

# Names are missing from memorial plaques

# Historian needs help in quest to honour war dead

by **Ellis Stephenson**

estephenson@thekmgroupp.co.uk

@ReporterEllisKM

A historian is appealing for information about men from Sittingbourne who died fighting for their country.

Marc Stewart is looking for details about 20 men who were killed in both world wars.

The 29-year-old former pupil has been working to restore memorial plaques at the town's Borden Grammar School.

The history teacher noticed many old boys missing on plaques displayed in its grounds, off the Avenue of Remembrance.

He said: "Early on in the course of my research, it became clear the school's existing memorials were incomplete and inaccurate.

"The original First World War monument only listed five casualties, but my research proved no fewer than 36 lost their lives in that conflict."

Some 15 names were also missing from the 1939-45 memorial.

After presenting his findings to the Old Bordenian Association, a set of "new and accurate

signs" were commissioned.

Mr Stewart added: "The ultimate aim is to turn my work into a biography, a sort of roll of honour."

He is writing detailed biographies for each of the names he has discovered and is keen to get in touch with anybody who recognises any of them.

He added: "My research is probably a good 75% of the way through."

Information has been sourced from material found in the school's archive, along with local, national and online records.

Details have also been provided for the project from relatives and friends of the casualties.

He said: "Most of Borden Grammar School's casualties came from Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

"It's possible their descendants may still live locally.

"I'd be keen to get in touch with any of these casualties' families and see if they can provide me with any further information about their relatives, which I'd then be able to include in the roll of honour."

■ **Email Marc at [m.a.stewart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.a.stewart@hotmail.co.uk)**



The war memorial plaques at Borden Grammar School are incomplete

## KILLED IN ACTION

Sittingbourne casualties discovered so far:

Herbert Roland ASH (Royal Army Service Corps, died, 1943)

Douglas Arthur COLE (RAF, died 1944)

John Gundy HUMPHREY (RAF, died 1940)

Richard IGGULDEN (Royal Navy, died 1941)

Harry Robert KNOWLES (civilian, died 1941)

Colin William STATE (Royal Hampshire Regiment, died 1940)

George Henry STOKES (Canadian Army, died 1942)