

HEROES OF WEST GRINSTEAD

(Background Information)

"Heroes of West Grinstead" is a study of the 58 names on the West Grinstead Parish War Memorials (WW1). 55 names are from The Old Comrades Memorial at the end of Mill Lane and the other 3 from St. Michaels and St. Georges Churches. When the Memorial was commissioned by the Comrades of the Great War (West Grinstead Branch) there was a list of 54 names supplied. The evidence can be seen in the wording of the inscription on the front (east) face. There should have been 27 names on each of the side faces, with the higher ranked names first on the south face. By the time the memorial was unveiled 55 names had been added with 28 names on the south face and 27 on the north face. My conclusion is that Private B Cheesmore was the late addition, due to odd position of his name. His name could not have been added after the unveiling as his name is listed in the newspaper report of the unveiling.

The 3 additional names are:-

Major A D Green

Lieutenant M A Knatchbull-Hugessen M.C.

Private S Webb

Please have a look at the photo (thanks to Thelma Brown) that shows the memorial as it was originally erected, with the full height cross. The other photo shows the memorial in its present condition with the lower height cross. The memorial was hit by a falling tree during the 1987 hurricane. The south face also listed the names from 1939-1945.

Herbie Whitmore