

Leybourne



As can be seen from the photograph above, the Leybourne, Kent, civic war memorial made of hard wearing granite, is in good condition, and obviously well cared for and clearly a credit to the parishioners of the now much expanded village. It being thankfully in stark contrast it has to be said, to the subservience of the parishioners of Leybourne forty years ago, who regrettably for the most part offered only token resistance to the then Vicar of St. Peter and St. Paul, Leybourne. Like virtually every location around the world irrespective of national, religious or political persuasions, quite naturally the parishioners of Leybourne from the time of the war memorials erection and dedication, annually held a service on Remembrance Sunday, which included the laying of a wreath by the Chairman of the Parish Council and others on the war memorial. The dignified solemn ceremony of commemoration of the fallen was curtailed during the 1960's when the then vicar of Leybourne requested that the practice be discontinued.

The Great War

1914 -1919

DANES, HENRY ALBERT. Private, G/5188.

7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 10 October 1915.

Born Leybourne, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Son of Albert John and Alma Danes.

Husband of Mrs. Alice Annie Danes (nee Bushall), c/o Mrs Browning of Edge House Cottage, Edge, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Alice had previously resided at Yew Tree Farm, Barfreston, Dover, Kent.

Buried Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 5.

At the time of the 1901 census the Danes family resided at Snodland Road, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was Henry's father, 29 year old West Malling native Albert Danes who was employed as a Waterworks Labourer. Henry was recorded by the census enumerator as aged 8, one of his younger brothers being 2 year old Sidney who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. Having previously briefly served in the 3rd Hussars, Henry re-enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' at Maidstone on 29 December 1914. At the time of his re-enlistment Henry stated that he was employed as a Plummer, and that his home address was Brickfield Cottages, West Malling, Kent. Henry married Miss Alice Bushall at the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Leybourne on 22 May 1915. Following his death Henry's widow later resided at 27, Chester Road, Forest Gate, London, E7.

DANES, SIDNEY FRANK. Private, 471211.

848th Area Employment Company, Labour Corps.

Died 7 January 1918. Aged 19.

Born Leybourne, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Albert John and Alma Danes of 2, Hoilick Cottages, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent.

Buried Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. C. 5.

Formerly Private, 28270, 11th (Service) Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), and Private, 024394, Army Service Corps. Please also census details at the brief commemoration of Sidney's brother above.

HAWLEY, CYRIL FRANCIS. Captain.

2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 2 November 1914. Aged 36.

Born Lumby Dean, Lincolnshire 24 June 1878.

Second son of Sir Henry Michael Hawley, 5th Baronet, and Lady Frances Charlotte Hawley (nee Wingfield-Stratford) of 23, Albany Villa, Hove, Sussex.

Husband of Ursula Mary Hawley (nee Percy St. John) of 14, Stafford Place, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W., and Stallington Hall, Blyth Bridge, Staffordshire. Formerly of Three Gables Camberley, Surrey.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 51
Educated at Malvern College, Worcestershire, Cyril was Gazetted a Second Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps from the Militia on 25 February 1899. Promoted to Lieutenant on 23 September 1900, Cyril had served with distinction with the King's Royal Rifle Corps during the South African Campaign (Second Boer War), and was Mentioned in Despatches: London Gazette entry 10 September 1901. On 23 November 1905 Cyril was promoted to the rank of Captain. During the day prior to his death, Cyril had arrived at his battalion which was at Sanctuary Wood, Hooge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, with a welcome draft of 200 other ranks. On the day that Cyril fell, his battalion had moved forward and took part in a counter-attack near Herenthage Château. "A" and "B" Companies successfully pushed back the enemy soldiers, and eventually occupied a line to the east of Veldhoek. Casualty returns for the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps on 2 November 1914, show that Cyril's was the sole officer death. The Hawley family in addition to being substantial landowners and benefactors of the village also resided at Leybourne for several generations. The Reverend Charles Hawley who was the Honourary Canon of Rochester, Kent, who died in 1914 was the last of the Hawley family to actually reside at Leybourne. Cyril's maternal grandfather, John Wingfield-Stratford of nearby Addington Park and other family members had also been substantial landowners in Leybourne and around the surrounding area.

HODGES, HENRY CHARLES. Private, 39262.

9th (Service) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment.

Died 23 October 1918. Aged 38.

Born Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of George and Rebecca Hodges (nee Brooker).

Husband of Annie Ellen Hodges (nee Gouldstone) of Elm Tree Cottage, London Road, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 4.

At the time of the 1901 census the Hodges family resided at Brickfields, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 51 year old widow Rebecca Hodges. Henry was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 20 years old and employed as a Farm Labourer.

PIERCE, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, G/34100.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 4 March 1919.

Born Leybourne, Kent.

Son of William T. Pierce and Alice M. Pierce.

Buried St. Peter and St. Paul Churchyard, Leybourne.

Grave Ref: Near South West boundary.

At the time of the 1901 census the Pierce family resided at Little Comp Farm, Leybourne, where the Head of the house 30 year old Linton, Kent native, William T. Pierce (Senior) was a Farmer and employer.

DAVID PRICE. Arguably the closest match accessed for this casualty is:-

PRICE, DAVID. Bombadier, 64063.

124th Battery, 28th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 3 April 1917. Aged 25.

Born Cranbrook, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of Jane and the late George Price, late of Cranbrook, Kent.

Buried Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St Eloi, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: VI. B. 29.

ERNEST ROSE. Arguably the closest match accessed for this casualty is:-

ROSE, ERNEST. Private, 5039.

21st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 30 May 1918.

Born Offham, Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Terlincthun British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XVII. A. 21.

Commemorated in the parish church of (St. Mary's) St. Mary's Platt, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Formerly Private, 11016, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Probably the son of Alfred and Elizabeth Rose, who at the time of the 1901 census resided at Windmill Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent. The census enumerator recorded Ernest as being aged 5 years old.

JOHN EDWIN WILLS. Arguably the closest match accessed for this casualty is:-
WILLS, JOHN EDWIN BOXER. Private, G/72673
24th (Service) Battalion, (2nd Sportsmans), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 23 August 1918.

Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. William Boxer Wills of 42, Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. B. 8.

At the time of the 1901 census the Wills family resided at 31, Fernbank Crescent, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 28 year old Folkestone native William Wills who was employed as a Carpenter, and married to 31 year old Edith Wills (nee Munday). Edith Wills was John's mother and a native of Shrewton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men

COOPER, WILLIAM HIDE. Ship's Corporal 1st Class, 225272.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Chester."

Died 31 May 1916. Aged 28.

Born Kimpton, Hertfordshire 10 October 1887.

Son of Charles and Mary Cooper of Blue Cottage, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 18.

HEARNDEN, FRANK GEORGE. Private, G/6882.

"A" Company, 10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 13 September 1916. Aged 20.

Born Leybourne, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided New Hythe, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Isaac Hearnden of 2, Ashley Place, New Hythe, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

JESSUP, JAMES FREDERICK. Private, G/3981.

1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 23 August 1915.

Born Leybourne, Kent. Enlisted Bromley, Kent. Resided Swanley Junction, Kent.

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoue, Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 4 or 5, and on the Swanley, Kent, civic war memorial.

James was possibly the husband of Harriett E. Jessup (nee Lawson), who he married in the Dartford District of Kent during the third quarter of 1912.

MALPASS, CHARLES EDWARD. M.C. Captain.

11th (Service) Battalion, (Lewisham), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Attached to the 28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Artists'
Rifles).

Died 8 October 1918. Aged 23.

Born Leybourne, Kent.

Son of Charles Maurice and Edith Malpass (nee Teale) of Leybourne, Royal
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Rumilly-en-Cambresis Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: I. B. 2.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

HIRSCHFIELD, SIDNEY OWEN. Sergeant (Pilot), 754017.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 50 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 5 August 1941. Aged 20.

Son of Sidney Beckett Hirschfield and Harriet Lucy Hirschfield of Bexleyheath,
Kent.

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 14. A. 10.

FREDERICK MITCHELL. No clear trace.





1914 - 1918

1939 - 1945

THEY DIED IN THE GREAT WAR
FOR KING & COUNTRY
HENRY ALBERT DANES
SIDNEY DANES
CYRIL FRANCIS HAWLEY CAPT
HARRY CHARLES HODGES
WILLIAM THOMAS PIERCE
DAVID PRICE
ERNEST ROSE
JOHN EDWIN WILLS

SIDNEY HIRSCHFIELD
FREDERICK MITCHELL



St. Peter & St. Paul Leybourne

in the
Diocese of Rochester



Sunday Services:

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

(All age service on the Second Sunday of the month)

All welcome!

Information on other services and events can be found in the church porch

For all other enquiries please contact:

**The Revd Matthew Buchan
The Rectory
73 Rectory Lane North
Leybourne
01732-842187**

