



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM PART 3

*Editor: In this series on the names on our War Memorial, Richard Snow continues with information of those killed during the First World War. If you have additional information, please telephone him on 825428.*

**LAWRENCE, Charles Edward** - 55/110970 Stoker, 1st Class Royal Navy on H.M.S. Hawke. Son of Fred and M. Lawrence of Mill Cottage, Pembury. Died 15 October 1914, aged 21. Remembered on Chatham Naval Memorial, which commemorates those with no known grave, most of whom died at sea. His name is on the wooden memorial plaque at the Baptist Church.

**LEONARD, Charles E.** - 141151 Driver, 38th Field Company, Royal Engineers. Son of Charles Leonard of North Holly, East Farleigh. Born Bethersden. Enlisted Tunbridge Wells, resided in Pembury. Died 1 October 1918 in Salonika, Greece, aged 26, and is buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Several of the casualties in this cemetery were victims of the worldwide influenza pandemic of 1918-19 and Leonard may have been one of them. His name also appears on the Bethersden and East Farleigh war memorials.

**MACDOUGALL, Douglas Ritchie** - 3609 Private, 1/5th Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders. Son of James and Frances Macdougall of "Curlblows", Pembury. Native of Clapham, London. He lived in Pembury but enlisted in London at the start of the war and went to France. Died 13 November 1916 at the Battle of the Ancre, aged 26. Buried in Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France.

**McQUEEN, Albert Allan** (appears on War Memorial as Mc'Queen) - 7634 Private, 11th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Son of Mrs A. McQueen of Pembury. Married to Agatha M. of St. Leonards-on-Sea. He was born in Pembury, but lived in St. Leonards. Enlisted in Tunbridge Wells in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Yeomanry (Territorial Force) in February 1914 before transferring to the Royal West Kents. Died 8 June 1917, aged 22. Buried in Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, Belgium.

**MARTIN, Ronald Edward** - 235892 Gunner, X 36th Trench Mortar Battalion, Royal Field Artillery. Son of George Martin of Pembury (A Carrier). Married to E.M. Martin, 17 Artillery Terrace, Guildford, Surrey. He formerly worked in the outfitting department of Messrs Reeks in Hastings. Enlisted June 1917 and sent to France in April 1918. Died 26 September 1918. Whilst working with the rest of the Battery in the line he was hit on the head by a shell splinter, dying instantly. Buried in Canada Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium. His name appears on the wooden plaque at Pembury Baptist Church.

**MARTIN, William** - G/13518 Private, Royal Sussex Regiment. Husband of C.M. Martin of Romford Farm Cottage, Pembury. Born in the Village, he was employed by Batchellor's Stone Court Brickworks, Pembury as a tile maker. He enlisted in Maidstone in July 1915 and went to France in December. He lived in Stanley Road, late of Mays Farm Cottages, Pembury. After being on active service for seven months he received no less than 14 wounds and his left leg was blown off above the knee. He spent 16 months in hospital and was transferred to Rusthall V.A.D. He died from wounds on 13 October 1918, aged 33, and is buried in Tunbridge Wells Cemetery (grave ref: C.1.558). He was a member of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Society and left a widow and three children aged 10, 8 and 3.

**MERCER, Harry** - 5190 Private, 20th Hussars. Born in the Village, son of Henry William and Susannah Mercer of 6 Church Road. He enlisted in Canterbury as a Reservist, served 7 years with the Colours, 2 years of which he was an officer's servant. His brother was in the Royal Navy. Died 30 October 1914 just four days after his 27th birthday. He is remembered on Panel 5 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.

**MORPHETT, Walter** - G/5006 Corporal, 2nd Battalion (92nd Foot), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Eldest son of Walter Morphett of Stone Court Farm, Pembury. Born in Pembury, going to the Village School, and enlisted in Tonbridge on 16 December 1914. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France from 14 April 1915 and was wounded by shrapnel under his shoulder and gassed at Hill 60 and invalided home where he spent time in hospital in Cheshire. He proceeded to Mesopotamia in December 1915. He died of malaria on 22 October 1918, aged 19, and was buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery in Iraq. He is remembered on the wooden plaque at the Baptist Church.

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## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM PART 3 CONTINUED

**NURDEN, Charles** - G/12031 Private, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Son of Stephen and Eliza Nurden of Canterbury Road, he was born in Chipping Norton, Glos. Husband of Maud M. Nurden of 6 Park View, Pembury. He was a gardener to Lady Adair for 11 years and was an ardent member of the Volunteer Training Corps. He enlisted in Tunbridge Wells in June 1916, proceeding to France in August. He was killed by a shell during the advance on Arras and was killed instantly on 9 April 1917, aged 39. He was buried in the field by the Regimental Chaplain. He was described as "a good and popular soldier, much missed". He is remembered on Bay 6 of the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

**PANKHURST, Joseph** - L/7384 Private 2nd Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment. Born in the Village and enlisted in Tunbridge Wells. Died on 23 December 1914 and is remembered on Panels 20 and 21 of Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

**PARKES, William Alexander** - WR/25991 Lance Corporal, 340th Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers. Born in Brenchley the son of William Dunster Parkes and Mary Parkes of Mount Pleasant, Brenchley. Husband of Kathleen Ellen Parkes of Hawkwell Cottages, Pembury. He enlisted in Maidstone. Died of pneumonia and influenza in an English port on his way home from France on 13 October 1918, aged 27. Buried in All Saints, Brenchley Churchyard next to his brother Thomas Dunster Parkes who also died in the war. The family lost 3 sons in the war, the third was Reginald Parkes who died in October 1917 and was buried in France. William Alexander's son was William Arthur Parkes who was killed in World War Two and is also on Pembury War Memorial. William Alexander is also remembered on Brenchley War Memorial.

**PENN, Charles Victor** - 24007 Private, 2nd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment. Son of Mr and Mrs W. Penn of Rose Cottages, Lower Green, Pembury. He was born in Blackburn. He died on 30 September 1917, aged 25, and is buried in Baillleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), France. He also appears on the wooden plaque at the Baptist Church.

**Richard Snow**

## PEMBURY CHURCHES TOGETHER

Following the success of two Village Fun Days and other Village events, the HOPE (Pembury Churches Together) team will be organising a series of fundraising events for a remote Pakistani community near Risalpur which was devastated by the 2010 floods. The poverty stricken community of Sais Mandi lost homes, crops and livelihoods in the floods.



Emergency food, clothing and temporary shelter had been provided, but the Sais Mandi community found, as with many emergencies, the focus of world attention moves on and local people are left to resolve remaining problems on their own. In this area of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment we, as the community of Pembury, can help. Such help must be financially accountable at all stages with regular feedback and exchange on the basis of one community helping another.

HOPE plans to join with Operation Mobilisation (OM), a charity already working in the area, to foster ways of breaking this cycle of poverty and deprivation by teaching old and young to read and equipping them with skills that provide an income. HOPE has been in close touch with Imran Gill, Regional Director of OM, who has identified a number of projects which would benefit the community of Sais Mandi and help it to develop. These include an adult literacy, sewing and computer centre and children's educational sponsorship.

HOPE will host a series of fund-raising events over the next year. Further information will follow nearer the time, but if you would like come along to a talk about Sais Mandi or join in the fun and fund-raising then please contact Helen on 825590.

**HOPE Team**

