

‘OUR GLORIOUS DEAD’

The Shorne Village War Memorial



Revised – August 2007

INDEX

	Page
Unveiling of the Memorial	3
1914-18 War casualties listed on the Memorial	7
William Accleton	7
John Anderson	9
Frederick Baker	10
William Botting	11
James Bridge	11
Frank Bromley	12
Alfred Caller	13
Edward Caller	14
William Forster	14
Albert Giggins (Jenkins)	15
William Grant	16
Patrick Griffin	17
John (Jack) Hollands	18
Stanley Hollands	19
John Mundy	19
Charles Patching	20
Herbert Pink	21
Benjamin Vitler	23
Arthur Welch	25
Alfred Whibley	26
Charles Willard	27
1939-45 War casualties listed on the Memorial	29
Hubert Colenutt	29
Arthur Levett	30
James McCaul	31
War graves in Shorne Churchyard not named on the Memorial	33
Thomas A Bennett (1914-18)	33
Frank Noble (1914-18)	33
Peter Brown (1939-45)	34
Others born in Shorne but not on the Memorial	35
Albert Cooper (1914-18)	35
George Farmer (1914-18)	35
Ernest Gouge (1914-18)	35
James Steel (1914-18)	35
Verdun Paget (1939-45)	36
Chronology	37

‘OUR GLORIOUS DEAD’ The Shorne village War Memorial

The Memorial was unveiled on 21 March 1920, with full military and civic ceremony, by Admiral Sir Frederick Doveton Sturdee, KCB, the Commander in Chief of the Nore, and hero of the ‘first’ Battle of the Falklands in 1914. Among those present at the unveiling were Lord and Lady Darnley. The cost of the Memorial was £100, which was raised by public subscription from the people of the village.



From the Gravesend Reporter, Saturday 27 March 1920, p3

Shorne's Memorial

ADMIRAL STURDEE AT THE UNVEILING CEREMONY

“To our glorious dead who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-1919. Erected by the parishioners of Shorne. Ever sacred to their memory.”

So runs the inscription on the beautiful stone memorial place (*sic*) in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul's, Shorne, to remind generations as yet unborn of the noble part the men of the village played in the greatest conflict in the world's history.

The memorial, of Portland stone, is erected on the right of the pathway from the gate to the Church door. It bears the names of twenty-one heroes who died that others might live, and the lines: "The strife is o'er; the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won." The words, "Pro Deo" and "Pro Patria" state the noble cause for which they fought, and there is a representation of Invicta, the County's emblem.

The cost of the memorial was £100. It was designed by Mr. Hallward, formerly of Shorne, and carried out by Messrs. Tomes, of Hammersmith.

There was a large gathering in the Churchyard on Sunday afternoon, when the memorial was unveiled by Admiral Sir F. Doveton Sturdee, K.C.B., at a united service.

Service and ex-Service men, under Capt. Baker, Lieut. Armstrong and Mr. Burrows, were paraded at the Parish Room, and stood at attention when the Admiral and Flag Lieut. Howson arrived by motor car. The men were then marched to the entrance to the churchyard, where they formed a guard of honour, through which the distinguished visitors passed, the Admiral being welcomed by Col. Sim, R.E.

COMPANY PRESENT

The two ranks then turned in from the rear and marched into the churchyard, where the men formed a cordon around the memorial. Among those present were Lord and Lady Darnley; Mr E. Hollands, chairman of the Parish Council and Memorial Committee; Mr J. M. Hollands, secretary; Parish Councillors; and representatives of various bodies in the parish.

Led by a mixed choir, with Mr E.A. Houghton as organist, the congregation sang a verse of the National Anthem, and then the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesu's Name." The Rev. C. Lomas, Primitive Methodist Church, Gravesend, read Psalm xcvi., "O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvellous things; His right hand, and His Holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory..." After the hymn "For all the Saints who from their labours rest," Mr A.K. Houghton read the first five verses of Revelations xxi., "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away..."

The Commander-in-Chief of the Nore stated that, at the request of the Committee, he had the privilege and honour to unveil the memorial to those who had made the great sacrifice. To those who were left behind he offered sincere sympathy, and the consolation of the knowledge that their dear ones had not thought of themselves, but had done their duty nobly. The village had a splendid record, 120 out of less than 800 having gone to the front. Some had fallen in the war, but he saw fine young fellows present who would carry on the duties that they had laid down. The memorial would not fully carry out its purpose if there were not also a living memorial. The most worthy memorial to add to the material one would be for each one of them to do his duty as those they were commemorating had done. The essentials were contentment, work, less selfishness, less envy, and striving for the Empire. With that striving for the Empire they would guide humanity in the cause of freedom, justice, and the good of the world in general. The Empire in the past with its

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LOSS AND SACRIFICE

- had always upheld this. "Citizens of Great Britain, and villagers of Shorne" he concluded, "I feel that when you pass the memorial you will think of these men who did their duty. Let us do our duty in the same way, then we shall have a happy and contented Empire." He then withdrew the Union Jack which draped the memorial.

The memorial was dedicated by then Vicar, the Rev. C.E. Marsh, who said: "In the faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this memorial to the Glory of God, and in memory of William Accleton, John R. Anderson, Frederick Baker, William Botting, Frank W. Bromley,

James C. Bridge, Edward Caller, Alfred G. Caller, William G. Forster, William Grant, John Griffin, Albert E. Giggins, John C. Hollands, Stanley Hollands, John Mundy, Herbert E. Pink, Charles Patching, Benjamin Vitler, Charles Willard, Arthur Welch, Alfred V. Whibley, who gave their lives for God, King and Country in the Great War.” The Vicar read passages from St. John, including “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend,” and offered prayer. The hymn, “Lord, to Thy tender, loving Care,” was sung.

The Vicar then addressed the congregation, his text being, “He saved others; himself he cannot save.” These words, he said, were uttered by the chief priests in mockery of the Saviour who had given His life for the world, and was hanging on the cross. Uttered in mockery, they were deeply and eternally true. Let the words speak to them that afternoon of those who had copied their Master’s example. They had saved others, they would not save themselves. It was a strange coincidence that the Shorne heroes to whom the memorial was erected numbered 21, and it was being dedicated on the 21st day of March. It was also the Spring equinox – equal day and night – a symbol of those who -

GAVE THEIR LIVES

- to give freedom and equal rights to mankind. The 21st of March was the first day of Spring, when all nature, every opening flower blossom, and leaf on the tree, was speaking to them in unmistakable words of the resurrection of life from the dead winter. It spoke to them of the rising of the country for which those heroes died from the grave of the past to a brighter and better future. In olden days March was the first month of the year, and the 14th to the 21st was the time, in the Bible, when Israel kept the Passover, in memory of their great deliverance from Egypt. It spoke to them of the deliverance their heroes had won for them. Their lives had been cut off in their usefulness, and it was for us to take up the threads where they left them, and see that this is a holier, happier country. Their sacrifice urged us to serve mankind in our generation, so that it be said of us, “He saved others; himself he would not save.”

The final hymn was “O God, our Help in Ages Past,” and the Vicar pronounced the Blessing. The “Last Post” was sounded by buglers from Chatham.

Floral emblems were placed at the base of the memorial, a laurel wreath being deposited by Mr Griffin, the oldest ex-Serviceman. A wreath laid there by Mr J. Hollands, was “To our members who have made the supreme sacrifice, from the Shorne Special Constables.”

Muffled peals were rung on the Church bells, and the flag was flown at half-mast from the tower.

The police arrangements were under the charge of Sergt. Worrall.

1914-18 WAR CASUALTIES LISTED ON THE MEMORIAL

Accleton, William Charles

- Private 648, 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment
- Born Luddesdown (according to enlistment records - school admission records say Chalk), 8 June 1888
- Resident at 1 Pear Tree Lane, Shorne in 1901 (school admission records say 'The Ridgeway' in 1898, the year of the family move into the village)
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1045, 6 June 1898)
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Resident of Luddesdown, employed on Earl of Darnley's estate
- Killed in action, Battle of the Somme, France, Thursday 12 October 1916, aged 26
- Son of William Accleton.
- Pier and Face 9A, 9B and 10B, Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France (one of approximately 74,000 names on the Memorial)
- 4 officers and 67 other ranks from his regiment died on the same day.



Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 16 December 1916, p6

'The death is announced of Pte. W. Accleton, late of Shorne, who was killed in action by a shell, on October 12th, in the advance on the Somme. He leaves a sorrowing wife and four children. Previous to the outbreak of the war he was employed on the Earl of Darnley's estate, and belonged to the Special reserve, Royal Warwickshire Regt. He went up for training on July 2nd, 1914. He had been eighteen months in France, where he gave his life, like many of his brave comrades, defending King and country.'

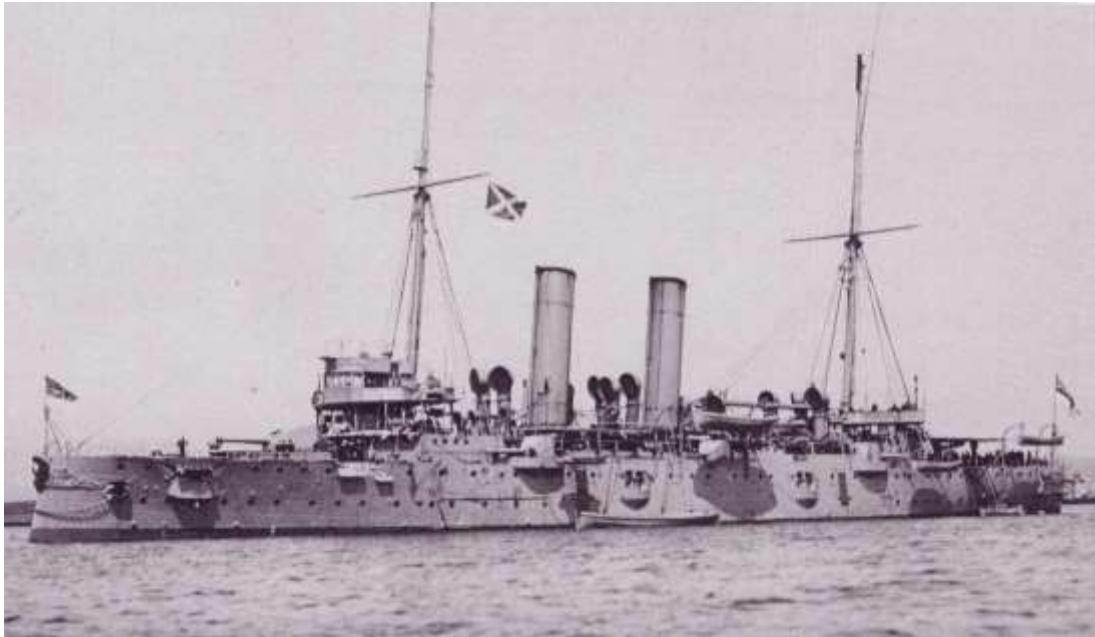


The Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Anderson, John Robert

- Cooper 135921, HMS Hawke
- Born Swanscombe
- Longtime resident of Swanscombe, but recently moved to Shorne
- Died 15 October 1914 when ship was torpedoed by U9 off East coast of Scotland (one of 509 killed)
- Panel 6, Chatham Naval Memorial (no known grave)



Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 24 October 1914, p8

‘From Swanscombe we hear that one of its most popular residents, Mr. John Robert Anderson, was a cooper on board the Hawke. He is believed by the relatives to have perished with his fellows, as no news of his having been rescued has yet been received by the Admiralty. Born in Swanscombe, his whole enthusiasm, even when he was a boy, went out to the ships. “It was,” a life-long chum informed a representative of the “Reporter,” “his sole ambition to roam the seas.” For nearly 21 years he realized his ambition and in a few months time his term of service would have been completed.

His home was in Milton-street, and the whole family - Mr Anderson’s father is one of the oldest inhabitants of Swanscombe – is highly respected and esteemed. It was only a short while ago that he removed from the locality and went to Shorne. The deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs Anderson and the four children.’

Baker, Frederick

- Gunner 65728, 23rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery
- Born Faversham
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Killed in action, Ypres 27 March 1916 (Book of Remembrance in church says 16 March)
- Grave L19, Divisional Cemetery Ieper, West Flanders, Belgium
- Also killed on the same day was one other soldier from his battery (Frederick Selling), buried next to him



Botting, William Isaac

- Private G/44101, 17th Battalion (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment
- Born Higham, 21 March 1897
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1159, 25 March 1902)
- Enlisted Ealing, Middlesex
- Resident of Shorne
- Killed in action Monday 13 November 1916, aged 19
- Eldest son of William John and Sarah Botting, Green Farm Cottage, Lower Shorne
- Grave 11.C.3, Maily Wood Cemetery, Somme, France

Bridge, James Charles

- Private 23206, 8th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment
- Born Newmarket, Cambs
- Enlisted Colchester
- Resident of Flamstead End, Herts
- Killed in action, Flanders, Wednesday 5 December 1917, aged 20
- Son of Charles and Annie Bridge of Newmarket, and husband of Lilian Bridge of 3 Vaughans Cottages, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex
- Grave 11.F.12, Ribecourt British Cemetery, Nord, France

- **(This is the only James Charles Bridge recorded as having been killed during the War. Although these details make him seem to be an unlikely candidate for the Shorne memorial, a Mrs A Bridge was resident (landlady?) at The Crown Public House, London Road, during the War)**

Bromley, Frank William

- Gunner 180663, 'B' Battery, 245th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
- (Royal Garrison Artillery in error in Book of Remembrance in church)
- Born Brenchley (according to enlistment details, Higham according to school admission book), 19 October 1898.
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1273, 9 October 1905)
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Killed in action, Ypres Tuesday 12 March 1918, aged 19
- Son of William Charles and Martha Bromley, Chalk Pit Cottages, Lower Shorne
- Grave 11.J.6, Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery, Ieper, West Flanders, Belgium.

Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 4 May 1918, p5

'HERO OF THE GREAT CONFLICT. – In the great attack by the Germans, Gunner Frank William Bromley, RFA, was killed instantaneously, with four others of his battery. He had only been in France a few months, but had proved himself a gallant and efficient soldier. His Major wrote that he "had learnt to realise his great qualities, for he was every inch a soldier and a gentleman. Under all conditions and at all times his conduct was inspiring to everyone, including his officers; he died like a hero, actually sitting at his gun." His Section Commander also wrote that he had "nothing but praise for him, and there was not a nicer boy in the section." It is sad indeed, to think of these young and promising lives being taken so ruthlessly, writes the Vicar in the parish magazine, and our sincerest sympathy and sorrow is with their families, but the village is proud of them, and grateful for their fine courage and noble examples.'

Caller, Alfred George

- Driver 91293, 108th Field Company, Royal Engineers
- Family moved to Shorne from Cobham on 10 May 1915
- Died at Salonica, Tuesday 19 November 1918
- Son of Alfred George and Mary A Caller, 6 St Katherine's Cottages (later, in 1920, of 24 London Road, Chalk).
- Grave I.C.4, Sofia War Cemetery, Bulgaria

Notice in Gravesend Reporter, 11 January 1919, p2

‘DIED IN HOSPITAL – Mr and Mrs Caller have received news of the death of their son, Alfred George, at Salonica. This is the second son they have lost in the war, and it is doubly sad for them, as his death took place in hospital after the armistice had been signed’.

Caller, Edward

- Private G/969, 6th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment
- Born Betsham/Southfleet
- Family moved to Shorne from Cobham on 10 May 1915
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Died of wounds, Armentieres, Saturday 28 August 1915, aged 23
- Son of Alfred George and Mary A Caller, 6 St Katherine's Cottages (later, in 1920, of 24 London Road, Chalk)
- Grave 11.A.52, Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France
- One of six casualties for the Battalion in August 1915, two killed in action, four died of wounds.

Forster, William George

- Lance Corporal L9043, 6th Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
- Born Strood
- Killed in action (Battle of Loos) Wednesday 13 October 1915, aged 22
- Eldest son of William and Elizabeth Ann Forster, Thong House Bungalow, Shorne
- Panel 15/19, Loos War Memorial, Pas de Calais, France (no known grave)
- 9 officers and 180 other ranks died on the same day

Giggins, Albert Edward

- **Later known as Jenkins**
- Private 3034514, Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Born Chalk, 13 July 1893, and registered as Albert Edward **Giggins**
- Attended Shorne School (admission number 1012, 16 March 1897 as **Albert Jenkins**)
- Enlisted Toronto, Canada, 27 March 1918 as Albert Edward **Jenkins**, gave his father's name as next of kin, as Alfred **Jenkins**
- Killed in action 27 September 1918
- Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Giggins of Lower Road Chalk (Father a wagoner at Kings Farm Shorne in 1907)
- Buried at Sains-les-Marqnon, as Albert Edward **Jenkins**



Grant, William

- Private 5402, 7th Battalion, 16th Irish Division, 49th Brigade (South Irish Horse) Royal Irish Regiment
- Born Shorne, 24 March 1891
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 977, 30 June 1895)
- Resident of Shorne ('Smith Street' in 1895, Hope Cottage in 1901)
- Enlisted Gravesend originally as Private 4011, Royal West Kent Regiment
- Killed in action, 'France' Monday 25 March 1918, aged 27
- Awarded the **Military Medal**
- Eldest son of William J and Fanny Grant, Shorne House, Shorne
- Panels 30/31 Pozieres War Memorial, Somme, France (no known grave)
- The only casualty from this Battalion listed this day.



Griffin, (Patrick) John

- **Griffen** in error on war memorial
- 2nd (Lance) Corporal 20709, 15th Field Company Royal Engineers
- Awarded the **Military Medal**
- Born Pembroke Dock, moved to Shornemead Fort in January 1908
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Killed in action, Busseboome, Saturday 7 July 1917, aged 23
- Son of Mr and Mrs Griffin of Shornmead Fort (later of Crown Inn), Shorne
- Grave 11.M.3, Brandhoek Military Cemetary, Ieper, West Flanders
- Two other casualties killed in action from this Company this day, all three buried next to each other.



Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 21 July 1917, p5

‘Lance-Corpl. P. J. Griffin, M.M., Royal Engineers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, of Shornemead Fort, who had been in the Army for about seven years, was killed on the 7th inst. He had been in Malta for 10 months, leaving there for France, where he stayed for two years and eight months. Lance-Corpl. Griffin won the Military Medal for bravery in the field. A week before his death the deceased walked ten miles to see his brother, but leave to attend his sister’s wedding a few weeks ago was not granted. Three other sons are serving.

Lieut. F. C. West, writing to deceased’s mother states:- “Your son was killed yesterday (7th) by a shell, which burst at his billet, his death being absolutely instantaneous. The loss is deeply felt by the whole company, as he was one of the nicest and most reliable of men. You have our most heartfelt sympathy in your great loss. The funeral took place on the same afternoon, and was conducted by a Roman Catholic priest.’

Hollands, John Christopher

- Corporal 52231, 36th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery
- Born Shorne, 3 July 1889.
- Lived on 'The Ridgeway' in 1894
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 904, 23 January 1894)
- Resided at 2 Muddy Lane, Shorne in 1901
- Resident of Cobham at enlistment
- Enlisted at Gravesend
- Killed in action, Amiens Friday 5 July 1918 (Book of Remembrance says 8 July), aged 29. (Soldiers Died in the Great War website records 'died of wounds' 5 July 1918)
- Son of William and Eliza Hollands, 2 Thorne House, Cobham
- Grave 11.E.15, Vignacourt British Cemetery, Somme, France



Hollands, Stanley William Ridgnell

- Serjeant 1396, 7th Battalion (Book of Remembrance says 4th Battalion in error), East Surrey Regiment
- Born Shorne according to 1901 census (enlistment record says Gravesend)
- Resided at 2 Homewood Cottages in 1901
- Enlisted Caxton Hall, Westminster
- Killed in action, Arras, Monday 9 April 1917, aged 20
- Only child of William and Hannah (deceased at time of his death) Hollands, 3 Rose and Crown Cottages, Shorne
- Bay 6, Arras War Memorial, Pas de Calais, France (no known grave)
- 4 officers and 43 other ranks died on the same day

Mundy, John H

- Rifleman 0/111, 5th Battalion, Rifle Brigade
- Died Tuesday 10 December 1918, aged 20
- Son of Henry and Eliza Mundy, Church Cottages, Higham
- Buried at St Mary's Churchyard, Higham
- **(A strange inclusion on the Shorne memorial which needs further explanation)**

Patching, Charles James

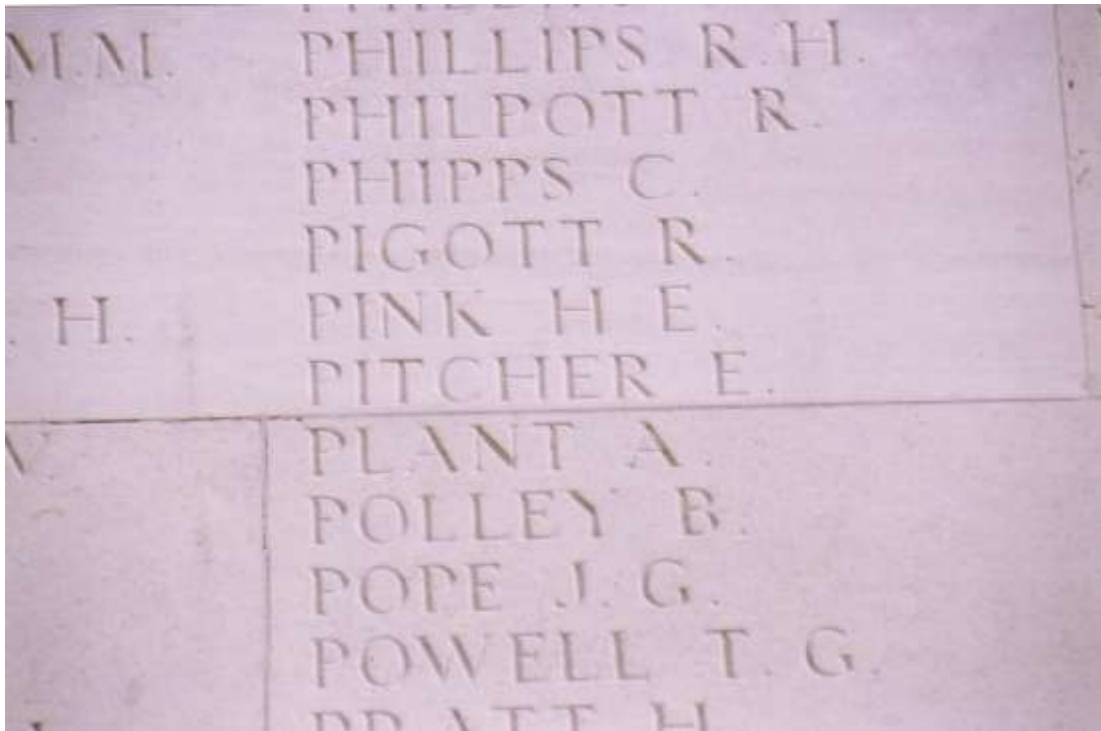
- Private 68765, 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)
- Born Denton, 28 September 1898
- Resident of Shorne (3 Garden Row in 1901, 'The Ridgeway' in 1903)
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1189, 2 February 1903)
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Killed in action, France, Tuesday 27 November 1917, aged 18
- Son of Albert and Eleanor Patching of 3 Garden Row Shorne
- Grave 1.E.34, Anneux Cemetery, Nord, France



Pink, Herbert Edward

- (Soldiers Died in the Great War says Herbert Henry) – this seems to be an error)
- Private G/15520, 1st Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
- Born Shorne, 21 September 1894
- Resident of Shorne ('The Still', Shorne in 1894)
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1052, 8 October 1898)
- Enlisted at Gravesend originally as Private G/11784, 3rd Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment
- Died Friday 15 September 1916, aged 18
- Son of Samuel Pink
- Pier 5D, Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France (no known grave – one of approximately 74,000 names on the Memorial)
- 6 officers and 123 other ranks of this Battalion died on this day (the first day that tanks were used in battle)





The Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Vitler, Benjamin James

- (Soldiers Died in the Great War website and the inscription on the Menin Gate say James Benjamin which seem to be errors)
- 1st (City of London) Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)
- Born All Hallows, 30 October 1895
- Moved to Shorne in 1900
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1110, 2 April 1900)
- Resident of Shorne (2 Garden Row, Shorne in 1901)
- Enlisted Gravesend as Private 4038, Royal West Kent Regiment
- Killed in action, Messines, Thursday 16 August 1917, aged 21
- Son of George and Maria Vitler, 1 Church Cottage, Shorne
- Panel 52, Menin Gate Memorial, Ieper, West Flanders (no known grave – one of 54,896 names recorded on the Memorial.)
- 2 officers and 94 other ranks died the same day

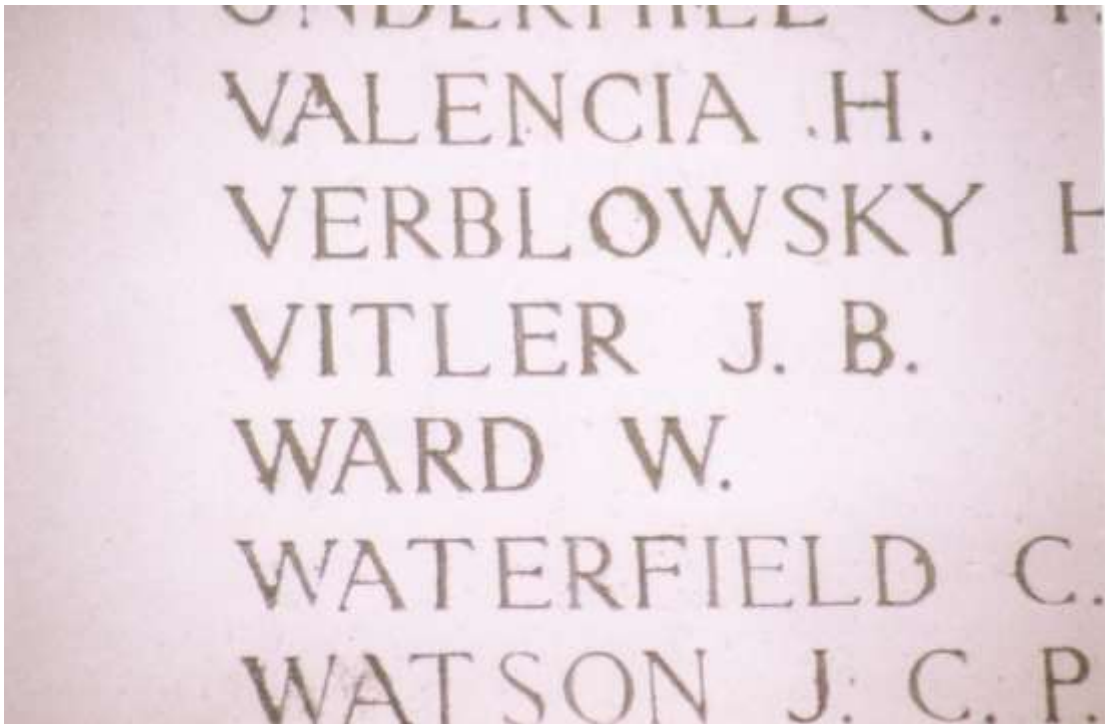


Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 22 September 1917, p6

‘Mr and Mrs Vitler, of Shorne, have received the sad news of the death of their second son, Pte. Benjamin Vitler, of the 1st London R.F., formerly of the Royal West Kents. He was killed in action on the 16th of August, having been at the front for 15 months. He was in his 22nd year. The following letter was received by the deceased’s parents from Officer Commanding H.E.T. Lloyd. – “It is with great regret that I have to acquaint you with the death of your son, who was in my company. He was killed in action on the 16th August. He was very popular with his chums, and we all feel his loss very keenly. An excellent and hard-working soldier, he has always done duty well, and has died, as I am sure he would have wished, in action. Please accept my deep sympathy, in your loss.”



The Menin Gate Memorial, Ieper, West Flanders, Belgium



Welch, Arthur Sidney

- 2nd Lieutenant, 149th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery
- Born Ivy Cottage, Shorne, 28 March 1887 (youngest of ten children)
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 802, 29 June 1891)
- Resided at 1 Muddy Lane, Shorne in 1901
- Killed in action Saturday 29 September 1917, aged 28
- Youngest son of George and Eliza Welch, The Ridgeway, Shorne
- Grave 1.C.54, Duhallow Cemetery, Ieper, West Flanders, Belgium
- Details also recorded on family gravestone in Shorne Churchyard



Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 3 November 1917, p5

‘Much sympathy has been expressed to the widow and relatives of Second-Lieut. Arthur Welch, R.G.A., the youngest son of Mr. G. Welch, The Ridgeway, Shorne, who was killed in action on September 29th 1917. Before going to France he was stationed at Malta, and was commended by Lord Methuen for his work in connection with the wounded at the transport station. At that time he was a company sergeant-major, and being so eager to get to the Front lowered his rank and went to France in May last year. The deceased was soon after promoted to battery sergeant-major, and gained his commission in March. Lieut. Welch’s widow, having written to Captain P. R. Bennett, the officer commanding the battery, has received in reply a letter containing particulars of her husband’s death. It appeared that he was mortally wounded by a bursting shell while with some signallers, dying at a dressing station near the spot. The captain says he was buried the following day in a cemetery some distance behind the lines. In conclusion, he speaks of the cheerful disposition and the courage of the deceased, adding that the whole battery wish to express their sympathy at her great loss. A consoling letter was also received from Mr. G. Hankey, a chaplain to the Forces, who officiated at the funeral.’

Whibley, Alfred Victor

- Lance Corporal SD/2820, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment
- Born Eastling, Kent
- Enlisted Hastings
- Died Friday 30 June 1916, aged 22
- Son of Edwin Richard and Phillis (sic) Whibley, Fairbourne Manor Farm, Harrietsham, Kent
- Grave XV.P.14, Cabaret-Rough British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France

- **(Although this detail does not indicate a Shorne resident, a Whibley family (father named Edwin) moved to Thong on 30/4/17, moving from Luton, Chatham. The family seems to have left Shorne again in 1918.**

- **(Another A Whibley (not Alfred V, as recorded on the memorial), born at Cliffe, was killed in the War)**

Willard, Charles John

- Obituary in 'Reporter' lists him in error as **Wellard**
- Petty Officer Stoker 294364, HMS Vanguard
- Killed at Scapa Flow when ship blew up, 9 July 1917 (one of 804 killed), aged 37 (Book of Remembrance in church incorrectly says **19** July 1917)
- Born Shorne, January 1881
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 694, 9 January 1888)
- Resided at 'The Ridgeway' in 1888.
- Son of John and Hannah Willard of Shorne, and husband of Catherine Willard of Denmark House (later of Overblow), Shorne.
- Panel 23, Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent (no known grave)





Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 21 July 1917, p5.

‘The loss of the Dreadnought “Vanguard,” by being blown up while at anchor on the night of the 9th July, as a result of an internal explosion, has laid a heavy hand on the county, and has included Gravesend and district, from which there were several men on board. Among those notified are the following:-

Stoker Petty Officer Charles John Wellard (*sic*), who is the husband of Mrs Wellard, of Denmark House, Shorne. The deceased has been in the Navy for 18 years, and was born and educated in Shorne. He had been expected home on leave last Saturday. Deceased leaves his wife and one daughter to mourn their loss.’

1939-45 WAR CASUALTIES LISTED ON THE MEMORIAL

Colenutt, Hubert James

- Spelt Colenut in error in the Book of Remembrance
- Flight Lieutenant 150042, 149 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
- Born Shorne, 23 May 1922
- Educated at Shorne school (admission number 1997, 8 June 1927)
- Resided at 'Coleworth Cottage', Shorne in 1927
- Died Sunday 6 February 1944, aged 21
- Son of Percy and Alice Colenutt of Shorne
- Collective grave at Cussy-les-Forges Cemetery, Yonne, France

Levett, Arthur Charles

- Known as 'Sonny'
- Gunner 1776416, 60th HAA Regiment (4th London) Royal Artillery
- Born 18 September 1920 at Mill Hill, Shoreham, Kent
- Resident of Shorne (Chalk Pit Cottages, Lower Shorne) at time of death
- Died Friday 11 June 1943, aged 23
- Son of Arthur and Alice Levett of Heversham, Kent (moved there from Shorne in 1941)
- Husband of Dorothy (nee Galloway) and father of Elizabeth
- Grave in St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham Churchyard
- Name on both Shorne and Shoreham War Memorials



Obituary in Kent Messenger, (date?)

‘The funeral took place, at Shoreham Parish Church, on Thursday last week, of Gnr. Arthur Charles Levett, of the Royal Artillery, aged 23, who was killed on active service, on June 11th, as reported in last week’s “Kent Messenger.”

Gnr. Levett was a native of Shoreham, where he lived until eight years ago, and was well-known in the village and in the Church, where he attended as a choir boy. He had been in the Forces two years and leaves a widow and baby, at Early Lands Cottages, Crockham Hill, Edenbridge.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Shoreham....’

McCaul, James Charles

- Lance Corporal 7011358, 2nd Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles
- Died in England of wounds received at Dunkirk, Wednesday 19 June 1940, aged 28
- Resident of 46 Thong Lane, Gravesend (Shorne Parish)
- Son of James Charles and Mary McCaul and husband of Gwen (nee Burnidge) of Gravesend (later of Ash Vale, Surrey). 3 children
- Grave in Shorne Churchyard



Obituary in the Gravesend Reporter, 29 June 1940, p5

‘Lance-Corporal James Charles M’Caul (*sic*) of 46 Thong-lane, Gravesend, the first military victim to be laid to rest in the Churchyard of Shorne Parish Church, was accorded a military funeral on Saturday. He died of wounds in a military hospital in England on June 19th. He was wounded at Dunkirk.

He had served for seven years with the Royal Ulster Rifles and for three years on the Reserve. He was 28 years of age. Six years ago he married Miss Gwen Burnidge of Gravesend. They had three children.

His last request was that his Regimental badges and numerals should be saved and given to his sons.

The funeral service was conducted by the Vicar of Shorne (the Rev. E.J. Palmer) and the Rev H.J. Powell (Rector of Milton and Chaplain to the Forces). The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was mounted on an ambulance, no gun carriage being available. A party from the Royal Engineers acted as bearers and others formed a firing party. Buglers sounded Last Post and Reveille.

WAR GRAVES IN SHORNE CHURCHYARD NOT NAMED ON THE MEMORIAL

1914-18

Bennett, Thomas A

- Serjeant M/32520, Royal Army Service Corps
- Born Shorne, 14 June 1894
- Attended Shorne school (admission number 1080, 10 April 1899)
- Lived on 'The Ridgeway' in 1899
- Died Saturday 23 October 1920, aged 26
- Son of Mr Christopher Bennett, Dairy Cottage, Shorne
- Grave in Shorne Churchyard

Noble, Frank

- Private SE/22545, Royal Army Veterinary Corps
- Born Faversham
- Enlisted Gravesend on Monday 2 October 1916
- Died 'suddenly' Friday 6 October 1916, aged 29
- Grave in Shorne Churchyard

Obituary in the Gravesend Reporter, 14 October 1916, p1

'NOBLE – Private Frank Noble, Army Veterinary Corps, residing at the Queen's Head, Wakefield-street, Gravesend, joined up Monday, October 2nd, and died suddenly on October 6th, aged 29 years.'

1939-45

Brown, Peter John

- Cadet Pilot 1261967, 47 Course, No.3 Service Flying Training School, Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve)
- Died in accident 1 June 1941, aged 20
- Son of Mr and Mrs H Brown of Shorne
- Grave in Shorne Churchyard



Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 14 June 1941, p3

‘An old-established Shorne family suffered a sad loss recently when Cadet Peter John Brown, R.A.F., aged 20, was killed in an accident. Mr. Brown, who would shortly have become of age, was completing his training as a pilot, having just won his wings, and would very shortly have taken his commission.

The funeral took place on Thursday, and by special request was very quiet, and attended only by relatives and closest friends. The deceased was taken from Ifield Place, where he had been christened, and laid in the village Churchyard. The ceremony was very simple, the Rev. E.J. Palmer officiating. The coffin was decorated with a Union jack, on which lay the deceased’s wings and a spray of irises, together with a card inscribed, “From Joan – with my love,” which was buried with him.’

OTHERS BORN IN SHORNE BUT NOT ON WAR MEMORIAL

1914-1918

Cooper, Albert George

- Corporal G/3042, 6th Battalion, Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment
- Born Shorne
- Resided in 'The Street'
- Enlisted Chatham
- Killed in action, Flanders, 3 May 1915

Farmer, George

- Private G/12956, 6th Battalion, Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment
- Born Shorne
- Enlisted Dartford
- Resident of Swanscombe
- Killed in action, Flanders, 7 October 1916

Gouge, Ernest

- Rifleman 10/2771, 11th Battalion Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)
- Born Shorne
- Enlisted Gravesend
- Resident of Northfleet
- Son of either George or Albert Gouge of Lower Shorne. Both removed in 1901
- Died of wounds, Flanders, 12 April 1918

Steel, James

- Gunner 82748, Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery
- Born Shorne
- Enlisted Woolwich
- Son of James Steel of Lower Shorne. Removed in 1894
- Died of wounds, Salonika, 28 April 1917

1939-45

Paget, Verdun William

- Australian Army
- Born Shorne
- Son of Squadron Leader C.H. and Mrs Paget, London Road, Shorne
- Attended Higham Elementary School and Gravesend Technical School
- Killed by enemy aircraft, ? 1943, aged 27

Obituary in Gravesend Reporter, 5 June 1943, p5

‘Squadron Leader C.H. and Mrs Paget, of London-road, Shorne, have just received the sad news of the death of their eldest son Verdun William Paget while serving in the Australian Army. “Nat,” as he was popularly known in the village, attended Higham School under Mr Steadman and at about the age of 12 years went to the Gravesend Technical School and took the engineering course. On leaving school he was employed by Messrs. Short Bros. of Rochester. Later he emigrated to Australia, where he was engaged in an aircraft factory. It was there that he met his wife, a Tasmanian. Later he answered the “call to arms” and joined the Australian Army. Full particulars of his death are not to hand but it is known that he was killed by enemy aircraft at the age of 27 years. In Australia he is mourned by his wife and three young children, a boy and twin girls; at home his father, Squadron Leader Paget, R.A.F., mother, brother Will, who is serving in the Royal Navy, and sister Lettie in an aircraft factory, are left to mourn his loss. “Nat” was a keen footballer and won among other trophies three Humphrey Cup medals, and often played with his father for Shorne F.C.’

CHRONOLOGY

15 October 1914	-	John Robert Anderson
28 August 1915	-	Edward Caller
13 October 1915	-	William George Forster
16 March 1916	-	Frederick Baker
30 June 1916	-	Alfred Victor Whibley
15 September 1916	-	Herbert Edward Pink
6 October 1916	-	Frank Noble
7 October 1916	-	George Farmer
12 October 1916	-	William Charles Accleton
13 November 1916	-	William Isaac Botting
9 April 1917	-	Stanley William Ridgnell Hollands
28 April 1917	-	James Steel
7 July 1917	-	John Griffin
9 July 1917	-	Charles John Willard
16 August 1917	-	Benjamin James Vitler
29 September 1917	-	Arthur Sidney Welch
27 November 1917	-	Charles Patching
5 December 1917	-	James Charles Bridge
12 March 1918	-	Frank W Bromley
25 March 1918	-	William Grant
12 April 1918	-	Ernest Gouge
5 or 8 July 1918	-	John Christopher Hollands
27 September 1918	-	Albert Edward Giggins (Jenkins)
19 November 1918	-	Alfred G Caller
10 December 1918	-	John H Mundy
23 October 1920	-	Thomas A Bennett
19 June 1940	-	James Charles McCaul
1 June 1941	-	Peter John Brown
11 June 1943	-	Arthur Charles Levett
6 February 1944	-	Hubert J Colenutt

- Those names listed in bold type are recorded on the War Memorial, those in plain type are not.

I would like to thank all those people of Shorne, past and present, who have provided material for this book, particularly **Andy Agg, Gwen Austin, Margaret Carlow, Sylvia Newton, Dawn Norman and Elsie Willsher.**

I would especially like to thank **Andrew Marshall**, whose 'Invicta Project' is researching all the War Memorials in North West Kent. Andrew contributed greatly to this publication in terms of research, photographs and time.

This booklet is not meant to be complete. If anybody reading it is able to provide additional information or photographs (which can of course be copied and returned) of any of the people mentioned within it (or not, but who should have been), please let me know so that additional material can be added in for future printings.

Ian Craig

Bushy Lees Farmhouse, Pear Tree Lane, Shorne DA12 3JX

October 2003

Any proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be given to the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Shorne