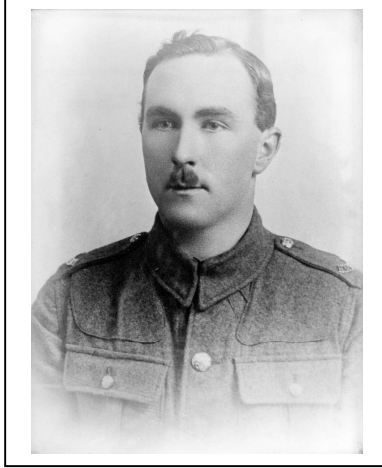


ROWLAND ALFRED WOODGATE

1893 - 1918

2nd Btn, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment



Surname/Christian name: Woodgate, Rowland Alfred

Rank/Service No: Private G/1852

Regiment/Unit: 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment



Regiment Badge

Date of Death: 24th October 1918

Age: 28

Type of Casualty: Died of wounds

Theatre of War: Middle Eastern (Mesopotamian front)

Born/Year/Location: 20th February, 1893, Oxted, Surrey

Enlisted/Attestation: Tonbridge, Kent

Son of/Address: Alfred Woodgate and Elizabeth Humphrey of Godstone and Oxted.

Buried/Commemorated: Private Woodgate was buried in Baghdad (North Gate) Military Cemetery.

Personal and Family Information:

Rowland was born 20th February, 1893, Oxted, Surrey, and baptised in St. Mary's Church, Oxted, 9th April, 1893. He was the son of Alfred Woodgate and Elizabeth Humphrey of Godstone and Oxted respectively, they married in St. John the Baptist Church, Oakwood, 10th June 1882.

The family moved from Oxted to Horsmonden in the mid 1890's, living at Caple Manor Gardens where Alfred worked as a gardener for the Austen family home at Capel Manor.

Rowland's mother Elizabeth died in Horsmonden in 1899 when Rowland was just 6 years of age. His father Alfred married Rosa Baxfield on the 25th Aug 1900 at St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington.

Siblings: Annie Elizabeth - 12 Apr. 1883, Oxted, Ernest Daniel - 18 Jan. 1885, Oxted., Edith Elizabeth - 20 Feb. 1888, Oxted

Prior Occupation: Rowland followed his father's footsteps and in 1911 was working as a gardener, aged 18, for the Morley family at their estate, Hall Place, in Leigh, Kent.

Relevant Military Record/Service details:

Service Records: Rowland's attestation and service files were badly damaged in September 1940, when the Army repository in Arnside Street, Walworth, London, was hit by a German incendiary bomb. The millions of WW1 service records stored there were badly damaged by fire and further damaged by the water used to extinguish the blaze.

The remains of these records were photographed and eventually digitised and made available online, even though much of the material is illegible.

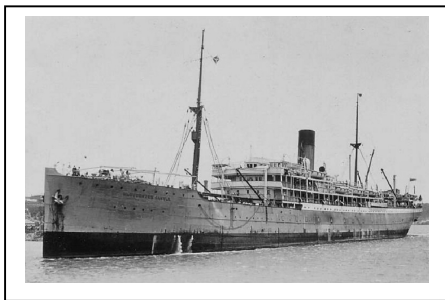
From the damaged pages of Rowland's records, it is possible to trace much of his military history.

Rowland was attested in Tonbridge (att.1) and joined the 7th battalion, Royal West Kents on 4th September 1914. He served at Home for almost a year before landing with the British Expeditionary Force in France on 26th July 1914.

The image shows a 'SHORT SERVICE' attestation form for a non-resident soldier. The form is titled 'SHORT SERVICE. (Three years with the Colours). ATTESTATION OF No. 1122. Non-Resident Soldier (Surrey)'. It contains various fields for personal and service information, including name, age, date of birth, and military details. The document is filled out with handwritten text and has a signature at the bottom.

Service Attestation

He was wounded in the November of 1915, by a gunshot wound to the knee, the record with "ser." added, which probably means the wound was serious. He was shipped home for treatment before re-joining his unit at the end of August 1916. In October 1916, Rowland received another gunshot wound to the right leg and was shipped back to England on board the hospital ship HMHS "Gloucester Castle".



"Gloucester Castle".

Then in March 1917 he embarked on the transport ship "Royal George" from Devonport and disembarked at Basra, Iraq, before joining his unit on the 27th May 1917, as a part of the ill-fated Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.



"Royal George"

Rowland was admitted to hospital in October 1918 with influenza and during this stay in hospital he died of cellulitis, probably due to a head injury becoming infected. The report on the right below simply says "Died of disease, (cellulitis, head.)"

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Country	Date of Discharge	Remarks
			Devonport	16.3.17	Embarked
			Basra	22.5.17	Disembarked
			Basra	27.5.17	Joined Bn
28.7.18		Admitted Class 1 Influenza	Basra	1.7.18	
16-10-18		Admitted (Postoperative)	Basra	22.10.18	
28.10.18		Died of Disease (Cellulitis Head)	Basra	28.10.18	Tel no 1936
		Certified	Basra		Just B.A.R. II

Casualty Form - Active Service.		Army Form B.	
Regiment or Corps		Name	
9th Bn		R. Woodgate	
Enlisted (4)		Terms of service (4)	
Date of promotion to present rank		Date of appointment to lance rank	
Enlisted		Re-engaged	
Service		Qualification (6)	
Date	Place	Date	Place
28.7.18	Basra	30.7.18	Basra
28.9.18	Basra	29.9.18	Basra
28.10.18	Basra	28.10.18	Basra
28.10.18	Basra	28.10.18	Basra
28.10.18	Basra	28.10.18	Basra

Casualty Forms

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

I. Service at Home and Abroad.

COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS
Home British	26. 9. 11	25. 9. 15		323
Home	26. 7. 15	10. 11. 15		108
Home	11. 11. 15	21. 10. 16		298
Home	31. 8. 16	12. 3. 17		164
Home	23. 10. 16			
Home	13. 5. 14	24. 10. 18		224

N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service at the different stations of the same country. England, Scotland and Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home". For mode of completing Service Abroad, see King's Regulations.

Initials of Officer making the entry

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Initials of Officer making the entry

Passed classes of Instruction ...

Army School and other certificates of education ...

Campaigns (including Medals and decorations)

Wounded

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the ... granted in respect of the service of ...

Date Aug. 19. 1918

Signature ...

Military History Sheets

.....

Rowland was buried in Baghdad (North Gate) Military Cemetery. Sadly, like the other Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries throughout Iraq, the North Gate Cemetery has been a victim of neglect and vandalism. The CWG did manage to complete certain renovations in 2012 but the photograph of the cemetery (further on page 9 of this information sheet) from 2014 shows much more is required. The CWG remain fully committed and will eventually repair and maintain these sites when the situation in Iraq allows.

In the meantime, they have books of remembrance available for public viewing at their HQ in Maidenhead.

War Medals, Plaque and Scrolls Documentation

Passed classes of Instruction ...

Campaigns (including Medals and decorations)

Wounded

BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. France

1914-1915 STAR

British War & Victory Medal

G. W. Woodgate. 4/1/15

Wounded 7. 10. 16

Army No. 1-124

From Sgt. Woodgate

Date 16. 12. 1919

I have to acknowledge receipt of the articles as stated herein.

Your faithfully,

(Signed) G. W. Woodgate

The Officer in Charge

Medal receipts above for British War & Victory Medals

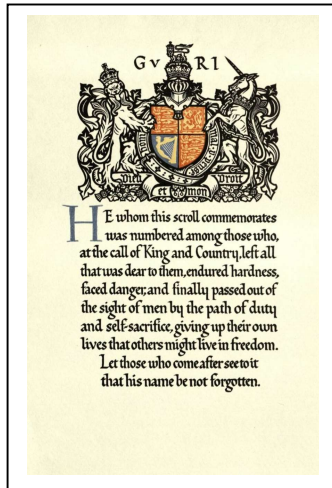
Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
WOODGATE, Rowland	7/R.W. Kent R.	Pte	G/1852
			65/1852
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	GSE/2/103B	76	Died 24/10/18.
BRITISH	20	20	
15 STAR	E/2/133	255	
Theatre of War first served in	1/17 France.		
Date of entry therein	26/1/15.		

K. 1380.

Medal Roll Index Card

War Medals, Scroll and Plaque.

Rowland was awarded the 1914 - 1915 Star, Victory and British War Medals



1914-1915 Star and British War and Victory Medals, Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque (Death Penny)

The signed claim form for Rowland's plaque and commemorative scroll was witnessed by H. Smith-Marriott, Horsmonden Rector and Clerk of Holy Orders.

Soldiers Effects:

Rowland's personal possessions included: disc - purse - 2 Threepenny pieces - photos - postcards - wallet - diary - Christmas card - letters - cap badge - cigarette case - papers and letter cover.

Rowland's father received the package with his personal possessions.

Army Form B. 104-126.
 Any further articles should be notified to the Officer in Charge.
 Station: Staines Road, Hounslow
 Infantry: 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers Date: 1917
 To: Mr. A. Woodgate From: Lieut. Colonel H.C. Smith-Marriott
Horsmonden, Kent No. 2 Road St. Hounslow
 Sir on Messrs.
 I directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 1862 Rank Pte.
 Name R. F. Kent
 Regiment R. F. Kent
 and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of same on the form overleaf:-
Disc - Purse - 2 Threepenny pieces - Photos - Postcards - Wallet - Diary - Christmas card - Letters - Cap badge - Cigarette case - Papers - Letter cover
 18 DEC 1919
 These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded.
 Yours faithfully,
 Lieut. Colonel H.C. Smith-Marriott
 Officer in Charge of Hounslow

Above details of Private property and effects etc

Dependent's Pension: Alfred was awarded a dependents pension.

The original pension award card has not as yet been found so the weekly amount is unknown.

The Pension Card below, shows that it was altered in 1938 following Alfred's death.

Alfred's name and address have been crossed out with notes saying that he was deceased and his last address was at Edenbridge, Kent.

The note underneath reads "step-mother E" which indicates that the pension payments had been transferred to Alfred's wife, at 2, Perryfields, Marlpit Hill, Edenbridge.

The "E" was Eleanor (nee Tepper) Woodgate.

Rosa, Alfred's second wife had died after a long illness on the 9th February 1932 at the Poplars Nursing Home, Horsmonden and Alfred, aged 70, married Eleanor in the 4th quarter of the same year.

United Kingdom War Memorials.

Horsmonden War Memorial.

WAR MEMORIAL

Alfred became Hon. Secretary of the Horsmonden War Memorial Committee which raised funds and erected the permanent War Memorial at Horsmonden on which his son Rowland is honoured.



1922



Lower part of W



PresentDay



Oak Memorial Plaque

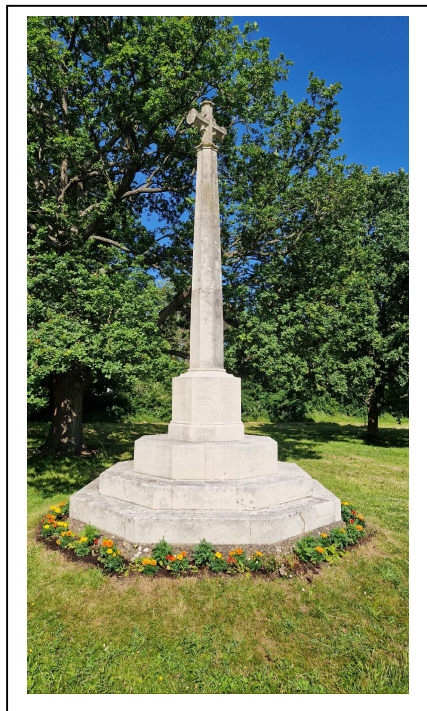
Pte Rowland Woodgate is shown left block, row 1, no. 1



St Margaret's Church Memorial Scroll

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Pte Woodgate is also remembered on the Leigh War Memorial



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry

CWGC CERTIFICATE

In Memory Of

Private

ROWLAND ALFRED WOODGATE

Service Number: G/1852

2nd Bn., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) who died on 24 October 1918 Age 28

Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Woodgate, of Capel Manor Gardens, Horsmonden, Kent.

Remembered with Honour

BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY

V. A 8.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

CWGC information

WOODGATE, Pte. Rowland Alfred, G/1852.
2nd Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. 24th Oct., 1918.
Age 28. Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Woodgate,
of Capel Manor Gardens, Horsmonden, Kent. V.
A. 8.

CWGC Unit text

Below - Graves Registration Reports, Details of Grave and Burial Returns:

Imperial War Graves Commission. Form "A" Part 1
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
IN THIS CASE IS PRINTED
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(Other inscriptions to be printed and sent on separate sheets)

Grave Reference	Grave Name	Grave Location	Grave Dimensions	Grave Orientation	Date of Death	Age	Sex	Rank	Regiment	Remarks
1186/74	WOODGATE	ROWLAND ALFRED	3'0" x 2'0" x 1'0"	W	24 OCT 1918	28	M	Pte	2nd Bn Royal West Kent Regt	SON OF ALFRED AND ELIZABETH WOODGATE, OF CAPEL MANOR GARDENS, HORSMONDEN, KENT. V. A. 8.

File No.	Grave No.	Grave Name	Grave Location	Grave Dimensions	Grave Orientation	Date of Death	Age	Sex	Rank	Regiment	Remarks
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Imperial War Graves Commission. Form "A" Part 2
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
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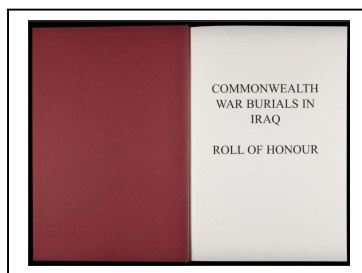
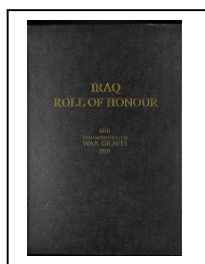
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BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) MILITARY CEMETERY

(Photo taken 2014)

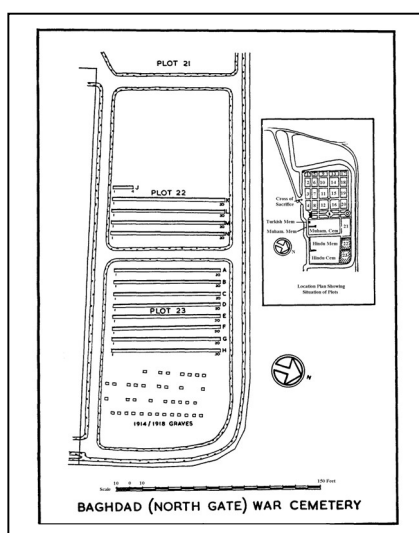
Books of Remembrance



In the meantime, they have books of remembrance available for public viewing at their HQ in Maidenhead.

The CWG remain fully committed and will eventually repair and maintain these sites when the situation in Iraq allows.

Cemetery Plan:



Pte Woodgate is buried in Plot 5. Row A, Grave 8.

Pte. Rowland Albert Woodgate



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Research and Compilation:
L Burgess and J Freeman
HORSMONDEN HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP

Pte R A Woodgate_V1-231011 P0