

## Selmeston War Memorial to commemorate the fallen of both the World Wars



At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the armistice came into effect, ending the First World War (the so-called war to end all wars). Just about every city, town or village throughout the UK had lost men in this Great War, and the public wanted them to be remembered for ever by some form of local memorial. Usually, these memorials were built using public funding. In the case of the Alciston and Selmeston memorial, a generous gift of land was made by Cecil Thomas Chandless, who lived in Sherrington Manor and also owned other land and property in Selmeston. This land is located at the southernmost part of The Street, at the junction with the main A27 road. The memorial is now a grade II listed structure. (OS Map ref:- TQ 505 066) Further fundraising was undertaken in both parishes and by June 1923 a roughly hewn granite stone cross mounted on a stone plinth and bearing the names of the fifteen fallen, had been paid for and erected on the site by C.F. Bridgman Stonemasons (formerly Parsons) of Lewes. The names were preceded by an inscription leaded into the stone:

***TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF SELMESTON AND ALCISTON  
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 18***

By the end of the Second World War two further names had been added, headed by a new inscription:

**1939 – 1945**

Poor foundations meant that the War memorial needed an overhaul and in May 2005 a full restoration was completed, and for the first time in its history, details of the site was lodged with the Land Registry and Wealden District Council. It is, once again, a memorial to be proud of, seen by all travellers on the A27 and those entering Selmeston village itself. Each year, parish residents attend its rededication on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, when the names of the fallen are read out, followed by a two-minute silence.

### **Names on the memorial:**

Seven men from Alciston along with ten men from Selmeston are commemorated on the memorial. *Unfortunately, it has not been possible to ascertain full details of some of the names shown (even with the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Imperial War Museum). Some details have been taken from the brass plaques in St Mary's Church Selmeston, and Alciston Church. If anyone can help with further information, please make contact via [laurafrancis100@hotmail.com](mailto:laurafrancis100@hotmail.com)*

### **World War One**

**PHILIP GEORGE BOYS** 35 years. Died 8.12.18. From Alciston (No other details known).

**ARTHUR HENRY CHILVERS** 19 years. Private 27466 -1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action 17.4.18. Son of Frederick William and Alice Orpha Chilvers of Manor Villas (now The Little Manor) Selmeston. Shown on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Panel119-120)

**D. F. GUMBRILL** 28 years. Lance Corporal G/4800 -11th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Born Stoneham and enlisted in Eastbourne. Killed in action 20.9.17. Shown on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, panel 86-88. From Alciston ( No other details known)

**CHARLES CLARKE** 28 years. Killed in action 22.3.18. From Selmeston (No other details known).

**GEORGE CLARKE** 24 years. Killed in action 23.8.17. From Selmeston (No other details known)

**SIDNEY FRANK COLEMAN** 19 years. Private K/9923 – 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Born at Arlington, enlisted at Eastbourne. Killed in action 2.11.14. Shown on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium, Panel 120. From Selmeston (No other details known)

**GEORGE FEARS** 24 years. Private 17027 – 1st/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. Died 11.11.18 (last day of the war). Son of Eli George and Caroline Fears, of Bo-Peep, Alciston. Buried in Alciston churchyard.

**WALTER DAVID FOORD** 27 years. Private G/2592 – 'D' Company 8th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died of wounds 26.1.16. Buried in the Meaulte Military Cemetery, Somme, France Row B 30. Born in Alciston, son of Daniel and Louisa Ford of 18, Swingate Cottages, Firle.

**WILLIAM ROBERT WEST** 19 years. Private G/13342 – 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Born Chalvington and enlisted in Eastbourne. Killed in action 20.4.18. Son of J. West of Selmeston Croft, Chalvington. Buried in the Woburn Abbey Cemetery, Cuinchy, Near Bethune France, I G 24.

**JAMES WILLIAM HAYWARD** 32 years. Private G/50672 – 20th Battalion Middlesex Regiment Killed in action 4.3.17. Shown on the Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier and Face 12D and 13 B. Father of James H Hayward of 50 Alciston

**CHARLES HYLANDS** 24 years. Private G/210 – 6th Battalion The East Kent (The Buffs) Regiment. Born Selmeston, enlisted at Ramsgate. Killed in action 13.10.15. Shown on the Loos Memorial, France, Panel 15-19. Son of J.H. Hylands of Old Town Cottage, Selmeston

**WILLIAM MACKAY** 52 years. Killed in action 7.12.17. From Selmeston (No other details known)

**GEORGE MOCKETT** 21 years. Private 48203 – 8th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. Died 24.10.18. Buried in Preux-Au-Bois Communal Cemetery, Nord France, Row B8. Son of George and Mary Mockett of 42, Alciston.

**CHARLES WALTER SHORT** 21 years. Gunner 97959 – 'C' Battery 47th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. Born at Firle. Killed in action 22.1.16. Son of Sidney Walter and Emily Short of Fairchildes Farm, Warlingham, Surrey. Shown on Hagle Dump Cemetery, Elverdinghe, near Ypres, Belgium. (This cemetery was begun in April 1918 during the Battle of Lys.)

**RALPH SQUIBB** 39 years. Private 320490 -16th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Killed in action 7.1.18. Buried in Alexandria (Hadra) Cemetery. Son of George and Annie Squibb – Native of Milton Clevedon, Somerset.

## **Second World War**

**HUGH McLAREN STACEY** 19 years. Lieutenant 324582 – 141st (7th Battalion Royal East Kent (The Buffs) Regiment) attached to Royal Armoured Corps. Killed in action 1.3.45. at Weeze, West Germany. Awarded the American Bronze Star. ( This decoration was awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the USA in a combat theatre, distinguished themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement or by meritorious service). Buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany, 13 A 25. Son of Hugh and Cecillia Stacey of Alciston. A marble tablet dedicated to Hugh Stacey is located in Alciston Church.

**CHARLES PETER GOWERS** 39 years. Able Seaman (Gunner) D/J 76630 – Royal Navy, Killed in action at Narvik 10.4.40. serving on HMS *Hunter*.( H Class Destroyer, sunk by German destroyers, with a loss of 110 men.) Shown on Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37 Column 3. Son of Herbert and Annie Gowers, husband of Annie Gowers of Selmeston.