



Dallington A Village At war

**A Tribute to the villagers of Dallington Who Served
Their Country in the Two World Wars
Compiled by
Roy Iremonger**

Dallington a Village at War

Many communities during the 1914-18 war wanted to record their gratitude for those who went to serve their country. Dallington was no exception. The following list of young men is based on information from a variety of sources. These are: minutes from Dallington Parish council; Dallington School War Memorial; Dallington War Memorial in St Giles Churchyard and the Dallington School Roll of honour published in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer 23rd October 1915. Despite the large number who can now be honoured for serving their country I am certain there are still names that deserve to be added to the Roll of Honour.

The decision behind who is remembered on which memorial often varied from village to village. In Dallington it would appear that there are several different groups. The school roll is straight forward as it includes all boys and staff who attended the school and had joined the armed forces.

The Church Memorial, though much smaller in number is far more complex. It is intended as a list of those young men living in Dallington at the outbreak of the war? This cannot be the case given that the list includes those who had moved away from the village many years before.

It is definitely not dedicated to those who were born in just Dallington as the names engraved include others who lived in neighbouring towns and villages.

There is clearly a possibility that families who had moved to the area wanted their sons remembered on their local memorial. Ironically, there were parents in the village who objected to the memorial being placed in St Giles Churchyard, preferring the small green at the top of Carricks Hill. As a result of these objections we know that at least one set of parents refused to have their son's name engraved.

What I hope to achieve is a permanent list in recognition of all those young men whose lives meant so much to the villagers of Dallington at that time.

The War Memorial in St Giles Churchyard contains the names of eight young men who gave their lives for their country. Sadly, this list should contain twenty one names and possibly more as research continues.

Currently, my research will concentrate on that young man who gave their lives and fails to give any space to the many young men who returned to Dallington at the end of the war with appalling injuries which they endured for the rest of their lives. For this omission I sincerely apologise.

It is my intention to provide as much information as possible about these brave young men. I sincerely hope that all of the information provided is accurate. If at any time I am not sure of the facts I will use the term "Possibly".

Please feel free to contact me if you spot any errors or have any further information that will help complete the picture.

Roy Iremonger November 13th 2014

Footnote

The more I try to ensure that I have included all of those who served their country and especially those gave their lives, the more worrying it is that I have made a glaring omission.

During my research I have come across the names of several men whom I have been unable to find further information about.

Rather than ignore these completely I have noted what little information I have. Hopefully, others that follow may be able to pick up the trail.

Roll of Honour 1914-1918

Adams	Henry	Private	5th Royal Sussex	Killed 16/9/1916
Baker	Cecil	Private	7th Royal Sussex	Killed 27/9/1915
Ballard	H.	unknown	unknown	
Beeney	Albert	Private	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Beeney	Godfrey	Gunner	Royal Horse Artillery	
Beeney	Wallace	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Wounded
Bell	Ralph	Captain	Royal Air Force	Killed 17/5/1918
Bishop	Alexander	Private	9th Royal Sussex	Killed 25/9/1915
Bishop	George	Private	5th Royal Sussex	Killed 2/8/1916
Bishop	James	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Believed killed
Bishop	Jesse	Private	Transport	
Bishop	Thomas	Private	7th Royal Sussex	Wounded
Booth	Bernard	Private	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Booth	Bryan	Gunner	12th Royal Sussex	
Booth	Charles	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Killed 9/5/1915
Booth	Leonard	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	
Booth	Wesley	S/Smith	Veterinary Corps	
Bryant	George	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Killed 28/9/1914
Buckley	Bryan	Lieutenant	12th London Regiment	
Buckley	C.B.	unknown	unknown	
Budgen	John	Pioneer	Royal Engineers	
Budgen	Thomas	Private	7th Royal Sussex	Killed 28/9/1916
Burgess	Arthur	Private	1st Royal West Kent	Wounded
Burgess	Basil	L/Corporal	Royal East Kent	Wounded
Burgess	Cecil	Private	Labour Corps	
Burgess	Sydney	Private	Labour Corps	
Buss	Cyril	Private	8th Royal Sussex	Killed 30/9/1916
Buss	George	Private	5th Royal Sussex	
Cane	William	Private	5th Royal Sussex	
Carter	Henry	Private	Royal Sussex	
Catt	Arthur	Private	11th Royal Sussex	Killed 3/9/1917
Catt	Benjamin	Private	8th Royal Sussex	Wounded
Choir	Godfrey	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery New Zealand Forces	
Coppard	Raymond	unknown	Forces	
Crouch	A.	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Crouch	C.	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Wounded
Crouch	James	Private	5th Royal Sussex	Killed 7/9/1917
Crouch	John	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Dalloway	Daniel	Private	7th Royal Sussex	
Dalloway	John	unknown	Australian Forces	
Dalloway	Samuel	Private	unknown	
Devanter	Charles	C/Sergeant	Royal Marines	P.O.W.
Drury	Jesse	Private	Transport	
Falkenstein	Albert	Corporal	Royal West Kent	Wounded
Fewtrell	Alford	Captain	2nd Royal Sussex Gloucester Regiment	Wounded
Friend	Albert	Private	Regiment	
Frost	Charles	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	
Fuller	F.	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Fuller	S.	Private	Royal Sussex	
Fuller	Sam	unknown	7th Royal Sussex	
Fulst	William	Private	Middlesex Regiment	
Funnell	Douglas	L/Sergeant	7th Royal Sussex	Killed 25/11/1917

Funnell	S.	Corporal	unknown	
Gadd	Herbert	Private	Norfolk Regiment	Wounded
Gadd	John	Private	10th Royal Sussex	
Gott	Benjamin	Corporal	33rd Royal Fusiliers	
Hallam	Vincent	Captain	2nd Royal Sussex	Wounded
Harmer	Charles	Private	5th Royal Sussex	Wounded
Harmer	James	Private	1st Royal Sussex	
Harmer	Percy	Private	11th Royal Sussex	Killed 3/3/1918
Harmer	Thomas	Private	1st Royal Sussex	
Hatton	Le Pelly	Chaplain		
Hicks	Robert	Captain	Royal Field Artillery	
Hoad	J.	Private	Royal Sussex Territorials	
Hobden	Alfred	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	
Hobden	Bert	Private	Royal Field Artillery	
Hobden	Charles		Merchant Navy	
Hobden	David	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	
Hobden	Edwin	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	Medical Discharge
Hobden	Henry	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	Wounded
Hobden	Jabez	Private	King Edwards Horse	Wounded
Hobden	William	Private	3rd Royal Sussex	
Hobden	William	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Holland	Claude	unknown	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Honeysett	David	Private	Royal West Kent	Wounded
Honeysett	Walter	Private	Royal West Kent	
Jones	E.	Private	Royal Hampshire	
Keeley	Clifford	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Kemp	B.	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Kemp	Frederick	P.Officer	Royal Navy	Believed Killed
Killick	Albert	Private	Royal Sussex Territorials	
Lowe	Douglas	S/Major	Royal Field Artillery	Killed 11/5/1915
Luffkin	T.	unknown	unknown	
Lulham	Harry	Private	Royal Hampshire	Died 17/11/1919
Mewett	A.	unknown	unknown	
Mewett	J.	unknown	unknown	
Mewett	Jesse	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery	Medical Discharge
Mitchell	Charles	Private	Royal East Kent	Killed 5/12/1917
Mitchell	William	Private	Royal East Kent	
Noakes	C.	Private	Canadian Forces	
Noakes	N.	Private	Canadian Forces	
Oliver	Alfred	Private	5th Royal Sussex	Killed 16/10/1916
Oliver	Godfrey	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	
Oliver	H.E.	Private	Northants Regiment	
Oliver	Scott	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Payne	Bert	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Peploe	James	Sergeant	1st Cinque Ports Volunteers	
Pont	James	L/Corporal	Coldstream Guards	Killed 27/6/1916
Puxty	Jack	Private	7th Royal West Surrey	Killed 28/9/1916
Ralph	Charles	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Ralph	E.	Private	5th Royal Sussex	
Ralph	W.	Private	5th Royal Sussex	
Relf	W.	Private	Royal West Surrey	
Richardson	Sam	Corporal	Royal Artillery	
Riglesford	Joseph	Stoker	Royal Navy	
Rolfe	W.	unknown	unknown	
Russell	A.L.	Corporal	Royal Horse Guards	
Sands	James	Private	Army Service Corps	
Sands	William	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	

Sennens	C.	Corporal	Canadian RFA	
Simmons	Herbert	Private	Royal Sussex Regiment	
Sindon	Charles	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Wounded
Sitch	Albert	unknown	Royal Garrison Artillery	
Starling	Frederick	Private	7th Royal Sussex	Killed 7/7/1916
Stenning	Frederick	Seaman	Royal Navy	Prisoner of War
Stonestreet	George	Corporal	16th Lancers	Wounded
Stonestreet	Stanley	Private	2nd Royal Sussex	Killed 9/5/1915
Stubberfield	Horace	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	
Sutton	Percy	Sergeant	Machine Gun Corps	
Tatham	Charles	Colonel	Medical Corps	
Tedham	E.	Private	East Surrey Regiment	
Way	B	Driver	Army Service Corps	
White	E.	Seaman	Royal Navy	
Whiteman	James	Private	7th Royal Sussex	Killed 7/7/1916
			South African	
Winchester	A.	Private	Forces	
			South African	
Winchester	E.	Private	Forces	
Winchester	H.	Trooper	Montgomery Yeomanry	
Winchester	John	Sapper	Royal Engineers	
Winchester	Mark	Private	Royal Sussex Regiment	
Winchester	Marshall	Ship's Boy	Royal Navy	Killed 31/05/1916
Winchester	T.	Private	RAMC Canada	
Wood	Arthur	Private	Royal Artillery	
Wood	John	P.Officer	Royal Navy	Killed 27/11/1916
Wood	Samuel	Driver	Royal Field Artillery	Died 8/1/1919
York	Aaron	C/Sergeant	5th Royal Sussex	

The following names of men from Dallington who went to serve either appeared on the 1918 Temporary Memorial or in the local newspapers.

Adams	William	T. Memorial	1918	Believed Killed
Brown	J.	Newspaper	1915	
Carey	W.	Newspaper	1915	
Cornford	L	Newspaper	1915	
Croft	W	Newspaper	1915	
Dally	N.	Newspaper	1915	
Gillet	F.	Newspaper	1915	
Oliver	Frank	T. Memorial	1918	Killed 3/7/1917
Simmons	T.S.	Newspaper	1915	
Winchester	G	Newspaper	1915	

1939 - 1945

I am indebted to the late Beatie and Cecil Buss for providing a list of those villagers that they personally knew to have served in the 2nd World War. I am sure that this list will continue to grow for some time to come.

Breeze Frederick			
Burgess Cyril			
Burgess French			(Wounded)
Burgess Lionel			
Burgess Rafe *			
Butler Sydney			
Batter Sydney			
Buss Cecil			
Buss Douglas			
Buss James			
Buss Norman			
Farmer John			
Farmer Samuel			
Friend Walter			
Funnell Lorna			
Funnell Owen			
Hewett Anne		Wrens	
Hewett William	Major		
Kinsman Howard	Private	5 th Royal Hampshire	Killed 26th June 1944
Newton-Clare John	Pilot Officer	RAF	Killed 6th September 1940
Phipps Gilbert	Captain		
Parris Robert			
Skinner Frederick			
Standbridge Ronald			
Tutton Michael	Captain	Gen. List	Killed 12th November 1941
Tristram Guy	Major	O/C Military College of Science.	
Walters Thomas			
Young Robert	Marine	Royal Marines	Killed 16th February 1942

Civilians

Smith Ada	Killed 7th July 1944
Tristram Christopher	Killed 5th April 1943

Land Army

Creasey Betty

* Spelling uncertain.

Henry John Adams

Currently there is very little information available apart from his name being placed on the Dallington School Roll of Honour for World War One.

No trace could be found in the 1901 census return for Dallington. He appears on the 1911 census born in 1897 in Buxted and was employed as a milk boy. He enlisted at Hastings.

He was:-

Private H.J.Adams TF/3303
5th Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment.

This was a territorial battalion that at the beginning of the war was involved in home defence duties with postings at Dover and the Tower of London.

As part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division it moved to France in early 1915.

In August 1915 it was designated as a divisional pioneer battalion for repairing roads and trenches close to the front line.

.Private Adams died in the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme on 16th September 1916.

He is buried in the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension which is situated 21 miles north-east of Amiens which served as a field ambulance station for the northern region of the battle of the Somme.

The grave reference is V111. A.6.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Buxted War Memorial

Further confusion has been caused by the inclusion of a **William Adams** on the temporary war memorial that was erected in the church yard in 1918.

It is possible that we should be researching a William Henry Adams or possibly a Henry William Adams.

At the present time it has not been possible to clarify this though it is interesting to note that a Sidney Adams was living at Hazeldon Farm, Dallington in 1915.



Cecil Baker

Cecil was born in Mayfield in 1896. His parents were Charles and Julia. The 1901 census shows the family living at Hazelden Farm and the 1911 shows them living at Carricks Farm. Cecil attended Dallington School.

He is recorded in the Parish Meeting Minutes, dated March 15th 1915 as having gone to “serve the colours”.

In the minutes for 1916 he is recorded as having been killed in action.

Private C Baker G/441

7th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

He enlisted 25th August 1914. Posted to the Western Front 31st May 1915. He was wounded 16th June 1915, rejoining the regiment 8th July 1915. He was killed in action 27th September 1915. It is also recorded that he was in hospital 25th June 1915 suffering from Bronchitis.

“Along the front, all was absolutely quiet on the 26th September as if both sides were catching their breath..... After this one day of relative relaxation, enemy heavy howitzers shelled Battalion Billets on the 27th, killing five men and three mules”.

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

Cecil Baker is buried in the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery at Armentieres which is situated 14 kilometres north-west of Lille which was used by field ambulances and field units. The grave reference is 1X.D.11

“The bereaved parents have received the following letter of sympathy from Captain A.K. Trower, who pays a high tribute to Private Baker’s pluck, character and popularity:-

“Dear Mr Baker,-It is with the very deepest regret that I write to tell you of the death of your son Cecil. He was killed yesterday by the bursting of a shell in the street where he was standing, and I hope it will be a relief, however small, to know that he can have suffered no pain, for death had been quite instantaneous. I can’t tell you how greatly he will be missed in the Company, by the officers as well as the men. His pluck and

cheerfulness under all conditions were simply splendid, and he never shirked his work, however tired he was. There was no man we could less willingly have spared. With the deepest sympathy at your great loss, believe me, yours truly,
A.K Trower Captain” 28th September 1915

A memorial service to Private Baker and also Private Stanley Stonestreet will be held at the Parish Church on Sunday afternoon next.”
(Sussex Agricultural Express 15th October 1915)

His father, Charles Baker objected to the Dallington War Memorial being placed in the churchyard, preferring it to be placed on the small green at the top of Carrick’s Hill. In protest of this decision he did not allow his son’s name to appear on the memorial. However, his name has been added to his parent’s gravestone in Dallington Churchyard extension.



Military records list the personal effects returned to Cecil’s parents.
 1 pipe. bundle of letters. 1 letter case. 6 photos. 1 disc. 1 compass. 1 pipe lighter

His sacrifice is to be added to the Dallington memorial in 2014



Ralph William Bell

The first mention of Ralph Bell appears on the 26th October 1918 in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer in the Dallington column.

“Major Ralph Bell, Canadian has been reported missing since 17th May 1918.”

He was a Major serving with the 18th Canadian Infantry (Ontario) having enlisted in August 1914 and transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, serving as a Captain in the 98th Squadron.

His name appears on the Arras Flying Services Memorial with his date of death given as 17th October 1918 and has no known grave.

He was born in Richmond, Surrey and immigrated to Canada in 1908 describing himself as a farm labourer.

Further evidence of Ralph’s connection with the village appears in Miss Tatham’s records where he is listed amongst the Dallington men who served in the Great War and were to make the ultimate sacrifice.

More information has been found through the Veterans Affairs Canada which includes Canadian newspaper articles.

“Toronto Star” (25th May 1918)

“Captain R.W. Bell Missing”

Toronto officer has not been heard of since May 17th – Three years in the war.

Captain Ralph bell, whose wife resides at 105 Pembroke Street, is reported missing since May 17th.

Captain Bell went overseas with the first contingent as a private, but has been with the Royal Air Force for the last two years. He has been in hospital suffering from the effects of gas poisoning.

Before going overseas at the beginning of the war he was on The Globe editorial staff. About two years ago he was home on a short furlough.

His parents live in London, England.”

The story was subsequently published by **“The Globe” (27th May 1918)**

Captain Ralph William Bell, a former member of the reportorial staff of The Globe, has been reported missing since May 17th according to word received from his wife, who resides at 105 Pembroke Street.

Captain Bell enlisted at the outbreak of war and went overseas in the ranks with the first contingent, and transferred to the Royal Air Flying Corps after reaching France. He has been ill in hospital several times and was home on leave about two years ago.

No word has been received by Mrs Bell from her husband since the recent heavy air battles.”

Footnote Ralph never lost sight of his journalistic background during his time in France recording his experiences in the book entitled “Canada in War Paint”.



Alexander Bishop (Alec)

Alexander was born in Ticehurst in 1891. His parents were Thomas and Hannah and according to the 1901 census the family had moved to Coombers Farm, Dallington. He attended Dallington School.

He is listed in the Parish Meeting Minutes, dated March 15th 1915 as having gone "to serve the colours".

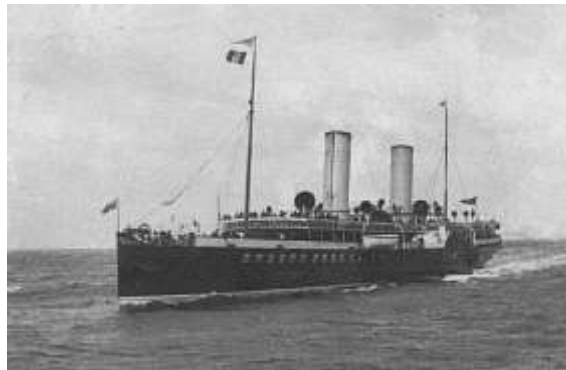
In the Minutes for 1916 he is recorded as having been killed in action.

Private A. Bishop G/3380

9th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

Alexander moved with the Battalion to France on the 31st August leaving Shoreham on S.S. La Marguerite



Private Bishop was killed on 25th September 1915 when the 9th Battalion was deployed in the Battle of Loos. 64 members of the Battalion died on this day.

"Much criticism was levelled at the Commander in Chief for attempting to use inexperienced units when other more experienced regulars and territorials were standing not far away"

"We Wunt Be Druv" Hugh Miller

Alexander Bishop has no known grave.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Loos Memorial and on the Dallington War Memorial.



George Henry Bishop (“Jim”)

James was born in Ticehurst in 1887. His parents were Thomas and Hannah who lived at Coomers Farm, Dallington by the time of the 1901 census. He attended Dallington School.

Private James Bishop L/8353
2nd Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

His military record shows that he enlisted as a regular soldier in 1905 at the age of 18 years and 10 months. They also confirm that Thomas and Hannah were his parents. Private Bishop was part of the 2nd Battalion that took part in the capture of a German trench at High Wood on August 15th 1916.

“Towards morning on the 17th August, the Germans made a determined counter-attack using a flame-thrower and hand grenades. Considerable confusion ensued and a good number of men were killed”.

“We Wunt Be Druv”. Hugh Miller

Private Bishop is recorded as having been killed on August 17th 1916. He has no known grave but his sacrifice is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and the Waldron War Memorial as well as Dallington.

“Heroic Death of Dallington Soldier”

“News arrived on Saturday morning that Private George Bishop known locally as “Jim” of the Royal Sussex Regiment, had in carrying a message to the firing line, met with a soldier’s death. Private Bishop enlisted in the Royal Sussex several years ago, and had served in India. He left the army with an exemplary character, came back to his home, and was employed by Mr C. Baker, but on the outbreak of the war he returned to the Colours, and was drafted to his old regiment. He was the second son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Bishop, Coomers Farm, who have five sons serving in the war, the oldest with the Royal Fusiliers, the rest with the County Regiment. Of these, besides “Jim,” Private Alick Bishop has been missing since September, 1915 and Private Tom Bishop has been seriously wounded as to be declared unfit for further service.”

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 2nd September 1916)



Charles Frederick Booth

Charles was born in Dallington in 1897. His parents were Frederick and Alice who lived at Glover's Cottage, Dallington. Its present name is Mill Cottage and is situated at the bottom of Carricks Hill.

At the time of his death his address was Manor Cottage, Brightling. He attended Dallington School.

Private Frederick Booth SX/10339

2nd Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

Charles was posted to France 11th January and was killed in action 9th May 1915 at Auber's Ridge.

Battle of Auber's Ridge 9th May 1915.

The losses during this one day were 11,619 officers and men and the majority fell within yards of their own frontline.

The 2nd and 5th Battalions of the Royal Sussex regiment, as part of the 1st Division lead the attack, going over the top at 5-30am eighty yards from the German front. The enemy machine gun fire made it impossible to advance and after thirty minutes the advance was halted and was called off at 7am when any chance of an advance was hopeless.

In those ninety minutes the 2nd Battalion lost 551 officers and men leaving barely a Sussex village untouched by the battle.



He is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery. The grave reference is XX11.E.38
His sacrifice is remembered on the Brightling and Burwash Memorials

George Bryant

It has proved almost impossible to find the link between George and Dallington. The only fact we have is that in the Dallington Parish Meeting Minutes of 1916 it is recorded that he had been killed in action.

George Bryant died in 1914 age 24. We do know for certain that his parents were George and Elizabeth and they were living at 425 Bexhill Road, St Leonards at the time of the 1911 census. In the same census George is recorded as a Private in the 1st Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment and stationed in India.

He married Mary Mewett at St Giles, Dallington in 1913.

Private George Bryant L/8193
2nd Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

The 2nd Battalion was a regular battalion stationed in Woking and moved to France on August 22nd 1914

as part of the British Expeditionary Force that was involved in a number of actions between the British and German troops during what is known as “the rush for the sea” in the autumn of 1914.

Between August and October they had suffered 58,185 casualties.

The Battle of Asne began on 14th September 1914.

“Throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th September artillery bombardments continued. On the last of these days the Battalion was relieved from the front line and sent to take up an outpost position at Paissy where they sheltered in available caves”

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

Private George Bryant died of his wounds on 19th September 1914 and is buried in Montreuil-Aux-Lions
British Cemetery, plot 111.E. 3

“Evensong took the form of a memorial service to Private G. Bryant, whose death from wounds was announced in last week’s issue. The widow, with her father and mother, Mr and Mrs Jesse Mewett, were among the congregation.”

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 24th October 1914)



His sacrifice is remembered on the Bexhill War Memorial

Thomas Budgen

Thomas was born in Brightling in 1885. In the 1901 census his parents, Isaac and Mary are living at Park House, Dallington. (This is the house on the Brightling Road on the left hand side just before turning left to the Observatory). He attended Dallington School.

Private T. Budgen G/24554

7th Battalion

Royal West Surrey Regiment (The Queen's Rifles).

Formerly in the Royal Sussex Regiment 9595

Private Budgen was killed on 28th September 1916 in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge and is buried at the London Cemetery & Extension, Longueval. Grave reference 1.D.5

Assault on Schwaben Redoubt September 28th

"Battalion attacked Schwaben Redoubt at 1pm, gaining and holding the Description Southern side"

Lieutenant Colonel M. Kemp Welch

Commanding 2nd Battalion

Another Dallington boy, Jack Puxty who was in the same battalion died of his wounds received in this attack. James Buss was killed two days later in the same battle.

"Missing,- Privates J.Puxty and T.Budgen, Royal West Surrey Regiment are now officially reported as missing since September 28th.

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 23rd December 1916)



London Cemetery & Extension

Battle of Thiepval Ridge 26th - 30th September 1916.

The 18th Division advanced on the Schwaben Redoubt, formed from a roughly shaped set of mutually supporting trench systems, and was possibly the most formidable in the German line of defence.

From the 28th September to 6th October the redoubt was repeatedly attacked. Despite these assaults the troops were unable to dislodge the Germans from the north west corner of the redoubt.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial

Cyril Buss

Cyril Buss was born in Dallington in 1897 and was baptized at St Giles Church 1st July 1900. The 1901 census shows him living with his parents, James and Emily in Woods Corner. He attended Dallington School.

Prior to his enlistment he was living with his parents at "The Oaks", Rushlake Green. He was employed as a baker's assistant. He was a bandsman and chorister at Warbleton Church.

Private C.V.Buss 2274
8th Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

The 8th Battalion became a pioneer battalion. After training at Colchester Shoreham and Salisbury Plain as part of the 18th Division it moved to France 24th July 1915

Cyril Buss was posted to France 18th November 1915.

He died of his wounds on 30th September 1916 in the final day of the Battle of Thiepval Ridge.

He is buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery. Grave reference. V.B.28

"Immediately following the infantry attack, the 8th Battalion were at work in and around Thiepval repairing and improving roads and communications. Heavy fighting was continuing at nearby Schwaben Redoubt but the pioneering work continued".

"We Wunt Be Druv" Hugh Miller

His sacrifice is remembered on the Warbleton War Memorial



The 8th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment at Colchester

Arthur George Catt

Arthur's name appeared on Dallington's temporary memorial for the Remembrance Service that took place in August 1918 and was subsequently published in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer on August 10th. The 1911 census return shows that he was born in Warbleton in 1885 and was living with the Oliver family at Pankhurst Farm, Dallington where he was employed as a farm labourer.

L/Corporal A.G.Catt SD/909
11th Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

Arthur was killed on 3rd September 1916, when the 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment took part in the assault at Beaumont Hamel in the Somme region.

September 3rd 5-30 a.m.

“The main assault was to be undertaken by the 11th Battalion with the 12th and 13th in support.....

The first wave of the assault succeeded in entering the enemy front line but the Germans opened a fearsome bombardment across no-mans land causing heavy casualties amongst the second and third waves.

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

Arthur has no known grave and his sacrifice is remembered in the Thiepval Memorial.



Thiepval Memorial

Arthurs's sacrifice is to be added to the Dallington memorial in 2014

James Crouch

James Crouch was born in Dallington in 1889. His parents were James and Elizabeth who in the 1901 census return were living at Woods Corner. He attended Dallington School.

In the 1911 census he was employed as a farm labourer at Bentley Farm, Halland

Private J Crouch

1st/5th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

Formerly the Cinque Port Volunteers this was a territorial battalion that was based in Hastings at the outbreak of war and was shipped to Boulogne on the 18th February 1915 aboard **SS Pancras**.

In August 1915 it became a pioneer battalion repairing roads and trenches close to the front line.



SS Pancras

Passchendale

Before Haig made his decision to launch the battle he was warned that if an artillery attack of the area was demanded it would quickly turn the marshland in to a swamp.

On July 22nd 1917 3,000 British guns began to pound the area with over four million shells. On every square yard of ground nearly five tons of high explosives had fallen resulting in the collapse of the drainage system that turned the area into a swamp.

The mud was so deep ninety men a month were to drown in it.

Private Crouch died of his wounds on 7th October 1917 whilst his battalion were fighting in the third Battle of Ypres (Passchendale) and is buried in Dozingham Military Cemetery which is situated north – west of Poperinge. Grave reference V11.

1. 1

“Sunday 14th October 1917 the 5th Battalion left the Western for the last time”.

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

“Another Dallington School Boy.- Private James Crouch of the Royal Sussex has made the great sacrifice. Born at Woods Corner, “Jimmy” spent all of his school days at Dallington. He afterwards lived at Barcombe, and enlisted soon after the outbreak of the war. He leaves a wife and young children to mourn a gallant husband and father”.

“Hastings and St Leonards Observer” 26th October 1917

His sacrifice is recorded on the Lewes Memorial



Douglas Funnell

Douglas Funnell was born in Dallington in 1893 and in the 1901 census he is shown to be living with his mother, Rhoda and his grandmother and step grandfather, James and Harriet White at St Thomas's Farm. He attended Dallington School. He worked for Caleb Simmons at Graylings until 1914.

Lance Sergeant D. Funnell G/406
7th Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

Douglas enlisted 28th August 1914.

The 7th Service Battalion was raised in Chichester on the 12th August 1914 and 1200 men enlisted within two weeks, only 30 were from outside Sussex.

After training at Chichester, Shorncliffe and Aldershot it left for France on 31st May 1915.

On 26th October 1915 he suffered a gun shot wound to right foot and was subsequently hospitalised 14th December 1915 when he rejoined the Battalion.

He was hospitalised again 26th July 1917 when he was "wounded. Suffering from Shell Shock"

.He was discharged hospital for duty in the field 26th August 1917.

Lance Sergeant Funnell was killed 25th November 1917 in the latter stages of the Battle of Cambrai. From the 23rd until the 28th of September the fighting was concentrated around Boulon Wood and it was here that the 7th Battalion took the brunt of the assault and subsequent counter-attack.

The 7th Battalion lost 246 men in this action.

Douglas has no known grave but his sacrifice is remembered on Cambrai Memorial at Louveral, alongside 7,000 men who were killed in this battle with no known grave.

His sister, Maude received this letter from Douglas a few months earlier;-

Dear Maude,

Just a few lines to let you know I am alright. I received your letter and cigarettes last night – I thank you so much for them. Like you, I had a field letter from Herbert but no address so I can't write to him. Tell Mother I am alright, I am writing to her today. We are not in the trenches now but are a decent way back – of course we never know what is going to happen from one day to another. We are here today and gone tomorrow as the saying goes. I am surprised that those boys are not called up yet but good luck to them. Well I haven't any news much this time, will write again shortly.

**Your loving brother,
Douglas**

Love and xxxx to E and M

At the time of his death there was a good deal of uncertainty as to whether he was missing presumed dead or had been taken as a prisoner of war not until 18th October 1918 that the family received official confirmation of his death.

“The officer in charge of records is informed that the unofficial report of the death of Lance Sergeant D. Funnell has been accepted as sufficient evidence, for official purposes, and that the date of death has been assumed to be 25th November 1917.

The next of kin should be notified accordingly and the usual papers be prepared if not already done

R.C. Fowler (Taken from Douglas Funnell's Military records)

25th November 1917

7am .The Battalion was ordered to attack Pelican and Bitch trenches. The men were driven out by the enemy. Despite strong protests, the depleted and exhausted men were ordered again to attack the trenches”.

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

Douglas' sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial

Percy Harmer

Percy Harmer was born in Dallington in 1899 and the 1901 census return shows him living with his parents, James and Lorraine in Battle Road in a property between Prospect House and Christmas Farm. He attended Dallington School.

He enlisted at Hastings.

Private P. Harmer G/24434

11th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

The 11th, 12th and 13th Service Battalions were originally formed from "Lowther's Lambs" and became the Southdown Brigade.

After training at Cooden Camp the Battalion moved to Witley Camp and embarked to France in March 1916 as part of 116th Brigade, 39th Division.

By the end of the German Spring offensive of March 21st 1918 the 11th Battalion virtually ceased to exist.

Private Harmer died of wounds 3rd March 1918 and is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery.

Grave reference: 1V.

"The 11th and 12th Battalions continued with duties in and out of the line around Revlon Farm, Haut Allaines, north of Peronne as this cold, snowy winter drew to its close."

"We Wunt Be Druv" Hugh Miller

"Died Like a brave and Gallant Gentleman". Mrs Harmer has received a touching and sympathetic letter from the Chaplain stating that her son, Percy, Royal Sussex Regiment, who had been reported as dangerously wounded, passed peacefully away on the morning of Sunday 3rd March and was buried in the military cemetery attached to the hospital. The Padre writes:

"Your son was bright and oh so brave, and died like a brave and gallant gentleman"

(Sussex Agricultural Express 15th March 1918)

His sacrifice is recorded on All Saints Church Memorial, Eastbourne.

Footnote

"Dallington Father's Trouble."

James Harmer was summoned for neglecting to send his son, William to school at Dallington,- Defendant said he had twelve children and it was the first time he had any trouble in respect of them. His older children were away from home. Some of his sons had been killed in the war. He pleaded he was obliged to take the boy William away from school to help earn his living, as he (defendant) was not in a very fit state and could not earn enough to keep him. The Bench made an attendance order,-

Harmer: We shall have to go on the Parish and then you will have to keep us (Hastings and St Leonards Observer 29th March 1919)

I have included this article because the father states that he lost "some" of his sons in the war, while at this time we only know of Percy.

Frederick George Albert Kemp

Finding information regarding the fate of Frederick Kemp has proved to be more difficult than first thought.

When the first temporary war memorial was placed in the church yard his name was amongst the twenty one men with Dallington connections that had made the ultimate sacrifice. "Fred Kemp Jun."

Earlier published lists of villagers who were serving their country included the name of Petty Officer Frederick Kemp.

The first sign of his connection with Dallington is found in the 1901 census return showing that he was born in Dover in 1894 and was living with his grandparents, at Downgate in Earlsdown.

His parents were George Alfred and Isabella who lived in Welling, Kent. Frederick was the eldest of five children.

In the 1911 census return Frederick is a Boy 1st Class and is stationed in the training establishment HMS Impregnable.

The next we hear of Frederick until 4th May 1918 when the following appeared in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer.

"Fred Kemp, son of Mr George Kemp, at Woolwich has paid the supreme sacrifice.

Some 15 or 16 years ago Fred resided with his Grandmother, Mrs Walter Kemp at Downgate and attended the village school".

Finding further information regarding Frederick's military career and his ultimate death has so far been unsuccessful. Further confusion is added by his death recorded to have not taken place until 1973 in Bexley.

It does seem more than a coincidence that there is a report of his brother's death. Percival Gordon Kemp was serving with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry and was killed in the last week of March 1918.

His sacrifice is recorded on the East Wickham and Welling War Memorial.

It would appear that Frederick was fortunate to survive the war to live a good deal longer. Sadly, it may have been his brother who was to make the ultimate sacrifice.



"Unfortunately, and inexplicably, there is no official record of Percival's death. He is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or any other memorial following the war or in any cemetery. The only record we have is the newspaper cutting and it was on this evidence that he was added to the East Wickham and Welling Memorial in 1998."



Douglas Lowe

Douglas Lowe was born in Warbleton in 1878.

The 1891 census shows him aged 12 living as a boarder in Churches Lane and employed as a general labourer. Military records show he was awarded the South Africa Medal for taking part in the 2nd Boer War including the relief of Ladysmith. He was mentioned in Despatches.

The 1911 census shows him as being married and is a Sergeant in the Royal Field Artillery

His parent are not known and at the time of his death he was married to Marjory and the address is given as "Medwyn", Largo Road, St Andrews, Fife.

He attended Dallington School. He enlisted at Eastbourne.

His name is included on the Parish Meeting Minutes of 1915 as "serving the colours". His death is recorded in the 1916 minutes.

Regimental Sergeant Major D.Lowe 15498

45th Brigade

Royal Field Artillery

The 45th Brigade Royal Field Artillery was part of the 8th Division that took part in the Battle of Aubert's Ridge on the 9th May 1915.

"The northern pincer in the attack was to be made by the 8th Division, moving south-east towards Rouges Bancs then spreading to capture the line between Fromelles and La Cliqueterie.

The attack proved disastrous with the 8th Division losing 4,682 men in the two hour battle. The wounded were still being moved from the battlefield for the following three days".

R.S. Lowe died 11th May 1915 and is buried in the Royal Irish Graveyard, Laventie. Grave reference:-1V.F.16.

"News arrived at Dallington on Friday that Warrant Officer Douglas Lowe of the Royal Field Artillery had given his life for King and Country somewhere in France on May 11th.

The news came in a letter from his foster brother, Godfrey Oliver who is at the front with the Trench Mortar Section. Godfrey was present at the funeral.

Douglas being buried in an orchard. The warm-hearted French peasants, ever mindful of the text "Be kind to the dead" will look after the grave".....

"One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name".

No funeral muffled bells, but a joyous peal telling that "Death is swallowed up in Victory", summoned the people of Dallington to the memorial service"

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 22nd May 1915)

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial

Harry Edward Lulham

On the Armistice night in 1919 a dinner was given for Dallington's ex-service men when it is recorded that Mr Peploe said:-

"He was sure they were all sorry to hear of the serious illness of Harry Lulham at his home in Kent. He asked them to drink to the memory of Our Glorious Dead."

When Miss Peploe retired from teaching at Dallington School in July 1920 she referred to all of the boys she had taught who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the war.

In the Hastings and St Leonards Observer she goes on to state:-

"Only one who succumbed after his return, to the privations endured in the trenches, is laid to rest in his native village".

So far my research has only found one possible young man who had returned from the war and was to subsequently die within 12 months after the Armistice and was buried in Dallington Churchyard.

The young man concerned was Harry Edward Lulham who died 19th November 1919. His death certificate states that there were two causes of his death. Firstly, pneumonia that was a frequent result of Spanish Flu that killed more than 50 million people between 1918-1920 and the second cause was listed as cardiac asthenia heart more commonly called a "Soldier's Heart" linked to troops suffering from stress related illness on the front.

Perhaps there is not sufficient reason for Harry to be included in this record but hopefully you will agree that the fact that his life was cut short having survived four years of conflict is more than enough to justify his inclusion.

Harry was born in Dallington in 1888 and his parents were James and Francis Lulham and were living at Turleys, Woods Corner in the 1891 census. He attended Dallington School. In 1910 he married Kathleen Eastwood from Australia and moved to Three Cups where he was employed as a coachman.

Private H.E. Lulham 14590

7th Battalion

Royal Hampshire Regiment

No other information other than his military records show that he landed in France 24th March 1915 and was awarded the Victory Medal, the British Medal and the 1915 Star.

Harry is buried in row 8 and plot number 231 in Dallington Churchyard.

His wife, Kathleen was buried with him 9th February 1973



His sacrifice will be added to the Dallington memorial in 2014

Charles Thomas Mitchell (Charlie)

The Sussex Roll of Honour for the Catsfield War Memorial states that Charles Mitchell was born in Dallington in 1880. His mother was Elizabeth Sweatman and married Henry Burton Mitchell in 1869.

The 1891 census shows him living with his mother, Elizabeth at Housestead Farm, Darwell, and place of birth given as Dallington. In 1911 he is living with his mother in Catsfield.

Little else is known of him at this time.

Private C.T.Mitchell G/20205

1st Battalion

Royal East Kent Regiment

The 1st Battalion was a regular Battalion embarked to France in 1914.

As part of the 6th Division the East Kents took part in the latter stages of the Battle of Cambrai when they took part in the capture of Bournon Wood from the 23rd - 28th November 1917.

The Germans launched a massive counter attack on the 30th November until 3rd December. Such was the ferocity of this counter attack that Haig ordered,

“A retirement with the least possible delay from Bournon Wood.”

From November 20th to December 12th the 3rd Army lost 44,207 dead wounded or missing.

Private Mitchell died of his wounds on December 5th 1917 and is buried Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt



Bournon Wood

His sacrifice is recorded on the Catsfield War Memorial

Alfred Oliver

Very little information is currently available apart from the knowledge that he had attended Dallington School and his sacrifice was recorded on the school's memorial.

He was born in 1896 in Warbleton and his parents were William and Sarah who lived in Olive's Farm Broad Oak in 1901. The 1911 census shows him living in Cade Street where he was employed as a carter. He enlisted at Uckfield.

Private A Oliver 5/2973

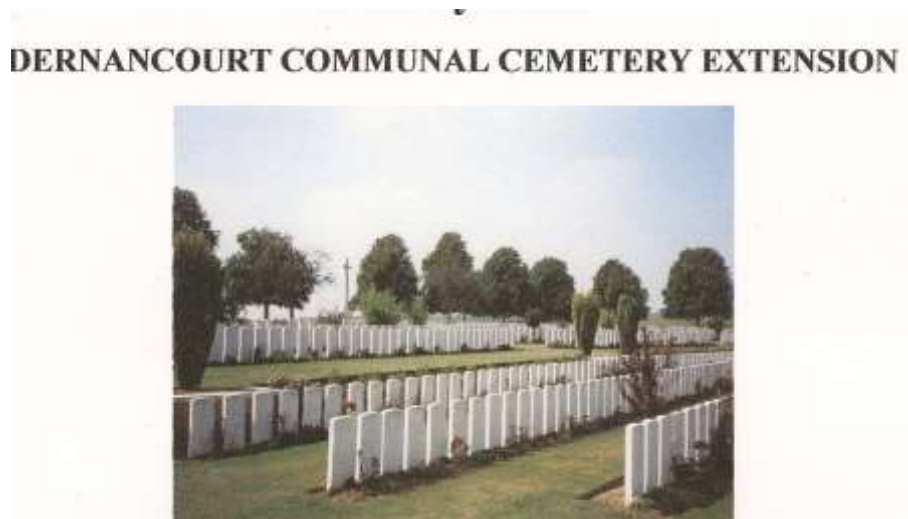
5th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment.

The 5th Battalion was a territorial battalion that moved to France in early 1915 as a designated divisional pioneer battalion.

Private Oliver died of his wounds 16th November 1916 during the Somme Campaign.

Alfred is buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension which is 3 kilometres from Albert.



“Bazentin-Petit-Wood

German observation of the area was still good with the result that artillery fire was frequently brought to bear on the allies. The Battalion received its share of shelling and casualties were fairly high”

“We Wunt Be Druv” Hugh Miller

“Another old school boy.-Private Alfred Oliver, son of Mr W. Oliver of Cade Street, has succumbed to wounds received in action. Some years ago Alfred attended Dallington School. This is the twelfth Dallington school boy who has paid the supreme sacrifice”

“Hastings and St Leonards Observer” 2nd December 1916

His sacrifice is recorded on the Heathfield War Memorial

James Pont

James Pont was born in Brightling in 1890 and the 1891 census return shows him with his father, William and his grandmother, Ann Pont in Battle Lane, Brightling. In the 1901 census he has been adopted by James and Frances Lulham of Battle Road, Dallington. The 1911 census shows him as a Private in the Coldstream guards stationed at Farnborough.

In 1916 his mother is recorded as Mrs. M Crooks, living at Wellington Road, New Edlington, Doncaster.

He attended Dallington School.

He is listed in the Parish Meeting Minutes of 1916 as having been killed in action.

Lance Corporal J.H. Pont 8580

2nd Battalion

Coldstream Guards.

Lance Corporal Pont of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards was part of the British Expeditionary Force that landed in France 12th August 1914 and marched into Belgium on August 23rd. On that same day the British forces were outflanked by the Germans, forcing them to march 170 miles in 13 days until they reached Marne, just east of Paris. It was here that the British and French forces held their lines, preventing the Germans from taking Paris.

The 2nd Battalion lost 3,519 men between 1914 and 1918.

Lance Corporal Pont died of his wounds (gunshot wounds to left leg and buttocks)

22nd June 1916, shortly before the battalion moved to the Somme.

He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery which is situated 12 kilometres east of Ypres and was the site of a major casualty clearing station. Grave reference:- V111.B.9.

“For King and Country.- a Dallington schoolboy, Corporal James Pont, Coldstream Guards, has died of wounds received in action on June 22nd. Corporal Pont was a very smart soldier, a typical guardsman. Between leaving school and joining the army he lived and worked in Brightling”
(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 22nd July 1916)



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

His sacrifice is remembered on the Mountfield War Memorial.

William John Puxty (“Jack”)

Jack Puxty was born in 1893 in Ticehurst. The 1901 census shows him living with his parents, William and Mary at Burwash Weald. The 1911 census records him living with his family at Hayward’s Farm,

Jack married Rose Osborne in 1912 and was living in Denton, Kent.

His parents were living at Sunny Banks,(Three Cups Corner) Dallington at the time of his death

He is mentioned in the parish Meeting Minutes for 1916 as having gone to “serve the colours”.

Private J. Puxty G/1338

7th Battalion

Royal West Surrey Regiment

The 7th Battalion was a service battalion in the New Army that was formed in September 1914 and landed in Boulogne on July 27th 1915.

The Battalion fought in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge between 26th and 30th September 1916 and on the 28th it took part in the assault on the Schwaben Redoubt. Lieut. Colonel Kemp Welch, Commanding Officer, 7th Battalion gave the following account of the battle:-

“The men of the Battalion, a considerable majority of whom had little experience, on the whole showed good fighting qualities but little initiative and required much leading”.

In the same report he includes the casualty figures for 28th/29th September:-

1 officer killed and 11 wounded.

44 other ranks killed and 251 wounded. Missing, believed killed 1 and 1 missing and believed wounded. 87 missing. Total 384.

Private Puxty was killed on the 28th September 1916. He has no known grave and he is listed on the Thiepval Memorial. Pier and face 5D and 6D.

“Missing.- Privates J.Puxty and T. Budgen, Royal West Surrey Regiment are now officially reported as missing since September 28th. (Hastings and St Leonards Observer 23rd December 1916.)



His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial

Frederick Charles Starling

Frederick Starling was born in 1886 in Walthamstow, Middlesex.

His parents were Richard and Jane.

The 1901 census return show him living with James and Elizabeth Burgess in the "village" (The Street) as a lodger and his occupation is given as a farm servant.

He married Emily Mephram at St Giles' Church in 1908 and they had two sons, Reginald and Leslie.

The 1911 census records the family as living in Punnetts Town, and was employed as a "miller's loader"

He had previously attended Dallington School.

The Parish Meeting Minutes for 1915 recorded him as "serving the colours".

The Minutes for 1916 record his death in the following manner:-

".....his wife has received news, although not confirmed that her husband now "sleeps the sleep of the brave" on a hard won field in Picardy.

He leaves a wife and two children. He came to the village 18 ½ years ago and attended the village school, afterwards and was employed by Mr W. Richardson. When he enlisted he was working for Mr. Sweetman.

He was a keen cricketer and footballer and had been a member of the Church choir and bell-ringers".

Private F.C. Starling G/4049

7th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

The 7th Battalion was formed on 12th August 1914, and 1200 men were to enlist in two weeks.

Training began at Colchester, Folkestone and then Aldershot before embarking for France on 31st May 1915 as part of 36th Brigade, 12th Eastern Division.

Private Starling was killed 7th July 1916 when the Battalion fought in the Battle of Albert.

"The Battalion suffered this day its highest number of deaths for any single day of the year".

"We Wunt Be Druv" Hugh Miller

"Mrs Starling has received official notice that her husband has been missing since the 7th of July"

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 2nd September 1916)

On this day James Whiteman, a fellow Dallington Boy, in the same Battalion was also killed.

Private Starling is buried in Serre Road Cemetery No.2. Grave reference: - XV, A.6

Footnote

In 1918 his widow, Emily married Thomas Bishop a Dallington man who returned seriously wounded from the war and his brothers, Alexander and James were both killed.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial



Charles James Stanley Stonestreet (“Stanley”)

Stanley Stonestreet was born in 1892 in Dallington.

The 1901 census return shows his parents, Richard and Sarah at Palmers Cottage, South Street, Dallington. However, Stanley is then living with his grandparents, George and Harriet Gosling in Heathfield.

The Parish Meeting Minutes for 1915 mention that Stanley was “serving the colours”.

Private S Stonestreet G/1418
2nd Battalion
Royal Sussex Regiment

Private Stonestreet was posted to France 4th January 1915 and was killed at the battle of Aubers Ridge on the 9th May 1915.

Fellow Dallington boy, Charles Booth also in the 2nd Battalion was killed in this action.

Private Stonestreet has no known grave but his sacrifice is remembered on Le Touret Memorial, Panel 20 and 21.

93% of the 2nd Battalion killed on this day have no known grave.

Total British losses for 9th May were 400 officers and 10,400 other ranks.

“The British official history was to state blandly that the Battle of Aubers Ridge had been a serious “disappointment”.”

“We Wunt be Druv” Hugh Miller

“Yet another man of the Royal Sussex Regiment who has since May 9th been reported as “missing” has now been reported killed. This is Private Stanley Stonestreet, of Dallington, who at one time lived at Church Street, Heathfield with his grandmother. Some time ago his grandmother fancied she could identify Private Stonestreet in a picture published in a daily paper of some British prisoners in Germany.”

(Sussex Agricultural Express 15th October 1915)

His name is also remembered on the Dallington War Memorial.

James Whiteman

James Whiteman was born in 1881 at Warbleton.

The 1891 census return shows him living with his parents, George and Sally at Mudwall, Brightling. He married Annie Bessie Mephram in 1900 and the 1901 census records them living at Netherfield Place and was employed as a stonemason on farm. In the 1911 census he is living at Newlands Farm, Dallington and is self employed as a poulterer. They have two sons, Albert age 9 and James age 5.

He attended Dallington School.

The 1916 Parish Meeting Minutes record his having been killed in action.

Lance Corporal J Whiteman G/1112

7th Battalion

Royal Sussex Regiment

Lance Corporal Whiteman was posted to France on the 4th January 1915. He was wounded on 22nd May 1915. He died of wounds on 7th July 1916 when the 7th Battalion was engaged in the battle of Albert.

Fellow Dallington boy, Frederick Starling also of the 7th Battalion was killed in this same action.

He is buried in the Albert Communal Cemetery Extension.

Grave reference 1.B.19

His sacrifice is remembered on the Brightling and Netherfield War Memorials.



Albert Communal Cemetery Extension

Marshall Winchester

Marshall Winchester was born 29th November 1898 at The Street, Ashburnham.(Close by the Ash Tree Inn) His parents were George and Annie and in the 1911 census were living at Attwater Farm, Hawkhurst. At the time of his death his father was living at Poppinghoe Farm, Robertsbridge. He attended Dallington School.

The Parish Meeting Minutes for 1916 record his death.

Marshall Winchester Boy First Class J/37298(ch)
H.M.S. Black Prince

At the age of 17 he was serving as a ship's boy on the battle cruiser, Black Prince that on May 31st 1916 took part in the Battle of Jutland.

“ The cruiser Black Prince which, at the first meeting of the two main fleets had followed her flagship, Defence, into action and roughly handled at the time that Defence had been blown up and Warrior disabled, had been left behind by the Grand Fleet's turn to the southward after deployment. For some reason which will never be known, she was still at this time far astern and out of touch with the British fleet; but when a line of battleships was dimly seen ahead, it was no doubt thought that they were the British squadrons. Course was altered to close them. At a bare half-mile range, the German recognition signal flashed out. The horrified captain Bonham, swung his ship away in a desperate effort to escape, but it was too late.

.....Brilliantly lit by half a dozen searchlights, the Black Prince was raked from stern to stem by a tornado of shells and lay a helpless wreck before she could even fire a shot in reply. As she drifted down the German line, ship after ship opened up on her...the Black Prince met the same end as the Defence, blowing up with a tremendous explosion, vanishing with all hands. 885 officers and men”.

Extract from “Jutland” by Capt. Donald MacIntyre. 1957



HMS Black Prince

Marshall Winchester has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Chatham Naval Memorial and the Heathfield War Memorial.

Samuel Wood

Samuel Wood was born in 1893 in Dallington.

In the 1901 census return he is shown as living with his parents, John and Harriet at Newcastle Farm, Dallington. The 1911 census shows the family at Grovelye Farm, Dallington.

In 1919 his father is listed as living in Broad Oak.

He attended Dallington School.

Driver S.B. Wood 905881

386th Brigade

Royal Field Artillery

Driver S.B. Wood died on the 8th January 1919 and is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery. Grave reference V.B.5.

Baghdad was captured from the Turkish army in March 1917 and the final offensive in the Tigris was in October 1918.

It is possible that Samuel Wood subsequently died of wounds though it is quite possible that he died from cholera as did many of the troops, including the leader of the British forces, Sir Douglas Maude.

“Conditions in Mesopotamia defy description. Extremes in temperature (120 degrees Fahrenheit was common); and desert and regular flooding; flies mosquitoes and other vermin: all led to appalling levels of sickness and death through disease. Under these incredible conditions, units fell short of officers and men, and all too often the reinforcements were half trained and ill equipped. Medical conditions were quite shocking with wounded men spending up to two weeks on boats before reaching any kind of hospital. These factors, plus of course the unexpectantly determined Turkish resistance, contributed to high casualty rates”.

“The Long, Long Trail” website

11,012	Killed
3,985	Died of wounds
12,678	Died of sickness
13,492	Missing or POWS
51,836	Wounded

“Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire” (London H.M.S.O. 1920)

His sacrifice is remembered on the Heathfield War Memorial.



HMS Flirt

John Wood

John was born in Herstmonceux in 1890. In the 1901 census he is recorded as living with his parents, John and Harriet at Newcastle Farm, Dallington. He was Samuel's brother. In 1911 he was living with his family at Grovelye Farm, Dallington. In 1919 his father was living in Broad oak.

Petty Officer John Wood 170070
Chief Stoker
H.M.S.Flirt

“HMS Flirt had a complement of 63 men and was sunk in the Battle of Dover Straits on the night 26th of October 1916. The German navy had mounted a raid in the Dover Straits against the ships of the awesome Dover Patrol who were maintaining the Dover Barrage. Twelve German destroyers in two divisions of six broke in the barrage and sunk seven of the attendant trawlers and drifters. HMS Flirt investigated this incident and, although she sighted the enemy, the ship mistook them for allied destroyers returning from Dover. HMS Flirt stopped to rescue survivors of the drifters in the sea and put her searchlight on to do this. Meanwhile the Germans returned and a well-aimed torpedo struck the ship amidships. She sunk immediately with a loss of most of the crew, the only survivors being those in the lifeboat, which was engaged in picking up other survivors. John Wood was not amongst those who survived this tragedy and he was drowned on 27th October 1916”.

“The Heroes of Hailsham “by Dave Dyer

His sacrifice is remembered on the Hailsham War Memorial and the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

“Dallington’s Joy Bells”

The news reached Dallington about noon, and in a short time the village street was ablaze with flags and bunting of all descriptions. In the evening the bells rang joyously from the ivy mantled tower of the Parish Church. A drizzling rain fell, and old inhabitants recalled the fact that, at the rejoicings at the close of hostilities in the Crimea, 1856, a terrible thunderstorm raged.

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 16th November 1918)

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was duly observed at Dallington. In the evening the Church was packed. The band played as opening voluntary, “Hail gladdening light,” and also accompanied the hymns. the Priest-in-Charge, the Rev.E.G. Foot, gave a very powerful and telling address. After the Blessing the National Anthem was sung, and the band played as concluding voluntary “Rise and claim victory.” The offertories throughout the day were given to the Hospital Fund.

Near the lych gate a temporary shrine was erected containing the names of Old Dallingtonian school boys and men connected with the parish and congregation who had paid the great sacrifice. The inscription was.-

“We thank Thee o Father, for our glorious dead:

William Adams
Cecil Baker
Alec Bishop
James G Bishop
Charles Booth
George Bryant
Tom Budgen
Cyril Buss
Arthur Catt
James Crouch
Percy Harmer
Fred Kemp Jun.
Douglas Lowe
Alfred Oliver
Frank Oliver
John Puxty
James Pont
Stanley Stonestreet
Fred Starling
Marshall Winchester
James Whiteman

“Grant them Thine eternal rest, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.”

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 10th August 1918)

Returned Soldiers' Reunion

Dallington's returned soldiers were entertained to a meat tea at the Swan Inn on Thursday night of last week by Messrs, C. Baker, G. Downs, and W.J. Peplow. A company of some fifty sat down, including the Rector, who has served as a padre in France.

Mr Peplow was in the chair. Mr. and Mrs, Cornford placed a splendid repast on the table. After tea, the Rector, in proposing a vote of thanks to their kind hosts, suggested that though many things had occurred in the War which they would like to forget, there were happy memories of comradeship etc., and he thought it would be a nice thing if they could all meet together once a year and renew old friendships. The Rector's suggestion was received with loud applause, and the Chairman, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said he heartily agreed with it. After tea, the members of the company were photographed by Sergeant Devanter R.M.L.I. In the evening Mr Peplow presided over a public smoking concert, the room being crowded.

The inhabitants generally subscribed handsomely for refreshments for the returned warriors. After the toast of "The King", the Chairman said that a century ago, after the great Napoleonic War, it was the custom to drink a toast which he would give them that night. "To the immortal memory of the dead who died for England" The toast was drunk in silence all standing.

During the evening some excellent songs were given by soldiers and civilians, Mr.A.J.Simmons acting as accompanist. The healths of Mr. and Mrs Downs, Mr. and Mrs.Cornford, and Mr. Scott Burgess were given and cordially received, Messrs, Downs, L.Cornford, and S Burgess responding,-Mr.Cornford proposed the health of Mr. C.Baker, who said that he was always glad to help in any good work to the best of his power,-Mr.A.J.Burgess, late Royal West Kent Regiment, said he was sure that all present would join with him in drinking the health of their old schoolmaster and friend, the Chairman. This was received with musical honours, and after, on the proposition of Mr.E.Hobden, the health of Mr Arthur J.Simmons had been toasted, the National Anthem was sung, and brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

(Hastings and St Leonards Observer 14th June 1919)

Sussex Agricultural Times May 23rd 1919

"A well attended meeting of subscribers to the war memorial held in the Old School on Friday night, the Rector presiding; it was decided to erect the memorial in the churchyard".

Whilst the loss of so many young men connected with Dallington must not be forgotten it is equally important to remember that many were so badly wounded that their lives would never be the same again. Current information shows that at least 18 men from the village were seriously wounded.

Perhaps by telling the story of one such young man from Dallington it will help us to be reminded of the sacrifice of many other Dallington boys who returned from the war.



Herbert Gadd

Young Herbert was born on December 15th 1899 and moved to No.1 Seaview Cottage with his parents in 1907 having previously lived in a cottage on Swan Farm and attended Dallington School until leaving age 13 when he went to work at Little Bucksteep in Redpale.

Little more is known of his early life until he enlisted in Hastings on 27th February 1917, joining the 21st Training Reserve Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment but later was assigned to the 25th Training Reserve Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. Currently there is no further information regarding his military history apart from description of how he was injured as told to his son Bill:-

“He was leaning over the top of the trench when a shell exploded behind him”.

Shrapnel had struck him in the legs with his right leg having to be amputated on the onset of gangrene.

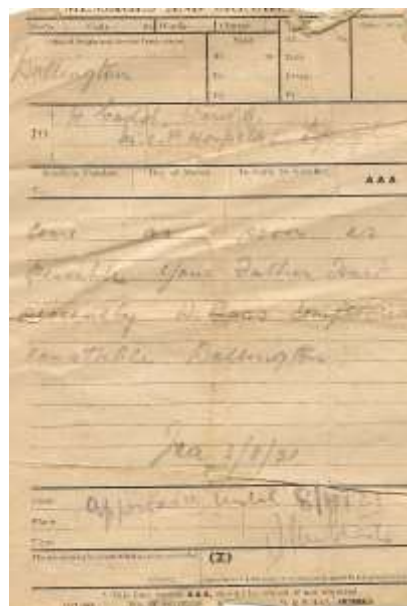
He was subsequently sent to Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton that specialised in the rehabilitation of military amputees.



Queen Mary Hospital Roehampton

He received a military discharge on 27th August 1920 after 3 years and 37 days service.

In 1921 he was in Ward B of the Ministry of Pensions Hospital in Orpington when he was to receive a telegram;-



The Original Telegram

“Come as soon as you can your father hurt seriously.”

Sadly, Herbert's father was hit on the neck by a large piece of wood that fell from a cart that was outside the Swan Public House and died shortly afterwards and was buried in Dallington church yard on the 6th August 1921.



On the 30th July 1923 Herbert was awarded a 90% disability pension which was then 36 shillings per week for life.

In October 1923 he married Dorothy Maud Maria Crozier in Croydon and moved in to No 1 Seaview Cottage. They had four children, Herbert William, Bernard, Rose and Kathleen Phyllis who died in 1929 age 11 months.

Herbert begins his new life as a shoe repairer on his discharge from Roehampton Hospital.

His shoe repair shop was in the shed immediately behind No 1 Seaview Cottage where he was to continue working until the mid 1970s. There was always a demand for shoe repairs years before recycling had been ever heard of. His busiest time was during the Second World War when rationing prevented villagers from thinking about buying new shoes. Herbert also supplied the Dallington Home Guard with their boots.



Herbert outside his repair shop in the 1930s.

His shed has remained virtually untouched since the early 1970s. In 1956 he purchased No 1 Seaview Cottage for £400 after years of renting at £3 18 shillings per month. Dorothy died in 1981 followed by Herbert in 1987.

Dallington Women at War 1914-18

Sussex Agricultural Times 14th January 1916

“It is curious to note that although the Roll of Honour at the school contains the names of 75 Old boys there are only, as far as we can ascertain, two girls doing their bit. Miss Mary Jones and Miss Edith Jones, who are working on munitions. The latter we regret to learn had to relinquish the task for health reasons”.

I do not think that the author of this article intended to cause offence as most Dallington women had replaced the village men who had left their work on the land to join the armed forces. Most Dallington women were “doing their bit.” Nevertheless, the Jones girls should be remembered for their particular courage in working in munitions.

Evidence of Land army membership appeared in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer 15th June 1918

“On the land Miss Alice Booth who engaged in farm work in Yorkshire was home on a few days leave last week. Evidently the work agrees with her.”

A good deal of encouragement came from Lady Wrenbury who was a member of the East Sussex Women’s Agricultural Committee and supported the use of women working on the land.

World War Two

1939-1945

John Edward Newton-Clare

Pilot Officer John Edward-Clare
33492
144 Squadron
Bomber Command

The following information was published in the "Hastings and St Leonards Observer on 25th November 1940.

"Dallington Officer Missing"

"Pilot Officer Edward Newton-Clare, R.A.F. is reported missing as a result of air operations.

He is the only son of Major E.T. Newton-Clare D.S.O. and Mrs Newton-Clare of Pankhurst Farm, Dallington."

It is known that John received his permanent commission 23rd December 1939 and was posted to 144 Squadron which was stationed at Hemswell, Lincolnshire. His story is told in "Departed Warriors. The Story of a Family at War". J.J.Muriland

"On the night of September 5th 1940 Hampden P1172 captained by Pilot officer John Newton – Clare who had arrived some weeks earlier and had already captained the aircraft on numerous operational flights. On this occasion the squadron was to be part of a widespread effort to bomb targets in Italy and Germany with 144 Squadron tasked to bomb installations in Hamburg. Hemswell records show the aircraft was on the return journey from Hamburg in the early morning of 6th September when it was lost. There were no German night fighter claims for that night, ruling out the option that the aircraft was shot down by enemy fighters. The only other possibilities were damage by flak over the target area resulting in engine failure on the way home, damaged fuel tanks or navigational error that ate into their fuel to such an extent they ran out of fuel over the sea.

Group Captain E. Rice in a letter of condolence to the mother of one of the crew reported that

"At 0456 hours a request for a bearing was received, the aircraft was asked for a call sign but the signal gradually faded out and nothing further was heard."

Pilot Officer John Newton-Clare was age 20 at the time of his death.

Sergeant William Thompson age 18.

Sergeant Leslie Powell age 19.

Sergeant Owen Clarke age 20

Probate records show that his will left £99,7s. 2d. to his mother, Aileen Yvonne Marion Newton-Clare.

John has no known grave and his sacrifice is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Howard H. Kinsman

Howard Kinsman was born in 1919 in Canada and his father was Roy Kinsman. He married Marjorie Ivy Parris at St Giles Church, Dallington in March 1941. They lived at Little Brooklands Farm, Carrick's Hill, Dallington with their two sons, Michael and Roy.

At the time of his death his wife was living in Four Marks, Hampshire.

Private H. Kinsman 5500321
2nd/4th Battalion
Hampshire Regiment

“On the 22nd June 1944 the 2nd/4th Battalion was in the line north of Viterbo, 50 miles north of Rome. On the 24th June a major attack was launched by the 2nd/4th with Canadian tanks, and the advance went to plan. That night a fierce counter-attack was launched by the German 1st Parachute division, which over-ran the Battalion H.Q. Fighting was close and confused and the battalion ran low on ammunition. At dawn the next day the battalion counter-attacked and managed to recapture their previous position”.

“The Royal Hampshire Regiment 1918-54” by David Scott Dansell;-

Private Kinsman was killed 24th June taking part in this action. He is buried at the Bolsena War Cemetery which is sited on the eastern side of Lake Bolsena, 104 kilometres from Rome.
Grave reference 1.B.14.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington and Four Marks War Memorials.



Bolsena War Cemetery

Ada Smith

Ada Smith was born in 1889 and was married to Alfred Douglas Smith and lived in Prinkle Cottage, Prinkle Lane, Dallington. Alfred was employed as a chauffeur to the Buckley family.

“In the late morning of July 7th 1944 a flying bomb severely damaged houses in Westfield near Battle and five hours later 250 houses at Polgate were seriously damaged.

Other bombs landed in Dallington where a farm and fifty other properties received damage”.

“A Grim Almanac of Sussex” W.H. Johnson.

Two villagers can vividly recall this day and both confirm that the “doodle bug” was flying over Dallington when a Spitfire pilot tipped its wing to prevent the rocket from dropping on the village street which would have resulted in major casualties. Unfortunately the rocket was to fall on Prinkle Farm where it is understood that Ada Smith had failed to get in to her Morrison shelter on time.

Ada Smith was killed on this day when her house was destroyed in the attack. She is buried in Dallington Churchyard Extension. Row 12 plot 373.



Prinkle Cottage

Her sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial.

Memories of the Late Mrs. Maud Simmons
(Formerly of “Thrums”, The Street, Dallington and written in June 1967)

“Then those awful flying bombs started to come, and it was very nerve racking, they made a terrible noise. The first one I heard was in the night and I thought that two aeroplanes were fighting overhead. We found what it was in the paper next day. They were sent over to bomb London and our fighters were trying to stop them getting there. We had a searchlight post in the village and they shot at them.

I had just finished spring cleaning the whole house, and was sitting at tea; I had just finished with the land girls, when I heard this terrific noise, and then an awful explosion. I slipped back into the chimney corner, and Swish! Bang! Whollop! The ceiling came down, the windows blew out and there was a big hole in the roof.

It seems that the search posts shot at the thing and turned its course, and it fell into the farm house at the bottom of Prinkle Hill. It dived into the cellar and the whole house came down.

The farmer’s wife was in her shelter and was buried for two and a half hours. The chauffeur’s wife (Ada Smith) who was in her shelter in the cottage joined to the house was blown into the garden in her shelter and was killed.

Mr. Stanley White was milking his cows at the time, and his son, who was only a boy then, was with him.

His wife was taken to hospital and they said they only got to her just in time. But she recovered. It was a terrible experience for her. She said when she recovered consciousness she realised she was buried, and could only move her head a little. Her first impulse was to shout, and then she thought she must wait until she heard a sound, to save her breath.

Every house in the street was damaged more or less. Mine was one of the four houses that were damaged the most. My first thought was “What would poor old Uncle Tom think”?

It was such a long time before it was properly repaired. First they came to do what they called “First Aid”, and then proper repairs and then the decorating. I could not go upstairs to sleep after that, but had a camp bed in the chimney corner, but it was not very comfortable, and as soon as you settled down to sleep you heard another of those beastly things coming.

At last they stopped, thanks to our brave airmen. I do not think we could have put up with much more of that”.



Christopher Guy Tristram

Christopher Tristram was born in 1925 and at the outbreak of the war he was living with his parents, Major and Mrs G.H.Tristram at Cox's Mill, Dallington.

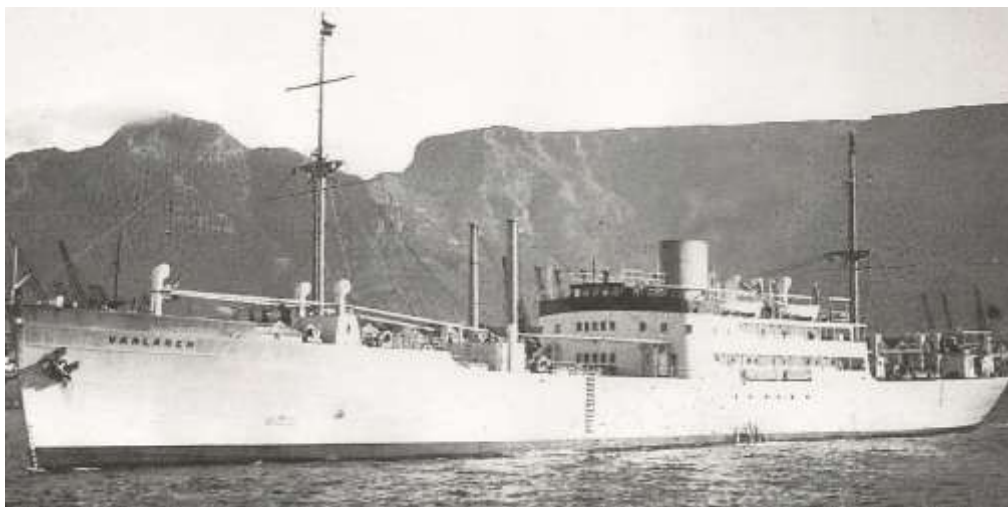
On April 5th 1943 he was returning to England as a passenger on S.S. Vaalaren which was crossing the Atlantic as part of convoy HX231, which was also known as the "Crisis Convoy", given the critical stage of the "Battle of the Atlantic".

The convoy of 61 ships with 6 armed escorts was involved in a 9 day sea battle with 20 German u-boats.

The Vaalaren left the convoy after the attack to make its own way to Liverpool and was subsequently sunk by U632 at 0,500 hours with the loss of all hands.

Christopher was one of seven passengers on board.

By the end of April 1943 Admiral Donitz recognised that the sinking of u-boats had escalated and the Battle of the Atlantic was called off on the 23rd May 1943.



SS Vaalaren

Christopher's mother, a spiritualist, believed that Christopher still communicated with her after his death and published these communications in a book entitled "Letters from Christopher".

"In June 1940 we decided to send him to America with our youngest son, David. The boys sailed in July 1940 and were in the care of my cousin, Theodore, or as he was called by the boys, Uncle Toby, until he died very unexpectedly in May 1942.

After his death Christopher was adopted by another family until such time as passage home could be obtained for them. This proved difficult but eventually in March 1943 Christopher was given a priority passage as he was nearing military age: he sailed from New York about March 25th 1943.....The only official information we received was on May 15th, that his ship was "greatly overdue and must be presumed lost by enemy action and we have not been able to trace any survivors".

"Letters from Christopher" written by R.M.T.Tristram
Christopher's sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial.

Michael William Leonard Tutton

Michael Tutton was born in 1913 and his parents were Alfred Howard and Ethel M. Tutton. Michael's parents lived in Yew Arch House, The Street, Dallington. At the time of his death he was a resident of Yelverton in Devon. Prior to the outbreak of war he was a District Colonial Administrative Officer in Tanganyika.

Captain M.Tutton 221153

General List

In January 1941 British forces launched an offensive against Italian forces in Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland.

On February 10th General Cunningham attacked from the south. Three divisions, one South African, and two composed of Nigerian and Ghanaian troops under British officers.

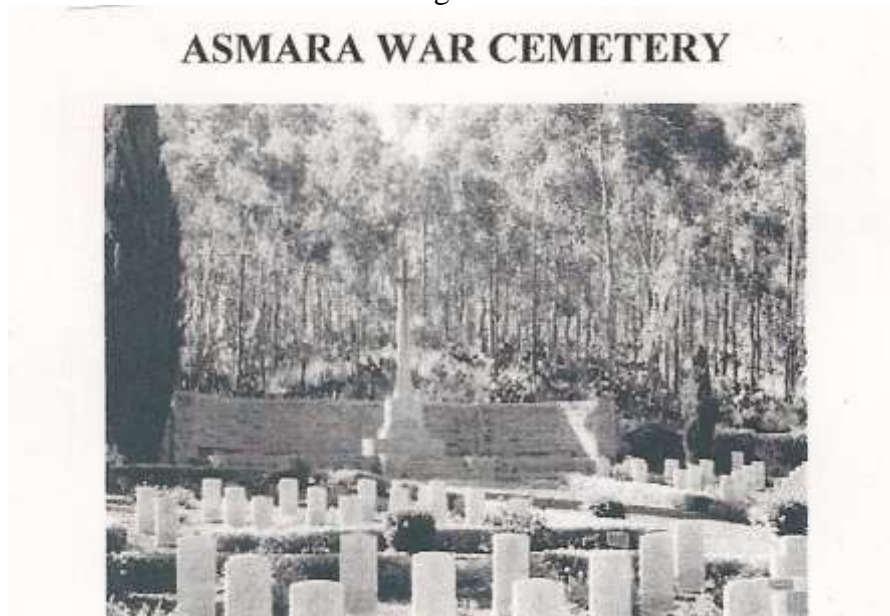
Part of the force marched into Italian Somaliland while the remainder marched north into Abyssinia.

Mogadishu fell on February 25th 1941. General Cunningham led part of his force north into Abyssinia to join up with the group sent from Kenya. The British forces marched into Addis Ababa on 6th April. The Duke of Aosta surrendered 16th May 1941 though isolated fighting continued until 27th November.

Captain Tutton died 12th November 1941 and is buried in the Asmara War Cemetery in Eritrea.

Grave reference 4.G.1.

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial.



Additional information has subsequently been received of an article that was published in the Messenger a few years ago that had been researched by Barbara Brisker and Michael Wood.

This article was published following communication with Michael Tutton's Sister, Cicely and her grandson, Brigadier James Chiswell M.C. James had recently returned from Ethiopia following his great uncle's daily diary. Much of this account is taken from James Chiswell's letter.

Mussolini had invaded Abyssinia in 1935, and in 1940, when Michael was a district officer in Kenya with the Colonial Service; the Italians were making incursions into both Kenya and Sudan. The British response was to invade Abyssinia from the Sudan and also from Kenya, and additionally to send an irregular force deep into the country to support a revolt by Abyssinians behind Italian lines. It was with this force that Michael served in 1941 as a company commander with an Ethiopian battalion, and from January to May that year took part in an arduous trek escorting the Emperor Haile Selassie from the Sudanese border back to Addis Ababa.

By November 1941, Italian forces driven back from both north and south were concentrated around Gondar to the north of Lake Tana, an enormous expanse of water and the source of the Blue Nile. In the early hours of 11th November, Michael's battalion was tasked to attack a fort at Gianda which was defended by a mixed force of Italians and local banda under the command of Captain Collarini. Michael was fatally wounded during the assault and flown out from an improvised strip to a local medical station.

The attack was successful and before being evacuated the wounded Michael asked to meet the captured Captain Collarini, who wrote later of the encounter:

"The wounded man said to me in Italian, "I am happy to make the acquaintance of a courageous soldier and I wish to shake his hand." I replied, "If the Abyssinian formations had not been commanded by you and other English officers with such bravery, it is certain that I would not have lost this battle," I bid him farewell and wished him a speedy recovery. "Yes" he replied, "Beyond the confine of war there must be no grudge between men."

(Oltre la Guerra fra gli uomini non deve essere ranore)

Michael died later that night and was buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Asmara.

The following is an extract from the letter written by Richard Luyt to Exeter College, Oxford in April 1942. He served with Michael, and writes describing his death;

6 "Tutton was my senior officer and I had met in Kenya in 1940. The two of us were the only white men in a company of Ethiopians, part of the patrol force sent in behind the Italian front lines to worry the enemy in the rear and generally wage guerrilla warfare. Though part of a larger force, Tutton and I were alone for many months, living in the wilds and taking part in small actions. He was not only an intelligent and tireless leader but was the most gallant and considerate man I have known. Tutton could be relied upon to lead men against anything, no matter what the odds, and to keep spirits high in times of strain. The men grew to worship him and many an Ethiopian died at his side. In the months before his death he was a very ill man, worn out by dysentery and fatigue, and although he left us for a while to recover, he was still very weak and unfit when he insisted on returning for the Gonda siege. It was during the last few days of the Italian resistance in Ethiopia that Tutton was hit, leading his men in a charge upon an enemy position. He died the next day, too weak to fight his wounds

Where the fort once stood there is now a school that caters for several hundred children who walk in daily from the surrounding area. It seems fitting that a school now stands at this remote place where Michael lost his life, and fitting too that Michael's family should have formed a charity in his memory to support Gondar School.

Michael Wood

Robert Young



HMS Prince of Wales

I do not currently have a great deal of information about his early life or the date he was born though it is known that his family lived in one of those cottages called Whitechapel Row which is situated on the Heathfield to Battle Road on the outskirts of Three Cups Corner.

Marine R.A.V. Young PLY/X2214
H.M.S. Prince of Wales

“H.M.S. Prince of Wales was a King George V-class battle ship of the Royal Navy, built at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead, England. The Prince of Wales had a brief but active career, helping to stop the Bismarck and carrying Churchill to the Newfoundland Conference; however, her sinking by Japanese land-based bombers in the Far East in 1941 is one of the events that led to the end of the battleship being considered the predominant class in naval warfare.

In December 1941 Admiral Phillips decided to try to intercept the landing fleets, and Prince of Wales and Repulse set off, along with four destroyers to search for the Japanese. However, they were not successful and the Japanese submarine I-65 spotted them as they returned to Singapore. Japanese aircraft and submarines shadowed the fleet, and on 10th December 1941, without any air cover, both the Prince of Wales and the Repulse were attacked and sunk by 86 Japanese bombers and torpedo bombers from the 22nd Air Flotilla based in Saigon”.

Wikipedia

Whilst the Repulse sank quickly with a heavy loss of life, the Prince of Wales was able to stay afloat much longer which resulted in the loss of 327 men out of a crew of 1,612.

After the ships sank most of the survivors were sent back to the UK but others were left behind to fight the advancing Japanese army. Among those men was Marine Young who was one of the 210 marine survivors from the Prince of Wales and the Repulse.

On January 29th 1942 they were to join with the remaining 250 men of the 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the defence of Singapore. This force became known as the Plymouth Argyles given that the majority of the marines were based in Plymouth.

When the surrender came on February 15th 1942 the Marines were involved in fighting in the Bukit Timah area or spent the final days assisting with the evacuation of civilians. 31 marines were killed in these actions.

Marine Young is listed as missing, presumed killed during the evacuation of Singapore on the 16th February 1942.

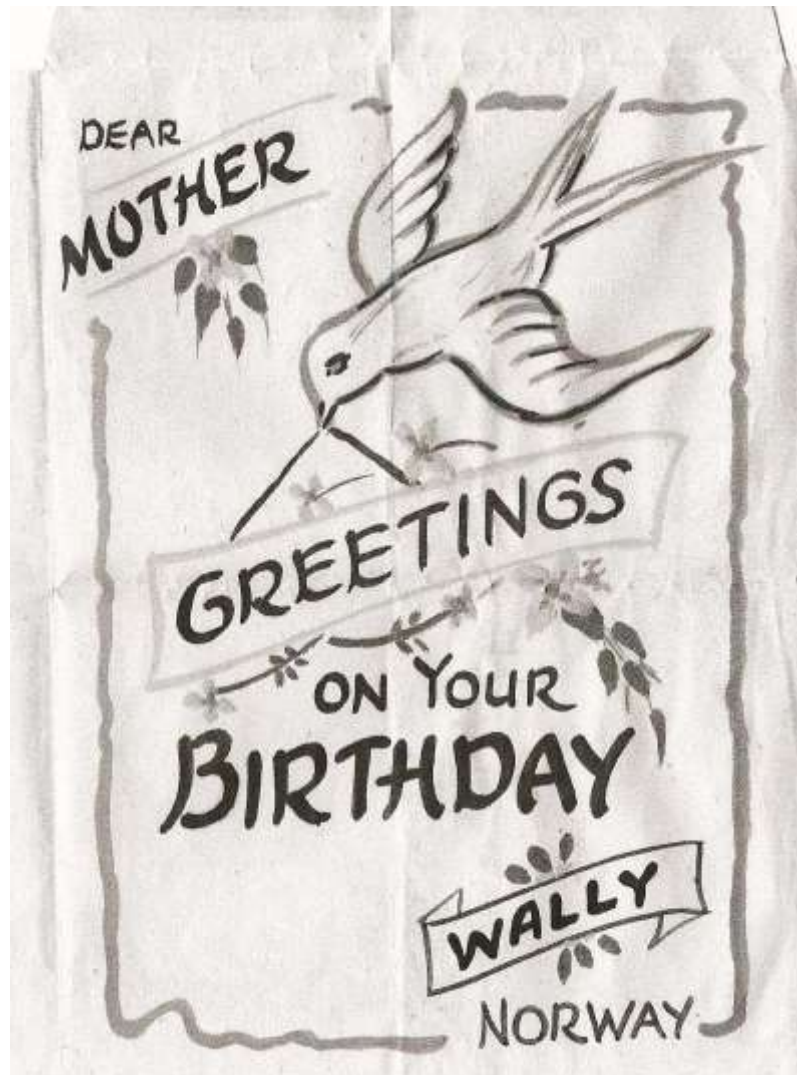
He has no known grave but his sacrifice is remembered on the Plymouth Memorial Panel 103, Column 2.



Plymouth Naval Memorial

His sacrifice is remembered on the Dallington War Memorial

This is one of the many messages Walter Friend was to send to his mother



19/6/45

I hope this finds you keeping well
and may you see quite a number
yet, the next one mum I shall
be with you.
xxxxx Wally

Dallington Home Guard

The members of the Home Guard played a very important role during the Second World War. They worked all day and then gave their free time to prepare for an impending invasion. We can now look back with amused affection and we may have forgotten that in 1940 Dallington may well have been in the front line of a major enemy attack.

The first villagers to answer the call joined the Dallington Local Defence Volunteers who met at what is now called Slaughterhouse Cottage in Baker's Lane.

The Home Guard was formed in 1940 with the Dallington Company under the command of Major Simmons of Stream Farm, and later by Captain Lovegrove who was the commanding officer of the Brightling Company.

N0.6 Platoon 19th Battalion Sussex Home Guard



Back row, left to right: Frank Young, G. Bastin, Eddie Draper, Hubert Rogers, Edward Buss, Walter Rogers, Charlie Baker, Charlie Sindon, Percy Keeley, Reg Starling, Dennis Baker.

Middle row, left to right: Tom Marchant, Ken Axel, Tom Simmons, Donald Burgess, S.Crouch, Will Buss, Nelson King, Sid Martin, Dave Thompson.

Front row, left to right: Reg White, Perce Venner, Donald Kemp, Major Hanley, Captain C.W. Lovegrove, Harold Duplock, Ron Hoad, Ben Thompson.

In the village hall there is another photograph of a company of Home Guard with the same officers but with a different group of volunteers. The only clue is that in the second picture C.W. Lovegrove has the rank of lieutenant rather than Major which suggests that this was taken earlier before he was promoted.



Back row, left to right: F.H. Jenner-Akehrst, S.Carley, P.E.Brett, A.J.F.Jaques, D.A.French, H. Maxwell.
 Middle row, left to right: D.J. Bowney, A. Mewett, A.W. Crouch, H.H. Crouch, Miss E.Stonestreet, G.N. Bishop, J.A. Pach, J.A. Groombridge, F.W. Giles,
 Front row, Left to right: S.H. Hoadley, G. Osborne, D.R. Baker, Major Hanley, Lt. C.W. Lovegrove, C.W.R. Piggot, P. Bishop, H.H. Wheeler.

It is interesting to note from this picture that female volunteers were also welcome as was Heather Buss and Beattie Butler.

The Home Guard played an important in the defence of our country at a very critical time. This was acknowledged in the certificate King George Sixth sent to them when peace was declared.

**“In the years when our Country
 Was in mortal danger**

Name.....

**Gave generously of his time and
 Powers to make himself ready
 For the defence by force of arms
 And with his life if need be.**

George R.I.

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 Michael Wood



Dallington A Village At war

**A Tribute to the villagers of Dallington Who Served
Their Country in the Two World Wars**

**Compiled by
Roy Iremonger**