

St Peter & St Paul's Church Appledore WW1 WAR MEMORIAL

There are two World War 1 memorials in Appledore. One, which commemorates all those from Appledore who died, is to be found in St Peter & St Pauls Parish Church. The other which is to be found in the Methodist Church, is the "School" memorial commemorating all those from Appledore school, those who fought and came home, as well as those who died.

This booklet includes all those on the St Peter & St Paul's memorial.

When the memorial was erected the War would have been fresh in the minds of villagers. Where, when and how men died would have been known to families and others. So, a simple list of the men plus the units in which they served and died sufficed.

With the passage of time such local memories have been generally lost so the memorial is indeed simply a list of names.

Modern research however enables a deeper understanding of where and how men died. This booklet gives some details where known, of the actions in which men died and where they are buried or where commemorated if they have no known grave.

One hundred years ago, Appledore was a relatively isolated community. Most people earned their living in one way or another on the land or supporting those who did. Families had lived here for many generations and apart from one or two on the memorial, had grown up here and attended the local school together on the Heath. It would have been a close community.

Some of the family names on the memorial are still well known in the village and their descendants still live here.

Those named on the memorial died not only on the Western Front, but as far away as Mesopotamia. Some died in battle, some in accidents, some of wounds, some of disease. It is perhaps hard for us to now imagine the impact that these deaths had on families and the community. The enclosed war biographies can help us understand more fully the impact the loss of these young men.

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the
morning.*

We will remember them.



HE whom this scroll commemorates
was numbered among those who,
at the call of King and Country, left all
that was dear to them, endured hardness,
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and self-sacrifice, giving up their own
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that his name be not forgotten.

**72768, Gunner
Walter Harry APPS**

Royal Horse Artillery
and
Royal Field Artillery

Died of illness as a POW
Mesopotamia
04-05-1917

Buried: Basra War Cemetery, IRAQ

Born: ASHFORD, Enlisted: CHATHAM

Walter Harry Apps

Walter Apps was born in the Ashford area and his connection with Appledore is uncertain although it seems probable that he lived in Appledore when he joined the army. There is confusion over his age. The age given in its records by the Imperial War Graves Commission (now CWGC) was derived usually from an enquiry form sent to his next of kin which asked for his address, age and other information.

His record with CWGC has no address so one can only assume that the form was never completed and returned, as many weren't, so the age wasn't clarified by his family. One source gives his age at death as 16. This is unlikely as it would have meant that he signed up at 14 or 15 which though possible is unlikely. Another source gives his age at death as 19.

We do know where he died which was in what was then known as Mesopotamia which is modern Iraq. The campaign there was harsh and many soldiers died of disease and illness. Walter's records show that he died from heart failure. Today heart failure in someone so young would be unusual. However, many of the men suffered from dysentery and cholera, these when left untreated can lead to extreme dehydration which can lead to heart failure.

He is buried in Basra on the coast of Iraq, which was the scene of heavy fighting by the British Army during the Iraq war.



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**160415, Lance Bombardier
Simeon Percy BATES**

Royal Garrison Artillery

Died of wounds
Home, 06-05-1918 Aged 38

Buried: Appledore Churchyard

Born: APPLIEDORE, Enlisted: LYDD

Simeon Percy Bates son of Mrs. E Bates

Percy was born in Appledore the son Mrs. E Bates. His age at the time of his death was 38, he died in the Fargo Military Hospital, Larkhill, Wiltshire. Fargo Military hospital was a 1,200-bed hospital built by the RAMC late in 1914 on the site of an old Isolation Hospital for horses. It was adjacent to Fargo camp.

The records state that Percy was “accidentally killed”, it can only be assumed that he was killed in one of the many accidents that occurred in training or in daily service life. As he died in the UK his family would have been given the option of his being buried in a cemetery adjacent to the hospital or his being returned home for burial. They chose the latter and Percy now lies in Appledore churchyard.



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**G/10448, Lance Corporal
William BOURNE**

1st Battalion, Queen's
(Royal West Surrey Regiment)

Killed in action, Somme, 02-11-1916

Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme France

Born: APPLIEDORE Enlisted: TENTERDEN

William Bourne Son of Mrs. R Bourne, The Heath Appledore

William Bourne is one of the 72,000+ names on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme commemorating the men who dying in 1916/17 have no known grave. From the Battalion War Diary, we learn that the Battalion was moving into action on the day he died 2nd November 1916, no specific casualties were reported. This is not unusual as daily losses were the norm, total deaths would be reported in the War Diary later. It is extremely rare for OR's (Other Ranks) to be reported by name.

The War Diary however describes the dreadful conditions prevailing at the end of the Somme and we can easily imagine that William was one of those who was sadly not recovered from the mud. The following is the extract from the Battalion War Diary for the day:

Guillemont

2.11.16 Orders were received that the Bn would relieve the 9th HLI on the right front thus becoming the right battalion of the British Line and joining with the 66th (French) Infantry Regt. During the morning, verbal instructions were received to the effect that the Battalion would attack BARITSKA TRENCH at a time to be fixed by the CO on the 3rd.

The Bn left Guillemont at 4:15pm and met guides at GUINCHY (sic) CORNER and arrived at Bn HQ of the 9th HLI at about 8pm.

Companies were ordered to occupy the following positions. B Coy NEW TRENCH, A Coy ANTELOPE TRENCH, D Coy GERMAN TRENCH & C Coy MUGGY TRENCH. Bn HQ was in the sunken road SW of Les BOEUFS vide attached sketch marked A. B Coy was no less than 9 hours getting into position from the time they left Bn HQ.

The trenches were in a dreadful state and men were standing in the mud and water up to well above the knee. Some found it impossible to move and had to be dug out after remaining in the mud for some hours.





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**B/201384, Rifleman
Frederick William COOPER**

13th Battalion, Rifle Brigade
(The Prince Consort's Own)

Wounded, Somme (nr. Bapaume)

Died of Wounds Rouen 01-09-1918

Buried: St Sever Cemetery Extension,
France

Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

Frederick William Cooper, Son of William Cooper of Oakhouse, Appledore Heath

There is a mistake on some of the CWGC records that give William Cooper's battalion as the 4th rather than the correct battalion which was the 13th, the 4th battalion being in Salonika at the time of his death in France in September 1918.

Following the Kaiser's Spring Offensive in March 1918 the British Army fought back in what has become known as The Final Hundred Days. The war changed from siege warfare conducted in trenches, to a war of movement when the British and the armies of France and the USA made great advances against an exhausted and under supplied German Army.

The Spring Advance had stretched German supply lines to their limits and increasing shortages of materiel and food both at home and at the front meant that the British Army, which had learned much about modern warfare in the previous four years were able to make great advances.

In August 1918, the British once again found themselves fighting on the Somme, precisely where they had fought in 1916. It was during this fighting around Bapaume that Frederick was to receive the wounds from which he died. He is buried in Rouen which indicates that he was evacuated from the battlefield to one of the twenty military hospitals situated in Rouen at that time. Presumably he shortly afterwards succumbed to his wounds.

He lies in St Sever Cemetery alongside 8646 of his comrades in arms.

from "The History of the Rifle Brigade in the War of 1914 -1918"

"In five days the 111th Brigade had covered fourteen thousand yards fighting practically all the way, and had taken over two thousand prisoners from four different divisions.....

..... During the fighting on the 25th/26th the Thirteenth Battalion took some four hundred prisoners Unfortunately, a high price was paid for these successes. Between August 21st and 26th the Thirteenth Battalion lost four officers and forty-six other ranks killed and six officers and two hundred and fifty-two other ranks wounded."



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222764, ABLE SEAMAN (RN)

Charles John Dunster

HMS "Victory"

Died 13/09/1917: Aged 34

Buried: Appledore Churchyard.

Born: APPLEDORE

**Charles John Dunster, Son of Frederick Thomas &
Elizabeth Dunster, 1 New Rents Appledore**

Husband of Elizabeth Dunster

Charles John Dunster is listed as being a member of HMS Victory. During the war HMS Victory was a training establishment. It was situated in Portsmouth but also had sub depots around the country.

We have little clue as to the cause of Charles' death. It is however likely that he died at home in Appledore. The record of probate does not give an alternative place of death and the death was registered in Tenterden.

His will left a total of £213 6s 6d to his widow Elizabeth Dunster and William Dapson, Farmer.



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G/9626, PRIVATE
George DUNSTER
7th Battalion., Buffs
(East Kent Regiment)

Died of wounds, Etaples France 07-03-1917: Aged 38

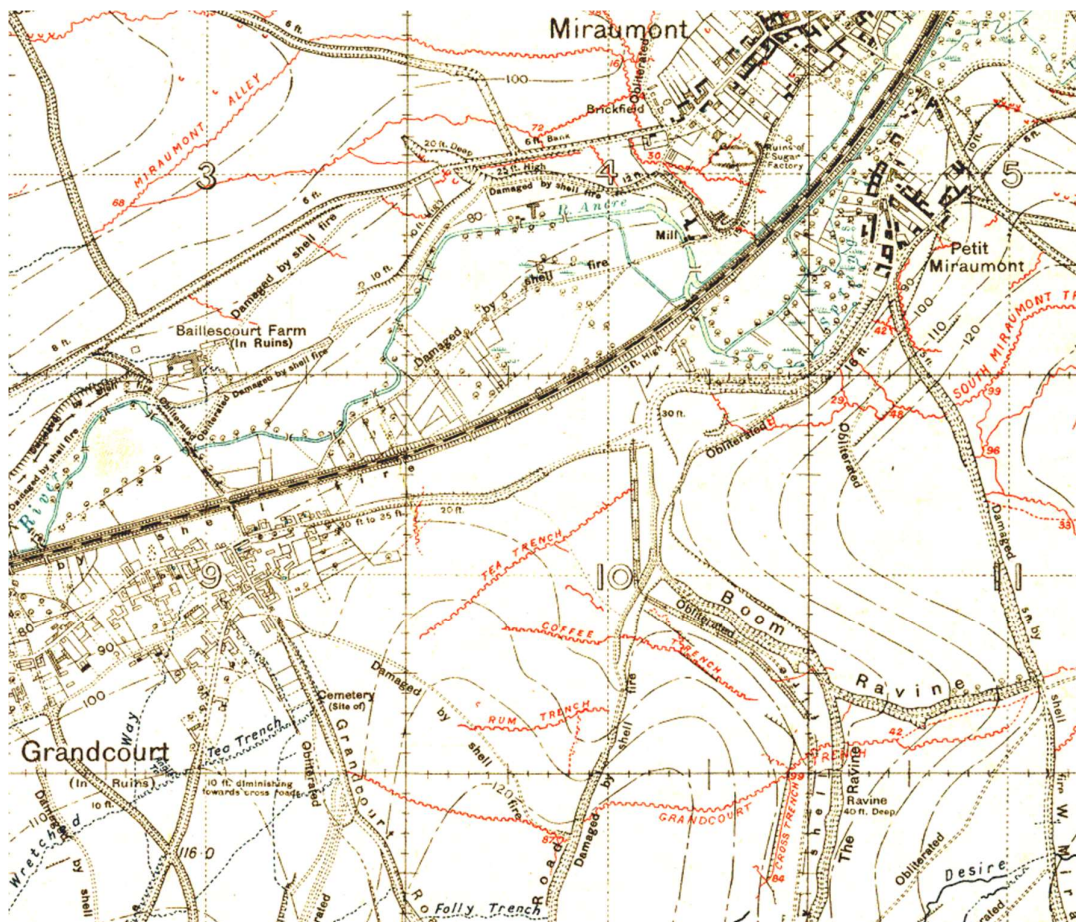
Buried Etaples Military Cemetery France

Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

Son of Frederick Thomas & Elizabeth Dunster, 1 New Rents Appledore

It is generally understood that the Battle of the Somme concluded in November 1916. However in reality the fighting started up again early in 1917. An action took place at Boom Ravine near Miraumont in February 1917.

The 7th Buffs were involved in this attack on 23rd, 24th and 25th February. The battalion casualties in this, one of the last battles of The Somme in 1916/17, were reported as 6 OR's Killed and 28 OR's wounded. From the date of death of George Dunster it is highly likely he was one of the wounded. He would have been moved back firstly to the Regimental Aid Post near the front. From there he would have been moved to a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS), possibly at Albert where there were several such CCS. From there the severity of his injuries must have meant transfer to the vast Base Hospital at Etaples near Le Touquet on the coast. George was unlucky, of those wounded who got as far as a CCS only 7% would die. This is an amazing statistic in an age before antibiotics and is an indication of the skill and abilities of the Royal Army Medical Corps.



February 1917 Trench Map showing Boom Ravine



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40228, Private

John DUNSTER

11th Battalion, South Wales Borderers

Killed in Action, Nr Langemarck, Belgium,
23-08-1917, aged 26

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial,
Belgium

Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

Son of John & Mary Dunster, of Black Cottages, Appledore

On 24th August 1917 11th Battalion South Wales Borderers were fighting in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) near Langemark just outside Ypres and occupying an area near Alouette Farm

From the War Diary:

1am: Fire observed about TRAGIQUE FARM V13c 5.3 which lasted several hours.

Dawn: Our front line Coys withdrew about 400yards Behind their line to prepare for Heavy Artillery Bombardment A patrol from our left Coy reported no sign of enemy patrols or working parties, but that the enemy had a post at Approx. U23d 92.60

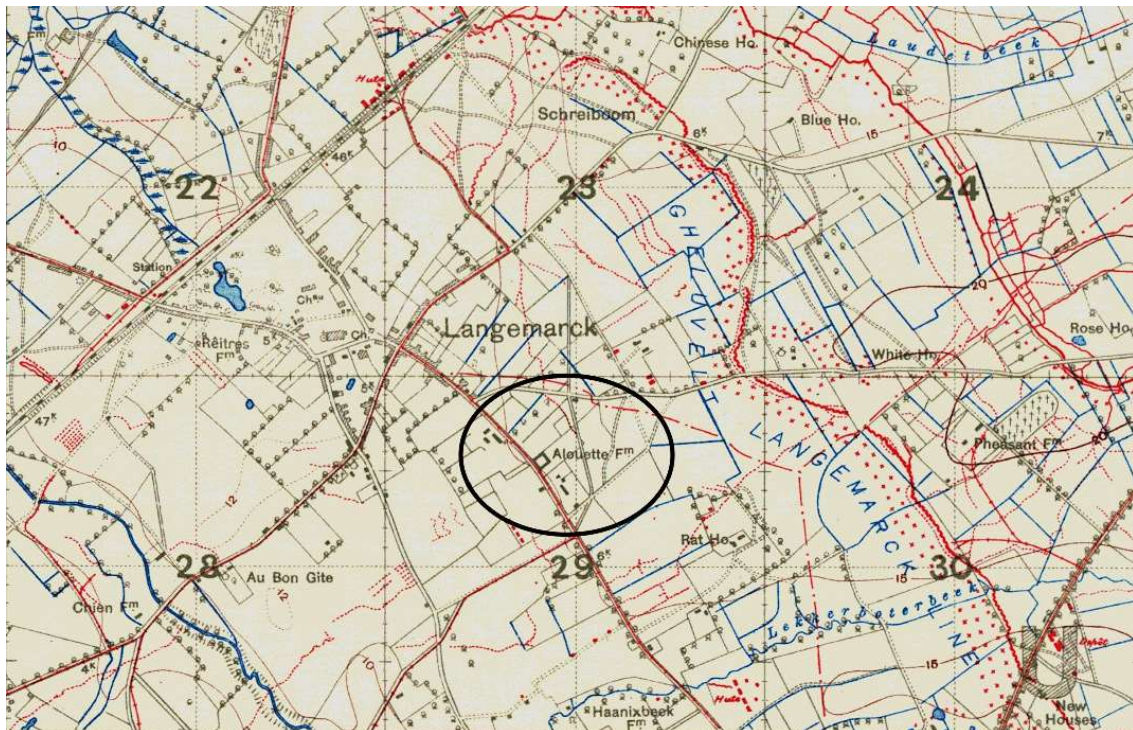
7pm: Enemy plane flying low driven off by anti-aircraft fire

9:25pm: Front line re-occupied by 2 front Coys

11pm: Artillery on both sides very active

Night: Enemy machine guns appeared to be firing from U23d 80.80

Note: No mention is made of casualties it can only be assumed that John Dunster was killed at some point by artillery or machine gun fire during this period and that his body was subsequently lost.





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L/9876, PRIVATE
Percy Albert EDWARDS

2nd Battalion., Buffs
(East Kent Regiment)

Killed in action, Loos, 28-09-1915

Commemorated on the LOOS MEMORIAL, DUD CORNER, LOOS, FRANCE

Born: BRENZETT Enlisted: CANTERBURY

Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Edwards of Brenzett Green

The SECOND BATTALION – The BUFFS AT LOOS

On the 27th September 1915, the battalion was at Vermelles and the fighting strength is recorded as being 26 Officers & 957 OR's. In the afternoon of that day the battalion was ordered to establish themselves in the captured German stronghold of the Hohenzollern Redoubt. There was considerable confusion during this process as the communication trenches were congested, so the Buffs went over the top where they were subject to heavy shelling. On arrival, they engaged some enemy, which remained and "accounted for a score". Throughout the evening and the night, the fighting continued with the Buffs "bombers were actively engaged". During the night, the wounded were moved from the trenches with great difficulty owing to the rain, congestion and the distance to the aid post.

On the following morning orders were received for an attack on The Dump & Fosse 8 to commence at 5am. This was later changed to 9:30am. British artillery commenced firing at 9:15 am. Those men involved in the attack went forward and suffered many casualties from shellfire. Once again the communication trenches were blocked by dead and wounded and troops waiting for relief. The enemy were found to be in some trenches which had previously believed to have been taken. Eventually B & C companies attacked across open ground. They were met with machine gun fire from 11 machine guns situated on both flanks (Miners cottages and Slag Alley) and shell and rifle fire. But B & C companies finally gained the edge of The Dump with "every-man cheering" and clambered up the crumbling slopes which were 30' high.

The dump was then heavily shelled both by German and British fire. The Buffs crossed the top of The Dump and attempted to reach the enemy at the foot on the other side. It was a hopeless attack and those who attempted it became casualties either from rifle or grenade. The companies reformed but they left 100 men killed or wounded on The Dump.

The Germans then made a strong counter attack and using bombs and machine gun fire – this resulted in a gap between the Middlesex and the Buffs. Owing to the chaotic conditions and lack of bombs (hand grenades) the British found it hard to check the attack. However eventually bombs were passed up from adjacent units. Barricades were placed across the trenches and prolonged bombing "matches" took place. Eventually A company was able to push the enemy back and out of Slag Alley when 50 of the enemy were "accounted for". However, owing to heavy shelling A company was forced to withdraw and erect barricades to hold their ground.

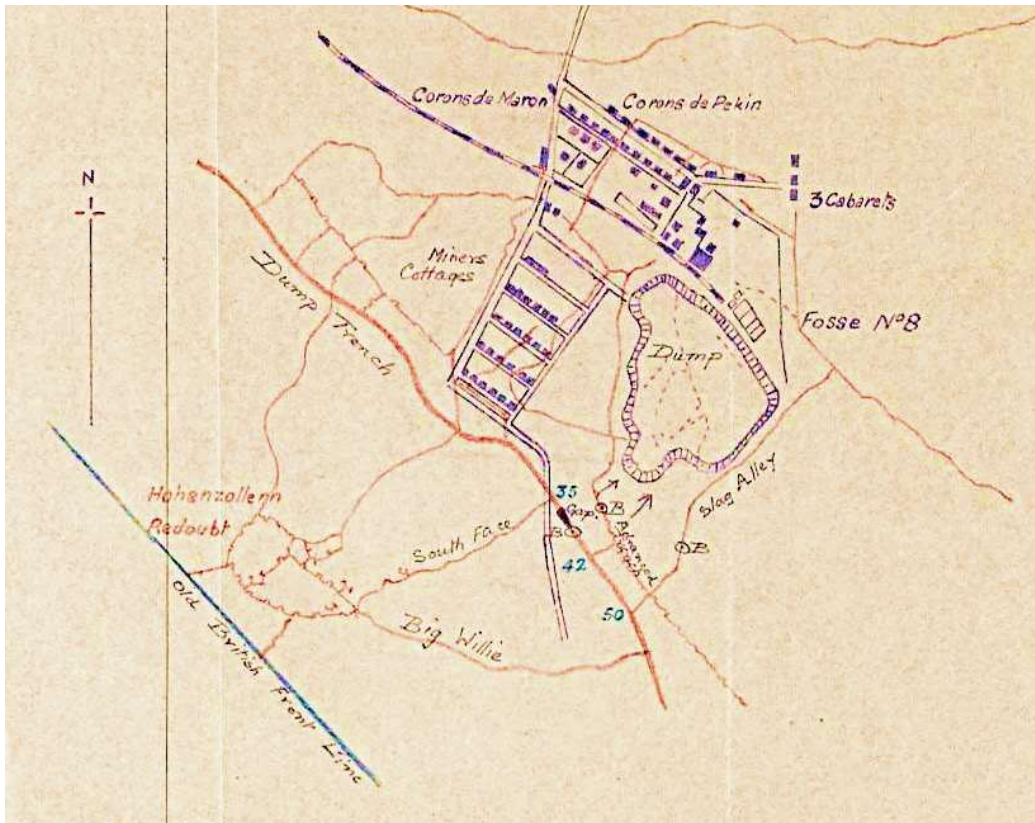
Fierce fighting then took place in Dump Trench (point 35). Under the command of 2nd Lt W T Williams the enemy were then held at bay for 17 ½ hours. The battalion CO Lt Col C A Worthington and 2nd Lt T Pennington were killed by the same bullet. Shortly after this the CO of the Middlesex Col Neale was killed and Major Beevor of the Buffs was in command.

During the night, the Germans continually bombed the remaining troops. Nearly all the Buffs bombers were killed or wounded and bombers had to be borrowed from other regiments. The incessant rain meant that the fuses of grenades couldn't be lit easily and the only way was to use cigarettes which were kept continually alight. There was no food or water available and there were continuing problems in removing the wounded. Messages were sent to the rear requesting assistance. After two messengers were killed eventually a message arrived that the Buffs were to

be relieved by the Yorks & Lancs and that the Buffs were to make their way to Big Willie trench. (Bottom middle of the map). Before the relief could be completed the bombs finally ran out. The Germans gained ground at this juncture, but the Yorks & Lancs, by leaping out of the trenches could hold them, but some ground was lost.

Some officers and men were taken captive. Eventually the remaining Buffs reached the old front line via Big Willie after a considerable struggle. From there they could provide covering fire to the units now in front of them.

On Sept 30th, the battalion remained in the old front line under continual shell fire. At midnight, the battalion was finally relieved and marched to Annequin.



The Dump & Surrounds

Casualties:

Officers Killed: 6
Officers Missing: 3
Officers Wounded: 6

OR's Killed: 57
OR's Wounded: 168
OR's Missing: 133
Total Casualties: 373

Thus a third of the attacking battalion became casualties amongst them Percy Albert EDWARDS.

Most these believed to have been killed or wounded on the dump.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today."

John Maxwell Edmonds (The Kohima Epitaph 1944)





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**195261, Sapper
George Edward FLISHER**

Corps of Royal Engineers

Died of pneumonia, Nr Amiens, France,

18-07-1918 aged 31

Buried Pernois Military Cemetery Nr Amiens, France

Born: IVYCHURCH Enlisted: CHATHAM

Son of George John and Matilda Flisher of the Railway Hotel, Appledore,
husband of Alice Mary Flisher of Bickley and father of Margaret Mary
Flisher.

From De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour:

FLISHER, GEORGE EDWARD, Sapper, No 195261, Signal Section, Royal Engineers, only son of George John Flisher, of the Railway Hotel, Appledore, Kent by his wife, Matilda, daughter of Richard Cooke: born Ivychurch, Kent 20th May 1887; educated Rye Grammar School; was a Telegraphist; enlisted in the RE 17th August 1916; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from March 1917, and died at No 41 Casualty Clearing Station 18th July 1918 of double pneumonia contracted whilst on active service. Buried in the British Cemetery Pernois, Nr Amiens. He married at Exeter 24th November 1913, Alice Mary 3rd Daughter of George Sullock and had a daughter Margaret Mary born 27th June 1916.

From Probate Register 1918

FLISHER George Edward of 83 Tylney Road Bickley Kent. Sapper RE died 18th July 1918 at 41 Casualty Clearing Station, France. Probate London 26th November to Alice Mary Flisher £332. 11s 4d

**Painting of 41st Casualty Clearing Station in
1918 by John Singer Sargeant in the collection of the IWM**





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**G/23226, PRIVATE
Frederick William FOWLE**

18th Battalion., Duke of Cambridge's Own
(Middlesex Regiment)

Killed in action, Near Meteren, Belgium
16-04-1918 Aged 25

Commemorated on Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

Born: APPLIEDORE Enlisted: CANTERBURY

**Private G/23226 Frederick William Fowle Son of Albert & Sarah Fowle,
Curt Lodge Road, Appledore**

The Battle of the Lys was fought between 7th and 29th April 1918 it was part of the German Spring Offensive, a last-ditch effort to split the allies before the USA fully joined the war. The Germans attempted at Ypres to drive a wedge between the British First and Second Armies and drive through to the English Channel. The attacks occurred right down the British lines and on 11th April Sir Douglas Haig issued his "Backs t the Wall" order. In which he said

"There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment."

The 18th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment were the pioneer battalion of the 33rd Division. They were labourers who carried rifles. In the normal course of events they would be employed to dig trenches, build roads and suchlike. But in these extreme circumstances they set to to fight a defensive rear-guard action. The war diary for this period gives some impression of the hard fighting.

War Diary Meteren 15th & 16th April 1918

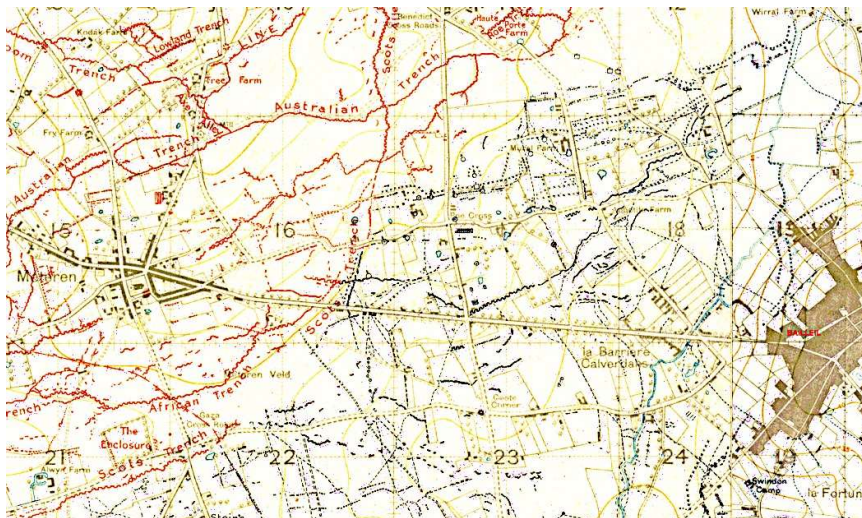
15th April 1918 rested during the day, except 3 platoon north of main BAILLEUL Road.

5pm Enemy gained some high ground N of BAILLEUL. Manned METEREN – ST JANS CAPPEL switch line with 5th Tank Batt (?) 5th Tank batt (?) held front lines with Lewis Guns. Battalion disposed in depth behind. The switch was believed to be a support line. 6 OR casualties. Wounded.

16th April Early in morning NZ Rifles were ordered to withdraw through switch line. Right Flank switch line fell back with them. Enemy gained a footing in METEREN. An attempt was made to check by the Right Coy Commander which was unsuccessful.

2nd Lieut Bradbury killed by shellfire. 2nd Lieut Boreham killed by rifle fire. 41 OR casualties. 6 killed, 35 wounded, 5 of whom remained at duty.

Frederick Fowle was one of the six OR's killed that day.



**Area in
which
Frederick
Fowle was
killed**



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T4/059162, Driver

T W GILL

208th Company Royal Army Service
Corps

Died: Salonika: 14/12/1918

Buried: Mikra British Cemetery,
Kalamaria, (Thessaloniki}
Greece

Born: ASHFORD, Enlisted: CHATHAM

TW Gill Son of William Gill of Station Road, Appledore

The war in Salonika is often described as the forgotten war. But by 1917 a multinational Allied force numbering 500,000 troops faced the Bulgarian Army and German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish units, totalling 300,000 men. The front line stretched from Albania to the mouth of the River Struma in Greece.

By March 1917 the British Salonika Force held 90 miles of this front.

Apart from some short offensives the war was one of static intermittent trench war which continued until autumn 1918. Living conditions for soldiers on both sides were harsh. Winter and summer brought extremes of climate and disease - especially malaria - caused many more casualties than fighting.

208 Coy Army Service Corps was formed on 14th December 1914 as 23rd Reserve Park (Horse Transport) a UK based unit; it then deployed to Salonika as 12th Auxiliary Horse Transport Coy. It was part of an ASC organisation that supported some 90,000 British troops and 25,000 animals in Salonika.

TW Gill embarked for Salonika on 27th March 1915 so had served three and a half years in this harsh environment. He died in December 1918, well after the Armistice, probably of disease which killed 10,000's of men in this theatre.

TW Gill is buried in Thessaloniki, the town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals.



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**G/3068, PRIVATE
George HAMMOND**

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

Killed in action, Somme, 11-08-1916

Buried: Peronne Road Cemetery,
Maricourt, FRANCE

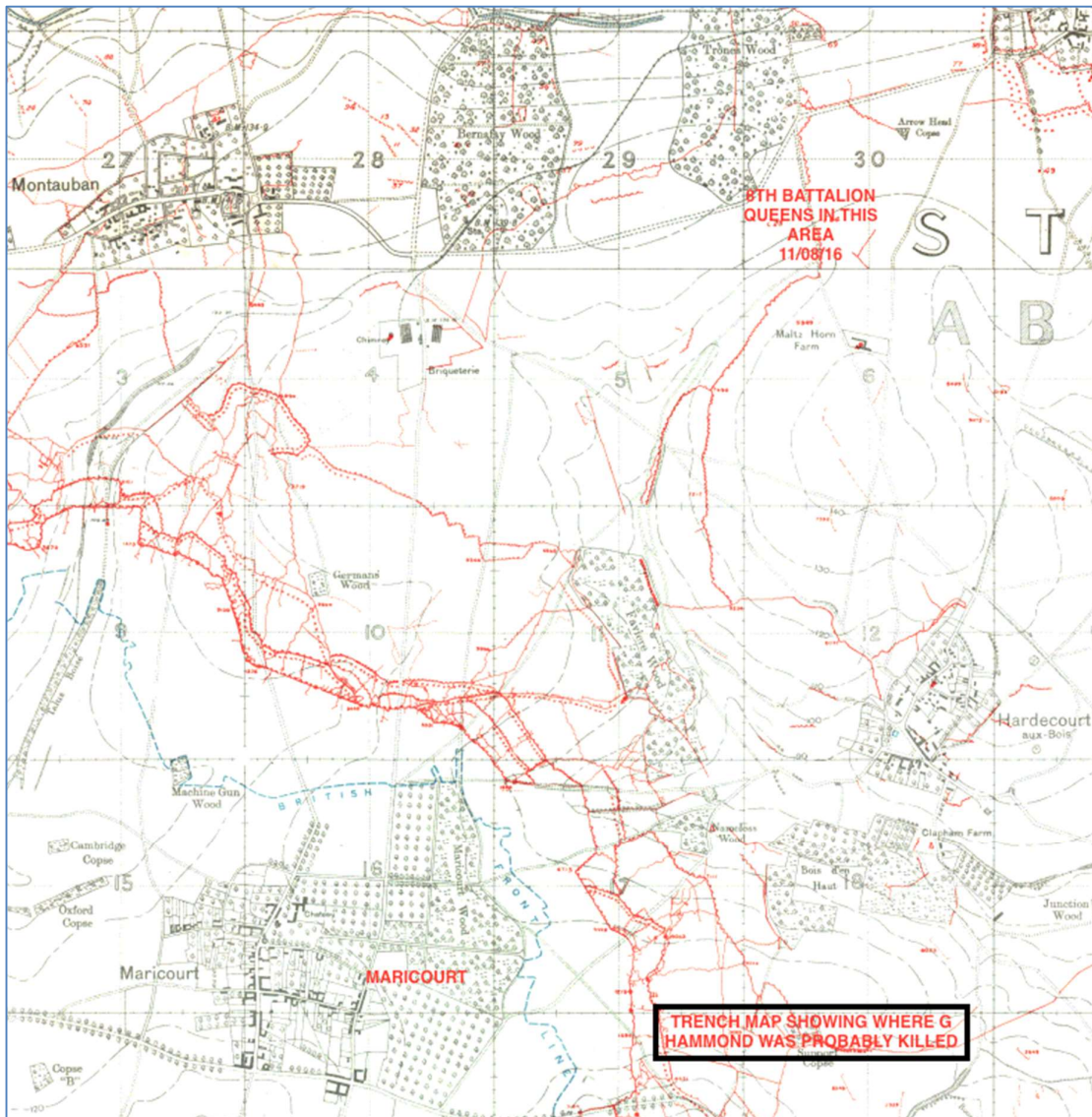
Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

George Hammond

8th battalion Queens moved into trenches on the Somme on 11th August 1916. They were situated to the left of the French who were attacking Angle Wood (nr Trones Wood). 8th Queen's were detailed to provide a digging party under Major HJC Piers to reinforce a trench adjoining a strong point. They were under heavy bombardment.

No deaths were reported however that is not unusual as a report for the period would be completed simply reporting "X OR"s Killed" (OR = Other Rank).

The position they were in would indicate that this is where Hammond was killed as the cemetery in which he is buried is on the main Albert – Peronne Road, a mile or so behind the lines.





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**76479, GUNNER
William John HYDER**

Royal Garrison Artillery: 147th Siege Battalion

Killed in action, France
07-07-1917 Aged 31

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France

Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

William John Hyder: Son of John Edward & Sarah Hyder; 2 West End Cottage, Appledore

We know nothing about the circumstances of William Hyder's death except that he was Killed in Action somewhere in the vicinity of Arras and that he has no known grave. The date of his death would indicate that he was killed during the Battle of the Scarpe.

William enlisted in Ashford on 11th December 1915 aged 29 years. His occupation on his attestation form is Farm Labourer.

In early 1917 he spent several spells in hospital including a spell in Wimereux with mumps. After these episodes, he eventually found himself attached to 143rd Siege Battery.

Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. Armaments included were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers.

Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, dumps, store, roads and railways behind enemy lines.



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G/591, PRIVATE

Douglas Claude Allen JOHNSON

6th Battalion., Buffs

(East Kent Regiment)

Killed in action, Loos,
13-10-1915 Aged 21

Commemorated: Loos Memorial, Dud
Corner, Loos, France

Born: APPLIEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

Douglas Claude Allen Johnson Son of George and Elenor Johnson, of
Veness(*Venus?) House, Appledore, Kent.

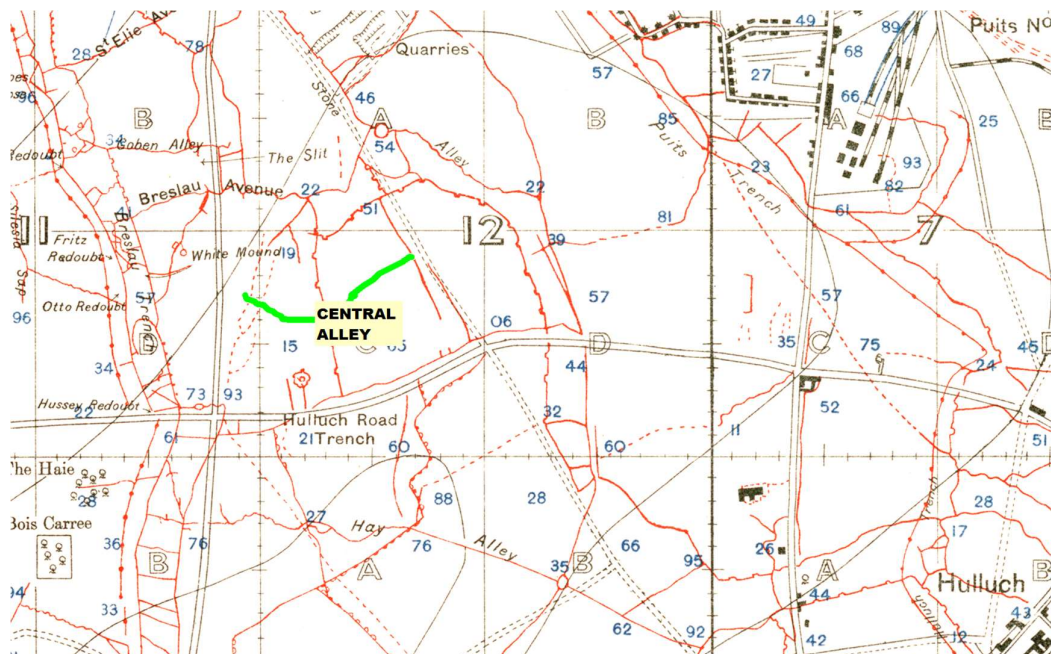
The 6th Battalion East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)
War Diary:

13/10/16: Trenches : At 10:45 am the coys. Moved from their positions and took up the following in the trenches N. of CENTRE ALLEY
At 12 noon, the artillery began their bombardment. The enemy replied with some effect on our trenches CENTRE ALLEY suffering some damage. At 1pm a smoke cloud was created along the line, the portion on our front line being made by the E Surrey Regt. By about 2pm all the smoke had cleared. At 2:15 pm the order was given to charge. A & C coys. went in one line, with D coy a few yards behind. The men were met with a terrific fire, machine guns on three sides, while the Germans were lying on their parapets giving rifle fire. The three Coys. were practically wiped out. It was very difficult to get any information at Battn. HQ as all the wires were broken. At 5pm B Coy were ordered up to the SFF and one coy of R. West Kent Regt to the support trench.
Major Lloyd went up to the front line. The line was as far as possible reorganised. Our casualties were ten officers viz Major Furley, Major Soames DSO, Capt Davidson, Capt Brodis, Lieut Phillimore, Lieut Marsh, 2/Lieut Jelf, 2/Lieut Lambert, 2/Lieut Bainbridge, Killed, and 2/Lieut Birkett wounded and 400 other ranks (including Sergt Burnett acting CSM A coy and CSM Glorst C Coy)
The night was fairly quiet, though some bombing took place.

On the 1st October, the strength of the battalion had been
23 Officers (44% casualties)
981 Other Ranks (41% casualties)

In reality the losses were near 75% as only 3 companies had gone into the attack

On 15th October, the strength was
15 officers (10 officers joined on 14th)
523 other ranks



**The above trench map shows Central Alley marked in green.
(It is misnamed in the diary as Centre Alley)**



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger; and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

**Private 108049
William John JOY**

**1st Battalion Machine Gun Corps
Wounded (Gas) France**

Died of Wounds: England 10.12.19

Buried: Appledore

**William John Joy only son of Ernest James & Edith Jane Joy of Rye,
Sussex**

It is not possible to be specific where William received the gas from which he was to die towards the end of 1919. However, the following account from the War Diary of the 1st Battalion Machine Gun Corps for April 30th 1918 could possibly be the occasion.

The battalion was at the time responsible for manning the defences of the LE QUESNOY – BEUVRY line.

“On the 18th the Germans made a big attack on the Divisional front at GIVENCHY. This was preceded by a very heavy bombardment. A & C Coys who were completing their night’s work in the neighbourhood of the front line were caught in the barrage & experienced great difficulty in returning to their billets. C Coy was for a time attached to the 1st SW Bords in the line and helped to repel the attack. The enemy bombardment extended to the billeting area, gas shells being plentifully used, & we suffered a number of casualties to men in the billets, our total casualties during the day being 5 killed, 18 wounded, 10 gassed, 4 missing & 2 wounded but remaining at duty. Subsequently a number of men went to hospital gassed as a result of the gas shelling during the day.”



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TF/201997, PRIVATE

Reginald Marchant

4th Battalion., Royal Sussex
Regiment

Died, At Sea, 04-05-1917 Aged
19

after the transport ship HMST
Transylvania was torpedoed off
Cape Vado

Born: FAIRLIGHT Enlisted: HASTINGS

Private Reginald James Marchant was the son of Albert & Emily Bertha Marchant of Church Farm, Fairlight Sussex.

The following eye-witness account of the sinking was written by Lieutenant Philip Murphy RAMC.

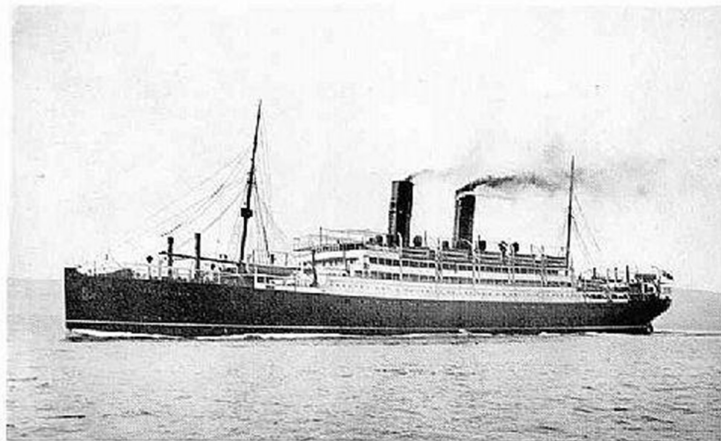
"We left this harbour on the evening of the 3rd on a very large transport having on board a living freight of roughly 3,400 souls. Everything went well until the next morning at 10am when the good ship got her first torpedo about midships.

I had the good or bad luck, just as you like to call it, to be on duty on that side & saw the cursed torpedo come towards us from about a distance of 300 yards. It appeared, to me, to come exceedingly slowly. At first I could not believe my eyes but very soon I realised that what I saw was only too real. Thus I stood for quite an appreciable time my gaze attended to the line in the blue sea by a peculiar fascination. When it did strike & explode, I felt little or no shock except for a great shower of water.

This shot unfortunately got us in the engine room, with the result that, although we were only 5 miles off shore, we came to an almost immediate stand still. It therefore came as no surprise to us when 10 mins later we got our second present from the Hun in the shape of another torpedo that just missed a destroyer that had come alongside to take men off.

The nurses and sisters (69) got off in the first boat & thank God came through without a scratch. Fortunately for everyone the good old ship did not take the final plunge for an hour & a half after being struck & to this alone is due the comparatively small loss of life"

412 Men lost their lives



HMST TRANSYLVANIA



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2/Lieutenant
Ian Arthur Millar

6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles

Died of wounds, 30-09-1916

Buried Struma Military
Cemetery, Greece

**2nd Lieutenant Ian Arthur Millar, 6th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles: Husband of
Williamina Agnes Jenkins, Forestall Hall, Appledore**

From Probate documents

Millar Ian Arthur of Forestall Hall Appledore Kent
second lieutenant 6th Royal Irish Rifles died 30th
September 1915 in Greece on active service.
Administration (with Will) London 9th March to widow
Williamina Agnes Jenkins widow. Effects £179 12s 2d

Unfortunately, we know nothing else about the events
surrounding the death of this young man.



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**G/115, Corporal.
Willie (William) MOORE**

6th Battalion., Buffs
(East Kent Regiment)

Killed in action, Monchy le Preux, France,
03-05-1917 Aged 27

Commemorated on Arras Memorial

Born: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

**Corporal G/115 Willie (William) Moore – Son of Mrs Jane Moore,
Victoria Cottage,
The Heath, Appledore**



William Moore



Mr & Mrs Jane Moore

On 3rd May, 6th battalion The Buffs took part in the attack on Monchy le Preux as part of the Battle of Arras. There had been various attacks on Monchy prior to this but the German garrison had hung on tenaciously. The War Diary is self-explanatory:

At zero hour an intense barrage opened and a creeping barrage opened at the rate of 100 yards per 3 mins. The Btn went over at the same time. The signal officer 2/Lieut Macaulay went (sic) 2 signallers & 4 orderlies went forward to establish an ADV Bt Hdqts in DEVILS Tr. No communication being possible, the party returned about 4 ;30am. 2 prisoners had already been sent down & apparently the Bt had gone forward but in the darkness it was impossible to ascertain anything definite. Owing to Snipers and LG fire it was difficult to obtain any information as to how events were proceeding during the day.

Act/Cpt McDERMOTT and Act/Capt KITCHIN became casualties early in the day (the latter dying of wounds the following day). During the day except for continuous sniping & sudden bursts of artillery fire it was fairly quiet. A hostile aeroplane was brought down by our LG fire in the afternoon. At dusk it was ascertained that the Bt had suffered severe casualties amongst officers & OR's & that the line held was practically as before.

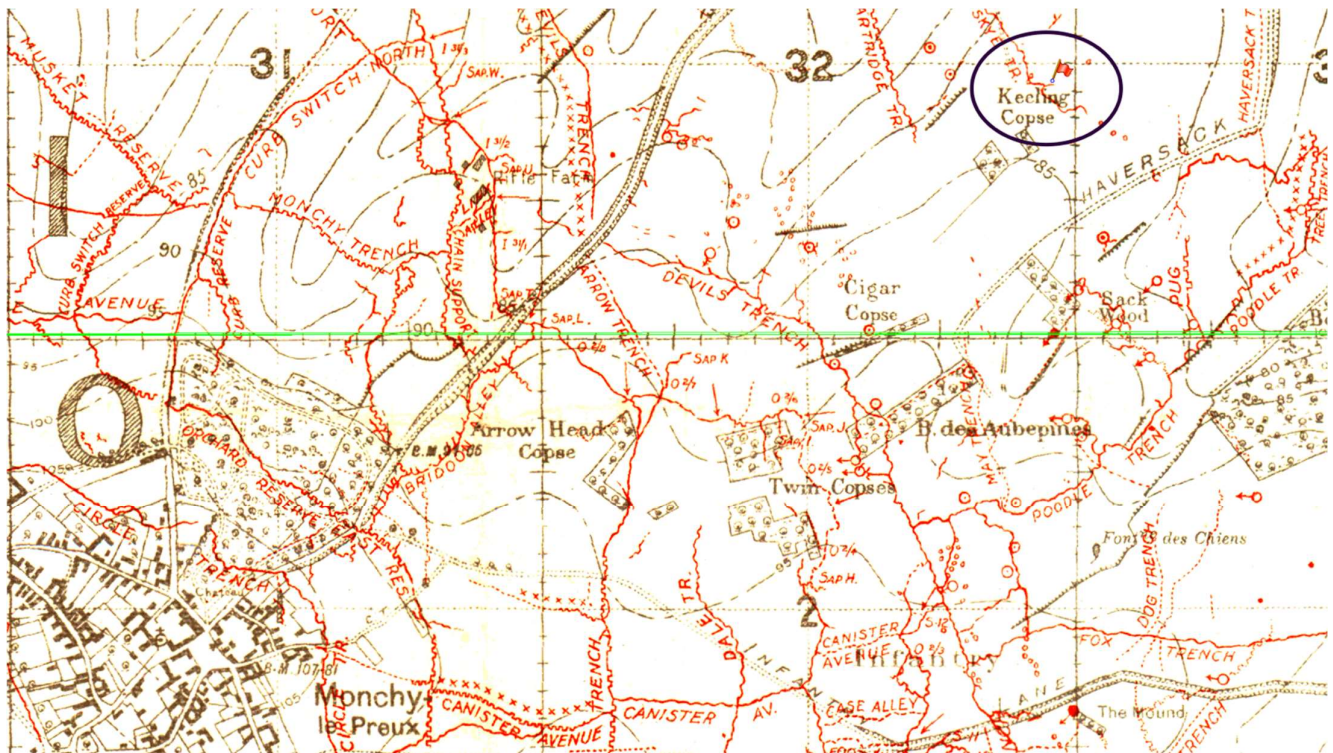
2/Lts SEAGO & SOWTER were sent for from the details camp and arrived about 10pm. These officers were sent forward to reorganise what remained of the Bt.

The attack on the flanks was unsuccessful and it was afterwards found that 2 officers - 2nd Lt COCHERANE & GUNTHER with about 40 men had worked forward in the dark & had established themselves in a position NE of KEELING COPSE with a Lewis Gun. They were able to account for a considerable number of Germans. After dark having expended every cartridge & bomb they possessed, they made their way back through 3 lines of German trenches, the two officers with 13 m3n returned finally to Btn HQ.

Cocherane and Gunther both received the MC for their gallant conduct on this occasion. Gunther was killed shortly afterwards within half a mile of Keeling Copse gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking. Cocherane lived to do good and gallant work later in the RFC.

The casualties in this terrible action were 8 Officers killed; 2 wounded; 3 missing & 25 other ranks killed, 128 wounded and 207 missing.

The Battalion was relieved on the 4th and there were only enough men left to form 2 companies, that is it had suffered a 50% casualty rate. Despite this after only 48 hours rest the remnant was sent back to the trenches where they remained for 210 days before being relieve



So, they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth and received each for his memory, praise that will never die, and with it the grandest of all sepulchres, not that in which their mortal bones are laid, but a home in the minds of men where their glory remains fresh to stir to speech or action as the occasion comes by. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men: and their story is not graven only above their earthly resting place, but lives on far away, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives.....

From the Funeral oration of Pericles (432BC)





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**G/4784, Private
Joseph John POPE**

1st Battalion., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)

Killed in action, Hill 60: Ypres, 18-04-1915 Aged 20

Commemorated on The Menin Gate - Ypres

Born: APPLIEDORE Enlisted: WHITSTABLE

Private G4784 Joseph John Pope was the son of Mr Joseph & Mrs Pope of Yew Tree House, Appledore.

He lived in Whitstable where he worked as a Grocer's Assistant

He died in the Battle for Hill 60 just outside Ypres

Hill 60 was a small manmade hill outside Ypres, it had been created by the dumping of material from a nearby railway cutting. The Battle of Hill 60 took place between 17th April and 7th May 1915. The Hill had been held by the Germans since October 1914. Considerable mining took place under the hill and these mines were exploded prior to the attack on 17th April. The hill was quickly captured but its defence, as the result of the salient it created was very costly. The Germans recaptured it on May 5th and held it until early 1917 when it was recaptured as part of the Battle of Messines.

On 16th April, the 1st Battalion RWK was warned that it was to take part in the upcoming attack. The morning of 17th was a fine day and the battalion waited in their trenches for the "off". At 7pm the mines were exploded under the hill. Then 70 guns commenced shelling the hill. The attacking company C went forward; the wire was cut and they encountered little opposition. On reaching the top of the hill they encountered 50 or 60 Germans who offered no organised resistance, many were bayoneted some escaped down the other side of the hill. Eventually 1 German officer and 17 men were captured. The battalion then dug in. At around 11.45pm the Germans attacked with "Whiz Bangs" to little effect.

At around 2am the Germans counter attacked but were repulsed. C company was relieved by the Kings Own Scottish Borderers at 4am.

The War Diary states:

"Very heavy casualties were suffered by all the battalion in this action and the removal of the wounded was a very difficult undertaking."

Unfortunately, many could not be got down at once and the Hill and communication trenches were littered with dead and dying and the sights witnessed were most disturbing"

During this fighting 6 Officers were killed, no figure is given for OR's killed or wounded.

Joseph John Pope was amongst those killed.



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**505135, Lance Corporal
Maurice Charles RICKARBY**

13th County of London Battalion
(Princess Louise's Kensington Battalion, London Regiment)

Died of gas, in or Nr Boulogne, 09-09-1918

Buried Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

Born: ABINGDON Enlisted: FINSBURY

**Lance Corporal Maurice Charles Rickarby son of Arthur & Jane Rickarby Canterbury
and husband of Gladys Rickarby, Appledore**

Maurice Rickarby is somewhat of a mystery. His records disagree. It is known that he served for a total of 33 months until his death in September 1918. It is known that during that time he served, with differing regimental numbers, in both the 5th & 13th Battalions, The London Regiment.

The burial records at the time of his death show him as being in 2nd Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps. It is of course possible that he transferred into that battalion although there is no other independent record to that effect. What is however confusing is that the regimental numbers are the same in both London Regt and KRRC, which could not be the case. The search continues!

We do know that he is buried in Terlincthun British cemetery, Wimille. This is on the northern outskirts of Boulogne. During the whole of the First World War, Boulogne and nearby Wimereux housed numerous hospitals and other medical establishments.

The cemetery at Terlincthun was begun in June 1918 when the space available for service burials in the civil cemeteries of Boulogne and Wimereux was exhausted. It was used chiefly for burials from the base hospitals. As we know Maurice was gassed we can only presume that he was admitted to one of the nearby hospitals where he succumbed.



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G/21213, PRIVATE

Norman Arthur Wadsworth

7th Battalion., Queen's

(Royal West Surrey Regiment)

Killed in action, France & Flanders, 28-09-1916 Aged 19

Born: HORNSEY Resided: APPLEDORE Enlisted: ASHFORD

**Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Wadsworth, of 16 Woodland
Way, Palmer's Green, London.**

On 28th September 7th battalion The Queens took part in an attack on the southern side of the Schwaben Redoubt slightly north of Thiepval. This strongpoint has first been attacked on 1st July by the 36th Ulster Division who held it for a few hours before being counterattacked and driven out. Various attacks took place between then and September when the Redoubt was finally taken. Even then the fighting continued with attacks and counter attacks until the position was finally consolidated in mid-October.

It was during the original attack on 28th that Private Wadsworth was reported missing and eventually he was assumed dead. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL





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**Driver 47428
George WILSON**

82nd Battery Royal Field Artillery
6th Poona Division Indian Army

Died of Dysentery (POW) Aleppo
20.10.16

Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War
Cemetery

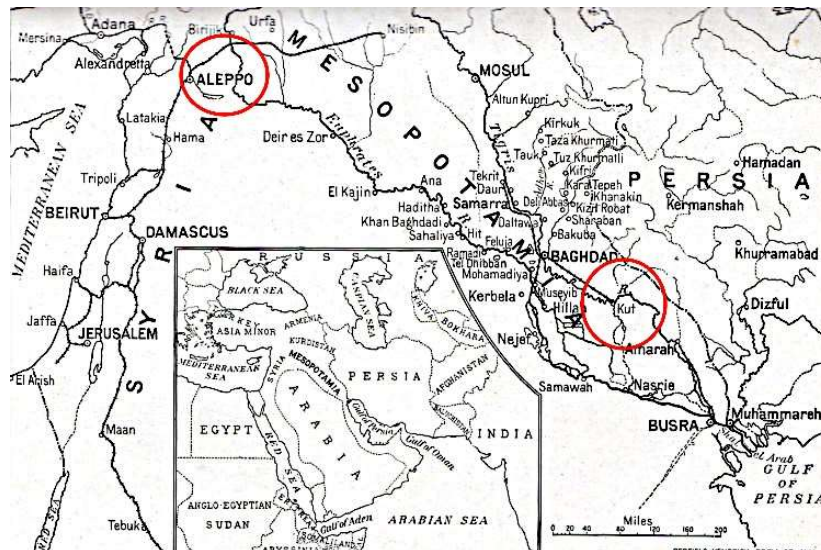
Driver 47428 George Wilson related to Rosina Bourne Appledore

George Wilson's Battery of the Royal Field Artillery was attached to the Poona Division of the Indian Army and fought in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). They were besieged at the Siege of Kut.

The Siege of Kut Al Amara, 7 December 1915 – 29 April 1916 was the besieging of an 8,000 strong British-Indian garrison in the town of Kut, 100 miles south of Baghdad, by the Ottoman (Turkish) Army. In 1915 its population was around 6,500 which meant there were over 14,000 besieged. Following the surrender of the garrison which with the civilian population had suffered greatly from starvation and disease on 29 April 1916. The survivors of the siege were marched on a "death march" to imprisonment at many died on a brutal march and many were to die subsequently in captivity.

George Wilson was apparently one of those who survived the march but was to die a few months later of dysentery. His grave was lost and he is commemorated at the Baghdad War Cemetery.

Map showing relationship of Kut to Aleppo



714573	573015	Wilson George	R. F. A. 82 Bty Dvr. 57428	20.10.16 Dysentery PofW Turkey	41 18 8 No 1 7.18	12 10	6/30 Mo. Rosina Bourne 12.10 - 12
		A. F. W. 5970 SENT DATE 18 JUL 1919		WAR G 4 U 138 Effects 12/20/1919 Transfer 12/16/19 Repd. Pa. 2635 12.7 Serial No. 2636.3			
714574							

FROM UK ARMY REGISTER OF SOLDIER'S EFFECTS

Reads

Wilson George - RFA 82 Bty Dvr 57428 - 20.10.16 Dysentery PofW Turkey - Woolwich No 1
7.18 – 41.18.8 - 27.1.19 – Mo Rosina Bourne 41.18.8

Below

12.10 – 6.1.20 - Mo Rosina Bourne – 12.10

Translation: George Wilson of the 82nd Battery Royal Field Artillery died of dysentery as a Prisoner of War. An amount of £41 18s 8d was held in No 1 Army account in Woolwich (back pay) and was paid to Rosina Bourne in 1919 a subsequent amount of £12.10s (gratuity) was paid to her in 1920



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**41637, Lance Corporal
George WIMBLE**

11th Battalion., Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

Killed in action, Somme, 07-08-1918

Commemorated on Poziere Memorial - France

Born: APPLIEDORE Enlisted: TENTERDEN

Rifleman 41637 George Wimble Son of George Wimble, of Green Fields, Appledore; husband of Florence Clara Wimble, of New Barn Farm, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent.

There is some confusion on CWGC records which shows George as coming from Appledore Devon. Other records clearly show Appledore, Kent & Greenfields is certainly an Appledore Kent address, also the fact that his wife's address is Sevenoaks concurs with this.

The War Diary for 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers August 1918 is missing from the files. There is however a typed account of an action on 6/7th August in which it may be assumed that George Wimble was killed. This attack was part of the counter offensive following the Kaiser's Spring Offensive when the Somme once again became a battlefield. Indications show that this offensive took place somewhere near Albert.

From O/C D Coy: Aug 9/1918

To the Adjutant 11th RF: For your information please: Counter Attack Night of 6th/7th August

When "D" Coy arrived in position North Hants at first reported that they knew nothing about the Scheme. A few minutes before the time I had ordered my men to be in the open, a message was received thro' 2nd/Lt Fairbank & L/Cpl E G Hudson that N. Hants were ready to go at appointed time.

O/C "B" Coy asked advice re going over as he had discovered no one on his left for 300 yards. I said I was going if N. Hants were there & I received no orders to the contrary. Finally I sent definite messages we were all ready.

Previous to that I made clear again to all personally

- 1) How they would move
- 2) How flanks were to be protected
- 3) What we were responsible for
- 4) On reaching objective to stop CT* in advance to prevent bombing** by the enemy
We went forward & reached the objectives though heavy mist delayed us slightly. N. Hants on my right appeared to advance well but suddenly disappeared. Did my best to get in touch again. Reached objective Caught a prisoner in a funk hole
Captured machine gun killing 2 men.

Before we had formed a block, the enemy bombed from a CT on left.

Formed squad under Sergt. Best & inflicted casualties, turning them back using our own bombs & the enemy's.

Then I found trouble on my right but (L/Cpl Day?) L Gun*** disposed of those until put out of action & bomb supply failed.

The enemy bombed heavily & sniping and MG fire caused trouble. I sent back runner for bombs & also Sergt. Best All available bombs from Lt Measures & reserves.

Finally Bombed out & fell back to shell holes & another trench where fire steps were at once made.

B Coy occupied this line & we were too crowded. Again bombed on the left. Passed back further bombs until exhausted & got men out of trench & crawled out in small groups. Finally I was left with a few men of B & D Coys & NCO's in slit.

Crawled as far as Possible but German's put up barrage, MG fire & TM & continuous sniping.

Bought back one LG complete & one out of action.

Did all I could in the way of signals but Very lights were not good. Cartridges not even fitting the pistol. They should be kept in some other kind of wrapper in my opinion.

Signals were given to aeroplane when all seemed hopeless. As far as I can remember I got back at (sic) approx. between 4:30pm & 5:30pm:

Signed P Baker (Capt) O/C D Coy * CT: Communication Trench; ** Bombing and reference to bombs are Hand Grenades *** L Gun: Lewis Gun

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)