

Margate Post Office Stories

Arthur Thomas Euden was a private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was born on 9th September 1885 in Margate and was baptised in Margate on 22nd November. He was the son of George and Eliza Euden (Fagg) of 43 College Road, Margate. In 1911 he was living with his parents, his brothers Ernest, George, Percy and Herbert and sisters Nellie and Daisy at 2 Fairlight Glen, College Road, Margate. His father was a bootmaker and Arthur was a postman. He had been appointed assistant postman in February 1905.

He married Kate Amelia Sackett in April 1911 in Thanet, Kent. They had a daughter, Lilian born in 1914.

Arthur enlisted in the 2nd Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the outbreak of World War One. On 28th September, 1915, the Battalion, as part of the 85th Brigade, 28th Division, were engaged in heavy fighting during the Battle of Loos, attacking the Hohenzollern Redoubt/Dump area. The battalion suffered severe casualties during this period, resulting in 5 officers killed and over 350 other ranks killed, wounded, or missing. Arthur was one of those lost on that day. He is remembered on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais.

George William Emptage was a Chief Petty Officer aboard HMS Hogue. was born in Margate on 8th July 1875 and was baptised at St John the Baptist Church, Margate. He was the son of Albert John and Anne Elizabeth Emptage (Warner). His father was a boatman and lifeboatman.

In 1891 he was living in Margate and working as a boot boy at Grongar House School. Later in 1891, George and a Thomas Allman were fined 10 shillings plus costs for poaching on land owned by a Henry Brookes of Wilmington. Both young men pleaded that they had been given permission by a Mr Whitehead who was the occupier of the adjoining land.

On his eighteenth birthday George enlisted in the Royal Navy at Chatham. In 1901 he was aboard HMS Repulse moored at Gibraltar and was described as an Able-Bodied Seaman. From 11th April 1902 to 23rd March 1905, he was aboard HMS Sphinx, a torpedo boat and was now a Petty Officer 2nd Class.

In 1906 he was in the Naval Reserve and was now working as a postman for the General Post Office in Margate. He was also playing football for the Postal Football Club. He also became a lifeboatman, alongside his father Albert and brother Frederick.

On the 25th May 1905, he married Frances Annie Fredericks nee Fagg, a widow age 31 at St John the Baptist Church, Margate. Frances had a daughter born in 1899 and became a widow in 1901. On the 12th January 1909, George and Frances had a son, George William.

In 1911 they were living at 65 Byron Road, Margate with George's stepdaughter Winifred Mary. Later that year, their daughter Alice Rose was born on 21st August 1911.

When war was declared George had already joined HMS Hogue on 2nd August 1914. On 22nd September 1914 HMS Vogue was struck and sunk by the German submarine U-9. Hogue lost 48 men, including Petty Officer 1st Class George William Emptage, whose body was never recovered.

George Frederick Fewell was a private in the 7th Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was born on 26th June 1884 in Sutton, Surrey and was baptised at St Barnabas Church, Sutton on 3rd August 1884. He was the son of Arthur and Susan Fewell (Fryer). His father was a postman. George

married Elizabeth Margaret Parker in Margate on 3rd October 1910, and he was working as a postman. Elizabeth was born in Margate. In 1911 he was living at 19 Dane Hill Row, Margate with his wife Elizabeth and was still working as a postman.

He enlisted in the 7th Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) on 9th December 1915, a regiment raised in Canterbury as part of Kitchener's Second New Army in September 1914. They served with 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division and saw action on the Western Front. George was killed in action on 18th November 1916 and is remembered in the Regina Trench Cemetery.

Harold Leslie Smith was a private in the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers. was born in 1898 in Margate, Kent. He was the son of Moses John and Sarah Smith. His father was born in Greenstreet, Kent and his mother was born in Marden, Kent. In 1911 he was living with his parents, brother Frederick and sister Frances at Kent House, 16 Hawley Square, Margate. His father was a steward at a Liberal club.

When Harold reached the age to enlist, he joined the 1st Battalion, London Regiment. On April 25, 1918, the 1st Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) was part of the 167th Brigade, 56th (1st London) Division on the Western Front, following their absorption of the 2/1st Battalion in February. In April 1918, they were involved in operations in the Ypres salient or rebuilding after the German Spring Offensive. On the 25th April Harold was killed and is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France.

Herbert James Bateup was a rifleman in the 1st/8th Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). He was born in Mayfield, Sussex in 1890 the son of James Hook and Louisa Bateman. His father was born in Mayfield, and his mother was born in Seaford. His father was a domestic gardener. After leaving school he joined the Mayfield postal staff as a telegraph messenger. He served there for some time, before being sent to the General Post Office, Tunbridge Wells. Subsequently he moved to Margate. In 1911 at 63 Ethelbert Road, Cliftonville, Tunbridge Wells. He was working as a postman. In 1913 he married Ethel Mirams in Thanet, Kent. They had a daughter Phyllis in 1915.

He enlisted in the London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) in 1916. At this time, he was working as a town postman, and at that time was living with his wife and daughter at 59 Beatrice Road, Margate. Herbert enlisted at Margate in April 1916 and joined the 1st/8th Battalion London Regiment Post Office Rifles. (The London Regiment was a territorial army regiment, first formed in 1908, and whilst most other volunteer units lost their unique identity the London Corps were a notable exception, forming their own regiment).

Herbert was sent to France with the Regiment four months later. He was killed in action on 12th September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres, when he was hit and killed by a shell whilst delivering a message to one of the forward battalions. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Herbert's only brother was killed in action on the 28th December 1915.

Kenneth Lawrence Jakes was a wireless operator in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. was born in Handcross, Surrey on 15th March 1900 and was baptised in Slaugham on 28th October 1900. He was the son of Tom and Jane Elizabeth Jakes (Gregory). Both his parents were born in Cobham, Surrey and his father was a plumber. In 1911 he was living with his parents, brothers Leonard and Donald and his grandmother Jane Gregory at High Street, Handcross, Crawley. His father was a plumber/decorator.

Kenneth enlisted in the Royal Navy as a telegraphist on 13th October 1917. On 10th December he sailed on the HMS Victory VI until 28th April 1918 when he joined the HMS Queen. He died on 6th

November 1918 having developed pneumonia on board HMS Queen, a pre-Dreadnought battleship. He is remembered in the Otranto Town Cemetery, Puglia, Italy.



Herbert James Bateup

