

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM PART 4

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 contact him on 825428.

PENTECOST, Albert John (on war memorial as Penticost) G12357 Private, 7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Born in Pembury and enlisted in Maidstone. The family lived at 10, Slate Row, Henwood Green. There were 4 boys and 4 girls in the family, all born in the Village. The boys were Alfred, Thomas, Albert and Frank Edward, who died young. The girls were Charlotte, Edith, Emily and Florence. Albert died on 13 July 1916 and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. His name also appears on the Leigh Memorial as his mother was living at Leigh when he died and his sister Florence lived there.

PENTECOST, Thomas (on war memorial as Penticost) 1609 Lance Corporal, 9th Battalion, Australian Contingent, Australian Infantry. Brother of Albert above. 2nd Son of Frances Pentecost of 309 Bexhill Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea and the late Charles Pentecost of Pembury. They are buried in the old cemetery behind the school. Thomas worked on the railway and worked his passage to Australia in 1908 landing at Brisbane. He was very popular in Pembury and his departure was much regretted. At the start of the war he went to Egypt. He was promoted to Lance Corporal shortly before the fighting in which he lost his life. In a letter home in 1915 he stated that he was quite prepared to die for his King and Country. Thomas died 29 May 1915 or 23 June 1915 in the Dardanelles, aged 27. Buried in Shell Green Cemetery, Turkey. His name is also on the wooden plaque at the Baptist Church.

PIPER, Frederick – G/40446 Private, 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Son of Henry and Esther Piper of Hastings Road, Pembury. Husband of Annie Piper of 33 Canterbury Road. Enlisted in Maidstone in June 1917. He was employed on Mr Cooper's Farm in Pembury. He was killed by a shell on 27 May 1918, aged 36, and appears on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France.

PRALL, Albert William G702 Private, 1/20th Battalion, London Regiment. Youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. Prall of Friars Lodge, Matfield and Lower Green, Pembury. Born in Paddock Wood but lived in the Village and enlisted at Tonbridge, initially as Pte. 3601 Royal West Kents before transferring to the London Regiment. He was a Member of the Pembury District National Deposit Friendly Society. Sent to the Western Front on 9 March 1916 and was almost certainly involved in the third phase of the Somme battles beginning on 15 September in which British tanks were used for the first time. His regiment was in action around the infamous Mametz Wood and at High Wood near Bazentin and later involved in the assault on Eaucourt L'Abbaye and was almost certainly killed in one of the four waves of troops who attacked Eaucourt and were in the Fleurs support line. His body was never found but he is remembered on the Thiepval memorial. He was aged just 19. His name also appears on the Matfield War Memorial.

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PEMBURY LIBRARY OPENING TIMES



Monday:	Closed	Pembury Library
Tuesday:	9:00 am - 6:00pm	The Hop House
Wednesday:	9:00 am - 6:00pm	Henwood Green Road
Thursday:	9:00 am - 6:00pm	Pembury
Friday:	9:00 am - 6:00pm	TN2 4HS
Saturday:	10:00 am - 2:00pm	Tel: 822278
Sunday:	Closed	Email: pemburylibrary@kent.gov.uk

RATCLIFFE, Percy William – 11807 Private, 8th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Son of Mr and Mrs John Ratcliffe of High Street, Pembury. He was a Member of the Pembury District, National Deposit Friendly Society, and a member of the 1912 Pembury Football Team. He enlisted in Tunbridge Wells in January 1916 and went out to France on 19 May, where he died, aged 20, on 14 July 1916. He is buried at Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe Cemetery in Belgium.

RATCLIFFE, Sydney 122293 Private, 2nd Class, R.A.F. Armament School. Born in June 1891, 2nd youngest of 9 children, all born in the Village. Son of Henry and Philly Ratcliffe (née Raynes) of Lower Green, Pembury. Henry was a plumber. Husband of Mary Campbell Ratcliffe from Dunbartonshire. Sydney is spelt Sidney on his grave and on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records. He was a member of the Pembury District, National Deposit Friendly Society. He was a member of the Pembury Football Club in 1912. He died on 28 August 1918, aged 27, and is buried in the old churchyard behind the school between the path and the east boundary.

RAYNES, John Reginald 4674 Private, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Born in the Village, he enlisted in Tonbridge but lived in Tunbridge Wells. He was employed at Hubbles Farm. He died on 10 April 1917. He had been a Prisoner of War since 22 July and died in Germany. His parents lived in Frant Forest. He is buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery.

ROBERTS, Arthur Frank – SS 9640 Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy serving on H.M.S. Pembroke. Youngest son of James Arthur and Ann Roberts of Grovehurst Lodge, Pembury. He died on 4 November 1918, aged 18, in Gillingham Royal Naval Hospital from pneumonia following influenza. He had been in the navy just 8 weeks. He is buried in Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery.

ROBERTS, Harry – 205010 Private, 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Son of Mr and Mrs Roberts of Grovehurst Lodge, Pembury. He joined the army on 3 March 1917 and died of wounds on 14 July 1917, aged 28. He left a widow and a child aged three. He is buried in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension in Belgium.