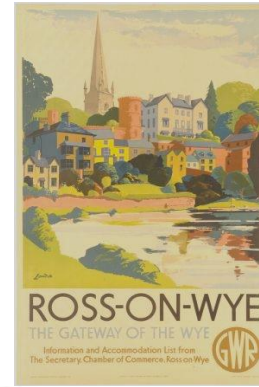


The Great War for civilisation

1914 - 1919

War Memorial - Side 1.

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



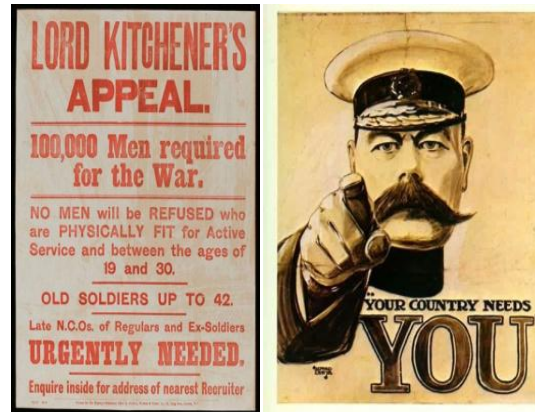
The war to end all wars

August 4th 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War (First World War). August 4th 1914 was the date when Great Britain and the Empire declared war on Germany in response to Germany's invasion of Belgium. The Great War started when, on 28 July, the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots of the war as preparation for the [invasion of Serbia](#). While the Russians mobilised, the Germans invaded neutral [Belgium](#) and [Luxembourg](#), which brought Great Britain into the war.

It is not really appropriate to celebrate an event which led to the deaths of so many people. It is perhaps a time to commemorate those young men of the area who gave their lives in a conflict they thought was just and right and consider that they were part of our community. 100 years on we still 'remember them' and value the sacrifice they made. It is also a time to reflect on the conditions at the time, it was a rural community and this was seen as a 'great adventure' and it would all be over by Christmas, the young men enlisted voluntarily in huge numbers at Kitchener's appeal for volunteers. They did not want to miss the boat.

On August 7th 1914, Kitchener made his first appeal for 100,000 volunteers. To begin with the adverts in the newspapers were very staid with the royal crest with "Your King and Country need you" followed by "A Call to Arms". The adverts stated clearly an age range of 19 to 30. However, these adverts were replaced by Alfred Leete's legendary poster

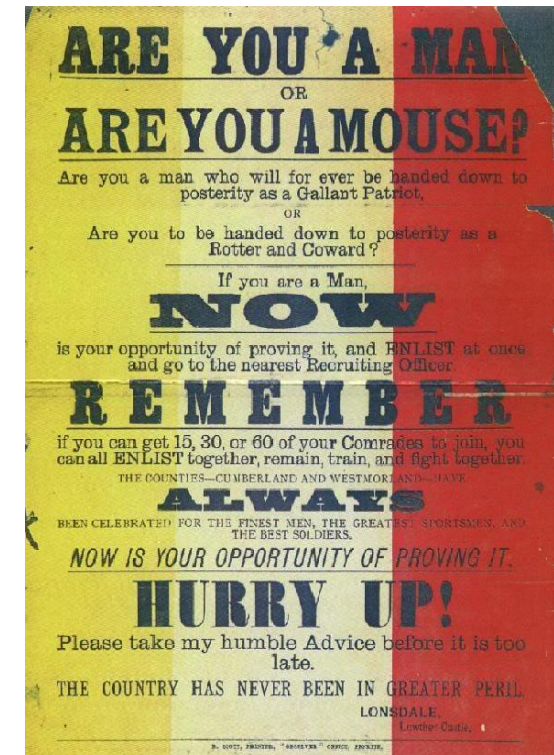
that showed Kitchener pointing at the reader with "Your Country Needs You". The response overwhelmed the army. In 18 months, 2,467,000 men joined up only to find that the army did not have enough rifles or uniforms.



It is interesting to see they wanted men from 19 to 30 and 'old soldiers' up to 42. By 1916 this had changed a great deal with men from 18 (officially) up to 50 wanted. A lot went in at 17 and many over 50 but still the official minimum age to serve overseas (active service) was 19 but this was clearly not strictly enforced and even locally young men of 18 were being sent to the front.

But local recruitment posters could be more intimidating - here is one for the Lonsdale Pals (11th Border Regiment). Which later had 300

reserves allocated from the Herefordshire Regiment.



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.



October 2016.

Bill Webb:

email: billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com

ROSS WAR MEMORIAL

SIDE 1

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

2/Lt Ernest Edward Arbery	41 Squadron Royal Flying Corps/Artists Rifles
3399 Private Charles Henry Bird	1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment
1293 Private Edward Blake	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
K/5658 Leading Stoker Charles Henry Bland	HMS Queen Mary - Royal Navy
35290 Private Henry John Bray	Royal Berkshire (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Regt.
26533 Corporal William Martin Brown	7th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
M2/149485 Private Cecil Kerwood Cater	692 Motor Transport Coy. ASC.
40089 Private James Percival Cater	6th South Wales Borderers
24628 Private James Henry Chester	6th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
5927 Private William Charles Clarke	2nd King's Shropshire Light Infantry
10296 L/Sgt William Thomas Clarke	5th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
235647 Sergeant Charles Colwell	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
27851 Private Charles Edward Cook	1st Warwickshire Regiment
PS/10708 Private Frederick Percival Cooper	8th Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)
70604 Private Tom Cooper	13th Inf.Labour Coy King's (Liverpool Regiment)
1827 Sergeant Rolf Cox	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
31514 Private John Ernest Davies	19th Welsh (Glamorgan Pioneers)
66870 Private Edmund Percival Barrett Davies	75th Machine Gun Corps
Lieutenant Leslie Terrett Day	Trench Mortar Battery. Royal Artillery.
11630 Private Frederick Dix	1st South Wales Borderers
G/78230 Private James Dix	29th Middlesex Regiment
1796 Private Lionel Charles Evans	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
235154 L/Cpl Granville Thomas B Fowler	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

2nd Lieutenant Ernest Edward Arbery



Royal Flying Corps
41 Squadron
Formerly
7629 Private Ernest E Arbery



The Artists Rifles
28th London Regiment

Ernest Edward Arbery

He was born in 1887 in Exmouth, Devon. His parents were Henry Arbery an outfitter originally from Exeter and Emily Martha Burroughs from Halberton. In 1891 his father was an outfitter and they lived in High St, Wellington, Somerset. In 1901 Ernest was a boarder at Hope terrace, Wellington and was a Dyer. In 1911 he was living in Carter Lane, London E.C. and was a Warehouse Man. The remainder of his family though were living at Woodstock, Ross-on-Wye. They later moved to Haslemere, Ross.

The Great War

Ernest Arbery enlisted into the 28th London Regiment (The Artists Rifles) in 1st week of March 1916. This regiment had so many enlisted men considered to be suitable as Officer material that the War Office decided to compulsorily reduce the size of the unit and encourage the enlisted men to take commissions. The Artists Rifles commemorative roll lists enormous numbers of Officers who fell and had

previously been enlisted men in 28th London Regt. The Regiment In World War One

The Artists Rifles had a reputation for turning-out fine soldiers, most of the men were high calibre Officer material in both class and training. New recruits were subjected to a highly selective recruitment process. Approximately a hundred Officers graduated every month. Hare Hall Camp. During WWI, 10,256 officers were commissioned after training with the Artists' Rifles. They went to the Foot Guards, every infantry regiment and to many of the Corps. The Royal Artillery alone had 953 officers and the London Regiment 738 officers commissioned from the Artists' Rifles. Of the 15,022 Artists, 2,003 were killed, 3,250 wounded, 533 posted missing and 286 taken as prisoners of war.



Over the Top, by John Nash (Artists Rifles), 1917.

On 21st October, 1915, poet Wilfred Owen (1893-1918) enlisted in the regiment and began his Officer training at Hare Hall. Members of the regiment in the Great War: Clive Brook; Wilfred Owen; Noel Coward; Hugh Lofting; Barnes Wallis; Sir Aston Webb; Algernon Swinburne; Paul Nash.

Private Arbery joined the Artists Rifles early March 1916 and following basic training he was sent to France. 24th March 1916. Private Ernest Edward Arbery joined his regiment at Rouen as part of a draft of 160 men. 25th. Took over guards duty on bomb store RFC. 26th. Divine service, guard of honour 3 Officers and 100 men for General Cadorna. 27-29th. Company training. 30th. Dismounted guards at C-in-C's residence. 31st.

Roadposts and RFC bomb store guard duties.

Strength of Battalion this day. 29 Officers 633 Other Ranks.

April 1916.

Guards, company training and fatigues every day. During the early part of the month large numbers of men arrived for training. 130 between 5-7th of the month. Route marches and numbers of men going to the Cadet School at Blendecques. On the 11th and 13th 124 men left for Army Headquarters or their units after completing their training.

13th Orders to evacuate barracks, clean barracks. On 14th posts on bomb store guards relieved and left by coach for Hesdin. 15th Draft of 3 Officers and 300 Other Ranks came in from St. Austreberthe and joined the battalion. Remainder of month at Hebden. Company training, fatigues. 25th draft of 121 men arrived from Rouen and 2 more the next day. 31st April Battalion strength this day.

36 Officers 1,143 Other Ranks.

June 1916. Company training and fatigues every day. On 5th. 1 Officer and 15 South African Sharpshooters attached, arrived and reported. Route

marches. On 10th 1 Officer and 14 South African Sharpshooters left to join the 1st Army. 11th Barracks inspection by C/O. Church parade. Several groups of men sent off to Cadet School. 23rd 4 Officers and 125 men sent by Motor Omnibus to form advanced GHQ at Beauquenes.

July 1916.

1st. Fatigues, ranges and company training. Received approval from the General Staff of schemes for training and supplying officers for direct commissions from other ranks passing through the cadet school.

This day was the first day of the Battle of the Somme where the army had 57,000 casualties of which 20,000 were deaths.

2/3/4th. Fatigues. All suitable men sent to assist at Casualty Clearing Station. 10th. New Flying Corps class started. 23rd. Two officers and 18 ORs sent to physical and bayonet training school at Aix-Le-Chateau.

August 1916.

Company training and fatigues every day.

6th Aug. 5 Officers and 320 Other Ranks sent to Bryas as a guard for

H.M. The King. During the month there were Divine services, men sent for bayonet training, guard duties and various 'special' duties. Groups of men attached to other regiments for training and instruction in the trenches.

September. 1916

Another month of Fatigues and company training. On 3rd General Birch passed 18 men for Artillery Commissions. Groups of men sent to Cadet School and groups sent to and returned from Yvrench on special duties.

October 1916.

Divine services, fatigues, training. Men sent to Cadet School, large group of men to IV army road control posts. On 10th 41 men returned from Yvrench. 11th Four men to Royal Flying Corps on probation as Observers. Guards and various duties and posts. On 30th Special guard 2 NCOs and 12 ORs to the Chateau at Argoules for the King of Montenegro also four musicians to play for him.

November 1916.

Usual training, fatigues etc. On 1st 70 men (special class training for

commissions) sent to No1 training camp Etaples to complete their courses. Returned on the 9th that day draft of 150 arrived from England. Inspections, training on 15th Guard of honour 3 Officers and 100 ORs for H.R.H Prince Arthur of Connaught. Two Officers and 50 ORs sent to Bahot to form camp for German prisoners. Rest of month Large numbers of men returning from Cadet School, Men being posted to units.

December 1916

Duties, fatigues and training. 3rd. Candidates for artillery commissions to England.. 5th 1 Officer and 100 ORs to the Calloterie. Groups of men to and from periods in the trenches. 18th. 20 men returned from training camp and Etaples and on 19th their commissions were approved. 27th. 80 men start their 'D' period of training. 20 men of Class B gazetted temporary 2/Lts on probation. Strength of Battalion 43 Officers 1015 Other Ranks.

January 1917.

Hesdin. 2nd. Lt Porter and 10 ORs returned from 3 weeks attachment with the Royal West Kents in the line.

10th. Lt Williams and 10 ORs returned from 3 wks attachment to the King's Liverpool Regt in the line.

13th Jan. 17 men of 'C' class returned from training at Etaples. 16th. Group of men from 'C' sent to periods of duty with 37th Division.

On 17th January 1917 7629 Private Ernest Edward Arbery was commissioned from the 28th London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) into the Royal Flying Corps. London Gazette Cadet Arbery to be 2nd Lt with RFC (on probation) 26th January 1917.

Royal Flying Corps



No. 41 Squadron Royal Flying Corps it was re-formed on 14 July 1916 with a nucleus of men from 27 Reserve Squadron, and equipped with the

Vickers F.B.5 'Gun Bus' and Airco D.H.2 'Scout'. These were replaced in early September 1916 with the Royal Aircraft Factory F.E.8, and it was these aircraft which the Squadron took on their deployment to France on 15 October 1916. Eighteen aircraft departed Gosport for the 225-mile flight to St. Omer, but only 12 actually made it, the others landing elsewhere with technical problems. The 12 pilots spent a week at St. Omer before moving to Abeele, where the ground crews reached them by road, and the remaining six pilots by rail, minus their aircraft.

The F.E.8 was already obsolete as a pure fighter, and No. 41 used theirs mainly for ground attack. On 24 January 1917, the Squadron claimed its first victories. These fell to Sgt Plt Cecil Tooms, who himself was killed in action only four hours later.

While equipped with F.E.8s, the Squadron participated in the Battle of Arras (April–May 1917)..

Although the Royal Flying Corps entered the Battle with inferior aircraft to the Luftstreitkräfte, this did not deter their commander, General Trenchard, from adopting an offensive posture. Dominance of the air space over Arras

was essential for reconnaissance, and the British carried out many aerial patrols. Trenchard's aircraft, acting in support of ground forces, carried out artillery spotting, photography of trench systems and bombing. The reconnaissance activities were coordinated by the 1st Field Survey Company, Royal Engineers. Aerial observation was hazardous work as, for best results, the aircraft had to fly at slow speeds and low altitude over the German defences. It became even more dangerous with the arrival of the "Red Baron", Manfred von Richthofen, with his highly experienced and better-equipped "Flying Circus" in March 1917. Its deployment led to sharply increased casualty rates among Allied pilots and April 1917 was to become known as Bloody April. One German infantry officer later wrote "during these days, there was a whole series of dogfights, which almost invariably ended in defeat for the British since it was Richthofen's squadron they were up against. Often five or six planes in succession would be chased away or shot down in flames". The average flying life of a Royal Flying Corps pilot in Arras in April was 18 hours. Between 4 and 8 April, the Royal

Flying Corps lost 75 aircraft in combat, with the loss of 105 aircrew. The casualties created a pilot shortage and replacements were sent to the front straight from flying school: during the same period, 56 aircraft were crashed by inexperienced RFC pilots.

London Gazette Cadet Arbery to be 2nd Lt with RFC (on probation) 26th January 1917. He would have gone to France shortly after this and taken part in the Battle of Arras. The life span of pilots and observers in the Royal Flying Corps was very brief and many were shot down in combat but also many died in 'accidents' because of the frail nature of the aircraft themselves.



F.E.8 aeroplane

The Royal Aircraft Factory F.E.8 was a British single-seat fighter of the First

World War designed at the Royal Aircraft Factory
 2Lt Ernest Edward Arbery, aged 30
 and from Ross, Herefordshire, was
 killed in an accident while flying FE 8
 A4906 of No 41 Sqn RFC on 6 June
 1917. No 41 Sqn was based at
 Hondschoote aerodrome at the time.
 This was in the build up to the Battle of
 Messines 7th-14th June 1917.
 He is commemorated on the Artists
 Rifles Roll of Honour.



Adinkerke Churchyard Extension
 (the headstones behind the British
 ones are of Belgian soldiers who died
 in the Great War)



Name <i>Arbery</i>		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
ARBERY		Royal Flying Corps	2nd Lieut	
Edward Edward				
Medal.	Ref.	Page.	Remarks.	
<i>RFC 168</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>14. 7. 11 W. 1/12</i>	<i>Spec 10</i>	
State			<i>2nd Lieut R.F.C. 6. 6. 17</i>	
Theatre of War first served in		Date of entry therein		
France		<i>2nd/5/17261</i>		
Correspondence				
Address <i>M. 10. Arbery (mother) / Harlemple, Ross, Hereford.</i>				

He was awarded



The British War Medal and Victory Medal

ARBERY Ernest Edward of Grantebrigge Duffield **Derbyshire**
second-lieutenant R.F.C. died 6 June 1917 in France or
Belgium on actual military service Administration **London**
20 July to Emily Martha Arbery widow.
Effects £360 15s. 5d.

The above 'will' administration refers to a 'widow'. This is his mother not his wife.

His mother was notified on 16th June 1917 that 2/Lt Arbery had been 'accidentally killed at the front'. She was then living at the Crofts, Ross.



His mother died and was buried in Ross 8th March 1924 her address at that time was Belle Vue, Ross. His mother is listed as a widow on the 'will' administration of 20th July 1917. An Henry Arbery born 1853 is listed as dying in Christchurch Hampshire in 1915. But 'Arbery' family trees online state his father emigrated and died in Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia on 18th January 1928. Ernest's brother who served in the Great War in the Royal Army Medical Corps emigrated and went to Bundaberg but the father appears a mystery.

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant
Ernest Edward Arbery

Royal Flying Corps who died on 06 June 1917 Age 30

Son of Henry and Emily Martha Arbery, of "Haslemere," Over Ross, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Adinkerke Churchyard Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

3399 Private Charles Henry Bird



1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment

Charles Henry Bird

He was born Baptised in 1897 and baptised in St James, Gloucester on 20th June 1897. The family were living at 26 St James St, Gloucester. His parents were George Sydney Bird (born 1857 in Ross and baptised on 26th January 1869 aged 11 the family were living in New St, Ross) and his mother was Mary Ann Goode born Foy about 1862, they had married on 8th March 1885 in Ross. Their son Alfred

George was born on 7th February 1886 and they were living at the Nursery, Ross. 1901 census and the family were still in St James St, Alfred, Hubert, Ethel and Ada had all been born in Ross. George Charles's father was a fitter in the iron works. In 1911 his father was an iron worker born in Ross. mother had been born in Foy, sister Ada worked in the shirt factory.

The Great War

His number 3399 indicates he joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in October 1914. Following training he was sent to the 1/5th Battalion and on 29th March 1915 he arrived with the regiment in France. The next sections include extracts and comments from the war diaries.

On 28th March 81 NCOs and men left Chelmsford with 69 horses, 10 mules and 23 vehicles they entrained for Southampton and from there went on S.S. Architect for Havre arriving following day. They met with the rest of the regiment at Boulogne, who had gone direct from Follkestone to Boulogne. Their strength was 17 Officers and 458 Other Ranks, when the 2nd Ship S.S. Invicta arrived the total strength was 28 Officers and 916

Other Ranks. Moved from rest camp via St Omer and Cassel and then marched to billets at Steenvorde.

April 1915. On 2nd Gen. Smith-Dorrien inspected the brigade. A Heavy Draught horse fell dead while taking rations to 'D' Coy. Vegetables bought locally. On 3rd rations of Frozen beef, Bread, Bacon and Vegetables arrived. - Raining. 4th Bn marched to Eecke - Caestre-Fletre and on to Meteren. One pack pony left at farm. 5th Easter Monday rained all day. 7th Apr. marched to Ploegsteert, left one sick draught horse at farm. Went into Billets. 8th & 9th Companies depolyed into trenches with London Brigade, East Lancs and Somerset Light Infantry. 12th Apr. marched to Steenwerck. Training and practicing until 15th Apr when relieved London Rifle Brigade in trenches at Plogsteert Wood. In trenches until 19th. Brisk sniping and some shelling but relatively quiet. Relieved by Bucks Batt. and went back into billets until 24th. parades. one horse died, additional Maxim Gun arrived. 25th into trenches, quiet day, 26th quiet day Pte. Kingscote shot himself in the foot by accident (slight wound). Back into billets on 28th. Church parade

Bishop of Pretoria preached. Working parties.

May 1915. In billets and trenches on 4th a call from the enemy trenches of "shut up Gloucesters England Kaput". One casualty Drummer Morley killed in working party. On 6th May Lt. Guise was instructing the use of Grenades when a Jamtin Grenade accidentally exploded killing himself and Private Bates and severely wounded 6 others. On 15th while in trenches at St Yves 5 men were killed. Rest of month in Trenches at Ploegsteert Wood and in billets at Romarin. Five men wounded.

June 1915 In billets at Romarin and in the trenches at Ploegsteert Woods. On the 11th June took over trenches from Warwicks S.E. of Messines at Wulverghen. On 19th moved into divisional reserve and billets at Oosthove Farm at Pont De Nieppe near Armentieres. On 23rd ready to 'turn out' at an alarm with half an hours notice. 25th marched to Bailleul and then on 28th marched to Allouagne via Vier--hoeck-merville-Robeck and Gonehem. Into billets.

July 1915 Allouagne.

Corps reserve. Strength 30 officers 909 ORs. 3rd July Batt. reduced to 'War Establishment' 800 ORs. On 8th July Lord Kitchener visited and Division lined the road. Visit to Mazingarbe with a view to take over the trenches. 12th July in billets back up to 28 officers and 903 men. Accidental explosion of hand grenade at school of instruction wounded 3 men. 13th At Nouex-Les-Mines instead of taking over trenches working parties required to dig trenches. On 16th marched to Ames and from there to Berquet station, entrained for Doullens and then marched to Bayoncourt and on to Hebuterne and took over trenches from 1st Batt. 93rd Infantry, French Army. On our left 294 French Infantry on right 4th Oxfords and supported by 32nd Regt Artillerie (French) quiet in trenches, moved on 25th to billets at Bayoncourt. 28th Batt. marched to Saily and then to Hebuterne took over trenches from Bucks Batt. Rest of month in trenches but no casualties.

August 1915.

In trenches at Hebuterne. On 3rd a patrol went out and surrounded a German patrol of 5 men, killing 3 and wounding 1. No casualties of ours.

In trenches and billets relatively quiet time but with intermittent shelling. On 17th Aug. A patrol was sent out to reconnoitre the enemy Y shaped sap S.W of Bois De Gommecourt and gained good information. Opportunities for a number of men to go on leave to England. Several patrols were sent out and on the 27th a quiet day but enemy put 50 shells along the line but no damage. Sniping and machine gun fire very brisk at night. On 31st relieved by 4th Oxfords and went into billets.

September 1915. In billets at Hebuterne and Bus les Artois, some shelling but mostly quiet. On 23rd a patrol went out and found a snipers pit and a note with "down with England" written on it in German. Daylight patrols went out and got within 10 yards of the enemy, one patrol brought in a German bomb and field dressing. Our artillery shelled German trenches heavily 500 shells. 24th. Our batteries heavily shelled the enemies trenches and cut wire. 2 men from 'B' Coy crawled out to inspect the gap in the enemies lines, they found the wire was cut for a gap of 15 yards wide and 25 yards deep. - Wet. On 26th a patrol of 14 men went out to inspect the gaps

in the wire. They reached the enemy line and while moving across the front a German patrol came out and an encounter ensued. 3 Germans were shot but L/C Rodway was shot and Lt Moore and Cpl Jackson went to carry him back but when Lt Moore tried to lift him he was also shot. The patrol returned except L/C Rodway, Lt Moore and Pte Bingham who was not seen to fall. 27th. Cpl Jackson and Pte Enock went out on patrol to find out about Lt Moore and L/C Rodway, they found them both dead. They led a further patrol to bring in their bodies, they reached them and put blankets around them but two German patrols then came out and fired on them so they had to return. Back to billets at Bus.

October 1915.

Bus. Situation unchanged, weather fine. On 7th Oct. A Field General Court Martial was held for Ptes Godwin and Richardson "while on active service - drunkenness" guilty and sentenced to 2 months F.P No 1. confirmed and duly promulgated. On 11th leave billets at Bus and take over trenches at Serre Rd. shelling on both sides, enemy patrols active by night. On 17th enemy shelled village 5 men wounded. 18th heavy shelling by

enemy and our guns replied. one casualty. Marched back to billets at Bus. Weather fine, church parade at Chateau Bus 2 officers and 11 men went on leave. 27th back to Hebuterne and in the trenches. 29th Oct. Inter Coy relief. Our artillery bombarded trenches opposite. Private Mullen accidentally wounded in the foot enquiry held. Dull. 30th. Situation quiet Sgt. Heaven, J accidentally wounded by Very Pistol - self inflicted - enquiry held. Drizzling rain.

November 1915.

1st Nov. Pte Sampson was killed by our listening post in mistake for an enemy. Enquiry held. Heavy rain. Took over trenches until 4th when marched to billets at Bus. 12th took over trenches at Hebuterne from 8th Worcesters. Very heavy rain, trenches very bad and fallen in. On our right Ox & Bucks L.I and on left 4th Berks. On 14th four man patrol went out to inspect new enemy trench but reported it was apparently a trap. Situation normal - cold. 17th Situation normal cold and snow. 20th back to billets. On 21st Pte Mullins tried by F.G Court Martial for having and using a camera - sentence 3 months in prison with

hard labour. 28th back in the trenches.

December 1915.

Hebuterne. Trenches very bad but weather fine, one man wounded on 5th by shell. On 14th a patrol of about 20 Germans were seen near the front of our wire Machine Gun and rifle fire were opened and some were seen to run back. A patrol searched the ground and brought back one corpse and a rifle and bayonet (infantryman of 66th Regiment, name uncertain), patrol also found tracks where wounded had been dragged back. Weather - wet, cold and foggy. On 19th Sgt Bishop accidentally wounded at Grenade School. Artillery active on both sides. 22nd - 27th in Billets On 28th back in trenches. 31st Dec. Our artillery bombarded enemy trenches and return artillery later but no damage - weather fine. Strength 30 Officers 778 ORs.

1916

January 1916

Hebuterne in trenches until 3rd when relieved by Worcs. into billets at Bus. 9th relieved Worcs in trenches. Mainly fine weather on 13th Corps artillery bombardment but no reply. In trenches at Hebuterne and billets at Bus. On 25th enemy shelled wire in front of trenches near Fonquevillers-Gommecourt Rd and patrol entered trenches held by Warwicks. Pte Adams, Lewis gun section killed on sentry by bullet in the head. Patrols sent out to check wire and sap but found no sign of the enemy. On 30th the battalion was beaten at Association Football.

February 1916.

1st Feb. In billets at Bus. moved into trenches on 2nd. 11th Feb. Patrol of 12 to Lone Tree. 8th - to end of month. Inter Coy relief, enemy artillery very active- a number of snow falls, some heavy, cold. Small but steady number of casualties, snipers, shelling and shell shock cases.

March 1916

Hebuterne. Division transferred to 10th Corps.

3rd. Mar. At Sailly. Batt. transport moved to Bayencourt fine and dry but heavy snow on 4th. On 13th Sgt Durrett killed by a rifle bullet. 14th moved from Hebuterne into billets at Sailly. Weather fine. 18th weather fine, fair amount of shelling one wounded. 19th enemy guns opened heavy fire on front line trenches. On 22nd Mar. an enterprise, Capt Sumner and 64 ORs proceeded to wire and attempted to enter enemy trenches men disposed as: 8 wire cutting, 18 attacking, 4 souvenir collectors, remainder covering. There was too much wire to be successfully cut and they had to withdraw. 2 men were wounded. 24th Heavy snow. Rest of month quiet.

April 1916.

At Hebuterne in trenches and in billets at Sailly. On the 9th the battalion dug and wired a new trench about 400 yards to the north and 200 yards to the west. The wiring party completed a line of knife nests with gaps joined and staked down by 2am. Enemy made no attack by barrage of 77mm shrapnel and H.E. and machine gun fire. 3 men wounded. On 13th Mar 4 Officers and 320 ORs dug a communications trench, companies provided two posts

in front of old fire posts. At 11.30pm enemy minenwerfer 77mm, 15cm and 10.5cm bombarded for 4 minutes and this was repeated at midnight. At 12.15 an enemy patrol of 15 men approached the post and rapid fire was opened and one man was shot, shortly after some men returned and were fired on again. Unteroffizier Janicke 5 Komp. IR66 was subsequently brought in dead. Casualties 15 men wounded. 16th Mar. Fine day 4 ORs wounded by shell fire, enemy shelled at intervals through the night on old and new trenches. 17th. Enemy shelled throughout the day 4ORs killed 5 wounded. 18th Some shelling throughout the day, enemy artillery very active during the night with effective reply by our guns. 4 ORs wounded. 19th. Very wet 2 ORs wounded. 20th relieved and moved to brigade reserve. In billets at Sailly. Routines, training, company training, shooting practice, inoculations. Visits by Corps Commander and General Fanshawe.

May 1916.

2nd May moved to Hebuterne and relieved 4th Glosters. On 5th very hot, handed over trenches to Middlesex Regt. 9th Showery, one man wounded

by bomb. At 1.40am a party of Germans was heard to enter our trenches, Cpl Abel in charge of our left post immediately ordered his group out of the advanced trench and into the pit behind, bombs were immediately thrown by the enemy into the vacated bay and one man was wounded in the cheek, our men threw bombs, drove the Germans out of the trench and , opened rapid fire and then cleared the trench by orthodox bombing tactics, a search was made for souvenirs without success otherwise quiet. 10-14th May in Huts at Coigneux, working parties. On 15th moved to billets at Authie, very heavy shelling, the Germans raided the 1/4th Berks in 'G' sector. 18th marched to Beauval oppressive heat. Billets very good. Inspections and working parties until end of month. On 28th Full General Court Martial on C.S.M Horne for an offence concerning a green envelope, adjourned for further evidence.

Letters from soldiers on active service were subjected to censorship by their junior officers to ensure that details such as location and military objectives were not disclosed. However, as a privilege, soldiers were given one green envelope per month in which they could send uncensored personal and private letters to

loved ones. The soldier had to sign to verify they had only included private and family matters. The letters were not opened or read by regimental censors but as a deterrent a random sample were opened at HQ and if a soldier had betrayed the trust placed in him he would be court-martialled and punished.

June 1916.

Coulouvillers until 4th June. Training on new training area. On 5th moved to billets at Gapenne. 7th June. Brigade horse show at Argenvillers battalion received six first prizes. 8th June. F.G. Court Martial re-assembled for C.S.M. Horne, found guilty sentenced to be reduced to the rank of Sergeant. 12th June Trenches at Hebuterne, situation as normal, at night minenwerfers and machine gun fire - rain. 14th. Considerable rain, situation quiet. At 11pm the clocks were put forward to midnight. Remainder of month in trenches at Hebuterne and billets at Couin, on 25th a church parade was interrupted by enemy aeroplanes.

30th June. Strength 35 Officers 913 ORs.

July 1916.

1st July Brigade marched to Mailly-Maillet and bivouacked. Artillery

continuous along the front. 2nd orders to attack 3 lines of German trenches North of Hamel. Marched to Mesnil reconnoitred trenches held by South Wales Borderers. At midnight the operation was cancelled. Returned to Mailly and bivouac. 4th back in trenches at Hebuterne, 5th Heavy rain, considerable artillery activity. 6th Inter-company relief. 2563 Pte Roberts B Coy.killed by shell. 4818 Pte Roberts A Coy. wounded by his own rifle. 7th trenches very bad, wet. 2 wounded. Smoke cloud discharged from front line. 13th. Batt. ordered to attempt raid on enemy line. 3 Officers and 60 ORs proceeded to wire, two attempts were made to enter the trenches but were both driven back by rifle fire and bombs. 6 wounded. 14th Smoke candles and P.Bombs fired from our trenches, enemy put down heavy artillery barrage on trenches. No casualties. Relieved by Welsh Batt. moved via Rouin to Bouzincourt and billets in village. 19th/20th July At Ovillers-La-Boisselle. Fine - continuous shelling throughout the day. Casualties Lt Nason accidentally wounded ORs 3 killed 9 wounded. Battalion ordered to attack points 79 and 40. The attack was met

with heavy shell and machine gun fire and failed to take objective. Casualties. Officers - missing believe killed 3, wounded 1, ORs. missing 45, killed 5, wounded 59. Heavy shelling during the day.

On 19th July it was the turn of 1/5th Battalion to take up position in the front line trenches, ready to press home 48th Division's attack at Ovillers the following day. Private William Wood, who was Deputy Editor of the Battalion's newspaper "The Fifth Glosters Gazette", recorded in his diary entry of 20th July:-

"The Battalion left for Ovillers-La-Boiselle to engage in the Battle of the Somme. Passing through Albert one noticed the shell-torn church. In the vicinity of La Boiselle one saw the battlefield of July 1st. One heroic group of dead met my gaze on the left of the road. They were all Lewis gunners, and their officer lay out-stretched in the centre of them. The long winding German trench leading to Ovillers-la-Boiselle was littered with German corpses. The relieved Battalion of Worcesters filed past us in the trench, and many of them were in a state of hysteria. HQ Details made a temporary harbour in a spacious down-sloping dugout – fitted up by the Germans as a Dressing Station. At the far end stood the operating table, while on the

floor were scattered the ghastly remnants thrown down by the surgeon. The stench was terrible. We all filed into this fearful place until the dugout was packed with men. Most of us threw off our kits. Ten minutes elapsed, and to our horror the gas alarm was raised. I went "cold", for it was a couple of minutes before I could find my respirator in the darkness amongst the jumbled kits. It turned out to be a false alarm. The Battalion held a portion of a Communication trench leading to Sky Line Trench, while the Germans held the remaining length. A thick barrier of Hun dead thrown up by the Germans separated the combatants." From "Soldiers of Gloucester"

23rd July. Ordered to attack on left dividing line of railway. Ox & Bucks L.I. on our left. The attack was quickly discovered by the enemy who were holding all trenches strongly, heavy barrage of artillery and strong machine gun fire was opened but objectives were not reached. A new attack after a fresh bombardment of 10 minutes by our guns opposite and 'A' Coy failed to reach their objective. Stokes guns and oil bombs were used during early bombardment. Casualties. Officers died of wounds - 1, Wounded 7 ORs. Killed - 12, Missing - 23, Wounded - 113.

Relieved by Ox & Bucks. Into bivouac east of Albert.

25th July relieved Berks Regt. 26th Batt. moved to Lealvillers in billets. Rest of month moved to Beauval and Cramont in billets, weather fine and hot.

August 1916.

Batt. in billets at Cramont until 10th. 11th moved to Varennes and billeted in Bouzencourt. 13th Relieved Suffolks in trenches. 14th Relieved Berks South of Ovillers-La-Boiselle. in Skyline trench got in touch with Anzacs on the right, heavily shelled on the way up. Casualties ORs 5 killed, 16 wounded. 15/16th Aug. Party on way to post near Anzacs heavily shelled. ORs 1 killed 1 missing. A & D Coys attacked trench but did not succeed. Casualties. Officers killed 1, Wounded 4. ORs Killed 3, Wounded 99, Missing 21. Relieved and moved to billets in Gun Pits.

18th. moved to support trenches. 19th Relieved Berks in front line, 7pm relieved by Worcs and marched to bivouac at Bouzincourt. Casualties 14 ORs wounded.

25th Aug. Relieved Ox & Bucks LI in the front line. Consolidation carried out, enemy artillery very active and

continuous fire by our guns 4 ORs wounded. 26th in trenches 3 ORs wounded, weather fine.

27th August 1916.

Batt. ordered to attack trench R32. Intense barrage for three minutes. Right Coy entered trench during barrage and left Coy as it lifted, both with few casualties. The bombing platoons met considerable opposition and large party of Germans held out but ultimately were driven off across the open when our Lewis guns accounted for all except 3. Several dugouts were bombed and the trench consolidated and held, about 50 prisoners were taken and the enemy's other losses were about 200 killed and wounded, one machine gun was captured. Our casualties. Officers Killed 3, Missing 1, Wounded 2. ORs Killed 14, Wounded 84, Missing 10.

One of those killed was Private Charles Henry Bird. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the dead of the Somme who have no known grave. He is also commemorated on the Ross War Memorial. At some point in his war service he was "mentioned in despatches"

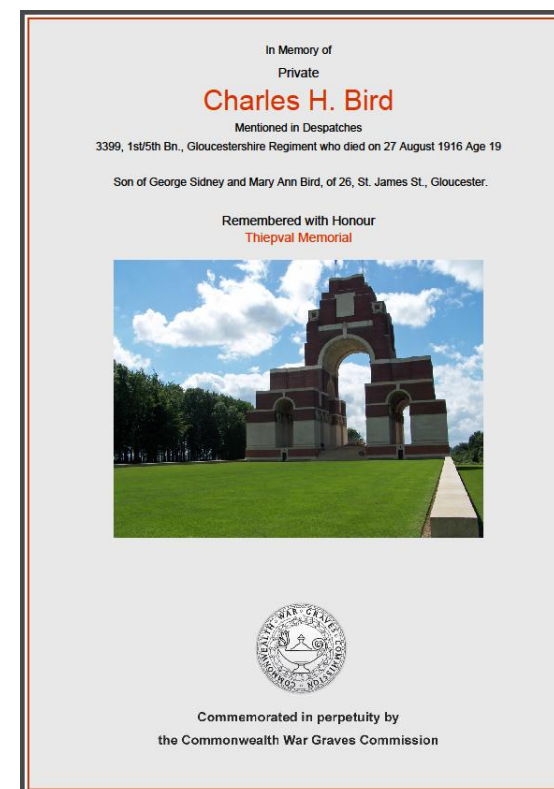
The War Diary a few days later 2/9/16. "Bus-Les -Artois. F.G. Court Martial. 3948 Pte Mann, R.C. charged with "showing cowardice in the presence of the enemy" - sentence Death - Commuted by General commanding the Reserve Army to 5 years penal servitude on account of youth". Richard Charles Mann from Gloucester (Above) was later "Killed in action" on 1st September 1918 and is buried at Steenwerk. His obituary said he had been wounded twice and gassed. (At the Court Martial he was 17 years old).

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BIRD	Glouc R	PT	3399 T.F.
C.H. Bird			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	L/101 B 3	442	K.in A.
Barrage	do.	do.	
15 STAR	L/R B 54		
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	29-3-16		

He was awarded



1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal with oak leaves (Mentioned in Despatches).



Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Charles Henry Bird
Birth Place: Gloucester
Death Date: 27 Aug 1916
Enlistment Place: Gloucester
Rank: Private
Regiment: Gloucestershire Regiment
Battalion: 1st 5th Battalion (Territorial)
Regimental Number: 3399
Type of Casualty: Killed in action

1293 Private Edward Blake



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

Edward Blake

He was born in Peterstow in 1895 his parents were William Richard Blake and Sarah Chalover. Sarah was originally from Nottingham and they had married in Birmingham in 1883. He was born in Peterstow in 1895 his parents were William Richard Blake and Sarah Chalover. Sarah was originally from Nottingham and they had married in Birmingham in 1883.

In 1901 the family were living at Lane End, Peterstow. His father William was a mason. Their oldest child William was born in Birmingham the next three born in Penarth and the youngest two in Peterstow. Their mother Sarah died in 1903 and William Richard Blake, their father died in 1905 aged 49. At 1911 Census the rest of the family were living at 29 The Nursery, Ross. Edward was an errand boy as was James, they were living at the home of their sister Jane who was described as a Housekeeper.

The Great War

1293 Private Edward Blake enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment in March 1913. The Herefords were a Territorial Force regiment (Part time) and at the beginning of the Great War the regiment was mobilized. Following training the Regiment was sent to Gallipoli.

Gallipoli

Includes extracts and notes from the War Diaries 1st Herefords at Gallipoli.

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 1.pm. 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.

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 by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

October 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and amny returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick.

11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagh, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling. 31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

November 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry . 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night.

11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man

killed. Work carried out on new fire trench.

12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known.

13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties. Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper.

14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night.

15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery

more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes

17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some bushes used by Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.

18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.

20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.

21st Nov. Nothing to report.

22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench.

23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded accidentally. Not much rifle fire.

24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.

26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgary Barricades were swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes. Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.

27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00. Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.

The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being

wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight.

28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.

29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.

Casualties for the month of November

Killed or died of wounds	13
Wounded	10
Missing	11
Died of exposure	11
Admitted sick to Hospital	355

December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter.

2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba.

7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among the Herefords.

9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba, 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.

12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira'

13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia.

15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian'

22nd Dec.. Arrived at Alexandria

23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt.

24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

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.

The regiment (all TF forces were renumbered) in early 1917 his new number was **235192**

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.

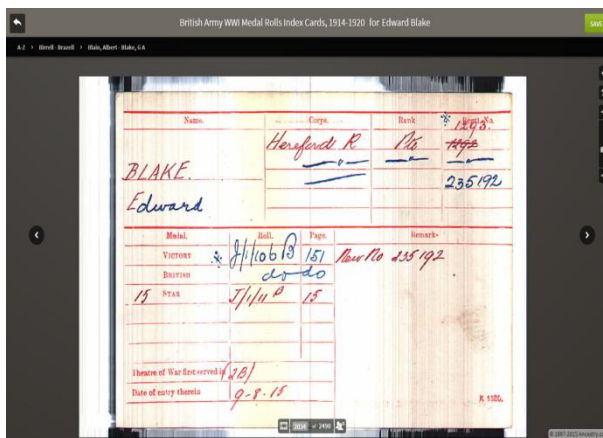
Having failed in his first attempt to capture Gaza on 26-27 March 1917,

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. The Turkish forces had been reinforced well and were entrenched in. 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. The result was a defeat and British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure.

Private Edward Blake was killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Gaza and is buried in Gaza War Cemetery.





He was awarded



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

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

Name: Edward Blake

Birth Place: Peterstow, Herefords
Death Date: 19 Apr 1917
Death Place: Egypt
Enlistment Place: Ross
Rank: Private
Regiment: The Herefordshire Regiment
Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 235192
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Egyptian Theatre





Gaza War Cemetery

In Memory of
 Private
E Blake

235192, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 19 April 1917 Age 21
 Son of William and Sarah Blake, Born at Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
 Gaza War Cemetery

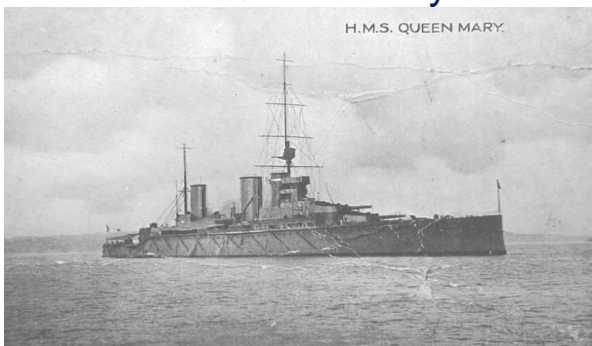



Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

K5658 Leading Stoker Charles Henry Bland



Royal Navy
HMS Queen Mary



Charles Henry Mountseer Bland

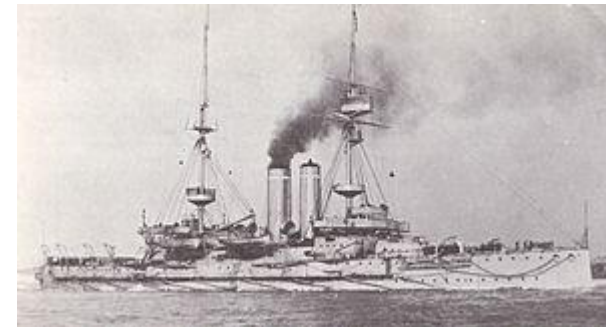
He was born on 16th July 1888 in Leicester (service Record) although the National records state 1887 in

Lutterworth (Leicestershire) but he was born in Welford, Northamptonshire (in the registration district of Lutterworth, Leicestershire. This latter date is correct as he was baptised on 1st January 1888 in Welford. His father was Charles Henry Bland and a Carpenter and Wheelwright originally from Norfolk and his wife Elizabeth Ann Leverington came from Duncton Holme, Norfolk. They married in Downham Market in 1872. In 1891 the family were living at High St, Welford, Northamptonshire. By 1901 the family were at 232 St Saviour Rd, East, Leicester. Father was still a carpenter, Charles's brother Ernest was a Plumber's labourer and Charles was a Top Fitter/Boot Trader.

Royal Navy

SS104653 Charles Henry Bland joined the Navy on 23rd February 1907 at Portsmouth for a 12 year period. He was 5ft 3ins tall, Brown Hair, Grey Eyes and a Fresh Complexion. He had rings on the all fingers of his left hand and a large scar on his left shoulder blade. He was classed as an Engine Cleaner and his first ship was HMS Nelson (a training ship) from 23rd Feb until 3rd June. He as then posted to Goliath until 20th April 1909

HMS Goliath She commissioned at Sheerness on 22 April, 1909 and in mid-1913 she was with Third Fleet.



HMS Goliath

He then moved to Victory II until 2nd June 1909 and then to Hecla a civilian depot ship bought by the Admiralty. He stayed with Hecla until 1st February 1910 when he transferred to C.S. (Continuous service) as K/5658 Stoker Bland. He remained with Hecla until 15th August 1910 when he joined HMS Vernon for a month. HMS *Vernon* was a shore establishment or 'stone frigate' of the Royal Navy. *Vernon* was established on 26 April 1876 as the Royal Navy's Torpedo Branch, named after the ship HMS Vernon which served as part of its floating base. He then moved on to HMS Excellent the Royal Navy Gunnery School and then back to

HMS Victory II. On 8th April 1911 he joined HMS Glasgow.

HMS *Glasgow*, the sixth ship of that name, was a Town-class light cruiser built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century.



HMS Glasgow

He served on Glasgow until December 1912 when he transferred to HMS Fisgard this was another shore establishment set up to train Artificers. The following April he joined HMS Dolphin. In 1907, *Dolphin* was made an accommodation ship for submarines. She became an independent command in Portsmouth on 31 August, 1912 under Captain Roger J. B. Keyes, Commodore 2nd Class in charge of Submarine Service. In mid-1913, *Dolphin* was servicing the Second Submarine Flotilla



HMS Dolphin

On 4th September 1913 Stoker Charles Henry Bland joined HMS Queen Mary on the day she was commissioned.

HMS Queen Mary - World War I:

Assigned to Vice Admiral David Beatty's 1st Battlecruiser Squadron, *Queen Mary* commenced operations in the North Sea. The following spring saw the battlecruiser make a port call at Brest before a voyage to Russia in June. In August, with Britain's entry into World War I, *Queen Mary* and its consorts prepared for combat. On August 28, 1914, the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron sortied in support of a raid on the German coast by British light cruisers and destroyers. In the early fighting during the Battle of Heligoland Bight, British forces had difficulty disengaging and the light cruiser HMS *Arethusa* was crippled. Under fire from the light cruisers SMS *Strassburg* and

SMS *Cöln*, it called for aid from Beatty. Steaming to the rescue, his battlecruisers, including *Queen Mary*, sank *Cöln* and the light cruiser SMS *Ariadne* before covering the British withdrawal.

That December, *Queen Mary* took part in Beatty's attempt to ambush German naval forces as they conducted a raid on Scarborough, Hartlepool, and Whitby. In a confused series of events, Beatty failed to bring the Germans to battle and they successfully escaped back the Jade Estuary. Withdrawn in December 1915, *Queen Mary* received a new fire control system before entering the yard for a refit the following month. As a result, it was not with Beatty for the Battle of Dogger Bank on January 24. Returning to duty in February, *Queen Mary* continued to operate with the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron through 1915 and into 1916. In May, British naval intelligence learned that the German High Seas Fleet had left port.

On 26th February 1916 Leading Stoker Charles Henry Bland R.N. married Edith May Wilcox. His residence was H.M.S. Queen Mary and hers was 4 Edde Cross St.

Edith was born in Ross in 1892. In 1901 she (now called May) was living with her parents Henry a labourer, her mother Jane a laundress her brother Willie aged 12 and her Grandmother Maryanne Bowley. at 1911 census she was a Nurse/Housemaid at Beechfield, Symonds Yat. Following his marriage he went back to sea on Queen Mary. Three months later he was Killed at Jutland.

HMS Queen Mary - Loss at Jutland: Steaming in advance of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's Grand Fleet, Beatty's battlecruisers, supported by the battleships of the 5th Battle Squadron, collided with Vice Admiral Franz Hipper's battlecruisers in the opening phases of the Battle of Jutland. Engaging at 3:48 PM on May 31, the German fire proved accurate from the outset. At 3:50 PM, *Queen Mary* opened fire on SMS *Seydlitz* with its forward turrets. As Beatty closed the range, *Queen Mary* scored two hits on its opponent and disabled one of *Seydlitz's* aft turrets. Around 4:15, HMS *Lion* came under intense fire from Hipper's ships. The smoke from this obscured HMS *Princess Royal* forcing SMS *Derfflinger* to shift its fire to *Queen Mary*. As this new enemy

engaged, the British ship continued to trade hits with *Seydlitz*.

At 4:26 PM, a shell from *Derfflinger* struck *Queen Mary* detonating one or both of its forward magazines. The resulting explosion broke the battlecruiser in half near its foremast. A second shell from *Derfflinger* may have hit further aft. As the after part of the ship began to roll, it was rocked by large explosion before sinking. Of *Queen Mary's* crew, 1,266 were lost while only twenty were rescued. Though Jutland resulted in a strategic victory for the British, it saw two battlecruisers, HMS *Indefatigable* and *Queen Mary*, lost with nearly all hands. An investigation into the losses led to changes in ammunition handling aboard British ships as the report showed that cordite handling practices may have contributed to the loss of the two battlecruisers.

Another report of the Battle.

....For Admiral Hipper was in action again. At 4.10, being then eleven miles away abaft the beam of the *Lion*, he inclined inwards a couple of points, and as Admiral Beatty simultaneously altered still more to port to press his

van, he was able at 4.17 to re-open fire at extreme range. The *Lion* had not yet been able entirely to master the fire that was smothering her. To the Germans she must have been invisible, for the *Derfflinger*, mistaking the *Princess Royal* for the flagship, began firing on the next astern, which the *Seydlitz* was also engaging. Thus the *Queen Mary*, at from 15,800 to 14,500 yards, became the target of both these ships. For about five minutes she stood it gallantly. She was fighting splendidly. The Germans say full salvos were coming from her with fabulous rapidity. Twice already she had been straddled by the *Derfflinger*, when at 4.26 a plunging salvo crashed upon her deck forward. In a moment there was a dazzling flash of red flame where the salvo fell, and then a much heavier explosion rent her amidships. Her bows plunged down, and as the *Tiger* and *New Zealand* raced by her to port and starboard, her propellers were still slowly revolving high in the air. In another moment, as her two consorts were smothered in a shower of black debris, there was nothing of her left but a dark pillar of smoke rising stemlike till it spread hundreds of feet high in the likeness of a vast palm tree. Two such

successes were beyond anything the Germans had reason to expect. Admiral Scheer's plan had broken down, and yet they were gaining even more than he could have hoped for.....

Foot Note: "The casualties were 57 officers and 1,209 men killed; 2 officers and 5 men wounded. One officer and one man were subsequently rescued by German destroyers."

Leading Stoker Bland is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

He was awarded





British War Medal and The Victory Medal

Name: Charles Henry Bland
Rank: Ldg Sto
Birth Date: 16 Jul 1888
Birth Place: Leicester, Leicestershire
Branch of Service: Royal Navy
Cause of Death: Killed or died as a direct result of enemy action
Official Number Port Division: K.5658. (Po)
Death Date: 31 May 1916
Ship or Unit: HMS Queen Mary
Location of Grave: Not recorded
Name and Address of Cemetery: Body Not Recovered For Burial
Relatives Notified and Address: Widow: Elizth, Kate, 2 Prospect Terr: South Street Andover, Hants

In Memory of
Leading Stoker
Charles Henry Bland

K/5658, H.M.S. "Queen Mary", Royal Navy who died on 31 May 1916 Age 28
Son of Charles Henry Bland; brother of Rachel Collins, of 104, Hartopp Rd., Clarendon Park, Leicester.

Remembered with Honour
Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

35290 Private
**Henry John
Bray**



**2/4th The Royal Berkshire
Regiment
(Princess Charlotte of
Wales's)**

Henry John Bray

He was born in Bridgwater, Somerset in 1881. His father was William Bray and mother was Emily Ann Lambert and they had married in 1880.

In 1891 they were living at 91 Alpine Terrace, Ross. In 1901 his father William was a foreman at the Mineral Water works, his brother George was a bottler at same. Henry John was an assistant grocer and They lived at 133 King St. Henry married Leah Ruth Hodges in Bromyard on 21st April 1907 She was the daughter of Allan Hodges a blacksmith.

The Great War

35290 Private Bray enlisted into The 2nd/4th Charlotte Princess of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment. After training they went to France and landed at Le Havre on 26th May 1916. The following day they had a bathing parade and they entrained for Merville where they stayed until 7th June, training, rifle ranges and Lewis gun ranges. On 8th June they moved to Laventie and on the 9th they went into the Trenches and immediately started to suffer casualties, on the 9th 3 ORs killed and 2 wounded, 10th - 2 killed and 1 wounded. 11th - 1 killed 5 wounded. In trenches until 15th June then into billets at Laventie, cleaning, working parties, 1 gas attack, 2 false alarm gas attack, aerial fighting over Laventie. Quiet on front.

21st June relieved 2/4th Oxforde back in the trenches. Heavy firing, reciprocal shelling, MGs keeping open gaps in the wire made by trench mortars. Heavy shelling of enemy trenches and heavy shelling of our lines and heavy machine gun fire from the enemy, several patrols put out. Succession of casualties 1 or 2 per day. 28th back in billets at Laventie, but shelled at night.

July 1-3rd Laventie, working parties, kit inspections, very wet. 4th at La Gorgue very wet again. Moved to Ferme Du Bois, repairing trenches, enemy artillery active at night, two patrols sent out. Patrols visited enemy wire and cut some gaps. On 13th July in Billets at Croix Barbee, preparation for a raid by party from 'A' Coy but due to casualties in R.Es carrying Bangalore Torpedoes only a small party could get through the enemy wire. Party returned at 10.50pm.

Casualties. Officers 1 killed, 3 wounded, 2 missing.

Other ranks 6 killed, 14 wounded, 1 shell shock, 12 missing. 15th July La Gorgue marched to Laventie and digging fatigues. 16th Prepare for attack, moved into dugouts

and then into line. Casualties Officers 1 killed 1 wounded, ORs 3 killed 7 wounded. 17th Attack cancelled owing to guns prevented from registering on account of misty weather. 18th July prepare for attack moved to battle HQ casualties 2 ORs. (1 accidentally).
19th July Artillery opened at 11am, attack at 6pm. 2nd Bucks on our left Australian division on their left. Casualties. Officers 3 killed 2 wounded. ORs 35 Killed 115 wounded 8 Shell Shock.

20th Rue De La Lys billets, training, cleaning up, baths, parades. Remainder of month in billets then trenches at Riez Bailleul and Moated Grange. Fairly quiet, some artillery and occasional machine gun activity, light casualties.

August 1916. In billets at La Gorgue and Laventie. In trenches at Fauquissart heavy shelling from enemy artillery and Heavy Trench Mortars. Our artillery wire cutting bombardments raiding parties attacked enemy trenches and found wire cut and inflicted casualties with bombs and bayonets. In conjunction with Australians our artillery and T.Ms

heavily shelled enemy trenches. Thunderstorms.

September 1916. Trenches at Fauquissart and billets at la Gorgue. Middle of month moved to Riez Bailleul and Moated Grange. Quiet period with light casualties. Reinforcements arrived, training periods, medical inspections and company training.

October 1916. A patrol went out but was heavily bombed in the German wire 10 casualties. On the 9th a party of 5 Officers and 60 ORs attempted to raid the German trenches but the Bangalore Torpedo failed to explode and the raid was cancelled. On 14th another 5 Officers and 60 ORs raided the German Trenches 5 casualties. Remainder of month largely in billets at Riez Bailleul training, inspections, receiving reinforcements and company training.

November 1916 At Robecq marched to Outrebois and then to Bouzingcourt training, inspections, medical inspections. until 21st when relieved 7th Buffs and 7th Queen's in the trenches until 27th when marched back to Aveluy During tis peperiod in trenches there was normal artillery

activity and the Batt. suffered 27 casualties.

December 1916. At Varennes. Company training, church parades, working parties, voluntary services. Back in the trenches at Martinsart Woods relieved 6th Warwicks. Patrols sent out and cleaned up positions. Artillery at first sporadic then more severe. Relieved by Oxfords on 24th. 12 Casualties for the period in trenches. Two drafts of men (total 82) arrived.

1917
The first two months were spent in the rear area, reorganizing and training. They went into the line on the 16th February reliving a French Battalion at Deniecourt. They carried out raids and reconnaissance missions. Their next action was at Bihecourt-Pine Copse on 2nd April 1917. The summer was filled with training and trench duties, gradually moving back northwards. On the 22nd August they began their part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) with an attack on the enemy defences SE of St Julien. The next few months were spent in the

unremitting mud and carnage of Flanders. On the 21st August the battalion provided thirteen platoons for dealing with strong points during a major attack at St Julien. This was a new tactic whereby the assaulting troops would by pass enemy strong points and leave them to designated parties. Each and every one of the assaults on these positions became a mini battle in its own right. In this action the battalion suffered 32 men killed, 111 wounded (some dying later) 79 Missing. They rested during October and later moved back south to take part in the Battle of Cambrai on the 27th November 1917 but their participation was quite marginal. They remained in the line until the 23rd December, when it went back to Lechelle where then spent Christmas.

Below is an interesting account for the Christmas dinner for the Battalion. The individual amounts are for Francs not Pounds. Interesting that 11,000 cigarettes cost just over £7.

APPENDIX 2.

Christmas Dinner
Statement of Accounts.

RECEIPTS	ENGLISH MONEY.	FRANCS.
Berkshire Territorial Force Association.	£50	1362.80
61st Division Canteen.	-	450.00
Capt. Field's Father.	£3	81.75
Capt. Willink's relations.	£5	136.25
*Officers Subscriptions		440.20
		2470.70

The Officers were originally subscribing about Fr.1500, but as it was not possible to buy more stores the subscriptions were reduced so as to make up the amount spent as below.

Expenditure.

245 Kilos. PORK.	1568.00
600 Litres. BEER.	330.20
150 Kilos. POTATOES.	57.00
50 Kilos. CARROTS.	20.00
2 Boxes. FIGS	76.00
10 Kilos. ALMONDS.	38.00
10 " COBS	35.00
10 " WALNUTS.	26.00
35 " APPLES.	49.00
50 " CABBAGES.	20.00
10 Boxes DATES.	50.00
4000 Gold Flake Cigarettes.	100.00
7000 Woodbine "	101.50
	2470.70

Certified correct.

(Sd) J. H. S. DIMMER.
Lieut - Col.

(Sd) G. S. FIELD.
Capt.

1.1.18

1918

1st January at Rosieres. Ground was frost bound and covered with snow and a cold wind blowing. Training programmes prepared and exercises for mass attacks carried out. Move to Curchy billets but French were not evacuating the billets as the troops had dysentery on 7th Jan went into billets at Curchy and Etalons. 9th moved to Ugny and new billets accommodation was good with plenty of room, billets consisting of Adrian Huts and wire beds (Adrian hut - French barrack hut, widening towards ground level to provide extra floor space, WWI.) Moved to Beauvois and the Bois D'Holnon and then returned to the front line on the 14th January facing Pontruet. 15th Patrols out to Reconnoitre Pontruet and examine the wire which was quite good. Enemy soldier seen wandering around in front of the line, a patrol was sent out and captured him he belonged to 394 I.R.(206 Div.). Trenches in a very bad condition being un-revetted, recent thaw had caused them to collapse. On 16th a group of the enemy rushed a section of the trench and threw stick bombs wounding a man of the regiment, captured two men of 11th

Hussars and a Lewis Gun. On 18th a group of 15 enemy lined the bank firing Lt Smith returned fire with his revolver causing some of the enemy to bolt the remainder came on so he approached the enemy and shouted 'stand to' and they disappeared over the trench. Two days later the enemy fired three shells into Massemy which fell into 'C' Coy and caused 21 casualties. Remainder of the month was spent in Billets and the front line. February 1918 At Germaine. 3rd Feb church parade and at 4.30pm moved up the line to relieve Worcesters at Savy Wood. Mostly employed on making hurdles for revetting on 7th moved to lines opposite St Quentin (in German hands). The night was dark, wet and windy but next day was fine and mild with fair visibility. A quiet time with only a few shells falling. On 9th three patrols were sent out into 'no man's land'. Two wire patrols and one fighting patrol of two officers and 31 ORs sent out to see if the ridge beyond Camel Valley was occupied and if so to attack it, when position reached it was unoccupied but well covered by enemy machine guns and rifles which occasionally opened a lively fire. Rest of month in billets at Savy Wood,

resting, cleaning and instruction in musketry and from 15th-19th back in the line opposite St Quentin. Then back to Holnen Wood and Ugny. On 28th a concert was held in the recreation hut. March 1918. At Ugny until 3rd cold, windy and snowy moved to Battle Zone at St Quentin Wood work on the defence schemes for the battle zones. On night of 10/11th relieved the Glosters at forward zone, Gricourt-Fayet, little activity and wire and forward patrols were sent out 13th Three fighting and one observation patrols sent out. Lt Champion spent the day in 'no man's land' observing, an enemy aeroplane flew over him 'very low' but e was not spotted. Enemy activity slight. 5 casualties. Following day enemy aeroplane was back and dropped customary white flare. On 17th Mar. a raiding party successfully entered the enemy trenches but found the part of the system enclosed by our box barrage to have been cleared and no identification could be found. Enemy retaliatory artillery and machine gun fire was very heavy. Next day the raid was repeated but the entry point to the trenches was heavily manned by rifles and machine

guns resulting in our raiding party being beaten off without gaining entry. 19th March battalion relieved and moved back to rear zone. 21st March 1918. Order to 'Man battle stations' at 3am. 'B' and 'C' Coys attacked Ellis Redoubt 'A' Coy withdrawn to Railway Cutting. The enemy were encountered in overwhelming numbers and parties were forced to withdraw under very heavy machine gun fire to Railway Cutting. Lt Col Dimmer V.C, M.C and four other officers wounded and rank and file sustained heavy casualties. 22nd Mar. at Ellis Redoubt the morning was very misty. The enemy put down a heavy barrage which was followed by infantry attacks in great force. Coys moved up to between Ellis redoubt and Villecholes, these positions were held and very heavy casualties inflicted upon the enemy until the order to withdraw to Beauvois was received at 12.20 tis was achieved without loss. 23rd Mar. Battalion reorganised on the Corps line in front of Beauvois at 5.30pm the enemy made a determined onslaught with overwhelming force the greater weight on the right, our right flank being 'in the air' we were compelled to

withdraw 600 yards. The trenches were only 18 inches deep and we were subjected to a terrific barrage which lasted 10 minutes. The battalion rested for the next day then moved to Languevoisin battalion snipers killed several enemy and following the enemy working around our flanks the position became untenable so withdrew to Roye with slight losses. 26th marched through Fresnoy to Le Quesnil arriving on 27th and into Billels.

28th March 1918 Battalion went by busses to Marcelcave and as part of 183 Brigade ordered to take the village of Lamotte-En-Santerre in a counter attack. Glosters on the right, Oxfords in the centre, Berkshires on the left. There was not artillery barrage and very little cover so the ground was swept with machine gun fire, consequently progress could only be made to a certain point and a withdrawal was ordered at 5pm. 6 officers were casualties and casualties among other ranks were heavy. 29th Mar. The position was heavily bombarded but the casualties were light. Enemy patrols and posts were driven out by our fire and actions and our snipers were very busy. Cpl Povey

fired 150 rounds with his rifle gaining many hits before he was killed by a hostile sniper. The night was quiet except for MG Fire. 30th March. The enemy fire was normal and apart from this was fairly normal. 31st Mar. The battalion was relieved by a battalion of Australian Infantry and marched back to Cachy Wood where a hot meal was served, then marched back to Gentelles and billets.

April 1918.

1st April. At Gentelles. Village shelled intermittently 1 killed 5 wounded.

Private Henry John Bray died on 3rd April 1918 and is buried at Maissemy. The war diaries list no casualties on this day or the 2nd April.

Soldiers who died in the Great War list him as 'Killed in Action' but CWGC say he 'died' not KIA. It seems certain that he was killed in action during the fighting in late March but his body recovered on 3rd April. He might have 'died of wounds' but normally this would have been documented as such. He is commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.



Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Henry John Bray
Birth Place: Bridgwater, Som.
Death Date: 3 Apr 1918
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Kidderminster
Rank: Private
Regiment: Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment
Battalion: 2 4th Battalion
Regimental Number: 35290
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre


Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BRAY	R. Berks R.	Pt	35290
Henry J.			
Medal	Date	Page	Remarks
Victory	4/10583	396	
British	aw	aw	
Spain			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			


He was awarded



The British War Medal The Victory Medal

In Memory of
 Private
Henry John Bray
 35290, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 03 April 1918 Age 36
 Son of William and Emily Bray, of Ross-on-Wye; husband of Leah Ruth Bray, of 2, Woodstock Rd.,
 Handsworth, Birmingham.
 Remembered with Honour
 Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maissemy




 Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

26533 Corporal William Martin Brown



7th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Formerly
Shropshire Yeomanry



William Martin Brown

He was born in Cardiff in 1895. His parents were Martin Edward Brown and his mother was Mary Jane Wright and they married in Cardiff in 1895. In 1901 William was living at Durbridge Farm, Redmarley D'Abitot with his Grandparents and Parents. His father and grandfather were farmers. In 1911 His father was a motor mechanic and they were living at Fernleigh, Cawdor Hill, Ross William was a Surveyors Clerk.

The Great War

He joined the Shropshire Yeomanry at the outbreak of the Great War. This unit provided a lot of reinforcements for the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). William Brown transferred to the KSLI at some stage, unfortunately his service records did not survive the bombing during the Blitz of WW2 so we have no way of knowing when he went to France. We do know it was not before 1916 as he did not receive the 1914/15 star. Other Shropshire Yeomanry with similar numbers were in the 3/1st Battalion (Reserve Bn.) it seems most likely he took this route and then transferred from 4th KSLI into the 7th (Service) Battalion.

He did however serve in France with the 7th Battalion KSLI and probably from early 1917. 12th February 1917 a draft of 82 (trained) other ranks joined the 7th Battalion KSLI at Denier in billets. The battalion was employed on trench digging until 27th Feb when they marched to Arras.

March 1917. The battalion was employed for much of the month digging tunnels and caves under the direction of the New Zealand Tunnel Company. Later in the month they moved to Wanquetin and Liencourt practicing attacks on trench systems. Casualties were slight and mainly from shells on billets or shrapnel while on duty.

April 1st. The battalion was in the front line opposite Tilloy village. On 3rd a raiding party was sent out to secure a prisoner, as there had been a fall of snow the party wore white clothing. A prisoner was secured and he was from the 38th Fusilier Regt. a new identification of regiment, they had just come from the Russian Front. 4th Apr. front line cleared for discharge of gas cylinders, heavy reciprocal artillery bombardment. Moved back to Arras and next day into Blenheim Cave. On the 9th (Easter Monday) an attack was

launched. Heavy hostile shelling and resistance in Tilloy casualties being sustained from Snipers and MG fire at 12.40 the Bois Des Boeufs was cleared. At 2.15 the attack was held up because the Brigade was not supported from the Divns on the right and left and machine gun fire from Feuchy Redoubt and Wancourt Ridge on either flank. The battalion then dug in. The attack was resumed at 12 noon on the 10th. the artillery barrage was very erratic with many shells falling behind the advancing troops, by 12.30pm the whole objective was captured. The battalion was relieved by the Border Regt. on the 14th. Casualties for the period of the attack were:

Officers 1 killed, 6 wounded, 1 gassed.

Other ranks. 22 killed, 131 wounded, 5 missing.

They went into billets at Arras until 23rd, they had a draft of 117 reinforcements and a 'bombing accident' on 20th when 1 officer and 5 ORs were wounded. Training continued and a further draft of 22 ORs arrived. 23rd Paril moved to Tilloy and on 25th moved to positions in front of Monchy 2 ORs killed, 16 wounded and

2 missing, believed killed. 26th in trenches 2/Lt Tucker sprained his ankle - 4 ORs killed, 7 wounded, 1 gassed. 27th 1 Officer wounded 3 ORs killed, 20 wounded. 28th Returned to Tilloy 1 OR killed 15 wounded. 30th. Lt Dibben killed 1 OR accidentally wounded.

May 1st. In trenches near Tilloy. Moved up to the Brown Line on 2nd into assembly positions. 3rd May 4.45am zero hour moved forward in artillery formation in support of the Royal Scots, unfortunately a gap opened up as soon as the attack commenced. The 7th KSLI filled the gap at once the objective was the Bois Du Vert, the enemy put up great resistance at Tool Trench and Infantry Hill and owing to is machine gun and rifle fire further advance was impossible, several gallant attempts were made to work around the flanks. The Bn dug itself in. Orders to reorganise and be ready for an attack on Tool Trench at a further hour. 3.25pm orders to consolidate. Estimated casualties 3rd-5th May. 5 Officers 98 ORs.

7th May Bn relieved and into billets near Tilloy. Opportunity to bathe at Rue De Lille, Arras and issued with

clean clothing. Working parties. On 10th back into trenches at Monchy. 11th May 3 Killed, 4 wounded; 12th. 18 wounded; 13th May 8 killed, 8 wounded. 14th May relieved, marched to Tilloy and moved by motor lorry to Berneville. Remainder of the month in billets at Villers-Sn-Simon. June 1917. 2nd. In the Brown Line very heavy shelling with 8" shells. 6 men killed and 6 wounded, hostile aeroplanes dropped a considerable number of bombs on Arras during the night. In the front line until the 13th June. Heavy shelling and hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs, much work on repairing damaged trenches. Relieved on 13th by Suffolks. In billets until the 17th when back to the Brown Line and the Monchy Defences. The Bn attacked and captured a number of posts and on the 19th the enemy after a two hour bombardment made an attack with 1,000 men on the ground recently captured. 20th relieved and back to billets at Berlencourt. Moved to reserve line at Fremicourt training, reinforcements arriving, musketry courses until 19th July. Moved in C2 sector until 27th July fairly quiet, on 21st 6 of our aeroplanes had a fight with 5 hostile

ones, of theirs and one of ours were brought down. Patrols were sent out and aerial activity was considerable. Some artillery activity with gas shells but mostly quiet with good weather. 28th at Velu very hot and next day a terrific thunderstorm which soaked everything.

August 1917. In the line (fairly quiet with some artillery and hostile aeroplane activity) and in billets at Lebuquiere, training and working parties. On 11th Aug. 2 fighting patrols were sent out and encountered a large enemy patrol. Our patrol had encountered a gap in the wire and were investigating when two Germans approached one was bayoneted but a shot was fired by accident this alerted the enemy who opened fire with rifles, four machine guns and 2 trench mortars, further advance was then impossible. 7 casualties.

September 1917. The month was spent largely at Ytres and then Brandhoek, the Bn was occupied mainly with training at different levels, football matches, church parades and practicing attacks. On 25th moved back into the line at Barastre and on

following day attacked at 5.50am. Achieved all objectives and severe fighting ensued. On 27th Bn held on to ground gained on 26th. 28th Sept relieved an on 30th moved back to Ypres. Casualties during the operation 11 Officers and 250 ORs killed, wounded or missing.

October 1917. Was spent at Le Transloy and Favreuil training in billets and the reserve line. On 30th Oct. moved back into the line at Horse shoe redoubt.

November and the Bn was at Apex in the line until 5th when relieved and moved to Vaulx in billets, large working parties, training and baths. Back to Apex on 10th until the 13th, quiet period. 13th - 16th at Vaulx reinforcements arrived. 16th back to Apex hostile artillery active during the day casualties 2 ORs (Buried) then back to billets and on 25th in the line at Apex. enemy artillery very active, a lot of movement behind enemy lines and orders to send out patrols to investigate if they had vacated their trenches, patrols reported that trenches were occupied except at one

point, a platoon was sent out to occupy this post. Posts were dug and wired under great difficulties because of hostile machine gun fire and artillery very active. Enemy artillery very active with much damage to the trenches, they put down a barrage of gas shells on 29th. Bn. relieved and back to billets and baths on 30th. 13 casualties.

December 1917. 1st. At Vaulx and in the line. On 11th relieved and marched to Mory. At 7.30 on 12th moved up the Corps line in front of Vaulx but Bn ordered to return to billets at 9.30. At 12.00 ordered to move up the Corps reserve line again and remained until 4.30. Enemy attacked Apex and took front line. 13th Bn ordered back to Mory. 14/15th 'stood to arms' and on 16th enbussed at Ervillers for Blairville accommodation poor, huts in bad condition and heavy snow. 22nd Dec. moved back to Mory in the line, snow 6-8" deep. . Light casualties for the month but 118 ORs sent to Field ambulance a few trench feet and hands among them, the cold was very bitter for the second half of the month.

1918.

January at Hamelincourt. In billets, training, working parties, courses, reinforcements arriving. 166 men were evacuated sick or sent to Field Ambulance during the month. 27th Jan back in the line 2 men killed 1 wounded. 28th quiet day 31st relieved and back to support line at Croisilles the trenches in the front line were in a very poor condition.

February 1918 At Croisilles. Month spent alternately in billets and in the line. In billets finding working parties, periods in support lines, large numbers of reinforcements including 160 from 5th KSLI. On 8th enemy made a raid on our trenches but was driven off with rifle and machine gun fire. 25th Feb enemy attempted a bombing raid on Oldenbourg Lane but were driven off by Lewis gun and Rifle fire but then made a further attempt with creeping artillery barrage but never reached our lines. End of month Battalion had 44 Officers 799 ORs. During the month the Bn suffered 10 casualties and 175 evacuated and to Field Ambulance.

March 1918. At Croisilles, Mercatel and Wancourt considerable numbers of evacuated and to Field Ambulance on 18th at Wancourt 2 Officers and 36 ORs made a raid on the enemy trenches opposite our front, the enemy were very alert and as the party approached the hostile wire they were met with heavy machine gun fire and bombs, no prisoners were taken. That night the Bn moved back to reserve positions on the Hindenburg Line at Heninel. On 21st March The Bn 'stood to arms' hearing the sound of gas projectiles being discharged. They were then ordered to move up to reserve position at Wancourt, this was achieved but through a heavy barrage of gas and H.E. inflicting heavy casualties. Intermittent shelling throughout the day. Casualties 3 Officers 60 ORs. The Bn. moved back to Henin and dug in. On 24th after a heavy bombardment the enemy attempted to enter our trench but were driven off by rifle and MG fire under cover of a smoke screen they then tried to cut the wire of our right Coy but were driven off by Lewis guns. A large hostile party approached bearing a white flag. This party was dispersed. 27th heavy artillery

barrage, 28th March enemy attacked in large numbers at 5.15am, first attack was repulsed but second attack made an entry at the junction of the two companies and started to bomb outwards, the right company having used all their bombs were forced to retire and the survivors (about 25) were forced to the reserve line. The left formed a block but the enemy worked their way in behind and forced them back to the reserve line. The right support line held on until 12 noon and then became exposed and the left support line also withdrew to reserve line. The Bn occupied a line of old trenches to the rear of the Green Line. Total Casualties 16 Officers 378 Other Ranks. 30th March. Bn marched to Billets at Sus-St-Lleger

April 1918. 1st-11th in billets at Vaudricourt reinforcements arrived, steady flow of sick to Field Ambulance. 12th Apr. Into the front line at La Basse Canal Royal Scots and Royal Scots Fusiliers reported to be retiring Artillery Officer ordered large store of shells to be set on fire, the firing of the Ammo Dump caused several casualties. At 7.2pm 'D' Coy was

heavily attacked and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy with rifle and MG fire. Enemy rushed post at Pont Tournant but driven back across bridge and post re-established before dawn. 13th situation quiet until 5pm when enemy starting shelling and 250 enemy moved south into wood heavy casualties were inflicted on them by Vickers, Lewis and rifles. 28 casualties.

On 15th moved to billets at Oblinghem and then on to Vendin Le Bethune. 19th Apr. into trenches at Canal De La Lawe. Situation quiet except for enemy aeroplanes flying low and very active. 20th Active Minenwerfer otherwise quiet. Trenches until 24th and then remainder of month in billets.

May 1918. 1st-8th Trenches at Locon, large numbers of men evacuated and to Field Ambulance and CCS (Casualty Clearing Stations). 9th May back to billets at Choques but instructions to be ready to move to assembly points in case of enemy attack. 13th. relieved and moved to Hinges. On 20th heavy bombardment by the enemy of Hinges Hill with Yellow Cross gas shells, in consequence 9 Officers and 241 ORs evacuated to C.C.S as 'wounded

gassed'. Bn relieved and moved to billets at Choques. 30th/31st. The Bn moved to Brigade support in Locon sector casualties 4 Officers 12 ORs

June. 1918. At Locon. In the front line, in support line and billets. Steady number of evacuated, sick and casualties.

July 1918. Sandpits near Gosnay. 1st July Battalion sports. 1-6th steady stream of casualties to Field Ambulance and evacuated. On 6th 600 gas projectiles discharged from behind our front lines. Whole month in Billets at Gosnay and in the line at Locon. Opportunities for leave considerable numbers of reinforcements arrived. Some bursts of harassing fire from our Field Artillery. Casualties for the month Killed/wounded 20, evacuated and Field Ambulance 149.

August 1918. 1st at Locon, relieved by Royal Scots, after relief took up position in Battle Zone, 2 casualties. 2nd-6th Aug. In support, quiet. Casualties 7 ORs, 16 Evac, 14 to Field Ambulance. 7th 12th Dieval under canvas, very good camp,

intensive training carried out in the morning, games in the afternoon inter platoon football, tug of war competitions. The Bn transport lines were bombed near Labeurvriere 10 horses killed and 3 ORs wounded. 12th moved to billets in Saulty and GHQ reserve and 24 hours notice to move. 20th Aug to Monchy Au Bois Bn had complete rest until 9pm when moved into assembly positions. Zero hour 4.55am on 21st Aug. A little opposition was encountered from machine guns W. of aerodrome trench, these were silenced in passing, Coffee redoubt offered some resistance but the right support outflanked it. The fog badly hindered the pace of the advance and by the time the advance reached the ridge at Courcelles the barrage had passed over it. The enemy held the railway embankment in considerable strength with Machine guns and infantry. A couple of tanks started for the railway followed by the line. The final assault was with the bayonet. The rest of the day passed without incident. Following day 22nd, the enemy made a determined counter attack but the reply of our artillery was accurate and beyond praise, in certain places enemy

reached the embankment but these were dispersed by rifle fire. Later enemy made another counter attack but this was dispersed by Lewis and rifle fire.

23rd Aug. 4am carried out an attack on the enemy inflicting heavy casualties. All objectives taken.

24th withdrawn to reserve. Equipment taken in recent operations. 2 Field Guns, 30 Light Machine Guns, 6 Heavy Machine Guns, 3 Trench Mortars (Minenwerfers), 3 Anti-Tank Rifles, 150 Prisoners.

Casualties (ours) 10 Officers, 232 ORs.

End of month at Boiry St Martin.

September 1918. 1--3rd Bn moved to Mory St Martin to take part in operations. 3 days before going into action at Lagnicourt the Bn had received 7 Officers and 184 ORs as reinforcements this had given insufficient time to withstand the hardest tests man can be put to outflanked and fired on from behind. Casualties 36 killed, 6 missing, 2 wounded and missing, 199 wounded and 8 gassed. 3rd-16th Sept. In billets at Hamelin Court, Beugny, Adinfer and Gomiecourt training and practicing

attacks. On 16th Moved to Havrincourt in Brigade reserve. 17th Hostile shelling active 2 ORs killed Lt Pitchford missing believed killed 12 ORs wounded. 19th Hostile artillery not so active 158 OR reinforcements 15 ORs evac. 9 to Field Ambulance. 20th relieved Royal Scots in right sub-sector Havrincourt quiet relief. Rations very good, weather changeable informed that an attack would be made about the 25/26th Sept.

20th-25th was spent in preparation for attack. A trying time for officers and men as the enemy were expected to resume their counter attack at any time.

Night of 25/6th moved up to relieve 4th RF holding the line at Clarges Av to Bde. 2 platoons moved along the railway, there was no barrage but two tanks were allocated to help one platoon was sent to the railway at Billem to help from the high ground the Bn in its advance. 9th Bde were to reach their objective under a creeping barrage at zero + 16. The whole Bn moved up into the front line and support line being in dug outs. A hot meal was served. The Bn was to get out of the trenches and as close up to

the barrage which would open and dwell on Ryder St for 8 minutes. At 4.30am the enemy started counter preparations at the front and peripheral lines but this slacked off at 5am. At 5.20 our barrage started and the enemy reply was prompt on front and support lines. The Bn advanced, the right platoon had a stiff fight for their objective, the centre had a little difficulty at the copse but outflanked it and the left had little opposition and got to its objective forming a defensive flank on the sunken road. At 6.45am it was reported that all objectives were taken.

Casualties 5 Officers 148 Other Ranks Killed wounded or missing.

Corporal William Martin Brown was one of the 40 men killed on this day. He is buried at Morchies Australian Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

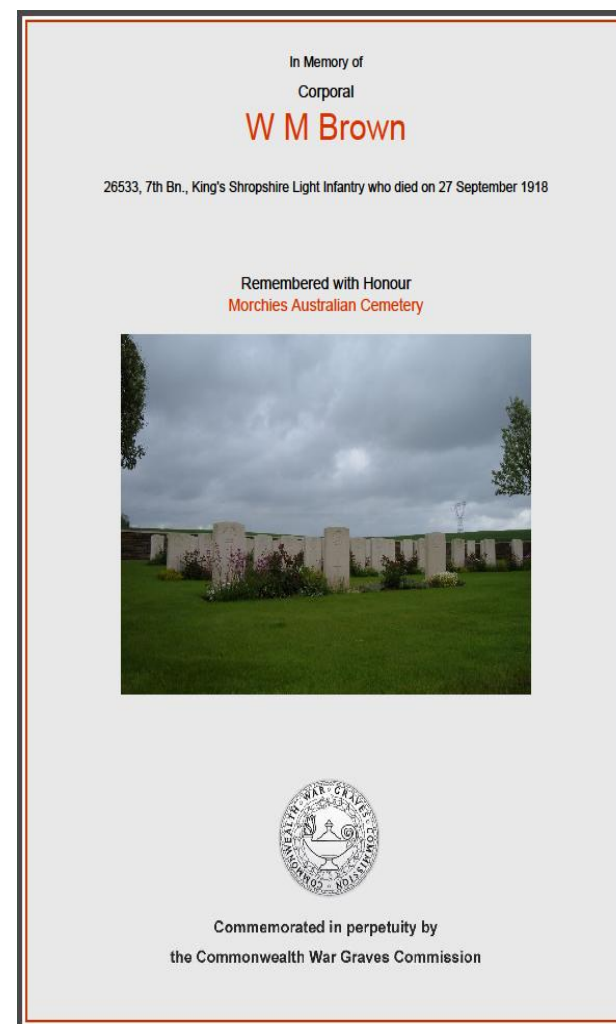


Name: William Martin Brown
Residence: Ross
Death Date: 27 Sep 1918
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Shrewsbury
Rank: Corporal
Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion: 7th Battalion
Regimental Number: 26533
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 2166, Shrops Yeo

He was awarded



The British War Medal The Victory Medal.



M2/149485 Private Cecil Kerwood Cater



692 Motor Transport Company
Army Service Corps

Cecil Kerwood Cater

He was born at the Nursery, Ross in 1894 and baptised on 12th January 1894 in Ross. His father was George Richardson Cater a clerk in the post office and his mother was Deborah Kerwood they both came from Ross. His sister Marguerite Elizabeth had been baptised 23rd May 1890 when they were living at New St. Ross. and George Richardson Cater was a Telegraph Clerk.

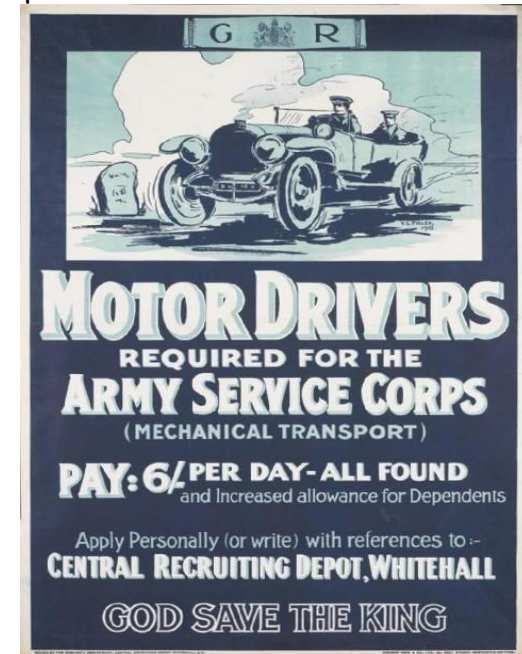
George (aged 26) a Railway Porter and Deborah (aged 26) were married on 18th June 1889 at Ross. George's father James was a Sawyer (deceased) and Deborah's father Charles was a builder. They both signed. James was buried 20th April 1876 in Ross and was living at the Nursery when he died he was 39. In 1901 he was living at 1 Alton St. and his father was a Post Office Clerk. In 1911 was still in Alton St and working at the motor works.

Before the Great War Cecil Cater worked at the Motor Works of Messrs Butcher and Casson. Cassons had been in Henry St and Butchers in Brookend St. and eventually moved to Cantilupe Rd. Cecil was well known in the town and well respected by his companions. Butcher and Casson did not just repair motor cars they also manufactured cars, assembled and painted Morris cars from Oxford and made and sold Bicycles, a very useful background for someone going into the Service Corps Mechanical Section. Private Cater had joined the Territorial Army Service Corps pre-war and on the day of mobilization in August 1914 he was at camp in Aberystwyth.

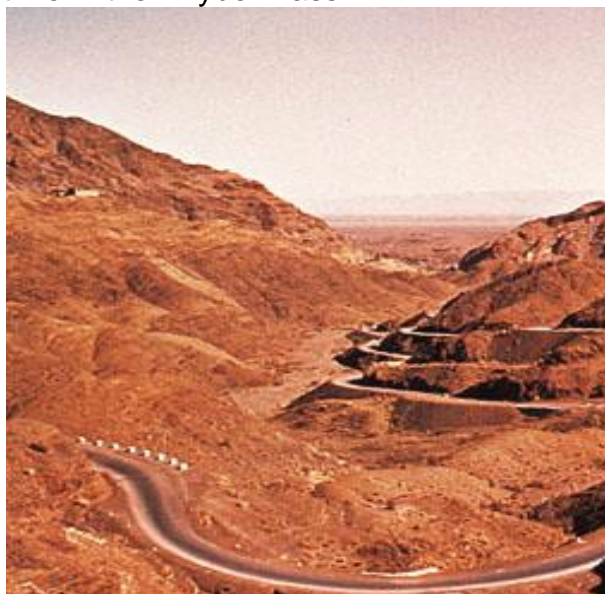
Without the slightest hesitation he joined up.

The Great War

He was M2/149485 Private Cecil Kerwood Cater. The M2 prefix means M - Motor or Mechanical Transport and the 2 following it is a 'trade' number. 2 meant either electrician or driver. Bearing in mind his pre-war occupation if follows he was probably a driver. ASC drivers were not just 'drivers' they were expected to understand the workings of the vehicles and be able to repair and service them.



He was later drafted to India and posted initially to Bombay and then sent to join his unit 692 M.T. Company at Peshawar and he spent most of his time in the Khyber Pass.



Khyber Pass WW1

692 Motor Transport Company was formed on the 7th April 1916. Over the war period it served in India (Bangalore), Peshawar and Mesopotamia. It's role was as a Base MT Workshop and Heavy Repair Shop. The 1st (Peshawar) Division was a Regular Division of the British Indian Army it was formed after the Kitchener

reforms of the Indian Army in 1903. During World War I it remained in India for local defence but it was mobilised for action on the North West Frontier on several occasions during the period.

The Impact of the First World War 1914-1918 in the army in India. The First World War quickly exposed the shortcomings of this approach to frontier fighting when most highly experienced pre-war regular regiments were sent overseas. Their under-officered and poorly equipped replacements had far less training and experience in mountain warfare, and this caused serious concern to the military authorities as unrest spread in the hills during 1915. When British Territorial Army (TA) regiments were deployed in the NWFP, whose officers lacked any real military knowledge or training, the inherent limitations of relying solely on the principles of war and limited information contained in FSR to govern training were exposed. As a stop-gap measure, a Mountain Warfare School was opened in May 1916 using innovative teaching methods specifically to train cadres of TA officers and NCOs in frontier fighting, who in turn would instruct their

own units. Despite this development a serious lack of uniformity was evident in applying the principles and minor tactics of mountain warfare during operations conducted by 1st (Peshawar) and 2nd (Rawalpindi) divisions in November 1916. This was highlighted at a conference at Dehli between 22nd-24th February 1917 when Major-General William Bunbury called for definite rules to be laid down as he believed lack of uniformity was a source of serious danger in the field. Other senior officers, however, openly opposed publication of a special manual or any additions to FSR. Lt.-General Sir Arthur Barrett, GOC Northern Command, closed this discussion by observing: I think there is no doubt that mountain warfare is a science. I have always regarded it as a thing very much like a game of chess which wants a great deal of skill to avoid mistakes, but that the same time it is not a science that can be said at any one time to have reached its finality. We are always going on evolving new things and a great many of these points that have been raised have been evolved gradually from experience. We must not assume that the stage we have

reached now is the last stage of the process We must remember that the increased armament of these tribes that we fight against will go on modifying our rules and systems . A series of disastrous skirmishes in Waziristan during the Spring further underlined the need for specialised training. On 2nd May 1917 the GOC Northern Command warned: 'If we employ troops inexperienced in hill warfare, it appears to me that incidents in the Gomal are likely to be repeated.' [6] Despite further efforts by the Mountain Warfare School during 1917 and 1918 to improve training, however, by the end of the First World War the efficiency of the border garrisons had plummeted far below pre-war standards.

Private Cater died on 16th March 1917. He suffered a fractured skull after an accidental fall whilst in the execution of his duties. He is buried in Peshawar. The cemetery is located on the north side of the old Jamrud Road (the N5), bounded on the North and West by Kafa Road. The Christian Cemetery also known as the Gora Qabristan. Most British military and administrative burials would have been located here.

Partial records survive and have been published, including some connected with St. John's Church in the cantonment.

He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial and the: The India Gate, (originally called the All India War Memorial), is a war memorial located astride the Rajpath, on the eastern edge of the 'ceremonial axis' of New Delhi, formerly called Kingsway. India gate is a memorial to 82,000 soldiers of the undivided Indian Army who died in the period 1914–21 in the First World War, in France, Flanders, Mesopotamia, Persia, East Africa, Gallipoli and elsewhere in the Near and the Far East, and the Third Anglo-Afghan War. 13,300 servicemen's names, including some soldiers and officers from the United Kingdom, are inscribed on the gate. The India Gate, even though a war memorial, evokes the architectural style of the triumphal arch like the Arch of Constantine, outside the Colosseum in Rome, and is often compared to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and the Gateway of India in Mumbai. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.



India Gate

When the Commonwealth War Graves Commission commissioned their cemetery records (about 1921/2) Cecil Cater's father was living at Melcombe, Gloucester Road, Ross. His mother died in 1935 in Cheltenham and was buried in Ross on 23rd December.

Name	CATER	Rank	Private	Service No.	M2/149486
Regiment	Army Service Corps	Theatre of War	Asiatic Theatres	Date of entry	1916
Service No.					
Regiment					
Theatre of War					
Date of entry					

Medal Index Card.- Cecil Cater.
He was awarded



The British War Medal

It was relatively unusual for just the British War Medal to be awarded it normally went with the Victory Medal (the Star medals required soldiers to have served on active service pre 1916). British War Medal the requirement was that a member of the fighting forces had to leave his native shore in any part of the British Empire while on service. It did not matter

whether he/she entered a theatre of war or not. The Victory medal was awarded to all those who entered a theatre of war. It follows that every recipient of the Victory Medal also qualified for the British War Medal, but not the other way round. For example if a soldier served in a garrison in India he would get the BWM but not the Victory Medal.

Soldiers died in the Great War

Name: Cecil Kerwood Cater
Residence: Ross, Hereford
Death Date: 16 Mar 1917
Death Place: India
Enlistment Place: Kempton Park
Rank: Private
Regiment: Army Service Corps
Regimental Number: M2/149486
Type of Casualty: Died
Theatre of War: Asiatic Theatres



In Memory of
Private

Cecil Kerwood Cater

M2/149486, 692nd M.T. Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 16 March 1917

Son of George R. Cater, of "Melcombe," Gloucester Rd., Ross, Herefordshire. (Buried Peshawar (Right) B.C. XXV. 624B.).

Remembered with Honour
Delhi Memorial (India Gate)

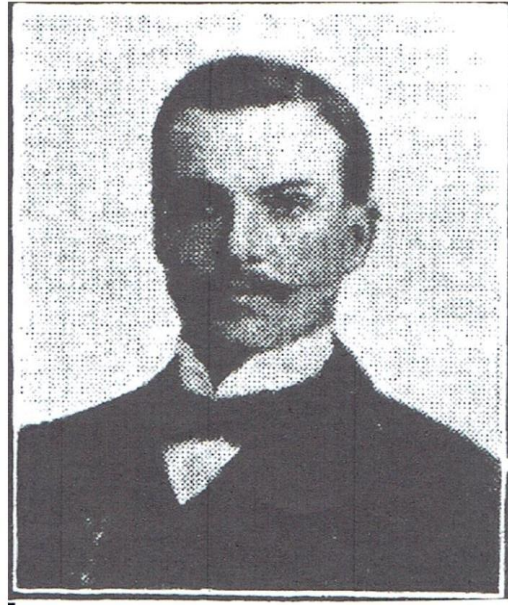



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

40089 Private James Percival Cater



6th Battalion
South Wales Borderers



James Percival (Percy) Cater

He was born in Ross on 14th July 1885 and baptised on 4th October same year. His parents were John Cater from Tudorville and Catherine Davies from Cardiff they had 13 children of which 11 survived and 2 had died by 1911. 1891 He was at Tudorville father was a fitter. 1901 Living at Tudorville. His father was an Implement Fitter, brothers -Albert was a Sculptor and

Harold was a Solicitor's Clerk (Law). Percy was a Telegraph Messenger. In 1904 James Cater was appointed as a Postman working from Ross Post Office a post he held until he went into the army in 1916. On October 24th 1908 James Percival Cater married Mary Hope from Ruardean Hill at Church of Holy Trinity in Drybrook. They had one son James Albert Graham Cater on 26th October 1910. 1911 Living at 9 Milton Terrace, Camp Rd, Ross. with his two younger sisters, his wife and son. He was a Postman.

The Great War

4534 Private James Percival Cater enlisted into the 2nd (Pioneer) Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment on 3rd June 1916. He went to France on 18th October same year. He was attached to the 6th (Pioneer) Battalion South Wales Borderers (SWB). The 2nd Monmouthshire Regt was a Territorial Force unit and a number of men from this unit were transferred to other Regiments, many went to the Welsh Fusiliers and some to the SWB 4345 Pte George Edwards (born in Walford) was one and his new

regimental number was 40093 and he was killed in action on 12th June 1917. The group of men were sent from the home base to France had a period of acclimatisation before joining their regiment a couple of weeks later during November 1916.

South Wales Borderers France
At Oosthove Farm 7th November 1916 a draft of 79 ORs reported for duty. Work continued on communication trenches, one platoon sent to Trois Arbres to build huts. On 12th one platoon sent to Divisional bombing school at Meteren and 31 ORs reported for duty from No.5 IBD (Infantry Base Depot) 3 men were awarded Distinguished Conduct medals and 21 the Military Medal for gallantry during the construction of the Regina Trench in the Somme Offensive. Remainder of the month was work as usual.

December 1916. Work as per programme, subsidiary fire trench work on Le Touquet trench, constructing huts. One platoon to Meterine to construct Div. Rifle ranges. Constructing huts at Regina Camp. Xmas day Divine service, holiday, dinner four Sergeants served

the men, 26th Sergeants had their Xmas Dinner. On 30th five men wounded.
1917.

January. At Oosthove Farm. Work as per programme on 12th Heavy firing from 10-12 and 3 men wounded that night many trenches were damaged by fire. Wet and snowing. Remainder of month platoons were out repairing and working on trenches. 1 man killed in action and 2 wounded.

February. As per programme. Hard frosts at night on 7th a draft of 12 arrived. On platoon proceeded to Steenvoorde in lorries. On 19th Baths and New Zealand Pioneers arrived preparing to relieve us. 24th preparing to move, Trench Tramway detachment rejoined. 25th Bn. proceeded by march route to Caestre-Thieushouk area and billeted. NZ pioneers relieved the Bn. 26th at Thieushouk day spent cleaning and settling down in billets working with R.E on stables etc. Working parties on stables. 30th 4 Officers and 100 men went by motor lorry to Setques for work on R.F.A stables.

March. 1st St David's Day declared a holiday by G.O.C (General Officer Commanding). During the month. Divine services, route marches, Coy training as per programme, football matches, working with R.E. On 15th marched 15 miles to La Nieppe and into billets, 20 men to Steenvoord for wood cutting, work and training as per programme. On 20th marched to Swarthenbrock and into billets, cleaning and training heavy snow on 22nd. 23rd marched to Neuve Eglise and billeted in Convent, school and huts. Batt. attached to ANZAC Div. for work. Widening the Neuve Eglise-Wulverghem Rd. Work on roads, trenches and tunnelling with 171 Tunnelling Coy. R.E.
April and May sees the Batt. working at preparing the ground for the forthcoming battle at Messines in July. Making communications trenches, Tramways, Roads and a bridge for tanks over the River Douve.

April. Neuve Eglise. Work on Tunnelling, Water pipe laying, Building Communication dumps, Support trenches. Training. Weather getting milder as month progressed. On 30th

batt. marched to Swartenbruck and billeted.

May. Platoon drill, fire control, handling arms, bayonet fighting, lectures. Weather hot and dry NE wind. On 9th 2 Coys bridging. On 20th weather turned hot and muggy a draft of 100 men arrived from 83 TRB (Training Reserve Batt.). On 26th clearing the Messines Road and on 29th 8 men were wounded (one died the next day) when the communications dump exploded.

June. 2nd. Clearing Messines Rd. 3rd Heavy bombardment of German front. 4th Snipe Communication trench heavily shelled 6 men wounded. Intermittent shelling of nearby billet. 5th. Work on Snipe-Toad CT. 7 wounded. 6th June. 6 Killed 16 wounded. 7th Successful capture of part of Messines-Wytheschaete Ridge. Batt. took up position in area of Wulverghem 11 wounded. 8th A & C Coys heavily shelled clearing Messines Rd. 2 men died of wounds. 15 wounded. 9th. whole Batt working on the trench to the Messines-Wytheschaete Rd 9 men wounded 3 died of wounds. 10th. work

continued on the TT heavily shelled. 2 Killed in action 7 wounded, 1 died of wounds. 11th Quiet day continued work on TT. 12th 4 men wounded. 15th June work on TT 3 men killed 15 wounded. By 22nd June a further 2 men had been killed 8 wounded. The men working on the trench tramway returned to the Batt, Remainder of the month Coys. routine.

July. 1st at Ouderdom work on Kronstadt-Zillebeke Rd work continued until 6th of month. Casualties 6 killed, 2 died of wounds, 27 wounded. 2 drafts of 51 and 47 arrived. On 7th work concentrated on Warrington & Derby road. The whole work of getting materials up fell on the Batt. 7-14th work as before draft of 39 arrived Casualties 11 wounded 17 wounded by gas shell. 1 horse killed, 1 wounded. Weather very close and hot. 15th July. Work as for 14th Pioneer dump blew up at 2.30 trench very congested with transport all of which hampered so little was brought up by foot patrols 1 killed, 6 wounded 5 wounded by gas shell. 15th-19th work as normal. 19th Camp shelled during the night working party heavily shelled. casualties 3 killed 9 wounded.

20th July Batt. marched to Steenvoorde and rested until 29th of month. On 29th moved back to Ouderdom. On 31st Commenced work on Hooge Road. 14 wounded. During July the 2 coys had constructed 400 yards of trench tramway through the captured area and two others had opened a road to within 300 yards of Messines, all in spite of hostile shelling and machine gun fire.

Third Battle of Ypres

In August the 25th Division relieved the 8th Division who had been held up at Westhoek ridge. The combination of rain and artillery had reduced the trenches to a terrible state with water thigh deep in places.

August. 1st.-3rd Moved up to Belgian Chateau work on support line and Iguana Communications trench, conditions problems, heavy rain and thigh deep water, working parties held up by barrage. 1 killed 12 wounded. 4-9th Aug. Work on trenches casualties 6 killed 25 wounded. On 10th work continued on CT south of Westhoek the Division took Westhoek Ridge and the 6th SWB did splendid work consolidating. They were continually shelled in Road control

posts 23 men wounded. 11th Details for entrenching. 3 killed 5 wounded. The Batt. then moved back to billets for a period and on 23rd Aug it was back to Pioneer Camp and work on a new road to be called the Bellewaarde Rd. Remainder of month work continued on Bellewaarde Rd 2 men killed 15 wounded.

The winter of 1917/18 was spent in digging reserve lines and by Christmas they were at Fremicourt, Christmas day is noted in the war diary as Coys work as per programme. During January the Batt. built a light railway at Vaulx, constructed dugouts and took the opportunity to bathe.

1918.

February 12. Batt.moved to Achiet Le Grand, Coys working at Avesnes-Le-Bapaume, Fevreuil and Pioneer Camp Horse Lines. Still there on 1st March 1918. 2nd March Batt. bathed at Courcelles and rested. 12th/13th Batt moved to Favreuil working on defence of Beaumetz working as per programme until 20th March. 21-28th March 1918.At Sapignies.

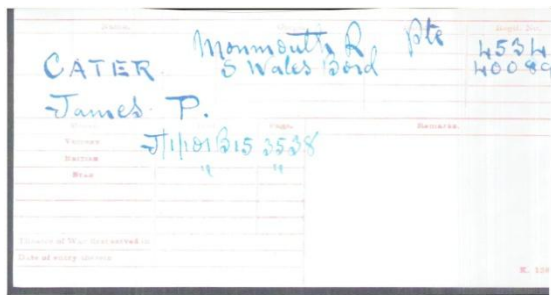
On 22nd March the Batt. was on the left of 106 Field Company RE. and HLI

were on their left. At 11am the Batt.moved forward on the real army line which was a continuous trench 3 feet deep the RE on the right could not move up due to heavy shelling. The Batt was withdrawn from the line by 6pm. At 6am on 23rd the bivouac was heavily shelled and we received orders to move to East of Sapignies guarding the Sapignies-Bihicourt Rd from an attack from Mory. Night of 23/4th passed quietly and in the morning paraded wit 75th Inf Bde and moved to the right flank with the 11th Cheshires. The afternoon of 24th seemed quiet and we heard the Guards had taken Mory which secured our left. On night of 24/5th we were reived and moved to Logeast Wood, by 1pm our position was critical, machine gun fire was coming from Monumment Corner and the enemy were firing Very lights near Brevillers, we could find no troops to the left so accordingly moved back to a line west of the main road, which was being machine gunned from both flanks. The position became very confused, the war diaries paint a sorry picture of confusion with battalions moving into positions without others knowing about it so the danger of 'friendly fire' was imminent and only

narrowly averted. By daylight of the 25th the enemy were attacking on three sides. Batt was to take positions guarding the Essarts-Pommieres road. At 2pm on 27th the Battalion marched into bivouac.

The Battalion casualties were 10 Killed in action, 35 Wounded, 11 Missing.

James Percival Cater was one of those killed in action during this battle. The "Soldiers who died in the Great War" files say 23rd March and buried at Sapignies, CWGC say 26th but the War Diaries say 24th. The war diary says KIA not 'missing' so his body was recovered and buried. But he has no known grave now so it was probably lost in the later shelling. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.



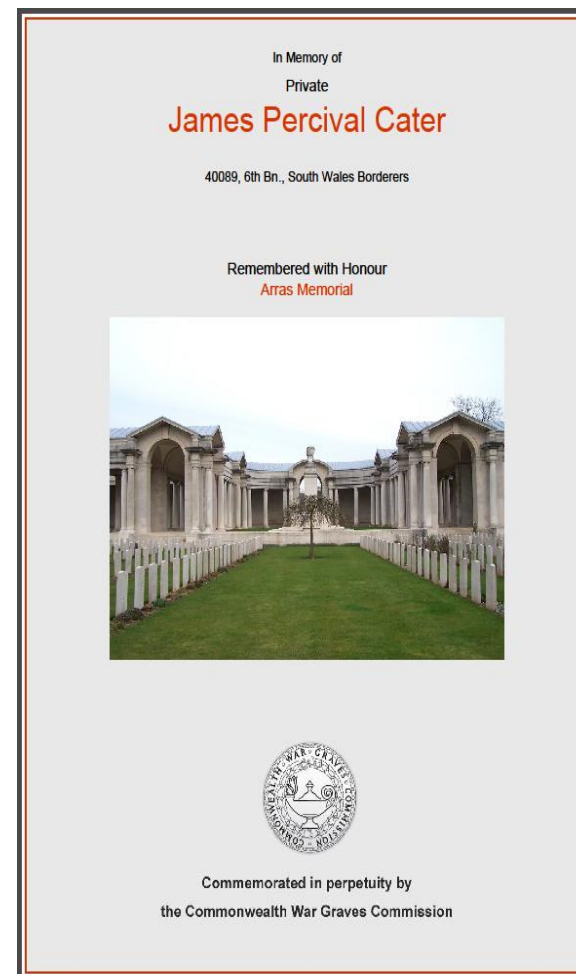
He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: James Percival Cater
Birth Place: Ross, Hereford
Death Date: 23 Mar 1918
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross, Hereford
Rank: Private
Regiment: South Wales Borderers
Battalion: 6th Battalion
Regimental Number: 40089
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 4534, Monmouthshire Regt



24628 Private James Henry Chester



6th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry

James Henry Chester

He was born in Holmer in 1879. His father was Henry Chester a plasterer from Bath, Gloucestershire and his mother was (Emily Hannah) Hannah Hiles Tranter from Hereford and they had married in 1877 in Hereford. In 1881 the family lived in Gas works, Holmer next door to Hannah's widowed mother and family. In 1891

they were at Woodbine Cottages, Holmer, James's father was still a plasterer. By 1901 James was a boarder at 1 Chase Lane, Ross and was a Compositor, Printer. James married Ada Myatt in Ross on 12th June 1905. James was living at 4 New St and Ada was living at Chepstow House, Ross (she was originally from Yorkshire). They had a daughter Dorothy Ada born in 1906 but she died in infancy the same year, they had another daughter Nancy Edith in 1907. In 1911 James was a Compositor at the Printing works and they were living in Archenfield Rd, Duxmere, Ross. In 1911 they had a son Edward James Chester who was baptised on 21st October 1911 in Ross and they had another daughter Linda in 1914.

The Great War

24628 Private James Chester joined the army and went into the 6th Battalion (King's) Shropshire Light Infantry (The Shropshire PALS Battalion).. Judging by his number he enlisted in the second half of 1915 most probably, judging by others with similar numbers as part of the Derby Scheme, where recruits enlisted in late 1915 but were not 'called to the

colours' until later in 1916. . His service records did not survive the bombing in the Blitz of WW2 so there is no record of when he went to France. He did not receive the 1914/15 Star medal so he must have gone after 1st January 1916 and it seems likely he was called up about mid 1916. After training he would have joined his unit in France late 1916 or early 1917.

6th KSLI started 1917 on 1st January at Ville-Sur-Ancre in billets, at Sandpits in dug outs and in the trenches at Bouleau Wood having relieved the Coldstream Guards at Sailly Saillisel by the 3rd. The month was spent in the trenches at Sailly, in billets at Bronfay Farm Camo, mainly on fatigues and supplying working parties. In the trenches the enemy were generally fairly quiet with one or two artillery bombardments. In billets men with bad feet bathed them and were treated for their problems. Much time was spent, cleaning and maintaining guns and equipment.

February. 1917. At Meaulte training, and practicing 'An attack on a strong point' from 1st - 5th with drill and training on 6th. On 7th Feb. marched

to Carnoy and then relieved Middlesex Regt. in the trenches all the men going forward to front line trenches were treated with prophylactics against trench foot, following day marched to Guillemont to relieve Somerset L.I. then relieved Ox & Bucks in Morval sector. Enemy artillery very active, our artillery bombarded the hostile positions with medium and heavy artillery causing a lot of German casualties. Hostile retaliation was fairly strong. 7 casualties. Enemy machine guns were active at night, evidently expecting an attack. On 11th relieved by KOYLI and marched back to Carnoy Camp. Training and Lewis Gun practice until 15th when back in the trenches. Enemy fairly quiet until 18th when back to Carnoy, cleaning arms and equipment, the men were in a very bad state owing to the muddy conditions of the ground. Moved up to front line at Morval sector, enemy fairly quiet but on 20th hostile artillery very active our back area was shelled intermittently by heavy shells. Patrols went forward into no-man's-land with Lewis gun to fire on parties of Germans to the rear of their lines, it attracted retaliation. Relieved and back to Carnoy on 23rd. 25th Feb.

Church Service. 28th All ranks treated with prophylactics against trench foot. At 5pm Battalion moved to support at Guillemont.

March 1917. 1st-6th Mar. Moved into Morval sector of front line and relieved Ox & Bucks. Pushed out patrols all night but enemy reported to be holding the front line strongly, enemy reported to be thick. Enemy very active, heavy shelling, intermittent artillery shelling and trench mortars. Casualties for period. 7 ORs killed, 9 Wounded. 6th-12th At Carnoy in billets. Bathing at corps dressing station and treatment for trench foot. Cleaning of arms, clothing and equipment. Classes for Lewis gun, signalling, bombing and scouting. working parties found, instructions in use of small box respirator. Church service. 12th-16th to Marched to Guillemont and then to front line at Morval sector trenches. 16th-18th Guillemont cleaning and treatment for trench foot. 18th-24th back in the front line trenches. Work on posts and trenches. 24th to end of month. In billets working parties, cleaning, church parades, classes for Lewis gun, signalling and scouting. All

available men provided for improving accommodation.

April 1917 1st Apr. Le Transloy marched to support trenches. 2nd-6th at Ytres 5th Australian Division attacked enemy on the left of our line all objectives gained, but quiet on our sector. Work commenced on digging a line of resistance. On 6th moved to Bertincourt, intermittent shelling and large explosion in Havrincourt at 3.30 on 7th. In the new line of resistance. 8th Moved to Ruyalcourt. On 9th Apr. ANZACs attacked and captured Hermies. During the morning endeavours were made to establish a new line but artillery, rifle and machine gun fire would not permit this. Observation post was established and a prisoner from the 361st Regt. was captured by the post. Enemy shelled the road, patrols were sent out, hostile shelling of outpost and main line of resistance work continued. Large draft from 266th Tunnelling Coy joined the Batt. 11th heavy rain, 2 aeroplanes of unknown nationality were seen to fall a distance away. Our patrols active all day. 12th Weather very bad, heavy snow all day. 13th-19th Apr. Moved back to

Bertincourt, cleaning up. Working parties. training programmes, Inspections, parades, Platoon drill, Arms drill, Extended order drill. 19th until end of month. Moved by companies to Havrincourt woods and relieved KOYLI. Patrols sent out. Outpost companies attacked German positions and advanced the outpost line casualties 1 OR killed 20 wounded. Latter part of month inter coy relief. situation quiet, active patrolling of area in front of outpost line. 28th Apr. Intermittent shelling, hostile aircraft active, large quantities of mining material carried to the front line, routine wiring and consolidation carried out. Weather fine, moonlit night, patrols sent out. 29th Hostile artillery and aircraft more active, heavy shelling of support lines.

May 1917. At Havricourt Woods until 3rd. Fairly quiet, hostile aircraft active. Work actively continued on front line. On 4th Moved back to Ruyalcourt. Cleaning arms, equipment, clothing. Bathing. Congratulations received from Divisional Commander on good work in creating a first class front line, well wired and well dug. "It was model work". Training programmes gas

helmet drill, bayonet fighting, field engineering, outposts, scouting and attack practice as well as church services, improvement of billets and lectures. On 13th marched to Gouzecourt woods and into the trenches. Weather wet, improving trenches. On 16th 6 ORs were accidentally wounded by a bomb explosion and one wounded by shell fire. Enemy were quiet with only occasional shellfire. moved back to billets on 23rd May. On 24th the Bn. marched by Companies across country to Favreuil and then on 25th to Vraucourt and billets. Moved to Noreuil until end of month. Working parties by day and carrying to the front at night.

June 1917. 1st. Trenches in Noreuil sector. Construction of trenches, latrines and improvements to line. Hostile as normal during the days and enemy aircraft very active, weather fine. At night enemy artillery and trench mortars active. On 6th June moved back to billets at Favreuil. Cleaning arms, equipment and clothing. On 7th inspection of companies in marching order. Classes in bombing, signalling, Lewis

Gun, stretcher bearers, Rifle Grenadiers, sniping and scouting. On 11th men were employed on draining the camp after a heavy storm during the night. On 12th Battalion parade followed by sports. 14th June. Back in the trenches at Lagnicourt sector. The division on our left raided the enemy lines and the heavy artillery on our left bombarded the enemy, resulting in slight retaliation. 2 ORs killed and 3 wounded. 15th the Division on our left carried out a minor operation, the retaliation was feeble. 16th Operation continued by Div. on our left, weak retaliation. An enemy aeroplane was brought down in front of our lines by one of our airmen, that night a considerable amount of wire was put out and trenches improved. 17th moved back to reserve at Vaulx-Vraucourt. Remainder of month in billets and support at Support area, Favreuil and Achiet-Le-Petit. Usual occupations, cleaning, training, classes and fatigues and working parties.

July 1917. 1st - 21st July. Having moved by train to Gandas Exchange they then marched to Fieffes and had a Divine Service. The month consisted

of training exercises, bayonet, Lewis gun, attack formations, rifle range, bombing and drill. On 21st July Bn. marched to Doullens and entrained to Houpoutre siding and from there marched to a camp near Proven. Remainder of month at Proven, training, divine services, route marches and physical drill.

August 1917. Still at Proven weather was very bad and wet and there were no parades. On 5th Aug. Bn. entrained at Proven and moved to the forward area. Marched to a camp at the Malakoff Farm area. Working parties daily until the 14th. carrying materials to the front, a steady stream of casualties and on 12th Aug a working party was bombed by a hostile aircraft wounding 15 ORs.

14th August. The Bn. relieved units of 59 Brigade on the canal bank.

15th August. 10.15pm The Battalion left the canal bank for the place of assembly on the left bank of the Steenbeek. On reaching Iron Cross the Bn. came under heavy bombardment and was considerably delayed only forming up by 3.15am. Between then and zero hour at 4.45am the Bn. remained in shell holes under

very heavy shell fire. At zero plus 15mins. the Bn moved forward making the passage of the Steenbeek in several places over bridges. The going was most difficult up to the blue line, the 20 minute halt here enabled all men to be rescued from the marshes and mud and the Bn. advanced to the green line. The outskirts of Langemarck held many enemy machine guns and snipers which were cleaned up, many enemy killed and 46 prisoners sent back. At 7.30am the Bn. advanced with 2 Coys in front and one behind as moppers up, the going was better but against strong opposition from the Ferro-concrete forts, hedges and ditches. Intense machine gun fire was opened from the Mill, White House and from a concrete fort due east from Rat House. After clearing the large concrete block houses west of the salient, the 3 Coys pressed on killing scores in hand to hand fighting and sending back batches of 26-32-19-11-and 42-unwounded prisoners. At 7.45am the final objective was captured forming the cord across the two shoulders of the salient. the 3 Coys came into line and threw out a screen 150 yards in front with 3 Lewis

Guns. The enemy were driven out of Kangaroo trench and shell holes, making for the small wood behind White House. This latter was dealt with by rifle grenades and then rushed by an officer and 8 men, who killed 9 men and sent back 5 unwounded prisoners.

During the day the K.R.R.C were heavily counter-attacked and we lent them 2 bombing sections, 2 rifle sections, 2 Lewis Guns, 2 Machine Guns and a Stokes Mortar, to drive out the enemy who had gained a footing in their trench.

The enemy made five attempts to form up for a counter attack behind the White House but on each occasion were annihilated. During the remainder of the tour (Until 18/19th August) the enemy made several more attempts to counter attack but were smashed never getting within 150 yards of the Battalion.

Casualties for this battle.

5 Officers wounded of which 3 later died of their wounds.

39 ORs killed in action, 147 ORs wounded, many died of their wounds in the following days, 5 ORs missing.

Private James Chester was killed during this battle (Probably died of wounds) on 18th August 1917. He is buried at Cement house Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



Name	Service	Rank	Regt. No.
CHESTER James H	H. S. L. I.	Private	24628
Medal	Date	Page	Remarks
Victory	17/12/1917		
British War	18/8/1917		
Thanks of War Dept entered in date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal
UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: James Henry Chester
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Death Date: 18 Aug 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross
Rank: Private
Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion: 6th Battalion
Regimental 24628



Number:
Type of Casualty: Killed in action

In Memory of
Private

James Henry Chester

24628, 6th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18 August 1917

Remembered with Honour
Cement House Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

5927 Private William Charles Clarke



2nd Battalion
King's Shropshire Light
Infantry

William Charles Clarke

He was born in Ross in 1889. His Father Arthur was a Council Carter and his mother was Mary Anne Jarvis and they had married 8th September 1883

in Ross. In 1891 they lived in Alton St, Ross and in 1901 Arthur Cark and his family were still living in Alton St but William had fallen foul of the law and been sent to Hardwicke Reformatory school, Gloucester as an inmate, this was a forward thinking establishment for young offenders and the first 'Reform school' in the world and attracted a huge amount of interest in its success. In 1911 William was a labourer living at 17 Alton St with his family.

The Great War

5927 Private William Charles Clarke joined up, it would appear at the beginning of the war. His number (5927) gives no real clue, the numbers surrounding it were all issued about 1899/1900 to men of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) but this could not have applied to him, he does not appear in the Regimental service records of the time, in 1911 he was in Ross but his regiment was in India and in 1900 he was only 12. He must have been given that number in 1914. (His WW1 service record does not survive, most were destroyed in the Blitz in WW2). Following training he was sent to join his Battalion. 2nd

KSLI. This unit had been in India and was brought back to fight in France and William Clarke would have probably joined it in France. He arrived in France on 28th January 1915.

In January 1915 the Battalion moved to front at Vormezeele and Dickebusch.

31st January 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 21st Mar. Relieved and marched to the Chateau at Kruisstraathoek in billets, 23rd relieved at the Chateau by KRRRC. Marched to Dickebusche billets. 25th marched to Reninghelst and in billets there until end of month. Batt. exercised in Company drill, machine gun class, musketry, bomb and grenade throwing. 31st Brigade inspected by Army Commander General Sir H L Smith-Dorrien.

April 1915. 1st-4th Billets at Reninghelst. On 6th marched to Ypres near Vlamertinghe into billets. 7th relieved Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and 268th French Infantry in the trenches. 8th in trenches. 9th and 10th relieved and in billets. 11th Apr. relieved KRRRC and into trenches at Polygon Wood until 14th when relieved and into billets casualties for this period 7 killed 22 wounded.

14-16th in billets at Ypres. 17th back in trenches at Polygon Wood relieving KRRRC 3 casualties in relief. 18th Ypres in trenches, 19th Enemy commenced selling of Ypres. 20th Batt. moved to Bellewaarde Wood. 22nd two companies ordered to Potijze. 24th ordered back to Bellewaarde. Stayed there on 25th trench digging. On 26th North of Potijze. Ordered to line of ridge and advance, found no enemy over the ridge, spent the night at Reve-Cote. 27th Apr. Zonnebeke in evening ordered to re-take enemy trenches. Carried out at 2.20am unsuccessful, retired to Reve-Cote. 28th back to Bellewaarde Wood in support. Casualties for this tour. 43 Killed, 122 Wounded, 3 missing. May 1915. 1st-3rd in support at Bellewaarde. 4th May Potijze and into Bellewaarde Wood trenches. 5th enemy shelled heavily using gas shells. Casualties 29 killed, 33 wounded. 6th Relieved by Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and proceeded to GHQ lines. 30 casualties. 7th at Potijze. Working party 200 strong repairing GHQ lines. 12 casualties.

8th Trenches heavily shelled 10 killed, 29 wounded. 9th May Railway Wood. Trenches heavily shelled 50 killed and wounded. 10th Railway Wood, trenches heavily shelled at daybreak. 20 killed and wounded. 11th May Railway Wood Trenches heavily shelled 40 killed and wounded. 12th Railway Wood, Trenches intermittently shelled, relieved in evening by 6th Cavalry. 14 killed and wounded. 13th Vlamertinghe in billets, draft of 97 ORs arrived. 16th Moved to Bellewaarde Lake trenches draft of 133 ORs arrived. Casualties 4 killed 11 wounded. 17th Bellewaarde Wood trenches 1 killed 6 wounded. 18-24th May in bivouac at Busseboom. Inspection by Sir J French, 130 OR reinforcements arrived. 24th May Ordered to move on account of division on right being gassed. Ordered to retake the trenches in vicinity of Bellewaarde Lake. Moved along Ypres-Roulers line and took up positions. 25th May 1915 Ypres. Batt. ordered to advance and assault enemies trenches in vicinity of Bellewaarde

Farm. Attack failed, Batt. held line West of Whittport Farm and entrenched itself.

Casualties 2 Officers killed, 9 wounded. 190 Other Ranks killed, wounded or missing.

Private William Charles Clarke was one of those Killed in Action on this day 25th May 1915. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

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

Name: William Charles Clarke
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Residence: Ross, Herefords
Death Date: 25 May 1915
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross Camp
Rank: Private
Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry
Battalion: 2nd Battalion
Regimental Number: 5927
Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Name	CLARKE	Corps	Shrops. LI	Regt. No.	P. 5927
W.C. William					
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks		
Victory	2/1/102 B	45	Died 25.5.15.		
Battalion	15. STAB	2/1/4 B	10.		
Theatre of War first served in	17 France				
Date of entry therein	28-1-15				

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star, British War Medal
Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
William Charles Clarke
5927, 2nd Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 25 May 1915 Age 25

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

10295 Lance Sergeant
**William Thomas
Clarke**



**5th Battalion
King's Shropshire Light
Infantry**

William Thomas Clarke

He was born in 1896 in Ross. His parents were William James Clarke from Gloucestershire and Annie Meredith from Dewchurch. They

had married in 1894. In 1901 his Father William was a Drayman at the Brewery. They were living at Town End, Mitcheldean. In 1911 the family were living at 9 Old Gloster Rd, Ross William was an errand boy and his father was a Gardener's labourer.

The Great War

10295 Private William Clarke joined the 1st Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) his service record does not survive but his number indicates he was a regular soldier and joined second half of 1913 or first half of 1914 He went with the 1st Battalion to France on 10th September 1914. 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 on 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 Steenwercke.

16th. The Bn. marches to the rear of brigade and occupies billets previously occupied by the French Cavalry at Cruscobeu.

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.

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.

We are not sure now of where William Clarke went. At some stage he transferred from 1st KSLI to the 5th KSLI. He was also promoted from Private to Corporal and Lance Sergeant. Whether he stayed in France and joined the 5th Batt. when they went (or even later) or whether he

was sent back to UK wounded or in a training role we do not know. However the 5th Batt. was a new unit formed late 1914 and would have needed experience trained regular soldiers to lead the inexperienced recruits.

5th Battalion KSLI

The Battalion was sent to France on 20th May 1915 landing at Boulogne on 22nd May.

May 1915. 19th. Three officers and 109 Rank and File along with 79 horses and mules left Aldershot for Southampton, the following day 28 Officers and 797 ORs followed them. 21st May At Ostrohove rest camp. 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. 3rd Fine trench digging. 4th June Pte Roberts D Coy wounded. 5th June Maxim gun detachment marched to Locre. 6th Fine, at Locre in the trenches under instruction by Sherwood Foresters Pte Smith D Coy shell wound, left leg. 7th. Fine and hot. C & D Coys still in the trenches Pte Hallett D Coy killed by rifle grenade and buried in Kemmel Chateau Cemetery. Cpl Dunn killed Ptes Lewis and Evans all C Coy wounded. 8th June Fine, Pte Hacking D Coy killed, Pte Briggs wounded. 9th Fine, no casualties. 10th Wet. A post was attacked by bomb throwers but driven off by rifle fire. 11th. Pte Leese

wounded by rifle grenade. 12th June Fine, marched to Canada Huts. 13th Parade and Holy Communion. 14th marched to Vlamertinghe digging dugouts E of Ypres for occupation tomorrow. A draft of 99 men arrived from Pembroke Docks. 15th June marched to support British attack East of Ypres which our guns had prepared with a two hour bombardment. The regiment came under very heavy shell fire, high explosives etc.

Casualties 2 Officers killed 2 wounded, 11 ORs killed 57 wounded 1 missing.

17-25th June. Vlamertinghe and trenches East of Ypres. Heavy shelling at times, 'stood to arms' all night on 20th expecting to make an attack. 22nd Oxfords made an attack but failed due to artillery bombardment not getting the ranging correct, our bombers were in the assault. 1 man killed, 26 wounded in attack. During this week the Batt. suffered 43 casualties in total.

25th June. Moved back into bivouac about 2 1/2 miles W of Poperinghe at Zwynland, all ranks very tired. Heavy showers on arrival.

July 1915. 25/6 - 8th July at Zwynland. Working parties, parades, church services, on 23rd men had

baths at brewery, digging communications trenches. on 5th July 1st Battalion came through our lines and stopped for an hour so men could see one another. 8th July. Batt. marched to Ypres Ramparts as Brigade reserve, 610 men sent to carry rations and engineering material to Ox & Bucks trenches. 9th. Heavy German shelling in the afternoon by stink shells, 1 Officer and two men wounded. 10th. Pte Harford killed by shell, buried by Oxfords in Railway Wood, clearing streets and ramparts by day and carrying to trenches at night 2 ORs wounded. 11th Clearing and salvaging stores and carrying by night - no casualties. 12th 2 ORs wounded. 13th 4 ORs wounded. 14th 7 ORs wounded 2 died of wounds. 15th. 1 OR killed, 10 wounded. 16th. 1 OR killed 6 wounded 17th. 4 ORs wounded. 18/19th. Relieved by Somersets and DCLI, both late and did not complete relief until 2.45am and did not get to camp until 5.30am. 1 OR killed, 1 accidentally killed and 6 wounded. 20-26th July at Busseboom. Working parties. 26th July - 1st August Relieved Somerset Light Infantry at Ypres Ramparts.

Repairing trenches and dugouts, supporting 9th KRR, attack on 29th. Casualties for this tour 5 killed, 2 died of wounds, 42 wounded. 2 Mules killed August. 2nd Ypres. Relieved by 8th K.R.R. Moved to lines S of Menin Rd. 2 died of wounds. 3rd. Situation the same 8 ORs killed 11 wounded. 4th Situation the same 2 killed 2 wounded. Relieved by 1st KSLI and KOYLI 5th. Relief completed and moved to dugouts N of Menin Rd. 6th. Relieved Ox&Bucks bombardment 3am. 3 killed, 7 wounded. 7th. Situation the same, much shelling both sides. 1 killed 18 wounded. 8th. Situation the same, attack should have taken place but postponed. 2 killed, 17 wounded. 9th. Bombardment, Brigade Battalion supported attack by rifle and Machine Gun fire. Casualties 1 Officer Killed, 3 wounded. 6 ORs killed, 36 wounded. 10th Situation the same, no casualties. 11-23rd Moved to bivouac near Vlamertinghe. Hutments in reserve. 23rd Officers visited trenches previous to taking over at night, 2

officers wounded in this. Relieved Ox&Bucks. in trenches. 24th. Lt Budgen killed (otherwise quiet) 25th. Lt Bonneyman and Cpl Ankers wounded. 26th. 2 ORs wounded. 27th. 3 ORs wounded. 28th. 7 ORs wounded. 29th. Relieved by DCLI and back to bivouacs at Vlamertinghe September 1915 30th-6th Sept. Rest and reinforcements arrived. 7-15th Sept. In trenches at Ypres. South of Menin Rd. 4 ORs wounded. 15th Back to Bivouac but on returning D Coy were shelled and 2 ORs were killed and 12 wounded. 16-23rd. Rest and reinforcements. 17th Inspected by Army Commander General Plumer. **Battle of Loos.- The Big Push** 24th September Batt. proceeded to the trenches in fighting order strength 17 Officers 780 ORs. An intense bombardment took place by our guns until 4.20am this was immediately replied to by the Germans, heavy bombardment continued all day. Casualties Capt. Beaumont Killed 3 ORs killed 8 wounded. 25th Sept. 3.50am intense bombardment replied to immediately by Germans. 4.05am Batt. in position

for assault. 420am assault took place and we penetrated the German second line of trenches but owing to the attack on our right not getting home and the counter attack enveloping our left flank the position became untenable and Batt. was forced to occupy our original line of trenches at 8.15am. The Germans bombarded heavily until 1pm and again from 9pm until midnight. Relieved at 11.30pm by DCLI.

Casualties. Officers. 3 killed, 5 wounded, 2 missing, 3 wounded & missing

ORs... 41 killed 280 wounded 100 missing 7 wounded & missing.

Letter from Private John Oliver, D Co., 5th K.S.L.I.

LETTER FROM A BRIDGNORTH SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES [Bridgnorth Journal, 2nd October, 1915]

Mr Chas. Oliver of 33 St. John's Street, has received the following interesting letter from his son, 11200 Private John Oliver, D Co., 5th K.S.L.I., referring to the recent great fight on the Western

front, the letter being dated Sept. 27th, 1915:-

"Just a few lines to tell you that Charley, George, and me are all in the 'pink', but it is a miracle we are alive to tell the tale. We went to the trenches to make this attack last Thursday night, and made it on Saturday morning [Sept. 25th] at about five o'clock. We took the trenches, but could only hold them for about five hours; the Germans had sent up reinforcements by train in thousands, so were repulsed by them counter-attacking.

I have seen some sights since I have been out here, but this one is the worst that I have witnessed, the poor men lying dead in hundreds. Our battalion went in over 500 strong, and came back about 300, so you can tell they gave us some stick. The --- and ---- lost two companies in less than two hours. Ours could not account where they went; whether they were killed or taken prisoners. They came out with two officers and 180 men, and the ---- with one officer and 90 men, but you will read the fully [sic] account of this lot in the papers.

Mr. Beaumont, my officer, got killed on the 24th inst. He was having his dinner just outside his dug-out when a shell burst over us, and a piece hit him on the top of the head and knocked his brains out, also wounding another officer and four men. I was sat next to Mr. Beaumont, and yet I escaped, but it was luck. Poor Harry Johnson and Alf Bowen got killed, but the other Bridgnorth lads are well, though it is luck that there are any of us left to come back.

Our general sent us word down on Sunday night and congratulated us on the way we worked and had done all that was asked of us to do, for the attack was to draw the Germans from other parts of the line while the French made their attack at other parts of the line, and that they had been successful. I can tell you we did not half suffer for it."

October. In billets near Poperinghe until 13th Oct. when relieved 7th R.Bs in the trenches at Ypres until 21st. Fairly quiet, some intense aeroplane activity, on 20th rapid fire opened on German working party, 3 men seen to fall.

22nd in billets at Hourkerque. The war diary list all the men of the regiment on this date and 11293 G Weeks is listed with 'D' Company.

In billets until 18th November 1915. Rest and reorganisation. On 27th Oct. Army Commander inspected selected detachments at Abeele and His Majesty the King was present.

18th Nov. - 16th Dec. 1915 in trenches at Ypres with short rest breaks at Brandhoek. Casualties in this tour 9 killed 43 wounded.

Houtkerque 17-31st Dec 1915 In billets.

1916

January 1-7th at Brandhoek Sir Douglas Haig visited and was present at a Gas demonstration by a chemical advisor.

8th Jan. Elverdinghe. Half Batt. in trenches and other half at rest camp. Until 23rd Jan they alternated regularly. Working parties, Bosch active with Machine Guns, aircraft at night dropped bombs near Chateau. Casualties in this tour 14 killed 24 wounded.

23rd Jan. Relieved by Ox&Bucks. Moved to Brandhoek for two days 2 ORs killed.

27 - 31st at Elverdinghe. Working parties provided at night.

31st Relieved KRR in trenches.

February 1st -10th Two companies in trenches and two in reserve, alternating. Brief rest periods at Brandhoek. Considerable enemy aircraft activity, shelling an trench mortars. Casualties in tour 10 killed 19 wounded. 11th Feb. Batt.

relieved by 6th KSLI during relief enemy attacked with bombs but were driven out by our bombers. Our machine gunners were holding part of the line and did good work, three being recommended. Casualties 10 ORs killed,17 wounded, 3 missing.

12th Feb. Poperinghe. Moved by motor busses to billets at Houtkerque and next day marched to to Wormhoudt in Billets until 22nd Feb. Marched to new billets at Grand Roullecourt via Bertecourt-Les-Dames until 29th. Freezing and snow falling.

March 1916. 1st. Billets at Sombrin. Marched to Berneville and then Arras billets at Ecole des Jeune Filles, Rue Gambetta arrived on 5th. Snow. In Arras billets until 12th Mar. On 7th ten men were accidentally wounded when they marched over a French bomb while on a carrying party. Repairing

and improving trenches. A few enemy shells exploded near to billets. Snow falling. 13th-21st Mar. relieved Ox&Bucks in the trenches. Considerable aeroplane activity on both sides, 3 companies in trenches 1 in reserve and rotated, on 19th our artillery retaliated with heavies on enemy front line trenches. Casualties 3 killed 13 wounded.

21st moved to billets at Simencourt stayed until end of month. Shooting competition held, won by 'D' Coy. 29th Relieved Ox&Bucks in trenches. Considerable aeroplane activity and one of ours was brought down in flames behind enemy lines. April 1916. Distribution stayed the same until 5th April 39 reinforcements. 2ORs wounded.

5th-13th April. In billets at Arras. 13th Apr. Relieved Ox&Bucks. All leave cancelled. 3rd Army order. All Officers and ORs recalled. 15th 1 OR accidentally wounded 16-20th 3 companies in trenches at Ronville, more reinforcements arrived. 26-28th in Billets at Simencourt. 29th Back in the trenches at Ronville.

17th Apr. Our artillery bombarded enemy front line. Howitzers fired at second line. Medium Trench

Howitzers working in conjunction with Stokes guns shelled the circular works. The result was very satisfactory and much damage was done, after our bombardment the enemy began to retaliate with heavy mortars and a few shells but were silenced by our guns. 20th Our artillery bombarded the enemy front and patrol line. 24-30th Apr. In billets at Berneville, battalion sports were held which included foot races and tug of war. 30th Back in the trenches at Arras.

May 1916. In trenches until 7th. 11 British aeroplanes flew over sector on our left. Casualties 1 OR killed, 1 wounded. Enemy shelled trenches with heavies, on 6th our bombers attempted a raid on enemy sap but owing to the wire not being cut by our artillery they were unable to get through. No casualties. 7-14th Billets in Arras. 15th In trenches at Ronville. Our aeroplanes active over enemy lines, enemy shelled communications trench in afternoon. Remainder of May diaries missing.

June 1916. 1-7th In trenches at Ronville Casualties 2 ORs killed 1 wounded.

8-19th June. In billets at Arras and Achicourt one Coy remained at Ronville. On 9th enemy aeroplane dropped bombs on Achicourt and Ronville by night 3 ORs wounded. Trenches at Arras and St Sauveur until end of month. Enemy shelled station and vicinity bombardment of enemy trenches and Tilloy. 27th 2 Coys in reserve enemy observation balloon brought down. 28th. Night bombardment on enemy trenches also dumps to road at rear of enemy trenches. 29th Enemy retaliated in the early hours. Bombardment of enemy wire in afternoon, one of our aeroplanes dropped bombs on enemy front line. 30th. Enemy shelled Arras.

July 1916. At Ronville in trenches until 8th when relieved by Ox & Bucks. Moved to Arras (Ecole Des Jeune Filles) following day an aeroplane bombed Achicourt and Ronville at night 3 ORs wounded. 19th relieved the Gloucesters at St Sauveur, in trenches and in reserve until 9th July, intermittent heavy bombardments. 9th relieved by rifle brigade back to Arras and 2 Coys into Ecole Des Jeune Filles and remaining Coys into Hotel Du

Commerce. Our aeroplanes very active over Arras.

12th July relieved Ox & Bucks in trenches at Achicourt. On 14th a smoke screen was made by the Division on our left and when the enemy saw it they opened a bombardment for a short time. 3 ORs killed and 8 wounded. 16th in trenches 11 ORs wounded. 18th relieved by KRRC and billets in Arras. On 22nd July Batt. relieved Somerset L.I. at Blangy in trenches, cemetery defence and Arras. On 24th the enemy attempted a raid on the left Coy but met with no success. 27th relieved by Lancs Fus. and marched to billets in Agnes-Les-Duisans. Next day marched to Grand Rollecourt (9 miles), next day a four hour march to billets at Barly on 31st marched 7 1/2 miles to billets at Candas.

August. 1916. In billets at Candas and at Buire-sur-l'Ancre until 12th Aug. when marched to bivouac near Fricourt. 52 reinforcements arrived, working parties, heavy night bombardments by our artillery. 18th 29 more OR reinforcements arrived 19th marched to Montouban Alley 5 ORs wounded, heavy bombardment by our guns. 20th Took up positions at

Crucifix Alley, Albert worked on deepening trenches and collecting salvage. 21st marched to Devil's trench (Delville Wood) enemy aeroplane dropped bombs on trench. 24th Aug. An attack with Beer Trench as the final objective but owing to right flank being unsupported were obliged to retire on Edge Trench and finally on Inner Trench. The Battalion captured 2 machine guns. 2 Officers and 115 ORs.

Our casualties 11 Officers and 194 ORs. 25th Relieved by KOYLI and into bivouac until 28th when moved to Pommier redoubt and from there into Delville Wood because of heavy rains and severe shelling the trenches were in a very poor state. 30th Batt. in trenches in Delville Wood, heavily shelled. Casualties 8 Killed 32 wounded 4 missing. 31st Relieved. Into motor busses to Mericourts Station then entrained to Airaines and then marched to Yergies.

September 1916. In billets at Yergies. On 6th a draft of 150 ORs, mostly from the Sherwood Foresters Regt. On 11th marched to Airaines and entrained for a slow railway journey to Mericourt, then marched to camp. 14th Marched to Pommier Redoubt

and then to York Alley. 15th Sept. Moved forward from York Alley, objective was Gird Trench which owing to both flanks being left 'in the air' we failed to get. Our final position however was just behind this trench. During the action we captured 4 Field Guns and 1 machine gun but were unable to move them at the time, these guns had caused us serious trouble previously. 50 prisoners fell into our hands. Casualties 35 killed, 195 wounded, 34 missing. 16/17th Sept. Relieved by DCLI and back to camp. Casualties 3 killed, 8 wounded.

During this action L/Sgt William Clarke was Killed in action. He is buried at Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs and commemorated on Ross War Memorial



Guards Cemetery Lesboeufs

- **CLARKE, W T**
Rank: Lance Serjeant
Service No: 10295
Date of Death: 16/09/1916
Age: 20
Regiment/Service: King's Shropshire Light Infantry
5th Bn.
Cemetery: [GUARDS' CEMETERY, LESBOEUF](#)
Additional Information: Son of Mrs. Annie Clarke, of 9, Old Gloucester Rd., Ross, Herefordshire

Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
CLARKE W.T.	1157	1st Lt	10295
Medal	Bull.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	78/110283	794	
14	11/4	10	Dead
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
10.9.16			

He was awarded



1914 (Mons) Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal



In Memory of
Lance Sergeant
W T Clarke

10295, 5th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 16 September 1916 Age 20

Son of Mrs. Annie Clarke, of 9, Old Gloucester Rd., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

235647 Sergeant Charles John Colwell



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

Charles John Colwell

He was born in 1893 and Baptised on 19th March at Ross-on-Wye. His Parents lived at Tudorville and were Charles John Colwell (a groom and gardener) from Westbury, Gloucestershire 1847 - 1931 and Amelia Jane Neller 1854 - 1922. They had married on 13th July 1871 in Westbury on Severn.

in 1881 the family were living in Turdorville. Father was a groom and gardener, son William was a Coachsmith, George was a Blacksmith other children were at school. In 1911 the family were living at Fern Bank, Tudorville. Father was a Cooper in the Brewery his daughter Mary was a Draper's Asst. Son Charles was a Wine Merchant's Porter and his brother Thomas was a Grocer's porter. Charles John Colwell enlisted in early May 1913 as 2183 Private Colwell into the Herefordshire Regiment. This was a Territorial Unit (part time - not full time regular Army).

The Great War

The Herefords were mobilized in 1914 and in 1915 Charles Colwell went with them to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. His later number came when the Territorial units were all re-numbered in 1917.

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 1.pm. 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.

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 by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

October 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and army returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and

Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick. 11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagh, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling. 31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

November 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry . 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night. 11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into

the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man killed. Work carried out on new fire trench.

12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known.

13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties. Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper.

14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night.

15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very

active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes

17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some bushes used by Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.

18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.

20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.

21st Nov. Nothing to report.

22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small

bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench. 23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded accidentally. Not much rifle fire.

24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.

26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgarry Barricades were swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes. Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.

27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00. Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.

The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had

been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight.

28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.

29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.

Casualties for the month of November

Killed or died of wounds	13
Wounded	10
Missing	11
Died of exposure	11
Admitted sick to Hospital	355

December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter.

2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba.

7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among the Herefords.

9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba, 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.

12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira'

13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia.

15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian'

22nd Dec.. Arrived at Alexandria

23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt.

24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

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. 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. 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.

In November and December the Battalion advanced through Palestine in appalling conditions, very hot, insufficient water (3 pints every 48 hours) and rough tracks through the Judean Hills in the Khamsin season. But by Christmas they had taken Jerusalem. March 1918 the Battalion was engaged at Tell Azur a fiercely fought battle of attack and counter attack with a lot of hand to hand fighting but the Turks were finally driven off.

This ended the Battalion's involvement in Palestine and in June it returned via Italy to Proven, Belgium.

FRANCE

June 1918 they returned to France arriving at Les Cinq Chemins on 1st July 1918. They drew new equipment and a period of training and acclimatizing followed. On 18th July Marshal Foch had ordered a major counter offensive between Chateau Thierry and Soissons. They went into the field at 7.40am on 23rd July at Poiseux. and immediately experienced very heavy

shellfire, high standing corn made it difficult to move through, casualties occurred from enemy machine guns before the attack had proceeded many yards. Attack was held up at 12.00 due to units on flank either side failing to advance at all. At nightfall relieved by 1/4 Cheshires.

Casualties heavy - 8 Officers and 230 ORs.

Continuous shelling for the whole night and experienced gas shells for the first time, it made the evacuation of the wounded very difficult.

24th July moved to reserve trenches.

25th July Shelled heavily French Aeroplane felled in our lines.

26th/27th Heavy shelling tried to move to new location but trenches filled with water. Casualties so far (estimated) 10 Officers wounded, 23 ORs killed, 206 wounded, 19 missing. Relieved by French Battalion.

28th July Moved back to new bivouacs.

August 1st. Back in the line. on 1st August they were in action at Bucy Le Bras Ferme. Much of the Brigade had moved forward and following were the advance HQ contingent including Major Whitehouse, suddenly and unexpectedly a group of Germans

appeared in front of them from a dugout and Major Whitehouse was shot in the head and died instantly. Major Whitehouse was a local man, his father was the Vicar of Sellack.

Total casualties for month of July. 36 Killed, 256 Wounded, 18 Missing, 64 Sick Total. 362.

2nd - 30th August. In reserve, billets and bivouac at Zeggars Capel, Hezeel and Proven. Re-organising, baths, divine services, training three drafts 160men, 140 men and 50 men arrived (very young many were under 19), brigade sports.

31st August. Bn under orders to move at short notice.

September 1st Marched to Lumbres, train to Abeele, marched to Scherpenburg.

2nd Sept. Divisional Reserve

3rd. In the front line. Reorganising front line.

4th. 4.30am Bn formed up ready to move. 5.30am Artillery and Machine gun barrage began. Right Coy moved on but were held up by barbed wire which had not been cut by artillery fire, left Coy failed to reach objective and were back in Farmer Trench, right Coy failed to reach objective and were back

in original position. 5th - 7th Sept. Situation as normal 8th -14th Sept. Relieved by Cheshires and in reserve position at Willbeck a very wet position no accommodation except French and Boche old front line trenches. Rained all day for 4 days. 13th Moved to French Bank a much better position. 15th Relieved North Lancs 16th 'C' Coy pushed out posts about 150 yds. Usual 'stand to' shelling. 17th 'D' Coy pushed out to front of Oak trench. 18th/19th Situation normal. 20th Sept. Situation unchanged, moved back to support line. 21st. Bn HQ shelled from 14.00 to 16.00 - 500 HE Shells, no casualties 22nd Bn. relieved by R.W. Surreys moved to French Bank. 23rd -28th Sept. Admin work, training and musketry. 29th Sept. Moved to Green line and then into trenches. 30th Sept. Remained in present position. Casualties for September 16 killed, 55 wounded, 18 missing.

October 1918. At Wytchaete.

2nd October. Bn ordered in support but no support Bn to relieve so had to dig in. Very dark night, no guides available and no one who knew the

ground. Bn dug in but when light came Bn was in rather dead ground. 3rd. Situation normal, usual harassing fire. 18.00 Bn proceeded to dig in 1 Officer and 8 ORs wounded. 4th. Orders to move, cancelled, work on defences, usual artillery fire, situation normal. 5th. Situation normal, usual Machine gun and artillery fire. 6th. Orders to relieve front line, then cancelled. 7th. Situation normal, Bn relieved by N.Lancs. Moved back by cross country track, only a few pill boxes for shelter nearly all ranks bivouaced in open. 8th-11th Oct. Resting and cleaning and working on roads. 12th. Relieved R.W. Surreys. 13th. Situation normal, at 21.00 our artillery carried out a gas bombardment of selected areas, enemy replied. 14th 09.30 Bn advanced to reinforce Cheshires. 19.00 enemy shelled area continually all night with gas. 15th October 1918. 05.50 proceeded through front line of Cheshires to Eastern outskirts of Menin, pushed forward and cleared the town after slight opposition. 18.00 front line adjusted and Cheshires withdrawn to support. 16th October. Patrols sent out to Halluin after crossing the Lys by

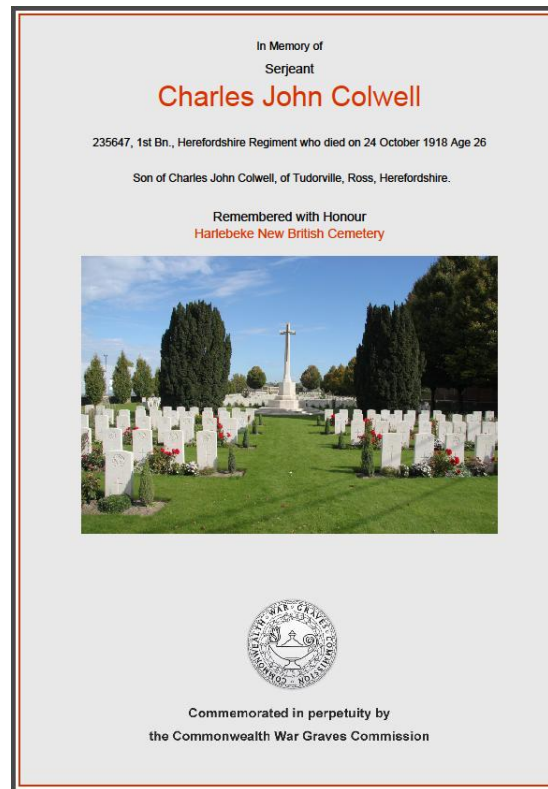
the remains of Marathon Bridge, advanced towards the church and surprised a machine gun post, captured the gun and returned it across the river by a pontoon bridge. 7.30am 'B' Coy ordered to cross the river by the pontoon bridge but held up by M.G fire and could not cross. 12.00 'A' Coy ordered to cross by means of a small raft made from duck boards (carrying two men) and worked by men of the 4th Cheshires. As platoons crossed the cleared the enemy from buildings called Rascals Retreat, the crossing and advance were made under heavy artillery and M.G fire. For five hours 'D' Coy worked at repairing the lock and making a bridge, the timber having to come from the houses in Menin, during the whole time the position was shelled and sniped by the enemy. At about 16.00 hours the work was almost complete a very heavy H.E. Bombardment destroyed the whole work. 18.00 Bn relieved by 2/16 London Regt. 17th/18th Battalion rested, cleaning and specialist training. 19th October ordered to move through Lauwe, civilian population were greatly excited at the sight of British troops. Moved through Helbeke to St Anne's.

20th/21st/22nd October at two hours notice to move. 23rd October Moved to the front line. 24th October. Advanced to the East of the canal 'B' and 'C' Coys ordered to force the tunnel and canal crossing, as 123 Bde did not advance the rear of the c crossing was not cleared so Bn did not press attack. Three men were killed in action on this day, one of them was Sgt. Colwell. he is buried in Harlebeke New British Cemetery and commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.

He was awarded.



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal



27851 Private Charles Edward Cook



1st Battalion
Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Formerly



24792 Private Edwards.
King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Charles Edward Cook.

He was born in The Nursery, Ross in 1890 and baptised on 16th February 1891 in Ross. His parents were William Cook originally from King's Caple and Eliza Thackway originally from Much Marcle. They had married in 1876. In 1891 His family were at the Nursery and his father was a Boot Closer (Boot Closer - a manufacturing job and involves stitching the upper part of the shoe to the sole.) 1901 They were living at Cawdor, father was an Ostler and Groom. 1911 Charles's father William was a Brewery Labourer, his Brothers George and William were Mason's labourers, Frederick was a Brewery Labourer and Charles himself was a Butcher's Slaughter man. They were living at 16 the Nursery, Ross. Charles Edward Cook married Ada Annie James in 1915. On 20th Feb 1916 their daughter Dorothy May Cook was baptised they were living at 18 New St. and on 18th March 1917 their daughter Edna Monica was baptised, they were living at the Nursery and Charles was with the 11th Warks.

The Great War

24792 Private Cook joined the army, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, either at the end of 1915 or at the beginning of 1916, judging by his army number. A number of Regiments suffered appalling casualties at the Battle of the Somme so a major movement of 'reserves' was put into place. A local regiment The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) which included the Herefordshire Regiment was one of these. The Hereford lads were first transferred to the K.S.L.I., then were re-transferred from the K.S.L.I. to the border Regt. About 250 men of the Herefordshire Regt transferred to the 3/K.S.L.I. on 22nd Sept. 1916, they were posted overseas on the 1st Oct. 1916 (a small handful did not go overseas on this date), landing in France on the 3rd Oct at Rouen. 95 -96% of these men were posted to the 5th K.S.L.I. but before they joined this battalion in the field they were transferred to the 11th border Regt. on the 11th Oct. (joining them on the 12th Oct.). About 78 K.S.L.I. men were transferred to the 11th Warwickshire Regt. and numbered between 27776 and 27854, only about 7 or 8 of these men

belonged to the draft of Hereford/3/K.S.L.I. men who had been posted to the 5th K.S.L.I. The other 60 + men belong to a draft who landed on the 4th Oct. and posted to the 1st and 6th Battalions, like the draft that had landed on the 3rd Oct. they were 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, joining them on the 15th Oct. There was also a group of KSLI men about the same time who were posted to the 11th Cheshires.

11th Warwickshire Regt.

15th October 1916. At Angres II. Marched into billets at Fresnicourt and at 11am. Draft of 75 ORs arrived from KSLI. Marched to billets at Bajus next day. Over the next two weeks marched to various billets ending up at Mailly-Maillet and then Acheux. Battalion training, bombing, artillery formation training. Next two weeks at Doullens, training. On 14th Nov. marched to Mailley-Maillet and moved forward in 'Battle Order' to White City and 'stood to' in communication trench awaiting orders. Battalion moved forward to attack Frankfort trench over

Munich Trench which was erroneously reported to be in British hands but now held by 2nd R.R.C. The attack was held up by hostile M/G fire from Munich Trench. Retired to Minden Trench. 15th Nov. Orders to attack Munich Trench at 9am. two Lancs Batts to attack supported by 11th Warks. Munich Trench was very strongly held and attack was held up. Under cover of dark the Batt. reorganised in Leave Trench. 16th Nov. Batt held on in Wagon Road and a heavy hostile barrage was experienced. 17th Nov. marched into billets in Englebelmer. Remainder of month in billets and reserve but in trenches on 20th and 21st, intermittent hostile shelling. on 27th In billets at Louvencourt. Casualties for period. Officers 3 killed wounded. ORs 32 killed, 153 wounded, 31 missing, 1 shell shock, 93 sick to Field Ambulance. Total, 9 Officers 320 Other Ranks.

December 1916. At La Vicogne Training, church parades, reorganisation, sniper training. On Dec. 14th Marched to billets at Beauval Fortel then marched to Blangueval, Boyoval, Westrethem and Bethune

and then on 23rd into billets as Reserve Battalion at Le Touret, training in repair wiring. On 28th relieved S. Lancs in Ferme Du Bois front line trenches, quiet day except for 20 rounds of H.E. Shrapnel sent over after relief completed. 29th-31st. Our artillery fired intermittently into enemy support lines, almost nil response. Very bad weather made trenches very bad. Enemy snipers very active in area where parapet had collapsed.

1917.

January 1st-3rd still in trenches, our artillery still very active. 4-9th in billets at Le Touret, church parades, working parties. 10th Jan. back in the trenches a combined artillery and trench mortar shoot was carried out, a great deal of damage was done to the enemy trenches, enemy retaliated with minenwerfers. Remainder of month in trenches at Ferme Du Bois and billets at Le Touret.

February. Battalion in 'B' area on Battalion training, on 10th moved to Petit Sains in billets then on to Maroc in support on the 12th. Stayed there until 17th when relieved E. Lancs at Loos. Our heavy Trench Mortars active against enemy, they retaliated searching for the gun. Our snipers

were active with success. A dummy raid was carried out which gained the enemy line, enemy aerial darts active and machine guns very active at night. Enemy sprung a mine in front of Rt Platoon. 23rd Relieved and moved back to Les Brebis. 27th Feb. back in the trenches at Loos, enemy artillery active as well as trench mortars, our artillery and Stokes Mortars silenced them. Two Germans were found wandering near Russian Sap and taken prisoner they were found to be of 93rd Regt. 1912 Class and wearing the ribbons of Iron Cross and Order Frederick.

3rd.March. Relieved and back to Bethune series of marches until 7th when back in billets at Pallfart. Reorganisaton of Battalion under new system. Hardening of feet with Formoun solution, cleaning up and inspections. 9th marched to Canettemont and billets. Cleaning up, battalion training on 23rd Battalion came 3rd in Brigade Bomb Throwing competition. Batt. came first in Bayonet fighting and Lewis Gun competitions, reinforcements arrived. Batt. training.

April. In billets until the 9th when marched to Port D'Amiens, Arras.

2.30pm ordered into Front Line behind Bedfords. 3.30 brigade advanced cavalry were seen massing and some Field artillery were moving forward. Halted briefly on he 'Blue' line between Tilloy and Bois Des Boeufs. A Batt. of the 'Queens' passed through to attack the Brown Line. Bat.. advanced as far as the sunken road and stayed until 4.20am on 10th. 12 noon attack on Brown line started, heavy enemy artillery retaliation, the 11th Warwicks advanced in artillery formation scheduled to the right rear of the L.N.Lancs. 6pm at Les Fosses Farm no further advance possible as connection with 3rd Div. lost as Cyclist Batts. and some Bedfords had been forced back and no barrage at this time was available. Batt. dug in. 11th April. 3am Batt. ordered to be the lead in the attack on the high ground between Minchy Le Preux and Guennape. Batt. crossed the Cambrai Rd and by short marches got to rear of Les Fosses Farm the advanced to a postion about 50 yards east of Monchy. covering a frontage of 450 yards. At 3.30am the enemy counter attacked in strength after heavy artillery preparation but was everywhere repulsed with heavy

losses. Enemy snipers and machine guns were active all night. 11pm Batt. relieved and on 12th marched back to Arras and occupied cellars in the Grand Place. 13th Batt moved by motor busses to Wanquetin, then Denier into billets. Stayed until 22nd when back to Assembly point in Laurel Trench. On 23rd at 6pm the Batt. advanced on Gavrelle-Roux Rd but was unable to advance further owing to heavy machine gun fire. 25th Moved into support in Chili trench until 28th. Heavy artillery fire. On 28th the battalion advanced on Greenland Hill 'D' Coy made a left incline and 'B' Coy conformed but as the two lead officers were casualties some of the men lost direction. The remainder advanced but as all the Officers and senior NCOs except 2 Sgts were killed or wounded the Batt. became scattered. Detached parties with Lewis Guns occupied a general line east of Cuba Trench. Remained heree until relieved on 29th. 30th April resting. Casualties for both actions. 20 Officers 463 Other Ranks. Killed, wounded or missing.

May 1917. In billets at Denier, training, reorganising. On 19th moved to Tilloy and went into trenches a Wancourt and

relieved Queen Victoria's Rifles, repairing trenches, enemy shelled support trenches with gas shells as wind was favourable, patrols were sent out, working parties sent out for the line and the New Zealand Tunnelling Coy. 28th relieved and marched to Achicourt then on to Duisans and billeted in huts there.

June 1917. At Duisans, Izel le Hameau and Coyeque. Battle training, drill, bayonet fighting, trench to trench attack practice. Musketry competitions. Batt inspected by General Plumer. At end of month in Div. Reserve at Locre.

July 1917. Early part of month company training in offensive actions and trench warfare. On 12th moved to Kemmel working parties, Respirator training, battle training musketry, bayonet fighting, working parties for salvage and loading. 20th in front line, enemy aircraft very active, heavy shelling. 21st enemy aircraft flew very low over our lines, Lewis guns fired on them. 22nd enemy shelling very active for short periods. Patrols were sent out. The front line was wired by working parties. 24th enemy aircraft continued to show great activity but British aeroplanes were more

successful with dealing with them than the army. 25th Batt. relieved. Casualties for this period. killed 16 wounded 28.

27th. Billets at Dranoutre. Training, Baths, Church Parades.

August. 1917 At Dranoutre, battle training, moved to Beaver Hall on 3rd still battle training but Batt. bathed at Kemmel Chateau in afternoon. On 6th moved to Kemmel shelters billeted in huts and tents. On 8th moved to the front taking over from Wilts and Welch Regts. Shelled by H.E and Gas shells intermittently. Relieved on the 12th by N Lincs, during relief a barrage was put down by the enemy and a direct hit was obtained on 'D' Coy HQ. Working parties, improvements to Communication trenches, cleaning up. Marched to camp near Kemmel on 15/16th. Drill and bayonet fighting training. Moved to the front on 21st sniping less than previously but shelling very active. Enemy aircraft flew low over trenches, Batt put out 100 yards of low wire entanglements each night. Moved into support on 24th Aug. On night of 26/7th a raid was carried out on Bee Farm where the enemy had been located and a machine gun emplacement found, the

raid was a success and three prisoners from the 139th (Saxon) Regt captured. 1 Officer and 4 ORs were slightly wounded but many casualties were inflicted on the enemy by rifles, bombs and rifle grenades. A barrage of machine guns, field artillery, heavy's and trench mortars commenced for 30 minutes on the enemy flanks and support lines. One of the captured enemy on examination stated that a Coy of 'Storm Troopers' had just been brought up to make a raid in the same place as our raid. Relieved on 27th and back to Rossignol Wood. Inspected and congratulated by Brig. Gen. Irvine on the raid.

September 1917. Ypres Comine Canal. Back in trenches on 3rd. On 5th patrols were sent out to inspect ground. 6th Enemy shelled support and reserve lines 4 killed 2 wounded. 7th MG busy all night gas shells sent over casualties 2 wounded 1 gassed. During the month the Batt. was in billets at Mont Noir and trenches at Bulgar Wood. Training, full medical inspection on 13th. usual shelling, improving trenches, carrying and working parties. On 24th enemy were seen in line of trenches and dug outs. Shelling of our trenches continued and

our front and support lines were in direct view of the enemy so little work could be accomplished. 25th Patrols report wire on front line but broken and almost useless 20 coils of wire used to improve it knee high and 10 feet wide. 26th new posts formed. Intermittent shelling all day on forward and support lines. 27th reports on enemy movements sent in. Relieved by Glosters. Casualties for last five days. 21 killed 67 wounded.

October 1917. 5th Tower Hamlets sector heavy shelling, improvements to trenches, heavy rain relieved on 10th. casualties for this 5 day tour. 33 killed, 75 wounded, 4 missing. 11th moved to Mont Noir cleaning, baths, diivine service, battalion training. 26th moved to Dranoutre, Brigade Band competition 11th Warks won.

November 1917. 1-8th billets. 9th back in the line at Ypres-Comines Canal, 2 Coys in the line 1 in support 1 in reserve. 17th Batt. relieved 18-25th working parties found on 24th whole camped was bombed. 30th Nov. Company and recreational training. 145 ORs draft arrived.

December 1917. At Curragh Camp. training, church parade at Locre, 5th in the line at White Chateau sector,

patrols sent out each night. On 8/9th at midnight heavy bombardment for 45 minutes by trench mortars, rifle grenades, machine guns and small calibre shells. Enemy attempted a raid but were driven back by rifle and LG Fire and casualties were inflicted, an enemy stretcher bearer searching for wounded was killed and brought in during the early hours of the 9th. Relieved on 13th in billets. working parties, blankets fumigated on 18th. 19th/20th working parties, bomb proofing huts. 21st to end of month working parties clening up, clearing snow from adjacent roads. Xmas day divine service and dinner for men, served by Officers and NCOs menu Turkey, Pork, vegetables and Xmas Pudding.

29th reading of trench orders to all ranks, trench foot precautions carried out and men inspected. 30th men moved by train to trenches at Bulgar Wood. 31st special wiring party sent out to improve defences.

1918.

January. 1-4th Bulgar Wood special wiring party still working on improving defences. One man killed on tour (shot by sniper). 5th Jan at Spoil Bank tunnels in support until 10th

when relieved by 4th Australian Division and marched to Dickebusche and then on to Lynde by train and into billets. Battalion training until 21st when moved to Micmac camp, Ebbingham into quarters. Working parties until 31st Jan.

February 1918. Battalion employed on strengthening defences until 7th February 1918. The Battalion was disbanded except for 14 Officers and 83 ORs. 17 Officers and 350 ORs entrained for the 10th Battalion Warwickshires and 15 Officers and 300 ORs entrained for the 1st Battalion Warwickshires. Private Cook went with the 300 transferred to the 1st Warwickshire Regt.

1st Warwickshire Regiment

8th February 1918 Schramm Barracks, Arras. 250 men of the 11th Warks arrived and following day were inspected by the C/O (the end of month report says 300 men) . 9th-28th. training, drill, sports (football Duke of Wellington Regt) inspection of gas respirators, lectures eg by C/O on 'modern warfare', firing ranges. Weather fine but fresh. On 23rd Batt.carried out a practice dawn attack

on Baurains. 28th Feb. Cross country race, training on rifle ranges.

March 1918. Still at Schramm Barracks. Training on 5th final of Lambton Cup (football) Batt.. vs RAMC after extra time a 1 all draw. Played again on 7th and Regt. beat RAMC after extra time, after the match teams went to Follies Theatre in the evening the 'Lambton Cup' was christened in the Sgts and HQ Mess. Training, demonstrations on bombing at Tilloy, more sports and football (men played football against Guards MG section but Officers played 'Soccer' against Seaforth Highlanders. On 19th the Batt. moved to Gordon Camp at Railway Triangle, Blangy and relieved Grenadier Guards. 21st foggy, artillery very active on both sides. A large number of H E Shells fired on Arras. 22nd Batt. sent up to support lines. 23rd Batt. 'Stands to' at 5am hostile artillery very active. 24th Batt turns out at 4am and proceeds to Army line running from Railway triangle to Cambrai Rd, hostile artillery still very active. 25th relieved Seaforth Highlanders in support. 26th Enemy aircraft active over lines all day, sun shone but very cold. 28th enemy opened a heavy bombardment on our

lines and shelled back areas very heavily, weather very wet all night. 30th Weather dull and wet, orders to move forward and take Indian and Iceland trenches. 31st No artillery barrage A,C & D Coys all reached their objectives but B Coy held up by heavy MG fire causing D Coy to move back as well. A & C Coys held their positions but the right flank of the latter coy was very dangerous, they were rifle grenaded by enemy at 8am and forced to come back along the southern side of the railway to keep in touch with A Coy. Our casualties were 3 officers and 25 ORs killed or wounded. Considerable artillery barrage followed.

April 1918. 1st In the trenches near Battery Valley, aeroplanes flew over nearly all day. Fairly quiet. On 5th Batt. went back into reserve at Blangy. On 8th moved back in Motor lorries to RAF hangers on the Arras-St Pol Rd. Camp considered suitable so moved to Agnez Le Duisans. 13th Batt/ relieved Gordon Highlanders much artillery activity. 14th three strong patrols were pushed out, the left achieved the road after severe fighting but the right and centre encountered

large numbers of men and machine guns and were unable to push on, after three attempts they had to withdraw.

15th Batt. with Duke of Wellington Regt were to attack Pacaut Wood and the building adjacent to it. The artillery barrage commenced at 5.15am but was short and fell behind the 2 Coys on the left. The right Coys had to cross the canal at Pont d'Hinges the enemy artillery opened up immediately. Coys advanced to cross the pontoon and many casualties were sustained but the men remained steady. The pontoon received a shell from our own artillery and then one from the enemy making it impossible. The R.E. immediately set about to repair it under very heavy shell and machine gun fire our own barrage having crept ahead. The two left Coys, started off the attack. The building were full of Machine Guns, enemy and cavalry, they having been caught in the act of preparing for an attack upon us. The attack on the left succeeded in reaching the woods but the Machine Gun fire was too heavy to live in so after repeated attempts the Coys dug in at the edge of the wood. The right advanced under heavy shell and MG

fire but owing to the left being held up, the right came under enfilade fire from the wood suffering many casualties. This advance being further impeded by wire. Owing to the casualties and impossibility of getting reinforcements to them at dark the undertaking was abandoned.

Casualties. 31 killed, 183 wounded, 13 missing.

16th Dull day, artillery active all day, relieved at night. 17-19th. enemy artillery active but otherwise relatively quiet. 20th At Gonnehem, orders to take over sector on Canal Bank. Baths and them moved up into support. Stayed in trenches until end of the month Hostile artillery very active, enemy aeroplanes flying very low over trenches, hostile balloons observed. 21st - trenches hostile aeroplanes flew low over lines looking for batteries, enemy artillery intermittently very active. Dull weather and very dark nights.

May 1918. 1st in trenches. Enemy aeroplanes flew over, hostile artillery below normal. Our heavies bombarded the village of Paucaut for 10 minutes. 2nd Sunny day, at 4am enemy artillery became very heavy. Marched to billets at Busnettes stayed

until the 7th. Back in trenches 8-16th. Hostile artillery active around Canal Bank and very severe gas shelling around the batteries intermittent heavy shelling through whole period, enemy have about 12 observation balloons up. 16th billets at Busnettes Batt. rests and cleans up, fine day. 17th another fine day Batt. goes bathing, all billets thoroughly cleaned and new straw put down. Another two fine days in billets then back in the trenches on the 20th. Fine weather and hot. on 23rd 30 drums of burning oil were discharged into some houses at 4am, Lewis guns cooperated. The operation was not a complete success as heavy dew extinguished the burning oil. Enemy aeroplanes and artillery were active at night. On 24th we discharged 160 gas projectors into the enemy support lines. On 27th concentrations of shells by Heavies and Field Artillery took place, another fine day. Marched back to billets at Busnettes. 31st enemy aeroplanes very active day and night over back areas.

June 1918. Back in the trenches on 3rd-13th June. Fine weather, enemy aeroplanes active throughout period, intermittent artillery activity, patrols sent out and fired upon by machine

guns. 14th marched back to Busnettes stayed until 20th Church parades, inspections, training. 20th until end of month. Trenches patrols sent out to inspect wire, artillery active on occasions, large group of men sent to L'Eclème to train for forthcoming raid. American Gas NCO attached for instruction.

July 1918. 2nd. back to billets at Busnettes. On 5th the Divisional 'Follies' gave a concert. Training. Into trenches on 8th at Pacaut sector. First part of month very wet with some heavy thunder, a lot of artillery activity on both sides. 16th the weather turned more pleasant end then hot, our Heavies were exceptionally active all day and night. On 18th the Duke of Wellingtons on our left carried out a raid, it was very successful with 29 prisoners, the enemy retaliated on our front and support lines. Our Batt. had 10 casualties 4 killed and 6 wounded. Moved up to repair gaps in the wire, hostile machine guns above normal activity all night. 19th bright moonlit night, enemy activity front and support lines shelled intermittently. 20th-27th Busnettes. training, reorganisation, regimental sports, concert by the 'Follies', church parade and Batt. drill.

28th July Trenches, fairly quiet, enemy artillery comparatively quiet during day with occasional heavy activity.

August 2018. On 8th 2 objectives given to Division. After a little opposition from artillery and machine guns Batt occupy 2nd objective. The moved on to Riez Du Vinage, during evening given a 3rd objective however strongly defended by machine guns and our patrols suffered casualties, unable to push on far. 8th. a fine day enemy is very active with machine guns and snipers and holding out in houses in Quentin Rd a barrage was planned for that afternoon but later cancelled Batt. recalled and take up positions in old front and support lines. 9th Aug. Early patrols were pushed forward and were surrounded by vastley superior numbers of the enemy, three men escaped but nine were missing. The 30 strong enemy the advanced on a post but Lewis gun fire was opened and they were dispersed with casualties. Enemy machine guns and snipers were active all day with some shelling. 10th marched to bullets at Busnettes. Fine weather, on 12th a Corps Horse show and sports day. 14th Aug a beautiful day, 2 officers and 35 NCOs attended

a RAF day and then taken by tenders to an aerodrome and shown around the hangers and photographic sheds and a proportion taken on flights.

16th-19th Aug. relieved Essex Regt in trenches, enemy artillery very active, 5 men gassed with 'Blue Cross Gas', hostile shelling of Pacaut Wood. The Batt. advanced towards Pacaut & Paradis but machine guns and snipers in the houses stopped the advance. On 20th Rest & clean up in billets. 23rd Aug. back in trenches, complete double apron belt of wire in front of old front line, relieved in afternoon by RWF.

25th August. The Division is transferred from the 5th Army to the 1st Army. Batt. series of marches and train journey to Buneville.

The Second Battles of Arras, 1918.

First and Third Armies attack successful from Arras and break the German Drocourt-Queant Line.

The Battle of Drocourt-Queant, 2 – 3 September 1918

26th Marched from Lens to Ottawa Camp, Mont St Eloi 16 miles. On 28th Batt ordered to relieve Canadian Mounted Rifles at Viz-en-Artois. 30th Trenches, moved to Assembly points Batt. advanced across a stream and

swamp, many men marching through waist deep water, because of delays in crossing the water the artillery barrage got too far ahead, objective reached without much opposition a number of the enemy were shot down as they attempted to run away. Batt relieved and rested on 31st. Casualties for 30/31st. Killed 16, wounded 127, missing 24.

September 1918.

1st. In the trenches, Fine day, artillery very active, Batt. in reserve for forthcoming attack.

2nd September 1918. 12 Brigade attack with Canadian Div. on left. Zero hour 5am. 1st objective support line of Drocourt-Queant system was taken by noon and several hundred prisoners taken. 11 Brigade then passed through to take 2nd and 3rd objectives. Battalion ordered to take up position in trench along Wood Lane. Casualties 2 killed 2 wounded.

Private Charles Edward Cook was killed in action on 2nd September 1918.

He is buried at Vi-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt and is commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.



Name	Service	Rank	Regt. No.
COOK	K. S. L. I. P. War. R.	Pr.	24792 27851
Charles E.			
Enlistment	Discharge	Remarks	
Victory	L/104B.8 1613		
British	20-20		
Other			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry service			

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal
UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: Charles Edward Cook
Birth Place: Ross, Hereford
Death Date: 2 Sep 1918
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Ross, Hereford
Rank: Private
Regiment: Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Regimental Number: 27851
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 24792, Shrops L.I.

In Memory of
 Private
Charles Edward Cook

27851, 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment who died on 02 September 1918 Age 26

Son of Mrs. Eliza Cook, of The Nursery, Ross; husband of Ada Annie Cook, of 10, The Nursery, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
 Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt

Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

PS/ 10708 Private
**Frederick Percival
Cooper**



**8th Battalion
Royal Fusiliers**

Frederick Percival Cooper

He was born in Ross in 1881 and christened on 6th June same year at Ashfield, Ross-on-Wye. His parents were Frederick Cooper an auctioneer and land agent from Cheltenham and Sarah Bowyer from Pontypool (her father was a joiner originally from Shrewsbury). and they were married

in 1863 in Cheltenham. In 1901 his father was an Auctioneer and Frederick was an auctioneer's clerk. They were living at Ashfield, Ross. By 1911 Frederick Cooper was an established member of the Ross Society. He was An Auctioneer assisting in his father's business (Cooper and Preece) and a Freemason with Vitruvian Lodge No.338 (Ross-on-Wye). He was still working in Ross in November 1915 when he was involved in a Court case against an antique dealer.

The Great War

By Early 1916 he was a member of the firm of Messrs Cooper and Preece, a Past Master of the Vitruvian Lodge of Freemasons, Secretary to the Ross Cottage Hospital, Member of the Auctioneers Institute, London, a good all round sportsman and accurate shot and joint secretary with his father of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. He appears to have been conscripted in early 1916 because he refused to allow his father to appeal for him against conscription and although he would have been considered ideal candidate for a Commission he preferred to enter the army as a Private.

His army service records do not survive (destroyed in the Blitz of WW2) so we do not know when he went to France. It must have been after the beginning of 1916 or he would have been awarded the 1914/15 Star Medal. He was still in Ross in Nov. 1915 and conscription came into force with the Military Service Act of January 1916 and conscription started on 2nd March 1916. He is likely to have been an early conscript as many people appealed but he did not. It seems likely therefore that he would have gone through his training and been sent out to France in June or July 1916. I have therefore looked at what his regiment were involved in from June 1916 onwards. June 1916. At Marles-Les-Mines. The month consisted in the main of 'in Billets', training, Army reserve, marched to Mazingarbe and then on to Philosophe West. Practicing assaults and on 17th moved to Vignacourt in billets, practiced assaulting trenches, railway cutting and assaults from trenches. 25th June Sunday, church parade. 27th Moved to bivouac at Fleselles and on 30th moved to Frechencourt.

July 1st. Moved to Baizeux Wood in bivouac. Zero day for British Offensive. 2nd July Batt. in intermediate line N.W of Albert 3rd. Moved forward to bivouac near Railway Cuttings. 5th. Moved to empty houses in Albert and practiced alarms. 6th July moved into front line trenches at Ovillers in preparation for attack. 7th July. The attack was preceded by an artillery barrage of the enemy front support lines. The barrage ended at 8.30 am and the Batt. attacked as soon as it lifted. The enemy kept up a slow machine gun fire from the right throughout the bombardment and which increased in violence directly our men appeared on the parapet, the enemy then placed a barrage of shrapnel over the 500 yards of no man's land where the attack had taken place. The final line suffered heavy casualties from the first and were momentarily overwhelmed by heavy machine gun fire. "With gallant courage the Colonel led the attack and waving his stick he shouted the familiar words of encouragement of a field day. The line swept on still suffering heavy casualties, the officers were down to five but the men led gallantly

by their NCOs reinforced by the 4th wave carried the final enemy trench. The weakened remnants still pressed forward and portions of the 3rd objective were in our hands". The Battalion went into action about 800 strong and came out 160 strong, a large proportion of the casualties were wounded. (80% casualties is almost unbelievable). The following day the 8th. the Batt. held the trench but were subjected to intermittent shelling and machine gun fire and bombing attacks. Lt Col. Annersley died of his wounds. On the 9th marched back to Albert the Senlis, Forceville and Bus-Les-Artois arriving on the 13th and then went into Corps Reserve. Stay there until 22st July, 2 new drafts arrived one of 157 men and one of 290 men. On 21st July in the trenches at Auchenvillers, a quiet day and the new men behaved well under fire. 22nd. a quiet day until evening when the enemy vigorously shelled our front line with artillery and trench mortars. 24th July relieved by Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Billets and bivouac until 27th when went back into support at Tara-Usna Line. On the 30th 14 men were awarded the Military

Medal for gallantry at the 7th July attack. August. 1916 3rd Aug. Another attack. The objective was a section of the 4th Avenue trench. At 11pm the bombardment began and the men crawled out of the trenches and advanced in a series of waves at 30 yards intervals. At 11.5pm the barrage lifted and the companies took the enemy completely by surprise and entered the trenches with little resistance and many of the enemy had little time to use their rifles. The companies on the left met stiffer resistance and advanced with the bayonet and after some hand to hand fighting took their objective. By 12 midnight the line was completely in our hands. Casualties 2 Officers killed and 1 wounded. Other ranks had 150 casualties with a high percentage of wounded. The next day the 4th Aug. another attack was ordered from 4th Avenue trench. At 7.15pm orders that the brigade was to attack Ration Trench, attack timed for 9.20pm it started with a bombing attack and was met with little resistance however the distance to the objective was much greater than anticipated and over 200

yards were traversed before contact with the RWF, reserve platoons were sent up to hold the captured trenches. Casualties were few.... 1 officer killed and 1 wounded Other ranks about 30 killed or wounded. The next day the enemy counter attacked they moved to the Pozieres flank when machine guns were trained on them, they were subjected to Rifle grenade and mortar fire, then L/Cpl Lancing and two other men who could speak German crawled out though exposed to constant sniping and explained that if they did not surrender they would be subject to severe bombardment but if they came out they would be well treated. The whole party surrendered 2 Officers and 110 ORs. On 6th. The enemy attacked our right with 'Flemenwerfers'. On 7th relieved and back into billets on the 10th Aug. the Batt. was inspected by His Majesty The King near Senlis. The Batt. stayed in billets until 26th at a variety of locations. At 6.30pm went into the trenches in front of Agny, very quiet and a welcome relief from the Pozieres trenches. Remainder of month intermittent shelling and mortar fire but fairly quiet.

It seems likely that Private Cooper was wounded in one of these actions. At te Vitruvian Lodge Meeting (Ross) on 2nd October 1916 it as reported that he had been wounded and was congratulated by the brethren on his recovery.

September 1916.

1st Sept. Relieved by Royal Sussex and into billets until 6th when relieved Sussex in trenches at Agny until 13th of month when relieved and back into billets at Dainville. Training and fatigue parties until 19th when back into the front line trenches at Agny until the 24th. a fairly quiet period with some shelling and Whizz Bangs. On 24th went into support and then billets at various location arriving at Pommier Redoubt on 3th Sept. during this period the Batt. was required to furnish carrying parties for the Royal Engineers and had kit inspections.

October 1916.

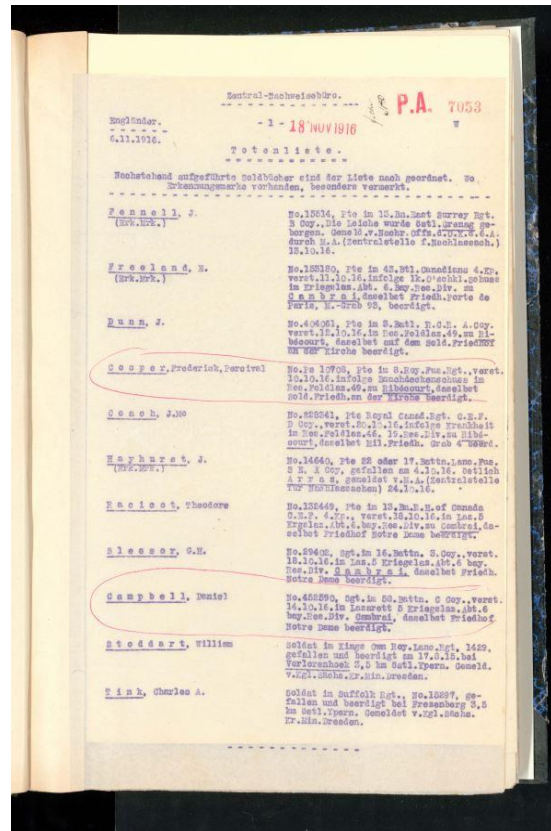
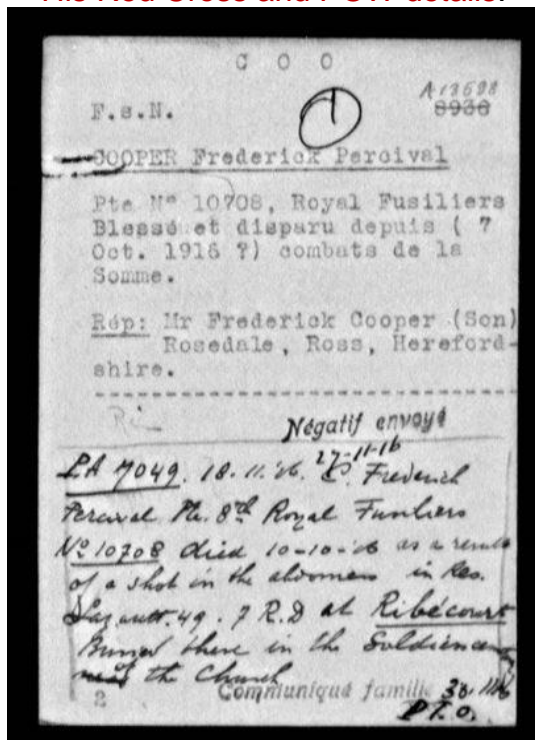
1st Oct. The Batt. marched into the trenches and relieved the Durham Light Infantry at Flers, the next day 2nd. the Batt. was heavily shelled the whole day, the casualties in taking over the trench were 2 killed and 33

wounded. 3rd Oct. The Batt. was again heavily shelled the whole day casualties in last 24 hours 1 missing 11 wounded. At 6.30pm relieved by Sussex Regt. and into support trenches at Flers. 4th Oct. The shelling continued all day and all night casualties 2 Officers suffering from shell shock, ORs 4 killed and 4 wounded. 5th Oct. Shelled again through whole of sector 1 Officer killed, 1 suffering shell shock 2 ORs killed 22 wounded. 6th Oct. Trenches once again heavily shelled, much of the trench is blown in, leaving the men very exposed. 1 Officer killed, 1 OR killed 12 wounded. 7th October 1916. Trenches again very heavily shelled. The Batt. ordered to attack in conjunction with the whole of the 4th Army. First objective Bayonet Trench and second is Barley Trench. The attack was not successful owing to the heavy casualties suffered through the enemy's machine guns and artillery and owing to the fact that the enemy's relief was taking place at the time with the result that the enemy were at double strength in that part of the line. Casualties Officers 3 killed and 3 wounded, 3 missing believed killed or

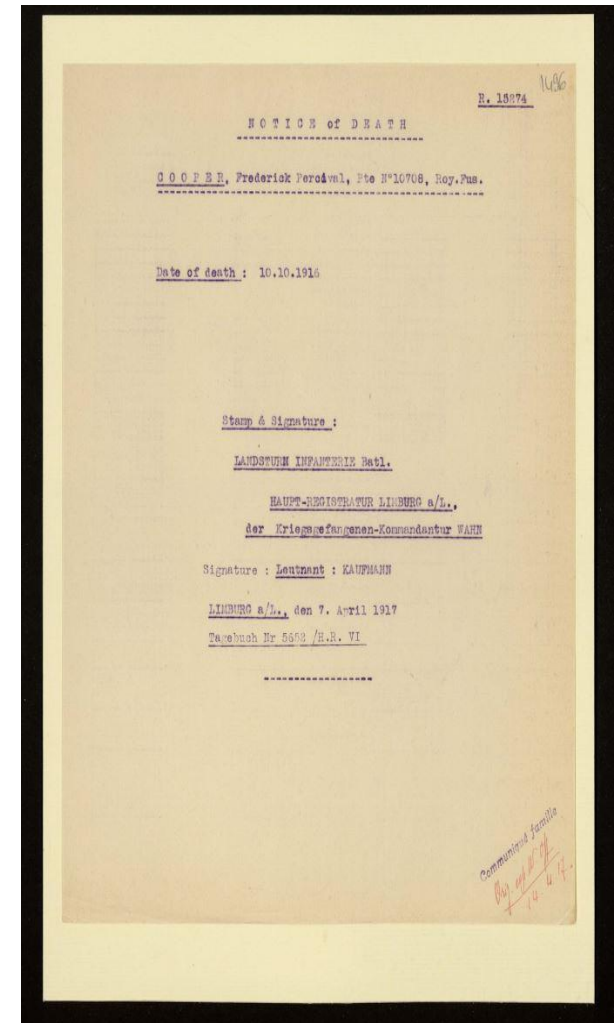
wounded. Other Ranks. 35 killed, 113 wounded, 96 Missing believed killed or wounded.

Private Frederick Percival Cooper was wounded and taken prisoner on this day 7th October. He was sent to the Reserve.-Feldlazarette. 49, Ribécourt (German Field Hospital) suffering with a gunshot wound to the Abdomen and he died of his wounds three days later 10th October 1916.

His Red Cross and POW details.



He was buried in a Military Funeral by the Germans in the Soldiers Cemetery in Ribecourt Church but the church was destroyed later in 1916. He was later exhumed and re-buried at Flesquieres Hill Cemetery





The bottom section says P.W.M Vitruvian Lodge of Freemasons 338. "He died that we may live"

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
COOPER Frederick P.	R. Fus	Pte	PS/10708
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	PSTP/104753	236	
BRITISH	- do -	- do -	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The British War Medal The Victory Medal



His medal card gives name, rank and number, medal entitlement and regiment R.Fus. (Royal Fusiliers) the PS part of his number means Public Schools. A number of regiments had Public Schools Battalions.

In Memory of
Private
Frederick Percival Cooper

10708, 8th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 10 October 1916 Age 35

Son of the late Frederick and Sarah Cooper, of Rosedale, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. A member of the Auctioneers' Institute, London.

Remembered with Honour
Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

70604 Private Tom Cooper



13th Inf. Coy.
The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

and
26281 Pte Cooper
78th Company Labour Corps.

Tom Cooper.

He was born in Wharram Le Street, Yorkshire and baptised on 17th June 1883 in Wharram Percy, Yorks. His parents were John Cooper and

Susannah Dunn both from North Yorkshire.

In 1891 Tom was with his mother at the Farm Cottage and his father John was a shepherd at the Farm House. In 1901 Tom was a shepherd lad on Blanch Farm, Wharram. By 1911 Tom had moved and was a Shepherd on Ashe Ingen Court Farm, Bridstow, Ross.

Tom Cooper married Mary Elizabeth Lane (of Greytree) in 1912. They had a son John Cooper the following year (1913).

The Great War.

Private Tom Cooper joined the King's (Liverpool Regiment) and the labour Corps. Unfortunately his service record was destroyed in the Blitz in WW2 so we have no absolute record of where he was at any one time. However another Herefordshire man Private Edward Adlington from Presteign joined up about the same time and followed an identical military path as Tom Cooper and his service record survives.

They enlisted in February 1916 and were attested on 24th Feb 1916. Both

went into the King's Liverpool regiment Tom with the number 70601 and Edward Adlington with the no 70618. The same day they were put on the Army Reserve and mobilized on 7th April 1916. The following day 8th April they reverted to the Reserve where they stayed until re-mobilized on 27th February 1917 when they went into the 13th Inf. Labour Coy. King's Liverpool Regt. They were posted on 1st March 1917 and went to France to join the King's leaving Folkestone on 13th March and arriving at Boulogne the same day. They served with a Labour Company of the King's Liverpool Regt. almost certainly the 13th Battalion labour Coy. who were fighting at Tilloy, Arras. The battalion distinguished itself in this battle.

Following the formation of the Labour Corps in April 1917 Tom Cooper and Adlington and a number of other men from the 'King's' transferred to 78th Coy. Labour Corps on 14th May 1917 Tom with the number 46281 and Adlington with number 46232.

13th Inf Lab Coy, Kings - became 78th Labour Coy, L.C.(L.C. numbers 46201 - 46800).

They continued to fight at Arras and appear to have fought with the Labour Corps as support for the King's Liverpool Regt. There is little record of the efforts of the Labour Corps or the Labour Companies attached to the regiments.

Tom Cooper and Adlington both died of Wounds on 11th September 1918. A total of 16 men died on this day from the King's (Liverpool Regt) or (who had transferred to the Labour Corps from the King's). Tom at Canada Farm. Adlington at Bleuet Farm. *Canada Farm Cemetery and Bleuet Farm took their names from farmhouses used as a dressing stations during the 1917 allied offensive on this front.*

Tom Cooper was killed in the battle for Passchendaele near Elverdinghe in the period between the battle of Pilckem Ridge and battle of Langemark. He was seriously wounded in action and sent to Canada Farm dressing station and died from his wounds there the same day. He is buried in Canada Farm Cemetery. He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Tom Cooper
Birth Place: Wharram-le-street, Yorks
Death Date: 11 Sep 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Hereford, Herefords
Rank: Private
Regiment: Labour Corps
Regimental Number: 46281
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 70604, Liverpool Regt.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regd. No.
COOPER Tom.	L. Pool R. Lab. Corps.	Plt	70604 46281
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	LC/107B29	2874	
BRITISH	27-80-		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal





Canada Farm Cemetery

In Memory of
Private
T Cooper

70604, 13th Inf. Labour Coy., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 11 September 1917 Age 34

Son of John Cooper, of Birdsill, Yorks.; husband of Mary Elizabeth Cooper, of Lower Greytree, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Canada Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1827 Sergeant Rolf COX



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

Rolf Cox

He was born in 1887 in Grey trees and baptised in Ross on 30th October 1887.

His parents were William Mayo Cox a shoemaker originally from Goodrich and Catherine Harris from Ross and they had married in Ross in 1877. In 1881 his parents were living in Edde Cross St, Ross where his father was a shoemaker, Rolf had 7 brothers and sisters.

1901 census The family were living

on the Smallbrook Estate and Rolf was a watchmaker's apprentice and his twin brother Alex was a solicitor's clerk. In 1911 the family were living at Camp Road, Ross and Rolf was a Watch Makers assistant.

The Great War

1827 Private Rolf Cox enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment in August 1914 at the beginning of the Great War. The Herefordshire Regt. was a Territorial Force unit and all TF units were re-numbered in early 1917 so L/Cpl later Sergeant Cox was given the new number 235453. Following training the regiment was sent with the MEF (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) to Egypt then Gallipoli.

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 1.pm. 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.

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 Dagħ, 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 by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

October 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and army returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick. 11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagħ, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found

dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling. 31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

November 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry. 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags. Sergeant Huckson killed (Sgt Huckson lived in Upton Bishop). On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night. 11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man killed. Work carried out on new fire trench.

12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known.

13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties. Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper.

14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night.

15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded

to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes

17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some bushes used by Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.

18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.

20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.

21st Nov. Nothing to report.

22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench.

23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded

accidentally. Not much rifle fire. 24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.

26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgary Barricades were swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes. Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.

27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00 Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.

The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn

moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight, and a lot of the men only arrived through the strenuous exertions of Capt. Rogers and Lt. Ashton.

28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.

29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.

Casualties for the month of November were: 390
Killed,wounded,missing,sick.
Approx because records were lost in the flood..

December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter.

2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba.

7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among the Herefords.

9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba, 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.

12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira'

13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia.

15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian'

22nd Dec.. Arrived at Alexandria

23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt.

24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

Rolf Cox was wounded in the Suvla Bay actions most probably at the landings in August but there is no record of the precise date. When he had recovered he re-joined the Herefords in Egypt.

1916 EGYPT

In July 1916 Von Kressenstein advanced on the Suez Canal and the Herefords took part in the Battle of Rumani the 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 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. The Turkish forces had been reinforced well and were entrenched in. The result was a defeat and British casualties were 6,325.

Second Battle of Gaza

The entrenchments at Gaza were rapidly improved and credit for the Ottoman defence is given to the German chief of staff Baron Kress von Kressenstein. A second attack on Gaza was launched one month later on 17 April 1917. This attack, supported by naval gunfire, chlorine gas and even a few early tanks, was also a failure. It was essentially a frontal assault on a fortified position, and its failure was due more to inflexibility in operations than to faults in planning; yet it cost some 6,000 British casualties. As a result both General Dobell and General Murray were removed from command.

Sgt Cox was severely wounded at Gaza, he lost his right leg and partially lost the use of his left arm. He did however make a full recovery.

He was sent home and after a period of time there he was sent to Military Hospitals in the London area (Tooting and Roehampton) Tooting had a specialised surgical unit (as well as other dept.) and Roehampton's speciality was the rehabilitation of amputees and the development of prosthetic limbs. At Roehampton he was fitted with an artificial limb. After a month he was still in the hospital and in February 1919 he developed influenza (Spanish Flu) this then developed into Pneumonia and he died from this complication on 25th February 1919.

His remains were brought home for burial in Ross Churchyard the following Saturday when he was accorded Military Honours. The local Volunteers providing a firing party and bugler, while a large number of discharged and demobilized soldiers in Khaki followed an old comrade to his last resting place. The coffin which was covered with the Union Jack and many beautiful floral tributes from members of the family, relatives and friends bore the inscription.

Sergeant Rolf Cox
Died Feb. 25th 1919
Aged 31 years.

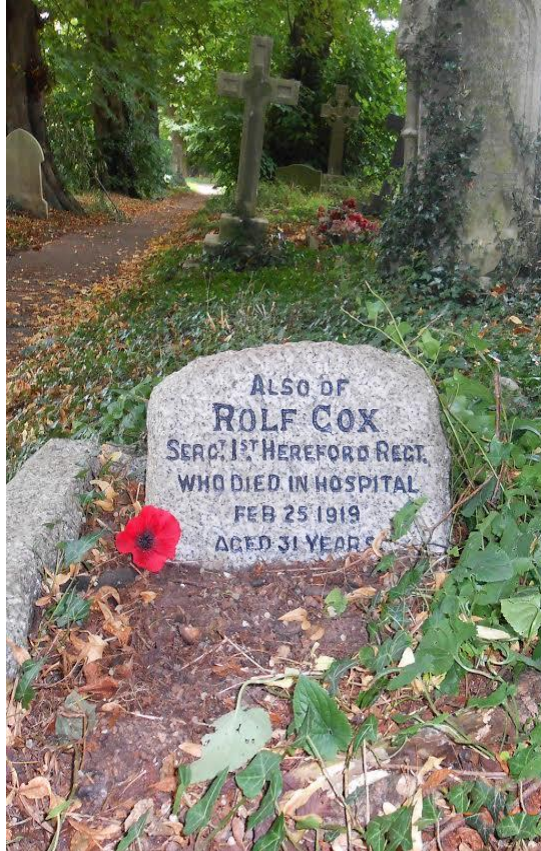
The service was conducted by Rev. R.T.A Money Kyrle, Rector. At the conclusion of the service the three volleys were fired under the direction of Sergeant Major Millington and the Last Post sounded by Ex Sergeant W.J. Brown.

Name	Corps	Regt. No.
COX	Hereford R	1824
Rolf		235483
Serial	Regt.	Remarks
YACOST	5/1/06	204
Normal		
15	3/1/18	64
Died 25/2/19		
Theatre of War first served in		
26		
Date of entry theatre		
9/8/15		

He was awarded



1914/15 Star/British War Medal/Victory Medal



In Memory of
 Serjeant
R Cox

235453, 1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 25 February 1919

Remembered with Honour
 Ross (St. Mary) Churchyard

Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

31514 Private John Ernest Davies



19th Battalion The Welsh Regiment (The Glamorgan Pioneers)

John Ernest Davies

On the War Memorial he is listed as John C Davies but this is a transcription error of some sort. His official army details list him as John

Ernest but when he was very young he was known as Ernest Davies. He was Baptised 6th July 1890 in Ross. His father William was a labourer. His Mother was Emily Bamford from Ross they had married in 1880 in Ross. In 1891 John's father was a General Labourer and they lived at Over Ross St. John Ernest's father William died and was buried in Ross on 18th September 1895. In 1901 they were living at 21 Over Ross St. In 1911 John had moved and was lodging in Ynysybwl, he was working as a Timberman, below ground.

The Great War

He enlisted into the Welsh Regiment and following training he was posted to the 19th Battalion (Glamorgan Pioneers) and sent to France arriving at Le Havre on 5th December 1915. 5-18th. Rest after disembarking then training and moving by Companies to Levantie. Rest of month Companies moving to various locations on training, then on 30th Batt. moved to Pannerie. 1916
January. At Hinges. Training, wood cutting, on 22nd moved to Lacouture and started work on trenches until 31st Jan when had a rest day.

February. Work on trenches and drainage continued, 7 days work and then one rest day. Small number of casualties (rifle bullets and shrapnel). On 13th 27 OR reinforcements joined batt. On 17th Jan moved to Essars. 18th cleaning billets. 19th commenced mining work, on 21st 3 men were wounded in a mine explosion and on 22nd 2 wounded by a rifle grenade and on 23rd 2 men wounded by rifle bullets. Mining work continued until end of the month with 2 more men wounded by bullets on the 27th.
March. Work continued on mining with large numbers of men attached for short periods on 'mining fatigues'. On 18th 80 men were attached to the 255 Tunnelling Coy. On 20th Mar. Coys were detailed for drainage work, wiring, trenching and mining. On 27th 3 men were killed and 4 wounded. Trench repairs and a reinforcing draft of 45 med from base. 29/30 rest day, bathing and kit inspections. 31st drainage work continued.
April. 1-14th 'A' Coy wiring, 'B&C' Coys Draining, 'D' Coy trench renovating. Attached Coy mining fatigue. 3 killed 4 wounded. On 14th marched into billets. On 16th Batt.

moved to Laventie. Entrenching, wiring, drainage, mining fatigues, on 22nd 'A' Coy moved to wiring 2nd line trenches. On 24th 3 men killed and 3 wounded from the attached Coys, (10th South Wales Borderers). Until end of month wiring, drainage, trenching and attached mining, i section constructing Machine Gun emplacement.. Further 7 casualties. May 1916 1-14th. 'A' & 'D' Coys wiring, 'B' Draining, 'C' Coy and attached Coy on mining fatigues for 255 tunnelling Coy.R.E. Constructing MG emplacements. 15th to end of month, work on wiring, trench improvements, mining fatigues and MG emplacements. 12 casualties in month. On 29th May 18 Officers and 520 ORs from 1/5 Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry attached for instruction. June Trench improvements, drainage, mining fatigues, MG emplacements. Until 12th June when marched to billets at Callone Sur Lys. 13th-15th rested then marched to Divion and then on to Villers Chatel and into billets. Rested and improved billets then training until 26th when marched to Bouquemaison and then next day marched to Candas. 28/29th rested in

billets and inspections. 30th marched to billets at Valheureux.

Mametz Wood

July 1-8th A series of marches Puchevillers, Mericourt and on to Minden Post. On 9th received orders to follow the Divisional attack on Mametz Wood and consolidate certain points against counter attacks, rendezvous night of 9th at White Trench and Caterpillar Wood. Instructed to dig a communications trench from Caterpillar to Mametz Wood. 3 Platoons followed 14th Welsh into the wood and consolidating and wiring and taking an active part in the fighting, the 2 Platoons of 'C' Coy were less successful in entering the wood, only getting there before hostile artillery and machine Gun fire became so intense as to stop them leaving the shelter north of the ravine in Caterpillar. The digging of the C.T also had to be abandoned because of the high casualties and orders received to support the attack on the road, Lewis guns were brought into action to cover the road, but the situation was obscure and fire could not be brought for fear of hitting our own men. 1 platoon was ordered into the wood as a diversion

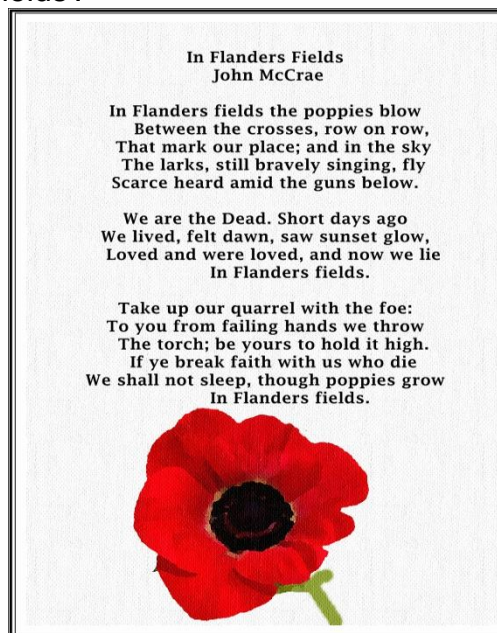
but as soon as cover was left one officer and six men were immediately shot down, the platoon was then ordered to retire. At 8pm it was impossible to get into the wood from the East and the artillery barrage had slackened off the 4 platoons were ordered back to bivouac for a rest and rations at Minden Post. Orders then to dig another C.T between Cliff and Skip trenches, the line was almost completed when orders came to fall back on a 300 yard line and dig in. Companies employed on carrying, forming Trench Mortar emplacements, dug outs and ammunition pits. At 8am on 10th orders to take 2 platoons to Halte for ammunition, on arrival No ammunition was found. The O/C Coy therefore ordered the Batt. reserve ammunition to be brought up from Minden Post. Later hole Coy employed on wiring. Casualties. Officers 1 killed, 3 wounded. ORs 14 killed, 106 wounded, 15 missing. 9.30pm on 11th moved by Batt.transport to Citadel Camp in bivouac. On 12th marched to station at Grovetown Camp to entrain for Longpre, train due at 2.00 left at 6.30 and arrived at 5.30am on 13th, then

marched to Gorenflos 8 miles. On 19th marched to Sailly Aux Bois and started work on trench improvements until 28th when via a series of marches, bus and trains moved to Houtkerque arriving on 31st July. August. 1st Moved to F Camp and then on 4th moved to billets in Ypres, next day moved to dug outs on Canal Bank. On 8th a 'gas Alarm' called, ordered to 'Stand to' casualties 4 Gassed, 1 shell shock. Stayed in Canal Bank. Physical drill, camp improvements, inspections. 21st Aug. 'A' and 'B' Coys marched from billets in Ypres to Trois Tours. On 22nd all Coys employed on trench improvements. Remainder of month at F Camp HQ camp improvements, physical drill, inspections. 'A,B,C & D' Coys on trench improvements. September at F Camp. Occupations as August. On 4th HQ Coy marched to Welsh Farm Camp improvements, drill, inspections. On 10th the transport was moved to neighbourhood of Hospital Farm, 1 OR killed. There had been a steady stream of OR wounded, usually about one every other day. 14th at Welsh Farm HQ Coy on camp improvements, drill,

inspections, 'A,B,C & D' Coys on trench improvements no casualties reported until: 21st September 1916 when Private John Davies was killed in action.

He is buried at Essex Farm Cemetery (an advanced dressing station) and is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

Essex Farm was where John McCrae was posted when he wrote his famous Great War Poem 'In Flanders Fields'.



Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: John Ernest Davies
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Residence: Ross, Herefords
Death Date: 21 Sep 1916
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Cardiff
Rank: Private
Regiment: Welsh Regiment
Battalion: 19th Battalion
Regimental Number: 31514
Type of Casualty: Killed in action



Unit	Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
	DAVIES.	Welsh R.	Pte.	31514
	^{John} J.E.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks	
VICTORY	J/104B/11	3910	K. in A. 21.9.16.	
BRITISH	du	du		
15 STAR	J/17B.5	592.		
Theatre of War first served in <u>11 France.</u>				
Date of entry therein <u>5.12.15.</u>				

He was awarded





The 1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory Medal

In Memory of
Private
J E Davies

31514, 19th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 21 September 1916

Remembered with Honour
Essex Farm Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

66870 Private
Edmund Percival Barrett
Davies



75th
Machine Gun Corps

Formerly



King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Edmund Percival Barrett Davies

He was born 13th December 1897 at 4 Milton Terrace, Ross. His father James Henry Davies was a Nurseryman and Domestic Gardener of Seaton Cottage, Camp Road, Ross and originally from Hereford and his mother was Mary M Barrett from Llanwarne. He was educated at the Ross County School. In 1911 He was living at 5 Milton Terrace, Ross and after leaving school Edmund became a Clerk.

The Great War

In August 1914 Private Edmund Percival Barrett Davies joined the Ross Volunteers and on 16th September 1916 enlisted into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Six weeks later he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and took the course at Clipstone Camp in Nottingham. *A year of warfare on the Western Front proved that, to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units and crewed by specially trained men. To achieve this, the Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 with Infantry, Cavalry, and Motor*

branches, followed in 1916 by the Heavy Branch. A depot and training centre was established at Belton Park in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and a base depôt at Camiers in France. The Machine Gun Corps was not generally liked by the rest of the infantry units, the Corps took existing men from other regiments and took only the fittest, brightest and best of them and naturally this was not popular.

“No military pomp attended its birth or decease. It was not a famous regiment with glamour and whatnot, but a great fighting corps, born for war only and not for parades. From the moment of its formation it was kicking. It was with much sadness that I recall its disbandment in 1922; like old soldiers it simply faded away”. So said former machine gunner George Coppard, in his epic autobiography “With a machine gun to Cambrai”.



A machine Gun Section

On 6th January 1917 he was sent to join the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders and he arrived at his unit 104 Machine Gun Company on 17th January via the base camp at Camieres. On 20th Jan. the Coy bathed at Izel Les Hameau. The remainder of the month consisted of route marches, training eg. Brigade armorer lectured on the mechanics of Revolver. Opportunities for bathing, opportunities for some leave, a few reinforcements arrived and some time was spent at the front at Avesnes. February 1917. 1st Feb. Moved from Izel Les Hameau to Wiencourt, then on 6th to Occoches, then on 7th moved to Bouquesne following day moved to Wargnies. Men were sent to and returned from leave during the month, a fair number returned from

Field Hospitals and several men went on training courses. On 24th February during inter-section relief the enemy sent out gas against the right sector and resulted in 10 casualties suffering from the gas. Remainder of month more leave and returns from leave and hospital. Inter-sector relief carried out.

March 1917. 1st, HQ and 'B' Section moved to rest billets at Caix. 3rd. 8 guns and gun teams joined in practical operations schemes carried out by 104 Inf. Brigade. 4th. Section Officers proceeded to Rozieres in preparation for our take over from 105th MG Coy on relief. 5th. Coys operated with battalions in scheme of operations for attack carried out by 104 Inf.Bde. Following ORs left Coy on this date. 3327 Sgt Roberts to base depot for dispatch to UK.

44685 Pte Duncan to UK to take up a commission.

22891 Reed and 13716 O'Reilly to base depot on being under age.

6th March. HQ moved from Caix back to Rozieres. 6th-12th Movements of men to and from base.

Reinforcements arrived, relieved 97 MGC.

12th Mar. Indirect fire on to enemy trench railway SE of Fourquescourt.

13th-16th. Indirect fire on enemy trench railway.

17th Sections in line joined in forward move of 104th Inf. Bde which occupied enemy front line and pushed out patrols.

At some stage in this period Private Davies' health broke down and he was hospitalized for nine weeks. On his recovery and return to active service he was posted to the 75 Machine Gun Company in the Ypres area. There is not record in the war diary of either Company of the movements of Private Davies but 75th MGC nine weeks after March ie. May 1917 had been in a period of intensive training preparing to go into front line service, returning experienced Machine Gunners would have been directed to a unit such as this to help less experienced troops. June 1st 1917 75th MGC went up to the front line at Ravelsburg. On 3rd June relieved 7 MGC at Fort Pinkie and Wulverghem Switch, guns in line fired upon October trench and Steenbeck Valley. 4th enemy shelling around guns in line heavily all day, our guns fired on track at Steenbeck Railway. 5th enemy shelled vicinity of

Ft Pinkie and Wulverghem Switch.
6th June Barrage guns prepared for cooperation with artillery and infantry, zero hour fixed for 3.10am on 7th.
7th June attack successful the 4 guns with the 8th S.LanCs and 2 guns with 11th Cheshires were pushed forward along with the battalions attached to and consolidated positions. Lt Arkle reported that on arrival at objective three teams of 4 horses each galloped down the road half left from his position, on confirming they were hostile artillery he opened fire and they took cover, fire was opened and the hedge searched from top to bottom, shortly after a horse and rider galloped back along the road but the remainder did not appear. A heavy counter attack took place in the evening bit was beaten off, our forward guns were used with good effect.
8th June. Enemy artillery was very active, guns were moved to give a better field of fire. 9th enemy artillery again very active, Coys relieved and replaced by Coys in reserve. 10th. Two sections in the line and remainder in camp at Neuve Eglise. 11th June Guns in defensive position carried out some indirect fire on enemy positions, enemy artillery very active. 12th Two

sections withdrawn. On 13th orders to relieve 4th Australian MGCs four guns No1 section, three teams No 2 section and 1 team of No 3 left camp at Neuve Eglise, HQ and remaining Coys moved to One shell Farm. 14th June arrangements for attack on enemy trench and establishing line of strong points. 2 guns attached to infantry. Attack successful and our guns were moved forward and consolidated. 15th New positions in advanced positions were heavily shelled and guns moved to alternative positions. Hostile patrols were engaged by forward guns with good results. 16th Enemy artillery shelled positions heavily, enemy aeroplanes flew over front line positions very low and fired with machine guns. 17th In view of heavy shelling alternative positions were found and guns moved. Enemy aeroplanes again displayed great activity.
18th June relieved by 74 MGC went into training, moved from Merville, Lespesses and then on to Petigny until 7th July. 8th July left Petigny and via Bomy, Tannay and Hazebrouk arrived at Halifax Camp on the 10th. Worked on nw trench and machine gun emplacements, work could only be

carried out at night because of Lachrymatory shells. 11-18th at Halifax Camp, training, work on nre trench and emplacements. 19th July 4 guns and teams took up position in new trench and commenced harassing fire on enemy. Harassing fire continued until 22nd. 23rd Guns returned to Lorna Camp. Coy training until 27th. 28th July Guns and equipment cleaned ready for active operations, next day 8 barrage guns left to assist in barrage on enemy trenches in connection with attack to be made on 31st.
31st July Belgian Chateau Area. Coys moved to assembly area. August 1st at Beck trench orders to relieve 25 MGC in the front line, relief carried out with great difficult because of the heavy nature of the ground and continued hostile shelling, eventually guns were placed in positions. Heavy rain all day.
2nd Aug. All gun positions and HQ heavily shelled, i forward positions no cover available for men or guns and trenches were all flooded. Weather continued wet.
3rd Aug. Rained all day, enemy continued shelling all gun positions both in front and support lines being

shelled heavily, hostile machine guns and snipers active.

4th Aug. Enemy put down a heavy barrage but no infantry activity reported. Weather continued wet until 4pm. From 5pm until dusk enemy aeroplanes flew over dropping small bombs and firing machine guns at the troops manning our trenches, usual heavy hostile artillery and machine gun fire.

5th Aug. Dull and misty. Enemy counter attacked under a very heavy barrage, barrage guns fired on barrage lines and 6 more guns were brought up. Remaining 8 teams were later withdrawn to Pioneer Camp.

6th Aug. Pioneer Camp Barrage guns reported heavy shelling of barrage positions.

7th Usual artillery and machine gun activity. At 9pm S.O.S seen on left all barrage guns fired on barrage lines and by 9.35 situation was normal. It was eventually established that this counter attack was topped by artillery and machine gun fire and the troops which had been assembled for the counter attack had been practically annihilated and the few survivors fled in confusion. Enemy fired Mustard Oil shell around our barrage positions.

8/9th Usual hostile shelling and activity by machine guns and sniper fire. 10th Aug. Successful attack carried out by 74 Brigade. 11th instructions that 75 Bde would relieve 74 Bde that night. 12th. 8 Guns relieved but Barrage positions shelled heavily. 13/14th Barrage guns and 4 teams from Back Trench withdrawn to Pioneer Trench. 15th Aug. Cleaning and checking equipment.

16/17th Hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs on back areas AA guns of this Coy at Ouderdom fired at the raiding planes. 17th Ordered to move to Eecke then on to Steenvoorde and Winniezele Coys fired on enemy planes at night training by day until 5th September. At Dickebusche, Relieved 7 MGC in the line, enemy shelling very heavy and great difficulty getting the guns in position 1 OR killed and 3 wounded.

6th September. Halfway House, enemy continued active particularly artillery and machine guns some gas shells fired at barrage positions.

7th Sep. Generally quiet but enemy snipers showed some activity, enemy shelling became heavy at night with some gas shells being used. Barrage according to the programme was

carried out during the night and early morning, hostile patrols active at night. 8th Sept. Enemy artillery and snipers active. Harassing fire carried out at night as per programme, enemy shelling particularly heavy in vicinity of barrage positions.

9th September 1917. Enemy shelling continued during early morning. 5 Other Ranks were killed and three wounded. Coys relieved.

Private Edmund Davies was one of those killed on this day. He was buried 30 yards North East of Chateau Wood, which is just North of the Menin Road. His place of burial was later lost, probably in the later shelling.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial and on Ross War Memorial.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Edmond Percival Barrett Davies
Birth Place: Ross, Hereford
Residence: Ross
Death Date: 9 Sep 1917
Death Place: France and Flanders
Enlistment Place: Hereford
Rank: Private
Regiment: Machine Gun Corps
Battalion: (Infantry)
Regimental Number: 66870
Type of Casualty: Killed in action
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre
Comments: Formerly 25415, Shrops L.I.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
DAVIES	M.G.C.	Pte	66870
Edmond P. B.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	M.G.C./01 046	3924B	
BRITISH	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of
 Private
Edmond Percival Barrett Davies
 66870, 5th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 09 September 1917 Age 19
 Son of James Henry and Mary Maria Davies, of The Haven, Duxmere, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
 Tyne Cot Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lieutenant
**Leslie Terrett
Day**



**Trench Mortar Battery
Royal Regiment of Artillery
Formerly**



**Royal Naval Air Service
Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve.**

Leslie Terrett Day

He was born on 27th June 1886 in Old Gore Cottage, Upton Bishop and baptised on 24th August same year. His father was John Terrett a farmer and his mother was Isabell Eliza

Elsmore Cook. They had married in 1881. 1891 census Father a farmer originally from Somerset, mother from Gloucester. They were living at Old Gore, Upton Bishop. In 1901 They were living at the Crofts, Ross. 1911 His parents and most of the family were living at Prospect House, Ross. His father was a retired farmer. His brother Hugh was working in Salford and sister Norah was a nurse in Bexhill. Leslie was lodging at 3 Hopetown Place, Southwark, London. He then made a career overseas and it seems most likely that he went to South America shortly after. Certainly he returned on 28th April 1914 from Antofagasta, Chile travelling via Callao, Peru to Lisbon on SS Orcoma where he was listed as working at a Nitrate Oficina (Nitrate works).

The Great War



On 25th September 1914 he enlisted into Royal Engineers at Chatham as 540013 Sapper Leslie Terrett Day. Promoted to Corporal Artificer Motor Cyclist on 26th September 1914. He

was 5ft 11ins tall, Blue Eyes, Light brown hair, a fresh complexion and CofE. Motor Cyclists were highly thought of during the early part of the Great War and a great many like Sapper Day were promoted Corporal the day after enlistment. Many of these were then later promoted to Sergeant and in many cases Commissioned again like Leslie Day.

He was discharged on 7th December 1914 being appointed to a commission as Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy..

On 7th December 1914 he entered the Royal Navy Air Service reporting for duty at HMS Pembroke II.

On 12th June 1915 his Royal Navy commission and appointment were terminated in favour of a temporary commission in the regular army. He joined Royal Regiment of Artillery. *"Leslie Terrett Day Late Sub-Lieutenant RNVR to be temporary Lieutenant 13th June 1915"*. 2nd July 1915 London gazette.

On 13 June 1915 he was at the Clement Talbot Motor Works, London, working in the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division RNVR.

. He applied for a transfer to Royal Field Artillery and he joined 7th Trench Mortar Battery, as a Lieutenant (temporary promotion), from 13 June 1915 to his death on 1 July 1916.

Regrettably we do not know for certain which Artillery unit he joined. His medal card and CWGC details offer no help but his service record says he was with the 7th Trench Mortar Battery. The 7th Trench Mortar Battery (25th Division 7th Brigade) does not list him as Killed in Action on July 1st 1916 and it appears they were not part of the action at that time but marching to the trenches. Lt. Day was awarded the 1914/15 Star which means he must have served overseas during 1915 and 7th Mortar Battery was not formed until July 1916 but there were other units eg. the 7th Division.- Divisional troops their Divisional Trench Mortar Battery would have been known as 7th (divisional) TMB.

The Trench Mortar Batteries

Trench mortars were used in a variety of defensive and offensive roles, from the suppression of an enemy machine-gun, sniper post or other local feature, to the coordinated firing of barrages.

Larger mortars were sometimes used for cutting barbed wire, especially where field artillery could not be used, either because of the danger of hitting British troops or where the effect of the fire could not be observed. Experience on the Somme revealed that use of Stokes mortars in an offensive close-support role had been limited by the reluctance of some commanders to sacrifice rifle strength to provide parties required to carry the ammunition which the weapons so quickly consumed. Mortars were undeniably effective effective in terms of trench warfare.



Soldiers would often strain their ears to catch the "plop!" sound that indicated the firing of an enemy mortar, and consequently hasten into cover. Inevitably, *mortar positions rapidly came under fire from enemy artillery once their presence was detected.* For this reason they were unpopular when sited among a given group of

infantrymen, for it almost guaranteed a busy time along the trench. Mortars were variously used to take out enemy machine gun posts, suspected sniper posts or other designated features. Larger mortars were occasionally used to cut enemy barbed wire, generally in situations where field artillery could not be used.

Lt Leslie Terrett Day fought on the front from late 1915 until on July 1st 1916 he was with his Trench Mortar Battery at the Somme Battlefield.

The Somme July 1st 1916.

27 divisions of men went into the attack - 750,000 men - of which over 80% were comprised from the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Ranged against them in the German trenches were 16 divisions of the German Second Army. The odds were apparently stacked heavily in the attacking force's favour.

However the advance artillery bombardment failed to destroy either the German front line barbed wire or the heavily-built concrete bunkers the Germans had carefully and robustly constructed. Much of the munitions used by the British proved to be 'duds' - badly constructed and ineffective. Many charges did not go

off; even today farmers of the Western Front unearth many tons of unexploded 'iron harvest' each year. During the bombardment the German troops sought effective shelter in such bunkers, emerging only with the ceasing of the British artillery bombardment, when the German machine guns were manned to great effect.

The attack itself began at 07:30 on 1 July with the detonation of a series of 17 mines. The first, which was actually exploded ten minutes early, went off at 07:20. The detonation of this mine, the Hawthorn Crater - which remains visible today. The first attacking wave of the offensive went over the top from Gommecourt to the French left flank just south of Montauban. The attack was by no means a surprise to the German forces. Quite aside from being freely discussed in French coffee shops and in letters home from the front, the chief effect of the eight-day preliminary bombardment served merely to alert the German army to imminent attack.

As a consequence of the lack of surprise generated by the advance bombardment, and the lack of success in cutting the German barbed wire and

in damaging their underground bunkers, the BEF made strikingly little progress on 1 July or in the days and weeks that followed. More success was achieved by the French forces at the southern tail of the line, possibly because their advance bombardment was sprung only hours before the attack, thus ensuring a degree of surprise. In addition, von Falkenhayn believed that the French would not attack at all on account of their heavy losses at Verdun. By advancing in small groups, as they had at Verdun, the French troops achieved most of their objectives. Even so, the gains made here were consolidated upon rather than exploited. The British troops were for the most part forced back into their trenches by the effectiveness of the German machine gun response. Many troops were killed or wounded the moment they stepped out of the front lines into No Man's Land. Many men walked slowly towards the German lines, laden down with supplies, expecting little or no opposition. They made for incredibly easy targets for the German machine-gunners. Despite heavy losses during the first day - 58,000 British troops alone - Haig

persisted with the offensive in the following days. Advances were made, but these were limited and often ultimately repulsed.

Lt. Leslie Terrett Day was Killed in Action on 1st July 1916 at the Somme. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the dead of the Somme who have no known grave. He is also commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.

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. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Hereford Journal 15th July 1916

Deaths.

On Sunday July 2nd Leslie Terrett Day Lieutenant Royal Field Artillery, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Terrett Day, Prospect House, Ross and late of Antofagasta, Chile in his 30th Year.

Lt Day's medal index card

Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
DAY	R.F.A.	Lieut.	
Leslie T.			
Medals	Unit	Remarks	
x VICTORY R.E.A. OF 132	39	in 59th div. 1.7.16. 59/162	See above
BRITISH		See above	
Theater of War last served in Date of entry theater France			
Address Prospect House, Ross, Herefordshire.			

He was awarded



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

Interestingly his 1914/15 Star was awarded by the Admiralty not the army.



Soldiers who died in the Great War

- Name:** Leslie Terrett Day
- Death Date:** 1 Jul 1916
- Rank:** Lieutenant (T)
- Regiment:** Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery
- Type of Casualty:** Killed in action
- Comments:** Att T M

His Brother Captain Harold John Terrett Day served in the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

In Memory of
Lieutenant
Leslie Terrett Day
Royal Field Artillery who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

11630 Private Frederick Dix



1st Battalion
South Wales Borderers

Frederick Dix

He was born in Nursery, Ross and baptised 2nd May 1886. His parents were James Dix originally from Cheltenham and Elizabeth Lewis originally from Llangarren. They had married in Cirencester in 1870. In 1891 they were living at the Nursery, father was a Coal Labourer and sister Rhoda was a domestic servant. 1901 census They were living in Ross, his father was a general labourer and Frederick was a Miller's carrier. In

1911 He had moved and was living at 13 Margaret Street Gilfach Bargoed Glamorgan and was a Coal Miner (Hewer).

The Great War

11630 Private Frederick Dix enlisted into the South Wales Borderers at the outbreak of the Great War and following training he was posted to the 1st Battalion in France on 23rd November 1914. He arrived in France on 23rd November and it took time to cross Northern France to Outtersteene where his Battalion was stationed. On 3rd December 1914 in the morning the battalion was inspected by the King. He had arrived accompanied by the Prince of Wales at 11.am and he walked down the line between the Coys and they presented arms and cheered as he passed and then orders that a draft of 166 Other Ranks and 2 Officers was expected. 4th December At Outtersteene, orders to be ready to move off at very short notice the draft of 138 men (which included Private Dix) and 2 officers arrived at 10.30am and they were immediately allocated to their respective Coys. 5th Dec. 3 Coys went for a short route march and Coy arrangements, 1 Coy

entrenched. Very wet day, Coys had to turn back from march. 6th Dec. 10am Divine service for CofE in field, remainder of day spent cleaning and washing men and billets. 7th Dec. 3 Coys on route march and had some instruction on field work en route. 1 Coy entrenched. All C/Os and Adjutants had conference at Bde HQ. 8th Dec. 1 Coy entrenched, 3 route marched 'A' Coy did night entrenching. 9th Dec. Very wet day, Coys did short route march in morning, 1 Coy did night digging. 10th Dec. The Brigade was on duty ready to move at very short notice for 24 hours from 8am. Coys did field work in close proximity to their billets. 11th Dec. Stood to arms at 6.15am but received orders from C/O to dismiss almost at once. Coys practiced attacks. 12th Dec. Parade at 9am. Practice attacks. Fine day. 13th Dec. Divine service at 11am. Field General Court Martial for Cpl Powell and Pte Roache. Heavy rain in evening. 14th Dec. Received orders that the British Army was resuming the offensive. 15th/16th/17th Dec. 'Stood to Arms' each day. FGCM for 10425 Pte Hutchins. 18th Dec. Orders to remain in reserve. Much rain during day.

19th Dec. No longer 'Standing to' moved off for training and parade very wet and heavy going. 20th Dec. Ottersteene. Divine service. 5pm orders to move as soon as possible, Batt. ordered to be standing to outside billets at 6pm, moved to Merville at 6.45pm.

21st. December 1914. Arrived at Merville at 12 Midnight and went into billets. Received orders to move to Bethune at 4.00am. Arrived Bethune at 8.30, breakfast by the side of the road. The Batt. to attack German trenches 1000yards in front of Festubert as the line had been broken by the Germans and was to be reformed. Attack to be 2.30 Glosters on Right, SWB on left and Munsters and Welch in support. The attack progressed under heavy fire for about 300 yards till they reached a trench by the H.L.I. the line went into the trench with the Seaforths on the left but no-one on the right. C/O decided to stop the advance until the right came up to support the brigade. By then it was dark and Batt. told to hold the trench. 2Platoons of Welch came up but they were then 300 yards from the remainder of their regiment. During the night the trenches were improved.

Casualties for the day. 1 Officer killed and 5 wounded. 14 ORs killed 90 wounded. *Private Frederick Dix was one of those Killed in action this day.* His body was not recovered and he is Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

His brother William who was living in Kyrle St. was notified of his death and it was reported in the Western Mail on 29th January 1915

94		Name		Corps	Rank	Regt. No
DIX		Frederick		S.W. Bord.	PL	11630
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks			
VICTORY	9/1/14	B. 322	K. A. 21.12.14			
BRITISH	do	do				
15 STAR	2/1/21	11				
Theatre of War first served in		1 France				
Date of entry therein		23. 11. 14				



He was awarded



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

In Memory of
Private
Frederick Dix
11630, 1st Bn., South Wales Borderers

Remembered with Honour
Le Touret Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

G/78230 Private James Dix



29th Battalion
Middlesex Regiment

James Dix

He was born in the Nursery, Ross in 1881 his parents were James Dix originally from Cheltenham and his mother Elizabeth Lewis originally from Llangarren. They had married in Cirencester in 1870.

1891 His father James was a Coal Labourer they were still living at the Nursery, Ross. On 24th November 1900 James Dix had moved and married Frances Morgan at the Parish Church Lydney. James was a Labourer and living at Lydney and Frances was living at Parkend. In

1911 they were living at Railway Crossing, New Road, Blakeney, Glos. and James was a Collier Tipper.

The Great War

He Joined up 10th December 1915 as part of the Derby Scheme. (This scheme was brought in just prior to conscription to assess the number of people willing to join up voluntarily. It was a *commitment* to join not just a promise and it was understood that volunteers would be 'called up' on a fixed pre-arranged basis). He was posted to the Army Reserve next day 11th Dec 1915.

42933 Private James Dix was Mobilized 24th July 1916 into the 12th Battalion The Welch Regiment. He was living at 7 Greytree Rd, Ross and was a Maltsters labourer at Messrs Bussell and Pike

.
Married to Frances Morgan they had six children.

James William born 9/4/01

Annie Matilda born 28/6/02

Elsie May born 19/6/05

Frederick Sydney born 21/6/07

Hilda Frances born 20/5/09

Kathleen Priscilla born 24/3/15 and a seventh child

Charles Henry born 26/10/16

He was medically examined on 25th July 1916 at Shrewsbury. He was 5ft 10 ins tall, 11st 3lbs, good physical development he was then posted to the 21st Cheshire Regt. on 25th August 1916 he transferred to the 74th TRB (Training Reserve Battalion) Cheshire Regiment on 3rd October 1916 and went to Prees Heath Camp. He later transferred to the 29th (Works) Battalion, (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regt.

He was posted to Newhaven Docks. Before the outbreak of the First World War, Newhaven was a key point in travel between Britain and Europe. Billed as being the fastest way to reach France, Because of the nature of the ammunition supplies passing through Newhaven, the dock was under the control of the military. Newhaven Fort was garrisoned throughout the conflict to provide an armed overwatch of the port and surrounding coastline. By the conclusion of the war there could be no doubt over the huge role Newhaven had played in supplying the army abroad. Over the preceding years 866,021 train trucks had delivered war materiel to the quayside at Newhaven. These supplies had then been delivered to France by 165 ships

making a total of 8,778 voyages. Over 6 million tons of supplies including 2.6 million tons of ammunition were delivered to France during these supply trips.

However, this titanic effort was not maintained without a noticeable cost. The names of 99 people who lost their lives whilst delivering supplies to France were inscribed on the Newhaven Transport Memorial following its unveiling in 1920. On Thursday 25th January 1917 Private Dix was working on his duties at the Quay in Newhaven when he was taken seriously ill, he was picked up unconscious and taken to the Military Hospital, Newhaven where he died the following day (26th January 1917). He was brought back to Ross and buried in the Churchyard of St Mary's Church. A firing party was supplied by the local volunteers.

The War Department granted his widow a pension of 33/9d (£1.69p) a week for herself and six (seven) children from 10/9/17.

Private Dix did not serve overseas so was not awarded any medals.



UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War

Birth Place: Ross, Herefordshire
Residence: Ross
Death Date: 26 Jan 1917
Enlistment Place: Shrewsbury, Salop
Rank: Private
Regiment: Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment
Battalion: 29th Battalion
Regimental Number: G/78230



Type of Casualty: Died
Theatre of War: Home
Comments: Formerly 42993, Welch Regt.

In Memory of
Private
James Dix

G/78230, 29th Bn., Middlesex Regiment who died on 26 January 1917 Age 39

Husband of Frances Dix, of 11, Grey Tree Road, Ross.

Remembered with Honour
Ross (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1796 Private Lionel Charles Evans



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

Lionel Charles Evans

He was born in Bridstow, Ross and baptised on 19th September 1889. His parents were James Evans from Hentland and Kate Powell from Bridstow. In 1891 and 1901 they were living in Bridstow and by 1911 Lionel was a farm labourer and the family were living at the Tan House, Hentland.

The Great War

1796 Private Lionel Evans enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment right at the beginning of the Great War, August 1914. He was with the regiment when they were ordered to Gallipoli in 1915 and took part in the landings at Suvla Bay on 9th August 1915. The 1st/1st Herefords distinguished themselves at Gallipoli.

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 1.p.m. 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.

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 by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

October 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and army returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick. 11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagh, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling.

31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

November 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry . 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night.

11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man killed. Work carried out on new fire trench.

12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known.

13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties. Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper.

14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night.

15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes

17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some bushes used by

Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.

18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.

20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.

21st Nov. Nothing to report.

22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench.

23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded accidentally. Not much rifle fire.

24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.

26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgary Barricades were

swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes. Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.

27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00 Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.

The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the

night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight.

28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.

29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.

Casualties for the month of November	
Killed or died of wounds	13
Wounded	10
Missing	11
Died of exposure	11
Admitted sick to Hospital	355



Turkish sniper

December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter.

2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba.

7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among the Herefords.

9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba, 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.

12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira'

13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia.

15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian'

The Battalion then served in Egypt, Palestine and in 1918 in France.

Private Evans was however taken prisoner. The Turkish records are very slim indeed and there seems no record of when he was captured but he was sent to the POW camp at Angora (Present day Ankara) and this was one of the nearest camps to Gallipoli so it seems most likely he was taken at

Gallipoli and few prisoners were taken during 1916.

The prisoners were at first sent to a holding camp at Changri near the Gallipoli peninsula and then on to Angora where they were put to work on the Berlin- Baghdad Railway. Conditions were very poor in the camp and in Oct-Dec 1916 there was an outbreak of Typhus at the camp with many casualties. Private Evans died at the camp on 15th December 1916.

The Ross Gazette (26th May 1917) records he was "one of the gallant seven who volunteered to fetch water for their comrades under very heavy shell fire but never returned and was captured by the Turks" He had been a prisoner for one year and four months when he died.

He is buried in Angora/Ankara but the location of his place of burial has been lost so he is commemorated on the Angora Memorial at the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery and on the Ross War Memorial.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
EVANS, Lionel B	Hereford R	Pte	1796
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	H/106 B	34	New No 235435
BRITISH	do do		
15 Star	7/11 B	27	
Theatre of War first served in (E.A.)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory Medal.

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



Name: Lionel Charles Evans
Birth Place: Ross, Herefords
Residence: Ross-on-wye,
Herefords
Death Date: 15 Dec 1916
Death Place: Egypt
Enlistment Place: Ross
Rank: Private
Regiment: The Herefordshire
Regiment
Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion
**Regimental
Number:** 235435
Type of Casualty: Died
Theatre of War: Egyptian Theatre
 He never received the number above,
 the original number 1796 was replaced
 with 235435 in early 1917 when all the
 TF units were renumbered but by this
 time Private Evans had died.

In Memory of
Private
L C Evans

235435, 1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment Age 27

Son of James and Kate Evans, of 46, Nursery Rd., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

235154 L/Cpl
Granville Fowler



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

**Granville Thomas Batley
Fowler**

He was born in Pontypridd in 1895 his parents were Henry Keeton Fowler a water inspector originally from Stonehouse, Gloucestershire and Annie Louisa Jones originally from Monmouthshire. In 1911 He was living with his uncle and a Shipbroker at 32 Talbot St, Cardiff. His parents were living at 109 Brithweunydd Rd Trealaw Glamorganshire and his father was an Insurance Agent. In the Ross Gazette 17th Sept. 1914 he was listed as being

in the Herefordshire Regiment and living at 2 Corpse Cross St. Ross.Granville Fowler's very low number 1224 indicates that he joined the regiment in late 1912 or very early 1913. The Herefordshire Regiment was a TF (Territorial Force) unit, part time soldiers.

The Great War

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13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia.

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23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt.

24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

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.

L/Cpl Fowler was wounded at the first battle of Gaza and sent back to The Military Hospital in Cairo. He died of his wounds on 9th April 1917 and is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.

[UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War](#)

Name:	Granville Fowler
Birth Place:	Ystradyfodwg, Glam.
Death Date:	9 Apr 1917
Death Place:	Egypt
Enlistment Place:	Ross
Rank:	L Corporal
Regiment:	The Herefordshire Regiment
Battalion:	1st 1st Battalion
Regimental Number:	235154
Type of Casualty:	Died of wounds
Theatre of War:	Egyptian Theatre



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
FOWLER Granville	Hereford B	Pte	1884 235154
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	8/1/06 B	133	New No. 235154 Dead. Awaiting file from Sec. P. re writing up in back of card. 4/12/28. K. 1926.
BRITISH	do do	do	
15 STAR	7/1/14 B	13	
Theatre of War first served in (2. B)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal
Victory medal

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
Granville Thomas Batley Fowler

235154, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 09 April 1917 Age 22

Son of Mr. H. K. and Mrs. A. L. Fowler, of 6, Old Gloucester Rd., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour
Cairo War Memorial Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

