

HINXHILL



The Great War
1914 – 1919



BOSWELL F

Private 21187 Fred BOSWELL. 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Formerly (G/7501) Royal Sussex Regiment. Died Wednesday 9th August 1915. Born Ore, Hastings, Sussex. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Wye, Kent. Son of Thomas and Matilda Boswell of Hinxhill, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference A.27.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Near The Elms, Wye

Private 34747 David BOSWELL. RDC

The cemetery is located to the North East of the town of Ieper. From the station turn left and drive along M.Fochlaan to the roundabout, turn right and go to the next roundabout. Here turn left into M.Haiglaan and drive to the next roundabout. Here turn right into Oude Veurnestraat, this then changes into Diksmuidseweg and Brugseweg. Drive along this road and continue straight over the traffic lights to the end of the road. At the T junction turn left (still Brugseweg) and continue along this road (the N313) to the village of Sint Jan. At the crossroads in the village turn right onto the N345 (Potijzestraat), follow along to the next crossroads and turn left into Zonnebeekseweg. The cemetery is located on the left hand side approx 50 metres after the crossroads.

Potijze was within the Allied lines during practically the whole of the First World War and although subject to incessant shell fire, Potijze Chateau contained an advanced dressing station. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery was used from April 1915 to June 1917, and three times in 1918. Among those buried in the cemetery are 46 officers and men of the 2nd Hampshire Regiment (Row A) and 19 of the 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Rows E and F) who died in a gas attack in

August 1916. The cemetery contains 157 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

MONK J

Private 10636 James William MONK. 4th (Royal Irish) Dragons. Died 3 November 1914 aged 30 years. Born Guildford, Surrey. Enlisted Lydd. Resided Peasmarsh, Sussex. Son of Mr. A. Monk, of School Lane, Peasmarsh, Sussex. James has no known grave. His name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference – 3-5.



OSBORNE H.V

Willesborough

Lance Corporal G/27682 Herbert Victor OSBOURNE. 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 28th November 1917 aged 21 years. Born Polegate, Sussex. Enlisted Ashford. Son of Charles Henry and Alice Osborne of "Spiders Castle Cottage", Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference LVIII.A.39.

Herbert's name appears on a private headstone in the Ashford Cemetery, Canterbury Road, Ashford. The headstone records – Arthur Randall who died 5th March 1921, William Tiltman and **Herbert Osbourne Killed in Action in France**. Finally a Henry Robert Marsh appears who died on 12th November 1936 aged 34 years.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

99 Mead Road, South Willesborough

Gunner 37001 Frederick OSBORNE. 28th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.
Herbert OSBOURNE.

LOST MEN

CHITTENDEN W

Private T/1676 Walter CHITTENDEN. 5th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 21st January 1916. Born Hinxhill. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Wye. Buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference I.C.13.

The Hanna Defile is a narrow strip of dry land between the River Tigris and the Great Suwaiqiya Marshes. The mouth of the Hanna Lines lies upstream of the Wadi, some 8 miles towards Kut-al-Amara. It was the rainy season days were hot, foggy and humid and nights were below freezing. On the 20th January the Turkish defences at Hanna came under heavy British artillery bombardment. After the bombardment the infantry moved forward to attack. The Turks rose out of their trenches and literally cut the attacking British infantry down. Very few British soldiers reached their objective. On the 22nd January a truce was arranged and both sides recovered their killed and wounded from the battlefield. British losses in this action amounted to 2,700 men killed or wounded.

FORSDICK H.R

Sergeant (Pilot) 96611 Horace Reginald FORSDICK. 42nd Training Squadron, Royal Air Force (RAF). Wye Aerodrome. Died Flying Accident Hinxhill 6th May 1918. Buried Croydon (Mitcham Road) Cemetery, Croydon, London. Grave reference C5.10031.

Horace was killed instantly when his machine a Sopwith Camel crashed in flames at Hinxhill. A local man named Tait attempted a gallant rescue but was fought back by flames.

Wye aerodrome was situated to the east of Bramble Lane on land owned by Mr Dockery of Boughton Corner Farm, and was first used by aircraft of the 6th Home Defence Wing in April 1916 in association with other airfields at Dover, Shoreham and Gosport. The Wye aerodrome was described in an official publication as having an area of 7,000 yards x 600 yards. The runway was moderately flat and three hangers were constructed to house aircraft. Further outbuildings were made in 1916 including a guard room, canteen, repair shed, motor transport shed and hutted accommodation for personnel.

After Armistice Day (11th November 1918) the aerodrome was run down as many squadrons were reduced to a Cadre.

MISSING W.W

Private G/17596 William Walter MISSING. 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 30th November 1915. Born Hinxhill, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Petham, Canterbury. Buried A.I.F Burial Ground, Flers, France. Grave reference – IV.B.14.

William's name appears on the Petham War Memorial near Canterbury.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Rock Hill, Egerton

Private 205971 Clement Hughes MISSING. 6th Devonshire Regiment.

Flers was captured on 15 September 1916, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, when it was entered by the New Zealand and 41st Divisions behind tanks, the innovative new weapons that were used here for the first time. The village was lost during the German advance of March 1918 and retaken at the end of the following August by the 10th West Yorks and the 6th Dorsets of the 17th Division. The cemetery was begun by Australian medical units, posted in the neighbouring caves, in November 1916-February 1917. These original graves are in Plot I, Rows A and B. It was very greatly enlarged after the Armistice when almost 4,000 Commonwealth and French graves were brought in from the battlefields of the Somme, and later from a wider area. The great majority of these graves date from the autumn of 1916, but one is from 1914, and others from the spring of 1917 and the spring and summer of 1918. There are now 3,475 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 2,263 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of three casualties buried in a cemetery at Flers, whose graves could not be found. The cemetery also contains 173 French and German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

ROGERS F.C

Private L/10358 Frederick Charles ROGERS. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 7th February 1916. Born Hinxhill. Resided Ashford. Buried in the La Brique Cemetery, France. Grave reference I.U.26.

La Brique is a small hamlet named from an old brick works that used to stand nearby before the First World War. LA BRIQUE CEMETERY No 2 was begun in February 1915 and used until March 1918. The original cemetery consisted of 383 burials laid out in 25 irregular rows in Plot I. After the Armistice, graves were brought in from the battlefields to create Plot II and extend the original plot. There are now 840 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 400 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate four casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Across the road is LA BRIQUE CEMETERY No 1, which was begun in May 1915 and used until the following December. It contains 91 First World War burials, four of them unidentified. Both cemeteries were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

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