

The War Memorial in the Stanford parish church yard reads:

Died for Their Country

1914 - 1918

George Bentley

George Dryland

Henry Butler

Donald Major

Philip Carstairs

Rolan Major

Douglas Clayson

John Palmer

Philip Upton



George Bentley (1897 – 1918)

George Bentley was born in Ashford, Kent in 1897. He was baptised at St. Mary's in Ashford on 07 March 1897, the son of Edward and Harriet. At this time his family were living at 20 Magazine Lane, Ashford, Kent. His father was a shop assistant.

In the 1911 Census, George Bentley was 14 years old, born about 1897. He was a milk boy working on a dairy farm and was born in Ashford Kent. He was living with his family on Kennet Lane, Stanford.

His father, Edward Bentley was 46 years old and a railway labourer working for S. E. Railways. Edward was born in Sheerness, Kent.

His mother was Harriet Bentley, 40 years old, who was born in Lympne, Kent.

George had 3 sisters: Harriet, 12, born Ashford; Hilda, 5, born Sellindge, Kent; and Florence who was 1 and born in Stanford.

George enlisted in Hythe, Kent and was in the Border Regiment, 7th Battalion.

Private George Bentley was killed in action in France and Flanders on 18 September 1918. His service number was 28819.

George is commemorated at the Vis-En-Artois Memorial in Calais, France and is one of 9847 men commemorated.

Henry Butler (1877 – 1916)

In the 1901 census, Henry Butler, aged 24, is living in Station Road, Stanford. He is boarding with the Eagles family and is said to be a groom and gardener born in Croydon, Surrey.

Henry Butler was born in Croydon, Surrey. Henry enlisted in Canterbury, Kent where he was said to be of Westenhanger, Kent. He signed up to the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment of the 6th Battalion. His regimental Number was G/9729.

He was killed in action in France and Flanders on 07 Oct 1916. He was 40 years old and is buried in Bancourt British Cemetery.

Philip Carstairs (1899 – 1918)

Philip Gordon Carstairs was born in Stanford, Kent in 1899, the eldest son of James and Elizabeth Carstairs. He was baptised on 14 February 1899 at Christ Church, Folkestone. In the 1911 census, he is living with his mother, Elizabeth Carstairs, at Highclere, Westenhanger.

Philip enlisted in Folkestone and was in the Royal Sussex Regiment of the 7th Battalion. His regimental number was 18913.

He died in action, aged 19 years, on 09 August 1918 in France and is buried at the Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-Les-Pernois, France.

Douglas Clayson (1899 – 1918)

The 1901 census finds Douglas F Clayson, 2 years of age, born in Sandgate, Kent living with his parents Frank and Fredericka Clayson in Folkestone. His father was a licensed victualler and an omnibus driver. In the 1911 census, Douglas is living with his parents at the Red Lion Inn, Bridge, Kent.

Douglas Frank Clayson enlisted at Whitehall into the Royal Army Service Corps where he gave his residence as Eltham, Kent born Folkestone, Kent. His service number was M2/178164.

He died on 06 March 1918 in Flanders.

He is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

George Dryland (1890 – 1916)

George Dryland was born in 1890 in Sellindge, Kent and baptised there on 28 September 1890. In the 1911 census, George is living at 4 Station Cottages, Westenhanger, Stanford; he is a 20-year-old jobbing gardener. His father is Arthur (a railway labourer) and Ellen Dryland of Station Cottages, Westenhanger.

George enlisted in Hythe, Kent with the East Kent Buffs of the 1st Battalion. His regimental number was G8909.

Private George Dryland died of wounds on 20 September 1916. He was buried at Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France.

Donald Major (1885 – 1917)



Donald is the brother of Rolan below. He is the son of William Henry and Alice Florence Major. He was born in Folkestone, Kent in 1885. Donald immigrated to Canada in 1906 with his younger brother Roland. His family were living at Connaught Lodge, Westenhanger in 1915.

Sergeant Donald Major of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles (British Columbia Regiment) was killed in action on 25 August 1917 in the trenches north of Lens, France. His regiment number was 117406. He is buried at the Vimy Memorial, Calais, France.

Rolan Major (1888 – 1916)



Rolan Major was born on 09 December 1888 in Folkestone, Kent. He was baptised at Folkestone on 20 October 1889. His father is given as William Henry Major and his mother is Alice Florence Major. Rolan immigrated to Canada in 1906 with his brother Donald. His family were living at Connaught Lodge, Westenhanger in 1915.

Rolan's Attestation Papers (1st December 1915) state he joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He gives his father as Wm Henry Major of Connaught Lodge, Westenhanger. Roland gives his trade as 'machine agent & Deputy Sheriff'. He was not married. He states that he had belonged to the Surrey Mounted Rifles for 3 years. He was 6-foot-tall, of fair complexion with blue eyes.

Rolan was in the Canadian Infantry, 7th Battalion and his service number was 467525.

He died in action on 09 September 1916.

[Note: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has mistakenly recorded his name as Ronald. Cross reference between Attestation Papers and CWGC confirm he is the same person.]

John Palmer (1880 – 1916)



In the 1891 census John Palmer is 11 years old and said to be a 'Rook Boy' born Lympne, Kent. He is living at Postling Street, Postling is the son of Marshall and Fanny Palmer. Marshall was 40 years old and born Sellindge.

1911 census John is living at 24 Albert Road, Folkestone, Kent. He is married to Amy Ann and has 2 children Bessie Eleanor Palmer (7) and Emma Palmer (5).

John was baptised in Lympne, Kent on 22 Feb 1880 the son of Marshall and Fanny Palmer.

John enlisted in Folkestone, Kent. He was a Private in Buffs (East Kent Regiment) within 8th Battalion. He gives his birth place a Lympne, Kent. His service number was G/5439.

He was killed in action on 19 January 1916 in France and Flanders. He is buried in the Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Leper, Belgium.

Philip Charles Upton (1882 – 1916)

Philip Charles Upton was born in Folkestone in 1882. He is the son of Philip Clark Upton and Mary Upton. Philip's parents were living in Stanford in 1911 and in 1901 his father was the Station Shopkeeper in Station Road, Stanford.

In 1907, Philip Charles Upton married Mabel Roberta Martin and she received his war gratuity after his death.

Philip Charles Upton enlisted in Canterbury with the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) of the 7th Battalion. His service number was G/2561.

Sergeant Philip Charles Upton was killed in action 13 July 1916. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial in France.