



YOUR TOWNS & CITIES IN THE GREAT WAR

DARTFORD

IN THE GREAT WAR



STEPHEN WYNN

Your Towns and Cities in the Great War



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'The journey to the trenches was rather nauseating – Dead men's legs sticking through the sides with puttees and boots still on – Bits of bones and skull with hair peeled off and tons of equipment and clothing lying about. This sort of thing together with the strong stench and the dead and mangled body of the pilot, combined to upset me for a few days.'

*Major Edward Mannock VC DSO MC – 85 Squadron RFC
(On arriving at an enemy aircraft he had just shot down)*

Acknowledgements



Many thanks to my wife Tanya for her continual support and for providing photographs and documentation for the compilation of this book. Thanks also to Andrew Bratley for allowing me to use his research concerning men from Dartford in Kent who served with Australian Forces during the war and who were killed.

CHAPTER ONE

A Brief History of Dartford



Dartford has a long and varied history beginning in early medieval times when it became a market town which, besides the local population, brought with it a transient population of pilgrims and travellers on their way to Canterbury and beyond. Some of them liked what they found and stayed which resulted in diversity in both religion



Dartford Museum, Library and War Memorial (Wikipedia)

and culture. Today it has a thriving community which has resulted in Dartford being granted borough status.

Archaeological evidence shows that the area was first populated some 250,000 years ago. Over the years it has had Roman, Saxon as well as Norman influences. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book in the form of Dartford Manor.

Various religious orders settled in the town, including the Knights Templars. During the Peasants Revolt of 1381 groups of rebels met here before marching to both Canterbury and London to vent their frustration. A local pub is named Tylers after one of the peasants' leaders, a man by the name of Wat Tyler.

The town has had its fair share of connections with royalty over the

years. As far back as 1415, King Henry V, en route to fighting the French at the Battle of Agincourt, marched through the town with his army. When he died suddenly just seven years later on 31 August 1422, his body travelled through Dartford on its way to Westminster Abbey and a state funeral. In 1452 the Duke of York, with an army of 10,000 men, was encamped on Dartford Brent, a large expanse of common land on the outskirts of the town, before he surrendered to King Henry VI. A hundred years later in 1555, the same location was the setting for the burning at the stake of a local Protestant, Christopher Ward.

Anne of Cleves, the fourth wife of Henry VIII, lived in Dartford for a while after their marriage was annulled on 9 July 1540.

Dartford Grammar School, which lost some of its young sons during the fighting of the First World War, was founded in 1576.

When it comes to industry, the town has certainly had a varied history. Over the years it has ranged from agriculture, brewing, lime burning, chalk mining, a paper mill, engineering, a gunpowder factory and even the manufacture of mustard.

The outbreak of the First World War saw the town's population at just over 40,000. With massive numbers of men needed to go off and fight, a brisk increase in trade for the local Vickers factory, and the country's largest pharmaceutical company in the form of Burroughs-Wellcome Chemical Works, those of working age would all be required in some capacity.

Along with London and numerous other towns that were situated across the south of the country, Dartford saw the arrival of large numbers of Belgian refugees, who had managed to escape the full force of what appeared to be an ever advancing German Army.

CHAPTER TWO

Dartford Grammar School War Memorial



Dartford Grammar School was founded in 1576 and today has well over 1,000 pupils on its roll. Its current location in Shepherds Lane, at the top of West Hill, is one of several sites where the school has been located since it started out in the High Street above the Corn Market House, a building which sadly has long since been demolished.

The school has its very own ornately carved roll of honour to



Dartford Grammar School War Memorial

commemorate its 'Old Boys' who were killed during the First World War. There are forty-six names on it and the following inscription.

*Dartford Grammar School
Roll of Remembrance of Old Boys
who gave their lives for their country
1914 – 1918*

Those commemorated are listed below; and I will look at some of those who are named on it, in more detail.

Allen, Hubert C.	Lloyd, Valentine
Apps, Reginald D.	Ludlow, Herbert
Ashton, Cyril J.	Manley, Hamilton D.
Baker, Victor S.	Monkman, Fred K.
Bare, Cecil L.	Mosley, Harold D.
Birch, William T.	Nicholas, Paul H.
Bloomfield, Leonard	Palmer, Harry H.
Bloomfield, Sidney.	Peerless, Neville
Bowers, Frank E.	Plant, Percy W.
Brown, Edward C.	Pocock, William H.
Bradley, C. Raymond.	Raynor, B. Harold
Brown, J. Ferguson.	Sanders, William F.
Clay, Walter J.	Schriener, Arthur W.
Chatterton, William T.	Sharp, Humphrey
Davis, J. Frederick.	Smith, John D.M.
Dodd, Francis C.	Smith, Percival T.
Dowsett, Henry C	Smith, W. Leslie
Fry, Horace C.	Stephen, Norman V.
Harris, Sydney E.	Summers, Gordon W.
Inkpen, Wilfred	Tucker, Harold G.
Humphries, William C.	Walton, L. Maitland.
Johnson, H. Ernest	Whatley, H. Albert
Kerr, William	Wiggins, Frank W.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Denman Apps enlisted in the army early on in the war and was commissioned into the 1st Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment. He was killed in action on 17 May 1915 during fighting at the Battle of

Festubert, which was a British attack on German positions in the Artois region of France. The planned infantry assault was preceded by a sixty-hour artillery bombardment of German lines by 100,000 shells, which failed significantly to damage the front line defences of the German Sixth Army. Ultimately the offensive was successful and Festubert was captured by the British, but their efforts came at a cost of some 16,648 casualties. Reginald Denman Apps was one of them.

His name is commemorated on the War Memorial at Le Touret, in the Pas de Calais region of France. The memorial includes the names of over 13,000 British soldiers who were killed in the area from October 1914 until late September 1915 and who have no known grave.

According to the 1911 Census, Reginald lived at 12 The Court, Bury Fields, Guildford, Surrey with his parents, Benjamin Charles and Mary Florence Apps, and his younger brother, John Pollington Apps. Even though Reginald was only 17 years of age he was thought trustworthy and bright enough to be the Clerk to the District Valuer, an important role for one so young.

Second Lieutenant Wilfred Inkpen was born in Dartford in 1898 and, according to the 1911 Census, lived at 20 Nelson Road, Dartford. His parents, Thomas and Minnie Inkpen, had six other children: George, Ernest, Percy, Albert, Elsie and Dorothy.

Wilfred enlisted in the army and at the time of his death on 26 October 1917 he was a temporary second lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Border Regiment. His name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot War Memorial at Zonnebeke, near Ypres in Belgium.

The 2nd Battalion was raised in August 1914 in Pembroke Dock and became part of the 7th Division, 20 Brigade. By 6 October 1914 they had landed at Zeebrugge and they remained on the Western Front until November 1917, when they were moved to the Italian Front. They took part in the later stages of the Battle of Passchendaele, which began on 26 October 1917, the day on which Wilfred was killed in action.

I can find no definitive records of Wilfred's four brothers having served during the First World War, although it is highly unlikely that they did not. There were five men with the name Albert Inkpen, five George Inkpens, three Ernest Inkpens and three Percy Inkpens who all served in the British Army during the First World War.

Private Herbert Leonard Ernest Ludlow (24202) of the 2nd Battalion, The Grenadier Guards, was killed in action on 25 September 1916, aged 19. He was born in the nearby village of Sutton-at-Hone.

The only son and child of Arthur and Florence Mary Ludlow, in the 1911 Census the family were living at 19 The Brent, Dartford, where Arthur was the steward at the local Conservative Club. After the war they moved to 5 Knockhall Road, Greenhithe, Kent.

Although Herbert is buried at The Guards' Cemetery at Lesboeufs in France, he is also remembered on his mother's headstone in the cemetery of St John the Baptist Church in Sutton-at-Hone. She died on 15 March 1924 aged 54.

The 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards arrived in France on 15 August 1914, less than two weeks after the start of hostilities and remained there for the remainder of the war, taking part in numerous battles across the Western Front. The war diaries show that they were in trenches near the Ginchy-les-Boeufs road, in what became the Battle of Morval, and records the following entry for 25 September 1916. The first entry is timed 12.35pm, zero hour at the start of the battle.

'Trenches were narrow – men shoulder-to-shoulder, unable to sit down. 12.35pm – own barrage opened and battalion advanced in two waves of two companies each. It seemed that the Germans knew of the attacks as they shelled heavily within a minute of the advance. The wire had not been cut by the artillery and ways had to be found to cut through it in the face of heavy fire.

1.35pm - Moved forward to edge of village of Les Boeufs.

2.35pm – Marched through the village and gained eastern end.

The new position was shelled by the Germans during the evening.'

Second Lieutenant Fred Kerebey Monkman of the 26th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, died of his wounds on 28 September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres at Polygon Wood. The Royal Fusiliers, who were also known as the City of London Regiment, raised an amazing seventy-six battalions during the First World War. The 26th Battalion was also known as the 'bankers' battalion because the men who enlisted in it came from the clerks and accountants of the City of London's banks. It was raised by the Lord Mayor of London on 17 May 1915 and first landed in France on 4 May 1916.

Lieutenant Monkman is buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinghe in Belgium. During the war the village of Lijssenthoek was part of the journey Allied troops had to make when travelling between the battlefields at Ypres at the front and the military bases that were situated a safe distance to the rear, putting them just out of reach of the German artillery.



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery – Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The cemetery was first used by Commonwealth forces in June 1915, mainly because of the Casualty Clearing Station which was situated nearby.

The 1901 Census showed Fred living with his parents, William and Emily Monkman, along with his sister May and his elder brother Monty, at 94

Oak View, Shipley, Horsham in Sussex. By the time of the 1911 Census the family had moved to 35 Highfield Road, Dartford and Fred had another brother, Roy, who was 9 years old. Fred, who was 17, at the time, is not shown as living with the family.

Captain Arthur William Scrivener MC, 1st/10th Battalion, London Regiment was a holder of the Military Cross. He was killed on 2 November 1917 at the age of 23 and is buried at the Gaza War Cemetery. At the time of his death Arthur was involved in the Third Battle of Gaza, that took place between 27 October and 7 November 1917 and resulted in the capture of the ruined city by Allied forces.

According to the 1911 Census, Arthur, who was an only child, was 16 years old, still at school, and lived with his widowed mother, Edith, her sister Eleanor and a general servant also named Edith, at 'Rostrevor', Sandhurst Road, Sidcup in Kent.

CHAPTER THREE

Dartford War Memorial



Dartford set up a War Memorial Committee to determine how the town would commemorate its dead from the Great War. They agreed on a design and chose Arthur George Walker as their sculptor, after seeing the memorial he had produced for the nearby town of Sevenoaks, which also has a British soldier as its main feature. The story goes that he met a soldier home on leave whom he sketched and then made the

sculpture from his drawings. The identity of the soldier was sadly not recorded, but according to Walker himself, the man survived the war to see photographs of the finished statue.

Walker was a renowned British sculptor and painter of his day, with his best known works being the statue of Florence Nightingale at Waterloo Place in London and the war memorial in Derby. He was also responsible for war memorials in twelve other towns and cities across the UK. The Dartford War Memorial is in the form of a granite pedestal on a base of the same material. On top of these proudly sits the bronze statue of a British soldier.

There are seven inscriptions



Dartford War Memorial.

included on the memorial as it includes the names of those men from the town who fell in subsequent conflicts. The one which relates directly to the First World War reads as follows:

'In grateful memory of the gallant sons of this town, who fell in the fight for freedom 1914-1919'

The Dartford War Memorial was unveiled by Air Vice Marshal Sir William Geoffrey Hanson Salmond on 7 May 1922. Sir Geoffrey, as he was always known, had been a senior commander in the Royal Flying Corps, remaining in service after the war in the Royal Air Force. On 1 April 1933 he took over the position of Chief of the Air Staff from his brother John. Four days later on 5 April, John resumed the role after Geoffrey was taken ill with what turned out to be incurable cancer. He died on 27 April 1933.

Ackland, C.	Blackmore, F.C.	Chacksfield, H.G
Ager, W.J.	Blanks, L.	Chadwick, A.
Allen, H.G.	Blowers, H.W.V.	Challis, S.W.
Archer, E.	Bloxham, A.J.	Chambers, F.B.
Archer, R.	Board, F.G.	Cheeseman, N.W.F.
Ashby, R.	Bodycomb, A.G.	Clarke, T.
Attenbury, J.	Bodycomb, G.T.	Clarke, J.T.
Baker, V.S.	Booker, E.P.	Coad, R.H.
Balchin, F	Booker, T.	Cocup, R.M.
Ballard, W.J.	Boudrie, E.A	Cocup, W.T.
Barden, H.	Bowler, E.J.	Colley, J.H.
Barker, S.J	Bowles, S.	Collins, J.B.
Barnes, F.	Bragg, H.G	Collins, P.J.
Barton, A.	Brookes, A.	Colyer, G.
Bass, A.J	Brooks, W.	Cooper, A.
Bates, T.H.	Browning, J.	Cooper, C.
Baulk, E.H.	Buckley, J.	Cooper, W.A.L.
Baulk, H.P	Burgess, W.H	Couchman, A. E.
Belchambers, G.J.	Button, A.W.	Cox, A.E.
Bird, E.	Carey, W.D.	Cox, E.
Black, A.J.	Carpenter, A.E	Cox, P.
Blackman, S.H.	Carr, A.	Crickenham, H.
Blackman, S.J.H.	Carter, G.L.	Crowhurst, J.T.

Crowhurst, S.G.	Fuller, F.E.	Hills, G.H.
Crowhurst, W.R.	Gardiner, J.W.	Hodge, F.
Cuckow, E.T.	Garner, E.L.	Hodge, W.T.
Dando, W.B.	Gausden, J.F.	Hodsdon, A.E.
Darville, P.L.	George, J.A.	Hodsdon, W.
Davies, E.J.	Giles, E.W.	Holton, A.
Davis, J.B.	Gold, W.J.	Hopkins, A.H.
Day, A.	Golding, W.T.	Horning, C.F.
Day, C.W.	Goodhew, A.H.	Howells, J.
Dickens, C.S.	Gould, P.J.	Hughes, F.
Dixon, E.F.	Gray, S.C.	Hulks, E.W.N.
Dixon, F.J.	Gregory, W.A.	Humble, G.
Dixon, G.	Gregory, W.J.	Humphrey, A.S.
Dixon, S.G.	Greig, R.M.J.	Humphrey, G.
Donovan, J.	Griffin, H.J.	Hunt, A.H.
Downes, E.	Hall, E.	Hunt, C.G.
Duncan, J.	Hall, J.	Huntley, D.
Dyde, P.S.	Hall, S.	Inkpen, W.
Earley, W.	Hampton, A.	Johnson, W.H.
Easter, J.J.	Hanlon, L.W.	Jones, D.S.W.
Engley, K.	Harber, B.A.	Kember, L.J.
Essex, P.G.	Harden, S.V.	Kerr, W.
Everson, H.T.	Harding, A.J.	Keyes, C.
Exeter, A.T.	Hargreaves, J.H.	Kirk, R.
Farr, F.J.	Hate, W.T.	Knapp, F.
Farrow, H.	Hawkins, R.W.	Knott, R.A.
Faulks, E.	Haygreen, C.	Kemp, T.
Fender, G.H.	Haygreen, E.H.	Lander, W.H.
Fish, A.	Henry, F.	Laurel, I.
Flint, F.D.	Heron, T.	Laurie, W.
Florence, W.J.	Hicks, A.M.	Lawrence, C.E.
Franklin, C.T.	Hicks, J.G.	Leach, B.
Free, G.	Hicks, T.H.	Leach, P.
Free, W.	Hickson, G.H.	Lee, G.L.
Fricker, G.	Higgins, J.G.	Lewis, D.E.
Fryer, G.W.	Hill, H.W.	Lewis, G.
Fullegar, G.H.	Hills, A.	Lucas, A.