

THEY ALSO FELL



G/17779 PRIVATE ALBERT H BAILEY, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

Albert Henry Bailey was born in 1896 in Tangmere, near Chichester to Henry and Charlotte Bailey. His mother, Charlotte, died at the age of 41 years, in the summer of 1906. In 1907 Henry met Mary Elizabeth Sarah Haslett from Tillington and on July 21st of the same year they married in All Hallows' Church. Mary's mother, a widow, ran the shop in Upperton Road and the newly wed couple moved into Tillington Hill where Henry became a domestic gardener. In 1911 Albert, aged 15 years, was living at home with his father and step-mother and was a 'carpenter's assistant'.

From his first army service number it appears that Albert walked to Petworth Armoury and enrolled in D Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment when he became 2202 Private A Bailey. At some point he was posted to the 12th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and this was probably after some training with the 4th Battalion. It is likely that he was with the unit in September 1915 when it moved to North Camp, Aldershot and became part of the 116th Brigade, 39th Division. (His service number was changed to G/17779 early in 1917 along with those of many regiments.) In November 1915 the 12th Battalion moved to Witley Camp where it remained until March 1916. On March 5th/6th it crossed to France via Southampton, landing at Le Havre.

The Battalion suffered heavy losses in June 1916 in an attack near Richebourg L'Avoue, but went on to take part in battles on the Somme and around Ypres. On September 1917 whilst fighting in the Battle of Polygon Wood, near Ypres, Private Bailey was killed by German shell fire along with 48 other brave soldiers and he is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, nine kilometres north east of Ypres.

G/1369 PRIVATE AUSTIN G H BARTLETT, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

Austin George Henry Bartlett was born in Compton, Devon in 1895. In 1901 the family was living in Royal Field Artillery Barracks at Newport, Monmouthshire where his father, John Austin Bartlett was a Sergeant Master Cook. The family then moved to Bordon Camp in Hampshire where on May 19th 1909, at the early age of 14 years 5 months, Austin enlisted in the Royal Horse and Field Artillery for a period of twelve years. One year later he was discharged; medically unfit for further service. By 1911 father John was an army pensioner and commercial traveller and Austin aged 17 years was a 'waggoner on farm' and the family was living in Hawkley, near Liss in Hampshire. One source suggests he was at some point a resident of Tillington, but currently there is no information.

On September 2nd 1914 Austin found his way to Petworth and enrolled in the Royal Sussex Regiment and after training sailed for France on January 11th 1915. He fought with the 2nd Battalion until he was invalided home with frost bite on February 3rd 1915. After recovering he returned to the Western Front and on October 11th was posted to the 9th Battalion resting near Proven in Belgium. In November the Battalion marched to new billets in Houille near St Omer, France. Here they spent the whole of December well away from any front line, but on January 7th 1916 the unit returned to Belgium and encamped near Poperinghe. The Battalion went into front line trenches near Hooze on February 11th where at first things were relatively quiet. Two days later the Germans started a heavy bombardment which lasted eight hours and caused much damage including 30 casualties. Private Bartlett was killed instantly by an enemy shell. He is buried close to Ypres in the Menin Road South Cemetery.

73491 BOMBARDIER WILFRED V EVERLEY, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Arthur and Harriett Everley were living in Warminster when their son Wilfred Victor was born in the Summer of 1898. By 1911 Wilfred was 14 years old and the family had grown to seven children. At this time the Everley family was living in Exton, close to Bishops Waltham, Hampshire where father was a 'thatcher and woodman on estate' and Wilfred was a domestic gardener. It is likely that Wilfred joined the regular army sometime in 1913. He somehow made his way to Walton-on-Thames and enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery, 32nd Brigade to become 73491 Bombardier Everley. His Brigade was part of the British Expeditionary Force and arrived in France on August 23rd 1914.

On the Somme the Battle of Transloy ended on October 18th 1916, but British troops continued to advance supported by artillery of the 32nd Brigade. The conditions were appalling with continuous rain for several days and, partly because of this, the attacks on a number of German trenches were unsuccessful. 'Rainy and Dewdrop' trenches were eventually taken on October 28th. There is no entry in the Brigade War Diary for October 30th, the day when Bombardier Everley was killed. However, from earlier entries it is likely that he was either killed by a German shell or long range machine gun fire. He is buried in The Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs, 16 kilometres north of Albert and only a few kilometres from Transloy. One source suggests that he was at some point a resident of Tillington, but currently there is no information.

P/4354 LANCE CORPORAL JOHN W GRICE, CORPS OF MILITARY POLICE (FOOT BRANCH)

John William Grice was born in the late Autumn of 1885 at Barkby in Leicestershire. In 1901 at the age of 15 years he was living with his parents in Barkby and was a 'domestic groom'. Ten years later he had left home and was living in Combe Cottage Gardens, Combe, near Kingston-on-Thames where he was employed as 'gardener foreman'. Early in 1913 he married Gertrude S Goode in Leicestershire and in Autumn 1916 he enlisted in the army. One reference states that he was a resident of Tillington which, if correct, must have been sometime between 1913 and 1916. Currently there is no information on his stay in Tillington.

Originally John joined the Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (service number G/15126) but the Battalion is unknown. More research is needed before his war record can be assembled. We do know, however, that at some point he joined the Corps of Military Police (Foot Branch) was posted to Egypt and became P/4354 Lance Corporal Grice. Whilst serving in this country, at the age of 33 years, in 1918 he died and his death certificate records the cause of death as heart disease. He is buried in the Port Said War Cemetery.

3388 TROOPER GEORGE HILLS, THE LIFE GUARDS

George Hills was born in River in the Parish of Tillington in the Summer of 1893. His parents William and Emma Hills ran a market garden and had lived in River since before 1881. By 1911 George was 17 years old, still living at home and was a 'domestic gardener'. He enlisted in the 1st Life Guards in Exeter and became 3388 Trooper Hills. He was killed in action on 11th January 1916. Unfortunately for the period 4th -20th January 1916 the War Diary records 'nothing to report'. Trooper Hills is buried in the British Cemetery at Vermelles.