

Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders



Nº4277 & G/13715  
6<sup>th</sup> Battalion 'The Buffs'  
(East Kent) Regiment

Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1888 Lambeth, London to Frank and Emma Saunders. He was their 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 children, his father a House & Estate Agent. He was baptised on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1892, the family living at 174 Railton Road (demolished)

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>St James East Brighton</u> in the County of <u>Surrey</u> in the year One thousand eight hundred and <u>Ninety Two</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1892 June 21	Born Jan <sup>y</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 1888  Stephen Arthur Frank	Frank William + Emma	Sanders	174 Railton Road	House & Estate Agent	R.B. Langford

In the 1891 census Stephen is aged 3 one of 4 children, parents and a servant at the same address, his father an Accountant and House Estate Agent. Stephen had a fairly comfortable upbringing.

Administrative County of <u>LONDON</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 15			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of <u>Lambeth</u>		of <u>Lambeth</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>		of <u>Brixton</u>	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Where BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot			
99	174 Railton Rd	1	Frank W. Saunders	Head	M	33	Accountant & House Estate Agent		X London, Lambeth						
			Emma	Wife	M	31			Somerset, Minehead						
			Lucie S.	Daughter		8	Scholar		London, Lambeth						
			Helena W.	Daughter		5			Hert. Lewisham						
			Stephen A. F.	Son		3			London, Lambeth						
			Marie E. M.	Daughter		7			do do						
			Annie Northcote	Serv.		22	General servant (domestic)		Hert. Blitham						

In 1900 when Stephen was aged 12 his Mother passed away.

By 1901 Stephen was aged 13 and a 'Scholar' living with a sister widowed father and servant at 12 Gunston House, Lambeth.

Administrative County <u>London</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 2	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
of <u>Lambeth (part 9)</u>		of <u>St Mary (part 9)</u>		of <u>Lambeth (part 9)</u>		of <u>St Philip (part 9)</u>		of <u>Lambeth (part 9)</u>		of <u>St Philip (part 9)</u>		of <u>Lambeth (part 9)</u>	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed, Worker, or Own account	Where BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile, or Idiot	
13	12 do (Gunston House)	1	Frank W. Saunders	Head	Wid	43	Accountant & House Agent	own account	London; Lambeth				
			Helena W. do	Daughter		15	Housekeeper	Wife	Hert; Lewisham				
			Stephen A. F. do	Son		13	Scholar		London; Lambeth				
			Edith H. Frost	Serv		16	General servant (domestic)	Wife	Hert; King's Lynn				

By 1907 Stephen had moved to Weymouth, living at 43 Lennox Street, the rest of the family still remaining in London.

In the 1911 census Stephen is working as a bank cashier for Lloyds Bank living at 3 Gloucester (Row) Terrace, Weymouth as a lodger.

No. of Schedule	NAME of Person	AGE	SEX	RELATION to Head of Family	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Where BORN
1	Frank W. Saunders	31	Single	Bank Cashier	Weymouth	Weymouth
2	Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders	23	Single	Bank Cashier	Weymouth	Weymouth

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in possession, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Frank W. Saunders

Printed Address: 3 Gloucester Terrace Weymouth

Little else is known of Stephens early years.

When war was declared on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 Stephen was aged 26 and like many would be called to serve. He was Attested in to service on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1915 in Weymouth and posted to the Army Reserve. He was 27 years 5 foot 8 inches and of moderate physical development. he gave his father as his next of kin, still living in London

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39 R. A. WEYMOUTH  
**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve)

**ATTESTATION OF**  
No. 4277 Name Sanders S.A.F. Corps 2/5 Buffs

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment

- What is your Name?
- What is your full Address?
- Are you a British Subject?
- What is your Age?
- What is your Trade or Calling?
- Are you Married?
- Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which?
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?
- Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service?
- Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?
- Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty shall so order: For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all your other rights and privileges. You will be required to serve for one year with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of The Royal Warrant, dated 2nd Oct. 1914, and such laws as may be passed in the future by the Army Council. If you are not willing to serve upon these conditions, you may be rejected after the examination of facilities until your services can be accepted, but such rejection shall be in accordance with the regulations.

I, Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders, do solemnly declare that the above answers, and statements to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made by me.

**SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.**  
Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**  
I, Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders, do solemnly swear by Almighty God, that I will in Britain and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honour and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Council, and dignity against all enemies, and with obedience and duty all laws of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers not over me. So help me God.

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**  
The Recruit above named was questioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as required by, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at  
on this 9 day of December 1915  
Signature of the Justice [Signature] **MAJOR**

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the original form appears to have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the  
It is attested by special authority, Army Form B. 212, the other parts of the instrument will be attached to the original instrument.  
Date 10 1915  
Place Weymouth  
Signature of the Approving Officer [Signature] **MAJOR**

\* If a Recruit is to be sent to the front he is to be sent to the front with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of The Royal Warrant, dated 2nd Oct. 1914, and such laws as may be passed in the future by the Army Council. If you are not willing to serve upon these conditions, you may be rejected after the examination of facilities until your services can be accepted, but such rejection shall be in accordance with the regulations.

Army Form B. 212  
To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.  
Army Form B. 178 to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

**MEDICAL HISTORY of**  
Surname Sanders Christian Name Stephen Arthur Frank

**TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE**  
Birthplace ... Parish Lucken County Sussex  
Examined ... at 9 day of December 1915  
Declared Age ... 27 years ... 8 days ...  
Trade or Occupation ... None  
Height ... 5 feet ... 8 inches.  
Weight ... 155 lbs.  
Chest ... 35 1/2 inches.  
Measurements ... 32 1/2 inches.  
Physical Development ... Moderate  
Vaccination Marks ... Small Left  
When Vaccinated ... Childhood and 1907  
Vision ... (R.E. V) Nil (L.E. V) Nil  
(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities of previous disease ... Nil  
(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection ... Nil  
Approved by (Signature) [Signature] (Rank) So. Major Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... at 20 day of April 1916  
Joined on Enlistment ... 2nd 5th Buffs F.R.C. 11777  
Transferred to ...  
Became non-effective by Army Act of 1916 on 10 day of April 1916  
(Signature) [Signature] (Rank) So. Major

The Recruit Form B. 212, to be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only. Army Form B. 178, to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.**

Name and Address of next-of-kin Frank William Sanders  
12 Kennington Rd. London S.E. 8 Relationship Father

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**STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 4277 Name Stephen Arthur Frank Sanders**

Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
General Service	<u>29<sup>th</sup></u>	Attested	<u>Pte</u>	<u>9.12.15</u>			<u>[Signature]</u>
General Service	<u>10</u>	To Army Reserve	<u>"</u>	<u>10.12.15</u>			
		Mobilized					

Stephen was mobilised on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1916 and posted to the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Kent (The Buffs) Regiment with the service number 4277.

39 R. A. WEYMOUTH  
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**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve)

**ATTESTATION OF**  
No. 4277 Name Sanders S.A.F. Corps 2/5 Buffs

Stephens records show him posted to the 2/5<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup>) Buffs Admin Centre 2<sup>nd</sup> Line on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

5 <sup>th</sup> Buffs	Admin Centre 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line	20.4.16 6.5.16			
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The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Buffs were formed at Ashford in September 1914 as a Second Line battalion and attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kent Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Counties Division. In November they became November 202<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 67<sup>th</sup> Division. Stephen would have undergone his basic training.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1916 to he was posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion the Buffs as it absorbed the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. they were based in Canterbury.

Regiment or Corps		4 <sup>th</sup> (Res) Bn: "The Buffs"		11/11/16	
Surname		Sanders		Christian Name	
Stephen		Arthur		Frank	

On the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1916 Stephen was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion the Buffs also at Canterbury, that same day his record show him disembarking in France joining the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). The 3<sup>rd</sup> were again a home service battalion and the posting may have been for administration purposes.

The Buffs	3 <sup>rd</sup> Posted	29.12.16			
Embarked					
Disembarked		30.12.16			

It may be that he embarked on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1916 and disembarked joining the BEF on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

B. S. F.	30.12.16
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It is possible Stephen, though unmarried, left a loved Edith Florence Guy, a spinster born in Weymouth in 1895 and in 1911 was living with her family at 92 St. Mary Street, Weymouth.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1916 on arrival in France he was posted to 38<sup>th</sup> IBD (infantry Base Depot) at Etaples, the Base Depot for the East and West Surrey regiments and the Buffs

38 <sup>th</sup> IBD	Posted	30.12.16
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Again on the same day, the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1916 he was posted to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment ( The Buffs).

6 <sup>th</sup>	Posted	30.12.16
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It is un clear when Stephen joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs in the field but was in early 1917. It may have been the 16<sup>th</sup> January

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Through January 1917 the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs received reinforcements 11<sup>th</sup> x11, 14<sup>th</sup> x4, 20<sup>th</sup> x32, 21<sup>st</sup> x24, 22<sup>nd</sup> x4 and 24<sup>th</sup> x5

On arrival Stephen joined D Company and at some point he was also issued a new service number, 13715.

Cy 13715	Pte S. A. F. Sanders	6 <sup>th</sup> Buffs	D. Coy
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The 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs were part of the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 12<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division and were in Sombrin in January 1917 moving to the trenches near Arras mid month, possibly Stephens first time in the front line.



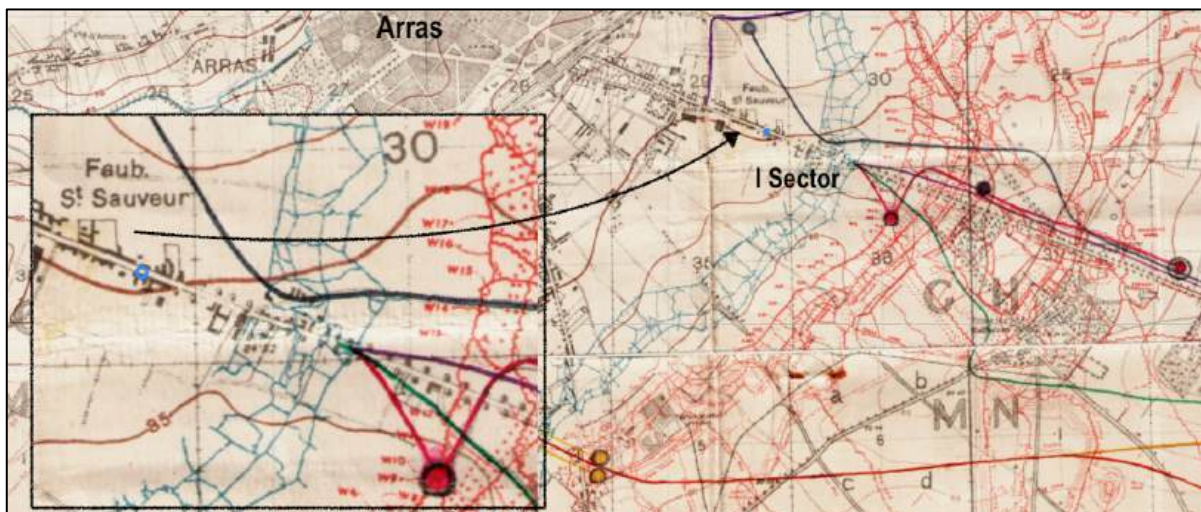


January 1917		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> Sombrin	2 <sup>nd</sup> parade & training	3 <sup>rd</sup> parade & training	4 <sup>th</sup> parade & training	5 <sup>th</sup> parade, training & route march	6 <sup>th</sup> parade & route	7 <sup>th</sup> parade
8 <sup>th</sup> parade, training & Baths	9 <sup>th</sup> parade, training & Baths	10 <sup>th</sup> parade & training	11 <sup>th</sup> parade medal presentations	12 <sup>th</sup> parade & training & Boxing PM	13 <sup>th</sup> Moved to Arras by bus	14 <sup>th</sup> in brigade reserve – very cold – snow. <b>D Company in the Grande Place</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> very cold – heavy snow – working parties	16 <sup>th</sup> working parties	17 <sup>th</sup> working parties	18 <sup>th</sup> relived 'the 6 <sup>th</sup> Queens' in the front line - <b>D Coy in the centre</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> hard frost – quiet day - a few bombs	20 <sup>th</sup> Centre (D) Coy sector under trench mortar fire	21 <sup>st</sup> heavy show – trench mortars active <b>3W</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> relived back to Arras, Division Reserve, in L'Ecole des Jeunes Filles 200 man working party carrying gas cylinders	23 <sup>rd</sup> Working Parties - heavy snow <b>D Coy Bathed</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Working Parties	25 <sup>th</sup> Working Parties	26 <sup>th</sup> relived 'the 6 <sup>th</sup> Queens' in the front line south east of - <b>D Coy in the centre</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> hostile trench mortars very active	28 <sup>th</sup> hostile trench mortars very active
29 <sup>th</sup> quiet day	30 <sup>th</sup> relived to Arras – <b>D Coy St Sauveur Defence</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> 150 man working parties				

Grand Place Arras



I Sector trenches south east of Arras – St Sauveur area 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January



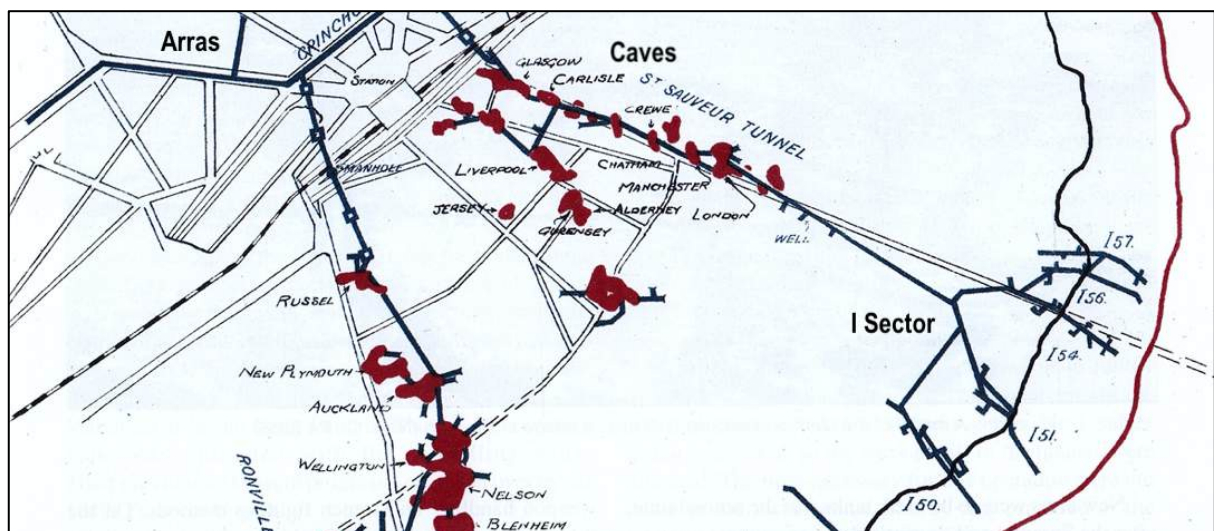
February 1917		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> Arras – 320 man working party - V Cold	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working parties	3 <sup>rd</sup> relieved the 6 <sup>th</sup> Queens in trenches <b>D Coy in Support.</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Quiet day – patrol sent out	5 <sup>th</sup> hostile trench mortar active	6 <sup>th</sup> quiet day – some MG fire	7 <sup>th</sup> relieved to billets in arras
8 <sup>th</sup> working party 650 men	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> working parties	11 <sup>th</sup> marched to billets in Montenescourt	12 <sup>th</sup> cleaning up billets	13 <sup>th</sup> parades & running drill	14 <sup>th</sup> parade
15 <sup>th</sup> running drill	16 <sup>th</sup> to Noyelle	17 <sup>th</sup> running drill	18 <sup>th</sup> parade	19 <sup>th</sup> running drill & training - attack organisation	20 <sup>th</sup> parades	21 <sup>st</sup> parades
22 <sup>nd</sup> training attack	23 <sup>rd</sup> to Izel-lez-Hameau	24 <sup>th</sup> parade & training	25 <sup>th</sup> practice attack	26 <sup>th</sup> tactical exercise on practice trenches	27 <sup>th</sup> brigade practice attack	28 <sup>th</sup> brigade exercise

February 1917

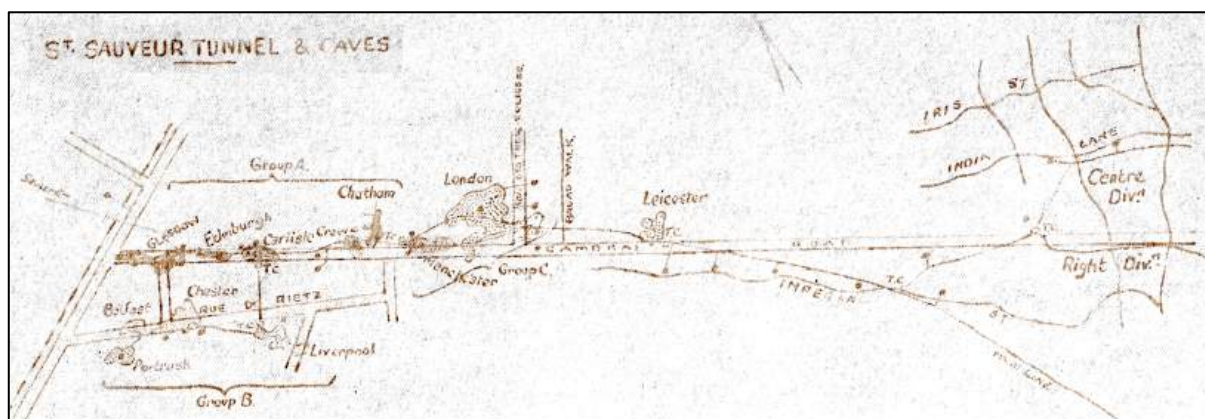
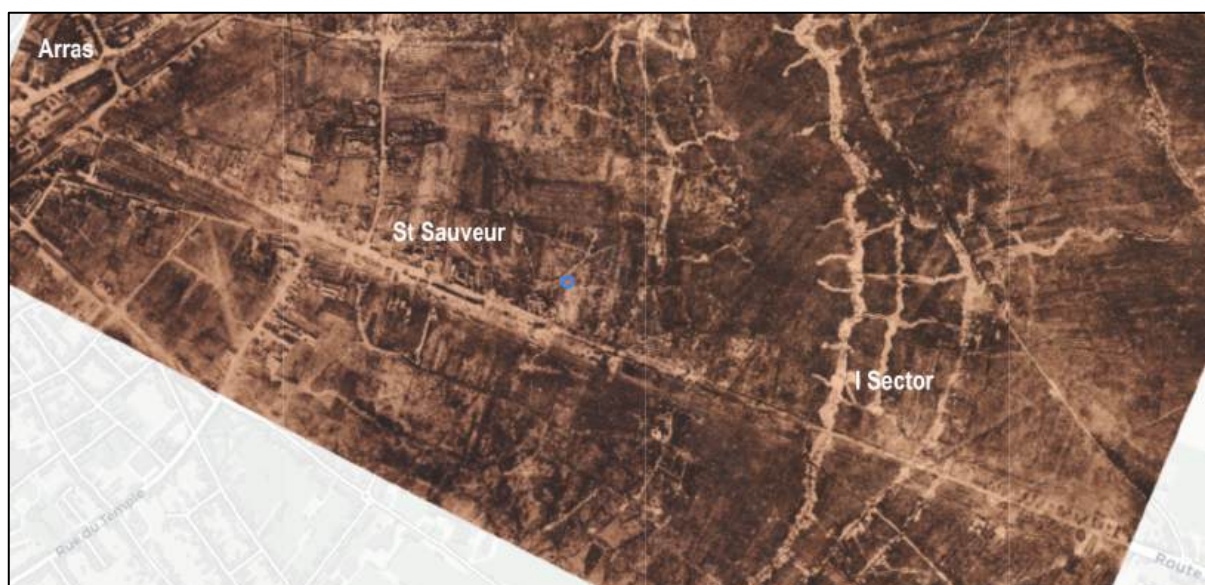


March 1917		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> Izel-lez-Hameau Practice attack exercise	2 <sup>nd</sup> to the corp cinematograph theatre at Avesnes	3 <sup>rd</sup> to billets in Agnez and huts in Talavera Camp	4 <sup>th</sup> Agnez-les-Duisans	5 <sup>th</sup> working party of 420 men on a cable trench at L10 centre	6 <sup>th</sup> running drill and cable trench working party	7 <sup>th</sup> brigade capture and consolidate trench exercise
8 <sup>th</sup> running drill	9 <sup>th</sup> practice attack	10 <sup>th</sup> bathing & AB <b>D Coy</b> working at the Hopital St Jean	11 <sup>th</sup> to Arras - night working parties	12 <sup>th</sup> working parties – <b>some casualties sustained</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> working parties – over head dogfight	14 <sup>th</sup> working parties
15 <sup>th</sup> town shelled – working parties provided	16 <sup>th</sup> working parties provided	17 <sup>th</sup> town heavily shelled - working parties provided	18 <sup>th</sup> working parties	19 <sup>th</sup> heavy rain – trenches damaged by hostile shelling	20 <sup>th</sup> working parties	21 <sup>st</sup> heavy shelling all day – moved to Talavera Camp Agnez.
22 <sup>nd</sup> to Izel-lez-Hameau	23 <sup>rd</sup> practice attack	24 <sup>th</sup> baths in the PM	25 <sup>th</sup> to Lattre S Quentin	26 <sup>th</sup> to Arras	27 <sup>th</sup> night working parties on trenches	28 <sup>th</sup> Arras shelled
29 <sup>th</sup> working parties	30 <sup>th</sup> hostile shelling - working parties	31 <sup>st</sup> into Arras Caves				

St Sauveur Caves south east of Arras.

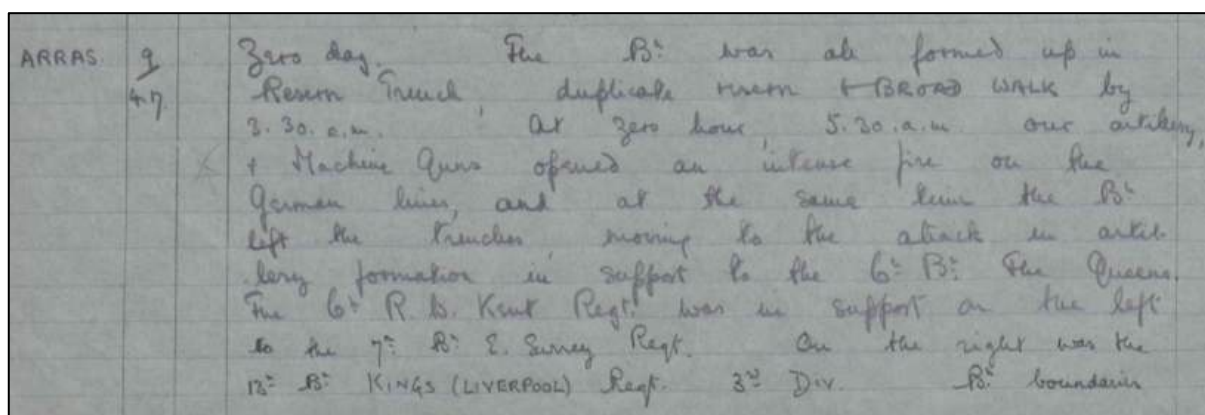




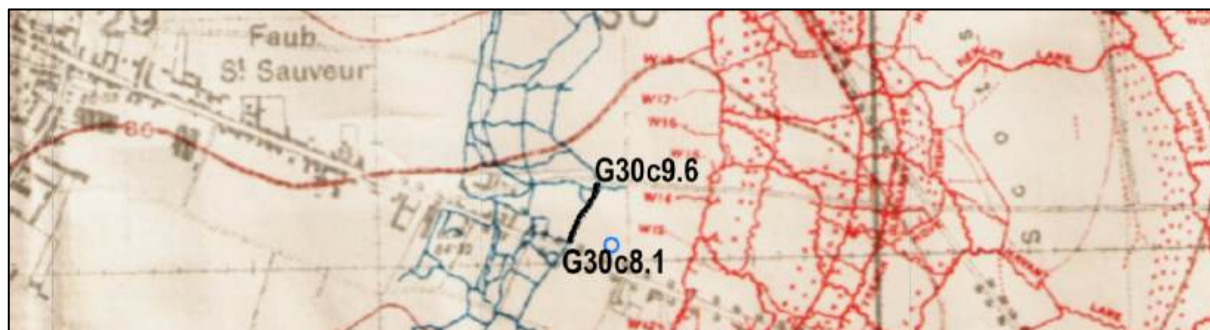


April 1917		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1st Arras – working parties	2nd working parties	3rd working parties	4th working parties	5th heavy artillery duel - moved to Arras Caves for offensive	6th heavy artillery barrage on German lines	7th heavy artillery barrage - enemy withdrawing - ordered to be ready to move forward
8th creeping barrage on German lines	9th Zero Hr 5:30am - formed up in reserve trench - G30c8.1 G30c9.6. for <b>Attack</b>	10th clearing battlefield and burying the dead & consolidating the line.	11th moved forward to shell holes at Feuchy Chapel	12th consolidating lines	13th back to Arras Caves	14th at rest all day in caves

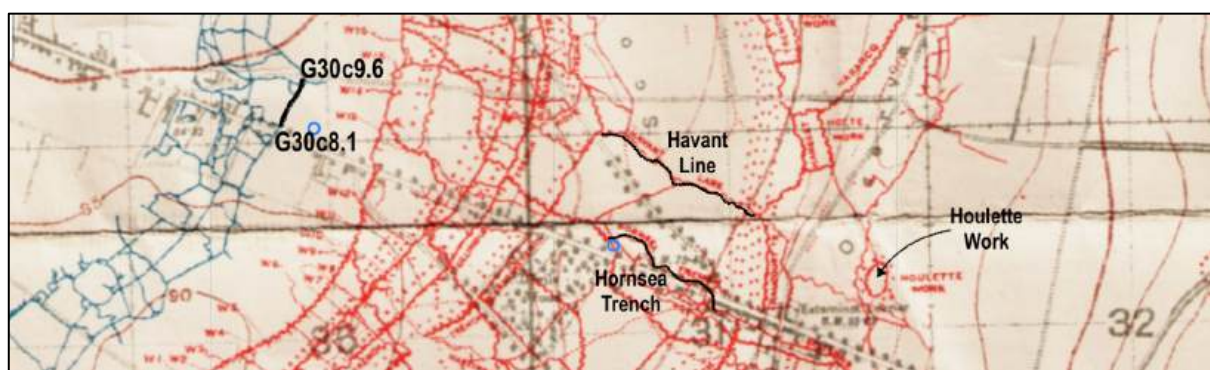
9th April Attack 6th Buffs formed up from G30c8.1 to G30c9.6 south east of St Sauveur



in crossing our front line was: (ARRAS Tr. Map).  
 South. G. 30 c. 8.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . North. G. 30. c. 9. 6. The B's moved  
 forward as under:- C coy. on the right. D coy. on the left  
 A "  $+1\frac{1}{2}$  pl. B coy. ... support. B coy.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pl. ... support.



1st Objective Havent Lane - Hornsea Trench final objective Houlette Work

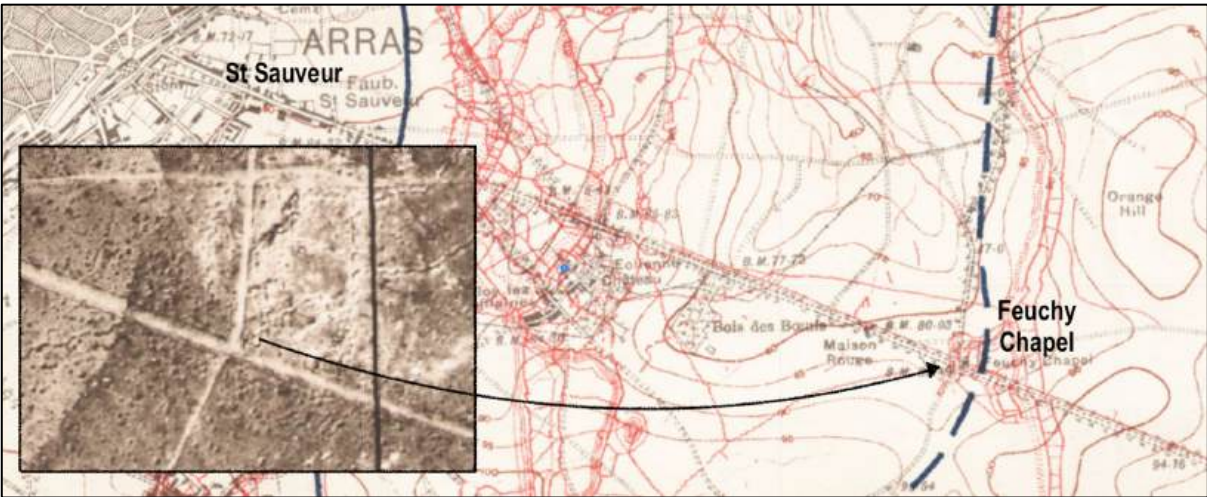


+ B's H.Q. After passing through the  
 6<sup>th</sup> Queens, the 1<sup>st</sup> objective - the BLACK LINE - (HAVANT LANE -  
 HORNSEA TR. - Road at H. 31. a. 67. was quickly captured by the  
 B's without much loss. A two hours bombardment  
 of the enemy's second system - the BLUE LINE - followed, the  
 advance was resumed as the barrage lifted forward. More  
 opposition was encountered than before, snipers & machine guns  
 being active on both flanks. After some stiff hand to hand  
 fighting D coy. were able to get round to the flank,  
 & by rifle grenades concealed machine guns, pushed forward in  
 shell holes, captured HOULETTE WORK, their objective on the BLUE  
 LINE. C coy. on the right were troubled by snipers

M.G. fire ~~for~~ operating from the right flank from the ruins near  
 ESTAMINET CORNER. By means of Lewis Gun fire & rifle  
 grenades these were however eventually silenced, the company  
 was able to proceed. The Blue line was then  
 consolidated & Lewis Guns pushed forward, strong points dug.  
 At 2.18 p.m. the 35<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn. passed through this B's  
 final objective. Casualties of the B's were:- Officers Killed 3, Capt R. C. G. H. M. G. 31. 2. 1918



11<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs in shell holes at Feuchy Chapel.



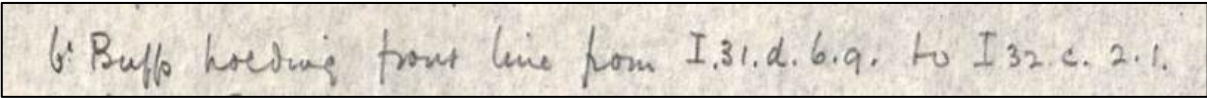
Casulties ... 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April.

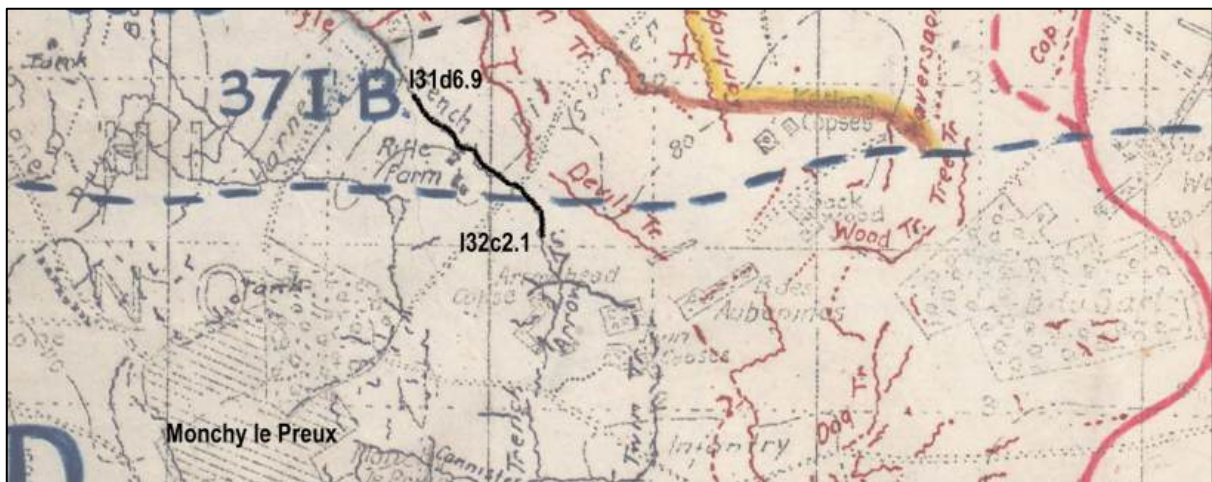
April 1917 cont.....		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
15 <sup>th</sup> to billets in Saulty	16 <sup>th</sup> drill & re-organisation	17 <sup>th</sup> bathing	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> parade	20 <sup>th</sup> training	21 <sup>st</sup> training & drill
22 <sup>nd</sup> parade	23 <sup>rd</sup> to Noyellette	24 <sup>th</sup> to billets in Duisans	25 <sup>th</sup> to billets in Arras	26 <sup>th</sup> parade & training	27 <sup>th</sup> parade & training	28 <sup>th</sup> parade & training
29 <sup>th</sup> formed salvage posts to clear the trenches 'amount of material collected enormous'	30 <sup>th</sup> to front line north of Monchy le Preux taking over from 7 <sup>th</sup> Norfolk's					



May 1917		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> front line north of Monchy le Preux	2 <sup>nd</sup> front line north of Monchy le Preux	3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>Stephen Missing</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> May 1917 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs in front line positions north of Monchy le Preux at I31d6.9 to I32c2.1





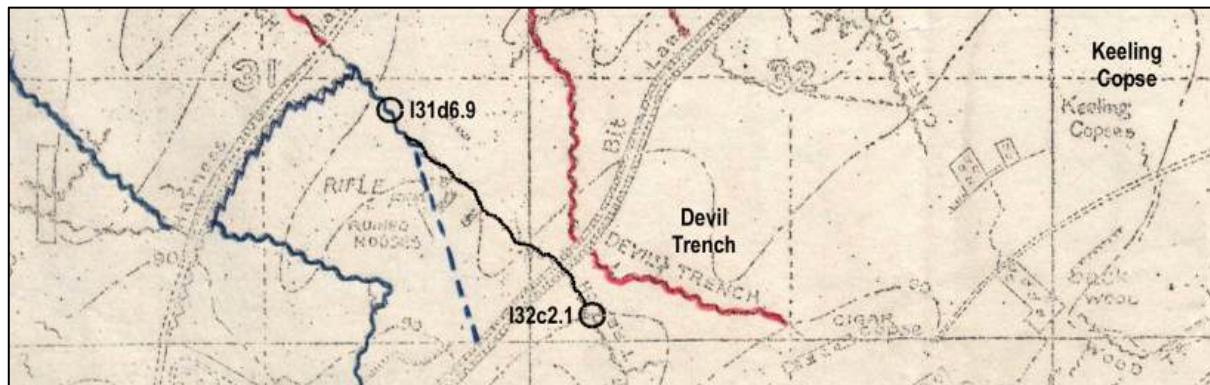
Ground around Monchy le Preux dead animals and shell holes.





On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May orders were received for the 'general attack' the next morning. The 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs objectives Devil Trench and Keeling Copse.

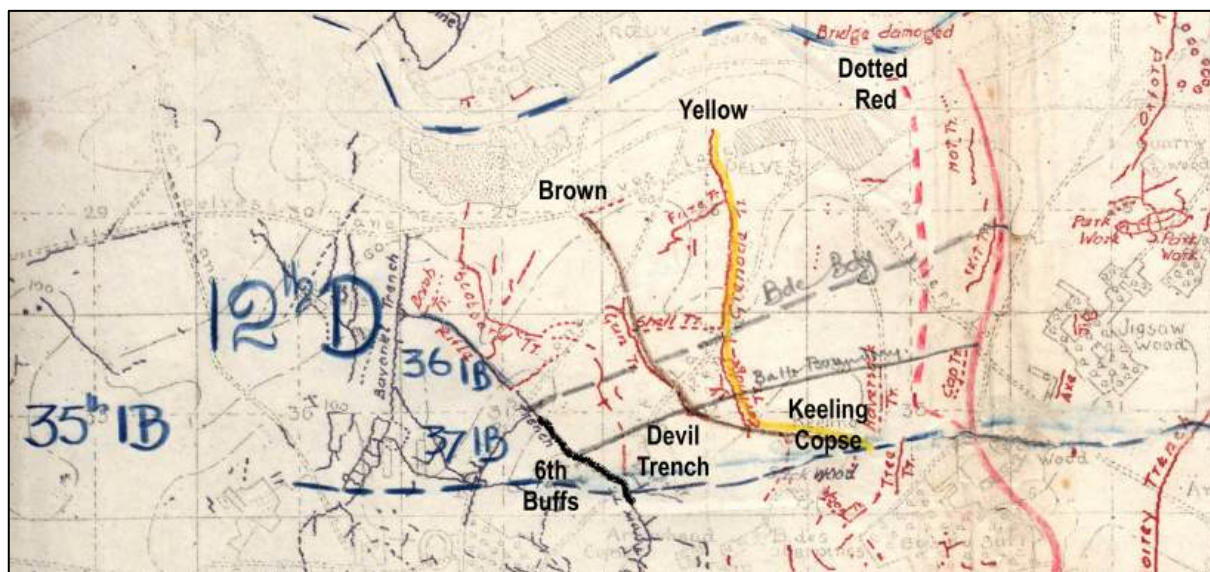
Orders have been received for a general attack in the morning, by 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Armies. The 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs was allotted the following objectives:- ① DEVILS TRENCH. ② KEELING COPSE.



3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917

2. The 37th Infantry Brigade will attack with the 6th Battalion The Buffs on the right and the 7th East Surrey Regiment on the left. The dividing line between Battalions will be a line drawn through the following points :-  
I 31 d 6.6., I 32 a 8.0., I 33 b 0.1. (shewn on the attached Map)  
The disposition of the Brigade will be as follows :-  
6th Bn. The Buffs on the right, Battalion Headquarters at O 1 a 6.6.  
7th Bn. E. Surrey Regiment on the left, Battalion Headquarters at O 1 a 6.6.

3. The attack is divided into three phases.  
A. 1st Objective. BROWN LINE.  
B. 2nd Objective. YELLOW LINE.  
C. 3rd Objective. DOTTED RED LINE.

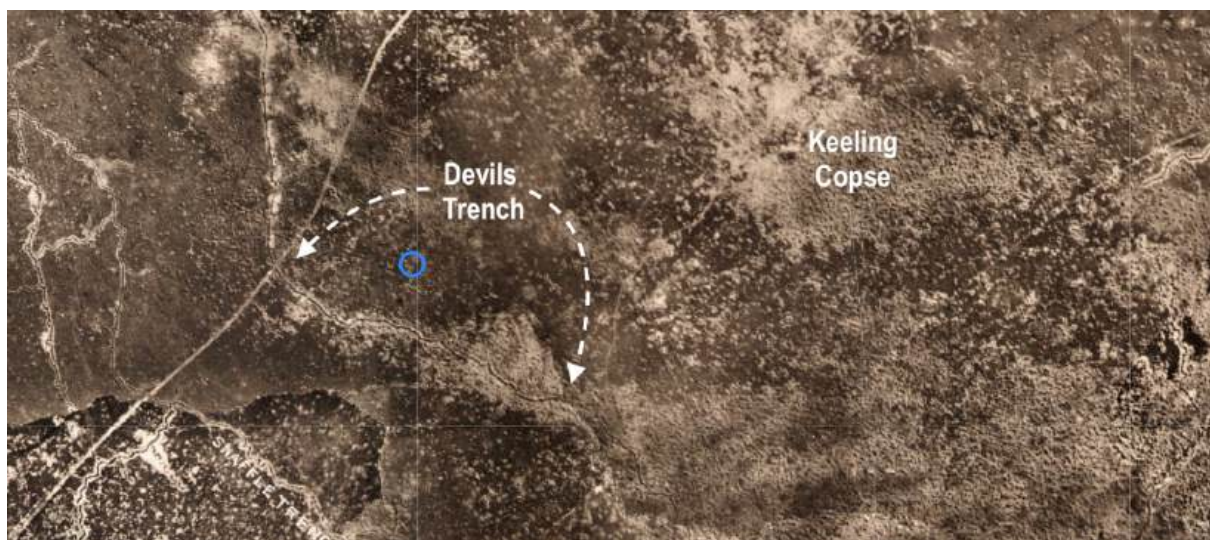
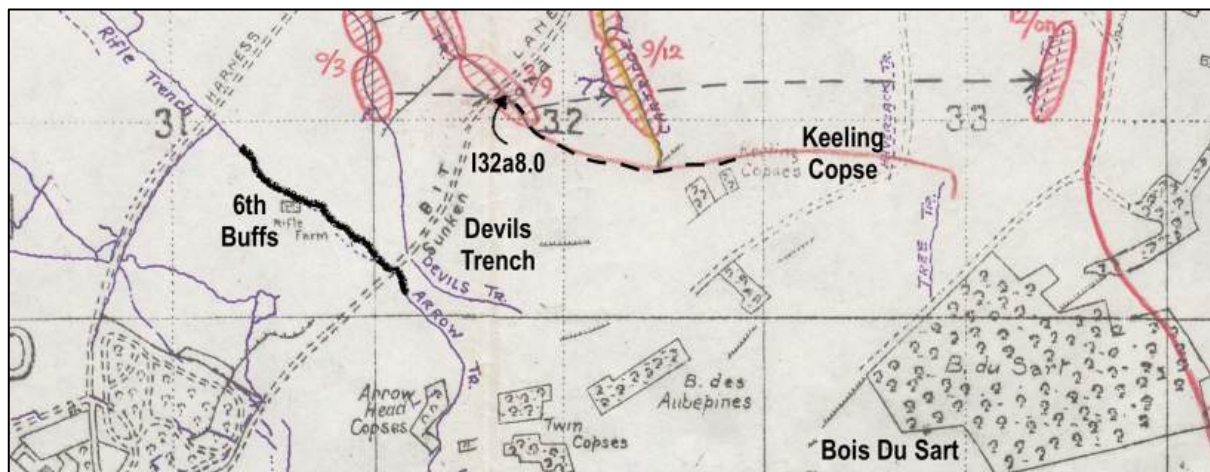




At Zero

(a) The 6th Battalion The Buffs on the Right will capture the line KEELING COPSE thence to a point I 32 a 8.0.  
Two Strong Points will be established on the eastern side of KEELING COPSE.

They will advance in conjunction with the 3rd Division, taking care to prevent any German counter attack being directed on that Division's Northern Flank, whilst they are advancing through the BOIS DU SART. For this purpose a Machine Gun will be attached to 6th Battalion The Buffs to sweep down the valley in I 33 b and d.



3rd May 1917

At 3.30 am, an intense barrage opened + a creeping barrage opened at the rate of 100 yds. per 3 mins. The Lt. went over at the same time. The Signal Officer, 2 Lieut Macaulay went 2 signallers + 4 orderlies went forward to establish an Adv. Pt. Hq. in DEVILS TR. No communication being possible, the party returned about 4.30 am. 2 Prisoners had already been sent down, + apparently the Bt. had gone forward, but in the darkness it was impossible to ascertain anything definite. Owing to Snipers + L.G. fire, it was difficult to <sup>obtain</sup> any information as to how events were proceeding during the day.



A/Cpt. McDERMOTT & A/Cpt. KITCHIN became casualties early in the day (the latter dying of wounds the following day). During the day except for continuous shelling & sudden bursts of artillery fire, it was fairly quiet. A hostile aeroplane was brought down by our L.G. fire in the afternoon. It was ascertained that the Bt. had suffered severe casualties amongst officers & O.R.s & that the line held was practically as before.

2/Lts SEAGO & SOUTER were sent for from the details camp and arrived about 10-0 p.m. These officers were sent forward to reorganize what remained of the Bt.

The attack on the flanks of the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs were unsuccessful and but 2 officers and about 40 men of the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs had moved forward to a position NE of Keeling Copse where they expended all their ammunition and were forced to make their way back through 3 lines of German trenches. Only the 2 officers and 13 men made it back.

The attack on the flanks was unsuccessful and it was afterwards found that 2 officers - 2/Lts COCHERANE & GUNTER with about 40 men had worked forward in the dark & had established themselves in a position N.E. of KEELING COPSES with a Lewis Gun. They were able to account for a considerable number of Germans. After dark having expended every cartridge & bomb they possessed, they cut their way back through

3 lines of German trenches. The 2 officers with 13 men returned finally to Bt. HQ.

The chief difficulty for the attacks was the darkness, zero hour fixed at 3.45 a.m. The battalion spent the preceding night in shell holes, A Company on the right, B on the left, C supporting, and **D being behind B**. Punctually at 3:45 the guns fired and the men went off into the darkness, following the creeping barrage. Every effort was made to keep communication with them, an advanced HQ established in Devil's Trench but no communication was possible. Apparently the battalion was advancing satisfactorily, but nothing definite could be ascertained. When daylight came the gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding but by dusk it was discovered that the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs had suffered greatly and that the line in their front was practically as before.

The loss of officers required two to be sent up from the detail camp arriving about 10 pm and were sent forward to reorganize what was left of the Battalion.

Part of the objective allotted the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs was Keeling Copse, and it was found that 2 officers with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had got there, only to discover that they were completely isolated, the enemy having reformed his line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches. Three lines of Germans were now between these few men and remainder of the battalion.

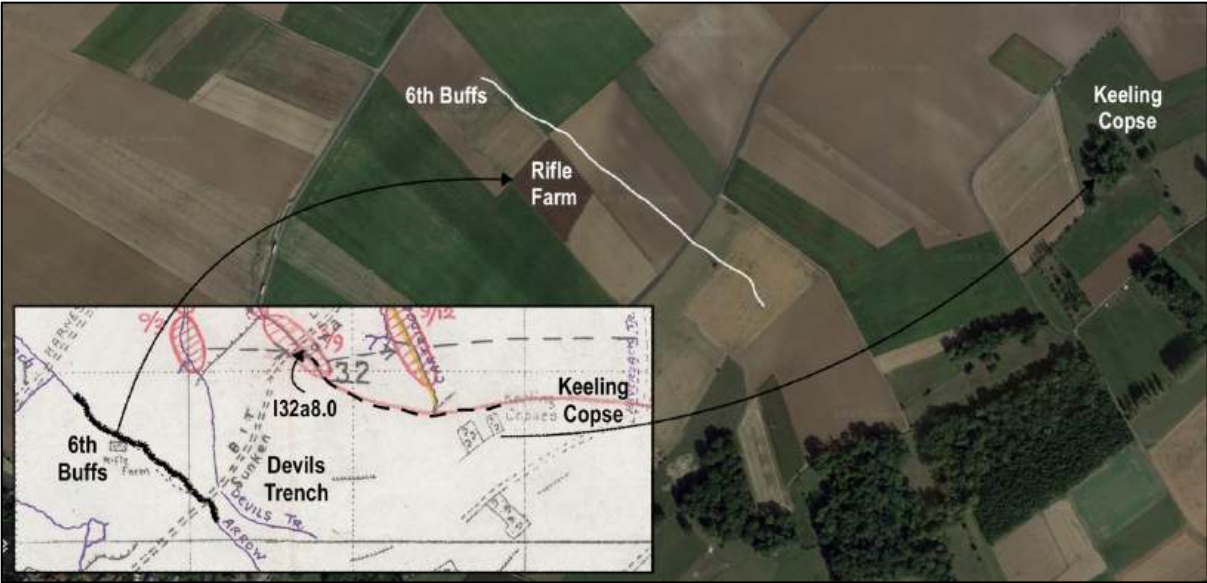
The men at Keeling Copse held their own all day, and when night fell having expended every cartridge and bomb they fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another. 2 officers and 13 men made it back.

**Casualties were 3 officers killed, 3 wounded, 8 missing, 25 other ranks killed, 128 wounded and 207 missing.**

**Stephen was one of the 207 men missing, noted on his records.**

MISSING	3.5.17	6	Missing	Plc	3.5.17
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Probable area Stephen went missing in between the jump off line and Keeling Copse.



Where exactly Stephen went missing and at what point in the attack is not known. He was taken Prisoner Of War (POW)



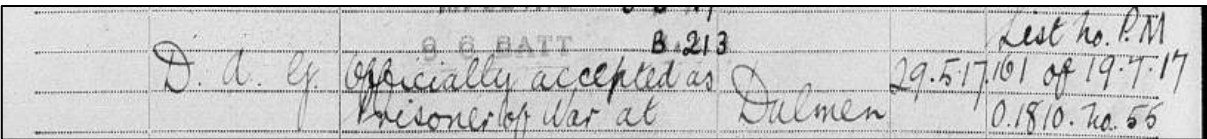
There is no documentation that suggests Stephen was wounded.

The first German POW files dated the 29<sup>th</sup> June show he was captured near Arras on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 a Private in the East Kent regiment (the Buffs) and in D Company.

Oefangennahme = Capture - Arras 3.5.17  
Vorbergehender Aufenthaltsort = 'temporary place of residence' - Lille  
He was taken to Dulmen POW Camp almost certainly via Lille.

29 JUN 1917 Dulmen					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Efd. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Russen Vorname des Vaters	Dienst-grad	a)   Gruppen- b)   tell c) Komp.	a)   Gefangennahme (Ort und Tag) b)   c) vorhergehender Auf- enthaltort	a) Geburtstag und -Ort b)   Adresse des nächsten c)   Verwandten
a)	SANDERS		East	Arras. 3-5-17.	London.
b)	Stephen A.P.	Pte.	Kent.	No.	11-1-88.
c)	277 13715		B	Lille.	Kennington.
a)					London.
b)					F.W. Sanders,
c)					12 Kennington Road,
					as above.

Officially accepted a Prisoner Of War at Dulmen





Dulmen Camp



At some point he was noted at Limburg camp, in records dated the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917, this time the place of capture Monchy (le Preux) on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917. His service number noted with an 8 not a 3.

Et Kdtr Douai = Douai a city east of Arras so Stephen may have firstly been taken to Douai then to Lille and on to Dulmen then Limburg.

*no 4 fully*

31 JUL 1917 P.A. 13154 Limburg					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Id. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Russen Vorname des Vaters	Dienstgrad	a)   Truppen- b)   teil c) Komp.	a)   Gefangennahme b)   (Ort und Tag) c) vorhergehender Aufenthaltsort	a) Geburtstag und -Ort b)   Adresse des nächsten c)   Verwandten
a) 366	Sanders	Pte	6.	Monchy 4-5-17	11-2-88 Lewisham
b)	Stephen		Buffs		Sanders 12 Kennin-ton Rd
c)	18715		D.	Et. Edtr. Douai	London

Limburg







On a POW record dated the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1918 from Gustrow Camp Stephen is shown having moved there at some point from Dulmen.



Gustrow Camp





British POW's Gustrow 1917



The record from Gustrow noted Stephen 'Gestorben' = 'died' he was 28 years old.

*Fiche 14.1* *Gustrow* *8 FEB. 1918* *P.A. 19887*

1	2	3	4	5	6
Lfd. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Russen Vorname des Vaters	Dienstgrad	a)   Scuppen- b)   teil c) Romp.	a)   Gefangennahme b)   (Ort und Tag) c) vorhergehender Aufenthalt	a) Geburtstag und -Ort b)   Adresse des nächsten c)   Verwandten
a) 30	Sanders	Gen.	6/Buffs.	Arras 5.5.17.	London, 11.1.88.
b) <i>1</i>	Stephen			<u>gestorben</u>	Father, 12/Kennington Rd., Kensington
c)	13715		D.	Dülmen	

*Gustrow*

A 'Totenliste' = 'list of dead' dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1917 notes Stephen died on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1917 in the Kriegesgef Lag = 'war hospital' at Gustrow. Infleg ? krankheit = Disease.

*m. a. l. u. l. u.* *Zentral-Nachweise-Büro* *A. 14618* *No.*

*Engländer* *- 1 -* *11 SEPT 1917*

*31.8.1917*

**Totenliste**

<u>Sanders, Stephen</u>	Sold. 6. Buff. Rgt. geb. zu London 28. Jahre 7 Mon. Alt. - verst. 16.7.17 im Barack. Laz. d. Kriegesgef. Lag. <u>Gustrow</u> infolge Krankheit ARTZ. 15173/7.
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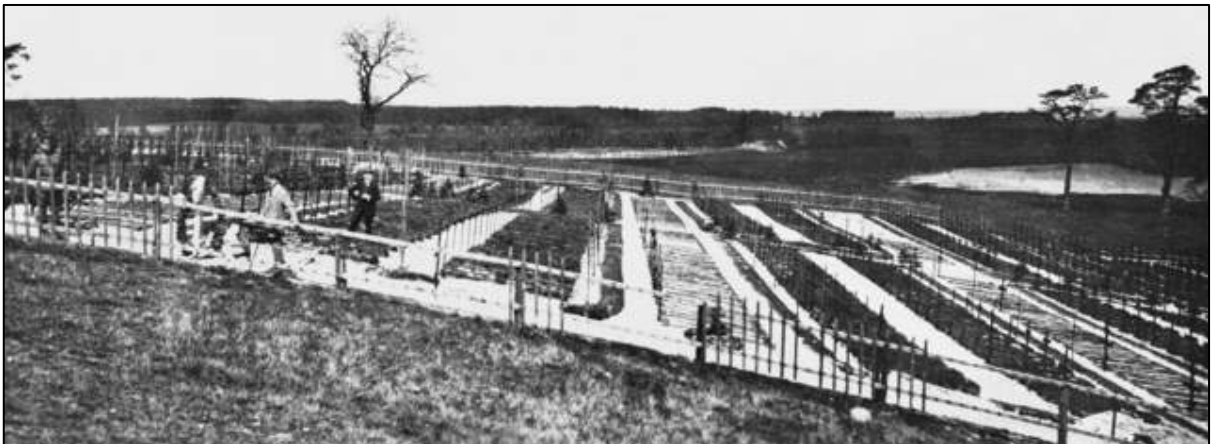
*D. a. l. y. Died 16.7.17 in Barack Laz of Kriegesgef } 0.1810. no. 85.*  
*at Gustrow. Wound. sickness.*  
*List No. P.M. 239. of 19.10.17. y. 57697.*  
*Shaw Capt*

A Hospital Hut Gustrow.



Conditions in POW camps were often poor, the men in overcrowded accommodation, poorly fed and expected to undertake hard labour, perfect conditions for the spread of disease.

Stephen was buried in the Prisoner Cemetery at Gustrow Camp (pictured), the exact location not known.





The burial of a prisoner attended by fellow prisoners at Gustrow Camp.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1918 memorial was unveiled in Gustrow Cemetery, designed in the camp and paid for by the prisoners. Prisoners and Germans seen attending the unveiling.



Nothing is left of the camp today except the Memorial in a now wooded area, no visible signs of the Cemetery where Stephen was first buried.



The derelict memorial today in the Cemetery.



Stephens must have been notified of him being a POW by early August 1917 as he was noted in the published Casualty List on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1917.

<b>Daily List of August 4th (Contd.).</b>	
<b>PART V. W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, AND MEN (Contd.).</b>	
<i>Previously reported missing, now reported</i>	
<b>PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMAN HANDS.</b>	
<b>THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).—</b> Berrett 3464 L.-Cpl. J. R. (Dalston, E.); Brown 13670 J. (Lamberhurst); Croft 13639 A. (Marden); Holyman 13735 C. W. (Carshalton-on-Hill); Marks 20844 G. (Wandsworth, S.W.); Murton 18543 P. (Dover); Paynter 18559 P. A. (Upper Walmer); Richardson 13425 E. A. (Hanworth); Sanders 13715 S. A. F. (Kennington, S.E.); Waller 13184 J. H. (Godalming).	



A death certificate was typed in the camp on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1917, though if and when it reached the UK is not known.

Transition.		759.
No. of the Death Register 452.		
<b>DEATH CERTIFICATE.</b> (Only valid in Military cases).		
Surname:	Sanders.	
Christian name:	Stephen.	
Year and day of death:	14th July, 1917.	
Place of death:	Gustrow Hut Hospital of the Prisoners of War Camp.	
Age:	28 years.	
Place of residence:	Weymouth.	
Place of birth:	London.	
Christian name and surname, as well as occupation of father:	Unknown.	
Christian name and maiden name of mother:		
Gustrow, 29th August, 1917.		
Registrar's office, Gustrow, (Sgd) H. Kogebain.		
Official stamp here.		

*Handwritten notes on right side of certificate:*  
7 W. Sanders, Esq.  
12 Kennington Road  
London S.E.  
13. 7. 20  
K 21404  
13. 7. 13  
S. Sanders Esq.  
Sir, I am commanded by War Office to forward to you a true copy of the death certificate in respect of your son Stephen Sanders. Enclosed is a letter addressed proper to envelope enclosed for. Truly yours  
13. 7. 20

*Handwritten notes at top:*  
Vari 102 Sanders  
H. Kogebain

No. 2 DEATH RECORD OFFICE  
No. 10  
No. 10  
STAMP 10

Two copies of Certificate of Death forwarded with the  
Compliments of the Secretary of the War Office.  
One copy to be forwarded to the next-of-kin of :-

*Handwritten address:*  
134/5 St. W. Sanders Esq. Esq. Esq.  
C. R. Casualties P.M.  
Alexandra Palace,  
N. 22.  
13. 7. 20  
Father: W. Sanders.  
12 Kennington Road  
London S.E.

*Official stamp:*  
THE SECRETARY OF THE WAR OFFICE  
13. 7. 20

Stephen was listed 'now reported died' in the casualty list published on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1918.

*Previously missing, now reported*  
**DIED AS PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMAN HANDS.**  
**THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).—Sanders 13715 S. A.**  
**(London); Tinkins 20806 C. (Bishopbourne).**

Stephens probate was granted on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1918 for £304.17s. It was paid to Edith Florence Guy, a spinster. Edith was born in Weymouth in 1895 and in 1911 was living with her family at 92 St. Mary Street, Weymouth.

**SANDERS** Stephen Arthur Frank of Lloyds Bank Ltd.  
Weymouth **Dorsetshire** died 16 July 1917 in Germany a  
prisoner of war Probate **London** 3 July to Edith Florence  
Guy spinster. Effects £304 17s.

The list of soldiers effects notes Stephens account holding £8 5s 7d but does not state who this was paid to. It also shows a gratuity payment of £4 10s.

Record No.	Regiment No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authenticity	To whom Authorized	Amount Authorized	No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£	s.	d.		
583702	5237	Sanders Stephen Arthur Frank	6 <sup>th</sup> Buffs	16.7.17	13715									
					WAR GRATUITY.									
					£20 5 10 1/2									
					£4 10 0									

The balance of his pay was advertised in the papers in October 1919. Dover Express 10<sup>th</sup> October 1919.

The War Office, in pursuance of Regimental Debts Act, 1893, has issued further lists of non-commissioned officers and men who having died or been killed in action, have left balances of pay, etc., to their credit which are available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin or others entitled. The following names and amounts are included in the lists:—East Kent Regiment.—1915-16—Pte. G. Lee, £10 0s. 5d. 1916-17—Acting Pte. Corporal W. J. Cockerel, £30 14s. 4d.; E. Grenians, £9 7s. 11d.; Lance-Corporal F. Stoor, £6 10s. 1917-18—Acting Sergeant G. S. Benfield, £15 14s. 9d.; Pte. W. Farrell, £3 2s. 1d.; Pte. J. Matucha, 6s. 2d.; Pte. S. A. F. Sanders, £12 15s. 1918-19—Pte. G. Barden, £15 0s. 1d.; J. Brogden, £15 1s. 5d.; Pte. C. H. Butcher, £27 5s. 1d.; Pte. H. B. Chalmers, £22 17s. 4d.; Pte. J. S. Charlton, £12 17s.

Stephens father received a copy of his death certificate in July 1920.

MEMORANDUM.

From *F. W. Sanders Esq.*  
*12 Readington Road,*  
*London S.E.*

To *O/C*

Date *11.5.1920*

*£K 21404. 8/13715/Pte S Sanders 6th Buffs*  
*Copy of Death Certificate received*  
*Signed F.W. Sanders*



For his service Stephen was awarded the British War and Victory medal. Noted on the index card is 'Returned' this may have been by his father as next of kin or that a correct address was not found.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
SANDERS	6/2. Kent RR	Pte.	13715
Stephen Arthur Frank			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	E/2/102. B6	1014	Returned (1743 KR) 7869/Adt
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
E/523/21/2 7869/Adt K. 1320.			



(To be rendered in duplicate)

7869/Adt (EAST BAST) REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301 of 1919.

On 1/1/1919 or on becoming non-effective	NAME	Unit previously served with Regt. No. and Rank in case on entry into theatre of war	Theatre of war in which served								Record of disposal of decorations	REMARKS	
			From		To		From		To				
6/13715	Pte. SANDERS	S.A.F. 6/13715.6 En: 2. Kent Pte										(a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	Bdy/ Medals with Rank 1743 KR 4/69/Adt

Following the war the 59 British Dead were exhumed from Gustrow Cemetery and Re-buried in Hamburg Ohlsdorf Cemetery.

Stephen is buried in Plot 3 row C grave 6

HAMBURG AREA SERIAL NO. 15 Army Form W. 3372.

HAMBURG GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

GERMANY REPORT No. 12 / SCHEDULE No. 15/C

PLACE OF BURIAL HAMBURG CEMETERY OHLSDOFF

Map Reference 13 . B. . 4. This Report Sched. 12 15/C cancels previous Report Schleswig-Holstein Report No. 12 1/C to 12 4/c incl. 28 - 6 - 21 of

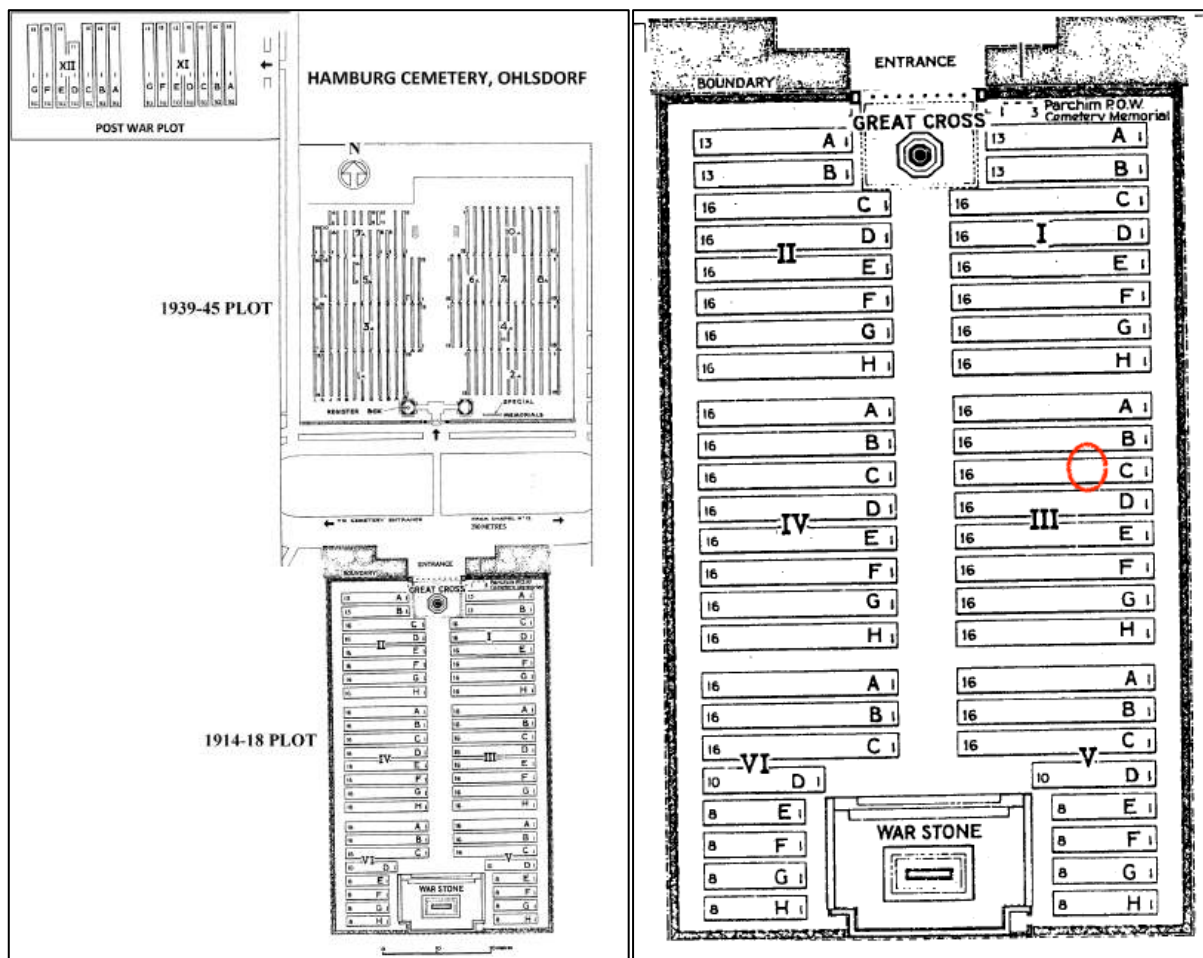
The following are buried here:— PLOT III.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd	Plot, Row and Grave
11/Border Rgt.	27807	PERKINS	Pte. A.G.	28-5-17	"	5
6/E.Kents.	13715	SANDERS	Pte. S.A.F.	16-7-17	"	6
1/4 E.Yorks.	201702	KEECH	Pte. W.	6-4-18	"	7
13/E.Surrey	11316	WARMAN	Pte. W.	4-12-18	"	8

No. of Contract _____ dated _____ Name and Address of Firm _____ _____ _____		<b>Imperial War Graves Commission.</b>  COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS to this report is attached COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS (those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined) and TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).		Schedule "A" Page <u>10</u> Name of Cemetery. <b>HAMBURG CEM. GERMANY</b>  To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:— <b>HAMBURG G.</b>	
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Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line.	2nd Line.	3rd Line.	4th Line.	Age.	Centre of Stone.	To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level.
	Number and Rank.	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment.	Date of Death. <small>In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 5, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death entered laterally.</small>		Relig. Embl.	Plot P. Row R. Grave G. No. of Stone.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

1027/1A.1	G/13715 PRIVATE	S. A. F. SANDERS	X E. KENT	REGT. (THE BUFFS) 16TH JULY 1917	[NONE]	CROSS	3 C 6	285
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Stephen is remembered on the Weymouth War Memorial.



In Memory Of

Private

**S A F SANDERS**

Service Number: G/13715

6th Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 16 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

**HAMBURG CEMETERY**

III. C. 6.



|||||  
COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION