A.	26-10-16.	E.	26.
2/R.Welsh Fus.	20153	BATEMAN.	L/Cpl F.	-do-	E.	27.
12/Liverpool.	12858	McNULTY.	Pte H.	-do-	E.	28.
2/Lanc Fus.	8859	RUFFLE.	Pte J.	24-10-16.	E.	29.
2/Lincolns.	40093	GILES.	L/Cpl W.E.	25-10-16.	E.	30.
2/Essex Regt.	12795	ABLETHWAITE.	L/Cpl C.	26-10-16.	E.	31.

ENTERED 20/10
CLIPS CHECKED ES 7/8/20

944637	32342 Stevenson, John	17.8.16	27.10.16	16 Sp. Men	1 - -	23.12.19	1 - -	20545454/17
		25th. Co. Howards		Pte. Name 8 19.				
		17604						
	See also 208/384544/17							

ALFRED WILLIAM SUMNER

Private, SD/3024, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action on 21 October 1916 near Serre, Somme, France, aged 39

Buried in Serre Road Cemetery No.2, Somme, France: Grave XI. C. 13



Private Alfred William Sumner, SD/3024, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was born near Tunbridge at Ashurst, Kent in 1877. He lived at 2 New Red House, Cat Street, Hartfield and enlisted at Eastbourne. He was killed in action on 21 October 1916 near Serre, Somme, France, aged 39 and is buried in Serre Road Cemetery No.2, France: Grave XI. C. 13. He is listed on the war memorials in Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield.

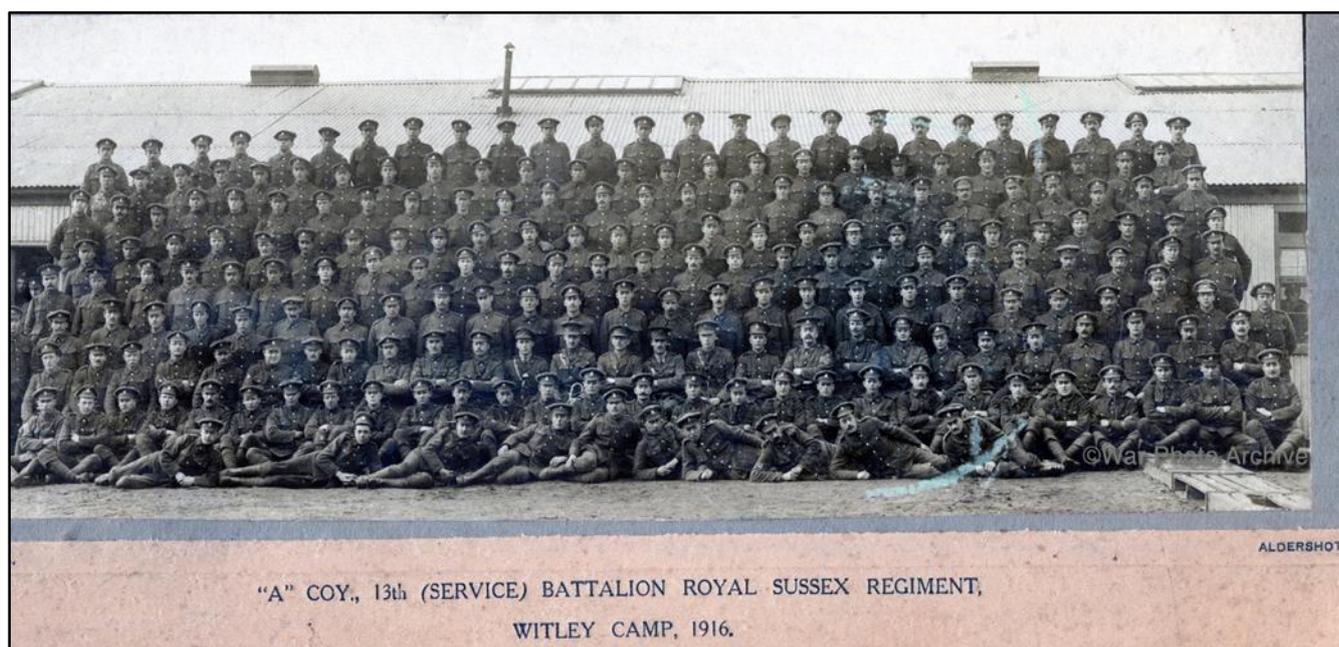
Alfred William was the son of Albert and Katharine (née Card) Sumner. His father Albert was born in Frant around 1845. He was an agricultural labourer. Alfred William had two elder sisters, Kate (born in 1873) and Sarah (born in 1868). Kate was still living with her parents in 1911, aged 38, and is listed as a domestic servant in Groombridge. In 1901 she was working as a housemaid in Wimbledon for Captain John Todd and his wife Mary. His elder sister Sarah married in 1884 to George Simmons but continued to live in the area. Her husband was a general labourer and they had 11 children by 1911.

Alfred William married Emma Jane Sumner (née Allchin, and later Crittenden) in 1899, and they had the following children: Edith, born in 1900, and Florence, born in 1902. Emma Jane married Percy Crittenden in 1919 and died in 1955, aged 79. Percy Crittenden was documented as a Carman in the 1911 census and was also previously married to Sarah. He lived at Green Cottage, Hartfield with his wife and five children. Sarah died in March 1917 aged 40.

Alfred William's pre-war occupation was as a gardener. The Hartfield War Memorial website implies he may have worked for John McAndrew, a shipping magnate who owned Holly Hill and built Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch, in 1913.

Alfred William was serving on the Somme in the autumn of 1916. The Schwaben Redoubt had been built as part of the fortification of the Somme front by the German 2nd Army (General Fritz von Below) after the open warfare of 1914. On 1 July, the First Day of the Somme, troops of the 36th (Ulster) Division occupied part of the redoubt before being forced to retreat by German counter-attacks. British troops were not able to reach the redoubt again until the Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26–28 September), when parties of the 11th Division captured part of the redoubt. The rest of the redoubt was taken by the 25th Division during the Battle of the Ancre Heights (1 October–11 November).

The 13th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment moved into Bainbridge, Zollern and Schwaben Trenches in the Redoubt Right Section on 17 October and started making preparations for the attack on Stuff Trench on 21 October along with the 11th Battalion. The attack was a success and exposed the Ancre valley and Grandcourt to ground observation. Three officers were injured and of other ranks 25 were killed (presumably including Private Alfred Sumner), 71 wounded and 30 listed as missing. These casualties were recorded as being "not unduly heavy".



13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, 1916

On 21 October Alfred William's battalion moved up to the Schwaben Trench where the battalion headquarters were situated. The 8th Suffolks captured Schwabengraben (Schwabian Trench) during the Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26–28 September).



Schwaben Redoubt had deep dug-outs for accommodation with multiple entrances, a battalion command post, first aid post, signalling station and strong points, with three heavy machine-guns and four light machine-guns. Many of the dug-outs were on the perimeter, at trench junctions (clockwise from north, using the English names), Irwin Trench (strong points 49 and 69), Lucky Way (strong point 27), Stuff Trench, Hessian Trench (strong point 45), Martin's Lane, the Strasburg Line (strong point 19) and Clay Trench (strong point 99). Inside the redoubt, along an inner trench on the south-west face were strong points 65, 37 and 39. Beyond the south-west face, in the maze of trenches towards Thiepval to the south and St. Pierre Division to the north-west, were nine more strong points.[10] The redoubt was triangular, with an extension to the east across the Thiepval–Grandcourt road and had a frontage of around 500 metres (550 yds).

Carol O'Driscoll

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Comprehensive Report.

REPORT No. 93. SCHEDULE No. 43c.

Commune:- Beaumont-Hamel.

PLACE OF BURIAL Serre Road Cemetery, No. 2.

Map Reference 57d. K.35. a.1.0.

All Concentrations.

The following are buried here :-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		<u>Plot 11, Row "G".</u>				<u>Grave No.</u>
13/R.Sussex Regt.	SD/3024.	SUMNER.	Pte. A.W.	21/10/16.	E.	13. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	14. ✓
		<u>Plot 11, Row "H".</u>				
R.Innis.Fus.	/	Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	1. ✓
13/R.I.R.	2221.	HARVEY.	Rfn. H.	1/7/16.	E.	2. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	3. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	4. ✓
Gordon Hdrs.		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	5. ✓
Gordon Hdrs.		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	6. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	7. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	8. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	9. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	10. ✓
Essex Rest.		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	11. ✓
Wilts.		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	12. ✓
Wilts.		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	13. ✓
		Unknown British Soldier.		-	E.	14. ✓

50811 W3428/4914 10m(2) 2/22 J.P. 301 Gp. 121 Forms/W3372/4

ENTERED. 23.3.17
SLIPS CHECKED 3.57.17

WILLIAM ERNEST SYKES

Lieutenant-Colonel, 9th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment

Committed suicide at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 8 January 1915, aged 41

Buried at Holy Trinity Church, Coleman's Hatch, East Sussex



William Ernest Sykes was born in Dersan, India in 1873, the son of Major-General H. P. Sykes (Bombay Lancers) and Mary A. Sykes. He married Olive Mary Bellairs.

Sykes was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the York and Lancaster Regiment. He was promoted to lieutenant in the Lancashire Fusiliers on 10 August 1900. In the South African War of 1899-1902 he served first as lieutenant and then as captain. He was mentioned twice in despatches for his gallant service.

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 Sykes was a substantive major attached to the 5th battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. He was promoted to the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel on appointment to command the 9th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment, that same year. He was based at Tidworth, Wiltshire.

William Ernest Sykes shot himself with a revolver on 8 January 1915, aged 41, leaving a wife and child. The cause of his suicide was given as "overwork". During the previous two or three months it was reported that he had been in a very nervous state and worried over details. Two months earlier he had gone on sick leave on the recommendation of the general but returned "looking very ill and concerned about everything". (*Surrey Mirror*, 12 January 1915)

He is buried in the church yard of Holy Trinity church, Coleman's Hatch. He is also commemorated on the Forest Row Memorial. The memorial book is signed by G Bellairs, his mother-in-law, of Stone House, Forest Row.

Carol O'Driscoll

PHILIP THOMSETT

Private, 21216, Royal Sussex Regiment and 2nd Hampshire Regiment

**Died of Wounds, 22 July 1916, in the First London General Hospital, aged 18,
after being wounded in France**



First London General Hospital, Camberwell (photo: robmcorrie)

Philip Thomsett was the son of Philip and Jane Thomsett, of Three Chimneys, Birch Grove, East Grinstead. Born in Horsted Keynes in 1898, he was one of seven children listed in the 1911 census.

His father Philip, aged 40 in 1911, was born in Danehill and was a labourer on a farm. His mother Jane was also 40 and born in Maresfield. His elder brother Frank was 18 in 1911 and was also a labourer on a farm. His brother Fred was 15 and worked for a butcher. Another brother, Philip, was still at school.

Philip Thomsett enlisted as a private in Lewes, originally with the Royal Sussex Regiment. He later transferred to the 2nd Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment. The 2nd Battalion had served in Gallipoli in 1915 and disembarked at Marseilles on the way to the Western Front on 29 March 1916.

The Battle of Albert, 1–13 July 1916, is the official name for the British efforts during the first two weeks fighting of the first Battle of the Somme. The 2nd Battalion were involved in this battle and it is likely that this is when Philip Thomsett was wounded.

He died in the First London General Hospital, Camberwell, and is buried in Forest Row cemetery.

Carol O'Driscoll

320648 25741/1 Thomsett Philip
 2nd Bn 22.7.16 Escaler 4 6 7 + 6 7 m/a 2/16. 19.12.16 to Philip 7. 4 6 7
 Banks 1st Lon 8.16
 Regt Gen Plas
 Pla Bandstand
 21216
 WAR GRATUITY.
 19/10
 1/20/11 21/6/11
 Paper Paper 1/1984 inc 5
 Serial No. 3246
 4 - -
 19.8.19 Fa. Philip F. 4 - 7
 5070 sent
 JUN. 1919

The record of Philip Thomsett's effects

8071 W1199022/W451 8,000 12/22 146 P & S
 24. GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.
 EASTERN Command.
 Name of Cemetery FOREST ROW CEMETERY, Report Number 145.
 Parish FOREST ROW, Certified Correct and Complete. Schedule Number 1.
 County SUSSEX. Signature R.T.C. Cresswell 2.12.20. Category of Graves 2.
 Bdy 16355.
 Verified & correct
 (Add) J. B. G. Jones
 Area Insp. L.

Unit	Regd. No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Number or letter of			Type of Memorial	Type of Grave	Remarks
					Plot	Row	Grave			
17/Essex Regt.	400888	Corke *	Pte. C.H.	31.5.17.			Unconsecrated. 470.	M.W.	C.	Verified that no flow as required Kaj J. G. Jones Area Insp. L. + Kev. 10/1/20 NK M. S. G. Hall. 10, Vicarage Grove Coventry Junc. AA/1403.
R.F.A.	53272	Seal *	Sgt. F.J.	29.4.16.			Consecrated. 658.	N.M.	C.	
R.F.A.	1725	Ratcliffe *	Gnr. J.	16.1.16.			813.	N.M.W.	C.	
R.A.F.	-	Whitfield *	Lt Capt. R.B.	7.7.18.			899.	P.P.	Pr.	
R.A.S.C.	ME/102 147.	White *	Pte. A.H.	11.10.19.			931.	N.M.W.	C.	
London Regt.	769490	Cannon *	Pte. E.E.	4.11.18.			934.	N.M.	C.	
10/R. Sussex Regt.	6/11235	Gregory *	Pte. G.	13.5.16.			937.	P.P.	Pr.	
3/Hants Rgt.	21216.	Thomsett *	Pte. P.	22.7.16.			944.	M.W.	C.	
R.F.A.		Cameron *	Lt. H.R.	6.6.17.			989.	M.W.	C.	
3/R. Warwick Rgt.	59329	Wheeler *	Pte. J.	16.7.18.			1161.	M.W.	C. Refsgren.	
R.F.A.	78824	Jupp *	Sgt. L.	17.8.15.			1338.	N.M.W.	C.	
R.F.A.	1543.	Hall *	Gnr. J.P.	19.9.15. 17			1339.	N.M.W.	C.	

Philip Thomsett's Grave Registration Report Form

x EAST GRINSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT.

† COLEMAN'S HATCH (HOLY TRINITY) CHURCHYARD, HARTFIELD. is detached from the Church and East of it.

SYKES, Lt. Col. William Ernest. 9th Bn. Worcestershire Regt. 8th Jan., 1915. Age 41. Son of Maj. Gen. H. P. Sykes (Bombay Lancers), and Mrs. M. A. Sykes; husband of Mrs. O. B. Sykes, of Stone House, Forest Row, Sussex. Served in the South African Campaign. A. 3 A.
WHEATLEY, Ord. Smn. Charlie, SS/9214. R.N. H.M.S. "Shakespeare." Drowned 8th Feb., 1921. Age 20. Son of Jesse and Ada Wheatley, of Spring Cottage, Colemans Hatch. B. 21 A.

φ COPTHORNE (COUNTRESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CONNEXION) CHAPELYARD, WORTH.

HARDING, Pte. F. R., 70534. 3rd Reserve Regt. of Cavalry. 2nd Dec., 1918. In North-East part.

φ CRAWLEY DOWN (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD, WORTH. The four War Graves are North of the Church.

ISTED, Pte. G., G/8347. 7th Bn. Royal Sussex Regt. 9th June, 1920. Age 42. Son of the late George Isted.

SIMMONDS, Gnr. Gilbert Arthur, 88571. 121st Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery. 8th Sept., 1918. Age 32. Son of Edward and Emily Sarah Simmonds; husband of Florence Simmonds, of 1, Bowers Place, Crawley Down. Born at Crawley Down.

SLATTER, Gnr. William Henry, 178962. Signal Training Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery. 26th Nov., 1918. Age 26. Son of Mr. T. Slatter, of 3, Bowers Place, Crawley Down. Born at Crawley Down.

TOWES, Serjt. F. J., 67421. No. 13 Fire Command, Royal Garrison Artillery. 2nd June, 1920. Age 28. Husband of Mrs. Shearbourne (formerly Towes), of 1, Ashdown Cottages, Crowborough.

x 48 abolished April 1934.
† to Uckfield Rural District April 1934
φ to Cuckfield Rural District April 1934

† FOREST ROW CEMETERY is on the South side of the village and belongs to the Parish Council. It contains 13 War Graves. (There was a Military Hospital at Forest Row.)

CAMERON, Lt. H. R. Royal Field Artillery. 6th June, 1917. 989 "C."

CANNON, Pte. E. E., 769490. Artists' Rifles. 4th Nov., 1918. 934. "C."

CORKE, Pte. C. H., 400888. 17th Bn. Essex Regt. 31st March, 1917. 470. "U."

GREGORY, Pte. George, G/11235. 10th Bn. Royal Sussex Regt. Died of sickness 13th May, 1916. Age 39. Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Gregory, of Church Cottage, Highgate Row, Forest Row. 937. "C."

HALL, Gnr. J. P., 1843. Royal Field Artillery. 17th Sept., 1915. 1339. "C."

HOLMWOOD, Pte. F., 1151. "C" Coy. 4th Bn. Royal Sussex Regt. 29th May, 1915. Age 27. Husband of Mrs. F. M. V. Venn (formerly Holmwood), of 2, Warren Cottages, Tadworth, Surrey. 1337.

JUPP, Serjt. John, 78824. Royal Field Artillery. 17th Aug., 1915. Age 21. Son of Charles and Harriett Jupp, of Doods Cottage, Doods Rd., Reigate, Surrey. 1338. "C."

NEAL, Serjt. F. J., 53272. 5th Reserve Bty. Royal Field Artillery. 29th April, 1916. 658. "C."

RATCLIFFE, Gnr. ^{Joseph} J., 1725. Royal Field Artillery. 16th Jan., 1916. 813. "C."

THOMSETT, Pte. Philip, 21216. 3rd Bn. Hampshire Regt. Died of wounds 22nd July, 1916. Age 18. Son of Philip and Jane Thomsett, of Three Chimneys, Birch Grove, East Grinstead. 944.

WHEELER, Pte. J., G/39329. 3rd Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. 16th July, 1918. 1161. "C."

WHITE, Pte. A. H., M2/102147. M. T. Royal Army Service Corps. 11th Oct., 1919. 931. "C."

WHITFIELD, Lt. N. B. 62nd Sqdn. Royal Air Force. 7th July, 1918. 899. "C."

† to Uckfield Rural District April 1934

FREDERICK CHARLES TIBBLES

Private L/7165, 1st Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

Killed in Action at Ypres, 23 October 1914, aged 31

Listed on Panel 2 of the war memorial at Ploegsteert, Belgium

Frederick, the son of George and Martha Tibbles, was born at Yalding, Kent in 1884. He married Louisa Emma Gainsford at Tonbridge on 4 October 1913.

In the 1891 census, living at Rabellous Corner, Queen Street, Yalding, Frederick was the youngest of five, with two brothers (William 17 and George 16, both farm labourers) and two sisters (Emma 14 and Ada 11). His father George, aged 43, was a farm labourer and Martha his mother was 47. Frederick was listed as a scholar.

In 1901 Martha, now 57, was listed as a charwoman and George no longer appears in the record. Frederick, aged 17, was described as a waggoner and agricultural horse man. Also present for the census was a visitor, John Campbell, aged 19, born in Chatham.

In 1911 Frederick, aged 27, was living at Wellers Cottage, Queen Street in Paddock Wood. His occupation was described as an ex-regular soldier. Martha now aged 67 was described as a widow. Also recorded in the house was William Fever, a widower, born in Benenden, also aged 67, whose occupation was that of a farm labourer.

Frederick first enlisted in the army at Canterbury in February 1903. According to his Short Service Attestation papers he was about 5ft 5½ inches tall and weighed 123 pounds with a 33 inch chest. His Short Service was extended to 8 years and on 23 February 1911 he was transferred to the Army Reserve. In 1914 he was living in Hartfield, where he was subsequently commemorated on the war memorial.

He was declared missing, killed in action, on 23 October 1914.

His total military service amounted to 11 years and 242 days. Frederick served two years in South Africa, three years in Hong Kong, six years at home and in France from 7 September 1914 to 23 October 1914. He was awarded the 1914 Star and the British War and Victory Medal. Frederick left £3.16.10 to his widow Louisa. A £5 War Gratuity was granted in July 1919 to Annie Gainsford.

Frederick is listed on Panel 2 of the war memorial at Ploegsteert in Belgium. The Memorial lists 11,366 casualties from the UK and South Africa who have no known grave. Most of these casualties arose from day to day small scale engagements of trench warfare usually supporting major offensives elsewhere.

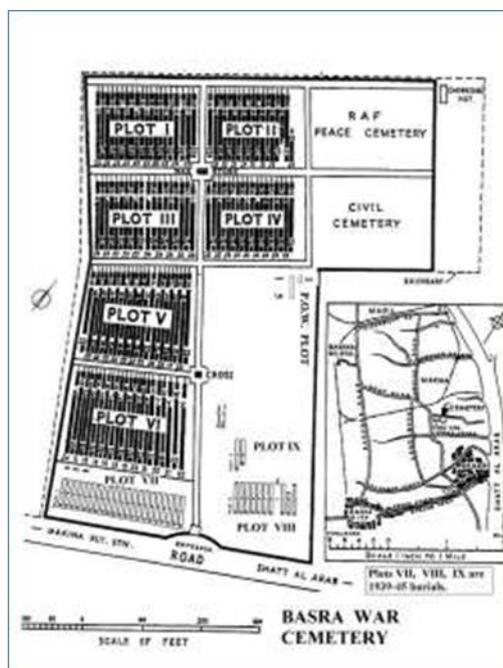
Kevin Tillet

ALBERT JAMES UPTON

Gunner, 62637, S Battery, Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery

Killed in Action on 24 June 1915 at Ahwaz, Mesopotamia, aged c. 24

Buried in Basra War Cemetery, Mesopotamia, Plot 5. Row D. Grave 1



(above) Map of Basra War Cemetery

Albert James Upton was born in 1891, the son of James and Harriet Upton, née Murton, who had married at Forest Row on 15 September 1888. He was the second of four children. Albert was listed in the 1891 census (taken on 5 April) as a month old, so was probably born sometime in March, his christening taking place on 29 March at Forest Row. The family was enumerated on Tomsett's Bank in 1891 but at Rose Cottage, Highgate – still on Ashdown Forest – in 1901, with the father's occupation given as bricklayer's labourer. His father James died in 1908, which may be part of the reason why, by the 1911 census, Albert had already joined the army. He had enlisted at East Grinstead and was enumerated at the 1st Cavalry Brigade Horse Artillery, Wellington Lines, Aldershot, where he was recorded as a 20 year old Gunner. The majority on the same page were gunners, but there were also several drivers, and a few bombadiers and acting bombadiers. Wikipedia suggests that the 1st Cavalry Brigade (which was based at Aldershot so presumably the same as the 1st Cavalry Brigade Horse Artillery) was initially sent to the Western Front after the declaration of war, so it is possible that Albert served there before being posted to Mesopotamia (Iraq).

The British interest in Mesopotamia in WWI was a result of the need to keep the oil flowing to fuel the navy. Basra and Qurna were captured in 1914, but the Turks attempted to recapture the former between 11 and 14 April 1915. The next big action was the Capture of Nasiriyeh between 27 June and 24 July. Albert Upton seems to have been killed between these events, maybe in a minor skirmish.

Albert Upton was the only member of the Royal Horse Artillery commemorated at Forest Row. The Royal Horse Artillery was responsible for the light, mobile guns designed to create firepower to support of the cavalry. In 1914 one battery of the RHA was attached to each brigade of cavalry. Each battery had six 13-pounder field guns and 5 officers in charge of 200 men. The guns were moved by some of the million horses sent to the front.

The Remembrance Book was signed by his mother, Harriet Upton, who gave her address as 20, Watcombe Road, South Norwood, SE25. In 1911, she had been living as a widowed laundress at 1, Triangle and Oak Cottages in Forest Row.

Pam Griffiths

ARTHUR UPTON

Stoker, 1st Class, Royal Navy

Service number K6305, Chatham

Torpedoed, HMS *Recruit*, North Sea, 1 May 1915



Chatham Naval Memorial

Arthur Upton was the fifth child and second son of Arthur Henry Upton and his wife Emily Florence Upton, née Blackstone. The Blackstones were a large extended family living in Forest Row and in the 1881 census (Emily) Florence, aged 22, and her sister Carrie, 20, are listed as having “no occupation” and probably ran the household of their father, stonemason John Blackstone, and their five siblings at their home in Chapel Lane. The census was taken on 3 April and on 23 April Florence married Arthur Henry Upton, also born in Forest Row and a stonemason, at Holy Trinity, Forest Row. They went on to have at least seven children, Florrie, Harry, Edith, Ida, Arthur, Owen and Elsie May.

While Florrie, Harry and Edith, were christened at Forest Row by the 1891 census the Uptons were living in Southborough, Kent where Arthur junior was born. In the census at 10, Forge Road Arthur senior was listed as a stonemason with “Emily F” his wife and their children Florrie, 9, Harry, 7, Edith, 6, Ida, 3 and Arthur junior aged 1. By 1901 the family, Arthur senior, Florence, and the children Arthur, now aged 11, Owen aged 5 and Elsie May, aged 1 had moved to 19 Forge Road. The older children would have been old enough to be away earning their living but it seems that Ida had died when four years old.

Arthur junior does not appear on the 1911 census with his family; at home in Lingfield are the parents, Edith, Owen, Elsie and visiting is Florrie, now Weller, having been married for two years. Arthur was by now in the navy, having signed up on 5 April 1910 for twelve years. At the time of recruitment he was a bricklayer's labourer, and was five foot, five and a half inches tall, chest 35½ inches, brown hair, blue eyes and of a ruddy complexion. His height was about that expected of a man of the labouring classes.

Working class men growing up in towns were, on average, two inches shorter than Arthur as pollution from coal smoke reduced sunlight and the body's ability to produce Vitamin D.

Although the work as a stoker would have been laborious work and often in near darkness, for a young man like Arthur there was certainty of employment, food and clothing.

His service record showed his ship to be the *Pembroke II*, then the *Indomitable* where he was promoted to Stoker 1st Class by the end on 1912. After a while back in the *Pembroke* he was sent to HMS *Recruit* on 28 February 1914. Naval shore stations were always called "HMS" and the vessel attached to each one took the name of the shore station. HMS *Recruit*, attached to HMS *Actaeon* at Sheerness, is noted as (HMS *Actaeon*) sic, on some records.

HMS *Recruit* was launched on 22 August 1896, part of a government programme of "thirty knotters" (knots = 34.5 mph), and entered naval service in 1900, the last of her group of five torpedo-boat destroyers. There was apparently difficulty in this class of ship achieving 30 kph, meaning stokers would have to shovel the coal as fast as possible to achieve top speed.

Recruit had a varied naval career in home waters and by the time Arthur Upton joined her was attached to shore station HMS *Actaeon* as part of the Nore Local Defence Flotilla. On 1 May 1915 she and a sister ship, HMS *Brazen*, were patrolling the area off the Thames Estuary. At about 30 miles SW of the Galloper Lightship the HMS *Recruit* was struck by a torpedo from the German submarine UB6. *Recruit* broke in two almost immediately and sank. Of the sixty-five crew thirty-nine men died, among them Arthur Upton. As a stoker in the belly of the ship he would have had a limited chance of escape; those on deck, thrown into the cold North Sea, would be encumbered by heavy uniforms which quickly became waterlogged and would survive only if picked up before hypothermia slowed movement or the woollen clothing dragged them down.

Arthur's body was not recovered. His name is recorded on the Chatham Naval Memorial, a memorial built in a position to act as a landmark for ships at sea.

His page in the church memorial is signed by his mother Florence, by now widowed and living back in Forest Row at Bank View in Chapel Lane. It is not certain that Arthur ever lived in Forest Row but his name is in the book and on the war memorial as his mother and members of his extended family continued to live in the village.

Vivien Hill

ERNEST STANLEY VAUGHAN

Driver, 1991, 1st/3rd Kent Field Company, The Royal Engineers

Died at Sea, 28 October 1915, aged 19

Commemorated at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli



Helles Memorial

Ernest Stanley Vaughan was listed as an errand boy in the 1911 census. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Vaughan, of Station Rd., Withyham, Sussex. His father was a farm labourer. The family lived at Robins Lane, Hartfield.

He and Ewbert John Shelley (also profiled in this document) were lost at sea on HMS Hythe in 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign. They are both commemorated on the Hartfield War Memorial.

Carol O'Driscoll

DOCTOR WHEATLEY

Private S/260, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

**Killed in Action, Battle of Artois, Richebourg L'Avoue, near Béthune, Pas de Calais,
9 May 1915, aged 26**

Has no known grave and is listed on the Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20 and 21



Private Doctor Wheatley, S/260, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was born in Hartfield on 20 January 1888. He lived in Coleman's Hatch, Legers Row, Hartfield and Brighton and he enlisted in Brighton with the BEF on 20 September 1914. The family lived at 33 Newhaven Street, Brighton in 1911.

He was killed in action at the Battle of Artois-Richebourg L'Avoue on 9 May 1915 near Béthune, Pas de Calais, France, age 26, and has no known grave and is listed on the Le Touret Memorial: Panel 20 and 21.

He was the son of Isaac (born 1850) and Rosanna (Coates) (born 1853) Wheatley. He had five brothers, Joseph, Ernest, Walter, Frank and Albert. Isaac was a general labourer both in Withyham and Brighton.

The 1911 Census records the family living in Brighton. His brother Walter was listed as a porter in Brighton. His brother Frank was an errand boy for a greengrocer, aged 15. His sister Caroline and brother Albert were scholars aged 13 and 10. The family were recorded as living in Coleman's Hatch in 1901.

His pre-war occupation was a General Labourer (Reservist in the 3rd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, Special Reserve). In 1911 he was based in Brighton. He transferred to the 2nd Battalion in August 1914 and was posted to France on 20 September 1914. He was wounded by a shell on 10 December 1914 and was hospitalized at Rouen. Private Doctor Wheatley was killed in action at the Battle of Artois-Richebourg L'Avoue on 9 May 1915.

The 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment went over the top in an attack on German trenches on the morning of 9 May. The Regiment suffered from "very strong enfilade fire from an angle of the German

trench opposite the Munster Fusiliers". Many of the troops did not get as far as the German trenches due to heavy fire and were ordered to retreat. Two officers were killed, nine were wounded, three missing and one hundred and one other ranks were killed – which would have included Doctor Wheatley. The Battalion records document that the heavy casualties were due to machine gun shrapnel and high explosive shells when advancing over the breastwork of the trench.

Listed on the War Memorial in Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

WILLIAM JAMES WHEATLEY

Lance Corporal, L/6687, 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment

Died of Wounds, Boulogne, France, 7 April 1915, aged 23

Buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery: Grave III. D. 80



William James Wheatley was born in Hartfield in 1893, and enlisted at Kingston. He died of wounds to the head on 7 April 1915 while in hospital at Boulogne, Pas de Calais, France, aged 23, and is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

In March and April 1915 the 1st Battalion The East Surreys were based near Béthune in northern France. On 9 March they were involved in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in heavy fighting. It is likely that he was shot during the course of this battle. The 1st Battalion were fighting with the Indian Corps.

The 1st Battalion The East Surreys joined the 14th Brigade of the 5th Division of the British Expeditionary Force and during the first few months of the war gained honours at Mons, Le Cateau, on the Marne and on the Aisne. In the spring it probably achieved its finest feat of the war in the Defence of Hill 60 near Ypres on 23 April 1915. During this action, the Battalion gained three Victoria Crosses (VCs), two Military Crosses (MCs) and seven Distinguished Conduct Medals (DCMs). On 10 April 1915, the 1st and 2nd Battalions met for the first time since the old 31st Foot and 70th Foot had met on active service during the 18th century French Revolutionary Wars. The 1st Battalion served in France during the entire war except for a short tour in Italy from 1917 to Spring 1918. Following the Armistice, it went to Russia, operating along the Murmansk railway.

William James Wheatley was the son of George and Ellen (Everest) Wheatley. His elder brother George Wheatley died on 3 May 1917. His father was a platelayer on the railway and his brother was a labourer on a farm. The family lived at Newton's Hill in Hartfield. He had two sisters Lizzie and Caroline.

William James does not appear in the 1911 census.

He is listed on the War Memorial in Hartfield.

Carol O'Driscoll

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

General

History of the Great War Based on Official Documents (also known as “The British Official History”).

Published 1923-1949, HMSO.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. <http://www.cwgc.org/>

Great War West Sussex 1914-18. Published by West Sussex County Council with material provided by WSRO. <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning->

[resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-18.html](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-18.html)

The Royal Sussex Regiment. Published by West Sussex County Council.

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning->

[resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-)

[18/the_royal_sussex_regiment.html](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-18/the_royal_sussex_regiment.html)

Battalion War Diaries of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Published by West Sussex County Council.

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning->

[resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-)

[18/the_royal_sussex_regiment/battalion_war_diaries.html](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/great_war_west_sussex_1914-18/the_royal_sussex_regiment/battalion_war_diaries.html)

1/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. <http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/4sussex.htm>

Lives of the First World War. Published by the Imperial War Museum.

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/>

Old Front Line Battlefields of WW1. <http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/>

The Long, Long, Trail: The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. <http://www.1914-1918.net>

British Army medal index cards 1914-1920. Published by the National Archives.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/medal-index-cards-ww1.htm>

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919. Published by HMSO for the War Office, 1921.

War Memorials Online. <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/>

Census of Population 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911.

Find A Grave. <http://www.findagrave.com>

The Weald. <http://theweald.org/home.asp>

Ancestry. <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

Find My Past. <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

The Book of Remembrance, Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row.

Illustrated London News, Historical Archive [http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-](http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/illustrated-london-news.aspx)

[highlights/history/illustrated-london-news.aspx](http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/illustrated-london-news.aspx)

Forest Row; Historical Aspects and Recollections. E. C. Byford.

Individual Case Studies, 1914-16

Biddlecombe, Henry George

Royal Naval Memorial, Chatham: <http://www.yeovilhistory.info>

Front page of the 1 January 1915 edition of the Boston Evening Globe: www.maritimequest.com

HMS Formidable: <http://www.burtonbradstock.org.uk/>

Edwards, Frederick Roberts

Capture of Thiepval (map): Somme, 1st Battle of the, France, 1916; Somme, 2nd Battle of the, France, 1918; World War, 1914-1918 - Battlefields Publisher: Clermont-Ferrand : Michelin & Cie. Not in Copyright.

Commonwealth War Commission Graveyard near New Munich British Trench (photo): courtesy Olivier Bayart, <http://westernfrontassociation.com>

The Long, Long Trail.

Fielder, Edward Cecil

Photograph of Edward Cecil Fielder courtesy of Hartfield History Group.

Fielder, Frederick Stephen

Thanks to Hartfield History Group for the reference to Elders and Ffyfes and photo.

Hyder, Frank

War Diary of the 13th Battalion, the Royal Sussex Regiment.

Maypole photograph: The Weald website.

Kennard, Arthur

Ancestry.com

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <http://www.cwgc.com>

The Royal Hampshire Regiment. <http://1rhamps.com/ww1/Battalions/2ndhampshire.html>

Lucas, Keith

Royal Society <http://blogs.royalsociety.org/history-of-science/2014/03/08/airborne-pioneer>

Mollie Smith, Nutley Historical Society

May, Ernest William

Nutley Historical Society website: <http://www.nutleyhistorical.org.uk>

9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, War Diary, 1915-17:

http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/9th_battalion_rsr_war_diary_1915-17_rsr_ms_7-17b3eb.pdf?docid=e7fbf123-46e7-4c31-9799-ceb593e8b199&version=-1

Melville, William Woodfall

Information about Judge Robert Melville, from Brian Short, *The Ashdown Forest Dispute, 1876-1882* (Lewes: Sussex Record Society, 1997), pp. 61-62.

Photo of William Woodfall Melville: Imperial War Museum collections, non-commercial licence, <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205385731>

War Memorials Online <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/215300/>

Polehampton, Frederick William

No.8 Squadron: http://www.8squadron.co.uk/history_1915-1920.php

Hartfield History – War Memorial <http://hartfieldhistorygroup.org.uk/memorial-details>

The Royal Flying Corps 1914-1918: <http://www.airwar1.org.uk>

WW1 Aviation Heritage Trust 1914-1918, RAF BE2c:

http://ww1aviationheritagetrust.co.uk/?page_id=216

Lancing College War Memorial: <http://www.hambo.org/lancing>

Shelley, Ewbert John

Funnell family history website: <http://www.funnell.org/archives/ww1-4-funnells-killed-same-day-same-place/> Salomons Museum website, profile of David Reginald Salomons: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/salomons-museum/david-world-war-hero.asp>
Clive Maier, forum comments:
<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=13917&hl=hms%20ohythe&st=0>

Stevenson, John

Ancestry.com

The Long, Long Trail: <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/23rd-division>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Sumner, Alfred William

Royal Sussex Regiment battalion war diaries

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Ancestry.com

Upton, Arthur

Forest Row war memorial and book

Wikipedia (HMS Recruit).

Wheatley, Doctor

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=af6a3cc3-a55f-474a-93cd-e2064c7b6be3&version=-1>

Wheatley, William James

Ancestry.com

<http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/1661to1966/ww1east/ww1east.html>