16. Private Leonard Gregory

Leonard Gregory was born in Addington, Kent, the son of William and Sarah, who after moving to 5, Bank St. Tonbridge, where his father worked as a beer retailer, took over the Bridge Tavern in Penshurst. The Bridge Tavern closed in 1968 and was renamed the Bridge House. It sits at the bottom of Rogues Hill at the exit of Penshurst village. He enlisted in Sittingbourne in the 6th Battalion of the East Kent regiment, the “Buffs”, which along with the West Kent regiment became part of Kitchener’s New Army in September 1914. This division was involved in the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

The Division left the area in November 1915 but returned the following February to take over positions holding the Quarries and Hohenzollern Sectors. Between 2nd and 19th March 1916, the Division was involved in the heavy fighting around the craters in the area, where it is presumed Private Gregory was badly injured. He was to die of his wounds some days later on 8th March 1916, aged 19. He is buried at the Abbeville Communal Cemetery in France.