

# EYNSFORD - ALFRED GATES - ONE MAN'S WAR

Brian Hussey has kindly provided this information, and the sheets below about his grandfather, Alfred Gates.

The documents are replicas so can be handled carefully.

**Born:** Little Chart, near Ashford 1879

**Died:** 18 June 1917, aged 38, in France

**Home:** 2 Bank Cottages, Eynsford (moved to Eynsford from Alton, Hampshire, 1909)



**Family: Parents** – Samuel (Papermaker) and Hannah Gates  
**Wife** – Annie Agnes Knight (married 1904) **Children** – Albert (1902), Elsie (1904), Alfred (1907), Sidney (1910), Doris (1914) \*Below are 3 cards and a letter he sent to his daughter, Elsie.

**Work:** Paper maker at Eynsford Paper Mill

No. 2 Bank Cottages with yellow door, 1984

24-1-17.

My Dear Elsie, just a line in answer to your kind letter I got safe but been a long time answering it, but I have been very busy lately writing every one up to date glad to say I'm well and would like to see the finish of this lot so as to get home with you all again, I guess you are a good help to your Mother now and I hope after the War is finished we will just have a good time together that is if I do not get my stopping one of Old Fritz bits of lead. I hope it will be a blighty one if I do. Now I must close with my best of love give Doris a big kiss for me  
From your loving Dad x x x

## Letter from Alfred Gates to Elsie

24 - 1 - 17

**My Dear Elsie, just a line in answer to your kind letter I got safe but been a long time answering it , but I have been very busy lately writing every one up to date glad to say Im well and would like to see the finish of this lot so as to get home with you all again, I guess you are a good help to your Mother now and I hope after the War is finished we will just have a good time together that is if I do not getting stopping one of Old Fritz bits of lead. I hope it will be a blighty one if I do. Now I must close with my best of love. Give Doris a big kiss from me.**

**From your loving Dad x x x**

Letter from Alfred Gates to his daughter, Elsie, aged 13, 5 months before he was killed on the Western Front – a blighty wound was one just bad enough to get sent home, without permanent damage

## PRIVATE ALFRED GATES



**Enlisted:** August 1914

**Served:** G/7533, D Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, had been in in France for 8 months prior to his death. It is not known where he had previously served.

**Death:** Alfred Gates was fighting in the trenches at Mt. Sorrel on the northern end of the Messines Ridge, not far from Ypres, when, at 2 a.m. on 18 June 1917 the Germans attacked, killing 8 men including Alfred.

**Buried:** No known grave. Commemorated on Menin Gate, Ypres, with 54,000 officers and men.

WORKMAN T. O.		
WEST KENT REGIMENT		
JOR	PRIVATE	
	ABNETT A.	FROST L. G.
	ABNETT E.	FROUD F. G.
AIN	ALLEN C. H.	FRY C.
M.C.	ALLEN J.	FYRTH A. J.
		GARDINER T. H.
		GASPER A.
		GATES A.



The Menin Gate at Ypres, March 2002