

# 1 Tonbridge Castle

Tonbridge Castle was an important focal point for the town during the first world war with training for the VAD detachments held inside and soldiers drilling in the grounds.



# 7 St Peter's and St Paul's Parish Church Memorial

Colin Blythe; a cricketer who played for England; is named on the memorial. At the outbreak of the War he enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and was killed in action in 1917.



# 11 Lyons Crescent and Spicketts

Lyons Crescent was heavily populated by servicemen and their horses, some were billeted at the Salvation Army Hall. Henry Spickett of Spicketts Stone Masons joined the R.E. in February 1917 as a tank driver. A survivor, he was commissioned to build the first War Memorial.



# 2 The Fire Station

Fred Boyde lived at the Fire Station, he was the volunteer Deputy Transport Officer for the VAD arranging for wounded soldiers to be moved to local hospitals from the ambulance trains arriving at the station any time of the day or night.



# 8 Man of Kent

The Inn sign used to feature Field Marshall Sir John French, who was in command of the British Army on the Western Front from August 1914 to December 1915.



# 12 Post Office - now Pizza Express

The Post Office had to take on temporary male and female staff to replace the men who enlisted. There was uproar when deliveries were cut to 5 a day during the War.



Credits: 1) From the collection of D Price 610TON; 2) 703TON Courtesy Pam Mills; 3) 681TON Courtesy Tonbridge Historical Society; 4) From the collection of D Price 606TON; 5) 710TON Courtesy Tatyana Firih; 6) 711TON Courtesy Pam Mills; 7) 712TON Courtesy Tatyana Firih; 8) 715TON Courtesy Tatyana Firih; 9) 716TON Courtesy Pam Mills; 10) From the collection of D Price 608TON; 11) 684TON Courtesy M Spickett; 12) 685TON Courtesy Tonbridge Town and People Ancestry Blog; 13) 686TON Courtesy Tonbridge Historical Society; 14) 721TON Courtesy Tatyana Firih; 15) 722TON Courtesy Pam Mills; 16) 690TON Courtesy Tonbridge Historical Society; 17) 727TON Courtesy Pam Mills; 18) 728TON Courtesy Tatyana Firih; 19) 692TON Courtesy Tonbridge Historical Society; 20) 694TON Courtesy Private Collector DA; 21) 696TON Courtesy Tonbridge Historical Society.

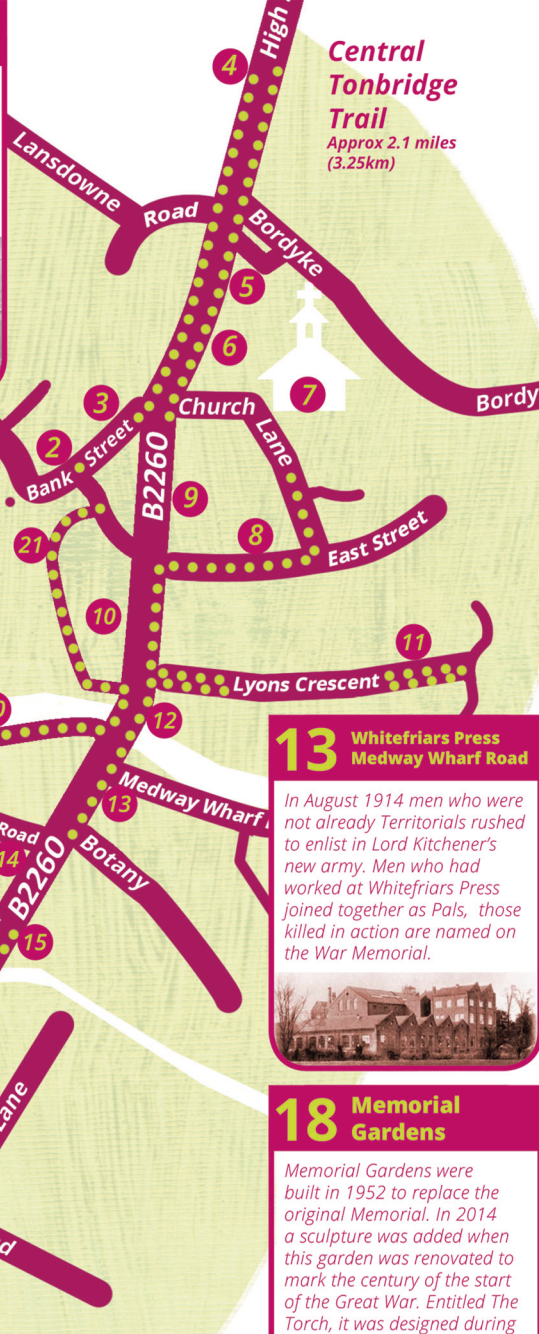
# 3 Bank Street Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange became the Drill Hall where the men lined up to enlist in the Royal West Kent regiment in 1914. During the War it was used extensively for recruiting and by various units.



# 17 Tonbridge Library

Druce Cheal, was a librarian who joined the Royal Engineers in 1914. He and a colleague were laying mines in Allied trenches when a sudden German advance cut them off. They managed to unite with an artillery position and following their heroic actions were both awarded the Military Medal Note: 18 Avebury Avenue is the location of the National Food Kitchen.



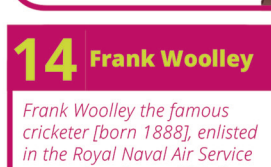
# 4 Tonbridge School

Over 2000 alumni from Tonbridge School served in the First World War, with 415 of these being killed in action during the course of the War. Wounded Belgian soldiers were also treated at Tonbridge School.



# 9 Rose and Crown Pub

Due to sudden influx of troops in 1915 the Rose and Crown public house was used to billet men and officers. This was against the wishes of Lord Kitchener but the rest of the town was full.



# 14 Frank Woolley

Frank Woolley the famous cricketer [born 1888], enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service as an aircraftman [fitter]. He served in various bases, notably Felixstowe. After the war he returned to playing county cricket for Kent.



# 19 Bradford Street -The Star Picture Hall

The Star Picture Hall in Bradford Street advertised the 'Battle of the Somme' War Office film in October 1916. This was the first time that civilians saw what being battle was like and many went to see the film.



# 5 Ivy House

This was the Elephant and Castle public house. One of the regulations brought in during the War forbade anyone to buy someone else a drink; 'treating' as it was known at the time.



# 10 The Chequers

The landlord AJ Cattle rescued a young woman from drowning in the Medway in February 1917. Mr Cattle received the Royal Society Humane Award for his brave action.



# 15 Belgian Refugees 47 High Street

Tonbridge War Refugees committee was set up on September 23rd 1914 to raise funds and provide hospitality for Belgian refugees. This was their HQ and provided temporary lodging, people in Tonbridge lent their houses to the refugees.



# 20 River Medway and High Street

The river played its part in Army training as the war progressed. On 11th November 1918 when the news of the Armistice first reached Tonbridge, the shops and houses, previously forbidden to show their full lights, now blazed with every lamp they had, and there was even a firework display.



# 6 Allwork Brothers Photostudio

The Allwork Brothers ran the studios, photographing local men and those from regiments billeted in the town, for example the Lincoln yeomanry. The pictures were produced as cards for the men to send home.



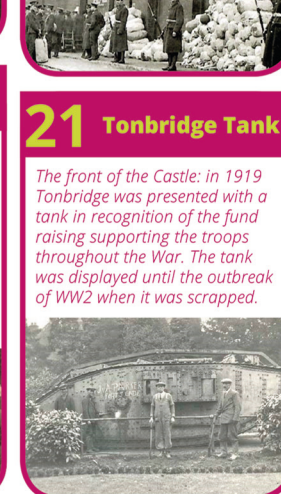
# 16 Tonbridge junction

The railway was vitally important and staff under great pressure. Many troop trains arrived and speed was of the essence to detrain the men, kit and horses to their billets in the town. Ambulance trains carrying wounded arrived at all times of day or night.



# 21 Tonbridge Tank

The front of the Castle: in 1919 Tonbridge was presented with a tank in recognition of the fund raising supporting the troops throughout the War. The tank was displayed until the outbreak of WW2 when it was scrapped.



### 1 London Road

Sandycombe's 85 London Road is where the Royal Army Medical Corps was stationed. Pte Arthur Carter 2/4 Buffs died here of pneumonia 12th January 1916 according to Tonbridge Free press and was given full military funeral.



### 2 24, Dryhill Road

Henry Palin was the great uncle of presenter Michael Palin. Henry emigrated to New Zealand in 1911 and served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Henry's mother, Brita, was living in Dryhill Road when he died at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



### 3 St Saviour's Mission

The Mission, attached to the Church became the National Food Kitchen for North Tonbridge where people could buy reasonably priced dinners to help women who were working. There are several memorial plaques to the Fallen in the church.



### 1 Pembury Road, the Original War Memorial

The roundabout off Quarry Hill was the location of the first memorial dedicated to the Fallen of WW1, unveiled in 1921. It recorded over 300 names inscribed on 4 tablets.



### 2 Tonbridge Hospital

Baltic Road was the site of the first hospital, which helped to treat the injured soldiers in WW1. The area behind the hospital was known as Bloodshots and used for training soldiers on trench war fare.



### 3 Quarry Hill House VAD Hospital

The location of Quarry Hill House, now a housing estate. Between October 1914 and February 1919, some sixty or more of the town's women volunteered to work at this VAD Hospital.



### 10 George and Dragon

George and Dragon was one of the locations where the soldiers, who passed through Tonbridge on their way to the Front; were billeted. At times there were up to 100 men billeted in this hotel.



### North Tonbridge Trail

Approx 1.5 miles (2.5km)



### 4 Tonbridge Cemetery

There are several WW1 graves in the cemetery, which are organised by year of death. It is also a place of rest of a Belgian soldier Lodewijk (Louis) Marx, who died in November 1914 and was given a full military funeral.



### South Tonbridge Trail

Approx 1 miles (1.8km)



### 4 Judd School

53 men from the school lost their lives and there is a memorial in the school hall. The boys from this school also raised money for the prisoners of war fund.



### 9 Ashburnham Road

Margaret Lloyd and Amy Anderson lived in this road. Miss Lloyd helped Quarry Hill House V.A.D. Hospital with housework for more than 4 years. Mrs Anderson worked in the Hospital Supplies work depot, distributing supplies to the hospitals and wounded soldiers.



### The Ridgeway

On Christmas Eve 1913 local pilot H.R Johnson was the first man to land a plane on the meadows of Cage Green Farm. Lieutenant Johnson joined the RFC in 1914 and was killed in France in January 1916.



### 5 St Stephen's Church

The Church has a war memorial on the wall inside. Annie Chapman; whose address was the Vicarage; served as a VAD nurse at Harefield Australian Hospital.



### 5 The Ridgeway

On Christmas Eve 1913 local pilot H.R Johnson was the first man to land a plane on the meadows of Cage Green Farm. Lieutenant Johnson joined the RFC in 1914 and was killed in France in January 1916.



### 5 St Stephen's Church

The Church has a war memorial on the wall inside. Annie Chapman; whose address was the Vicarage; served as a VAD nurse at Harefield Australian Hospital.



### 8 5 Yardley Park Road

The home of Miss Kathleen Dodd, who served in the VAD as a Quartermaster's Orderly at Quarry Hill House in Tonbridge. Her voluntary duties would have included attending to all the stores.



### 7 Rowan Mews

This is the location of Tonbridge School Sanatorium in WW1. The headmaster of Tonbridge school placed the school sanatorium at the disposal of The Red Cross who staffed it along with other medical officers.



### 6 Shipbourne Road

Men from this area served their country. There were at least 11 homes from where men lost their lives.



### 6 Meadow Lawn

Meadow Lawn is the estate behind the church, whose residents formed a committee to raise funds to assist the Belgian refugees, who were living in Tonbridge during the War.



Please respect the privacy of residents and use the trails in a considerate manner to others.

**Walking Advice - Health and Safety for full advice please see our website [kentww1.com](http://kentww1.com)**

Our maps and points of interest are provided for historical information only. If you are not familiar with the area, always walk with an appropriate OS map.

Kent in WW1 and its associates, does not attempt to provide advice on safety aspects of walking. There are inherent risks in any outdoor activity and these trails are followed at your own risk.

Disclaimer - for full disclaimer please see our website [kentww1.com](http://kentww1.com)

Kent in WW1 and its associates have used reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within the trails. Despite every effort to the contrary, errors, omissions or discrepancies may have occurred in preparation of these.

# 100 MILES



# 100 YEARS

# WW1

Kent in

## Tonbridge

### First World War

## Walking Trails

Revealing the history of local people, places and events

These trails were developed in partnership with Pam Mills and Dave Swarbrick

To discover more and take part in the quiz visit: [www.kentww1.com](http://www.kentww1.com)

The QR code below takes you to the 100 miles for 100 years app, alternatively visit the website for a direct link.






LOTTERY FUNDED

Leaflet design by Laura Haines