

# Can you solve mystery?

**CAN YOU HELP?** Ernest Burgess, of the Sedlescombe branch of the British Legion, has worked for nine months to name the 25 men pictured in a photograph taken in February 1939.

But the identity of one remains a mystery - and Mr Burgess is seeking the help of the Rye and Battle public in the hope the face in the photograph may be recognised.

The inaugural meeting of the Sedlescombe branch was held in November 1930, when 54 ex-service men attended and the committee was formed.

From 1934 the Standard Bearer was Ernest Taylor who handed the responsibility to his son George in 1963.

As well as being branch chairman, George Taylor remained Standard Bearer until 2003 when he passed the role to Ernest Burgess, currently also membership secretary.

Mr Burgess said: "It has been a most interesting nine months delving into the past as an outsider who has only lived in Sedlescombe for 20 years.

"But it has brought me into contact with some lovely people in and around our village.



"I have read a newspaper report about the dinner and it said there were guests attending from Battle, Mountfield and Westfield.

"As I have discovered the identity of the Battle and Mountfield men, the missing man must be from Westfield."

Anyone who can help identify the face should contact Mr Burgess on 01424 870219 or email

pinetree25@btinternet.com.

● The picture taken in February

1939 at the annual branch dinner at the Coach and Horses pub.

Standing (left to right): Messrs Bates, Patrick, Wilton, Tingle, 'Unknown', Good, Gasson, Rev. Noble, Sellens and Woodhams.

Seated (left table): Dawson, Cooper, Chapman, Kenward and Major Ellis.

Seated (right table): Brandish, Watkins, Taylor, Badnell, Wood, Soan, Holmes (standing), Shambrook, Mapleston, Sheather.