

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BATTLES IN WHICH THEY WERE LOST.

Private Alfred Perry. Killed in action 26th August 1914

War was declared on the 4th of August 1914, by 24nd of August, **Private Alfred PERRY**, 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment, 12th Infantry brigade, (1st Kings own Royal Regiment, 2nd Lancaster Fusiliers, 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the 2nd Essex Regiment), 4th Division, arrived by train at the town of Le Cateau, a few miles from Mons. At 5.30am on the 23rd the battle of Mons commenced and by 8.30pm having been ordered to hold the line, were mystified when at 3.00am on the 24th having heard that the French were in retreat, the BEF were then ordered to withdraw. the retreat from Mons began. On the morning of the 26th the 4th Division were ordered to 'stand and fight' at the small town of Esnes near the town of Le Cateau. By the time the order to retreat reached the defenders on the evening of the 26th, 12th Brigade had ceased to exist.

Private Herbert William CORNELL. Killed in action 18th of August 1916

The 11th Bn (Service) Battalion Essex Regiment 18th Brigade, 6th Division, having spent 11 months in the Ypers area with casualties est. 11,000. The 6th Division was moved south in August 1916 towards the Somme. The battle of the Somme started on the 1st of July and the casualties were on an unprecedented scale, the need for more reinforcements from other areas in the line. The Essex de-trained at Beaumont-Hamel and moved up towards the front line, Private CORNELL was killed in the line at Ancre.

Private Fredrick PYE. Died of wounds 20th of November 1916

The first battle of the Somme started on the 1st July 1916 and lasted until 18th of November 1916. It was the costliest battle of the war and achieved very little. Pte Fredrick PYE of the 1st Battalion the Essex Regiment found himself in France in March 1916 with the 37th Div. the Division took part in the Somme Offensive of 1916, 1st of July – 18th November, the last battle was the Battle of Ancre. 13th – 18th of November 1916. Private PYE died of his wounds at the Field Hospital.

Private Henry BUGG. Killed in action 28th of April 1917

The 13th (Service) Battalion Essex Regiment was part of the 12th Division, on the 18th of April 1917, the division having suffered heavy losses were returned to England for 10 days leave. During this brief respite the Division was brought back up to strength and returned to France entered the ARRAS battlefield. On the 28th formations of troops to the north of the 12th Division undertook an operation to capture the town of Roeux and thus taking out the heavy artillery and machine guns which would enable the Essex to advance on the front without being outflanked by the enemy, However the attack on Roeux failed. The 13th Essex took part in the rifle and bayonet charge on the German trenches, little did they know that the attack on Roeux had failed. the 12th Division were cut down by heavy artillery and machine gun fire from Roeux and had to fall back to the start line.

Private Charles Bertie SMITH. Killed in action 1st of June 1917

The 1st/5th Battalion Essex Regiment was formed in August 1914. On the 21st of July 1915 they were posted to Gallipoli landing at Sulva Bay. The campaign failed and by the 4th of December 1915 the regiment was evacuated and sent to Alexandria in Egypt and remained there until the end of the war. The 1st/5th were part of the 161st Essex Division attached to the 54th East Anglian Div. In 1917 they were deployed to Palestine with heavy fighting in GAZA.

Private Ernest BARNARD. Killed in action 5th April 1918

The 10th (Service) Battalion Essex Regiment 53rd Brigade 18th East Division 5th Army, under General Gough took part in the Battle of the Somme 1918 over the same ground of the 1916 Offensive. The battle of 1918 lasted from the 21st March to the 3rd of September. The British high command got wind of a plan by the Germans to attack on that part of the line where the French met up with the British, this was notorious for disorganised chaos, By the spring of 1918 the front line was almost non-existent and the second and third lines gone, The British committed more troops to the St Quintin area, the first attack came on the 21st March the battle continued until 23rd, The Essex held the line at AVER. Private BARNARD died at the casualty clearing station of wounds sustained during the battle.

The Battle of the Somme, 21st March – 30th April 1918 casualty's (British) 177,739 of which 15,000 killed, 90,000 missing/captured.

Private Frank Edward Jarman. Killed in action 20th of September 1918

The 10th Battalion Royal East Kent & East Kent Yeomanry, were formed into the East Kent Regiment famously called **THE BUFFS**. In September of 1918 the 10th Battalion were part of 230 Brigade on the line near the town of EPEHY on the Somme, St Quentin Canal, CAMBRAI road, the battle was to be the last push towards the Hindenburg line. This big 'push' became known as the battle for the Hindenburg line. He is buried in La Chapelette cemetery, Peronne.

Private Charles Ernest French. Died of Malaria 2nd of October 1918

Pte French was with the 1st/4th, the Essex Regiment posted to Gallipoli in 1915. The regiment was evacuated in January 1916 to Egypt to recover and in March that year he was transferred to the 10th Hampshire who were part of the Salonika Expeditionary Force and had been in Salonika since 1915 where they suffered heavy losses at the Doiran. Regiments who were in Egypt were split up and sent to Salonika, Greece. Malaria was rife in Greece at that time and many troops succumbed to the disease, Private French was such a casualty.

Private George Fredrick Harrod. Died of wounds 9th of October 1918

Private George Harrod enlisted in September 1914 in the 12th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment as a Farrier, by 1918 he was transferred to the now reformed 2nd Battalion Suffolks.

The 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment, 76th Brigade 3rd Division was in Battle of Cambrai and Le Cateau road in October 1918 for the Hindenburg Line. This was the same area in which the 2nd Suffolks were wiped out in 1914. the battle for the town of Le Cateau was to the front the New Zealand Army section and the 2nd Suffolks were in support, the battle started at 5am on the morning on the 8th of October, Le Cateau and the area to the south of Cambrai was taken by the end of the day. Private Harrod was mortally wounded and was taken by the New Zealand Royal Army Medical Corp Ambulance to their Field Hospital where he died. Armistice was signed four weeks later.