



PIDLEY CUM FENTON
OFFICIAL RECORD OF THOSE MEN WHO FELL
DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR
1914 – 1918

Compiled in July 2018 by Gil Boyd BEM

**PRIVATE 235281 CHARLES HENRY BITTEN OF THE 18th KINGS LIVERPOOL
REGIMENT**



**DIED ON FRIDAY THE 21ST SEPTEMBER 1917 NOW BURIED AT GRAVE E11 NUMBER 1
CEMETERY TORREKEN FARM NEAR HEUVELLAND, BELGIUM**



CHARLES WENT TO A TRIBUNAL/APPEAL FOR EXEMPTION TO SERVICE ON THE 10TH MARCH 1916 AND IT WAS GRANTED. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN TO WORK ON THE LAND WHEN FOOD WAS SCARCE AND THEN ENLISTED THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND WAS KILLED ON THE 21ST SEPTEMBER 1917. Source: *Huntingdonshire Post*.

It is also known that Charles Henry BITTEN served for a short time in the Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion based at Huntingdon.

The raising of the standard of height and chest measurement has put a considerable check on the number of recruits offering themselves for enlistment at Huntingdon, and defective teeth have caused several well-built fellows to be rejected. There is, we are asked to state, an urgent call for pensioned non-commissioner officers to re-join the ranks. In addition to the pensions they are now entitled to receive pay of the rank they fill on re-joining. Information from a local newspaper dated October 1914 - The enrolment for the Hunts. Cyclist Reserve has been proceeding satisfactorily during the past ten days - there are signs that Cromwell's County is awakening to the country's need. Information from a local newspaper dated 11/2/1915 - Coming in well. Recruiting for the extra at 200 men, sanctioned by the War Office, on the strength of the two Hunts Cyclist Battalions is going on a pace, and at the meetings which Lord Sandwich has been attending this week are expected to cause acceleration. Information from a local newspaper dated 7/2/1916 - A large draft has passed through the Cyclist headquarters this week - 50 new recruits, mostly from Kent, arrived one morning last week.

MILITARY SERVICE ACT

1916

EVERY MARRIED MAN

of

MILITARY AGE

Not excepted or exempted under this Act

CAN CHOOSE

ONE OF TWO COURSES:

**1 He can ENLIST AT ONCE and
Join the Colours without delay:**

**2 He can ATTEST AT ONCE UNDER
THE GROUP SYSTEM and be
called up in due course with his
Group.**

If he does neither, a third course awaits him:

**HE WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE
ENLISTED**

**Under the Military Service Act
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd 1916.**

**HE WILL BE PLACED IN THE RESERVE
AND BE CALLED UP IN HIS CLASS**

As the Military Authorities may determine.

Charles Henry BITTEN was discharged medically for a heart condition at Huntingdon on the 23rd February 1915, he then travelled to Liverpool and joined the 18th Kings Liverpool Regiment in 1917 and was killed in action on the 21st September 1917



**OFFICERS STEWARD 3RD CLASS L/4948 FREDERICK BITTEN OF THE ROYAL
NAVY**



**DIED ON THURSDAY OCTOBER THE 15TH 1914 AGED 20 NOW BURIED ROW 7 CHATHAM
NAVAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY. SAILOR ON H.M.S. HAWKE**

**SON OF ELIZABETH ANN BITTEN OF 8 HORKELEY CRESCENT, GREAT HORKESLEY, COLCHESTER
NATIVE OF PIDLEY HUNTINGDONSHIRE**



HMS HAWKE WAS TORPEDOED BY A GERMAN UBOAT U-9 WITH A LOSS OF LIFE TOTALLING 525 OFFICERS AND MEN WHEN THE MAIN MAGAZINE WAS HIT WHICH TORE THE SHIP APART 86 OF WHOM WERE YOUNG BOYS.



IRONICALLY IT WAS HMS HAWKE THAT ON THE 20TH SEPTEMBER 1911 BEFORE WW1 COLLIDED WITH THE SISTER SHIP RMS OLYMPIC THE SISTER SHIP TO RMS TITANIC IN THE SOLENT, HAMPSHIRE. AFTER A REFIT HMS HAWKE WAS RETURNED TO SERVICE.



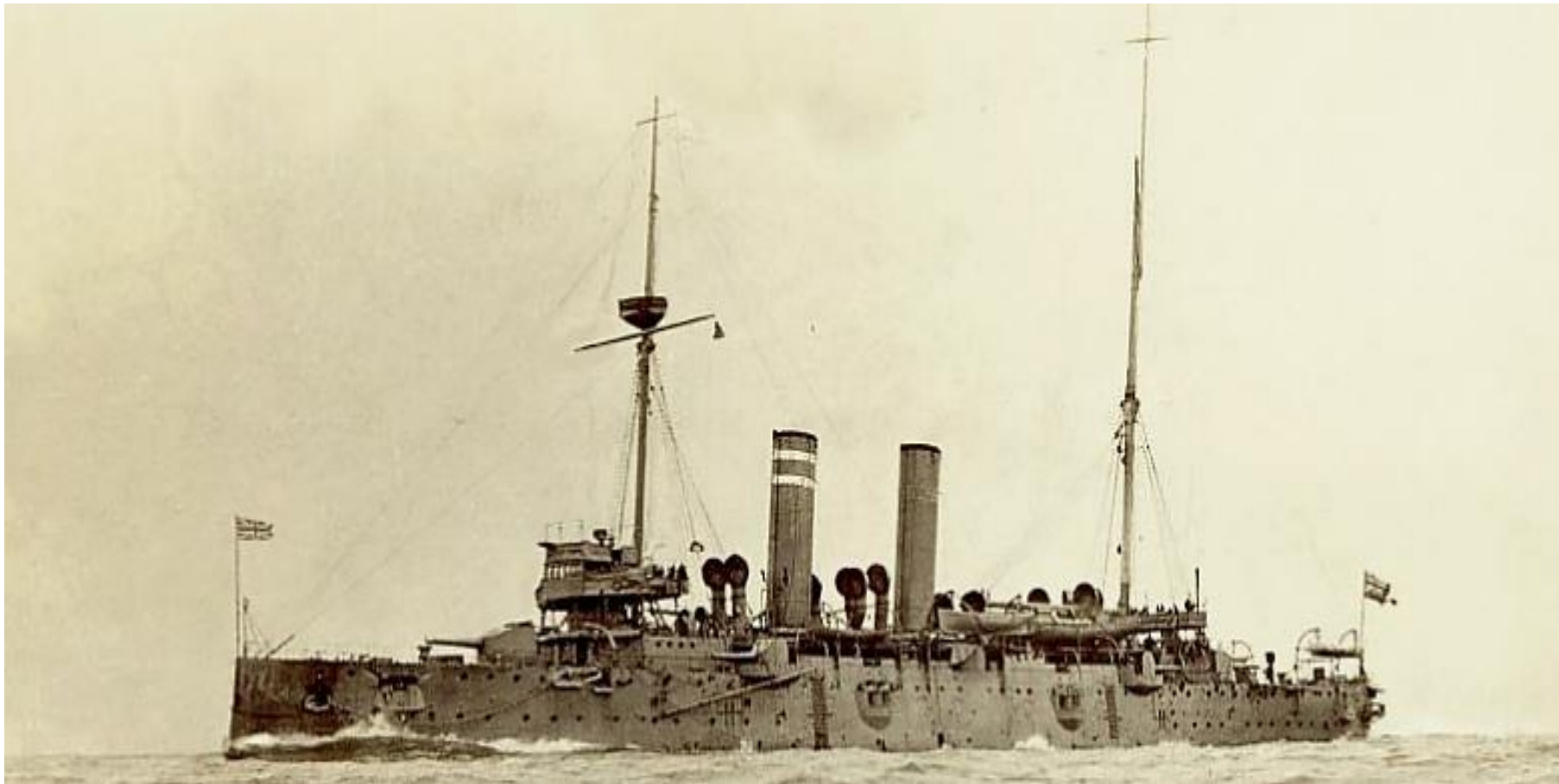
PORT SIDE OF THE RMS OLYMPIC WHERE HMS HAWKE COLLIDED



THE BOW OF HMS HAWKE AFTER RMS OLYMPIC COLLIDED WITH HER IN THE SOLENT

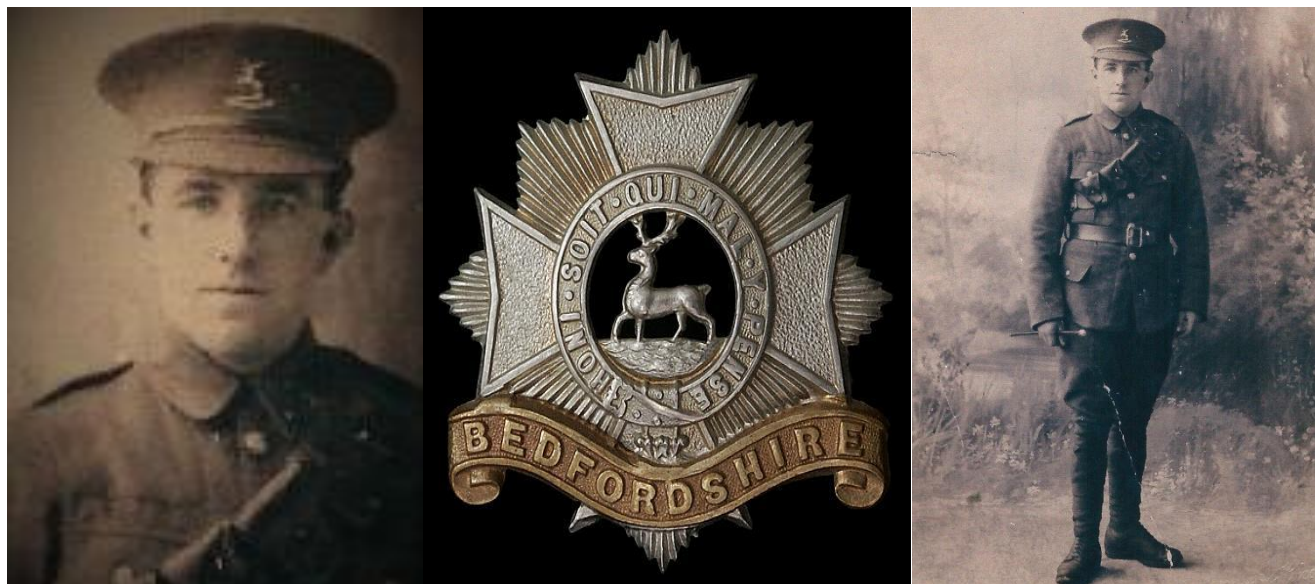


RMS OLYMPIC & TITANIC ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER IN HARLAND & WOLFF SHIPYARDS BELFAST AFTER COLLISION



HMS HAWKE

**PRIVATE 43056 WILLIAM BRAYBROOK OF THE 1st BATTALION
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**



**DIED ON MONDAY 28TH AUGUST 1916 AGED 23, NOW COMMEMORATED ON THE THIEPVAL
MEMORIAL PIER & FACE OF THE MONUMENT ROW 2C – HE HAD NO KNOWN GRAVE
HUSBAND OF KATHLEEN BRAYBROOK 115, HIGH STREET, PECKHAM, LONDON**

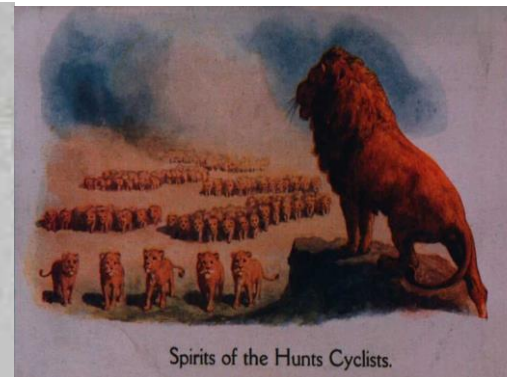


WILLIAM BRAYBROOK ALSO SERVED INITIALLY IN 1132 HUNTINGDONSHIRE CYCLIST BATTALION BEFORE TRANSFER TO THE BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Source: Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion Archive



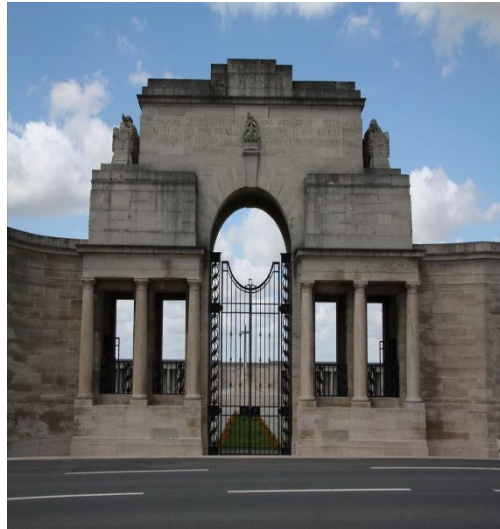
ROLTON F.
BONEHAM C. S.
BONESS A.
BONESS A. J.
BONESS G. H.
BOWLER W. F. J.
BOWYER R. E.
BRACE C.
BRAYBROOK W.
BRIDGES A. E.
BRIGHTMAN F.
BRITTAIN A.
BRITTON J. T.
BROOKS W.



**PRIVATE 15172 ALBERT HENRY BURGESS OF THE 6TH BATTALION
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**



**DIED ON SATURDAY THE 15TH OF JULY 1916 NOW BURIED AT POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY
OVILERS LA BOISELLE, FRANCE, GRAVE G20**



**RIFLEMAN Z/754 THOMAS WILLIAM FEW OF THE 16TH BATTALION RIFLE
BRIGADE**



**DIED ON TUESDAY THE 31ST JULY 1917 AGED 36 NOW COMMEMORATED ON THE MENIN
GATE MEMORAL IN YPRES PANEL 46-48-50 – HE HAS NO KNOWN GRAVE
SON OF ALFRED AND HANNAH FEW OF PIDLEY, HUNTS.**



MENIN GATE YPRES

**PRIVATE 3/6742 ALEXANDER MCGOWAN OF THE 2ND BATTALION
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**

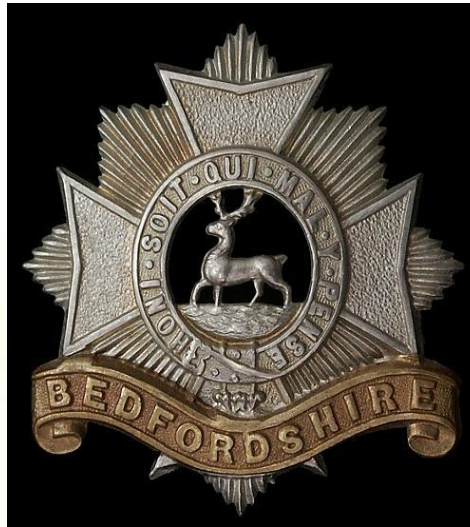


**DIED ON TUESDAY THE 11TH JULY 1916 NOW COMMEMORATED ON THE THIEPVAL
MEMORIAL IN YPRES PIER FACE 2C – HE HAS NO KNOWN GRAVE**



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

**SECOND LIEUTENANT DAVID HAROLD MACKLIN OF THE 4TH BATTALION
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**



2nd Lt David Harold Macklin (4th from the left rear rank) taken in an Officers group photo between the 12th and 20th September 1917

**DIED ON WEDNESDAY THE 27TH MARCH 1918 AGED 20 NOW BURIED IN OVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY
IN FRANCE ROW I.C. GRAVE 31**

**SON OF REVEREND HERBERT W. MACKLIN AND MARIAN M. MACKLIN OF WHITE WOOD CORNER,
SANDY, BEDS**



OVILLERS CEMETERY FRANCE

Inscription on his gravestone by the family

"REQUIESCAT IN PACE RESURGAT IN GLORIAM"

RISE TO GLORY

The group photograph above is of the Officers of the 4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, 6 weeks after this was taken many were killed or wounded in the disastrous Second Passchendaele assaults of the 30th October 1917, when over 400 of the Battalion became casualties. Many of those who survived that battle would become casualties the following March/April when they fiercely opposed the German Spring Offensives, and where David Macklin fell.



2nd Lieutenant David Harold MACKLIN Rear Row fourth from the left

**RIFLEMAN 23/991 EDWARD ANNISS OF A COMPANY 3RD BATTALION
NEW ZEALAND RIFLE BRIGADE**



Died on the 13th of November 1916 aged 24 years of his wounds in Hospital in Oxfordshire and is buried in Pidley Churchyard at the north boundary.

SON OF JOHN & MARGARET ANNISS OF SCHOOL ROAD FAIRLIE, SOUTH CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND (Formerly of Pidley)

LORD KITCHENER'S

APPEAL to the Men of Huntingdonshire.



A Public Meeting

WILL BE HELD ON THE

Market Square, Huntingdon,

SATURDAY EVENING NEXT SEPT. 19th at 7 o'clock

When BRIGADIER GENERAL LORD LOVAT, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., WILL SPEAK

The MAYOR of HUNTINGDON will preside supported by the Right Hon. the EARL of SANDWICH, K.C.V.O.

THE PIPERS WILL PLAY BEFORE THE MEETING

These soldiers information was compiled and researched by Gil Boyd BEM of Pidley who has prepared this historical record of Pidley Cum Fentons fallen who served and died during World War 1 who are commemorated on the Pidley Church Memorial from military records which at best have been as accurate as they could be during World War 1. Thankyou to Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion Archive, Bedfordshire Regiment, Rifle Brigade, Royal Navy and Kings Liverpool Regiment and the New Zealand Rifle Brigade Archives for their assistance.