

WORLD WAR ONE: THE DEATHS OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH BATTLE AND DISTRICT



This article cannot be more than a simple series of statements, and sometimes speculations, about each member of the forces listed. The Society would very much appreciate having more information, including photographs, particularly from their families.

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INTRODUCTION

This article gives as much relevant information as can be found on each man (and one woman) who died in service in the First World War. To go into detail on the various campaigns that led to the deaths would extend an article into a history of the war, and this is avoided here.

Here we attempt to identify and to locate the 407 people who died, who are known to have been associated in some way with Battle and its nearby parishes: Ashburnham, Bodiam, Brede, Brightling, Catsfield, Dallington, Ewhurst, Mountfield, Netherfield, Ninfield, Penhurst, Robertsbridge and Salehurst, Sedlescombe, Westfield and Whatlington.

Those who died are listed by date of death within each theatre of war. Due note should be taken of the dates of death particularly in the last ten days of March 1918, where several are notional. Home dates may be based on registration data, which means that the year in

question may be earlier than that given. Similarly, some places for birth, marriage and death may be for the registration area rather than precisely for the place named.

The information in the tables includes a final column of burials and memorials. The place of burial, where known, is given first; except in France, placenames are generally in English, not a local language, and specify a cemetery or churchyard. However, references to memorials do not contain the word memorial except where the memorial in question is within a cemetery. Where no country is given for a non-UK memorial, it is in France. If so, the département is given to aid identification.

References to British and Irish counties are to historic counties. This is not a local government document, and where one lives – and lived – is not governed by the various Acts of Parliament passed to regulate defined local affairs.

Each entry contains abbreviations, and they should be interpreted as follows:

AB	Able Seaman	Lt	Lieutenant
ASC	Army Service Corps	MC	Military Cross
att	attached	N	North
Bde	Brigade	Pte	Private
Bn	Battalion	OTC	Officer Training Corps
Bty	Battery	RE	Royal Engineers
Capt	Captain	Regt	Regiment
Col	Colonel	RFA	Royal Field Artillery
Coy	Company	RGA	Royal Garrison Artillery
Cpl	Corporal	RHA	Royal Horse Artillery
CSM	Company Sergeant-Major	RSR	Royal Sussex Regiment
CWGC	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	S	South
DCM	Distinguished Conduct Medal	SDGW	Soldiers Died in the Great War
Divn	Division	Sgt	Sergeant
DSO	Distinguished Service Order	Sqn	Squadron
E	East	TA	Territorial Army
GPO	General Post Office	Temp	Temporary
L	Lance	W	West

THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western Front 1914

SEPTEMBER 1914

The Western Front 1914

Milton, Thomas James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Guardsman 15010, 2 Bn Grenadier Guards	1894, Bodiam	04.09.14	Guards Graveyard, Villers Cotterets Forest, Aisne. Bodiam.
<p>Milton was one of the six children of Alfred Milton (1856-1924), who had been born at Sandhurst in Kent and in 1890 married Annette Caroline Stedman of Bodiam (1862-1911). In the 1911 census they are recorded as living at Neil's Cottage, Bodiam, with Alfred a farm servant. Thomas is recorded as having been born early in 1894.</p> <p>Thomas was killed in action on the Marne front at a time when a real war of movement was being fought, with German forces pressing towards Ypres and the Channel ports and when no rigid front line had yet been formed.</p>			

Cecil, George Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2 Lt, 4 Coy, 2 Bn Grenadier Guards	09.09.1895, Westminster	13.09.14	Guards Grave, Villers Cotterets Forest, Aisne. Robertsbridge.
<p>Cecil came from one of the best-known families in England. His grandfather, the fourth Marquess of Salisbury, Was prime minister in 1886-92 and 1895-1902, being succeeded by Cecil's cousin Arthur Balfour. Cecil's father Lord Edward had a successful military career and who, despite some glaring defects but by sticking close to the man who became Lord Kitchener followed it by lengthy service close to the top of the civil service in British-controlled Egypt. He lived at Great Wigsell in the Robertsbridge/Salehurst parish. <i>See Great Wigsell.</i> Like Milton, Cecil was a victim of the furious war of movement early in the war. He had been educated at Winchester College and at Sandhurst (where he did not do so well).</p>			

Glyde, Harold Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L10288, 2 Bn RSR	1894, St Leonards	14.09.14	Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne. Robertsbridge.
<p>Glyde was already a soldier when the war started. His battalion was based at Woking, and sailed from Southampton in 12 August. After the usual trekking around northern France – and being attacked by French troops, no doubt in their belief that they were Germans – it reached the front early in September. On the 10th they had their first baptism of fire but the 14th was the first real battle, when the Germans tried to move them from a ridge they had occupied. This was in the Marne département, through which the Germans were trying to reach Paris, well east of what became the notorious killing grounds of the British for the rest of the war. Ten officers died and 11 'other ranks', among them Glyde.</p> <p>Glyde was born at St Leonards in 1896, and in 1911 his parents Robert (1864-1936), of Robertsbridge, and Fanny (Dowling, 1866-1922) of Hastings were living at Stone House, Salehurst. Robert was a cowman on a farm. He and Fanny had six children.</p>			

Mitchell, Henry David

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9580, 2 Bn RSR	1894, Sedlescombe	29.09.14	Ninfield. La Ferte sous Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne.
<p>Mitchell was a regular soldier, and appears in the 1911 census as resident in the Chichester barracks of his regiment. The battalion were at Troyon, some way south of Verdun, assisting the French in holding off the</p>			

intended German encirclement of Paris. There was very heavy shelling, and Mitchell was killed in action. The war diary does not mention casualties for this day, so the actual date of death is approximate. His background is not clear from public records. One researcher has published that his father was Henry A Mitchell of Lower Standard Hill, Ninfield.

OCTOBER 1914

The Western Front 1914

Honeysett, Frederick William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver 43968, K Bty, RHA.	1888, Mountfield	20.10.14	Catsfield. Menin Gate.
Honeysett's background has been variously described in family accounts but the most convincing states that he was the son of Henry (1864-) of Battle, in 1901 a coachman and domestic servant, and his wife Kate (Goodsell, 1868-1949) of Salehurst. Honeysett was a regular soldier, appearing in an Indian barracks in the 1911 census. He was engaged in the first battle of Ypres when he died – the town that to its own cost resisted the Germans throughout the war and halted their progress to the Channel ports.			

Martin, Francis Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl L9781, 1 Bn E Kent Regt.	23, Ewhurst	20.10.14	Brede. Westfield. Ploegstreet.
Martin was killed in action in fighting round Radinghem in the Pas de Calais, about eight km west of Lille. In the 1911 census his father William (1866-) was described as a gamekeeper. His mother Sarah Jane (Jones, 1868). Both were from Ewhurst. They had married in 1887 and lived at Pleasant View, New Cut, Westfield.			

Herdman, Arthur Widderington

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, 1 Bn King's Shropshire Light Infantry	31.01.1886, N Shields, Northumberland	21.10.14	Comines Warneton Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium. Ewhurst. Ploegstreet.
Herdman's father Robert Morrison Herdman (1844-1900) was from Newcastle on Tyne and his mother Mary (Wearmouth) (1854-1937) from Sherburn in County Durham. They married in 1885, the year after he had been consecrated vicar of Holy Trinity, Tynemouth. Arthur (whose middle name is usually spelt without the letter e) was a professional soldier commissioned in 1909 and at first serving in Ireland. He went to France on 10 September 1914. He was killed in action at Le Quesne Farm, Bois Grenier near Armentières. His address was Ewhurst Place. He made generous bequests to Ewhurst.			

Muddle, Joseph Frederick Richard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9250, 2 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt.	1889, Robertsbridge	28.10.14	Brightling. Menin Gate.
The Ypres area claimed its second local victim here. Muddle was a son of Joseph Muddle (1865-1957) of Lewes and Rosa Kate Hook (1870-1955) of Robertsbridge. They married at Salehurst on Christmas Day 1886. The family lived at Longhouses, Brightling. In 1911 Joseph was a farm labourer. Muddle was killed in action on the eastern side of Ypres, in the first battle of Ypres. His brother was to die there in March 1917.			


Hadrill, Harry Charles M

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L8268, 1 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1885, Greenwich	31.10.14	Menin Gate.
<p>Hadrill's connection with Sussex is solely through his mother Lucy (Martin, 1859-1949), born at Hooe, who returned to the Battle area after her husband died, living at Lower Street, Ninfield. He was George Hadrill (1855-), of Devizes in Wiltshire. They married in 1885 and spent their married life in Peckham and Camberwell a little south of the Thames. George was a basket manufacturer and young Harry was learning the art when recorded for the 1901 census.</p> <p>Hadrill died in the heavy fighting at Gheluvelt, about halfway between Ypres and Menin.</p>			

NOVEMBER 1914

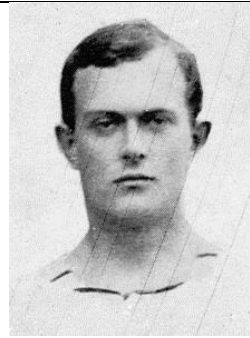
The Western Front 1914

Adeane, Henry Robert Augustus

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 1 Bn Coldstream Guards.	31.07.82, Westminster	02.11.14	Sedlescombe. Menin Gate.
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 3;"> <p>The Adeane family occupy an unusual position in British history. Michael Edward Adeane (1910-84) was Private Secretary to the Queen from 1953 to 1972, having previously been Assistant Private Secretary to her father George VI. His son, also Michael (1929-2015), was Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales from 1979 to 1985. The first Michael's grandfather (Sir Arthur Bigge, later Lord Stamfordham) had been the august Private Secretary to Queen Victoria from 1895 to 1901, then to the future George V until his own death in 1931.</p> <p>The local connection is through Sedlescombe. The first Michael's father (Admiral</p> <p><i>From the Roll of Honour website</i></p> </div> </div> <p>Edward Stanley Adeane CMG DL JP FRGS, 1836-1902) retired to Jacob's Farm at Sedlescombe. This is just off Brede Lane, to the north-west of the village. In 1875 he had married Lady Edith Isabella Dalziell, daughter of the Earl of Carnwath (born in India, dying at her house, 28 Eaton Place, Westminster in 1909). After the Admiral's death in October 1902 his widow sold the property and returned to their London address at Eaton Place. During their time in Sussex they played the full part expected of their social position, supporting good causes and being noticed at events.</p> <p>Henry spent much of his youth at Jacob's Farm at Sedlescombe. He is recorded in the 1911 census as at the Guards Club in Pall Mall, described as a Captain in the Coldstream Guards. He lived with his wife of one year, Victoria Eugenie Bigge (about 1882-1969) and his six-month old son Michael at 1 Dean Trench Street. Henry went to Winchester College and on to Sandhurst, from which he was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in 1902. He was commissioned Lieutenant in 1905 and Captain in 1912. Having retired in 1913, he came back to service when war was declared. He died in the defence of Ypres. He died near Veldhoek, off the Meinin road east of Ypres. That the family was not short of money was shown by his will, just under £40,000.</p>			

Moore, Gillachrist

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2 Lt, 2 Bn RSR.	22.03.1894, St Marylebone, Middlesex	07.11.14	Sedlescombe. Whatlington. Cambridge University War List. Menin Gate.



Gillachrist Moore's brief history is well-documented in Charlotte Moore's *Hancox*, where the family lived and still do (she is his great-niece). His family is also described in some detail, and suffice here to record that his father was the remarkable Norman Moore, from a straitened background who rose not only to become President of the Royal College of Physicians but also an active and expert naturalist. Norman Moore (1847-1922), born in Manchester and later awarded a baronetcy, married Amy Ludlow (1859-1901) in 1880. Gillachrist ('slave of Christ') Moore was their third child. He went to St Catharine's


Portrait from the Imperial War Museum

College, Cambridge where he joined the OTC. He was commissioned on 22 August 1914 and as so often his battalion moved around considerably before moving towards Ypres. He was killed in action by a sniper in a wood, near Klein Zillebeke near Ypres.

Weller, Sidney

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Sgt 15607, 2 Bn Grenadier Guards. 2 Divn	1895, Tonbridge, Kent.	10.11.14	Sedlescombe. Menin Gate.
<p>Weller's battalion landed at le Havre on 15 August 1914 and were soon involved in staving off the German advance near Ypres. He was a regular soldier.</p> <p>Weller lived at the Presbytery, Sedlescombe. His father Albert John Weller (1850-1937), a policeman, was from Brede; he had married Ellen Alice (May, 1852-1929) in 1872 and they proceeded to have 17 children.</p>			

Combe, Boyce Anthony

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, 4 Bn Royal Fusiliers.	1889, Westfield	11.11.14	Sedlescombe. Westfield. Menin Gate.
	<p>Boyce Combe came from a distinguished family occupying a noted position in the country life of eastern Sussex. They lived at Oaklands, Sedlescombe, which an ancestor had engaged Decimus Burton to design. The Combes were descended from mayors of London (including Brass Crosby, the associate of John Wilkes) and from the Brabazon family of Ireland, which came to own Oaklands in the person of the artists Hercules Brabazon Brabazon. A branch of the family ran Combe's Brewery in Covent Garden, eventually swallowed up by Watney's. Boyce's father was Harvey Trewythan Coombe born near Lucca in Tuscany in 1851, who died at Oaklands in 1923. His mother was Florence Amy Lambert (1860-1951) of Monkstown, Dublin. They married in Ireland in 1882. Boyce was their only son.</p> <p>Boyce Combe was educated at Cheltenham and became a professional soldier. He joined the Royal Fusiliers as Second Lieutenant and was promoted to Lieutenant in June 1913.</p> <p>Boyce Combe was killed in action at Herentage Wood near Ypres.</p>		

DECEMBER 1914

The Western Front 1914

Hodgson, Christopher Anthony Rowlandson

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 2 Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt.	27.12.1873, Upper Norwood, Surrey	18.12.14	Sedlescombe. Ploegstreet.



Hodgson was killed in action at Bas Mesnil, near Fleurbaix just south-west of Armentières. He was a professional soldier who had already served in the South African war. Hodgson had only recently married Edith Alexandra Hely (1892-1958), who was born and died in Dublin; she remarried after his death. There were no children.

Hodgson's connection with Sedlescombe remains unclear. No public record mentions a connection with Sussex other than that his father married at Brighton (in 1872) and that one of his sons was born at Worthing.

Otherwise the records are all of Surrey and Hampshire. This father was Arthur Pemberton Hodgson of the Indian Civil Service (1825-95), born in the Cape Colony and dying in Hampshire; his wife was Mary Emily Townsend (1845-1910) who was born at Merton and also died in Hampshire.

Gilbey, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9937, 2 Bn RSR	Fulham, Middlesex	23.12.14	Ninfield. Le Touret.
<p>Gilbey was a regular soldier killed in action at Epinette near Givenchy. His background is hard to find because he was the adopted son of William Gilbey, in 1901 an omnibus washer living in Putney, Surrey, with his wife Charlotte. He had been born at Fulham and Charlotte at Bruton in Somerset.</p> <p>His next of kin are reported as living at Ninfield.</p>			

The Western Front 1915

JANUARY 1915

The Western Front 1915

Morgan, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl L9781, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt.	1890, Brede	04.01.15	Rue Petillon Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
<p>Morgan was a regular soldier; the 1911 census records him as at Guadeloupe Barracks at Bordon, Hampshire, as a Private. His father John Randall Morgan (1860-1908), of Brede, married Mary Ellen Bryant (1865-95), also of Brede, in 1885. In 1901 he was recorded as a general labourer living in Pottery Road, Brede.</p> <p>William Morgan was killed in action near Fleurbaix, close to Armentières. He was unmarried.</p>			

Tylden-Pattenson, Arthur Dagnall

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, 2 Bn Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	27.03.1894, Dover, Kent	05.01.15	Vieille Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Crowhurst.
<p>Arthur Tylden-Pattenson came of a long-standing county family of Kent. His father, also Arthur (1857-1938), name is in Crowhurst.</p> <p>Their son was killed in action at the Rue de Bois near Richebourg l'Avoue, a killing-field that became notorious for Sussex people.</p>			

Godman, Walter Williams Wynn

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2 Lt, 1 Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps.	10.07.1895, Hascombe, Surrey	24.01.15	Le Touret Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Sedlescombe. Eton College. Hascombe.
<p>Wynn was also killed at Richebourg. Like Tylden-Pattenson he was part of a family that knew comfort rather</p>			

than hardship. He was an Old Etonian, leaving that school in 1913. His father Joseph (1831-96), born at Chichester, was from a moneyed family and married as his second wife, in 1886, Bertha Marion Williams-Wynn (1856-1936) of the well-known and wealthy family of Denbighshire. In addition to their country house at Hascombe, near Cranleigh, they had a house at various times in Lowndes and Chester Squares in Westminster. The connection with Sedlescombe is that Walter's widowed mother lived at Brickwall. Godman was killed at Richebourg l'Avoue.

MARCH 1915

The Western Front 1915

Fuller, William George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman 4724, 2 Bn, Rifle Bde	1893, Netherfield	14.03.15	Le Touret. Netherfield.
<p>In 1911 Fuller was recorded as a cowman on a farm at Penhurst. His father, Thomas Fuller (1859-1910), an agricultural labourer born at Brightling, had died in the previous year and his mother Esther (Selmes, 1862-1952), of Mountfield and married in 1885, must have had no option but to go the Battle workhouse with William's younger siblings. The family had moved around a little between the nearby parishes; when Thomas died they were living on Darwell Hill.</p> <p>No well-known battle was being fought when Fuller died but the lines were always active.</p>			

Hayward, Albert John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte S2230, 1/5 Bn RSR	1895, Mountfield	28.03.15	Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Robertsbridge.
<p>Hayward was killed in action at Richebourg.</p> <p>In 1911 he was a carter's mate on a farm, presumably with his father the carter. The father was William Hayward (1856-), born at Salehurst, and his mother Agnes Louisa (Moon, 1862-1936), from Crowborough. They married in 1886. In 1911 the family lived at Banks Cottages, Mountfield.</p>			

MAY 1915

The Western Front 1915

Morley, William Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper, 2nd Home Counties Field Coy RE	1878, Battle	06.05.15	Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Bexhill.
<p>Morley's birth father has not been identified. His stepfather was Frederick Morley (1848-1913), a labourer born at Bexhill. In 1883 Frederick married Mary Ann Henrietta Avann (1852-1902), of Battle, William's mother. The records describe the younger Morley as an apprentice hairdresser in 1891 and as a grocer's porter in 1911, when he was living at 33 Little Common Road, Bexhill. In 1901 he married Louisa Gertrude Burns, born at the Curragh outside Dublin, a place well-known for its military base. Louisa did not remarry, and died in Cornwall in 1962.</p> <p>From his place of death, it would appear that Morley was wounded and evacuated to the military hospital at Boulogne.</p>			

Newbery, Charles Joseph

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 2201, 3 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1888, Battle	08.05.15	Tyne Cot Cemetery. Battle.
<p>Newbery died in the second battle of Ypres. He was not employed in the family's jam and confectionery business because there were too many older brothers to take over from their father; he became an architectural assistant and worked for his uncle Herbert, a builder. Newbery's father was Joseph Newbery</p>			

(1852-1927), who succeeded to the business his father had begun and built it up to the point in the First World War when it had some 60 employees – easily the biggest single employer in the district. He and his wife Kezia (Long), married in 1878, lived at Forest View in Mount Street, Battle. Kezia (1855-1936) was the daughter of a baker/confectioner of West Meon in Hampshire with whom Joseph and his eldest brother George went as trainees; George married Kezia's sister Sarah.

White, Frederick Joseph

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver T/23281 ASC	1888, Hastings	08.05.15	Samer Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>White's connection was with Netherfield and it was brief: he married Elizabeth Kate Fuller in the first quarter of 1915 and died shortly afterwards: he hanged himself.</p> <p>White was a Hastings tramcar conductor, son of Henry, in 1901 a grocer's vanman born in about 1855 at Chiswick, Middlesex who died in about 1905 and his wife Emily (possibly Strickland, c1855-1928) of Warwickshire.</p> <p>Fuller's widow had been born in 1893. After the war she remarried and died at Brighton in 1980.</p>			

Rooke, Ernest John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L7866, 2 Bn RSR	1884, Brighton	09.05.15	Le Touret Memorial. Police, Lewes. Ashburnham.
<p>The <i>Hastings and St Leonards Observer</i> called Rooke's death <i>a noble death</i>, but gave no details. Rooke enlisted only a month after the war started, possibly because he would need the permission of the East Sussex Constabulary: he was a policeman at Battle from 1911 to 1913, when he transferred to Ashburnham. He won the police Good Conduct Medal in 1914. He was unmarried. His father cannot be traced but his mother was Harriet, born at Lancing in about 1860.</p> <p>Rooke died in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, a wholly unsuccessful attempt by the British to break through the German lines near Arras. It was far from the last such attempt.</p>			

Cooper, William Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G3885, 2 Bn RSR		09.05.15	Ashburnham. Le Touret.
<p>Like Rooke, Cooper was killed on Aubers Ridge. It has not been possible to trace his origins.</p>			

Mills, Thomas Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L/10348, 2 Bn RSR	1896, Sedlescombe	09.05.15	Ashburnham. Le Touret.
<p>Mills died at Richebourg. The 1911 census records his father Thomas (1871-) as having been born at Whatlington and his mother Kate Elizabeth (Bryant, 1871-) as being from Sedlescombe. They were then living at Agmerhurst at the southern end of Ashburnham, where Mills was a coachman. Later records show them at Broomham near Guestling.</p>			


Booth, Charles Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L10339, 2 Bn RSR	13.02.97, Dallington	09.05.15	Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brightling. Burwash.
<p>Another Richebourg death. Booth was a son of Frederick William Booth, born at Dallington (1874-1939) and his wife Alice Eliza (Braban, 1873-1953), of Burwash. They married in 1894. In 1911 the family lived at Thatchers Cottage at the Thatchers Arms at Burwash; no record exists for Charles in that census. Frederick was listed as a farm labourer. After the war the parents moved to Manor Cottage, Brightling.</p>			

Carley, Leonard Montague

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF2502, 1/5 Bn RSR	1896, Brightling	09.05.15	Brightling. Le Touret.
Another Richebourg death. In 1911 Carley was a grocer's/draper's apprentice. He was a son of George Richard Carley 1872-1950), a blacksmith, and Ruth Elizabeth (Hallett, 1871-1956). They had married in 1893 and lived at Forge Cottage, Oxley's Green, Brightling.			

Paddon, Edward James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L10319, 2 Bn RSR	19, Hastings	09.05.15	Catsfield. Le Touret.
	Again killed in action at Richebourg. In 1911 Paddon was living with his parents in Potman's Lane, Catsfield, and his occupation is given as 'pimp maker' – that is, someone who made bundles of wood for kindling, or a 'bavin maker'. His father, also Edward James Paddon (1868-1926), was a farm labourer; he had previously served with the Royal Sussex. He had married Sophia (White, 1872-1945), from Yorkshire, in 1893. After the war they lived at 3 Highwood Cottages, Whydown, Bexhill.		

Grant, Ferris Nelson

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, B Coy 1/5 Bn RSR	04.12.75, British Guiana	09.05.15	Crowhurst. Scottish National War. Le Touret.
Grant was unmarried and had previously been a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. When war was declared he joined up quickly, as can be seen from his witnessing several attestations of new recruits. His birth in British Guiana is explained by the 1911 census: his father Ferris (1838-1922), born at Portsmouth, described himself as a West India merchant. In 1872 he had married Mary Ellen Sharpe (Nelson, 1849-1927), of Norfolk. They lived at Beau Site, Crowhurst. The war diary for the 2nd Battalion does not mention his death on 9 May, which is a little odd.			

Stonestreet, Stanley George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G1418, 2 Bn RSR	1892, Dallington	09.05.15	Dallington. Heathfield. Le Touret.
Identifying Stonestreet is far from easy; he seems to have used an alias, his real name apparently being Charles Stanley J Stonestreet. He was a regular soldier, arriving in France with his battalion on 22 August 1914. His parents were Richard (1867-1948), in 1911 a gypsum miner living at Palmer's Cottage, Dallington. His mother was Sarah Ann (Gosling, 1870-1927). They had married in 1891. Charles lived at Heathfield.			

Robinson, Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt TF1362, B Coy, 1/5 Bn RSR	1894, Salehurst	09.05.15	Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Robertsbridge.
Although Robinson died on 9 May he did not take part in the battle at Richebourg: he died of wounds suffered earlier. The 1911 census has Frank as a sawyer, living with his parents James (1860-1944), a domestic coachman, and Alice (Laurence, 1864-1955). Both were locally born. Then and in 1901 they lived on George Hill, Robertsbridge.			


Goodsell, Percy

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl S2233, 5 Bn RSR	1893, Salehurst	10.05.15	Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais
<p>Goodsell's brother Herbert was to be killed near Ypres in September 1917. They were sons of Thomas Goodsell (1861-1946) of Salehurst and Annie Elizabeth (Kingham, 1858-), from Chelsea in Middlesex. In 1911 they lived as Woodside, Frant where Thomas was a domestic gardener, as was his son Percy. Thomas and Annie had married in 1886 and had five children. After the war they were recorded at Guestling.</p> <p>Percy died of wounds suffered at Richebourg.</p>			

Lowe, Douglas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Bty Sgt Maj 15489, 45 Bde RFA	1877, Warbleton	11.05.15	Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Pas de Calais. Dallington.
<p>Laventie Cemetery is a little south east of Armentières, just north of the battle of 9 May. Lowe was killed in action, though it unclear where. He had been a professional soldier, and in 1911 he was recorded as being at a barracks in India. In 1891 he was a general labourer. His parentage cannot be traced., and neither can his marriage in the English, Welsh or Scottish records. CWGC has his wife as Marjorie, living at Medwyn, Largo Road, St Andrews, Fife.</p>			

Lambert, Henry McLaren

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 1 Royal Dragoons	25.07.1879, Sevenoaks	13.05.15	Hop Store Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Muthaiga Club War, Kenya. Battle. Harrow School.
<div style="display: flex;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Lambert was a professional soldier. After school and Trinity College, Cambridge he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and sent to the war in South Africa. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1900, and in 1902 was posted to India. There he became ADC to three successive viceroys: Lord Amphill (acting, during a vacancy) in 1904, then Lord Curzon and then the Earl of Minto, and later the Commander-in-Chief Sir O'Moore Creagh. In 1907 he was promoted Captain but retired from the army in the next year, presumably after his father died. He then spent most of his time in Kenya and came back to the colours in August 1914.</p> <p>© Imperial War Museum</p> </div> </div> <p>Lambert was the elder son of the owner of Telham Court at Battle, Edward Tiley Lambert (1844-1908), who had bought the estate in 1874, and his wife Jane (McLaren, 1855-1944), of Fife. They married in 1877. Lambert was killed near Ypres. He was unmarried.</p>			

Bishop, Alexander

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G3380, 9 Bn RSR	25, Ticehurst	25.09.15	Dallington. Loos.



Bishop was killed near Loos, where the battle was an early Allied disaster. The battalion reported no casualties that day – which either that there were or that the date of his death is mistaken; if the latter then it is likely to be for only a short period. In 1911 Alexander is described as a farm labourer and his father Thomas Bishop (1857-1946) as a farmer, born at Mayfield. They are living at Coomers Farm, Dallington with his mother Hannah (Mallion, 1846-1931), of Burwash. The parents married in 1886.

From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/

Baker, Frederick John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl L10340, 2 Bn RSR	1894, Robertsbridge	29.05.15	Brightling. Robertsbridge. Salehurst. Loos.
Baker was killed near Loos. The 1911 census has him as a farm labourer, living with his parents and siblings at Park Farm, Robertsbridge. CWGC reports him as the son of Mr and Mrs E Baker of Salehurst Fruit Farm, and employed in Brightling. His parents were Ebenezer (1865-1947), a farm bailiff in 1911, and Mary (Beaney, 1865-1952). They married in 1885.			

JUNE 1915

The Western Front 1915

Holland, Harry (George Herbert)

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 9089 2 Bn Wiltshire Regt	03.01.1894, Battle	15.06.15	Netherfield. Le Touret.
There were two Harry Hollands from Netherfield killed in the war. The parents of the second placed a notice in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer, so his parentage is clear. This is not so in respect of the 1915 man, but it may be that he was a half-brother of the 1916 man. If so, he was a son of Walter Holland (1842-1919), a general labourer of Stoney Wood Cottage, Netherfield, and of Harriet (Veness, 1856-1934). Both were born at Netherfield and they married in 1884. Exactly one month before his death Harry had married Florence Martin, born about 1891, who later remarried. His battalion had been at Gibraltar when war broke out, but left for England on the last day of August. His death is likely to have been near Festubert.			

Garside, Louis Robert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 2715, 21 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1890, West Wickham, Kent	29.06.15	Nottingham Church Cemetery, Nottinghamshire. Westfield.
We know quite a lot about Garside's family but nothing about his military service except that his battalion served only on the western front and that he died at Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital, Nottingham. The last words suggest that he had some fatal and contagious or infection disease. By then his father Thomas Robert Garside (1846-1903) had died at his house Sunny Garth, Grosvenor Road, West Wickham. He was described in the 1891 census as a traveller in fancy goods. His mother Louisa (Darby, 1849-1925), originally from Leeds in the West Riding and married there in 1868, moved to Sandycroft, Westfield and then to Four Winds in the same parish. In 1911 Louis was an assistant teacher living at 49 Baldslow Road, Hastings.			

JULY 1915*The Western Front 1915***Harmer, Alfred**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF2108, 1/5 Bn RSR	1894, Ashburnham	08.07.15	Cambrin Churchyard Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. Ashburnham. Hastings.
<p>Harmer's battalion was close to Cambrin on the day of his reported death in action, but it was not in action and there is no mention of casualties in its war diary. Cambrin is nearly a suburb of Béthune. Harmer was a son of Charles Harmer (1855-) of Ashburnham, in 1901 reported as a garden labourer. His mother was Martha (Morris, 1855-1926). They married in 1876. In 1901 they were at Bat Cottage, Ashburnham Forge.</p>			

Stubberfield, Frederick George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF/2611, 1/5 Bn RSR	1897, Ashburnham	08.07.15	Cambrin Churchyard Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. Ashburnham.
<p>Stubberfield was killed in action near Cambrin, though as with Alfred Harmer the war diary reports no casualties for the day in question. He was one of eleven children of George Stubberfield (1854-1932), a farm labourer, and five of them, including Frederick, were by his second wife Sarah Ann (Tickner, 1869-1938) whom he married in 1891. He was from Hooe and she from Catsfield. In 1911 they lived at Winter's Cottage, Brigden Hill, Ashburnham and CWGC record them later at the Corner House, Ashburnham.</p>			

SEPTEMBER 1915*The Western Front 1915***Osborne, Harry**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte GS113, 7 Bn RSR	Robertsbridge	25.09.15	Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Robertsbridge.
<p>Harry was the elder brother of George Henry Osborne, to be killed in September 1917. As noted under that entry, Osborne's family were another of those that fought shy of the registrar. We know, however, that his father was James Osborne (1840-), and his mother Ellen (1850-); he described himself as of Salehurst and she of Hellingly. In 1901 James was an ostler; the family lived at Fair Lane, Salehurst. He was unmarried. In 1911 he was a platelayer, living with his widowed mother in East Street, Robertsbridge. Osborne's battalion was at Houplines, between Armentières and the Belgian border south of Ypres, when he was killed, one of three men of the battalion who died in a push forward under cover of smoke.</p>			

Bartholomew, William Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl G4353, 2 Bn RSR	1881, Hellingly	25.09.15	Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, Nord. Brede. Bexhill. Sidley.
<p>Bartholomew died on the first day of the battle of Loos. For his battalion it was a disaster. Ordered to attack the German front line near Hulluch, they first met clouds of gas intended for the Germans but blown back into the British lines. When they advanced they met such opposition from machine gun and rifle fire that, in the words of their colonel they were <i>annihilated</i>. Almost all the officers and NCOs were killed or wounded, and only 70 men of the Company were fit to reassemble at the end of the action. Bartholomew was one of those who died there. Bartholomew was from Kent, born at Lamberhurst in 1881, but his family moved to Bexhill. His father James (1860-1948) was variously a railway worker and a farm labourer. He had married Jane Alice Smith (Funnell, 1865-1921) in 1878. Their son was also married – to Charlotte Hannah Firrell (1884-1968) of Brede, who like so many war widows</p>			

remarried in 1917. They had had at least one child.

Harmer, Alfred James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G3537, 8 Bn E Kent Regt	1888, Burwash	26.09.15	Pont-a-Vendin Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Crowhurst.
<p>Harmer was a son of Harry Harmer (1861-1930) of Burwash, stated in 1911 to be a bricklayer, and Harriet Catherine (Pont, 1861-1915), of Heathfield. They married in 1883 and in the 1890s moved to Shop Cottage, Crowhurst. Alfred's mother died only a few months before he did.</p> <p>Alfred was killed in action in an attack on the village of Vendin-le-Vieil just north of Lens. His brother Herbert was to die on or shortly before 6 October 1916.</p>			

OCTOBER 1915

The Western Front 1915

Duke, Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 10209, 2 Gordon Highlanders	22.02.91, Battle	01.10.15	Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cemetery, Nord.
<p>Duke's battalion was in Cairo when the war began, and landed in England on 1 September. He died of wounds and in Germany, which suggests that he was captured and taken to a German hospital and his remains handed over later.</p> <p>Duke's father was James Robert Duke (1868-1945, in 1911 a domestic gardener living at 2 Yew Tree Cottages, Church Road, Hollington. His mother was Elizabeth (Thompsett, 1873-1939). Both had been born at Battle; they married there in 1890.</p> <p>In 1911 Harry is recorded as a teacher in a Hastings elementary school.</p>			

Jenner, Douglas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte S2326, 7 RSR	1897, Brightling	04.10.15	Brightling. Loos.
<p>Jenner was a son of Harry Jenner (1869-1960), a poultry dealer born at Dallington, and Caroline Jane (Lavender, 1868-). They married in 1892 and in 1911 were living at Bannister's Cottage, Brightling. CWGC report them later as living at Chestnut Lodge, Boreham Street.</p> <p>The battalion's war diary report one person killed that day. There was heavy German shelling of the trench it occupied near Hulluch, just north of Lens.</p>			


Orford, Lancelot Edwin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G5176, 2 Bn RSR	1887, Little Eaton, Derbyshire	13.10.15	Loos.
<p>Orford's family came to Battle in the 1880s, and his brother Charles was born there. Lancelot attended Battle and Langton School. He moved to Norfolk with his parents and the 1911 census record's him as a merchant's clerk. Both his parents were teachers: Edwin (1855-1927) and Emily Kate (Burrows, 1855-1935). They married in 1884.</p> <p>It appears that Orford died in action near Hulluch. The war diary does not contain the page for the day, other than that his battalion was ordered to take the German trench facing them after the release of gas and smoke.</p>			

Brook, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte GS819, 2 Bn RSR	Ninfield	13.10.15	Ninfield. Loos.
<p>Brook was killed in action in an abortive assault on German lines immediately west of Hulluch, north of Lens, as for Orford, above.</p> <p>In 1891 the young William is reported as a carter boy on a farm, and in 1911 as a farm labourer living at North Street, Hellingly. He is with his wife Mary Elizabeth (Bryant, 1883-1949) and their three children. They married in 1904. His parents are more difficult to track but in 1891 they are recorded as James Brook (c1850-) and Margaret (probably Eastland, c1858-95). Both were from Ninfield.</p>			

Penn, Eric Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Temp Capt, 4 Bn Grenadier Guards	1878, London	18.10.15	Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Westfield.
	<p>Penn had been a regular soldier who had served in the South African war as a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Scots. In 1914 he joined the Norfolk Yeomanry but transferred regiment and went to France with the Grenadier Guards and was Mentioned in Despatches. He was killed in action near Vermelles in the battle Loos. Vermelles is about half-way between Lens and Béthune.</p> <p>Penn was from a wealthy and well-connected family. His father William (1849-1921) ran a large engineering company; he had been born at Lewisham in Kent. His mother Constance Mary (Lucas, 1855-1942) was the daughter of a titled man living in Suffolk. Eric went to Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge and in both, like his father, he played cricket well.</p> <p>In 1906 Penn married Gladys Evelyn Ebdon, whose address after the war was Baldslow Place, Baldslow. In 1916 they fathered a man who was himself to become</p>		
a distinguished soldier.			

The Western Front 1916

FEBRUARY 1916

The Western Front 1916

Foster, Cecil Christian

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 15341, 1 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1892, Bexhill	10.02.16	Menin Road (South) Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ninfield.
<p>Foster was killed in action but not as part of any major engagement: minor assaults on each other's lines continued throughout the war.</p> <p>His father was Charles Foster (1854-1930), born at Ninfield. In 1911 he was a waggoner on a farm and living at Ninfield Green. His mother was Eliza Mary (Missetter, 1860-1896), from Dallington, Charles's second wife; they married in 1887. In 1911 the remaining family were at 63 The Green, Ninfield. Charles had married for a third time.</p>			

Bryant, Nelson Luther

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl G4327, 3 Bn RSR	1883, Brede	18.02.16	Broad Oak Methodist churchyard. Brede.
<p>The 3rd Battalion of the Royal Sussex was held in reserve throughout the war. Originally stationed at Chichester, it moved to Dover and then to Newhaven. Bryant died at home in Brede; in 1911 his parents were recorded as living at Broadlands Cottages. It is probable, therefore, that he died either of an accident or by disease. He had been a professional soldier before the war, spending seven years with the Leicestershire</p>			

Regiment.

His father Richard (1841-1915), of Brede, was described as an agricultural labourer in 1911. He married Ellen (Hayward, 1842-1907), of Brighton, in 1867, and they had a large family.

MARCH 1916

The Western Front 1916

Buss, Jesse

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte S2325, 7 Bn RSR	1897, Brightling	02.03.16	Quarry Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brightling.
<p>Buss was the first local man to die in France in the ominous year of 1916, the year of Verdun and the Somme. He was killed in action near Loos. As with some others, his death does not seem to be connected with any major Allied offensive.</p> <p>Buss's father was Charles Thomas Buss (1867-1956), who in 1911 described himself as a carpenter and sawyer working on an estate. He had remarried; Jesse's mother Zilpah (Russell, born 1867) had died in 1907. The family lived at 3 Longhouses, Brightling.</p>			

Beeching, William Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 16732, 8 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1891, Brede	03.03.16	Béthune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
<p>Beeching died of wounds, though it is not clear where the engagement was that caused them. His battalion had been in France since May 1915. He had previously been in the Hussars.</p> <p>His was a Brede family through and through: his father Henry Jesse (1860-1918), a general labourer in 1911, and his mother Mary Anne (Gibbs, 1862-); the family lived at Boxhouse, Brede. In 1911 their son William was listed as a cowman.</p>			

Catt, Frederick James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD4947, 11 Bn RSR	1897	14.03.16	Sailly sur la Lys Canadian Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Westfield.
<p>Catt's birthplace is unclear at present: a family website says Westfield but the birth was registered at Hastings. His parents later lived at Sandycroft, Westfield, however. The father Francis (1870-1929) was of Westfield, and the mother Harriet (Deem, 1868-99) was of Herefordshire. They married in 1893; Francis later remarried. In 1901 he described his occupation as domestic gardener.</p> <p>We do not know where the younger Catt suffered the wounds from which he died. His cemetery has many front-line troops, and is about 7 km south-west of Armentières, where there was an active front line.</p>			

Blogg, Edward Basil

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Maj, 4 London Field Coy, RE	1887, Walmer, Kent	16.03.16	Béthune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
<p>Blogg died at wounds close to Béthune. In civilian life he was a clerk in the Lord Chamberlain's office and in the TA from 1909, where he was promoted Lieutenant in 1911. He would have been called up immediately in 1914 and then promoted Captain in February 1915 and Temporary Major two months later. He was awarded the DSO in November 1915 and Mentioned in Despatches twice.</p> <p>Blogg's father was Rev Fowler Babbington Blogg (1851-1915), born in India and at the time rector of Great Mongeham near Deal. His mother Helen Adela (Knight, 1853-1937) had been born at Chawton House near Alton in Hampshire and died at Shearfold, Brede.</p>			

APRIL 1916*The Western Front 1916***Foster, Alfred Henniker**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L7596, 7 Bn RSR	1884, Battle	08.04.16	Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>As a civilian Foster was a general labourer, living with his parents until he married Elizabeth Charlotte Puxty (1885-), from Flimwell, in 1909. The 1911 census has them living at at 50, Church Street, Ore, with one daughter; there seem to be no more children born to them.</p> <p>Foster's father Henry was a Battle man, born there in 1841. In 1866 he married Martha Lower of Ticehurst , and their first children, including Alfred, were born at Battle. The family moved to Hastings late in the 1880s where Henry was a builder's labourer. He died in 1931 and Martha in 1932.</p> <p>How and where Foster died remains unclear. Vermelles is between Béthune and Lens, very close to the front line.</p>			

Buckle, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 24942, 13 Suffolk Regt	1885, Garboldisham, Norfolk	30.04.16	Greenwich Cemetery, Kent.
<p>Buckle was a gamekeeper at Netherfield Place. He was a son of Robert James Buckle (1863-1928) and Rachel (Reeve, 1865-1919), both of Norfolk. Robert was a gamekeeper at Kimberley Park, near Wymondham. Clearly their son William was not killed in action, and it is probable that he was wounded at the St Eloi Crater just south-east of Ypres, where a local action took place earlier in April 1916.</p>			

APRIL 1916*The Western Front 1916***Titchener, Harold**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD1913, 12 Bn RSR	1896, Hollington	09.05.16	Hollington churchyard. Crowhurst. Hastings.
<p>Because Titchener died at home of wounds it is not possible to determine when and where he suffered them. From the battalion's movements it seems likely that it was a little south of Ypres. Similarly unclear is the family history. His father Frederick Titchener (c1847-) appears in a later census only in 1911, when he is living at 4 Wilting Cottages, Hollington with Harold and his wife Harriet (Bourner, 1851-1908) whom he married in 1877. He and Harold were then farm labourers.</p>			

Oliver, Percy John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD956, 11 Bn RSR	1893, Erith, Kent	21.05.16	Béthune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Battle.
<p>Oliver died of wounds, but it is so far unclear where he suffered them other than it was near Béthune. Oliver's father was Henry Oliver (1869-1908), a Battle man described in the 1901 census as a railway official, which may explain his residence at Erith. His mother was Emily (Nichols, 1866-1950), born near Sevenoaks; after her husband's death she became a baker and confectioner at 49 High Street, Battle.</p>			

Butler, John Herbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD1581, 12 Bn RSR	1893, Headington, Oxfordshire	03.06.16	Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais. Brede.
<p>The war diary for the battalion mentions no action on 3 June, but of course activity continued. The battalion was near Cuinchy, near Cambrin just east of Béthune and a little south of Richebourg where the regiment had lost so many men in 1915 and was destined to lose many more later this month.</p> <p>Butler was the son of a printer's foreman, John Butler (1866-1933) and his wife Annie (Sandell, 1869-1956); they had married in 1892. They lived at Oxford, where John is recorded in 1911 as a grocer's apprentice/shop assistant living with his family at 68 Percy Street. His connection with Brede is unknown.</p>			

Hobday, Walter James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl 65453, 24 Bn, Quebec Regt	03.07.89, Ashburnham	16.06.16	Ashburnham. Menin Gate.
<p>Hobday died near Zillebeke, only just to the south-east of Ypres; it was where the front line ran. He had gone to Canada at some point between 1911 and 1914, and enlisted at Montreal in November 1914. In 1911 he described himself as an understeward at a club and on his enlistment as a butler. He had been awarded the DCM and his commanding officer wrote that he was recommending him for the Military Medal/.</p> <p>Hobday's father Benjamin Thomas Hobday (1849-1929) was a farmer at Bunce's Farm, Ashburnham; his wife was Elizabeth (French, 1849-27), and they married in 1880.</p>			

Pont, James Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 8580, 2 Bn Coldstream Guards	1890, Brightling	22.06.16	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Mountfield.
<p>Pont's mother was Mrs M M Crooks of 49 Wellington Road, New Edlington, Doncaster, West Riding. In 1891 James was living at Brightling with his grandmother Ann M Pont, a single woman of 45; in 1901 he was an adopted son of the Lulham family of Battle Road, Dallington; in 1911 he was in the Ramillies Barracks, Marlborough Lines, Aldershot, with the rank of Private, in the battalion shown above. (The Mountfield memorial gives his rank as Private in connection with his death.) Pont died near Ypres but we have no further information. He was unmarried.</p>			

Ling, Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 11892, Royal Berkshire Regt	1898, Buckland, Berkshire	26.06.16	Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais
<p>Two Ling brothers of Abbey Green, Battle, died in the war; neither is named on a Battle memorial. They were Berkshire-born but moved around with their father, a hotel manager. In Battle he ran the Star Hotel (later the 1066) and then the Abbey Hotel. He was George Richard Ling (1862-), born at Camberwell, Surrey, who in 1882 married Rose (Rippon, 1862-1939).</p> <p>Ling was killed in an assault on the German line at Villers-Bretonneux.</p>			

Lamborn, Charles Douglas J Stansfeld

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 154100, 1 Bn, W Ontario Regt	24.09.1886, Battle	30.06.16	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium.

Lamborn was a son of William Lamborn (1826-1904), a teacher and founder of Battle Grammar School which stood at what later became Diamond House, The Towers Hotel and Battle Fire Station, at the top of Battle High Street. In 1875 he married Fanny Stansfeld (1850-1921), a talented musician who took over at the school when, it appears, the marriage fell on hard times. Both Charles Lamborn and his mother went to Canada in the early years of the century, though Fanny was to return. In 1915 Lamborn's address was 850 Phoenix Street, British Columbia. He enlisted in September 1915. Lamborn died near Ypres.

Mercer, Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD4810, 11 Bn RSR	1898, Hooe	30.06.16	St Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Catsfield. Bexhill.

Mercer's battalion was originally to lead the attack on the German positions at what is known as the Boar's Head, but due to the refusal of its commander, Col Harman Grisewood, to send his men into a simple death trap they were pulled back. Some men remained as carrying parties, and it is likely that Mercer was one of them. He was killed in action at the Rue de Bois.

Mercer's father Charles Pringle Mercer (1872-1957) was from Ashburnham and worked on the land as a waggoner on a farm. In 1972 he had married Caroline (Holland, 1872-1953), of Battle. In 1911 they were living on Skinner's Lane, Catsfield; a later source says Steers Green.

Catton, Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2879, 12 Bn, RSR	1893, Battle	30.06.16	Loos. Battle.

The 12th battalion had been designated as part of the attack from the start. Catton was killed in the action. He was a gamekeeper like his father James (1851-1919), a Lincolnshire man living at Great Wood Cottage in Marley Lane and later in Whatlington Road. His mother Harriett (Rush, born 1855 in Norfolk), whom he married in 1877, had died in 1895.

Holland, George David

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2103, 12 Bn RSR	1881, Netherfield	30.06.16	Netherfield. Loos.

As explained in respect of Harry Holland, who died on the western front in June 1915, there remains a measure of confusion about what seems to be a single family. But it is clear that George David Holland was a son of Walter Holland (1842-1919), a general labourer of Stoney Wood Cottage, Netherfield, and of Harriet (Veness, 1856-1934).

Holland died in the same attack as Catton.

Turner, Francis

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2362, 12 Bn RSR	1878, Ashburnham	30.06.16	Ashburnham. Loos.

Turner was killed in action at the Rue de Bois in the attack. In civilian life he had been an agricultural labourer. Both his parents were from East Hoathly. His father Benjamin (1836-99) was also an agricultural labourer; his wife Tamar (Wren, 1837-78), married in 1858, died before he moved to Ashburnham. One of their daughters married Thomas Parrott, whose son Percy was to die in February 1918. Turner's brother Ernest was to die in April 1917.

Pelling, William Wickens

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2248, 12 Bn RSR	1885, Otford, Kent	30.06.16	Brightling. Bexhill. Loos.

Pelling was also killed at the Rue de Bois. His connections with Brightling and Bexhill are so far unknown. His

father Percival Peter Pelling (1845-1924) was from Hastings, and he married Eliza (Dunk, 1846-1927) in the Battle area in 1866. The 1851 census reported her as living 'below Watch Oak' at Battle. In 1911 Percival was a potter and bricklayer at Dunton Green in Kent.

Jempson, Charles Stapley

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD3611, 13 Bn RSR	1894, Netherfield	30.06.16	Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais.
Jempson was a general labourer in civilian life. His father Charles Vidion Jempson (1867-1939) was a wood sawyer and his mother Flora Beatrice (Stapley, 1868-1956), the girl next door in the Netherfield Road at Battle. They moved to St Leonards shortly after the younger Charles was born. Jempson enlisted as a Private and was promoted.			

Winchester, William Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD5021, 13 Bn RSR	1892, Catsfield	30.06.16	Catsfield. Loos.
The 13th battalion took the place of the 11th when Grisewood withdrew it from the battle. Winchester was killed in action. Winchester was a son of the farmer at Fatlands Farm, Catsfield, and practised the trade known as 'farmer's son'. In 1891 his father William (1866-1928), from Herstmonceux, married Grace Eleanor (Summers, 1869-1964). Winchester's brother Hubert was to die in September 1917.			

Winchester, Hubert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD3486, 13 Bn RSR	1891, Ashburnham	30.06.16	Loos.
Hubert's father George Winchester (1851-1947) was a farmer; his mother, married in 1887, was Alice Annie (Anderson, 1858-1922). They were both born at Ashburnham. By 1911 they had moved to Attwaters farm at Hawkhurst in Kent but Hubert was working a Markleigh farm at Heathfield. He was killed at the Boar's Head battle.			

Croft, Gilbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2266, 11 Bn RSR	1891, Brightling	30.06.16	St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais
Croft died in the same engagement. He was born and lived at Brightling – in 1911 he is recorded as living at River Houses with his parents Alfred Croft (1858-), an agricultural labourer, and Anna (Crouch, 1858-1931). They had married in 1877. Gilbert was a general labourer.			

Thomas, Robert William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2799, 13 Bn RSR	1878, Westfield	30.06.16	Westfield. Ore. Hastings. Loos.
Thomas is the last-named of those who died on 30 June, again at the Rue de Bois. His father Walter Thomas (1836-1901) was a laundryman born at Westfield, in 1901 living at Vale View Cottages, New Cut, Westfield. In 1911 his widow Harriett (1841-1926) was living with her family at 5 Nightingale Cottages, Westfield. They had married in 1863. Robert was with her, a farm labourer. In 1908 he had married Maria (Benge, 1876-1956), of Fairlight. No children have been identified.			

Goodsell, George James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G1508, Royal W Surrey Regt	1894, Brede	01.07.16	Thiepval.
<p>Goodsell was the son of a man with exactly the same name, George James Goodsell (1871-1925), and they were both born at Brede. His mother was Agnes (Marsh, 1871-), from Dover; they married in 1892. The elder George was a carpenter and joiner. In 1901 they lived in Hastings but in 1911 and thereafter at Rose Cottage, Three Oaks, Guestling.</p> <p>1 July was the notorious first day of the battle of the Somme. Goodsell's battalion was attacking north-eastwards about 10km east of Albert.</p>			

Andrews, James Allfrey

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt 2 Bn, Devonshire Regt	1890, Farnham, Surrey	01.07.16	Serre Road Cemetery, Somme. Robertsbridge. Lambrook School, Berkshire.
<p>This was a bad day for the Devonshires, among others. Attacking between Ovillers and La Boiselle, they lost 232 killed and 199 wounded, many to German machine gun fire that they had been told would have been put out of action. Andrews was among them.</p> <p>Family websites give his birthplace as Aldershot, Farnham and Belfast, but his birth was registered at Farnham. He came from a military background, his father James Walker Andrews (1845-1926) being a retired Colonel of the Devonshire Regiment. He had been born in India, which suggests a longer military history in the family. His mother, married in 1877, was Emily (Allfrey, 1847-1944). They lived at Bantony, Robertsbridge, a large house at Silverhill.</p>			

Boxall, Frederick Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2801 8 Bn RSR	1894, Battle	01.07.16	Thiepval. Battle.
<p>Boxall was killed in action near Montauban. He died in what was a success, when his battalion worked behind the successful attacking front line to consolidate the defences. It suffered twelve deaths, a small price on that day, but Boxall was one of them. He was killed by a shell in his trench. He had formerly been in the 13th battalion.</p> <p>Boxall lived at 11 Mount Street, Battle, one of a family of which at least one brother also served. His father was Albert Boxall (1868-1919), a tailor (maker), and his mother was Ann (Champion, 1868-1954). Both were from Battle; they married in 1889. In 1911 they were living at 11 Mount Street, Battle; Frederick was an apprentice tailor, no doubt to his father.</p>			


Skilton, Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 21024, 2 Bn Border Regt	1894, Battle	01.07.16	Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Somme. Battle.
<p>Skilton was a regular soldier, having joined the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1913 and transferring to the Border Regiment early next year. He was stationed at Enniskillen and sent to France by the end of 1914. He was neither a fit nor a well-behaved soldier. He was killed in action on the first day of the battle of Albert, a joint British/French attack.</p> <p>Skilton was described as a poultryman on a farm in the 1911 census, living with his parents as 8 Jubilee Cottages, Battle (at the foot of Battle Hill). His father Caleb Skilton (1856-1932), originally from Dorking in Surrey, was then a roadman for the Urban District Council, and at his death was a general labourer. His mother Eliza (Hilder, 1857-1911) was from Mountfield. They married in 1880.</p>			

Selmes, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman 56556, 1 Bn Rifle Bde	1898, Robertsbridge	01.07.16	St Vaast Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Mountfield.
<p>Selmes was killed in action, though it is not yet clear precisely where. He is buried well east of the battle lines. He was young. The official record says that his birth was registered in 1900; a family history says September 1899; CWGC states that he was 19. The gap between birth and registration may have been lengthy. His father was Charles (1877-1967), a general labourer in 1911, and his mother Ada Helen (Holland, 1879-1956), both of Mountfield. They married in 1898 and lived at 17 Heath Hill, Mountfield.</p>			

Raper, Robert George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Temp Maj, 8 Bn S Staffordshire Regt	1877, Battle	02.07.16	Fricourt British Cemetery, Somme. Battle.
 <p>Raper was a solicitor in the firm now known as Heringtons. His father William Augustus (-1939) had run the firm since the 1870s and must have been one of the best-known men in Battle, being involved in many local activities and chairing first the local sanitary board and then, for 25 years, its successor the Urban District Council. He married Mary Anna (Ellis, 1871-1922), of Binstead in 1949 and they had eight children. His son Robert lived at Richards Hill, Powdermill Lane, Battle. He married Ida (Macadam-Smith, 1889-1979) and had four children. She later married a solicitor who took over the legal firm and Raper's old house.</p> <p>Robert was a keen Territorial and was called up on the declaration of war. His battalion landed at Boulogne on 14 July 1915. On 1 July 1916 it was behind the front line but called up when that day's action failed. On 2 July it pushed the Germans out of Fricourt, just east of Albert, but Raper was killed. The local French were so impressed by his actions that they have named the main street of Fricourt after him (see picture).</p>			

Stonestreet, Reginald James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 76916, 11 Bn Durham Light Infantry	1876, Brightling	03.07.16	Neuf-Brisach Communal Cemetery Extension, Haut-Rhin. Salehurst. Robertsbridge.
<p>Neuf-Brisach is close to the Rhine and all its graves are of prisoners of war. Stonestreet could have been captured anywhere on the western front and died of wounds or disease. His much-damaged military record suggests an earlier wound and evacuation to the UK but this is by no means clear. He was formerly Sapper 1763 in the Royal Engineers.</p> <p>Stonestreet's father was James Stonestreet (1846-1920), of Brightling, a gamekeeper; his mother was Emily (Lawrence, 1847-1927), from Mountfield. They married in 1869. In 1899 Reginald married Mary Ann Edmunds (1871-1954), from Ewhurst. In 1911 they were living at Paper Mill Farm, Benenden in Kent, with no children. Like his father he was a gamekeeper.</p>			

Blackhurst, Cecil James Livesey

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt G/567, 7 Bn RSR	05.06.85, Kirkham, Lancashire	07.07.16	Baines Endowed School Memorial, Blackpool. Thiepval.
<p>Blackhurst was a teacher at Battle and Langton School and lived at 5 Lower Lake. He was a scoutmaster for the Battle Troop. He joined up as a Private very shortly after the declaration of war, being quickly promoted until he reached the rank of Sergeant of 10 March 1916. He was sent to France at the end of May 1915. He was wounded on 24 December 1915. He was killed in action at Owillers, just north-east of Albert.</p> <p>Blackhurst's father John Thompson Blackhurst (1862-1928) was a wine and spirit merchant in one census and a grocer in a later one. He married Martha Catherine (Livesey, 1860-1924) in 1884.</p>			

Whiteman, James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl G1112, 7 Bn RSR	1881, Warbleton	07.07.16	Albert Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Brightling. Netherfield.
<p>Whiteman died of wounds received in the battle for Albert. He had gone to France in January 1915 and had already been wounded in the spring of that year.</p> <p>His father George (1852-1927) was a farmer at Newlands Farm, Dallington, and his mother Sally (Beaney, 1857-1952); they married in 1873.</p> <p>Whiteman married Annie Bessie Mephram (1876-1949) in 1900 and they had two sons.</p>			


Starling, Frederick Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G4049, 7 Bn RSR	1885, Chingford, Essex	07.07.16	Serre Road Cemetery No 2, Somme. Dallington.
<p>Like Wiseman, Starling was killed in action at Ovillers in the battle of Albert. He had enlisted in the previous year. Starling came to Dallington in 1897, and the 1901 census records him as a farm servant. He married Emily Mephram in 1908 and they had two sons. She lived to 1971. Starling was heavily involved in Dallington – he was a cricketer, chorister and bell ringer. In 1911 he and his wife are recorded as living at Punnets Town, with him as a miller's loader.</p> <p>Information on his ancestry by way of public records is confused.</p>			

Kealey, Edward George Clement

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte PS2253, 16 Bn Middlesex Regt	1894, Eastbourne	08.07.16	Caudry Old Communal Cemetery, Nord. Robertsbridge.
<p>The battalion's war diary records that on 8 July it took over trenches at Englebelmer (Knightsbridge) and that there were three other ranks wounded. So when Kealey died that day he was either one of these wounded or he was wounded earlier. The diary records 19 wounded on 1 July but none in the intervening period. But CWGC report him killed in action.</p> <p>Kealey is recorded in the 1911 census as a grocer's apprentice, living with his family at 2 Norman Villas, Robertsbridge. His father Henry (1868-1946) was a miller's clerk and traveller; in 1893 he had married Frances Mary (Jones, 1865-1919).</p>			

Stunt, Charles Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl L11064, 8 Bn RSR	1885, Westfield	14.07.16	Ovillers Military Cemetery, Somme. Westfield.
	<p>From the available records Stunt appears to have been the illegitimate son of Caroline Murphy – or Morfey – Stunt (1860-1928), Westfield. At his earliest census, in 1891, he is shown as Harry, living with his widowed grandmother Ellen at Chapel Row, Westfield, which is where his mother was to live in 1911. In that year he was living at Nursery Cottage, 102a Brighton Road, Reigate, with his wife Ellen (Burr, 1875-1927, from Marden in Kent); they had married in 1907 and had two children of whom one had died. He was a platelayer with the South Eastern Railway. Records suggest that Ellen remarried.</p> <p>Stunt was killed in action at Benafay Wood, in what became known as the battle of Bazentin Ridge.</p> <p>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</p>		

Goodsell, Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2202, 8 Bn RSR	1884, Ewhurst	14.07.16	Thiepval.
<p>The battalion's war diary suggests that the fighting took place on the previous day, 13 July and reports at least 24 'other ranks' killed, probably 31. The action was that in which Stunt (above) also died, between Albert and Péronne.</p> <p>Goodsell was a son of James Goodsell (1843-1932) a farm labourer of Ewhurst. His mother was Ann (Tapping, 1853-1919), of Ticehurst. They married in 1880. In 1901 Frederick was a general labourer and in 1911 a cowman on a farm. The family then lived at Mill Corner, Northiam.</p>			

McQuillan, Leonard Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl 7445, 20 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1893, Battle	30.07.16	Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Somme. Battle.
<p>McQuillan's battalion went to France in November 1915 and he was involved in the battle for High Wood, which did not fall until 8/9 September 1916. The family was well-known at Battle because his father James (1850-1931), from Chartham in Kent, was for a long time the surveyor and inspector of nuisance for the Urban District Council – an important post with implications for the health of the town. In 1911 James and his wife Emily Mary (Heard, 1855-1913), born in Pimlico, Westminster, married in 1884, were living at Samphire Island, Starrs Green, Battle.</p>			

AUGUST 1916

The Western Front 1916

Foster, Alfred Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte F3119, 23 Bn Middlesex Regt	1895, Whatlington	01.08.16	Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium. Whatlington.
<p>Foster was the only child of Alfred Foster (1871-1946), born at Westfield, and his wife Catherine Jane (Benge, 1871-1940), born at Whatlington, of Leeford Cottage, Whatlington. (CWGC spell her name Katherine.) In 1911 the older Alfred was a railway platelayer, and the younger one a domestic gardener.</p> <p>Foster was killed in action in the trenches near Armentières; he was the only death in his battalion on that day. His cemetery is just over the Belgian border.</p>			

Blackman, Charles William


<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt 8455, 2 Bn Rifle Bde	1881, St Leonards	04.08.16	Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>Blackman's background is hard to ascertain; the name is common in the area. But census data strongly suggests that he was the son of Thomas Blackman (c1850-1932), born at Crowhurst, and Mary Ann (Bates) born at Staplecross. In 1901 Thomas was a builder's labourer and Charles a general labourer; they lived at 428 Bexhill Road, St Leonards. In 1913 Blackman married Harriett Elizabeth Deeprise (1883-1932) of Ninfield; she lived at Spray's Cottage, Church Path.</p> <p>Blackman entered the war early, in August 1914. It seems likely that he died of wounds received on 30 July 1916, for no deaths are reported by his battalion from then up to 4 August.</p>			

Moon, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 3877, 22 Bn Australian Infantry	1886, Ewhurst	05.08.16	Mountfield. Villers-Bretonneux.
<p>Moon emigrated to Australia shortly before the war and enlisted at Melbourne. He was killed in action in the battle of Pozières.</p>			

Moon was unmarried and a grocer's assistant. In 1911 his father William (1858-1936) was described as a cowman on a farm, living at Vinehall Street, Robertsbridge. His mother, married in 1884, was Sarah (Hyland, 1855-1934).

Cramp, Leonard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G9252, 2 Bn RSR	1885, Udimore	07.08.16	Brewery Orchard Cemetery, Nord. Sedlescombe.
	<p>Cramp's father James Huggett Cramp (1855-1921) was an agricultural labourer, as Leonard was in the 1901 census; in 1911 he was a grocer's warehouseman. In 1878 James married Frances (Furminger, 1859-99). The family moved around nearby parishes – Udimore and Westfield – and in 1911 Leonard was at 3 Forge Cottages, Sedlescombe.</p> <p>Cramp was killed in action near Bazentin-le-Petit, in the same protracted action in which McQuillan lost his life.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofphonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Divall, Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 21139, 2 Bn Hampshire Regt	1894, Ninfield	09.08.16	Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ninfield.
<p>It is difficult to detect where Divall was killed in action. The cemetery is at Ypres, but his battalion appears to have been at the Somme front at the time. There may be confusion in the records between two men of the same name. He was formerly Private 5824 in the Royal Sussex.</p> <p>Divall's father was George (1861-1927) and his mother Clara Caroline (Hunt, 1862-1927). They married in 1888. In 1911 George was a bread baker living at the Mill House in Ninfield and the young Frank was a baker boy, no doubt learning the trade.</p>			

Ransom, William James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G8606, 2 Bn RSR. 1	1895, Bexhill	16.08.16	Ninfield. Thiepval.
<p>Ransom was the third local man to die in the same action. He too was killed near Bazentin-le-Petit. He was a son of John W Ransome – the spelling was variable – (1865-1940) and Mercy (Howe, 1867-1915), of Ashburnham. They married in 1890. In 1911 John described himself as a waggoner on a farm and they lived in Manchester Road, Ninfield. William was a farm bailiff's assistant.</p>			

Hyland, Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 3370, 1/5 Bn RSR	1897, Whatlington	18.08.16	Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Whatlington.
<p>Hyland was the younger brother of David Hyland, who would die on 6 September. He was a son of Thomas Hyland (1848-1915), of Sedlescombe, and Rebecca Elizabeth (Watkins, 1855-1935), who had been born at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. They married in 1886. In 1911 they were at Mill Cottages, Whatlington. His battalion was at Aveluy, almost a suburb of Albert.</p>			

Stevenson, Leonard Percival

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G3774, 8 Bn East Kent Regt	1897, Battle	18.08.16	Thiepval.
<p>Stevenson was the son of Walter Stevenson (1867-1950), in 1911 a warehouseman (furniture), and his wife Emily Jane (Powell, 1876-1923). They married in 1894. Their son Leonard was an ironmonger's assistant. They lived at 4 Leopold Road, Bexhill.</p> <p>His battalion was engaged in the battle of Delville Wood near Longueval and it is likely that he died in that action.</p>			

Barnes, Harold Reginald

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 153133 CEF Manitoba Regt	18.10.94	18.08.16	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Catsfield.
<p>Barnes emigrated to Canada and joined the forces there. He died on the Ypres front from gunshot wounds to his chest.</p> <p>In 1911 Barnes was a waggoner on a farm, living with his father and stepmother at Henley Down, Catsfield. His father Isaac Barnes (1858-) was a shepherd and his birth mother was Harriet (Bryant, 1860-1900); they were both from Brede and married in 1878. 1915 Harold married Annie Sheather (1895-1969), born at Bexhill, who remarried after the war. There were no children.</p>			

Cheal, William George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G8605, 2 Bn RSR	1895, Battle area	20.08.16	Ninfield. Thiepval.
<p>Cheal was killed in action near Bazentin-le-Petit, with the men listed above for that area. His father was William Cheal (1856-1948) of Bexhill, whom CWGC describes as a farm bailiff at Pashley Farm, Ninfield. In 1884 he had married Mary Jane (Deeprise, 1858-1937), of Ninfield. In 1911 their son was only eleven and described as a houseboy.</p>			

Anderson, Bernard George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt TF3488 5 Bn RSR	05.11.1892, Battle	21.08.16	St Sever Cemetery, Haute Normandie. Battle.
<p>Anderson was wounded at Ovillers near Albert on or just before 5 August. Wounded in the thigh, he was evacuated to Rouen Military Hospital but although his condition seemed fair at first it deteriorated. His mother was able to attend at his death. He had been a Territorial before the war and went to France in February 1915.</p> <p>Anderson's father was Bernard Ticehurst Anderson (1867-1941), a jam boiler with Newbery's, and his mother was (Harris, 1869-1925). The younger Bernard was a plumber. They lived at 9 Mount Street, Battle.</p>			

Ford, Frederick James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Sgt G5774, 8 Bn East Kent Regt	1887, Bridge, Kent	21.08.16	La Nouvelle British Cemetery, Somme. Brede.
<p>Ford was wounded, either on 18 August at Waterlot Farm or on 21 August in support of a failed attack by the Rifle Brigade.</p> <p>He was a son of William Ford (1853-1933), who in 1911 is described as a builder's carpenter. In 1876 he married Jane (Hearnden, 1854-1918) and they lived at Park Villas, Union Road, Bridge, Kent. At that point Frederick was a domestic gardener. Later that year he married Edith Linda Mayo (1893-), reportedly of Brede, who later retired to her native Dorset.</p>			

Ling, Frank Richard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 587, 23 Bn Australian Army	D1897, Buckland Berkshire	23.08.16	Villers Bretonneux.
<p>Ling was another casualty of the battle of Pozières. He had emigrated to Australia very shortly before the war and enlisted at Melbourne in February 1915. Leaving Australia on HMS <i>Scotian</i>, he was sent to Gallipoli in August 1915 where he suffered a serious wound to a shoulder, rejoining his unit in May 1916.</p> <p>Two Ling brothers of Abbey Green, Battle, died in the war; neither is named on a Battle memorial. (See Edward Ling, June 1916). They were Berkshire-born but moved around with their father, a hotel manager. In Battle he ran the Star Hotel (later the 1066) and then the Abbey Hotel. He was George Richard Ling (1862-), born at Camberwell, Surrey, who in 1882 married Rose (Rippon, 1862-1939).</p>			

Jamieson, Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9261, 1 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1885, Sandhurst, Kent	24.08.16	Robertsbridge. Thiepval.
<p>Jamieson was the son of a sawyer and carpenter from Beckley. This was William Jamieson (1861-48), who in about 1874 married Phoebe Ellen Pope (1858-) of Sandhurst in Kent. In 1911 they were living at Bodiam. Harry's record is less easy to find but it is likely that he was the regular soldier whom the 1911 census found at an overseas barracks. The diary of his battalion states that on 24 August it suffered heavy casualties in attacking the German line near Delville Wood.</p>			

Oliver, William Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Private 24550, 2 Bn S Lancashire Regt	1897, Robertsbridge	27.08.16	Robertsbridge. Thiepval.
<p>On 27 August Oliver's battalion was near Authuille and attacked the German line under heavy bombardment. He was killed in this action.</p> <p>Jamieson joined the Suffolk Regiment was very soon transferred. At his attestation he stated that his occupation was fruit farming; in 1911 he was a farm worker. His father Thomas (1865-1920) was a stockman on a farm; in 1895 he had married Philadelphia Cotton (1866-). Thomas was from Erith in Kent and Philadelphia from Essex.</p>			

Dyer, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD585, 11 Bn RSR	1882, Battle	30.08.16	Englebelmer Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme.
<p>The war diary shows that on the night of 30 September the battalion was at Mailly Wood but no casualties are reported. In the absence of information it would therefore seem that Dyer died of wounds.</p> <p>Dyer's father was George Dyer (c1825-1885), an agricultural labourer. In 1881 he was living at Westfield Down with William's elder brother George and their mother Jane (Marchant, -1995). After George's death the family moved into Battle Workhouse; William's occupation is given as farm labourer. His whereabouts are unknown after that.</p>			

SEPTEMBER 1916

The Western Front 1916

Egerton, Edward Brassey

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt D Squadron, 17 Bn Lancers	03.03.1889	01.09.16	Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. Mountfield.

Egerton was from one of the best-known families of the area. His father was Charles Augustus Egerton (1846-1912) of Mountfield Court and his mother Mabelle Annie (Brassey, 1865-1927), daughter of the first Lord Brassey, later Earl Brassey, of Normanhurst. Edward was heir to Mountfield Court. In 1915 he married Lady Eleanor Rachel Butler (1894-1969), daughter of the Marquess of Ormonde. There were no children. She remarried after the war.

Egerton was hit by a shell behind the line on 31 August and died at noon the next day. Due caution should be taken of internet claims that he died in Germany in 1918.

Hoad, Frank Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt 429, 11 Bn RSR	1889, Battle	03.09.16	Thiepval. Ripe.
<p>Hoad has achieved a kind of immortality thanks to Edmund Blunden (1896-1974) having written a poem about his death: he was struck by a shell splinter during a successful German attack on his post in the battle of the Ancre. Blunden was there at the time.</p> <p>Hoad had joined up in September 1914 and had been allowed time off for the harvest: he and his family were farmers. At first a Private, he was promoted Corporal in December, Lance Sergeant in March 2016 and Acting Sergeant and then Sergeant in July. His battalion was sent to France in March 1916.</p> <p>His father was Nelson Hoad (1864-1939) and his mother Mary Ann (Luxford, 1862-1942); they had married in 1888.</p>			

Burton, Hedley John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl SD1006, 11 Bn RSR	1892, Alfriston	03.09.16.	Crowhurst. Loos.
<p>Burton was a farmer's boy who in 1911 was living at Wilting Farm, Hollington with his father John (1866-1939) and his mother Mary (Combridge, 1869-1913); they had married in 1888. They later moved to Merriments Farm at Hurst Green. Their connection with Crowhurst has not been found.</p> <p>Burton was killed in action at Beaumont Hamel, in the same action as Hoad.</p>			

Clark, John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD1013, 11 Bn RSR	1881, Ashburnham	03.09.16	Thiepval.
<p>Clark was a son of David Clark (1850-) and Fanny (Holdstock, 1856-): he was from Ashburnham and she from Sedlescombe. They married in 1876 and had a large family. The 1881 census has them living at Marl Pits, Ashburnham. In 1911 he was a dairyman farmer, living at Henniker Cottages, Sidley. His brother was Albert Clark, who was to die on the western front in March 1918. In 1906 he married Hannah Mahala Easton (1876-1959) of Bexhill and they had five children. His war record states that he lived at Ninfield.</p> <p>On the day of his death his battalion attacked the German lines at Beaumont Hamel but were beaten back; he was one of five 'other ranks' to be killed.</p>			

Stone, William George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD1471, 12 Bn RSR	1895, Little Common	03.09.16	Hamel Military Cemetery, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Stone was the third local man to be killed in action on this day, again in the battle of the Ancre. In 1911 he is reported as a farm labourer living at Collins Green, Ewhurst, with his father Alfred Stone (1868-1954), a general labourer and wood dealer, and his mother Annie (Wright, 1872-1903). He was from Bexhill. His brother Alfred is later reported as living at Morgay, Staplecross.</p>			

Hyland, David

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD3140, 13 Bn RSR	1896, Whatlington	06.09.16	Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Whatlington.
<p>Hyland died of wounds. That he is buried at Etaples suggests a date for his suffering them at least a few days earlier than 6 September. His battalion were then north of Albert. His brother Arthur died in August 1916. Hyland was a son of Thomas Hyland (1848-1915), of Sedlescombe, and Rebecca Elizabeth (Watkins, 1855-1935), who had been born at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. They married in 1886. In 1911 they were at Mill Cottages, Whatlington; CWGC reports a later address, presumably for Rebecca alone, of 20 St Andrew's Square, Hastings. Thomas was an agricultural labourer and David in 1911 a telegraph messenger for the GPO.</p>			


Veness, Frederick William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2127, 8 Bn RSR	1894, Mountfield	08.09.16	Mountfield. Thiepval.
<p>Veness's father was William James Veness (1859-1944), in 1911 a house painter of Mountfield, and his mother Alice Maria (Tassell, 1862-1934), of Bayswater. They married in 1892. In 1911 the family was at Vinehall Street, Mountfield; Frederick was a groom and 'domestic boy'. The battalion's war diary does not have entries for September 1916. It is clear, however that it was on the Somme front and very active.</p>			

Kendall, Robert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt STK1031, 10 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1892, Clapham, Surrey	08.09.16	Loos British Cemetery, Nord. Battle.
<p>Kendall was a nephew of the Battle GP, George Kendall, and was living at Battle. He was a son of Alfred Charles Kendall (1855-1902), a chemist from Surrey who was to die at Battle, and Kate (Jones, who appears to have been born in about 1860). They had married in 1885. SDGW reports Robert as a shipping clerk. He died of wounds, which makes it difficult to determine the action in which he suffered them. He is buried at Loos, well north of the main battleground of the Somme.</p>			

Gurr, Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G11230, 2 Bn RSR	1896, Catsfield	09.09.16	Catsfield. Thiepval.
	<p>Gurr was killed in action near Ginchy. He was one of 43 'other ranks' killed in a further assault on High Wood. Like so many others, in civilian life he worked on the land. His father David Henry Gurr (1861-1951) is listed in 1911 as a carter on a farm, and Albert as a carter's boy. In 1884 David had married Emma Gander (1866-1934) and they had had 13 children. They lived in Skinner's Lane, Catsfield.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Richens, Wilfred William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 104496, 1 Bn Saskatchewan Regt	19.02.94, Longcot, Berkshire.	15.09.16	Sedlescombe. Vimy.
<p>Richens was killed near Vimy, where the Canadians were to be involved in a historic action in the following year. He had emigrated to Canada before the war and his address there was Golden West, Assiniboia,</p>			

Saskatchewan; he enlisted at Regina. His father Eli (1869-1942) was a dairy farmer, and his mother was Grace Edith (Cox, 1867-1951); they married in 1892. The Roll of Honour gives their address as Footlands, presumably Footland Farm, Sedlescombe. In 1911 they were at Hildenborough and they both died in Kent.

Foster, Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2277, 12 Bn RSR	1879, Ewhurst	20.09.16	Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Somme. Ewhurst.

Neither the military or the other public records shed much light on Foster's background. We know that his father was Alfred (c1831-1908) and that his mother was Elizabeth, born in about 1844. It is possible that he was married. In 1911 he was a carter on a farm and lived at Ewhurst. Another record places his parents at Snagshall, Ewhurst.

Foster was killed in the attempt to seize the Redan Ridge. His cemetery is near Beaumont Hamel.

Jones, Hugh Douglas Dudley

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 10727, 1 Bn E Surrey Regt	1893, Crowhurst	25.09.16	Crowhurst. Thiepval.

This was another High Wood death. Jones was killed in action.

The family lived at Forwood Lane Cottage. Hugh's father Henry James Jones (1858-) owned a stone quarry in 1911; his mother Ann (Bailey, 1860-) was from Northiam. They had married in 1879. Hugh was a jobbing gardener.

Hibbert, Henry James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G24565, 7 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	New Cross, Kent	28.09.16	Connaught Cemetery, Somme. Brightling.

On the day of his reported death the battalion was attacking the Schwaben Redoubt. Unfortunately nothing can be found of anything further of this man other than that he had earlier been Private 9409 in the Royal Sussex. SDGW has him living at Robertsbridge.

Puxty, Jack

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G13338, 7 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1892, Ticehurst.	28.09.16	Dallington. Thiepval.

Puxty was killed in the same action as Hibbert.

In 1911 William John Puxty was a farm labourer, son of William Puxty (1863-), who had described himself as a farmer but now was a general dealer and hawker, and Mary Ann (Gudgin, 1862-1943). William was from Ticehurst and Mary Ann from Bedfordshire. They lived in Heathfield. Their later address was Sunny Bank, Dallington.

Budgen, Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G24554, 7 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1885, Brightling	28.09.16	London Cemetery Extension, Somme. Dallington.

In 1911 Budgen was listed as a milk man – possibly a deliverer but also possibly someone who actually milked the cows. His father Isaac (1858-1936) was a truss hoop maker; married in 1882, his wife was Mary Jane Gadd (1861-1941). They were both born at West Hoathly. The family lived at Park Cottage, Dallington.

Budgen had originally joined the Royal Sussex (Pte 5824) and later transferred to the West Surrey Regiment. He was killed in action in the assault on the Schwaben Redoubt.


Wheeler, William John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 28234, 8 Bn E Surrey Regt	1896, Guestling	30.09.16	Westfield. Thiepval.
<p>The nearest we can come to the Wheeler family is through the 1911 census, when they are at Ash Cottage, Westfield. James Albert Wheeler (1864-1937) is a gardener married to Mary Agnes (Ivory, 1868-), born at Kilkenny in Ireland.</p> <p>William was formerly in the Royal Sussex and was killed in action at the Schwaben Redoubt. His brother Leonard was to die in March 1918.</p>			


OCTOBER 1916

The Western Front 1916

Neeves, Samuel

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte F3118, 23 Bn Middlesex Regiment	1895, Battle	01.10.16	Battle. Thiepval.
	<p>Neeves is the only one of those whose name should be on the churchyard memorial at Battle but is remembered on the British Legion memorial; there were many who are on neither. In 1911 Neeves was a confectioner's assistant at Newbery's jam factory; the family lived in Whatlington Road, Battle. His father Samuel (1838-1930), from Rye, was a wood dealer; he married Eliza Ann Whibley (1865-1950) of Cranbrook in Kent in 1894, and the young Samuel was their only child.</p> <p>Neeves enlisted late in 1915, initially in the 27th Battalion, and went to France in the following May. His death was in an action near Gueudecourt in front of a small German salient, which was beaten off.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Godden, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD930, 11 Bn RSR	1896, Udiam	01.10.16	Caudry Old Communal Cemetery, Nord. Ewhurst.
	<p>Godden was taken prisoner in the battle of the Ancre on 3 September and died in custody, presumably of wounds. On that day his battalion was attacking the German lines at Beaumont Hamel and had some success but were beaten off with serious losses: while only eight were reported killed at the end of the day, 168 were wounded and 131 missing. Godden is buried in a mass grave.</p> <p>Godden was born at Dykes Farm, Udiam. His father Abraham Godden (1867-1945) was a farm labourer and his mother was Martha Ann (Smith, 1872-1918); they had married in 1891. He was from Ewhurst and she from Sandhurst in Kent. In 1915 they lived in Dagg Lane, Ewhurst. Another account is more specific: at Prawles Farm, where Abraham was the foreman.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Creasey, Alexander William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD901, 2 Bn RSR	1892, Warbleton	04.10.16	Bodle Street Green churchyard. Ashburnham.
<p>Creasey was a son of Herbert Creasey (1852-1925), an agricultural labourer born at Ashburnham, and his wife Emily (Hobday, 1855-1929), from Bodle Street. They married in 1875. In 1911 Alexander was a waggoner's mate on a farm at Ashburnham.</p> <p>He died at Govan Military Hospital, Glasgow. He had previously been in a South Downs battalion and had transferred, presumably after the debacle of 30 June 1916. It is likely that he was invalided out from the battle</p>			

of the Somme.

Harmer, Herbert Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G5924, 7 Bn E Kent Regt	33, Crowhurst	06.10.16	Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme. Crowhurst.
<p>Harmer was killed in action, again at the Schwaben Redoubt. The war diary for 6 October contains no deaths for that day but a writing up of the numbers killed on the few preceding days; this must have been common. Harmer was a son of Harry Harmer (1861-1930) of Burwash, stated in 1911 to be a bricklayer, and Harriet Catherine (Pont, 1861-1915), of Heathfield. They married in 1883 and in the 1890s moved to Shop Cottage, Crowhurst. Harmer's brother Harold would be killed 15 days later and another, Alfred, had been killed just over a year before.</p>			

Smith, Arthur Neville

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 27728, 9 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1897, Battle	07.10.16	Battle. Thiepval.
<p>Smith's father must have been well-known at Battle and often quietly cursed, because he ran (and lived at) the Marley Lane level crossing, far too frequently closed for the convenience of those wishing to cross it. He was Walter (1864-1927), of Felpham, who in 1887 had married Annie Elizabeth Hastings (Nevill, 1867-1942) of Folkestone, Kent. In 1911 Arthur was an apprentice grocer. On the day of Smith's death his battalion was engaged in the battle for the Transloy Ridges, an attack that was broken by devastating machine gun fire.</p>			


Meppem, Sydney Clarence

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 6192, 22 Bn London Regt, Royal Fusiliers	1895, Ewhurst	08.10.16	Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>Sydney Meppem was the brother of Ormond Meppem, who was to die in 1917. In 1911 his father Ormond Edwin Meppem (1846-1945), born at Ewhurst, was an estate bailiff at East Grinstead with his wife Isabella (Banister, 1860-1942), born at Salehurst and married in 1881. Sydney was a clerk. The family lived at Rose Cottage, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead.</p> <p>Meppem died in the continuing battle for High Wood, if the date above is correct. The date shown above for his death is from CWGC; SDGW have it as 8 December.</p>			

Hobday, Stephen George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, 23 Bn Central Ontario Regt	25.02.85, Ashburnham	08.10.16	Ashburnham. Vimy.
<p>Hobday was killed in action near Flers Courcellette. The battle for that position had finished on 22 September but further attacks were then made on both sides. He held the DCM for conspicuous gallantry on 15 June 1915.</p> <p>Hobday's father was Benjamin Thomas Hobday (1849-1929), a farmer at Glebe Farm, Penhurst in 1901 and at Bunces Farm, Ashburnham in 1911. In 1880 he married Elizabeth French (1849-1927). He was from Ashburnham and she from Penhurst. Stephen was a domestic servant at East Grinstead and went to Canada shortly afterwards; his attestation papers give his occupation as butler.</p>			

St John, Barbara Esmée

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Red Cross Nurse, Sussex/112 VAD	1885, Ashby de la Zouch	12.10.16	Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ninfield. Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire.
	<p>Barbara St John is the only woman in this account – but only one of the many who volunteered to serve those who fought and were wounded or infected. She appears to have died of Landry's paralysis, a form of sensory paralysis now called Guillain-Barré Syndrome.</p> <p>She was a daughter of Rev Henry Beauchamp St John (1851-1923), a vicar whose Clergy List record shows no connection with Sussex up to 1911; born in Dorset, he was then vicar of St Peter's Loudwater, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, having previously been vicar of Ashby de la Zouch. In 1914 he became vicar of Ninfield. In 1878 he had married Emily Anne (Bailey, 1842-1923) of Hampstead, Middlesex.</p>		

Isted, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 40398, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt	1887, Ashburnham	13.10.16	Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery,
<p>Isted was the son of Caroline Isted (1869-1920) of Ashburnham, and was born before her marriage to William Barden (1870-1960), of Worthing. He was therefore half-brother to Uriah Barden, who was to die on the western front in September 1918. In 1911 he was a farm labourer living with his mother and stepfather at Standard Hill, Ninfield. In 1912 he married Blossom Charlotte Elizabeth Miles (1890-1973) and they had two children. She remarried after the war.</p> <p>There is no mention in the battalion's war diary of any action on 13 October or shortly before.</p>			

Osborne, William James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G4167, 7 Bn RSR	1893, Robertsbridge	13.10.16	Robertsbridge. Thiepval.
<p>In 1911 William was a carter boy on a farm. His father Spencer Osborne (1860-1936) was a farm labourer living at Park Farm, Salehurst, married since 1893 to Harriett (Woodgate, 1868-1947). They are reported as later living at Stone Cottage, Salehurst Fruit Farm. They were both from Robertsbridge.</p> <p>The battalion's war diary for 13 October contains nothing of any action or casualties but on 10 October it reports that 174 'other ranks' had been killed in the previous ten days. The battalion was in trenches at Flers. Osborne was killed in action.</p>			

Watson, Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G16333, 12 Bn RSR	1891, Catsfield	16.10.16	Brede. Sedlescombe. Thiepval.
<p>He was a son of Nathan Watson (1850-1921), who listed himself and Ernest as gamekeepers in the 1911 census. Nathan's wife was Mary Ann (Barrow, 1851-1938); they married in 1873. In 1915 Ernest married Emily Martha Goodsell (1891-1971) and they had a son in 1915.</p> <p>On the day in question his battalion was at the Schwaben Redoubt but no deaths are reported. However four 'other ranks' died on the previous day.</p>			

Simmons, Alfonso

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 145830, 57 Field Coy RE	1886, Ninfield	28.10.16	St Pol Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais.

Simmons died of gangrene of the right tonsil, having contracted diphtheria. He had been in the army less than a year. His brother Newton Simmons was to die 40 days later. They were sons of William Simmons (1853-1932), of Wartling, and Sarah Elizabeth Ellen Rich (1857-1933), of Ninfield. In 1911 he and Alfonso were engine drivers in agricultural thrashing. They lived in various places, including Ninfield but in 1911 at 69 Sidley Street, Bexhill. At that point Alfonso's address was Thorne Mill, Ninfield.

Hobday, George Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD/5159, 11 Bn RSR	1896, Penhurst	21.10.16	Grandcourt Road Cemetery, Somme. Netherfield.
<p>Hobday was the son of William Hobday (1861-1945) and Mary Ann (Veness, 1868-40). He was from Dallington and she from Penhurst; he was an estate worker, presumably on the Ashburnham estate, and they lived at Rock Cottage, Ashburnham. In 1911 George was a farm worker, living at Battle Lodge. Hobday's battalion had a successful day on 21 October, taking the German front line at Stuff Trench north of Albert, but three officers and eleven 'other ranks' were killed.</p>			

Harmer, Harold Edwin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G5924, 11 Bn RSR	1883, Burwash	21.10.16	Grandcourt Road Cemetery, Somme. Crowhurst.
<p>Harmer was a son of Harry Harmer (1861-1930) of Burwash, stated in 1911 to be a bricklayer, and Harriet Catherine (Pont, 1861-1915), of Heathfield. They married in 1883 and in the 1890s moved to Shop Cottage, Crowhurst. Harmer's brother Alfred, had been killed just over a year before and another brother, Herbert, just fifteen days before. It is very likely that Harmer was another of the eleven 'other ranks' mentioned immediately above.</p>			


Butters, Arthur James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G16100, 12 Bn RSR	1896, Brightling	21.10.16	Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval. Mountfield.
<p>In the 1911 census Butters was a farm labourer living at Mountfield with his mother Elizabeth (Veness, 1860-1929). She and her husband William (1851-1903) were both from East Anglia, moving to Sussex in the late 1880s; he was a gamekeeper. They married in 1888. It is very likely that Butters was yet another of the eleven 'other ranks' mentioned immediately above.</p>			


NOVEMBER 1916

The Western Front 1916

Curry, William Leonard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, RGA	1891, Quetta, India	09.11.16	Puchevillers British Cemetery. Battle.
	<p>Curry was fatally wounded in action near Hébuterne in 26 October. He was part of a night-time group trying to establish precisely where the German lines were; he was the only one to get through the wire and was spotted by the Germans and seriously wounded. He was one of three brothers to serve as officers; the other two were badly wounded but survived. Curry was commissioned in 1911 and promoted Lieutenant in 1914; he then fought on the western front and was wounded in June 1915; he was promoted Captain two months later. Curry's father (1853-1944) was a railway engineer in India, and his mother Emily Matilda (Roach, 1852-1945); they married in India. William went to Tonbridge School and then Woolwich Academy. The family's later home was Breadsell Farm, in Battle but very close to Hollington.</p>		


Harmsworth, Vere Sidney Tudor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lieutenant, Hawke Bn, Royal Naval Divn, RNVR	1895, Eastbourne	13.11.16	Ancre British Cemetery, Somme. Robertsbridge.
	<p>Harmsworth was killed in action in the battle of the Ancre. He had been at the siege of Antwerp in 1914 but had escaped to Holland, escaping again to rejoin and serve at Gallipoli. On his last day he was wounded twice before reaching the German third line but was then killed by a shell. He had earlier refused a staff job, preferring the honour of leading his men over the top. A report states that "he showed fine courage and endurance in the trenches. His elder brother Harold was to be killed in 1918.</p> <p>Harmsworth came from a remarkable if controversial family. His father was Harold Sidney Harmsworth (1869-1940), the first Viscount Harmsworth and with his brother the Viscount Northcliffe a newspaper magnate. His mother was Lilian Mary (Share, 1874-1937). They lived in Westminster and latterly in Bermuda. Harold bought the site for the Imperial War Museum to be erected. His connection with Robertsbridge is not wholly clear; his brother Harold lived there and was to die in service in February 1918.</p>		

Elphick, Alfred Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte PS5690, 9 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1893, Catsfield	15.11.16	Ninfield churchyard. Ninfield.
<p>Elphick was wounded at the battle that won Ovillers and then invalided out; he died at Birmingham. He was the son of Alfred Elphick (1858-1937), in 1911 an assurance agent, and Charlotte Jane (Clark, 1861-1943); they married in 1883. The family lived at Lower Street, Ninfield. Alfred died at home.</p>			

Putland, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SPTS5400, 13 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1881, Catsfield	16.11.16	Catsfield. Thiepval.
	<p>Putland's father William (1851-82) was an agricultural labourer, in 1881 living in Church Road, Catsfield. He married Sarah Jane Ransom (1860-1922) in 1876; she remarried after his death. He was from Catsfield and she from Ashburnham. In the 1911 census his son William was a grocer's vanman living at the Green, Catsfield with his wife Charlotte (Kemp, 1882-1939) and their two children. They had married in 1904. CWGC records Charlotte as living at Catsfield Stream after the war.</p> <p>Putland was killed in action in the battle of the Ancre.</p> <p><i>From www.wv1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		


Loosemore, Thomas Edward Drake

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Private G20298, 4 Bn Middlesex Regt	1881, Salehurst	17.11.16	Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Robertsbridge.
<p>Loosemore also died in the battle of the Ancre, of wounds. In 1911 he was a linotype operator living with his mother Frances Elizabeth (Drake, 1838-1922) at Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex. His father Robert Wood Loosemore (1830-1901), was vicar of Salehurst for 22 years up to his death. Both were from Devon: Robert from Tiverton and Frances from Exeter. In 1912 Thomas married Edith Louisa Roberts (1884-1971) a Londoner; no children are recorded.</p>			

Martin, Luther

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt L9061, 8 Bn RSR	1886, Ewhurst	20.11.16	Stump Road Cemetery, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Luther, known as Lewis, Martin was killed by a shell when digging a communication trench between two captured German trenches in no man's land. His body was found a year later and buried some 100 yards away. The cemetery is just north of Thiepval. The 1901 census records Luther as an agricultural labourer; his father William (1853-1914), born at Ewhurst, was a shepherd on a farm. His mother was Eliza (Cousins, 1855-1908), born at Salehurst, married in 1876. They lived at Shoreham Cottages, Ewhurst.</p> <p>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</p>			

Stunt, Ernest John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2105, 8 Bn RSR	1894, Westfield	22.11.16	Bapaume Post Military Cemetery, Somme. Westfield.
	<p>Stunt's death was after the battle of the Ancre, but fighting had continued. He was killed in action.</p> <p>In 1911 Stunt was recorded as a milk cart driver at Westfield, where his parents lived at Ash Cottages. They were Lester William Stunt (1866-1912), then a road workman, and Mary Ann (Noakes, 1872-1937). He was born at Westfield; she came from Guestling. Late in 1914 Ernest married Alice Maud Gower (1891-1946) at Hastings. His brother Lester would die on the western front in July 1917.</p> <p>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</p>		

Chandler, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 28142, 8 Bn E Surrey Regt	1893, Brightling	23.11.16	St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute Normandie. Brightling.
<p>Chandler died of wounds at Rouen base hospital.</p> <p>It is difficult to trace Chandler's background because the family seems to have had a resistance to recording births, marriages and deaths. His father William Chandler (1864-1943), from Robertsbridge, was a gamekeeper – and his son William was an assistant gamekeeper in 1911 – and he named William's mother Ellen (1868-1941), from Brightling, as his wife. In 1911 they lived at the Kennels, Robertsbridge.</p>			

Ransom, Alfred William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G8654, 2 Bn RSR	1895, Bexhill	28.11.16	St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute Normandie. Ninfield.
<p>He and the rest of his family were all born at Bexhill or Hastings and lived there in the censuses in which they are recorded, including 1911. His parents, Alfred Ransom (1865-1932) and Florence Selina (Goodsell, 1868-1940) were, however, married in the Battle area – though the registration district did not cover Ninfield. Florence was to die in the Battle area, too.</p> <p>In 1911 the family were at 36 Beaconsfield Road, Bexhill, where the elder Alfred was a plasterer and the younger one an ironmonger's porter.</p> <p>Ransom was wounded in the neck on 26 June 1916. The battalion's war diary reports no action or casualties on that day (but heavy fighting two days later). It was then between Béthune and Lens.</p>			

Simmons, Newton

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G12593, 9 Bn RSR	1891, Ninfield	07.12.16	Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais.
<p>Simmons died of wounds. The battalion's war diary, unusually, contains the names of casualties among the 'other ranks' but there is no mention of him. At the time it was in the Aveluy area, close to Albert. His brother Alfonso Simmons died 40 days earlier.</p> <p>They were sons of William Simmons (1853-1932), of Wartling, and Sarah Elizabeth Ellen Rich (1857-1933), of Ninfield. In 1911 Newton was a butcher's assistant. The family lived in various places, including Ninfield but in 1911 at 69 Sidley Street, Bexhill. Newton married Edith Page in 1913.</p>			

Thompsett, Charles William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 3196, 7 Bn London Regt	1880, Crowhurst	15.12.16	Crowhurst
<p>Thompsett was one of two men killed in a German bombardment, assisted by aeroplanes, that caused considerable damage to new trenches. This appears to have been on the Ypres front.</p> <p>Thompsett is recorded in the 1911 census as a general labourer living with his wife Jane (c1886-) at 43 Pellant Road, Fulham, Middlesex. His father was James Thompsett (1851-1944), born at Battle, and his mother Charlotte (Gain, 1849-1925) from Guestling. James was an agricultural labourer.</p>			

The Western Front 1917

JANUARY 1917

The Western Front 1917

Smith, Robert Leigh

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl G2199, 3 Bn RSR	1892, Brede	23.01.17	Broad Oak Wesleyan Chapel. Brede.
Smith was invalided out and died at home, Kingswoodland at Brede. His father Richard Smith (1855-) was a grocer and draper, in 1911 living at Cackle Street, Brede. His mother was Marion (Baker, 1861-) from Dover, Kent; they married in 1884.			

Pelling, Alfred Walter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G6569, 11 Bn RSR	1882, Westfield	27.01.17	Lijssehoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Brede.
In the 1911 census Pelling was an agricultural labourer living with his parents on Brede Hill. His father was Walter Pelling (1858-1946), a brickmaker, and his mother Elizabeth Ann (Munton, 1862-1940) from Lincolnshire; they married in 1880. Later in 1911 Alfred married Winifred Alice Hoad (1886-1937); they had two children. They lived at 2 Sunflower Cottages, High Street, Brede. Pelling died of wounds close to Ypres.			

FEBRUARY 1917

The Western Front 1916

1917, FEBRUARY

Brett, William Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt SD996, 12 Bn RSR	1880, Hastings	03.02.17	Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Brightling. Hastings.
<i>It has proved impossible to track Brett down, so this article speculates, as the Roll of Honour website does, that he was the man listed. Bretts of Brightling are similarly difficult to find when seeking information on them in the Second World War.</i> Brett was killed in action at Railway Wood, Ypres. He was a regular soldier who signed up with the Royal Sussex in 1898 and had seen service overseas, particularly in India. Discharged in 1914, he would certainly have been called up as a reservist. He appears to have married Florence Jane Peerless (1885-) in 1908 and had one child. His parents were William Brett (1854-1940), a house painter, and Elizabeth (Colbran, 1858-1941). Any connection with Brightling is unknown; this was a Hastings family.			

Carrick, Owen

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G14919. 1 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1878, Westfield	09.02.17	Hem Farm Military Cemetery, Somme. Westfield.
The war diary for the battalion reports no deaths on 9 February but two on the previous day just as it was being relieved near Cléry, at the front line near Péronne. Hem Farm cemetery is very close to this point. Carrick was the son of Charles Carrick (1840-), in 1911 a brick and tile manufacturer of Westfield; Owen was listed as a tilemaker. His mother was Catherine (Hyland, 1842-1915), married in 1866. Carrick had married only in the last quarter of 1916, to Eva Izot Adams (1882-1982). There were no children and she did not remarry. CWGC give her address as 25 East Street, Robertsbridge, but it is clear that the married couple lived at Sedlescombe.			

Jenner, John Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G13381, 1 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1890, Battle	11.02.17	Bray Military Cemetery, Somme. Battle.
<p>The battalion was in training on 11 February, and the last deaths reported before then were on 8 February – see Carrick, above. Bray Military Cemetery is a little further back from the front line than Hem Farm. Jenner's background takes some unravelling but it is clear that he was the illegitimate son of Eliza Jenner (1865-1947), father unknown. In 1892 she married William Henry White and all three are recorded in 1911 as living together at 2 Chapel Cottages, Battle. John was a farm carter.</p>			

Wait, Archer Randall

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 51862, 11 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1891, Catsfield	17.02.17	Catsfield. Thiepval.
<p>Wait was a son of Henry Wait (1858-1937), born at Catsfield, and Amelia (Randall or Smith, 1860-1937), from Dallington. In 1901 and 1911 Henry was a carrier, and the family lived at Church Road, Catsfield in 1901 and on Catsfield Hill in 1911. They married in 1883. CWGC gives their address as Marlboro' House, Catsfield Stream.</p> <p>Wait, formerly Private 3337 in the 17th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He died in an attack on the German lines at Miraumont on the old Somme front line west of Bapaume. The Germans seemed to know it was coming.</p>			

Keeley, James William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 2535, 8 Bn RSR	1895, Hailsham	25.02.17	Aveluy Military Cemetery, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Keeley's death looks very like that of Luther Martin in the previous November: killed by a shell while digging trenches in no-man's-land. His cemetery is just north of Albert.</p> <p>Keeley's father was John Pearson Keeley (1850-1932), who in 1911 is described as a hay trusser living at Sparks Cottages, Northiam Road, Staplecross. In 1882 John had a common-law marriage with Esther Piper, née Ulyatt (1857-1934), who was already married.</p>			

MARCH 1917

The Western Front 1917

Muddle, William Benjamin George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G15849, 11 Bn RSR	1897, Brightling	02.03.17	Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), West Flanders, Belgium
<p>Muddle was brother of Joseph Muddle, killed in 1914. He was a son of Joseph (1865-1957), of Lewes, and Rosa Kate Hook (1870-1955) of Robertsbridge. They married at Salehurst on Christmas Day 1886. The family lived at Longhouses, Brightling. In 1911 Joseph was a farm labourer.</p> <p>He was killed in action on the Ypres front.</p>			

Brook, John Benjamin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G4938, 10 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1882, Ninfield	07.03.17	Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium.
<p>Brook was an agricultural labourer like his father James Brook (c1850-). His mother was Margaret (Eastland, 1857-1895), married in 1877. Both were from Ninfield and the family moved around in the parish: at various times they were at Cooks Town, Timnkers Town or Hazards Green. In 1909 John married Mary Victoria Flint (1887-1935) and they lived at 2 Brooklands Cottages, Ashurst Wood and later at Cowden in Kent. Sh had been</p>			

born at Henstead (she says Norfolk but it is in Suffolk, near Lowestoft). His battalion was at Dickebusch near Ypres on the day of his death but no deaths were reported. It is likely, therefore, that he died of wounds.

Fletcher, Frederick Nelson

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 25356, 6 Bn Northamptonshire Regt	1887, Battle	20.03.17	Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Battle.
<p>Fletcher was killed when his battalion was sent to fill part of the gap left by the Germans as they withdrew to the Hindenburg line, near Croisilles.</p> <p>Fletcher's father Henry Charles Fletcher (1860-1938) was a journeyman tailor (maker) in 1911, when the family lived in Mount Street, Battle. In 1885 he had married Minnie Vidler (1864-1916). In 1911 their son Frederick was a bus driver.</p>			

Crouch, Edwin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 43570, 22 Bn Manchester Regt	1889, Staplecross	28.03.17	Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ewhurst.
<p>Crouch's father was also Edwin (1861-1923), in 1911 a stockman on a farm; his mother was Elizabeth (Goodsell, 1861-1946). They married in 1888. The young Edwin was a journeyman miller in 1911.</p> <p>Edwin was formerly Private G8962 in the Royal Sussex; he transferred very shortly before his death. He was killed in action near Croisilles. One source gives the parents' address as the Old Brewery, Staplecross.</p>			

Smissen, George Franklin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G/76, 7 Bn RSR	1893, Mountfield	31.03.17	Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brightling. Netherfield.
<p>Smissen died digging a trench, just like Keeley and Martin. He was one of eight men engaged on this task in the early morning when a shell landed and killed them. The battalion's war diaries do not mention this incident, so there must be some reporting error.</p> <p>Smissen's father John Franklin Smissen (1865-1952), originally from Horsmonden in Kent, was a labourer at the gypsum works. He married Sarah Ann Whibley (1863-1959) from Mountfield in 1890. They lived at Darwell Wood, Netherfield.</p>			

APRIL 1917

The Western Front 1917

Whiteman, Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman S14833, 11 Bn Rifle Bde	1894, Bow, Middlesex	04.04.17	Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
<p>The Roll of Honour researchers met great difficulty in placing this man. They chose the man from Bow because no others could be found; but there is no evidence to support any connection with Sussex, let alone with Brede. If it is indeed him, then his father may have been Frederick Henry Whiteman (1832-1890) and his mother Elizabeth Anne (Groves, 1854-1927). Elizabeth lived at 24 Mortham Street, West Ham, Essex.</p> <p>Whiteman was killed in action near the Hindenburg line. He had married Beatrice Clara Robinson (1892-2094) but they had no children.</p>			

Carter, William Sydney

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 44002, 9 Bn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry	1895, Netherfield	09.04.17	Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais. Netherfield.
Carter was killed in action near Monchy le Preux a little east of Arras, on the first day of the battle of Arras. His father was Edward Carter (1868-1920), a gypsum sorter, and his mother Minnie (Selmes, 1870-1928); they had married in 1892 and lived at Iyland Green, Netherfield. He was from Netherfield and she from Mountfield. In 1911 William was a farm labourer. He did not marry.			

Beeching, James Wallace

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18047, 7 Bn RSR	1894, Ninfield	09.04.17	Arras.
Beeching was killed in action during an attack on the German line by his battalion on 9 April, at Feuchy immediately east of Arras. Beeching's father was Stephen Beeching (1854-1936). His census returns show his birth to have been at Ashburnham but no available record confirms it. James's mother was Ruth (Ford, 1855-1932), of Ninfield. In 1911 they were living at 16 Salisbury Road, Bexhill. Stephen was a farm labourer and James a general labourer.			

Ticehurst, Albert John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 183396, 21 Bn Eastern Ontario Regt	29.06.1891, Mountfield	09.04.17	Lichfield Crater, Pas de Calais. Mountfield.
Like Carter, Ticehurst died on the first day of the battle of Arras. He emigrated just before the war began and enlisted at Calgary late in 1915. He was the son of Samson Ticehurst (1842-1903) born at Jevington, a shepherd on a farm, and Hannah (Harvey, 1945-) from Ashburnham; they married in 1864. In 1901 they lived in Vinehall Street, Mountfield but later in Jarvis Lane, Mountfield. In his military attestation Ticehurst said that he was a gardener.			

Hilder, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF/203438, 1/7 Bn Middlesex Regt	29, Ashburnham	10.04.17	London Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ashburnham.
Hilder reported himself as a farm labourer at his attestation in 1916. He was a son of Mountfield-born Lazarus Hilder (1851-1926), in 1911 a waggoner on a farm, and Charlotte (Southouse, 1864-1929) from Ashburnham; they married in 1877. Their address before and after the war was Kitchenham Cottage, Ashburnham. Hilder had two service numbers before his final regiment – 6146 in the 8th battalion and 9024 in the 7th. In 1920 he was reburied at Neuville-Vitasse; his original grave is now unknown. He died in the battle of Arras.			

Abrey, Albert Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 1101 then 1170, I Bn Australian Infantry	1889, Hollington	11.04.17	Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Hastings.
Abrey's father William Abrey (1853-1929) was the butler to the Lamb family at Beauport Park, and his mother was Robina (Watts, 1863-1928); they married in 1888. He had been born at Old Windsor, Berkshire and she at Hillingdon Heath, Middlesex. Albert was in the same business, being recorded as a domestic footman in 1911. He left for Australia in July 1914, and lived at Little Bethanga, Victoria but not for long: in September he enlisted at Sydney. His battalion left in December and fought at Gallipoli in the next year. Sent to France in March 1916, Abrey was wounded in the thigh on 6 April near Albert and died five days later.			

Collins, John Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
G16476, 9 Bn RSR	1883, Hastings	13.04.17	Menin Gate.
<p>Collins was a son of John George Collins (1861-1935), a french polisher (pianos) who in 1911 was living at 75 Emmanuel Road, Hastings with his wife Sarah Jane (Carey, 1862-1924); they married in 1882. He was from Hastings and she from Ninfield (though the census says Hooe). In 1909 Collins married Alice Caroline Cheal (1883-) from Ninfield and they had at least two children. CWGC record her as living after the war at Pashley Farm, Ninfield.</p> <p>Collins had served as a territorial with the Royal Sussex before the war and was called up immediately. He had been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal in 1913. He was among 40 'other ranks' killed in an action close to Souchez, about halfway between Arras and Béthune.</p>			

Jamieson, Mercer

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G8959, 9 Bn RSR	1889, Hawkhurst	13.04.17	Robertsbridge. Arras.
<p>In 1911 the family was at Bodiam (at least later at Fuchsia Cottage): William (1860-1948), an estate carpenter from Beckley, with his wife Phoebe Ellen (Pope, 1858-1918) from Sandhurst in Kent, and two children; they had married in 1883. In 1911 Mercer was described as a bricklayer's labourer.</p> <p>Mercer was killed in action along with 49 other men. The context was what appears to have been a successful assault on the German lines near Angres, just west of Lens.</p>			

Baker, Herbert Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 116252, 47 Bn Western Ontario Regt	18.02.1894, Westfield	13.04.17	Westfield. Vimy.
<p>Baker was killed in action near Vimy Ridge. He had enlisted in Vancouver in 1915.</p> <p>In the 1901 census his parents were living in New Cut, Westfield: James (1867-), a general labourer, and Esther Louisa (Box, 1872-). They lived at Mount Pleasant, New Cut, Westfield. Both were Westfield-born. Baker married Susan Nellie Munday (1895-) of White Gate Gardens, Westfield late in 1916. They had one son, born later in 1917.</p>			

Barwick, Edward Sidney

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 20206, 11 Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt	1896, Cutcombe, Somerset	14.04.17	Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Sedlescombe.
<p>Barwick died of wounds at Etaples Military Hospital.</p> <p>His father James Barwick (1856-1927) was born at Dunster close to the Somerset coast, and his mother Eliza (Howe, 1864-1955) at Cutcombe inland from there. In 1911 Edward was a domestic servant at Cutcombe, and the rest of the family were at Hawkington Farm there, where James was a shepherd. Edward's parents had married in 1884. Edward married Florence Vera Gibbs (1891-1991) in 1914. There were no children and she remarried after the war. His parents came to live at the Lamp Post, Sedlescombe.</p>			

Winchester, William Amos

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD3259, 13 Bn RSR	1880, Ticehurst	16.04.17	Béthune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>Winchester died of wounds.</p> <p>His father was a farmer, William Winchester (c1858-), of Lamberhurst in Kent, and his mother Mary Jane (Chatfield, 1857-1947), from Bodiam. They married in 1879. Winchester had married Dora Bertha Kemp (1884-1950) of Ticehurst. They had four children by 1911 and another two appear to have been born between then and 1916.</p> <p>Winchester's brother Jesse Winchester was to die on the western front in May 1917.</p>			

Blackman, Stephen

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 212281, D Bty, 17 Bde RFA	1881, Westfield	17.04.17	Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Westfield.
<p>In 1911 Blackman was recorded as a general labourer, living with his wife Edith (Foster, 1880-); they had married in the previous year and would go on to have at least one child. His father was James Blackman (1849-1901), also a general labourer, and his mother Mercy (Catt, 1850-1930); they married in 1880. They lived at Yew Tree Cottage, Westfield. Stephen and his wife were living there in 1911. Blackman died of wounds. We do not know where he was wounded, but it was near Ypres.</p>			

Wait, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G50601, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt	1879	22.04.17	Battle. Thiepval.
<p>Wait died on the Somme front after the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg line. He was one of several brothers who served in the war. When conscription arrived early in 1916 he applied for exemption in that he was the only man at the house and his widowed mother needed him, but he was refused. In 1911 he was described as a bricklayer's labourer, living with his brother Joseph at 17 Lower Lake, Battle. His father William John Wait (1850-1912) was a joiner living at Parks Yard, Battle, with his wife Ellen (Preston, 1850-). He was from Battle but she from Leicestershire.</p>			

Turner, Ernest Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 21339, 2Bn Hampshire Regt	1881, Ashburnham	23.04.17	Windmill British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ashburnham. Eastbourne.
<p>Both Turner's parents were from East Hoathly. His father Benjamin (1836-99) was an agricultural labourer; his wife Tamar (Wren, 1837-78), married in 1858, died before he moved to Ashburnham. His brother Francis had been killed on the day before the battle of Somme opened. His age, sourced from CWGC, indicates a birth in about 1881, well after his mother's death; it may just have been a late registration. In 1912 Turner married Louisa Lily Relf (1889-1971) and they lived at 11A Beach Road, Eastbourne. They had no children. In 1911 he is placed at Eastbourne and works as a coal carman. CWGC states that he was an estate carter. Formerly Private G7168 in the Royal Sussex, Turner was killed in action near Arras.</p>			

Dennis, James Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 115392, 225 Siege Bty, RGA	1885, Etchingham	23.04.17	Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. Robertsbridge.
<p>Dennis died of wounds, presumably suffered shortly before his death; we do not know where. He was a son of James Dennis (1859-1937), in 1911 a farm labourer from Salehurst, and Ellen (Bourne, 1863-1936) from Worth. They married in 1884. In 1911 the younger Dennis was listed as a groom (not domestic) at Sidley. In 1914 he married Minnie Selina Weston (1889-1964), who remarried after his death. She lived at 16 East Street, Robertsbridge. They had one child, born less than a year before Dennis died.</p>			

Whistler, Ralfe Allen Fuller

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 2 Bn Highland Light Infantry, attached 2 i/c 14 Bn Royal Scots	24.07.1895, Glasgow, Lanarkshire	27.04.17	Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. Battle. Worcester.



Whistler was a professional soldier like his father Fuller Whistler (1859-1922) and in the same regiment – which explains why a Sussex man could be born in Glasgow. He passed out of Sandhurst in 1913 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant; he was promoted temporary Captain in February 1916 and Captain the following August. He took part in resisting the Germans after Mons in 1914 and was wounded on the Aisne; wounded again at Festubert in 1915 and at Kut el Amara in Mesopotamia in 1916. His last wounds were fatal, at Oppy the day before his death.

Ralfe Whistler, on passing out from Sandhurst 1914 (from Ralfe Whistler, nephew)

Whistler's mother was Gwennllian Annie (Robinson, 1869-1950), born at Lucknow in India; she married Fuller Whistler in India in 1889. They lived at Caldbec House on Caldbec Hill, Battle.

Ball, Albert George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G50642, 4 Bn Middlesex Regt	1884, Burghclere, Hampshire.	28.04.17	Westfield. Arras.
<p>Ball was killed in action as his battalion met strong German resistance by machine gun fire and sniping, at Monchy le Preux near Arras. He was a son of Charles Ball (1852-1917), a brewery carter in Newbury, Berkshire, and Thirza Belcher (1851-1919), who married in 1881. In 1905 he married Jessica Louise Farmer (1883-1960) of Reading, Berkshire, who later remarried. His connection with Westfield is unclear.</p>			

MAY 1917

The Western Front 1917

Barden, Lewis Crampton

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G107, 6 Bn E Kent Regt	1895, Hastings	03.05.17	Westfield. Arras.
<p>Barden was reported missing, actually killed near Arras. He had enlisted in August 1914. In 1911 Barden was recorded as a farm carter's assistant. He was a son of Lewis Barden (1861-1935), from Pett, in 1911 a carpenter living at Ashdown Cottage, Westfield. In 1884 he married Ellen Hare (1857-1918) of Watford in Hertfordshire. In 1901 the family was at Rocks Cottage, Westfield.</p>			


Harris, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 22907, 8 Bn E Surrey Regt	1884, Battle	03.05.17	Arras. Temple Ewell, Kent.
<p>Harris was also killed near Arras. In 1911 he was recorded as a jobbing gardener living at 12 Avenue Road, Kearsney, Dover, Kent, with his wife Mary Jane (Bushell, 1883-), from Eastry, and their son. They married in 1909. Harris was a son of Thomas William Harris (1845-1927), a shoemaker from Chatham who lived in Lansdell's Yard at Battle for some years before returning to his native Kent, and his wife Ellen (White, 1846-1907), from Lambeth in Surrey, recorded as a washerwoman in 1891; they married in 1871.</p>			

Harthill, Albert Victor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF202256, 1/7 Bn Middlesex Regt. 56 London Divn	1889, Brighton	06.05.17	Westfield. Arras.
<p>Harthill was another Arras casualty, killed in action. He was a son of William Swinfield Harthill (or Hartill, 1852-1946), a domestic coachman recorded as living at Yew Tree House Stables, Westfield, in 1911. He was born at Sheepy Magna, Leicestershire. In 1876 he had married Augusta Jane Mulcock (1853-1938), from Roade in Wiltshire. CWGC gives their address after the war as Plum Tree Cottage, Westfield and records their son as living at Cobham in Surrey.</p>			

Fuller, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 39215, 162 Bde RFA	1878, Upper Beeding	17.05.17	Duisans British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
	<p>There is little clear information about Fuller's birth; one record says that it was at Rye. He was a son of William Fuller (1853-1944), a machinist, and Eliza (Walls, 1851-1931). They are recorded as living at Bleak House, Brede Hill, after the war. In 1897 the younger William married Ann (Pescod, 1868-1952); by 1911 they had had four children, one of them already dead. Fuller died of wounds. The cemetery is just outside Arras. He was one of four brothers who served.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Winchester, Jesse

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 9475, 1/8 Bn Middlesex Regt	1892, Ticehurst	27.05.17	Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>Winchester died of wounds at Etaples Base Hospital; we do not know where he received them. Earlier in 1917 he married Violet Edith Barham (1895-1969) of Capel in Kent. There were no children. She remarried in 1919. His father was a farmer, William Winchester (c1858-), of Lamberhurst in Kent, and his mother Mary Jane (Chatfield, 1857-1947), from Bodiam. They married in 1879. Winchester's brother William Amos Winchester had died on the western front in April 1916.</p>			

JUNE 1917

The Western Front 1917

Crouch, Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 27108, 12 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1890, Brightling	10.06.17	Brightling. Menin Gate.
<p>Crouch was killed in action at Messines, a little south-east of Ypres. The battle of Messines is today remembered for the extraordinary explosion in tunnels dug by the British under the Messines-Wytschaete ridge, which according to some reports made London windows rattle early on 7 June. After then the British advanced but by 10 June the Germans had recovered and Crouch died in their barrage against the new British front line. Edward's father Henry Allen Crouch (1847-98) was a higgler from Dallington, a travelling salesman of dairy and animal products, and his mother was Ann Matilda (Hoad, 1850-1934) from Heathfield. They married in 1869.</p>			

Meppem, Ormond Edwin

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 225100, London Regt (Royal Fusiliers), 1 Bn attached 2 Bn	1882, Battle	15.06.17	Menin Gate.
<p>Meppem's brother Sydney had died in October 1916. They were sons of Ormond Edwin Meppem (1846-1945), born at Ewhurst, who in 1911 was an estate bailiff at East Grinstead with his wife Isabella (Banister, 1860-1942), married in 1881. Ormond was a butcher's assistant. The parents lived at Rose Cottage, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead.</p> <p>Meppem died close to Ypres.</p>			

Jenner, Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 29009, 8 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1886, Northiam	20.06.17	Brede. Arras.
<p>Jenner was killed in action near Arras.</p> <p>In 1911 he was a stone quarryman living at the King's Head at Udimore with his parents Henry Jenner (1844-1916), a farm labourer from Northiam, and Abigail (Baker, 1844-1923) from Udimore; they married in 1868.</p>			

MAY 1917

The Western Front 1917

Crouch, William Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G4166, 7 Bn RSR	1885, Catsfield	04.07.17	Monchy British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede. Edenbridge, Kent.
<p>Crouch appears to have been the son of William Charles Crouch (1854-1931), born at Catsfield, and Mary (Anderson, 1860-) from Ninfield. In 1911 they lived at Clayhall Cottages, Stonegate where he was an agricultural labourer. They had married in 1883. In 1911 they were living at 5 Park Cottages, Hollington (William as a cowman on a farm); the younger William is also a cowman on a farm, living at Clayhall Cottages, Stonegate. He married Victoria Florence Coomber (1887-) in 1908, but there is no further definite record of her.</p> <p>Beyond that the records are silent. Family sites seek to show that it was actually this man's father that was killed, at the age of 62, which seems unlikely, although the civilian death index does not yield a William Crouch of the right age after 1916.</p> <p>Crouch was killed in action a little east of Monchy le Preux near Arras in an unsuccessful attack intended to move the line a little forward.</p>			


McDougall, Malcolm

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pioneer 159353, P Special Coy, RE	1889, Welling, Kent	04.07.17	Essex Farm Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Sedlescombe.
<p>The McDougalls lost two sons in 1917, the first (Edward Cecil McDougall) in the Balkans in January. Their father was John McDougall (1853-1919), a civil engineer from Walworth in Surrey, and their mother Harriet Agnes (Dengate, 1853-1933), of Sedlescombe. They married in 1889. In 1911 they were living at Bromley Common, Kent, and Malcolm was a chemistry student. John was to die at Linton House, Sedlescombe.</p> <p>Malcolm was killed in action on the Ypres front, a few weeks before the third battle of Ypres began. His cemetery is close to the northern side of the town.</p>			

Fellows, George Jack

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SR1499, 2 Bn RSR	1876, Ewhurst	17.07.17	Ewhurst churchyard. Ewhurst.
<p>Fellows died from wounds. He was shot in the left knee and taken to the City of London Military Hospital at Clapton just north of the City where his leg was amputated. His death was reported as from shock. A regular soldier before the war who had rejoined the colours in 1914, but we do not know when or whenre he was wounded.</p> <p>George was also known as Jack. He was a son of Jesse Fellows (1838-1884) from Pett, a carter, and of Eliza (Carter, 1841-1931) from Brede, who married in 1861. In 1891 Eliza, a widow, was listed as living at 3 Oak Cottages, Ore, though born at Brede.</p>			

Stunt, Lester William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte (Driver) 31799, 110 Coy, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).	1895, Westfield	17.07.17	Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Westfield.
	<p>Stunt was killed in action. Croisilles is a few kilometres south east of Arras. Both his parents had died before the war. His mother was Mary Ann (Noakes, 1872-1907) from Hastings and his father Lester William Stunt (1866-1912), a road workman who was born at Westfield and who in 1911 married his housekeeper. The parents had married in 1893. In 1911 the younger Lester was recorded as a carter's boy on a farm. The family lived at Ash Cottages, Westfield.</p> <p>His brother Ernest died on the western front in November 1916.</p> <p><i>From www.w1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Adams, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt G121, 7 Bn RSR	07.07.1890, Bexhill	25.07.17	Ewhurst. Arras.
<p>The company was involved in unsuccessfully resisting a German attack on Long and Spoon trenches near Wancourt. The attack was by bombs and flamethrowers and assisted by artillery. An attempt to recapture the trenches failed. Adams was killed in the attack. He had enlisted in 1914, promoted Lance Corporal in November 1915 Corporal in August 1916 and Sergeant in January 1917.</p> <p>Adams's background is unclear. He was in Battle workhouse in 1901; in 1914 he was a labourer living at Sparks Cottage, Northiam. His next of kin was a sister, named as Miss M D Adams, of 18 Bradford Street, Old Town, Eastbourne, so far untraced.</p>			

Wenham, Frederick Peter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD261, 9 Bn RSR	16.08.1895, Eastbourne	30.07.17	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Brede. Eastbourne.
<p>Wenham died of wounds at the casualty clearing station but his battalion was not engaged in any fighting during July 1917. His military record shows that he joined his battalion from 11th Battalion only on 5 July, and on 28 July he was wounded in the head and left arm. He had previously been wounded, on 3 September and 13 December 1916. He had enlisted in September 1914, giving his occupation as poulterer.</p> <p>Wenham was the only child of Henry Stanton Welham (1874-1943), who in 1911 was manager of a fishmonger and poulterer living at 4 Dalton Terrace, Meads Street, Eastbourne with his wife Emily (Radley, 1873-1948) and their son. They had married in 1895. He was from Hastings; she was from Braintree in Essex. So far no connection with Brede has been established. The parents moved to Beaconsfield after the war and then to Southampton. It is possible that Frederick's job as poulterer was at Brede.</p>			

Parks, Jabez Juina

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 267435, Hertfordshire Regt	1881, Battle	31.07.17	Menin Gate.
<p>Parks was a Battle man, born there to a family that appears to have been deeply devotional: the names of almost all his siblings are from the Old Testament. His father Robert (1846-94), an agricultural labourer born at Battle and his mother Sarah (Muggridge, 1849-1914) was from Waldron; they married in 1870, by which time they already had children. The family lived at Virgin's Croft, where in 1911 Jabez was described as a mineral water carman. He did not marry.</p> <p>31 July was the first day of the third battle of Ypres.</p>			

Ellis, James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF202217, 1/4 Bn The King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt	1883, Guestling	31.07.17	Brede. Menin Gate.
<p>In 1911 Ellis was recorded as a general labourer, single and living at Mabbs Farm, Brede Lane, Sedlescombe. In 1901 he was a teamster's mate on a farm, living in Rectory Lane, Brede with his father James Ellis (1860-1936) of Guestling and mother Frances (1862-1952) of Ore. In 1911 the parents were at Stub Lane in Brede, and after the war the father was recorded as living at 5 Alpha Place, Brede.</p>			

Goodsell, Richard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2531, 8 Bn RSR	1888, Westfield	31.07.17	Brede. Beckley. Menin Gate.
<p>Goodsell was one of eight men of his battalion killed on that day. It has so far been impossible to find his parents. In 1891 and 1901 he was living with his grandparents (Alfred being an agricultural labourer) at Brede bridge and in Brede Lane respectively. In 1911 he was a boarder at Jubilee Cottages, Brede Hill, as a gardener.</p>			

Pearson, Augustus

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 534699, 490 Field Coy RE	1878, Brede	31.07.17	Brede. Menin Gate.
<p>Pearson was killed in action. He had enlisted in 1915, giving his occupation as a wheelwright and living in Goatham Lane, Broad Oak, Brede with his wife Mary (Skinner, 1885-1970), also from Brede; they had married in 1909 and had one daughter.</p> <p>Pearson's father was Richard Pearson (1840-), a farm bailiff born at Brede. He appears in the 1911 census, living at Broad Oak. His son's enlistment papers for 1915 say that he has no father but no identifiable death can be found for him. In 1860 he married Harriet Glazier (1840-1929) of Westfield and they had nine children.</p>			

Munn, Stephen Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G15847, 12 Bn RSR	1882, Ninfield	31.07.17	New Irish Farm Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ninfield. Bexhill.
<p>Munn was killed in a minor but successful action to take a part of the German front line and support trenches, at Hill Top near Ypres. He was a regular soldier.</p> <p>Munn had married in 1916. His wife was Annie Elizabeth (Kemp, 1887-1971). They had no children and she remarried after the war. His father was Samuel Munn (1854-), an agricultural labourer born at Ninfield, who in 1878 had married Anne Body Miller (1853-1930) of Dallington. They lived at Lower Street, Ninfield.</p>			

Soan, Albert Clarence

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Private G17393, 13 Bn RSR	1896, Sedlescombe	31.07.17	Bufs Road Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Sedlescombe.
<p>Soan's father was Frederick Soan (1846-1934), born at Ingatestone in Essex man, who in 1911 was a painter on an estate, living at Sedlescombe with his wife Jane (Carey, 1852-1930) from Battle and some of their ten children, including Albert. They had married in 1873.</p> <p>Soan was killed in action when his battalion successfully took part of the German line north-east of Ypres, near Sint Juliaan. They were required to withdraw on the next day, which was probably a result of misunderstanding. Soan was unmarried.</p>			

AUGUST 1917

The Western Front 1917

Crouch, Harry W

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 20313, 58 Coy, Machine Gun Corps	1884, Brightling	01.08.17	Oosterverne Wood Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Brightling.
<p>Previously of the Royal Sussex, Crouch was killed in action near Ypres.</p> <p>The Roll of Honour website suggests that he was a brother of Edward, who had died in June, but there is no evidence for this from public records. The only Harry (or similar names) who is even remotely of the right age was the son of John Crouch (1848-99), a general labourer from Dallington, and his wife Anne Jane (Horsey, 1851-1933) from Forest Row, whom he married in 1874. The family lived at Brightling.</p>			

Levitt, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
CSM G8569, 11 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1891, Wittersham, Kent	01.08.17	Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord. Catsfield. Seaford.
<p>Levitt was clearly a good soldier, because of his rank and his being awarded the Military Medal. He died of wounds. At the time the battalion was at Hollebeke, south of Ypres. .</p> <p>In 1916 Levitt married Mary Isabel Martin (1894-1986), who remarried after the war. CWGC have her living at her parents' house at 4 Brooklyn Road, Seaford.he had joined the police in 1912.</p> <p>He was the son of John Levitt (1859-1951) from Northiam and his wife Charlotte (Taylor, 1855-1948) from Hastingleigh near Wye in Kent; they married in 1882. John and George were both recorded as domestic gardeners in the 1911 census.</p>			


Martin, Wallace

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF202624, 8 Bn Royal W Kent	1897, Boreham Street	01.08.17	Catsfield. Menin Gate.
<p>Martin was killed in action at Ypres.</p> <p>Martin's father was Harry Martin (1866-1956) of Windmill Hill, in 1911 a market gardener living in Potman's Lane, Catsfield with his family. In 1890 he married Elizabeth Ellen Mitchell (1868-1973) of Ninfield and they had nine children. In 1911 Wallace was described as a paint maker. After the war his parents lived at Crowhurst Farm, Netherfield.</p>			

Bishop, George Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF202730, 1/5 Bn RSR	1887, Ticehurst	02.08.17	White House Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Dallington. Hurst Green.
<p>Like so many others, Bishop came from an agricultural family: his father Thomas Bishop (1857-1946) was a farmer, in 1911 at Coomers Farm, Dallington. His mother was Hannah (Mallion, 1864-1931) of Burwash; they married in 1886. In 1916 George married Alice Teresa Pittard (1888-1978); there were no children and she did not remarry. Bishop was killed in action. His cemetery is very close to the town of Ypres, and it is probable that he died close to its future site.</p>			

Webster, Godfrey Vassall George Augustus

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, 3 Bn, Grenadier Guards	1897, London	04.08.17	Battle. Menin Gate.
	<p>Webster was the only son of Sir Augustus Webster, the owner of Battle Abbey. After Eton Godfrey went to Sandhurst, being commissioned in his father's old regiment. He was recognised as a good ornithologist, and his war diaries are full of references to birds he had observed. He was killed by a shell near Ypres.</p> <p>In 1895 Webster's father Augustus (1864-1923), born at Kensington, had made a successful marriage to a moneyed commercial family and in 1902 had bought the Abbey estate back from the heirs to the duke of Cleveland. His wife was Mabel (Crossley, 1876-1917) from Masham in the North Riding, who died in Farthing Pond on the Abbey estate only shortly before Godfrey died.</p> <p>Godfrey was the only heir to the baronetcy, which ended with his father's death.</p>		

West, Robert Leslie

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF241177, 1/5 Bn RSR	1891, Catsfield	22.08.17	Crowhurst churchyard. Crowhurst.
<p>Because he was invalided out we do not know when or how West suffered the wounds from which he was to die. His battalion was in the Ypres area in the weeks before he died, but it is only an assumption that he died in the third battle of Ypres.</p> <p>His family moved around a little, within a short radius. His father Robert Alfred West (1867-1922) was born at Ashburnham and his mother Minnie Maria (Croft, 1868-1925) at Brightling. Robert himself was born at Catsfield. But by the time of the 1911 census they had settled at the Post Office in Crowhurst; the elder Robert was also a farmer.</p>			

SEPTEMBER 1917

The Western Front 1917

Osborne, George Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G3085, 9 Bn RSR	1881, Salehurst	06.09.17	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Robertsbridge.
<p>Osborne's family were another of those that fought shy of the registrar. We know, however, that his father was James Osborne (1840-) and his mother Ellen (1850-); he described himself as of Salehurst and she of Hellingly. In 1901 James was an ostler and George a domestic coachman; the family lived at Fair Lane, Salehurst.</p> <p>In 1904 George married Georgina Alma M M Waghorn (1881-1942) – his middle name appears as Herbert on the register – and they had three children. In 1911 he was an ostler and the family lived at 18 High Street, Robertsbridge.</p> <p>George was killed in action near Dickebusch on the Ypres front. There was no particular action on 6 September, just continued shelling and gas release by the enemy. His brother had died in September 1915.</p>			

Southwell, Charles Harold

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 10076, 3 Bn Worcestershire Regt	1887, Chatham	08.09.16	Catsfield churchyard.
<p>Southwell died of wounds in England. His connection with Catsfield is unclear; it is possible that he died at the military hospital at Normanhurst Court. His parents had already died: Frederick Southwell (1829-1908) and Caroline (Quail, 1846-1908); they had married in 1860. Both were from Kent: Frederick from Dover and Caroline from Brompton near Chatham</p> <p>The place of his wounds is unclear but his battalion was at the Ypres front at the likely time.</p>			

Reed, Herbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G15762, 7 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1891, Heathfield	10.08.17	Menin Gate.
<p>Reed's father George Reed (185-1925) was a farm bailiff from Heathfield In 1875 he married Eleanor Bourner (1857-1935) from Dallington. At a point after 1911 they lived at Church Path, Ninfield.</p> <p>Herbert died in a attack by his battalion near Dickebusch. There were many casualties.</p>			

Church, Herbert Smith

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 202771, 2/4 Bn Royal Berkshire Regt	1885 Battersea, Surrey	10.09.17	Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Seine Maritime. Overstrand, Norfolk.
<p>Formerly Private 7009, Norfolk Regiment, he died of wounds. As he is buried on the Norman coast at Le Tréport he would have been evacuated to one of the military hospitals there. His battalion was at Ypres during the period before his death.</p> <p>Church was a photographer at 12 High Street, married to Emily Mary Gower (1883-1959), but his connections were mainly with Norfolk. Emily was from Bexhill but after her father's death the family moved to Norfolk, her mother's county. Her father was William Gower of Battle. Herbert's father John (1857-1933) was from Overstrand, and the young Herbert is reported there in 1911, as a photographer, with his mother Alice Frances (Wilson, 1857-1933). He was their only child.</p>			

Murdock, Archibald James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt L6174, 1 Bn E Kent Regt	1881, Hastings	12.09.17	Philosophe British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>Murdock had been a regular soldier, first enlisting in 1899 and serving in the South African war. Rejoining his old regiment as a Lance Corporal, he was promoted Acting Corporal in September 1916, Corporal and then Lance Sergeant in September 1916, Acting Sergeant in March 1917 and Sergeant in the following month. He was wounded on service in 1916. He was killed in the trenches near Braquemont between Béthune and Lens. In July 1917 he had been awarded the Military Medal.</p> <p>In civilian life Murdock was a rural postman, formerly at Battle but in 1911 living at Rodmell with his wife (Beatrice Maud Murdoch – <i>sic</i> – 1886-1944). They were to have four children. He was a son of another Archibald Murdock (1837-1914) of St Leonards and of Rosina Mary Keziah (1839-1907) of Hastings; they married in 1859.</p>			

Easen, John Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 225449, 1 Bn (City of London) Royal Fusiliers	1894, Brighton	14.09.17	La Brique Military Cemetery No 2, Ypres, West Flanders. Robertsbridge.
<p>The Roll of Honour website prefers the surname Easton, but there is sufficient evidence to be sure that it is Easen, as given by SDGW and CWGC. His father, from Brighton, was Arthur Easen (1866-1946), who describes</p>			

himself in the 1911 census as a flue brush maker – and his son John as an *errant boy* – and his mother Clara Jessie (Robinson, 1868-1953), from Hastings; they married in 1886. John himself married early in 1916, to Rose Bell Hodges (1891-1967), who remarried after the war. They lived at 55A High Street, Robertsbridge and had no children. Easen appears to have died in a heavy barrage put up by the Germans just as his battalion had taken over the line in darkness.

Winchester, Hubert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 82873, 41 Siege Bty, RGA	1896, Ninfield	15.09.17	Bleuet Farm Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Catsfield.
<p>Winchester was killed in action. We do not know precisely where but it is likely to have been near the cemetery in which he is buried. This is a little north-west of Ypres.</p> <p>Winchester was a son of the farmer at Fatlands Farm, Catsfield, and practised the trade known as ‘farmer’s son’. In 1891 his father William (1866-1928), from Herstmonceux, married Grace Eleanor (Summers, 1869-1964) from Hastings. Winchester’s brother William had been killed in June 1916.</p>			

Pont, George William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman A200728, 21 Bn King’s Royal Rifle Corps	1889, Ninfield	21.09.17	Ninfield. Tyne Cot.
<p>Pont had formerly been S21850 in the Rifle Brigade. He died of wounds, presumably at a casualty clearing station, on the Ypres front. The battalion was at that time in the Vormezeele area just south of Ypres.</p> <p>Pont’s father was a market gardener, Mark Pont (1858-1917) and his mother Caroline Fanny (Harris, 1859-1944) from Worthing. They married in 1882. In 1911 they were living at Hope Cottage, Ninfield.</p>			

Ford, Ernest John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte B201101, 2/10 Bn Rifle Bde	1889, Salehurst	22.09.17	Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3, West Flanders, Belgium. Ewhurst.
<p>A little unusually, Ford was a married man. In 1911 he had married Ethel Jane Hubbard (1891-1975) at Ewhurst, and they had two sons. In civilian life he was a labourer at Prawles Farm, Ewhurst. His father John Ford (1858-1906) was an agricultural labourer in 1891 and a foreman platelayer in 1901. In 1883 he married Louisa (Jarrett, 1859-), of Wadhurst. In 1911 Louisa and Ernest were living in Dogg Lane, Ewhurst. from The closest that can be found to his place of death is the third battle of Ypres, and at that time the battle of Menin Road Bridge was in progress.</p> <p>It may be noted that the Roll of Honour compilers have confused this man with another, born in Hampshire.</p>			

Burgess, Norman A

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 367, 2 Divn Ammunition Column, Canadian Field Artillery	1882, Robertsbridge	22.09.17	La Targette British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Robertsbridge.
<p>Burgess came of a large farming family. His father Robert Henry Burgess (1846-1903) was for a long time the farmer at Park Farm, Salehurst and was not short of money: he left the considerable sum, for those days, of about £31,000. The farm was of 510 acres. In 1867 he married Agnes Bourne (1845-1916), born at Bovingdon in Hertfordshire, and they had a large family. We do not know when their son Norman went to Canada (his marriage was at Robertsbridge in 1915) but the Canadian records say that he enlisted at Winnipeg at the end of 1914; interestingly, they record his birthday as 7 July 1880. His wife was Joan Frances Hodson (1888-1974). She remarried after the war. It is so far impossible to locate Burgess’s place of death but his burial place is close to the Canadian Vimy memorial (the battle for Vimy Ridge had been in April, however).</p>			

Holland, Franklin Gilbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Acting CSM.SD/806, 11 Bn RSR	16.03.1894, Netherfield	24.09.17	Netherfield. Tyne Cot.
<p>Holland was killed in heavy German shelling at Zonnebeke just east of Ypres. He was clearly a good soldier, for on 3 September 1916, on the Somme, he had earned the MM and the Médaille Militaire. At one point he was buried by a 'Jack Johnson' but survived with "a few scratches".</p> <p>Holland was one of a family that supplied at least five brothers to the services in this war; in fact Netherfield as a whole was remarkable in its provision of young men to fight. His father was William Holland (1854-1915), in 1911 a domestic gardener when Franklin was a general labourer, and his mother Mary Ann (Hook, 1857-1931), from Battle. They married in 1878 and had fifteen children. The family lived at Sea View, Netherfield.</p>			

Martin, George Johnston

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2nd Lieutenant, 13 Bn RSR	1894, St Austell, Cornwall	26.09.17	Tyne Cot Cemetery.
<p>Early in the war Martin joined 19th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers as Private 4350 and was sent to France in November 1915; he is reported as having then been commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the RFC and finally, with the same rank, in 13th battalion of the Royal Sussex. No casualties are reported for 26 September; the battalion had been engaged in the battle for the Menin Road from 20 to 25 September, as part of the Third Ypres battle.</p> <p>Martin's father Constantine Martin (1861-1922), born at Bow in Middlesex, was master of Battle workhouse and his wife Sarah Maria (Durrant, 1862-1908), from Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, was matron there. George had followed him in the profession, being in 1911 the master's clerk at the Eastbourne workhouse.</p>			

Dawson, Reginald

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G16905, 11 Bn RSR	1898, Sedlescombe	26.09.17	Sedlescombe. Tyne Cot.
<p>Dawson's battalion was also engaged in the battle of the Menin Road and as with Martin no deaths are reported for that day. Another account locates his death in the battle for Polygon Wood, which ran from 26 September to 3 October. He was killed in action.</p> <p>Dawson's father was a council roadman, James Dawson (1858-1912), and his mother Rebecca (Holdstock, 1862-1927); they married in 1880 and had twelve children. In 1911 and after the war the address was Barrack Cottages, Sedlescombe. She was from Sedlescombe and he from Westfield.</p>			

Kemp, George Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/CPL G164734, 13 Bn RSR	Brede	27.09.17	Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord. Brede.
<p>Records of the Kemp family are a little confused but it appears that Kemp's father was James Kemp (1849-1910) from Pembury in Kent and his mother Elizabeth Harriet Mahala (Larkin, 1854-1896), born at Beckley; they married in 1872. In 1911 James was a gardener and George a butcher's boy. The family lived at Brede Hill, Broad Oak.</p> <p>Kemp died of wounds, presumably received in the same action as George Martin.</p>			

Goodsell, Herbert George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 1915, 50 Bn Australian Infantry.	24.10.1891, Salehurst	28.09.17	Perth Cemetery (China Wall), West Flanders, Belgium. Robertsbridge.
<p>Goodsell was killed in action.</p> <p>He was a son of Thomas Goodsell (1861-1946) of Salehurst and Annie Elizabeth (Kingham, 1858-). In 1911 they lived at Woodside, Frant where Thomas was a domestic gardener, as was his son Herbert. Thomas and Annie had married in 1886 and had five children. After the war they were recorded at Guestling. He was from Salehurst and she from Chelsea in Middlesex. Herbert emigrated to South Australia in January 1912; on the ship's list he is described as a labourer. In Australia he married Edith and they lived at Mulooworte, South Australia.</p> <p>Goodsell's brother Percy had been killed on the western front in May 1915.</p>			

Clout, William Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18292, 11 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1885, Bodiam	30.09.17	St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute Normandie.
<p>Clout's parentage is hard to define but it appears that he was the son of William Clout (1854-1918) of Burwash and Elizabeth (Verrell, 1857-) of Sandhurst in Kent, who married in 1878. In 1911 they were living at Ivy Cottages, Bodiam where William was a farm servant; so was their son William Albert.</p> <p>Clout was suffered serious gunshot wounds in the neck, right arm and spine on 7 June 1917, in an attack on Wytschaete about 9 km south of Ypres and was evacuated to England. He returned to his battalion on 6 September but was again wounded and evacuated to the base hospital at Rouen. It is likely that the wounds occurred during an attack on Tower Hamlets in the battle for the Menin Road.</p> <p>The family name is sometimes spelled Cloult.</p>			

OCTOBER 1917

The Western Front 1917

Pont, Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G7434, 8 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1889, Catsfield	02.10.17	Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme. Catsfield.
<p>Pont died of wounds; the battalion war diary gives the last casualties before 2 October as on 30 September, near Roisel, which is about 10 km east of Péronne and close to the Hindenburg Line; his cemetery is just a little east of Péronne. He had previously served in the Royal Sussex.</p> <p>Frank was a son of Matthew Pont (c1860-1932) and his wife Elizabeth (Tickner, c1860-1918). In 1911 they were living at Stevens Crouch, Catsfield; Matthew was a blacksmith and Frank a farm labourer. Matthew was Catsfield-born and Elizabeth was from Wadhurst.</p>			

Allen, Percy Francis

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2 Lt, 59 Bde RFA	1896, Stoke Newington, Middlesex	04.10.17	Brede. Tyne Cot.
<p>Allen was killed in action near Ypres.</p> <p>His parents were Thomas Allen (1870-) and Frances (1874-) in 1920 he was a gun action maker and they lived at Stoke Newington. CWGC have them living after the war at Allenholme, Duke of Manchester Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex. Other than that the public records are inscrutable. Moreover, there is no war diary. We know that the brigade had served at Gallipoli before Allen enlisted.</p>			

Carter, Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Trooper 726, 2 Lifeguards, Household Bn	06.09.1893, Netherfield	10.10.17	Tyne Cot. Netherfield.
<p>Carter lived at Church Cottage, Netherfield; he was a stockman on a farm. His father was Edward Carter (1849-1932), a higgler born at Netherfield, and his mother Annie Louisa (Wyatt, 1869-1941), from Aston Clinton in Buckinghamshire. They married in 1890. In 1916 Carter married Ethel Florence Bowyer (1890-1962) at Easthampstead in Berkshire and had one child born in May 1917. She remarried after the war. Carter died in the terrible conditions of the Passchendaele battle.</p>			

Crouch, Joseph Christian

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G13282, 7 Bn E Kent Regt	1891, Wadhurst	12.10.17	Catsfield. Tyne Cot Memorial.
<p>The Roll of Honour website suggests that this man might be William Charles Crouch, but Joseph Christian is the better candidate. He was a son of James Christian Crouch (1861-1949) of Ninfield and his wife Emma Anne (Saxby, 1868-) of Catsfield. They married in 1890. Joseph Crouch was killed in an attack on the German lines near Poelkappelle north-east of Ypres, attempted under intense enemy fire.</p>			

Gower, Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 29615, 1 Coy NZ Machine Gun Corps	1891, Battle	12.10.17	Battle. Tyne Cot.
<p>Gower's father was Henry Joseph Gower (1853-1926), who in 1901 was the driver of a stationary engine at Battle tannery, and his wife Jane (Blackman, 1856-1930); both had been born at Battle. They had married in 1874. They lived at Watch Oak. In 1911 Arthur was a gardener at the Plumpton nurseries and shortly thereafter he emigrated to New Zealand. He joined a transport for Plymouth in December 1916. His father told the press that Arthur had been one of five sons serving at the front, and in addition three sons-in-law and one grandson were there too. Gower died at Passchendaele.</p>			

Eldridge, Ernest John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 46721 11 Bn Leicestershire Regt	1889, Battle	12.10.17	The Huts Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Bexhill.
<p>Eldridge was another Passchendaele death, like all the others in October 1917. He was a son of Elijah Eldridge (1849-1915), a bricklayer from Battle, and Ann (Southouse, 1848-1933) from Ninfield; they married in 1877. By 1891 they had moved to Sidley. Ernest was also a bricklayer; he married Ruth Amy Wood in 1908 and they had one child. They too lived at Sidley, in 1911 at 9 Camperdown Street. His brother William was to die in the German advance of March 1918.</p>			

Small, Archibald Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Trooper 2317, Household Bn, Household Cavalry	1897, Hurst Green.	12.10.17	Robertsbridge. Tyne Cot.
<p>The battalion's war diary for that day contains no deaths but four men were killed by shellfire on the next day. They were at Dickebusch, south west of Ypres. According to the Roll of Honour website Small was born and lived at Hurst Green. Public records are deficient. In 1911 Small is living with his grandparents at Silver Hill; it may be that he was the son of one of the unmarried daughters of the grandfather who were also living there.</p>			

Hale, Stuart Anthony

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G26424, 7 Bn, Royal West Kent Regt	03.07.98, Westfield	13.10.17	Dozinghem Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Battle.
<p>Hale was wounded on the first day of his service in the front line, 12 October, and died the next day at 61 Casualty Clearing Station, Poelcappelle, to the north east of Ypres. He had enlisted in April 1917 and had been sent to France only on 15 August 1917.</p> <p>Hale's father was a Wiltshire man, Charles (1859-1925), who was coachman at the Railway Hotel (now the Senlac Inn), living at the cottage just behind the hotel with his wife Annie (Playford, 1881-1964) from Sedlescombe; they married in 1898.</p>			

Lemmon, Horace Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 39124, 1/7 Bn Lancashire Fusiliers	1877, Hooe	13.11.17	Passchendaele New British Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ninfield.
<p>Lemmon was killed in action near Passchendaele village, on a day of heavy casualties from German shelling and air attacks. He had formerly been Private 21554 in the East Surrey Regiment.</p> <p>He married Annie Margaret Hatcher (1877-) at Kilburn, Middlesex in 1915; their address is given as 6 Messina Avenue there. They had no children and she remarried after the war.</p> <p>His father was Levi Lemmon (1844-1918), in 1881 a farmer but in later censuses a groom or gardener; he was from Hooe. Horace's mother was Esther (Walls, 1843-1910), from Tunbridge Wells. They lived at Combe Hill Farm but later at Lower Street, Ninfield.</p>			

Blackman, Frederick Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Acting Cpl G16405, 13 Bn RSR	03.05.1890, Battle	19.10.17	Battle. Tyne Cot Memorial.
<p>Blackman came from a large family. His father Thomas Blackman (1864-1947) was a coal merchant living at 30 Mount Street, and his mother Harriet (Collins, 1863-1919); they married in 1886 and had eleven children. Both of them were from Battle. In 1911 Frederick was a coal porter, presumably working for his father. Frederick's brother Thomas also died on active service. His brother Thomas was to die in an air crash near Paris in 1919.</p> <p>Frederick had been promoted Lance Corporal in May 1915 and Acting Corporal in April 1916. He had been wounded in May 1915 and his term of service expired in the following March, but he rejoined. He is recorded as being killed near the Canadian Tunnels, Polygon Wood, near Zonnebeke east of Ypres.</p>			

Clark, Ernest Leslie

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte PW/6713, 12 Bn Middlesex Regt	1891, Salehurst	23.10.17	Robertsbridge. Tyne Cot, Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium.
<p>Clark was killed in action. His battalion was near Poelcappelle but the war diary records no action on 23 October. It is likely that he died on 20 October.</p> <p>Clark lived at Ewhurst but in 1911 he is recorded as living in Station Road, Robertsbridge with his parents George Clark (1847-1915), a jobbing gardener, and Mary (Worsley, 1852-1927); both were from Kent and they married in 1869. Ernest married Alice 'Minnie' Akehurst (1893-) in 1913, from Hastings, and they had a child. She lived at 1 Waterloo Terrace, Robertsbridge.</p>			

Wilson, Charles William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte T205734, 3/4 Bn Royal W Surrey Regt	1898, Hollington	23.10.17	Robertsbridge. Tyne Cot Memorial.
Wilson is recorded as living at Robertsbridge with his parents William Thomas (1869-) and Minnie (Goodsell, 1868-1947), both from Northiam. They married in 1894 and in 1911, at High Halden, Kent. William was a carter on a farm. Their Robertsbridge address was 2 Glen View. Wilson was killed in action close to Zonnebeke.			

Lavender, Peter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 252585, 2/3 (City of London) Bn, Royal Fusiliers	1880, Robertsbridge	26.10.17	Robertsbridge. Tyne Cot Memorial.
Lavender was the son of a farmer, Edward Lavender (1822-1899) and his wife Mary Ann (Hook, 1845-1924); in 1891 they were living at Meadow Cottage, Walters Farm, Salehurst; both were from Salehurst. They married in 1864. Peter was killed in action near Ypres.			

NOVEMBER 1917

The Western Front 1917

Carter, Frederick William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 5540, 7 Bn Leinster Regt	1885, Ashburnham	14.11.17	Croisilles Railway Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ashburnham.
Carter died of wounds, possibly suffered on the previous day. The battalion was facing the Hindenburg Line south of Arras in a relatively quiet period. The 1891 census shows Carter's mother Mary Elizabeth married to Herbert Crouch, but no such marriage can be traced. Nor can Herbert's death. In 1897 she remarried. No trace of Frederick's father has been found. Frederick married Kate Elizabeth Marchant (1882-1944) from Brightling in 1905, and they lived at Brownbread Street.			

Funnell, Douglas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Sgt G406, 7 Bn RSR	25, Dallington	25.11.17	Dallington. Cambrai.
Funnell was killed in action in the battle of Cambrai, an unsuccessful attempt to break the German Hindenburg Line. His battalion was near Banteux, about eleven km south of Cambrai. Funnell's mother was Rhoda (1863-1955), from Warbleton; his father has not yet been traced and it appears that Douglas was illegitimate. In 1911 Douglas was a farm labourer living at Giffords Farm, Brightling.			

DECEMBER 1917

The Western Front 1917

Cheeseman, William Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 265052, 2 Bn Lincolnshire Regt	1889, Bodiam	02.12.17	Robertsbridge. Tyne Cot Memorial.
Cheeseman was killed in action on a relatively quiet day, between Ypres and Passchendaele. His father was Stephen Jonas Cheeseman (c1837-1907), of Beenham between Newbury and Reading in Berkshire, who was landlord of the Junction Inn at Salehurst (now the Salehurst Halt). At his death his widow Margaret (1846-1924), from Heathfield, took over at the inn. In 1911 William is recorded as a farm labourer.			

Barrow, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 48445, 22 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1877, Heathfield	04.12.17	Westfield. Cambrai.
<p>Barrow was killed in action in the battle of Cambrai. He was one of the older men who fought in the war. In 1911 he was a milk carrier living at 41 Perth Road, Silverhill, St Leonards with his wife Mary Ann and one child; they had married in about 1903. Going further back, he was a son of Benjamin Barrow (1849-) and his wife Lucy (Leeves, 1844-1933). Both were from Heathfield. By 1901 they were living at Westfield, where Benjamin was a cattleman on a farm and William a paving man's driver. Although Barrow was born at Heathfield, both his parents and his wife were from Westfield.</p>			

Mitchell, Charles Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G20205, 1 Bn E Kent Regt	18, Dallington	05.12.17	Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Somme. Catsfield.
<p>Mitchell died of wounds, probably near Marcoing , about 5 km south-east of Cambrai. Other than that his next of kin were at Catsfield and that he enlisted at Bexhill, no other certain information on him has been found.</p>			

The Western Front 1918

FEBRUARY 1918

The Western Front 1918

Harmsworth, Harold Alfred Vyvyan St George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 2 Bn, Irish Guards	02.08.94	12.02.18	Hampstead Cemetery, Middlesex. Robertsbridge.
<p>Harmsworth was wounded twice and died of the second. It is not clear where they were inflicted: his battalion was in the thick of fighting in front of the Hindenburg Line in France. His father was Harold Sidney Harmsworth (1869-1940), the first Viscount Harmsworth and with his brother the Viscount Northcliffe a newspaper magnate. His mother was Lilian Mary (Share, 1874-1937). They lived in Westminster and latterly in Bermuda. Harold bought the site for the Imperial War Museum to be erected. He was awarded the MC in 1918. He had been educated at Eton and Oxford. His brother Vere had died on the western front in November 1916.</p>			

MARCH 1918

The Western Front 1918

Waters, Frederick Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte/Rifleman A205184, 16 Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps	1899, Westfield	09.03.18	Nine Elms British Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Westfield.
<p>Frederick was the only surviving son of Thomas Henry Waters (1874-1956) from Ashburnham and his wife Rose Milly (1877-1950) from Icklesham; in 1911 they were at The Moor, Westfield, and Thomas was an estate carpenter. His wife had the names Rose Milly at birth, but a later record gives them as Rose Minnie. Frederick died of wounds. His battalion was near Zonnebeke, a very short distance south-east of Ypres, and subjected to heavy shelling.</p>			

The suddenness of the German attack on 21 March and the subsequent loss of officers and records make any date of death on or after this date, to the end of March, liable to misinterpretation. 19 local deaths are listed for this period.

Eldridge, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 202102, 2/6 Bn N Staffordshire Regt	1883, Battle	March 1918	Bexhill. Arras.
<p>Eldridge was killed in action near Ecooust, south of Arras. The Germans made heavy use of mustard gas in their attack. His brother Ernest had died in the Passchendaele area in October 1917. Their father Elijah (1849-1915) was from Battle and in 1811 is recorded as a bricklayer living on Caldbec Hill. Their mother was Ann (Southouse, 1848-1933) was from Ninfield; they married in 1877. By 1891 they had moved to Sidley. Further evidence of William is unclear because Eldridge is a common name; he may have married Alice Rhoda Goldsmith (1886-1915) in 1908.</p>			

Holden, Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 1063046, 4 Bn Canadian Infantry	29.08.1896, Battle	March 1918	Wanquetin Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
<p>The Holden family went to Canada after 1911. Frederick's father Thomas Holden, born at Hurstpierpoint in 1858, and his wife Mary Ann (Alderton), born in Suffolk in the same year, were previously living in the Phillips Building in Mount Street. They had married in 1877. Thomas was a domestic gardener, Frederick a houseboy. He enlisted at Peterborough, Ontario in December 1916. His papers include his statement that he had previously been in the 57th Regiment and they contain the word <i>desertion</i>. Holden arrived at Liverpool in May 1917 and was promptly appointed Acting Lance-Corporal, but reverted to Private in July. He was killed in the retreat from the German attack. The battalion appears to have been a little south of Arras.</p>			

Holland, Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G/6696, 9 Bn RSR att 73 Light Trench Mortar Bty	15.07.1881, Netherfield	March 1918	Netherfield. Pozières.
<p>Holland was a son of Walter Holland (1842-1919), a general labourer of Stoney Wood Cottage, Netherfield, and of Harriet (Veness, 1856-1934), and therefore the brother or half-brother of the George Hollands who died in June 1915 and June 1916. Both his parents were from Battle. Albert married Anne Maria Kemp (1876-1949) of Mountfield in 1908 and they had one son. Holland was killed in action near Méharicault, well to the south-east of Amiens.</p>			

Relf, Percy Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G42731, 23 Bn Middlesex Regt	1898, Battle	March 1918	Battle. Arras.
<p>Relf died in a heavy German attack just east of Bapaume. We do not know when he enlisted but his battalion had recently been in Italy to shore up the Italians after the disastrous collapse of their armies at Caporetto. He was a son of Charles Relf (1854-1938), in 1911 a woodman dealer living at Squirrel Hill, Battle with his wife Kate (Fuller, 1859-1936); they married in 1881. Both were born at Brightling.</p>			

Santer, William Aubrey

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G12141, 9 Bn RSR.	B1888, Battle	March 1918	Battle. Pozières.
<p>Santer was the son of William Santer (1864-), born at Beckley, and Annie Elizabeth (Bodle, 1853-1926) of Battle; they married in 1888. In 1901 he was a journeyman carpenter. Their son William was a confectioner's assistant in 1911, living at 2 Carriers Yard, off the Battle High Street; his parents lived at 10 Upper Lake. The younger William married Annie Bean (1886-1914) in 1909 and they had one child. from On 21 March – assuming that Santer died on that day – his battalion was near Hancourt, close to St Quentin.</p>			

Sellman, Sidney Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 534541, 258 Tunnelling Coy, RE	1891, Crowhurst	March 1918	Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme.
<p>Sellman's father was James Sellman (1838-1912), from Pett, in 1911 a jobbing carpenter living on Battle Hill with his wife Mary Ann (Jenner, 1850-1924), from Tunbridge Wells, Kent. They married in 1888. Sidney was a butcher's assistant. Sellman died near Amiens in the German offensive,</p>			

Vitler, Henry James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G21137, Royal W Kent Regt	1898, Battle	March 1918	Pozières.
<p>No information can be found on Vitler's death; even if known at the time it was the custom for only officers to be named in the war diaries. It is likely to have been near St Quentin.</p> <p>Vitler's father Henry (1842-1899) was an agricultural labourer, living at 9 Harold Terrace, Battle. After his death his widow Ann Elizabeth (Waite, 1850-1917) moved to 3 Clive Villas on Battle Hill. They had married in 1877. He was from Hooe, she from Wartling. Henry's brother Thomas was to die in October 1918. Neither brother is listed on a memorial at Battle.</p>			


Crouch, William Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD1877, 11 Bn RSR	1885, Brightling	21.03.18	Brightling. Pozières.
<p>In all three censuses in which Crouch appears he was living with his grandfather, and earlier censuses do not reveal a likely father or mother. In 1915 he married Florence Kate Daw (1892-1969) of Tenterden. They did not have children. CWGC records her address as 27 Gensing Road, St Leonards.</p> <p>Crouch was killed in action. His battalion was at Villers Faucon, between Cambrai and Peronne, on 21 March but it seems to have been a quiet day.</p>			

Friend, Edward Percy

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G7738, 8 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1885, Brightling	21.03.18	Brightling. Pozières.
<p>No information can be found on Friend's death. It is likely to have been near St Quentin. He had previously been in the West Kent Yeomanry.</p> <p>SDGW list him as born at Chelsea in Middlesex but there is no evidence for this. Records show that he was born at Brightling, son of James Friend (1846-98) and Jane (Kemp, 1846-1924), who married in 1875. He was from Battle, she from Brightling. In 1911 Edward was a groom at Mountfield Court.</p>			

Moore, John Rushton

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Maj, 71 Coy, Machine Gun Corps, att from Cheshire Regt	07.05.93, Marylebone, Middlesex	21.03.18	Brightling. Sedlescombe. Arras.
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>Moore was a regular soldier and had been twice Mentioned in Despatches; in the 1916 Birthday Honours he was awarded the MC. He was killed in action at Lagnicourt Marcel, which is equidistant from both Bapaume and Croisilles and east of them.</p> <p>Moore came from a well-off family that sent him to Radley College in Berkshire. His father was George Henry Moore (1847-1908), who used the title Captain and who was a JP. The Sussex connection came from his mother Maye (Adamson, 1866-1919), a daughter of the man who bought Vine Hall and renamed it Rushton Park. It later became the home of Lord Ashton and is today a school.</p> </div> </div>			

Wheeler, Leonard Derl

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2614, 8 Bn RSR	1890, Winchelsea	21.03.18	Noyon New British Cemetery, Oise. Westfield.
<p>Wheeler was wounded near Remigny, a few km south of St Quentin and must have died shortly afterwards. His father was James Albert Wheeler (1864-1937), who in the 1911 census describes himself as a gardener; Leonard is a carter. His mother was Mary Agnes (Ivory, 1868-) from Kilkenny in Ireland. They lived at Ash Cottages, Westfield. His brother William had died in September 1916. Another brother, Norman, was to die on the next day.</p>			

Wheeler, Norman James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G24731, 13 Bn Middlesex Regt	1890, Winchelsea	22.03.18	Westfield. Pozières.
<p>His father was James Albert Wheeler (1864-1937) from Winchelsea, a gardener married to Mary Agnes (Ivory, 1868-), born at Kilkenny in Ireland); they lived at Ash Cottages, Westfield. CWGC gives Albert's later address as Vale Crook Lodge, Ore. William was killed on the western front in September 1916 and Leonard there in March 1918. In 1911 Norman was a market garden salesman. Norman died in the great German attack, apparently the day after his brother Leonard and nine months after his brother William.</p>			

Batehup, Stephen Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD887, 13 Bn RSR	14.12.1892, Ewhurst	22.03.18	Ste Emilie Cemetery, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Batehup was formerly in the 12th Battalion but had moved before it was recreated after the events of 30 June 1916. He was killed in action. The Roll of Honour website's report of his parentage and marriage are at odds with CWGC's record. The Roll of Honour has him as the son of Alfred, keeper of what was then the Castle Inn, and of his wife Adelaide; CWGC report his father as Bertram and his wife as Alice. Public records support CWGC. In 1911 Bertram Edward Batehup (1871-1934) was a fruit dealer born at Brede; while his wife was Alice this was a second marriage, for Stephen's mother had been Eleanor (Bourne, 1870-93). In 1911 Stephen was a farm labourer at Ewhurst. Late in 1917 he had married Alice Catt (1890-) of Westfield; there were no children and she remarried after the war.</p>			

Newman, Frederic Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 191289, RGA AA Battery.	1882, Battle	22.03.18	Pozières.
<p>SDGW give his birthplace as Hackney but there is no doubt that this is the Frederic (or Frederick) Newman who was born at Battle. In 1911 he is a chauffeur, married to Kate Amy (Hodgson, 1879-1950), of Ticehurst, and living in West Hampstead, Middlesex. His father was William John Newman (c1854-1938), who in 1911 was living at 5 St Mary's Villas, Battle, earning his living as a jobbing gardener. Both of them were from Battle. His mother was Fanny (Boxall, 1860-1930), and they married in 1876. William married in 1904 and he and Kate had four children. It is not known where or how Newman died.</p>			

Curtis, Percy John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G20990, 7 Bn E Kent Regt	1897, Goodnestone, Kent	23.03.18	Ewhurst. Pozières.
<p>Curtis's connection with Ewhurst remains unknown. His mother Jane (Crouch, 1868-1950) was from the Battle area, despite the 1911 census stating that she was born at Heathfield, and Percy's elder siblings were born at Battle. But Percy was a man of Kent, in 1911 living at Yew Tree Farm, Goodnestone; his father Samuel (1861-1945), also from Heathfield, was a farm bailiff. After the war they lived at Tenterden.</p> <p>Curtis was killed in action. His battalion was about 23 km south-east of St Quentin, near the village of Frières Fallouil.</p>			

Clark, Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 534260, 490 Field Coy RE	1886, Battle area	25.03.18	Robertsbridge. Pozières.
<p>Clark was a son of David Clark (1850-) and Fanny (Holdstock, 1856-); he was from Ashburnham and she from Sedlescombe. They married in 1876 and had a large family. The 1881 census has them living at Marl Pits, Ashburnham. In 1911 he was a dairyman farmer, living at Henniker Cottages, Sidley. His brother was David Clark, who died on the western front in September 1916. In 1910 Albert married Ella Mary Watson (1881-1944) of Hastings, who after the war lived at 37 Havelock Road, Bexhill.</p> <p>We do not know where or how he died. His brother John died on the western front in September 1916.</p>			

Stephens, Alfred William Holman

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G/41318, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt	1882, Battle	27.03.18	Pozières.
<p>Stephens's background is unclear. At his marriage in 1907 his father's name is given as Benjamin Holman Stephens, deceased; but the public records are obscure. His mother was Sarah Augusta (Stephens, (1859-1906), of Battle, who married Benjamin Holman there in 1882; he was born in 1854 and died in 1907. This suggests that the parents changed the family name, and one website gives the surnames of all the children except Alfred simply as Holman. Alfred married Ethel Louisa Briggs (1882-) but they had no children. In 1911 he was living at 18 Bavant Road, Norbury, Surrey; his occupation was given as tailor maker. Incidentally, there seems to be no connection with Holman Fred Stephens, the railway engineer and therefore none with Holman's father the pre-Raphaelite.</p> <p>In March 1918 his battalion was engaged in the battle of St Quentin.</p>			

Gill, Roland Luther

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 225727, 2 Bn Northamptonshire Regt	1894, Udimore	28.03.18	Robertsbridge. Pozières.
<p>Gill's mother lived at 7 East Street, Robertsbridge, presumably after her husband died. She was Mary Ann Louisa (Wheeler, 1862-1949) of Winchelsea; in 1888 she married Roland Gill (1858-1912), of Battle. He was a yardman on a farm, in 1911 at Stocks Farm, Udimore. The younger Roland was a domestic servant.</p> <p>Gill was killed in action. The battalion was in the area around Méharicourt and Caix well south-east of Amiens and an overwhelming German attack forced its complete withdrawal.</p>			

Pocock, Harold Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt 5356, 9 Bn Queen's Royal Lancers	1896, Catsfield	28.03.18	Serre Road Cemetery No 2, Somme. Catsfield.
<p>Pocock's father was Charles Pocock (1849-1919) and his mother Annie (Errey, 1844-); they married in 1879. In 1911 he was a stockman and Ernest a domestic gardener. He was from Hooe, she from Bexhill. The Roll of Honour website gives the date of death as 26 April. His battalion was behind the lines on that day and there was no military action. Both SDGW and CWGC give the date as 28 March. The battalion was then suffering heavy shelling near Corbie a little east of Amiens.</p>			

Deeprose, Jesse

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sgt 27147, 1 Bn E Surrey Regt	1891, Catsfield	31.03.18	Favreuil British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ninfield. Bexhill.
<p>The Ninfield memorial gives his regiment as Royal West Kent; the Roll of Honour website and both SDGW and CWGC have it as East Surrey. No war diary has survived, or at least been published, for March 1918. His battalion is likely to have been in the battle for St Quentin. In 1911 Deeprose was at Ninfield, a grocer's assistant, with his father Jesse Deeprose (1851-1912) and mother Hephzibah Hannah (Roberts, 1863-1913); they married in 1881. His father was from Ashburnham and his mother from Wadhurst. Deeprose married Annie R Campbell in 1916. There appear to have been no children. After the war she is recorded as living at Bearside Road, Stirling, Scotland.</p>			

APRIL 1918

The Western Front 1918

Eldridge, Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 21769, 2 Bn Coldstream Guards	1898, Westfield	02.04.18	Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 1, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Eldridge was a brother of Bertram, who would die in September 1918. They were sons of Jesse David Eldridge (1866-1950) and Frances Agnes Jewhurst (1870-1936), who married in 1894. In 1911 Jesse was a waggoner on a farm, and the family lived at Knight's Farm, Westfield, over towards Doleham station. Later their address was Dagg Lane, Ewhurst. Jesse was a Westfield man; Frances was from Beckley. They were later at Dagg Lane, Ewhurst. Eldridge died of wounds, most likely to have been incurred in the first battle for Arras and probably at the Canadian Military Hospital at Doullens, well south-west of Arras.</p>			


Davidson, Edward Gordon

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 19 Bn Royal Hussars	1891, India	02.04.18	St Sever Cemetery, Haute Normandie. Brightling.
<p>Davidson was a professional soldier. In the 1911 census he is reported as 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Hussars, in Wellington Lines barracks in Aldershot. His battalion was sent to France in August 1914 and took part in the early battles there, so it is likely that he was in the war from the beginning as part of the Cavalry Division. He died of wounds at Rouen base hospital. He was awarded the MC. Davidson's father Alfred Davidson (1846-1900) was a civil engineer in the Public Works Department of the government of India. At Bombay in 1883 he married Constance Matilda Mary Mills (1860-1952), of Miserdine in Gloucestershire, who would be Edward's mother. He died at the Clinique Lausanne, Switzerland.</p>			

Cockett, Horace Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD1017, 11 Bn RSR	1892, Battle	March 1918	Battle. Pozières.
<p>Cockett was a good soldier: he won the Military Medal and bar through his conduct in the summer of 1917. He died near Amiens as his battalion was trying to resist the German attack.</p> <p>Cockett's father is unknown – it appears that he was illegitimate, as was his brother – and his mother was Sophia Cockett (1868-1949) of Battle. In 1911 they were living next to Mill Cottages in Blackhorse Road (now part of Hastings Road), Battle; Horace was a domestic gardener.</p>			

Potter, Frederick James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 24163, 695 Agricultural Coy, Labour Corps	1868, Guildford	04.04.18	Whatlington churchyard. Whatlington.
 <p>Potter had been a regular soldier and enlisted in August 1914 as a Private 2102 in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Sussex. He had already been over 22 years in the Rifle Brigade, serving in the South African war. He was badly wounded in October 1915 and he was not transferred to the Labour Corps until March 1917. He died at Graylingwell War Hospital at Chichester; the record suggests that this was due to complications from his earlier wounds.</p> <p>Family records are hard to find but he was probably a son of James Potter, a gardener of Guildford.</p> <p>In 1902 he married Jane Louise Watson (1870-1955) of Whatlington; they had no children. Their address was Coulee Ridge, Whatlington Road; another source gives it as Woodman's Corner, Whatlington.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>			

Marsh, Tom

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18130, 7 Bn RSR	1894, Battle	05.04.18	Bouzinourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert. Battle.
<p>Marsh was the son of the publican at the Squirrel Inn, also Tom Marsh (1864-1926). In a sense the elder Tom had inherited the pub from his wife, who was left with it after the death of her first husband. She was Ruth (Ralph, originally Taylor, 1861-1915). Both were from within Sussex – Tom from Crowhurst and Ruth from Withyham. In 1911 the younger Tom was a gamekeeper.</p> <p>Marsh was killed in action near Senlis Mill near Albert.</p>			

Stemp, Albert William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 2728, 51 (Western Australian) Bn	1890, Maidstone	05.04.18	Battle. Villers Bretonneux. Australian War, Canberra.
<p>Like so many others, Stemp is a difficult man to trace. Various records (including the 1911 census) say that he was born at Staplehurst but no such birth is on the public record. The 1911 census says that he was born at Patching, near Worthing; again no such record exists. There was, however, such a birth in the Maidstone area, and this has been used above. The 1911 census has him as the son of William Stemp (1849-1921), a wood hoop maker born at Wisborough Green near Pulborough, and his wife Ellen Sarah (Smith, 1850-1932) of Hawkhurst, Kent,, living at 3 Mill Cottages, Blackhorse Road (now part of Hastings Road), Battle. They married in 1881.</p> <p>Stemp went to Australia after 1911 and enlisted at Fremantle, Western Australia.</p>			

Holt, Frederick George Bradley

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
2nd Lt, 1/20 Bn London Regt, Royal Fusiliers	1888, Battle	05.04.18	Battle. Arras.
<p>Holt died in the battle for Aveluy Wood, where the German attack was stubbornly resisted but in the end was successful on the day that he died. The official records give his regiment as above but the memorial in St Mary's Church at Battle says the West Surrey Regiment.</p> <p>Holt was the son of a successful grocer of 82-83 High Street, Battle. In 1911 he was a grocer's assistant, presumably to his father John George Holt (1860-1926), born at Battle. His mother was Mary Ann Eliza (Bradley, 1857-1924) of Dalston, Middlesex; his parents married in 1887.</p>			

Gutsell, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G15821, 7 Bn RSR	Brede	05.04.18	Bouzinourt Ridge Cemetery, Somme. Brede.
<p>The Roll of Honour website could not find this man but he is clearly identified by both SDGW and CWGC. He was the son of George James Gutsell (1872-) of Brede and Agnes (Marsh, 1872-), born at Dover, who had married in 1892. In 1911 the father was a carpenter and the son a grocer's apprentice.</p> <p>Gutsell was killed in action. 5 April was a day spent resisting German attacks at Warloy, about 5 km west of Albert.</p>			

Highwood, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte44969, 2 Bn Lincolnshire Regt	1894, Battle	10.04.18	Battle. Tyne Cot Memorial.
<p>Formerly Private 2570 in the 11th Battalion of the Royal Sussex, Highwood transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment only in March 1918. He had already been wounded, on the Somme in 1916. He was reported missing on 16 April, and his death presumed in 1919. He has been reported as being killed on 10 April when the Lincolnshire suffered serious casualties when the Germans took Wytschaete, south of Ypres.</p> <p>William's father James Highwood (1859-1916) was a life insurance agent for the Prudential company, and his mother was Henrietta (Fullagar, 1860-1956); they were both from Kent (James from Sutton Valence and Henrietta from High Halden) and married in 1893. The family lived first at 6 and later at 11 St Mary's Villas. William married Annie Reed in 1913. There were no children. Her details are so far unknown.</p>			

Avard, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 44974, 2 Bn Lincolnshire Regt	1883, Ashburnham	11.04.18	Wytschaete Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ashburnham. Eastbourne.
<p>Avard was killed in action near Wytschaete south of Ypres, on a day when his battalion was moving forward to fill gaps in the line. He had previously been in the 23rd Battalion of the Royal Sussex. His brother was to die on 1 June 1918.</p> <p>Avard was a son of Albert Avard (1835-1907) from Warbleton and his wife Martha Caroline (Brown, 1857-1921); they married in 1884. He was a bricklayer and gardener. In about 1904 he married Alice from Surrey (name unknown because the marriage does not appear in the public records) and they had two children. She may have remarried after the war. In 1911 they were living at 10 Hydnye Street, Eastbourne; he was a domestic gardener. In 1911 William reported his birth as at Eastbourne, which seems unlikely. The connection with Ashburnham is so far unknown.</p>			

Pook, George Douglas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 179402, 210 Field Coy, RE	1877, Ninfield	11.04.18	Catsfield. Ploegsteert.
<p>Pook had been Private 46669 in the Leicestershire Regiment. He was killed in action near Ploegsteert, about 12 km south of Ypres, close to the French border.</p> <p>One website gives his parents as John and Mercy Ellen Pook. They appear in no public records, and the source for this is unknown. What we do know begins with the 1911 census, when George Douglas Pook, born at Ninfield, is living at Henley's Down, Catsfield with his wife Kate Ellen. He is aged 33. This suggests that he is the son of George Pook (1829-1911) and his wife Tilpah – or Zilpah or Lilpah: accounts vary – (Clapson, 1834-1905), who was born at Hellingly; they married in 1850. In 1910 the younger George married Kate Ellen Sweatman (1879-1936) from Hooe. They had two children.</p>			

Watson, Reginald

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G15874, C Coy, 9 Bn RSR	1893, Salehurst	12.04.18	Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord. Robertsbridge.
<p>Watson was a son of George Edward Watson (1857-1947) of Mountfield, who in 1911 was a deputy foreman at the gypsum works. They lived at 18 East Street, Robertsbridge. Reginald's mother was Mary Ann (Lavender, 1858-1932) of Bodiam; his parents had married in 1879.</p> <p>He died of wounds. The battalion's last action before his death was at Berteaucourt Thennes, about 12 km south-east of Amiens.</p>			

Godfrey, Montagu Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 93619, 2/4 Bn Sherwood Foresters.	1899, Wandsworth, Surrey	15.04.18	Westfield. Ploegstreet.
<p>Godfrey was formerly with the ASC. On the day of his death his battalion was suffering from severe shelling at Kemmel, south-east of Ypres and close to the French border.</p> <p>Godfrey's father, also Montagu Godfrey (1877-1927), was a publican born at Battersea, Surrey. In 1911 he was running the Balmoral Castle at 86 Glamorgan Street, Pimlico, Westminster, and after the war the Old Nag's Head at Fair Green, Mitcham, Surrey. In 1898 he married Irene Kate Hair (1877-1940) from Gloucestershire.</p>			

Saunders, Nelson

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 50765, 9 Bn, Highland Light Infantry	1898, Netherfield	19.04.18	Etaples Military Cemetery. Netherfield.
<p>Saunders was one of a large family, and his brother Alfred was to die in August 1918. Their father was Harry Saunders (1849-1936) of Netherfield and their mother Mary (Selmes, 1863-1938), from Mountfield. In 1911 Harry was a labourer at the gypsum works, and the family lived at Soans' Cottages, French's Farm, Netherfield.</p> <p>Saunders, who had previously been Private 2121 in the Royal Sussex, was wounded on 14 April; we do not know how because the war diary report a very quiet day. He died at Etaples military hospital.</p>			

Boxall, Harry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte F2679, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt.	1897, Westfield	24.04.18	Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Somme. Sedlescombe.
<p>Boxall was killed in action in an exceptionally heavy attack by the Germans which opened with a two-hour barrage of shelling causing considerable casualties and the withdrawal of the battalion from Viller-</p>			

Bretonneux, which lies about 15 km east of Amiens.

He was a son of Henry Nicholas Boxall (1873-1944) of Sedlescombe and his wife Mary Ann (Barnes, 1875-1970, from Whatlington; they married in 1894. In 1911 he was a cowman on a farm and the family was living at Sempstead, east of Ewhurst Green. They were later reported at Compass's Cottage, Staplecross. Henry was from Sedlescombe and was living at River Bridge House there in 1916.

Harris, Edward John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl G15929, 11 Bn RSR	1890, Guestling	26.04.18	Sedlescombe. Hastings, Tyne Cot.
The battalion suffered serious losses in the sustained attempt by German forces to surround Ypres. They were at Elzenwalle Chateau near Vormezelle, south-west of the town. Harris was killed in action. In 1911 Edward was a servant at Hastings, living away from this family. His father was James Harris (1862-1927), a general labourer from Maidstone in Kent, and his mother was Caroline Eliza (Foster, 1864-1926) of Hastings; they married in 1883. They were living at 1 Edward Terrace, Hollington; after the war they were recorded at Barracks Cottage, Sedlescombe.			

Hutchinson, John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD1059, 11 Bn RSR	1887, Bexhill	26.04.18	Lijssenthoek Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Ewhurst.
Hutchinson was wounded at Elzenwalle Brasserie, presumably in the same action as Edward Harris, though perhaps not on the same day. He died at Poperinghe Dressing Station. The Roll of Honour website reports his parents as living at Gate Farm, Staplecross. They were Stephen Hutchinson and Ellen Elizabeth. Their records are elusive but it appears that Stephen's dates were 1852-1929 and that he was born at Bexhill and that Elizabeth was born at Warbleton in about 1852. Their marriage is unrecorded. They moved around the county quite considerably; Stephen was a carter on a farm and in 1901 John was a carter's mate, presumably of his father, at Icklesham.			

Markwick, Sydney

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman 45742, 2 Bn Rifle Bde	1899, Ninfield	28.04.18	St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute Normandie. Battle. Catsfield.
Markwick's parents were George Markwick (1870-1953), born at Hooe, and Mary Ann (Dawes, 1884-1961) of Ashburnham, who married in 1899. Sydney was their only son. In 1911 George was a gardener; the family lived at Battle Lodge, Normanhurst Court, and he was presumably employed by the Brassey family. CWGC have them later living at 1 Lower Lake, Battle. Sydney died of wounds at Rouen base hospital. From battalion records it seems that he may have been wounded near Villers Bretonneux, east of Amiens.			

Croft, Victor Albert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD2267, 11 Bn RSR	1891, Brightling	29.04.18	Wytschaete Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Brightling.
Croft was killed in action. On that day there was heavy shelling on the line, near Elzenwalle. In 1911 Croft was a bricklayer's labourer, presumably working with his father Robert (1851-1921), a bricklayer on an estate. The family lived at Birchen House, Brightling. His mother was Harriet (Parsons, 1851-1936). She married Robert in 1871. Both were from Brightling. Later information suggests that Robert became a house painter. Although a family website claims that Victor had a brother Gilbert, killed in June 1916, this is not so.			

Revitt, Arthur Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Guardsman 20389, 2 Bn Coldstream Guards	1878, Shifnal, Shropshire	01.05.18	Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ninfield.
<p>Revitt died of wounds at the Boulogne base hospital. CWGC give his mother's name as Elizabeth but this is not the case. His father William Revitt (1851-1930) married Fanny Adlington (1849-1934) in 1874. Both were from Shifnal. William was a shoemaker. Arthur's connection with Sussex was that in 1903 he married Edith Mary Bengé (1881-) of Whatlington; CWGC record her as living at Church Farm, Ninfield. In 1911 they were living at Winchmore Hill in Middlesex and Arthur was a gardener. SDGW have him living at Battle, which is possible but for which the evidence is not present.</p>			

Harmer, Sidney Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 17975, 8 Bn E Surrey Regt	1894, Wimbledon, Surrey	05.05.18	Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne. Robertsbridge.
<p>Harmer was the son of Charles Harmer (1859-1951) of Robertsbridge and his first wife Emily (Brelsford, 1862-1901), from Lincolnshire. It seems that he returned to the area because he was to die at Hastings. By 1911 he had remarried and most of the family were living at Raynes, Park in Surrey; Sidney was a domestic servant elsewhere in Wimbledon. On 5 May his battalion were between Amiens and Albert. The cemetery is south of St Quentin but was made after the war by collecting remains from elsewhere.</p>			

Franks, Robert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 60356 Labour Corps	1883, Battle	14.05.18	St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute Normandie.
<p>Franks died of wounds. He had previously been Private 31377 in the Royal Fusiliers; transfer to the Labour Corps was common for those judged not quite fit enough for the front line. We do not know when he was wounded or where. In 1911 Franks was a potman (barman) living with his widowed mother Emma (Clarke, 1844-1934) at Streatham. His father was Robert Franks (1838-95), who in 1891 was a gardener living at 6 Upper Lake, Battle. He was from Battle, she from Essex.</p>			

Masters, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte TF203238, 6 Bn E Kent Regt	1878, Udimore	16.05.18	Brede. Udimore. Pozières.
<p>Tracing Masters is near-impossible because every reference to him in the public records lands him and his family in Ashford in Kent; there is no mention of Udimore and very little of that name in Sussex. A family website says that his father was William Masters (1837-1902) and his mother Amelia (Sunnock, 1844-1912); and that in 1907 he married Artie Elizabeth Fentiman (1887-1980); they had two children. If this is correct, then in 1911 he was a coach painter, and the widowed Artie remarried after the war. But the connection to Udimore remains obscure. On 16 May the battalion attacked German trenches a few kilometres north-west of Albert, with casualties.</p>			

Jupp, James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 534283, 248 Field Coy, RE	1883, Robertsbridge	16.05.18	Bagneux British Cemetery, Somme. Robertsbridge.
<p>Jupp died of wounds, but it is unclear when and where he was wounded.</p> <p>He married Alice Kate Oliver (1884-1968) in 1904 and they had four children. In 1911 he was a gypsum miner and the family lived in East Street, Robertsbridge (at least the enumerator wrote that; Jupp had written Fair Lane; CWGC later wrote that it was at Wesley Cottage, Fair Lane). His father was George Levi Jupp (1831-1913), from Horsham, in 1901 a hoopmaker, and his mother Elizabeth Sarah Barden (1851-1918) from Goudhurst in Kent. They married in 1869 and lived in Station Road, Robertsbridge.</p>			

Ripley, Percy

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G.92545, 1/7 Bn Middlesex Regt	1880, Smarden, Kent	26.05.18	Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais.
<p>The 1911 census records Percy Ripley as a butcher's assistant living at 9A Lower Lake, Battle. In April 1915 he enlisted as a Private in the ASC then transferred to the Middlesex Regiment. It is not known where he died but his cemetery is just west of Arras.</p> <p>Ripley presumably came to Battle to work, but he was still there at his enlistment. His father was James Ripley (1829-1907), a blacksmith from the Hailsham area, and his mother – James's second marriage – was Laura (Ingleton, 1852-90) from Canterbury. They married in 1871.</p>			

Batehup, Bertram Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman 46431, 2 Bn Rifle Bde	1899, Ewhurst	27.05.18	Sedlescombe. Soissons.
<p>Batehup was killed in action at Guyencourt between Cambrai and Peronne. The Germans launched an attack at 4 a.m., using gas and trench mortars, followed up by tanks. Casualties were very heavy and the battalion had to retreat. (The Roll of Honour website says that he was killed on the Marne, but his battalion was not there then.)</p> <p>In 1911 the family was living at Cherry Tree Cottage, Sedlescombe, where the father Thomas Edward Batehup (1877-1931), from Ewhurst, was an ostler at a hotel. In 1898 he had married Edith Mary Feist (1877-1966) of Hastings.</p>			

Furner, William James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Sgt 12108, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt	1890, Udimore	27.05.18	Ninfield. Soissons.
<p>Like so many others William came from an agricultural background. In 1901 his father James (1853-1915), from Brede or Beckley, was a stockman living at Pashley Farm, Ninfield. His mother was Ellen (Kemp, 1854-), of Udimore and they married in 1875. In 1891 the family had been at The Green, Udimore and James was an agricultural labourer. CWGC give an address for both of them as 2 Holly Cottage, Catsfield. All such addresses are post-war, when James had died.</p> <p>SDGW give Furner's first names as <i>William Adimore Sussex</i>, which is fairly clearly a mixture of real name and place of birth.</p> <p>Furner was killed in action at Chemin des Dames, a strategic position near Reims that had been the scene of a spectacular French failure in 1917 and was a critical blockage to the German attempt to encircle Paris.</p>			

Congdon, Henry George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
RSM 44469, RE	1867, Dunbar, E Lothian	28.05.18	Battle. Varennes Military Cemetery, Somme.
<p>Congdon had been a regular soldier, and by 1911 was an army pensioner running the White Hart beerhouse at Fifield in Berkshire. His father Samuel (born about 1824) had been a militia officer, then a school attendance officer; his mother was Eleanor (Sparks, born about 1843).</p> <p>Congdon's presence in this record is due to his marriage to Mary Ransom Hollingworth (c1867-1922), daughter of a labourer at Fuller's Farm in Uckham Lane, Battle. She returned to Battle after his death. They married in 1891 and had four daughters, one of them born on St Lucia while he was on military service there. Another, Daisy, was killed by a bomb at Hastings in 1943.</p> <p>He was clearly a highly regarded soldier. He had a very responsible rank, and he had been awarded the Long Service Medal and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He was killed in action near Albert.</p>			

Bothwell, Charles Stuart

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner then Sapper 28670, RE	1896, Kingston, Surrey	31.05.18	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery West Flanders, Belgium.
<p>Bothwell died of wounds near Ypres. The Germans had rolled back all the Allied gains of the previous autumn and were trying to capture the city. Lijssenthoek, where he is buried, was a favoured place for casualty clearing stations as it was beyond the reach of enemy artillery. It is just south of Poperinghe, west of Ypres. Bothwell was a son of Charles Joseph Bothwell (1866-1929) and his wife Mary Ellen (Nurse, 1864-1945). They had married in 1893. He was from Camden Town in Middlesex and she from Suffolk. In 1911 he was an upholsterer and the family lived at 6 St Mary's Terrace, Battle.</p>			

JUNE 1918

The Western Front 1918

Edwards, Edwin Harold

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 32468, 18 Bn Royal Lancashire Fusiliers.	1890, Salehurst	01.06.18	Robertsbridge. Pozières.
<p>Edwards (known in the records as Harold) was the son of John Edwards (c1860-1921) and his wife Margaret Ann (Thomas, 1859-1941). They were both from Shropshire and married in Sussex in 1883. In 1901 he was a domestic coachman and the family lived at South Park Lodge, Northbridge Street, Robertsbridge. In 1911 Harold lived close to there, and is recorded as a machine compositor for a printer. In 1912 Harold married Harriett Adelaide Jane Pack (1893-1934), a local woman. They appear to have had no children and she remarried after the war.</p> <p>Edwards was killed in action but we do not know where. It is likely to have been near Bapaume.</p>			

Watson, Reginald George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 42505, 2 Bn Suffolk Regt	1899, Mountfield	15.06.18	Mountfield. Chocques Military Cemetery Memorial.
<p>Watson was killed in action in an attack on the German line a few km north of Béthune.</p> <p>Watson was a son of Reginald Walton (1855-1922), born at Mountfield, who in 1911 was a general workman at Mountfield Court. His wife was Anna Ellen (Knowlton, 1867-1934), from Hampshire. They lived at New House, Mountfield.</p>			

JULY 1918*The Western Front 1918***Allcorn, George**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 47619, 13 Bn Inniskilling Fusiliers	22, Eridge	31.07.18	Borre British Cemetery, Nord. Brightling.
George Allcorn was the only son of George Frederick John Allcorn (1872-1929), from Rotherfield, who in 1911 was a farmer at Brightling, living at Scrags Oak. In 1895 he married Mercy Crittall (1876-1948) of Withyham. Their son George had previously been in the Middlesex Regiment. He was killed in action in a minor engagement east of Borre, near Hazebrouck.			

AUGUST 1918*The Western Front 1918***Christmas, Clarence Henry**

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 781900, 28 Bn Canadian Infantry	23.06.1897, Battle	09.08.18	Rosières Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme.
The Christmas family emigrated to Canada after 1911. Thomas Leonard Christmas (1857-1939) came from a well-known local family of butchers and had run the shop immediately south of the Star Hotel (later the 1066) but in 1910/11 it was acquired by the General Post Office for the new post office planned for the town. He then spent a short time as a boarding house keeper at 18 Station Road, Hastings. In 1885 he married Elizabeth Adelaide Mackey (1866-1950), born at Dalston in Middlesex. During the war they were at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan but they both died at Vancouver. At his attestation Clarence put his occupation as mechanic. He enlisted early in 1916, reaching Britain in August. Sent to France in December he won the Military Medal in 1917. At the time of his death he was a stretcher bearer. It appears that he died at 42 Casualty Clearing Station. This appears to have been the station at Mingoal, clearly behind the line north-west of Arras.			

Stapley, Percy Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G31392, 6 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1887, St Leonards	09.08.18	Battle. Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme.
Stapley died on the front between Amiens and Albert. His father was Charles Stapley (1856-) of Tunbridge Wells and his mother Harriett (Bull, 1854-1943) of Essex; they married in 1879. Charles was a bricklayer. Percy married Louisa Freeman (1885-1946) of Hastings in 1912 and they had four children. In 1911 he was a domestic gardener living at The Cottage, Old Roar, Silverhill, St Leonards. The Battle connection is that he was gardener to Charles Sheppard, the Battle solicitor, who lived at Loxbee in Mount Street.			

Miller, Arthur John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte, 7 Bn RSR	1880, Pevensey	13.08.18	Pevensey. Vis-en-Artois.
Miller was one of the unluckiest soldiers. He was killed by what is ironically known as 'friendly fire'. His company was near Morlancourt, a few miles south of Albert, and a minor operation was scheduled for 0455 on 13 August, but as soon as the company rose to advance they were shelled by the British from behind. The artillery had not had time to register their guns before the attack began. Miller was one of three brothers who died in the war. Their father Stephen Lawrance Miller (1859-1928), born at Pevensey, and his mother Bertha Susan (Wooding or Wooden, 1862-1936), of Hoxton in Middlesex. They married in 1883.			

Arthur Miller's claim to the area is that he was a postman like his father, but in the rural area of Battle.

Eldridge, William Herbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver 534340, 491 Field Coy, RE	1894, Battle	22.08.18	Gommecourt British Cemetery No 2, Pas de Calais. Hastings. Battle.
<p>Eldridge had been posted to France on the first anniversary of the war and was slightly wounded in 1916. He died near Gommecourt, about half-way between Arras and Albert.</p> <p>Eldridge was a farm labourer living at 3 Chapel Cottages at enlistment. About one month before his death he married Ida Pocock Mitchell; they had one daughter, born in 1919. Eldridge's parents cannot reliably be traced. In 1911 he was living with his grandparents in Mount Street, Battle.</p>			

Simmons, Clarence Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 682546, 1/22 Bn London Regt	1899, Staplecross	22.08.18	Noyelles-sur-L'Escaut Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Ewhurst.
<p>Simmons is not easy to find in the public records, partly because his surname is sometimes spelled Simmonds and partly because he is listed under either of his two given names. His father was Albert Simmons (1871-1951), a blacksmith born at Robertsbridge, and his mother Annie Ada M (Chapman, 1871-1950) from Brightling. The family lived at the Forge, Staplecross.</p> <p>If the report is correct, Simmons died on an otherwise quiet day when his battalion was at Wippenhoek, just south-east of Poperinghe.</p>			

Philcox, William Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 22025, 7 Bn E Kent Regt	1899, Catsfield	22.08.18	Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Somme. Catsfield. Crowhurst.
<p>Philcox was killed in action near Albert, probably close to Contalmaison. This was at a time when the Allies were beginning to force the Germans back from the line they had more or less established after their great push in March and April.</p> <p>He was a son of Charles Philcox (1869-1944), a bricklayer born at Catsfield and living at Catsfield Green with his family in 1901. His mother was Alice Maria (Allwork, 1875-1931), of Ninfield. CWGC has them living at Crowhurst after the war.</p>			

Gutsell, Reginald Peter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 41466, 1 Bn Hertfordshire Regt.	1900, Brede	24.08.18	Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Albert, Somme. Brede. Westfield.
<p>Gutsell is one of those cases where the memorial is simply wrong: it records him as James. The man who died of wounds on 24 August 1918 was Peter Reginald Gutsell. He died near Albert.</p> <p>Gutsell was a son of Peter Gutsell (1878-1950), a farm labourer, and his wife Edith May (Barnes, 1879-1932) Both were from Brede. They married in 1900. In 1911 they were living at New Cut Westfield. Later the parents' address is recorded as Woodland Terrace, Westfield.</p>			

Scotton, Donald Victor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 63679, 15 Bn Auckland Regt, NZEF	1892, Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire	24.08.18	Netherfield. Adanac Military Cemetery, Somme.
<p>The Scotton family were late arrivals in Sussex. His father William Scotton (1856-1908) was a farmer from Leicestershire who came to Robertsbridge early in the twentieth century, and his mother was Hannah Ellen or Eleanor (1864-1925), from Llangybi in Caernarvonshire. In 1901 they were at Earlswood by Tanworth in Warwickshire. In 1911 the widowed Hannah was an assistant school teacher at Netherfield, living at School House.</p> <p>Scotton was killed near Miraumont, a little west of Bapaume, in the battle of Bapaume.</p>			

Sadler, Stanley Victor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl SD2335, 7 Bn RSR	1897, Mortlake, Surrey	28.08.18	St Sever Cemetery, Haute Normandie. Battle.
<p>Sadler's father was James Sadler (1876-), a coachman from Essex, who married Ainsley – or an alternative spelling – Blackman (1876-1942) in 1896. She was from Battle, and in 1911 Sadler was living with his grandparents at Virgins Croft, Battle. He was a journeyman baker.</p> <p>Sadler died of wounds suffered near Hardecourt on the old Somme battlefield, about 10 km east of Albert. He died at Rouen military hospital.</p>			

SEPTEMBER 1918

The Western Front 1918

Eldridge, Bertram

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 5037, 16 Bn RSR	22, Westfield	02.09.18	Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Ewhurst.
<p>Bertram Eldridge was a brother of Arthur, who died in April 1918. They were sons of Jesse David Eldridge (1866-1950) and Frances Agnes Jewhurst (1870-1936), who married in 1894. In 1911 Jesse was a waggoner on a farm, and the family lived at Knight's Farm, Westfield, over towards Doleham station. Later their address was Dagg Lane, Ewhurst. Jesse was a Westfield man; Frances was from Beckley. In 1911 Bertram was a farm labourer. They were later at Dagg Lane, Ewhurst.</p> <p>Eldridge had previously been in the 13th Battalion of the Royal Sussex until its return from Mesopotamia. He was killed in action near Haute Avasnes about 15 km west of Arras. He was originally buried there.</p>			


Barden, Uriah Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 28250, 61 Coy, Machine Gun Corps	1897, Bexhill	03.09.18	Ninfield. Ploegstreet.
<p>Barden was originally in the 11th Battalion of the Royal Sussex but transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in 1916; he was promoted Lance Corporal later that year. He was killed in action, and from his place of memorial it must have been near Ypres.</p> <p>At his enlistment in 1915 he described himself as a milkman living at Old Farm Cottage, Udimore. His parents were William Barden (1870-1960), born at Worthing, a farmer, and Caroline (Isted, 1869-1920), of Ashburnham; they married in 1899. The Roll of Honour website gives the younger Uriah's next of kin as living at Udimore, which is consistent with his address at enlistment.</p>			

Eldridge, Basil Richard

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 33834, 7 Bn Norfolk Regt	1888, Battle	05.09.18	Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Battle.
<p>Eldridge was a son on David Edward Eldridge (1854-93), a general labourer born at Battle, and of Caroline Deborah (Kenward, 1854-1932), of Catsfield. They married in 1869. In 1891 they were living in Parks Yard, Battle and in 1901 in Carriers Yard. In 1901 Basil was an apprentice baker at Battle and in 1911 he was a confectioner living at 10 Hill Street, Penygraig, Rhondda, Glamorgan. In 1917 Basil married Annie Irish (1895-1936) in Portsmouth in 1917; there were no children. They lived at 104 Londesborough Road, Portsmouth. Eldridge was killed in action in an attack on the German lines near Nurlu, about 10 km north-east of Péronne on the way to Cambrai.</p>			

Dive, Stephen Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl TF320428, 16 RSR	1886, Westfield	16.09.18	Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Brede Memorial.
	<p>We do not know precisely where Dive was killed in action but it is likely to have been in the forward push in which Basil Eldridge died on the same day.</p> <p>In 1911 Dive was a farm labourer like his father, also Stephen Dive (1859-1924), born at Barcombe and living with his family in Goatham Lane, Brede. A later record gives their address as The Firs, Chitcombe. Dive's mother was Mahala Emma (Moon, 1863-1932). Her marriage was in 1885.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Marchant, William E

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SR898, 2 Bn RSR	1886, Netherfield	18.09.18	Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Aisne. Battle.
<p>Marchant, who had previously been in the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Sussex and been in the army since August 1914, died in a successful attack on German lines east of Péronne. It was one of the turning points of the war. He died near Vadencourt.</p> <p>In 1911 he was a farm labourer with his parents at 3 Beechwood Cottages, Netherfield. His father Henry Marchant had been born at Westfield, and his mother Mary Ann at Salehurst. No further certain information about them has been found. Mary Ann appears to have died at Battle in 1919.</p>			

Russell, Bertram

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 72769, 2 Bn Nottingham and Derbyshire Regt	1895, Ewhurst	19.09.18	Trefcon British Cemetery, Aisne. Ewhurst.
<p>Russell's battalion was involved in defending Holnon from German attack, just west of St Quentin. He had previously been T4/216415 Motor Transport in the ASC and had transferred late in 1917.</p> <p>In 1911 Russell was a farmer's boy working on the farm of his father, Herbert Russell (1859-1943), which was probably Sparks Farm a little east of Staplecross. His mother was Mary Ann (Goodsell, 1860-1936). Herbert was from Hooe and Mary from Ewhurst.</p>			

Austen, Theophilus Francis

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G58729, 2 Bn Royal Fusiliers	19, Bodiam	19.09.18	Outtersteene Communal Cemetery, Nord. Bodiam.
<p>Austen was killed in action, but we do not know precisely where. His cemetery, close to Bailleul and the Belgian frontier, is one of those to which burials from other cemeteries were later transferred. It seems likely that he died near Ypres. He had formerly been Private 3/33288 in 3rd Battalion, the East Surrey Regiment. His father, also Theophilus Austen (1864-1925) was from Benenden in Kent and his mother Mary (Webb, 1866-) from Hawkhurst, also in Kent. They married in 1887. In 1911 they were at Peter's Green, Bodiam, where both father and son were farm servants. The parents were later at Cottenden Cottage, Stonegate.</p>			

Hobbs, William Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G22003, 6 Bn E Kent Regt	1873, George Nympton, Devon	20.09.18	Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. Sedlescombe. George Nympton.
<p>Hobbs's father was Matthew Henry Hobbs (1849-1927), a blacksmith born at Bishops Nympton in Devon, and his mother Jane (Cruge, 1851-1917) from the Tiverton area of Devon. They married in 1872. Although the public records are silent, it appears that at one point William was butler to the Adamson family at Great Sanders, Sedlescombe, where no doubt he met his future wife Letitia Laura. In 1911 they were living at 1 Pennant Mews, Kensington, Middlesex, where he was a coachman. Hobbs died of wounds, probably inflicted on the previous day near Guyencourt, about 10 km north-east of Péronne.</p>			

Relfe, Percival Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2179, 7 Bn RSR	1896, Hollington.	21.09.18	Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Somme. Sedlescombe.
<p>Relfe died in the same forward push as Hobbs, as Allied troops took on the Hindenburg Line established in 1917. He was killed in action near Epehy, about a kilometre from Guyencourt. Relfe's father George Relfe (1866-1932) was a market gardener who in 1911 listed himself as being born at Pembury, Sussex. His mother, from Ninfield, was Henrietta (Hedger, 1864-1925). They married in 1889. They lived on School Hill, Sedlescombe.</p>			


Dengate, James Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G4236, 16 Bn RSR	1889, St Leonards	21.09.18	Robertsbridge. Vis-en Artois, Pas de Calais.
<p>Dengate was the son of George Dengate (1854-1935), born at Horsmonden in Kent and in 1891 a corn dealer; in 1911 he was a bricklayer. In 1876 he married Jane Taylor (c1855-), a Northamptonshire woman. They lived at St Leonards and then at 19 Parkfield Road, Hollington. James was a shop assistant in 1911; one source states that he was a painter. In the next year he married Florence Maria Avann (1892-) of Mountfield and they had two children. She was recorded at Robertsbridge after the war and remarried. His battalion suffered very heavy casualties on 21 September, trying unsuccessfully to move forward against the German line north-east of Péronne.</p>			

Osborne, Albert Vincent

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18221, 2 Bn RSR	Staplecross	24.09.18	Bellicourt British Cemetery, Aisne. Brede.
<p>Osborne was killed in action near Bellicourt, close to the Hindenburg Line. The Roll of Honour website identifies him as a farm bailiff at Padgham Farm, presumably the farm at Robertsbridge, with next of kin living at Brede.</p>			

Barnes, Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 102145, 195 Siege Bty, RGA	1885, Brede	26.09.18	Duisans British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Brede.
	<p>It is rarely easy to determine when and where a person was wounded when they were not actually killed in action. Barnes died of wounds at Duisans, very close to Arras. It is possible that his battery was acting in support of a major attack on the German line in which Canadian forces played a major part.</p> <p>In 1909 Barnes had married Ellen Florence (Baker, 1885-1953) of Hastings and they had two children. His enlistment papers give their address at 54 Bourne Walk, in Hastings Old Town and his occupation as bottle sorter. In 1911 he had been a labourer living with his brother James at Rectory Cottage, Brede. Their father was Jesse Barnes (1849-1910), an agricultural labourer, and his mother Mary Elizabeth (Furminger, 1848-92). Both were from Brede.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>		

Leatherby, Robert Alfred Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 156734, Machine Gun Corps	1894, Hammersmith, Middlesex	27.09.18	Brede. Vis-en-Artois.
<p>Leatherby was son of a man of exactly the same name (1873-1938); his mother was Florence Emily (Kemp, 1876-1930). In 1911 the elder Leatherby was a plumber in Acton, Middlesex and their eldest son Robert was described as an <i>errant</i> boy. In 1915 he married Kate Mary Toms (1897-1992), born at Northiam but in 1911 living at Brede; her father was a blacksmith there. They had one son – Frederick Ernest – who was to die in service in the Second World War. She remarried after the war.</p> <p>Leatherby was previously in the Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment. It is difficult to say where he fell. His memorial is east of Arras but lists over 9000 names of those who died in the area between 8 August and the armistice.</p>			

Chandler, Frederick James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 47879, 2/8 Lancashire Fusiliers	1898, Ewhurst	30.09.18	Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Brightling.
<p>Chandler was captured by the Germans and died as a prisoner; it seems likely that he was wounded and died of his wounds. Le Quesnoy cemetery is well behind the then German line and does contain German as well as Allied graves. Given this background it is bound to be unclear when he was taken. His parents were William Chandler, a gamekeeper, and Ellen. The records are largely silent or contradictory as their origins and occupations other than that William was a gamekeeper at Brightling and that he died in 1943.</p>			

OCTOBER 1918

The Western Front 1918

Morris, Percy John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G40312, 2 Bn Middlesex Regt	1885, Sedlescombe	07.10.18	St Nicholas British Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais. Sedlescombe.
<p>Like so many others, Morris was from an agricultural background. In 1911 he was a jobbing gardener; his father John Robert Morris (1863-) was a farm worker. They lived at River Bridge Cottages, Sedlescombe. In 1884 Robert had married Ellen (Wilkinson, 1860-1941), both from Battle. Percy was one of their eight children. He too had married, in 1910, Elizabeth Sarah Beale (1882-), of Westfield. They had one son. Morris, who had previously been in the Royal Sussex, as killed in action near Arras. His parents are reported as (later) living at Forge Cottages, Sedlescombe.</p>			

Waterhouse, Sidney Wilfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 540785, 183 Tunnelling Coy, RE	1886, Salehurst	08.10.18	Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Mountfield. Thiepval.
<p>Waterhouse was killed in action. It is likely to have been close to Cambrai, because that is where his cemetery is; it contains the remains of soldiers killed in that area including those moved from smaller cemeteries. Waterhouse's father was a farm labourer, Thomas Waterhouse (1854-1904), born at Burwash, and his mother, from Bexhill, was Mary Jane Spray (1857-1923). They married in 1878. Censuses have the family living at Vinehall Road, John's Cross in 1901 and at John's Cross Road, Mountfield in 1911. According to CWGC they later lived at Swales Green, Staplecross. Sidney was unmarried.</p>			

Cousins, Thomas

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G26717, 1 Bn East Kent Regt	1899, Ewhurst	08.10.18	Brede. Vis-en-Artois.
<p>Cousins was one of 21 'other ranks' to be killed in the taking of Mericourt. This is likely to have been during the continuing battle to push past the Hindenburg Line, which resulted in the taking of Cambrai on the day after Waterhouse died. The push was between Cambrai and Laon. Cousins was too young to have an occupation in the 1911 census; his father Charles (1863-1948), born at Salehurst, was a farm labourer. In 1883 Charles had married Catherine Cloutt (1864-1917) of Bodiam and they were to have ten children. In 1911 they lived at Clay Hill, Beckley.</p>			

Walters, Thomas William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 52599, K Bty, RHA	1890, Crowhurst	10.10.18	Troisvilles Communal Cemetery, Nord. Crowhurst.
<p>Walters died of wounds. That he is buried at Le Cateau, well to the east of Cambrai, suggests a quick advance by Allied troops. He was a regular soldier, being listed in the 1911 census as a Gunner in the RHA, at Wellington Lines at Aldershot. His father was Thomas John Walters (1863-1927, in 1891 a general labourer but in 1911 a platelayer with the South East and Chatham Railway Company. He had been born at Wittersham in Kent. His mother was Jane Maria White (1860-1926) of Hastings, who married the elder Thomas in 1887. In 1891 they are all at Blacklands Cottages, Crowhurst, and in 1911 the parents, along with some of his remaining siblings, are at Rose Cottage, Crowhurst.</p>			

Brooman, Edward Christopher

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman, 1/7 W Yorkshire Regt	1892, Whatlington	11.10.18	Whatlington. Vis-en Artois.
<p>Brooman was killed in an attack on the German lines near Famars, just south of Valenciennes. Only earlier in the year he had married Beatrice Ellen Pierce (1892-1981) of Eastbourne; they were to have no children. His father was George Broom (1861-1922) of Rotherfield and his mother Sarah Jane (Smith, 1861-1944) of Sedlescombe. In 1911 they were living in Park Lane, Whatlington, where Edward was a bricklayer's labourer and his father a farm labourer.</p>			

Winchester, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD752, 16 Bn RSR	1891, Ashburnham	14.10.18	Cambrin Military Cemetery, Nord. Ashburnham. Bexhill. Ninfield. Warnham.
<p>Winchester was a son of Mark Winchester (1849-1922) a farm labourer, and his wife Lucy Ann (Ballard, 1852-1932). He had been born at Ashburnham and she at Ninfield. In 1911 they were living at Bray's Hill, Ashburnham, where he was a farm labourer; Charles was a domestic gardener living at Westhumble, near Dorking in Surrey. After the war his parents lived at 14 Ringwood Road, Bexhill.</p> <p>The battalion reported no deaths for 14 October, but there was heavy if limited fighting on the previous day. A very heavy German attack on a forward post resulted in withdrawal, with every man a casualty. It was probably in this incident that he died.</p>			

Strevens, William Henry Noel

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 82866, RGA 203 AA Section	1888, Chelsea, Middlesex	14.10.18	Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais
<p>Strevens died of broncho-pneumonia in the General Hospital at Calais. It is impossible to say precisely where he served other than in France.</p> <p>When he enlisted he gave his occupation as a manservant at Battle Abbey, presumably to the then tenant Michael Grace. In 1916 he married Evelyn Ellen M Flack (1890-1966), and she gave birth to their only child on the day before his death. At that point she was living at 45 Sulgrave Road, Hammersmith, Middlesex. In the 1911 census he was a footman at a house in Kensington but other references are difficult to find – possibly because of the ever-present likelihood of his surname being misspelt. (After the war his widow returned a War Office document on the grounds that it contained errors, probably the surname.) It seems likely that he was the eldest son of James Strevens, a police sergeant born at Denham in Buckinghamshire in about 1861, and his wife Eliza born at the same place a year later. Beyond that there is uncertainty.</p>			

Ballard, Thomas Harold

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 14320, 3 Royal Fusiliers	1896, Brede	17.10.18	Highland Cemetery, Nord. Ninfield.
<p>Both Ballard's parents were from Brede; he was their only son. His father William Thomas (1874-1950) was a traction engine driver in 1911 and his mother was Augusta Eliza (Apps, 1872-1966). By 1911 they were living at Ninfield Green, later, perhaps, at The White House, Ninfield.</p> <p>Ballard was killed in action, during the crossing of the river Selle near Le Cateau as the Allies moved eastwards.</p>			

Pettitt, Percy Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G2123, 8 Bn RSR	1889, Fairlight	23.10.18	Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord. Westfield.
<p>Pettitt was the son of Edward Pettitt (1864-92), from Burwash, and Caroline (Crouch, 1866-1957), from Guestling. He was brought up by his mother and stepfather, one of the Netherfield Holland family, who married in 1895. Holland was a farm labourer, in 1911 living at Rocks Cottage, Westfield. Later their address was The Moor, Westfield.</p> <p>Pettitt was killed in action near Le Cateau. The battalion's war diary reports even the names of 'other ranks' who were casualties but Pettitt's name is not recorded.</p>			

Gain, Arthur Robert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18244, 7 Bn East Kent Regt	30, Brede	24.10.18	Westfield. Vis-en-Artois.
<p>Gain was a son of George Gain (1850-1929) and his wife Annie (Weller, 1851-1907), both of whom were born at Brede. In 1901 he was a carter on a farm and the family lived at Mount Pleasant Cottages, New Cut, Westfield. In 1911 Arthur was a dairyman on a farm at Westfield. In 1913 he married Edith Ida Reed of Brede and they had one daughter; after the war she remarried died in 1971.</p> <p>Gain may have been killed in the battalion's attack on the German line at Montay, a little north-east of Le Cateau.</p>			

Gornall, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 543, Non Combatant Corps.	1892, Manchester	24.10.18	Brighton Borough Cemetery, Lewes Road. Robertsbridge.
<p>Gornall was one of those rare creatures in this study: a conscientious objector. He gave his occupation as evangelist and his religion as the Plymouth Brethren. He joined the war in October 1914 as a civilian working at a Church Army hospital for the French army at Caen, Basse Normandie, with the 1st East Lancashire Field Ambulance. Threatened with conscription in 1916, he returned to the UK to avoid being sent to fight and was assigned to the Non-Combatant Corps, a labour body and sent to France in June of that year. He was on leave when he contracted influenza and died at his home, 13 Southover Street, Brighton.</p> <p>He had been married for only 14 months, to Christina Agnes Fowler, who had been born in the Uckfield area in 1892.</p> <p>His father was Robert Gornall and his mother Hannah (Cunningham).</p>			


Harmer, Jesse

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte/Rifleman 45265, 1/5 Bn, S Lancashire Regt	1880, Robertsbridge	25.10.18	Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Hainault, Belgium. Robertsbridge.
<p>Harmer died of wounds. At the time his battalion was at Esplechin, near Tournai in Belgium but very close to the French border.</p> <p>The 1911 census reported him as a farm labourer living with his parents in the High Street, Robertsbridge. They were Alfred Harmer (1848-1928), a labourer in the local cricket bat workshop, and Caroline (Woodgate, 1839-1925). Both had been born at Robertsbridge. They married in 1864.</p>			

Crittenden, Frank

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 209878, 379 Siege Bty, RGA	1885, Ewhurst	28.10.18	Awoingt British Cemetery, Nord. Sedlescombe.
<p>Crittenden was recorded as a general labourer for the county council in 1911; at his enlistment this was described as steam roller driver. In 1910 he married Amy Jempson (1887-1918), of John's Cross and they were to have four children; but she would die of influenza and pneumonia only 25 days after her husband.</p> <p>Criteenden's father was Samson – CWGC wrongly have him as Samuel – Crittenden (1861-1939) and his mother was Mary Leonora (Spears, 1854-1926); both were from Sedlescombe. They married in 1882. They lived as Compasses Cottage, Staplecross and after the war at Chittlebirch, Staplecross. Amy was living at Compasses Cottage when she died.</p> <p>Crittenden died at a casualty clearing station of wounds in the back caused by a shell. We do not know where he was wounded but his cemetery is just east of Cambrai; the village had been captured only on 9/10 October.</p>			

Frost, Frederick Arthur

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 1009458, 46 Bn Saskatchewan Regt	02.03.93, Catsfield	01.11.18	Aulnoy Communal Cemetery, Nord. Catsfield.
 <p>In 1911 Frost was a waggoner on a farm, living with his parents at Church Farm, Catsfield. They were Aaron Frost (c1855-1939), a farm labourer born at Penshurst in Kent, and Emily Ellen (Budd, 1856-1940) from Whitechapel in Middlesex; they married in 1878. There is a record of a Frederick Frost of the right age sailing for Canada in 1913.</p> <p>He enlisted in 1916 and married Lizzie Maria Ransom (1894-1977) of Catsfield in the following year; they had one child. She remarried after the war.</p> <p>At the time of Frost's death there was heavy fighting around Aulnoy, close to Valenciennes.</p>			

Brown, John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte M2/178333, ASC Motor Transport	1881, Catsfield	03.11.18	Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. Netherfield.
<p>Brown died of wounds but, once again, we do not know precisely where. His cemetery is about 10 km south-west of Le Cateau but it contains the graves of many soldiers who were at first buried elsewhere. At this point the Allies were moving forward very fast by WW1 standards. They had won Le Cateau by 18 October. SDGW give Brown's birthplace as Cuckfield, which is wrong; understandably, the Roll of Honour website repeats this mistake. There is no relevant birth recorded at Cuckfield, and Brown himself gives his birthplace as Catsfield in the 1911 census. He was then a gypsum miner living at Netherfield and married to Annie Rachel (Fuller, 1877-1918), in 1905. They had one child. She died early in 1918.</p> <p>Brown's father was George Brown (c1834-) and his mother Susannah (c1834-1902). Both were from Bedfordshire. He was a labourer. In 1901 and 1911 they lived at The Cottage, Haddock Hill, Bexhill.</p>			

Fuller, Charles Andrew

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl 113862, Machine Gun Corps, 30 Coy	1895, Dallington	09.11.18	Terlincthun British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Battle.
<p>Fuller was the eldest son of Frank Fuller (1863-1939), who was born and lived at Battle. In 1911 he was an engine driver at the jam factory there and Charles was an apprentice saddler. They lived at 5 Newbery's Cottages, close to the factory. He married Jane Fairall (1865-1901), born at Warbleton, in 1887 and remarried after her death. Charles did not marry.</p> <p>Charles died of pneumonia only two days before the armistice put an end to fighting on the western front.</p>			

The Western Front: post-armistice deaths

Davison, Rashell Montague Rashell

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Captain, 3 Bn N Staffordshire attached to 8 Bn Leicester Regt	31.05.1886	29.01.19	Kingston Cemetery, Surrey. New Malden, Surrey.
<p>Davison's father Rashell Thomas Davison (1851-1936) was a physician at Battle from before 1881, living at Langton House, Abbey Green with his wife Emily Frances Sarah (Smith, 1847-1927). They married in 1879. Neither was local: Rashell was from Northumberland and Emily from Aberdeen. They had probably met at Aberdeen, because that where he obtained his MB. All six of their children were born at Battle. He was Medical Officer of Health at Battle among other appointments. The family left for New Malden in 1895-96. The younger Rashell was educated at Epsom College and is recorded in 1910 as a papermaker; he was then in India until 1915.</p> <p>Sent to France in July 1916, he was seriously wounded in the head near Epehy and captured by the Germans. We do not know the date of his wounding; Epehy was in the front line in March and again in October 1918. When repatriated he was operated on in London but died of pneumonia and post-operative cerebral meningitis.</p>			

Price, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Trooper L9158, 9 Bn Royal Lancers	1885, Northiam	15.03.19	Cologne Southern Cemetery, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. Ewhurst.
<p>When Price died the war was still technically in progress, but the armistice had required Allied forces to occupy the Rhineland pending a settlement. There was no military conflict, and Price died of bronchial pneumonia at 64 Casualty Clearing Station at Cologne. He had been on the western front since the end of 1915.</p> <p>Price was the son of James Price (1846-1895), a labourer and carpenter and sometimes imprisoned criminal born at Rotherfield, and Elizabeth (Davis, 1847-1923) of Beckley. They married in 1869. After the war she was at Stodder Cottage, Beckley. In 1911 Charles was a farm labourer at Northiam. His brother Oliver was a bootmaker at Staplecross.</p>			

GALLIPOLI AND GREECE

Fuller, Philip Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 7659, 1 Royal Munster Fusiliers	1886, Netherfield	07.05.15	Helles.
<p>Fuller was a regular soldier. The army, including Fuller's battalion, had landed on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April. They came on HMS River Clyde, to Cape Helles to face a resistance so great that it must have been obvious that success was at best uncertain. On 7 May the battalion managed to advance 200 yards under heavy fire and then dug in.</p> <p>He was a professional soldier, recorded in 1911 in a barracks in India. In 1901 his father William Henry P Fuller (1844-1924), from Ticehurst, was a stoker at the gypsum works; his mother Harriett Golding (Catt, 1845-1939) was from Hastings. They married in 1868. They were living at Woodlands, Netherfield. Later they lived at 5 Caves Road, Hastings.</p>			

Taylor, Ernest George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 1525, 24 Bn Australian Infantry	1892, Catsfield	28.11.15	Catsfield. Lone Pine, Turkey.
<p>Taylor was a son of William Taylor (1865-) of Crowhurst and Ruth Ransom (1866-1928) of Catsfield. They married in 1887 and in 1901 were living at The Green, Catsfield. In 1911 Ernest was working on Olives farm at Hooe. He appears to have emigrated to Australia at the end of 1912, enlisting at Melbourne early in the war. He was killed as part of the ANZAC forces at Gallipoli. By then evacuation had been decided but not yet acted on.</p>			

McDougall, Edward Cecil

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Rifleman 551189, 2/16 Bn London Regt	25, Welling, Kent.	03.01.17	Salonika (Lambert Road) Military Cemetery, Greece. Sedlescombe.
<p>McDougall was a brother of Malcolm, who was to die on the western front in July 1916. They were sons of John McDougall (1853-1919), a civil engineer from Walworth in Surrey, and Harriet Agnes (Dengate, 1853-1933), of Sedlescombe. They married in 1889. In 1911 they were living at Bromley Common, Kent, and John was to die at Linton House, Sedlescombe after they left 66 Cambridge Road, Hastings.</p> <p>His battalion arrived in Salonika only in late November 1916. His cemetery contains graves collected from the region and it is not possible to identify where or how he died.</p>			

Johnson, Charles Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G28198, 15 Labour Bn, Royal W Surrey Regt		24.06.17	Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece. Sedlescombe.
<p>Johnson bore a common surname, and the only family so far found that fits all the circumstances is one from Pulborough that in 1911 was at Church Farm, Chalvington. They were John Johnson (1872-), a farm bailiff, and Elizabeth Mary (1872-). Their son Charles, a farm labourer, was then aged 18. CWGC state that after the war the parents lived at The Bowlings, Sedlescombe.</p> <p>Johnson was formerly with the Royal Sussex. At the time of his death the Allies were beginning to move north from Salonika against Turkish and Bulgarian resistance, a move that would ultimately affect the end of the war because it contributed to the collapse not only of those countries but also of Austria. His cemetery is about half-way between Salonika and the border of the former Yugoslav state of Macedonia.</p>			

Creasey, Horace

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 23110, 2 Bn E Surrey Regt	1881, Catsfield	19.10.17	Kirechkoi Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece. Ninfield.
<p>Although we do not know precisely how Creasey died, at the time his battalion was involved in extending the Allied line north of Salonika. He is reported as dying at Salonika, so working from the position of the cemetery and the military hospitals it may be that he died of wounds.</p> <p>Creasey was the son of another Horace Creasey (1855-1935), born at Ninfield, who worked on farms. His mother was Emily (Ransom, 1858-1936), from Catsfield. They married in 1878 and lived first at Crowhurst and then at Ninfield – the Marl Pits and then the Green.</p> <p>In 1906 the younger Horace married Lena Pocock (1887-1956), of Catsfield, and they had one son.</p>			

Marchant, Sydney Frederick

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 147068, 396 Siege Bty, RGA	1896, Ashburnham	12.12.18	Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Ashburnham.
<p>Marchant – sometime Sydney and sometimes Sidney in the records – was the son of Frederick William Marchant (1866-1900) and Ruth (Honeysett, 1871-1957). Both were from Dallington. They married in 1896. After her husband's death she remarried. She and her second husband lived at Great Sprays Farm, Penhurst. In 1911 Sidney was working on a farm; his step-father was a farmer.</p> <p>Allied troops occupied Salonika in October 1915 to prevent the Central Powers from doing so. Marchant may have been among the last burials at Mikra, a little south of the city but mn who had been buried more distantly were brought into Mikra after the armistice.</p>			

MESOPOTAMIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

French, John Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 60773, 66 Battery, RFA	1893, Battle	23.02.16	Battle. Basra.
<p>Attempts were made early in 1916 to relieve Kut but they failed. French died during the second attempt, being shot through the left side of his chest. French was a regular soldier, enlisting in October 1910 and recorded in 1911 in a barracks in India.</p> <p>In 1911 the rest of the family lived at Little Park Cottages, Battle. John French's father Herbert French (1855-1942), from Whatlington, was a carter on a farm; his mother Ann Laura (Weller, 1858-1934) was from Brede.</p>			

Taylor, Frederick George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9960, I Bn RSR attached Indian Divn	1891, Westfield	24.08.16	Westfield. Basra.
<p>There were disasters enough on the western front but Kut-el Amara takes some beating: a British army was besieged by and finally surrendered to the Turks, due to its own incompetence. Kut is about 160 km south-east of Baghdad, and much further from British HQ at Basra. Survivors were treated abominably, and Taylor was among those who died in captivity. He was a regular soldier, part of the signals section.</p> <p>Taylor was a son of a farm waggoner, William Henry Taylor (1860-) and his wife Mary (Boots, 1864-). He was from Westfield and she from Northiam. They married in 1887. (Care should be taken here: one family website states that Frederick was William's brother, which is not the case.)</p>			

Sellens, James Walter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L6596, 2 Royal W Kent Regt	1885, Battle	14.09.16	Baghdad (North Gate) Cemetery.
<p>Kut surrendered in April, and the British planned a campaign that would not start until the end of the year. In the meantime the front line was north of Khamsiya, well south of Kut.</p> <p>Sellens's family moved around the country. His father, also James Walter Sellens (1860-1922) was a stoker born at Hollington (living at 6 Edward Terrace, Old Lane, Hollington) and his mother Julia (Spray, 1860-1940), from Battle; they married in 1882. By 1911 they were at Greenwich and they both died in the West Riding.</p>			

Akehurst, Henry William Alexander

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 37993, 9 Bn Worcestershire Regt	Hastings	25.01.17	Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Robertsbridge.
<p>Akehurst was a son of Aleck Akehurst (1850-1927), a timber merchant from Pett; his mother was Catherine Eliza Thorpe (1857-), from Fairlight. They married in 1878. They lived at Hastings until early in the new century when they moved to Station Road, Robertsbridge.</p> <p>Their son Henry was reported as a Private in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1911, when it was stationed in India. He was a regular soldier who later transferred regiments. There is no current information about his place of death.</p> <p>Henry was an uncle of Violet Akehurst, who in 1941 became the youngest woman to die in British service in the second world war, at the age of 16.</p>			

Croft, Herbert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl TF320136, 16 Bn RSR	1882, Brightling	28.01.17	Port Said War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Brightling.
<p>Croft's father was Herbert Edward Croft (1850-1933) of Brightling and his mother Emma (Seckerson, 1849-) of Coventry in Warwickshire. They married in 1880. In 1901 he was a house painter and in 1911 a farmer; they then lived at Snales Farm, Brightling. The younger Herbert was also a farmer, living with his sister and brother-in-law at Glebe Farm in the same parish.</p> <p>Croft died of wounds at Port Said base hospital, Egypt. The location suggests a death in Palestine.</p>			

Partington, John Bertram

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, 4 Bn Devonshire Regt	07.05.1884, Netherfield	03.02.17	Netherfield. Oakham School. Amara War Cemetery, Iraq.
<p>Partington was killed in the well-prepared attack on the Turkish army intended to retake Kut and move towards Baghdad. He had joined up in August 1914 and after spells in Iraq and then India was sent to Australia for more than a year in connection with German prisoners there. His battalion moved forward along the Tigris to the Turkish lines in February 1917 and Partington was killed in action.</p> <p>His connection with Sussex was through his birth: his father Thomas Partington (1840-88) was the second vicar of Netherfield, from 1868, but died in office there. His mother was Jesse (Sheepshanks, 1845-1922) of Coventry in Warwickshire, daughter of another vicar. The family was not without money and John went to Radley College in Berkshire and then to Pembroke College, Oxford. He became a teacher.</p>			

Booth, Frederick George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte L9131, 2 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1888, Battle	06.02.17	Baghdad (North Gate) Cemetery.
<p>Booth was killed in the same push as Partington. He was a regular soldier, and in 1911 was in a barracks in India.</p> <p>His father was Samuel Booth (1851-1917), born at Warbleton. In 1891 he was an agricultural labourer at Marley Farm, Battle; in 1901 a licensed victualler at the Vine Inn, Cousley Wood, Wadhurst and in 1911 the same at the Kentish Rifleman at Dunks Green, Shipborne, Kent. (Remarkably, both pubs were still going in 2018.) Frederick's mother was Ellen (Carver, 1854-), from Petworth; she and Samuel married in 1874.</p>			

Flint, Henry Frederic

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 905999, 222 Bde, RFA	1896, Battle	28.05.17	Basra.
<p>At the time of his death Flint's family were living at 18 Sidley Road, Eastbourne, but they were at Battle in the 1911 census and before that. Flint was one of three surviving children of Henry Frederic (1865-1942) of Battle and Augusta Frances Phoebe (Rochford, 1872-1933), born at Athlone in Ireland. She lived at Ninfield from childhood, grand-daughter of the Deeproose Family where her grandfather was the farmer at Miller's Farm. In 1901 the family lived at 1 Maplehurst Cottages, Baldslow and in 1911 at Little Park, Battle when his father was a coach painter and young Henry a cowman on a farm.</p> <p>It is unclear where he died but fighting continued in what became Iraq up to the end of the war.</p>			

Saunders, Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver 38882, No 6 Pack Wireless Section RE	1887, Netherfield	13.08.17	Cairo War Memorial Cemetery. Netherfield.
<p>Saunders died in Egypt where there was no fighting: he had appendicitis. He was brother to Nelson Saunders, who was to die on the western front in April 1918.</p> <p>Their father was Harry Saunders (1849-1936) of Netherfield and their mother Mary (Selmes, 1863-1938), from Mountfield. In 1911 Harry was a labourer at the gypsum works, and the family lived at Soans' Cottages, French's Farm, Netherfield. Alfred was a general labourer.</p>			

Noakes, Frederic

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Lt, Staffordshire Yeomanry.	1877, Battle	25.11.17	Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Battle.
<p>Noakes was one of the family that ran the tanning business on Battle Hill. He was son of Frederic Noakes (1841-1912), a farmer and later tanner, one of the sons of William Noakes who took over the tanyard in the 1840s. His mother was Kate (Pitcher, 1844-87), of Hailsham. His mother was Kate (Pitcher, 1844-87), of Hailsham, who married in 1873. The final family home was 4 St Mary's Villas, Battle.</p> <p>By 1911 the younger Frederic was a farmer at Crittenden Manor, Edenbridge, Kent. In 1914 he married Margaret Jardine Carruthers and they had two children.</p> <p>The circumstances of Noakes's death are unclear but we know that British forces were engaged in the battle for Ramleh at the time. The plaque in St Mary's Church, Battle, gives his death as 26 November.</p>			

Bassett, William Grahame

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte DM/2/163084, 730 Motor Transport Coy, ASC	07.02.75, Richmond, Surrey	02.05.18	Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery. Crowhurst.
<p>We know nothing of Bassett's death other than that at the time the British forces were moving steadily beyond Baghdad, which they had occupied in March of the previous year.</p> <p>His family are not easy to trace because of their overseas habits. His father was John Channon Lee Bassett (1832-1912), a barrister. William's mother was Anna Maria (Grahame, c1849-1936), of Auckland, New Zealand where the family spent most of the 1880s and 1890s. John retired to Bath in Somerset where he died. William married Edith Mary Hunt in 1907, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and they had one child. CWG records her later address as The Rough, Cooden Drive, Bexhill.</p> <p>CWGC give Bassett's birth as Crowhurst, but the only birth of such a name (and one with New Zealand connections) was registered at Richmond. The Crowhurst connection remains unclear.</p>			

Vitler, Thomas W

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 5022, 7 Hussars, Household Cavalry	1891, Battle	28.10.18	Ramleh War Cemetery. Battle.
<p>Vitler's father Henry (1842-1899) was an agricultural labourer, living at 9 Harold Terrace. After his death his widow Ann Elizabeth (Waite, 1850-1917) moved to 3 Clive Villas on Battle Hill. They had married in 1877. He was from Hooe, she from Wartling. Henry's brother Henry died on the western front in March 1918.</p> <p>Vitler's battalion had gone to India in 1912 and to Mesopotamia in 1917; we do not know when he joined them. After the capture of Baghdad there was a slow advance towards Mosul, and there was a serious Turkish counter-attack in the month that Vitler died.</p>			

INDIA

Hayler, Ernest John Edgar

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver 1082 1 Sussex Battery 3/2, Home Counties Bde RFA, with Indian Army.	18.10.1884, Battle	13.08.16	Crowhurst. Kirkee 1914-18.
<p>Hayler's father was Alfred Hayler (1859-1935), born at Westfield, and his mother Fanny Sophia (Edwards, 1863-1942), from Sedlescombe. They married in 1881. In 1911 they lived at Stone Bridge Cottage, Crowhurst; they were shortly to move to Yew Tree Cottage, Blackhorse Road, Battle. In 1911 Ernest was a milkman on a farm; his father was a cowman on a farm.</p> <p>Alfred enlisted in 1914 and went to India early in 1916. He died of disease.</p>			

Dengate, James

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
L/Cpl G11486, 1 Bn RSR	1896, Sedlescombe	14.09.17	Muree New Cemetery. Sedlescombe. Karachi.
<p>Dengate was son of James Dengate (1873-1962), of Ewhurst, and his mother was Naomi (also Dengate, 1869-1947), of Sedlescombe. In 1911 he was a house painter and the family lived at Brickyard Cottages (later Littlehurst), Sedlescombe. Their later address was The Haven, Sedlescombe.</p> <p>He was a regular soldier. His battalion did not leave India during the war and was stationed at Peshawar near the Afghan border in what is now Pakistan. He died of tuberculosis at Muree Military Hospital.</p>			

AFRICA

Donald, Bertram Smith

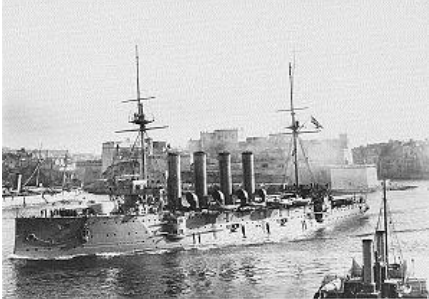
<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Cpl 9838, South African Infantry	1881, Benhall, Suffolk	12.05.16	Dar es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania.
<p>Donald's only connection with Battle appears to be through his parents, who retired there. They lived at Pembury Lodge, 115 Hastings Road. His father was Joseph Smith (1844-1924) from Cheshire, who as a land agent had lived in various places but mostly in East Anglia. His mother was Mary Harman (Smith, 1840-1922) from Carlton Colville in Suffolk; she married Joseph in 1872. Both of them died at Battle.</p> <p>Bertram was a regular soldier. He had served in the 12th Lancers in the Boer War and had stayed in South Africa in the gold-mining business. In 1914 he had joined the Natal Light Horse and had taken part in suppressing the de Wet rebellion initiated by dissident Afrikaners in August of that year. He then joined the expedition to remove the Germans from their east African colonies of Tanganyika, Urundi and Ruanda. On 9 May he was wounded while going for ammunition in an attack on a German fort, probably rather north of Dodoma in central Tanganyika.</p>			

AT SEA AND THE ROYAL NAVY


1914

At sea and the Royal Navy

Weller, John Lourine Tavinor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
AB 181557 (RFRChB 2414)(Ch), RN	1874, Battle	22.09.14	Chatham Naval.
 <p>Weller died in a naval disaster that should never have been allowed to happen. He was aboard HMS <i>Aboukir</i>, a group of three ships stationed off the Dutch coast on the lookout for German ships that might be trying to enter the Channel. A German submarine spotted them and first torpedoes HMS <i>Aboukir</i>. HMS <i>Hogue</i> came to help it but was itself torpedoed. The <i>Aboukir</i> sank in about 25 minutes, the <i>Hogue</i> in about 15. The last of the three, HMS <i>Cressy</i>, was also attacked and sank. Some 1400 men were lost.</p> <p>Weller had left Battle as a young man to join the Navy but had left it by 1911, when he was recorded living at 3 Longleigh Terrace, Ilfracombe, Devon. He wrote his occupation as <i>retired seaman</i>; the enumerator has added the word <i>officer</i>. This seems unlikely, given his rank at his death. With him are his wife Emma Willoughby (Linton, c1882-), born at Annatown, County Waterford, and their son. They married at Liverpool in 1909. Present with them also is John's mother Harriet (Moore, 1843-1917). His father Walter (1830-99) had been a gamekeeper at Coarse Barn Farm, Battle.</p>			

Beaney, Albert Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
AB 182377, Royal Fleet Reserve/Ch/B/5833	17.05.1879, St Leonards	22.09.14	Battle. Hastings. Chatham.
 <p>Beaney died in the same incident as Weller. He was a postman at Battle and Westfield who married Mary Poole, probably from Bexhill, in 1912; CWGC record her as living at 3 Chapel Cottages, Battle. His father was William Beaney (1859-), born at Salehurst, in 1891 a cowman and garden worker at Addington in Surrey, and his mother Esther Elizabeth (Russell, 1858-1924) from Hawkhurst, by 1911 a widow; they appear to have married in 1881. In 1911 Esther and Albert were living at 57 Norman Road, St Leonards.</p>			

Rummery, George Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Ship's Cpl 2nd Class 208425	29.07.1883, Battle	26.11.14	Mountfield churchyard. Mountfield.



HMS *Bulwark* was a pre-Dreadnought battleship commissioned in 1902. Rather short of Sheerness in Kent, she suddenly blew up at 07.50, with the loss of all but twelve of the 750 men on board, some of whom were seriously injured. Her loss appears to have been entirely accidental: the subsequent inquiry found that cordite charges had been stored too close to a boiler room bulkhead.

Rummery was a son of William Rummery (1848-1929), in 1911 recorded as living at Woodsdale Cottages, Battle Road, Mountfield. His mother was Sarah (Sellens, 1854-1934). Both were from Salehurst. They married in 1872. Naval records give his second name as Albert.

From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/

1915

At sea and the Royal Navy

Bryant, Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Chief Cook 342453, RN	03.10.76, Sedlescombe	01.01.15	Sedlescombe. Lenham, Kent. Chatham.



Although warned that submarines had been spotted in the area, the ships on gunnery exercises in Portland Bay, Dorset, took no precautions. At 02.20 the battleship HMS *Formidable* was struck first by one torpedo and a little later by another. Of the 780 men on board 547 died, Bryant among them. He had joined the Navy before the 1901 census, which records him there as a cook's mate on HMS *Ganges*, First Class Training Ship, at Harwich in Essex.

In 1905 Bryant married Rosalie Emma Cooper (1871-1959) of Lenham, between Maidstone and Ashford in Kent. No children have been identified. CWGC list her residence as Fairview, Lenham.

From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/

Bryant's father was Jonathan Bryant (1844-1931) of Sedlescombe, an agricultural labourer, and his mother Ann (Morgan, 1844-1905) of Beckley. They married in 1867. In 1891 their address was 1, Manor House, Sedlescombe.

Goodsell, Charles Lewis

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 2084, 1/3 Kent Fortress Coy, RE	11.12.1875, Battle	28.10.15	Netherfield. Helles.



Goodsell died in an accident. Two ships – the *Sarnia* and the *Hythe* – were bringing troops to Gallipoli in darkness and without showing proper lights so that Turkish artillery would not attack them. They collided just off Cape Helles. Goodsell was on the *Hythe*, which went down in ten minutes. 134 men died, including Goodsell. Goodsell came from one of those large families of the time: he was one of eleven children. His father was Samuel Goodsell (1939-1936), of Netherfield, a farmer and wood merchant, and his mother Lucy (Foster, 1840-1914), of Mountfield. They married in 1863.

Philip Goodsell was himself married: to Caroline Selmes (1875-1942), of Battle, in 1900. They had four children, but one of them died very young.

Pook, Richard Thomas


<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Driver 2268, 1/3 Kent Fortress Coy, RE	15.04.1883, Battle	28.10.15	Helles.



Pook was also on the *Hythe* and suffered the same fate as Goodsell. He was educated at Battle school, and in 1907 married Florence Edith Benge (1881-1948), whose birth was registered in the Ticehurst area but who lists it in 1911 as having been at Lamberhurst in Kent. By then Pook was a contractors' cowman living at 71 Auckland Road, Tunbridge Wells. They had two children and another would follow in 1914.

Pook's father James Pook (1854-1930) was a farm labourer and then a coal carter, from Heathfield; his mother was Ruth (Muggridge, 1857-1931) of Waldron. In 1891 the family lived at Beanford, Battle.

Sharp, John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Stoker First Class 307371 (Po), RN	21.04.1883, Battle	19.11.15	Portsmouth Naval.
		<p>Sharp died on board HMS <i>Scourge</i> in the Aegean. As a stoker he would have been exposed to boiler explosions. In this case five men died and two were seriously injured. It is unclear whether the ship hit a mine or was struck by Turkish on-shore artillery. In 1911 Sharp was living at 172 Landguard Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, a naval stoker married to Emily Hutchings (1882-1953) of Southsea, Hampshire; they had one son.</p>	
<p>He was the only surviving child of Edward Sharp (1859-), of Crowhurst, who worked on farms as a carter or general farm servant. His mother was Fanny (Ewens, 1860-). They had married in 1883.</p>			

1916

At sea and the Royal Navy

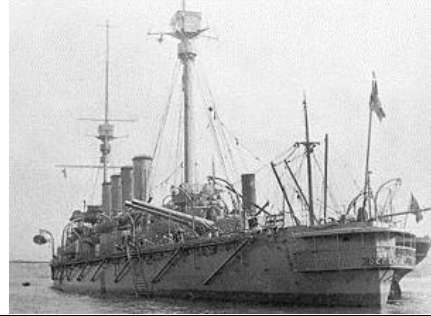
Breeze, Nelson Victor

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte M2/082721, 605 Heavy Transport Coy, ASC	1894, Heathfield	08.01.16	Battle. Hollybrook, Southampton.
<p>CWGC records that Breeze lived at Battle, which means that he must have arrived there after the 1911 census. His father was a farmer, John Breeze (1867-1946), born at Warbleton, and his mother was Mary Elizabeth (Playford, 1867-) of Northiam. They married in 1887. CWGC report their Battle address as Little Park Farm.</p> <p>Their son died when his troopship hit a mine laid by a German submarine. He was on his way to south-eastern Europe and left Brindisi, Italy, on the <i>Città di Palermo</i> bound for Durazzo (now Durrës) in Albania. Only 84 British survived out of 143 who boarded.</p>			

Crittenden, Albert Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Stoker 1st Class K/23243, RN	01.12.95, Salehurst	07.03.16	Robertsbridge. Chatham Naval.
<p>Crittenden was on the destroyer HMS <i>Croquette</i> when it was struck a mine laid by a German submarine about ten miles (16 km) east of Clacton in Essex. Of the 65 crew 22 were lost, including Crittenden. His father was John Thomas Crittenden (1863-1941), born at Ewhurst, and his mother Esther Mary (Brockhurst, 1862-1914) of Salehurst. In 1911 John was a farm labourer and young Albert a milkman on a farm. John's later address is Powdermills Lane, Battle.</p>			

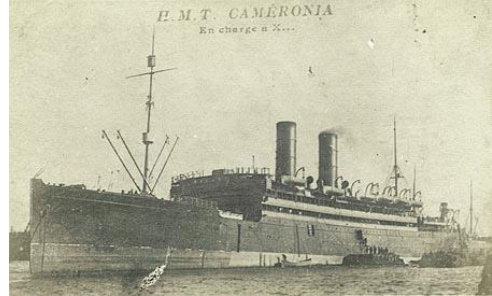
Jeffery, Frank

Rank etc	Birth	Death	Burial and memorials
Yeoman of Signals (Petty Officer) 208969, RN	23.10.83, Ewhurst	31.05.16	Ewhurst.
 <p><i>Defence</i> was one of those ships that proved their incapacity to withstand German shelling. It was hit by two salvos from the German ships that caused the aft magazine to explode. The resulting fire spread via the ammunition passages to the adjacent magazines which then detonated in turn. The ship exploded with the loss of all men on board: between 893 and 903 men were killed. Frank's father Henry Jeffery (c1838-97) was an agricultural labourer; his mother was Sabina (Baker, 1844-1914). Both were born at Ewhurst; they married in 1864. In 1881 they were at Sempstead Farm, a little east of Ewhurst Green; in 1911 Sabina was at Forge Lane, Staplecross. Frank was an apprentice builder who lived at Poplars Cottage, Rock Hill and then at 6 Rosefields, Staplecross.</p>			

1916

At sea and the Royal Navy

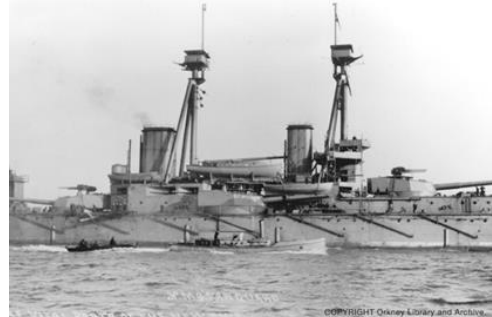
Fuller, Thomas John

Rank etc	Birth	Death	Burial and memorials
Gunner 154692, 6 Reserve Battery, RFA	11.05.1881, Mountfield	15.04.17	Netherfield. Chatby, Egypt.
 <p>Fuller was on board the SS <i>Cameronia</i> on his way to Egypt when it met a German submarine about 250 km east of Malta. It was torpedoed and sank within 40 minutes. Of about 2650 troops on board, almost all were rescued but Fuller died. He was the eldest son of Stephen Fuller (1853-1900), born at Brightling, whose occupation in 1891 was gypsum miner; his mother was Mary Jane (Drury, 1855-1942), of Netherfield. In 1891 they lived at Woodlands Cottage, Ivyland Green, Netherfield. Thomas was also employed at the gypsum works, as a storekeeper. According to one account he was a keen cricketer. Thomas married Rose Maud Taylor (-1963) in 1914 and they had two children. She remarried after the war.</p>			

1917

At sea and the Royal Navy

Page, Alfred

Rank etc	Birth	Death	Burial and memorials
RN J/25070	1892, Yalding, Kent	09.07.17	Robertsbridge. Chatham.
 <p>The <i>Hastings and St Leonards Observer</i> (13.11.15) notes that Alfred Page, formerly of Salehurst school, was serving on HMS <i>Vanguard</i>. This ship was anchored in Scapa Flow when on 9 July 1917 it suddenly blew up, instantly killing all but three of its crew, one of whom died very soon. The 1901 census has Page living at Salehurst with his father William (1864-1930) and mother Jane (Dartnell, 1864-1940), both born at Paddock Wood in Kent and married in 1889. He was a cowman on a farm. In Sussex they lived at Silver Hill on the road to Hurst Green.</p>			


Carey, Frederick Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Petty Officer 185060, RN	22.08.77, Ninfield	24.07.17	Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery, Norfolk. Ninfield.
<p>Carey is reported as being on HMS <i>Achilles</i>, which is true, but his last posting was on HMS <i>Victory</i>. He did not last long there because on 6 April 1917 he was discharged on grounds of insanity (not attributable to the war). He died of a cause so far unknown. That it was at Great Yarmouth suggests removal to a hospital there. Carey father George (1840-1922) was a builder, born at Hooe, and his mother Mary (Turner, 1841-1928) was from Dover in Kent. They married in 1875 and lived first at The Green and then at Lower Street, Ninfield. Carey married Alice Mary, and the records are not wholly clear about her. It is possible that she was Aliice Mary Lemmon (1880-) from Hooe, who married him in 1910 and after the war was also living at Lower Street, Ninfield. There appear to have been no children.</p>			

1918

At sea and the Royal Navy

Watson, Frederick Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
AB 5/184/PO, RNVR	1894, Westfield	12.09.18	Westfield. Portsmouth Naval.
 <p>The SS <i>Sarnia</i>, a ship requisitioned from the London and South Western Railway, has already featured in this account (Royal Navy, October 1915). On this occasion it was torpedoed by a submarine in the Mediterranean, off Alexandria in Egypt. Watson was a son of Henry James Watson (1864-) of Westfield, an agricultural labourer, and his mother was Kate (Whitewick, 1864-1942), born at Tenterden in Kent. They married in 1889.</p> <p><i>From www.ww1rollofhonour.co.uk/index.php/tag/</i></p>			

Lintott, Henry William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Officers' Steward 3rd Class L6877, RN.	16.11.1896, Battle	23.10.18	Tourlaville Communal Cemetery Extension. Catsfield. Seaford.
<p>Naval records give Lintott's birth details as above but he does not appear in the public record of births. Nor does he appear in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. According to the Navy his father was George Lintott (1846-), of Walberton near Arundel, a policeman – retired by 1911, by which time he was a boot repairer – who in 1891 and 1911 lived at Catsfield Stream but in 1891 at Whatlington police station. George's wife was variably Maggie, Aggie and Haggie, who cannot be traced; the 1881 census gives George's wife's name as Eliza. Henry Lintott died of disease. He had gone to France on HMS <i>Victory</i> and died at the RN base at Tourlaville, Cherbourg, Manche.</p>			

1919

At sea and the Royal Navy

Spray, William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
235034 (Po), RN	26.07.1888	03.01.19	Conotan Lane Protestant Cemetery, Braila, now Bucharest War Cemetery, Romania.
<p>HMS <i>Mersey</i> was still on active service in eastern Europe in January 1919, along with the army: not only was the war still technically in progress but the German troops had to be evacuated and the new Bolshevik regime kept at bay; moreover the lower Danube was and for some time remained an important commercial area for Britain. Five crew of the <i>Mersey</i> died of disease between 3 and 6 January, and Spray was one of them. Spray's father was William Spray (1862-1947), a farm labourer, and his mother Charlotte (Ballard, 1866-1957).</p>			

Both were from Battle and they married in 1886. In 1911 they were living in Whatlington Road, where the younger William was described as a groom and gardener.

Funnell, Victor Adolphus

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Boy 2nd Class J/93768, RN	1903, Mountfield	09.03.19	Mountfield churchyard.
<p>Funnell died 'on board' HMS <i>Ganges II</i>, a shore-based boy's training establishment at Shotley, Hampshire. He had joined up eight days before the armistice and died of disease.</p> <p>He was the first child of Isaac Henry Funnell (1878-1961) of Mountfield, in 1901 a stockman on a farm there, and Harriet Matilda (Luck, 1863-1907), of Battle. They married in 1903.</p> <p>The surname is variably spelled in public documents, but seems to have adopted a double-L at the beginning of the twentieth century.</p>			

Dennis, John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Petty Officer First Class 175529	06.07.77, Beckley	04.01.19	Ewhurst.
<p>Dennis also died of disease, in this case pulmonary tuberculosis. He was at HMS <i>Excellent</i>, a shore-based gunnery school at Whale Island, Portsmouth. Dennis was already in the Navy by 1901; in 1911 he was recorded as a Petty Officer First Class, a boarder at Portsmouth.</p> <p>Dennis' father was Richard Christmas Dennis (1852-1902), a farm bailiff, and his mother Ellen Paine (1852-1915). They married in 1870. Richard was from Beckley and Ellen from Sandhurst in Kent. In 1909 he was a farm bailiff and they lived at Collins Green, Ewhurst; in 1911 Ellen was in Forge Lane, Staplecross.</p>			

IN THE AIR

Mullens, Cyril John Ashby

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sub-Lt RNAS	31.10.96, Chertsey, Surrey	05.05.16	Sedlescombe. Cambridge University. Chatham. Longcross, Surrey.
<p>Mullens was the only son of a family that was prominent in public life: his father Sir John Ashley Mullens (1869-1937) was government stockbroker. His mother was Evelyn Maud (Adamson, 1872-1962). Sir John's father lived at Westfield Place and Evelyn was a daughter of Walter Adamson of Vine Hall, Mountfield and Great Sanders, Sedlescombe. They married in 1895 and lived at Barrow Hills, Runnymede, Berkshire.</p> <p>Mullens was educated at Eton and was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was in an air fight and drowned off the coast of Flanders.</p>			

Blackman, Thomas Charles

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Aircraftman Second Class 282656, RAF	1900, Battle	17.09.19	City of Paris Cemetery, Pantin, Paris.
<p>This was the last obvious casualty, though more will have died later as a result of wounds or their other experiences. Blackman died in an air crash.</p> <p>Blackman came from a large family. His father Thomas Blackman (1864-1947) was a coal merchant living at 30 Mount Street, and his mother Harriet (Collins, 1863-1919); they married in 1886 and had eleven children. In 1911 Frederick was a coal porter, presumably working for his father. His brother Frederick died on the western front in October 1917.</p>			

HOME OR UNKNOWN THEATRE

1915

Home or unknown theatre

Jesson, Thomas John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Saddler 97836, RHA/RFA	1869, Battle	24.03.15	Brighton (Lewes Road) Cemetery.
<p>Jesson was from a military background. His father Frederick Elias Jesson (1825-1910) was a regular soldier, serving among other places in India where he married Jane Elizabeth Morris (1843-89) of Birmingham. (At least that is what the records state; she seems to have been very young in 1858.) By 1869 he was the drill instructor at Battle, living in the Drill Hall on North Trade Road. Thomas was reported in 1911 as a harness-maker living at 38 Ashton Street, Brighton. He had married Mary Jane Fry (1862-) of Winchelsea in 1898 but they had no children.</p> <p>As with almost all deaths in the UK it is impossible to ascertain the cause or its location.</p>			

Turner, Percival John Henry

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 11166, 18 Bn Manchester Regt	1882, Battle	19.05.15	Manchester (Philips Park) Cemetery. Battle.
<p>We know more about Turner. He died of scarlet fever while he was in training at the Heaton Park encampment at Manchester, having joined up only on 27 March. He died at Monsall Fever Hospital at Prestwich, Lancashire.</p> <p>Turner was the only son of Arthur Stephens Turner (1852-1932), born at Canewdon in Essex and of Sophia Jane (Jackson, 1851-1927) from Lydd in Kent. He was a saddler and collar and harness maker. In 1901 and 1911 the family were at 66 High Street, Battle. CWGC give a later address of Mount View Cottage, Caldbeck Hill, Battle. Percival was a plumber, living at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, in 1911 and at 29 Duke Street, Lower Broughton, Manchester in 1915.</p>			

1916

Home or unknown theatre

Smith, William Hiram or Herman

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte SD1911, 12 Bn RSR	1885, Brede	27.09.16	Hastings Cemetery. Brede. Hastings.
<p>It is possible that Smith was wounded in the battle of the Boar's Head on 30 June 1916 but it might have been on the Somme where it was engaged through the battle from July to November. He died at Hastings.</p> <p>In 1911 Smith was a miller's carman, living at the King's Head Mill at Battle. Two years later he married Minnie Eliza Pope (1887-) of Hollington.</p> <p>His father was William Smith (1851-), an agricultural labourer living at Brede and then at Westfield, and his mother Elizabeth Jewhurst (1845-); they married in 1876.</p> <p>SDGW have his middle name as Hiram and CWGC as Herman.</p>			

Small, Bert

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 177570, 4 Depot, RFA.	1880, Robertsbridge	04.10.16	Salehurst churchyard. Robertsbridge.
<p>Small was born and lived at Silver Hill, at the north end of Robertsbridge. In 1911 he was a bricklayer like his father William Small (1840-1916), who puts on the census form that he and his wife Fanny (Crouch, 1841-1916) were from Etchingam. They married in 1862.</p> <p>We do not know how Small came to die in England or what the cause of death was.</p>			

Willats, Harry Ashley

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Temp Capt, RFA	1889, Margate, Kent	12-13/02.17	Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington.
<p>Willats was previously in the ASC, and one reference places him in the Dublin Fusiliers in 1915. He was 2nd Lieutenant but received a posthumous promotion. He died 'of a chill' on Salisbury Plain, presumably whilst on exercises.</p> <p>Willats was son of Henry Richard Willats (1855-1922), born at Westminster, a hotel manager, and his wife Amelia (Etheridge, 1854-), born at Stepney, Middlesex. They married in 1880. Willats's connection with the Battle area is slight, but he lived after 1911 at Hemingfold Farm. His occupation was stock exchange trader.</p>			

Sargent, Wallace

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 23129, 1 Bn Royal W Kent Regt	1879, Ninfield	22.02.17	Hednesford churchyard, Staffordshire. Ninfield.
<p>Formerly of the Middlesex Regiment, Sargent was wounded and died at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, Hackney, Middlesex, where he was being treated for wounds. In 1915 he had married Clara Manning and they had one child. She remarried after his death and went to live in Staffordshire, which explains the site of Sargent's burial.</p> <p>His father was William Wenham Sargent (1849-1917), born at Bexhill. Both he and Wallace were farm labourers. His mother was Charlotte Ann (Head, 1851-1909, also of Bexhill. In 1911 the family were at Ninfield Green.</p>			

Selmes, Ernest

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte T4/216611, A Coy, ASC.	25, Mountfield	24.04.17	Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham. Mountfield.
<p>As with so many who did not die in action it is difficult if not impossible to determine the cause or location of death. In this case it is likely to have occurred on the western front, though we do not know where or how. Selmes's father was William Henry Selmes (1855-1936) and his mother was Emily (Mason, 1862-1939). He was from Mountfield and she from a village near Mildenhall in Suffolk. They married in 1884. In 1911 William is listed as a domestic gardener, living at John's Cross.</p> <p>CWGC and Selmes's Medal Card give his number as ending in ...611; SDGW use ...601.</p>			

Noad, Charles Stephen Gaisford

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G18906, Agricultural Coy, Middlesex Regt	1877, Hamsterley, County Durham	26.06.17	Kensal Green Cemetery.
<p>Noad was formerly G3/21409 in the East Surrey Regiment. The cause of his death is unknown.</p> <p>In 1911 Noad was living at Battle with his wife Florence Eleanor (Buck, 1884-1931) of Wadhurst; he is a gardener and they lived at The Lodge, Telham Court, Battle. They married in 1910 and had three children, all born at Battle.</p> <p>Noad was a son of Charles Noad (1852-1943) and Eliza Jane (Gaisford, 1846-1919). They were both from Bath in Somerset. In 1901 Charles was a coachman and in 1911 a coachman/chauffeur; at both time they lived at Starr's Green, Battle.</p> <p>1911 the younger Noad put his birth county as Yorkshire. Hamsterley is clearly in Durham.</p>			

Thomas, Arthur Cecil

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 40306, 10 Bn S Wales Borderers	c1882, Battle	15.08.17	Battle Cemetery. Battle.
<p>There is a report of Thomas having trench foot, a fairly common complaint of the time and not usually fatal unless gangrene developed. We do not know where the condition began. In the previous month the battalion was in the Hazebrouck area behind the lines, moving to attack Pilkhem Ridge as the third battle of Ypres opened on 31 July.</p> <p>Thomas was a son of John Thomas (1846-1915), a well-known builder who had stated out as a bricklayer, and his wife Ellen. It seems to have been a family that did not trouble the local registrar very much, and their public records are sadly deficient. Arthur himself was a carpenter. In 1911 the family was living at Briar's Cottage, close to the top of Caldbec Hill, Battle, where Arthur was to die.</p>			

Aspden, John Walter

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 42835, 3 Bn Lancashire Fusiliers	1887, Stacksteads, Lancashire	16.10.17	Crowhurst churchyard.
<p>Aspden's parents were Lancashire people. His father was John Aspden (1857-1933), born at Accrington and working in the building trade, and his mother Sarah Jane (Mills, 1867-1933), from Shaw near Prestwich. They married in 1886. Three of their eleven children were to die in the war. John Walter's birthplace is between Rawtenstall and Bacup.</p> <p>John Aspden's connection with Sussex is through his wife, whom he married in 1910: Mary Bertha Jones (1891-1978), of Crowhurst. After the war she is recorded as living at 104 Milward Road, Hastings. She remarried.</p> <p>He died at Crowhurst, and it is not now possible to know the cause of death.</p>			

Russell, Alfred

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 4549, 12 Bn Lancers (Prince of Wales's Own)	1881, Ewhurst	16.11.17	Ewhurst.
<p>Russell joined the army early, in 1898. He was sent to South Africa in 1901 and then to India, being discharged in 1907. His record shows that he rejoined in 1910 for four years, but in 1911 was a farm labourer at Hollow Wall Farm, Staplecross. Called up again in 1914, he was sent to France and was wounded but developed paraplegia and was discharged as no longer physically fit in December 1915. He was admitted to the London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, in October 1917, with the statement that he was likely to be there indefinitely. He died of nervous disease, possibly aggravated by shell shock.</p> <p>He was a son of Horace Russell (1854-1935), born at Hooe, a wood dealer and brickmaker of Ewhurst. His mother was Eliza Jane (Jarman, 1858-1926), of Beckley, married in 1878. They lived at Forge Lane, Staplecross. In 1911 Alfred was in Forge Lane with his wife Florence May (Eldridge, 1878-1925), born at Hastings. They married in 1908 and had two children.</p>			

Morris, George Cyril

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Sapper 534373, RE	1896, Ninfield	20.11.17	Hastings Cemetery.
<p>Morris was a son of Thomas Cramp Morris (1867-1944), born at Ninfield, and Lucy Sarah (Sargent, 1872-1955), from Hooe. They married in 1891. In 1911 he describes himself as a baker's vanman; George is a grocer's assistant. Having lived at Ninfield to the turn of the century they were now at 66 Windsor Road, Bexhill.</p> <p>Morris was formerly T1732 in the RE, as a territorial. He died at home, presumably at Hastings, of wounds; we do not know where he suffered them.</p>			

1918

Home or unknown theatre

Kenward, Albert Edward

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 27480, 4 Bn Royal Fusiliers	1876, Hampstead, Middlesex	26.02.18	Catsfield churchyard extension. Catsfield.
<p>Kenward enlisted at the end of 1915 and served on the western front. Early in 1917 he was at Northamptonshire Military Hospital at Duston, near Northampton, where the doctors recommended discharge. When this happened is unclear but he died of a haemorrhage at home.</p> <p>Kenward's parents cannot be traced without great difficulty. By 1881 he was living with his grandparents in Catsfield. In 1891 he is described as a bell ringer, then later as a house painter. His last address was Spring Cottage, Catsfield. He did not marry.</p>			

Parrott, Percy

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte G8872, 11 Bn RSR	1891, Ashburnham	02.04.18	Penhurst churchyard. Ashburnham.
<p>Parrott died at home at Bray's Hill, Ashburnham. He had been wounded slightly in 1916 on the western front but that does not seem to be the reason why he was discharged as physically unfit for service at the end of 1917.</p> <p>He was the son of Thomas Parrott (1858-1941), an agricultural labourer, and his wife Mercy Emma (Turner, 1858-1931), who married in 1885. He was from Ashburnham and she from East Hoathly.</p>			

Lancaster, Wesley William

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 87355, 79 General Hospital, RAMC	1891, Catsfield	14.10.18	Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy. Catsfield.
<p>Lancaster's father was George Lancaster (c1864-1955) whose census returns state that he was born at Crowhurst but no such birth can be traced. His mother was Maria (Avann, 1863-1926) of Hollington. They married in 1890. In 1911 George was a house painter, and so was his son William; the family lived in Church Road, Catsfield.</p> <p>Lancaster died in Italy, presumably in the south and a long way from any action.</p>			

English, Paul Godfrey

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte E1179, 17 Bn Royal Fusiliers		25.10.18	Bordon Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Robertsbridge.
<p>The origins of this man have so far defied research. There was indeed a Paul Godfrey English, born at Fletton by Peterborough in Northamptonshire in 1888, who joined the RFA in September 1914 but was discharged in December of that year by reason of defective eyesite and a speech impediment. There are no others of that name, or anything close, in the census records up to 1911, and no marriages. Although the Canadian records do not know him, others might. The connection with Robertsbridge might just be through relatives: there are some people called English, from the Peterborough area, in the 1911 census and living in Sussex, though the nearest seems to be Maresfield.</p>			

Bryant, Frederick Clarence

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte 27158, 1 Bn Canterbury Regt, New Zealand.	1896, Rye	26.11.18	Sedlescombe churchyard. Sedlescombe.
<p>New Zealand records are not yet accessible outside New Zealand. Bryant was born in the Rye district, the son</p>			

of Albert Edward Bryant (1863-1937), a farm labourer, and Alice Elizabeth (Bishop, 1867-). He was from Ewhurst and she from Salehurst, and they married in 1884. They lived at School Hill, Sedlescombe. Bryant died at home in Sedlescombe, presumably from wounds or influenza.

Parker, John Bradbery

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Capt, RFA Northern Command Depot, Ripon, West Riding.	1881, Eltham, Kent	19.11.18	Sedlescombe churchyard. Sedlescombe.
Like so many others, Parker died of influenza. His father William George Parker (1856-1924), from Greenwich, had moved to The Bungalow, Sedlescombe early in the century with his wife Eva (Raywarde, 1851-), from East Grinstead. In 1911 they were accompanied by John's wife Constance Maud Mary (Ellis, 1883-1951), born at Putney, Surrey, and their one child. They had previously lived at 41 St Peter Road, Croydon, Surrey and had married in 1906. The Sedlescombe address later was The Glebe.			

Lovell, George

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Gunner 73989, RGA	1884, Netherfield	18.12.18	Netherfield churchyard.
Lovell is not on the war memorial in Netherfield churchyard, but he is buried with a military headstone very close to it. This is probably because he died by accident after the fighting ceased: on a bicycle in Chelmsford, Essex. Lovell was a son of George Lovell (1856-1924), born at Penhurst and in 1901 and 1911 a gypsum miner. His wife was Mercy, possibly Lovell, born at Burwash in about 1860; but the records for her are liable to serious misinterpretation. They married in 1881. They lived at Darwell Hill, Netherfield. George is recorded as a general labourer in 1901, a gypsum miner in 1911 and a farm labourer at his enlistment.			

UNKNOWN AS TO IDENTITY AND PLACE

Harwood, Arnold

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
			Brede Memorial.
Repeated searches for this man have failed. There is no death of his name recorded by SGDWM or CWGC, and although there are four men of that surname from Sussex no trace of them can be found in connection with the Brede area under the name Harwood or any of its obvious variants.			

Goodsell, H T

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
RSR			Robertsbridge.
No person of this name or of its variant Gutsell appears on the SDGW or CWGC lists and neither can any be found in the civilian records. One is driven towards it being a mistake, perhaps for Harold George Goodsell, who was born at Salehurst and died in July 1916 – but he was not in the Royal Sussex.			

Williams, Walter John

<i>Rank etc</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Burial and memorials</i>
Pte, Machine Gun Corps			Sedlescombe. Menin Gate.
The Roll of Honour website has this man as belonging to the Machine Gun Corps with an addition the Queen's [Royal West Surrey?] Regiment, 6653. It also says that he is remembered on the Menin Gate. Using these references there is no entry for him in SDGW or CWGC as having died in the war. The only one of this name on the Menin Gate is from the Monmouthshire Regiment; he was from Hay-on-Wye and the entry gives no further information. Public records for Hay offer no light. We know that his father lived at Magazine Farm, Sedlescombe, though from some point after 1911.			

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

One might think that with the number of war memorials in existence and the research done over the passage of a century the task of finding better information about the lost men (and woman) above would be a simple task. It is not.

The obvious first source is the various war memorials. These can all be inspected on the ground, but they suffer a little from erosion; much worse, there is a noticeable number of omissions, not all of which will have been traced above. And there are occasional mistakes in the names, regiments and dates. This is also true of my own book *The brave remembered: Battle at war 1914-19* (1915), and above I have taken the opportunity to correct a few errors in it.

The Roll of Honour website, on which this study leans with some weight, has put an enormous amount of careful work into researching these names and anyone treading this ground is certain to find it of great use. It even includes some photographs of those who died, and they appear here with my great thanks. But even they make the occasional mis-identification, something to which all of us, including myself, are liable.

It may be superfluous to mention the two official websites concerned with the war: Soldiers Died in the Great War (1921) and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which continues to update its records as new information comes to light. They are invaluable to any researcher. CWGC often gives some family data, and through SDGW one can access a number of battalion war diaries.

Then for anyone trying to obtain family backgrounds the website www.ancestry.co.uk is enormously helpful, even if at times there are omissions and odd mistranscriptions there. That website contains a large number of family additions by which one can usefully have gaps filled in one's searches; but they are prone also contain errors, particularly in mistaking one marriage for another. It also has a number of war diaries, though they are more accessible through SDGW rather than directly. Some good information, particularly on births, can be found in the Royal Navy records.

Beyond those there are the occasional websites that give information on individuals or incidents. They have been very helpful in supplementing the official naval records. They should include considerable work done in local parishes and the book by Beryl Lucey *Twenty centuries in Sedlescombe* (1978). Pictures from these have been gratefully acknowledged where they are known.

Even a brief inspection of the names will show considerable duplication. I have tried to identify siblings but, with few exceptions, other relationships are too complex to pursue.

My sincere thanks are due to all those who have done the work above. Further local information can be found at <http://ninfieldhistorygroup.org/wwi/4574427169> and <https://dallington.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/dallington-remembers.pdf>. I also wish to thank fellow members of the Battle and District Historical Society who have helped me overcome various difficulties.

APPENDIX: Deaths by year, month and theatre of war

Key

A	Western front	F	At sea
B	Gallipoli and Greece	G	In the air
C	Mesopotamia and the Middle East	H	Unknown theatre
D	India	J	Unidentifiable
E	Africa		

1914

Where Month	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
8										
9	1					2				3
10	5									5
11	4					1				5
12	2									2
Tot	12					3				15

1915

Where Month	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1	3									3
2										
3	2							1		3
4										
5	17	1				1		1		20
6	2									2
7	2									2
8										
9	3									3
10	5					2				7
11		1				1				2
12										
Tot	34	2				4		2		42

1916

Where Month	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
1						1				1
2	2	1	1							4
3	4					1				5
4	2									2
5	2				1	1	1			5
6	15									15
7	14									14
8	16	1	1	1						19
9	16	1	1					1		19
10	15							1		16
11	9									9
12	2									2
Tot	97	3	3	1	1	3	1	2		111

1917

Where	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
Month										
1	2	1	2							5
2	5		2					2		9
3	5									5
4	17					1		1		19
5	5		1							6
6	3	1						1		5
7	12					2				14
8	6		1					1		8
9	16			1						17
10	13	1						1		15
11	2		1					2		5
12	3									3
Tot	89	3	7	1		3		8		111

1918

Where	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
Month										
1										
2	1							1		2
3	20									20
4	19							1		20
5	10		1							11
6	9									9
7	14									14
8	10									10
9	12					1				13
10	12		1			1		2		16
11	2							2		4
12	1									1
Tot	110		2			2		6		120

1919

Where	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
Month										
1	1					1				2
2										
3	1					1				2
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9							1			1
Tot	2					2	1			5

ALL YEARS

Where	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	Total
Tot	344	8	12	2	1	17	2	18	3	407

INDEX

Name	Death	Theatre of war
Abrey, Albert Edward	1917	Western front
Adams, Charles	1917	Western front
Adeane, Henry Robert Augustus	1914	Western front
Akehurst, Henry William Alexander	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Allcorn, George	1918	Western front
Allen, Percy Francis	1917	Western front
Anderson, Bernard George	1916	Western front
Andrews, James Allfrey	1916	Western front
Aspden, John Walter	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Austen, Theophilus Francis	1918	Western front
Avard, William	1918	Western front
Baker, Frederick John	1915	Western front
Baker, Herbert Henry	1917	Western front
Ball, Albert George	1917	Western front
Ballard, Thomas Harold	1918	Western front
Barden, Lewis Crampton	1917	Western front
Barden, Uriah Alfred	1918	Western front
Barnes, Alfred	1918	Western front
Barnes, Harold Reginald	1916	Western front
Barrow, William	1917	Western front
Bartholomew, William Thomas	1915	Western front
Barwick, Edward Sidney	1917	Western front
Bassett, William Grahame	1918	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Batehup, Bertram Henry	1918	Western front
Batehup, Stephen Thomas	1918	Western front
Beaney, Albert Ernest	1914	At sea and the Royal Navy
Beeching, James Wallace	1917	Western front
Beeching, William Thomas	1916	Western front
Bishop, Alexander	1915	Western front
Bishop, George Henry	1917	Western front
Blackhurst, Cecil James Livesey	1916	Western front
Blackman, Charles William	1916	Western front
Blackman, Frederick Charles	1917	Western front
Blackman, Stephen	1917	Western front
Blackman, Thomas Charles	1919	In the air
Blogg, Edward Basil	1916	Western front
Booth, Charles Frederick	1915	Western front
Booth, Frederick George	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Bothwell, Charles Stuart	1918	Western front
Boxall, Frederick Edward	1916	Western front
Boxall, Harry	1918	Western front
Breeze, Nelson Victor	1916	At sea and the Royal Navy
Brett, William Charles	1917	Western front
Brook, John Benjamin	1917	Western front
Brook, William	1915	Western front
Brooman, Edward Christopher	1918	Western front
Brown, John	1918	Western front
Bryant, Charles	1915	At sea and the Royal Navy

Bryant, Frederick Clarence	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Bryant, Nelson Luther	1916	Western front
Buckle, William	1916	Western front
Budgen, Thomas	1916	Western front
Burgess, Norman A	1917	Western front
Burton, Hedley John	1916	Western front
Buss, Jesse	1916	Western front
Butler, John Herbert	1916	Western front
Butters, Arthur James	1916	Western front
Carey, Frederick Henry	1917	At sea and the Royal Navy
Carley, Leonard Montague	1915	Western front
Carrick, Owen	1917	Western front
Carter, Frank	1917	Western front
Carter, Frederick William	1917	Western front
Carter, William Sydney	1917	Western front
Catt, Frederick James	1916	Western front
Catton, Frederick	1916	Western front
Cecil, George Edward	1914	Western front
Chandler, Frederick James	1918	Western front
Chandler, William	1916	Western front
Cheal, William George	1916	Western front
Cheeseman, William Charles	1917	Western front
Christmas, Clarence Henry	1918	Western front
Church, Herbert Smith	1917	Western front
Clark, Albert	1918	Western front
Clark, Ernest Leslie	1917	Western front
Clark, John	1916	Western front
Clout, William Albert	1917	Western front
Cockett, Horace Edward	1918	Western front
Collins, John Charles	1917	Western front
Combe, Boyce Anthony	1914	Western front
Congdon, Henry George	1918	Western front
Cooper, William Henry	1915	Western front
Cousins, Thomas	1918	Western front
Cramp, Leonard	1916	Western front
Creasey, Alexander William	1916	Western front
Creasey, Horace	1917	Gallipoli and Greece
Crittenden, Albert Charles	1916	At sea and the Royal Navy
Crittenden, Frank	1918	Western front
Croft, Gilbert	1916	Western front
Croft, Herbert	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Croft, Victor Albert	1918	Western front
Crouch, Edward	1917	Western front
Crouch, Edwin	1917	Western front
Crouch, Harry W	1917	Western front
Crouch, Joseph Christian	1917	Western front
Crouch, William Charles	1917	Western front
Crouch, William Henry	1918	Western front
Curry, William Leonard	1916	Western front
Curtis, Percy John	1918	Western front
Davidson, Edward Gordon	1918	Western front
Davison, Rashell Montague Rashell	1918	Western front

Dawson, Reginald	1917	Western front
Deeprise, Jesse	1918	Western front
Dengate, James <i>[Sedlescombe]</i>	1917	India
Dengate, James Ernest <i>[Robertsbridge]</i>	1918	Western front
Dennis John	1919	At sea and the Royal Navy
Dennis, James Henry	1917	Western front
Divall, Frank	1916	Western front
Dive, Stephen Edward	1918	Western front
Donald, Bertram Smith	1916	Africa
Duke, Harry	1915	Western front
Dyer, William	1916	Western front
Easen, John Arthur	1917	Western front
Edwards, Edwin Harold	1918	Western front
Egerton, Edward Brassey	1916	Western front
Eldridge, Arthur	1918	Western front
Eldridge, Basil Richard	1918	Western front
Eldridge, Bertram	1918	Western front
Eldridge, Ernest John	1917	Western front
Eldridge, William <i>[Sidley]</i>	1918	Western front
Eldridge, William Herbert <i>[Battle]</i>	1918	Western front
Ellis, James	1917	Western front
Elphick, Alfred Charles	1916	Western front
English, Paul Godfrey	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Fellows, George Jack	1917	Western front
Fletcher, Frederick Nelson	1917	Western front
Flint, Henry Frederic	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Ford, Ernest John	1917	Western front
Ford, Frederick James	1916	Western front
Foster, Alfred <i>[Ewhurst]</i>	1916	Western front
Foster, Alfred Edward <i>[Whatlington]</i>	1916	Western front
Foster, Alfred Henniker <i>[Battle]</i>	1916	Western front
Foster, Cecil Christian	1916	Western front
Franks, Robert	1918	Western front
French, John Henry	1916	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Friend, Edward Percy	1918	Western front
Frost, Frederick Arthur	1918	Western front
Fuller, Charles Andrew	1918	Western front
Fuller, Philip Ernest	1915	Gallipoli and Greece
Fuller, Thomas John	1917	At sea and the Royal Navy
Fuller, William <i>[Brede]</i>	1917	Western front
Fuller, William George <i>[Netherfield]</i>	1915	Western front
Funnell, Douglas	1917	Western front
Funnell, Victor Adolphus	1919	At sea and the Royal Navy
Furner, William James	1918	Western front
Gain, Arthur Robert	1918	Western front
Garside, Louis Robert	1915	Western front
Gill, Roland Luther	1918	Western front
Glyde, Harold Ernest	1914	Western front
Godden, William	1916	Western front
Godfrey, Montagu Albert	1918	Western front
Godman, Walter Williams Wynn	1915	Western front
Goodsell, Charles Lewis	1915	At sea and the Royal Navy

Goodsell, Frederick	1916	Western front
Goodsell, George James	1916	Western front
Goodsell, H T		Unknown as to identity and place
Goodsell, Herbert George	1917	Western front
Goodsell, Percy	1915	Western front
Goodsell, Richard	1917	Western front
Gornall, William	1918	Western front
Gower, Arthur	1917	Western front
Grant, Ferris Nelson	1915	Western front
Gurr, Albert	1916	Western front
Gutsell, George	1918	Western front
Gutsell, Reginald Peter	1918	Western front
Haddrill, Harry Charles M	1914	Western front
Hale, Stuart Anthony	1917	Western front
Harmer, Alfred <i>[Ashburnham]</i>	1915	Western front
Harmer, Alfred James <i>[Crowhurst]</i>	1915	Western front
Harmer, Harold Edwin	1916	Western front
Harmer, Herbert Henry	1916	Western front
Harmer, Jesse	1918	Western front
Harmer, Sidney Charles	1918	Western front
Harmsworth, Horace Alfred Vyvyan St George	1918	Western front
Harmsworth, Vere Sidney Tudor	1916	Western front
Harris, Edward John	1918	Western front
Harris, George	1917	Western front
Harthill, Albert Victor	1917	Western front
Harwood, Arnold		Unknown as to identity and place
Hayler, Ernest John Edgar	1916	India
Hayward, Albert John	1915	Western front
Herdman, Arthur Widderington	1914	Western front
Hibbert, Henry James	1916	Western front
Highwood, William	1918	Western front
Hilder, George	1917	Western front
Hoad, Frank Albert	1916	Western front
Hobbs, William Henry	1918	Western front
Hobday, George Henry	1916	Western front
Hobday, Walter James	1916	Western front
Hobden, Stephen George	1916	Western front
Hodgson, Christopher Anthony Rowlandson	1914	Western front
Holden, Frederick	1918	Western front
Holland, Alfred	1918	Western front
Holland, Franklin Gilbert	1917	Western front
Holland, Harry (George Herbert)	1915	Western front
Holland, George David	1916	Western front
Holt, Frederick George Bradley	1918	Western front
Honeysett, Frederick William	1914	Western front
Hutchinson, John	1918	Western front
Hyland, Arthur	1916	Western front
Hyland, David	1916	Western front
Isted, George	1916	Western front
Jamieson, Harry	1916	Western front
Jamieson, Mercer	1917	Western front
Jeffery, Frank	1916	At sea and the Royal Navy

Jempson, Charles Stapley	1916	Western front
Jenner, Douglas	1915	Western front
Jenner, Henry	1917	Western front
Jenner, John Henry	1917	Western front
Jesson, Thomas John	1915	Home or unknown theatre
Johnson, Charles Henry	1917	Gallipoli and Greece
Jones, Hugh Douglas Dudley	1916	Western front
Jupp, James	1918	Western front
Kealey, Edward George Clement	1916	Western front
Keeley, James William	1917	Western front
Kemp, George Edward	1917	Western front
Kendall, Robert	1916	Western front
Kenward, Albert Edward	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Lambert, Henry McLaren	1915	Western front
Lamborn, Charles Douglas J Stansfeld	1916	Western front
Lancaster, Wesley William	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Lavender, Peter	1917	Western front
Leatherby, Robert Alfred Ernest	1918	Western front
Lemmon, Herbert Albert	1917	Western front
Levitt, George	1917	Western front
Ling, Edward	1916	Western front
Ling, Frank Richard	1916	Western front
Lintott, Henry William	1918	At sea and the Royal Navy
Loosemore, Thomas Edward Drake	1916	Western front
Lovell, George	1918	Unknown theatre
Lowe, Douglas	1915	Western front
Marchant, Sydney Frederick	1918	Gallipoli and Greece
Marchant, William E	1918	Western front
Markwick, Sydney	1918	Western front
Marsh, Tom	1918	Western front
Martin, Francis Albert	1914	Western front
Martin, George Johnston	1917	Western front
Martin, Luther	1916	Western front
Martin, Wallace	1917	Western front
Masters, Charles	1918	Western front
McDougall, Edward Cecil	1917	Gallipoli and Greece
McDougall, Malcolm	1917	Western front
McQuillan, Leonard Ernest	1916	Western front
Meppem, Ormond Edwin	1917	Western front
Meppem, Sydney Clarence	1916	Western front
Mercer, Harry	1916	Western front
Miller, John Arthur	1918	Western front
Mills, Thomas Henry	1915	Western front
Milton, Thomas James	1914	Western front
Mitchell, Charles Thomas	1917	Western front
Mitchell, Henry David	1914	Western front
Moon, William	1916	Western front
Moore, Gillachrist	1914	Western front
Moore, John Rushton	1918	Western front
Morgan, William	1915	Western front
Morley, William Charles	1915	Western front
Morris, George Cyril	1917	Home or unknown theatre

Morris, Percy John	1918	Western front
Muddle, James Frederick Richard	1914	Western front
Muddle, William Benjamin George	1917	Western front
Mullens, Cyril John Ashby	1916	In the air
Munn, Stephen Harry	1917	Western front
Murdock, Archibald James	1917	Western front
Neeves, Samuel	1916	Western front
Newbery, Charles Joseph	1915	Western front
Newman, Frederic Charles	1918	Western front
Noad, Charles Stephen Gaisford	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Noakes, Frederic	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Oliver, Percy John	1916	Western front
Oliver, William Thomas	1916	Western front
Orford, Lancelot Edwin	1915	Western front
Osborne, Albert Vincent	1918	Western front
Osborne, George Henry	1917	Western front
Osborne, Harry	1915	Western front
Osborne, William James	1916	Western front
Paddon, Edward James	1915	Western front
Parker, John Bradbury	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Parks, Jabez Juina	1917	Western front
Parrott, Percy	1918	Home or unknown theatre
Partington, John Bertram	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Pelling, Alfred Walter	1917	Western front
Pelling, William Wickens	1916	Western front
Penn, Eric Frank	1915	Western front
Pettitt, Percy Edward	1918	Western front
Philcox, William Arthur	1918	Western front
Pocock, Harold Ernest	1918	Western front
Pont, Frank	1917	Western front
Pont, George William	1917	Western front
Pont, Henry James	1916	Western front
Pook, George Douglas	1918	Western front
Pook, Richard Thomas	1915	At sea and the Royal Navy
Price, Charles	1918	Western front
Putland, William	1916	Western front
Puxty, Jack	1916	Western front
Ransom, Alfred William	1916	Western front
Ransom, William James	1916	Western front
Raper, Robert George	1916	Western front
Reed, Herbert	1917	Western front
Relf, Percy Edward	1918	Western front
Relfe, Percival Edward	1918	Western front
Revitt, Arthur Edward	1918	Western front
Richens, Wilfred William	1916	Western front
Ripley, Percy	1918	Western front
Robinson, Frank	1915	Western front
Rooke, Ernest John	1915	Western front
Rummery, George Alfred	1914	At sea and the Royal Navy
Russell, Alfred	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Russell, Bertram	1918	Western front
Sadler, Stanley Victor	1918	Western front

Santer, William Aubrey	1918	Western front
Sargent, Wallace	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Saunders, Alfred	1917	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Saunders, Nelson	1918	Western front
Scotton, Donald Victor	1918	Western front
Sellens, James Walter	1916	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Sellman, Sidney Alfred	1918	Western front
Selmes, Charles	1916	Western front
Selmes, Ernest	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Sharp, John	1915	At sea and the Royal Navy
Simmons, Alfonso	1916	Western front
Simmons, Clarence Frederick	1918	Western front
Simmons, Newton	1916	Western front
Skilton, Frederick	1916	Western front
Small, Archibald Harry	1917	Western front
Small, Bert	1916	Home or unknown theatre
Smissen, George Franklin	1917	Western front
Smith, Arthur Neville	1916	Western front
Smith, Robert Leigh	1917	Western front
Smith, William Hiram or Herman	1916	Home or unknown theatre
Soan, Albert Clarence	1917	Western front
Southwell, Charles Harold	1917	Western front
Spray, William	1919	At sea and the Royal Navy
St John, Barbara Esmée	1916	Western front
Stapley, Percy Edward	1918	Western front
Starling, Frederick Charles	1916	Western front
Stemp, Albert William	1918	Western front
Stephens, Alfred William Holman	1918	Western front
Stevenson, Leonard Percival	1916	Western front
Stone, William George	1916	Western front
Stonestreet, Reginald James	1916	Western front
Stonestreet, Stanley George	1915	Western front
Stevens, William Henry Noel	1918	Western front
Stubberfield, Frederick George	1915	Western front
Stunt, Charles Henry	1916	Western front
Stunt, Ernest John	1916	Western front
Stunt, Lester	1917	Western front
Taylor, Ernest George	1915	Gallipoli and Greece
Taylor, Frederick George	1916	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Thomas, Arthur Cecil	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Thomas, Robert William	1916	Western front
Thompsett, Charles William	1916	Western front
Ticehurst, Albert John	1917	Western front
Titchener, Harold	1916	Western front
Turner, Ernest Henry	1917	Western front
Turner, Francis	1916	Western front
Turner, Percival John Henry	1915	Home or unknown theatre
Tylden-Pattenson, Arthur Dagnall	1915	Western front
Veness, Frederick William	1916	Western front
Vitler, Henry James	1918	Western front
Vitler, Thomas W	1918	Mesopotamia and the Middle East
Wait, Archer Randall	1917	Western front

Wait, William	1917	Western front
Walters, Thomas William	1918	Western front
Waterhouse, Sidney Wilfred	1918	Western front
Waters, Frederick Thomas	1918	Western front
Watson, Ernest	1916	Western front
Watson, Frederick Ernest	1918	At sea and the Royal Navy
Watson, Reginald <i>[Robertsbridge]</i>	1918	Western front
Watson, Reginald George <i>[Mountfield]</i>	1918	Western front
Webster, Godfrey Vassall George Augustus	1917	Western front
Weller, John Lourine Tavinor	1914	At sea and the Royal Navy
Weller, Sidney	1914	Western front
Wenham, Frederick Peter	1917	Western front
West, Robert Leslie	1917	Western front
Wheeler, Leonard Derl	1918	Western front
Wheeler, Norman James	1918	Western front
Wheeler, William John	1916	Western front
Whistler, Ralfe Allen Fuller	1917	Western front
White, Frederick Joseph	1915	Western front
Whiteman, Arthur	1917	Western front
Whiteman, James	1916	Western front
Willats, Harry Ashley	1917	Home or unknown theatre
Williams, Walter John		Unknown as to identity and place
Wilson, Charles William	1917	Western front
Winchester, Charles	1918	Western front
Winchester, Hubert <i>[Catsfield]</i>	1917	Western front
Winchester, Hubert <i>[Ashburnham]</i>	1916	Western front
Winchester, Jesse	1917	Western front
Winchester, William Amos	1917	Western front
Winchester, William Frank	1916	Western front