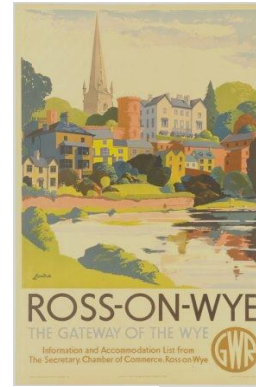


The Great War for civilisation

1914 - 1919

War Memorial - Side 2.

Commemorating the men of Ross-on-Wye who died in the conflict.



The Great War for Civilisation

1914 - 1919

Commemorating the men of Ross-on-Wye
who died in the conflict which started 100 years ago
and took the lives of 100 young men from the community.

We will remember them.

It commemorates those on the memorials in the church, which varies somewhat from the Prospect War Memorial, although I hope to include any missing and any other 'Ross' men not featured in a 5th volume.



August 2016.

Bill Webb:

email: billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com

ROSS WAR MEMORIAL SIDE 2

The stories of the men of Ross-on-Wye who died in The Great War

17461 Private Alfred Arthur Francis	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
238005 Private George Thomas Gibbs	2/4th Gloucestershire Regiment
J5889 A/B. Francis Albert Green	Royal Navy HMS Black Prince
2563 Private John George Griffiths	5th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
6348 Private Thomas Griffiths	1st Gloucestershire Regiment
49154 Private Thomas Henry Guy	11th Cheshire Regiment
8292 Private (William) Stephen Gwilliam	1st Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
230262 Private Charles Henry Hall	10th Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
67743 Private George Edward Hall	5th Devonshire Regiment (P.O.W.)
7549 Private Walter William Halls	6th Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
19587 Private John Albert Harris	1st Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
32783 Private Harry Leonard Hiller	2nd. South Lancashire Regiment.
64311 Private Douglas Albert Stride Honey	9th The Welsh Regiment
1804 Private Arthur Husbands	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
32086 Private James Reuben Jackson	14th Gloucestershire Regiment
23031 Private Harry Gordon Johns	10th Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
34731 Private Frederick Thomas Johnson	1st Worcestershire Regiment.
25614 Private John William Johnson	7th Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.
25842 Gunner Ernest Francis Jones	18 Battery 3rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery
6296 L/Corporal Tom Jones	1st Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
3987 Private Wallace Ralph Jones	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
7834 L/Corporal Theophilus Jordan	2nd Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
6474 Private George Knill	1st Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)
27801 Private Frederick Charles Lafford	16th Warwickshire Regiment (3rd Birmingham Pals)
57102 Private Herbert Henry Large	1st Auckland Regt. (New Zealand Expeditionary Force)

17461 Private Alfred Arthur Francis



1st Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry
Formerly
8th Entrenching Battalion

Alfred Arthur Francis

He was born in Clun, Shropshire in 1884 but at some stage switched names to Alfred Arthur. His parents were William Francis a farmer from Pen-y-Wern, Llanvair Waterdine and

Jane Gough also from Llanvair Waterdine and they married in Clun (District) in 1872. In 1891 They were at Button's cottage, Foy father a shepherd. 1901 At Firs view Little Dewchurch. Alfred was a carter on farm and living at his brother in law's home. 1911 Alfred was a waggoner living at his brother Herbert's home 44 Edde Cross St. Ross. Alfred (reverted to Arthur for Marriage) married Mabel Sedford in 1912 in Ross. They had a daughter Mabel baptised on 19th October 1912 and were living at 44 Kyrle St. Ross. Another Florence baptised 18th September 1915 living at 36 Overross St. and Grace baptised 9th September 1916 at 34 Overross St.

The Great War

17461 Private Alfred Francis enlisted about March 1915. His service record does not survive but (Samuel Austin's does he was 17346 and joined on 11th Feb 1915 and 17976 Frank Bamford joined May 1915). Following training with 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KS LI) he was posted to France arriving there on 7th July 1915. He was then transferred to the 8th Entrenching Battalion (*Entrenching battalions were*

temporary units formed in the British Army during the First World War. Allocated at Corps level, they were used as pools of men, from which drafts of replacements could be drawn by conventional infantry battalions). His unit would have been employed on digging new communications trenches, wiring and repair and maintenance of trenches. He was later posted back to his unit (1st KS LI) at the front. We do not know when this was but on 8th August 1915 1st KS LI took part in a very successful attack against the German lines. The casualties though were severe. 3 Officers killed and 9 wounded. 35 ORs killed, 156 wounded and 21 missing. 11th August 1915. The Battalion was in billets East of Poperinghe and a draft of 144 Other Ranks arrived, it seems likely that Private Francis was part of this draft or the draft of 73 which arrived the next day. Stayed in billets until the 19th aug. 20th Marched to trenches at La Brique and relieved Worcesters. 21st Quiet day our snipers very active at night. 22-24th Fairly quiet, little shelling, a German working party near Canadian Farm stopped by our rifle fire. 25th

considerable sniping by both sides. 26th. Retaliated with several rifle grenades. German working party stopped by volleys and rifle grenades. Some shelling behind our lines. One man wounded by sniper. 29th Heavy Guns and Field Guns bombarded the High Command redoubt in German lines, Germans replied wounding 7 men. 30th moved to Brigade reserve at Canal Bank.

September 1915. 1st-3rd Brigade reserve at Canal Bank, 4th Moved to billets at Poperinghe. On 9th moved to trenches at Potijze and relieved DLI in front line. 10th a quiet night but in the morning heavily shelled, damaging parapet, 10 men wounded one of whom died next day. 11/12/13th quiet days artillery disperses German working party and destroys part of their trench. 14th More damage to German trenches they retaliate with 10 trench mortar shells wounding 10 men, in the afternoon 2 more men wounded by shrapnel and Capt. Parker and Lt Lyle also wounded attending to them. 15th 4 Shells landed in the trenches and caused 5 casualties. Batt. moved back to French Dugouts. On 17th Moved to support trenches at La Brique. Stayed there until 23rd when

moved to the Wood at A30 until 26th Sept. Fairly quiet time with little shelling, numbers or reinforcements arrived, some men sent on courses. 27th-30th Sept, at La Brique, considerable hostile shelling, patrols went out at night and found German wire intact. On 30th 'C' Coys salient was heavily trench mortared and 'D' Coys trench had three heavy shells burst over it killing one man and wounding 17. Later five shrapnel shells killed 2 and wounded 2 men. Otherwise the night was uneventful except for considerable shelling.

October 1915. La Brique. 1st Heavily shelled and trench mortared, no casualties but trenches considerably damaged. 2nd. Quiet day and relieved and back to billets in Poperinghe until 11th Oct. and back into trenches at La Brique until 22nd. Fairly quiet, intermittent shelling one or two casualties each day mostly from rifle fire, some heavy machine gun, rifle and shell fire from our brigade and resulting retaliation from Germans with some casualties. 22nd at Poperinghe, in the evening our machine guns relieve those of 5th KSLI at Hooge teams return to billets. Remainder of

month in reserve at Hooge. On 27th A & C Coys heavily shelled at 11am near Abeele a ceremonial parade was held for His Majesty The King, each unit to supply 25 men and one officer, the men selected returned to Poperinghe and trenches next day. 28th 1 man killed and 2 wounded when transport was returning through Ypres in the evening. 29-31st Quiet time one man killed carrying rations at night.

November 1915. Hooge 1st Shelled by Field Guns parapet blown in three places. 2nd Very wet all day trenches very wet and muddy one man wounded, very quiet day. 3rd more rain, parts impassable sections of parapet collapse. 4th Enemy snipers very active all day and night 1 man killed 1 wounded. 5th. The line is held more lightly and sections evacuated and moved to a support trench. 6th Quiet in morning and very foggy A Coy shelled 1 man killed 2 wounded. 7th Shellfire in vicinity of our trenches. 8th a quiet day 2 men wounded by machine gun fire, Ypres shelled in the evening delaying the transport for an hour. 9th C Coy shelled but only 1 shell hit the parapet. 10th. Quiet until 4pm when shelled and trench mortared 2 men killed and

3 wounded. Relieved and back to billets at Poperinghe

11-19th Nov. Billets at Hop factory in Poperinghe.

20th Nov. moved to Camp A on Poperinghe-Proven Rd. Marched to Dugouts at Canal N.W. of Ypres. Then marched to rest camp. 21st-27th at rest camp, working parties, parades cancelled because of heavy rain. On 28th moved to billets at the Covent, Rue De Boeschepe, Poperinghe in billets until 4th December.

5th December 1915 Moved to Houtkerque and into billets until 15th Dec. Practice marches, opportunities for leave and courses.

16th December 1915 in Poperinghe. Batt. entrains and marches to trenches from Asylum, Ypres. Relieves 8th KRRC. Take over sections at Canal Bank and La Brique.

17th Dec. Trenches at La Brique in a very poor state owing to bad weather and neglect. The front line is a series of small posts with no communications between them and communications trenches to the rear are impassable. At 10.25 the enemy commenced a major bombardment in the area around Batt.HQ, in all about 2000 shells were fired in all with around 600 near HQ,

their heavy guns were cooperating with their field guns. There were no casualties but much damage to the trenches.

18th. One man killed in the morning and two wounded.

19th Dec. at 5.15am the enemy made a gas attack with evidently a new type of gas. The gassing lasted about an hour after which the enemy assaulted our line in small bodies one group of 10 and one of 30. but quickly sent back by rifle fire. The gas attack was said to extend from Vertorenhoek Rd to the point where the British line crosses the canal. There was a heavy bombardment of our support trenches. After the gas clouds had blown over the eagerness of our men for the Germans to attack in force was shown by the fact that the men were seen to be singing.

*"We whacked them on the Marne
We whacked them on the Aisne
Let them come
Let them come
And they won't come here again"*

Battalion casualties this day were:

2 Killed, 14 Wounded, 4 Die of gas poisoning, 39 Suffering from effects of gas poisoning.

The shelling continued throughout the night.

20th December 1915. Almost incessant shelling all day on all trenches, communications, farms and defended posts behind our lines. The shelling continued and all ration dumping areas were bombarded. No communications with the front line owing to the telephone wires being cut by the shelling.

Casualties this day. 1 Killed, 13 Wounded, 3 More Die of effects of gas poisoning

Private Alfred Arthur Francis was wounded during these actions and sent back to Military Hospital. He Died of wounds at 14th General Hospital, Wimereux on 21st December 1915.

He is buried at Wimereux Communal Cemetery and commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.



Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.
FRANCIS	Shrops L.I.	Pte	1746
A.A.F.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	8/1/02	2/2	17/6
BRITISH	20		
15. STAR	J/1/8. B. 3.	420	
Theatre of War first served in (1)			
Date of entry therein 47. 7. 15.			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
Alfred Arthur Francis

17461, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 21 December 1915 Age 31

Remembered with Honour
Wimereux Communal Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

238005 Private George Thomas Gibbs



2/4th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

George Thomas Gibbs

He was born in Westrop, Highworth, Wiltshire in 1893 and his parents were Henry James Gibbs a road labourer from Highworth and Jane Shailes (1861-1928) from Purton, Wilts. Thomas George reversed his names to George Thomas. In 1901 they were living at Highworth, Wilts. By 1911 George was a Printer's Assistant. He was living as a boarder at 6 High St, Ross.

Octave Surr at same address and a career soldier was also KIA in 1914 in the Great War.



1965 Pte G.T. Gibbs Herefordshire
Regt.

The Great War

His number of 1965 suggests he joined the Herefords in Sep 1914. In the photograph he is wearing the regimental signallers badge and also the good conduct chevron awarded for 2 years' service with no misdemeanours this suggests he was still with the Herefords in Sep 1916. (Herefordshire Regimental Museum archive).

However his Gloucestershire Regiment number 20452 (later renumbered to 238005) implies Private George Gibbs enlisted into the Gloucestershire Regiment early in 1915, judging by his number (his service record was destroyed in the Blitz of WW2). Following training he was posted to the 2/4th Battalion Glosters.

We are unsure of the precise time when Pte Gibbs arrived in France to join his regiment. If he was still with the Herefords in September 1916 it is most probable he was part of the two drafts (total 64 men) who arrived in October 1916 and certainly it was shortly after this that CWGC lists show men with numbers in the region of 20400 were starting to be Killed in action with the Glosters. I have

however given extracts of the Battalion from when they arrived in France - below.

On 23rd May 1916 35 Officers and 888 Other Ranks left Tidworth by train for Southampton, the later that day they boarded SS Marguerite and SS Belerophon and after some delays arrived on 25th May at Le Havre. On 31st May they arrived at Les Lobes to start training on Trench Work. June 1916. Training at Les Lobes and in billets at Riez Bailleul until 15th when relieved Worcesters in trenches at Moated Grange until 21st. Gas alarms, trenches shelled intermittently, our artillery bombarded enemy lines. 21st relieved by Warwickshires and back into billets at Riez. Remainder of month in billets. 28 casualties in the month - Killed and wounded.

July 1916. 1-3rd Battalion training. 2 men accidentally killed and 3 accidentally wounded. AA shells fell on trenches 2 more men wounded. 4th In trenches relieved Ox&Bucks. 'C' Coy raided enemy trenches. casualties 7 killed, 51 wounded, 7 missing. 5th July quiet. 6th. Batt. front readjusted 2 men killed 11

wounded. 7th Change in enemy tactics snipers more active Machine Guns less so 1 casualty. 8th enemy artillery more vigorous 3 casualties. 9th-15th July in billets at Laventie fatigues, several incendiary shells landed near billets. Coy training. 5 casualties. 15th Fauquissart sub sector trenches. 16th HQ moved to Battle HQ casualties 21 wounded, 1 killed, 17th July little activity either side 9 ORs wounded. 18th A & D Coys in front line, B in support and C in reserve 2 killed, 7 wounded. 19th July 11am. Bombardment of enemy trenches began. 6pm assault launched. Casualties 20 killed, 124 wounded, 19 missing. 20th Batt. relieved and moved back to Estaires. Coy training, fatigues, baths, church parades until 27th when back in trenches at Bond St and Rotten Row. Artillery active.

August 1916.

7th August 1916 draft of 48 ORs arrived. Batt moved to La Gorgue until 18th, in billets, coy training, Range Practice. On 15th Brigade Horse Show. 18th Moved into billets at Croix Barbee (Neuve Chapelle section). Training, fatigues, some

bombardment by Heavy Trench Mortars, intermittent artillery activity. On 26th moved to billets at Riez Bailleul, bating, kit inspections, fatigues, range practice, Football until end of month.

September 1916.

1st. Moated Grange sector of trenches. 2nd/3rd quiet days, wet 2 casualties. 4th wet 1 casualty. 5th bombarded by Medium Trench Mortars. 6th Raid by Lt Goghlan and 10 ORs, unsuccessful because Bangalore Torpedo failed to explode. 7th Relieved and back to billets at Riez. 16th moved to billets at Bout de ville stayed until 20th then into trenches at Neuve Chapelle section 22nd bombardment by light and medium trench mortars, 23rd Coys changed positions casualties accidentally wounded 10 ORs, wounded 2 ORs. 25th Raid by Lt Cumming and 14 ORs Party failed to get Bangalore torpedo far enough under the German wire to explode, but bombed the trenches ands returned under heavy fire. All returned safely. 26th relieved and back into billets at Bout de ville.

October 1916

At Bout de Ville. Church parades, training, group arrived from Artist's Rifles for training. 14th into trenches usual Trench Mortar activity. On 15th Draft of 34 OR reinforcements arrived. Relieved by 2/6th Glosters on 20th. Very wet. Demonstrations of bombing and sniping. Batt. found Guard of Honour for medal presentation. Batt. inspected by Brigadier on Column of Route. On 21st another draft of 34 ORs arrived. 25th relieved 2/6th Glosters in trenches Neuve Chapelle sector 2 quiet day then on 28th relieved by Queen Victoria's Rifles next day moved to billets at Rue L'Ecluse, specialist lectures, church parade, Coy training.

November 1916

In the Field. Coy training, series of marches accompanied by Brigade band until arrived at Boucq on 6th. then Coy training, specialist training and assault practice. Batt. on the move again through a series of marches until reached Albert on 22nd. Billeted. Foggy day. Three days of working parties and attack practices. On 26th Marched to Martinsart Wood and billeted. Large working parties

and digging practice for next two days. On 30th relieved Ox&Bucks opposite Grandcourt.

December 1916.

1st Intense bombardment by our artillery, enemy replied. Cold and foggy, improving trenches, salvage and burying the dead. 2-5th Cold and clear, sharp frost in morning. German machine gun found in old dug out by Stump Pond. Enemy artillery fairly active. Casualties for period 2 killed 11 wounded. 5th Dec. relieved by 2/6th Glosters proceeded to Aveluy siding in huts. Cleaning up, intermittently shelled. 8th relieved by Lancs Fusiliers in front of Thiepval. 10th relieved by Warwicks. into huts. Working parties, baths at Senlis. Snow and cold and condition of camp very bad, training and work on improvement of huts. Clothes and blankets disinfected. Working parties including working on Northumberland Avenue under 9th Labour Coy. Improving camps at Aveluy, work on communications trenches, carrying parties. 25th Dec. Working party under 2nd Field Coy. A & C Coy working on roads. 27th Cable laying. 28-31st Working parties at Zollern and

Hessian, laying duck boards and drying room at Tulloch's Corner.

1917.

January

1st into trenches at Zollern Redoubt. 2nd enemy artillery active a prisoner was taken he was from the 7th Fusilier Regt. 3rd enemy artillery not so active, three more prisoners taken from 86th Fusilier Regt. Hostile shelling on our back areas. 5th Jan much aerial activity, Zollern Redoubt was twice shelled, wire was put out every night of the tour but still a gap in the wire when relieved on 6th. Batt. marched to huts. 7th Cleaning and resting. 8th Marched to Hedauville and took over huts from Oxfords. Cleaning up, baths, training, disinfecting blankets, 17th Jan marched to Fienvillers and billets, snowed all day, roads very bad and slippery, cooks could not keep up so no dinner obtained on the way. 19th marched to Argenvillers and billets. Cleaning, section and platoon training, church parade, range training platoon in the attack.

February 1917

At Argenvillers. Battalion in attack practice, training. 4th Batt marched to Famechon and billets, fine cold day. Training, church parade. 12th transport, started 3 days march to St Saviour, Aubigny and 'B' Staging area. 14th marched to Weincourt 15th reconnoitring trenches to be taken over from the French. 17th relieved 1st Bn 101 Regt. in Pressoire sector. Thaw set in and trenches not revetted 18th water rising rapidly becoming a foot deep in places a few aerial torpedoes fired but French 75s gave immediate retaliation. 19th a quiet day but water continued to rise and deep in many places making ration carrying very difficult. 20th quiet day. 21st Feb. relieved moved to Framerville and into Bde reserve. 22-28th cleaning up, training coal and wood fatigues.

In early 1917 the TF units were all issued with new numbers, Pte Gibbs was issued with the number 238005.

March 1917.

17th Definite information the enemy had vacated their line, fires seen in their back areas. 18th advance began and took up positions in German Line

at Kratz Wood. 19th Bn advance to Potte most of the men had to bivouac during the night. 20th. work on clearing roads of wire and making new roads around craters blown in roads. 21/22nd work on roads continued. 23rd Work on strong points in the morning and moved to Croix Molineux, village badly damaged men billeted in cellars. 24th Work on strong points and putting village in a state of defence. 25th Work on craters. 26th. Work on craters at Monchy LaGache. 27th. work continued and Bn moved to Monchy La Gache. 2 men killed by shell fire (C Coy) at Coulaincourt. 28th March 1917. QM Stores moved to Monchy and Bn. moved to Coulaincourt and became front line Battalion on left sector. Village very much damaged by enemy in his retreat. Weather cold, snow and sleet.

Private George Gibbs was one of those killed by shell fire at Coulaincourt on 27th March 1917. CWGC says they were KIA on 28th but no deaths were recorded in the war diaries for the 28th but two were on the 27th. Pte Gibbs is buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery Wimille.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: George Thomas Gibbs
Birth Place: Westrop Highworth, Wilts
Death Date: 28 Mar 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Hereford
Rank: Private
Regiment: Gloucestershire Regiment
Battalion: 2 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion, Territorial
Regimental Number: 238005
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Comments: Formerly 1965, Herefordshire Regiment.

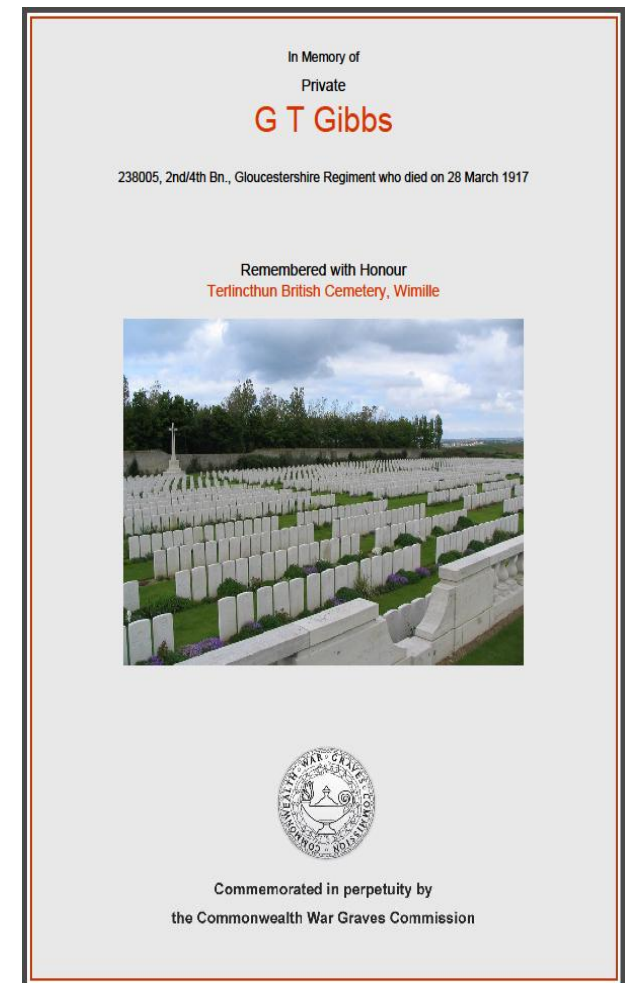
Name		Rank		Regt. No.	
GIBBS		Pte		20452	
George T.				238005	
Medal	Unit	Rank	Remarks		
Victory	1/101 Bn	1853			
Service	do	do			
Rank					
Theatre of War first served in					
Date of entry theatre					

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial and Highworth cemetery (on his parents headstone).



J.5889 Able Seaman
Francis Albert Green



Royal Navy

Francis Albert Green

Francis Albert Green was born on 5th January 1894 in Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire. His parents were Albert Charles Green from Cinderford and his mother was Alice Neate from Linton near Ross, Herefordshire.

By 1901 the family were living at Vine Woodside, East Dean (Viney Hill) Francis's father Albert was a Platelayer and gave his place of birth as East Dean. They also now have a daughter Gertrude Alice born 1895 in Bridstow.

Francis Green joined the navy aged 15 and on the 9th October 1909 Boy Seaman Francis Green was posted to

HMS Impregnable



Impregnable was a Boy Seaman Training Ship, previously it had been a 98 gun ship of the line then became Training Ship HMS Howe. He stayed on Impregnable until 30th June 1910.

From 1st July until 2nd October 1910 he was on

HMS Donegal



HMS Jupiter



HMS Cochrane

From 3rd October 1910 until 5th January 1912 he served on HMS Jupiter, HMS Cochrane and at the

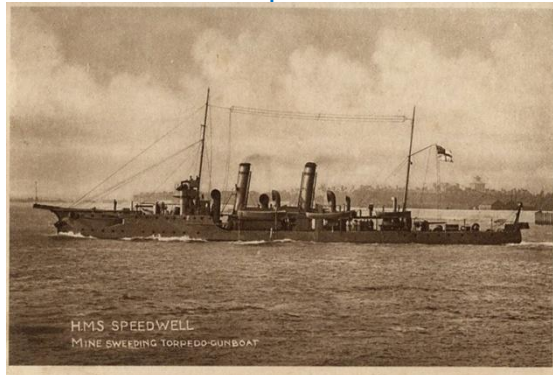
1911 census Francis was in Portsmouth and was a Boy Seaman on HMS Superb.



HMS Superb

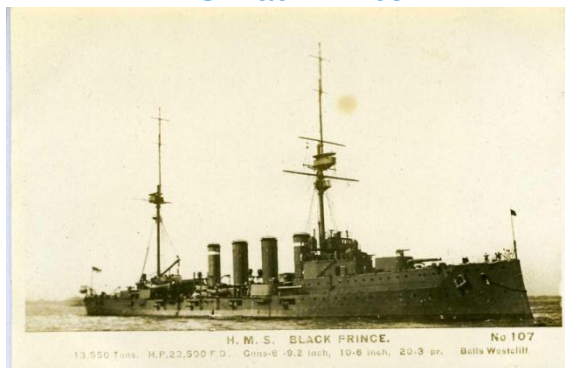
On 5th January 1912 his 18th birthday Francis Albert Green enlisted into the Royal Navy for a 12 year service. He was rated Ordinary Seaman and was posted to HMS Cochrane on 2nd February 1913 he was promoted to Able Seaman on Cochrane. He stayed on Cochrane until 9th April 1913 when he was transferred to HMS Victory for a month, then on 7th May 1913 he went to HMS Speedwell

HMS Speedwell



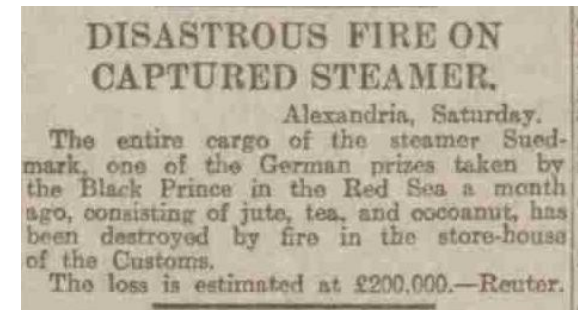
From Speedwell it was back to HMS Victory until 10th January 1914 when he joined HMS Vernon. Vernon was a 'Stone Frigate' or shore establishment and was Headquarters of the Royal Navy Torpedo School. AB Green stayed there until 21st April 1914 when he joined

HMS Black Prince.



HMS Black Prince was a Duke of Edinburgh-class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy in 1904. She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben and light cruiser SMS Breslau. The **pursuit of Goeben and Breslau** was a naval action that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea at the outbreak of the First World War when elements of the British Mediterranean Fleet attempted to intercept the German Mittelmeerdivision comprising the battlecruiser SMS Goeben and the light cruiser SMS Breslau. The German ships evaded the British fleet and passed through the Dardanelles to reach Constantinople. After the German ships reached Ottoman waters, the ship was sent to the Red Sea in mid-August to protect troop convoys arriving from India and to search for German merchant ships. On 15 August the *Black Prince* captured two Hamburg-Amerika line ships, the *Südmark* and the *Istria*. The first of those ships had been seen as suitable for use as an armed commerce raider, so her capture was of some significance.

19/10/1914



In November 1914 the *Black Prince* was sent to Gibraltar, where a new West Coast of Africa Squadron was being assembled to deal with any threat from von Spee's cruiser squadron. When that squadron was destroyed at the battle of the Falklands, the *Black Prince* and the *Duke of Edinburgh* were transferred to the Grand Fleet, forming part of the First Cruiser Squadron at Scapa Flow (with the *Warrior*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Robert K. Arbuthnot and the *Donegal*).

Battle of Jutland

On 30 May 1916 the First Cruiser squadron was present at Invergordon. As the Grand Fleet headed towards the fighting at Jutland, the First and Second Cruiser squadrons formed the advance guard, eighteen miles ahead of the fleet. Decreasing visibility forced the cruiser line to close up, and the *Black Prince* slowly lost touch with the rest of the squadron.

At 5.33 the *Black Prince* was the first ship from the Grand Fleet to sight the Battlecruiser fleet. Unfortunately her signal seemed to suggest that she had seen German battlecruisers, adding to the confusion on Jellicoe's flagship. While Jellicoe correctly assumed that these were in fact British ships, the incident does illustrate the difficulties of communications between ships separated by large distances at sea. At 5.50 Admiral Arbuthnot, with most of the squadron, saw gunfire from a clash with the German light cruisers and advanced into danger, unaware of the close proximity of the German battlecruisers. At 6.20 his flagship, the Defence, was destroyed by two heavy salvos.

The *Black Prince* missed this combat, having become detached to the west. Her captain, T.P. Bonham, turned south, presumably expecting the battle to have moved in that direction. Just after midnight on 1 June, she sailed right into the middle of the German fleet, finding herself close to the centre of the High Seas Fleet. She was picked out by searchlights and fired on at short range by the German battleships. After only two minutes she was on fire from end to end, and all resistance had stopped. After burning for a few minutes, at 12.10 she exploded with all hands. 37 officers, 815 men and 5 civilians were lost. Including A.B. Francis Albert Green.

Extract from "Jutland" by Capt. Donald MacIntyre. 1957

The cruiser Black Prince which, at the first meeting of the two main fleets had followed her flagship, Defence, into action and been roughly handled at the time that Defence had been blown up and Warrior disabled, had been left behind by the Grand Fleet's turn to the southward after deployment. For some reason which will never be known, she was still at this time far astern of and

out of touch with the British fleet; but when a line of battleships was dimly seen ahead, it was no doubt thought that they were the British squadrons. Course was altered to close them. At a bare half-mile range, the German recognition signal flashed out. The horrified Captain Bonham, swung his ship away in a desperate effort to escape, but it was too late.

In the battleship Thuringen the same deadly efficient night action procedure that had been displayed at the head of the line went into play. Brilliantly lit by half-a-dozen searchlights, the Black Prince was raked from stern to stem by a tornado of shells and lay a helpless wreck before she could even fire a shot in reply. As she drifted down the German line, ship after ship opened up on her, Thuringen, Ostfriesland, Nassau and, finally, as the fleet flagship Friedrich der Grosse, added her quota, the Black Prince met the same end as the Defence, blowing up with a tremendous explosion, vanishing with all hands.....



Western Daily Press 3/7/1916

Naval Casualties 1914-19

Name: **Francis Albert GREEN**

Rating: **A.B.**

Birth date/place: **5.1.94. Nr Ross Hereford.**

Service branch: **R.N.**

Ship unit: **HMS BLACK PRINCE**

Official number: **J.5889 (Po)**

Cause of death: **Killed or died as a direct result of enemy action.**

Date of death: **31/05/1916**

Cemetery: **Body not recovered for burial**

Relatives notified: **Mother:- Alice. 3**

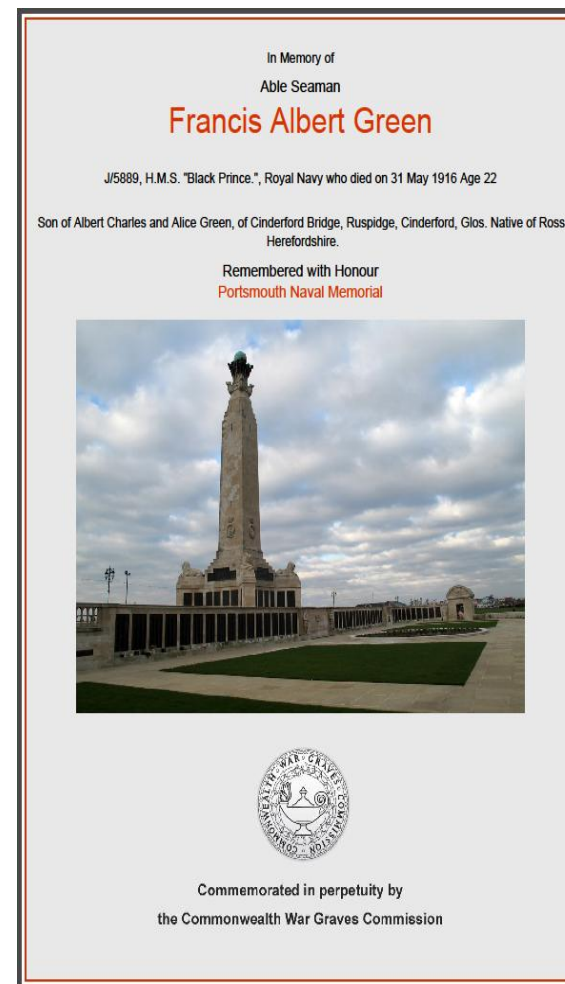
Broadmead Terr: Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

HMS BLACK PRINCE exploding at Jutland, watercolor by Willy Stoewer



His service record gives his place of birth as Ross, Herefordshire, his height was 5ft 7ins, he had brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. It lists his postings and finishes with the 'Naval' D.D 31st May 1916 (the somewhat callous Discharged Dead) then 'Killed in Action'.

His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Ross War Memorial



2563 Private John George Griffiths



5th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

John George Griffiths

He was born in Brampton St, Ross and baptised in Ross on 28th November 1879. His parents were Samson Griffiths a labourer born in Overross St. Ross and Emma Mumford also born in Ross in 1848.

In 1881 John's Father was a labourer. On January 8th 1889 Henry Gibbons (12), Alfred Cooke (10) and John Griffiths (6) were charged with stealing a quantity of chocolate cakes the

property of the Automatic Delivery Company at Ross Railway Station. They broke the glass of the automatic machine then entered the third class waiting room, turned on the gas and sat by the fire eating the cakes until they were disturbed by PC Morris. They also entered the goods shed and opened a sack of barley a sack of flour and a box of embrocation. There was another charge against Griffiths, the youngest defendant of stealing two pork pies the property of Charles Cox, Pork Butcher of Ross. Gibbons and Cooke were ordered to be birched, sent to Hereford Gaol for ten days then sent to a Reformatory for five years. Griffiths was ordered to receive six strokes of the birch and to be discharged on his mother paying for the pork pies.

(this is the same lad as the next case, the oddity about the aged variation is a common error). His 'good fortune' was not to Last

In March 1890 John Griffiths aged 11 and Henry Richards aged 8 placed several iron chairs and several large stones on the metal at the level crossing at Blackfields, Ross. The driver of the 1.15pm London Express

Train reported that he had hit something at the junction and on investigation it was noticed the train had hit the obstruction breaking three, one of the chairs was thrown off the rails and several stones were cut through. The passengers of the Express Train were very much terrified and shaken and it was considered a miracle that the train was not thrown off the metals. They were arrested and appeared before Captain Verschoyle who remanded them. They appeared at Ross Petty Sessions on 25th March 1890 and were convicted and sentenced. John Griffiths (11) was sent to Gaol for 14 days followed by 5 years in a Reformatory and Henry Richards (8) six strokes of the birch.

1891 census John was in the Reform School.

Hardwicke Reformatory, established in 1852, has been claimed as the first Approved School for boys in the world.¹ The local squire, T. B. Lloyd Baker, was one of its founders. The Reformatory attracted attention from other parts of Britain and the rest of the world. The boys, mainly from inner cities, were given an education and worked within the parish if they were

old enough. Many of them gained honours during the First World War and a roll of honour is on display in the church.

King's Shropshire Light Infantry

2563 Pte Griffiths joined 4th Batt. KSLI on 18th March 1897 Aged 17 years 1 month. His mother was E Griffiths and they lived in Brampton St, Ross. He was 5ft 3ins tall, fresh complexion, Grey Eyes, Light Brown Hair. and CofE. He enlisted at Hereford. He was training until 9/7/1898. His employer was Mr Lewis a builder in Over Ross St. 4th KSLI was a Territorial Force unit (part time soldiers) and Pte Griffiths 'signed up' with the regular army King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) in 1898 his new number was 5675, although his records no longer exist we do know that number 5523 joined January 1898 and 5895 joined January 1899. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion KSLI and in December 1899 the regiment went to South Africa and the Boer War. He received the Queen's South Africa Medal and the King's South Africa Medal and had four clasps. Johannesburg, Driefontein, Paardeberg and Cape Colony.

Paardeberg

The 2nd Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry served right through the "Boer War" of 1899-1902 and particularly distinguished themselves at the battle of Paardeberg in February 1900. Below is an extract from the reports.

Smith-Dorrien sent the Canadians to work up the river-bank; their right forming the pivot of the movement, their left joining the right of the Shropshires, whose left in turn touched the right of the Gordons. The latter were accompanied by the 82nd Battery, and their objective was a knoll commanding the scrub at the river's bend. This knoll - Gun Hill - was occupied by the Shropshires soon after eleven, the Gordons swinging round to prolong the line to the left, and by four o'clock Smith-Dorrien was well round two sides of the scrub. The Canadians having cleared the north bank for some distance, three and a half companies of the Seaforths and two of the Black Watch crossed to the north side and then pushed on to within 200 yards of the Boer trenches. While Smith-Dorrien (and 2 KSLI) was still fighting round the scrub, higher up rushes were made at it from time to time but without result.



*2 KSLI in action at Paardeberg,
February 1900*

On the morning of the 19th Smith-Dorrien found that the scrub which had been so tenaciously held on the previous day had been evacuated, and he was able to push forward a considerable distance. From the 19th to the 27th he worked closer and closer to the Boer position. On the night of the 21st the Shropshires made what General Colville calls a "fine advance" to within 550 yards of the Boer trenches. The following night they strove to shorten the distance but failed, and the spade had now to be relied on. It is worth while quoting the last act from the general's account. After explaining that he had come to be of opinion that an entirely new trench on

our side had to be started: "It seemed to me that if we could once gain the ground clear of the trees we should have the laager at our mercy. I knew Lord Roberts was very averse to trying an assault, so got hold of his chief engineer, and went through the trenches again with him, with the result that he, too, thought that no further good could be done with the present trench. Fortified with this expert opinion, I went to Lord Roberts, explained the situation, and got his leave to try an advance that night.

"It was the turn of the Canadians to occupy the trench, and therefore obviously theirs to make the assault. After talking over the details with Smith-Dorrien, it was settled that the assaulting party was to consist of half a battalion of that regiment. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry were ordered creep forward from the trench in the darkness till the enemy opened fire, and then to begin digging as hard as they could. The Gordons were to support them in the advanced trench, and in another, a couple of hundred yards down-stream, while the rest of the 19th Brigade, extended to the left,

was to open fire, so as to convey the idea of an attack in force and prevent the Boers concentrating all their strength on to the little assaulting party.

The battle of Driefontein (Boer War) was the last attempt to prevent the British under Lord Roberts from occupying Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State. The Boer position in the Orange Free State had collapsed very quickly. Only four weeks earlier their main army had been camped at Magersfontein, blocking the direct route to Kimberley. On 11 February Lord Roberts had begun his great flank march, which had seen Kimberley liberated on 15 March, and the army from Magersfontein captured at Paardeberg on 27 February. A first attempt to stop the British advance had failed with hardly any fighting at Poplar Grove (7 March).

In the aftermath of the rout at Poplar Grove, President Kruger had made valiant attempts to rally the fleeing burghers, but only 1,500 of the 6,000 men from Poplar Grove could be convinced to stay. Under the command of Christiaan De Wet, with assistance

from De La Rey, the Boers organised a new defensive line at Dreifontein.

This time they fought, and fought well. Lord Roberts organised his men into three columns and attacked along the entire Boer line. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Boers managed to hold on all day, but as darkness fell the British had seized the northern end of the Boer line, and were threatening the southern flanks. Once again the burghers fled – De Wet described it as a panic. This time there was no stopping them. Three days later the British captured Bloemfontein without facing any more significant resistance. British losses at Driefontein had been 82 dead and 342 wounded. Boer losses were at least 102 dead and 22 captured. To the British it began to look as if the war would soon be won



Following the Boer War he was sent with the regiment and served in India until the end of his period of service (usually 7 years). He then returned home.

On 1st April 1907 John Griffiths married Edith Maria Plant in Ross. John was living at 15 Brampton St. and Edith at 24 Brampton St. Edith's father Henry Ernest Plant was a shoemaker. John and Edith's children:
Born at 20 Brampton St. Ross
Phoebe Edna Griffiths
Henry Hampton Griffiths
John Gordon Griffiths
Leonard Steven Griffiths.

The Great War

As an ex-serviceman and an army reservist Pte Griffiths would have been mobilised at the start of the Great War. As an experienced, older, trained soldier his role would have been in a training unit. He was then posted to one of the battalions of Kitchener's New Army. He went to the first of the KSLI 'Service' battalions. the 5th KSLI which had been formed in August 1914. 5975 Private John Griffiths went with his Regiment to France landing at Boulogne on 21st May 1915. After a

period of 10 days marching to the front and in billets they moved into dugouts (trenches) on 31st May. Two days later Pte Griffiths was shot through the head and killed instantly while working on the trenches.

5th (Service) Battalion KSLI May 1915.

The Battalion were placed on a war footing at Aldershot on 11th May 1915 and all surplus clothing and equipment was returned to the stores. 19th. Three officers and 109 Rank and File along with 79 horses and mules left Aldershot for Southampton. 20th May 1915 the following day 28 Officers and 797 ORs followed them 21st May At Ostrohave rest camp, Boulogne. Read H.M. The King's message and left at 9.30am entrained at Port Au Brique for Cassel then a long and tiring march to billets at Erkeslbrugge stayed there until 27th May Church parades, Holy Communion, inspection by Brigadier General Stopford followed by route march. 27th May marched 16 miles to billets at Eecke. On 31st moved to dugouts 2 miles S.W of Ypres. Trench digging.

June 1915.

1st June Fine weather whilst retiring from trenches Sgt Diss was killed, Ptes Bowen and Roberts and L/Cpl McAuley of D Company were wounded. 8.15pm marched out for trench digging at Zillebeke. 2nd June Fine, Pte Griffiths killed, Ptes Smith, Long and Garbett wounded. Heavily shelled all round the camp all afternoon but none dropped into camp. 8.30pm shifted back to huts at Canada Camp L/Cpl Edwards killed, Ptes Hyett, Evans, Fowler, L/Cpl Strawbridge of C Coy and Pte Dodd D Coy wounded.

Lt Robert Shuttleworth Clarke his Company C/O (who came from Marstow and also was Killed in Action 3 months later) wrote "Dear Mrs Griffiths- It is with deep regret that I write to tell you that your husband Pte J. Griffiths has lost his life on duty. He was shot through the head and killed instantly last night (Tuesday June 1st), while at work in the trenches behind the firing line. He was one of my signallers and a man of his knowledge and experience I could ill afford to lose. You have my sincere sympathy in your great trouble - Robert S. Clarke"

P.S.-"I enclose your late husband's cap and badge. I hope the censor will let it pass. I am a Ross man and I shall ask my mother to call and see you".

He is buried at "Railway dug outs burial ground" and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



His medal index card - below is very odd. It is the correct John Griffiths, his number and regiment are the same as the Commonwealth War Graves information but it does not give his 'date of entry' into combat zone or the area he was sent. It should say (France) and the date 21/5/1915 neither does it list the 1914/15 star entitlement even though his death date confirms his entitlement.

Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
GRIFFITHS, John	K.S.L.I.	16	5675
Medal	Enl.	Page	Remarks
Victory	28		
Service	-do-	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal.

In Memory of
Private
J Griffiths

5675, 5th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 02 June 1915 Age 34

Son of the late Sampson Griffiths, of 24, Brampton St., Ross-on-Wye; husband of Edith Maria Griffiths, of 13, Nursery Rd., Ross-on-Wye. Served in the South African Campaign.

Remembered with Honour
Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm)




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

6348 Private Thomas Griffiths



1st Battalion
Gloucestershire Regiment

(Francis) Thomas Griffiths

Francis Thomas Griffiths born at Batts Gardens, Ross and Baptised 6th January 1884. His father was Charles Griffiths a Blacksmith (labourer) and his mother was Hannah Llewellyn daughter of Thomas Llewellyn a Saddler. They were married 3rd October 1880 in Ross. Francis seemed always to be known as Thomas except on 1911 census. 1891 They were Living in Edde Cross St. 1901 Living at 29 Kyrle St, Thomas was a labourer, his father

was a Mason from Ross. Mother was Anne (Hannah) from Ross. 1911 his parents Charles (mother has changed her name to Margrett and they were living at 11 Old Gloster Rd, Ross with their son Clifford. Charles was still a Mason.

Thomas Francis Griffiths married Elizabeth Amy Preece in 1906 in Gloucester Elizabeth had a daughter Gwendoline Edith Preece when they married.

In 1911 Thomas had left home and had changed back to Francis Griffiths a House Painter he was married to Elizabeth Amy they had two daughters Edith Frances and Anne Elizabeth and an adopted daughter Gwendoline Edith Preece and William Smith an 80 year old retired coach builder was a boarder. They were living at 19 Brookend St. Ross.

Thomas Griffiths is a bit of a puzzle over his military service. His number (Gloucestershire Regiment) 6348 implies he joined the Regiment on 1st March 1902 because 6350 Pte Henry Bray (Gloucesters and only two above him, probably joined same day) enlisted on 1st March and his service record survives. The WW1 records

were mostly destroyed in the Blitz in WW2 but pre war ones were not and I cannot trace Thomas Griffiths record for then. The regiment did also have a tendency to re-use numbers as well so he may not have joined that early. What I do know is that he had joined the Gloucesters before 27th August 1914 because that is the date he arrived in France. It is a certainty that he was in the army before the war so the likelihood is he was a pre-war regular soldier who joined in 1902, did his seven years and went on the reserve, he would then have been mobilised as soon as hostilities were likely 1914 and sent out with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914.

The Great War

1st Battalion Gloucester Regt. landed at Le Havre on 13th August 1914 and moved into the trenches on the 24th. Private Griffiths arrived in France on 27th August 1914 and would have gone to an Infantry Base Depot for 'acclimatization' and then on to his unit. He arrived on 5th September with Capt McLeod and 92 other Rank and File at 6pm in Rozoy. 6th Sept. Precious orders for a retirement were cancelled and orders received to the effect that

the French Army was going to assume the offensive and the expeditionary force was also going on the offensive and cooperate. Marched via Courpalay to La Chapelle. Artillery fire to the N.E. march was continued interrupted by long halts until we went in to Bivouac N.E. of Vandoy.

Battle of the Marne. 7-10 Sep 1914
7th Sept. Brigade marched out of bivouac via Dagny-Chevru SWB were detailed as flank guard. Marched by the Leuden Rd and cart tracks to bivouac E. of Choisy.

8th Sept, Brigade marched via Laferte-Guacher, Le Jariel, Hondrevilliers to Ferme-De-Lille into bivouac. A good deal of the march was across country and by field paths. One Officer and 90 reservists joined.

9th Sept. About midnight a post of 'A' Coy fired some shots it turned out to be 1 German Officer and 9 men of the Garde Jagers who had been cut off during the afternoon, they surrendered.

11th Sept. Marched to Villeneuve sur Fere via Latilly-Grissolles-Coigny into bivouac but weather very wet so moved into billets except 'A' Coy for whom there was no room.

Battle of the Aisne. 12-15 Sep 1914
12th Sept. The Brigade formed the advanced guard of the division. 2nd Welsh the Vanguard and the Bn. headed the Mainguard. Marched to Bazoches, the Germans were reported to be on the high ground near Perles. The Welsh were sent to reconnoitre and Bn ordered to deploy and advance to S. of Paars, deployed in the first line and support. No trace of the Germans was found so Bn was part in trenches and part in billets in Vauxcercé mostly in caves. The weather was very bad.

14th Sept. Left billets and marched on Athie. First objective was the Cortecon Ridge, very slow progress. The Queens were sent to occupy the Paisy ridge while the remainder of brigade were hurried forward to come up to the left of the 1st Guards Brigade. The Welsh and SWB were sent forward while the Bn. was kept as Brigade Reserve. There was a lot of gunfire but the Bn. were well sheltered. The Bn. had not all come up when the German counter-attack threatened the left flank A & B Coys and a Coy of the Welsh were ordered to repulse it but the artillery repulsed it first. At noon

the Guards Brigade found itself in difficulties B & C Coys were detailed to reinforce them, they got into a quarry and platoons were pushed forward but they were shelled and as there were no hostile infantry movement they were withdrawn with some loss. At dusk the brigade was ordered forward to Chemin-Des-Dames on arrival at the road junction in the dark the column was suddenly fired upon from the right front, fire was returned and after a while it died down on both sides. SWB entrenched themselves at the head of the valley and Bn was in reserve.

15th Sept. The Germans made an attempt to advance but were foiled. Four of our men at the corner of the wood did good work as marksmen. All around us are lying a large number of dead and wounded from Guards Brigade who suffered heavily yesterday. The trenches dug last night by SWB proved to be useless so they had to dig some more further to the front. During the day the position was heavily shelled and the Bn suffered many casualties. During the two days Bn. suffered following casualties. 1 Officer killed 2 wounded 10 ORs killed 70 wounded 3 missing.

16th Sept. Bn dug in. The Germans have a battery in the direction of Courtecon with apparently an unlimited supply of ammunition it fired all day distributing its fire in all directions. 3 killed 9 wounded. It rained at intervals making the ground very muddy and the bivouac most uncomfortable.

17th Sept. German artillery continued unabated all day. In the afternoon heavy rifle fire was heard from our right, it turned out to be the 2nd Inf Bde which had been heavily attacked by the Germans and repulsed with heavy loss. At dusk assembled to move off to Troyon and took up position between the Queens and Northamptons. Detailed to fill in some trenches a short distance in front of ours after 2 attempts in one Lt Davies was shot in the arm by the Queens, they succeeded in filling in most of the trenches burying many German dead and 3 machine guns, brought one gun back as well. Still raining and "the mud is something awful".

18th Sept. Heavy shelling by the Germans all day. Major Gardner reported the enemy advancing, Bn stood to arms and 2 Coys of KRRC

came up in support but there was no attack.

19th Sep, remained in same position, shelling very severe especially on Coldstream Guards to our right who suffered severely. Durham Light Infantry relieved us in the trenches and Bn relieved Sherwood Foresters in the Quarry.

Actions of the Aisne Heights. 20 Sep 1914.

20th Sept. Usual shelling began at 6am and continued throughout the day. At 4pm an attack was made on 18th Inf Bde, the right was temporarily driven back but the Cavalry Bde coming up restored the situation. The E. Yorks attempted a counter attack but it was driven back by German shell fire. Situation was quiet and the patrols reported no sign of the Germans only the sound of transport moving. 96 reinforcements arrived. 1 man killed 5 wounded.

21st Sept. German Bombardment still continues, in the afternoon there was an attack to our right the right seems to have been driven back but they soon recovered their position. At 3pm the Yorkshires made a counter stroke but were driven back by shell fire with

some loss, throughout the night patrols were sent out to find the enemy positions but could not locate them.

22nd Sept. No change in the situation usual shelling all day. Major attack expected reserves sent up but no attack came. Patrols sent out at night. 23/24th Sept. No change, usual shelling.

25th Sept. Usual situation 12 men sent out before daybreak to snipe at hostile trenches, an aeroplane reported that the enemy were massing N. of Cerny about 1 division strong. Usual shelling and continued into the night.

26th Sept. In the same position, shelling in the morning was heavier than normal. 5am it was reported that about 200 Germans were massing in front of the Queens and entrenching in front of 2nd Bde. Machine gun section and artillery opened up on them. 7am 'A' Coy reported a hostile line in front of them and at 7.40am reported hostile machine guns. An attack was mounted against the South Wales Borderers and Queens and heavily shelled our trenches. Attacks were repulsed with heavy losses. SWB also had high losses. Our casualties were 5 killed, 23 wounded.

27th Sept. Coys sent out patrols through the night but all was quiet. Orders received that we were to be relieved by the Guards Brigade and move into billets at Bourgh.

28th Ordered to 'stand to arms' and a good deal of rifle and artillery fire, finally got to billets at 2.30am baggage arrived at 10am. French Colonial troops and Tirailleurs also billeted in the village. On 30th moved to Pagnan in billets

October

1st. Bn equipped with Greatcoats and valises.

2-14th. Moved to Moulins in billets. Two Coys preparing trenches two in billets alternating, much work done at night to avoid observation by aircraft.

15th Oct. French Brigadier arrived to reconnoitre our trenches to relieve us.

16th Oct. French relieve us. The Bn marched via Bourg-Dhuizel to Paars and billeted in two farms. Message published from General Haig congratulating the Division for the work done on the Aisne.

17th/18th/19th. At Paars. Bn entrained and went via Paris-Amiens-Abbeville-Etaples to Cassels. Marched to Longue-Croix and billeted.

20th Oct. Marched to billets in Poperinghe.

Battle of Langemarck

21st Oct. Marched via Elverdinghe - Boesinghe - Pilkem to Langemarck. Orders to attack Poelcapelle Station and the village of Peolcapelle. Queens and SWB to attack Batt. in reserve. At 8.30am Batt. ordered to attack and hold Farm of Koekuit. The enemy opened strong infantry and artillery fire. 'B' Coy advanced to the left and were enabled to seize the farm casualties were taking place in 'C' and 'D' Coys particularly when they had to temporarily yield their hold on the farm when the Queens had to withdraw on the right, these went forward again and were reinforced by Scots Guards and the farm was retaken and held until night. In the morning French infantry were withdrawing through the woods to our left and it was reported that the enemy were advancing in strength from that direction. The Welsh Regt took over a village nearer the village of Langemarck and we withdrew to bivouac at a farm just West of the village.

22nd Oct. 1914. At the farm west of X roads half mile from Pilkem. In

bivouac improving the trenches. At 9am an order that 'we must hold the line at all costs' and that one Coy must stand in readiness to reinforce SWB at Langemarck.

4pm Artillery shelling apparently from the direction of Koekuit and a barn in the farm was struck, other shells bursting round. The men were not in their trenches at the time and 5 were killed, 10 wounded and 2 missing.

Private Thomas Griffiths was one of those killed in action on this day his body was not recovered so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin gate) Memorial and the Ross war memorial.

**UK, Soldiers Died in
the Great War, 1914-
1919**

Name: Thomas Griffiths
Birth Place: Ross,
Herefordshire
Death Date: 22 Oct 1914
Death Place: France and
Flanders
Enlistment Place: Monmouth
Rank: Private
Regiment: Gloucestershire
Regiment
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 6348
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Western European
Theatre of War: Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
GRIFFITHS	Glouce R	Private	6348
Thomas			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	2/10/1911	2020	K. in A.
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	2/2/7	54	
Clasp: 2/2699			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein 27. 8. 14			

He was awarded



The 1914 (Mons) Star with Clasp and
Roses
The British War Medal The Victory
Medal.

In Memory of
Private
Thomas Griffiths
 6348, 1st Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 22 October 1914

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

49154 Private Thomas Henry Guy



11th Battalion Cheshire
Regiment

Formerly



Denbighshire Hussars Yeomanry

Thomas Henry Guy

He was born 21st November 1892 in Brookend St, Ross. He was baptised in Ross on 8th February 1898. His father was William Guy a Hairdresser and umbrella maker (from Birmingham)

and his mother was Annie Eliza Greening (from Gloucester). On the same day his brothers Harold James, Albert George, Ernest Reginald, William Stanley and sisters Emily May and Elizabeth Nora were also all baptised. 1901 census and Thomas was living with his parents, four brothers and three sisters at 9 Brookend St, Ross. His older brother John was a page in service to John Hewett (a bank manager for the railway) and his older sister Clara was a domestic servant in Marstow. In 1911 Thomas Henry was still living at 9 Brookend St and he was an Assistant Book Seller, Stationer. Harold was a compositor and printer, Ernest a Draper's Assistant and William was still at school. The rest of the family were residing at 'Agnes' Mount Pleasant, Ross. Mary Ann Greening was the Grandmother of Thomas and an old age pensioner, (this was put down with pride because 'old age pensions' had only just been introduced).

In 1915 Thomas Henry Guy was A Book Assistant.

The Great War

On 8th November 1915 1629 Pte Thomas Henry Guy enlisted into the Denbighshire Hussars Yeomanry at Wrexham (a territorial force unit). His home address was 16 Ruabon Rd, Wrexham where his trade was Book Assistant. He was 23 years old, 5ft 8ins tall, had good physical development. He served in UK with the Denbighshire Hussars Yeomanry until 31st August 1916 when he was posted to the No 4 Infantry Base Camp at Rouen.

On 10th September he was transferred to the 11th Battalion Cheshire Regiment under (d.204 of 1906) to retain Yeomanry rates of pay. He was now 49154 Pte Thomas H Guy 11th Battalion Cheshire Regiment and sent to the front to join his unit. He arrived at the reserve billets at Quesnoy (Cuinchy sector) on 11th September 1916. On 12th his battalion moved into billets at Agenville, he joined them on the 16th Sept. The Battalion stayed in Billets until 25th when they deployed to active service operations near Thiepval. The Battalion marched to Lealvillers, then Bouzencourt then to on 29th to Crucifix Corner where about 100 men were

accommodated in dugouts and the remainder had to shift for themselves in bivouacs made from their mackintosh sheets.



11th Cheshire Regiment 1916

1st October 1916 at Aveluy in dugouts, weather was atrocious and the trenches were deep with water. 3rd and 4th digging and carrying parties. On 5th dug down and trenches deepened considerable shelling especially of CT (communications trench). On 6th relieved by Lancs Fusiliers, casualties for the 48 hours in trenches 2 ORs killed 14 wounded. 7th,8th,9th in dugouts 400 men had billets in Aveluy. Digging parties. 10th Oct. 180 strong digging party to dig new Bainbridge fire trench 2nd/Lt Baston i/c digging party wounded,

3ORs killed 14 wounded by machine gun fire.

On 16th relieved Lancs Fusiliers in Hessian and Zollern trenches. 17th relieved by 10th Cheshires Ration party lost 9 killed and 2 wounded by H.E. Shell.

18th October 1916. Attack planned for tomorrow.

19th Oct. Men filed in by companies one from each platoon consecutively so as to space them in trench to attack in 4 waves in company columns.

Orders reached Batt. about midday that attack postponed 24 hours.

20th Oct. 2am orders received to postpone attack a further 24 hours.

21st October 1916. 'A' Coy 11th Cheshires attacked, 8th Borders on the left, B and D Coys filed in to hold Hessian trench. D Coy moved up to reinforce Regina Trench, C Coy were split up as carrying parties and also reinforced Border Regt. after capture of Regina Trench. In the attack A Coy captured a German Machine Gun, cleared, with a bomb, a German dugout in Regina Trench and cleared 400 yards along the road.

Casualties 1 Officer killed, 4 wounded, 2 missing.

8 ORs killed 52 wounded 14 missing.

One of those killed on this day was:

49154 Pte Thomas Henry Guy

His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name:	Thomas Henry Guy
Death Date:	21 Oct 1916
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Wrexham
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	Cheshire Regiment
Battalion:	11th Battalion
Regimental Number:	49154
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre
Comments:	Formerly 1629, Denbigh Yeo

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
GUY Thomas. H.	Dentbigh Yeo. Ches. R.	PTE	1629 49154

Metal	Ref.	Date	Remarks
VICTORY	J/2/10/1815	4805	
BARRON	do do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal



The Battle of the Somme.

Historical Information On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave

In Memory of
Private
Thomas Henry Guy

49154, 11th Bn., Cheshire Regiment who died on 21 October 1916 Age 23

Son of William and Annie Eliza Guy, of "Agness", Oak Rd., Mount Pleasant, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

8292 Private Stephen Gwilliam



1st Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry

(William) Stephen Gwilliam

He was born in 1882 in Hentland and Baptised at Peterstow on 29th November 1882. His father was George Gwilliam born 1853 in Peterstow and his mother was Agnes Gurney (Guerney) born 1852 in Ross. They were Married 23rd October 1880 Ross Register Office. In 1891 they were living at Kingstone Cross, father was an agricultural labourer. Stephen's mother Agnes died and was buried on 28th January 1891 in Linton, Ross. On the 1901 census his father and some of his siblings were at Aston Crews,

Aston Ingham where his father was a Carter on a farm. His brother Alfred was a general labourer. In 1911 His father was a Waggoner at Aston Ingham 11 with Stephen's two brothers Ernest and Victor.

(William) he now calls himself Stephen Gwilliam was a career soldier and he joined the army in 1906. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and was posted to the 2nd Battalion. This battalion was stationed in India at Trimulgherry from 1903 until 1914. Stephen Gwilliam returned from India before the Great War and was posted to the 1st Battalion.

The Great War

The following section contains extracts from the War Diary of the 1st KSLI.

AUGUST 1914.

August 4th at Tipperary. Battalion ordered to mobilize.
8th. Mobilization complete.
10/11th inoculated against Typhoid.
14th. Battalion left Tipperary and moved to Queenstown in two special trains.
15th-19th. The battalion moved to Cambridge Via Holyhead in SS Heroic, SS Kilkenny and SS Duke of Albany.

27th Battalion as part of 16th Infantry Brigade marched from Cambridge to Granchester and camped there until 7th September.

SEPTEMBER 1914

7th. Marched Royston and then entrained on 8th for Southampton, embarked upon SS Braemar Castle, 9th Sept. at sea.

10th Sept. Disembarked and marched to rest camp at Le Grand Marais. From 11th until 21st September the Battalion moved from Le Grand Marais to the trenches at Vailly. Marching via Crecy, Jouarres, Citry (Chateau Thierry), Bouzancy and crossing the river Aisne at Courcelles.

22nd Relieved the Wiltshire Regt. in trenches North of Vailly. Started to improve the localities allocated but then orders to stop until nightfall owing to shellfire. Sniping started at 6pm and continued throughout the night.
23rd. 'A' and 'B' companies handed over to the Norfolk Regt. and placed in reserve. 19 dead Germans are collected and buried and 7 wounded despatched to hospital. Shellfire incessant throughout the day.

24th. Held same position as yesterday, shelling intermittent. casualties 1 killed 3 wounded.

25th. As yesterday reserved companies shelled from 4-5pm.

26th. As yesterday one man wounded, one man accidentally shot - dangerously wounded.

27th. Lines shelled from 8.30-9am and from 2-2.45pm. Shellfire neither so heavy nor so accurate as previous days.

28th. As yesterday, one casualty. Firing heard on the left front, two companies fall in ready to reinforce but firing ceased. A third machine gun mounted in reserve trench.

29th. Slight shelling throughout the day, one man accidentally shot himself in the hand, a quiet night. Information is received that Lt Mitchell had died from his wounds.

30th. No shelling in the morning but heavy shelling at 5pm. no casualties.

OCTOBER 1914.

1st. East of Vailly. The Bn. hands over to the Coldstream Guards and marches to the trenches West of Vailly and relieves Royal Scots Fusiliers.

2nd. A redistribution of the line is made for the Bn to take over the line from

the Lincolnshire Regt. in addition to those taken over yesterday. A third machine gun is mounted in our line of defence. Weather thick and misty - no shelling but continuous sniping from the woods to the North East when the mist cleared.

3rd. Enemy artillery shelling very accurate, due to a well placed observation station, two casualties. Frequent sniping from woods north of the line held by the Buffs on our right, which infiltrate a portion of our front. A quiet night - full moon.

4th. One man of a German patrol killed.

5th. Only three shells fired all day one man killed one wounded. A patrol of 10 German approached the post of 'C' Coy near the sugar factory but unfortunately took fight when arrangements were made to cut them off. Blankets issued to the men today.

6th. No shelling, sounds heard of night fighting at 10pm about two miles to the right of our line. Two men shoot off the first fingers of their right hand.

7th. A day routinely devoid of all incident.

8th. German artillery show some activity.

9th. Continuous shelling for an hour and ten minutes nobody killed one wounded, a mild attack was made on our trenches at the same time one man being killed.

10th. An uneventful day.

11th. A quiet day, orders that Bn to be relieved next day.

12th. The French C/O and company officers are shown around the position. The French 287th Regt. commence to take over. The Bn. Marches from Vailly crossing the Aisne without incident.

13th. The Bn. arrives at Paars and halts until 10.30 this proved to be a trying march, the Bn had been in trenches along the Aisne for three weeks and the road was paved with cobbles. Battalion continues to Fismes entraining at 3pm.

14th. Train passes through Amiens - Boulogne - Calais, detrains at Cassel and into billets.

15th. At Cassel. Bn forms advanced guard for the brigade and marches for scattered billets between Oultersteene and Bailleul. Gunfire and Machine Gun Fire is heard in direction of Steenwerck.

16th. The Bn. marches to the rear of brigade and occupies billets previously

occupied by the French Cavalry at Cruscobeau.

17th. The Brigade takes up a defence line North East of Rouge Du Bout.

Connection is made with the French troops on our right.

18th. The Bn. Holds itself in readiness to march, order received at 2pm. At the crossroads at Bois Grenier orders that the Bn will be in Corps Reserve. At 4pm into billets.

19th. Bn. Marches to station South East of Armentieres, into billets at Bois Grenier, brigade heavy fighting and Bn stands to arms from 3-4am.

Battle of Langemark (Armentieres)

On this day in 1914, in a bitter two-day stretch of hand-to-hand fighting, German forces capture the Flemish town of Langemarck from its Belgian and British defenders during the First Battle of Ypres. The trench lines built in the fall of 1914 between the town of Ypres, on the British side, and Menin and Roulers, on the German side—known as the Ypres salient—became the site of some of the fiercest battles of World War I, beginning in October 1914 with the so-called First Battle of Ypres. The battle, launched on

October 19, was a vigorous attempt by the Germans to drive the British out of the salient altogether, thus clearing the way for the German army to access the all-important Belgian coastline with its access to the English Channel and, beyond, to the North Sea. The German forces advancing against Ypres had a numerical advantage over the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), as General Erich von Falkenhayn was able to send the entire German 4th and 6th Armies against the BEF's seven infantry divisions (one was held in reserve) and three cavalry divisions. For reinforcements, Sir John French, commander of the BEF, had only a few divisions of Indian troops already en route to Flanders; in the days to come, however, these replacement troops would distinguish themselves with excellent performances in both offensive and defensive operations. After the initial rapid movement of the German offensive, the Battle of Ypres became a messy, desperate struggle for land and position, leaving the countryside and villages around it in a state of bloody devastation.

A German artilleryman, Herbert Sulzbach, wrote on October 21 of his experience in the battle: "We pull forward, get our first glimpse of this battlefield, and have to get used to the terrible scenes and impressions: corpses, corpses and more corpses, rubble, and the remains of villages." After the German capture of Langemarck on October 22, fighting at Ypres continued for one more month, before the arrival of winter weather brought the battle to a halt. The Ypres salient, however, would see much more of the same bitter conflict before the war was over, including a major battle in the spring of 1915—also a German offensive—and an attempted Allied breakthrough in the summer of 1917.

21st October. Bn in position covering village of Le Quesne.. 3 men wounded. The Bn. takes over positions held by York and Lancs regt. and also a line of trenches held by a Company of the Leicesters. Portion of the positions shelled by enemy field guns. Heavy shelling and rifle fire from 10pm until dusk, enemy takes up a position which it proceeds to

entrench about 300 yards from our position.

Casualties. 11 killed 23 wounded.

22nd Oct. Heavy shelling from enemies howitzers and field guns all along our front until 9.30 when we were subjected to heavy rifle fire. An observation post was established at HQ doing much good work, retribution follows however for the farm in which HQ lies has been continuously shelled by heavy artillery & R.F.A arrangements have been made to evacuate the farm in the morning. Casualties 12 killed 24 wounded.

23rd Oct. Le Quesne. 4am. A terrific attack is launched against the front occupied by the Bn. The Germans attacking in the dark with great courage, the line however is still intact when the attack fails at 8am. Over 200 dead were found in close proximity to the trench, the wounded must have far exceeded this number as the Germans were nonplussed by our wire entanglements. The machine gun on the barrier at the rear played havoc with a party of the enemy. 5pm A furious onslaught is again made on our position which surviving is still intact at

6pm. Casualties 34 killed 88 wounded.

24th October 1914. The day opened quietly and there was a great deal of heavy gunfire and much movement of aeroplanes. At 5pm a fierce attack is commenced, the firing being particularly severe along our two flanks of the line. We were reinforced by a platoon of 6th Cyclist Coy and a platoon from the Buffs. The Leicesters on our left were shelled from their trenches and our reserve moved to support the counter attack. Casualties 5 killed 10 wounded.

25th October 1914. At 4am a terrific fire is brought to bear on our HQ which fall at the first shell, three times our HQ was shelled out, the enemies infantry meanwhile keep up a lively musketry fire until noon. 2pm The enemy break through the Leicestershire Regt on our left, our right platoon gallantly holds on although bombed by howitzers and enfiladed from both flanks. The attack is general along the whole line and the situation critical. Orders are received that the line is to be held at all costs until nightfall when the Brigade

will withdraw covered by the 18th Brigade.

9pm. Under cover of a heavy rainstorm the Bn withdraws, leaving snipers in the trenches, the retirement is effected without incident and at midnight the Bn goes into billets at Bois Grenier.

Casualties. 16 killed 25 wounded.



Langemarck October 1914

One of those killed in this action was 8292 Private Stephen Gwilliam. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial. He is also remembered on the Ross War Memorial

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: Stephen Gwilliam
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Residence: The Lea, Herefords
Death Date: 25 Oct 1914
Death Location: France & Flanders
Enlistment Location: Ross
Rank: Private
Regiment: King's (Shropshire Light Infantry)
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Number: 8292
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
G WILLIAM Stephen	1/ Shrop. LI	Pr	8292

Metal	Date	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	5/1/02/32	485	Dead
BRITISH	do	do	
14	5/1/4	40	

22/2/2721.

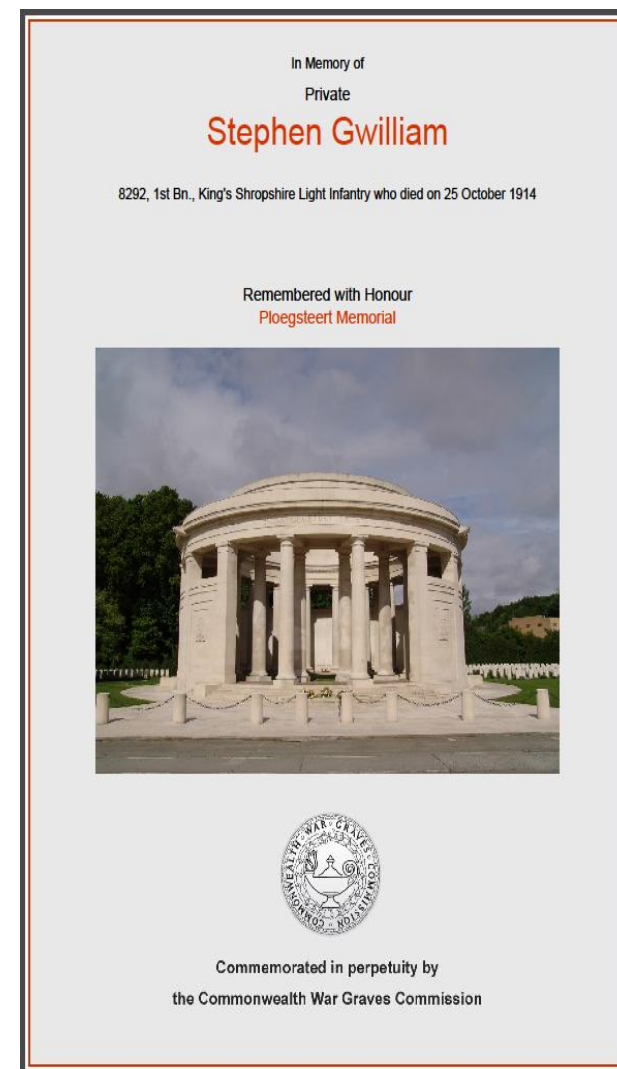
Theatre of War first served in
Date of entry therein 10.9.14

Correspondence
 O/C Inf Regt. Shropshire Light Inf. of deceased soldier for whom medal claims cannot be traced. 16.10.20.

He was awarded



The 1914 (Mons) Star, with Clasp and Roses, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal



230262 Private Charles Henry Hall



10th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Formerly
1906 Private C. H. Hall



Shropshire Yeomanry

Charles Henry Hall

He was born at Green Pit, Ross in 1894 and baptised on 14th March same year in Ross. His parents were married in Ross on 11th September 1888. His father John Henry Hall was a Coal Merchant originally from Bridport, Dorset, his father before him was a Jeweller and his mother Emily Maria Small was from Leicester, her father had been a currier. They were living at Ashfield, Ross. In 1911 his parents were living at Newton Villas, Ashfield, Ross but all the children had left home. Percy was an engineer boarding in Burnham, Somerset. But I have been unable to trace the whereabouts of Charles Henry Hall.

The Great War

His Shropshire Yeomanry number (1906) indicates he enlisted in late September or early October 1914. As a Ross man he would have gone into 'C' Company.

The Shropshire Yeomanry served as a reserve battalion until November 1915 when they were dismounted. On 4th March 1916 they sailed to Egypt on the "Arcadian" from Devonport. On arrival the brigade merged with South Wales Mounted Brigade and formed the 4th Dismounted Brigade.

2 March 1917 : merged with 1/1st Cheshire Yeomanry to form the 10th (Shropshire & Cheshire Yeomanry) Battalion, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and came under orders of 231st Brigade in 74th (Yeomanry) Division.

Moved to France in May 1918.

The 1/1st Shropshire Yeomanry was mobilised with the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade on 4 August 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. It moved to East Anglia where it joined the 1st Mounted Division in September 1914. In November 1915, the brigade was dismounted.

The regiment was posted with the brigade to Egypt in March 1916. On 20 March, Welsh Border Mounted Brigade was absorbed into the 4th Dismounted Brigade (along with the South Wales Mounted Brigade). They were with the Suez Canal Defences when, on 14 January 1917, Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) Order No. 26 instructed that they be reorganized into the . between January and March 1917 the small Yeomanry regiments were amalgamated and numbered as battalions of infantry regiments recruiting from the same districts. They then became.

10th (Shropshire & Cheshire Yeomanry)
King's Shropshire Light Infantry
They were part of the 74 (Broken Spur) Division. Shortly after joining 74th Division, the brigade took part in the Second Battle of Gaza (17–19 April 1917). After the 1st Battle of Gaza which was at best a draw Murray conveyed the impression of a clear-cut British victory. British losses of 4,000 were reported accurately but Murray trebled details of Turkish casualties, which in the event were lower than his own, at 2,400. London - under the mistaken impression that Murray was on the verge of a notable breakthrough

consequently ordered him to re-engage his forces, this time with Jerusalem as the ultimate aim. A tall order, one made immeasurably more difficult now that the commander of Gaza's permanent garrison - German General Kress von Kressenstein - was alerted to British intentions. The British had very nearly caught Kressenstein's forces by surprise during the first encounter, aided by a dense sea fog, but was saved from defeat by a serious misjudgment by Murray's subordinate commander Sir Charles Dobell. Thus the battle was renewed on 17 April 1917. In the interim meanwhile the Turks had extended their formidable garrison defences south-east along the road to Beersheba. Dobell chose to launch a frontal assault- Kressenstein's force of 18,000 by three British infantry divisions aided by eight heavy Mark I tanks and 4,000 gas shells. Unable to extract anything more than minor gains in spite of a two-to-one manpower advantage, chiefly on account of complex and effective Turkish defensive lines, Dobell called off the patently unsuccessful attack on the third day. British casualties were heavy:

6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure.

Then in the autumn it fought in the Third Battle of Gaza (27 October – 7 November) including the Battle of Beersheba (31 October) and the capture of the Sheria Position (6 November). Shortly afterwards it was involved in the Capture of Jerusalem (8–9 December) and its subsequent defence (27–30 December). In March 1918, the brigade was in the Battle of Tel 'Asur, but shortly afterwards was warned that it was to move to France, where reinforcements were urgently required to stem the German Spring Offensive.

The 74th Division embarked at Alexandria for Marseille on 29–30 April 1918, and was concentrated in the Abbeville district by 18 May. Here the dismounted Yeomanry underwent training for service on the Western Front, including gas defence. Infantry brigades on the Western Front had been reduced to three battalions, and 231st Brigade lost the 24th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which went to form part of the 94th (Yeomanry) Brigade in the reconstituted 31st Division.

In May and June 1918 the Batt. were at Lattre St Quentin, re-equipping, training and practicing attacks, counter attacks, Coy and Batt. attacks. On 26th June they moved to St Hilaire with musketry training, kit inspections, drills, church parades, bayonet fighting. 9th July moved to Guarbeque preparatory to moving into the trenches. On 10th July moved up to the front and took over left sector at St Floris. On 14 July 1918 the Yeomanry Division went into the line for the first time. They stayed in the trenches until 17th July a period of relative calm on that front. On 17th they went into billets at Hamet. Training, digging parties were supplied, Divine services held in the orchard to rear of Batt. On 22nd July went into the front line at Le Haye. 23rd. Day fairly quiet but at night the enemy artillery was very active with a number of gas shells falling near the line, the enemy artillery was more intense on the Batt. to our right. No Casualties. 24th. A shell fell on one of our posts wounding one man and two had to go to hospital with shell shock, 2 men also to hospital with Influenza. Four patrols went out to thoroughly reconnoitre the area, no hostile patrols were encountered. 25th Early morning

and a hostile aeroplane flew over very low and dropped two bombs on its return it was engaged by two AA guns but managed to escape. Day and night patrols were sent out bringing in valuable information. 26th July. Early in the morning a hostile aeroplane flew over our lines at low altitude firing a few rounds into the trenches, it was immediately engaged by two of our aircraft and brought down in flames, shortly after one of our planes was also brought down by machine gun fire in flames, our second machine had to make a forced landing because of engine trouble. 27th. A minor operation was carried out, three small assault parties advanced, they were fired upon by hostile machine guns and when traversing a ditch they saw a man running down in front of them warning the enemy who then 'stood to' and fired on them. One of the enemy threw a bomb but it only succeeded in wounding two of their own men, two more shots were fired by the assault party killing two men. The enemy then surrendered and four prisoners were taken. On the way back to our posts hostile machine guns fired from the flank but no-one was hit and got back without casualties. Heavy rain fell and

the trenches were half full of water. 28th Fairly quiet in morning. One of our snipers shot an enemy in the head, this was the first chance our snipers have had. Heavy shelling on both sides. Pte Lewis was shot in the head but not seriously, enemy aeroplane flew over very low and was fired upon heavily by our MGs but managed to escape. 29th. Early morning one of our snipers on the way to the post saw three heads in the corn, he fired and killed one man another man then stood up and was promptly shot, then 30 other men stood up and advanced in open order. The snipers returned and warned our posts who 'stood to'. The enemy advanced to the wire and as they were getting over it our rifles and rifle bombers opened fire and immediately dispersed them. Patrols went out to try and find some wounded for identification but they had all been collected by enemy stretcher bearers. One man was shot dead on returning and three of our stretcher bearers were wounded. 30th a fairly quiet day with some gas shelling. 31st. Another quiet day, during the night a moderate amount of gas shelling. Pte Winstanley was killed by a shell while

bringing tea up to the front line. Three other men were wounded.

August. 1918.

1st. Quiet by day but artillery active by night.

2nd. Another quiet day.

3rd. A patrol went out, they cut their way through the belt of wire and then moved up to a second belt which was only 10 yards from the enemy's trenches, while cutting this they were spotted by two sentries and heavily bombed, they crawled back safely to the first belt but while getting through Sgt Brody was shot in the head and Pte Backley was wounded in both legs. Pte Backley was brought back but Sgt Brody had to be left in the enemy wire. Pte Brooks was shot through the head by a machine gun and died in the Mobile Ambulance. About 1,000 gas shells fell around the 'Asylum'.

4th Aug. Fairly quiet. The Batt. was relieved and moved back to billets at St Artois until 8th.

9th Aug. Moved to St Peirierre. Training, bayonet fighting practice, church service.

16th Aug. Relieved 'The Buff's' at St Floris. A quiet night.

17-20th. Working parties provided.

21st Aug. orders to relieve two front line Batts. and were carried out.

22nd Orders to advance received after communication difficulties and some delay commenced at 8am. The details of the attack seem to have been lost from the war diaries, But casualties were listed by CWGC as 57 Killed.

23rd. Coys reorganised and collected as many casualties as they could. HQ was bombarded with gas at night.

24th. Orders that Batt. to be relieved that night and were by the Buffs 25th reorganising, cleaning up and inspections to ascertain how much stores and equipment was lost.

26th moved from St Floris to Lambres and the most comfortable billets they had been in while in the country. 28th entrained at Aire and moved to Ribemont. In billets and moved to Mericourt-Labbe on 31st Aug. September.

1st Sept. Trigger Wood Had a burial party out for casualties of 1347th Div.

Hundred Days Offensive the Second Battle of Bapaume (2-3 September)

2nd Marched to Clery-Sur-Somme and discovered a battle in full swing, we moved forward by easy stages and disposed ourselves in Divisional

trenches. Gas shelling was fairly severe resulting in several casualties.

3rd Sept. 'Stood to' all day.

4th. relieved 3 Australian Battalions at Bouchavesies.

5th. Moved forward in support of 230 Bde who were attacking.

6th Ordered to concentrate at Coutures Copse then moved on to Templeux and spent the night preparing to pass through the 230 Bde in the morning.

7th Sept. 6.30am advanced through 230th and met considerable Machine gun fire but continued and Yillers Foucon surrounded and cleared by midday.

8th. The 24th Welsh started their attack by advancing across our front but were held up. That evening we were able to withdraw to a position to the rear of the Railway Embankment.

9th. Relieved by 12th Somersets and marched back to Longavesnes and bivouac. Resting, Lewis gun training, church parades. each company allotted an area which they had to clear of salvage until the 17th Sept. when the Batt. had completed its preparations for going into action.

Battle of Épehy

18th Sept. Moved off at 2am as the right support Bn on the first objective (line of trenches at Orchard Post).

The Welsh and the Devons formed the attacking line. The day started with a mixture of rain and gas. Bn Supported the Devons but they lost direction but the Bn reached the objective allotted to the Devons and captured it. The battle progressed satisfactorily and a lot of prisoners were taken. Bn gained the Crossroads at Benjamin Post and was rushed and the whole of the Bn objective was taken. During the night the Germans pushed round our left flank but were driven off with bombs.

19th Sept. Preparations were made for the troops on our left to push on to their objective, Bn ordered to re-occupy Bull Post. At the start of the Barrage this objective was taken but the 18th Div. failed to obtain their objective. Great difficulty was encountered in the supply of water, rations and ammunition. Bn HQ was heavily shelled all day with great accuracy.

20th Sept. Whole day spent reorganising and strengthening the position. The enemy showed no signs of preparing for a counter attack.

21st Sept. Orders received at night to prepare for another advance at dawn. Bn ordered to move back from the front line to allow for the barrage. Bn objective was line of trenches near Gillemont Farm on the Hindenburg Line. The RWF were to take the Quadrilateral (a strong point) and for the Welsh to leapfrog them. All went well to start but the quadrilateral had not been mopped up properly and when the Bn. arrived at it it was full of German Machine guns which had either been left there or had filtered in from the north. The Bn suffered heavy losses. owing to these heavy losses the Bn was forced to withdraw at midday to the original front line. From this time onwards the front line was subjected to very heavy artillery fire and machine guns and out of touch with the troops on the left. The enemy still held the Quadrilateral but the Bn held the line of trenches. Bombing attacks failed to dislodge the enemy. On 22nd following the barrage the line Quadrilateral was rushed by 2 Corps and taken. 200 wounded prisoners were sent down, 20 MG and 100 dead Germans were counted. On 23rd Batt. ordered to move to New Quarry but C/O refused to risk it and Bn were

crowded into dugouts in Hussar Road. In the afternoon the Bn moved cross country to new dugouts in the railway embankments.

24th Marched to Villers Faucon and on 25th took over the Town Hall to rest in until the train was ready. Arrived on 26th at Villers Bretonneux and marched to our billets. 27th Moved to Chocques and marched to very small billets at La Vallee (very crowded). 104 reinforcements arrived. 29/30th Resting, cleaning Lewis guns, more reinforcements arrived.

Casualties for this action. 44 killed, 175 wounded.

October.

2nd Oct. Essaks. Moved to the front at Bois De Bieux.

3rd. Bn advanced under operation orders. 1st objective line east of Herlies and railway line. No resistance. At 11am our aeroplanes dropped bombs near to advance HQ but no casualties. Took up a line beyond Fournes and Bn HQ was in the Chateau. Patrols met with Machine Gun fire on the way to the Railway and Coys reported they were out of touch with the flanks. A line was eventually taken up on the railway.

5th. Some MG Fire but otherwise fairly quiet.

6th. Considerable Machine gun and trench mortar fire. Forward transport animals were stabled at a farm at 3pm 2 heavy shells struck the farm killing 3 mules and 1 horse and wounding 2 mules and 1 horse. Considerable harassing fire throughout the day.

7th Oct. Reports that lights were seen in underground cellars. TM and MG active all day. Patrols sent out but forced to retire by MGs. Australian airman brought down but slight damage to plane.

8th Oct. TM and MGs still active and some gas shelling. Tender for salving the aeroplane went past HQ but received a direct hit. the aeroplane was eventually repaired and the pilot flew off.

9th Oct. Boche put a barrage down on front line. At 6.30 Boche completely surprised a Platoon of 'C'; Coy and took 20 prisoners

10th Oct. C Coy raided the enemy on the railway at La Haie Farm 1 prisoner taken, nine dead counted and many wounded. Our casualties were slight. Batt. was relieved.

11th-15th October 1918. The Batt. was in billets behind the lines, training,

baths, inspections, football match. Reorganising. On 15th orders to prepare to return to the front.

Private Charles Henry Hall Died on 15th October 1918 he is buried at Lapugnoy Military cemetery. There are no casualties listed in the war diaries for that date so it is most likely he was killed in one of the previous actions but his body was only found on the 15th Oct. He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name:	Charles Henry Hall
Birth Place:	Ross, Herefords
Residence:	Much Marcle
Death Date:	15 Oct 1918
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Oswestry
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion:	10th Battalion
Regimental Number:	230262
Type of Casualty:	Died



Charles had a brother 2850 Percy Walford Hall He went to Dean Close memorial school. Emigrated 27th February 1913 to Melbourne, Australia. Enlisted on 14th August 1914 at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Australia into Divisional ammunition column. Fought at Gallipoli and France. (Previously served in Berks Yeomanry) 20/10/1914 left Australia on TS/Shropshire promotions until 1/7/1916 when promoted to BQMS with Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Divisional Artillery 30th Aug 1916 to hospital sick, influenza (France) rejoined unit 4/12/16. Commissioned 2/Lt January 1918. Survived the war and returned to Australia.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
HALL	Shropshire Light Infantry	Pvt.	1906
Charles H.	H.B.L.I.		230262
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	5/1/102	B.17	534
British War			
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal



In Memory of
Private
C H Hall

230262, 10th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 15 October 1918 Age 24

Son of John Henry and Emily Maria Hall, of Newton Villa, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Lapugnoy Military Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

67743 Private George Edward Hall



5th (P.O.W.) Battalion
Devonshire Regiment

George Edward Hall

He was born 3rd October 1898 at 21 Brampton St, Ross and baptised in Ross on 26th November. His parents were George Enoch Hall and Emily Louisa Barnett and they had married in Ross on 27th June 1898 (parish records). 1911 His father was a waggoner on a farm and George was at school. After leaving school George worked at the Alton Court Brewery Company in Ross.

The Great War

67743 Private George Edward Hall joined the army (judging by his army number and a press report) sometime in early 1917 (he was 18 - the technical minimum age to enlist - on 3rd October 1916). He joined the Devonshire Regiment and was allocated to the 1/5th Battalion. During the earlier part of the war they were sent to India in October 1914. They spent two years at Multan, supplying drafts to units in operational theatres, including 50 men who in 1915 were sent to join the 2nd Dorsets at Kut el Amara. In March 1917 they left for Egypt and early May found them at El Arish. In June they crossed into Palestine, where the newly-appointed General Allenby was planning how to capture Jerusalem by Christmas. Their baptism of fire came on 8th July at Samson's Ridge, near Gaza, when they were heavily shelled. On the 20th they suffered 80 casualties from shelling at Umbrella Hill while supporting the Bedfordshire Regiment's attack. After Beersheba was captured in late October the Battalion took part in the advance towards Jerusalem. Their march was often a torment of heat, dust, thirst and exhaustion. On 13th November they advanced under heavy fire and took the Turkish positions at Junction Station, suffering 57 casualties. On the 19th they took the town of Saris at a cost of another 39. In another attack on the 23rd at El Jib

the Turks' machine guns reduced the Battalion's attacking force to six officers and 120 men, who were pinned down behind the stone walls surrounding an old vineyard. Now mustering only 250 men, the 1/5th continued the advance above Jerusalem in torrential rain and in late December received a welcome influx of reinforcements. (It is most likely that Pte Hall joined his Battalion as part of these reinforcements by then he was 19 years old (old enough to fight overseas) and his records show no other service with different units). In April 1918 the 1/5th fought perhaps their most successful action at Berukin, capturing the town at a cost of 88 casualties.

There is little written about the battle of Berukin but the next section gives a brief report

"A preliminary attack was launched at 05.10 on 9th April but ran into fierce Ottoman resistance supported by 3 German field batteries. German battalions were very active in counter attacks using mortars and machine guns. Initial assaults were carried out in line against El Kufr, Rafat and Three Bushes Hill which were successfully captured, Berukin was finally captured at 4pm. The delay in capturing Berukin slowed the attack of other infantry brigades and gave the German and Ottoman defenders time to strengthen their defences.

There followed two-day's bitter hand-to-hand fighting . The action of Berukin occurred in a section of the line which would become part of the final offensive five months later. The losses were heavy: 1,500 British casualties with about 200 Ottoman dead on the battlefield and 7 Ottoman and German prisoners".

On 4th May 1918 the 1/5th were ordered to France.

May 1918. 1st. At Berukin. 3rd Regiment relieved by 29th Punjabis and marched to Rentis. Next day 4th marched to Haditheh and from there to Kantara and then Alexandria and embarked on H.M.T Malwa with 35 Officers and 943 Other Ranks. Left on 26th with five other troopships for France.

June. 1918. The Battalion arrived at Marseilles on 1st June. at 18.00 and marched to Fournier Camp. Left on the 3rd on the train and arrived on the 6th at Famechon and went into billets. Effective strength 36 Officers 964 Other ranks. On 15th June relieved West Yorkshires in the support line at Essarts in the top trench. On 16th reorganised but still at Essarts. 18th at Fonquivillers relieved by Yorks & Lancs and moved into reserve trenches relieving KOYLI. On 20th June 'D' Coy was in Rum trench and heavily shelled 3 ORs killed and 6 wounded. During the night the area occupied by the Batt. was

heavily shelled with Gas Shells but no casualties. 23rd. Shelled intermittently by heavy guns. 25th Batt. relieved and went into GHQ reserve. Relieved by Herts Regt and went by Motor Lorry into billets at Amplier. 26-30th. The Batt. was reorganised into Platoons of 3 sections. 30th June Effective strength 39 Officers and 867 ORs

Casualties for month of June.

ORs to base	1.
Sick to hospital	92
Wounded to hospital	7
Killed in action	3.
Total	103

July 1918 at Amplier.

1st-14th July. Training, Shooting competitions, on ranges, church parades, rapid firing, platoon and Coy attack practices.

Battle of the Marne

14th. Entrained at Doullens, on 16th arrived at Acis-Sur-Aube and joined XXII Corps 5th French Army, bussed to Juvigny and into billets. On 17th marched to Teurs-Sur-Marne and then on the 19th on to St Imoges.

The assembly point was the woods above Pourcy and the first objective was the line Sarcy-Robilly over 8,000 metres from the point of assembly. The jumping off point

was a line between Pourcy and Mareaux. The French were in charge of the Barrage and were to put it down just in front of the furthest point in the valley held by the French at that time. Batt. was instructed to march as soon as possible and be at the assembly point by midnight of the 20th. and meet the French guides at Courtagnon, these led the Batt. through woodland tracks to a point near the French Regt. Tracks were steep and rough and heavy shellfire was experienced en route. Casualties 1 Officer and 23 ORs wounded 1 OR killed.

Batt. formed at assembly point at 5.30am on 20th July, the men were very tired after the hard climb and rough road. We advanced in the centre keeping the 8th W. Yorks on our right and 5th W. Yorks on our left. At 8am Batt. on the move and at 8.10 the enemy barrage fell on the edge of the wood, our barrage started on the ridge the other side of Mareaux-Cuitron. The leading Coys made fair progress in support of the two Yorks regiments who both appeared to come under hostile Machine Gun fire on leaving Pourcy and the wood. Our second line were severely handled by enemy barrage on the edge of woods and all came under severe MG fire on debouching into the open.

At about 11oclock it appeared certain that the attack could not develop successfully

as the 51st Division seemed held up on the other side of the Ardre and the W. Yorks Regt were suffering severely in front of Mareaux. In the afternoon orders received to put out outposts and hang on to the ground won. Later instruction received to put out battle outposts and line up with 5th Yorks and hold the line on the high ground, this was achieved by 11.30pm. The operation was a good deal hampered by the enemy putting down a hostile barrage mistaking our stretcher parties for attacking troops.

Casualties for this day.

Killed in action. 2 Officers 34 ORs

Wounded 7 Officers 185 ORs

21st July the Batt. was relieved in the line and marched to Farm Ecueil.

22nd. Orders to send 2 Coys to Bois De Petit Champs to assist in holding the wood against the enemy counter attack. 'A' and 'B' Coys deployed and arrived after heavy enemy shellfire in time to hold up the counter attack and consolidate the ground gained. They remained with the West Riding Regt until 24th when they rejoined the Batt.

Casualties. 1 Officer wounded. 1 OR killed 25 ORs wounded.

25th July the Batt. moved to the outpost line around the maisonette in relief of the 80th French Infantry Regt. On 26th reinforcements reached us.

On 27th July instructions to march to Chamuzy it was reached at about 1.30am on 28th and outposts were put out about 600 yards NW of Chamuzy. Touch was made with 51st Div on the right of the River Ardre. Orders to attack at dawn the ridge running from Montagne De Bligny to River Ardre, Batt. to attack in conjunction with 8th W. Yorks. At 3.30am the Batt lined up in the sunken road 800 metres north of Chamuzy. The attack started at 4.10am and met little opposition until the crossroads was reached when a great deal of machine gun fire was encountered especially from the right flank and the direction of Bligny. However this was successfully overcome and the objective taken at about 7am. As the Batt. right flank was exposed as the 186 brigade had not advanced a Coy of the 5th W. Yorks formed a defensive flank to the right as support in case of a counter attack. The arrival of this company had the desired effect. The French had captured the high ground at Bois-De-Hommes.

Casualties from M.G. Fire were severe during this attack.

Officers 2 Killed 2 Wounded

ORs 5 Killed 62 Wounded

Out of 382 all ranks who took part. There was no artillery fire on either side during the action.

The enemy opened fire at 9.45am. The Batt. held this line on the 28, 29 and 30th July and were subjected to very severe

hostile artillery fire at times and also M.G. Fire. A quantity of gas was put down which caused a few casualties and a few gas casualties occurred by men drinking from a spring which had become contaminated.

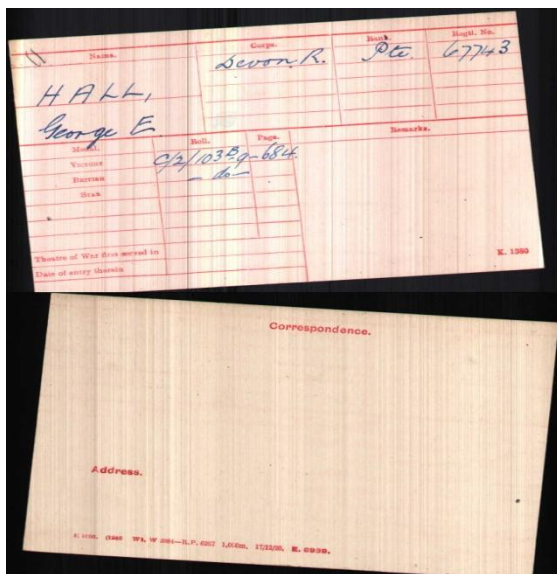
Capturing the village of Bligny resulted in 5th Devons having 388 killed and wounded.

Private George Edward Hall was Killed in action during the attack on the 28th July.

His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial. He is also commemorated on the Ross-on-Wye War Memorial.

Total casualties for the Battalion in July 1918 were;

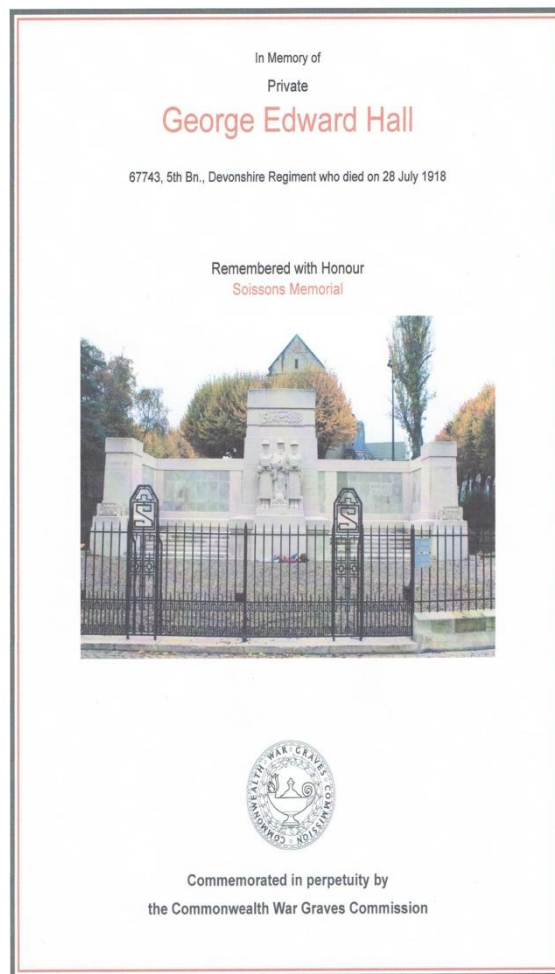
Casualties	Officers	ORs
Sick to hospital		104
Sick to UK	4	
Wounded in action	10	291
Killed in action	4	43
Missing		40
Total	18	478



He was awarded



The British War Medal The Victory Medal



George Edward's Father Enoch Hall also served in the Great War

Pre war and early in the Great War he was with the 4th Bn KSLI until disbanded Enlisted 4/11/1916 attested 19/7/17 at Shrewsbury aged 41 years 11 months

He was 331281 Private Enoch Hall 299th Labour Coy from 27/7/17 - 12/8/17 (Oswestry).

He transferred to 7th Coy RAMC at Devonport 23/9/17 - 22/3/18 - with the number 132515 .

On 4/3/18 he was assessed as having a disability - bronchitis - Broncho-pneumonia - Myocardial degeneration. 20% incapacity.

He was discharged 22/3/18 with Silver War Badge



RAMC Badge



Silver War Badge.

He received no medals as he had not served in a foreign theatre of war

7549 Private Walter William Halls



6th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Walter William Halls

He was born in Hereford in 1866

Births Jun 1866 (>99%)

HALLS Walters W [Hereford](#) 6a [476](#)

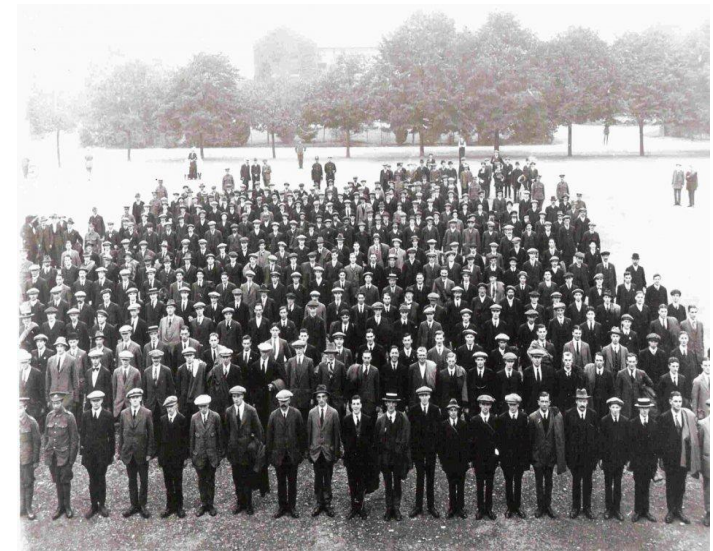
1871 They lived in Broomy hill,
Hereford. Walter's father William was

a Coachman originally from Nottingham and his mother Jane Walters was from Hereford. 1881 They were living in Hereford (St Owens) with their Father he had no occupation and Walter was a gardener. His mother Jane was living away and working as 'A Lady Nurse' at Dinas Mansion in Breconshire. 1891 Walter's mother Jane was described as a widow and was a 'Ladies Nurse' in Ashted, Surrey. In 1901 she was living at the Crofts, Ross at the home of her son-in-law Newton Counsell and employed as a 'Working Nurse (Sick)'. I have been unable to trace the whereabouts of Walter Halls in either 1891 or 1901. But he does turn up in Ross by 1911. Walter Halls is also living with his brother in law at 10 Alton St, Ross. and was still a gardener also there were his sister (Eliza) May Counsell, May's son William and Jane Halls, William and May's mother.

The Great War

7549 Private Walter William Halls joined the army at the beginning of the great War, his number indicates September 1914. he was listed in

Ross Gazette of 17th September 1914 as being in KSLI.



*New recruits in 1914 : on the parade
ground at Copthorne Barracks,
Shrewsbury*

He was posted to the 6th King's Shropshire Light Infantry (The Shropshire Pals Battalion) and moved to Aldershot with them in September then almost immediately he was struck down with double pneumonia and bronchitis and died on 4th October 1914. He is buried in Aldershot Military Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



He had no medal entitlement, only servicemen who served overseas received Great War medals.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name:	Walter Walliam Halls
Birth Place:	All Saints', Hereford
Residence:	Ross, Herefords
Death Date:	4 Oct 1914
Death Place:	Home
Enlistment Place:	Hereford
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion:	6th Battalion
Regimental Number:	7549
Type of Casualty:	Died

Shropshire History

THE LATE PTE. W. W. HALLS.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE Ross Gazette.

SIR.—I should be greatly obliged if you would kindly insert this letter in your paper for the help and comfort it may be to the many mothers and sisters who have relatives now in training. It is known that my brother died somewhat suddenly in hospital at Aldershot of double pneumonia and bronchitis. I found on my visit to Aldershot on Thursday, that everything possible had been done to comfort him in camp, and on his removal to the hospital; and I am certain that no one could have done more than the authorities did for him. Unfortunately it was of no avail. Everyone was so kind and considerate that I left Aldershot with the feeling that my sorrow was the sorrow of the part of the British Army now stationed at Aldershot, especially the men of Ross, who attended the funeral from their camp at Cowshot, and showed me the most sincere sympathy; and any mother or sister may rest assured that as far as possible all that can be, will be done for their sons or brothers should they unfortunately be sick. Thanking you for publishing this.

Yours truly,
MAY COUNSELL.

A letter from his sister to Ross Gazette
 Oct 15th 1914

In Memory of

Private

Walters William Halls

7549, 6th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 04 October 1914

Brother of Mrs. May Counsell, of Garden Cottage, Stowfield, Lydbrook, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Aldershot Military Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

19587 Private John Albert Harris



1st Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry



John Albert Harris

He was born in 1894 in Ross (The Crofts). His parents were John Andrews Harris born 1859 in Westminster (his father before him was also John Andrews Harris and was a wood sawyer in Regents Street, London but originally from Ledbury. John Albert's mother was Emilina (Emmaline, Emily) Ingram originally from Penybont, Rhayader. In 1901 They were living at the Crofts father was a Tinman. In 1911 Living at 7 Nursery Gardens Father an Ironmongers Tinman and John Albert was a painter's apprentice. Prior to the Great War John Albert Harris was a painter working for Messrs Price and Sons of Broad St, Ross.

The Great War

John Albert Harris has no existing service record it was one of the burnt records destroyed in the Blitz of WW2. Judging from his army number he enlisted into King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) about mid 1915 and following training he was posted to the 1st KSLI, again his medal card gives no date of when he went and as he has no entitlement to a 'Star' medal he

must have gone after December 1915. On Commonwealth War Graves details soldiers in 1st Battalion with numbers in this range started to become casualties after April 1916. It is reasonable to assume therefore that he went to France after end of April 1916. Below are details and interpretation of battles and day to day activities gleaned from the War Diaries.

1st Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry

May 1916 At Morteldje. 1st. may Draft of 43 Other Ranks arrived. Bodies of 5 Germans were counted in front of the trenches the result of the previous night's enemy patrol. Heavy shelling, hostile patrols nightly but dispersed with bombs, enemy machine guns active at night but quieted by our field guns. 2 men wounded.

2nd. A quiet morning but enemy trench Mortar started but silenced by our howitzers. Enemy patrol approached trench but were fired on 3 men were hit. 1 man wounded carrying rations at night.

3rd. 6 am. German patrol approached C Coy bombing post and retired. 7am another patrol of 6 men approach D Coy and retire a third patrol of 15 men approach C Coy down an old sap,

they threw 2 bombs into the trench wounding 2 men, they were fired upon and six were hit, one man of C Coy was killed by machine gun fire. In the evening the Batt. line was extended by 500 yards.

4th. 14 OR reinforcements arrived.

Shelling in morning 3 wounded.

Machine gun fire in afternoon 1 wounded.

5th. A quiet morning, some shelling in afternoon, Batt. relieved moved from Asylum Ypres to Camp E Wood.

6th. In hutments until 11th when left by train to take over trenches either side of Ypres-Pilkem Rd. A German patrol approached about midnight but were fired on and they withdrew.

12th May. A quiet morning then enemy fired about 1,000 shells into C Coy's trenches little damage done. The enemy continuously shelled the approaches to our trenches. Hostile machine guns fired but were silenced by our Lewis guns.

13th. A quiet and rainy day hostile machine guns firing. 14th. Enemy fired small trench mortar into trenches 1 man killed 6 wounded. The two bombing posts at Monteldje Estaminet to our right (occupied by the Buffs) were captured by the enemy after four

attacks, all the garrison being casualties. 15th. Heavy shelling by the enemy then our heavy guns shelled Monteldje Estaminet with good effect, enemy retaliate by shelling A & C Coys but little damage. Early evening saw substantial hostile machine gun activity. 2 men wounded. 16th Enemy trench mortar active, artillery respond and silence trench mortar effectively. 17th Batt. relieved. 18th Chateau Des Trois Tours and Canal Bank. Working and carrying duties for brigade until 24th May when back in the trenches at Ypres-Pilkem Rd.

24-29th. A fairly quiet time. Some patrol activity by the enemy but when approached by our wiring parties they withdrew. 4 Germans shot by our snipers. Some artillery activity and some bombs thrown by the enemy from front line trenches. On 29th Batt. relieved and move from Ypres Asylum to Camp E Wood.

June 1916

30th May -5th June in Hutments. on 3rd June HRH The Prince of Wales made an informal visit to the Batt. he walked around inspecting the huts and stayed for about an hour. At 9pm the Batt. entrained for the front line but

enemy artillery had destroyed the railway line at Vlamertinghe and had to march the remainder of the way. On 5th considerable hostile machine gun fire 2 men wounded. 6th Quiet day 2 men wounded. 7th Quiet day 60 ORs arrived. 8th Canal bank heavily shelled 8 men wounded. 9th Canal bank shelled by Field guns, Field guns fire on front, hostile machine guns less active at night. 6 men wounded. 10th Heavy Trench Mortar explodes shell behind front trench. Usual firing by Field guns on Canal Bank. otherwise quiet 2 men wounded one of whom died at Field Ambulance. 11th Usual shelling of Canal Bank by Field guns 1 wounded, relieved by Bedfords.

12th-21st June. At Chateau Des Trois Tours, Canal Bank and Camp E Wood. Working parties, Time is moved one hour forward throughout British and French armies. Laying cables, building huts, digging trenches for pipelines. On 22nd June moved to Poperinghe then marched (hot and dusty) to billets at Herzelee, the same billets occupied by Batt. in March 1916.

July 1st 1916 Batt. moved to Noordepeene 38 OR reinforcements

arrived. 2nd Moved again to Tatinghem billets and becomes the 2nd Army training Battalion for the Central Army training school. Batt. supplies men for 2nd Army training purposes, working parties, giving demonstrations of bombing, attacks, signalling etc.

14th July moved to 2 miles NW of Poperinghe, then marches on and entrains at St Omer for Hopoutre then on to Camp 'M' relieving 11th Essex. 15th Through inspection by the Corps Commander who addressed the Batt. complimenting them on their appearance and fighting qualities. 16th. Batt. entrains at Railway sidings and detrains at the Asylum, Ypres and proceeds to take over billets in Ypres. 17th July Takes over trenches at Potijze from KOYLI. 18th. Incessant shelling by our guns on the enemy wire opposite our front and bombarding his forward and support trenches. Apart from a few Trench Mortar shells the enemy does not retaliate. 19th Similar bombardment as yesterday made by our guns throughout the day. 20th Enemy field guns fires 20 shells on B Coys trenches, our artillery retaliated with good effect... The guns supporting us tried an experiment in

cutting the enemy's barbed wire entanglements to our front the bombardment continued until 2am, the enemy's guns retaliated causing 4 breaches in the parapet and badly damaging the support trenches. 1 man killed 13 wounded.

21st. Quiet day, enemy trenches appear much damaged by shelling. enemy sniper shot. 2 men wounded.

22nd. Patrols went out and reported the enemy wire much damaged by the shelling. Enemy sniping very active for ten minutes, enemy aeroplane driven back over its own lines by our Lewis Guns. No casualties.

23rd. Quiet one man wounded. 24th one man wounded, quiet.

25th. Enemy sniping very active 3 wounded. Relieved by Bedfords. Moved back to billets previously occupied. Stayed in Ypres until 29th July.

30th July moved to billets in Rue De Boeschepe, Poperinghe. 31st Battalion advance party leaves by train (destination unknown) an interpreter arrives for Batt.

August 1916.

2nd. Batt marches to Hopoutre and then train to Doullens and then on 3rd

marches to hutments at Authieule and now part of the reserve army. On 5th moved to billets in Puchevillers and then on the 8th moved to hutments at Acheux. On 10th moved to bivouac at Englebelmer.

11th Aug. A pioneer coy is formed from units of 16th Infantry Brigade 2/Lt Taylor and 25 ORs dispatched to assist in the formation of the Coy, shortly after joining 2/Lt Taylor sprained his ankle and was sent to Field Ambulance.

15th Aug. Batt. relieves Irish Guards in the trenches opposite Beaumont-Hamel. Relief completed one man wounded. The trenches are the best the Batt has had since they left Armentieres. Trench mortar activity but our guns silenced it. Gas cylinders installed in adjacent trenches but wind not favourable for release. 16th A few heavy shells fell one man killed, wind still not favourable for gas cylinders.

17th Quiet day some shelling and trench mortaring 2 men wounded.

18th. A dummy raid is organised on our right, the artillery carry out a bombardment for 10 minutes on the small salient to the front of the Bedfords, smoke bombs were

exploded, some retaliations were drawn from the enemy's guns.
 19th. The front line is shelled by 5.9 Howitzers causing some damage.
 7.45pm shelled by 4.2 howitzers probably in retaliation for the 50 Trench mortar shells fired from our sector.
 20th. A few shells fired into our sector. Batt. relieved and moved to billets in Mailly Maillet. and Auchenvillers. In billets until 27th Aug. On 25th Auchenvillers was heavily shelled and one of the cellars received a direct hit burying several men 2/Lt Mylins, Cpl Glennon and Ptes Jones and Lowe working gallantly under heavy shell fire to rescue the injured and dig out the buried, Glennon, Jones and Lowe were recommended for a Divisional Gallantry award. 1 man was killed and 8 wounded.
 On 29th The Batt. moved to Amplier and then 31st to Naours in billets.

September 1916.

1-6th Sept. In Billets at Naours practicing moving in artillery formations. 7th Sept. Batt. marched to billets in Corbie. 8th Moved to Bois des Tailles and on 9th Practiced attacking under a creeping barrage which lifts 50 yards every minute.

10th. Practice attack over open ground. 11th. Moved to Maricourt and into trenches. 12/13th Reinforcements arrived, working parties. 14th Sept. Moved to Guillemont in preparation for the attack on Morval.
 15th September 1916 at Guillemont. 6.20am The attack on Morval commences.
 8am 2 platoons dispatched to HQ to carry ammunition to them. 10.00am another attempt by the Bedfords and the Buffs to take the strong point but it failed. 12.30pm Batt. ordered to move up to attack the strong point at the Quadrilateral but before the Batt arrives at the assault point the order was cancelled. Moved back to line of trenches at Guillemont. Casualties 5 killed, 22 wounded 4 missing.
 16th Sept.. The enemy shells actively at intervals but the trenches being fairly deep the Batt has few casualties. Our artillery has shelled the quadrilateral incessantly.
 17th Sept Our 12 inch and other howitzers carry out a thorough bombardment of the quadrilateral
 18th September 1916. Attack on the Quadrilateral.

12.30am Coys move to assault positions.
 4.30am Battalion in position/
 5.50am Attack on quadrilateral begins. Batt leaves the trenches for the assault.
 6.00am C and D Coy capture first objective little resistance except from machine guns, many German dead found in the trenches. Our casualties 9 killed 49 wounded.
 6.02am B Coy capture the second objective followed at a distance of 200 yards by A Coy. A party of about 40 Germans and a machine gun were discovered to the right, a party of bombers started to bomb down the trenches, the Germans seeing their position surrendered.
 6.15am Lt Mylins with 2 platoons moved down the sunken road and as no more Germans were seen, dug in at the top of the ridge they suffered 16 casualties.
 6.20am D Coy dug a communications trench..
 8.00am All wounded were collected up and sent down.
 9.00am No more wounded were left in the field.
 From 9.30 until dusk it rained.

10.15am Small parties of men seen at Les Borufs the artillery were informed and they were shelled.

11.35am 1200 bombs were sent up from Brigade HQ

1.20pm The enemy retire to Morval Ridge and commence shelling front line A Coy.

1.35pm Shelling becomes intense, retaliation is asked for and given

1.45pm Hostile shelling ceases and retaliation ceases.

2.45pm Enemy reported massing on Morval Ridge all companies and artillery informed but no counter attack launched.

4pm four prisoners taken and sent to HQ

6pm Orders for relief.

Casualties. 22 Killed 159 wounded 18 missing.

One of those killed in action on this day was Private John Albert Harris, His body was never recovered so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the also on Ross War Memorial.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: John Albert Harris
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Residence: Ross-on-woye
Death Date: 18 Sep 1916
Enlistment Place: Ross-on-woye
Rank: Private
Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 19587
Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Name		Corps		Rank		Regt. No.	
HARRIS John A.		K. S. L. I.		Pte		19587	
Medal		Roll		Page		Remarks	
Victory 8475, 5/1/102-28		do		1967		do	
Status							
Theatre of War first served in							
Date of entry theatre							

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal

The age of this soldier is wrong this was his father John Andrews Harris not John Albert Harris, the one who died.

In Memory of
Private

John Albert Harris

19587, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18 September 1916 Age 56

Son of Emily Harris, of Windsor Villas, Cheltenham Rd., Gloucester, and the late John Andrews Harris.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

32783 Private
**Harry Leonard
Hiller**



2nd Battalion
South Lancashire Regiment
(Prince of Wales Volunteers)
formerly
15290 L/Cpl Hiller



11th Battalion
The Welsh Regiment
(The Cardiff Pals)

Harry Leonard Hiller

He was born in New St. Ross on 18th June 1893 and baptised on 30th July 1893. His parents were James Leonard Hill a Joiner and Sarah Elizabeth Lily Dowell and they were both from Ross and they married in 1885 in Ross. In 1901 they were living at 5 Wye St, Ross and still there in 1911.

The Great War

15290 Private Harry Leonard Hiller enlisted on 14th September 1914 at Cardiff into the 11th Battalion The Welsh Regiment (The Cardiff Pals). Lord Kitchener in August 1914 called for a further 100,000 volunteers to form what he termed "a New Army" In what was then a revolutionary move, it was decided that men could enlist and serve together in friendship groups. In Cardiff there was an instant rush to join the new 11th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment - the Cardiff Pals Commercial Battalion as it became known.

Harry Hiller was 5ft 7ins Fresh complexion, Blue eyes, fair hair, congregationalist. 21 years old. He was a shop assistant when he joined the Welsh Pals.

Following training he was posted on 3rd September 1915 and embarked on 4th Sept. for Le Havre. On 20 September they took over a section of the front line. They saw action at Flesselles The 11th Welsh spent the next few weeks in and out of the lines, taking part in night raids and holding their position against German attacks. In October 1915, the battalion received orders to leave France for Salonika. Pte Hiller on 1st November 1915 embarked at Marseilles for Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) and disembarked Salonika 8th November 1915.

Salonika Campaign.

In October 1915, a combined Franco-British force of some two large brigades was landed at Salonika at the request of the Greek Prime Minister. The objective was to help the Serbs in their fight against Bulgarian aggression. However the expedition arrived too late, the Serbs having been beaten before they landed. It was decided to keep the force in place for future operations, even against Greek opposition. The Greek Chief of the General Staff in Athens had told them "You will be driven into the sea, and you will not have time even to cry for mercy"

(Some Greek factions, including King Constantine, were pro-German). The outcome of the Gallipoli campaign was in the balance and most shipping in the area was involved so they really had no choice.

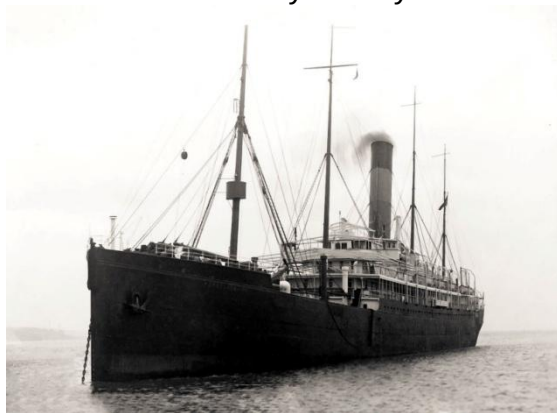
During the first four months of 1916 the British Salonika Force had enough spadework to last it for the rest of its life. Large amounts of barbed wire was used and a bastion about eight miles north of the city was created connecting with the Vardar marshes to the west, and the lake defences of Langaza and Beshik to the east, and so to the Gulf of Orfano and the Aegean Sea. This area was known as the 'Birdcage' on account of the quantity of wire used. The Bulgarians and Austrians also fortified the heights of the hills surrounding Salonika during the same time which had dire consequences later on.

In December 1915 the British element fought a battle at Kosturino, north of Lake Doiran, after withdrawing from Serbia. After this there was little action except for occasional air raids on Salonika. On January 7th German machines flew over and caused eighteen casualties. On February 1st a

Zeppelin caused fires and damage. On March 27th the French stores were hit causing considerable damage. The Zeppelin came over for a third and last time on May 5th but it was caught in the searchlight of HMS Agamemnon whose 12 pounder in the forward bridge blazed away and eventually brought it down in the marshes at the mouth of the Vardar. Up on the 'Birdcage' the early months of 1916 had some heavy falls of snow and the Vardar wind blew from the north freezing everything. The only diversion for the force was the affair at Kara Burun. The Kara Burun Forts at the mouth of the Vardar were in Greek hands and the international force under General Mahon were not too happy that they were seen laying in stocks of armour piercing shells and building gun emplacements. The French, Russian, Italian and British warships in the harbour under the forts decided enough was enough and British Marines landed and French troops marched round from behind the city. The Marine Officer called on the first fort to surrender as the fleet had orders to fire if it heard any gunfire. The NCO in charge (his officers were away on leave) only had 70 men so he

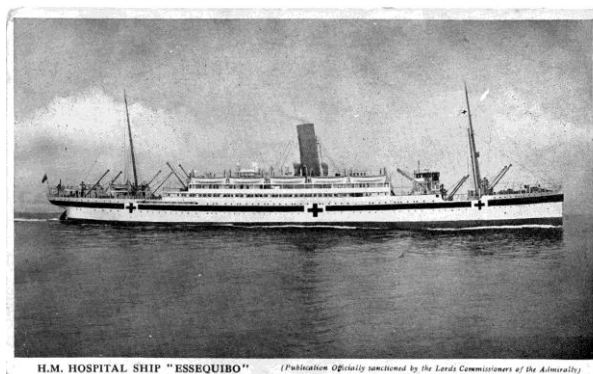
complied. The other forts seeing this followed suit. This was a dangerous business because if the Greeks had resisted King Constantine would have used that as an excuse to bring the Germans into Greece against us. By bluff and careful disposition of the International forces this was averted. The Salonika Force dug-in until the summer of 1916, by which time the international force had been reinforced and joined by Serbian, Russian and Italian units. The Bulgarian attempted invasion of Greece in July was repulsed near Lake Doiran. At the beginning of Oct 1916, the British in co-operation with her allies on other parts of the front, began operations on the River Struma towards Serres. The campaign was successful with the capture of the Rupell Pass and advances to within a few miles of Serres. It was the "forgotten campaign" of the Great War - with German/Bulgarian troops holding virtually impregnable positions in the hills of Macedonia. The physical conditions endured by the troops were dreadful freezing cold and then blisteringly hot. Diseases such as malaria and dysentery were commonplace.

Private Hiller suffered from this disease. On 31st July 1916 he was admitted to O.C.28 General Hospital at Mikra (Thessaloniki) with Diarrhea (Dysentery), he was discharged on 8th August and sent to the depot on 11th August and from there to Stationery Hospital on 31st August. On 20th September 1916 he was sent to the Hospital Ship HMHS Herefordshire. The gravity of his illness and the length of time he spent hospitalized combined with his eventual death it seems likely that he was suffering from Malaria as well as Dysentery.



HMHS Herefordshire

From here he was transferred on 15th December 1916 to HMHS Essequibo for passage to England.



He was posted to Reserve Battalion on 18th April 1917 and transferred 25th May to 51st Batt. Promoted acting L/Cpl 9th July 1917 and by 21st September 1917 He had been discharged from the 1st Western General Hospital (Military) Fazakerley, Liverpool and recuperated. He was then instructed to report to 51st Graduated Battalion South Wales Borderers.

On 29th March 1918 he was posted to British Expeditionary Force with the rank of Private and the following day he embarked for France and on 31st March he transferred to 2nd S Lancashire Regt. Arriving at S Lancs. batt. on 2nd April 1918 along with 127 Other Ranks.

The 'strength of the Regiment at this point was all ranks 890 animals 56.

2nd April 1918. At Romarin Camp. The regiment now in the Australian Corps was ordered back to the front to relieve the 26th Australian Battalion. 3rd April. Relief complete East of Ploegsteert. Line about 2000 yards long. 10th Cheshires on our left and 3rd Worcesters on our right. One man wounded on relief and Lt Lomas partly buried during the night and badly shaken. Enemy very active on our front line with trench mortars and one man killed. General conditions in the trenches fair but drainage is a source of trouble. Accommodation for men bad rough shelters being only cover available, front of trenches very bad and need a lot of strengthening. Dull day, occasional rain. 4th April. Dull and unsettled. Situation fairly quiet dispositions unchanged during the day. A complimentary letter was read out to the men from the General of the Third Army expressing his thanks to the Battalion for all its efforts. 5th April. Situation normal. 2 ORs wounded during the day. 6th April. Dull day, dispositions unchanged. Coys changed positions, very wet night. 2 men wounded during day.

7th April. Situation normal, dispositions unchanged. 3 Officers proceeded to courses.

8th April. Dull and unsettled.

Following incident took place. "at hands to 1 officer 25 ORs and 1 lewis gun of Catharine Post withdrew as usual to the front line, on arrival there the platoon sergeant found that 4 men detailed to bring back water tins had not done so and ordered them to return for them. Apparently 2 of these men remained at the front line and the other two went back along a ditch to the post. When they had gone about 30 yards they saw some men moving and challenged them. They were answered by rifle fire and one of the men Pte Ryder fell wounded and the other man Pte Dennis ran back to the front line when all three men reported to the Coy Commander. An Officers patrol immediately went out 200 yards beyond Catharine Post but could not find any trace of the wounded man or the enemy but found some stick bombs 30 yards from the front line. The morning was very misty and the men in the front line could see nothing but those on the right had heard the shots. Pte Dennis stated he saw about 20 Germans".

Tuesday 9th April 1918. "A" & "B" Coys at Le Bizet and "C" & "D" Coys at Rosignol Camp Nieppe. At about 4am very heavy shelling on our right at about Armentieres and continued for several hours. Considerable artillery activity both enemy and ours in and around Ploegsteert throughout the day. The main Bailleul - Armentieres road south of our dispositions was shelled frequently. Fine day, rather misty. Reports received that enemy had broken through south of Armentieres, Battalion ordered to be in readiness to move at short notice.

Wednesday 10th April 1918. During the early hours it was reported that the enemy were attacking along a line North of Armentieres towards Ploegsteert. HQ and 2 Coys ordered to move forward and occupy a position about 2000 yards west of Ploegsteert on the high ground. Position successfully carried out, "C" Coy on right and "D" Coy on left. HQ at Regina Farm. 11.30am stragglers from 8th Border Regt. collected in and extended on right of "C" Coy. At 1pm one Coy of Australian Engineers, one Cy Royal Engineers and 2 Coys South Wales Borderers arrived and were extended still further to the right. On

our left as 25th Battalion Machine Gun Corps. Many of the enemy could be seen moving about between our lines and the village of Ploegsteert, enemy snipers were very active. At 5pm an attack was made on both flanks of Ploegsteert Village but was unsuccessful and the men re turned to our lines. Casualties were substantial due to the high number of machine guns employed by the enemy. At 7pm orders that the line held now be re-organised, Border Regt. troops to return to their regt. and Royal Engineers to withdraw to Romarin Camp.

Casualties were difficult to assess but official figures in the War Dairy gave April 10th Operations as: Killed 3 Officers 49 Other Ranks. Wounded 11 Officers 375 Other Ranks. Missing 2 Officer 206 Other Ranks. A total of 646 casualties.

Private Harry Hiller was one of those missing and he was captured by the Germans. German (later International Commission of the Red Cross) gave his date of capture as 10th April 1918 Prisoner Of War. Although his regimental details only stated 28th

April 1918 reported as 'missing' by regiment.

Prisoner of War.

He was sent to Freidrichsfeld POW Camp and his Camp details state he was Unverwundet (unwounded) at the time of his capture.

Below is Harry Hiller's POW record. It gives his Name (Incorrect as Hillier) Pte 2nd Lancs. POW 10/4/18 at Armentieres. Unverwundet (unwounded) on Westfront. His place and Date of birth and Next of Kin his mother Mrs S Hiller, WyeSide, Ross. He became ill at some stage, presumably not helped by the illness he contracted in Salonika and he was moved to a War Hospital at Remischule Charlesville. His service records state that he died of Intestinal Catarrh on 12th October 1918 (four weeks before the end of the war). However his German POW records passed to the Commonwealth Graves Commission state that he died of Malaria.

FIG. 92 3 OCT 1918 PA 37509

1	2	3	4	5	6
St. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur bei Namen) c) nur bei Namen Dienstadt	a) Dienstgrad b) (bei aus Zug) c) Rang	a) Anfangsname b) (bei aus Zug) c) vorhergehender Aufstellungsort	a) Geburtsort und -Zeit b) Abteil des c) Dienstort	a) Geburtsort und -Zeit b) Abteil des c) Dienstort
597	HILLER Harry 1898	Pte 1st H	Flamant, 11.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 The March, Colne, Wiltshire, England	London, 11.4.18 The March, Colne, Wiltshire, England
598	HILLER Charles 1898	Pte 4th H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
599	HILLER Harry 1898	Pte 4th H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
540	HILLER John 1898	Pte 10th H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
541	HILLER Robert 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
542	HILLER Harry 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
543	HILLER Robert 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
544	HILLER Harry 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
545	HILLER Robert 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
546	HILLER Harry 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18
547	HILLER Robert 1898	Pte 1st H	Mansfield, 15.4.18 Unverwundet Westfront	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18	London, 11.4.18 18 Holly Bush Road Bathurst, New Id. London, 11.4.18

He was initially buried at Charleville Communal Cemetery but on 1st

December 1966 he was re-interred at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille. he was moved along with soldiers from other cemeteries where maintenance could not be maintained.

On his service record he gives his NOK as father James Leonard Hiller of Glamorgan Quarries, Llanharry, Cowbridge. The army tried to trace him in 1920 (presumably for medal allocation) but despite contacting the Police, Vicar of the Parish and the Wesley Minister it was without avail. His parents later moved to 8 Christ Church Terrace, Malvern

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: Harry Leonard Hiller
Birth Place: Ross, Hereford
Death Date: 12 Oct 1918
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Cardiff
Rank: Private
Regiment: Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment
Battalion: 2nd Battalion
Regimental Number: 32783
Type of Casualty: Died
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 15290, Welsh Regt.

Medal Index Card

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
HILLER Harry L.	Welsh R. S. Lan. R.	Pte	15290 32483
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	5/1/03 B9	1640	Deceased
15. Star	5/1/36 2	147	
Theatre of War first served in (1)			
Date of entry therein 5.9.15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal



In Memory of
Private

Harry Leonard Hiller

32783, 2nd Bn., South Lancashire Regiment Age 25

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hiller, of 8, Christ Church Terrace, Malvern Rd., Cheltenham.

Remembered with Honour
Terlinchun British Cemetery, Wimille




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

64311 Private
**Douglas Albert
Stride Honey**



**9th Batt. The Welsh
Regiment**

Douglas Albert Stride Honey

He was born in 1899 in Gloucester. His parents were William Stride Honey and Adelaide Price they were married in Ross district in 1894. At 1901 census Douglas's father was a farmer at Bowers, Bridstow and he and Adelaide had three children Eric, Douglas and Frederick. In 1911 they were at the Broom, Peterstow and his father was still a farmer. By 1916 Douglas's father was the landlord of

the Harp Inn, Alton St, Ross. (now gone).

The Great War

64311 Private Douglas Honey enlisted at Hereford into the Welsh Regiment on 16th September 1916, for the duration of the war and was 'called up' on 17th February 1917 (probably his 18th birthday). His occupation was a Wheelwright and his father was the landlord of the Harp Inn, Alton St, Ross. Following initial training he was posted to the 51st (Graduated) Battalion on 1st November 1917 at Great Yarmouth, this was a further training battalion. He joined the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) with the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, disembarking in Rouen, France on 18th January 1918.

18th January 1918. The Battalion was at Havringcourt Wood at Haws Camp West, where they stayed until the 23rd. On 24th Jan. they moved into the trenches. 'A' Coy on the left, 'B' Coy in the centre, 'C' Coy (Pte Edwards Coy) on right and 'D' Coy in support. On 28th Battn relieved and moved to intermediate line. Where they stayed until 1st February when

they relieved the North Staffs Regt. on the Divisional front.

5th Feb. 1918 relieved by 4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and moved to Pioneer Camp at Lechelle. 6th Moved from Pioneer Camp to Grazing Camp.

8th Relieved South Lancs in Intermediate Line.

9th Relieved 4th KSLI in Centre section of right sub sector.

14th Feb. Relieved by Hood Battalion 63rd Division. 'C' Coy relieved by Drake Battalion (*Hood and Drake battalions were part of the Royal Naval Division*).

15th - 22nd Carry out sports and training according to programme at Rocquigny.

Private Honey joined the regiment on 16th February 1918.

23rd Feb. March to Phipps Camp at Haplincourt

24th February - 21st March Sports and training according to programme at Phipps Court.

21st March 1918. Kaiserschlacht. (the Kaiser's Battle)

The 1918 Spring Offensive or *Kaiserschlacht (Kaiser's Battle)*, also known as the Ludendorff Offensive,

was a series of German attacks along the Western Front during the First World War, beginning on 21 March 1918, which marked the deepest advances by either side since 1914. The Germans had realised that their only remaining chance of victory was to defeat the Allies before the overwhelming human and material resources of the United States could be fully deployed. They also had the temporary advantage in numbers afforded by the nearly 50 divisions freed by the Russian surrender (the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk).

There were four German offensives, codenamed *Michael*, *Georgette*, *Gneisenau* and *Blücher-Yorck*. *Michael* was the main attack, which was intended to break through the Allied lines, outflank the British forces which held the front from the Somme River to the English Channel and defeat the British Army. Once this was achieved, it was hoped that the French would seek armistice terms. The other offensives were subsidiary to *Michael* and were designed to divert Allied forces from the main offensive on the Somme.

The battlefield Operation Michael involved a vast attack along the whole front between the River Oise (bottom right of this map, flowing through Chauny) and the River Sensée (top of this map, opposite Arras). This area is generally known as "the Somme" sector, although geographically it includes the Cambrésis and the Santerre plateau. The entire area between the St-Quentin/Cambrai front line and the Bapaume/Albert area had been deliberately laid waste by the Germans when they withdrew from that area (in Operation Alberich) in spring 1917. The Bapaume/Albert area had been the site of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Thus, other than the area west of Albert and on to Amiens, this was in effect one endless area of devastation. The only significant geographical barriers to an advance were the River Somme south of Péronne and the Canal du Nord north of it.

The battle was intense and 'C' Coy (Private Honey's Company) were in the heart of the battle alongside the 4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry.



The German attack was ferocious and the army was falling back. Below is a small part of Sir Douglas Haig's despatch.

Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch on the German spring offensive.

The sixth Despatch of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Armies in France and Flanders. This was a very long despatch covering the winter operations preceding the German offensives, the 21 March 1918 attack and subsequent developments

(Operation Michael), the Battles of the Lys (Operation Georgette) and the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux.

The Northern Front Firm.

Meanwhile, very heavy fighting had been taking place on the northern portion of the battle front. The enemy pressed closely upon our troops, as they withdrew to the line of the ridge running from north of Peronne to Curlu and Equancourt. Heavy attacks developed at an early hour between these two places, and also between Le Bucquiere and Beugny, and at Mory. On the Third Army front, where our resources were greater, the enemy was held in check, though he gained possession of Le Bucquiere and Beugny after a prolonged struggle. In this fighting the 9th Bn. Welsh Regiment, 19th Division, greatly distinguished itself in the defence of Beugny, which it held till dusk, thereby enabling the other battalions of its brigade in position to the north of the village to extricate (themselves successfully from what would otherwise have been a hopeless situation. No less than six separate attacks, in two of which the enemy brought up cavalry and guns, were repulsed by the 124th Brigade of the

41st Division, Major-General Sir S. T. B. Lawford, K.C.B., commanding the division, opposite Vaulx Vraucourt. The fighting in this sector of the front was very severe, but here and at all points north of the Baupaume-Cambrai Road our line was maintained. About 3.30 p.m. the enemy again attacked five times from the direction of Vaulx and five times from Beaumetz-lez-Cambrai, and on each occasion was repulsed.

Actual reports from the War Diaries of the action of 21st-23rd March 1918 are available online. Below is an extract.

Defence of Beaugny

Private Honey was in 'C' Company and on 22nd March 'B' and 'C' Coys were ordered to make an attack in cooperation with Tanks the objective being the road to link up with the Brigade on the left owing to a threatened enemy attack. However these companies were not sent forward and the Bn remained in readiness for a counter attack. On the 23rd the enemy continued to make attacks on to our front line, troops to the south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road began to fall back and the enemy were advancing strongly.

'C' Coy was instructed to strengthen the right flank and took up a line on the right and connected with the K.O.S.L.I (Shropshire Light Infantry) whose position was the Green Line. The enemy repeatedly attacked these positions in the afternoon without success, at 4.30 he attacked across the main road and penetrated our line and gained a foot hold in the northern edge of the village. In accordance with instructions the Battalion was withdrawn in perfect order to the Green Line and by midnight was established in its new positions.

Pte. Honey was Killed in Action on the 23rd March 1918. 41 men of the Battalion died this day.

He was listed as 'Missing' and on 17/3/1920 his grave was located at Bancourt British Cemetery. It was exhumed and re-buried still in Bancourt British Cemetery.

The letter below instructs the record office to notify the next of kin that it must now be definitely accepted that he was killed. The letter was dated 19th March 1920.



Bancourt cemetery

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
HONEY	Welsh R	Sgt.	54311
Douglas			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	5/1/1924	9009	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			



He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private

Douglas Albert Stride Honey

64311, "C" Coy, 9th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 23 March 1918 Age 19

Son of William and Adeline Honey, of 9, Redbill, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Bancourt British Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1804 Private Arthur Husbands



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

Arthur Husbands

He was born in 1892 in Ross and baptised in the Congregational chapel on 27th April 1892. .

In 1891 Arthur Husbands' mother Mary Ann Husbands was living at Burghill

County Asylum as a Patient and described in the census as 'Idiot'. This is not quite as callous as it sounds today, all these terms Idiot, lunatic, imbecile etc had quite specific meanings to describe the level of difficulty, or mental condition people had. She was admitted into Burghill Asylum on 26th October 1888 and died there on 8th August 1943. She was there for 55 years. The following year 1892 Arthur was born and at his baptism there is no father listed. 1901 census Arthur was living at 3 Mill Pond St, Ross with his Grandparents William Husbands and Sarah (Morgan). William was a Blacksmith originally from Yatton and Sarah was from Ross. Arthur married Bessie Waythe in 1908 Bessie was born in Brampton St, Ross and baptised on 6th July 1890. Her father was Charles Waythe a Labourer from Ross and her mother was Ellen Bamford also from Ross. Their children were- Arthur William born in 1909 in Ross. Cecil Henry was baptised 21/06/10. in Ross. Daughter Edith Lillian baptised 19th March 1912 in Ross. George James baptised 19th January 1915 in Ross.

The Great War

At the beginning of the Great War Arthur Husbands joined the Herefordshire Regiment.



1st Herefords 1914.

Gallipoli

Extracts and notes from the War Diaries 1st Herefords at Gallipoli November 1915.

16th July 1915 the 1st Herefordshire Regt. left Devonport on the SS. Euripides for Egypt. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th and then sailed for Malta arriving on the 24th, they then sailed the same day for Alexandria arriving on the 27th. On 31st they stopped at Port Said troops were allowed ashore to bathe and on 4th August all troops in excess of 25

Officers and 750 ORs were sent by train to Alexandria (2/Lt Lloyd and 193 ORs). Later on the 4th the Battalion sailed for Lemnos arriving in Mudros Harbour on the 7th August.

The regiment landed at Suvla Bay from steam launches at 5.00am on the 9th August. They were then employed in getting water and stores up from 'C' beach. The men had some bully beef, biscuit and lime juice at 1pm. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed. 10th August The Battalion moved up the line of the Azmak Dere and were met with heavy shrapnel fire but little or

nothing was seen of the enemy except snipers whose fire was galling but no officers were hit.

17th August at Suvla. Quiet day except for heavy sniping. At night Bn ordered to advance 200 yards and then dig in again. The Bn got out of the trenches in one long line with no intervals between (quite absurd!) and then lie down to wait. Order cancelled, order came to take over trenches of 6th RWF but for some reason they did not leave their trenches and the Bn had to return to its cover - partially in trenches, ditches and behind hedges. A Coy of the Border Regt came to assist the Bn!. 18th/19th August more casualties with heavy sniping.

22nd Aug. Two men accidentally shot themselves and 2/Lt Lloyd and 187 ORs joined us from Alexandria.

Remainder of the month was in trenches with heavy sniping barrages from Turks and casualties.

Casualties for August. 25 Killed, 146 Wounded, 2 Missing.

On 9th August 1915 750 men of the Herefordshires landed at Suvla Bay, on

22 August they were reinforced with another 187 - total 937 men yet 5 weeks later only 433 men were available for fatigues!

The Herefords had a dreadful time at Suvla Bay, below is a report by another officer adjacent to the Herefords position.

14
(E) The Herefords were put to do this in broad daylight, and their casualties were enormous, they were heavily shelled all day. I was near at the time, and it was one continuous call for stretcher bearers all day. I do think that whoever gave this order, under the circumstances, was greatly to blame. At night my battalion were sent to dig, and we suffered severe casualties from rifle fire, unaimed at long range. One of those terrific rifle fire strafes the Turks delighted in at night. It must not be forgotten that we landed without any heavy entrenching tools, and it was almost impossible to make any impression on the hard ground with the one's the men carried.

The want of success in this campaign was due, in the first place to giving away to the enemy, the intention, and then attacking with insufficient troops. Had the whole number of troops landed during the first week, been available when the first attack was launched, and had there been sufficient artillery support, I am sure the line would have been pushed forward to the required positions, water of course being a vital factor. It always appeared to me in the early days that no one really knew what was required of the troops. It was suggested that these futile attacks were ordered from home, to make a show for the public; that sort of thing is not encouraging to a soldier in the field. From my position you could see the long lines of wounded being towed out in boats to the ships, strings and strings of ship's boats towed by pinnaces. Compare this to General Allenby's fight in Palestine, where everything was cut and dry before he started, and everyone knew exactly what was expected of him.

September 1st -5th In trenches at Anafarta Ova Suvla. Quiet period 2 Officers and 43 ORs joined from England. 5th - 7th in Rest camp 'B' Suvla. Then back into the trenches until the 16th improving trenches, wiring. Started to rain so drainage scheme thought about but needed to be done on whole front. 16th back to rest camp. 21st Moved to new rest camp, heavily shelled with HE. On 25th moved to reserve rest camp at Karakol Dagh, lots of HE, sniping and difficulties with obtaining water (one gallon per man for all purposes). Heavy fatigues. Good news from France. 28/30th moved up to the reserve firing line. Ordered to supply 439 men for fatigues only 433 available. One man killed one wounded from blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

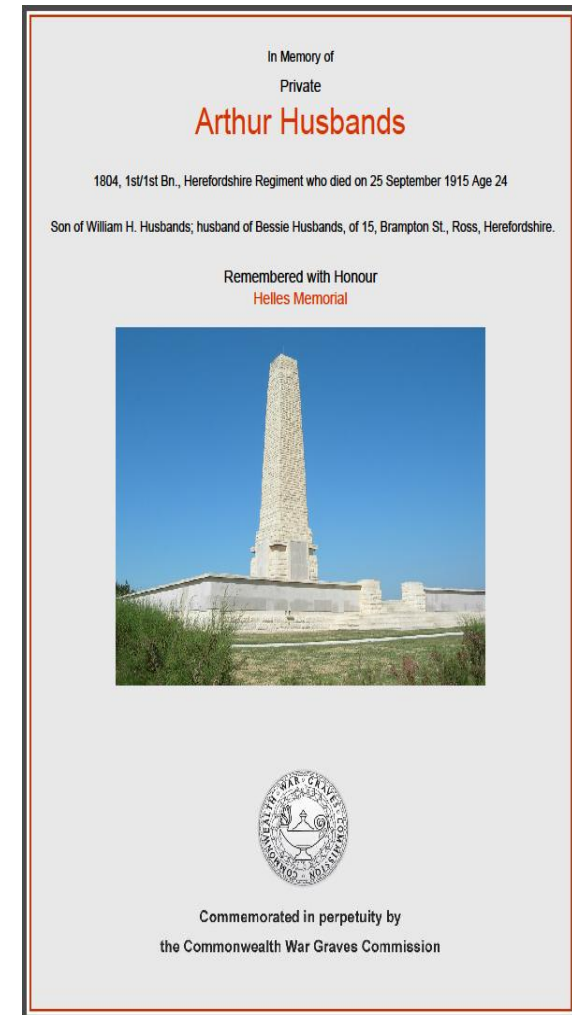
1804 Private Arthur Husbands died on 25th September 1915 he was aged 24. His body was never recovered so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli and on the Ross-on-Wye War Memorial.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
HUSBANDS. Arthur	Hereford R.	Pte	1804
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	7/1068	34	
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	7/1115	27	
Thames of War first served (20)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star -The British War Medal-The Victory Medal



32086 Private James Reuben Jackson



14th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

James Reuben Jackson

He was born in Ross in 1887 His parents were Henry Jackson from Ross and Eliza Nash from Saundersfoot, Wales. In 1891 they were living in Henry St, Ross and his father Henry was a Decorator and Paper Hanger. In 1901 Father a housepainter. 26/2/1908 his father died at Archenfield aged 50. 1911 James was living with his mother at Greytrees Cottage, Archenfield,

Duxmere, Ross and he was a Wine Merchant's Clerk.

The Great War

A number of soldiers with similar range numbers started to appear on the CWGC casualty lists from February 1917 and many of them were previously in the Herefordshire Regiment so a substantial draft of Territorials from the Herefords must have been sent to The Gloucesters about the end of 1916 early 1917 the Herefords sent large groups of reinforcements to a variety of regiments, best known were the 250 who went to the Border Regiment via the KSLI but also to the Warwicks and the Gloucesters

The 14th Gloucesters was a Bantam Battalion. The Bantams had been set up after it was felt that being shorter than the regulation size did not preclude men from being good fighting soldiers but by late 1916 a number were felt to be below an acceptable standard for the front line and were discharged as unfit.

14th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. France

On 1st January 1917 122 men of the battalion were sent back to 55 IB Depot rejected as unfit by ADMS

On 1st February 1917 at Arras a draft of 395 Other ranks joined from Brigade HQ Bunwille (normal size men) one of these or from the group who arrived on the 3rd was James Reuben Jackson. 2nd Feb. Batt. marched out of Arras to Lattre St Quentin and into billets 3rd. Batt. marched to Moncheux another 80 ORs arrived (normal sized men) from Divisional Training Depot Battalion. 4th Training under Company arrangements.

5th Training 293 men rejected and sent to base. 6th-18th Feb. Batt marched to Flesselles over next two days via Beauvoir, Neuville and Gezaincourt and then in billets. 18th marched to Weincourt in billets for 2 nights.

21st. Marched into trenches at Chilly at the Caix sector. 22nd. Relief completed, trenches in a very bad state, mud and water in most cases above the knee. 23rd cleaning and clearing the trenches. at 7.30pm the whole front this lasted until 8.45 ours and the French artillery replied vigorously 2 killed 3 wounded.

24th. Trenches very bad, lot of aerial torpedoes fired on front line 1 killed 2 wounded. 25th same as previous day 1 killed 2 wounded. 26th At dawn the enemy raided the sap in the front but

were driven off, enemy fairly active all day 3 killed 2 wounded. 27th very quiet all day except for machine gun fire no casualties. 28th very quiet all day except for snipers who were very active but no casualties. Trenches still very bad.

March. 1917.

1st March. Battalion relieved by Sherwood Foresters and into dugouts at Maucourt (Chilly sector) supporting Batt. 2nd Maucourt and still supporting batt. 3rd clearing and cleaning communications trenches and carrying parties. 4-6th same as for the 3rd March. 7th Marched to camp Decauville...8th All ranks resting and cleaning. 9th-12th Training all companies under company training. 13th Batt. in the attack, Company training. 14th. Batt. moved to Rosieres preparatory to going into trenches. 15th Batt. relieved DLI in the Limons sector. Coys in the trenches and rest of day quiet, cleaning the trenches. 16th. Energetic patrols sent out to ascertain whether all enemy front line was held, patrols all reported that it was. 17th. At 7.30am our right Coy put up a smoke barrage to assist the Batt. on our right to carry out a raid. A

quiet day. At 5.30pm patrols were sent out who reported that the enemy front line was unoccupied and again patrols were pushed out Consolidation. 18th Patrols again pushed out. Batt. relieved by Sherwood Foresters and Batt in support. Batt returned to Limons 20-22nd. Working parties at full Batt. strength working on roads. 23rd Moved to Curchy after work on Railroad at Chateau Station. 24th-31st March. Batt working at full strength on Railway, with instructions of rifle grenade use by Batt. Bombing Officer and demonstration on Batt. S.O.S signal.

April 1917.

1st April at Hombleux. Moved to work on Nesle-Ham railway line, filling craters on completion moved into billets at Hombleux. 2/3/4th April. Work on railway line crater and on Nesle-Ham railway. 5th April. Attack in open warfare was practiced by the Batralin. 6th/7th Work on railway line and on Hombleux Station. 8th Training by companies in musketry etc. 9th/10th/11th Practiced attacks in open warfare.

12th Moved to Monchy Lagache in Divisional reserve.

13/14/5th Training is specialism by specialist offers. 16th April. Relieved the Lancashire Fusiliers in the trenches at Gricourt with one Coy in support at the outpost at Fresnoy. The 17th was exceptionally quiet and it was doubtful if the enemy had discovered the outpost. Several patrols were sent out and in several instances got into the trenches with the enemy.

18th April. Heavily shelled by the enemy. Patrols sent out and reported all places visited to be unoccupied by the enemy.

19th April. Again active shelling of Gricourt and Trois Sauvage and a small copse, neither of the last two place are occupied by our garrison so it is doubtful if the enemy have yet been able to observe our positions.

20th. Artillery not so active today, an enemy plane flew very low over our trenches it was fired upon by our Lewis Guns and Machine Guns but without effect. Several balloons up at great height. 21st Enemy artillery very active, Fresnoy shelled heavily, we dispersed an enemy working party with artillery fire. At night relieved by Sherwood Foresters.

22nd April 1917. At Keepers Lodge. Battalion working parties at full strength in the Brown Line.

23rd. Same as 22nd.

24th April 1917. Battalion working parties at full strength working in the St. Quentin Road near Bois De Holnon. 2 men killed.

The two men killed were Herbert Thomason and James Reuben Jackson. Both were ex-Herefordshire Regt. men.

Pte Jackson is buried at Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon and commemorated on the Ross War Memorial

The Soldiers who died in the Great War gives his date of death as 24th July but this is wrong as His death was reported in **Ross Gazette 3rd May 1917**. Also all other reports say he died on 24th April 1917.

His mother Eliza re-married in June quarter (April-June) 1917 to Mark Marks in Cardiff. This must have been about the time of Pte Jackson's death or shortly afterwards.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name:	James Ruben Jackson
Birth Place:	Ross, Herefordshire
Death Date:	24 Jul 1917 (Should be April)
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Ross
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	Gloucestershire Regiment 14th (Service)
Battalion:	Battalion (West of England)
Regimental Number:	32086
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre Formerly 5347, Herefordshire Regiment.
Comments:	



British Army WW Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 for James R Jackson

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
JACKSON	Glouce R.	Pte.	32086
James R.			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	4/1018/15	26/2	
BRITISH	- 20 - 20 -		
SPAN			

He was awarded



The British War Medal and the Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
J R Jackson

32086, 14th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment

Son of Mrs. E. Marks, of 25, Kingscroft St., Mountain Ash, Glam.

Remembered with Honour
Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

230315 Private
**Harry Gordon
Johns**



10th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Formerly
2079 Private H G Johns



Shropshire Yeomanry

Harry Gordon Johns

He was born in High St, Ross in 1892. His parents were George Johns a Clothing Outfitter originally from Evesham and his mother Elizabeth Roberts from Grosmont where her parents were farmers. 1901 Living at Grosmont, Ashfield. 1911 He was working as a Farm worker in the dairy company and staying at the Hope, Clifton on Teme.

The Great War

His Shropshire Yeomanry number (2079) indicates he enlisted in late September or early October 1914. As a Ross man he would have gone into 'C' Company.

The Shropshire Yeomanry served as a reserve battalion until November 1915 when they were dismounted. On 4th March 1916 they sailed to Egypt on the "Arcadian" from Devonport. On arrival the brigade merged with South Wales Mounted Brigade and formed the 4th Dismounted Brigade.

2 March 1917 : merged with 1/1st Cheshire Yeomanry to form the 10th (Shropshire & Cheshire Yeomanry) Battalion, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and came under orders of 231st Brigade in 74th (Yeomanry) Division.

Moved to France in May 1918.

The 1/1st Shropshire Yeomanry was mobilised with the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade on 4 August 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. It moved to East Anglia where it joined the 1st Mounted Division in September 1914. In November 1915, the brigade was dismounted.

The regiment was posted with the brigade to Egypt in March 1916. On 20 March, Welsh Border Mounted Brigade was absorbed into the 4th Dismounted Brigade (along with the South Wales Mounted Brigade). They were with the Suez Canal Defences when, on 14 January 1917, Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) Order No. 26 instructed that they be reorganized into the . between January and March 1917 the small Yeomanry regiments were amalgamated and numbered as battalions of infantry regiments recruiting from the same districts. They then became.

**10th (Shropshire & Cheshire
Yeomanry) King's Shropshire Light
Infantry**

They were part of the 74 (Broken Spur) Division. Shortly after joining 74th Division, the brigade took part in the Second Battle of Gaza (17–19 April 1917). After the 1st Battle of Gaza which was at best a draw Murray conveyed the impression of a clear-cut British victory. British losses of 4,000 were reported accurately but Murray trebled details of Turkish casualties, which in the event were lower than his own, at 2,400. London - under the mistaken impression that Murray was

on the verge of a notable breakthrough.consequently ordered him to re-engage his forces, this time with Jerusalem as the ultimate aim. A tall order, one made immeasurably more difficult now that the commander of Gaza's permanent garrison - German General Kress von Kressenstein - was alerted to British intentions. The British had very nearly caught Kressenstein's forces by surprise during the first encounter, aided by a dense sea fog, but was saved from defeat by a serious misjudgment by Murray's subordinate commander Sir Charles Dobell. Thus the battle was renewed on 17 April 1917. In the interim meanwhile the Turks had extended their formidable garrison defences south-east along the road to Beersheba. Dobell chose to launch a frontal assault- Kressenstein's force of 18,000 by three British infantry divisions aided by eight heavy Mark I tanks and 4,000 gas shells. Unable to extract anything more than minor gains in spite of a two-to-one manpower advantage, chiefly on account of complex and effective Turkish defensive lines, Dobell called off the patently unsuccessful attack on the third

day. British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure.

Then in the autumn it fought in the Third Battle of Gaza (27 October – 7 November) including the Battle of Beersheba (31 October) and the capture of the Sheria Position (6 November). Shortly afterwards it was involved in the Capture of Jerusalem (8–9 December) and its subsequent defence (27–30 December). In March 1918, the brigade was in the Battle of Tel 'Asur, but shortly afterwards was warned that it was to move to France, where reinforcements were urgently required to stem the German Spring Offensive.

The 74th Division embarked at Alexandria for Marseille on 29–30 April 1918, and was concentrated in the Abbeville district by 18 May. Here the dismounted Yeomanry underwent training for service on the Western Front, including gas defence. Infantry brigades on the Western Front had been reduced to three battalions, and 231st Brigade lost the 24th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which went to form

part of the 94th (Yeomanry) Brigade in the reconstituted 31st Division.

In May and June 1918 the Batt. were at Lattre St Quentin, re-equipping, training and practicing attacks, counter attacks, Coy and Batt. attacks. On 26th June they moved to St Hilaire with musketry training, kit inspections, drills, church parades, bayonet fighting. 9th July moved to Guarbeque preparatory to moving into the trenches. On 10th July moved up to the front and took over left sector at St Floris. On 14 July 1918 the Yeomanry Division went into the line for the first time. They stayed in the trenches until 17th July a period of relative calm on that front. On 17th they went into billets at Hamet. Training, digging parties were supplied, Divine services held in the orchard to rear of Batt. On 22nd July went into the front line at Le Haye. 23rd. Day fairly quiet but at night the enemy artillery was very active with a number of gas shells falling near the line, the enemy artillery was more intense on the Batt. to our right. No Casualties. 24th. A shell fell on one of our posts wounding one man and two had to go to hospital with shell shock, 2 men also to hospital with Influenza. Four patrols

went out to thoroughly reconnoitre the area, no hostile patrols were encountered. 25th Early morning and a hostile aeroplane flew over very low and dropped two bombs on its return it was engaged by two AA guns but managed to escape. Day and night patrols were sent out bringing in valuable information. 26th July. Early in the morning a hostile aeroplane flew over our lines at low altitude firing a few rounds into the trenches, it was immediately engaged by two of our aircraft and brought down in flames, shortly after one of our planes was also brought down by machine gun fire in flames, our second machine had to make a forced landing because of engine trouble. 27th. A minor operation was carried out, three small assault parties advanced, they were fired upon by hostile machine guns and when traversing a ditch they saw a man running down in front of them warning the enemy who then 'stood to' and fired on them. One of the enemy threw a bomb but it only succeeded in wounding two of their own men, two more shots were fired by the assault party killing two men. The enemy then surrendered and four prisoners were taken. On the way back to our posts

hostile machine guns fired from the flank but no-one was hit and got back without casualties. Heavy rain fell and the trenches were half full of water. 28th Fairly quiet in morning. One of our snipers shot an enemy in the head, this was the first chance our snipers have had. Heavy shelling on both sides. Pte Lewis was shot in the head but not seriously, enemy aeroplane flew over very low and was fired upon heavily by our MGs but managed to escape. 29th. Early morning one of our snipers on the way to the post saw three heads in the corn, he fired and killed one man another man then stood up and was promptly shot, then 30 other men stood up and advanced in open order. The snipers returned and warned our posts who 'stood to'. The enemy advanced to the wire and as they were getting over it our rifles and rifle bombers opened fire and immediately dispersed them. Patrols went out to try and find some wounded for identification but they had all been collected by enemy stretcher bearers. One man was shot dead on returning and three of our stretcher bearers were wounded. 30th a fairly quiet day with some gas shelling. 31st. Another quiet day, during the night a moderate

amount of gas shelling. Pte Winstanley was killed by a shell while bringing tea up to the front line. Three other men were wounded.

August. 1918.

1st. Quiet by day but artillery active by night. 2nd. Another quiet day. 3rd. A patrol went out, they cut their way through the belt of wire and then moved up to a second belt which was only 10 yards from the enemy's trenches, while cutting this they were spotted by two sentries and heavily bombed, they crawled back safely to the first belt but while getting through Sgt Brody was shot in the head and Pte Backley was wounded in both legs. Pte Backley was brought back but Sgt Brody had to be left in the enemy wire. Pte Brooks was shot through the head by a machine gun and died in the Mobile Ambulance. About 1,000 gas shells fell around the 'Asylum'. 4th Aug. Fairly quiet. The Batt. was relieved and moved back to billets at St Artois until 8th. 9th Aug. Moved to St Peirierre. Training, bayonet fighting practice, church service. 16th Aug. Relieved 'The Buff's' at St Floris. A quiet night. 17-20th. Working parties provided. 21st Aug. orders to relieve two front line Batts. and were

carried out. 22nd Orders to advance received after communication difficulties and some delay commenced at 8am. The details of the attack seem to have been lost from the war diaries, But casualties were listed by CWGC as 57 Killed. 23rd. Coys reorganised and collected as many casualties as they could. HQ was bombarded with gas at night. 24th. Orders that Batt. to be relieved that night and were by the Buffs 25th reorganising, cleaning up and inspections to ascertain how much stores and equipment was lost. 26th moved from St Floris to Lambres and the most comfortable billets they had been in while in the country. 28th entrained at Aire and moved to Ribemont. In billets and moved to Mericourt-LAbbe on 31st Aug. September.

1st Sept. Trigger Wood Had a burial party out for casualties of 1347th Div.

Hundred Days Offensive the Second Battle of Bapaume (2-3 September)

2nd Marched to Clery-Sur-Somme and discovered a battle in full swing, we moved forward by easy stages and disposed ourselves in Divisional trenches. Gas shelling was fairly severe resulting in several casualties.

3rd Sept. 'Stood to' all day.

4th. relieved 3 Australian Battalions at Bouchavesies.

5th. Moved forward in support of 230 Bde who were attacking.

6th Ordered to concentrate at Coutures Copse then moved on to Templeux and spent the night preparing to pass through the 230 Bde in the morning.

7th Sept. 6.30am advanced through 230th and met considerable Machine gun fire but continued and Yillers Foucon surrounded and cleared by midday.

8th. The 24th Welsh started their attack by advancing across our front but were held up. That evening we were able to withdraw to a position to the rear of the Railway Embankment.

9th. Relieved by 12th Somersets and marched back to Longavesnes and bivouac. Resting, Lewis gun training, church parades. each company allotted an area which they had to clear of salvage until the 17th Sept. when the Batt. had completed its preparations for going into action.

Battle of Épehy

18th Sept. Moved off at 2am as the right support Bn on the first objective (line of trenches at Orchard Post).

The Welsh and the Devons formed the attacking line. The day started with a mixture of rain and gas. Bn Supported the Devons but they lost direction but the Bn reached the objective allotted to the Devons and captured it. The battle progressed satisfactorily and a lot of prisoners were taken. Bn gained the Crossroads at Benjamin Post and was rushed and the whole of the Bn objective was taken. During the night the Germans pushed round our left flank but were driven off with bombs.

19th Sept. Preparations were made for the troops on our left to push on to their objective, Bn ordered to re-occupy Bull Post. At the start of the Barrage this objective was taken but the 18th Div. failed to obtain their objective. Great difficulty was encountered in the supply of water, rations and ammunition. Bn HQ was heavily shelled all day with great accuracy.

20th Sept. Whole day spent reorganising and strengthening the position. The enemy showed no signs of preparing for a counter attack.

21st Sept. Orders received at night to prepare for another advance at dawn. Bn ordered to move back from the front line to allow for the barrage. Bn objective was line of trenches near Gillemont Farm on the Hindenburg Line. The RWF were to take the Quadrilateral (a strong point) and for the Welsh to leapfrog them. All went well to start but the quadrilateral had not been mopped up properly and when the Bn. arrived at it it was full of German Machine guns which had either been left there or had filtered in from the north. The Bn suffered heavy losses. owing to these heavy losses the Bn was forced to withdraw at midday to the original front line. From this time onwards the front line was subjected to very heavy artillery fire and machine guns and out of touch with the troops on the left. The enemy still held the Quadrilateral but the Bn held the line of trenches. Bombing attacks failed to dislodge the enemy. On 22nd following the barrage the line Quadrilateral was rushed by 2 Corps and taken. 200 wounded prisoners were sent down, 20 MG and 100 dead Germans were counted. On 23rd Batt. ordered to move to New Quarry but C/O refused to risk it and Bn were

crowded into dugouts in Hussar Road. In the afternoon the Bn moved cross country to new dugouts in the railway embankments.

Casualties for this action. 44 killed, 175 wounded.

One of those killed in action on the 18th September was Harry Gordon Johns. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War,
1914-1919

Name:	Harry Gordon Johns
Birth Place:	Ross-on-uye, Herefords
Residence:	Ross-on-uye
Death Date:	18 Sep 1918
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Shrewsbury
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion:	10th Battalion
Regimental Number:	230315
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre
Comments:	Formerly 2079, Shrops

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
JOHNS	Shropshire Light Inf.	Pvt.	2079
Harry G.	K.O.L.I.		230315

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	27/1/02	6-11	5337
British			
Star			

Thames of War first served in
Liste of entry therein

E. 1939

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
Harry Gordon Johns

230315, 10th (Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry) Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18
September 1918 Age 24
Son of George and Elizabeth Johns, of Grosmont, Ashfield, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

34731 Private Frederick Thomas Johnson



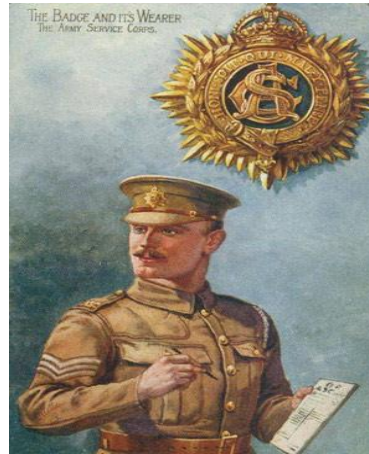
1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment

Frederick Thomas Johnson

He was born in Ledbury in 1890 his father was a coachman originally from Oxford, his mother Mary Element was from Eastham, Worcs. 1901 They had moved to the Crofts, Ross and father was a Groom, mother a dressmaker. 1911 Fred was a printer, his father was a coachman originally from Oxford, his mother (Mary Element from Eastham, Worcs). and sister were

dressmakers and his brother Mervyn was a shop assistant.

The Great War



He joined the army and went into the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) with the number T4/123282 The T4 prefix means he was with a Horsed Transport section(T) and (4) meant Kitcheners 4th New Army. The 4th New Army was formed in December 1914 but went through a series of changes as a 'fighting unit' then a 'reserve unit' and then back to a 'fighting unit' He was transferred to the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment and sent out to France. His service record no longer survives (they were destroyed in the Blitz in WW2) but he did not

receive the 1914/15 Star medal so did not go to France until after 1915 and his new number 34721 gives a clue to when he went. Soldiers with numbers in the range 30000 onwards started to appear on the 1st Battalion casualty lists from about August 1916.

21st June 1916 draft of 27 ORs

7th July Attack at Fricourt on Contralmaison and the Quadrangle continued until withdrew to Lozenge Wood on the 9th.

Casualties for period 6-9th July

30 killed, 243 wounded 44 missing.

Total casualties 317

24th July a mixed draft from Ox & Bucks, Gloucesters, Berkshires total of 351 men. This could well be the draft in which Pte Johnson arrived.

25th July in billets and on 30th relieved the Middx Regt in trenches at Cuinchy between Boyeau and La Bassee Canal, weather fine, hostile trench mortaring at night.

August 1916

Relieved on the 5th August by Royal Scots casualties for this period 4 killed and 7 wounded. Marched to billets at Bethune. 6th Aug. 1st Army church parade to commemorate 2 years of war. 7th enemy heavily shelled Bethune causing much damage 1

killed 3 wounded. 9th Took over trenches from 2nd Devons 1 killed 5 wounded. 10/11th holding trenches trench mortars very active 1 killed 2 wounded. 12th Aug. D Coy stayed in front line A,B & C Coys moved into support 1 killed 3 wounded. Enemy raided trenches on our left after very heavy bombardment which extended over our lines held by D Coy. 3 killed 16 wounded. 13th D Coy relieved by C Coy shelled heavily during afternoon. 15th Aug. marched back to billets until 23rd Aug. when took over Hohenzollern sector of trenches from Devons. Hostile TMs very active, weather fine, trenches badly damaged by enemy shellfire relieved on 27th Aug. Casualties for period 12 wounded. 28-30th Bn in support trenches and took over front line on 31st Aug.

September

1-5th Holding front line in Hohenzollern sector. Slight increase in TM activity but enemy fairly quiet. Casualties 2 killed 6 wounded. On 5th moved to reserve line in front of Vermelles very wet and stormy, occupied with working parties. On the 9th relieved by Berks Regt and marched to billets in Gosnay and Labourse, billets fairly good.

Drill, fatigue parties, working parties and inspections until 17th when took over reserve trenches from W Yorks in Quarry Section fatigue parties and on 21st took over front line trenches from Sherwood Foresters, enemy fairly quiet but some hostile TM activity and on 23/4th became very active. 25th Enemy artillery still active 26th TM doing considerable damage 26th Enemy TM still very active. 27/8th enemy less active. 29th Relieved and took up positions in reserve line at Vermelles. Casualties for this period 9 killed 18 wounded.

October

1/2nd In reserve trenches Hohenzollern sector, very wet fairly quiet. 3rd In the front line, trenches in a very bad state. 4th Trench Mortar very active with indirect fire 2 ORs wounded. 5th quiet during the day heavy hostile fire at night 3 killed 2 wounded. Weather changeable. 6th Quiet in morning but later heavy artillery and TM fire 2 wounded. 7th Bn relieved moved to support trenches. 8-10th Support trenches fatigue parties carrying to the front line trenches. 11th relieved and back to billets at Labourse. On 13th preparing to move by train to South. 14-18th in billets and

camps at Citernes, Meault and Sandpits valley. On 19th relieved E Lancs in trenches at Guedicourt. 20th In trenches 1 man killed 6b wounded and 1 missing.

21st Enemy shelling very severe indeed and continuous 11 killed 40 wounded 2 missing believed killed. 22nd relieved and moved to Needle trench. 23rd 2 Coys moved to Bulford and Shine trenches in close support to E Lancs who were attacking Mild trench. 8 wounded. 24th In Needle trench as above 9 wounded. 25th Relieved E Lancs in Mild and Shine Trenches 1 killed 2 wounded. 26th. Very severe shelling by enemy 2 killed 9 wounded. 27th In above trenches 6 wounded 1 Died of wounds. 28th As above 9 killed 34 wounded. 29th As above 1 killed 6 wounded. 30th relieved spent night at Trones Wood and next day moved to Sandpits Camp.

The battalion had a very rough time in these trenches, as enemy's artillery was very active and trenches offered little cover. The greatest difficulty was in the matter of supply as all rations and water had to be brought up by pack animal and man handled over 5 or 6 miles of roadless waste of shell

holes, which in conjunction with the wet weather became a sticky mass of wet mud.

November

1st Nov. At Sandpits camp, draft arrived from Monmouthshire Regiment. 2-5th at Sandpits Camp.

6th Nov. Relieved 2nd Worcesters at Gillemont in reserve.

8th Nov. Relieved E Lancs at Les Boeufs trenches.

9th relieved by 2nd Berks (early relief) went to camp at Brique Line. In Brique Line 10-12th Nov.

13th Nov Left camp night of 13/14th and went into trenches at Les Boeufs. Enemy shelled Les Boeufs heavily. 14th as above.

15th Enemy shelled 3rd line at Les Boeufs heavily 12 killed 13 wounded. Relieved

16th Into reserve line at Flers one Coy at Trones Wood.

17th Relieved by Hampshire Regt. and Newfoundland Regt. marched to Carnoy Camp (North). 18th. Marched to billets at Meaulte, billets fair. 19th at Meaulte.

19th Nov. Marched to Edgehill and entrained and detrained at Airaines and marched to billets at Aumont. Remainder of month at Aumont.

December.

The month was spent training at Aumont. Training of companies in attack formation, Church parades, Lewis gunners, snipers and bad shots of the Battalion on ranges. Route marches, cross country runs, Weather wet and snow. Practicing advance in successive waves under a creeping barrage. Practice cooperation of Lewis gunners and bombers in trench attack. Instruction by R.E. on rapid wiring by day and night. Instruction on use of Bangalore Torpedo theoretical and practical. Torpedo exploded to blow a gap in the wire and bombers went through gap.

24th December Divine Service.

25th December Xmas Day, Divine Service.

26th Dec. Company training.

29/30th Dec. entrained at Airaines and then marched via 112 Camp to 16 Camp on the Bray - Maricourt Rd. Camp in very dirty condition.

31st. Cleaning up camp.

1917

January

1st - 8th. In the field at Camp 16. Cleaning and draining camp. Draft of 1 officer and 25 ORs arrived. Weather very wet and cold.

9th marched to billets in Vaux stayed there on 10th.

11th Jan. Marched to Merricourt L'Abbe entrained and detrained at Airaines and marched to billets at Vergies, billets good. 12th cleaning up.

13th Jan. Battalion training in new battle formations. Battle patrol platoon formed.

14th. Training as above.

15th-21st Battalion in training, Battalion and Battle Patrol Platoon inspected by Brigadier General Cobham and the G.O.C 8th Division. 22nd Marched to Oisement entrained and detrained at Edgehill marched to Camp 13 on Morlancourt-Chipilly Rd stayed there on 23/24th Jan.

25th Jan. Battalion marched to Camp 21 on the Maricourt - Sousanne Rd.

26th Jan. Paraded for trenches and took over from Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders in the Bouchavesne North Sector.

27th Enemy quiet.

28th January 1917. Normal day 1 OR killed 2 wounded.

The OR killed on 28th January was Private Frederick Thomas Johnson

His body was either not recovered or his grave lost later in the war so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and Ross War Memorial, also on the Leominster War Memorial..

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
JOHNSON	A. S. C.	Pvt	T4/123282
Frederick T. R.	Worce R.		34721

Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
Victory	4/1028/6	3557	
Barrack		20	
Star			

Theatre of War first served in
date of entry therein

K. 1889

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

**UK, Soldiers Died in
the Great War,
1914-1919**

Name: Frederick Thomas Johnson
Birth Place: Worcester
Residence: Ross-on-wye,
Hereford
Death Date: 28 Jan 1917
Death Place: France and
Flanders
Enlistment Place: Bedford, Beds
Rank: Private
Regiment: Worcestershire
Regiment
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 34721
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European
Theatre
Formerly
T4/123282,
R.A.S.C.

Comments:

In Memory of
Private
Frederick Thomas Johnson

34721, 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment who died on 28 January 1917 Age 26

Son of Tom Fredrick and Mary Johnson, of 64a, South St., Leominster, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

25614 Private
**John William
Johnson**



7th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

John William Johnson



He was born in Birmingham in 1877 his parents were Arthur Johnson and Caroline Drinkwater. In 1881 they were living in 2 Bk. 186 Francis St, Aston, Birmingham where his father was a Pearl Button Maker. In 1902 John William Johnson married Eva Mary Ann Thomas in Cardiff and in 1911 He was a grocer's manager Eva was from Bristol. They were living

at the Villas, Milbourne, Malmesbury, Wilts.

The Great War

His number was 25614. Soldiers with numbers in this range 23000 upwards started to appear on the 7th Bn KSLI casualty lists in August 1916. So it would appear that John Johnson went to France at or just after the start of the Battle of the Somme.

14th July 1916. The Battalion made an attack on the German Trenches they were held up by barbed wire but eventually took 1st and 2nd trenches and 250 prisoners. Casualties were heavy though.

8 Officers were killed or died of wounds, 9 were wounded.

Other ranks. 147 were killed, 278 wounded (16 later died of wounds) 16 missing. 20th July a draft of 131 arrived and on 26th a further draft of 180 arrived. Batt. at Meaulte, work consisted of severe training because of the "poor quality of the drafts, they were Derbyites" (Derby scheme came out in late 1915 and got men to promise to join up when needed, and they were called up by a pre-agreed rota during 1916). But his meant in many cases they had received little training.

August 1916. At Meaulte, Happy Valley and Great Bear until 16th Aug. Training, reinforcements arriving, many men sent back to England, sick. On 17th Aug. Order to be ready to move in 20 minutes. 18th Aug. In the line, 2 Coys to support the attack by 10th RWF and 2 coys in reserve in French Fire trench. 2.50pm A and B Coys reinforced 10th RWF and 8.30 D Coy went to reinforce KSLI and Gordons, connected shell holes together and made a good fire trench. Casualties 130 all ranks. 19th Reconnoitring party went to Lonely trench and found a large part unoccupied. The KSLI were ordered to capture Lonely Trench, the trench was taken casualties 38. Field Ambulance evacuations 55 reinforcements 34. 20th Aug. At Sandpit. 21st At Meaulte total casualties since 17th Aug. 20 killed, 124 wounded, 28 missing, 1 gassed. 22-28th moved by train from Mericourt to Fienvillers and billets at Beaumetz. 28th at Bruay 6 reinforcements and four to field ambulance ORs 1 Pyrescia, 1 Rheumatism, 1 Paralysis, 1 Scabies. 29th moved to Neoux-Le-Mine and next day on to Philiosophe.

September 1916

At Mazingarbe, Allouagne and Recklingham. Ration carrying, several groups of reinforcements. Many men sent to Field Ambulance for Scabies, Anal Boils, Pyrexia, Tuberculosis, Impetigo, Brights Disease, broken dentures, Tonsilitis etc. On 23rd the Trench Mortar battery was struck off strength.

October 1916

At Philosophe. On 6th moved to support trenches and then on 8th moved to Mazingarbe Batt. duties ration carrying until 13th Oct. Men still being sent to Field Ambulance and continuous small numbers of reinforcements.

November 1916

1st Nov. Batt. relieved by E. Yorks in Serre Sector and moved to billets at Courcelles. In the afternoon orders were received to send out a patrol, a small gap was found in the enemy line and entered an enemy sentry was made prisoner and taken out of the line with great difficulty and about a dozen of the enemy appeared and opened fire with rifles, the prisoner tried to escape so Lt Southwell was compelled to shoot him, two other Germans were killed and others wounded but it was

impossible to gain an identification of the enemy. All enemy encountered were reported to have been of exceptionally fine physique, the party returned safely. On 4th Moved to Louvencourt and billeted for 7 days. Batt. moved to the trenches on 12th preparatory to an attack on Serre. The attack on Serre. Casualties 1 officer killed and 8 wounded. 214 ORs killed, wounded or missing. 14th Relieved and marched to camp at Bus-Les-Artois. 15th at 4pm ordered back into the trenches again 'at once' busses took the battalion to Courcelles. 16th In the line, relieved by Royal Scots and marched to billets at Courcelles for 4 days on carrying duties. 24th-27th relieved Royal Scots a draft of 107 arrived. The Batt. marched to Camp Wood and stayed for three days then went into trenches.

December 1916.

1st December. In the line at Serre Sector and relieved on night of 2/3rd. Then 5 days in billets supplying 300 men per day for work on the roads. Moved up to Courcelles on the 9th and back into the Line on the 10th. Relieved on the 13th and moved to Courcelles and then bussed back to

Bus-les-Artois in billets 41 OR
Reinforcements (trained) arrived on the
18th. 20th Dec. Bus-Les-Artois.
21st. At Berlencourt orders to move to
Lignereuil 75 OR reinforcements, very
good billets. 25th Dec. Training in the
morning. Divisional band played at
the Chateau in the afternoon.

1917

January. 1-3rd at Serre sector.
Relieved and moved to Nissen huts at
Bus-Les-Artois. 9th. Bn. marched to
Franqueville. Regt. transport had a
certain amount of difficulty during the
latter part of the march. Billets rather
good, moved to Chateau called
Houdencourt. 11-13th Re-
organisation of the Bn. Great deal of
work done by Pioneers of the regt. in
building bayonet standards, bombing
cages etc. Remainder of month, in
billets at various points. Training in
bayonet fighting, bombing, boxing
tournament at Domart, gas lectures,
baths and groups of reinforcements
arrived. 31st marched to Monchy-
Breton.

February 1-7th at Monchy-Breton.
Usual training. 8th Marched to Denier
the accommodation for the men was
good but poor for officers. Progressive
training continued. 12th

Reinforcements (trained) 4 Officers 82
ORs. Orders to move to Duisans for
railway construction work. 13th Move
orders cancelled. 15th 600 ORs
employed on digging trenches at
Liencourt remainder of Bn on Lewis
gun and bombing training. Digging
trenches continued until 26th. 27th Bn
marched off to Wanquetin and then on
to Arras owing to 'Thaw' Conditions the
road was in a very poor state and the
motor lorries arrived very late. 28th
600 men for working parties.

March

1-19th. Bn. found large working
parties digging caves and tunnels
under the New Zealand Tunnelling
Company an average of 600 men per
day found. Steady flow of casualties.
20th Bn. Moved to Wanquetin. 20th-
29th. At Wanquetin, practicing attacks,
training in open warfare. 29th C/O,
Coy Commanders, signallers and
bombing officers went to front line to
reconnoitre. 30th. Bn. moved to Arras.
31st. relieved 4th fusiliers at sector
opposite Tilloy Village.

April.

1st. Strength 37 Officers 895 ORs. 1
Man killed and 3 wounded by shell.
3rd. 2 killed 1 wounded. Bn ordered to
obtain a prisoner for identification

purposes. A platoon entered front line
S of Cambrai Rd. on the artillery
opening a box barrage. There had
been a fall of snow a few hours before
so the party wore white clothing. At
4.5am the party were back in the
trenches having secured a prisoner
and bombed out 2 dugouts occupied
by the enemy. The prisoner was from
the 38th Fus. Rgt. freshly from the
Russian front. 4th. 2 ORs wounded
and 2 shell shock. Front line cleared
for discharge of gas cylinders. Heavy
reciprocal artillery bombardment, Bn
cookers destroyed. 5th. Returned to
billets in Blenheim Cave, Arras.
7th Working parties from caves. 8th
same as 7th but 1 killed 2 wounded.
9th April. Easter Monday. Started
filing from Blenheim Cave at 6.55am
and in Assembly trenches by 8.45am.
At 10.40am Advanced in artillery
formation to first section of enemy
trenches which had already been taken
and then on to Tilloy Village. Heavy
hostile shelling and a certain amount of
resistance in Tilloy, which had not
been cleared, casualties from sniper
and machine gun fire. 12.40 advance
on the Brown Line, the Bois De Beoufs
was cleared but 500-600 yards from
the objective, being unsupported on

right and left Div. was held up by machine gun fire from Feuchy Redoubt and Wancourt Ridge on either flank. 7.00 dug in. The attack was resumed at 12 noon on the next day 10th. The artillery barrage was very erratic, many of the shells falling to the rear of the advancing troops but by 12.30 the whole of the objective had been captured. The captured position was consolidated and Lewis gun patrols pushed forward to command the valley. 11th Orders to support attack by 76 Bde on Guemappe but Bn. not called upon. 13th. Again ordered to support attack on Guemappe but again not called upon. 14th. Relieved by Border Regt. Casualties during these operations 9-13th April. Officers. 1 killed 6 wounded 1 gassed. ORs 22 killed, 131 wounded 5 missing. 15th April at Arras. Training, on 18th a draft of 117 ORs under 2/Lt Ursell (A Ross-on-Wye man) arrived. 20th A bombing accident on training ground 6 wounded. 21st April. Court of enquiry into bombing accident. 22nd Draft of 22 ORs. 23rd. Marched up to Tilloy. 25th took up positions in front of Monchy 5 killed 16 wounded 2 missing (1 believed killed).

26th. 4 Killed, 8 wounded, 1 gassed. 27th. 3 killed 21 wounded. 28th Returned to Tilloy 1 killed, 15 wounded. 30th. 1 killed 1 accidentally wounded.
May 1917.
 1st. trenches near Tilloy. Moved up to and relieved on the Brown Line. Operayio orders received for attack on the Red Line. 2nd May. Moved to assembly positions due to gas barrage and heavy shrapnel fire the Coys were considerably reduced in strength. 3rd May/ Zero hour 4.45am moved forward in artillery formation in support of the Royal Scots. On our right were 3rd London and on right East Yorks. Unfortunately as soon as we moved off a gap of 200 yards occurred which was caused by 167 Bde moving to far to the right. 7th KSLI immediately filled the gap, during the advance the Bn capture 3 hostile machine guns. The objective was the Bois Du Vert. The enemy put up great resistance and owing to his machine gun fire further advance was considered impossible. Several gallant attempts were made to get round his flanks. The Bn dug itself in. 10.35am situation report sent to HQ. 11.30am orders to reorganise and resume attack on Tool

Trench at a time to be notified. Reorganisation impossible until dusk. 3.25pm orders to consolidate positions achieved. Estimated casualties 4 Officers 276 ORs. 4th May Orders for all details to rejoin battalion that night. 5th May Orders to dig Communications and shrapnel trenches. Casualties from 3rd-5th May. 2 Officers killed (one of these was 2/Lt Ursell from Ross and 3 Officers wounded. 7 ORs killed, 34 wounded 37 Missing. 7th May Bn. relieved by 13th London Regt. 8th May. Baths at Rue de Lille, Arras and clean clothing issued. Working parties. 10th May orders to relieve Suffolks in trenches at Monchy. 11th May an attack was made and Tool trench and Cavalry Farm were captured 3 killed, 4 wounded. 12th May 17 ORs wounded. 13th May 8 killed, 8 wounded. 14th May Bn relieved by South Wales Borderers and marched to billets in Tilloy.

On one of these last actions Private John William Johnson was wounded and evacuated to 8th Casualty Clearing Station at Duisans where he died from his wounds on 15th May 1917.

His widow Eva later re-married Charles Price in 1918 in Ross.



His Headstone.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: John William Johnson
Birth Place: Birmingham
Residence: Ross
Death Date: 15 May 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross-on-woye
Rank: Private
Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion: 7th Battalion
Regimental Number: 25614
Type of Casualty: Died of wounds

Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
JOHNSON. John.W	H.L.L.I	Plt	25614
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victoria	J/1102 G 4522		
Decorat	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



British war medal Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
J W Johnson

25614, 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 15 May 1917

Husband of E. M. A. Price (formerly Johnson), of Gable Cottages, Alton St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

25842 Gunner
**Francis Ernest
Jones**



**18th Battery, 3rd Brigade
Royal Field Artillery**

Ernest Francis Jones

He was born 12th January 1896 in New St, Ross and was baptised on 1st March 1896 also in Ross. His father was Thomas a gardener originally from Ledbury and his mother was Alice Mary Groves. They were married in Ledbury in 1879. In 1901 yhe family were living at 15 New St, Ross. His father was a gardener. His mother Alice died and was buried in Ross on 28th July 1905. 1911 and Thomas his

father (a widower) was a jobbing gardener, his brothers - Gilbert was a butcher's assistant, Alfred a grocer's assistant, Wallace at school but also a baker's errand boy (aged 12). Ernest's sister Ethel filled in the census form and signed it. Ernest was a butchers errand boy. After 1911 Ernest moved to South Wales and worked as a miner.

The Great War

25842 Gunner Ernest Francis Jones enlisted into Royal Field Artillery 18 Battery 5th September 1914 at Caerphilly, Cardiff, for duration of the war. He joined the Battery at Preston 3 days later on 8th Sept.1914. He was aged 19 years 7 months, and a Miner by occupation. He was 5ft 7 1/2ins tall, 124 lbs in weight had a dark complexion, Dark eyes and Brown hair. He was in 18 Battery and was part of 3rd Brigade. He joined 18th battery on 1st April 1915 at Ypres and for the next six days there was nothing of interest to report in the war diaries. On 7th April there was nothing of interest but one gunner as killed.

On the 8th/9th/10th April the relief of 28th divisional artillery commenced a

section of each of 119, 120 and 121 Batteries coming up in relief of 3rd Brigade. Their guns were got into position and ours withdrawn. On the 9th/10th the section withdrawn last night and all spare horses, men and carriages of batteries marched to temporary billets West of Poperinghe. The ammunition column marched to billets East of Vlamertinghe at 11pm remaining sections withdrawn and marched to the new billets West of Poperinghe.

11th April 1915 Poperinghe. 9.15am Visit from Corps Commander. 6.50pm 18,22 and 62 Batteries moved to take over positions held by French Artillery about three miles East of Ypres. One Gunner was wounded.

12th/13th April. Headquarters and above sections completed the relief from French Artillery and 'registration' being carried out by sections in turn. One acting Bombardier and one Gunner wounded.

(Registration - Once the target was identified, the task became one of firing accurately in order to hit it. The method used by both sides in the early days in the war was to "register" on the target.

This meant firing some ranging shots which could be observed and corrections made until the target was being hit. This was a slow and wasteful process, but more importantly it gave away any possible surprise and let the enemy know where your guns were. By 1918 this had changed completely to the point where British artillery could open fire and hit the target first time: "predicted fire".)

14th/15th/16th April. Nothing of interest.

17th April 1915 Ypres. A demonstration by 28th Division in which the 18th Battery took part. Firing from 7.30 to 7.40pm on the front line and support trenches of the enemy and just North of Noordeindhook. 18th/19th April Nothing of interest one gunner wounded.

20th April. Nothing of interest Lt C.E.F. Bevir RHA attached to 18th Battery RFA. One Corporal wounded.

21st April. In accordance with secret orders received last night reconnaissance carried out for a position to be occupied by 305 Battery

now resting - to where fire can be brought to bear on the country about a mile East by South of Zonnebeke. One Corporal wounded.



Royal Field Artillery

2nd Battle of Ypres

22nd April. A quiet day for 3rd brigade but heavy firing guns and rifles to our left. enemy apparently trying to break through the portion of the line held by the Canadian Division and Algerian Troops, this was confirmed in the evening.

23rd April in accordance with orders Brigade fire with all three batteries on whole sector. Under orders as above, fire on centre and right sector ceased.

3.50pm all reported quiet and fire on left sector ceased.

24th April 8.30am A request from 146 Brigade for ammunition for Canadian Artillery. Three wagons from 62 Battery ordered to go and the ammunition was brought up in time, the teams and wagons getting back to billets safely. Owing to the absence of our own aeroplanes and the lack of anti aircraft guns, the enemy's planes were able to make a thorough reconnaissance locating position of 62 Battery which was accurately shelled. No casualties in the battery but in the evening while superintending the supply of ammunition Sgt. Major Frampton was killed and two drivers of ammunition column wounded.

25th April confidential orders for procedure in event of a withdrawal.

26th April. CO accompanied by one officer from each Battery selected positions to NW of Ypres. During the morning a request from 27th Division that as many guns as could be spared be swung round to shoot North. Brigade decided that only four guns could be spared, two from 18th

Battery and two from 22nd swung round and later moved into a fresh position. 3.45pm at request from 31st Brigade fire of these four guns opened on country west of Gravenstafel for about an hour and then later for 40 minutes.

27th April Nothing to report.

28th April Captain Sandeman reported arrival as 'Extra' Captain and immediately made Adjutant.

29th April. Billets of 62 Brigade shelled and casualties were one driver killed, one officer, one gunner and two drivers wounded. Eight horses and one mule killed or destroyed on account of wounds.

30th April Reconnaissance for positions East of Ypres carried out. Billet of 22nd Battery burned to the ground as a result of shellfire. One driver wounded, one driver injured, 20 horses burnt to death or destroyed. 1st May 1915. Ypres. 2 Officers lent to 146 Brigade to make good casualties in action. Reconnaissance for new positions 2 to 3 miles back and facing and facing North East - carried out.

2nd May. Secret orders to prepare a move tonight of one section of each Battery to position in rear, rather different to those received yesterday. Some searching artillery fire two Sergeants, one acting Bombardier and three Gunners 22 Bty. wounded. Orders for withdrawal of one section per battery tonight received. one section moved accordingly.

3rd May. 7.30am In response to request from our left the guns of 18 and 22 Batteries opened in support of left of 85th Infantry Brigade and continued until about 7pm. Orders to complete tonight's move to new positions and batteries moved off getting into new positions. One driver killed, one Sergeant, 3 Gunners wounded.

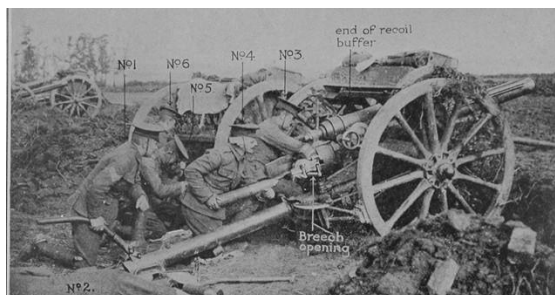
4th May. Batteries in action the whole day, 1 Gunner killed, 1 Sgt and 2 Gunners wounded.

5th May. Battery HQ moved out to join HQ 83 Infantry Brigade half mile NE of Ypres. Batteries in action the whole day involved in repelling enemy's attack in centre of zone allotted. 1 Sgt wounded.

6th May. Establishment of Batteries increased by four gunners. Two guns of 22 Battery damaged yesterday by direct hits. It was found impossible to keep them in action and they were withdrawn at night. Batteries in action the whole day across the zone allotted.

7th May. Batteries again in action as yesterday.

8th May. A few minutes after 7.00am an urgent call from the infantry forming the Brigade along the whole front as enemy attacking in force. Fire opened immediately and continued until 11pm from the guns left in action. Batteries here all heavily shelled and some guns put out of action by direct hits owing to buffer troubles and by evening 18 Battery had only one gun, 22 Bty two guns and 62 Bty only one gun left in action. At 6pm orders that 75Bty would replace 62 Bty which had received very heavy casualties. Reconnaissance for new position made. Casualties 18 Bty. 11 wounded; 22 Bty 3 Gunners wounded; 62 Bty 12 Killed, 15 Wounded.



ON THE WESTERN FRONT.
A British 18-pounder quick-firing gun in action.
No. 1 (the sergeant), with his hand on the spade, gives instructions to the rest of the detachment. At the actual moment when this picture was taken No. 2 was lying down. If the gun were actually firing his position would be to the right of the breach. No. 3 is ready to fire the gun; No. 4 has the shell in the correct position for placing in the bore; No. 5 adjusts the fuse and hands the shell to No. 4; No. 6, the farthest away, also prepares the ammunition and hands it to No. 5. The upper portion of the gun has been partially covered in order to conceal it from observers.

9th May. Orders to withdraw the whole Brigade to West of Ypres. Moved to Vlamertinghe without further loss.

10th/11th May At Vlamertinghe. Resting and overhauling equipment.

11th - 22nd May 1915. Resting and overhauling equipment.

18th Battery handed over to 'Duffus Group'. I have been unable to find out anything about the 'Duffus Group'.

The Service record of Gunner Ernest Jones says that on 10/5/1915 he was posted to No 3 Trench Battery on formation from base, in the field. I can find no details of a 3rd Trench Battery, but his record does say he was with the 18th Battery and his Commonwealth War Graves details says he was with the 3rd Battery Royal

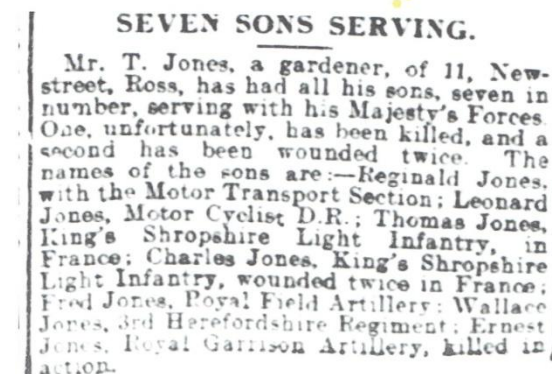
Field Artillery (Brigade and Battery in the Artillery tended to be interchangeable as units). To further complicate the issue the *Ross Gazette* states he was with the Royal Garrison Artillery at the time of his death. It is possible that it was 3rd Trench Mortar Battery (which could have been Garrison Artillery) but this was an early period for a unit to have had Trench Mortars -

He was seriously wounded and on 19th May 1915 he was posted to 13 General Hospital, with Gunshot wound to the Head. It is most likely that he was wounded prior to the 25th May because he would have initially gone to a CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) to stabilize his injuries and then moved 'down the line' to the general Hospital.

He died 25/5/1915 at 13 General Hospital, Boulogne from Gunshot wound to the head. His Next of Kin was listed as T G Jones 11 Yew St, Ross. (Service Record)

Telegram was sent on 25th May 1915 to T. G. Jones and 'King's Letter' sent same day, letter to relatives sent regarding grave site 16/7/1919.

Gunner Jones had six brothers and they all served during the Great War.



Ross Gazette.

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name:	Ernest Francis Jones
Residence:	Ross, Herefordshire
Death Date:	25 May 1915
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Caerphilly, Glam.
Rank:	Gunner
Regiment:	Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery
Regimental Number:	25842
Type of Casualty:	Died of wounds
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre

Campaign :—		1914-15		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
				(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)	
(A) JONES	RFA	Gnr	25842	VICTORY RFA/1438 8608	
(B) Ernest F.	11	1st	4	15 STAR 202A/1448 8608	
Action taken					
THEATRE OF WAR (1) France					
QUALIFYING DATE 1.4.15					
(6 34 46) W231—HP5600 500,000 4/19 HWY.P240) K698					

His medal Index Card. He was awarded.



The 1914/15 Star/British War Medal/Victory Medal



In Memory of
Gunner
Ernest Francis Jones

25842, 3rd Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 25 May 1915 Age 19

Son of Thomas Jones, of 11, New St., Ross, Hereford; and the late Mary Jones.

Remembered with Honour
Boulogne Eastern Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

6296 L/Corporal Gilbert Thomas (Tom) Jones



1st Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Tom Jones

(Gilbert) Thomas Jones was born 11 New Street, Ross on 29th July 1889 and baptised on 7th July 1895 in Ross. His parents were Thomas Jones a gardener and Alice Mary Groves both originally from Ledbury. In 1891 and 1901 they were living in New St. 1911 His father was a widower and a

jobbing gardener originally from Ledbury. Thomas was a Butchers Assistance and they lived at 11 New St, Ross.

The Great War

I was not entirely sure if Tom Jones was the same person as Gilbert Thomas Jones but a number of indicators point to it being so. Although the census gives him as Gilbert, the use of Tom rather than Thomas implies a nickname. The article about his father/family (seven sons serving) makes no mention of Gilbert but does mention Thomas in the KSLI and T.G Jones (Thomas Gilbert) wrote home about the trenches in early 1916 from the KSLI, T G Jones was listed as NOK to Ernest Francis Jones KIA 1915 and of 11 New St, Ross. His number worried me because it implied he 'joined up' about 1900 and this was far too early for Gilbert but 6296 was a re-used number. the original 6296 (KSLI) belonged to a Thomas Williams from Ellesmere who enlisted in 1900 completed his service and then re-enlisted as a private on 6th October 1915 in KSLI with a new number 14808 and then transferred to Cheshire Regt. with the number 53739.

Gilbert (Tom) enlisted very early in the Great War into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI).

Tom trained and was sent to join 1st Battalion KSLI arriving in France on 6th December 1914 he would then have spent a short time at a centre acclimatizing (Etaples) before going to the front.

17th Dec. West of Flamengerie Ferme. Bn.(1st KSLI) occupies the trenches previously held by York and Lancs Regt. Major Luard returned from England took over 194 men (reinforcements) at Moat Farm. 18th. Improving parapets and bridging 3 dykes. 4.30 - 11pm Bn fired steadily to support attacks by 7th and 8th Divisions. 2 wounded. 19th. firing is maintained to stop the Germans to our front from supporting the troops opposite the 4th Div. 2 wounded. 20th Enemy to our front show increased activity, information is received that the enemy has been reinforced by troops brought in by motor lorries, increase in level of sniping during the night 2 wounded. 21st. An attack is expected and the enemy is wiring. 22nd a fine day and the d rying roomis finished. 23rd Bn relieved and moved back to billets at Rue De Lettres.

24th and 25th December 1914 Bn. Remains billeted.

26th at Flamingerie and Bn Stands to Arms for expected attack, but the night passes without incident. 27th. Bitterley cold and the communication trench is a difficult problem as the water pits are insufficient to cope with the water draining in from both sides. 28th A wet night causes the trenches to fall in and the wire in front of our trenches is thickened. 29th Heavy continuous rain caused considerable damage to dug outs, parapets and communications trench, which latter cannot be used by ration parties, the enemy opposite seem to be in similar difficulties as our snipers are frequently able to shoot at them as they cross the open. 30th Day is used to carry out repairs. 31st All men are continuously at work draining trenches, bridges are improved for barrels, doors, planks and fascines in many places the trenches are knee deep in water. 2 casualties.

1915

January 1st. Draining trenches and revetting parapet. 2nd Enemy snipers more active than usual. Relieved and moved to billets in Armentieres and stayed there until the

8th. On 9th took over trenches from Royal Fusiliers on the Lille-Armentieres Rd and were in a flooded condition. Repairs made to the breastworks and intermittent bouts of shelling and Bn relieved by Yorks and Lancs on 15th Jan. and back to billets at Armentieres. 16-19th remained in billets and returned to trenches on the 19th. Repairing breastworks and erecting wire until 23rd when relieved. Remainder of the month in billets and trenches. Repair work and on 31st Enemy more active than usual, relieved and back to Armentieres.

February. 1-6th in Billets. Bn. received orders to move to level crossing at Bois Greniers but cancelled before arrival at the crossing. C Coy employed putting out a fire in a Flax Factory set ablaze by an enemy incendiary shell, 5 men injured with burns. 7-14th in trenches enemy more active and considerable work required on breastworks and trenches. On 11th several signs of increased activity and a brisk fire fight in which we had 6 casualties. 15-19th in billets and on 20th back into the trenches until 26th several groups of Canadians and Loyal North Lancs attached to the Bn for training. Casualties for the

period 4 men killed 9 wounded. 27/8th in Billets.

March. 1-3rd in Divisional reserve. 4th-10th back in trenches some sniping and machine gun fire but due to the misty conditions the enemy did not shell our trenches most of the casualties were head casualties. 5 killed, 3 wounded 1 frost bite. 11-14th in billets. 15th. Bn ordered to entrain for Ypres and moved to Vlamertinghe and marched to reserve billets. The enemy had taken some trenches at St Eloi but the counter attack was successful so Bn trained back to Armentieres. Remainder of month in trenches, billets and reserve. Some shelling ended month in Armentieres. 6 casualties.

April. The month was spent in billets and trenches in Armentieres. Early part of month saw heavy rain making trenches in a poor state, fairly quiet interspersed with periods of shelling and rifle grenades. 4 casualties.

May. 1st May S.E. Of Armentieres Some sniping, all trenches are shelled by light field gun during the morning. The supply of water to trenches is a difficulty with watercats necessary for the outposts. On 3rd German aeroplanes were flying over the lines.

On the 6th Armentieres was shelled heavily with much damage done. 2 patrols were sent out and reported the enemy still present. 5 men wounded by one of our own howitzer shells. On the 9th bursts of rapid fire and machine gun fire in cooperation with the artillery on the German trenches and roads to the rear of their lines to assist the 4th Army. 11th-29th May. Hostile shelling, sniping including heavy shells. Enemy very active some days and unusually quiet on others 13 casualties for month. 30th Bn relieved by Foyal Sots and marched to billets in Bailleul. 31st Bn is inspected by Rt Hon Mr Asquith and General Pultenay. A lecture on Asphyxiating gasses was given.

June. 1st Marches via Westoutre to bivouac between Vlametinghe and Poperinghe. 5th Bn marched to dugouts along the Canal Bank N. Of Ypres and on 6th were heavily shelled with 6 casualties. 7/8th digging parties sent out to Weiltje line. 9th-16th relieved and in billets in Poperinghe. 17th Take over trenches from Sherwood Foresters at Potidje 3 wounded during relief. On 18th enemy shells fired into trenches and reserve at Chateau Wood 2 killed 9

wounded and 4 more wounded at night. 19th/20th The area allotted to Bn. heavily shelled in morning, our trenches being enfiladed by both flanks 1 killed 3 wounded, shortly after midnight the enemy shelled the area with gas and high explosive shells and gas attacks reported from Regiments North and South of the Bn. we had 8 killed and 10 wounded.. 21st Nothing of interest. 22nd. Heavily shelled 2 killed 2 wounded. 23/24th Quieter days. 25th Pouring wet day, Chateau Wood shelled. 26th More shelling then usual, increased sniping at night and hostile aeroplane patrols over lines all day. 27th. Heavy artillery fire during day and enemies aeroplanes particularly active towards sunset. 29/30th Usual heavy shelling. Casualties since 17th June 12 killed 31 wounded.

July 1st at Pojitze. Support and communications trenches heavily shelled. 2nd Normal day. 3rd Chateau Wood shelled with gas shells and enemy aeroplane pays particular attention to our fire trenches. Bn relieved and back to billets at Poperinghe. On 11th Bn relieved DLI at La Brique. Difficult to get used to the trenches as so many unused

trenches mixed with our fire and support trenches. 12/13th Heavily shelled and gas shelled. 14th A very wet day with little activity shown by the enemy 15th a normal day, time spent drying the trenches. 16th a wet day making our trenches very muddy and we supplied covering party for wiring party. 17th another wet day. C Coy shelled little sniping. 18th 400 men on digging party at Forward Cottages and we supplied covering party for them 2 men killed. 19th the covering party was attacked but acquitted themselves most creditably they had 2 killed and 8 wounded.. 20th Normal. 21st Our 60 pounders bombard the enemy and they retaliated blowing in the parapet 2 casualties. 22nd shelling during day, quiet at night. 23rd Usual shelling 3 wounded. 24th Very active sniping on both sides. Shelling in afternoon and evening. 25th Gas shells in afternoon. 26th A quiet day at night machine guns assisted by artillery disperse enemy working parties. 27th In morning the enemy shelled very heavily, several portions of trench were demolished 2 killed and 2 wounded, this was light considering the volume of shelling. 28-30th Billets at Poperinghe. 31st Marched to

Chateau near Vlamertinghe to be ready to support 14th Division.

August.

1-5th In billets at Pottenhoek and bivouac at Poperinghe
6th. Relieved Somerset L.I. at Hooge. Our lines heavily bombarded, trenches in very poor state due to very wet weather and shelling, 15 wounded.
7th Our lines again heavily bombarded 7 casualties, orders for attack next morning, but postponed for 24 hours.
8th August Enemy retaliates to our bombardment by shelling Zouave Wood. A shell fell into A Coys trench killing 1 Officer and wounding 4 more as they discussed dispositions (1 OR was killed and 3 wounded as well).
1st KSLI took part in a very successful attack against the German lines. The casualties though were severe.
3 Officers killed and 9 wounded.
35 ORs killed, 156 wounded and 21 missing.
10th Aug. 3 men were killed and 7 wounded by shellfire before the relief could be completed. 11th August 1915. The Battalion was in billets East of Poperinghe and a draft of 144 Other Ranks arrived, it seems likely

that Private Francis was part of this draft or the draft of 73 which arrived the next day. Stayed in billets until the 19th aug. 20th Marched to trenches at La Brique and relieved Worcesters. 21st Quiet day our snipers very active at night. 22-24th Fairly quiet, little shelling, a German working party near Canadian Farm stopped by our rifle fire. 25th considerable sniping by both sides. 26th. Retaliated with several rifle grenades. German working party stopped by volleys and rifle grenades. Some shelling behind our lines. One man wounded by sniper. 29th Heavy Guns and Field Guns bombarded the High Command redoubt in German lines, Germans replied wounding 7 men. 30th moved to Brigade reserve at Canal Bank.
September 1915. 1st-3rd Brigade reserve at Canal Bank, 4th Moved to billets at Poperinghe. On 9th moved to trenches at Potijze and relieved DLI in front line. 10th a quiet night but in the morning heavily shelled, damaging parapet, 10 men wounded one of whom died next day. 11/12/13th quiet days artillery disperses German working party and destroys part of their trench. 14th More damage to German trenches they retaliate with 10 trench

mortar shells wounding 10 men, in the afternoon 2 more men wounded by shrapnel and Capt. Parker and Lt Lyle also wounded attending to them. 15th 4 Shells landed in the trenches and caused 5 casualties. Batt. moved back to French Dugouts. On 17th Moved to support trenches at La Brique. Stayed there until 23rd when moved to the Wood at A30 until 26th Sept. Fairly quiet time with little shelling, numbers or reinforcements arrived, some men sent on courses. 27th-30th Sept, at La Brique, considerable hostile shelling, patrols went out at night and found German wire intact. On 30th 'C' Coys salient was heavily trench mortared and 'D' Coys trench had three heavy shells burst over it killing one man and wounding 17. Later five shrapnel shells killed 2 and wounded 2 men. Otherwise the night was uneventful except for considerable shelling.
October 1915. La Brique. 1st Heavily shelled and trench mortared, no casualties but trenches considerably damaged. 2nd. Quiet day and relieved and back to billets in Poperinghe until 11th Oct. and back into trenches at La Brique until 22nd. Fairly quiet, intermittent shelling one or

two casualties each day mostly from rifle fire, some heavy machine gun, rifle and shell fire from our brigade and resulting retaliation from Germans with some casualties. 22nd at Poperinghe, in the evening our machine guns relieve those of 5th KSLI at Hooge teams return to billets. Remainder of month in reserve at Hooge. On 27th A & C Coys heavily shelled at 11am near Abeele a ceremonial parade was held for His Majesty The King, each unit to supply 25 men and one officer, the men selected returned to Poperinghe and trenches next day. 28th 1 man killed and 2 wounded when transport was returning through Ypres in the evening. 29-31st Quiet time one man killed carrying rations at night.

November 1915. Hooge

1st Shelled by Field Guns parapet blown in three places. 2nd Very wet all day trenches very wet and muddy one man wounded, very quiet day. 3rd more rain, parts impassable sections of parapet collapse. 4th Enemy snipers very active all day and night 1 man killed 1 wounded. 5th. The line is held more lightly and sections evacuated and moved to a support trench. 6th Quiet in morning and very foggy A Coy shelled 1 man killed 2

wounded. 7th Shellfire in vicinity of our trenches. 8th a quiet day 2 men wounded by machine gun fire, Ypres shelled in the evening delaying the transport for an hour. 9th C Coy shelled but only 1 shell hit the parapet. 10th. Quiet until 4pm when shelled and trench mortared 2 men killed and 3 wounded. Relieved and back to billets at Poperinghe 11-19th Nov. Billets at Hop factory in Poperinghe.

20th Nov. moved to Camp A on Poperinghe-Proven Rd. Marched to Dugouts at Canal N.W. of Ypres. Then marched to rest camp. 21st-27th at rest camp, working parties, parades cancelled because of heavy rain. On 28th moved to billets at the Covent, Rue De Boeschepe, Poperinghe in billets until 4th December.

5th December 1915 Moved to Houtkerque and into billets until 15th Dec. Practice marches, opportunities for leave and courses.

16th December 1915 in Poperinghe. Batt. entrains and marches to trenches from Asylum, Ypres. Relieves 8th KRRC. Take over sections at Canal Bank and La Brique.

17th Dec. Trenches at La Brique in a very poor state owing to bad weather

and neglect. The front line is a series of small posts with no communications between them and communications trenches to the rear are impassable. At 10.25 the enemy commenced a major bombardment in the area around Batt.HQ, in all about 2000 shells were fired in all with around 600 near HQ, their heavy guns were cooperating with their field guns. There were no casualties but much damage to the trenches.

18th. One man killed in the morning and two wounded.

19th Dec. at 5.15am the enemy made a gas attack with evidently a new type of gas. The gassing lasted about an hour after which the enemy assaulted our line in small bodies one group of 10 and one of 30. but quickly sent back by rifle fire. The gas attack was said to extend from Vertorenhoek Rd to the point where the British line crosses the canal. There was a heavy bombardment of our support trenches. After the gas clouds had blown over the eagerness of our men for the Germans to attack in force was shown by the fact that the men were seen to be singing.

"We whacked them on the Marne
We whacked them on the Aisne

Let them come
Let them come
And they won't come here again"

Battalion casualties this day were:
2 Killed, 14 Wounded, 4 Die of gas poisoning, 39 Suffering from effects of gas poisoning.

The shelling continued throughout the night.

20th December 1915. Almost incessant shelling all day on all trenches, communications, farms and defended posts behind our lines. The shelling continued and all ration dumping areas were bombarded. No communications with the front line owing to the telephone wires being cut by the shelling.

Casualties this day. 1 Killed, 13 Wounded, 3 More Die of effects of gas poisoning

21st The shelling almost ceases until 4pm. At 5pm relieved and move back to billets in Poperinghe and Canal Bank,

22/23rd Working parties. 24th No working parties.

25th Christmas Day. 2 Coys and Machine Gunners entrain at Poperinghe for the trenches at La Brique.

26th Dec. Intermittent shelling throughout the day, fortunately many do not explode but one landed in D Coy dugout killing three men. 27th. B and D Coy shelled by howitzers and field guns 3 killed and 3 wounded. 28th B and D Coys shelled again with some damage to trenches. 29th constant shelling throughout the day B and C Coys again severely shelled 1 killed and 6 wounded. Relieved and back to hutments in woods between Poperinghe and Vlamertinghe. 31st Dec. 1915 At rest in hutments..

1916

January 1/2nd In huts

3rd. Back in trenches at La Brique. C and D Coys occupy front line and D Coy holding Morteldje Salient. A and B in support. 4th and 5th quiet nights 6th About 200 shells 1 officer killed and 3 men wounded a quiet night. 7th Little shelling.

8th Jan. About 3pm heavy shelling with 5.9s and field guns. Intense retaliation is demanded from our own guns which destroy about 20 yards of parapet. Fortunately no casualties. Batt. is relieved and returns to hutments in wood.

9th In hutments at Camp C until 13th when entrained for Burgomaster Farm

and on to Canal Bank to relieve the Buffs. 14th Large working parties found to improve front and support trenches. Quiet night. 15-18th Canal Bank reinforcements arrive, little sniping or shelling, working parties still being found. Relieve the Buffs at the Forward Cottage sector (La Brique). 19th Shelled intermittently through the day. 20th Shelled during the morning but otherwise quiet. Patrols sent out to investigate enemy working parties in front of their lines, these are shrapnelled by our guns and rifle fire from our trenches. 21st A Coy shelled and retaliation demanded which proves effective. 22nd Hostile aeroplane activity at night. 23rd. Quiet day and Bn moved back to Poperinghe and billets. 28th Bn. moved to Camp C.

February. 1/2nd At rest in Camp C large working parties 450 men found each night for work on front and support trenches. 3rd-7th Burgomaster Farm and Canal Bank large working parties found nightly. 8th Feb. La Brique. Suffolks on our right and Somersets on our left. The enemy artillery is very active and almost entirely concentrated on the roads behind our lines. 9/10th Front

lines shelled but limited damage 3 wounded. 11th. Considerable hostile shelling. Bn Relieved by Bedfords. 12-15th At Poperinghe. 16th Moved to Camp D (previously called Camp C). stayed until 23rd. 24th Entrained at nearest Railway point and detrained at Asylum, Ypres and marched to Railway Wood near Hooze and relieved Sussex in front and support trenches. Sniping and machine gun fire during the night. 25th An uneventful day. 26th Quiet day. 27th Reinforcements arrive, heavy snow means trenches in very poor condition. 28th Shelling of A Coy but otherwise quiet. One man killed on patrol. Our patrols have been particularly active this tour as the identity of the enemy is unknown. 29th Bn Relieved and back to billets. **March.** 1-5th at Ypres. On 5th a shell dropped into the dry switch dugout wounding 4 men, one of whom died later. Relieved Bedfords in support trenches at Railway Wood. 6th At Hooze, a quiet day. 7th Heavy snow all day and little shelling as a consequence. 8th a quiet day but the guns carried out an organised bombardment at night but little retaliation. 9th. A few shells fired in

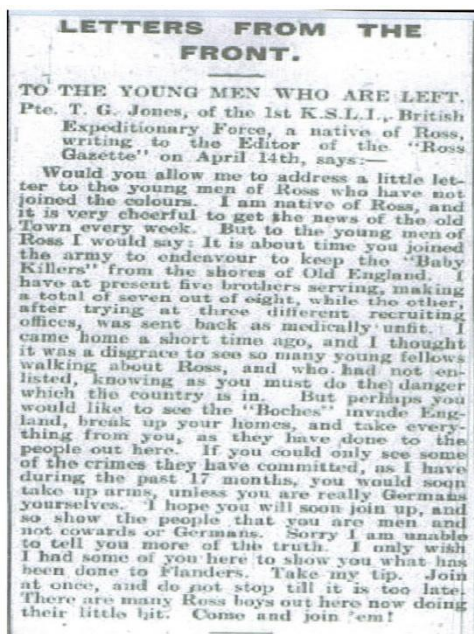
the afternoon one of which was a Russian Shell. No damage done, quiet night. 10th A quiet day, relieved in the evening, returned to Camp D. 11- 13th At rest. On 14th the Division is relieved by the Guards Division and moves back to billets in the Calais area after a short spell in Poperinghe. In Calais until 26th March Training, inspections, bayonet fighting training, Coy training on the sands. 27th Moved to Zollebeeke 73 OR reinforcements arrived. 28th Continued march to billets at Herzelee. 29th Billeted in farms near Herzelee. 31st a number of men received cards from Divisional Commander in appreciation of services rendered. **April 1916** 1st - 6th. In farms 1 mile west of Herzelee. Officers returning from courses, training. On 6th Bn moved to Poperinghe, Camp M. On 10th April 75 OR reinforcements arrived. Bn supplies 100 men for working party to bury telephone cable between Potijze and St. Jean. 11th Another 100 man working party to extend the cable from St Jean to La Brique. 15th Bn moved to Corner of Poperinghe-Proven road and on 17th marched to Brielen and Canal Bank. 18th Working parties.

19th The enemy capture a portion of the trench held by Bedfords who made an immediate counter attack but failed to recapture it. Bn ordered to move off. 20th April. Bn on East bank of the canal and supply carrying parties for rations, bombs, sandbags and shovels. Attack is planned but postponed because of the state of the ground and need for artillery preparation. 21/22nd April Bn. is detailed to recapture the trenches lost at Morteldje Estaminet sector. Attack carried out at night with great success and the trench was e from the enemy in spite of the impassable state of the ground. The attack was in three prongs, the right attack found the first trench unoccupied but then came under sustained rifle and machine gun fire suffering casualties and had to dig in as our guns were still firing on the salient. The Centre attack because of the state of the ground did not start the advance until 1am on 22nd. A and B Coys moved forward together in conjunction with the right attack. The centre came under heavy rifle fire and several men fell and were suffocated in the mud during the advance. As the men approached the trenches, the

Germans hearing the cheers of the assaulting troops retired, a few Germans were found in the trench and were bayoneted and some shot as they retired. At 3am the enemy were massing for a counter attack and the Coys moved back to Willow Walk and when the counter attack came it was beaten off by Lewis gun and rifle fire. Left attack became detached before the advance and started at 2am. but the heavy mud and the wire caused an obstruction. Very great difficulty was experienced because of the depth of the mud to prevent themselves from sinking in the men lay on the ground and pulled themselves along throwing their rifles in front of them as they progressed. a few Germans were found in the trench and those were killed the remainder 20 or 30 men retired in the face of the advance. Casualties.

Officers. 2 Killed 6 Wounded. ORs 22 Killed 135 wounded 6 Missing.

Tom Jones (Thomas Gilbert) was Killed in Action during this attack. A short time before he had written a letter to the Ross Gazette (below) encouraging the young men of Ross to come and join him.



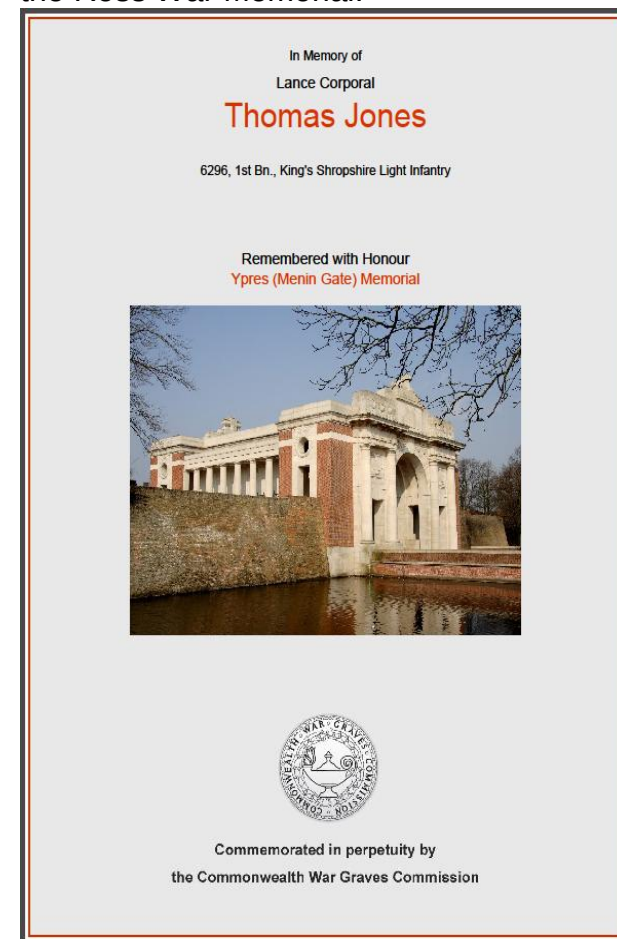
Ross Gazette 20th April 1916

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory Medal

Lance Corporal Jones body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.



3987 Private Wallace Ralph Jones



1st/1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment.

Wallace Ralph Jones

He was the brother of Ernest Francis Jones Royal Field Artillery Killed in Action 1915 and Tom (Gilbert Thomas) Jones 1st KSLI Killed in Action 1916. He was born on 25th May 1898 at Morley Square, New St. Ross and his early details are the same as his brothers listed earlier in the book.

The Great War

His earlier number 3987 implies he joined up about September 1915, The second number was allocated in early 1917 when the Territorial Force was re-numbered.

Following training he would have been sent to Egypt to join the 1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment which had been fighting at Gallipoli. Their losses had been substantial and large numbers of reinforcements were sent out during early 1916.

1916 EGYPT

In July 1916 Von Kressenstein advanced on the Suez Canal and the Herefords took part in the Battle of Rumani they were bombed by Turkish aircraft and heavily shelled and had 13 killed and 26 wounded.

In late 1916 and early 1917 they prepared for the Palestine Campaign by training with their new transport - 12 riding horses, 29 mules and 110 camels. The advance into Palestine was very difficult, there was little water and they had to construct a railway to bring up supplies.

On 24th March 1917 the Division attacked the Turks at the 1st Battle of Gaza. The Herefords were supporting the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who carried

the El Sire Ridge but because of poor communications the Generals ordered a withdrawal (to the disbelief of the troops on the ground) and when the mistake was discovered ordered them to take the ridge again but a strong enemy counter attack resulted in disaster. The Herefords lost 17 of their 22 Officers and 218 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing. The British Commander's report implied this had been a decisive victory and so was forced into the 2nd Battle of Gaza three weeks later.

2nd Battle of Gaza

17th-19th April Having failed in his first attempt to capture Gaza on 26-27 March 1917, Sir Archibald Murray, commander of British-led forces in the region, was obliged to contemplate an early renewal of hostilities as a direct consequence of the manner of his report of the initial action to Britain's War Office. At best a draw Murray nevertheless conveyed the impression to London of a clear-cut British victory. While British losses of 4,000 were reported accurately Murray trebled details of Turkish casualties, which in the event were lower than his own, at 2,400. London - under the mistaken impression that Murray was

on the verge of a notable breakthrough - consequently ordered him to re-engage his forces, this time with Jerusalem as the ultimate aim. A tall order, one made immeasurably more difficult now that the commander of Gaza's permanent garrison - German General Kress von Kressenstein - was alerted to British intentions. The British had very nearly caught Kressenstein's forces by surprise during the first encounter, aided by a dense sea fog, but was saved from defeat by a serious misjudgement by Murray's subordinate commander Sir Charles Dobell. Thus the battle was renewed on 17 April 1917. In the interim meanwhile the Turks had extended their formidable garrison defences south-east along the road to Beersheba. Dobell chose to launch a frontal assault upon Kressenstein's force of 18,000 by three British infantry divisions aided by eight heavy Mark I tanks and 4,000 gas shells. Unable to extract anything more than minor gains in spite of a two-to-one manpower advantage, chiefly on account of complex and effective Turkish defensive lines, Dobell called off the patently unsuccessful attack on the third day. British casualties were

heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure. In the aftermath of the British defeat Kressenstein favoured a counter-attack against Murray but was over-ruled by his more cautious commander Djemal Pasha. Murray, aware of the likely reaction in London to the attack's failure relieved Dobell of command, with cavalry General Chetwode taking his place. Nevertheless shocked officials in London took the opportunity to purge the high command with Murray himself being recalled to London. In his stead was sent Sir Edmund Allenby, another British general whose star appeared to be on the wane. (Correctly) regarding his redeployment from the Western Front to Palestine as a sign of failure - he was never on easy terms with BEF Commander-in-Chief Sir Douglas Haig - Allenby engineered a spectacular revival of his and his army's fortunes in a series of comprehensive British victories in Palestine.

The Turkish forces had been reinforced well and were entrenched in. The result was a defeat and British casualties were 6,325. In late October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza.

3rd Battle of Gaza. With Edmund Allenby's appointment to command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the wake of two failed attacks at Gaza in March and April 1917 - replacing Sir Archibald Murray who was recalled to London - he was tasked by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George with the capture of Jerusalem by Christmas 1917. In the light of the British army's two recent failures it appeared a tall order in spite of clear British numerical supremacy in the area. Allenby nevertheless delivered Jerusalem to London handily in time for Christmas with over two weeks to spare. In order to ensure the fall of Jerusalem however Allenby needed first to break the Turkish line at Gaza-Beersheba overseen by recently arrived German commander Erich von Falkenhayn, the former army Chief of Staff. Allenby opened preparations by first relocating his GHQ from a first-class Cairo hotel to the front line; a symbolic act designed to boost the flagging morale of the British troops. Next he amassed reinforcements of men, artillery, gas shells and tanks, adamant that he would not proceed until certain of victory. Seven infantry divisions plus a

Light Horse unit (nicknamed the Desert Mounted Corps and consisting of both horses and camels) were assembled, a total of 88,000 men. Ranged against him were the Turkish Seventh and Eighth Armies, totalling just 35,000 men stretched out along a 40km line. A key component of Allenby's plan was the securing of Beersheba's water supplies at an early stage during the planned attack - its wells. Both earlier attacks at Gaza had to some extent foundered on account of water shortages - an ever-present concern in desert warfare - and Allenby understood that establishing command of water supplies would be a key factor in his wider plan of capturing Jerusalem.

Thus the Third Battle of Gaza - also referred to as the Battle of Beersheba - was initiated early on the morning of 31 October 1917. Not for Allenby a frontal attack, as at the Second Battle of Gaza. Instead he resolved to take the Turkish forces by surprise in the relatively lightly defended area of Beersheba (a plan initially proposed by General Chetwode), deploying 40,000 troops in the area.

He nevertheless ensured a hefty British presence directly in front of Gaza. Three divisions, aided by a heavy artillery presence of 218 guns, bombarded the garrison for six days before the attack began in order to fool the Turks into believing that a full frontal attack was imminent. Allenby's ploy, which demanded the utmost secrecy in planning, succeeded in its entirety. British RFC aircraft - of newly deployed Bristol fighters - ensured British air superiority, crucial in preventing German aircraft from detecting British troop movements. Allenby deployed infantry forces to take Beersheba from the front while despatching his Light Horse unit far to the east. Following an all-day battle an Australian Light Horse unit finally penetrated the Turkish defences and secured control over the town's wells before the Turks could execute a prepared plan to contaminate them. The Turkish Seventh Army meanwhile retired to the stronghold of Tel es Sheria commanded by German commander Kress von Kressenstein's Eighth Army. Panicked there by another diversionary attack to the east by a 70-strong camel company, the Turkish defenders began to scatter

believing it to be a large-scale flank attack, thus leaving the flank of Seventh Army exposed. Promptly exploiting this Allenby struck north at Tel es Sheria at dawn on 6 November splitting Seventh and Eighth Armies. Allenby hoped to trap Kressenstein's Eighth Army at Gaza but the Turks retreated in some haste further up the coast, Gaza being abandoned on 6-7 November. Meanwhile Eighth Army established itself in Jerusalem preparatory to a stand against the British. Having concluded the successful capture of Gaza Allenby next turned his attention to the fall of Jerusalem, which he succeeded in securing the following month.

The offensive was successful and Beersheba was captured.



Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Wallace Jones
Birth Place: St. Marys, Ross, Herefords
Residence: Ross
Death Date: 6 Nov 1917
Death Place: Egypt
Enlistment Place: Hereford
Rank: Private
Regiment: The Herefordshire Regiment
Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 236541
Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
JONES	HEREFORD. R	Private	3987
Wallace			236541
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	14/106/132	599	
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
W Jones

236541, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment

Remembered with Honour
Beersheba War Cemetery




Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

7834 L/Corporal Theophilus Jordan



2nd Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Theophilus Edward Jordan

He was born in Ross and baptised on 6th June 1879. His parents were Joseph Llewellyn Jordan (1838-95) a Cabinet Maker and Elizabeth Davis (1842-24/12/81-burial). 1881 Lived in New St. Father Joseph a Joiner and Wood Turner. In 1891 he was a

General Labourer Lodging in Edde Cross Street. The home of 'Lamplighter' Green who also died in the Great War. In 1901 he was lodging at 27 Kyrle St he was a general Labourer at the home of Wm Jarvis a Billposter. Private Jordan joined the army about the beginning of 1905. Soldier 7598 joined on 11th January 1904 and soldier 7944 joined on 18th May 1905. He was attached to 2nd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry and sent to India and in 1911 he was at Trimulgherry

The Great War

At the start of the Great War (August 1914) the Battalion (and Private Jordan) were at Secunderbad in India. They were mobilized and returned to England and on 20th December 1914 they were at Winchester. They left there and moved to Le Havre in France landing on 21st. The following day they get the train and moved to Aire arriving on the 23rd Dec. when they moved to billets at Blaringhem. On the 25th Dec 1914 Every Officer, NCO and man received a Xmas card from their Majesties The King and Queen and the following day 26th Dec. every Officer NCO and Man received Princess Mary's gift. From the 27th-

31st Dec. the Battalion was engaged on digging operations.

Ypres Salient

On 1st January 1915 the Battalion was inspected by Field Marshal Sir John French. Then more digging operations until the 3rd Jan. On the 4th a march had to be postponed due to a shortage of boots. 5th Jan marched to new billets at Strazeele eleven and a half miles. 6th moved to Meteren 7th moved to area of Dickebusch in support of the rest of the brigade who were in the trenches. 8th. Germans commenced shelling at mid day and had to leave billets and go into trenches, dugouts and ditches, continued until dusk. 3 killed and 10 wounded. During the night of the 9th at Vormezeele rifle fire was going on continually and during the day most of the trenches were shelled, the part most shelled were the machine gun positions. 10th still at Vormezeele rifle fire most of day, little shelling but our artillery shelled the Germans most of the day. Batt. relieved by Gloucesters. 11th marched to Dickebusch and then on to billets at Boescheppe and rested. 12th about 300 men could not march because of sore feet or frostbite. 13th returned to Dickebusch about 500

strong, leaving sick at Boescheppe.
 14th Jan. relieved the Duke of Cornwall L.I. in the trenches 1 wounded, usual rifle fire at night. 15th Shelled most of the day. 16th Relieved by Gloucesters and back to billets at Dickebusch. 18th marched to Westoutre and stayed there until 23rd January. On 24th took over trenches at Dickebusch from DCLI. Relieved on the 26th and returned to trenches on the 28th Six casualties on 29th Jan and relieved on 30th but had 3 more casualties.
 31st January 1915 the Batt. went into the trenches at St. Eloi and relieved Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.
 February 1915. 1-5th in the trenches and on the 5th went into billets at Westoutre. On the 9th went back into the trenches at Dickebusche and on 13th a reinforcing draft of 1 Officer and 183 ORs arrived. Pte William Clarke was most probably with this draft. 14th Feb the Batt. was supposed to go into trenches at St Eloi but owing to situation could not be relieved 4th rifle brigade 'so stood' to in a farm near Dickebusche.
 16th Feb. In trenches, heavily shelled 3 killed, 11 wounded.

17th. In trenches, relieved and marched back to billets in Dickebusche 2 killed 6 wounded. 18th Halted in Dickebusche, 19th relieved Rifle brigade 1 killed in relief. 20th in trenches 1 killed 2 wounded. 21st to end of month in billets at Dickebusche and Westoutre a draft of 1 Officer and 253 ORs arrived. Casualties for month 10 killed and 31 wounded.

March 1915. 1st-21st. In billets at Dickebusche and Westoutre and trenches at St Eloi. 119 casualties (killed or wounded) in this period. On 11th March 1916 the Battalion was relieved by the Royal Irish Regiment and marched back to billets at Dickebusch where they remained until morning, they had been shelled very heavily during the day and suffered 6 killed and 4 wounded during the relief..

L/Corporal Theophilus Jordan was one of those killed in action on 11th March 1915. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Soldiers died in the Great War

Name:	Theophilus Jordan
Birth Place:	Ross, Herefords
Residence:	Ross
Death Date:	11 Mar 1915
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Hereford
Rank:	L Corporal
Regiment:	Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion:	2nd Battalion
Regimental Number:	7834
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action

Name. JORDAN. <i>Theophilus</i>		Corps. <i>SHROPS. L.I</i>	Rank. <i>2/cpl.</i>	Regt. No. <i>7834.</i>
			<i>* Plc</i>	
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	<i>J/1/102 B2.</i>	<i>393</i>	<i>Kin a. 11-3-15.</i>	
BRITISH	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>		
15. STAR	<i>J/1/4 B1.</i>	<i>79.</i>		
Theatre of War first served in <i>France.</i>				
Date of entry therein <i>21-12-14.</i>				

K. 1280.

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory Medal

In Memory of Lance Corporal Theophilus Jordan	
7834, 2nd Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 11 March 1915	
Remembered with Honour Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial	
	
	
Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission	

6474 Private George Knill



1st Bn Wiltshire Regiment
(Duke of Edinburgh's)

George Knill

Was born in Holmer, Herefordshire on 29th June 1883. At 1891 census George was living at 1 Lane Cottages, Holmer with his widower father Thomas, brother James and sisters Emily and Elizabeth. Thomas was an agricultural labourer, James was a groom and Emily was a general servant. George's mother Emma had died in 1890.

. In 1901 he was in the General Hospital in Hereford.

He joined the Wiltshire Regiment and his number was 6474 this indicates that he joined about March 1904. As the numbers below were issued on the dates shown.

6183 joined on 12th January 1903
6938 joined on 12th July 1904

The 1st Battalion did not take part in the Boer War. Serving in Aden at the time of amalgamation it continued the usual routine of postings in Britain, Ireland and India, where in 1905 it was said that the Queens and the Wiltshire's were the best two battalions in India. They remained there until 1909 when it moved to South Africa for five years. It returned to England in 1913.

George Knill seems to have served his 6 years in the colours in India and probably returned to England when the Regiment went to South Africa in 1909. He states in 1911 he is an ex service man and his number is a Wiltshire Regt. 1904 number but I have been unable to find him on the service records.

At 1911 census George was staying at Edde Cross St, Ross. His occupation was Carter and an ex-service man.

On 15th April 1913 George Knill married Elizabeth Mary Counsell a 26 year old spinster from 1 Nursery Road, Ross-on-Wye. His address was 27 Edde Cross St, Ross and his occupation was labourer. They then moved to 5 Nursery Road

The Great War

When the Great War broke out George Knill (ex-service man) would have been in the reserve and was immediately recalled to the colours.

Extracts from the war diaries

On 4th August 1914 his regiment was mobilized and he was ordered to report to the 1st Battalion based at Tidworth. The mobilization was completed at 6.30pm on 8th August with a full establishment except for officers. 9th August 1914. Church parade, route marching, inoculations for enteric, inspections. 10th August. Musketry drills and range practice. 11th August Brigade route march, range practice, inoculations continue.

12th August. Orders to entrain received. Packing up and closing accpunts.

13th August.

7.22am 1st train Lt. Col. Kasted commanding strength 505 all ranks left Tidworth.

8.58am 2nd train Major Barnes Cmdg strength 509 all ranks left Tidworth.

9.12am 1st train arrived Southampton docks and detrained at shed 23.

Troops then embarked on S.S. South Western and sailed at 4.30pm. At 7.15 anchored in Sandown Bay. Got under way at 5.am on 14th August.

13th August 10.45am 2nd party arrived at Southampton and embarked on S.S. Princess Ena.

14th August 2nd party arrived at Rouen and marched to camp at Mont St Aignan. Later joined by 1st party.

16th August the Batt. entrained at Gare Du Nord, Rouen for Aulnoye and went into billets. On 17th marched to Marbaix and into billets. stayed until 20th when marched to Avesnes great reception by inhabitants, troops loaded with flowers.

21st August into billets at Feignes

22nd on to Harmignes German aeroplane flew over. One company to Nouvelles to protect artillery.

23rd Three companies to entrench position at Ciply facing Mons, were shelled, entrenching throughout the night. Battle of Mons but regiment did not take part other then entrenching.

24th August Battle of Ciply. enemy started to shell about dawn and continued throughout the day. 1pm brigade ordered to withdraw to St Wass. Casualties Capt Davies and 3 men killed, Capt Rowan and 20 men wounded. C/Os horse shot from under him. Retirement to St Wass effected without further loss, enemy followed up leisurely.

25th in position at Gommignies but driven out by enemies superior forces retiring on Solesmes. Fought a rearguard action and after severe engagement retired under cover of darkness to Caudry, enemy did not pursue but shelled the town of Solesmes.

26th Battle of Caudry - Le Cateau. Wilts held North edge of Caudry the whole morning were heavily shelled and attacked by infantry 80-100 casualties. Wilts ordered back to Beaurevoir.

On 26th August 1914 on his third day 'at the front' Private George Knill was taken prisoner at the battle of Le Cateau (Caudry).

He was sent to a Mannschafslager Prisoner of war camp. **Doberitz POW camp.**

Doberitz was at Spandau just outside Berlin. It was a notorious camp.



A work detail of British POWs return to Doberitz. The POW camp attracted world wide attention when Private William Lonsdale punched a German Guard in November 1914 and was sentenced to death. Lonsdale and 250 fellow captives had failed to assemble quickly enough for the Germans and a general fracas erupted between the prisoners and the guards. Bowing to international

pressure the sentence was commuted to 20 years in January 1915, followed by an outright pardon, from the Kaiser, seizing the propaganda opportunity.



ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross have compiled files on many of the Prisoners of War, including some relating to George Knill - below.

K IV 1

Knill George
Pte. 6474. Wilts. A.
Rep. S. Nursery Rd. Ross-on-Wye. Hereford

P. A. 10738. 29.5.17. K. George.
Pte. 6474. Wilts. A. Born 29.6.23. Taken. 26.8.14. Caudry. Died. 30.3.17. at Libau. Communiqué famille 14-2-17

Above - George Knill's details as a POW. The cypher at the top K IV 1 stands for (E) K 4 1 and is relevant later. It then gives his name, rank, Regiment and home address and Date of Birth. It then gives date and place

when taken prisoner 28.8.1914 Caudry and date and place of death 30/3/1917 Libau. The final part is the date of a communication with his family 14-2-1917.

Below are two documents relating to his POW records. The first is the document which gives his POW numbers and range of documents which contain his details PA10745 - PA10959. The second document gives the details of a number of British men who died (Verstorben) at Libau at about the same time as George Knill (a three week period)

2039
Berlin 23.1.17
4. NOV 1917

Hgl. B. Kriegsministerium
Zentral-Dachweise-Bureau

England.

PA 10745-PA10959

Gefangenenlisten
Lazarettlisten
Todeslisten
Schicksalslisten
Nachlasslisten

29 mai 1917 PA 10745-10959

Gefangenentitle
des Regers DEUTSCHLAND

VERSTORBEN
Bf. Libau
eingetragen vom Bf. Mts. am 14.5.17
abgelehnt vom Bf. Mts. (N. B.) am 26.5.17

Staatsangehörigkeit: BRITEN

Nr.	a) Familienname b) Name (mit der Rufname) c) nur bei Mts. Staatsangehörigkeit	Stuf. grad	d) Trupps b) bei c) Komp.	e) Gefangenennr. b) (bei am Tag c) vorhergehender Rufname)	f) Gefangenentitle b) (bei am Tag c) vorhergehender Rufname)	g) Gefangenentitle b) (bei am Tag c) vorhergehender Rufname)
1.	KNILL, George	Pte	W.O.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
2.	HARLOW, Frank	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
3.	BOYINGTON, George	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
4.	PARSONS, Joseph	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
5.	HARVEY, Joseph	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
6.	THOMAS, Cedric	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
7.	KINSMAN, Herbert	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
8.	KNILL, George	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau
9.	KERRIS, Harry	Pte	W.V.L. 2. St. 1914	24.8.14. Sheffield 7.11.16	Verstorben am 30.3.17	Libau

From the document above it would appear that George Knill spent most of his POW time at Doberitz but on 7th May 1916 a large group of about 1,000 British POWs (a quarter of the British population of the camp) were sent from Döberitz to Russia as reprisal for German POWs being loaned to the French and employed behind the lines in France. The POWs from Döberitz

joined 1,000 men from other camps (Senne and Friedrichsfeld). The men were split into groups of 500 men each named "Englische Kommando" and numbered E.K.1 to E.K.4 and taken to four "Reprisal Camps" in Courland (Western Latvia). All the men effectively stayed registered with their old camp but would add "E.K.1.", etc. to their postcards. One E.K. was sent to Windau (Ventspils, a port on the north-west coast of Latvia), one to Angernsee (Engures Ezers on the North coast), one to Wainoden (Vainode, inland on the Lithuanian border) and the fourth (E.K.4) to Libau (Liepāja, a port on the west coast of Latvia).

This is the group to which George Knill was allocated (the K IV 1 on his ICRC card). The men of E.K.4 were transported by train from 7th May 1916 to Libau where they spent eight months unloading provisions for the German 8th Army from ships at Libau docks and working in slaughterhouses. In February 1917 the E.K.4 group was sent to Mitau (Jelgava) near Riga (now in central Latvia, but then in Russia). From there they were force marched in the snow, allegedly at lance-point by Uhlans, along the River Aa (mod:

Lielupe) for 36km to "Reiskatte" between Riga and Mitau where they worked just behind the German lines digging trenches and burying the dead – including some frozen Russians from earlier attacks. *On 30th March 1917 George Knill died.* On 7 June the party returned to Libau and returned to Germany in November 1917, initially at Czersk and then at Chemnitz where they finished the war. According to C.S.M. Alexander Gibbs (2nd A. & S.H.) only 72 of the 500 at Mitau returned without needing extensive hospitalisation and 30 men died. *George Knill was one of those who died, he is buried in Latvia and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.*

Below is a report from Private Brown who was with the same group as George Knill

'I was first sent to DOBERITZ where I remained till May, 1916. From DOBERITZ I went to LIBAU employed on heavy dock work.

Accommodation very bad - no parcels or letters for five months after which they came regularly.

February, 1917 my company consisting of 500 men were taken to LIBAU. Entrained from LIBAU to

MITAU in cattle trucks. Began a march surrounded by Uhlans, snow was above our knees. After first 10 kilometers men began to fall out and were immediately struck with the butt end of lances by the Uhlans and those who could not march were placed in sledges their kit being stolen by German soldiers passing on the road. Slept in a large cavalry tent with 8 small trench stoves but no fuel supplied.

Informed German prisoners were being employed on the Western Front. Despite protests by the German Government the practice was being continued so as a reprisal we would be kept at LATCHEN until the German's (prisoners) were removed from close behind the British lines.

There was strict Military discipline, half rations, no smoking and no letters or parcels.

Defaulters would be tied up on a pole for two hours a night for 14 days.

There was no water and we used snow for drinking and water from the river. We were in a continued state of starvation. Bones thrown out by the German kitchen the other side of the river were eagerly gnawed by us and even swill tubs were welcome to

assuage our hunger.
 Men were inadequately clad for weather conditions and suffered frost-bite. Our main diet was soup. Sometimes (owing to the below zero temperatures) it was impossible to get boots on and cloths were used to wrap feet in yet we were still sent to work at the point of a bayonet. A distance of some 7 kilometres. I recall 42 men dying. Men deliberately chopped fingers off hoping for hospital. Constantly under shell fire when repairing trenches - hoped to die from the shells. There was a roster of three names, if one escaped the other two were shot.

BRITISH GRAVES IN LATVIA.
 (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
 RIGA, Nov. 9.
 To-day the Latvian Lutheran Dr. Reinhardt consecrated a special burial plot adjoining the Cemetery of Saint Nicholas at Jelgava [Mitau], which the Latvian Lutheran ecclesiastical authorities have presented to Great Britain for the interment of British soldiers and sailors whose graves hitherto have been scattered throughout Latvia.
 The Imperial War Graves Commission has already exhumed 36 bodies at Libau, Jelgava, Tukums, Boldonai, Krievenhof, and other places and reinterred them in this British plot. Those reinterred include one unknown sailor, two unknown soldiers, Sergeant-Major Gibb, Sergeant Bennett, Corporals Mulhouse and Waterman, Privates Barlow, Baker, Carruthers, Bovington, Skett, Macculloch, Clarke, Argyle, Walker, Harvey, Farmer, Roberts, Sturgeon, Archer, Einsman, Purcell, Grant, Stirling, Irvin, Wilmoth, Knill, and Lesson; Seamen Cowles, Young, Brown, Ireland, and Rootham; and Bandmen Smith and Clarkin.
 Latvian military and civil representatives attended the ceremony and laid wreaths on the graves. They expressed the gratitude of Latvia to Great Britain. The Latvian Church of St. Nicholas has undertaken the upkeep of the graves.
 Times 1924



89 1914 Campaign

(A) Where decoration was earned.
 (B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Medal	Roll	P.A. No.
(A) KNILL	Wiltshire	Pte	6474	VICTORY	4/1028867	
(B) George				BRITISH	4/1028867	
Action taken				Died		
14/8/14						
QUALIFYING DATE				14.8.14		
(6 34 46) W234-11P5590 000,000 4/19 HWY(P240) K008				[OVER]		

He was awarded the 1914 (Mons) Star with Clasp and Roses, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



In Memory of
 Private
George Knill
 6474, 1st Bn, Wiltshire Regiment who died on 30 March 1917 Age 34
 Husband of Elizabeth Mary Knill, of 12, Nursery Rd., Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
 Nikolai Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

27801 Private Frederick Charles Lafford



16th Battalion
Warwickshire Regiment
(3rd Birmingham Pals)
Formerly
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Frederick Charles Lafford

Born 20th April 1895 at the Nursery, Ross and baptised on 10th October 1895. His parents were Charles Frederick Lafford a Cowman from Gloucestershire and Elizabeth Preece from Ross. In 1901 His father was a Farm Labourer living at 62 Over Ross St. His father died 7th Dec 1907 34

Overross St. On 28th December 1909 his mother married Arthur Bishop a Hawker living at Mill Pond St, Ross. In 1911 he was living at the home of his stepfather Arthur Bishop a Glass Blower of 10 Brookend St.

The Great War.

Private Lafford enlisted into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) in 1915 probably as part of the Derby scheme. This meant he volunteered to fight but was called up according to age, marital status, occupation etc during 1916. His age meant he would have been in group '3' and mobilized on 20th January 1916. Following training he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion KSLI on 22nd Sept. 1916 they were posted overseas on the 1st Oct. 1916 landing in France on the 3rd Oct at Rouen.

His service history is then a little uncertain. He moved from KSLI to the Warwickshire Regiment (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) and (Soldiers who died in the Great War) sites. He also served in the 11th, 2nd and 16th Battalions of the Warwickshires (Service medals and awards Rolls).

About 78 K.S.L.I. men were transferred and sent to 4th I.B.D. at Rouen. On the 14th Oct. they were reposted to the 29th I.B.D (Infantry Base Depot) and that same day transferred to the 11th Warks. with numbers between 27776 and 27854 (Pte Lafford was 27801) joining them in the field on the 15th Oct. At some point he was posted to 2nd Batt. Warwickshires and from there to the 16th Battalion. Unfortunately there is no apparent record of dates for these postings but the KSLI men were drafted where needed at that time. The War Diary of the 11th Warwickshires list the arrival on 15th October 1916 of 79 ORs from the KSLI so it seems likely that Private Lafford was one of these and served with them for a period. It is most likely that he suffered an illness or minor wound at some point and sent back to Base Depot/Hospital (both at Rouen) probably with the 2nd Warwicks and then on recovery returned to the front where needed most ie. the 16th Warwicks.. The 16th Warwickshires had a draft of 83 Other Ranks sent from Base Depot on 24th December 1916, this was the only sizeable draft to the 16th between October 1916 and

April 1917(the time of Pte Lafford's death).

I have therefore detailed extracts from the war diary of the 11th Battalion from 16th October 1916 until end November 1916 and the 16th Battalion from 24th December until 10th April 1917.

11th Battalion Warwickshire Regiment.

16th October At Fresnicourt marched to billets at Bajus. The Batt. then marched to billets at Neuville Au Cornet, Sartron, Bertrancourt, Mailly Maillet and finally to Acheux they were involved in intensive training, practicing bayonet fighting, Artillery formation attacks and bombing. On 31st moved again to billets at Amplier. November 1916

1st-11th Nov. At Doullens Battalion training. 12th Nov. Marched to billets at Louvencourt. 13th 3pm moved to Bertrencourt in hutments after 2 hours marched to billets at Mailly-Maillet. 14th Nov. 3am Batt. marched in 'Battle Order' to White City and 'stood to' in a communications trench awaiting orders. At 1pm Batt. moved forward to attack Frankort Trench, passing over Munich trench which erroneously was supposed to be in British hands. The

attack was held up by hostile M/G and rifle fire from Munich trench and Batt. retired to Minden Trench. 15th Nov. Orders that Munich Trench would be attacked at 9am, attack by 2 Lancs Batts and 11th Warwicks in support. Trench was very strongly held and the attack was held up. Under cover of dark Batt. reorganised in eave Trench and Wagon Road and HQ. in Beaucourt Trench. 16th in Wagon Road, hostile artillery barrage experienced. 17th Relieved and moved to billets in Mailly then to billets at Englebelmer. 18th. Brigade moved to Hamel via Mesnil, after a short stop moved forward to Station Rd. During the operation suffered about 40 casualties from hostile shell fire. 19th Batt remained in reserve in Station Rd. 20th Relieved KRRC and occupied trenches adjoining Redoubt Alley, during the relief the hostile artillery was intense. 21st Nov. Redoubt Alley. Intense hostile artillery all day, men suffered from exposure draft of 200 men arrived. 22nd Nov. conditions same as yesterday. Relieved at 7.30pm and back to Station Rd. 23rd In reserve. 24th Relieved East Lancs in trenches. 25th Nov. Quiet day but very wet

everyone wet through and covered in mud and very tired. 26th Relieved by Manchester Regt. and marched into billets at Mailly. 27th Into billets at Louvencourt.

Casualties for period 14-27th Nov. Officers 3 Killed 4 Wounded. Other Ranks. 32 Killed, 153 Wounded, 31 Missing, 11 Shell Shock, 93 Sick to Field Ambulance. Total casualties 9 Officers 320 ORs.

16th Battalion Warwickshire Regiment

It seems almost certain the Pte Lafford was one of those wounded or sick and sent back to base in this action. On his recovery he seems to have gone to the 16th Warwickshires with the draft arriving on 24th December 1916.

24th December 1916. Le Quesnoy. Batt Relieved by Bedfords and withdrew to billets. Draft of 83 Other Ranks arrived from base. 25th (Xmas Day) 26th Dec. No entries. 27th Moved into trenches at Cuinchy.

1917

January 1-4th. Batt. Relieved and back to billets in the village. Carrying duties of Mortar Bombs for the RE.

5th Back in the front line until 9th when back in billets at Le Quesnoy.. 9-12th Billets a number of officers were sent on courses and on 13th Back in the front line at Cuinchy. 15th A patrol of 4 went out but found the wire extremely strong and strongly held, so returned. 17th. relieved by Bedfords and withdrew to Village Line. 22nd Jan. Batt. relieved by 1st Devons and withdrew to billets in Essars. 22nd to end of month, billets in Essars, company training, officers and men have some opportunity for leave and courses.

February 1st at Ferme Du Bois. Relieved Somersets in the trenches. Feb 3rd Parapet on left sector damaged by 2 direct hits from 4.2s. 1 OR wounded.

5th. A patrol of 9 went out to a pile of ruins about 70 yards to the front. They found evidence it had been used by the enemy but not for some time. Batt. Relieved.

5-8th Feb, Batt. cleaning up, kit inspections etc. 9th-14th Back to the front at Le Touret. Patrols out every day 51 Reinforcements arrived from Base Training Depot. 14-17th Relieved, resting and cleaning up. 18th-21st Back in the line, more patrols

investigating enemy wire. 21st-25th In Billets at Le Touret. 25-27th In the line and on 27th relieved in the trenches to support a raid by 1st Norfolks and 14th Warwicks. Then back to billets. 28th Feb. Resting.

March. 1917

1st Resting in billets.

On 2nd moved into reserve at Annequin and on 5th into billets at Annequin.

9th Mar. Relieved Bedfords in trenches at Cambrin sector. 18 Officers and 320 ORs from 2/7th Manchester Regt. attached for instruction.

13th Batt. relieved and moved to the Village Line. In the middle of the relief the enemy opened fire with M.T.M (Medium Trench Mortar) killing 1 and wounding 3 (one of whom died later). 14-16th The brigade was relieved in the Cambrin sector.

On 17th the Batt. relieved Bedfords in the Cambrin right sector.

19th Mar. Batt. moved to Allouagne Lapugnoy and on to Bethune then into Army Reserve at Beuvry until further notice.

23rd. Orders that Brigade will move to Allouagne Lapugnoy area on the 25th. 26th-31st March. Battalion training for offensive operation. Reconnoitre

communications trenches to Canadian Div. front.

April 1917.

1st - 3rd April. At Lapugnoy Battalion training.

4th. Scheme of cooperation.

Operation orders attached.

5/6th Various officers moved to and back from England.

7th April. Operation Order issued.

Operation to start on 12th April.

8th April 1917 Batt. moved to Cambigneul

Private Frederick Lafford Died of his Wounds on 10th April 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. This memorial is to those who died in the Arras area and have no known grave. As he died of wounds he would probably have been buried by his comrades but the grave lost in the later shelling and it seems likely that he was wounded by shelling or gunfire shortly before his death. If he had been sent back to a Casualty Clearing Station or Field Ambulance he would have been buried in the hospital cemetery.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Frederick Charles Lafford
Birth Place: Ross, Hereford
Death Date: 10 Apr 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross
Rank: Private
Regiment: Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Battalion: 16th Battalion
Regimental Number: 27801
Type of Casualty: Died of wounds
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 24767, Shrops L.I

Name		Surname		Rank		Regt. No.	
L. AFFORD		R. WAR. R		Pte		24767	
Frederick. C.						27801	
Medal		No.		Page		Remarks	
Victory		L/104 2904249					
Barrage		20-20					
Rank							
Theatre of War first served in							
Date of entry theatre							

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 for Frederick C. Lafford			
British War Medal and Victory Medal - Royal Warwickshire Regiment - 16th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment			
		2/1st Bn. Manoh. R.	
		8620	
		1/7th Bn. R. War. R.	
		54537	
27801	Pte	L. AFFORD, Frederick C.	Bn. Shrops. L.I.
		24767	Pte.
		11th Bn. R. War. R.	
		27801	
		2nd Bn. R. War. R.	
		27801	
		14th Bn. R. War. R.	
		27801	
307765	Pte	LAIGHT, James H.	Bn. R. War. R.
		307765	Pte.

In Memory of Private Frederick Charles Lafford 27801, 16th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment Age 25 Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop, of 10, Brookend St., Ross, Herefordshire. Remembered with Honour Arras Memorial   Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
--

57102 Private
Herbert Henry Large



**1st Battalion Auckland
Regiment
New Zealand Expeditionary
Force**



**'A' Coy
29th Reinforcement Battalion
NZEF**

Herbert Henry Large

He was born in Toronto Canada on 16th November 1875. His parents were Wallace John Large from Llancille, Monmouthshire and Mary Ann Taylor from Walford, Herefordshire. 1881 census the family have moved back to England and were living in Brookend St, Ross but Herbert does not seem to be with them. 1891 and Herbert Large was living with his family in Church St, Ross. His father was a Gardener and Herbert was a Baker's Apprentice. His brother Thomas was a Sculptor's Apprentice. Herbert has left home and is a footman at Farleigh House, Farleigh Wallop his mother was now a widow. On 15th January 1902 he emigrated to New Zealand on the MS Gothic en route to Wellington. He was described as an Adult Single Male, occupation Gentleman. He travelled 'Saloon' Class. Herbert Large did well for himself in New Zealand he went from Wellington to Hawke's Bay settling in Hastings and by 1917 Herbert Large was the Manager of the Albert Hotel, Hastings, New Zealand

Albert Hotel, Hastings, NZ



The Great War

On the 9th March 1917 57102 Private Herbert Henry Large joined the New Zealand army in the 1st Battalion Auckland Regiment. He gave his address as the Albert Hotel and occupation as Hotel Manager, place of birth Toronto, Canada and employer as Mrs M. O'Donahue of Hastings. He had his medical at Napier on 19th March 1917 and he was 41 years 4 months old, 5' 8" tall, 160lbs weight, Dark Complexion, Blue Eyes, Black Hair and Church of England. He had varicose veins and had suffered from Malarial Fever.

From 9th March until 29th May 1917 Herbert Large was with the 1st Bn. Auckland Regiment on 30th May he was posted to 'J' Company 29th Reinforcement Bn. and then on 7th August he was transferred to 'A' Company 29th Reinforcement Bn and left with 1,628 other men on the SS Mokoia (and the SS Ruahine).



SS Mokoia

3rd October they landed at Glasgow and as 29th Reinforcements marched to Sling to join 4th Reserve Battalion Auckland Regiment.

Sling Camp

The camp was initially created as an annexe to Bulford Camp in 1903; it was originally named "Sling Plantation"

after the nearby woods. Soon after the beginning of World War I, New Zealand troops started work on building wooden huts here. They were later joined by Canadian troops, joiners, bricklayers, and civilian workers. The word "Plantation" was then dropped from the title and it simply became Sling Camp. After building was completed, it was said that if each hut were placed end-to-end they would measure 6 miles.

In 1916, the camp was occupied by New Zealand forces and was then known as Anzac Camp by some. It then comprised four main sections: Auckland, Wellington, Otago, and Canterbury Lines. It was officially called the 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade Reserve Camp, and trained reinforcements and casualties who were regaining fitness.

In 1918, there were 4,300 men at Sling. Soon after the camp suffered large casualties as a result of the Spanish influenza.

The camp also housed some New Zealand conscientious objectors (among them Archibald Baxter and his brothers Alexander and John) who had been forced to join the army and sent

all the way from New Zealand to England to make an example of them. After the end of the war, there were 4600 New Zealand troops stationed at the camp and the camp became a repatriation centre. At that time there was unrest in other camps as a result of delays in demobilising troops. To try to restore order the "spit and polish" regime was enforced and route marches ordered. The men requested a relaxation of discipline as the war was over and they were far from home, however this was refused and the troops rioted, stealing food from the mess and all of the alcohol from the officers mess.

In an attempt to resolve the situation, the officers and men were promised no repercussions, but this promise was not honoured; and somewhat ironically the ringleaders were arrested, jailed and immediately shipped back to New Zealand.

To occupy them, the New Zealand soldiers were put to work carving the shape of a large Kiwi in the chalk of the hill that overlooks the camp. The Bulford Kiwi as it is known is still there today.



Sling Camp and the Bulford Kiwi

The Battalion went to France to join the 1st Auckland Battalion who had been fighting in the Ypres sector.

Passchendaele Many valuable weeks of the 1917 summer were wasted and when Field-Marshal Haig started his great offensive from the Ypres Salient on 31 July autumn rains had begun. Hope of strategic objectives faded; but successes in late September and early October made him try to win the rest of the Passchendaele ridge for his winter line. The New Zealand Division had been training since the end of August to overcome the numerous concrete “pillboxes” in this sector. The first objective of the Division was the Gravenstafel Spur, attacked before dawn on 4 October, as part of a major advance. The 1st and 4th Brigades

forestalled a heavy German counter-attack, and the supporting artillery barrage inflicted frightful slaughter on the waiting Germans. Crossing this scene of carnage, the 1st and 4th Brigades gained their objectives after a hard fight, inflicting exceptionally heavy loss on the enemy and capturing much equipment. For such a resounding success the 1,700 New Zealand casualties, though a sad loss, did not in current terms seem excessive. But heavy rain turned the countryside into a bog and tragedy lay ahead. A British attack on the ninth on Bellevue Spur and part of the main Passchendaele ridge gained a little ground at prohibitive cost. Heavy swathes of barbed wire still girdled the hillside, however, and belated and meagre heavy artillery made no impression on them, nor on the many pillboxes beyond. New Zealand gunners slaved to breaking point to get only a few guns and howitzers forward, but stable platforms and accurate fire were unattainable. The 2nd and 3rd Brigades – the latter weary from heavy work in the salient – nevertheless renewed the attack early on the twelfth. There was little to encourage the men as they waited overnight in a

morass under steady rain. Shelled in their assembly area, some were shelled again by their own guns when the thin barrage opened at 5.25 a.m., and then they led off into a deluge of small-arms fire, speckled with geyser-like eruptions as shells exploded in the mud. Worst of all was the wire, covered with deadly fire, its few gaps deliberate deathtraps. Some men tried to crawl under it, some threw themselves at it, two got right through and were killed in the act of hurling grenades at the loopholes of the nearest pillbox. The left gained 500 yards of slippery slope, the centre 200 heartbreaking yards, the right nothing until the 80-odd occupants of two blockhouses and a trench used up all their ammunition. Then they were captured, blockhouses and all, by two brave and skilful men, sole survivors of two Otago platoons. The cost of these small gains, 640 dead and 2,100 wounded, made the Passchendaele mud in New Zealand eyes rich soil indeed and what the wounded suffered in drenching rain is another chapter of horrors. For the first time the Division had failed in a major operation; but what New Zealander can look back in memory or imagination on those

dogged thrusts, time and again, by the Otago and Canterbury Battalions and the Rifles across the boggy flat and up the bullet-swept slopes of Bellevue Spur, without being stirred by their resolution in the face of hopeless odds. The steady drain of men while units only held the line was less spectacular, though it made up half the losses of the Division. Here, before withdrawing from the front, 400 more men were lost in the 4th Brigade alone.

The Ypres Salient Winter of 1917–18 passed busily in the Polygon Wood of Becalaere sector at Ypres, a scene of utter desolation. The Germans were bound to attack in the spring with forces released from Russia, and the Division worked hard to turn the wrecked trenches into a defensible front. An attack by the 2nd Brigade on 3 December gained useful ground but failed to capture Polderhoek Chateau. When the Division was relieved, on 24 February 1918, its three “quiet” months had cost 3,000 men, more than 470 of them killed. It was into this dreadful period of the war that Private Herbert Large was plunged into France/Flanders. The conditions of Passchendaele and the Ypres Salient

in the Autumn and winter of 1917/8 are well known because of the Mud, cold, rain and snow. Private Large was 41 years old, his occupation had been Footman and later Hotel Manager, a gentle occupation compared to the many Miners/farmers/labourers who were used to the rigours of the conditions. He had also suffered in the past from Malarial Fever an illness known to have long term effects. We do not know where Herbert Large went after he left Sling. Almost certainly he would have gone to Etaples Camp. This was a huge Hospital base but also a centre for reinforcement units to acclimatize and train before going into battle. Private Large may have contracted illness with his regiment in the trenches or have contracted it at Etaples. Whenever large concentrations of troops are gathered together illness always follows. Étaples is a very old fishing town and port, which lies at the mouth of the River Canche in the region of Pas de Calais in Picardy. The Étaples Army Base Camp, the largest of its kind ever established overseas by the British, was built along the railway adjacent to the town. It was served by a network of railways, canals, and roads connecting

the camp to the southern and eastern fields of battle in France and to ships carrying troops, supplies, guns, equipment, and thousands of men and women across the English Channel. It was a base for British, Canadian, Scottish and Australian forces. The camp was a training base, a depot for supplies, a detention centre for prisoners, and a centre for the treatment of the sick and wounded, with almost twenty general hospitals. At its peak, the camp housed over 100,000 people; altogether, its hospitals could treat 22,000 patients. With its vast conglomeration of the wounded, of prisoners, of soldiers training for battle, and of those simply waiting to return to the front, Étaples could appear a dark place.

Wilfred Owen [*Collected Letters*. Oxford University Press] described it as, *A vast, dreadful encampment. It seemed neither France nor England, but a kind of paddock where the beasts are kept a few days before the shambles ... Chiefly I thought of the very strange look on all the faces in that camp; an incomprehensible look, which a man will never see in England; nor can it be seen in any battle, but only in Étaples. It was not despair, or terror, it*

was more terrible than terror, for it was a blindfold look, and without expression, like a dead rabbit's.

He contracted an illness (Large numbers of soldiers at Etaples in late 1917 and 1918 contracted Influenza (Spanish Flu) and died of Lobar Pneumonia). His record states he died of Lobar Pneumonia in 24 General Hospital, Etaples on December 23rd 1917.

His mother Mrs Mary Anne Large address was given as Kainga, Mount Pleasant, Ross, Herefordshire.

