

DOVER

United Reform Church

Dover

Kent

The Great War

1914 – 1919

Roll of Honour

ADDLEY, A.D. No trace.

ALLEN, STUART. Lance Corporal, G/13700.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 3 May 1917.

Born Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicestershire. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of William Allen of 39 Dour Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Marine Department Panel of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway war memorial, at the Marine Station, Dover, Kent, also on the civic war memorial Dover, Kent.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais, France on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced HQ in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before.

With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A Cockeram and Norman O.F Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H Dinsmore and Harold V Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Capt McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W Evans and R.L.F Forster, Lieutenant's K.L James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram MC later transferred to the

Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both RFC officers thankfully survived the war.

BARNARD, SIDNEY HERBERT. Private, 4074.

No. 1 Company, 1/1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company.

Died 13 November 1916. Aged 32.

Enlisted Armoury House. Resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Mrs. M. R. Barnard of 157, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 A.

In view of date of death it is fairly certain that Sidney was amongst those of his battalion who fell during a successful attack at Beacourt, Somme, but the casualty rate was so high it resulted in reducing it to only single company strength. Despite the huge loss of life and injuries to the battalion, the costly won ground was held until being relieved by the 10th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment just before dawn on 15 November 1916. The Honourable Artillery Company, which was (and still is) a Territorial regiment, was unique in that it was composed of both artillery and infantry, and it is also the oldest regiment in the British Army., London's Ancient Artillery Company. In August 1914 it consisted of an infantry battalion and two field artillery batteries, "A" and "B". On the outbreak of the Great War, as with other Territorial Force units, they all formed second line units and eventually third line, though none of the latter went overseas. Because many members of the Honourable Artillery Company were taking commissions in the Royal Garrison Artillery, during the summer of 1916, it was decided to form an Honourable Artillery Company, Siege Battery. Army Council Instruction (ACI) 2268 dated 6 December 1916 authorised the formation, in London, of the No.309 (Honourable Artillery Company) Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery from personnel of the Honourable Artillery Company with effect from 27 November 1916. The 1st Battalion of which Sidney was a member went to France in September 1914 and remained there throughout the war. The 2nd Battalion followed in October 1916, joined the 7th Division and in November 1917 went with it to Italy where it remained to the end of the war. The newly created 309th Siege Battery went to France and landed at Le Havre on 27 April 1917 and fought there until the end of the war. The two first line artillery batteries sailed for Egypt in April 1915 and served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the desert and in Palestine, while the two second line batteries, "2/A" and "2/B," both went to France in June 1917 as part of the 126th Army Field Artillery Brigade.



BAYLEY, JAMES THOMAS, Private, 1009803.

1st Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment).

Died 12 September 1918. Aged 34.

Born Dover, Kent 24 July 1884.

Enlisted Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada 5 April 1916.

Buried Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. D. 15. James is also commemorated on page 365 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, and on the Roll of Honour at the former Congregational Church, which is now the United Reform Church, High Street, Dover, Kent. Unfortunately James's Attestation Papers are not very clear (most fortunately are), they show his Next of Kin as being an aunt, Mrs Richard Cutaoly? of 14 Liverpool Street, Dover, Kent, and that James was a Carpenter by trade. At the time of the 1901 census the above address is where James was residing with his grandmother 65 year old Jane Bayley, a native of Lympne, Hythe, Kent who was a widow and the Head of the house.

CASPALL, PERCY ROBERT. Corporal, 910504.

215th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. (Territorial).

Died 29 May 1919. Aged 25.

Son of Henry Freeman and Mary Ann Caspall of 115, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried in Deolali Government Cemetery, Nashik, India.

Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 1, and on an additional memorial plaque within the church which reads "Sacred to the memory of Cpl Percy Robert Caspall, 222nd Brigade RFA (T) who died at Deolali, India, May 29 1919 age 25 years. Erected by his comrades."

Back in the days of the British Raj, any of the soldiers who were still able to travel having cracked up under the stresses and strains of life in British India, were usually packed off to the Military Psychiatric Hospital in the small Maharashtrian cantonment town of Deolali near Nashik to recover. In time its name became synonymous with nervous breakdowns and the like, hence the English idiom "to go doolally," meaning to become insane or eccentric.

CLAW, SYDNEY THOMAS. Able Seaman, 186777.

Royal Navy. (RFR/CH/B/9334). H.M.S. "Aboukir."

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 34.

Born Hougham, Dover, Kent 25 June 1880.

Son of Andrew Edward and Jane Claw of 18, Trevanion Street, Dover, Kent.

Husband of Emily Ann Claw of 7, Trevanion Place, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2.

Sydney's family is possibly shown on the 1901 census as residing at 21 Trevanion Street, Dover, Kent with 46 year old Dover Fisherman, Andrew as the Head of the house. Although Andrew's wife is recorded on the census with the Christian name Jean as opposed to Jane as shown above. Although Sydney is not shown as being with the family at the time of the census in April, he would have been 20 years old at the time and had probably already left home, he might have already have been serving in the Royal Navy. Sydney's brother Serjeant, 39617, Walter E. Claw of the 27th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery served abroad on active service, and thankfully survived the Great War. Early in

the Great War the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 became the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peace, and were able to reload beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S.Aboukir which struck her on her port side. Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned, although only one boat had survived the attack so most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S.Aboukir had been mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S.Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S.Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of Aboukir from the enemy submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but quickly got underway on sighting a submarine's periscope. At about 0720 hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace which hit Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch Flora and Titan and the British trawlers JGC and Corairder before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On 18 March 1915 the German submarine U-29 was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, all 32 submariners onboard perished including Otto Weddigen who had been in command since 16 February 1915.

HINCHCLIFFE, WILLIAM EDWARD. Sergeant, T/200029.

4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), attached to the Nigeria Regiment, W.A.F.F.

Died at sea 28 November 1917. Aged 30.

Born Crayford, Kent. Enlisted Walmer, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Elizabeth Hinchcliffe of 118, Brackenbury Road, Preston, Lancashire, and the late Edward Hinchcliffe.

Commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire.

KING, C. Lieutenant.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. "Albyn."

Died 20 September 1917.

Buried Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. B. 14.

This casualty has several forms of local remembrance, being commemorated on the Dover Patrol Trawlers and Drifters war memorial, and also on the South Eastern and Chatham Railway war memorial at the former Marine Station, Dover, Kent. Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

H.M.S. Albyn was a 363 ton paddle steamer which was built in 1893 by J and G Thomson at Clydebank. She first went into the fleet of the Glasgow and South Western Railway, later going to Belfast Lough as the "Slieve Donard" for the Belfast and County Down Railway Company. Bought by Captain Alexander Campbell in 1899 and transferred to P and A Campbell in 1900. Stationed at Southampton she then went to the Bristol Channel for the 1903 season, and was stationed at Newport. The paddle steamer ran aground at Portishead in fog near high tide on 1 April 1907, but was successfully refloated with aid of tugs on the next tide. On being returned to the south coast, she was based at Brighton, Sussex in 1913 and 1914. Requisitioned for war service in 1915 as H.M.S. Albyn and stationed at Dover for minesweeping duties. On the day this officer lost his life H.M.S. Albyn was amongst those which suffered damage whilst lying at anchor at Dunkirk during a sustained air raid of two hours duration. The ship's 2nd Engineer was also killed as the result of the bomb which set the stern of H.M.S. Albyn alight. Although she survived the Great War the ship was not refurbished after the war, but her engines were saved and used in the new Campbell steamer P.S. Glen Gower. Lieutenant King had worked for the South Eastern and Chatham Railway in charge of their Dover based vessels prior to the Great War.

NEWMAN, REGINALD HENRY. Rifleman, 374112.

8th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).

Died 25 April 1917. Aged 29.

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

Son of William Ingram Newman and Sophia Catherine Newman of 1, Queen Street, Dover, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: II. D. 75.

Also commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent. At the time of the 1901 census William and Sophia resided with their seven children

including Reginald (the youngest) at 1 Queen Street, Dover, Kent. William aged 52 was Head of the house, and a self employed Fishmonger.

PAIN, EDWARD STEADY. Private G/2875.

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

Died 26 September 1915.

Born Ringwould, Deal, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Northbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19, also commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in West Langdon, Dover, Kent (St. Mary the Virgin) parish church.

RICHARDS, EDWIN JAMES. Private, 141973.

Machine Gun Corps. (Infantry).

Died 23 April 1918.

Born Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Formerly Private, 8424, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Also commemorated on Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

It has been impossible to obtain any CWGC details on Edwin, and as such he has being added to our list of formal submission for 'official' commemoration by the Commonwealth. The MIC entry details for Edwin tally with the SDGW in all respects re the above details, i.e. number, rank, names, and Machine Gun Corps. (Infantry).

SCUTT, SYDNEY FRANK. Lance Corporal, G/68586.

8th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 11 October 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Charles Savage Scutt and Ellen Scutt of 2, Stanhope Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3. At the time of the 1901 census the Scutt family was residing at 14 Queen Street, Dover, Kent. Dover native Charles Scutt, a 37 year old Police Serjeant was the Head of the house and had 8 children at the time.

TUNNELL, OLIVER. Second Lieutenant.

12th/13th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 24 October 1918. Aged 33.

Son of Edmund and Isabella Tunnell of 20, Hanley Road, Shirley, Southampton.

Husband of Sarah E. Tunnell of 101, Wingrove Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.

After graduating from Durham University, Oliver was employed as a History Master at Dover Grammar School for Boys from 1913. Originally enlisting in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), he then applied for a transfer to Machine Gun Corps which was accepted in May 1916 and he then became Private, 58782 in the Machine Gun Corps. No doubt his superiors realising his obvious potential and educational qualifications, led to him being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1917.

WYBORN, JAMES HENRY. Driver, 210901.
66th Battery, 330th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 11 November 1918. Aged 36.
Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Son of John and Hannah Wyborn of Dover, Kent.
Husband of Nellie Wyborn of 25, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.
Buried Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. B. 25.

