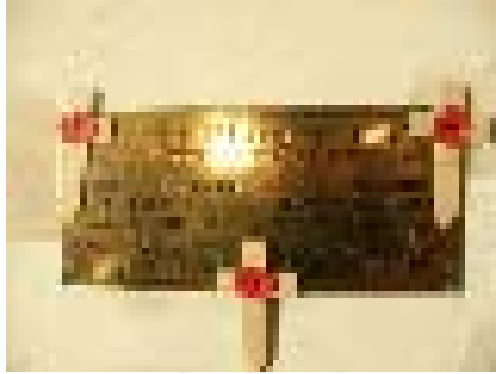


HASTINGLEIGH





Elmsted War Memorial Plaque

In 2002 we noticed that the war memorial's surrounding fence was in urgent need of painting. A local resident confirmed this work was on the parish council's "to do" list. In April 2006 (4 years later) this work was STILL not done! The memorial itself is in good order but could do with a good clean. This does not reflect well on the village or indeed the Parish Council.

The nearby Elmsted war memorial plaque contains men's names that also appear on the Hastingleigh War Memorial.

G.H Hayward's Great War medals recently came up for sale for about £150. We wrote to the Parish Council advising them of this fact but never received the courtesy of a reply. We were convinced that some kind local resident might wish to purchase his medals for the village, but obviously no one gave a toss. No wonder the village memorial painting remains outstanding...

The Great War
1914 - 1919

BANBURY F.W

Sergeant 4246 Frederick William BANBURY. 3rd (King's Own) Hussars. Died 13th January 1916. Born Basingstoke, Hampshire. Enlisted Manchester. Resided Elmsted, Kent. Frederick has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 1.

Frederick's name also appears nearby on the Elmsted war memorial.

On the outbreak of war the 3rd Hussars were at Shorncliffe, Folkestone (4th Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division). Landed Rouen France 17 August 1914 (British Expeditionary Force). On 14 October 1914 the 3rd Hussars was moved to 4th Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Division.





BIRCHETT H

Private L/7920 Harry Percy BIRCHETT. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Friday 15th September 1916 aged 31 years. Born Elmsted, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Wye. Son of John and Harriet Birchett of Little Coombe, Hastingleigh, Kent. Husband of Rose Sarah Birchett of 16, Scotton Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, France. Grave reference XIV.P.3.

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

The day that Harry died the 1st Buffs was in the vicinity of Morval not far from Le Sars. The battalion was in action all day near the Quadrilateral a fortified enemy trench system. Tanks were used for the first time. The Buffs supported the 8th Bedford's in the attack. The battalion lost 10 officers and 60 men killed and a further 183 either wounded or missing.

BUSHELL W.S

Private G/207 William Stanley BUSHELL. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Friday 8th October 1915. Born Nonnington, Canterbury. Enlisted Tonbridge. William has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, Loos, France. Panel reference 95 to 97.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Vipers Cottage, Hastingleigh

Private 13013 George Frank BUSHELL. 3rd North Staffordshire Regiment.

William was killed in action when his battalion attacked the enemy at Gun Trench during the Battle of Loos. The 4th West Kent's assaulted enemy positions between Hulluch and Bois Hugo. The battalion sustained very heavy casualties in a short period of time due to shelling and murderous machine gun fire – 100 men killed, 5 officers killed, 39 missing. 53 men wounded. Most of these casualties were from A Company commanded by Captain Margetts. The attack was suicide because the troops were ordered to make a full frontal assault on open ground in daylight and without artillery support!

CROUCHER A

Lance Sergeant 15919 Allen Thomas CROUCHER. 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 1st December 1917 aged 24 years. Born Elmsted 4th January 1894. Enlisted Canterbury. Son of George and Emma Croucher of Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, Kent. Allen has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Panel reference 2.

Allen's father George was employed locally as a Gamekeeper.

Allen's name also appears on the nearby Elmsted war memorial plaque.

The Parish records give –

Elmsted

Charlie	CROUCHER	Born 30th August 1891
Allen Thomas		Born 4th January 1894
Winifred Emma		Born 24th May 1896
Emily Frances		Born 8th December 1898
Edward James		Born 20th October 1901
Ernest Alfred		Born 14th August 1910



ELSE A.H

Corporal 220678 Alfred Henry ELSE. 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died Monday 1st July 1918 aged 30 years. Born Ashford. Enlisted Hertford. Resided Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. Son of Thomas and Caroline Else of Slip Hill Cottages, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, France. Grave reference III.E.27.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Slip Hill, Hastingleigh

Corporal 220678 Alfred Henry ELSE. 1st Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The Parish Records give –

Slip Hill, Hastingleigh

Kathleen Dorothy ELSE Born 20th January 1924

Alfred's father Thomas died on the 12th July 1924 at the Ashford Cottage Hospital. He was buried in Hastingleigh.

HAYWARD G

Private G/28586 George Henry HAYWARD. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 28th March 1918 aged 40 years. Born Hastingleigh. Enlisted Canterbury. Son of Thomas and Frances Amelia Hayward of Bishop Cottages, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent. Husband of B.M Hayward of Grove Cottages, Grove Road, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft. Buried in the Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension Number 1, France. Grave reference V.D.6.

Before the outbreak of war George worked for Messrs Tappenden Brothers. George voluntarily enlisted in October 1917. He was over the age of conscription but chose to ignore this.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Bishop Cottages, Hastingleigh

Private 49546 Bertie Thomas HAYWARD. 160th Company, Machine Gun Corps.
Private 208802 William Frank HAYWARD. 495th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

The 1901 census gives –
Bishop Cottages, Hastingleigh

Thomas	HAYWARD	48	Labourer	Elmsted
Frances		47		Hastingleigh
George		23		Elmsted
Daisy		11		Hastingleigh
Herbert		2		Hastingleigh

The Parish Records give –
Hastingleigh

Herbert Thomas	HAYWARD	Born 26th February 1899
Daisy Beatrice		Born 20th April 1890

HOPKINS S

Private T/203947 Stephen HOPKINS. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd June 1917. Born Elmsted, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Elmsted. Son of J Hopkins of Upper Little Holt Farm, Elmsted, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France. Grave reference I.Q.47.

Stephen's name also appears on the nearby Elmsted war memorial plaque.

During June 1917 the 1st battalion Buffs were in and out frontline trenches near Loos and Hulluch. When not in the trenches the battalion was normally based in Mazingarbe 4 miles from Loos and in comparative safety. It seems likely that Stephen was wounded in the trenches near Loos and then recovered to Mazingarbe where he sadly died of wounds.

LLOYD H

Son of Mrs Alice Woodbine Lloyd. Brother of another Lloyd who moved into the Old Rectory, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent in the 1920's -

Staff Sergeant 2439 Herbert LLOYD. Dorset (Queen's Own) Yeomanry. Formerly (957) West Kent Yeomanry. Died 30th January 1917. Born Westerham, Kent. Enlisted London. Buried Sevenoaks (Greatness Park) Cemetery, Sevenoaks, Kent. Grave reference – S4. This cemetery, on the road to Seal, was made in 1906, and belongs to the Urban District Council. It contains 16 War Graves, of which eleven are in two small special plots. It holds 50 war graves.

We are not entirely convinced this is the correct man but he is the nearest match (with a obvious Kent connection).

LUCAS B.H

Private G/38 Burton Henry LUCAS. 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Saturday 7th October 1916. Born Dane End, Little Mondon, Hertfordshire. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Ashford. Burton has no known grave. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France. Panel reference pier and face 11C.

Burton's name also appears on the nearby Elmsted War Memorial plaque.

The day that Burton died his battalion was attacking the enemy from frontline trenches in the Ovillers Sector of The Somme. The battalion advanced towards an enemy trench system known as "Ration Trench". Many men were lost from heavy machine gun fire.



PLUNKETT A.W

Gunner 130217 Arthur William PLUNKETT. 47th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Attached 17th Mobile Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC). Died Thursday 10th April 1919 aged 40 years. Born Hastingleigh. Husband of Minnie Olive Plunkett of Newland Common, Droitwich, Worcestershire. Formerly residing (during the Great War) Sweet Apple, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Cologne Southern Cemetery, Koln, Germany. Grave reference IX.E.11.

Arthur's name also appears on the Droitwich Civic War Memorial in Worcestershire.

Before the outbreak of war Arthur was employed locally as a skilled Carpenter. This might explain why he was posted to a Ordnance Corps mobile workshop. He was obviously a very skilled man that possessed skills much in demand.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Sweet Apple, Hastingleigh

Gunner 130217 Arthur William PLUNKETT. Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Parish Records give Arthur and Olive's children –

Hastingleigh

**Cyril George
Arthur Charles**

PLUNKETT

**Born 6th February 1916
Born 27th October 1918**

Cologne in Germany was entered by the Allies on 6th December 1918.

In February 2006 Arthur's medals came up for sale on the open market. Neil Clark advised the Hastingleigh Parish Council in writing but received no reply...



READ F.W

Private L/10033 Frederick William READ. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Tuesday 20th October 1914 aged 19 years. Born Canterbury. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hastingleigh. Son of Stephen and Ellen Prebble of Hazel Street, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent. Frederick has no known grave. His name appears on the Ploegsteert (Plugstreet) Memorial, Belgium. Panel reference 2.

The 1901 census gives –
Folly Town, Hastingleigh

Stephen	PREBBLE	29	Labourer	Hastingleigh
Ellen		29		Petham
Frederick W	READ	6	(Step Son)	Chilham
Edith	PREBBLE	2		Hastingleigh
Ellen K		1		Hastingleigh

The day that Frederick died his battalion was on the Bois Grenier – Radinghem Road in France. The battalion fell back to a wood to the south of Radinghem near the Chateau de Flandes. They were involved in heavy hand to hand fighting all day. At the end of the day 85 men were dead and a further 57 were wounded. On the 25th October 1914 the battalion withdrew to a line south of the Le Touquet – La Boutillerie Road.

TAPPENDEN F.W

Second Lieutenant Frank William TAPPENDEN. 18th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (MGC). Died Monday 1st July 1918 aged 29 years. Son of Elizabeth Tappenden. Husband of Dorothy Tappenden of “Foxglove”, Herne Bay Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent. Buried in the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, The Somme, France. Grave reference VIII.G.12.

The Parish Records give –

Hastingleigh

George Pibus TAPPENDEN **Born 29th June 1902** **(Son of Cubison & Florence)**
Local Grocer’s

George Pibus Tappenden died 21st October 1960 at Sole Street, Crundale aged 58 years.

WARD T

Sergeant 22143 Thomas WARD. Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). Died 5th December 1916. Born Ashford. Enlisted Canterbury. Buried Combles British Cemetery, France. Son of John and Emma Jane Ward. Brother of Mrs. Sarah Gould, of Court Lodge, Elmstead, Ashford, Kent. Buried Combles Communal Cemetery, Extension, Combles, France. Grave reference – II.B.25.

Thomas's name also appears on the nearby Elmsted war memorial plaque.

The village was entered in the early morning of the 26th August, 1916, by units of the 56th (London) Division and of the French Army; and it remained in Allied occupation until the 24th March, 1918, when the place was captured after a stubborn stand by the South African Brigade at Marrieres Wood. It was retaken on the 29th August, 1918, by the 18th Division. The village was later "adopted", with Flers, by the County Borough of Portsmouth. The cemetery was begun in October, 1916 by French troops, but the 94 French graves made in 1916 have been removed to another cemetery. The first British burials took place in December, 1916. From March, 1917, to the end of May, 1918, the Extension was not used. In June, July and August, 194 German soldiers were buried in what was afterwards called Plot I, but these graves, too, have been removed; and in August and September further burials were made by the 18th Division. Plots II, V, VI and VII and most of Plot IV were added after the Armistice by the concentration of 944 graves from the battlefields in the neighbourhood and from a few smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to nine soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from South Africa, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of three soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Maurepas and Longtree Dump Military Cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. The Extension covers an area of 5,356 square metres. It is enclosed by brick walls on the North-East and South-West. The following were among the Burial Grounds from which British graves were brought to the Extension:- FREGICOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY, in a hamlet between Combles and Saillisel, in which four soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in the winter of 1916-17. LEUZE WOOD CEMETERY, COMBLES, at the North-East corner of Leuze Wood, containing the graves of eleven soldiers from the United Kingdom and five French soldiers who fell in September, 1916-January, 1917. LONGTREE DUMP MILITARY CEMETERY, SAILLY-SAILLISEL, a little South of the road from Morval to Sully-Saillisel, in which 20 French soldiers and 12 from the United Kingdom were buried in December, 1916, and February, 1917. MAUREPAS MILITARY CEMETERY, on the South-West side of Maurepas village, in which 12 French soldiers and nine from the United Kingdom and one German prisoner were buried in December, 1916-February, 1917. Maurepas was taken by the French 1 Corps in August, 1916, and the present MAUREPAS FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY, which contains 2,114 French graves, 19 Russian and one Rumanian, is on the East side of the village.

LOST MEN

KENNETT F.T

Pioneer 322018 Frederick Thomas KENNETT. "Z" Special (Gas) Company, Royal Engineers. Died 20th June 1918 aged 28 years. Born Ashford. Enlisted Chertsey, Surrey. Son of Thomas and Caroline Kennett of South Hill, Hastingleigh, Ashford, Kent. Later living at Wellesley Hotel, Somerset Road, Ashford, Kent. Buried in the Mericourt-L'Abbe Communal Cemetery British Extension, France. Grave reference III.C.9. Frederick's name also appears on Ashford's town war memorial in Church Road.

Before the outbreak of war Frederick was employed by Mr W.R Geering of Ashford as a Printer.

Frederick was killed when a shell landed almost on top of him. Death must have been instantaneous. His CO wrote –

" He was a splendid fellow and his section officer has often spoken to me of him. He was one of the best men in his section. He was a gifted swimmer and recently won the unit swimming competition".

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

South Hill, Hastingleigh

Pioneer 322018 Frederick Thomas KENNETT. Royal Engineers.

SHRUBSOLE J

Lance Corporal L/8397 John SHRUBSOLE. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3rd May 1915. Born Hastingleigh. Resided Borough Green, Kent. John has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference 12 and 14.

On the 28th April the 2nd battalion Buffs moved into frontline trenches at Verlorenhoek. The battalion CO Colonel Geddes was killed on the first day. The day that John was killed the battalion was relieved in the evening and moved back to a wood north of the Vlamertinghe-Poperinghe Road. It seems likely that John was killed before the battalion withdrew that evening.

THORNBY A.F

Private G/2512 Albert Frank THORNBY. 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 1st April 1917 aged 23 years. Born Hastingleigh. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Wye. Son of Mr H.G Thornby and Phoebe Thornby of 28, Bilting, Wye, Kent. Buried in the Cologne Southern Cemetery. Grave reference X.F.10.

This man appears to have died whilst being held by the Germans as a Prisoner of War (POW). It is thought that Albert may have been captured in the Miraumont area of The Somme in France a few weeks before he died. He may have been wounded when taken.