

WHEATHAMPSTEAD

HERTFORDSHIRE

DETAILS OF THE FALLEN

1914 – 1918

Remembering the servicemen who laid down their lives in the
First World War

Research and Compilation of Data by
Margaret and Terry Pankhurst

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The First World War

1

Allen, Francis Edward

**Remembered on the Wheathampstead war memorial,
on a personal memorial in St Helen's Church, and
on the old Roll of Honour**

C.W.G.C. Index

Surname	Allen, Francis Edward	
Rank	Lieutenant	
Service Number	-	
Date of Death / Age	11/04/18	24 [23]
Regiment / Service	York and Lancaster Reg. 1st /5th Battalion	
Nationality	British	
Grave / Memorial	Panel 125 to 128	
Cemetery Name	Tyne Cot Memorial	

Parents, George and Martha Jane Allen, of The Hill, Wheathampstead.

Soldier, Died in WW1 Index. Born, Wheathampstead. Lived, Wheathampstead.

Birth Registered: Allen, Francis Edward. Dec. Quarter 1894, St Albans 3A 559.

Wheathampstead Baptism: 31 Sept. 1894. Francis Edward Allen s/o George and Martha Wheathampstead, Bricklayer.

Siblings Baptism: 4 May 1898, Walter James; 30 July 1899, Harold Sidney Allen (below); and 26 Aug 1900, Cecil Eugene Allen, of Brewers Hill, [father a] Groom.

1901 Census. Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead

George Allen	Head	34	Mar.	Groom Domestic	Sandridge, Herts.
Martha J. Allen	Wife	34	Mar.		St Albans, Herts.
William G. Allen	Son	7	Single		New Southgate, Middlesex
Francis E. Allen	Son	6			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Walter J. Allen	Son	3			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Harold S. Allen	Son	2			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Cecil E. Allen	Son	9 Months			Wheathampstead, Herts.

1911 Census. Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead

George Allen	Head	44	Mar.	Gardener Domestic	Sandridge, Herts.
Martha Allen	Wife	44	Mar.		St Albans, Herts.
Francis Allen	Son	16	Single	Bakers Assistant	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Walter Allen	Son	12	Single	School	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Sidney Allen	Son	11	Single	School	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Cecil Allen	Son	10	Single	School	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Mary Allen	Dau.	2 Months			Wheathampstead, Herts.

The First World War



Figure WW1 1a: Four Allen Brothers, Herts Advertiser 8 Sept. 1917 page 4

Francis Edward Allen is shown on the right in the above picture of the Allen brothers, each serving in the army. The brothers were named in the *Advertiser* as – Ernest Edgar [probably a naming error made by the *Herts Advertiser*], Walter James, Harold Sidney and William George.

Francis Edward Allen, *Herts Advertiser*, 8 Sept. 1917

'He enlisted in October 1915 in the Herts Territorials as a private and was later offered a commission, being attached to the York and Lancaster Regiment, with which he is now serving in France. He went to France in September 1916 where he had a very strenuous time in the trenches, for which he was mentioned in dispatches. He fell ill with trench fever and was in hospital for nearly two months. In an engagement near St Julien he was gassed and again was an invalid in hospital.'

The *Advertiser* added that Francis was then in a convalescent home in Dieppe.

Francis E. Allen promotion, *Herts. Advertiser*

'Second Lieut. Francis E. Allen, York and Lancashire Regiment, who has been home on a fourteen days leave has been promoted to First Lieutenant. Whilst in England he was notified that a certain number of officers were required in England for training recruits and he had the option of staying at home for that purpose if he desired. The notice stated that officers taking advantage of this permission for an extended leave in England might not, on their return again to France join their old regiments, but might be transferred to another. First Lieutenant Allen felt it his duty both to his Colonel and to his old regiment to return to France at the expiration of his fourteen days leave.'

The First World War

33

King, Alfred William

**Remembered on the Wheathampstead war memorial,
on the old Roll of Honour, and
on the memorial tablet at St Peter's Church, Gustard Wood**

C.W.G.C. Index

Surname	King A.W.
Rank	Private
Service Number	18814
Date of Death / Age	8/05/1918 [31]
Regiment /Service	Bedfordshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion
Nationality	British
Grave / Memorial	I.D.3.
Cemetery Name	Godezonne Farm Cemetery

Parents, Alfred and Lucy King, of Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Herts.

Soldier, Died in WW1 Index. Born, Wheathampstead. Lived, Wheathampstead.

There was an error in the C.W.G.C. details for Alfred William King. Their records showed him having been killed in 1915. After challenging this with the evidence as listed below, the date was changed to the correct date of 8th May 1918. It will inevitably take years for this correction to filter down to all the other indexes formed from using C.W.G.C. information, and to people who have used the incorrect date in their family histories.

Birth Registered: King, Alfred William. June Quarter 1887. St Albans 3A 544.

Wheathampstead Baptism: 29 May 1887; Alfred William King,
s/o Alfred and Lucy, Wheathampstead Hill, Lab.

Sibling Baptism: 28 Oct 1888; Frederick, s/o Alfred and Lucy, Gustard Wood, Lab.

1891 Census. Gustard Wood

Alfred King	Head	27	Mar.	Ag. Lab.	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Lucy King	Wife	21	Mar.		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Alfred King	Son	4	-		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Frederick King	Son	2	-		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Lucy King	Dau.	10 months			Wheathampstead, Herts.

The First World War



Figure WW1 33a: Alfred William King
Herts Advertiser, 28 Sept. 1918, page 6



Figure WW1 33b: Alfred William King
Picture by kind permission of Arthur Holdford
From a postcard dated 27 March 1915.
Dear Mary, Just typing to you, love to all
from your loving brother Alf.

1901 Census. Folly, Wheathampstead, Village

Alfred King	Head	38	Mar.	Carpenter	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Lucy King	Wife	32	Mar.		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Alfred W. King	Son	13	Single	Nurseries Errand Boy LCG	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Frederick King	Son	12	Single		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Lucy King	Dau.	10	Single		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Mary E. King	Dau.	4	Single		Wheathampstead, Herts.

1911 Census. Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead

Alfred King	Head	48	Mar.	Journeyman Carpenter	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Lucy King	Wife	42	Mar.		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Alfred King	Son	23	Single	Nurseryman	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Mary Ellen King	Dau.	14			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Albert Edward King	Son	8			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Ernest Charles King	Son	6			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Sidney George King	Son	3			Wheathampstead, Herts.
Bertram King	Son	5 months			Wheathampstead, Herts.

Alfred King, Pte. A. W. King
Mr. and Mrs. F.
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page 2060
Alfred W.

Russell, George Frederick

Remembered on the Wheathampstead war memorial,
on the old Roll of Honour, and
on the memorial tablet at St Peter's Church, Gustard Wood

C.W.G.C. Index

Surname	Russell, George Frederick
Rank	Private
Service Number	12938
Date of Death / Age	16/11/1916 22
Regiment /Service	Bedfordshire Regiment, 6th Battalion
Nationality	British
Grave / Memorial	-
Cemetery Name	Serre Road Cemetery No 2

Parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Russell, of Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead.

Soldier, Died in WW1 Index. Born, Wheathampstead. Lived, Wheathampstead.

Birth Registered: September Quarter 1894. St Albans 3A 550.

1901 Census. Ashridge Farm, Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead

William Russell	Head	Mar.	44	Foreman on Farm	Gustard Wood
Sarah L. Russell	Wife	Mar.	43		Gustard Wood
Francis W. Russell	Son	Single	19	Carman on Nurseries	Gustard Wood
Sarah A. Russell	Dau.	Single	14		Gustard Wood
Martha Russell	Dau.	Single	13		Gustard Wood
Arthur A. Russell	Son	Single	11		Gustard Wood
Ethel E. Russell	Dau.	Single	9		Gustard Wood
George F. Russell	Son	Single	6		Gustard Wood
Herbert E. Russell	Son	Single	8 months		Gustard Wood

1911 Census. Gustard Wood

William Russell	Head	Mar.	54	Farm Labourer	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Sarah Russell	Wife	Mar.	53		Wheathampstead, Herts.
Arthur Russell	Son	Single	21	Farm Labourer	Wheathampstead, Herts.
George Russell	Son	Single	16	Groom Domestic	Wheathampstead, Herts.
Herbert Russell	Son	Single	10	School	Wheathampstead, Herts.

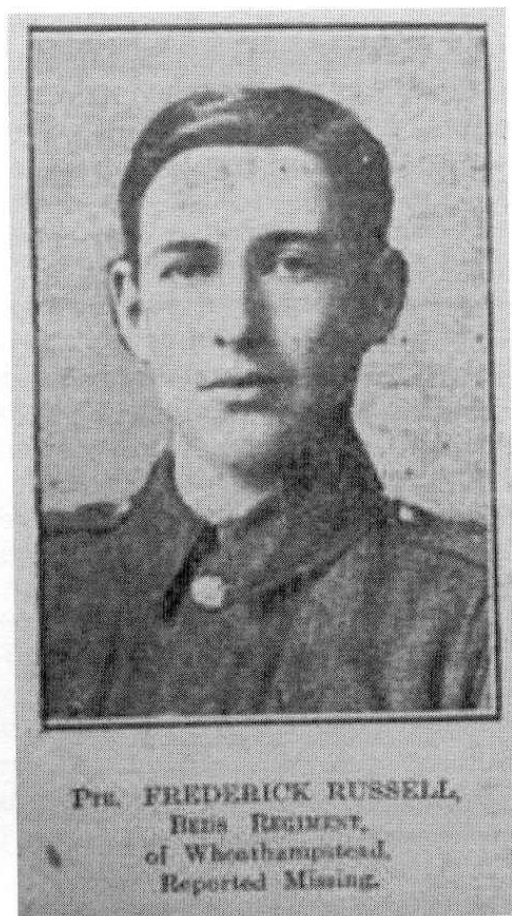


Figure WW1 48a: George Frederick Russell, Herts Advertiser, 13 January 1917, page 6

G. F. Russell, Hertfordshire Mercury, Saturday 30 December 1916, page 6

'Pte. Frederick Russell Beds Regiment of Gustard Wood and formerly a Groom to Mrs. Hoar of Welwyn Missing since November 16th.'

6th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment War Diary

'14 Nov 1916 The Battle of the Ancre. At 2 a.m. marched to position of assembly in Tournai Trench near Mailly-Maillet. Went forward to attack Frankfort Trench at midday.

15 Nov 1916 Attacked Munich Trench with rest of the 112th Bde. 4 officers killed.

16 Nov 1916 Entrenched near Waggon Road.'

The Battle of the Somme was drawing to a close as winter approached in 1916. On 13th November the Allies launched an attack along the River Ancre near Thiepval. At 2am on the 14th Frederick, as he was known, was marching with 6th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment to the trenches near the town of Mailly-Maillet, as the Battalion War Diary reports. At noon that day and on the following day they advanced to attack German trenches just to the north of the village of Beaumont-Hamel.

Frederick, who was 22, was reported missing on 16th November. His body was eventually found and he is buried in Serre Road Cemetery No 2 outside Beaumont-Hamel. He was the sixth of farm foreman William and wife Sarah's seven children - four boys and three girls - from Gustard Wood. Before the war he had worked as a groom.

George Frederick Russell is remembered on the Wheathampstead war memorial, the old Roll of Honour and the memorial tablet in St Peter's Church, Gustard Wood.

Sold

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