

SELLINDGE



During the Great War Sellindge came under the administrative jurisdiction of Ashford Rural District Council. It is now within the bounds of Shepway District Council.

The Sellindge war memorial is in the form of a plaque hanging on the wall inside the parish church. It is constructed from English oak with an ornate bronze plinth. The Second World War memorial is a small stone tablet which has been hung immediately beneath the Great War tribute.

The Great War
1914 -1919

BEAN L

Private 19420 Lewis William BEAN. 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 1st December 1917. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Marylebone, London. Lewis has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, France. Panel reference – 2.

Lewis was killed in action during the Battle of Cambrai (a sub-battle of the Battle of Arras).

BLYTHE S.W

Lieutenant Stewart William BLYTHE. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 13th November 1915. Buried Willmington (St Michael) Churchyard, Willmington, Kent. Grave reference – West Part.

The Medal Index Cards list Stewart William BLYTH.

CHAPMAN R.L

Private 15078 Reginald Leslie CHAPMAN. 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Formerly (3989) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Friday 22nd March 1918 aged 21 years. Born Westwell. Enlisted Folkestone. Resided Folkestone. Son of Thomas and Jane Chapman of Sellindge, Kent. Husband of Kate Watson (formerly Chapman) of 202, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent. The following Cemetery is recorded – Marcheipot British Cemetery. Now buried in the Roze New British Cemetery, The Somme, France. Grave reference - Mem 8.

The 1901 census gives –
Kennell Farm, Westwell

Thomas	CHAPMAN	64	Shepherd Stockman	Charing
Harriet		58		Westwell
Frank		33	Bricklayer	Westwell
Beatrice		20	Washer	Westwell
Thomas		15	Yardsman	Westwell
Ellen	HOPE	31	Washer	Westwell
.....		2		Hampstead, London

FULLER F

Frank FULLER – No Trace (too many F Fuller's)

GAUNT J.K

Lieutenant Colonel John Kennedy GAUNT. Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Died Meerut, INDIA 12 December 1936! Born 5 April 1892 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Captain from 29 Jan 1914. Promoted Major 10 June 1918 to 23 March 1919.

Educated Birmingham University (1907) MB, ChB.

Promotions - Lieutenant 29 July 1910, Captain 29 January 1914, Acting Major 10 June 1918 to 23 March 1919, Major 29 July 1922, Lieutenant Colonel 1 May 1934.

Posted Malta 1912-1913 and 1914. Scutari 1913-1914. BEF France 1914-1918. Malta 1919-1922. India 1925-1930 and 1933-1936.

Mentioned in Dispatches 1 January 1916.

Awarded French Silver Medal for Public Service – 7 June 1919.

Awarded British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914 Star.

According to what I have managed to find out, this man died in 1936!!!!

This man is recorded on the Medal Index Cards but is NOT recorded as a war casualty by the CWGC or ODGW. It therefore seems probable that he is in fact another example of a local man who died of wounds or disease after being discharged from the service.

HAWKES A (brother)

Stoker 1st Class K9587/(C) Albert HAWKES. H.M.S “GAILLARDIA”. Royal Navy (R.N). Died 22nd March 1918 aged 24 years. Son of Thomas and Caroline Mary Hawkes of Groove Bridge, Sellindge, Kent. Buried Osmandwall Cemetery, Osmandwall, UK. Grave reference – 47.

HAWKES G (brother)

Stoker 1st Class K/4493(CH) George HAWKES. H.M.S “CYCLOPS II”. Died 20th March 1915. Son of Thomas and Caroline Mary Hawkes of Groove Bridge, Sellindge, Kent. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference 29.

The cemetery was used by the Navy in 1914-15, before Lyness Cemetery was begun. It now belongs to the County Council. Over 40 of the graves are in the newer (East) part, Rows B to E, in a war plot, which is marked by a war cross. The remainder are to be found in the older part.

MARSH C

Private S/373 Charles MARSH. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 22nd July 1915. Born Wye, Kent. Enlisted Chislet, Kent. Resided Brabourne, Kent. Buried in the Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference B.15.

Charles name also appears on the nearby Brabourne War Memorial.

The history of the 1st battalion during June and July 1915 is without any very striking incident. It alternated between trenches in the Ypres Sector to huts and rest in Poperinghe.

MARSH P

Private G/573 Percy Thomas MARSH. 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 2nd August 1915 aged 37 years. Born Brabourne, Kent. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Brabourne. Son of William and Sarah Marsh of "Kimberley Cottage", Brabourne, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery, France. Grave reference II.A.32A.

Percy was wounded somewhere near to Plugstreet Wood in Belgium a few days before he actually died. He was probably recovered through the medical evacuation chain to Etaples Base Hospital where he subsequently succumbed to his wounds. His body was buried nearby.

MARSH H

Guardsman 26847 Harry Edward MARSH. 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 27th March 1918. Born Brabourne. Enlisted Ashford. Harry has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – Bay 1.

Harry's name also appears on the nearby Brabourne War Memorial.

NORRINGTON W

Private 44697 William NORRINGTON. 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry (D.L.I). Formerly (2214) Royal Field Artillery (Motor Machine Gun Section). Died 23rd March 1918. Born Folkestone. Enlisted Coventry. Resided Folkestone.

SHRUBSOLE H.G

Henry George SHRUBSOLE. No Trace

The medal index cards (MIC) record – **Private G/17989 W.H SHRUBSOLE. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)?**

SMITH S.J

Private 39131 Sidney James SMITH. 2/7th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. Formerly (21731) East Surrey Regiment. Died 29th August 1917 aged 20 years. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Sellindge. Son of Mr F. Smith of Parsonage Farm, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent. Buried at the Ramscappelle Road Cemetery, Nieupoort, Belgium. Grave reference II.C.21.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Station House, Smeeth

Sapper 290665 Henry William SMITH. Railway Operating Division, Royal Engineers.

New Zealand, Smeeth

E.R.A 18796 Walter George SMITH. HMS Obdurate. Royal Navy.

SOUTHERN H

Lance Corporal 16667 Henry SOUTHERN. 8th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. Died 1st July 1916 (first day of the Battle of The Somme). Born Lancashire. Enlisted Hythe, Kent. Resided Lancashire.

WARE A

Private G/11460 Arthur WARE. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 8th October 1917 aged 20 years. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Sellindge. Son of the late Robert Ware and of Rose Ware, of The Bakery, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent. Buried Montbrehain British Cemetery, France. Grave reference – A.17.

Montbrehain village was taken on the 3rd October, 1918, by three battalions of the Sherwood Foresters of the 46th Division, but it could not be held at the time; it was finally captured by the 21st and 24th Australian Infantry Battalions two days later. This cemetery contains the graves of 89 casualties of the First World War, nine of which are unidentified. The cemetery was designed by W H Cowlshaw.

WHITE D

Company Sergeant Major (C.S.M) 200238 Douglas Ughtred Archibald WHITE. 2/4th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Formerly Kent Composite Battalion (Gallipoli). Died Egypt 8th October 1918 aged 34 years. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Sevenoaks. Husband of Lizzie Mabel White, of Malcolm Terrace, Golding Rd., Sevenoaks. Late of G.P.O., Sevenoaks. Served 19 years in Post Office. Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Ramleh, Israel. Grave reference – CC25.



LOST MEN



AMMON R.F.T

Private 57576 Reginald Frederick Thomas AMMON. 2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died Sunday 29th September 1918. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Hertford. Resided 37 Somerset Road, Ashford, Kent. Buried at Pigeon Ravine Cemetery, Epehy, The Somme, France. Grave reference II.B.7.

Reginald's name appears on the nearby Ashford War Memorial.

The Ashford Anstentee Voters list for 1918 -

37, Somerset Road, Ashford

Private 384828 Frederick Thomas AMMON. Labour Corps.

Reginald was killed in the battle of Epehy which commenced on 18th September 1918.

BEANEY F

Private S/10690 Frederick BEANEY. 10th (Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Palestine 31st October 1917 aged 20 years. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Sellindge. Son of Edward and Jane Beaney of White Hill, Sellindge, Kent. Buried Beersheba Cemetery, Israel. Grave reference – M.59.

By October 1917, General Allenby's force had been entrenched in front of a strong Turkish position along the Gaza-Beersheba road for some months, but they were now ready to launch an attack with Beersheba as its first objective. On 31 October, the attack was carried out by the XXth Corps (10th, 53rd, 60th and 74th Divisions) on the west, and the Desert Mounted Corps on the east. That evening the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade charged over the Turkish trenches into the town. The cemetery was made immediately on the fall of the town, remaining in use until July 1918, by which time 139 burials had been made. It was greatly increased after the Armistice when burials were brought in from a number of scattered sites and small burial grounds. The cemetery now contains 1,241 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 67 of them unidentified.

DRYLAND G

Private G/8909 George DRYLAND. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 20th September 1916 aged 26 years. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Hythe. Resided Westernhanger. Son of Arthur and Ellen Dryland, of Station Cottages, Westernhanger, Hythe, Kent. Buried Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France. Grave reference – I.F.33.

In September 1916, the 34th and 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. They were moved in April 1917 and, except for a few burials in August and September 1918, the cemetery was closed. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

SMITH P.L

L/8612 Percy L SMITH. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 9th February 1915. Born Sellindge, Kent. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Mersham. Percy has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

The 2nd battalion arrived in France on the 21st January 1915. On the 5th February the battalion marched to Ouderdom. On the 6th February the battalion marched to the Ypres area to reinforce the 84th Brigade which found itself in serious trouble. The Buffs headquarters was located at Ferme Chapelle. The battalion took over frontline trenches from the French and these were found to be in a terrible condition. The men were forced to stand all day in waist high mud. The men started to suffer from swollen feet and frost-bite.

STAPLES G.W

Private 202784 George William STAPLES. 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Formerly (9149) Hertfordshire Regiment. Died 22nd March 1918 aged 30 years. Born Sellindge. Enlisted Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Resided Abbots Ripton, Huntingdonshire. Husband of Mabel Eugenie Staples, of The Rectory, Lyminge, Kent. George has no known grave. His name appears on the Arras Memorial, Arras, France. Panel reference – 7.

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity. The cemetery contains 2,651 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. In addition, there are 30 war graves of other nationalities, most of them German. During the Second World War, Arras was occupied by United Kingdom forces headquarters until the town was evacuated on 23 May 1940. Arras then remained in German hands until retaken by Commonwealth and Free French forces on 1 September 1944. The cemetery contains seven Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the First World War to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial. The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. The ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL commemorates nearly 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole Western Front and who have no known grave. Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick.

STAPLES J.R

Sergeant 109486 James Richard STAPLES. Railway Operating Division, Longmore, Hampshire. Royal Engineers (RE). Died of disease 2nd November 1917. Enlisted London. Resided Sellindge. Husband of E. M. Staples, of Holly Cottage, Swan Lane, Sellindge, Hythe. Buried nearby in the St Mary Churchyard, Sellindge, Kent. Grave reference – 2.6.

This man is buried within 50 yards of the church memorial yet his name does not appear on it! Quite remarkable...