

ADAMS Lce Cpl Herbert

32039

1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Born London, enlisted Bury St Edmunds December 1915

Killed in action 23 April 1917 aged 36

Commemorated Arras Memorial, France, Bay 5 Register MR 20

Extract from 1991 publication

Herbert Adams became headmaster of Rusper School in 1908. He was a good pianist and organist and was choirmaster of Rusper Church from 1907-1910 when Mr Edgworth was Rector. Herbert was keen on sport and played cricket for Crawley. He belonged to an organisation called 'The Oddfellows' and was secretary to the local branch of the National Union of Teachers

He was only 5'1" in height and in the army at one time served with the Bantams, a regiment composed of short men. (Information supplied by Len Adams, son)



Herbert was baptised on 4 August 1880 at St Mary's, Princes Rd, Lambeth. He was the son of Frank Adams, (who was born in Cranborne, Dorset) and his wife Louise Ruth (nee Barnard). Frank Adams was a Schoolmaster. In 1881, Herbert and his parents are living with his widowed grandfather, Joseph Barnard at 4 Esher St, Lambeth. Frank's occupation is listed as Schoolmaster and Joseph is an Engraver and die-inker.

By 1891, the family, now consisting of Herbert, his parents, his grandfather and four sisters – Dora and Frances who were to die young, and Constance, and Charlotte, have moved to Dorset and are living at the School House, Kinson, Poole where Frank is an Elementary Schoolmaster.

Herbert qualified as a Teacher through the pupil-teacher system of the time and by 1901, he was already an Assistant Schoolmaster, living with his parents and sisters, Constance and Charlotte at Normandie, Parkstone, Poole.

At Christmas 1904 Herbert married Florence Smallman in Poole. Florence was a Schoolmistress having trained at The Diocesan Training College in Salisbury. Their first child Leonard Herbert Barnard was born on 11 November 1905 and was baptised in December at All Saints, Chertsey. Herbert's profession is given as School master. Six months later they moved to Frimley. In 1908 they moved to Rusper, where their second child Norah Edith was born in 1909. .

On 11th November 1915 Herbert enlisted in a Bantam Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment but was subsequently transferred to the Bedford Regiment.

While in service he successfully applied for the post of Headmaster at Broadbridge Heath School and was appointed in March 1917 but sadly he did not live to take up his new post.

He was killed, along with over 35,000 other men, in the region of Arras. On the day he died, his battalion was ordered to attack and capture German trenches in an area north of Arras. In his subsequent report of the action, the battalion commander reported that "The whole undertaking seem to me a most hazardous". Indeed many men were wounded or killed in action and Herbert was one of these.



BROOKER Pte Ernest G/3235

9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in action 25th/28th (on or since) September 1915 aged 19

Son of Harry and Fanny Brooker of Cowfold

Commemorated: Loos Memorial, France, Panel 89-23, Register MR19 part 2

Ernest Brooker was the son of Harry Brooker and Fanny (nee Laker) of Cowfold. Born in 1895, in 1901 he was living with his parents, two brothers (Alfred and Charlie) and two sisters (Maud and Doris) at New Barn, West Grinstead where his father was a 'carter on farm'. By 1911 the family had moved to Lower Nash, Nutborne and Maud had left home to become a servant. Alfred, Charlie, Ernest and Doris are still at home, now with an additional brother, Arthur and two more sisters Lily and Nellie. Ernest, Alfred and their father were all 'horsemen on farm'.

Ernest enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment and within weeks of the 9th battalion being formed it was transported to the Western Front. Ernest and his fellow soldiers, virtually untrained, landed in France on 31 August 1915 and a month later were thrown into the battle of Loos – a very fierce conflict in which very many lives were lost.

On the night of the 25 September, the men were ordered into the front line trenches, facing the German attacking forces. The following day, the battalion commander wrote up the War Diary, describing the night before:

During the whole of the occupation of the trenches, the Regiment was subjected to incessant artillery and machine gun fire and notwithstanding the losses sustained, the Battalion behaved with the utmost gallantry. It is regretted that before being launched into such a desperate action, steps had not been taken to accustom the men to war conditions.

Sadly, Ernest was one of the casualties. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing, along with over 20,000 others.

Ernest's death is reported in the West Sussex County Times of 6 May 1916. The report says "previously reported missing".

Ernest is also commemorated on the Cowfold War Memorial.

Ernest's connection to Rusper is not known and information would be welcome.

Extract from 1991 publication:

The Brooker brothers farmed Carylls Farm and another in the area in the 1930's and 40's, and used to water their horses at the pond at Axmas Farm. There were several brothers - Tom, Henry and Martin (daughters' Daisy Ledbitter, Mrs Cuddesden and Mrs Banks)

The Brooker Family of Carylls Farm referred to above, does not appear to be related to the Brooker family of Cowfold.,

The father of the brothers mentioned above was Jesse Brooker (born Copthorne) who farmed at Upper Bewbush, Faygate. After his death his sons his sons Tom, Henry (who served with the RGA during WW1), Edwin and their sister Jessie (who married William Moon) continued to farm there until after WW2. Alfred who farmed at Hilly Barn Farm, Ifield, Ernest, a farm bailiff who died at Burnt House and Martin farmed at Axmas and Carylls for many years were his sons as was Francis Brooker who served with the 2 Btn. Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment and was killed in action on 6 September 2016. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and on the Colgate War Memorial. His niece, Martin's daughter Marjorie (Daisy) Cusden was interviewed by Eve Seaward during the preparation for the original booklet.

CASSWELL Capt Eric Denison Seymour

6th Battalion Rifle Brigade and 102 Squadron Royal Flying Corps

Killed in aerial action 7th November 1917, aged 23

Son of Henry and Anne Casswell of Old Park, Rusper. Alford, Surrey.

Buried: Communal Cemetery, France, Row 0 grave 9 Register FR1029, also commemorated on gravestone of his father, Henry Casswell in Rusper Churchyard



The younger son of Henry and Anna McLeod L (nee Johnson), he was born in 1894 at Sachel Court, Alford, Surrey. In 1901 he was living with his parents, brother and sister at Old Park Farm. His father is listed as 'Farmer own land/retired schoolmaster'.

He attended Oatlands School., Broadstairs before going to Tonbridge School in Kent in 1908. He was a member of Parkside House and was a Judd Scholar. He was a keen cricketer. He left the school in 1913 and, having gained an Open Scholarship, he went to Pembroke College Cambridge.

On 15 August 1914 he was commissioned (on probation) 2nd Lieutenant in 6 Btn Rifle Brigade. On 6 December the same year he was seconded to the 8 Div Cyclist Corp. He was sent to France sometime during 1915. On 21 June 1916 he re-joined the Rifle Brigade. He was wounded near Albert on 25 June and again on the 28 August at Hohenzolen Redoubt, Loos. He was commissioned as Full Lieutenant

on 13 September 1916 and promoted to Captain on 11 February 1917.

In 1917 he applied to join the RFC and was in training. He joined the RFC unit in France as an observer on 8 October 1917. A month later on 7 November, he, and his pilot, Captain .E E Barnes, were killed in action. They were shot down over enemy lines while flying a night bomber FE2b no. A5577.

His parents later moved to Stammerham Cottages, Holbrook, Rusper. (Holbrook route was the old name for Friday Street and part of the Capel Road)

Obituaries were published in the West Sussex Country Times and in 'Tonbridge School and the Great War'.

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COCKS L/Cpl Christopher 5750,

3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade

Killed in action on or since 25th September 1914, age 34

Commemorated: La Ferte Sous Jouarre Memorial, France

Extracts from 1991 publication

He was blown up in a Red Cross Hospital a fortnight after he went out. He was in the regular army.

Son of George and Emma Cox, High Street, Rusper; husband of Dora Annie Cox of 3 Hills Place, Rusper. Father of Mrs Mabel Collins and father-in-law to Mrs Win Cocks.

On the back of one of his medals the name is misspelt Cox which has caused confusion.

Christopher was born in Ockley in 1879 and was baptised on the 4th May. His parents are given as George, a labourer, and *Jane Cox (*sic*) of Youngs in Ockley,



In 1881, the family are still at Youngs Farm. George is listed as an Agricultural Labourer. Christopher is the youngest of eight children. In July 1882 Christopher's mother, Jane, died. In 1891 George and five of his children are still at Youngs Farm,. – Jane, Albert, William, Joseph and Christopher.

Christopher is remembered as a regular soldier in the Rifle Brigade who fought in the Boer War and his service number indicates he enlisted in The Rifle Brigade between January 1898 and March 1899. He is not listed in the 1901 census so he was probably fighting in South Africa. The Second Boer War was fought 1899-1902.

Christopher's father died in 1907. In 1908 Christopher Cocks married Dora Annie Potter in Dorking. Christopher has left the army and is a labourer.

The 1911 census shows Christopher, Dora Annie and a daughter Mabel Dora living at 3 Hills Place, Rusper.

Christopher is a gardener (Domestic). A son, Stanley Alfred was born in 1913.

As part of the British Expeditionary Force, his battalion landed at St Nazaire on 12th September 1914 and Christopher was killed on the Aisne only two weeks later. On the 5th December 1914, The West Sussex County Times reports that Christopher Cox (*sic*) of Rusper was believed to be a prisoner. It says he was one of a detachment sent out early one morning to take some trenches. The party was surprised and surrounded before a shot could be fired. An ICRC (Red Cross) index of POWs confirms this was the case so presumably he died in a German Hospital that was blown up. This would confirm his family's belief that he was killed by 'friendly fire'.



*the 1911 census gives Christopher's birth place as Ockley and the Ockley baptismal record gives his parents as George and Jane Cox (*sic*). This does not tally with the information in the original booklet which gives his parents as George and Emma. (I have been unable to trace George and Emma nor can I find any evidence that George and Jane ever lived in Rusper)

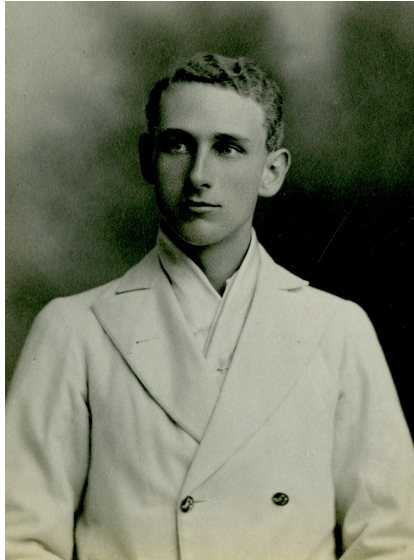
DOWLING Geoffrey Charles Walter

Temporary Captain

7th Btn King's Royal Rifle Corps

Killed in Action 30th July 1915

Commemorated: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 51 and 53



The son of Joseph and Rose Nanette (nee Fenwick), he was born in Armadale, Victoria, Australia on 12 August 1891. By 1901 the family were in England, living at Ridgwood House, Uckfield, later moving to The Nunnery, Rusper.

Guy entered Charterhouse School in 1905 and left in 1910. He was in Weekites House. He was a keen sportsman playing in the Charterhouse 1st XI Football team and as a cricketer, playing for his school's 1st XI for three seasons – in his final year as Captain. He then went on to Trinity College Cambridge where he graduated with a BA.. He also played cricket for Cambridge University and three times for Sussex County Cricket Club in 1911 and again in 1913.

Photo: Charterhouse School roll of honour

His father died in March 1911 and in 1912 his mother married Foster Lionel Cuncliffe. The 1914 Blue Book Directory lists Colonel Foster Lionel Cuncliffe as living at The Nunnery, Rusper

Guy joined the 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corp. On 28th October 1914 he was promoted from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant and on 10 April 1915 he was made a temporary Captain.

The 7th Battalion landed at Bologne on 19th May 1915 and arrived near Ypres on the 29th May. On the 29 July 1915, Guy's battalion were sent to relieve the 8th KR Rifles in trenches to the south of Hooze in Belgium. This was completed by 1.30 am on the 30th. At 3 am they were attacked by Germans under the cover of liquid fire (flame throwers) and minen werfen (whizz bangs) and the battalion was gradually driven out some of their trenches. The battalion war diary says that trench F was lost, then retaken but eventually the party who re-took this trench were all driven out or killed. Six officers are reported killed or mortally wounded, one of whom was Guy.

Charterhouse's roll of honour says his body is thought to lie in an unmarked grave in Hooze Crater Cemetery.

KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS		
LIEUT. COLONEL	LIEUTENANT	SECOND LIEUT.
CHAPLIN C. S.	FINDLAY A. B.	FARMER H. C. McL.
	IONIDES A. C.	GEEN W. P.
CAPTAIN	KING L. H. St A.	GIBB J. H.
CULME-SEYMOUR G.	RENTON H. N. L.	HABERSHON P. H.
DAVIS W. J.	SEYMOUR F.	HAMILTON V. L.
DOWLING G. C. W.	SHENNAN D. F. F.	HARMON W. B.
DURNFORD R. S.	SNELGROVE S. H.	HAYCROFT F. A.
EXELL N. J.	WATSON R. W.	HOWELL J.
HAWLEY C. F.		LAMBERT J. F.
LACDEN R. O.	SECOND LIEUT.	LONGBOTTOM R.

The Battle of Hooze represented one of the first major employments of the portable flamethrower. This weapon helped enabled the Germans to reclaim the land captured by the British eleven days before. British officers reported that, although few men were actually

lost to burns, the weapon had a great demoralizing effect and when added to the machine guns, trench mortars and hand grenades used, they proved mercilessly efficient.

EVES Staff Sgt Frederick Charles A/1307

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Died: 9th January 1918

**Buried in Rusper Churchyard, south-west part, near west boundary: Register
Sussex 22 Served
in France**

Frederick Charles Eves was born in 1893 in Pimlico. He was the youngest son of William George Eves and his wife Jane (nee Slarr).

In 1901 he was living with his parents, two brothers - W F (a Labourer) and A W (an apprentice tailor), and a sister Helen at 17 Grays Inn Place, Westminster. His father was a Gas Labourer but was listed as an employer. A family tree on Ancestry gives his brothers' names as William and Arthur.

In 1911 only a Summary Census Book is available for that area. A Jane Eves is living at 7 Grays Inn Place – a total of one male and three females are listed as living at this address. As the youngest son it is possible that the male was Frederick. (He would have been 18 years old).

Frederick enlisted at Woolwich, Kent joining the Army Ordnance Corps. On 13 April 1915 Frederick was married to Ellen Hawkins at St Stephens Church, Ealing. He is already in the army and gives his home address at 5 Drayton Avenue. A few days later on 27 April 1915, Frederick's elder brother Arthur W (no Rusper connection) who was also a Staff Sergeant in The Royal Army Ordnance Corp was wounded in action and died 2 days later. Frederick himself served in France entering the theatre of war on 3 May 1915.

Sometime after their marriage he and his wife moved to 5 Church Cottages in Rusper where on 9 January 1918 he died of pneumonia. His death certificate lists him as being 25 years old and an Armourer Staff Sergeant (Gun maker). He is buried in the churchyard and is remembered on the Rusper Memorial.

Shortly after his death, his wife gave birth to a son, Frederick C Eves. Ellen Eves appears to have left Rusper early in the 1920s



FARLEY Pte Frank

30610

1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment

Killed in action 4th October 1917

Born Slinfold, enlisted in Chichester

**Commemorated: Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium Panel 79-80 Register MR 30
Part 8**

Extract from 1991 publication:

Lived in Rusper. There were several Farleys living in Rusper at the time listed in the Blue Directory 1914:
Frank Farley, 2 Canonbury Villas;
William Farley, East Street,
Mrs Farley, Star Cottage;

Frank's parents were William Farley and his wife Emily nee Woods

In 1881 they were living at Violets, Slinfold. Frank's father was an agricultural labourer. William and Emily already had five children (A , Caroline, William, Albert and Emily) another son George was born in about 1881 followed by Frank 1883 Frank and then a further two sons Edward and Harry. After the birth of Edward, the family moved to Horsham and in 1891 they were living at Little Haven.

In 1901 Frank was lodging with his brother William and his family in Station Road, Shalford. He was employed as a contractor's carter

In 1908 Frank married Annie Brown and their daughter Gladys Emily and their son Edward were both born in Horsham district. In 1911 they were living at 7 Leithview Cottages, Agates Lane, Rusper Road, Horsham. Frank's occupation is given as general labourer. His parents had moved to Chennells Villas, Rusper Road, Horsham. His brother William was still living at Shalford.

Frank's father, William Farley appears to have died in Horsham district in 1913 and by 1914 Frank had moved to Rusper.

Frank's death is listed as 'on or since 4/10/1917'
Death presumed



(Note: the Mrs Farley at Star Cottages is (I think) Mrs Emily Farley, widow of George Farley, wheelwright and mother of Charles Farley, Butcher in Rusper. Charles was father of Roy Farley who died in WW2). William Farley in East Street could be Frank's brother, moved from Shalford, but more likely it is George and Emily's son William who was a wheelwright's assistant in Rusper in 1901)

HOLCOMB Cpl Charles James

K/1271

23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (formerly 22nd Kensingtons)

Killed in action 23rd February 1918, aged 23

Son of Charles and M A Holcomb of Petworth, Sussex

Buried: Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, France Plot 1 Row A Grave 4

Register FR379

Extract from 1991 publication: (now know to be incorrect)

His mother was Mrs Holcomb of the Lamb Inn, Lambs Green,
his sisters Miss Harding and Mrs Hoare.

Charles James Holcomb's parent were Charles and Mary Ann (nee Jeffrey) who were married in 1854 in Charlwood.. Charles (snr) was a carpenter. Charles James was born on 8th January 1896.



Photo courtesy of Lynne Collyer.

By 1901 the family were living at Cowix Farm. Charles (snr) was the Lyne House Estate carpenter. Charles James and three older sisters - Annie (who was to marry Sidney Rose), Rose and Emma Jane were living home. On 9th April 1901 Charles and his three sisters were admitted to Rusper School Annie's previous school is given as Capel Charles left school on 23rd December 1909 to go to work.

By 1911 the family had moved to Rome Cottage/Rhome Wood, Holbrook Route near Horsham. (Holbrook Route comprised of Friday Street, Rusper and part of the Capel Road). Charles (snr) was still the Estate carpenter, while Charles James was working as a Carter's lad.

Charles James volunteered for the army, joining the 22nd Royal Fusiliers (Kensingtons) who were based at Roffey Camp. He disembarked in France on 16 November 1915. By the time of his death he had reached the rank of Corporal and he had transferred to the 23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. The 23rd was in support trenches throughout February 1918 around the area of Villers Plouich (near Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery). Men were being killed all the time, every day, so maybe Charles was just unlucky.

Sometime during or after the War his parents left the Lyne Estate and moved to Greyhound Cottage, Petworth

Charles James Holcomb was not the son of Mrs Sarah Holcomb of the Lamb Inn but her nephew-in-law. Mrs Sarah Holcomb did have a grandson Sidney Harding who fought during the First World War but, although he lost a leg, he survived.



HUGGETT Pte Thomas Harold 42740

1st Bn South Staffordshire Regiment

Killed in action 25th October 1917

Son of Albert and Fanny Huggett

Buried: Perth Cemetery (China Wall) Ypres, Belgium II K.46

Extract from 1991 publication:

The Huggetts lived at Puttocks Cottage (then Broadbridge Cottage), Lambs Green: Albert Huggett - Lambs Green; Mary Huggett - 3 Canonbury Cottages (Blue Directory 1914)

Thomas Harold was born on 10th October 1898 at Horne in Surrey, The second son of Albert Huggett and his wife Fanny (nee Carpenter). The 1901 census lists Albert as a Farmer and Montague, Harold's elder brother as a Domestic Footman.

In 1906, Harold and his parents were living at Xmas (*sic*) Farm, Rusper near Horsham. (Harold's brother Montague had enlisted with the Reserve Division of the Militia and his enlistment papers give the names and address of his next of kin.

On 14 January 1909 Harold was admitted to Rusper School. His address was given as Axmas Farm. He later left to 'work on farm'.

By 1911 the family were living at Shepperton Cottages, Lambs Green. Albert is now a farm carter and Montague a farm labourer. Harold is still a School Boy.

Harold's brother Montague joined the army special reserve in 1908 and when he married Monica Stripp in 1914 he gave his address as 3 Cannonbury Villas, Lambs Green. In November 1914, the West Sussex County Times lists Huggett, Montague of Lambs Green, Rusper as being absent without leave from the Royal Kent Regiment. Montague survived the War being discharged from service in 1919.

Harold died on 25th October 1917, just 15 days after his 19th birthday. He was the youngest of the WWI Rusper servicemen to die. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Harold's parents' address as Broadbridge Cottage, Rusper, Horsham, Sussex



Note – I have been unable to identify Mary Huggett (1914) of 3 Cannonbury Cottages – perhaps this was an error in the Directory and it refers to Monica Huggett, wife of Montague.

KEMPSHALL Pte John

G/6925

7th Battalion The Queens

Killed in Action 13th July 1916, aged 21

Son of John and Alice Kempshall, Capel, Dorking

Commemorated: Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier and face 5D and 6D;

Register MR21 Part 25

Extract from 1991 publication:

*Cousin to Mrs Miles who used to live in Michaelmas Cottage
(then Rose Cottage), opp. Star Inn*

John was born in Newdigate, Dorking in 1895. One of thirteen children born to Henry John Kempshall and his wife Alice (nee Wales). Henry John Kempshall was baptised in Capel - the son of Richard and Charlotte Kempshall who lived at Ratfolds.

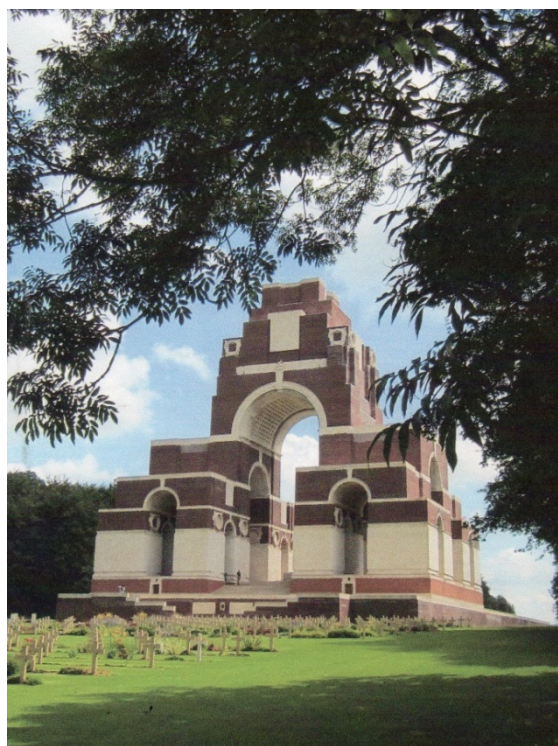
On 11 September 1899, John was admitted as a pupil at Rusper School. His address was given as North Barn Cottage.

In 1901 John was living with his parents and seven siblings (Emily, George, Henry, Alfred, Albert, Olive Ellen and Frederick at North Barn Cottages on the Lyne Estate. His father was a Carter on the Farm and his two eldest brothers were Carter's boys, while his sister Emily was a Laundry Maid.

In 1911, the family are still at North Barn, John's father is described as a Waggoner and John and his brothers, Albert and Alfred, as Labourers. John has another sister Elsie, 4 years old.

John was killed at the Battle of the Somme and his body was not recovered.

John is also commemorated on the Newdigate War Memorial and for those interested there is further information about the family and the engagement during which John was killed in the book A Village at War (Newdigate) by John Callcut.



KETCHELL Pte J

Extract from 1991 publication:

No trace found of a J Ketchell in WWI records, and of those listed with other initials, none come from this area.

It has still proved impossible to trace a J Ketchell killed during WW1 and the only civilian deaths for a J Ketchell/Kitchell during the period of or immediately after the Y æ is a one year old infant.

Any further information confirming the identify of this soldier would be welcome

V@Á [•óÁ^|^Á^} cāBāā} Á|Á@Á æ is T G Kitchell who in 1911 was boarding at The Lamb Inn.āÁ @Ē @} Á@Á ā^ā@Á^*ā ^} ōĤ FJFI Ē ā^ā ā|Á^ā*ā|Á Á@Á [••••ā} Á|Á Rā ^•Á~} { ^|_a|āÁ -ÁāÁU ā Ē@ē *āĒÈ

KITCHELL Timothy George Lce Corp 6633

2nd Battalion Princess Charlotte of Wales' (Royal Berkshire) Regiment

Killed in Action 25 September 1915

Son of John and Bertha Kitchell

Commemorated: Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Panel 7 & 8

Timothy was baptised in Lodsworth on 1 November 1884.

In 1891 Timothy is living with his parents, John and Bertha (nee Ford), James J Ford (Bertha's son), and his sister Hannah at Lods Common, Lodsworth. His father is an agricultural labourer. Later that year Timothy's mother dies and in 1899 John Kitchell re-marries. His second wife is Louisa Ann Willard.

On 28 February 1901, Timothy joins the Royal Navy and is assigned to the ship St Vincent.. However it would appear that Naval life was not for him as is leaves the Navy on 4 December the same year. His Army service number indicates that he enlisted in Princess Charlotte of Wales' Regiment between January 1902 and January 1903. In 1911 he is boarding at The Lamb Inn. His occupation is listed at Mason.

Timothy disembarked in France on 31st August 1914. On 24th September 1915 his battalion took up a position in trenches near Bois Grenier and the following day took part in an attack on the German position. The Regiment's War Diary states that 32 men were killed and 143 reported missing. Among these was Timothy was presumed dead on or since the 25th September.

In the Army Register of Soldier's Effects, his sole legatee is James Summerfield. Of the soldier's effects I have checked for this booklet, he is the only one not to leave his effects to an obvious relative. (His sister was by that time Mrs Taylor). Summerfield does not appear to be a Lodsworth name but there are several James Summerfields in and around Rusper. There is no J Summerfield listed on Medal Rolls for the First World War, so it is unlikely he was a fellow soldier.

Timothy's own medal roll index card has his name corrected from Thomas to Timothy G . Is this because he did not use his first name frequently? If so ,this could explain could why, if he is the soldier commemorated on the Rusper Memorial, his initial is wrong.

The original publication suggested this might be Joseph 203460 Pte 10 London Regiment or Joseph 185559 Pte RAF served in Gallipoli but no records of the death of a Joseph Ketchell/Kittchell are on the CWGC website.



KING Pte Jex G/40709 or G/40799

24th Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)

Died of Wounds 10 July 1918

Buried

Saint Hilaire Cemetery Extension, Frevent Plot G21

Son of

David and Mary King of Faygate and Husband of Louisa Ellen of Lambs Green

Extract from 1991 publication:

Lived at Ivy Cottage, Lambs Green, opposite Canonbury Villas; married to Mrs Clinch's mother's sister.



In 1871 Jex's parents David and Mary King were living in Friday Street, Rusper with two children David and Mary. David was an Agricultural Labourer.

Jex was born in 1882 in Rudgwick, one of twelve children. His name appears to derive from his grandmother's surname (she was born Mary Jex) He had an uncle, Jex King who farmed at Jordons Farm.

By 1891 the family had moved to Faygate Farm where David was a Cowman. There are eight children living at home: Mark, Richard, Kate, Agnes, Jex, Isabella, Beatrice and James. From the children's places of birth it would appear that the family had left Rusper before 1879 to go to Rudgwick, then moving to Farlington and Horsham before returning to Rusper.

In 1903 Jex and his parents were living at Caryll's Farm and later the same year Jex married Louisa Ellen Rhoades. Louisa was sister to George Ernest Rhoades who also died during WW1 and who is also remembered on the Rusper War Memorial. Louisa's sister Alice married Jesse Goacher and they had a daughter Mabel who married Arthur Clinch.

In 1911 Jex and Louisa Ellen are living at No. 1 Lambs Green, Rusper. Jex is a market gardener and the father of three children: Henry Ernest, Jex Richard and Louie Dara.

We do not know the date when Jex enlisted but when his father died probate was granted on 12 November 1917 to Tex (sic) King private and Mark King farmer so he was obviously in the army by that date. He is listed on the Absent Voters List for 1918 (which was compiled in 1917) as living at The Elms.

Jex died of wounds at Frevent which was, from June 1916 to the end of August 1918, the site of 6th Stationary Hospital and so it would seem that when wounded Jex was taken to this Hospital where he died.

The Commonwealth War Graves commission records that he was the son of the late David and Mary Ann King of Rusper; husband of Louisa Ellen King of Ivy Cottage, Lambs Green, Rusper, Sussex.

MERRITT Pte William Thomas 5392

**13th Battalion London Regiment
Died of Wounds 18th November 1916**

**Commemorated: Contay British Cemetery, Somme VIII D14
of William and Jane Merritt of Rusper.
Edith M Merritt of Rusper**

**Son
Husband of**

Extract from 1991 publication:

Lived in East Street, near the shop
William Merritt, Gardners Cottage. (Blue Directory 1914)



Both of William Thomas's parents came from Shipley. His mother was probably Jane Jenkins who married a William Merrit in 1881.

William Thomas Merritt, born on the 30th November 1881, was also baptised at Rusper on 1st January 1882. Three years later his sister Susy Jane is baptised at Rusper in January 1885.

In April 1886 William was admitted to Rusper School and in 1889 Susan joins him. Both give their address as Old Park Farm Their father is, however, listed as Samuel

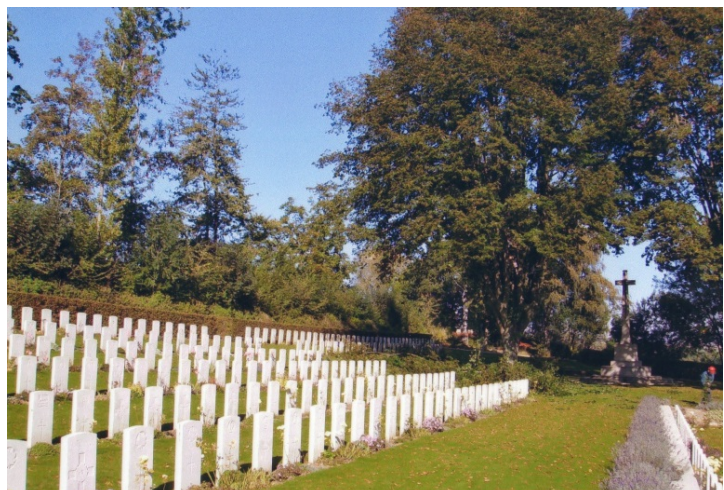
In 1891 William, his parents William and Jane, and his sister Susie were living at Old Park Cottages. His father is listed as a Farm Bailiff. William leaves school in March 1895 to go to work.

By 1901 the family had moved to Lambs Cottages. William is listed as Carter on Farm and William Thomas as Gardener (Assistant) In 1911 William, listed as a Gardener, and his parents are living in East Street, Rusper. His father is now listed as a Farm Labourer.

William Thomas married Edith Mary Taylor in 1911 (Dec quarter) Horsham district and in February 1912, a daughter, Marjorie Edith was born, Her birth certificate gives their address as The Cottage (the original part of Ghyll Manor) and William is listed as a Gardener (Domestic).

Before he joined up in June 1916, William was working as a gardener for Captain A A Lucas of Seer's Croft, Faygate,

The November 25, 1916 edition of the West Sussex County Times reported that "on Sunday last Mrs Merritt received the news that her husband has been wounded" By the same post she received a card acknowledging receipt of a parcel. On Thursday she received the new of his death. Their address is given as The Denne, Rusper.



MILES Pte George

1443

22nd Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)

20 September 1917

Bethune Town Cemetery VI G60

Killed

Buried

Extract from 1991 publication:

From the family grave in Rusper Chyrchyard we know he was killed in action 20th September 1917 aged 28
Brother of Leonard. Was on duty at the front when someone lit a match and this attracted either a shot or bomb which hit George

In 1881 George's father William, together with his widowed mother Cecila and three of his brothers; Henry, George and Thomas (who was later to become landlord at The Plough), is living in Lambs Green. In 1886 he married Mary Jane Arnold) in Ifield and George, the second of their children was born on 24th May 1888..

In 1890 their eldest child William Henry is admitted to Rusper School and on 24th May 1892 George joined him. Both give their address as Belle Vue. George left school in September 1900.

In 1891, William and Mary are living at 3 Bellevue Cottage with their three children, William H, George and Emily. By 1901, William and Mary have moved to Miles' Cottage (next to Averys). Their family now consists of seven children – William Henry, George, Emily, Florence, Leonard, May and Agnes. William's occupation is given as ' woodsman on estate'.

In 1911, William and Mary are living at Rose Cottage, Rusper. (As Rose Cottage is next to Averys it seems likely that the cottage has been renamed rather than the family moved). William is described as a Labourer Dairy Work. Five of their children are still living at home: William H, George (an Agricultural Worker), Leonard (a Grocers' Assistant), May, Minnie and Fanny. William and Mary are listed as having had twelve children of whom ten were still living.

George joined the 22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers and landed in France on 16th November 1915. During 1916, the battalion took part in the Battle of Delville Wood, the battle of Ancre and other operations on the Ancre. In 1917 during the Battle of Arras, the battalion was engaged in action at the First Battle of Scarpe, the Battle of Arleux and the Second Battle of Scarpe. The Battle of Arras ended on 16 June 1917 and the Arras sector then returned to the stalemate that typified most of the war on the Western Front. It would seem that George met his death during this stalemate period.

He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery. Until December 1917, the town was the site of 33rd Clearing Station and so it is likely that having been wounded, George was taken there, where he died of his wounds.

Note: his medal index card gives is name as J Miles but the date of death and regimental number match that of George in other records.



Photo: George Miles with two of his sisters – courtesy of Sue Shopland

MILES Pte Leonard SD/4048

13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (3rd South Downs)

Killed in Action 30th June 1916, age 20

St Vaast Military Cemetery, France; Plot 3 Row Q grave 8

Buried:

Extract from 1991 publication

Son of Mary Miles who was midwife to the village and also had to lay out the dead. Their father, who was a bellringer, said as he was dying 'I am going to my boys'. William Miles, verger, Rose Cottage (Blue Directory 1914)



Leonard was born on 10 July 1895 in Rusper. He was the son of William Miles and Mary Jane(nee Arnold) who married in Ifield in 1886, and the younger brother of George Miles who is also remembered on the Rusper Memorial.

On the 17 April, 1899 Leonard was admitted to Rusper School as a pupil, His address is given as Bellevue Cottage. By 1901, the family, consisting of William and Mary and seven children – William Henry, George, Emily, Florence, Leonard, May and Agnes, were living at Miles' Cottage (next to Avery's cottage) in Rusper. William's occupation is given as ' Woodsman on estate'.

In 1911, William and Mary are living at Rose Cottage, Rusper. (As Rose Cottage is next to Averys it seems likely that the cottage has been renamed rather than the family having moving). William is described as a

Labourer Dairy Work. Five of their children are still living at home: William H, George (an Agricultural Worker), Leonard (a Grocers' Assistant), May, Minnie and Fanny. William and Mary are listed as having had twelve children of whom ten were still living.

Leonard enlisted, at Cranleigh, with the 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (3rd South Downs). The three South Downs Battalions were known locally as Lowther's Lambs. After training at Witley Camp and on Salisbury Plain the Battalion moved to France on 2 March 1916.

On 30th June 1916, as a divisionary operation prior the Battle of the Somme, the three South Downs Battalions attacked the Boar's Head Salient at Richebourg. The smoke bombardment intended to hide their advance, drifted back into 13th Battalion's ranks and the men became disorientated, the bridges that were supposed to bridge trenches were not there and earlier bombardment had not breached the German barbed wire. As a result the men were mown down in waves. Nearly 1,100 South Downers were killed or wounded that day within the space of three hours. It became known as "*the day Sussex died*".



Mary Miles at her son's grave
Both photos courtesy of Sue Shopland

RHODES Pte George Ernest

G/12145

11th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1st South Downs)

Killed in action 31st July 1917, aged 30

Son

of Henry and Charlotte Rhodes of Ifield, Crawley, husband of Alice Martha Rhodes of 'Sunview', 43 Greenside Rd., West Croydon.

Buried: New Irish Farm Cemetery, St Jean-les-Ypres, Belgium, Plot 2 Row D Grave 6 Register B96

Extract from 1991 publication related to Mrs Clinch

Lived in Church Cottages

Henry Sr. Mount Cottages, Ifield (Blue Directory 1914)



George Rhoades (*sic*) was born in Shipley on 23 May 1887, the son of Henry Rhoades and his wife Charlotte (nee Steere). In 1891 all the family are at Palmer's Cottage, Brook Green along with Jesse Goacher who was married to George's sister Alice. Jesse and Alice's daughter Mabel was to marry Arthur Clinch.

George started his education at Ifield School but, he and his sister Louisa were admitted to Rusper School on 18th June 1894. Their address is given as Langhurst.

In 1901 the family consisting of Henry and Charlotte, four children – Henry Wm, George Ernest, Edith Evelyn and Lilian Evaline together with Charlotte's widowed mother

Ann Steere, were living at Grove Cottage, Ifield. Henry and Henry Wm were both described as Labourers on Farm.

By 1911, Henry and Charlotte are living at Mount Cottage, Ifield and we are told that they have had seven children all still living. Of these George, Lilian and Elizabeth (now Mrs Roberts) are still living at home together with Elizabeth's two sons and Charlotte's mother Ann Steer. Henry is listed as a Stockman and George as a Groom/Gardener.

In 1912 George married Alice Martha Reeves daughter of Jonathon Reeves, gardener at Pucks Croft.. Three of their children are baptised at Rusper Church: Ernest Henry Charles (1913), Rose Patricia (1914), Evelyn Grace (1916). George's occupations are given as groom, coachman and gardener and in 1913 the family is living at Church Cottages. A fourth child Yvonne Francis was born 1916 but died later the same year..

We do not know when George joined the 11th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1st South Downs) but it must have been after 27 February 1916 as he is listed as a gardener in the baptismal record of his 3rd daughter but by July 1917 he was in Belgium. On the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres, the 11th Battalion attacked Pilckem Ridge. The Regiment's War Diary notes that the attack went well, lines being taken with few casualties but among those few was George.



SINGLETON Lce Cpl William

K/1323

22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Kensingtons)

Born Rusper, enlisted Horsham

Killed in Action 17th February 1917

Buried:

Queens Cemetery, Bucquoy, France, Plot 3 Row B Grave 2, Register FR 514

Extract from 1991 publication:

Singleton W, Court House Lodge (Blue Directory 1914)



The birth place of this soldier is a bit of a mystery. The 'Soldiers who Died' register gives his birth place as Rusper but there do not appear to be any W Singletons born in Horsham district 1880-1900.

The W Singleton found on the 1911 living at Court House Lodge, is listed as being born in Salisbury Wiltshire but no matching birth record can be found. William and Blanch's marriage certificate gives William's father as John Singleton a shepherd and so the information given below is based on that information.

William was born about 1885 in Fareham, In 1891 William was living with his father John (an Agricultural Labourer), his mother Sarah and sister Annie at Chalk Pits, Wickham Road, Fareham.

By 1901 the family were living at Crocker Hill, Fareham. John is now listed as Head Shepherd Head and William

as Under Shepherd.

In 1910 William married Blanche M Welch at West Dean, Sussex. William's occupation is given as Gardener. His father's is given as John Singleton, a Shepherd. In 1910 their daughter, Lorna Blanche Mary was born in the Chichester district.

By 1911 he is living at Court House Cottages in Rusper together with his wife, daughter, and parents in law, John Welch (an out of work cowman) and his wife Mary. William's occupation is given as Gardener domestic.

In 1914 (Oct-Dec quarter) a son, William L, was born to William and Blanch.

William entered the war in France on 16th November 1915 and was killed in action in 1917. His effects were left to his widow Blanche M.



SHARP, Sgt John 200497

4th Btn Seaforth Highlanders

Killed in Action 20th-23rd November 1917.

Commemorated: Cambrai Memorial Louveral Panel 10

Born in Logie, Perthshire, Scotland on 24 April 1894, John was the youngest of John and Elizabeth Sharp's three sons.



Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Contin in Ross-shire where his father was employed as a farm bailiff. Then came another move to Culross Farm, Wimlands Lane, Faygate where his father was employed as Farm Bailiff to Lady Bell of Culross.

On 14 May 1901, John and his brother William were enrolled at Rusper School. Their address is given as Culross Cottage. From 24 April 1906 until 20 April 1911, John attended Collyers School, Horsham. He left to 'work on farm but he was soon apprenticed to Rice Bros of Horsham in their engineering workshops. He was a keen member of the Caledonian Society, winning prizes for his dancing.

At the outbreak of war, John and his elder brother Alexander enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders and following intensive training they departed for France on 6 Nov 1914.

Photo: courtesy of Ross-shire Journal

John distinguished himself during the battle of Neuve Chapelle going 'over the top' and bringing his seriously injured Colonel to safety. The West Sussex Country Times reported that Lt-Col D MacFarlane presented John with a silver watch.

In May 1915 the regiment fought at Aubers Ridge. In July 1916 on the Somme, probably during the battle for High Wood, John was by shrapnel in the right arm and left hand and was invalided back to Torquay where he was visited by his employer Mr J Rice.

After recovering, he spent a short time in the Reserves at home before re-joining his regiment in France early in 1917. He was reported missing believed killed during the action at Bourslon Wood in the following November.

His body was not recovered.. A memorial service for him was held at Rusper Church He is also commemorated on the Seaforth Highlanders' Cambrai Memorial in Dingwall, Scotland. His medal roll entry gives his rank as A/WO.CI.II



SPENCER Lieutenant, Acting Captain

Walter George

5th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment then

23rd (County of London) Battalion London Regiment

Died of wounds 26th March 1918, aged 30

Buried: St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. Plot R Row 2 Grave 24

Extract from 1991 publication:

Elder son of Walter John and Mary Sarah Spencer of Wandsworth Common, and "The Nook", Rusper (now Applegarth); and husband of Constance Winifred Spencer of Wandsworth Served as a corporal in the London Rifle Brigade 1914, Mentioned in despatches 1917 Spencer, Walter John, The Nook, Rusper (Blue Directory 1914)

Walter George born on 13 March 1888 and was baptised on the 20 April 1890. He was the son of Walter John Spencer (a Law Clerk) and his wife Mary Sarah (nee Debonnaire) of 74 Montpelier Road, Peckham.

In 1901 he is living (or staying) with his grandmother Charlotte M Spencer in Swanage along with his sister Winifred Sarah. Walter attended Emanuel School in Battersea.

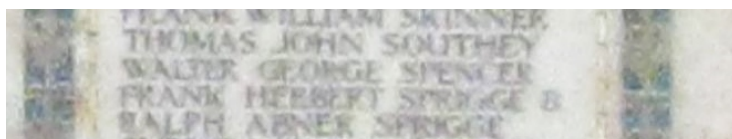
By 1911, Walter, now an insurance clerk, his father, a solicitor's managing clerk, his mother, his grandmother, Charlotte Mary Spencer, his two sisters, Lilian Mary and Winifred Sarah, both assistant school mistresses, and his brother, Harold John, still at school, are living at 2 Kyrle Road, Clapham.

Walter entered the 'Theatre of War' on 4th November 1914. In 30 June 1915, he is gazetted as Second Lieutenant with the 23rd (Country of London) Battalion, The London Regiment having previously been a Sergeant with the 5th (City of London) Battalion, the London Regiment. His medal index roll index card lists him as Corporal No. 8727 with the 1/5 London Regiment, then as Acting Captain

He married Constance Winifred Weedon on 17 March 1917 at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Wandsworth.

Walter was died during the German Spring Offensive of March 1918. On 24 March he was wounded with a gunshot wound to the (L) leg and taken to No 3 Casualty Clearing Station before being transferred to sick convoy. On the 26 March 1918, he died of his wounds in Rouen..

After the War (1920), his widow forwarded a claim for the 1914 Star to be awarded to her husband. She gives her address as 34 Baskerville Road, Wandsworth Common, SW18.



It would appear that they had a son, Walter George as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists a Major Walter G W G Spencer, who died 21 November 1944 with the 1/6 Btn East Surrey Regiment in Italy, as the son of Captain Walter George Spencer The London Regiment and Constance Winifred Spencer of Regent's Park, London.

STEERE Pte James PW5763

1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment

Died: 18th February 1919 of pneumonia

Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre Div 64 VIII B 3

Buried:

Extract from 1991 publication:

Brother of Mr Albert Steere, coal merchant, opposite Pucks Croft, and also of Mrs Rose who lived at Friday Street before moving to Cooksmead. His mother Ada Buckland had a sister, Olive, married to John Stone (see below)

James Steere, Friday St

A Steere, Highams Farm (Blue Directory 1914)



James was one of 11 children born to James Steere and his wife Mary (nee Lucas)

James was born on 31st March 1881 and was baptised in Rusper on the 29th May.

The 1881 census James, an general labourer, and Mary are living in South Street Rusper with four children, Richard, Annie, William and an as yet un-named James who was 3 days old.

In April 1885 James was admitted to Rusper School. His address is given as Lambs Green. He leaves in March 1894 to be a cow boy.

In 1891, the family are still living at Lambs Green. There are now seven children at home: Annie, William, James, Alfred, Margaret, Albert and Alice. James' father is an Agricultural Labourer.

In 1901 the family consisting of James , now listed as a carpenter's labourer, and Mary and five children – Annie, James and Albert (both

Farm Labourers), Edith and Dorothy, are living 3 Puttocks Cottages, Lambs Green.

In 1911, the family is living at Broadbridge Cottages, Lambs Green. James and Mary are shown as having had eleven children of whom nine are still living. James now 30 and a Sawyer is still living at home with his parents, a brother Alfred, sister Dorothy and a nephew John Steere.

Albert, mentioned in the reminiscences above, was by now married to Ada and is listed as a Farm Labourer living at Axmas Farm.

The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery index states that James died of pneumonia. It gives his parents' address as Rose Cottage, Holbrook (now Friday Street) and notes he is a native of Rusper, Sussex. The Register of Soldiers Effects shows his legatee as his sister Dorothy M Rose.

Photo - West Sussex County Times

STONE Pte Percy Christopher G/879

2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in action 22nd November 1917, age 23

Son of John and Olive Stone of Rusper, Horsham, Sussex

Commemorated: Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 86-88 Register MR30 Pt 21

Extract from 1991 publication:

John Stone, Orltons Cottages, Rusper. (Blue Directory 1914)
Another family of Stones lived in Kilnwood Lane and Mr Stone
married Olive Buckland, sister to Mrs Ada Steere



John Stone, Percy's father was born in Crawley. He and Olive Buckland married on 19 December 1889 in Worth and in 1891 they were living at Court House Farm. John's occupation is listed as Agricultural Labourer.

Percy was born on 3rd January 1894 in Rusper. He was one of eleven children born to John and Olive. The family seemed to have been constantly on the move. In September 1909 four of Percy's younger siblings are admitted to Rusper School. Their previous school is listed as Capel and their address is given as Haxsmiths Farm but a month later they leave – "gone to Charlwood". By 1901, Percy, his parents and five siblings are living at the Old Farm House, Worth.

In 1911 the family now consisting of John and Olive and seven children – Percy Christopher, John Charles, Olive Lillie, Ada Ellen, George Harold, Daisy Bell, Stephen Walter and a granddaughter Ivy Mary Stone have moved back to Rusper and are living at Orltons Cottage. John is a Cowman and Percy a Waggoner on Farm.

Percy entered the 'Theatre of War' in France on the 31st May 1915. He initially served with the 7th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment before transferring to the 2nd Battalion.

In November 1917 2nd Battalion was in Flanders. On 16th November the regiment was at Irish Farm, then on the evening of the 21st they were ordered to move into the front line in the Meetcheele sector just north of Paschendael. The Regimental Diary states that the regiment lost its way and the relief was not completed until 9pm on the 22nd. No operations were undertaken apart from patrols but shelling was very heavy. Although casualties were reported as 'very light', Percy was one of them, killed on the 22nd. The following day the regiment was relieved and returned to Irish Farm.



Olive's sister Ada married Albert Steere. Albert's brother is James is remembered on the Rusper War Memorial, as is Olive's cousin Thomas Harold Huggett.

TAYLOR Rifleman/Pte Reginald Edmund

4505/551728/2129

16th Battalion London Regiment

Battalion Queen's Westminster Rifles B Co. Lewis Machine Gun Part (4505 in Thiepval Register)

formerly 4th Cameron Highlanders

Killed in action on the Somme 1st July 1916, aged 19.

Parents: Henry and Rosetta Taylor of Parsons Farm, Faygate.

Commemorated: Thiepval Memorial Register MR21 part XLIII and in a stained glass window inside Rusper Church.

Extract from 1991 publication

His parents bought Parsons Farm, Faygate (now Brook House) hoping that their son would farm there when he returned, which sadly he did not. Parsons Farm was used as a convalescent home for a large London nursing home during the war. Reginald's sister married the dentist Mr Hanreck, wellknown in Horsham.



Reginald's parents were married in 1895 in the parish Church of Islington.

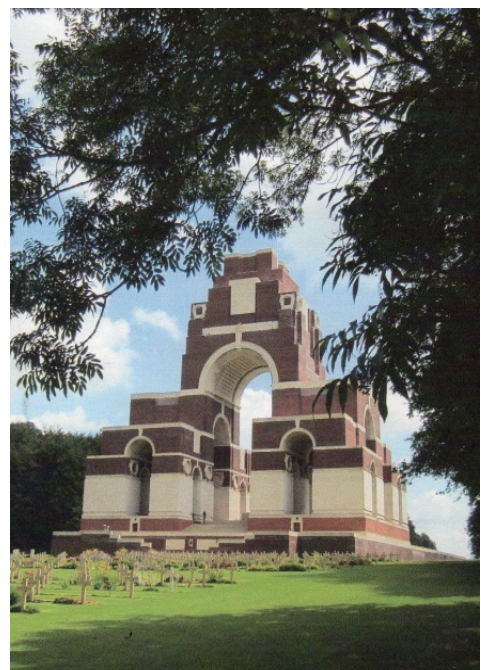
Reginald Edmund was born in 1896 (Jul quarter) in Barnet.

In 1901, Reginald (aged 4) is living with his parents and sister Lilian (aged 1) in Hackney Road, Monkon, Hadley, Enfield. His father's occupation is listed as Assurance Clerk.

By 1911 the family had moved to Clapham Common and by now he had

another sister, Kathleen M.

Reginald is recorded as entering the theatre of War in France on 4 December 1915. He appears to have fought with 3 different regiments. He originally joined the Cameron Highlanders. He transferred to the 1/16 Bn. London Regiment as a Rifleman and then to the Queen's Westminster Rifles in the Machine Gun Section. He was listed as missing presumed dead on 1 July 1916. The Imperial War Museum's record list states that he was severely wounded and taken prisoner near Gommecourt..



His name was added to Rusper War Memorial in 2016.

WALDER Sgt Albert K/1262

The wrong initials are shown on the Rusper Memorial

22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Kensingtons)

Killed in Action 3rd May 1917

Commemorated: Arras Memorial, France Register MR 20 part 22)

There were several Walder families in the parish before WW1 living on the Roffey Estate which held land in Faygate, Colgate and Roffey. Most descended from John



Walder who farmed at Parsonage Farm (now Brook Farm) about 1841-51, Albert was his great-grandson.

Albert was born on 15th September 1895 in Faygate. His parents were William Walder and his wife Clara Jane (nee Stevens) In 1901, Albert was living with his parents William and Clara, his grandfather Solomon Walder and his four brothers and sisters - Hector W, Edith F, Dorothea and Edward at Shepherd Field in Colgate. His father is listed as a Gamekeeper and his grandfather as a Retired Gamekeeper.

Albert started his education at Colgate School but on 10th July 1906, Albert, Dorothy and Edward were admitted to Rusper School. Their address is given as Venters.

By 1911, the family had moved to Orltons Cottage, Rusper. All the children are still at home and there are now three more children – Annsley, Alice and George. Albert's father

William is still working as a Gamekeeper. The older children are now working. Hector, who was later to serve in the Royal Navy during the War, is a Gardener, Edith is a Kitchen Maid and Albert a Farm Labourer.

Albert's Medal Roll Index Card dates his entry into the 'Theatre of War' in France as 16th November 1915. He was killed in action on 3rd May 1917.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists him as Lance Sergeant and gives his parents as Mr & Mrs W Walder of Lambs Green, Rusper, Sussex.

Information in the original publication says that Albert lived at Canonbury Villas and a street directory lists a W Walder at Broadbridge Cottages, Rusper.



WATKINS Pte Arthur Thomas 6144

1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Died of wounds 2nd January 1915, aged 35

Burial: Brown Road Military Cemetery VII D4



Arthur was born in Poplar in 1880, the son of Charles Joshua Watkins and his wife Sarah (nee Atkins).

The 1881 census shows Arthur living with his parents and siblings – Charles Joshua, Sarah Almira, Henry, Florence and William. His father's occupation is given as Commercial Clerk.

The records for Manchester Street School, Camden show Arthur Watkins, aged 5, being admitted to the school.

On 2 April 1886 three of Arthur's siblings, Annie Florence (born 1876), William George (born 1879) and Rosina (born 1885) were all baptised at the Parish Church St Pancras. Their father's occupation is given as House Painter.

Electoral Rolls for 1888-1894 show Charles Joshua Watkins living in and around St Pancras and in 1894 he dies there.

Arthur's army service number indicates he enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment between January 1901 and April 1902 and on the 1901 census he is listed at the Horfield Barracks Depot for Soldiers in Horfield, Gloucestershire. The rest of the family are scattered and difficult to trace, although Arthur's sister Sarah Almira is to be found working as a cook for the Headmaster of Cranleigh School.

By 1911, he was living in Faygate, lodging with John Fuller and his family at 14 Carylls Cottages. Arthur and John were both Postmen working for the GPO. John's son Frank was also killed during the War and is remembered on the Colgate War Memorial.

The Medal Roll index shows that Arthur entered the 'Theatre of War' on the 20th September 1914. Arthur survived the First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 23 November 1914) but he dies of wounds on 2nd January 1915. The war diary reports that the regiment is extending and improving trenches from 22nd December to 6th January with no reports of casualties but on 21st December the regiment attacked German trenches resulting in 86 men being wounded so Arthur was probably one of these, dying on 2nd January, presumably at a clearing station or in hospital.

The Register of Soldiers' Effects gives his legatees as his brothers, Charles, Henry, William, George and his sisters Sarah, Annie and Rose. George's payment was made to his wife, Arthur's sister in law Mrs Emily E Watkins.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission entry described him as the son of Charles Joshua and Sarah Almira but I believe this is incorrect. His mother was Sarah and his sister was Sarah Almira. The name Almira coming from his paternal grandmother, who was Lucy Charlotte Almira (nee Gorden) born in France.



WEAVER, Robert Norris Leading Seaman

London Z/98

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Nelson Btn.

Died: 10 August 1916 of Tuberculosis (attributable) at Ashfolds Cottage

Rusper

Buried: Rusper Churchyard

Robert Norris Weaver was born on the 13 November 1894 in Wimbledon and baptised at the Holy Trinity Church on 18 January 1895. His parents were Frederick Weaver and his wife Emily. A family tree on the Ancestry website gives Emily's maiden name as Anderson but I have been unable to verify this. As their three eldest children were all born in Belfast perhaps the marriage took place there too.

Frederick had been a Quarter Master Sergeant in the Royal Artillery but by the time of the 1901 census, he was a Gymnastic Instructor living in Wimbledon.

In 1901 Robert had a brother and three sisters - Frederick William Charles, Florence Emily Elizabeth, Emily Annie, and Annie Maud.

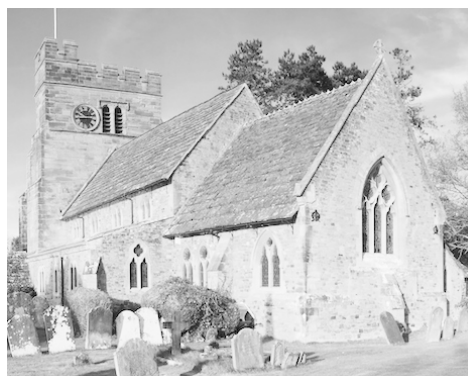
By 1911, the family had moved Merton Park, Surrey and only Robert and his youngest sister Annie Maude were living at home. Frederick is listed as an Army Pension and Drill Instructor (School Teaching, Robert is a Shop Front Fitter and his sister a student Teacher.

On 3 September 1914 Robert enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Nelson Bn. He suffered a wound to his left thigh and was invalided to the UK with dysentery.

From 12 July 1916 to 13 September 1916 he was with Drake Bn (Lewis Gunner) at Base Depot Etaples before being posted to 8th* Entrenching Bn.

He was diagnosed with TB on 24 November 1916 and a few days later, on the 28th, he was invalided to the UK. On 25th January 1917 he was discharged and invalided at the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar and sent to the London Hospital for Tuberculosis Pulmonary. The Medal Roll for the RNVR lists Robert as a Leading Seaman.

He died on 10th August 1918 at Ashfold Cottage, Rusper and was buried in an unmarked grave in Rusper Churchyard. His occupation is given as ex- RN (Pensioner) (Mechanical Engineer). His father is listed as Frederick of 8 Winifred Road, Merton and later of 2 Victoria Road Crawley.



* The 8th Entrenching Battalion was not formed until 1918 after Robert had been discharged but the 7th Entrenching Battalion was formed from the Nelson Battalion of the RND and so it seems likely that he was serving with the 7th Battalion not the 8th.



The unveiling of Rusper Rusper Memorial - 21st August 1921