

Angmering People Who Lost Their Lives in World War One

By Roger Miles



Introduction

... the brave men, women and boys of Angmering commemorated on our village war memorial illustrate the outstanding bravery and sacrifice of those who answered their country's call. Many others from our community returned home grievously maimed and disabled. In this timeline presentation we unveil a little of their backgrounds, when and where they died and exposing ordinary villagers just like ourselves. . .

This document is presented as a timeline record of events with references to Angmering people highlighted in RED. Each Angmering entry provides a cameo pen-picture of a courageous member of the community who selflessly lost their life. You may be reading this having seen the village flag being flown at half-mast. Now your curiosity can be satisfied knowing who is being commemorated today on the centenary of their death. Thankfully on most days the flag will be at the top of the flagpole but it can never diminish the colossal impact the loss of over forty young lives had at that time on such a tiny community.

We can never celebrate war but can honour these sacrificed lives . . . a boy of fifteen, butchers, career soldiers, horticultural and farm workers, delivery drivers, and a nurse . . . we will remember them!



WORLD WAR ONE - a timeline

1914

June 28th Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire,

assassinated in Sarajevo, Serbia

July 5th Kaiser Wilhelm II promised German support for Austria against Serbia.

July 28th Austria declared war on Serbia.

August 1st Germany declared war on Russia.

August 3rd Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium, implementing the Schlieffen

Plan.

August 4th BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY.

August 17th British Expeditionary Force (BEF) of 1 Cavalry and 4 Infantry Divisions arrived in

France.

August 23rd BEF started to retreat from Mons. Germany invaded France. August 26th Russian army defeated at Tannenburg and Masurian Lakes.

September 6th Battle of the Marne started.

September 11th Lance Corporal Frederick James ANSELL, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 1st

Division, died aged 34 of his wounds. A regular soldier with the 1st Royal Sussex Regiment prior to the war, he was son of Walter and Mary Ansell of Station Cottages, Angmering and husband of Edith Mildred Ansell of 19 Sydney Terrace, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset. Born in Angmering, he had enlisted at Lewes. He is buried at the

Priez Communal Cemetery.

October 18th 1st Battle of Ypres started.

October 29th Turkey entered the war on Germany's side. Trench warfare started to dominate the

Western Front.

November 1st Russia declared war on Turkey.



Great War West Sussex 1914-1918 www.westsussexpast.org.uk



November 5th

Britain and France declare war on Turkey.

Corporal Herbert George CLEVETT, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 1st Division, died aged 30 of wounds suffered at 1st Ypres. A coal porter prior to the war, he was son of Arthur Charles (deceased) and Louisa Clevett, grandson of Charles (deceased) Clevett of Cripples Gate, Ecclesden Common, Angmering and husband of Ivy Clevett of 19 New Street, Worthing. Born in Angmering, he had enlisted at Chichester. He is buried at the Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Menin Gate, Belgium.

1915

January 19th The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place.

February 19th Britain bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardenelles. March 10th BEF in France begin their attack at Nueve Chapelle.

April 22nd Battle of Ypres started, Germany using 'gas' for the first time on the Western

Front.

April 25th Allied troops landed in Gallipoli.

May 7th The 'Lusitania', a merchant ship, sunk by a German U-boat.

May 8th
Lance Sergeant George HORNE, 4th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps 27th Division, killed in action near Ypres aged 25. A regular soldier with the KRRC prior to the war,

seeing service in India, he was son of Henry and Sarah Horn of Whites Corner, Arundel Road, Angmering. His brave sacrifice is commemorated on the Menin Gate

Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Private William PELLING, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, died of his wounds aged 18. A carter on farms prior to the war, he is buried in the Rue-des-Berceaux

Military Cemetery, Richebourg-l'Avoue, Pas de Calais, France.

May 22nd 2nd Battle of Ypres ends.

May 23rd Italy declared war on Germany and Austria.

August 5th The Germans capture Warsaw from the Russians.



August 6th Sergeant William Allan GILBERT, 4th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment 29th

Division, killed in action at Gallipoli aged 31. A gardener prior to the war, he was son of Allen and Fanny Gilbert of Upper Barpham, Angmering and husband of Gertrude Gilbert. Born in Burpham he had enlisted at Chichester. He is commemorated on the

Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

September 25th The Battle of Loos started. BEF used 'gas'!! After this battle General Sir Douglas Haig

was appointed BEF Commander-in-Chief.

November 11th Private Harry Burnett PULMAN, 1st and 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, died of

wounds suffered at Gallipoli aged 22. Born in Cricklewood, North West London, he was the son of Harry and Gertrude Pulman. Employed as a nurseryman, he was living at Avenals Farm, Water Lane, Angmering Awarded the 1914/15 Star as one of the

earliest volunteers to enlist, he lies buried in Malta Pieta Military Cemetery.

December 14th Private Arthur James PARSONS, 8th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 18th Division,

killed in action aged 19. A labourer prior to the war, he was son of James and Marion

Parsons of 23 Chalks Cottages, Angmering. Born in the village, he enlisted at Worthing and is buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery. *Parsons Close on

Bramley Green is named in his honour.

December 19th The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli.

1916

January 27th Conscription introduced in Britain.

February 21st Battle of Verdun started.

March 18th Private Arthur William Roper GATES, 'A' Company 12th Battalion Royal Sussex

Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 19. Prior to the war he had been a gardener and was son of Florence Annie Roper Gates of Church Farm Cottage,

Rustington. Born in Worthing and enlisted at Littlehampton, he is buried in Sailly sur

la Lys Canadian Cemetery.

April 29th British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia.





May 31st
June 4th
June 30th

Battle of Jutland. The only significant sea battle, involving 259 warships. Start of the Brusilov Offensive.

Sergeant William Spier BURNS, 'D' Company 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 35. Prior to the war he was a farm stockman, son of John and Mary Burns of Tibbers, Thornhill, Dumfries, Scotland and husband of Edith Burns of Singleton. He had enlisted at Arundel and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Private George Lancaster Gladman HORTON, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 19. Born in the village, son of Jesse and Anne Horton of Byfleet Cottages, Angmering and having enlisted at Worthing, he too is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. *Horton Place on Bramley Green is named in his honour.

Private Henry Peter POCOCK, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 22. A butcher prior to the war, son of Simeon and Kate Pocock of Blaber Cottage, Church Road, Angmering and born in the village, he had enlisted at Lewes and is also commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Private Lionel Thomas ROLFE, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 38. He lived in Water Lane, Angmering with his wife Florence and son Lionel aged 6. He was a farm labourer prior to the war and lies buried in St. Vaast Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue.

Battle of the Somme started.

Private Stanley MESSENGER, 'B' Company 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, killed in action aged 26. His pre-war occupation had been as a clerk. Son of The late Mr & Mrs H W Messenger of Hampstead, London where he had resided, he enlisted in London and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

End of the Brusilov Offensive.

Private Frederick BROWN, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 1st Division, killed in action at Bazentin la Petit aged 25. Son of George and Helen Brown of Passals Farm, Blackboys, East Sussex, he was a farm labourer prior to the war residing with his parents at Angmering Park Cottages and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

June 30th

July 1st July 15th

August 10th August 20th





September 15th First use of en masse tanks at the Somme.

Rifleman Robin LUCK, 1/3rd Battalion The New Zealand Rifle Brigade, New Zealand Division. Killed in action aged 31, this son of Frederick and Annie Luck of Church Hill House, Angmering and brother to the Clerk of Angmering Parish Council, Alfred Luck, had been a carpenter prior to the war. He is commemorated on The Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial.

September 26th

Private Frank TERRY, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, killed in action aged 34. Eldest son of James and Edith Emmeline Terry of The Square, Angmering, he had SEVENTEEN siblings! was born in the village, a butcher with his father prior to the war, and enlisted at Littlehampton. He lies buried at Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps.

September 30th

Leading Seaman Ernest George WHITFIELD, DSM, Medaille Militaire, Royal Navy HMS 'Alert', died in captivity aged 38. Husband of Mary Cecilia Whitfield (nee Sayers) of Littleworth Cottage, Angmering, his service was notable. Having been awarded the DSM in January for distinguished service in both the Mesopotamia and Serbian campaigns, he was taken prisoner by the Turks in April and succumbed to sunstroke on a forced march. He was awarded the Medaille Militaire posthumously by the President of the French Republic in 1918. *Whitfield Close on Bramley Green is named in his honour.

October 26th

Private James DENYER, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 39th Division, died aged 25 of his wounds. Born in Alfold, Surrey, son of James and Sarah Ann Denyer of Littlehampton, he had been a laundry worker prior to enlisting at Angmering and is buried in Warloy-Baillon Community Cemetery Extension. Lloyd George succeeded Asquith as British Prime Minister.

December 7th
December 21st

Nurse Janet CLARE-BALL, V.A.D. Littlehampton Voluntary Aid Hospital, died aged 40. Born in Twickenham, second daughter of the late Col. Clare-Ball, CB and Mrs Knox Clare-Ball, she had resided in the district for a decade living at Church Farm House, Rectory Lane, Angmering and is buried in the village.



1917

January 24th Private Frederick Henry Harvey FINCH, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Woolwich Depot, died at home aged 41. Husband of Ellen Finch, he had been born in Ripe, East Sussex, worked as a coal and flour carter for Mr.Chalk, had enlisted at Angmering and is buried in St. Margaret's Churchyard. February 1st Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started. Private Harry John PEARSON, 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment 5th Division, died February 12th aged 30 of his wounds. Born in Limehouse, East London, son of John and Louisa Pearson, he was a resident of Angmering and had enlisted at Chichester. He lies buried at Bethune Town Cemetery. February 26th Lance Corporal Harry George CHESEMAN, Royal Sussex Regiment Depot, badly wounded in November 1915, discharged and subsequently died at home aged 23. Son of Mr and Mrs H Cheeseman of The Cottrells, Angmering, he lies buried in St. Margaret's Churchyard. Private Alfred WELLER, 1st/6th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and March 8th Derbyshire Regiment), killed in action aged 22. Prior to the war he worked as a butchers roundsman for Mr. Bradley who considered him 'one of the most straightforward men' he had ever employed. Born and enlisted at Brighton, he is buried in Foncquevilliers Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. March 15th Private George Abraham WELLER, 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment 5th Division, died aged 33 of his wounds. A gardener at Ham Manor prior to the war and a leading bowler with the Angmering cricket team, he was husband of Fanny Weller residing at Rustington and left four young children. April 6th USA declared war on Germany. BEF launched an offensive at Arras. April 7th BEF used 1m.lbs of high explosive in massive hand excavated land mines at Messines Ridge. April 9th 2nd Lieutenant Maurice HILLIER, 6th Battalion The Kings Own Scottish Borderers 9th Division, killed in action aged 21. Son of Edward Guy Hillier CMG and Mrs Ada Hillier of



April 9th

April 16th

July31st

August 25th

September 6th

September 8th

October 4th

White Cottage, Angmering and Peking, China, he gained his commission at Sandhurst Military College and is buried in Bailleul Road Cemetery.

Sergeant Frederick MITCHELL, 7th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 12th Division, killed in action at Arras. An Angmering resident, he had been born in Manchester, enlisted at Hove and now lies buried in Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery. France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Western Front.

3rd Battle of Ypres started.

Private Stephen William SMART, 2nd Battalion The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 32nd Division, killed in action aged 27. Angmering born, this son of Stephen and Emily Elizabeth Smart of 17 The Cottrells, Angmering, a farm labourer prior to the war, had been one of the first to volunteer from the village enlisting at Chichester. Three times wounded before perishing, his courage is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

Sergeant John CHALK, 75th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment), died aged 37. Born in Angmering, he had previously served in Queen Victoria's reign in the Queens Own West Kent Regiment. Husband of Kate Chalk he had emigrated to Canada and lived at 15 Gilholm Avenue East, Galt, Ontario enlisting at Galt on 8th November 1915. He lies buried in Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

Private John MCKENZIE-SLATER, 8th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 18th Division, killed in action aged 20. Though born in Brockley, Kent (now London SE4), son of Mr and Mrs J. Mckenzie-Slater of Angmering he, like many of his contemporaries, had attended Olders Charity School as a child. He enlisted at Chichester and lies buried in Duhallows ADS Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

Private Alfred John BERRY, 1/5th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 48th Division, killed in action near Ypres aged 27. Born in the village, son of Daniel and Louisa Berry of Cripples Gate, Ecclesden Common, he had been a farm labourer prior to enlisting at Worthing. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.



October 6th Stoker Petty Officer John Henry ARNELL, Royal Navy HMS 'Begonia, lost at sea aged

35, when a German U-Boat in the Atlantic torpedoed his sloop. Son of William and Mary Ann Arnell of Ham Farm, Angmering, he had been born in Bramber and at the time of his death was husband of Mary Arnell of 19 Tipnor Street, Stanshaw,

Portsmouth. Serving in the Navy prior to the war, his bravery is commemorated on

The Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

October 24th The Italian army suffers a heavy defeat at the Battle of Caporetto.

October 30th Private Albert Edward John TERRY, 46th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan

Regiment), died of his wounds aged 25. Born in Angmering, he was the fifth son of James and Edith Emmeline Terry of The Square, Angmering. Like his father a butcher by trade he emigrated to Canada in 1913 taking up residence in Desford, Manitoba. Three years later he enlisted at Boissevain, Manitoba and on 13th November 1916 set

sail for England on SS Olympic. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Etaples,

Picardy, France.

November 6th BEF launched a major offensive on the Western Front.

November 20th BEF using tanks and predicted shooting won a victory at the Battle of Cambrai.

December 5th Armistice signed between Germany and Russia.

December 9th British forces captured Jerusalem from the Turkish.

1918

March 3rd The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed between Russia and Germany.

March 21st German forces broke through on the Somme.

March 21st Driver Archie FIELD, 'A' Battery 256th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, killed in action

aged 20 during the March Retreat. Born in the village, son of George and Ellen Field of 3 Church Road, Angmering, he had enlisted at Worthing and is commemorated on the

Arras Memorial.

March 29th Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front.



April 5th Private William Denn LINFIELD, 7th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 12th Division, killed in action at Senlis Mill, aged 23. Born in Stroud, Gloucestershire, this village resident, a messenger prior to the war, was son of William and Jane Linfield living at Littleworth Cottages, High Street, Angmering. He enlisted at Worthing and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. *Linfield Close on Bramley Green is named

in honour of William and his elder brotherJoseph.

April 6th Private Harry CHANT, 8th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment 18th Division, killed in an air raid near Boves aged 23. Born in the village, he was a farm labourer before

enlisting at Chichester, son of Mr. & Mrs George Chant of 22 Chalks Cottages (now Chants), High Street, Angmering. He lies buried at Boves West Communal Cemetery

Extension.

April 9th Germany started an offensive in Flanders.

June 17th Private Francis John Mark BENTINCK, 'A' Company 61st Battalion The Machine Gun

> Corps (Infantry), killed in action aged 29. Son of the late William and Sarah Bentinck of Brighton, he was the husband of Ethel Mary Bentinck of 5 Church Road, Angmering. Born in Brighton he had originally enlisted at Chichester with The Royal Fusiliers

before transfer to the MGC.

June 18th 2nd Battle of the Marne started. The German army begins to collapse.

August 12th Lance Corporal Alfred Lewis ASHMORE, 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment 8th

> Division, with whom he had served prior to the war, died in France aged 34. Born in Anerley, Surrey, he was son of Alfred and Mary Ashmore of Gardener's Cottage, Ham Park, Angmering. He had enlisted in London and is buried in Glageon Communal

Cemetery. *Ashmore Avenue on Bramley Green is named in his honour.

Lieutenant Albert Arthur WALSHA, 9th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, killed in action aged September 18th

30. One of five sons of Mrs C and the late Mr. H Walsha, he had seen 15 years

Regular Army service returning from South Africa and being posted to France in 1915. Wounded in September 1917 he returned home and during his convalescence married

his wife Marion in May 1918, setting up home at Kinnoull Cottage, High Street,

Angmering. A month later he returned to France, he received his commission on 1st

July and since his death lies buried at Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon.

September 19th Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo. October 4th



September 29th Able Seaman Samu

Able Seaman Samuel Thomas BURCHFIELD, Hood Battalion Royal Naval Division Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, died aged 31. Born at Swillage, Angmering, son of the late Walter and Martha Burchfield of Littleworth Cottages, High Street, Angmering and husband of Emily Jane Burchfield of Norriss Cottages, East Preston, he had been a general labourer prior to the war. Originally enlisted in 1915 with the 2/1st West Kent Yeomanry, he transferred in1917 to the Royal Naval Division joining Hood Battalion. Invalided home with Bronchitis in January 1918, he rejoined Hood Battalion just one month before he perished. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France.

Germany asks the Allies for an armistice.

October 29th Germany's navy mutinied.

October 30th Turkey made peace.

October 31st
Boy Soldier Edwin James HAMMOND, HMS 'Impregnable' Royal Marines Artillery, died

whilst training for deployment aged only 15. Son of Edwin and Elizabeth Hammond of 3 Council Cottages, Angmering hence his being known by his middle name by family and villagers alike. *Hammond Close on Bramley Green is named in honour of this brave young boy who never lived to enjoy adulthood, . . . or perhaps for those few

weeks or months he did?

November 3rd Austria made peace.

November 9th Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated.

November 11th At 11am. Germany signed an armistice with the Allies - the official end of WW1.

This is why a 2 minute silence is observed at this time and date every year in memory

of all the lives sacrificed.

November 29th Corporal Harry WADEY, 977th Employment Company Labour Corps, having transferred

from 10th Battalion Hampshire Regiment, died aged 42. Born in Angmering, probably son of Mark and Rhoda Wadey, but living at The Cottage, Lenton Hall, Nottingham, husband of Eva Jane Wadey and a gardener before enlisting. He is buried in Mikra

British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.



1919

January 18th The Paris Peace Conference begins . . .

June 28th The Treaty of Versailles is signed. It brought a new political and economic structure to

affected nations across the world, creating new ones such as Czechoslovakia and

Yugoslavia, while wrestling with the dilemma of meeting the financial burden all these

nations inherited.

November 24th Private Joseph Henry LINFIELD, 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, died

aged 39. A cook as a regular soldier with the regiment prior to the war, he was a son of William and Jane Linfield who lived at Littleworth Cottages, High Street, Angmering. He is buried in Rawalpindi War Cemetery in Pakistan and *Linfield Close on Bramley

Green is named in his and his younger brother William's honour. . .see 5th April 1918.

If you have any further information on any of the names listed here please contact Roger MIles: rasmiles48@gmail.com