

### **S/2292 LANCE CORPORAL CHARLES E JUDGE, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT**

**Charles Edward Judge** was born in Boxmoor, Hertfordshire in 1898 to parents Edward and Kathleen Judge and in 1911 the family was living in Back Lane, St Marybourne, near Andover, Hants. The census shows father Edward to be of private means. For a short period sometime between 1912 and 1914 Charles was a resident of Tillington and in August 1914 he enlisted in the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment at Chichester with the service number LSR2292. This was a training unit based in Dover and then Newhaven. After training with the 3rd Battalion Charles was mobilised and posted to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment which was serving in France. His service number was changed to S/2292 and he arrived in France on May 1st 1915 with a party of reinforcements, most likely reaching his new Battalion near Bethune on May 11th. The Battalion war diary for this date reads: *Draft of 120 NCO's and men joined....*



**The Battalion** spent a relatively quiet summer in the Bethune, Vermelles, Cambrin area either training or in the support and front line trenches. During this period Charles was promoted to Lance Corporal Judge. The unit was close to Hulluch when the Battle of Loos began on September 25th. Their orders were to be the supporting battalion for the attack on the German line. At 1.50 am they took up a position in the support line ready to move forward as the front line advanced. In the confusion of a gas attack the 2nd Battalion became part of the assaulting line which pushed right up to the German wire which had not been cut and at this stage all the officers and men who reached the wire were either killed or wounded by machine gun or rifle fire. Later in the day the enemy in the front line surrendered and the remaining men of the 2nd Battalion pushed on to 'Chalk Pit' where they entrenched close to the Lens - La Bassée Road. L/C Judge was killed in this attack and is buried in Dud Corner Cemetery near Loos.... He was just 17 years old.

### **8186 PRIVATE GEORGE PEACOCK, LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT**

**George Peacock** was born in Tillington in the late Autumn of 1884. The family lived close to Hill Top and all seven children were born in the village. Father was a bricklayer and the 1901 census shows that George followed his father into this trade, but building houses was not for him and in late 1902/03 soon after his 18th birthday he enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The 1911 census shows that he was with this Regiment at Ghorpuri Barracks at Poona in India. In 1914 the Battalion was still in India, but George returned to England and was posted to the 1st Battalion, LNLR, as 8186 Private George Peacock. This Battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force and left Southampton on the evening of August 12th 1914, landing in France on the

**We know that** George was taken prisoner sometime between late August and December 1914. On August 21st the 1st Battalion started its march towards Belgium and on September 2nd 1914, they were the last unit to cross the bridge over the River Marne before it was destroyed by Royal Engineers. Between September 13th and 15th the Battalion suffered 400 men killed, wounded or missing during the Battle of the Aisne. On October 31st it attacked Gueulvelde but had to withdraw quickly and was unable to collect the wounded. By early November the Battalion was reduced to two officers and 100 men and on November 18th the unit moved to Hazebrouck for refitting. It did not return to the front line until December 19th 1914 when the Battalion attacked enemy trenches at La Quinque Rue. It continued moving forward until the night of 21st/22nd. By the end of December 22nd the Battalion had lost 408 men killed, wounded or missing. It is likely that George was wounded in one of these battles, taken prisoner and moved to Germany where he died on December 29th 1914 at the age of 30 years.

**In 1923** it was decided the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died throughout Germany should be brought together in four permanent cemeteries. Hamburg Cemetery was one of these and burials from 120 burial grounds were brought here. George now lies peacefully in this immaculate cemetery.

### **21834 GUNNER WILLIAM PELLETT, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY**

**William Pellett** was born in Duncton early in 1874 to Joseph and Charlotte Pellett. The 1891 census shows the family (six children) living in Little Bognor, near Fittleworth, Sussex. At this time William was 17 years old and both he and his father were agricultural labourers. Unfortunately in the Summer of 1891 Joseph died at the age of 54 years. In 1901 his widow Charlotte was living in Petworth but ten years later she had moved to Upperton where she was living with her 12 year old grandson, Arthur. By this time William had left home but more research will be necessary to trace his whereabouts. We do know, however, that he travelled to Chichester and joined the 47th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery and became 21834 Gunner Pellett. Since his medal entitlement shows the 1914-15 Star, he probably enlisted sometime in Autumn 1914.

**We know from** the War Diary that in early October 1916, the Artillery Battery was fighting around Bapaume, Pas De Calais, and it was here on 6th October that Gunner Pellett was badly wounded by 'a hostile shell', whilst the battery was shelling German positions in the village of Thillois. He was probably passed through various levels of first aid posts and hospitals until finally, after a journey of some 150 kilometres, he reached the major hospital at Etaples close to Boulogne and the English Channel. Tragically Gunner Pellett died of his wounds on October 13th 1916, aged 42 years and is buried in the nearby Military Cemetery.

### **G/17557 PRIVATE FREDERICK SCUTT, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT**

**Frederick Scutt** was born at Newick, Sussex in 1899 where his parents John and Emma Scutt had five other children and father was a farm labourer. By 1911 the family was living at 'Bigenon' Farm Cottage, Petworth.

**Towards the end** of November 1914 Frederick enlisted in D Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment and was given the service number 2283 (was he only 15 years old when he enlisted?). He spent up to a year training with the Battalion, but was then posted to the 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, and later given a new service number (G/17557). Since he did not qualify for the 1914-15 Star he was not with this Regiment when it landed at Boulogne on June 1st 1915. It is most likely that he joined the Battalion at a later date and left for France as one of several reinforcement drafts between January and April 1916. He became a member of A Company.

**He fought through** many battles with the 7th Battalion including Loos (1915), Albert and Transloy (1916), Scarpe (1917), Bapaume, Ancre, Amiens and Albert (1918). His last action was in the Battle of Epéhy on September 18th 1918. The Battalion attacked the village of Epéhy at dawn on the 18th and were met by heavy machine gun fire. Two hundred men were killed, wounded or missing. At the age of 19 years Private Scutt G/17557 was one of those killed. The village was taken a few days later and the Great War ended just two months later. He is buried with many of his friends in the peaceful cemetery at Epéhy Wood Farm.

### **G/4072 PRIVATE ALFRED G WILSON, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT**

**Alfred George Wilson** was born in 1889 in Mill Lane, Gosport to Martha Wilson (status 'married' but no mention of husband in 1901/11 censuses) who had four other children. At the time of the 1901 census the family was living in Upperton. By 1911 Alfred had left home and was boarding nearby in Tillington with Peter Baker and his wife. Both Peter and Alfred were builders' labourers.

**Sometime in October** 1914 Alfred travelled to Chichester and enlisted in the 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, becoming G/4072 Private A G Wilson. In December of that year the Battalion moved into billets at Portslade and continued training. During this month Alfred contracted a disease and was sent home. He died aged 25 years, at home, on December 30th 1914 and is buried beneath a Commonwealth War Graves headstone in Tillington Cemetery.