



## **L/7824 Private George Brown – East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)**

**1st Battalion – 16th Infantry Brigade – 6th Division – III Corps - East - Kent Regiment (The Buffs)**

**(Possibly “C” Company 9<sup>th</sup> Platoon)**



**Men of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs at Bois-Grenier, winter 1914**

### **Great Grandad Brown**

This is the result of much research and trawling the Internet, Military Records  
Visits to Ypres (Ieper) and searching anything to do with the:

1st Battalion of the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) in World War 1



**6th Division (embarked at St. Nazaire on 8th September 1914):**

**GOC: Major-General JL Keir CB.**

**16th Infantry Brigade**

**GOC Brigadier-General Ingouville-Williams CB, DSO**

**1st Buffs**

**1st Leicester's**

**1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry**

**2nd York and Lancaster**

## George Brown

### Life synopsis

Born in Rolvenden / Rolvenden lane on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1884.

Baptised in St Mary's Church Rolvenden on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1884.

1891 Census 5<sup>th</sup> April living in 2 Halden Place Cottages Rolvenden and a Scholar.

1901 Census 31<sup>st</sup> March has him living in Dwellings, 8, High Road Rolvenden as an Agricultural Labourer. (8 Dwellings were in Rolvenden Layne, now demolished)

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 1904 he signed up to the Army in Tenterden – Regiment: Buffs (East Kent Regiment); Rank: Private; Service number: L/7824

Previously in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the East Kent Regiment.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 1908 he married Kate Bryant in St Mary's Church Rolvenden aged 24.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1909 he became a father to Thomas George Brown (My Grandad)

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 1914 WW1 Mobilisation begins.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 1914 he sailed to Saint Nazaire France on SS Minneapolis.

War Diary would suggest he was wounded during a shelling period October - November in or around Grande Flamengrie Farm France.

He was listed as "Wounded" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office from 30<sup>th</sup> November 1914.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1915 he was killed in Action around Brielen near Ypres Belgium.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1919 he was re-buried and commemorated in the Perth Cemetery (China Wall) Ypres.



...man completes his 3 years' service at home, with all convenient speed, for

**DECLARATION OF**  
Corps The Buffs  
\* Applies only to Cavalry of the Line

...put to the Recruit before enlistment.

...are you born? .....

1. In the Parish of ..... in or near the Town of ..... in the County of .....

2. .... Years ..... Months.

3. ....

4. ....

5. ....

6. ....

...after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. ....

8. ....

9. ....

10. ....

11. ....

12. ....

13. ....

14. ....

15. ....

16. ....

17. .... Name ..... Corps .....

...do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

**SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.**  
George Brown  
**SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.**  
...

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**  
I, George Brown, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**  
The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly explained to him, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me.  
at Leeds on this 1st day of February 1901  
Signature of the Justice ...

Attestation is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the attestation.

Attestation form of George Brown. Damaged in bombing of London WW2.



Apparent Age <u>18</u> years <u>2</u> months.	
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)	
Height	<u>5</u> feet <u>6</u> inches.
Weight	<u>134</u> lbs.
Chest measurement	Minimum <u>34</u> inches.
	Maximum expansion <u>36</u> inches.
Complexion	<u>Fair</u>
Eyes	<u>Grey</u>
Hair	<u>Light Brown</u>
Religious denomination	Church of England <u>Yes</u>
	Presbyterian
	Wesleyan
	Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.)
	Roman Catholic
	Jews

*Certificate of Medical Examination.*

I have examined the above-named recruit and find that he does not present any of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye: his heart and lungs are healthy, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any kind.

I consider him \* Fit for the Army.

Date 24 Jan 1914

Place Canterbury

\* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

Major RANDALL  
Medical Officer.

*Certificate of Primary Military Examination.*

I hereby certify that the above-named recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him \* Fit for service in the † 3rd Regt. Dist. and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date 24 Jan 1914

Place Canterbury

\* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

† Insert the "Regiment" or "Corps."

CAPTAIN,  
RECRUITING OFFICER, 3RD REGT. DISTRICT, } Recruiting Officer.

*\* Certificate of Approving Officer.*

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the † 3rd Regt. Dist.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 24 Jan 1914

Place Canterbury

\* The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.  
† Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

COLONEL,  
COMMANDING 3RD REGT. DISTRICT, } Approving Officer.

Again, damaged in London during bombing in WW2.

## **L/7824 Pte George Brown WW1**

### **August to December 1914 – The Early Months**

#### **The battle of Armentieres**

##### **Bois Grenier Sector – Radinghem – Chateau De Flandres - Grand Flamengrie Farm**

The outbreak of war in August 1914 brought an influx of recruits to Canterbury which together with more than 500 reservists were shipped over to Fermoy (Republic of Ireland) to join the 1st Battalion.

In an attempt to try to piece together Great Grandad George Browns early movements as part of the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and due to the thought that they would all be home for Christmas there doesn't seem to be that much written about the early months of the war. There are of course the war diaries, but even those are sometimes sparse in their detail.

I am aware that Pte 7824 George Brown was injured late 1914 but was patched up and carried on, it is this thread that got me researching deeper into the first few months, trying to find out where and what were the circumstances which led to his injury. According to records he was Listed as "Wounded" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office from 30th November 1914.

I seem to have so far drawn a blank but have pulled together a few reports from other sources in particular the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment to which he was assigned.



**Grand Flamengrie Farm today**

Some accounts of this battle and the previous battles at Radinghem and Chateau De Flandres, Beaucamps-Ligny in October 1914 before they retreated back to Grande Flamengrie Farm.

The 1st Battalion was in the Radinghem area on the 21st October 1914, it was holding the line near Great Flamengrie Farm. The battle of Armentieres continued for the next few weeks and the 1st Battalion Buffs at Radinghem were in the thick of it.

The Germans attacked along the Maisnil-Radinghem Road.

On 21st of October the battalion was at Grand Flamengrie Farm.





This is looking across the road from Grand Flamengrie Farm where The East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were in battle for periods during the winter of 1914 and spring of 1915.

## BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT)

"Aisne, 1914" "Armentieres, 1914"

### 1ST BATTALION

#### AUGUST

Fermoy, Ireland. Part of 16th Brigade, 6th Division. Left Ireland for England (12th), arriving in Cambridge (19th). Billeted at Christ's College.

#### SEPTEMBER

To Southampton (7th) and embarked SS Minneapolis. Sailed for France (8th). Arrived St. Nazaire (9th) and to rest camp. Entrained (11th) and to Montcerf. Began move forward (12th), marching via Crecy, Jouarres, Rocourt, Buzancy, Mont Notre Dame and arriving Courcelles (20th). Relieved 1st Northumberland Fusiliers and 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers in front line trenches north-east of Vailly.

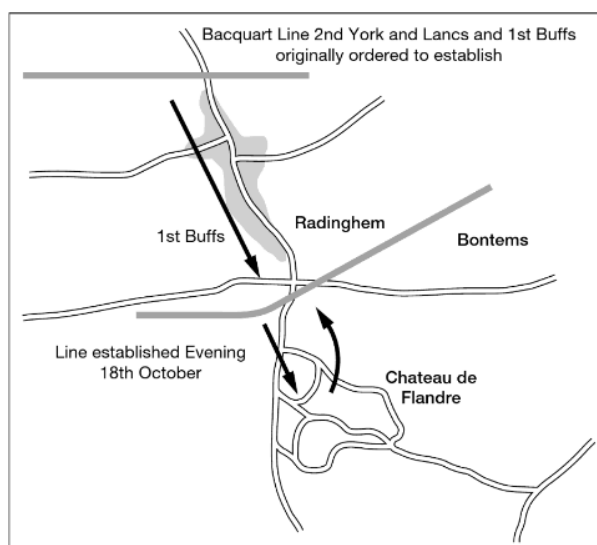
#### OCTOBER

Relieved by French troops (12th) and to Bazoches. Entrained for Cassel (13th). Moved forward (17th) and took over Divisional Reserve positions at Bois Grenier. Later held line Croix Maréchal — Rue de Bois.

On 17th October 1914 the 6th Division encountered little opposition, the Germans retiring before it; and at noon it was ordered to occupy a position Rouge de Bout — Bois Grenier — Chapelle d' Armentieres. Its left thus resting on Armentieres. This it carried out putting its three infantry brigades there. On the 17th, the 1st Buffs is positioned at Bois Grenier, from October 18 to 23 they try to advance on Radinghem.

On Sunday, 18 October 1914, the Division's 16th Infantry Brigade (commanded by Brigadier General Ingouville-Williams) was instructed to make a reconnaissance in force.

Two battalions of the Brigade - the 2nd York and Lancasters and the 1st Buffs (East Kent Regiment) - were ordered forward; this move was to take place in a southerly direction on either side of the Bois-Grenier to Beaucamps-Ligny road. The 2nd York and Lancasters were on the right, and the 1st Buffs on the left. Initially their forward movement met only light resistance and, complying with new orders, the advance continued with the capture of the village of Radinghem. It was then intended to take the high ground south of Radinghem, including the woods in which stood the Chateau de Flandres (this being three-quarters of a mile south of Radinghem, and less than a half a mile north of Beaucamps Ligny village centre).





The war diary of the 2nd York and Lancasters tells the story. The night of 17/18 October had been spent in billets on the Rue du Bois, South of Fleurbaix:

18 October 1914. 8 AM. Battalion paraded and marched to Touquet [a hamlet half a mile south of Bois-Grenier] and there received verbal orders from Brigadier General. Battalion to make a reconnaissance in force in conjunction with the Buffs... French cavalry to act dismounted on our right and companies to be extended on a line running SW from Bridoux, 1 mile SE of Touquet.

'A' and 'C' Companies extended accordingly - 'A' on the left with its left resting on the main road. 'B' Company in support to 'C' Company.

Having reached the line Hau de Bas with little resistance, [the battalion] received verbal orders... to advance and take the village of Radinghem and having done this push on and take high ground on the approach to Chateau de Flandres.

[By early afternoon,] Village [i.e. Radinghem] taken without difficulty by 'A' Company. Line held up for short time by shelling of French and our guns. Centre of line on reaching high ground East of Radinghem came under heavy shell fire from southerly direction but continued the advance with the remainder of the line across the Radinghem - Fromelles Road. Right of line coming under heavy crossfire of machine guns and shrapnel in the open, was forced to return to the road. At the same time the remaining companies, having got into the woods of Chateau de Flandres tried three times to advance but were each time driven back by crossfire of machine guns, situated at southern boundary of the wood, and shrapnel and rifle fire. They eventually took up positions on the Radinghem - Fromelles Road, in conjunction with the Buffs.

(5.10 PM) General line of above road taken up and entrenched with rear line of defence of 1 Company (this company was formed of men who had been rallied by Major Clemson to form a 2nd defensive line) in our right rear. Occasional shrapnel fire from enemy, but machine gun fire and rifle fire had ceased.

(6 PM) Order received to hold on to the ground gained. Remainder of night occupied in entrenching and reforming companies. During the night, French cavalry who were in position on our right withdrew.

An additional snippet comes from Marden's History of the 6th Division:

...the situation was saved by Major Bayley's company of the 2nd York and Lancasters, which had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the [German] counterattack which thereon withdrew.

The Buffs had moved on 3rd November to the entrenchments at Grande Flamengrie Farm in stark snow-laden winter conditions. Earlier, during October (18th and 20th, in particular), 1st Battalion the Buffs had suffered significant losses at Radinghem and desperately needed drafts of new men as they moved into the Bois-Grenier sector.

Part of the fighting, which also caused a few hundred deaths, took place at the "Château des Flandres" in Radinghem (Beaucamps-Ligny side). And the other part, here between the street of Jerusalem, the Whitewoods and the great Flamengrie. From October 18th to 23rd.



Chateau de Flandres before WW1



French newspaper impression of the English taking of Chateau de Flandres.

The Date on the paper is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1915, some months after the event.





**The ruins of Chateau de Flandres after the battle.**

Colonel Moody records, with severe hand-to-hand fighting." Fell back to wood south side of Radinghem after German counterattack. Enemy attacked throughout day (20th) forcing withdrawal through Radinghem to Grande Flamengrie Farm during night.

**Account (Edited) of the same period from [www.lynsted-society.co.uk](http://www.lynsted-society.co.uk)**

In the period October-November 1914 there were four simultaneous battles in the region of Ypres ("the First Battle of Ypres"). These battles had to be won by the Allied forces if the Channel was to be secured (to permit the flow of troops and material) and the German forces brought to a halt.

Against superior German forces in their sector, the Buffs formed part of the Estaires-Fournes Line often referred to as the "Battle of Armentieres" that stretched from 13th October to 2nd November. Attacks and counterattacks settled into trench warfare and the pattern was set for the subsequent grinding years of attrition on land.

In this battle, the 1st Battalion lost 24 men on 18th October and 50 on the 20th October, which explains the importance of the flow of new recruits.

On 18th October, the 3rd Corps (containing the 16th Brigade in which sat the 6th Division, of which the 1st Battalion, the Buffs was a part) was instructed to secure Perenchies Ridge. To achieve this, the Allies had to dislodge the German entrenchments on the low ridge between Lille and Armentieres marked by Fournes -Radinghem - La Valee – Perenchies - Verlinghem.

General Keir sent the Buffs forward to probe German strength around a collection of houses in front of Radinghem and, by noon, they met no opposition (unlike their comrades on the same sector). That afternoon, after 14.30pm, the 16th Division moved to take part in a set-piece flanking movement, to wheel north-east from Radinghem and turn the enemy's flank from the south.

Both the Buffs and the York & Lancaster troops were met by machine-gun and rifle fire that took a toll but ultimately the Allies succeeded in taking control of Radinghem.

Conscious of the closeness of German reserves beyond a belt of woods and in the Chateau de Flandres (½ mile S.E. of the village) British troops were told to entrench. At first the Buffs were told to hand over to the French 1st Cavalry Corps but when only 150 men French troops arrived, the Buffs remained on station. The casualties fell mostly to the Buffs that day.

The next day saw no changes for the Buffs as reserves were moved up on both sides of a new front of 35 miles length.

The weather was dull making aeroplane work and artillery observation difficult. But behind the scenes, the German forces were reorganised to be ready for an attack on British forces along the entire new front. On the morning of the 20th October, the British 3rd Corps found itself opposite nearly the whole of both the 19th and 13th German Corps. An unequal balance of forces.

20th October saw a clash and sustained fighting all along the line. In the 6th Division, holding the line Radinghem - Ennetières - Premesques - Epinette, all three infantry brigades were attached. Between 7 and 8am the British trenches were heavily shelled by gun and howitzers of all calibres up to 8 inches, and then the German infantry began to advance by bounds covered by machine gun fire the firing opening at 800 to 1000 yards.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Buffs held the front-line east of Radinghem despite shelling and a determined assault about 1pm The Buffs held their own.

#### **Some accounts of this fight of 21 October 14.**

The 1st Battalion was in the Radinghem area on the 21st October 1914, it was holding the line near Great Flamengrie Farm. The battle of Armentieres continued for the next few weeks and the 1st Battalion Buffs at Radinghem were in the thick of it.

The Germans attacked along the Maisnil-Radinghem Road. On the 21st of October, the battalion was at Grand Flamengrie Farm. The battalion had lost 90 men killed and a further 57 wounded.

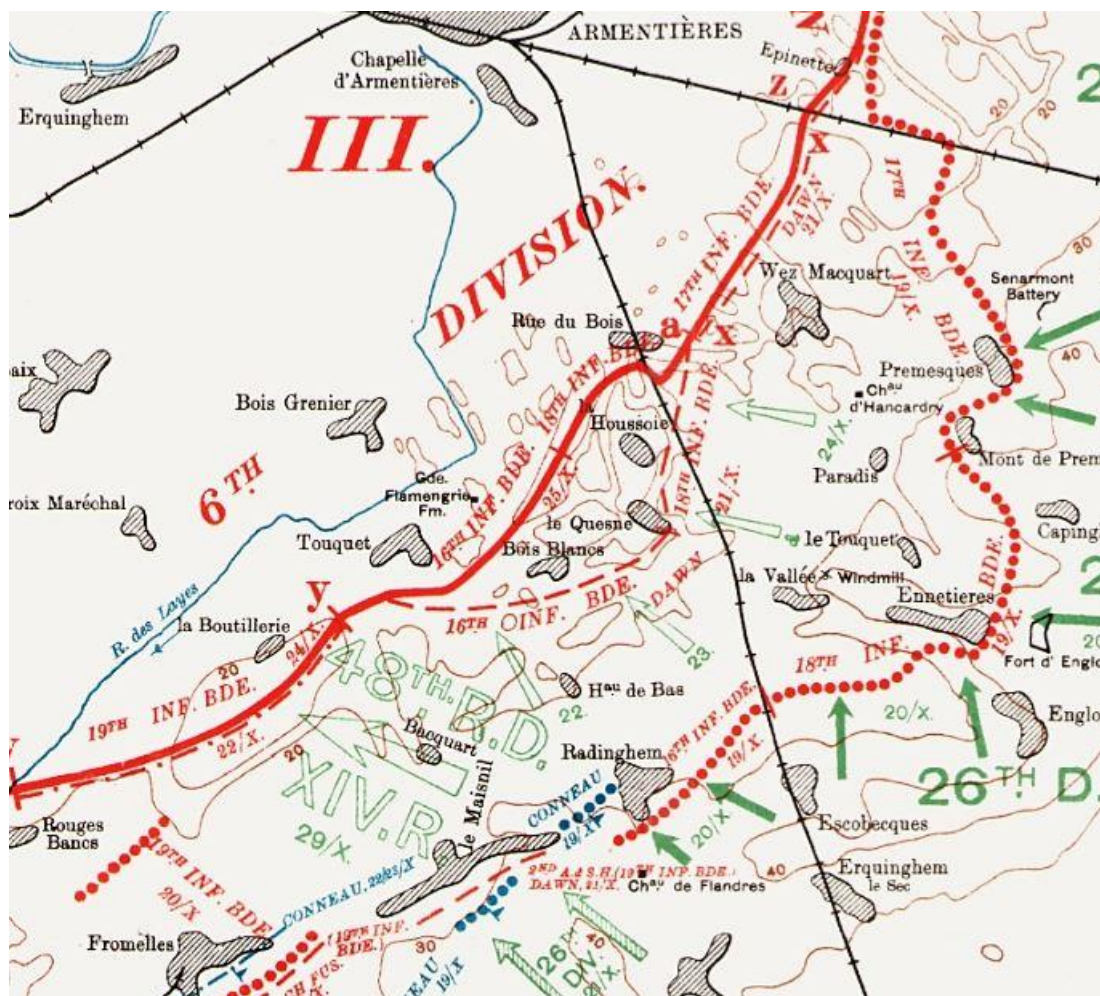
*Casualties — Lieutenants J.D. Phillips, R. McDougall, R.S. Glyn and Second-Lieutenant M. Noott killed, Commanding Officer — Colonel J. Hasler and 3 other officers wounded, 17 other ranks killed, 57 wounded, 62 missing. The latter all believed killed. "A" and "C" Companies in action (23rd), engaged in hand-to-hand fighting during enemy counterattack in front of Brigade line. Withdrew to line just south of the Le Touquet - La Boutillerie road (25th). "C" Company came under attack. Captain E.B. Chichester mortally wounded. "D" Company engaged enemy during evening. Casualties — Second-Lieutenant H.R. Stock and 5 other ranks killed, 2 officers, 20 other ranks wounded, 2 missing. Colonel Moody now records — "a long spell of comparative quite" in the trenches. Casualties averaging out to 2 killed, 5 wounded per day.*



SKETCH 6.



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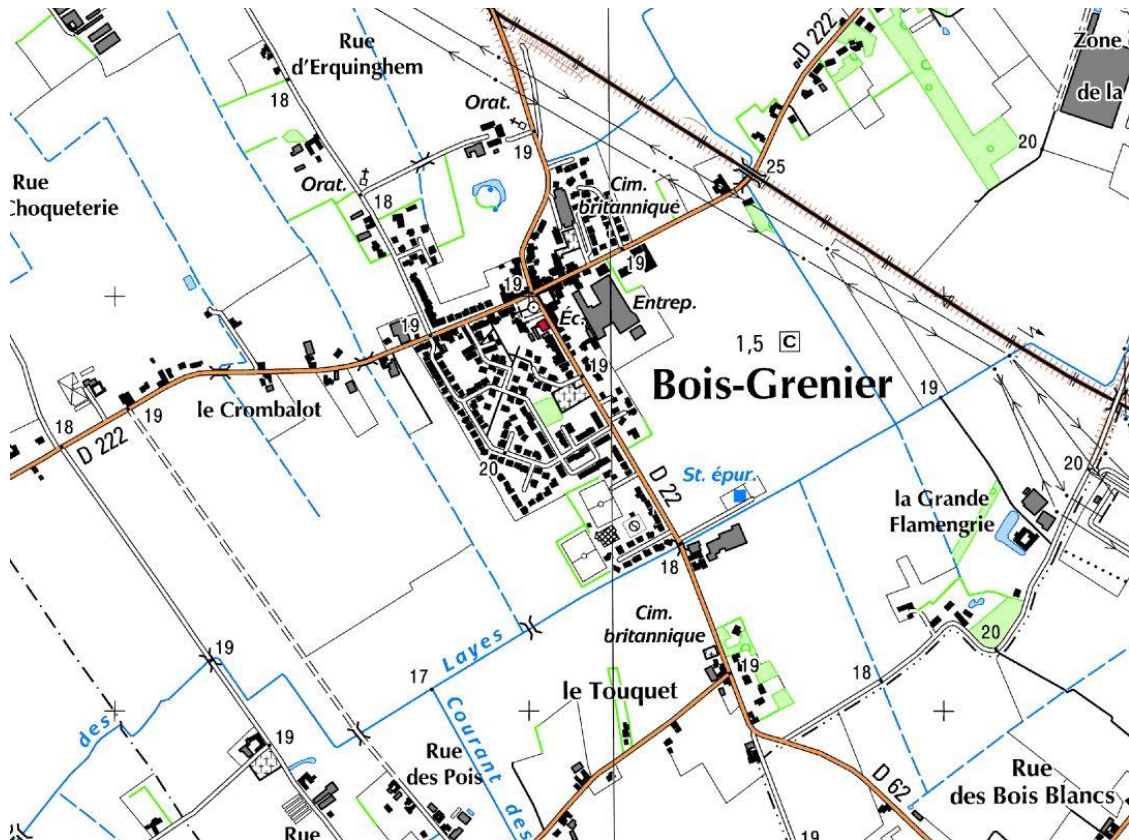
The map above shows the advance and retreat positions of the British forces along this part of the front line between October 19th and November 2nd 1914.

L/7824 Private George Brown would have been involved in this and at some point, injured although details are hard to come by. He is reported as being wounded and appears as "Wounded" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office from 30th November 1914. Bearing in mind that names didn't appear on casualty list for a while after the event due to next of kin being informed and the time it took to get information back in WW1 it is possible that he received this injury during October / early November in the Radinghem – La Grande Flamengrie Farm area. He was then patched up and continued his war.

George Brown Record showing his first injury "Listed as wounded" 30<sup>th</sup> November 1914

First Name:	George
Surname:	Brown
Report Date:	30/11/1914
Information:	Listed as "Wounded" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office from 30th November 1914
Further Information:	This man was entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorised under Army Order 204 of 6th July 1916. The terms of this award being met by their naming in this list.
Rank:	Private
Service Number:	7824
Duty Location:	France and Flanders
Archive Reference:	DT14011915





Bois Grenier – La Grande Flamengrie Farm area, this was a low-lying area with rivers and streams, digging trenches was often tough going with a high water table, they often filled with water and froze during the 1914/15 winter which according to reports was pretty harsh.



The image above shows the official trench map of 1914 in the area superimposed on today's landscape. You can pick out La Grande Flamengrie Farm and the British trenches around the area (Blue) and the German trenches not far away (Red).

The next five pages are transcribed from the official way diary of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) for the month of October.

### War Diary transcript October 1914

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Division.

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information
VAILLY	1 October 1914	<p>6:30 AM. The trenches were inspected by Major General H. HAMILTON Commanding 3rd Division.</p> <p>10:00 AM. Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Captain RAINES met General I. WILLIAMS and inspected buildings and walls north of SAINT PRECORD and VAILLY with a view of placing them in a state of defence. This work was carried out by 'D' Company.</p> <p>6:00 PM. 'D' Company relieved a Company of 5th Northumberland Fusiliers on our left.</p> <p>CASUALTIES One man accidentally shot himself in the foot.</p>
VAILLY	2 October 1914	<p>6:30 AM. General I. WILLIAMS accompanied by Commanding Officer and Adjutant inspected trenches of two Companies of 7th Royal Fusiliers with a view of relieving them by 'A' and 'C' Companies.</p> <p>8:15 AM. The following message was received from 3rd Division through 16th Infantry Brigade.</p> <p>BUFFS – The Major General was extremely pleased with the fire trenches and communication trenches constructed by your Battalion; both as regards those he saw yesterday and this morning and recognised the hard work performed by your Battalion in their construction. He asked the Brigadier General to convey his appreciation of the work performed (signed) 16th Infantry Brigade.</p> <p>4:00 PM. 'B' Company returned to Headquarters and took the place of 'C' Company – Lieutenant HAMILTON's platoon taking the place of Lieutenant HOMAN's platoon.</p> <p>6:15 PM. 'B' Company relieved by a Company of York &amp; Lancaster Regiment. 'A' and 'C' Companies relieved two Companies of the 7th Royal Fusiliers. The position now being York &amp; Lancaster Regiment on our right - from right to left - 'D', 'A', 'C' Companies with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry on our left.</p> <p>One platoon of 'B' Company in rear of Leicestershire Regiment (on the right of York &amp; Lancaster Regiment). 'B' Company - less one platoon – in support to Brigade under orders of Officer Commanding Buffs. 9967 Corporal RANDALL showed great pluck in attending Private HAMILTON (who was killed) although he himself was wounded at the time.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 1 man killed and 2 wounded.</p>
VAILLY	3 October 1914	<p>CASUALTIES 2 men wounded.</p>
VAILLY	6 October 1914	<p>CASUALTIES 1 man wounded.</p>
VAILLY	7 October 1914	<p>CASUALTIES 1 man wounded.</p>



VAILLY	8 October 1914	CASUALTIES 2 men killed and 5 men wounded
VAILLY	9 October 1914	10:00 AM. Enemy opened heavy infantry fire.  10:30 AM. Whole line heavily shelled including Headquarters, support and VAILLY. Acting Sergeant WILSON and 3 transport men were wounded and 10 Horses killed near church in VAILLY. Sergeant WALL and 4 men of 'C' Company wounded in trench. 'C' Company stretcher bearers worked very well – especially Private MEDWAY.  CASUALTIES 5 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, and 10 horses killed.
VAILLY	10 October 1914	6:00 PM. 'B' Company relieved 'C' Company.
VAILLY	12 October 1914	3:00 AM. 'A' Company relieved 'B' Company.  10:00 PM. Relieved by the French – Division General NERANO, Brigadier General DITTE and Lieutenant Colonel LE DUC – 287 Regiment.
VAILLY	13 October 1914	1:00 AM. Marched to BAROCHES (arriving 7:00 AM.). Billeted.
BAROCHES	13 October 1914	5:00 PM. Marched to FISMES.
FISMES	13 October 1914	6:30 PM. Started to entrain – 9:25 PM left by train via PARIS – AMIENS – ÉTAPLES. Arriving CASSEL 12:15 AM – 15 October 1914.
CASSEL	15 October 1914	10:15 AM. Marched to OUTERSTEENE arriving 4:30 PM.
OUTTERSTEENE	16 October 1914	6:15 AM. Marched to LE CRUSOBEAU (about 2 miles northwest of SAILLYSUR-LA-LYS). (17th Infantry Brigade at STEENWERCK – 18th Infantry Brigade at LE PETIT MORTIER) in Corps Reserve.
LE CRUSOBEAU	17 October 1914	9:00 AM. Marched to CROIX MARÉCHAL Battalion advanced to Brigade.
CROIX MARÉCHAL	18 October 1914	10:00 AM. Marched to GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM. Ordered to clean up situation but not to become seriously engaged with the enemy. Line HAU DE BAS – VALLÉE. 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies in firing line. 'A' in support.  2:20 PM. Very heavy fire – the line was secured at 2:20 PM. Verbal orders received to attack along the line RADINGHEM – ESCOBECQUES. No resistance until RADINGHEM was secured when a sharp fire was met from direction of CHATEAU DE FLANDRES supported by York & Lancaster Regiment the line of wood north of CHATEAU DE FLANDRES was taken.

RADINGHEM	18 October 1914	<p>Position at end of day. 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies in front line - 'A' Company in support with York &amp; Lancaster Regiment on our right. 'A' Company placed south end of RADINGHEM in state of defence.</p> <p>Lieutenant THORNHILL's platoon reinforced firing line. Stretcher bearer Lance Corporal LUCY showed great gallantry in attending wounded under fire (2nd time).</p> <p>CASUALTIES</p> <p>Officers wounded – Captain M. BEEVOR, 2nd Lieutenants H. W. JACKSON and R. BAYARD.</p> <p>Rank and file killed 18, wounded 55 and missing 5.</p>
RADINGHEM	19 October 1914	<p>8:00 PM. Brigadier General and York &amp; Lancaster Regiment went back in direction of ARMENTIERES leaving The Buffs to hold the whole line astride the RADINGHEM – BEAUCHAMPS ROAD about CHATEAU DE FLANDRES – BAS CHAMPS RAILWAY. Battalion to Point 29.</p> <p>'D' Company on right of road – 'B' Company on left. Lieutenant MERCER's Platoon 'C' Company thrown back of 'B' Companies left. 2 ½ platoons of 'C' Company under Captain CHICHESTER at BAS CHAMPS holding railway crossing 400 northeast of Point 29. 'A' and ½ platoon of 'C' Company holding perimeter of town.</p> <p>11:30 PM. Stood to arms till 12:30 AM. Enemy attacking 18th Infantry Brigade on our left – French Cavalry on our right.</p>
RADINGHEM	20 October 1914	<p>2:00 AM. Stood to arms till 3:30 AM.</p> <p>7:40 AM. Enemy's artillery opened very heavy fire on our trenches. Their guns keeping it up most of the day.</p> <p>About 11:30 AM Colonel HASLER Commanding front line was wounded.</p> <p>About 2:00 PM the enemy attacked very vigorously on our front, right and left.</p> <p>2:35 PM. 12th French Army Brigade reported enemy advancing on our right.</p> <p>3:30 PM. Sent message to Major McDONALL (Commanding front line) to guard his left flank as 'C' Company was being heavily attacked.</p> <p>3:35 PM. Major McDONALL reported – "Situation very serious. Am holding on. No officers left, but RICE. Machine guns knocked out."</p> <p>4:00 PM. Major McDONALL reported – "Great difficulty in holding on. Enemy captured trench on our left held by 'C' Company. Am in tight corner."</p> <p>3:45 PM. Received verbal message that 'C' Company was being cut off. Orders sent to Major McDONALL to retire Company by Company.</p> <p>4:10 PM. Major McDONALL replied "Very difficult but will do the best we can." Reported to 16th Infantry Brigade – 18th Infantry Brigade – 12th French Army Brigade that Buffs were retiring slowly.</p> <p>4:50 PM. Received order from 16th Infantry Brigade to hold on at any cost promising support of 2 Companies York &amp; Lancaster Regiment – Reported to 16th Infantry Brigade that we were holding south perimeter of town.</p> <p>6:25 PM. Received order from 16th Infantry Brigade to retake and hold line – RADINGHEM – BEAUCHAMP – RAILWAY CROSSING W M 29.</p> <p>7:00 PM. Major CLEMSON with 2 Companies York &amp; Lancaster Regiment arrived to our support.</p> <p>7:30 PM. Brigadier General arrived. Started digging in again with 2 Companies York &amp; Lancaster Regiment.</p> <p>About 10:00 PM. Received orders to retire Company by Company on GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM.</p>

RADINGHEM	21 October 1914	<p>4:15 AM. Arrived FARM. 12th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, supported us exceedingly well during the whole day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES Officers killed, Lieutenants PHILIPS, McDOUGALL, NOOTT, GLYN. Officers wounded, Colonel HASLER, Lieutenants HAMILTON, STANFIELD, ORWIN. Rank and file – Killed 17, wounded 57 and missing 62. Horses killed 8 and bicycles damaged beyond repair 3.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	21 October 1914	<p>8:00 AM. Commanding Officer and Adjutant went round line of trenches to be held by Battalion.</p> <p>Reported to Brigadier General – who told Commanding Officer that the Divisional General was very pleased with the stand The Buffs had made at RADINGHEM.</p> <p>Battalion dug itself in. In support to Brigade.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	22 October 1914	<p>Battalion in support. Heavily shelled at various intervals during the day. Transport (at BOIS-GRENIER) shelled and had to move back - 1 horse killed.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 1 man killed, 9 wounded and 1 missing.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	23 October 1914	<p>9:00 AM. 'A' Company sent to Brigade Headquarters in support of York &amp; Lancaster Regiment. THORNHILL's platoon sent up with Major CLEMSON, York &amp; Lancaster Regiment, to reconnoitre situation created by York &amp; Lancaster Regiment's trench being carried by enemy. Party ambushed with machine gun at 15 yards.</p> <p>THORNHILL and 5 men left wounded. Former on parapet of captured trench. 7 others wounded. About 10 of party only returned. Private PEARCE very gallantly dragged back Private BULL who was wounded and brought him in but could not reach Lieutenant THORNHILL.</p> <p>About 8:00 PM Nos.1 and 3 platoons cleaned up situation in front of Leicestershire Regiment. 'C' and 'D' Companies went in support of King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Leicestershire Regiment about BOIS BLANCS. 'C' Company drove the enemy back with the bayonet in front of King's Shropshire Light Infantry. 'A' Company did same in front of Leicestershire Regiment.</p> <p>CASUALTIES Officers killed – Lieutenant THORNHILL, wounded 2nd Lieutenant RICE. Men – killed 1, wounded 13 and missing 9.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	24 October 1914	<p>Enemy attacked Leicestershire Regiment on our left, who slightly retired their line.</p> <p>'D' Company – 2 platoons – reinforced King's Shropshire Light Infantry. The other two platoons sent to our left to retake some trenches which was done without loss. Sergeant STOCK was highly complimented by the officer in charge of attack.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 6 men wounded.</p>

GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	25 October 1914	<p>6:00 AM. 'A' Company went forward and filled in break in the Leicestershire Regiment's line. Company Sergeant Major STONE was complimented by Brigadier General on the way he commanded his right flank guard. Corporal MARSH did very good reconnoitring work.</p> <p>11:00 AM. 'C' Company was attacked and again at 1:00 PM. The enemy succeeded in getting within 70 yards of our trenches. Captain CHICHESTER showed great gallantry in going along the trenches cheering his men.</p> <p>When the enemy retired, he took a German rifle and used it against the enemy. Unfortunately, he was shot in the head and died some hours after from his wounds. At least a hundred dead Germans were left in front of 'C' Companies trench. 'D' Company repulsed two German attacks one at 8:00 PM and one at 9:00 PM and withdrew and prepared position in rear.</p> <p>CASUALTIES Captain CHICHESTER and 2nd Lieutenant STOCK killed. Lieutenant HOMAN and Lieutenant CHILD wounded. Killed 5, wounded 20 and missing 2.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	26 October 1914	<p>'A' Company relieved by York &amp; Lancaster Regiment re-joined Brigade</p> <p>Headquarters on right of line later re-joined Battalion on line southeast of GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 3 wounded.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	27 October 1914	<p>Lieutenant CATTLEY took command of 'C' Company. Company Sergeant Majors NESBIT and STONE, Sergeants CORRAL, STOCK and ORWIN promoted 2nd Lieutenants. Enemy attacked about 11:00 PM and were repulsed.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 9 wounded and 1 missing.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	28 October 1914	<p>2nd Lieutenant ASPREY and 69 non-commissioned officers and men arrived to reinforce the Battalion.</p> <p>Germans seen digging in our front.</p> <p>Enemy attacked about 11:00 PM repulsed.</p> <p>Lieutenant CHAPMAN sent out on patrol duty just before dawn.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 8 men wounded.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	29 October 1914	<p>Enemy fired nearly all day – gun and rifle fire – stood to arms 2:30 AM and 4:30 AM. Corporal MARSH, Privates BELL and SISLEY did good scouting.</p> <p>Very cold and wet night.</p>
GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	30 October 1914	<p>Quiet day except for occasional enemy's artillery firing and some sniping.</p> <p>CASUALTIES 1 killed and 4 wounded.</p>



GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM 1½ MILES SOUTHEAST OF BOIS-GRENIER	31 October 1914	Quiet day. 2nd Lieutenants DAVIES joined Battalion and posted to 'D' Company.
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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Ap
NOVEMBER 1914.		
3 GRANDE FLAMENGRIE FARM.	2nd Lieut HOLMES (supplementary list) QUEENS REGT. joined the Bn. - posted to B. Coy.	113
11	Very heavily shelled throughout the day & night from 8 AM to 10 PM. 1 man killed & 5 men wounded.	
12	2nd Lieut HOLMES killed - (shot through the head by a sniper)	
15	Lieut. TERRY and 100 other ranks joined the Bn. (3rd re-inforcements) Lieut. TERRY posted to B. Coy. - L. Col. H. M. HILL. Sent home sick. Major. R. McDONNELL took over command of the Bn.	
16	Very cold - snow, which lasted for a week. Capt. H. S. HARDY and 146 other ranks joined the Bn. (4th re-inforcements) Capt. HARDY posted to B. Coy.	
21	36 other ranks joined the Bn.	
24	Relieved by K. S. L. 1. (after being in same trenches for 4 weeks and 6 days) went into divisional reserve (billets) at FLEURBAIX. Move started at 10 AM. Got in at 7 PM.	
30	Relieved by Y. L. went into brigade reserve at ERIS-POIT. Move started from 7 AM to 1.30 PM. Capt. R. S. I. FRIEND joined Bn. Took over command of C. Coy.	

War diary entries for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment for November 1914.

Transcription of November 11th entry:

"Very heavily shelled throughout the day & night from 8am to 10pm 1 man killed, and 5 men wounded"

The only action I can see where soldiers were injured in on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1914.

His record shows he was listed as wounded, the report date was 30<sup>th</sup> November but it may have taken a few days for it to filter through or it may be just the way the reporting works.

They had been in the same trenches for four weeks and six days and were relieved and sent back to billets on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

I cannot yet find what George's injury was or where he was taken, or for how long he may or may not have been in hospital for, it seems that generally soldiers were hospitalised for a few days and then sent back to re-join their battalion.

## NOVEMBER

The Buffs had moved on 3rd November to the entrenchments at **Grande Flamengrie Farm** in stark snow-laden winter conditions. Earlier, during October (18th and 20th, in particular), 1st Battalion the Buffs had suffered significant losses at **Radinghem** and desperately needed drafts of new men as they moved into the Bois-Grenier sector. The 1st Battalion, The Buffs took part in a violent and costly battle. Thereafter, trench warfare became the norm.

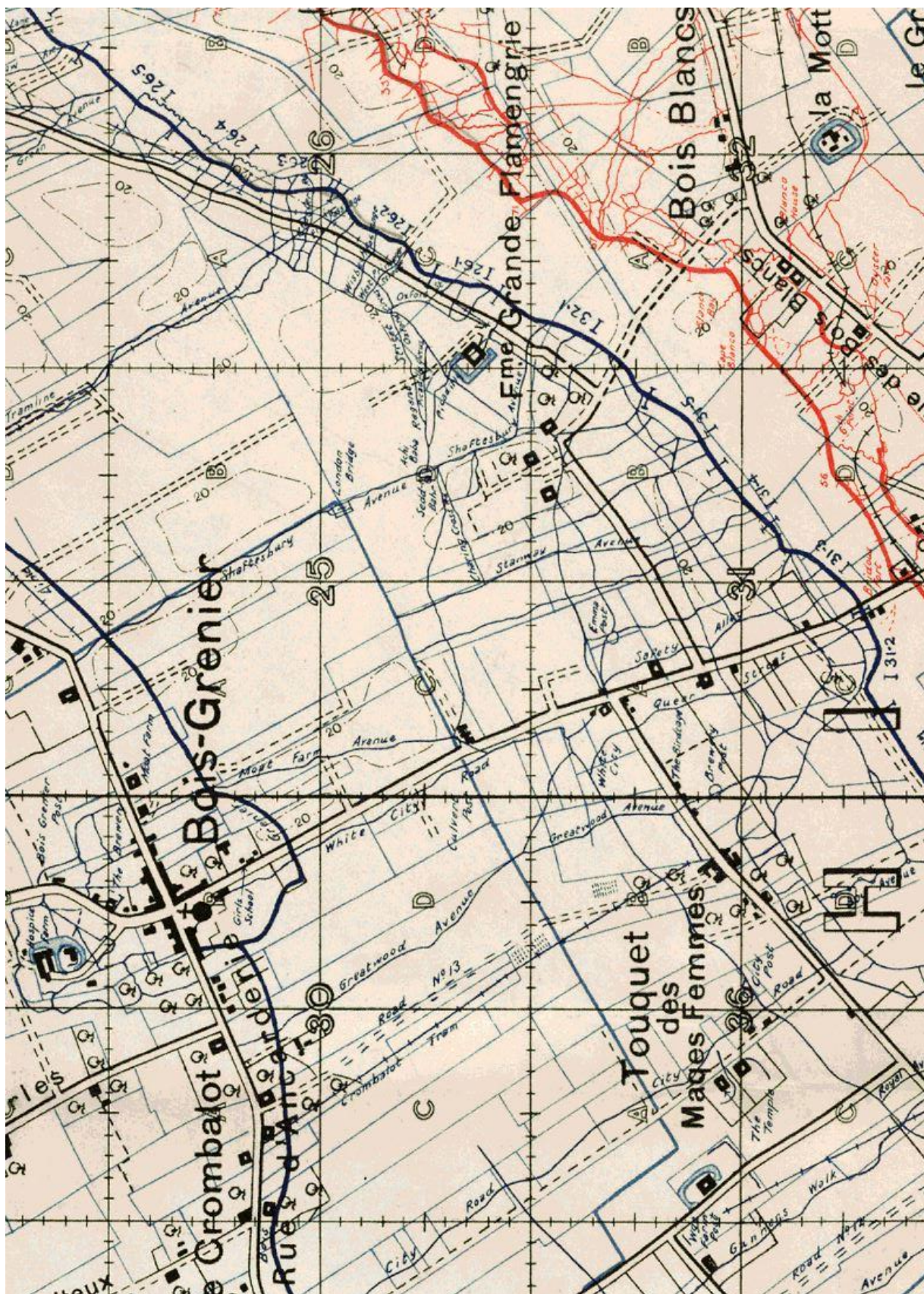
Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, the Battalion was strengthened by reinforcements and continued in the trenches until they were relieved by 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry after 4 weeks and six days in them. They then went into divisional reserve (billets) at Fleurbaix possibly Rue De L' Estree; spelt Rue De Lettree in the war diaries, but after asking on a Great War Forum, I was advised it was actually Rue De L' Estree, which makes sense as it's in the area.

30<sup>th</sup> November they were relieved by the York & Leicester's and went Brigade Reserve at Gris Pot just north of Bois Grenier (Billets).



Looking out from the top of Grande Flamengrie Farm over the British Trenches & Iron Works

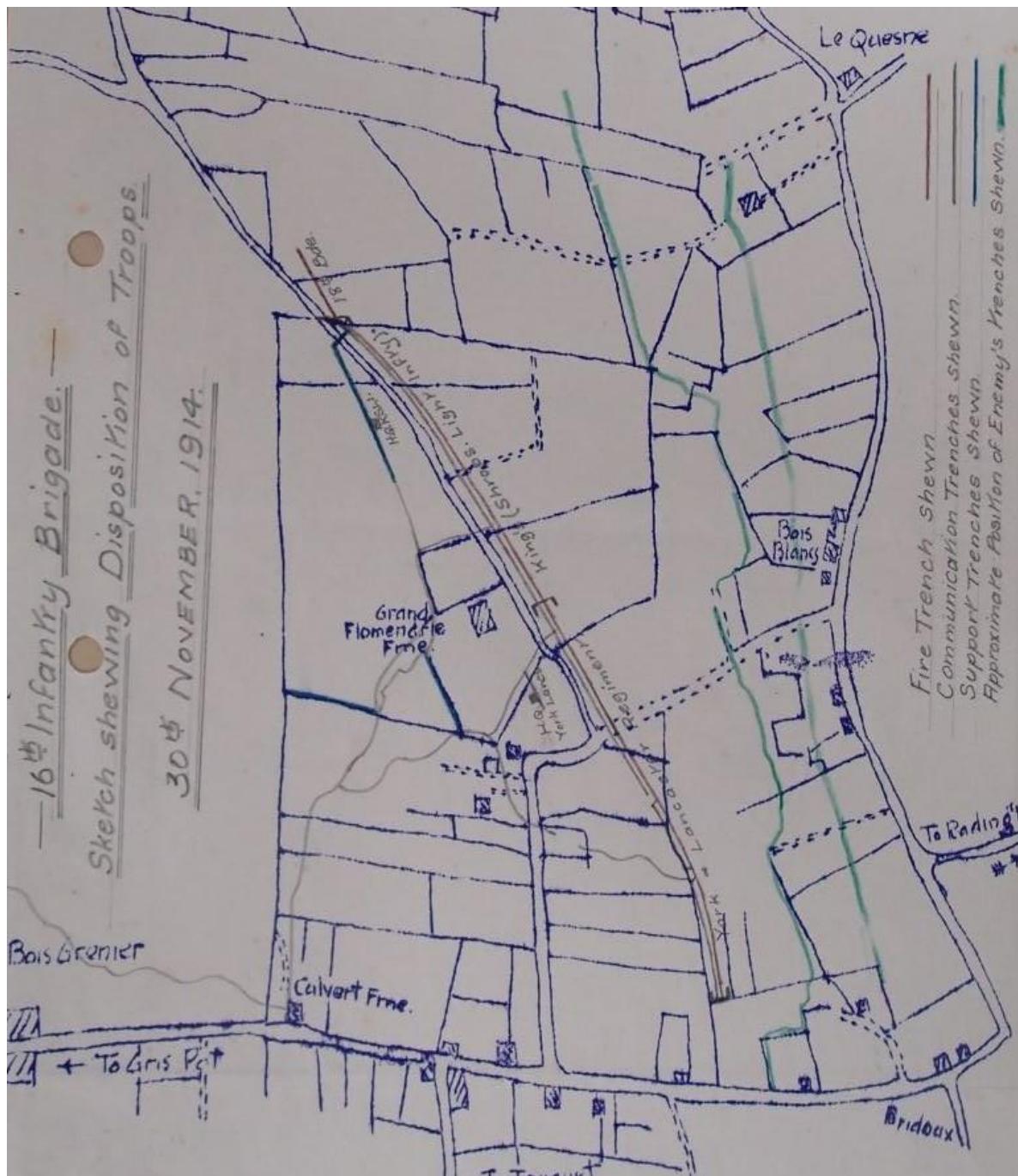




Trench Map of the Grand Flamengrie Farm and Bois Grenier area British in Blue & German in Red



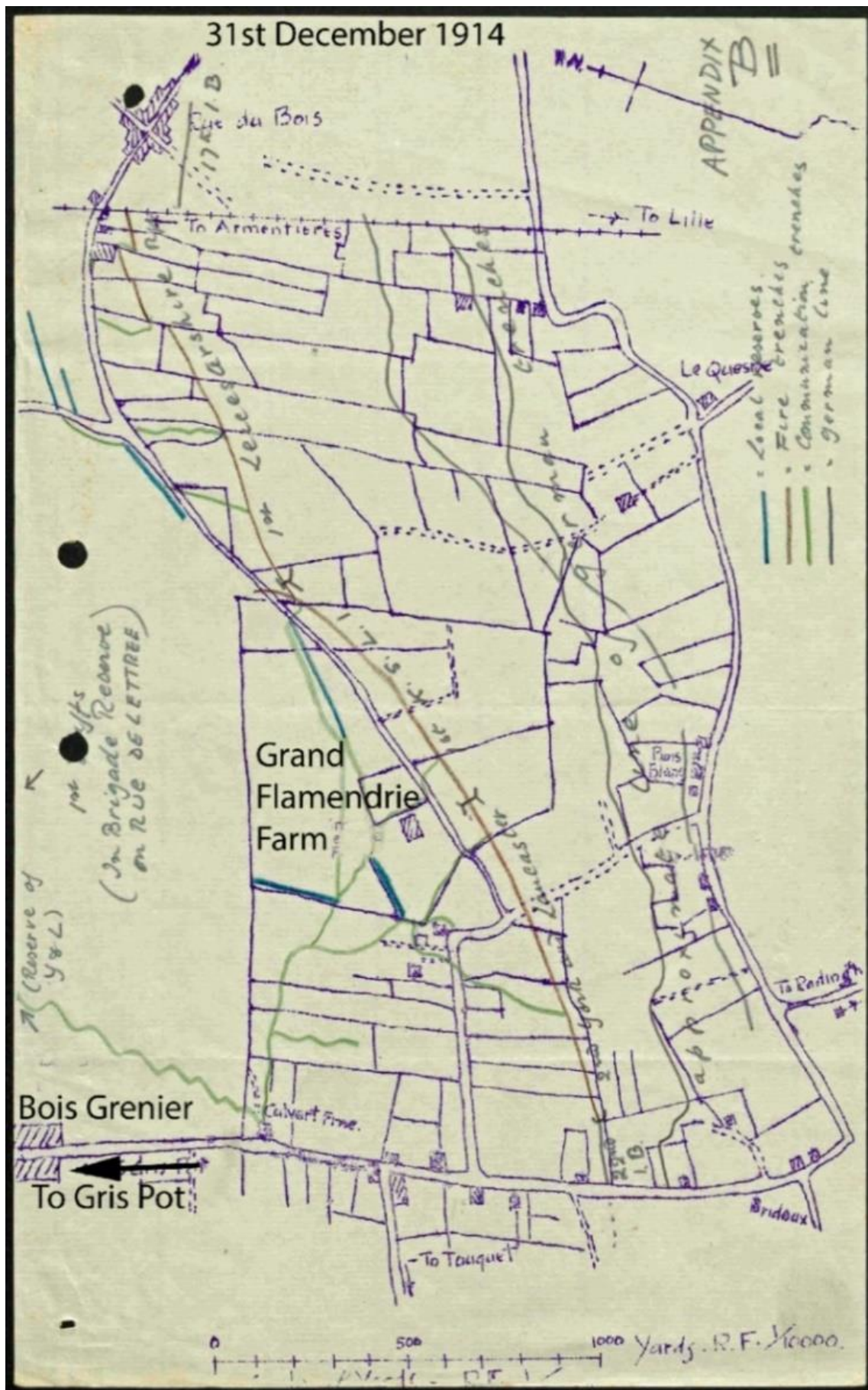
The sketch below shows the Battalions in the trenches 30<sup>th</sup> November 1914



The trenches occupied by the Kings (Shropshire Light Infantry) are the trenches the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Buffs occupied previously for four weeks six days at Grand Flamengrie Farm.



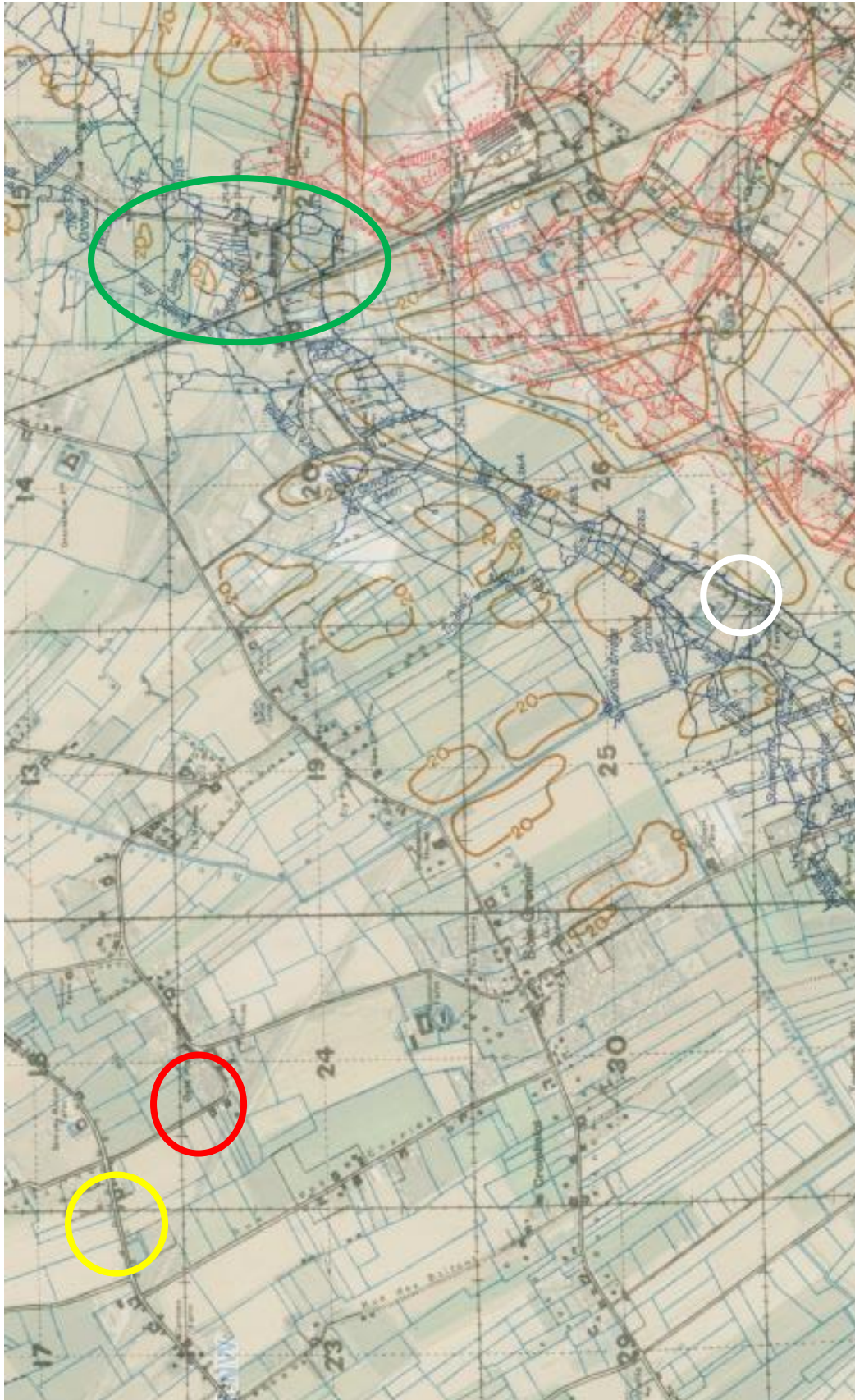
The sketch below shows the Battalions in the trenches 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1914 when the 1<sup>st</sup> Buffs were again in Rue De L' Estree









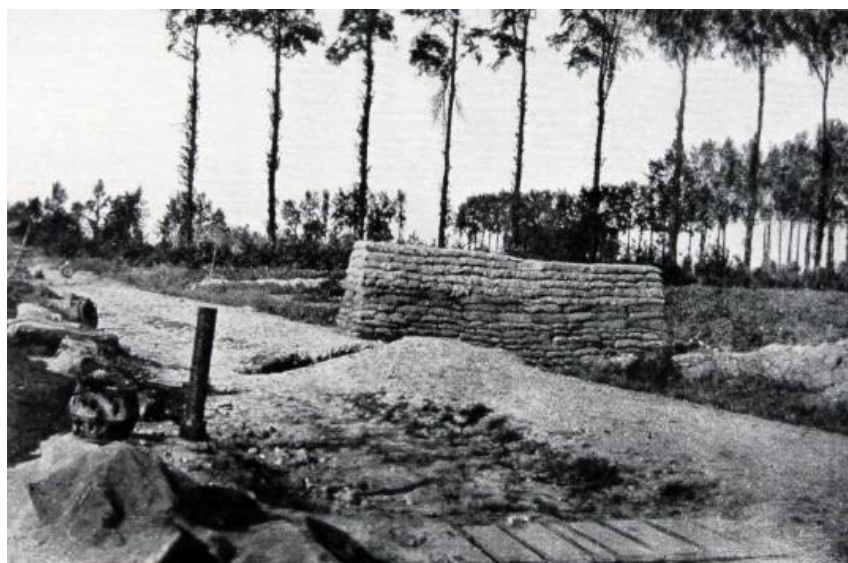


The Bois Grenier area today with the trench map overlaid on it. Blue Trenches -British, Red German.  
 Just above Bois Grenier was Gris Pot (Red Circle)  
 The Road Rue De L' Estree (Yellow Circle)  
 Over to the right of Bois Grenier is Rue Du Bois (Green Circle)  
 Grande Flamengrie Farm (White Circle)





Grand Flamengrie farm with the drainage ditch showing how high the water table was.



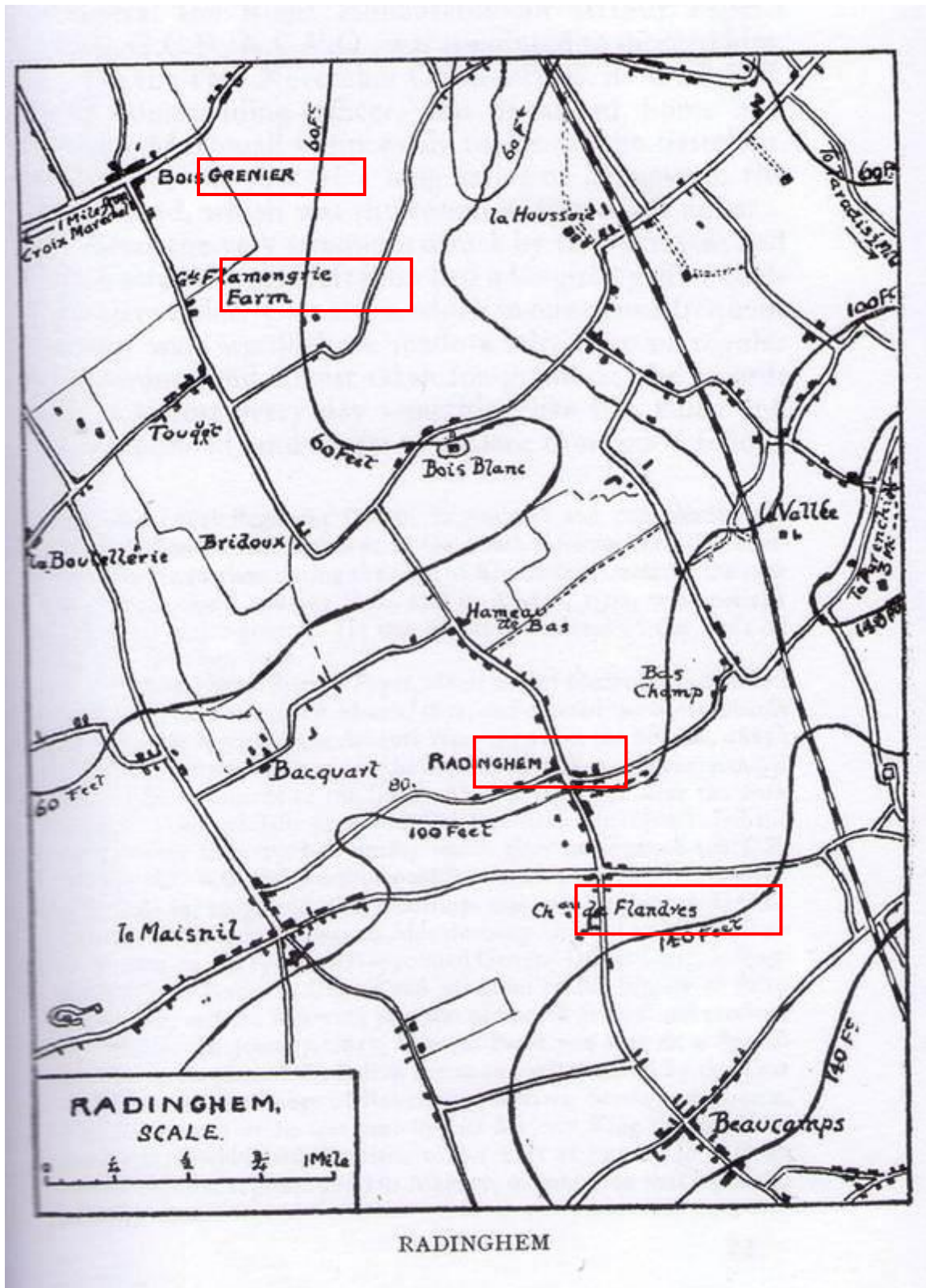
Trenches around Grand Flamengrie Farm



Ruins of Grand Flamengrie Farm



General Map of the area showing the key points mentioned.



Map of the area showing the positions of Bois Grenier, Grand Flamengrie Farm, Radinghem and Chateau de Flandres.

## DECEMBER

Relieved 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry (9th), relieved by 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry (26th).

December 1914 is poorly recorded in the Battalion War Diary. Thankfully, the 16th Infantry Brigade HQ War Diary is more revealing:

**Note:** what is called Rue De Lettree in the diaries is Rue De L'Estree on modern maps.

1st: RUE DE LETTREE: Situation unchanged

2nd: H.M. King visited Divisional H.Q. The Leicestershire Regiment, 2 Companies Buffs, and 8 men and 1 officer from K.S.L.I., and Y&L (from the trenches) were drawn up to the roadside and H.M. inspected them. The Brigadier General and members of his staff had the honour of an introduction.

3rd: Two companies of the Artists Rifles were brought into the line for the night. One Company was in reserve and the other in the firing line. This plan was continued for the following three nights. On the 5th night the whole battalion came up and took position in part of the line occupied by K.S.L.I. The idea of this was to give the battalion experience. During the operations one man was very slightly wounded.

During the night, water appeared in the dikes leading through the right company of the Y&L and caused some flooding of trenches. This is being dealt with by dams and bridges.

5th: Some heavy rain. Many "dug outs" fell in and there was a certain amount of land slipping in the trenches.

7th: 3 officer and 35 men Buffs re-enforcements arrived. (The Rt Hon Winston Churchill arrived and was taken round the trenches by the Brigadier General.)

9th: The K.S.L.I. were relieved in the trenches by the Buffs and went into Divisional Reserve. Leicester's moved into Brigade Reserve. One officer and 20 men re-enforcements arrived for the Buffs.

11th: The Leicester's went into the trenches on left of the Buffs, relieving the West Yorks (18th Inf. Brigade). The line of the 16th I.B. is thus extended to the railway line at RUE DU BOIS. The relief was timed to take place at 7p.m. but at 5p.m. the 18th I.B. wired to say that West Yorks reported that their trenches on left of their line had been flooded by the enemy. The Leicester's went down as arranged in pouring rain and inky darkness and occupied the line. New trenches were dug behind those which had been flooded out.

13th: In compliance with instructions received from the Division, the enemy's barbed wire and trenches were bombarded for a short time and heavy sniping took place at intervals. This was in connection with operations being carried on to the North.

14th: Same procedure as yesterday. Leicester's claim to have killed 3 Germans. These were seen running across the open, possibly as result of their trenches being flooded.

15th: Captain Wilfred Saxby Barham joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent (The Buffs)

18th: French pressed attacks about ARRAS. The 7th Division on our right attacked German trenches. The Brigade kept Germans occupied by maintaining constant rifle fire against their line.

19th: Same procedure as yesterday. Some heavy rain. This has caused many land slips in the trenches and increased our troubles with water, which are being coped with as well as possible.

21st: Some experiments were made by R.F.A. with view of breaking down enemy's wire entanglements by shrapnel. No apparent result. More rain.

23rd: Y&L relieved K.S.K.I. in trenches. Some sleet and rain.

24th: Germans appeared to be very jovial in their trenches. Two came over to our lines and were made prisoners. They belonged to the 179th Regiment of XIX Saxon Corps. Several bombs were thrown in Y&L Lines.

25th: Christmas celebrated as far as practicable. The receipt of the Xmas card from the King and Queen gave great pleasure to the troops.

According to Captain Bahram's diary although there were some quiet times on Christmas night in their trenches there were no meetings between the two sides just carols and banter. The day was frosty and foggy. One British soldier did make a move towards the German trenches but was shot by them and a soldier that went to recover his body from no man's land was also shot.

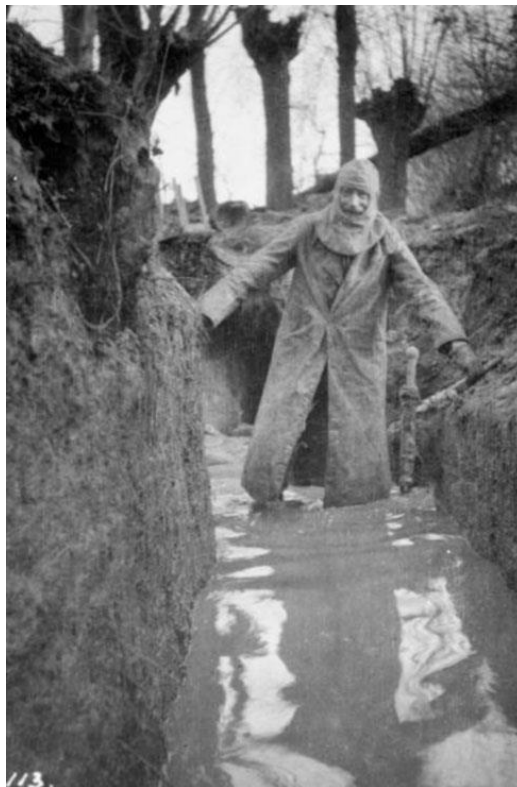
26th: The K.S.L.I. relieved the Buffs in the trenches. At about midnight a report was received (through a deserter who came into 8th Division) that a general attack was expected all along the line. All necessary measures were taken but nothing happened.

28th: Very heavy rain during night.

29th: Trenches are in a bad way as result of rain and flooding of trenches. In many places (on the right of line especially) men are standing in water. Almost every communication trench is impassable from mud and slush.

30th: The water troubles on right of line are serious and 3 platoons evacuated the line for the night to rest in the "Water Farm" just behind the line.

31st: Brigadier General Injoinville-Williams left at 4 a.m. for a short leave in England. Colonel Hasler of the Buffs assumed temporary command of the Brigade. Some rain.



**Grand Flamengrie Trenches during winter 1914 – 15**

### **Remains found in the Chateau Du Flandres area (Daily Mail 2010)**

Today it is hauntingly quiet in Beaucamps-Ligny. But back then the air was filled with the rattle of machine guns and the screams of the dying.

This is where the remains of Private John Brameld and his York and Lancaster Regiment comrades have been uncovered.

Guy Behorel, 60, a lifelong village resident, was here when the bodies were found during building work. And he tells me how the legend of the Tommies' bravery has been passed down through five generations.

"They were terrified, sheltering in a cave because houses were being shelled". There was a horrific battle for the Chateau de Flandres on October 18, 1914.

"What happened to the British men was appalling. They were trapped and couldn't escape the German bombardment. They buried the dead on the spot. During the excavation, they found horse remains as well. They paid these men no respect".

"This village was occupied by the Germans for the four years of the war. We have always known these men would be buried somewhere near here, but we never knew the exact place. We are all extremely happy they will have a dignified burial at last. They tried to save our village."

Private Brameld, a 30-year-old steel worker and father of two from Sheffield, is one of 10 British soldiers identified following the mass grave's discovery in 2010.

Every year around 60 bodies of First World War soldiers are unearthed across the countryside of the Western Front, which runs through Belgium and northern France. Most happen by accident during building work.

In Beaucamps, a digger driver who was making a hole for sewage works for council housing struck a skull. Local police were alerted, and they in turn contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Over the following days tons of earth were dug up to reveal ammunition, scraps of webbing, regimental buttons, and the human remains.

One skeleton was found clasping a water bottle with a pipe close to the other hand. Coins, clasp knives and toothbrushes were also found.

This is the first-time soldiers have been successfully matched with their families by DNA testing. Private Brameld was an Army reservist mobilised like thousands of others when Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914.

He was part of the British Expeditionary Force – the men called up in the first few months who tracked the advancing Germans as they moved west. After embarking for the port of St Nazaire in September, they were caught up in the March to the Sea when British forces stopped the capture of key French ports.

Marching alongside The Buffs – the Royal East Kent Regiment – the York and Lancaster infantry captured Radinghem, a mile away without much opposition.

They advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards wide, towards the woods where the Chateau de Flandres used to stand. There they came under a heavy crossfire of machine guns and shrapnel, suffering terrible casualties.





An Artillery shell lies at the opening of a bunker near Beaucamps-Ligny, France. Fifteen British WWI soldiers were re-buried at nearby Y Farm Commonwealth cemetery in Bois-Grenier, France on Oct 22, 2014, nearly a century after they died in battle.

The soldiers, who served with the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, who were fighting alongside "The Buffs" East Kent Regiment. were discovered in a 2010 in Beaucamps-Ligny and identified through a variety of means, including DNA.



German dead waiting to be buried in the village of Beaucamps-Ligny where they died in a battle with the British for the Chateau Flandres.

## Newspaper reports of L/7824 Pte George Brown

The Times Newspaper 14th January 1915

**KILLED.**

Clarke, 9917 R., Buffs (E. Kent Regiment).  
Hodges, 9630 H., Buffs (E. Kent Regiment).  
Stevens, 9899 H., Buffs (E. Kent Regiment).

**DIED OF WOUNDS.**

Eaves, 10151 E., Royal Fusiliers.  
Manning, 11248 P., Royal Irish Fusiliers.

**WOUNDED.**

**THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).**

Bing, 7923 S.	Manning, 6838 E.
Brown, 7824 C.	Marsh, 9603 Cpl. A.
Busby, 7025 W.	Page, 9934 T.
Davis, 7111 W.	Poole, 9405 Lce.-Cpl. J.
Drury, 8015 A.	Reed, 8278 G.
Hayes, 8200 C.	Stevens, 8819 A.
Hill, 9990 C.	Wall, 7039 J.
Jarvis, 6977 A.	Webster, 9911 C.
Kenley, 5764 Lce.-Corpl. J.	Wood, 6050 W.

**ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT.**

Aitkenhead, 7024 A.	Nightingale, 10132 A.
Bisset, 5594 H.	Norris, 8457 J.
Butterfield, 10462 J.	Pearce, 3381 W.
Cobbett, 9301 C.	People, 8047 W.

Although it says C. Brown it is G. Brown the Service number and Regiment are correct and I have taken this up with the source but as they just transcribe from the originals and it was originally written as C not G there is little I can do, but it has been acknowledged.

The Times Newspaper – 7th July 1915

described :—

**KILLED.**

R. FIELD ARTILLERY.—Sinclair, 67489 Act. Bmbdr. J.  
R.F.A., 3RD W. RIDING BATTY. (T.F.).—Benton, 1487 Gnr.  
G. C. ; Sowden, 890 Gnr. H.  
R.E. (NORTHUMBRIAN, NEWCASTLE) DIVL. SIGNAL  
CO.—Brodie, 1930 Drvr. A.  
SCOTS GUARDS, 2ND BN.—Foulds, 7955 L.-Cpl. L. S. J.  
ROYAL SCOTS, 1ST BN.—Beaton, 15587 K.  
ROYAL SCOTS, 2ND BN.—Belcher, 9781 W. ; Foy, 3205 D. ;  
Gray, 13788 P. ; Inglis, 3105 G. ; Kane, 2908 M. ; Lockridge,  
2566 J. ; McGuichan, 7606 Cpl. K. ; Perry, 6277 A.  
ROYAL SCOTS, 8TH BN. (T.F.).—McDonald, 4547 G. ; Smith,  
634 W.  
BUFFS (E. KENT REGT.), 1ST BN.—Brown, 7824 G.  
R. LANCASTER REGT., 1ST BN.—Duckworth, 8835 A.  
W. YORKS REGT., 1ST BN.—Twigg, 8488 A.  
BEDFORD REGT., 2ND BN.—Hardingham, 13033 J. ; Sell,  
14142 P.  
YORKS REGT., 5TH BN. (T.F.).—Hotham, 1451 C.  
R. WELSH FUSILIERS, 2ND BN.—Edwin, 6240 Sgt. T.  
R. WELSH FUSILIERS, 4TH BN. (T.F.).—Davies, 4936 D. ;  
Nadan, 7480 L.-Cpl. B.  
E. LANC. REGT., 1ST BN.—Brennand, 6114 T. ; Mason,  
18349 R.  
DUKE OF CORNWALL'S L.L., 2ND BN.—Chidgey, 20406 L.-  
Cpl. A. ; Evans, 13889 T.  
DUKE OF CORNWALL'S L.L., 6TH BN.—Hunter, 11485 W.  
BORDER REGT., 5TH BN. (T.F.).—Brackley, 2002 J. ; Clark,  
2174 D. ; Wilson, 661 R.

The Times Newspaper reports his death.

## January to May 1915

### January 1915:

1<sup>st</sup> Rue De Lettree In billets

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion went into Divisional Reserve, the war diary says Blanchisserie La Haie.

"One of the most important sanitary considerations was the supervision of the divisional baths and laundry and disinfecting plant established at Pont, de Nieppe in a disused bleach works on the banks of the Lys facing Armentieres and just north of the bridge. For the use of the bleach works the British Army paid a rental, and the plant was very suitable for the purposes both of baths and laundry: the huge vats used pre-war for bleaching linen yarn with Eau de Javel, (Bleach) the substantial hydraulic presses and the copious supply of hot water from the large boilers were appliances adequate to all purposes. The Pont de Nieppe baths were well known on the English front as the first large institution of the kind to be established—by the 6th Division who were quartered in Armentieres in the winter of 1914-1915. The large vats made surprising tubs for the men to bathe in; the hydro-extractors, rotary driers, the hydraulic presses and the extensive drying rooms, all used in the linen industry, were quite suited to the purposes of a laundry, so that several of these "blanchisseries" became operable as laundries at various points on the Lys in 1915.

The rest of January was spent between the trenches in Rue Du Bois and New Hospital Armentieres, I have yet to find where that was. They were relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire regiment (swapping between the two).

### February 1915:

February was much like January rotating between Armentieres in billets when relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment and Ru Du Bois in the trenches.

During the Great War Armentieres was an important town in the British lines in Artois: a main route to and from the trenches where units were billeted, a depot for support and Lines of Communication troops, Divisional headquarters for the neighbouring sectors, the site of many artillery gun sites and a forward rail head for this part of the front.

### March 1915:

As February Rotating with the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment between Armentieres billets and the trenches at Rue Du Bois, with the exception of March 14<sup>th</sup> as below.

Armentieres sector. Part of 16th Brigade, 6th Division. Moved by train to Vlamertinge in support of 27th Division 14th March but returned to Armentieres next day.

24<sup>th</sup> March Lt W.F.Taylor joined the regiment (Lt Taylor was killed along with George Brown in the same shelling incident in June 1915)

### April 1915:

April again was spent between Armentieres and Rue Du Bois, several incidents and exchanges were taking place with the enemy and casualties sustained. More men were being trained and joining the Battalion to strengthen it after many losses.

The general pattern seems to be Six days in e trenches then Six days in Billets give or take a day or two. No major battles but continuous periods of shelling, mortar fire and heavy rifle fire.



**May 1915:**

As April, one notable difference was the training in using flannels and goggles as respirators due to the Germans use of gas N.E of Ypres, as yet not used in the Armentieres area.

Continued exchanges between the British and the Germans, some deaths and injuries.

The usual rotations between Armentieres and Rue Du Bois with the Leicester Regiment up until May 30<sup>th</sup> when the 1<sup>st</sup> Buffs were relieved (according to the war diary) by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (91<sup>st</sup> Regiment)

Overnight 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment marched to billets in Bailleul arriving at 4am

31<sup>st</sup> May the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade were inspected by the Prime Minister Mr H. H. Asquith after which they billeted in Bailleul 31<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> June.

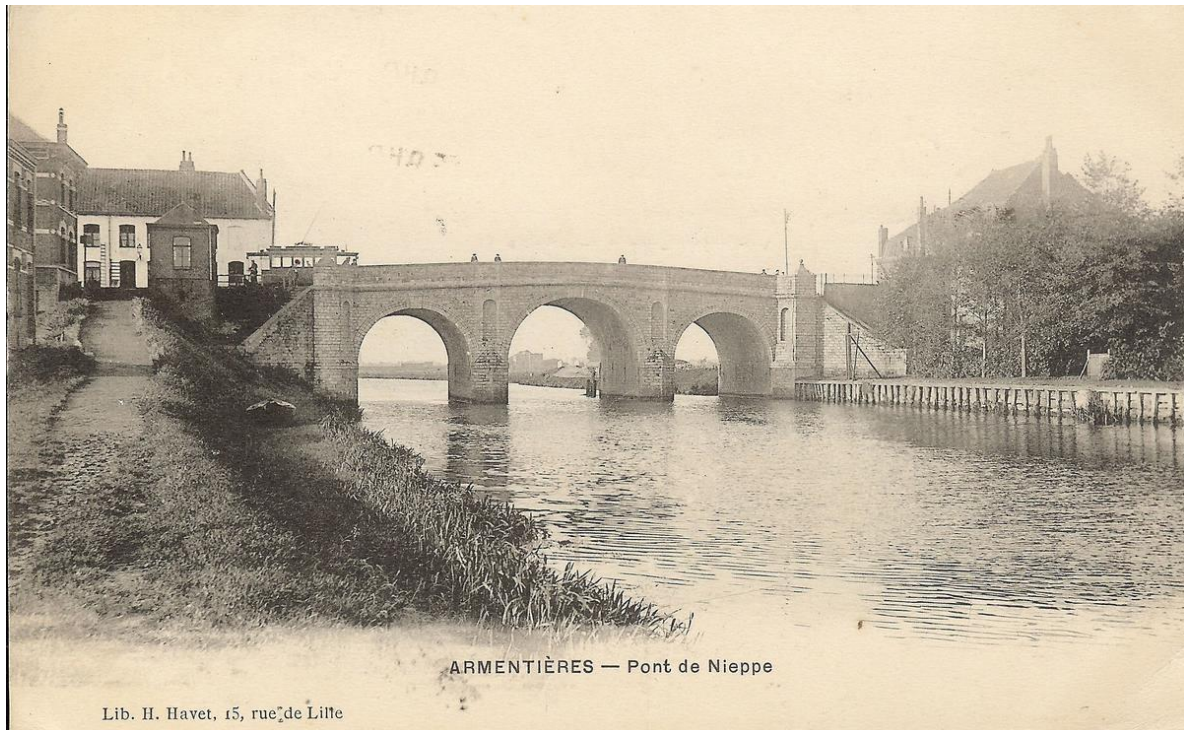
**June 1915:**

1<sup>st</sup> June at 5am in the morning they marched to Wittenhoek about a mile north of Westouter, 4 miles south of Poperinge and bivouacked (made camp).

2<sup>nd</sup> June The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment (Great Step Grandad Coveney was in this battalion although he wasn't Great Step Grandad at the time) marched from Poperinge to Wittenhoek to pay a visit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. They had not met up since 1904.

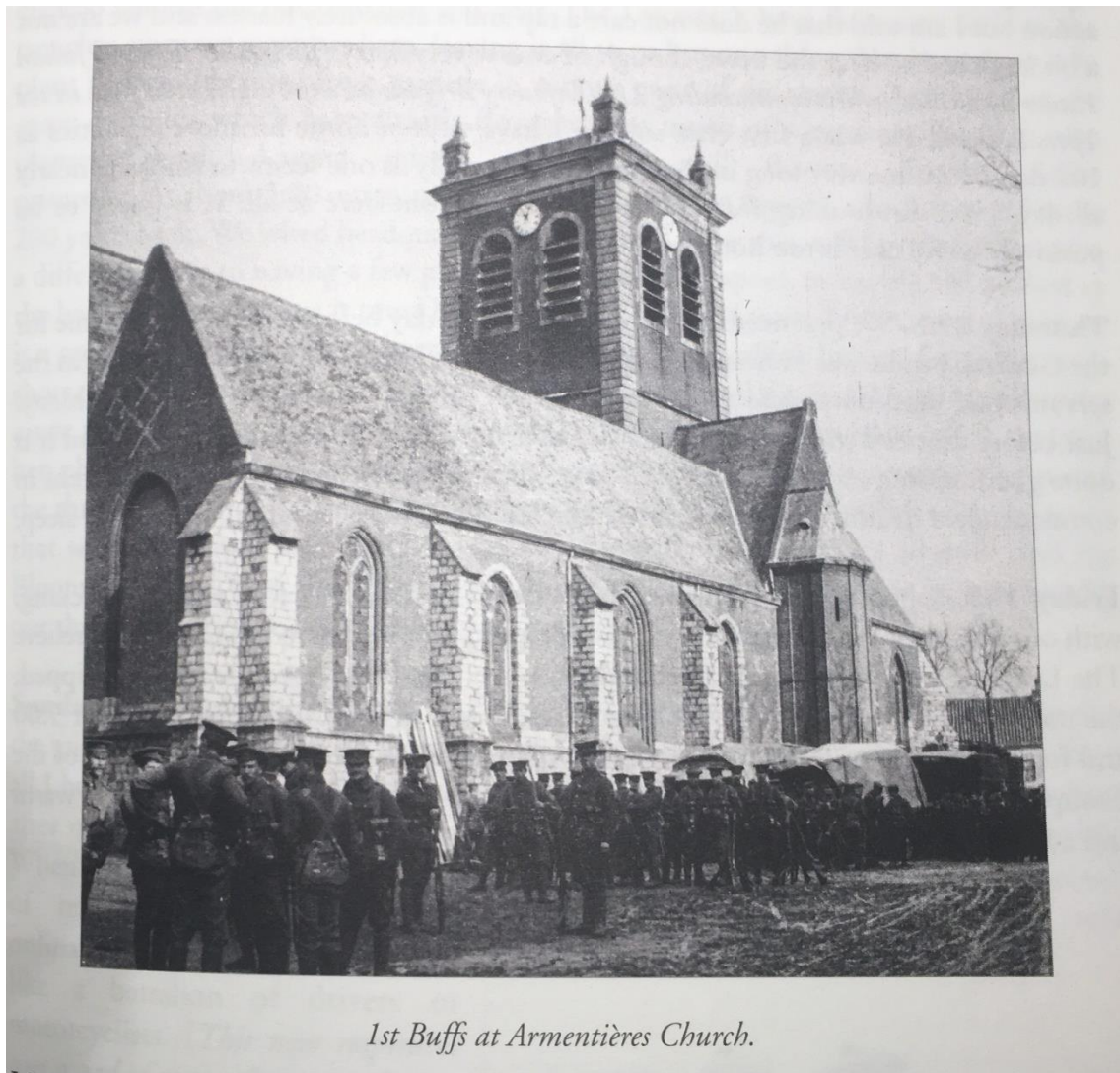
3<sup>rd</sup> June the Battalion marched to billets, some huts, North East of Vlamertinge.

The area was shelled heavily for two days, the rest is documented elsewhere in this document.



One of the bridges over the river Lys joining Armentieres and Nieppe





*1st Buffs at Armentières Church.*

Picture taken from Captain Wilfred Barham's war diary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment "The Buffs" outside Armentieres Church. Thought to have been taken in April 1915.

The square was one of the main routes through the town, and all troops in this sector knew it as "Eleven o'clock square" as the original of the clock tower was struck by a shell in 1914 and thereafter the hands stuck on **eleven o'clock**. Note the clock on the picture above.

Armentieres was badly damaged by years of shelling, and all but levelled by German guns during the Lys battle in April 1918. It was rebuilt in the 1920s

### **Final Correspondence Home.**

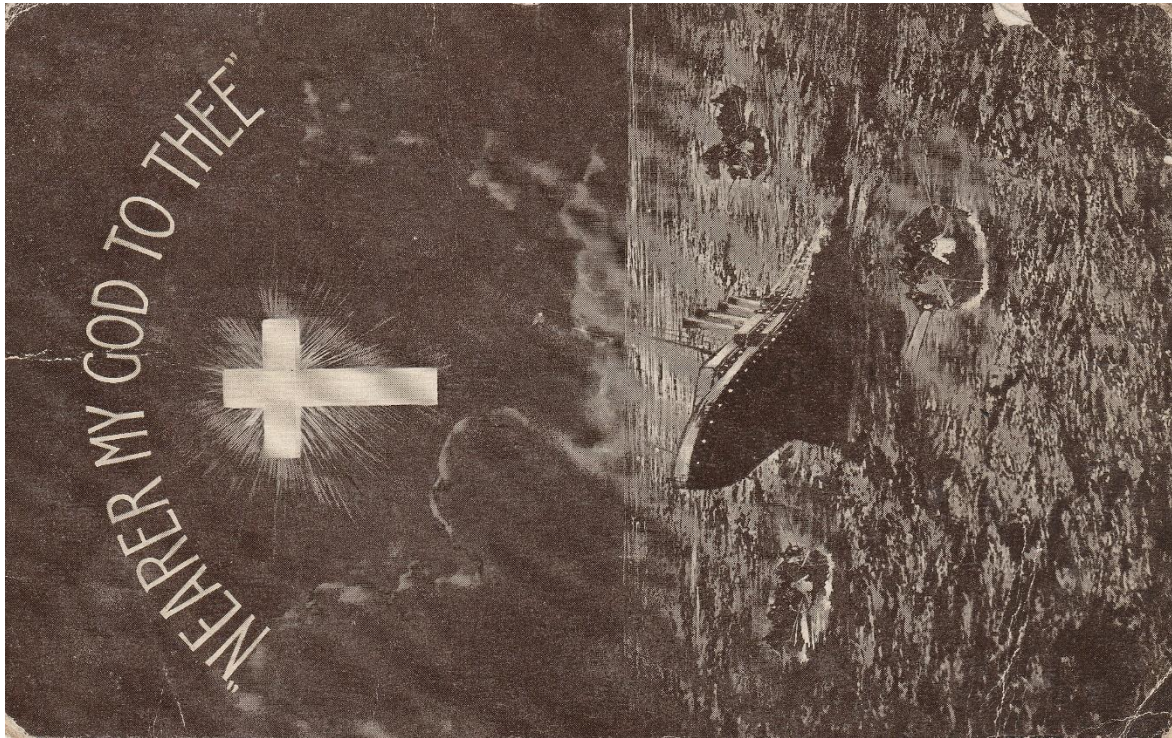
I have recently found what can only be described as an absolute Gem. While searching through some old postcards and photographs that have been passed down from Grandparents and have finally reached me, I found what I believe to be the last postcard my Grandad received from his father Pte George Brown.

It was written on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1915 and was posted on May 11<sup>th</sup> the cancellation mark suggests it was in a French Field Post Office and Censor stamped. By the postmark is the name Taylor, I believe this to be the officer who would have censored it, he was a Lieutenant who coincidentally was killed at the same time as Pte George Brown.

On the next page are both the front and rear of the card and a transcript of its contents.



The front of the postcard is a picture of the sinking titanic and lifeboats surrounding it.



The rear of the card below.



It says:

Dear Son I now sit down to write you a few lines hopen they will find you in the best of health as it leaves me the same at present and I thank you for the pages you sent me so I must close this with best of love to you from your ever loven father xxxx for you son.

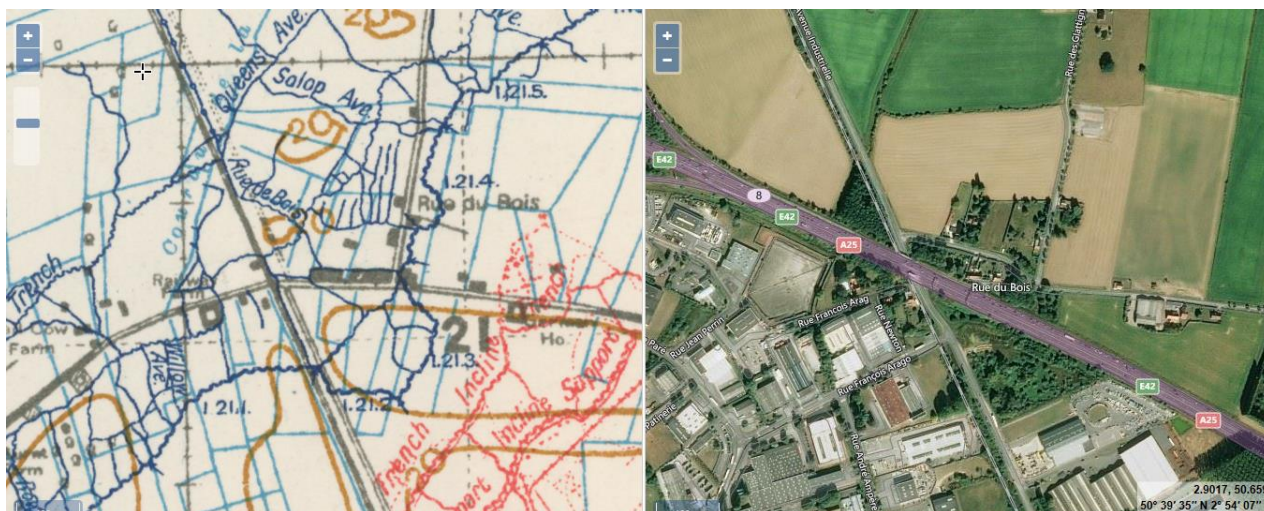


## Where the card was written

Further research on where the postcard was written shows that according to the war diary for that day George Brown was away from the front line as shown below on the extract for that period.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.		
Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
May 1 <sup>st</sup> RUE DU BOIS	<p><u>May = 1918</u></p> <p>Sgt Mitchell and one man of D Company were killed by Snipers shot through a loophole.</p> <p>Owing to the Germans using Asphyxiating Gases, all men were issued with Flameless respirators and goggles, soaked in a solution of Bi. Carbonate of soda, to withstand the fumes. No attempt was made on our portion of the line, but great losses were experienced NE of YPRE'S.</p> <p>The Germans opened a heavy bombardment of ARMENTIERES and bombarded the neighbouring Bungalows: our trenches were left alone about 1500 shells, mostly French manufacture, were fired into the town.</p> <p>Leicesters relieved the Battalion from the Trenches.</p> <p>Battalion was called out as heavy rifle and Artillery fire commenced S. of the RUE DU BOIS. However it apparently was a demonstration by another Division.</p> <p>Relieved Leicesters in Trenches.</p> <p>One man wounded (died of wounds)</p> <p>Relieved by Leicesters. Had a very quiet time in the Trenches during this stay, only one casualty.</p> <p>Lieut Aspery 3rd Bn (attached) sent to Hospital.</p>	
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> — do —		
May 6 <sup>th</sup> — do —		
May 7 <sup>th</sup> — do —		
2A in May 13 <sup>th</sup> ARMENTIERES		
May 14 <sup>th</sup> RUE DU BOIS		
May 15 <sup>th</sup> — do —		
May 20 <sup>th</sup> — do —		

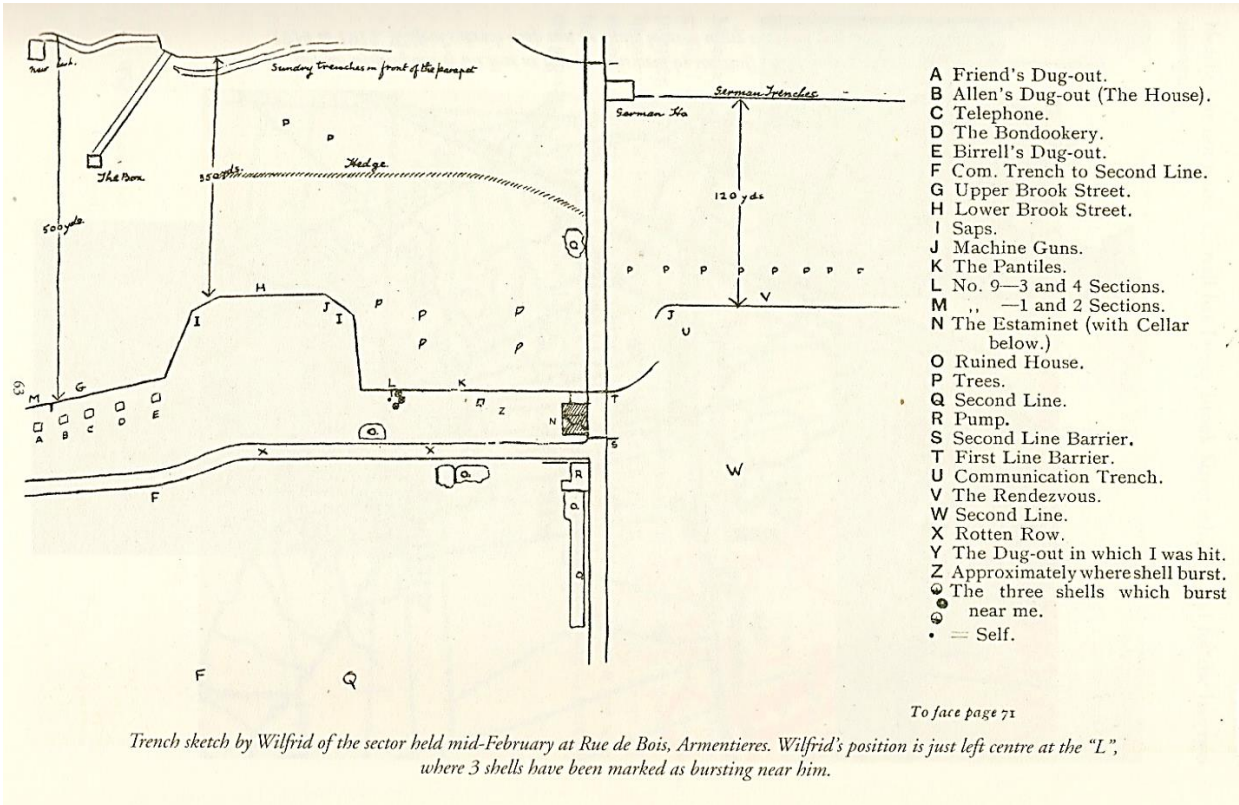
As above between May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> Buffs had been relieved from the trenches by the Leicester's but were in the Rue Du Bois area. Looking at the trench map there were many trenches in a network behind the line which is possibly where they were holed up. But their billets were in Armentieres and up to present I have not been able to nail down exactly where in Armentieres they were.



There was quite a network roughly in the area of the light-coloured field in the aerial picture on the right which corresponds with the trench map on the left.



Sketch scanned from Captain Wilfrid Barham's Diary.

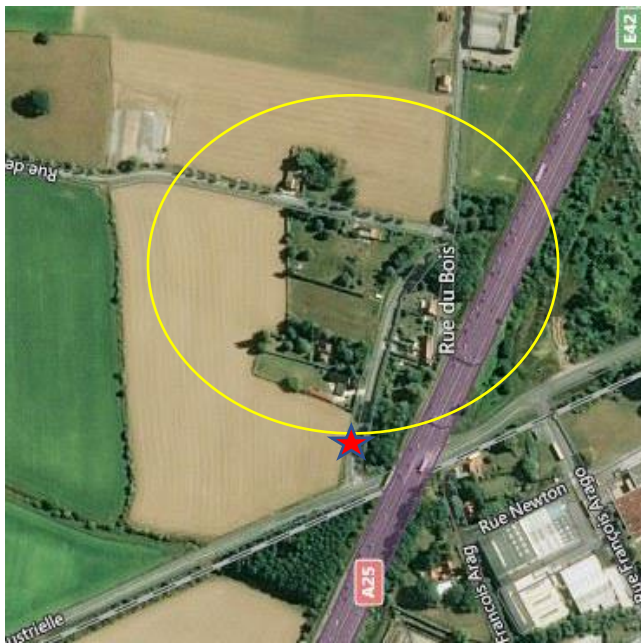
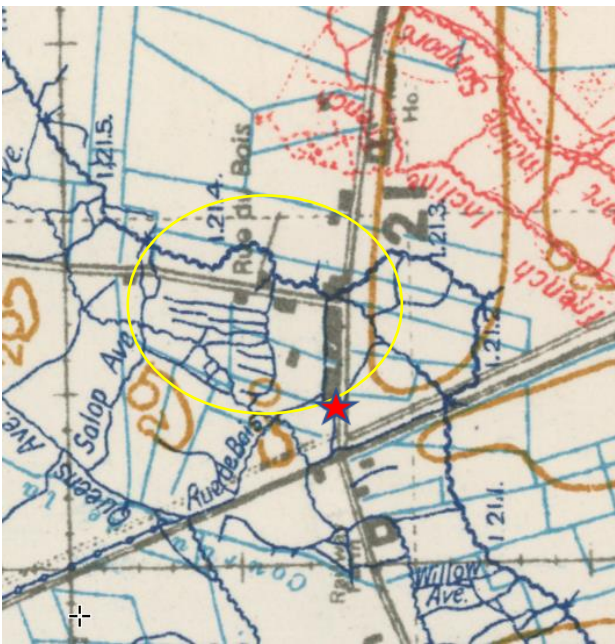


Captain Wilfrid Saxby Bahram's sketch on the Rue Du Bois area above.

Below on the left is the same place on the trench map.

Below right is an aerial shot of the same place in modern times.

Wilfrid Barham's diary is available to purchase from [info@holepark.com](mailto:info@holepark.com) for £20







These two photos were taken from the position of the red star on the maps on the previous page, looking on to the field where the trenches were in 1914 – 15 and where Pte George Brown would have spent some time.



### Where George Brown was killed.



The approximate area where he was killed in Action on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1915.

British Army map reference H.5.a.2.9 as found on the Concentration of Graves Exhumation and Re-Burials return. This is where his body was buried by his comrades, the grave marked and later exhumed and buried in Perth Cemetery (China Wall). He and his colleagues are buried side by side as they fell.

At the time according to the official War Diaries his Battalion had just moved into Belgium after several months fighting in France (See War Travels). They were resting up in huts in this area and were bombarded for three hours by German shells.

He along with 10 others were killed.



The location of this spot today (As photograph) is just off the main road in Brielen between Brielenstraat and Adriaansensweg roads.

## Military Evidence

**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES.**  
(EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIALS).  
**BURIAL RETURN.**

NAME OF CEMETERY OF RE-BURIAL. PERTH CHINA WALL CEMETERY. Sheet. 26.I.16.d.2.7. 6/8/19.

Plot	Row	Grave	Approximate map reference where body found	Was cross found on grave	Particulars on cross found on grave Regimental Particulars	Remarks Means of Identification.	Were any effects forwarded to the Base.
1	G	1	D.26.c.1.6.	Yes	In Memory of <del>9 R. Bn Cpl. Sandrich</del> <del>or Sandrich 24/6/17.</del>	Disc 52174 Sandrich. L. 11/11/17. C.E. 6/348 11/11/17. Yes.	
3	A	11	H.5.a.2.9.	Yes	8936 L/Cpl R. Brook, 1/Buffs. Killed in action 7/6/15.		No
3	A	12	do	Yes	403 Pte. C. Brown, 1/Buffs. Killed in action 7/6/15.		No
3	A	13	do	Yes	Lieut. W.F. Taylor, 1/Buffs. Killed in action 7/6/15		No
3	A	14	do	Yes	10276 10276 L/Cpl. T. Perron, 1/Buffs. Killed in action 7/6/15		No
3	A	15	B.30.b.3.4.	Yes	Driver H.A. Comes, 2/Canadians Battery R.F.A. Killed in action 25/4/15		No
3	A	16	H.4.b.9.9.	Yes	R.I.P. 77189 Dr. C. Buttle, 365 Bty. R.F.A. Killed in Action 8/5/15		No
3	A	17	do	Yes	9565 Gnr. J.E. Wilkins R.F.A. Killed in action 8/5/15.		No

This form to be rendered in duplicate, one copy being handed to the Registration Officer and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

Printed in France by A.P. & S.S.

Press 3-B&S-172-275-300.

Concentration of Graves shows the plot number of the grave Plot 3, Row A, Grave 12, the next column shows where the body was originally found on the Army map Sheet 28 H.5.a.2.9

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

Army 1

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Battalion marched to huts in some huts N.E. of FLAMERTINGE. Major E.H. Ford. Hatten having returned took command of the Battalion - the Battalion remained in reserve -	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Captain Hart transferred to 2nd Bn Buffs - Lt Morley to hospital, left hand damaged by explosion of mine a delusion -	
5 <sup>th</sup>	The huts were heavily shelled until 10.30 - no casualties - 28 other ranks joined.	
7 <sup>th</sup>	The huts were heavily shelled for 3 hours. Lieut Taylor + 10 men killed. 3 wounded	
8 <sup>th</sup>	The Battalion marched back some 4 miles to a wood where we built up a line. Lieut HOGAN rejoined from England -	
9	Capt. Cottle rejoined from hospital - took command of C Coy -	
10.	C.S.M. Brown, Sgt. H. Walter. 2 Cpl Lacy award D.C Medal.	
11		
12		
13		
14		
15	Lt. Morley to hospital.	
16	Capt. Roman to " -	
17	Batt took over trenches from 1st Bn Buffs in the salient E of YARDES -	
18.	Batt took over trenches from 1st Bn Buffs in the salient E of YARDES - 1 man killed 2 wounded - Lt Morley rejoined -	

Official war diary entry for East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion June 7<sup>th</sup> 1915 is marked with a yellow line. Killed along with Lieutenant Taylor who is buried next to him in the cemetery.

The entry says, **"The huts were heavily shelled for three hours Lieut Taylor + 10 men killed, 3 wounded"**.



# Military Evidence

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

SCHEME "A" PAGE 25  
NAME OF CEMETERY

No. of Contract.....dated.....

Name and address of firm.....

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS  
to this report is attached  
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS

..... (these headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)  
and  
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layout to be used  
are quoted on the badge design.)

To be stencilled at foot  
of headstone below ground level  
abbreviated thus:-  
PTH.C.CH.WL.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st line	2nd line	3rd line	4th line	Centre of Stone	To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level.	Plot Row Grave	P R G	No. of Stone
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
1186/2B	70672 A/BOMBARDIER	J. PAGET	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	13TH MAY 1915	AGE 21	CROSS	3 A 3	861	
1030/2E	200710 PRIVATE	J.A. PENDLEBURY	LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS	6TH JUNE 1917	AGE 22	CROSS	3 A 4	862	
1078/1A	T4/111118 DRIVER	G.G. WALLOND	ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS	6TH JUNE 1917	AGE 27	CROSS	3 A 5	863	
1047/1A	6642 RIFLEMAN	F. CHAPMAN	THE RIFLE BRIGADE	25TH APRIL 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 6	864	
1028/1A	S/8074 PRIVATE	S. DAY	ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT	25TH MAY 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 7	865	
1027/1A	S/8453 LANCE CPL.	T. WHITE	E.KENT REGT.(THE BUFFS)	7TH JUNE 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 8	866	
1186/2A	43742 GUNNER	G. TWIGG	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	29TH APRIL 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 9	867	
1186/2A	656182 DRIVER	G.S. RINTOUL	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	5TH JUNE 1917	NONE	CROSS	3 A 10	868	
1027/1B	L/8936 LANCE CPL.	R.E. BROOK	E.KENT REGT.(THE BUFFS)	7TH JUNE 1915	AGE 22	CROSS	3 A 11	869	
1027/1A	L/7824 PRIVATE	G. BROWN	E.KENT REGT.(THE BUFFS)	7TH JUNE 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 12	870	
1027/1E	LIEUTENANT	W.F. TAYLOR	E.KENT REGT.(THE BUFFS)	7TH JUNE 1915	AGE 23	CROSS	3 A 13	871	
1027/1A	S/10278 LANCE CPL.	S.W. PERREM	E.KENT REGT.(THE BUFFS)	7TH JUNE 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 14	872	
1202/1A	40530 GUNNER	M.A. GOMES	CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY	26TH APRIL 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 15	873	
1186/2A	77127 DRIVER	G.W. BUTTLE	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	8TH MAY 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 16	874	
1186/2A	9565 GUNNER	T.E. WILKIN	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	8TH MAY 1915	NONE	CROSS	3 A 17	875	

Proof Checked.....  
Final Check No.1.....  
Office copy prepared.....  
Final Check No.2.....

Imperial War graves Commission Headstone Instruction.



# Military Evidence

**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.**  
**GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM**

D.A.D.G.R.E., Cent. S-District No. 5 District.  
REPORT No. 50. SCHEDULE No. 58/c

Command: ZILLEBEKE.  
This Report Schedules 1/C to 56/C, cancels Zillebeke Report No. 1/C to 8/C and all preliminary reports.

PLACE OF BURIAL PERTH (CHINA WALL) MILITARY CEMETERY.  
All Documents Certified Correct & Complete.

Map Reference Sh.28.1.16.1.85.70.  
Major.,  
D.A.D.G.R. & E., Cent. S-District No. 5 District.

The following are buried here:—

14 SEP 1920

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<b>PLOT 3.</b>						
					all crosses erected	ROW A.
2 Scots Gds.	5569	ROBERTSON	PTE. S.	10-3-16		1. ✓
1 Buffs	106--	BURKE	J.	7-6-15		2. ✓
37 R.F.A.	70872	PAGE T. T.	BDR. J.	13-5-15	RR/24218 RR/LS/6100	3. ✓
Lanc Fus.	200710	PENDLEBURY	PTE. J.			4. ✓
2 55 DIV. TRAIN. Tpt	111118	WALLOND	DVR. G. G.	6-6-17		5. ✓
4 Rifle Bde.	6642	CHAPMAN	OP. M. F. H.	25-4-15	RU/24358	6. ✓
R. West Kent	8074	DAY	PTE. S.	25-5-15		7. ✓
1 Buffs	8453	WHITE	L/C. T.	7-6-15		8. ✓
75 R.F.A.	43742	TWIGG	DVR. G. GNR. O.	29-5-15		9. ✓
C 276 R.F.A.	56182	RINTOUL	DVR. G. S.			10. ✓
1 Buffs	8936	BROOK	L/C. R.	7-6-15		11. ✓
-do-	403	BROWN	PTE. G.	"		12. ✓
-do-		TAYLOR	LT. W. F.	"		13. ✓
-do-	10278	PERREM	DVR. T.	"		14. ✓
2 Can. F.A.		COMES	DVR. M. A.	25-4-15		15. ✓

ENTERED 18. 10. 20  
SLIPS CHECKED ES. 16/11/20

(G 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV P1024 Forms/W3372/3

Graves Registration Form



## Military Evidence

370660005

Effects—Form 118A.

-5 DEC 1915

No. HOUNSLOW

Infantry Records,  
Hounslow.

WAR OFFICE,  
PARK BUILDINGS,  
ST. JAMES'S PARK,  
LONDON, S.W.,  
15th November, 1915.

7777 /1. (Accounts 4.)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession belonging to the late No. 7824 Private George Brown, 1st Bn. East Kent Regiment, should be despatched to:—

Mrs G. Brown,  
Lambland Cottages,  
Rolwenden,  
Cranbrook.

Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your possession or that may hereafter reach you should be forwarded to:—

The same person.

Chambers  
Assistant Financial Secretary.

[illegible]

Send belongings to – Address is Great Gran Brown his wife at Lambsland Cottages Rolvenden Lane.  
Below that is the financial war settlement of Five pounds, one shilling and Sixpence.



## Military Evidence

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

THE BUFFS (LAST REGT) REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301. of 1919.

On 1/11/18 or on becoming non-effective	Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	Unit previously served with Regt. No. and Rank in same on entry into theatre of war	Theatre of war in which served								Clips awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations	REMARKS	
					From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To				
	L/7624	Pte	BROWN	GABERS L/7624.1 Bri. B. Kent												
	L/7625	Cpl	COMINS	HARRY L/7625.1 Bri. B. Kent												
	L/7626	Pte	NEWMAN	JAMES L/7626.1 Bri. B. Kent												
	L/7627	Pte	FRANCIS	HARRY L/7627.1 Bri. B. Kent												

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place STAINES ROAD, HOUNSLOW Date 21 JUN 1920

Signature and rank of Officer certifying Lieut. for

Signature and rank of Officer certifying Lieut. Colonel

Official entry in the log showing entitlement to British & Victory Medals

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

The Buffs (Last Regt) REGIMENT OR CORPS when Decoration was earned.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 350 of 1917.

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation.		NAME.	Date of Disembarkation.	REMARKS.	Record of disposal of decorations.	To be left blank for use in War Office.
	Regt. No.	Rank.					
	L/4406	Pte	BILLINGHAM	AA	Discharged medically	B 4-6-19	
	L/4414	Pte	BALDREY	J.H.	Discharged medically	B 7-7-19	
	L/4434	Pte	BRATTLE	E.W.	Discharged medically	B 10-7-19	
	L/4436	Pte	BODMAN	W.	Discharged medically	B 10-7-19	
	L/4444	Pte	BURGESS	W.	Discharged medically	B 20-5-19	
	L/4451	Pte	BROAD	G.A.	Discharged medically	B 23-6-19	
	L/4454	Pte	BROWN	G.	Discharged medically	B 23-6-19	
	L/4482	Pte	BINGHAM	F.L.	Discharged medically	B 26-5-19	
	L/4484	Pte	BOUGHTON	A.M.	Discharged medically	B 11-6-19	
	L/4489	Pte	BULL	L.F.	Discharged medically	B 2-9-19	
	L/4493	Pte	BING	S.C.	Discharged medically	B 8-10-19	
	L/4494	Pte	BAKER	H.	Discharged medically	B 17-6-19	

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place STAINES ROAD, HOUNSLOW Date 23 SEP 1918

Signature and rank of Officer certifying Lieut. for

Signature and rank of Officer certifying Lieut. Colonel

Official entry in the logbook showing entitlement for the 1914 Star



Name Brown, George Regimental No. 7824 Case No. WDP 356  
 Regiment East Kent Rank Pte **DEAD** 13  
 Form 104-88 received 30-6-15 Date of notification of death 7.6.15 Form 104-76 received 5-8-15  
 Date and cause of death 7.6.15 Killed in action  
 Widow Kate Date of birth 7.5.85  
 Children:— East View Cottages, Rehenden, Kent

Name	Date of birth	Date of expiry	Remarks
<u>Thomas George</u>	<u>5.9.09</u>	<u>5.9.25</u>	No. for whom S.A. is paid <u>3</u> <u>50 F. 4. 12. 15-</u>
<u>James</u>	<u>23.9.11</u>	<u>23.9.27</u>	
<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>10.3.14</u>	<u>10.3.30</u>	
			Noted for Novel.

Pension 20/6 a week from 27.12.15  
 Date awarded 16.12.15 If refused, reason {  
 Papers {  
 W 13947 -517 20,000 3/15 H W V(P) G. 15/251

### Pensions for war-widows

Women who lost their husbands in the First World War were granted the first State-funded, non-contributory pension (meaning that they did not have to pay a contribution towards it). They also received a dependents' allowance for any children under 16. Charities such as The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and The British Legion provided some families with additional support.

It appears that Kate Brown received 20/6 or in today's money £1.2<sup>1/2</sup>p per week for the three children and herself.

COVENEY  
 RGA  
 Thomas Alfred  
 503108  
 Pension is being issued by I.O.W for  
 Thomas, James, & Elizabeth Brown  
 Stepchildren of the above named man  
 under ref. no. WDP 356. in respect of  
 BROWN  
 E. Kent  
 GEORGE  
 7824

Can't quite make out what this is about, but it refers to George Browns children and Kate's War widows' pension after she had married Thomas Alfred Coveney in 1922. The date on the back says 27<sup>th</sup> April 1923.



## AWARDED TO

*Private. L/7824*

*G Brown*

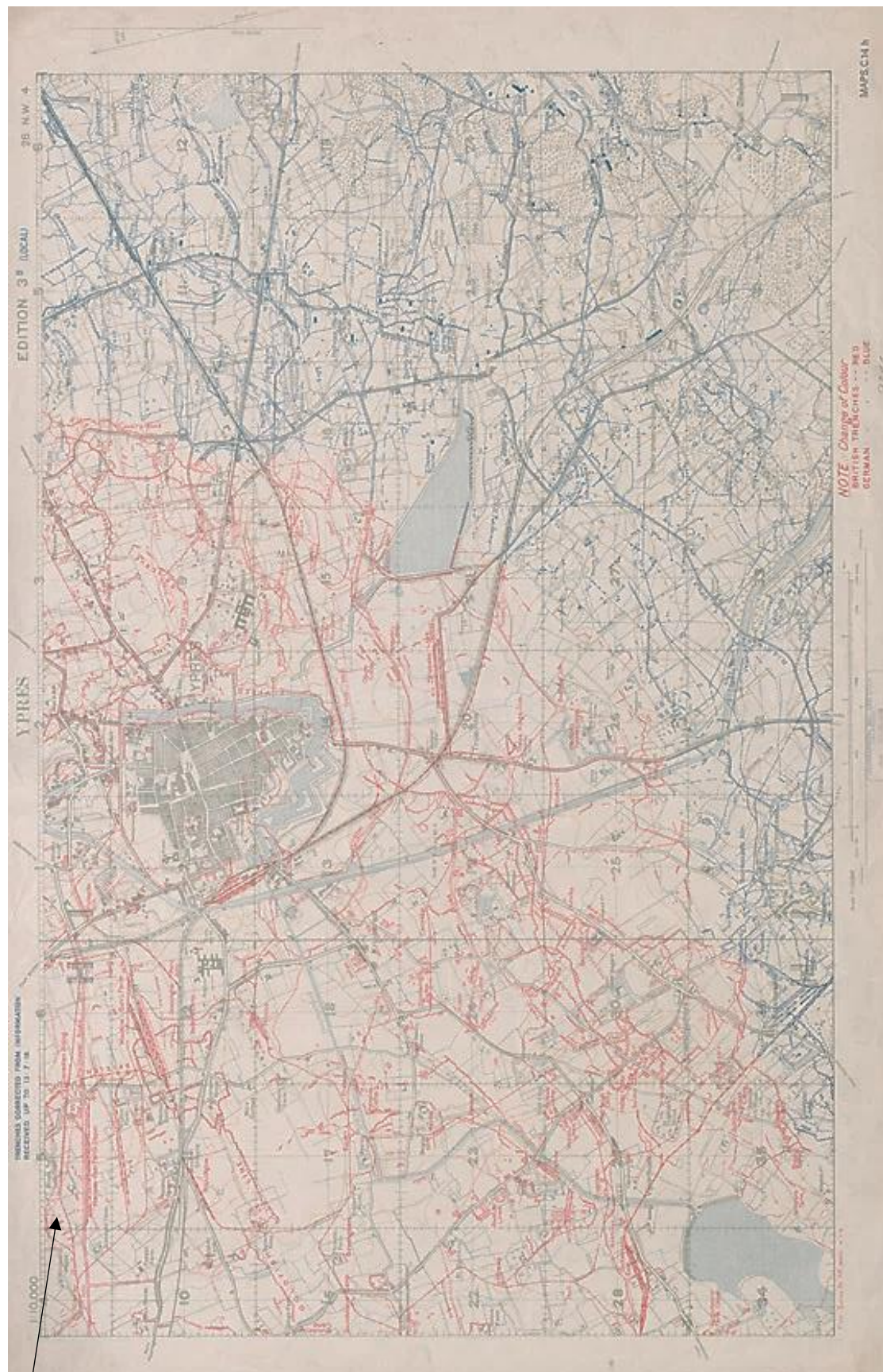
*Bufs (East Kent Regiment)*

3			
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
BROWN George.	E. Kent R.	Pte	L/7824
	"	"	"
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	E/2/102 B. 13. 2006.		K. in A. 4-6-15
BRITISH	do do.		
14 STAR	E/2/3	8	
blasp 2/26/16			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein	4-9-14		

K. 1380.

L/7824 Pte George Browns Official Medal Card





- British Army Trench Map – Red trenches are British forces Blue trenches are German  
Map reference H.5.a.2.9 where George was killed is around here.



**Monday 7th.** It is awfully hot again; we paraded in shirt sleeves. I have to sit outside to avoid melting altogether. We got through our tea before the evening "hate", but it came soon after 6:00. They sent over about 30 shells; the artillery said they were 8", mostly too far to the right but one went into a shelter trench and killed 11 and wounded two,

What appears to be slightly misfortunate shelling in which Pte George Brown was killed.

*JUNE*

including Taylor.

*[The 11 members of the Battalion who were killed by the shell landing on their trench were almost certainly*

*Lt William Frederick Taylor aged 23, son of William Marion Taylor of "Harrow"  
Cowes, Isle of Wight*

*L8163 Pte A Mantle*

*L8163 L/Cpl James George Fuller*

*L8936 L/Cpl Robert Edward Brook*

*L7824 Pte G Brown*

*S9160 Pte James Burke*

*S244 Pte J Gowler*

*5903 Pte W Hills*

*S10278 L/Cpl SW Perrem*

*S8453 L/Cpl T White*

*S108 Pte John Hughes*

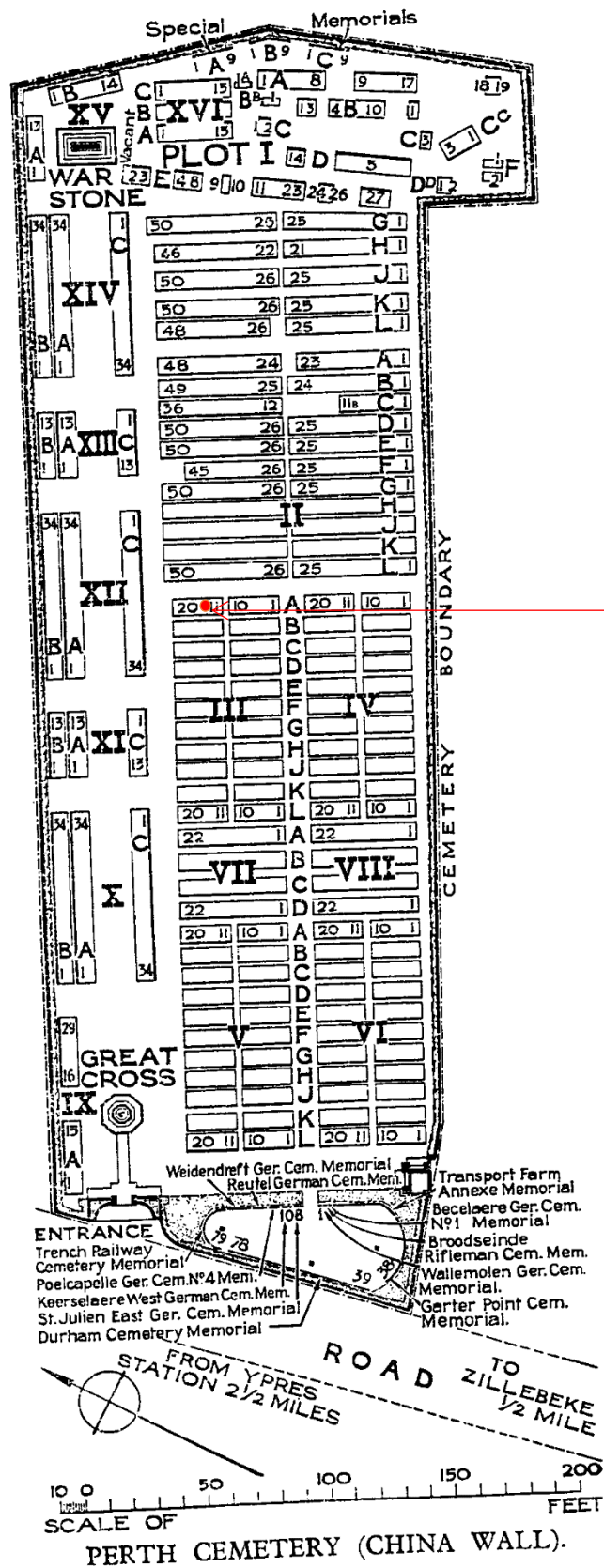
*All were privately buried by the regiment in a plot that Wilfrid returned to see on 6th October, four months later. After the war their graves were moved to Perth Cemetery (China Wall) where they remain, united as they fell with the exception of Fuller and Hughes whose graves were lost and are remembered with more than 54,000 others with no known grave on the Menin Gate, Ypres, and Mantle who is buried nearby in White House Cemetery, St Jean-Les Ypres.]*

As soon as they stopped, my platoon paraded to dig behind the firing line. We went right past the orchard where the shells had been falling. You never saw such holes, 10ft deep and the same across. More shells came along and some of the men got into the ditch but I cursed them roundly that that would not do when they were not even shelling us. With several pauses for shelling, we went through the north part of Ypres; it was very badly knocked about. A guide took us forward and we dug a communication trench from the 2nd to the 1st line. It was fairly quiet where we were, except for one rattle of machine guns when we all lay down. In the hurry to get away I had left my water bottle behind. I had some dried figs which made a sort of meal.

October 6<sup>th</sup> entry when Captain Barham returned to their graves in Brielen.

After tea we went to find the graves of the 11 men who were killed when we were shelled in the huts when first here. [See entry for 7th June]. We found them but they can do with a little tidying up.





George Browns Grave is in Plot III Row A Grave 12 (Marked on this map with a red dot)

In Memory of  
Private  
**G Brown**

L/7824, 1st Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 07 June 1915

Remembered with Honour  
**Perth Cemetery (China Wall)**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

---

Commemorative Memorial issued by Commonwealth War Graves Commission





Commemorative plaque in Rolvenden Church (Up by the Altar left hand side)





Rolvenden War Memorial



## **George Brown WW1 Travels**

**L/7824 Private George Brown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade – 6<sup>th</sup> Division – III Corps**

30<sup>th</sup> July 1914 Mobilisation begun

8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Sailed from Southampton on SS Minneapolis

9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Disembarked St Nazaire

9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to Rest Camp at Grand Marais

11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Train to Montcerf via Angers – Tours – Vendome

12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to Billets at Maison Celles Nr Crecy La Chapelle billeted at Chateau Rouge.

13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Jouarre

14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to Citry and billeted.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched via Chateau Thierry to Rocourt

16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to and billeted at Rozieres

17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to and biv'd in woods west of Mesmin

19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 Marched to Billets at Mont Notre Dame

20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 (Afternoon) Marched to Courcelles

20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914 (Night) Marched to English position North of Vailly

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914 Marched to Bazoches – Fismes

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914 Train to Cassel via Paris, Amiens, E'taples. Arrived at 12:15am 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914 Marched to Outtersteene

15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914 to May 1915 Actions in and around Armentieres area.

Oct - Nov 1914 wounded around the area of Grande Flamengrie Farm

31<sup>st</sup> May 1915 Marched to Bailleul to billets.

Visited by Prime Minister Asquith on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

1<sup>st</sup> June 1915 Marched to Wittehoek 4 miles south of Poperinge

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915 Marched to billets, some huts north east of Vlamertinge.

6<sup>th</sup> June 1915 the huts were heavily shelled with shrapnel but no casualties

7<sup>th</sup> June 1915 the huts were heavily shelled for three hours. Private George Brown was killed along with 10 others.

(The above dates & notes are taken from the official East Kent Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion diary)

## Maps of George Browns WW1 Travels

**30<sup>th</sup> July 1914** Mobilisation begun

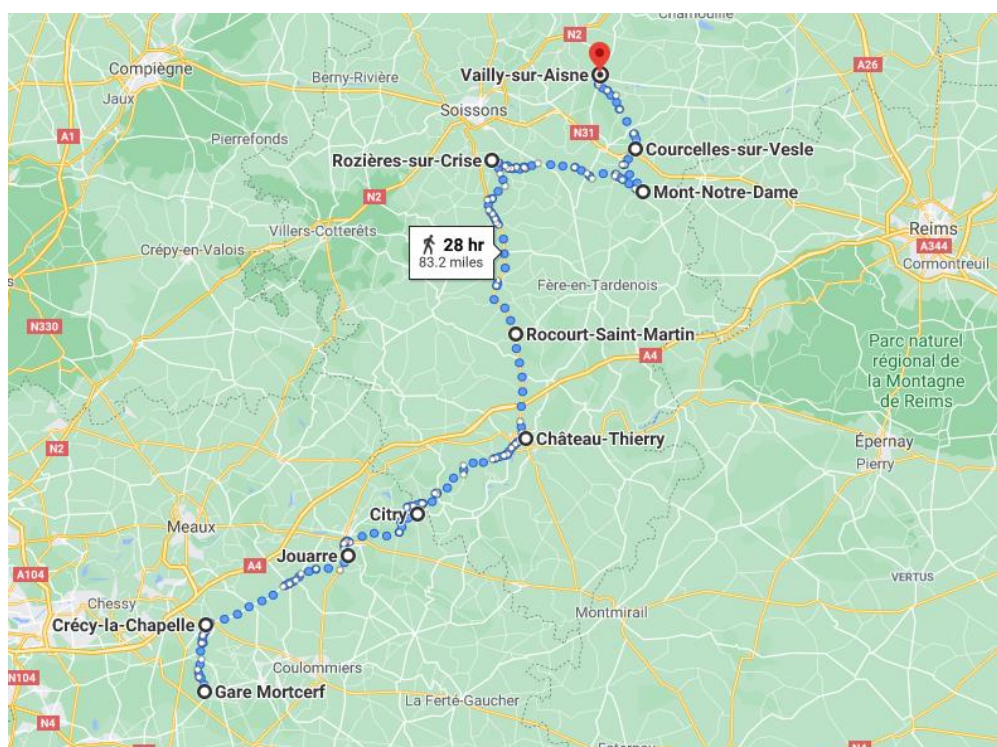
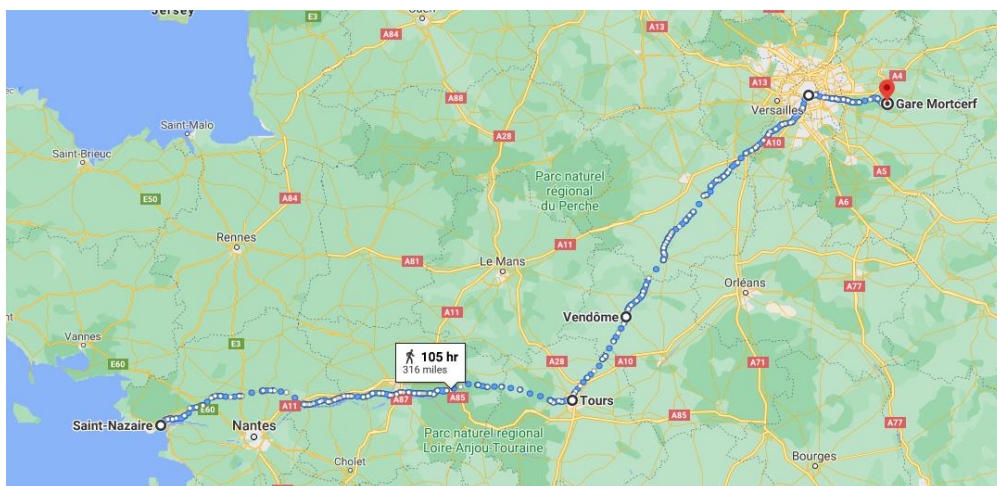
**8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Sailed from Southampton on SS Minneapolis

**9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Disembarked St Nazaire

**9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to Rest Camp at Grand Marais

**11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Train to Montcerf, via Angers – Tours – Vendome

**12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to Billets at Maison Celles Nr Crecy La Chapelle billeted at Chateau Rouge.



**13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to Jouarre

**14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to Citry and billeted.

**15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched via Chateau Thierry to Rocourt, shelter in cowsheds with Belgian refugees

**16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to and billeted at Rozieres in a desolate farm with refugees

**17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to and biv'd in wood (made huts) west of Mesmin

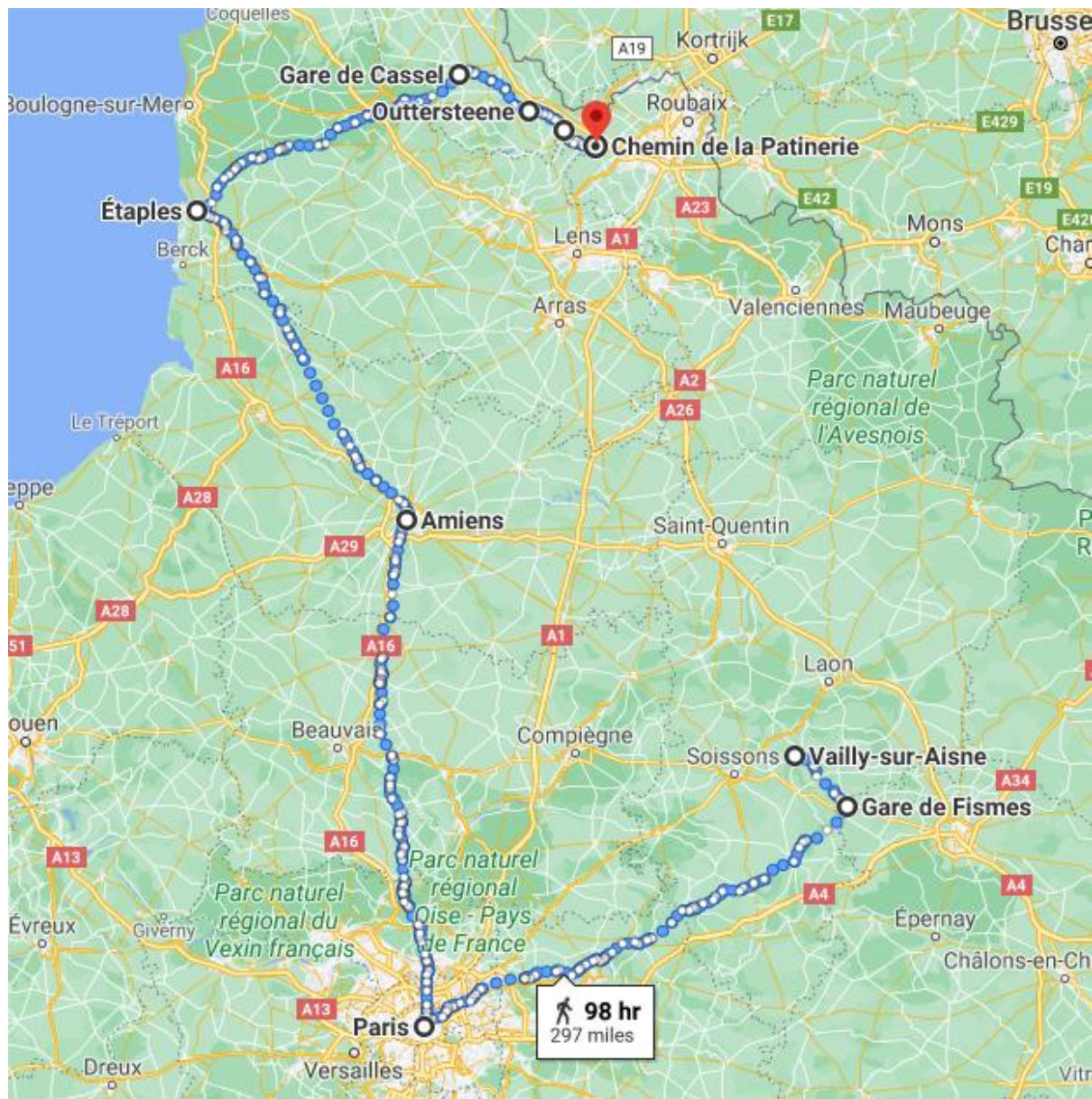
**19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** Marched to Billets at Mont Notre Dame

**20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** (Afternoon) Marched to Courcelles

**20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914** (Night) Marched to English position North of Vailly-Sur-Aisne.



The period from 20<sup>th</sup> September through to 13<sup>th</sup> October was spent in the Vailly-sur-Aisne area.



**13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914** Marched to Bazoches – Fismes

**13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914** Train to Cassel via Paris, Amiens, E'taples. Arrived at 12:15am 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

**15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914** Marched to Outtersteene

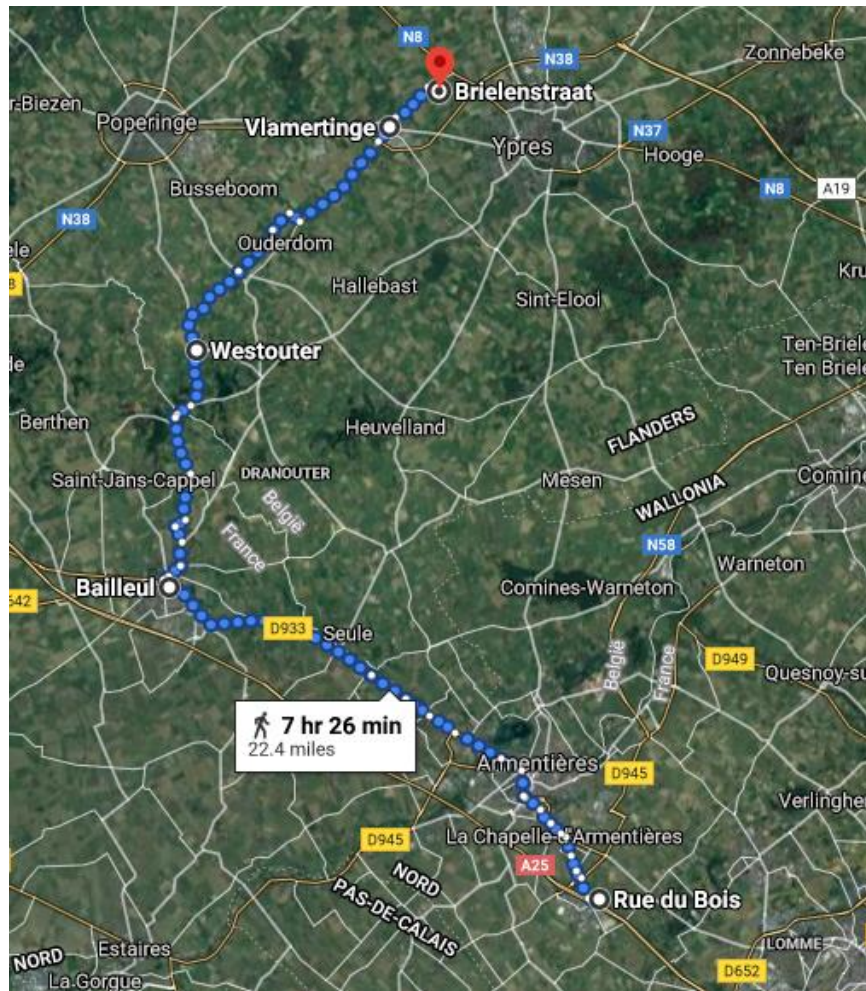
**15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914 to May 1915** Actions in and around Armentieres France

**Oct - Nov 1914** listed as wounded around the area of Grande Flamengrie Farm in the area of Bois Grenier south of Armentieres France. Actions around Armentieres area until the end of May 1915.

**10<sup>th</sup> May 1915** Wrote what turned out to be his final card to his Son Tom.

**31<sup>st</sup> May 1915** Visited by Prime Minister Asquith.





**31<sup>st</sup> May 1915** Marched to Bailleul to billets.

**1<sup>st</sup> June 1915** Marched to Wittenhoek (Westouter) or Wippenhoek 4 miles south of Poperinge

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915** Marched to billets, some huts north east of Vlamertinge.

**6<sup>th</sup> June 1915** the huts were heavily shelled but no casualties

**7<sup>th</sup> June 1915** the huts were heavily shelled for three hours.



1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment in Ypres area 1915





A Shell Hole near Brielen May 1915 (Above)

Banns of Marriage between

*George Brown - Bachelor* } *Both*  
*and Kate Bryant - Spinster* } *of this Parish.*

*Married*  
 1st Time, Sunday, *Oct. 11* by *P. B. Drabble*  
 2nd Time, Sunday, *16* by *P. B. Drabble*  
 3rd Time, Sunday, *25* by *P. B. Drabble*

George Brown & Kate Bryant Marriage Banns above. Registration below.

1908. Marriage solemnized at *St Mary's Church* in the Parish of *Rotenden* in the County of *Kent*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
66	<i>Nov<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1908</i>	<i>George Brown</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Rotenden</i>	<i>George Brown</i>	<i>Roadman</i>
		<i>Kate Bryant.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i><del>Thomas Bryant</del> Rotenden</i>	<i>Thomas Bryant.</i>	<i>Labourer.</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* by *P. B. Drabble - Vicar.* or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *George Brown* } in the Presence of us, { *Arthur Bryant* }  
 { *Kate Bryant* } { *Mary Monk* }



## CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE



Application Number 10963411-1

1908. Marriage solemnized at <u>S. Mary's Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Robenden</u> in the County of <u>Kent</u>								
Column.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
66.	Nov <sup>r</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 1908	George Brown	23.	Bachelor	Labourer	Robenden.	George Brown	Roadman
		Kate Bryant.	23.	Spinster.	—	Robenden	Thomas Bryant.	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Arthur Bryant. or after Banns by me,  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Brown Kate Bryant. In the Presence of us, Arthur Bryant. Mary Monk. P. B. Drattie.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Tenterden  
 Given at the General Register Office, under the Seal of the said Office, the

17th day of July 2020

MXH 897471



SJS

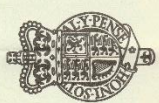
CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

825210 04/19 APR/18P



SAW 042457  
ENTRY OF DEATH  
Application Number 10963411-2  
Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957



CERTIFIED COPY OF  
Registration of Births, Deaths and

Return of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the East Kent Regiment Killed in Action or who have died whilst on Service Abroad in the War of 1914 to 1921							
Rgtl. or Army number	Rank	Name in Full (Surname First)	Age	Country of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death	Cause of Death
L/7824	Pte 1	BROWN George	29	England	7.6.1915	British Expeditionary Force France	Killed in Action
An Entry relating to the death of George Brown							

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of the ~~certified copy of~~\* an entry in a Service Departments Register.  
Given at the General Register office, under the seal of the said Office, the 5th day of August 2020



Section 3(2) of the above mentioned Act provides that "The enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths and marriages in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (which contain provisions authorising the admission in evidence of, and of extracts from, certified copies of registers and duplicate registers) shall have effect as if the Service Departments Registers were certified copies or duplicate registers transmitted to the Registrar General in accordance with those enactments."

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © Crown Copyright

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY

\*If the certificate is given from the original Register the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

## Appendix 1: My Mothers original enquiries.

My Mother (Olive Monk, Nee Brown) original correspondence or more accurately the replies she received after her initial enquiries are below along with the details of a poppy that I (Steve Monk) purchased and had displayed in Ashford for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 1 in his honour.

Her initial line of enquiry was with the CWGC on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997.



### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

2 MARLOW ROAD MAIDENHEAD BERKS SL6 7DX

Telephone 01628 34221 Telex 847526 Comgra G Facsimile 01628 771208  
www.open.gov.uk/cwgc/cwgchome.htm

*1 hr - 1 1/2 hr  
calais.*

Mrs O Monk  
10 Sparkeswood Close  
Rowenden  
Kent  
TN17 4NA

JG 7 97

7 July 1997

Dear Mrs Monk

Thank you for your letter of 1 July 1997.

Further to your enquiry we record the following:

Casualty:	Private G BROWN, L/7824
Served With:	1st Bn. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
Died:	7th June 1915
Commemorated:	PERTH CEMETERY (CHINA WALL) Belgium Plot III. Row A. Grave 12.

*Ypres*  
Perth Cemetery (China Wall) is located 3 Km east of Ieper town centre, on the *Menin*. Maaldestedestraat a road leading from the Meenseweg (N8), connecting Ieper to Menen. From Ieper town centre the Meenseweg is located via Torhoutstraat and right onto Basculestraat. Basculestraat ends at a main cross roads, directly over which begins the Meenseweg. 1.7 Km along the Meenseweg at a major roundabout lies the right hand turning onto the Maaldestedestraat. The cemetery itself is located 1 Km along the Maaldestedestraat on the left hand side of the road.

I must explain that the Commission does not provide a general photographic service. However, as it is sometimes not possible for an individual to obtain a photograph of a name on a memorial or a headstone through their own resources, the Commission is prepared to undertake to carry out this task for you.

In such circumstances we ask a member of our supervisory staff to take a photograph when visiting the cemetery. You should be aware, however, that the next visit may not be for many months. I must also point out that the photograph will not be of professional quality and, of course there may be poor weather or light conditions when it is taken.

Bearing in mind the above, if you are unable to obtain a photograph through any other means and wish us to attempt to obtain one, please complete and return the top copy of the enclosed form. You will note that we will require a payment of £5.00 upon receipt of the photograph; this payment is intended to cover all charges, including staff costs, incurred in obtaining this photograph.



We do not record the circumstances or place of death of a casualty. I give below the address of the Regimental Association for the regiment to which he belonged. I should point out that they are unlikely to hold much information about an individual, but will probably know what action his battalion was engaged in at the time of his death.

Regimental Headquarters  
The Queen's Association of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
Howe Barracks  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 1JY

I hope that the above information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

*J Griffiths*

J Griffiths (Mrs)  
Enquiries Section

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WAR GRAVES PILGRIMAGES

Please quote:

Royal British Legion Village  
Aylesford  
Kent ME20 7NX

*Brochure*

### RECEIPT

Received from ~~Mr~~/Mrs/Miss *Blank* the sum of £ *5.00p*

representing: (a) *Donation with thanks*

(b) .....

(c) .....

(d) .....

in connection with Pilgrimage to ..... period .....

Date: *6/8/97*



Signed: .....

*[Signature]*  
pp Piers Storie-Pugh  
Head of Pilgrimage Dept

(The Royal British Legion is a Registered Charity No. 219279)

We have to remember that back in 1997 the internet was not as widespread, popular, or indeed affordable to many people and the content was a lot less than today.

Letter writing and phone calls if you had a landline were the main forms of communication.

	<p>From: Major (Retd) W D Marshall - Secretary The Regimental Association of The Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR)</p> <p><b>REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS</b> <b>THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT</b> <b>(QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)</b> Howe Barracks Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY Telephone: Military - Canterbury (728) 4252 Civil - Canterbury (01227) 818052</p>	
		Fax: Ext 4257
<hr/>		
Mrs O J Monk 10 Sparkeswood Close Rolvenden Kent TN17 4NA		Your Reference
		Our Reference
		Date
		RHQ/PWRR/702
		17th July 1997

---

Dear Mrs Monk

Thank you for your letter dated 12 July 1997 seeking information about your late grandfather Private George Brown (L/7824) who was killed in action on 7 June 1915 while serving with the 1st Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). My work at this Headquarters is mainly of a benevolence nature and we do not hold any records of individual soldiers here. The enclosed is an extract copied from the Regimental History which records the action his Battalion was involved in at around the time of his death.

You may be able to obtain details of his service from the following:

Public Record Office  
Ruskin Avenue  
Kew  
Richmond  
Surrey TN9 4DU

*I hope you find the above helpful.*

Yours sincerely

*Bill Marshall*

Encl.

Now as I type this in 2023, many official records and information are widely available both via official websites and paid for research sites. Mum never had access to the vast array of information which I now enjoy, which is one of the reasons I have continued what she started for future generations. She never saw a photograph of her Grandads grave let alone visited and stood by it. I hope somewhere, somehow, she knows I have completed her initial enquiry with enormous pride.



THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

# ASHFORD'S POPPY TRIBUTE

**BATTLE'S OVER: A NATION'S TRIBUTE**

**11 November 2018, North Park, Ashford**

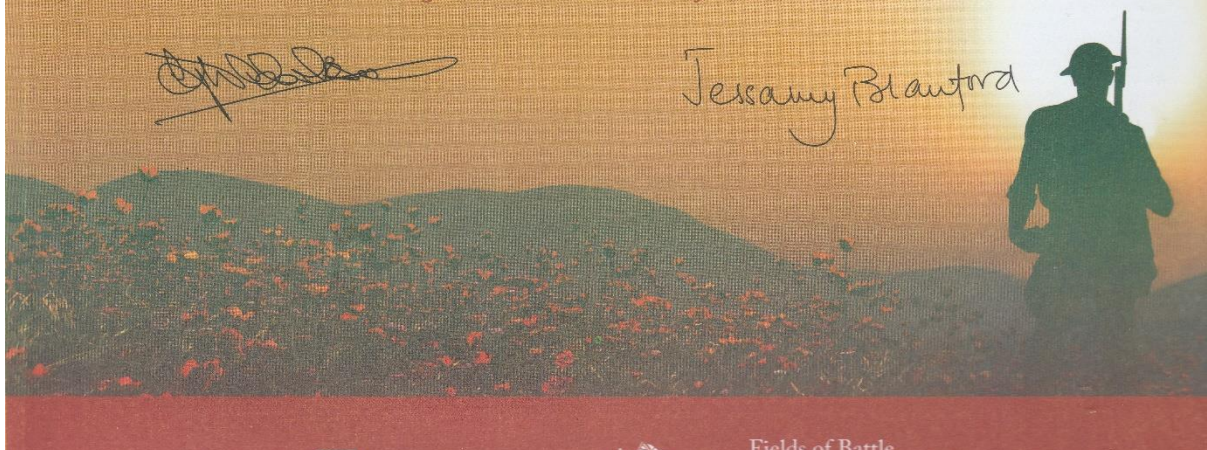
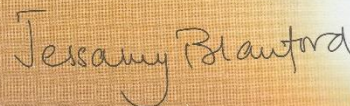
**Y**our poppy has been part of a display of 3,000 poppies, in North Park, Ashford, planted for 11 November 2018 to commemorate light returning across the country at the end of the First World War. A donation from the poppy sales has been made to the Kent branch of SSAFA, the charity which provides lifelong support to the Armed Forces and their families.

Thank you for being part of this special occasion; please accept this copy of *'Tribute to the Millions'*, the official poem of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

With warm regards

**Cllr Gerry Clarkson CBE, QFSM**  
Leader of Ashford Borough Council

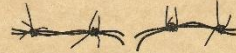
**Cllr Mrs. Jessamy Blanford**  
Mayor of Ashford



Fields of Battle



# BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

## *Tribute to the Millions*

Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their  
lives at home and abroad, whose  
sacrifice enables us to enjoy the  
peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home  
wounded, physically and mentally, and  
the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to  
restore their relationships and rebuild  
their working lives after years of dreadful  
conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost  
husbands, sons and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant  
seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from  
Commonwealth and Allied countries -  
who fought, suffered and died during  
four years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupation  
and the brave people who  
kept us safe on the home front - the  
doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded,  
the women and men who toiled in the  
fields, those who worked in the factories,  
who all played such a vital role  
in the war effort at home.





Steve - Sky

**From:** noreply@ashford.gov.uk  
**To:** monk-steve@sky.com  
**Subject:** Thank you for your Poppy purchase



**ASHFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Customer

Thank you for your Poppy purchase. Details of your order can be found below.

- Please tick this box to accept the terms and conditions as listed above. - I accept
- Select 'Poppy' from the Product list, and the quantity required (max 5) -

No	Product	Price	Quantity	Description	Remarks	Total Tax
1	Poppy (1 Poppy)	6	1	Poppy	Private George Brown	5 1
Total tax						1
Grand total						6

- Title - Mr.
- First Name - Steve
- Surname - Monk
- Telephone - 01233 444444
- Mobile Tel. -
- Email Address (required if you would like a confirmation email) - [monk-steve@sky.com](mailto:monk-steve@sky.com)
- House No/Name -
- Street -
- Town - Ashford Kent
- Postcode -
- Select Preferred Collection Date/Time - Thursday 15th Nov (AM)
- Make Payment -

Please keep this email for your records.

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