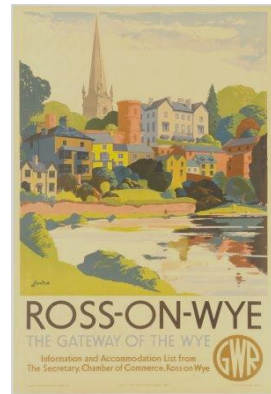


# The Great War for civilisation

1914 - 1919

## War Memorial - Side 4.

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



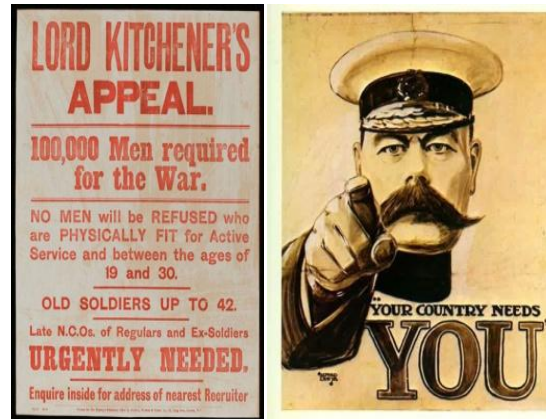
## The war to end all wars

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

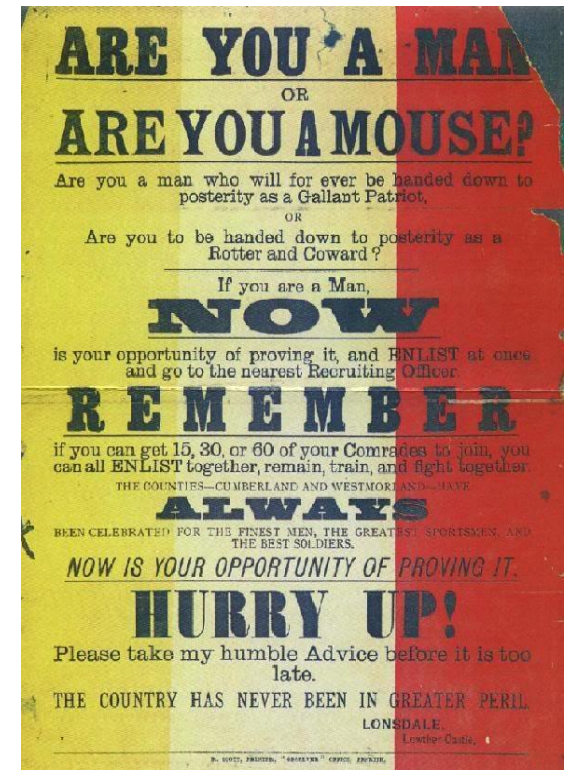
that showed Kitchener pointing at the reader with "Your Country Needs You". The response overwhelmed the army. In 18 months, 2,467,000 men joined up only to find that the army did not have enough rifles or uniforms.



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.



February 2017.

Bill Webb:

email: [billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com](mailto:billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com)

## ROSS WAR MEMORIAL SIDE 4

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

2296 Private Ernest J. P. Seymour	6th Victoria Battalion. Australian Imperial Force
2555 Drummer Bertie Montague Sherwood	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
267248 Private Cecil Archibald Mutlow Smith	549 H.S. Employment Coy. Labour Coy.
7294 Private Octave Stuart Surr	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
10039 Private Arthur Willie Tyler Teague	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
92723 Private George Ellsmore Taylor	13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers
236829 Sergeant Robert Frederick Taylor	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
235346 L/Sgt Philip Thackway	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
25830 Private Herbert James Tingle	4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
24984 Private Percival James Tingle	6th Lancashire Fusiliers
10204 Private Walter Reginald Tingle	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
Lt Alexander Arnold Tippet	2nd King's Shropshire Light Infantry/Artists Rifles
4/058561 Private Thomas Hubert Tomkins	59th Aux. (Petrol) Company ASC
2/Lt Victor George Ursell	8th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
12809 L/Corporal William Veale	8th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
235865 L/Cpl Louis Allen Waites	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
11959 Private Samuel Bennett Wall	5th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
GS/12355 Private Milson Ernest Watkins	7th (The Princess Royals) Dragoon Guards
36908 Private Horace William Weale	1st Gloucestershire Regiment
28593 Private Alfred Robert West	1st East Surrey Regiment
J14735 Able Seaman Godfrey Paul Wilden	Royal Navy - HMS Hampshire
45240 Private Allen Edward Wood	2nd Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire)
777 C.S.M Reginald George Yemm	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
27841 Private Thomas Henry Yemm	11th Battalion Border Regiment
43465 Private Hubert Downing	12th Welch Regiment

**2296 Private  
Ernest John Pierrepoint  
Seymour.**



**6th (Victoria) Battalion  
Australian Infantry  
Australian Imperial Force  
2nd Reinforcement Battalion  
2296 Private**

**Ernest John Pierrepoint Seymour**

Was born in Gloucester in 1892 where his father was a cabinet maker. The family had very strong roots to Ross-on-Wye though, his Great Grandfather James was a builder from Ross and was born there in 1785. His Grandfather a carpenter was born in Ross in 1818 and his father Evelyn was born in Ross in 1860 his father

died 1930 in Ross. Ernest was born in 1892 and his parents were Evelyn Pierponte Seymour born in Green Pits, Goodrich in 1860 and Annie Susannah Collins also from Goodrich and they had married on 10th October 1885 in Ross. At 1901 census the family had moved to Duxmere, Ross-on-Wye and Ernest's father was a cabinet maker. By 1911 census Ernest had left home and was a farm servant at Mynders, Shire Newton Capston, Monmouthshire. His parents were living at Archenfield Rd, Ross. Ernest emigrated to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on the SS Port Lincoln arriving in Melbourne in 9th July 1914 he was aged 21 and gave his occupation as farm worker.

**The Great War**

Three months later on 28th November 1914 he enlisted at Melbourne into the 6th (Victoria) Battalion Australian Infantry and signed his consent to serve in the expeditionary Force. He was 22 years and 5 months old, 5ft 6ins tall and 11stone in weight. He had a ruddy complexion, brown hair and brown eyes, he had scars on his right ankle and both knees.

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the Anzac landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from Anzac to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to Anzac to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at Anzac until the evacuation in December.

**Battle of Krithia - Gallipoli**

Was a British and French led battle but there was an ANZAC division there as

well, 2nd Australian Brigade 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th (Victoria) Battalions and a New Zealand Brigade comprising Auckland, Canterbury, Otago and Wellington Battalions.. Among the British units present were two local regiments 2nd South Wales Borderers and 4th Worcesters.

Krithia is a Turkish village on the Gallipoli peninsula, located approximately 4 miles north of Cape Helles, the site of the costly British landings of 25 April 1915. Krithia was regarded as the key to the principal British objective in the south of the peninsula, the dominating heights of Achi Baba, and the village gave its name to three separate battles. The first, 28 April 1915, constituted a defensive action following a strong Turkish counter-attack in response to ill-coordinated British advances on the village; in the second battle, 6-8 May 1915, Turkish defenders fought off British, Australian, New Zealand and French advances over open ground; the third battle, 4 June 1915, another frontal assault, again failed with heavy British casualties.

2nd Battle of Krithia

Following the failure of the First Battle of Krithia, the exhausted soldiers of the

British 29th Division halted to consolidate their positions. They had to endure a number of Ottoman counter-attacks on 1 and 4 May. Similar counter-attacks were repulsed at the Anzac landing on 2 May so that General William Birdwood, commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps deemed his front sufficiently secure to enable two brigades to be moved to Helles for the next assault on Krithia. These were the Australian 2nd Infantry Brigade and the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, around 5,000 men.

Other British reinforcements included brigades from the Royal Naval Division and the 125th Brigade from the British 42nd (East Lancashire) Division. The 87th and 88th Brigades of the 29th Division would once again be at the forefront of the attack. The Anzac brigades and General Vaughn Cox's 29th Indian Brigade would be in reserve. The commander at Helles, Major General Aylmer Hunter-Weston, was woefully lacking in shells for his artillery and those he did have were shrapnel shells which was ineffective against entrenched positions.

The navy were somewhat ambitiously still hoarding shells for the anticipated

assault on Constantinople. The Ottomans had also been reinforcing their defences around Krithia. The Allied advance began later than scheduled, around 11:00 on 6 May but was swiftly halted by strong Ottoman resistance. The 88th Brigade of the 29th Division advancing on Fir Tree Spur managed to capture Fir Tree Wood and the 6th (Hood) Battalion of the British 63rd (Royal Naval) Division advanced strongly along Kanli Dere but at all points on the line the gains were never more than 400 yd (370 m). At no point were the Ottoman defences reached. The attack was resumed on 7 May; it used the same plan and produced largely the same results. On the morning of 8 May, the 88th Brigade in front of Krithia on Fir Tree Spur was relieved by the New Zealanders who made yet another attempt which failed with huge losses. The Wellington, Canterbury and Auckland Battalions gained another 400 yd (370 m) through Fir Tree Wood to a place called the 'Daisy Patch' before they became pinned down. Enfiladed on the left from Ottoman machine guns in Gully Ravine, they could neither advance nor withdraw and still had no sight of the Ottoman positions. Despite their

predicament, Hunter-Weston ordered the New Zealanders, including the Otago Battalion in reserve, to resume that attack at 17:30. The brigade commander, Colonel Francis Johnston, protested but Hunter-Weston insisted the attack proceed. However, General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, who had landed at Helles to oversee the battle, ordered a general advance to be made at 17:30. along the entire front with the aim of capturing Krithia and Achi Baba.

*The Australian 2nd Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier-General M'Cay, was given 35 minutes warning that it was about to join the attack. The Australians were to advance along Fir Tree Spur between the right flank of the New Zealand brigade and the edge of Krithia Nullah, and had to travel up to 800 yd (730 m) from their reserve position just to reach the start line at "Tommy's Trench". The brigade managed to advance a further 500 yd (460 m) beyond the start line, suffering 50% casualties in the process.*

The New Zealand brigade made another attempt to cross the Daisy

Patch, and some troops managed to actually sight the Ottoman trenches. On the right, the French resumed their advance at 18:00 and made good progress, reaching the Ottoman trenches on Kereves Dere. They managed to capture and hold Bouchet Redoubt but were forced back everywhere else. About one third of the allied soldiers became casualties. For most Australians the name Krithia means next to nothing. The Landing, Lone pine and the Nek – these are the actions that have burnt themselves on the popular consciousness of Gallipoli, encouraged by Peter Weir's 1982 film *Gallipoli* which featured the charge of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at the Nek as its climactic finale. Krithia is a small village near the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula where British troops landed on 25 April 1915. As on Anzac, the advance in this area gradually bogged down into trench warfare. On the evening of 8 May, the four battalions of the 2nd Brigade, AIF, approximately 2,900 strong, advanced over flat open ground against the Turkish trenches south of Krithia. The attack failed and within a matter of an hour and a half 1,056 – 36 per cent – of that 2,900 had been killed or wounded. Most of the

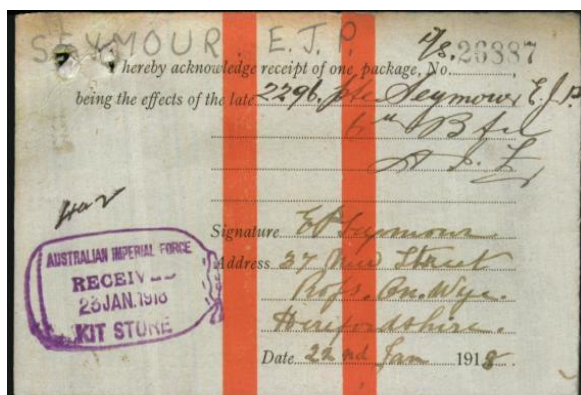
Australian dead at Krithia were never identified for burial and their names are on the Helles Memorial to the Missing and not at Lone Pine. By comparison with Anzac, relatively few Australians visit Helles or are aware of the tragedy of the 2nd Brigade on 8 May 1915.

Private Seymour was 'Killed in Action' at Krithia on 8th May 1915.

His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial and the Ross-on-Wye war memorial.

Before he left for Egypt he made a will and when he arrived at the front in France he made another which he fastened to his pay book. In both he left any money he had to his mother but his gold ring and watch he left to Miss Williams, 40 Aberfan Rd, Aberfan.

BUT. It did not matter all his effects went to his father in Ross, who had moved to 37 New St, Ross..



His mother however did apply for a pension and was granted £26 pa. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the victory medal, the memorial scroll and the memorial plaque. All were sent to his father.



Transferred to  
**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE**

No. 14416  
 Rank Private Name E.J.P. Seymour  
 Unit 6th Battalion  
 Casualty Killed in action, at the 40 and ancles -  
 M. F. C. 5144/525  
 16/5/15  
 Misc. No. 8515 Killed in action at Gallipoli A.F. B. 2090A Received.

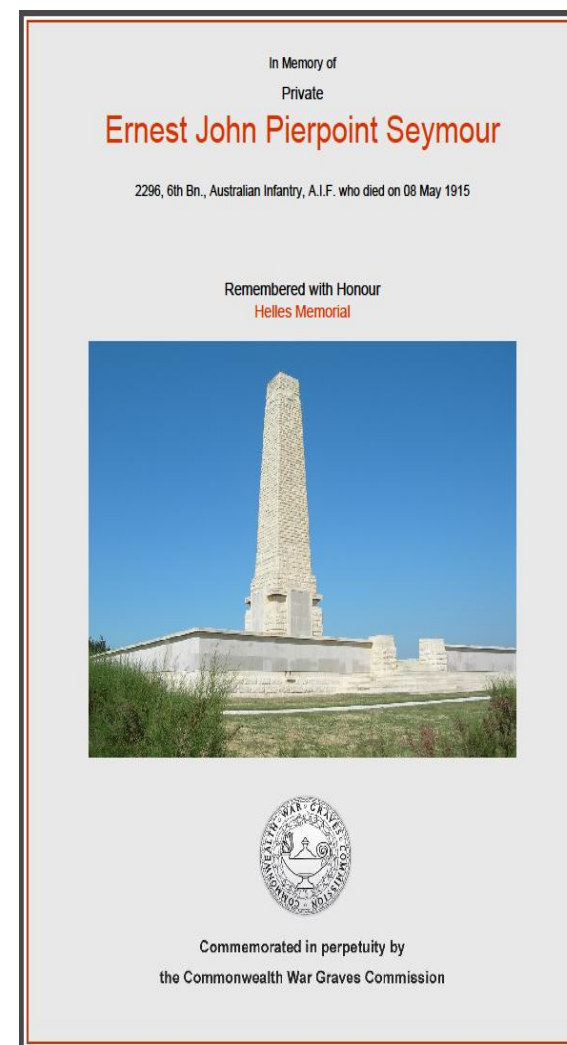
DATE	A.F.	B. 103 Received	SUPPORT	Ref. No.
21.6.15		2663	address	BR 3534
23.6.15			Copy made for war pension	
23.6.15			Australia advised	BA 3805
24.9.15			Letter to R.F.W. 5th W. 10 - W 1/10/15	
21.2.16			26 Army's 26th Division, asking confirmation of death	
			CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF	
			Cable No. 01722 5144 16/5/15	
5.4.16			Copy sent to 21/4/16 AF B. 2090A final	
26.4.16			Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M. 10/5/16	
27.5.16			Identity disc to M.O.	M/2/19
			1914/15 Star, issued B.R.M. 48/1230 6/10/16	
			To Comd. G.I. 27/2/16 B.R.M. 51/338	
			Circular B.R.M. 46/1988 & Booklet re Graves despatches 2/1/20 11/16	
13.8.20			Personal effects disc "box" to London 7/5/16	

WAR HISTORY INDEX

1914/15 STAR  
 13450  
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comd. G.I. 27/2/16 M.P.B.R.M. 53/1437 1/31

VICTORY MEDAL inscribed and issued by Australia House, U.S.M. 5011

LIST 45





2555 Drummer  
**Bertie Montague  
Sherwood**



**1st/1st Herefordshire  
Regiment**

**Bertie Montague Sherwood**

He was born in Kyrle St, Ross in 1891 and baptised in Ross on 3rd July 1892. His parents were Thomas Sherwood originally from Dray in Worcestershire and Mary Ann Hicks from Ross. They had 8 children:

(Sarah) Jane Sherwood Born 1872,  
George Born 1876, Herbert born  
1881, Albert Born 1883, Edwin Born

1887, Sydney Born 1890, Bertie Born  
1891, Gladys Born 1895,  
In 1911 The family were living at 11  
Kyrle St, Ross and George, Bertie's  
brother, was a brewer and Albert  
(Bertie) was a turner (agricultural  
engineer) Thomas the father was a  
labourer.

**The Great War**

2555 Drummer Bertie Montague  
Sherwood joined the Herefordshire  
Regiment in the Great War.

*Drummer -In the field a runner or  
orderly, Private rank but were paid a  
little more, on ceremonial duties were  
in the Band in infantry regiments there  
were usually four per company.*

**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 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. 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:

Killed or died of wounds 13

Wounded 10  
 Missing 11  
 Died of exposure 11  
 Admitted sick to Hospital 354  
 Approx because records were lost in the flood..

Drummer Bertie Sherwood was killed in action on the 27th November 1915 in this action. He is commemorated on the Ross War Memorial and buried at Green Hill Cemetery, Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, Turkey.



## [UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919](#)

about Bertie Montague Sherwood

**Name:** Bertie Montague Sherwood  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 27 Nov 1915  
**Death Place:** Gallipoli  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Drummer  
**Regiment:** The Herefordshire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1st 1st Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 2555  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Balkan Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
SHERWOOD. Bertie M	Hereford R	Drum * Pte	2555
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	8/1/16 B 47		
15 Star	2/1/16 B 42		
Theatre of War first served in (26)			
Date of entry theatre 9-8-15			

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal.

In Memory of  
Drummer  
**B M Sherwood**

2555, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 27 November 1915 Age 23

Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Sherwood, of 11, Kyre St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Green Hill Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

267248 Private  
CECIL ARCHIBALD MUTLOW  
SMITH



549th H.S. Employment Coy  
Labour Coy.  
Formerly



1st Herefordshire Regt. 4th KSLI

**CECIL ARCHIBALD MUTLOW SMITH**  
He was born 11th October 1891 at The Nursery, Ross. His father was Wallace Smith from Ross, his mother was Elizabeth Ann Mutlow from Walford. 1901 Living at the Crofts. Father was a House Painter. 1911 they were living at 23 the Crofts and Cecil was an errand boy.

### The Great War

5260 Private Smith was Deemed to have enlisted 3rd March 1916 into Herefordshire Regiment. He enlisted - called up for service 13th November 1916 at 233 T.F. Depot, (Res. 1st Herefordshire Regt.) Hereford. He was previously a drapers porter. In early 1917 he received a new number for 3rd Batt. Herefordshire Regt. 237748 (all TF units were re-numbered in early 1917.) He was then transferred to the 4th Batt. King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

### The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

The 3-4th Battalion :Raised in May 1915 in Shrewsbury. Stationed in various towns in South Wales, 1915-18. Re-styled the 4th (Reserve) Battalion in April 1916. Absorbed the 2nd Herefordshire Regt. in Swansea in 1917.

Disbanded at Pembroke Dock at the end of the war. No overseas war service.

He was then Transferred to Labour Corps on 30th June 1917. Posted 28th July 1917 to 557 Home Service Employment Coy (549 Emp. Coy). Admitted to Military Hospital Pembroke Dock, 12th Feb. 1918 died 28th Feb, 1918 Died of meningitis. When he enlisted he was 24years old, 5ft 9ins tall, weighed 144lbs he required dental treatment and was 'somewhat deaf'. His medical report on 6/3/1917 stated he was 'very deaf' and therefore category C2. This meant he would serve only in 'home service' garrison duties so he was posted to 557 Home Service Employment Company.

C	<b>Free from serious organic diseases, able to stand service in garrisons at home.</b> <i>Subcategories:</i>
C1	Able to march 5 miles, see to shoot with glasses, and hear well
C2	Able to walk 5 miles, see and hear sufficiently for ordinary purposes

On 23th November 1917 he was re-classified as B2

B	<b>Free from serious organic diseases, able to stand service on lines of communication in France, or in garrisons in the tropics.</b> <i>Subcategories:</i>
B1	Able to march 5 miles, see to shoot with glasses, and hear well
B2	Able to walk 5 miles, see and hear sufficiently for ordinary purposes

*Home Service Employment Companies worked in the myriad of Depots, Hospitals, Barracks etc providing clerks, sanitary men, cooks, storemen and other essential duties. They consisted of medically downgraded personnel.  
. Labour Corps Area Employment Companies were formed in 1917 for*

*salvage work, absorbing the Divisional Salvage Companies.*

Because of his medical category he did not serve overseas so was not eligible for any Great War medals. However following his re-classification to B2 on 22nd November 1917 he was posted to Pembroke Dock where on 12th February 1918 he became ill and was admitted to Military Hospital with Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (*chronic inflammation of the middle ear and mastoid cavity*) He was operated on 14th February, the aural cavity was found much enlarged and the cerebrum was found exposed and explored in three places, a drainage tube was inserted. On 21st. Feb. it was confirmed "the patient had had an excellent week but the temperature had risen today - Mag. Sulph was administered and it subsided to normal". 22nd Feb. The tube was removed and replaced and a good accumulation of pus. 23rd Feb. He had a good night and quiet day. Till 5pm when complained of headache. 24th Feb. Decided to reopen wound, clean and explore, nothing was found to account for symptoms. A syringe of venous blood was taken out ut no

thrombosis. 25th.Feb. Last night was the worst he has had. A lumbar puncture was given with the idea of reducing excess pressure. Following a series of procedures the exposed brain was painted with pure carbolic and some blood drawn off, the brain then began to pulsate. 27th Feb. Patient had a comfortable night and temperature fell to 100. 28th Feb. His temperature was 105 and It was clear he had not long to live. He died at 7.15am from Meningitis, the Cerebellar Abscess seems quite cured. Private Cecil Smith Died 28th February 1918 at the Military Hospital, Pembroke Dock. He died of Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media, Cerebellar Abscess followed by Meningitis. His Home address was 23 Crofts Terrace, Ross



He is buried in Ross (St Mary) Churchyard and commemorated on Ross War Memorial

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

**Name:** Cecil Archibald  
Mutlow Smith  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hfds  
**Residence:** Ross, Hfds  
**Death Date:** 28 Feb 1918  
**Death Place:** Home  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Labour Corps  
**Regimental Number:** 267248  
**Type of Casualty:** Died  
**Theatre of War:** Home  
**Comments:** Formerly 6260, Hfds  
Regt.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Cecil Archibald Matlow Smith**  
237748, Herefordshire Regiment who died on 28 February 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Ross (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 7294 Private Octave Stuart Surr



1st Battalion  
King's Shropshire light Infantry

## (Octave) Stuart Surr

He was born in Ledbury in 1883. His parents were (George) Peter Surr a Draper's Assistant originally from Lincolnshire and Elizabeth Amy Williams originally from Malvern. His name was Octave and this is used in some of his WW1 details but in others and in census material he also used his second name Stuart. In 1891 At Homend St, Ledbury, Father was a Drapers Asst and mother a was a

Dressmaker. 1901 His parents were at 2 High St, Ross but (Octave) Stuart Surr was a 'Boots' at an Hotel in Pontypridd in Taff St. There were two hotels there the New Sun Inn and more likely the Park Hotel.

On 30th April 1903 3105 Private Surr enlisted into 4th KSLI attested 4th May at Recruiting Office Hereford. He was 5ft 4ins tall Fresh complexion, grey eyes, light brown hair weighed 7 stone 10 lbs. He had previously been a member of the Hereford Rifle Volunteers and his previous occupation was draper. The 4th Battalion KSLI was a Territorial Force (part time soldiers) unit. Stuart Surr became a career soldier because at 1911 he was a Soldier on the census. He must have transferred to the Regular Army (1st Battalion) a little later in 1903 (7175 joined in January 1903 and 7598 joined in January 1904) so his regular army number 7294 would imply he moved battalions fairly quickly, about May or June 1903. 1911 He was staying at his parent's house at 6 High St. Ross and his occupation was Soldier.

## The Great War.

He was at Tipperary on the outbreak of the war and sent to France with his Regiment on 9th September 1914.

*The following section contains extracts from the War Diary of the 1st KSLI.*  
**AUGUST** 1914.

August 4th at Tipperary. Battalion ordered to mobilize.

8th. Mobilization complete.

10/11th inoculated against Typhoid.

14th. Battalion left Tipperary and moved to Queenstown in two special trains.

15th-19th. The battalion moved to Cambridge Via Holyhead in SS Heroic, SS Kilkenny and SS Duke of Albany. 27th Battalion as part of 16th Infantry Brigade marched from Cambridge to Granchester and camped there until 7th September.

**SEPTEMBER** 1914

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

10th Sept. Disembarked and marched to rest camp at Le Grand Marais.

From 11th until 21st September the Battalion moved from Le Grand Marias 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 Cruscobean.

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.**

26th Oct. At Bois Grenier. Lt Verner Killed and 2 officers wounded.

27th. Oct Remained in billets companies sent on carrying parties and 'stood to arms' at the sound of fighting.

28th Oct. Batt. stayed at Bois Grenier in billets. Two companies to Toquet for night defence and is completed with serviceable rifles.

7294 Private Surr was sent to the General Military Hospitals in Boulogne and died of wounds on 28th October most probably from the battle on the 25th. He is buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

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

**Name:** Stuart Surr  
**Birth Place:** Ledbury, Hereford  
**Residence:** Ross, Hereford  
**Death Date:** 28 Oct 1914  
**Death Location:** France & Flanders  
**Enlistment Location:** Shrewsbury  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** King's (Shropshire Light Infantry)  
**Battalion:** 1st Battalion  
**Number:** 7294  
**Type of Casualty:** Died of wounds  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
SURR, Stuart	Shropshire L.I.	Private	7294
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY BRITISH STAR	J/1102B2 276 G/114 90		Dead
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein 10-9-14			

He was awarded



The 1914 (Mons) Star with Clasp and Roses.

British War Medal Victory Medal





Clasp & Roses



In Memory of  
Private  
**Octave Stuart Surr**

7294, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 28 October 1914 Age 30  
Son of Peter and Elizabeth Amy Surr, of 46, High St., Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
**Boulogne Eastern Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

92723 Private  
**George Ellismore  
Taylor**



**13th Battalion  
Royal Welsh Fusiliers**

**Formerly**



**North Lancashire Regiment**

**George Ellismore Taylor.**

He was born early in 1900 in Ross. His parents were Henry Thomas Taylor a carter from King's Cagle and Emily Ellismore from Ross. They married in Ross on 17th December 1889. 1901 His father was a carter in the flour mill and originally from King's Cagle. 1911 George was at school and living at 7 Broadmead Terrace, Ross. His father was still at the Flour Mill and his sister Beatrice was a Daily Domestic. His parents had 6 children 3 still living and 3 had died.

**The Great War.**

40622 Private George Ellismore Taylor joined the army in early 1918 (presumably when he was 18) he was put into the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and following training transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and into the 13th Battalion. Soldiers in the N. Lancs regt. with similar numbers to Pte Taylor were sent to the front line in June 1918. It is likely he would have gone to France about July and spent a period of time at Etaples and then on to the RWF at the front. Royal Welsh Fusiliers with similar numbers start to appear on CWGC website at the beginning of September 1918 and it before

He therefore arrived at his regiment 13th RWF in August 1918. Below are details of his battalion from 1st August - 3rd September 1918.

1st August 1918. In the field. Tactical scheme practice counter attacks on Hedaville-switch. 2nd. Continue as yesterday. 3rd. Marched to Arqueves to watch demonstration of tracer ammunition. Afternoon holiday Divisional sports. 4th. Church Parades. Marched to Herissart and into billets. 5th. Coys at disposal of Coy Commanders, inspection prior to going in the line. Afternoon demonstration of message carrying rockets and tracer ammunition. 6th. Marched to Cardiff Camp and stayed until 8pm when moved to the line and relieved 10th Lancs. Companies distributed in depth. 4 Officers of 1st/318th American Infantry Regt. attached for instruction. 7th Aug. Considerable care needed because of 'booby traps' left in part of line just evacuated by enemy. 8th 1 Coy of 1st/318th American Infantry Bn. Attached for grade 'B' of training. 9th. Change in dispositions of Battns involved.

10th. Relief of American Coy. Seven patrols went out to try and find crossings of the Ancre, tracks found that all had been demolished at one part or another. 12th RWF relieved by 2nd Bn. 318 American Infantry Regt. moved back to billets in Forceville. 13th Cleaning and kit inspections. 14-17th Training. 17th Moved to Toutencourt B camp and POW Camp all in billets. 18th-22nd Training, practice tactical scheme and marched to Melbourne Copse and parties sent out to reconnoitre roads to Albert. 23rd Marched to assembly points at railway cutting. After preliminary bombardment Batt. attacked on a frontage of 2000 yards and carried objectives on a line from crucifix corner, Avelux to Albert-Bapaume Rd. capturing 2 field guns, 16 MGs, 150 prisoners and considerable booty. Casualties. 21 killed 122 wounded 19 missing 3 gassed.

24th Aug. Advanced to E. of La Boiselle. C Coy sent to Ovillers La Boiselle to mop up, reported village clear of enemy. 25th. Marched towards Contalmaison and then to assembly point at Mametz Wood arrived unopposed. 2 ORs gassed.

26th. After preliminary bombardment Batt. attacked Bazentin Le Grand Wood and village. After being held up for a considerable time by MG fire the wood and village were eventually carried and line advanced to East of village.

Casualties. 4 killed 27 wounded 5 missing 2 gassed.

27th 13th RWF were the advance guard on the march to Longueval without artillery fire. The Batt was held up by nests of MGs and suffered considerable casualties estimated at 100. In the afternoon the Batt. withdrew.

28th Reconnoitre parties sent out to Longueval and Delville Wood occupied a post in Longueval village.

29th Artillery put down a heavy barrage on Delville Wood. Brigade advanced on Ginchy with 13th RWF in support. Ginchy was taken without opposition. 30/31st. Batt. is reserve Battalion South of Delville Wood.

### September 1918.

1st. In the Field. At 2.30 marched to assembly points at Morval. At 4.45 after preliminary bombardment RWF in support with orders to mop up the village. After some opposition the village was captured. 10.20 new

positions heavily shelled, enemy reported as massing in North Copse and quarry for counter attack. Fired on by our artillery. 1pm situation quiet. 6.30pm Brigade in assembly point prior to attack on Saily Saillisel. 7pm following creeping barrage. 8pm Saily Saillisel occupied without opposition and our line established East of Village. Casualties. 7 killed 33 wounded 16 missing.

2nd. Reports of a strong counter attack being planned and positions taken up But did not materialise 5 killed 11 wounded.

3rd September 1918 2pm Advance on Hesnil and Arrouaise continued. RWF assembled on road, objectives achieved without opposition at 3.15pm. Coys took up position in trenches. At 9pm Took over positions of 14th RWF and occupied whole of the front. Casualties ORs 5 killed 6 wounded 3 missing.

One of those Killed in action on this day was Private George Ellsmore Taylor.

His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

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

**Name:** George Ellismore Taylor  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefordshire  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 3 Sep 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** The Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers  
**Battalion:** 13th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 92723  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre  
 Formerly 40622, North Lancashire Regiment.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
TAYLOR George E.	R. W. Fus.	Private	92723
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	52102330	9738	
Barricade			
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**George Ellismore Taylor**  
92723, 13th N., Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died on 03 September 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Vis-En-Artsis Memorial

 A photograph of the Vis-En-Artsis Memorial, a large stone structure with two tall pillars, situated in a cemetery with many white headstones.
 
 The logo of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, featuring a circular emblem with a central figure and the text 'COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION' around the perimeter.
 

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 236829 Sergeant Robert Frederick Taylor



1st Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Formerly



Herefordshire Regiment

## Robert Frederick Taylor.

He was born in Doods Road, Reigate in 7th August 1884. His father Robert Taylor was a Groom from Scarborough and his mother Alice Matilda was from Ledbury. 1891 They were living at 2 Low Green, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland. Robert's father was a Coachman. 1901 Robert's father was a licensed Victualler living in Homend St, Ledbury Robert was a Brewery Clerk. 1911 His parents were at the Golden Cross Inn, Stroud, Glos and his father was a 'Beer House Keeper'. Robert was a Brewery Traveller staying at the Royal Hotel Tap, Ross.

## The Great War.

His details are somewhat confused. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (usually very accurate) give his rank as Sergeant and regiment as Herefords. The 'Soldiers who died in the Great War' (also usually very accurate) site also give his rank as Sergeant, regiment as Herefords and attached to 1st KSLI, this is confirmed in the Ross Gazette 28th Dec. 1918 as 'died with the KSLI'. The Ross War Memorial also gives his regiment as KSLI. But his medal card gives his

rank as Private and only Herefords also a 6 digit number implies he joined after January 1917 (when 6 digit numbers were first issued to Herefords). I suspect he had another medal card with an earlier number on it.

To have become a Sergeant he must have enlisted at the start of the war. His medal card does not give him a 'Star' medal so he did not serve overseas prior to 1916 so was most likely in the 3rd Battalion. (The Herefords were a Territorial Force and were not required to serve overseas, at least in the early part of the war). Large numbers of men from the Herefordshire Regiment were transferred to the KSLI. In July 1916 the 3rd Batt. was over strength so 500 men were transferred to KSLI, of these 250 were sent immediately to France and were transferred to 11th Border Regt, Warwickshire Regt. and some to Cheshires. The remainder stayed with various Battalions of KSLI it is possible Sgt. Taylor was one of these but he may have transferred when the Herefords returned to France from Palestine in 1918.

It is uncertain when Sgt. Taylor joined the 1st KSLI at the front but a number

of Hereford Regt. men were transferred to 1st KSLI and their batch of numbers start to appear on CWGC 'killed in action' lists in June 1918.

*Details below include Extracts from the War Diaries.*

**On 27th June 1918** 23 'Other Ranks' arrived as reinforcements for 1st KSLI when they were at Vierstraat. The following day 28th June a fairly quiet day but hostile machine guns very active at night on roads and tracks leading to front line. Aerial activity hostile normal ours very active. 29th fairly quiet a few gas shells in back areas. 30th Hostile artillery very active all day on HQ and roads. 30th Heavy shelling of Micmac farm, aerial activity very active by day and night 1 killed 1 wounded.

**July 1918** Kemmel sector.

1st. Very quiet day aerial activity normal.

2nd Very quiet day hostile M/Guns still inactive. 3 ORs wounded.

3rd Increased activity by our artillery, aerial activity decreased owing to weather. 2 ORs wounded

4th Heavy shelling at night of Micmac Farm, enemy M/guns very active on tracks leading to front. 1 killed 3 wounded.

5th Hostile artillery above normal ours quiet. A prisoner of 174th Regt.

surrendered to 'A' Coy.

6th Trenches at Ouderdom. Very quiet relief.

7th. Working parties and football.

8th Working parties. D Coy withdrew to Ellarsyde Farm for bathing purposes.

9th-11th Working parties on the Ouderdom Line.

12th. Batt. rested 125 ORs for cable laying work.

13th. Quiet day.

14th 18th Brigade carried out successful raid capturing all objectives. Afternoon church parades.

15th. Preparation for trenches. Relief completed at 3.30 lot of shelling during relief. 2 wounded.

16th. Artillery carried out harassing fire. Information that an enemy attack expected on 18th astride Kemmel.

17th Lot of artillery activity at night.

18th Inter Coy relief. Enemy attack still expected, enemy artillery shelled back areas. 2 American Officers and 5 NCOs attached for instruction. 3 wounded.

19th. Quiet

20th Very quiet 2 prisoners said a big attack was due on 22nd.

21st. Quiet. Troops moved into assembly positions but attack did not take place. 4 wounded.

22nd at Dickebusch. Quiet, usual shelling. 4 limbers bolted from behind enemy lines Pte Nottage (Lewis Gunner) shot 6 horses and 2 were captured. 1 prisoner was also taken. 2 wounded.

23rd-26th Quiet, usual shelling Coy of 27th Americans attached. Heavy thunder at times. 1 killed 5 wounded.

27th Very wet, our artillery carried out harassing fire.

28th. Enemy artillery more active, shelled Dickebusch. Relieved by Buffs.

29th-31st Working parties heavily shelled by gas and HE at Dickebusch.

**August 1918,.**

Dickebusch. 6th, Enemy consistently shelled our heavy batteries. 7th reconnoitred Ouderdom line and quiet relief next day. 9th Quiet day

reconnoitred forward battle positions 1 killed 2 wounded. 10th Working parties found for both day and night.

Shelled by 8" and 4.5" Howitzers 1 killed 2 wounded. 11th Batt. HQ

shelled by HV guns. 12th Batt. relieved 105th American Infantry.

13th In the front line. Enemy captured

a post of 'A' Coy (1 NCO 6 men) retaken at dusk movement by day being impossible enemy snipers and MGs very effective. Casualties 5 killed 14 wounded 5 missing.

14th Day comparatively quiet. 2 killed 11 wounded. 15th Inter Coy relief 4 wounded. 16th The G.O.C and B.G.C visited considerable Trench Mortar activity and gas. 5 wounded (gas). 17th Hostile trench mortar fire at night otherwise quiet. 18th. Quiet day. 19th Quiet relieved by 107th American Infantry Regt.

20th at Ellarsyde day spent cleaning. 21st moved from Ellarsyde to Quelmes 22-28th At Quelmes training, church parades, 28th moved to Licques. 29th Batt at disposal of Coy C/Os for training and inspections. 30/31st Training, at disposal of Coy C/Os.

**September. 1918**

1st At Tilques. Marched to Arques then entrained to Heilly.

2nd. Each Coy found 2 officers and 100 men for unloading then remainder of day at rest.

3rd-11th Company training, practice attacks, baths and Batt. practice attacks. Divine service. On 11th marched to Aubigny.

12th-14th Coys at disposal of Coy commanders.

14/15th proceeded to Trebson.

16th Making preparations for the coming show.

17th The assembly point 400 yards East of St Quentin was reconnoitred. Before the Batt. left the bivouac area an aeroplane dropped bombs but no damage.

18th September 1918. Zero hour was 5.20am. The barrage opened at zero and Yorks & Lancs advanced to East of Fresnoy 1st KSLI started to move forward at 7am reaching the second assembly near the Green Line. At this time a very heavy mist covered the land. The first objective was taken by the Y & Lancs but they were unable to hold Fresnoy against counter attacks. KSLI and the Buffs now moved to the attack but the brigade to our right had failed to reach their objective, the fighting now became very bitter. The battle continued on the 19th Sept.

*Total casualties for both days were 11 Officers and 176 Other ranks.*

Sergeant Robert Frederick Taylor was killed in action on the 18th September 1918 as part of this battle. His body was not recovered and he is

commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

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

	Robert Frederick Taylor
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Reigate, Surrey
<b>Death Date:</b>	18 Sep 1918
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Ross, Hereford
<b>Rank:</b>	Sergeant
<b>Regiment:</b>	The Herefordshire Regiment
	1st Battalion (Kings Shropshire Light Infantry)
<b>Battalion:</b>	
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	236829
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	Western European Theatre
	Listed As Serving At The Time Of Death With The Above
<b>Comments:</b>	

Ross Gazette 28th December 1918 gave him as died with KSLI

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
TAYLOR.	HEREFORD R.	SGT	236829
Robert F.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/1106102	972	
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1880



He was awarded





British War Medal Victory Medal



In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**Robert Frederick Taylor**

236829, Herefordshire Regiment who died on 18 September 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Vis-En-Artois Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 10039 Private Arthur Willie Tyler Teague



1st Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Arthur Willie Tyler Teague

He was born 1st November 1893 and baptised 14th December 1895 he was living at Over Ross St. His father was George Teague and his mother was Alice Maud Tyler. In 1901 they were living at Copse Cross St. His father was Fitter/Labourer. 1911 Arthur was a Grocer's Porter and living at 4 Over Ross St.

## The Great War

Arthur Teague joined the Shropshire Light Infantry in 1912 (Number 10167 joined on 8th January 1913). He was posted to the 1st Battalion which was in Ireland at the time.

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

### August 1914.

August 4th at Tipperary. Battalion ordered to mobilize.

8th. Mobilization complete.

10/11th inoculated against Typhoid.

14th. Battalion left Tipperary and moved to Queenstown in two special trains. 15th-19th. The battalion moved to Cambridge Via Holyhead in SS Heroic, SS Kilkenny and SS Duke of Albany. 27th Battalion as part of 16th Infantry Brigade marched from Cambridge to Granchester and camped there until 7th September.

### September 1914

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

10th Sept. Disembarked and marched to rest camp at Le Grand Marais.

From 11th until 21st September the Battalion moved from Le Grand Marias 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 flight 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 Cruscobeau.

17th. The Brigade takes up a defence line North East of Rouge Du Bout. Connection is made with the French troops on our right.

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

19th. Bn. Marches to station South East of Armentieres, into billets at Bois

Grenier, brigade heavy fighting and Bn stands to arms from 3-4am.  
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.  
26th Oct. At Bois Grenier. Lt Verner Killed and 2 officers wounded.  
27th.Oct Remained in billets companies sent on carrying parties and 'stood to arms' at the sound of fighting.  
28th Oct. Batt. stayed at Bois Grenier in billets. Two companies to Toquet for night defence and is completed with serviceable rifles. 29th and 30th as yesterday.  
31st. Batt. is attached to 18th Brigade and moves to take over positions held by DLI.

**November.** At Rue Au Bois.  
1-4th. Relieved DLI in trenches.  
Snipers, shelling. The salient on our right was heavily bombarded but no casualties, followed by an infantry attack but not pushed home. 3 killed 12 wounded. 5th heavy shelling 2 casualties. 6th foggy Lt Jennings killed by sniper. 7th Heavy shelling but the attack was not pushed home. 8th foggy on 6th and 8th 150 reinforcements arrived. 9th Quiet except for snipers who killed 1 and wounded 3 men. 11th. Today was the most trying the Batt. has had heavy shelling and driving wind and rain 12 casualties. 12th Heavy shelling 6 casualties 14th Enemy snipers very active 7 casualties. Moved into billets at Les Quatres Chemins. Route marches and training. More reinforcements arrived. 24th-30th Nov. Flamingerie Ferme. Took over trenches from the Buffs. Shelling and repairing trenches. Very wet.

**December.** 1-8th. Wet and cold. Fairly quiet and sections of the trenches fall in. Relieved on 8th by Artists Rifles. 9th moved to Rue Del Pierre in Divisional reserve until 17th Dec. when took over trenches from

York and Lancs. 18th Day spent improving parapets 2 wounded. 19th Firing continued all day to prevent the Germans reinforcing the front opposite 4th Division 2 casualties. 20th Enemy to our front show increased activity, information that they have been reinforced by troops arriving in motor lorries sniping in an increased scale 2 wounded. 21st Dec. Information that an attack may be expected bit patrols found the enemy to be wiring. 22nd a fine day and the drying room is finished. 23rd Bn relieved and moved back to billets at Rue De Lettres. 24th and 25th December 1914 Bn. Remains billeted. 26th at Flamingerie and Bn Stands to Arms for expected attack, but the night passes without incident. 27th. Bitterley cold and the communication trench is a difficult problem as the water pits are insufficient to cope with the water draining in from both sides. 28th A wet night causes the trenches to fall in and the wire in front of our trenches is thickened. 29th Heavy continuous rain caused considerable damage to dug outs, parapets and communications trench, which latter cannot be used by ration parties, the enemy opposite seem to be in similar

difficulties as our snipers are frequently able to shoot at them as they cross the open. 30th Day is used to carry out repairs. 31st All men are continuously at work draining trenches, bridges are improved for barrels, doors, planks and fascines in many places the trenches are knee deep in water. 2 casualties.

## 1915

**January** 1st. Draining trenches and revetting parapet. 2nd Enemy snipers more active than usual. Relieved and moved to billets in Armentieres and stayed there until the 8th. On 9th took over trenches from Royal Fusiliers on the Lille-Armentieres Rd and were in a flooded condition. Repairs made to the breastworks and intermittent bouts of shelling and Bn relieved by Yorks and Lancs on 15th Jan. and back to billets at Armentieres. 16-19th remained in billets and returned to trenches on the 19th. Repairing breastworks and erecting wire until 23rd when relieved. Remainder of the month in billets and trenches. Repair work and on 31st Enemy more active than usual, relieved and back to Armentieres.



**February.** 1-6th in Billets. Bn. received orders to move to level crossing at Bois Greniers but cancelled before arrival at the crossing. C Coy employed putting out a fire in a Flax Factory set ablaze by an enemy incendiary shell, 5 men injured with burns. 7-14th in trenches enemy more active and considerable work required on breastworks and trenches. On 11th several signs of increased activity and a brisk fire fight in which we had 6 casualties. 15-19th in billets and on 20th back into the trenches until 26th several groups of Canadians and Loyal North Lancs attached to the Bn for training. Casualties for the period 4 men killed 9 wounded. 27/8th in Billets.

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

back to Armentieres. Remainder of month in trenches, billets and reserve. Some shelling ended month in Armentieres. 6 casualties.

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

**May.** 1st May S.E. Of Armentieres Some sniping, all trenches are shelled by light field gun during the morning. The supply of water to trenches is a difficulty with watercats necessary for the outposts. On 3rd German aeroplanes were flying over the lines. On the 6th Armentieres was shelled heavily with much damage done. 2 patrols were sent out and reported the enemy still present. 5 men wounded by one of our own howitzer shells. On the 9th bursts of rapid fire and machine gun fire in cooperation with the artillery on the German trenches and roads to the rear of their lines to assist the 4th Army. 11th-29th May. Hostile shelling, sniping including heavy shells. Enemy very active some days and unusually quiet on others 13 casualties for month. 30th Bn relieved by Foyal Sots and marched to billets in

Bailleul. 31st Bn is inspected by Rt Hon Mr Asquith and General Pultenay. A lecture on Asphyxiating gasses was given.

**June.** 1st Marches via Westoutre to bivouac between Vlamertinghe and Poperinghe. 5th Bn marched to dugouts along the Canal Bank N. Of Ypres and on 6th were heavily shelled with 6 casualties. 7/8th digging parties sent out to Weiltje line. 9th-16th relieved and in billets in Poperinghe. 17th Take over trenches from Sherwood Foresters at Potidje 3 wounded during relief. On 18th enemy shells fired into trenches and reserve at Chateau Wood 2 killed 9 wounded and 4 more wounded at night. 19th/20th The area allotted to Bn. heavily shelled in morning, our trenches being enfiladed by both flanks 1 killed 3 wounded, shortly after midnight the enemy shelled the area with gas and high explosive shells and gas attacks reported from Regiments North and South of the Bn. we had 8 killed and 10 wounded.. 21st Nothing of interest. 22nd. Heavily shelled 2 killed 2 wounded. 23/24th Quieter days. 25th Pouring wet day, Chateau Wood shelled. 26th More shelling then usual, increased sniping at night

and hostile aeroplane patrols over lines all day. 27th. Heavy artillery fire during day and enemies aeroplanes particularly active towards sunset. 29/30th Usual heavy shelling. Casualties since 17th June 12 killed 31 wounded.

**July** 1st at Pojitze. Support and communications trenches heavily shelled. 2nd Normal day. 3rd Chateau Wood shelled with gas shells and enemy aeroplane pays particular attention to our fire trenches. Bn relieved and back to billets at Poperinghe. On 11th Bn relieved DLI at La Brique. Difficult to get used to the trenches as so many unused trenches mixed with our fire and support trenches. 12/13th Heavily shelled and gas shelled. 14th A very wet day with little activity shown by the enemy 15th a normal day, time spent drying the trenches. 16th a wet day making our trenches very muddy and we supplied covering party for wiring party. 17th another wet day. C Coy shelled little sniping. 18th 400 men on digging party at Forward Cottages and we supplied covering party for them 2men killed. 19th the covering party was attacked but acquit themselves most creditably they had 2 killed and 8

wounded.. 20th Normal. 21st Our 60 pounders bombard the enemy and they retaliated blowing in the parapet 2 casualties. 22nd shelling during day, quiet at night. 23rd Usual shelling 3 wounded. 24th Very active sniping on both sides. Shelling in afternoon and evening. 25th Gas shells in afternoon. 26th A quiet day at night machine guns assisted by artillery disperse enemy working parties. 27th In morning the enemy shelled very heavily, several portions of trench were demolished 2 killed and 2 wounded, this was light considering the volume of shelling. 28-30th Billets at Poperinghe. 31st Marched to Chateau near Vlamertinghe to be ready to support 14th Division.

#### **August.**

1-5th In billets at Pottenhoek and bivouac at Poperinghe. 6th. Relieved Somerset L.I. at Hooge. Our lines heavily bombarded, trenches in very poor state due to very wet weather and shelling, 15 wounded. 7th Our lines again heavily bombarded 7 casualties, orders for attack next morning, but postponed for 24 hours.

8th August Enemy retaliates to our bombardment by shelling Zouave Wood. A shell fell into A Coys trench

killing 1 Officer and wounding 4 more as they discussed dispositions (1 OR was killed and 3 wounded as well). 1st KSLI took part in a very successful attack against the German lines. The casualties though were severe. 3 Officers killed and 9 wounded. 35 ORs killed, 156 wounded and 21 missing.

10th Aug. 3 men were killed and 7 wounded by shellfire before the relief could be completed.

11th August 1915. The Battalion was in billets East of Poperinghe and a draft of 144 Other Ranks arrived, it seems likely that Private Francis was part of this draft or the draft of 73 which arrived the next day. Stayed in billets until the 19th aug. 20th Marched to trenches at La Brique and relieved Worcesters. 21st Quiet day our snipers very active at night. 22-24th Fairly quiet, little shelling, a German working party near Canadian Farm stopped by our rifle fire. 25th considerable sniping by both sides. 26th. Retaliated with several rifle grenades. German working party stopped by volleys and rifle grenades. Some shelling behind our lines. One man wounded by sniper. 29th Heavy Guns and Field Guns bombarded the High

Command redoubt in German lines, Germans replied wounding 7 men. 30th moved to Brigade reserve at Canal Bank.

**September** 1915. 1st-3rd Brigade reserve at Canal Bank, 4th Moved to billets at Poperinghe. On 9th moved to trenches at Potijze and relieved DLI in front line. 10th a quiet night but in the morning heavily shelled, damaging parapet, 10 men wounded one of whom died next day. 11/12/13th quiet days artillery disperses German working party and destroys part of their trench. 14th More damage to German trenches they retaliate with 10 trench mortar shells wounding 10 men, in the afternoon 2 more men wounded by shrapnel and Capt. Parker and Lt Lyle also wounded attending to them. 15th 4 Shells landed in the trenches and caused 5 casualties. Batt. moved back to French Dugouts. On 17th Moved to support trenches at La Brique. Stayed there until 23rd when moved to the Wood at A30 until 26th Sept. Fairly quiet time with little shelling, numbers or reinforcements arrived, some men sent on courses. 27th-30th Sept, at La Brique, considerable hostile shelling, patrols went out at night and found German

wire intact. On 30th 'C' Coys salient was heavily trench mortared and 'D' Coys trench had three heavy shells burst over it killing one man and wounding 17. Later five shrapnel shells killed 2 and wounded 2 men. Otherwise the night was uneventful except for considerable shelling.

**October** 1915. La Brique. 1st Heavily shelled and trench mortared, no casualties but trenches considerably damaged. 2nd. Quiet day and relieved and back to billets in Poperinghe until 11th Oct. and back into trenches at La Brique until 22nd. Fairly quiet, intermittent shelling one or two casualties each day mostly from rifle fire, some heavy machine gun, rifle and shell fire from our brigade and resulting retaliation from Germans with some casualties. 22nd at Poperinghe, in the evening our machine guns relieve those of 5th KSLI at Hooge teams return to billets. Remainder of month in reserve at Hooge. On 27th A & C Coys heavily shelled at 11am near Abeele a ceremonial parade was held for His Majesty The King, each unit to supply 25 men and one officer, the men selected returned to Poperinghe and trenches next day. 28th 1 man killed and 2 wounded when transport

was returning through Ypres in the evening. 29-31st Quiet time one man killed carrying rations at night.

**November** 1915. Hooge

1st Shelled by Field Guns parapet blown in three places. 2nd Very wet all day trenches very wet and muddy one man wounded, very quiet day. 3rd more rain, parts impassable sections of parapet collapse. 4th Enemy snipers very active all day and night 1 man killed 1 wounded. 5th. The line is held more lightly and sections evacuated and moved to a support trench. 6th Quiet in morning and very foggy A Coy shelled 1 man killed 2 wounded. 7th Shellfire in vicinity of our trenches. 8th a quiet day 2 men wounded by machine gun fire, Ypres shelled in the evening delaying the transport for an hour. 9th C Coy shelled but only 1 shell hit the parapet. 10th. Quiet until 4pm when shelled and trench mortared 2 men killed and 3 wounded. Relieved and back to billets at Poperinghe. 11-19th Nov. Billets at Hop factory in Poperinghe. 20th Nov. moved to Camp A on Poperinghe-Proven Rd. Marched to Dugouts at Canal N.W. of Ypres. Then marched to rest camp. 21st-27th at rest camp, working parties, parades

cancelled because of heavy rain. On 28th moved to billets at the Covent, Rue De Boeschepe, Poperinghe in billets until 4th December.

**December** 5th 1915 Moved to Houtkerque and into billets until 15th Dec. Practice marches, opportunities for leave and courses. 16th December 1915 in Poperinghe. Batt. entrains and marches to trenches from Asylum, Ypres. Relieves 8th KRRC. Take over sections at Canal Bank and La Brique. 17th Dec. Trenches at La Brique in a very poor state owing to bad weather and neglect. The front line is a series of small posts with no communications between them and communications trenches to the rear are impassable. At 10.25 the enemy commenced a major bombardment in the area around Batt.HQ, in all about 2000 shells were fired in all with around 600 near HQ, their heavy guns were cooperating with their field guns. There were no casualties but much damage to the trenches. 18th. One man killed in the morning and two wounded. 19th Dec. at 5.15am the enemy made a gas attack with evidently a new type of gas. The gassing lasted about an hour after which the enemy assaulted our line in small bodies one

group of 10 and one of 30. but quickly sent back by rifle fire. The gas attack was said to extend from Vertorenhoeck Rd to the point where the British line crosses the canal. There was a heavy bombardment of our support trenches. After the gas clouds had blown over the eagerness of our men for the Germans to attack in force was shown by the fact that the men were seen to be singing.

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

Battalion casualties this day were:  
2 Killed, 14 Wounded, 4 Die of gas poisoning, 39 Suffering from effects of gas poisoning. The shelling continued throughout the night. 20th Dec. Almost incessant shelling all day on all trenches, communications, farms and defended posts behind our lines. The shelling continued and all ration dumping areas were bombarded. No communications with the front line owing to the telephone wires being cut by the shelling.

Casualties this day. 1 Killed, 13 Wounded, 3 More Die of effects of gas poisoning  
21st The shelling almost ceases until 4pm. At 5pm relieved and move back to billets in Poperinghe and Canal Bank, 22/23rd Working parties. 24th No working parties.  
25th Christmas Day. 2 Coys and Machine Gunners entrain at Poperinghe for the trenches at La Brique. 26th Dec. Intermittent shelling throughout the day, fortunately many do not explode but one landed in D Coy dugout killing three men. 27th. B and D Coy shelled by howitzers and field guns 3 killed and 3 wounded. 28th B and D Coys shelled again with some damage to trenches. 29th constant shelling throughout the day B and C Coys again severely shelled 1 killed and 6 wounded. Relieved and back to hutments in woods between Poperinghe and Vlamertinghe.  
31st Dec. 1915 At rest in hutments.

## 1916.

**January** 1/2nd In huts. 3rd. Back in trenches at La Brique. C and D Coys occupy front line and D Coy holding Morteldje Salient. A and B in support. 4th and 5th quiet nights 6th About 200 shells 1 officer killed and 3 men wounded a quiet night. 7th Little shelling. 8th Jan. About 3pm heavy shelling with 5.9s and field guns. Intense retaliation is demanded from our own guns which destroy about 20 yards of parapet. Fortunately no casualties. Batt. is relieved and returns to hutments in wood. 9th In hutments at Camp C until 13th when entrained for Burgomaster Farm and on to Canal Bank to relieve the Buffs. 14th Large working parties found to improve front and support trenches. Quiet night. 15-18th Canal Bank reinforcements arrive, little sniping or shelling, working parties still being found. Relieve the Buffs at the Forward Cottage sector (La Brique). 19th Shelled intermittently through the day. 20th Shelled during the morning but otherwise quiet. Patrols sent out to investigate enemy working parties in front of their lines, these are shrapnelled by our guns and rifle fire from our trenches. 21st A Coy

shelled and retaliation demanded which proves effective. 22nd Hostile aeroplane activity at night. 23rd. Quiet day and Bn moved back to Poperinghe and billets. 28th Bn. moved to Camp C.

**February.** 1/2nd At rest in Camp C large working parties 450 men found each night for work on front and support trenches. 3rd-7th Burgomaster Farm and Canal Bank large working parties found nightly. 8th Feb. La Brique. Suffolks on our right and Somersets on our left. The enemy artillery is very active and almost entirely concentrated on the roads behind our lines. 9/10th Front lines shelled but limited damage 3 wounded. 11th. Considerable hostile shelling. Bn Relieved by Bedfords. 12-15th At Poperinghe. 16th Moved to Camp D (previously called Camp C). stayed until 23rd. 24th Entrained at nearest Railway point and detrained at Asylum, Ypres and marched to Railway Wood near Hooze and relieved Sussex in front and support trenches. Sniping and machine gun fire during the night. 25th An uneventful day. 26th Quiet day. 27th Reinforcements arrive, heavy snow means trenches in very poor

condition. 28th Shelling of A Coy but otherwise quiet. One man killed on patrol. Our patrols have been particularly active this tour as the identity of the enemy is unknown. 29th Bn Relieved and back to billets.

**March.** 1-5th at Ypres. On 5th a shell dropped into the dry switch dugout wounding 4 men, one of whom died later. Relieved Bedfords in support trenches at Railway Wood. 6th At Hooze, a quiet day. 7th Heavy snow all day and little shelling as a consequence. 8th a quiet day but the guns carried out an organised bombardment at night but little retaliation. 9th. A few shells fired in the afternoon one of which was a Russian Shell. No damage done, quiet night. 10th A quiet day, relieved in the evening, returned to Camp D. 11- 13th At rest. On 14th the Division is relieved by the Guards Division and moves back to billets in the Calais area after a short spell in Poperinghe. In Calais until 26th March Training, inspections, bayonet fighting training, Coy training on the sands. 27th Moved to Zollebeeke 73 OR reinforcements arrived. 28th Continued march to billets at Herzelee.

29th Billeted in farms near Herzeele.  
31st a number of men received cards from Divisional Commander in appreciation of services rendered.

### April 1916

1st - 6th. In farms 1 mile west of Herzeele. Officers returning from courses, training. On 6th Bn moved to Poperinghe, Camp M. On 10th April 75 OR reinforcements arrived. Bn supplies 100 men for working party to bury telephone cable between Potijze and St. Jean. 11th Another 100 man working party to extend the cable from St Jean to La Brique. 15th Bn moved to Corner of Poperinghe-Proven road and on 17th marched to Brielen and Canal Bank. 18th Working parties. 19th The enemy capture a portion of the trench held by Bedfords who made an immediate counter attack but failed to recapture it. Bn ordered to move off. 20th April. Bn on East bank of the canal and supply carrying parties for rations, bombs, sandbags and shovels. Attack is planned but postponed because of the state of the ground and need for artillery preparation. 21/22nd April Bn. is detailed to recapture the trenches lost at Morteldje Estaminet sector. Attack carried out at

night with great success and the trench was taken from the enemy in spite of the impassable state of the ground. The attack was in three prongs, the right attack found the first trench unoccupied but then came under sustained rifle and machine gun fire suffering casualties and had to dig in as our guns were still firing on the salient. The Centre attack because of the state of the ground did not start the advance until 1am on 22nd. A and B Coys moved forward together in conjunction with the right attack. The centre came under heavy rifle fire and several men fell and were suffocated in the mud during the advance. As the men approached the trenches, the Germans hearing the cheers of the assaulting troops retired, a few Germans were found in the trench and were bayoneted and some shot as they retired. At 3am the enemy were massing for a counter attack and the Coys moved back to Willow Walk and when the counter attack came it was beaten off by Lewis gun and rifle fire. Left attack became detached before the advance and started at 2am. but the heavy mud and the wire caused an obstruction. Very great difficulty was experienced because of the depth of

the mud to prevent themselves from sinking in the men lay on the ground and pulled themselves along throwing their rifles in front of them as they progressed. a few Germans were found in the trench and those were killed the remainder 20 or 30 men retired in the face of the advance. Casualties.

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

Private Arthur Teague was Killed in Action on 22nd April 1916. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

By the time of the CWGC memorials were set in place (early 1920s) his parents had moved o Hereford.

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

**Name:** Arthur Willie Tyler Teague  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 22 Apr 1916  
**Death Location:** France & Flanders  
**Enlistment Location:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private King's  
**Regiment:** (Shropshire Light Infantry)  
**Battalion:** 1st Battalion  
**Number:** 10039  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action Western  
**Theatre of War:** European Theatre

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
TEAGUE A. W. T. <i>W. Teague</i>	1st Shropshire Light Inf.	Private	10039
Medal.	Holl.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/1/102.P.3.741		
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	f/114 93		Dead
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein 10-9-14			

He was awarded



The 1914 (Mons) Star British War Medal Victory Medal and was entitled to the Clasp & Roses.

In Memory of  
 Private  
**Arthur Willie Tyler Teague**  
 10039, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 22 April 1916 Age 22  
 Son of George and Alice Maud Teague, of Glencoe Villas, 31, Green St., Hereford.

Remembered with Honour  
 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

235346 L/Sgt  
**Philip John  
Thackway**



**1st/1st Herefordshire  
Regiment**

**Philip John Thackway**

Philip John Thackway born 20th February 1896 in Tudorville and christened in Ross on 5th April 1900, after his birth he seems always to have been known as John. His parents were John Thackway, a Blacksmith originally from Phocle Green and Sarah Ann White originally from Cheltenham. At the time of their marriage they were both living in Weston Under Penyard.

In 1901 the family were still living in Tudorville and Philip's father was still the Blacksmith. In 1911 they were at Chapel Road, Tudorville.

**The Great War**

1614 Private (Philip) John Thackway enlisted at Hereford into 1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment on the 8th August 1914, the same day as his brother Frederick William Thackway. The Herefords were a Territorial Force regiment and not required to serve overseas, but they could volunteer to do so if they wished. Following mobilization in August 1914 they received training and by early 1915 it was obvious that more trained men were needed for the fighting so many territorial units were sent to India and other parts of the Empire to relieve regular troops for France,

**Gallipoli.**

The decision to attack Turkey in the Dardanelles required another large force of men and the Territorial Force were called in for this duty and on 16th July 1915 the 1st Herefordshire Regt. left Devonport on the SS. Euripides for Egypt. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th and then sailed for Malta arriving on the 24th, they then sailed the same

day for Alexandria arriving on the 27th. On 31st they stopped at Port Said troops were allowed ashore to bathe and on 4th August all troops in excess of 25 Officers and 750 ORs were sent by train to Alexandria (2/Lt Lloyd and 193 ORs). Later on the 4th the Battalion sailed for Lemnos arriving in Mudros Harbour on the 7th August. The regiment landed at Suvla Bay from steam launches at 5.00am on the 9th August. They were then employed in getting water and stores up from 'C' beach. The men had some bully beef, biscuit and lime juice at 1pm. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed.



10th August The Battalion moved up the line of the Azmak Dere and were met with heavy shrapnel fire but little or nothing was seen of the enemy except snipers whose fire was galling but no officers were hit.

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

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

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

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

They fought throughout the Gallipoli campaign until December 1915.

### 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.

### 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. In late October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza. 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 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.

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 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 bivouacked 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.

L/Sgt. Philip John Thackway was Killed in Action in this battle on 15th October 1918.

He is buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery and commemorated On the Ross War Memorial. Four weeks before the end of the war.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
THACKWAY, John	Hereford R	Lt	20846
		* Cpl	

Medal	Date	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	* 7/11/18	213	How to 235246
BRITISH	20	20	
15 STAR	7/11/18	22	

Theatre of War first served in (20)  
Date of entry therein 9-2-18

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal.





In Memory of  
Lance Serjeant

## Phillip John Thackway

235346, 1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 15 October 1918 Age 22

Son of John and Sarah Anne Thackway, of Milo Cottage, Tudorville, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Hooge Crater Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Philip's brothers also served. Frederick Thackway who was also in the Herefordshire Regiment his number was 1615 and Philip's was 1614. On 14th October 1915 he received a serious Gunshot wound to right leg at Gallipoli and he was sent back to UK 26/10/15 until 6/7/16 when he was discharged the army at Military Hospital Winchester 'unfit for home service or light duties' He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal. Victory Medal and the silver War Badge.

Harry joined the KSLI (King's Shropshire Light Infantry), the transferred to the Berkshire Regt and then to the Army Cyclist Corps.

George was in the Labour Corps 632586 Private (Middlesex Regiment)

# 25830 Private Herbert James Tingle



1/4th King's Shropshire Light  
Infantry

## Herbert James Tingle

He was born at 2 The Nursery, Ross on 24th January 1899 and baptised on October 22nd 1900. His parents were Henry Tingle a Blacksmith from Ross and Eliza Jane Ashley originally from Sellack. 1901 census Living at 2 The Nursery. His father was a Blacksmith. His mother Eliza Jane died and was buried in Ross on 9th January 1908.

6th June 1909 his father re-married Elizabeth Meredith a widow (Nee Lloyd) 1911 His sister Emily was a domestic servant in Finchley, London. The rest of the family were living in 9 Kyrle St, Ross. Herbert was now Berty.

In August 1914 Private Herbert Tingle joined the 1st Battalion KSLI and on 2nd November 1914 went to France. He was 15 Years 10 months old.

## The Great War

His number 10388 implies he joined up in August 1914. He was in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and was sent to France on 2nd November 1914 Aged 15. He was with the 1st Battalion KSLI.

**November 1914.** At Rue Au Bois. 1-4th. Relieved DLI in trenches. Snipers, shelling. The salient on our right was heavily bombarded but no casualties, followed by an infantry attack but not pushed home. 3 killed 12 wounded. 5th heavy shelling 2 casualties. 6th foggy Lt Jennings killed by sniper. 7th Heavy shelling but the attack was not pushed home. 8th foggy on 6th and 8th 150

reinforcements arrived. 9th Quiet except for snipers who killed 1 and wounded 3 men. 11th. Today was the most trying the Batt. has had heavy shelling and driving wind and rain 12 casualties. 12th Heavy shelling 6 casualties 14th Enemy snipers very active 7 casualties. Moved into billets at Les Quatres Chemins. Route marches and training. More reinforcements arrived.

24th-30th Nov. Flamingerie Ferme. Took over trenches from the Buffs. Shelling and repairing trenches. Very wet.

**December.** 1-8th. Wet and cold. Fairly quiet and sections of the trenches fall in. Relieved on 8th by Artists Rifles. 9th moved to Rue Del Pierre in Divisional reserve until 17th Dec. when took over trenches from York and Lancs. 18th Day spent improving parapets 2 wounded. 19th Firing continued all day to prevent the Germans reinforcing the front opposite 4th Division 2 casualties. 20th Enemy to our front show increased activity, information that they have been reinforced by troops arriving in motor lorries sniping in an increased scale 2 wounded. 21st Dec. Information that

an attack may be expected bit patrols found the enemy to be wiring. 22nd a fine day and the drying room is finished. 23rd Bn relieved and moved back to billets at Rue De Lettres. 24th and 25th December 1914 Bn. Remains billeted. 26th at Flamingerie and Bn Stands to Arms for expected attack, but the night passes without incident. 27th. Bitterly cold and the communication trench is a difficult problem as the water pits are insufficient to cope with the water draining in from both sides. 28th A wet night causes the trenches to fall in and the wire in front of our trenches is thickened. 29th Heavy continuous rain caused considerable damage to dug outs, parapets and communications trench, which latter cannot be used by ration parties, the enemy opposite seem to be in similar difficulties as our snipers are frequently able to shoot at them as they cross the open. 30th Day is used to carry out repairs. 31st All men are continuously at work draining trenches, bridges are improved for barrels, doors, planks and fascines in many places the trenches are knee deep in water. 2 casualties.

*We don't know how long he was with the 1st Battalion but his medal card says he was with them in 1914. He may have stayed with them until 1917 and then transferred to 1/4th Battalion but it is more likely he was sent back to UK either wounded or his true age was discovered. He did however serve with the 1/4th Battalion and was with them when he died.*

It seems most likely from his 'second' number (25830) that he transferred to the 5th KSLI. The 4th KSLI were a Territorial Force Battalion and had digit numbers but the 5th had 5 digit and the CWGC has a huge number of Killed in Action soldiers listed with numbers similar to Private Tingle's. In February 1918 the 5th KSLI was disbanded and its remained troops were dispersed to other KSLI Battalions. 109 to the 4th KSLI.

#### 4th KSLI

**February 1918.** 4th Feb. Draft of 2 officers and 107 ORs arrived from 5th KSLI. 5th Took over left centre at Welsh Ridge. 11th Relieved by 9th RW and moved into support trenches at Wood Trench. 14th Relieved by Hawke Batt and moved by route march and light railway to Albert arriving on 22nd Feb. In Billets at Bouzincourt

training and re-organising until end of month.

**March. 1918.** 1st. Batt in billets 7. Marched to Albert then train to Bapaume and marched to camp. Stayed until 13th with groups off on study groups, training on Metz defences and practices. 21st. Moved to Sanders camp 3 wounded in transit from shellfire. 22nd moved to Fremicourt and into the trenches, moved according to orders to vicinity of LeBucqiere to take up position in support of front line and consolidate. 23rd. SOS put up by front line, repeated by support, no artillery response. Enemy reported to be advancing in large numbers on Bapaume-Cambrai Rd. 25th Div. withdrawing across Rd and passed through the Batt. Batt. right flank left exposed. Enemy seen crossing Bapaume-Cambrai Rd in large numbers, engaged at long range by Lewis Guns of A & B Coys. A Coy having been withdrawn from post by Beetroot factory that morning. 11am Large bodies of troops seen moving towards Le Bucqiere orders to withdraw fighting to the Green Line. 1.15pm Attack seen to be developing from Beugny Batt. ordered to withdraw

to Bancourt and reorganise as far as possible. Spent the night in trenches ready to support the Green Line. 24th March. Orders to move up in readiness to support Green Line 10pm Batt ordered to take up positions on the Bapaume-Albert Rd. 25th 8.30am Rt flank hurried withdrawal to ridge North of road. Batt. fought until 11.30. Casualties heavy and ammunition running short. Batt ordered to withdraw through Grayvillers. 26th. Alarm sounded in Hebuturn Batt get clear of village of Saily En Bois and advance in extended order driving Huns back, into billets at Saily. 27th in Saily 28th - 31st Back to Caestre and then into billets at Kemmel.

**April** 1-6th at Gable Camp, Wulverghem re-fitting. 10th April Batt ordered to Stand by. Ordered to move to slope of Hill 63 casualties in move 2 killed 4 wounded. 11th. 1pm Enemy attacked heavily on right rear, one Coy sent forward to counter attack Le Petit Munque farm defensive flank forms HQ. 7pm Heavy barrage on Hill 63 Staffs, Cheshires and Wilts start to withdraw through us. 9pm Batt withdraws to Army Line. 11pm Batt

takes up position on Army Line at Wulverghem-Neuve Eglise Rd. 12th. Day fairly quiet, enemy attacked line but were repulsed by rifle and Machine Gun. 13th. Small pockets of the enemy penetrated into Neuve Eglise but were driven out. Moved to Army Line north of Neuve Eglise. 14th Line shelled and Batt. withdrawn to line parallel with Neuve Eglise, enemy occupy part of village. The remainder of the month saw them largely in support and training and reorganisation and by the 30th they were in position of assembly at Ouderdom.

Private Herbert Tingle was Killed in Action on 29th April 1918. He is buried at Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



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

**1919**

**Name:** Herbert James  
**Birth Place:** St. Mary's, Ross  
**Death Date:** 29 Apr 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Ross  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 1st 4th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 25830  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** European Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
TINGLE	1st Shropshire LI	Private	10388
H. J. Tingle			25830
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J 1/102	B9 2544	
BRITISH			
14 STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein	2-11-14		
<i>8/623744/x                  WS/3/3659 K 1986</i>			

*O/c. Dep. Recs. Shrewsbury* Correspondence. *but of deceased soldiers for whom Medal Release cannot be traced. 16.10.20*

**He was awarded**



**The 1914(Mons) Star British War Medal Victory Medal  
 And was entitled to the Clasp & Roses**

In Memory of  
 Private  
**Herbert James Tingle**

25830, 1st/4th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 29 April 1918 Age 20  
 Son of Henry Tingle, of 5, Berryfields, Ross, Herefordshire, and the late Eliza Jane Tingle.

Remembered with Honour  
 Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



24984 Private  
**Percival John  
Tingle**



6th Battalion  
Lancashire Fusiliers  
Formerly



4768 Herefordshire Regiment



Percival John Tingle

**Percival John Tingle**

He was born 28th March 1897 at 38 The Nursery, Ross and baptised on 25th April same year at Ross-on-Wye. His father was John Henry Tingle a painter born in Brampton St, Ross baptised 9th May 1869 the son of James and Paulina Tingle.



John Henry Tingle Ann Spreadbury  
His mother was Ann Spreadbury born 13th December 1867 in Amesbury, Wiltshire. They had married 8th June 1896 in Amesbury. In 1911 they were living at 46 Nursery Rd, Ross.

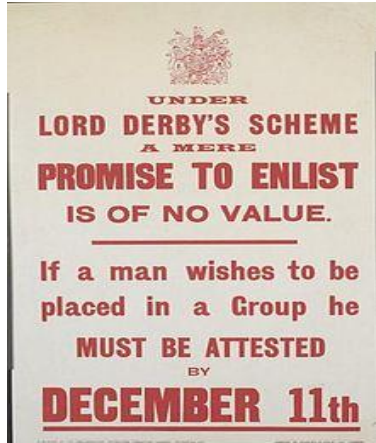
Prior to the Great War Percy worked at the Alton St. Brewery Ross.

**The Great War**

Percival Tingle joined the Herefordshire Regiment (Territorial Force) and from his number about November/December 1915 under the Derby Scheme. He was born in 1897 he would have been in Group one (first to be called up).

On 11 October 1915 Lord Derby brought forward a programme called the Derby Scheme Men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would soon cease and that the last day of registration would be 15

December 1915 Men who attested under the Derby Scheme, who were accepted for service and chose to defer it were classified as being in "Class A". Those who agreed to immediate service were "Class B



He was mobilized 28th March 1916. This was under the conscription rules and as such would have had no say in which regiment he was allocated to. He was sent to 6th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. There is no evidence of when Private Tingle went to France to join the Lancashire Fusiliers but the CWGC website only starts to list soldiers in that unit and with numbers in the 24000 26000 range on its 'Killed in Action' files from the start of October 1918. It seems fairly certain therefore that he arrived with his unit about Sept/Oct 1918.

*The following contains extracts from the Regimental War Diaries.*

Haudricourt 6th September 1918. A draft of 2 Officers and 55 ORs arrived and were taken on the strength. 7th Sept. Weather fine. C/O inspected draft, a further draft of 11ORs arrived and were taken on strength. Batt. training. 9th Weather wet, heavy rain, voluntarry church services. 10th weather stormy and training in afternoon rather than morning, lecture for all officers and NCOs in YMCA tent on 'attack in mobile warfare'. 11th Training as per programme. A lecture by Dr Irvine was given to all ranks on 'The history of the American Army' which was much appreciated. 12th Route march and later lecture on Machine guns. 13th Training as per programme. 14th Cross country run. 15th Voluntary church services, training as per programme. 16th Weather fine bright sunshine all day. Coy training, Batt. sports in afternoon, Heats and finals of Batt. sports. 17/18th Coy training, route march,. 19th. Prepare to move, Batt inspected in full marching order. 20th marched out and entrained at Formerie and moved to Manin. 21st Showery. 22nd Batt resting in morning marched

out at 14.00 and moved to Lignereuil and moved into billets there. 23rd Platoon training. 24th -28th Training, route marches, demonstrations of height and communications with aeroplanes. 28th Weather stormy and moved to Corbie into billets. 29th Moved to Harbonnieres. 30th Batt resting and cleaning up. Batt sick numbers in past month extremely low admissions to hospital 2 Officers 42 ORs.

**October**

1st. Batt. moved to Cappy into huts, these had been occupied until recently by the Germans and needless to say they were in a filthy condition. 2-4th at Montaban training. 5th7th - at Mouliaus, St Emilie and Le Catelet. 8th Oct. On the move. Formed up in diamond formation and at 5.45 marched from the point of assembly moved to verger Farm and at 11.50 reported that Villers Outreaux had been captured. Batt. moved forward to the Green Line. Casualties 2 killed 2 missing 21 wounded. 9th weather fine, Batt gto continue the advance to clear the outskirts of Elincourt and capture Pinon Woods...The Batt. advanced but our

barrage was late coming down and when it did eventually commence it came down on our forward troops causing casualties, the early mist stopped the advance and it started again when the mist cleared. The 1st objective was taken (Boise De Pinon) at 8.45 and the final Marez-Clary at 10.50. Batt. put into Divisional Reserve.

Casualties 2 killed, 1 died of wounds, 9 wounded, 2 missing.

8th November 1918. Weather changeable, orders to move forward to La Croiselles F.M.E. in close support to 5th Enniskillen Fusiliers. At 13.00 had advanced to F.M.E La Jonquierre. In close support to 5th Ennisk. who were held up in front of the wood but were not in touch with the troops on the left. At 12.15 the 5th Ennisk. were reported to have crossed the Avesnes-Maubuege Rd and at 12.55 it was reported that our line was established on this road along the whole Divisional front. At 13.10 "A" "B" & "C" Coys were instructed to commence the advance on the final objective at 14.00 hours. The 5th Connaughts were held up on our right and the Brigade Commander ordered one section 100th

MG Coy to support the battalion to be used if necessary as a defensive flank to the right. At 15.30 information was received that the enemy were holding houses at E26d with machine guns and that 1 platoon had suffered heavy casualties and required support. At 15.25 one platoon 6th R.D.F Moved forward to support left flank of "C" Company with another ready if necessary 15.45 O.C "C" Coy reported he was in line with 6th R.D.F and pushing forward but not in touch with "B" Coy on his right. No information had been received from either "A" or "B" Coys since 14.00 and orderlies who had been sent forward with messages returned at 18.35 having failed to locate either company. Information was received from the two companies at 18.55 that they were held up by M.G.Fire during the afternoon (frontal and enfilade) and as the troops on the right and left were not in line they were unable to push forward to final objective. Companies were holding the line with no touch to troops either right or left. 2nd Line of defence held by Vickers Machine Gun and Lewis Machine Guns on Avesnes-Maubuege Rd had been withdrawn into

reserve. At 21.30 touch was made with Scottish Horse on our left.

Casualties Killed. 2/Lt H. Wilson and 5 Other Ranks  
Wounded 31 Other Ranks.

Private Percival John Tingle was one of those killed in action on this day. He is buried Pont-Sur-Sambre Communal Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

[UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919](#)

<b>Name:</b>	Percival John Tingle
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross, Hereford
<b>Death Date:</b>	8 Nov 1918
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Ross-on-wye, Hereford
<b>Rank:</b>	Private
<b>Regiment:</b>	Lancashire Fusiliers
<b>Battalion:</b>	6th Battalion
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	24984
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	Western European Theatre
<b>Comments:</b>	Formerly 4768, Herefordshire Regt.



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
TINGLE	Lanc. Fus	Pte	24984
Perival J.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	H/1/01819	3875	
BARRIS	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**P J Tingle**

24984, 6th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 08 November 1918 Age 21

Son of John Henry and Ann Tingle, of 12, Brixton Terrace, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
**Pont-Sur-Sambre Communal Cemetery**

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 10204 Private Walter Reginald Tingle



1st Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Walter Reginald Tingle

He was born 29th November 1896 at No 1 The Nursery, Ross and baptised on 25th January 1897. He was the brother of Herbert Tingle who is also commemorated in this document. His parents were Henry Tingle a Blacksmith from Ross and Eliza Jane Ashley originally from Sellack. 1901 Living at 2 The Nursery. His father was a Blacksmith. His mother Eliza

Jane died and was buried in Ross on 9th January 1908. 6th June 1909 his father re-married Elizabeth Meredith a widow (Nee Lloyd). 1911 His sister Emily was a domestic servant in Finchley, London. The rest of the family were living in 9 Kyrle St, Ross. Herbert was now Berty and Walter was Reggie..

## The Great War

Walter Reginald Tingle joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) about June/July 1914 certainly just before the war. He was posted to the 1st Battalion and went with them to France on 10th September 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

*The following contains extracts from the War Diaries.*

### 1st Battalion, 1914-18

Regular battalion, based in the UK and Ireland, 1903-14.

In Tipperary in August 1914 when mobilised for war, when it joined 16th Brigade, 6th Division and landed at St.Nazaire, France September 10th.

### 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 Marias 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 o 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 place 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 Cruscobeau.

17th. The Brigade takes up a defence line North East of Rouge Du Bout. Connection is made with the French troops on our right. 18th. The Bn. Holds itself in readiness to march, order received at 2pm. At the crossroads at Bois Grenier orders that the Bn will be in Corps Reserve. At 4pm into billets. 19th. Bn. Marches to station South East of Armentieres, into billets at Bois Grenier, brigade heavy fighting and Bn stands to arms from 3-4am. 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.

Private Walter Reginald Tingle 'Died of wounds' on 25th October 1914 arising from one of the above engagements. He has no known grave but as he Died of Wounds it would appear he was buried but his place of burial was destroyed in later shelling.

He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial and Ross War Memorial.

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

**Name:** Walter Reginald Tingle  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 25 Oct 1914  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 1st Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 10204  
**Type of Casualty:** Died of wounds  
 Western  
**Theatre of War:** European Theatre

**He was awarded**

53			
Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
TINGLE	Shropshire LI	Private	10204
Walter			
Metal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J/1/10204	475	
BRITISH	J/1/10204	96	Dead.
14 STAR			
22/2/2921			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein 10-9-14 6/6/28/3 ws/s/3459 K.1886			

*Correspondence*  
 s/c Inf. Recs. Shropshire LI. List of deceased soldiers for whom Medal Release cannot be traced. 16.10.70.



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

In Memory of  
 Private  
**Walter Reginald Tingle**  
 10204, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 25 October 1914

Remembered with Honour  
 Ploegsteert Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# Lieutenant Alexander Arnold Tippet



2nd Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry  
formerly  
1834 Private A. A. Tippet



28th London Regiment  
Artists Rifles.

## Alexander Arnold Tippet

He was born in West Kirby, Cheshire and baptised on 28th May 1893. His father was Henry Grendon Tippet born 15th Dec 1843 in New Brunswick, Canada, a managing director of India Rubber Factories and East India Merchant. He died 23/12/1905 and was buried in Ross on 26th. His mother was Edith Harriette Jackson born in Manchester about 1855 she died on 2nd May 1933 in Worthing, Sussex. They had married in 1877 in Kendal, Westmorland. By 1911 the family had moved to the Cleave in Ross.

## The Great War

1834 Private Tippet enlisted into the 28th (County of London) Regiment (Artists Rifles) at the start of the Great War, his number indicated sometime in August 1914. 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.

Following basic training he was sent to join the Artists Rifles on 29th December 1914. He arrived at his unit on 1st January 1915 at Bailleul. On that day 45 probationary Officers were sent for machine gun training at St Omer, Forty new candidates were sent to Major Cowie. The Colonel forms new training squads of about 70. Company Training. 2nd Jan. Company training. 3rd Jan. Divine service. 6th-9th Jan. Company training. 10th Jan. Church Service. 11th. Company training. 12th Jan. Draft of 136 men arrived with two officers. 14th Jan. Orders for the battalion to adopt the four company system. Men sent to and returned from Machine gun school. For the remainder of the month is was company training, machine gun school. church parades, men sent to St Omer for training as instructors. On 30th Jan. 153 men and two officers arrived. February 1915 consisted of more company training, church parades, large groups of men going to St Omer for machine gun training and also to Major Cowie's school of instruction. Several men sent back to England for temporary Artillery Commissions.

March 1915. The battalion seems to be getting into its stride as far as training officers is concerned. The month consists mainly of company training, divine services and sending men on courses. 5th nine men sent to school of instruction, 13th a second class sent to Machine Gun School, 22nd thirty men sent to school of instruction. 23rd fifteen more men sent to school of instruction. 30th more parties for school of instruction. 31st divine service held by Bishop of London.

April. 1915 at Bailleul.

2nd April. The Battalion moved by Motor Omnibuses to St Omer.

3rd April. The Battalion took over the Garrison guards and duties examining posts from the 6th Cheshire Regt.

4th April. Guards, church parades.etc.

5th-7th April. Guards, fatigues, cleaning up barracks. 8th April NCOs to machine gun training and 26 men to school of instruction at Bailleul.

9th/10th April. Guards, fatigues and training. 11th April. Divine service, 12/13th April. Guards, fatigues and training. 14th April. Inspection by General Stopford.

15/16/17th. Guards, fatigues and training. 18th April. Divine service.

19th April. Guards fatigues and training. Drill party for school of instruction.

20-24th April. Guards, fatigues and training. 25th April. Divine service. 46 men to school of instruction at Blendiques. 26th April. Guards etc. Guard of honour for General Joffre. 27-29th April. Guards, drill party etc. 30th April. One officer and 25 men sent to Hazebrouck as guard to the C-in-C. 1-4th May. Guards etc. Divine service. 5th May. 3 Officers and 40 men to Hazebrouck. 6-10th May.

Guards etc. Divine service. 11th May 30 men to school of instruction Blendiques.

12-14th May. Guards, fatigues, training. 15th. May Draft of 100 men arrived from England. 16-24th May Guards, drill, fatigues, training and Divine service.

25th May 1915 Private Tippet was commissioned 2/Lt into 2nd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI).

That day the 2nd KSLI were involved in a battle at Ypres and their casualties were 2 Officers killed, 7 Officers wounded and 192 Other Ranks Killed, Wounded or Missing. 2nd Lt Tippet joined the regiment on 1st June 1915

at Dranoutre, they then marched to Steenwerck and then on 3rd June relieved the North Stafford Regiment in the trenches at Armentieres. They stayed in the trenches until the 5th June when they moved into billets, casualties for this period were 6 killed or wounded. On the 8th they were back in the trenches 1 killed 3 wounded. Stayed in the trenches at Armentieres until the 14th June Casualties 8 killed or wounded. Back in billets until 17th June, during this period another 4 Junior Officers joined from the Artists Rifles. 18th-23rd June back in the trenches casualties 10 killed or wounded. 24th relieved by 4/KRRC. Remained in billets until 27th when relieved the Royal Scots in the trenches. In trenches until 1st July on 29th June another officer from Artists Rifles joined.

1st July Relieved by 4/KRRC and back into billets. On 2nd. 3 Officers and 4 ORs were wounded by a shell while parading in the street. 5th July back in the trenches at Armentieres until the 9th when relieved by 4/KRRC, casualties for this period were 10 killed or wounded. 10th July in billets in Armentieres 1 OR wounded, 11th Company relief in support trenches, 1

OR killed. 12th in billets 1 OR wounded. 13th July relieved 3/KRRC in trenches. 14th In trenches town of Armentieres heavily shelled all day. 15/16th in trenches 1 OR killed and 3 wounded. 17th in trenches, in evening relieved by 9th and 6/8th DLI (Durham Light Infantry) and marched to bivouac in fields near Steenwerck. 18th - 31st July in bivouac at Steenwerck.

August 1915. 1st. Steenwerck. C/O and all Coy Commanders visited new trenches battalion was to occupy. 2nd. In bivouac battalion relieved 2nd Gloucester Regt in trenches at Bois Grenier in evening.



**The Barbed wire front at Bois Grenier  
August 1915**

*Belts of wire protected the front-line trenches. These were placed far enough from the trenches to prevent*

*the enemy from approaching to within grenade-throwing distance. Sometimes barbed-wire entanglements were designed to channel attacking infantry into machine-gun and artillery fields of fire. Armies therefore tried to destroy the wire with artillery prior to any offensive, often with mixed results. Soldiers on all sides hated the wire and dreaded getting caught in it. A classic British song, entitled 'Hanging on the Old Barbed Wire', summed up this fear:*

*If you want to find the old battalion, I know where they are, I know where they are, I know where they are. If you want to find the old battalion, I know where they are. They're hanging on the old barbed wire. I've seen 'em, I've seen 'em, hanging on the old barbed wire. I've seen 'em, I've seen 'em, hanging on the old barbed wire.*

3rd Aug. Bois Grenier - 4 ORs missing believed killed or reconnoitring patrols.

4th Aug. In trenches.

5th Aug In trenches 2 ORs wounded.

6th Aug. In trenches 2 ORs wounded.

7th Aug. In trenches 1 OR killed 1 wounded.

8th Aug. In trenches 2 ORs wounded.

9th Aug In trenches battalion relieved in evening by 4/R Bde and went into bivouac at Gris-Pot

10-12th Aug. In bivouac at Gris-Pot

13th Aug. In bivouac, bivouac area shelled by enemy. Lt Col. Bridgford appointed Brig. Gen to 18th Inf. Bde.

14th Aug. In bivouac Batt. commanded by J H Bailey vice Lt Col. Bridgford.

15th Aug. In bivouac. 1 OR slightly wounded

16th Aug. In bivouac battalion relieved 4/R Bde in trenches. 1 OR slightly wounded.

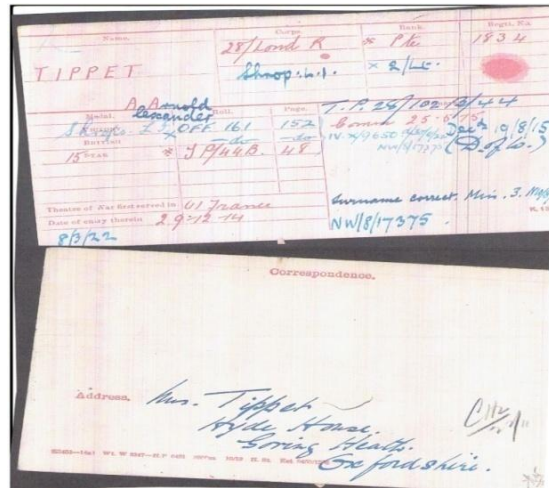
17th Aug. Bois Grenier. In Trenches 3 ORs slightly wounded.

18th Aug. In trenches.

19th August 1915. Bois Grenier in trenches. 2/Lt A.A. Tippet killed.

He was Killed in Action at Chapelle d'Armentieres (Bois Grenier) on 19th August 1915. He is buried at Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension. He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial and the Artists Rifles Memorial book.

*Artists Rifles. Regimental Roll of Honour and War Record 1914-1919*



He was awarded the



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





The trenches at Bois Grenier 1915/16

In Memory of  
Second Lieutenant  
**Alexander Arnold Tippet**

2nd Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 19 August 1915 Age 22

Youngest son of the late Henry Grendon Tippet and of Edith Harriette Tippet, late of The Cleeve, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# S4/ 058561 Private Thomas Hubert Tompkins



59th Aux. Petrol Coy.  
Royal Army Service Corps

## Thomas Hubert Tompkins

Born 26th August 1892 in Walford and baptised on 30th October. His parents were James Tompkins and Amelia Williams. 1901 They lived at Warrefield, Walford. Father was a waggoner (Agricultural Horse Man),

William was a cowman and Amelia came from Llangarron. 1911 Father was a waggoner, James a gardener and the other sons were all farm labourers. They lived at Warrefield, Walford.

He married Edith Maria Beizsley in 1915 in Ross she was from Upton Bishop..

### The Great War

His army number S4/058561. The S4 section of the number - S - The man served in the Supply section of the ASC. The prefixes SS and S1 to S4 are often seen. S1 to S4 mean that the man was enlisted into the first to fourth Army depending on the number after the S.

He was in the 59th Auxiliary Petrol Company. This means he was in a Company which used Petrol driven vehicles (*Auxiliary (Petrol) Companies had petrol-driven lorries; Auxiliary (Steam) Companies had steam-driven lorries or traction engines; Auxiliary (Horse) Companies had horse-drawn wagons*)

There is no information about when he went to France or what his service was there.

He was in 59th Petrol Company, which would imply he was with the 59th ASC

Divisional Train and they fought in 1918

After a long period of rest and training, the Division took over the front line at Bullecourt on 11 February 1918, with HQ being established at Behagnies. Much work was done of strengthening the line for defence against expected enemy attack.

*The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March)^ (only 177th Bde and the artillery were in action on 22-23 March)* After suffering heavy casualties from German shellfire on 21 March, the enemy infantry succeeded in breaking through the Division's position where it met that of 6th Division in the valley of the River Hironnelle. Parties held on and continued to resist but were gradually destroyed and "mopped up". Fewer than 100 men of the 176th and 178th Brigades which had been holding the front line before the attack were assembled at roll call. Two battalion commanding officers were killed in action. At 7pm, the Division was officially relieved but 177th Brigade and various parties of ancillary units remained to take part in the continued defence.

*The Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March)^* The next ten days were chaotic, as

parties and individuals reassembled and the location of HQ meandered west, going via Bucquoy, Bouzincourt, Contay and Fienvillers to Villers-Chatel. On 1 April, the remnants of the Division moved by train to the Poperinge area in Flanders, leaving its artillery behind. New drafts of men arrived and on 5 April the Division took over the front line at Passchendaele, without having had any real opportunity to assimilate these drafts let alone train them.

*The Battle of Bailleul (14-15 April)*

On 13 April, the Division was ordered to reinforce the Lys area that was under terrific enemy attack. 177th Brigade was split off to reinforce 19th (Western) Division north of Neuve Eglise (Nieuwkerke), while the rest moved to Westouter. A 6000 yard long line (that is, very thinly held) was taken over near Loker and here in the middle of 14 April, the units came under violent attack. The enemy broke through on the left and the British line crumbled. Bailleul fell and 176th and 178th Brigades fell back in disarray on Mont Noir (Zwarteberg). Losses had been heavy.

*The First Battle of Kemmel Ridge (17-18 April)#*

On 26 April, Division was relieved. HQ moved to Vogelje Convent north of Poperinge and the troops were engaged in digging new defence lines. In early May 1918 after considerable losses had been incurred in the Battles of the Somme and Lys, the infantry and pioneer battalions, brigade trench mortar batteries and machine-gun battalion were reduced to training cadre establishment. All surplus men were sent to the Base or drafted to other units. The Division was reconstituted and made up to strength with Garrison Guard battalions. The Division was placed on rear defence construction during June 1918. The 59th was then again reconstituted and underwent training to enable it to hold a sector of front line again. The Division took over a sector on 25 July 1918 and came under the command of Third Army

*The Battle of Albert (21-22 August)+*  
The Division took part in an attack near Ablainzeville as the Allies began a series of powerful blows that eventually defeated the German Army, on 21 August 1918. This was a puny affair in comparison with the Somme fighting in 1916, for the 59th Division captured a number of enemy positions with very

little loss and the enemy did not counter-attack. Two days later, it held the British front line as three Divisions from the same Corps launched the next blow, across the valley of the River Scarpe near Arras. As the Armies advanced, the 59th was – because it was seen as a second-grade formation – used to follow up the attacking units, to consolidate positions held, and to provide endless working parties.

*The general final advance in Artois and Flanders (2 October – 11 November)*

In early October, the Division operated in the area of the River Lys. At this time it had transferred to the command of Fifth Army (Lieut-Gen. Sir William Birdwood). On 16 October, it was fighting to recapture Lille and after initial fighting made a significant unopposed advance to the Basse Deule canal. The Division was welcomed by thousands of liberated French people in the streets of Lille. By 23 October, the position had advanced to near Valenciennes on the Belgian border but only after hard fighting on the Scheldt. 178th Brigade was the first Allied formation to cross that river when it seized the bridge at Pont-a-Chin. When the fighting ended on 11

November 1918, the forward units halted north-east of Tournai in Belgium, facing Lessines. The units moved to the area south and south east of Lille after the Armistice, going on to Noeux les Mines and Bethune between 4-7 December. Here the units began to demobilise. Some units moved after a few days to Dunkirk to assist with a dispersal camp, through which coal miners were prioritised for early demobilisation. Divisional HQ was located at Vaudricourt Chateau from 6 December 1918 and then at Le Beau Marais near Calais from 8 March 1919. In May, the battalions of 176th Bde left to go to Egypt

He fought in the Great War because he was awarded the war medals.  
*The British War Medal*  
*The silver or bronze medal was awarded to officers and men of the British and Imperial Forces who either entered a theatre of war or entered service overseas between 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 inclusive. This was later extended to services in Russia, Siberia and some other areas in 1919 and 1920.*

He died in the Blargies Hospital on 15th April 1919 and his buried at Blargies Communal Cemetery Extension and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

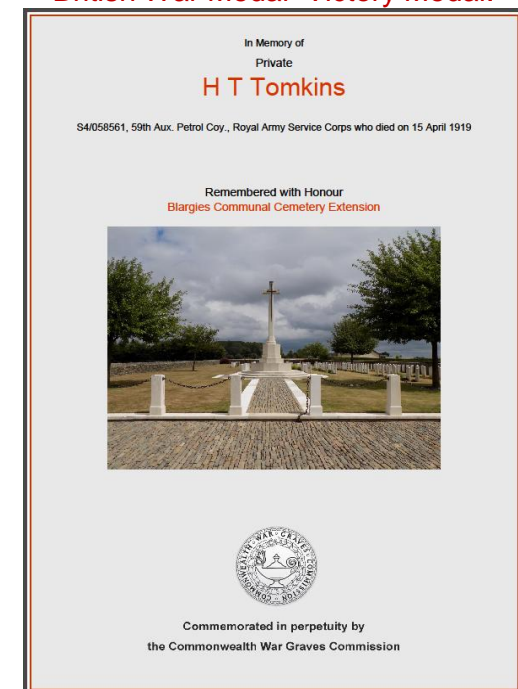


Name	Corps	Grade	Regt. No.
TOMKINS	A.S.C	Pte	S4/058561
Thomas H.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	RASC/101	0/1025	
BRITISH	do	do	
WAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal.



2/Lt.  
Victor George Ursell



8th Bn. King's Shropshire Light  
Infantry  
formerly



4th Batt. Grenadier Guards

Victor George Ursell

Victor George Ursell was born in Waterloo House, Ross on 5th July 1893 and baptised on 23rd July 1893. When he was 7 he was living in Ross

and was a member of his father's choir appearing in the 'Juvenile Choir Concert' along with his father and sister Margaret in aid of the war effort (Boer War). The accompanist was Miss Elsie Ursell. In 1901 Victor George was living with his family in Cantilupe Rd, Ross his father Alfred William Ursell was a Sculptor, his mother was Ellen Jane (Wilcox) and he had five brothers and sisters. In 1911 Victor was at home but was a student at Monmouth Grammar School (Haberdasher's Monmouth). At Monmouth School Victor George Ursell was a foundation scholar, he was Captain of the school in his last year, he won the Petrie Mathematical Prize and the Culley Prize for Greek Prose. *From the Balliol College War Memorial Book.*

"He came up from Monmouth Grammar School as Mathematical Scholar in 1912 and showed the greatest promise in all his work, getting a first in Mathematical Moderations in 1913, and a Mention in the Junior Mathematical Scholarship Examinations in the following year. With his mathematical ability he united both character and charm. He took a keen part in college life, rowing in the

Torpid and the Second Eight, and making many good friends"



Victor Ursell

1st Torpid 1913 1st Torpid 1914  
*Photographs from  
the Balliol College Archives.*

The Great War

At the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 he immediately enlisted as a Private in the 4th Battalion the Grenadier Guards and on 20th January 1915 was 'Gazetted' 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). His college records state that during this period in 1914 he served in France however his



'medal record' shows his first entry into an active service area was October 1915 and other sources support this. His Regiment was sent to France in September 1915 but on 28th October they sailed from Marseilles for Salonika landing there on 6th November 1915. Victor Ursell acted as Liaison and Intelligence Officer and was involved in making maps for the movements of the troops.

#### **The Salonika Campaign, 1915-18**

Anglo-French forces began landing at the Greek port of Salonika (now Thessaloniki) on 5 October 1915. The troops were sent to provide military assistance to the Serbs who had recently been attacked by combined German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian armies. The intervention came too late to save Serbia and after a brief winter campaign in severe weather conditions on the Serbian frontier, the Anglo-French forces found themselves back at Salonika. At this point the British advised that the troops be withdrawn. However, the French, with Russian, Italian and Serbian backing still believed something of strategic importance could be gained in the Balkans.

After preparing the port of Salonika for defence, the troops moved up country. During 1916, further Allied contingents of Serbian, Italian and Russian troops arrived and offensive operations began. These culminated in the fall of Monastir to Franco-Serb forces during November. A second offensive during the spring of 1917, the British part of which was the First Battle of Doiran (24-25 April and 8-9 May 1917), made little impression on the Bulgarian defences. The front-line remained more or less static until September 1918, when a third offensive was launched. During this the British attacked at Doiran for a second time (18-19 September 1918). With a breakthrough by Serbian forces west of the river Vardar the Bulgarian army was forced into a general retreat. The campaign concluded with the surrender of Bulgaria on 30 September 1918.

Disease (notably malaria, in the marshy lowlands of the Vardar and Struma rivers) took a heavy toll of Allied troops.

Malaria proved to be a serious drain on manpower during the campaign. In total the British forces suffered 162,517

cases of the disease and in total 505,024 non-battle casualties. With the campaign being a low priority for the War Office the assistance rendered by voluntary medical organisations, such as the Scottish Women's Hospitals, proved invaluable. From July 1916 there was a rush of Malaria cases in the fever stricken valleys in which they were operating. the rush of arrivals rose from 718 in the first week of July to 2,587 in the third week. Eventually 25,570 beds were in use with another 27,000 ready for use.

In September 1916 Victor Ursell succumbed to Malaria and Serious Dysentery on active service, he was invalided out, firstly to Malta and then subsequently to England.

When he had recovered he re-joined for active service and on April 18th 1917 Victor Ursell was attached to the 7th Battalion KSLI and joined his unit at Arras, France. He arrived just as the Battle of Arras was starting: In the week before he arrived 9th-14th April 1917 the 7th KSLI had 170 casualties (dead, missing and wounded).

The War Diary shows the casualties and also the arrival of 2nd Lt Ursell on 18th with a 117 O.R. reinforcement draft.

#### The Battle of Arras

The Battle of Arras was a major British offensive during the First World War. From 9<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May 1917, troops from the four corners of the British Empire attacked trenches held by the army of Imperial Germany to the east of the French city of Arras.

The Arras offensive has been divided into ten distinct actions, comprising battles, and flanking, subsidiary and subsequent attacks. The first two actions of the first phase, The Battle of Vimy and the simultaneous First Battle of the Scarpe, took place during the 9<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> April. These are considered to have been a great success for the British and Imperial troops.

Farther north, General Horne's First Army was committed to a subsidiary attack on La Coulotte on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Working in conjunction with Third Army, both took part in The Battle of Arleux, 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April, the much larger fourth phase of the offensive. These attacks and the last three major actions of the battle were successful only insofar as they relieved pressure

on the French Armies, whose own offensive, begun on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, had run into serious trouble. While advances had been made, this was not the knockout blow promised by Nivelle; casualties were excessive, and the stark contrast between the promises of the French generals and the realities of the fighting caused a collapse in French morale. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the men of the French 2<sup>nd</sup> division refused to attack; many of the units were described as going on 'strike', or more simply, mutinying. The French army was in real danger of disintegration, and the offensive was abandoned on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.

As the French armies still held over two thirds of the Western Front, Field Marshall Haig now had to keep pressure on the German forces and so prevent any attack on the badly shaken French. Concern for the Russian front were also growing as news of the revolution began to arrive in the West. The relief of the allied armies, however, came at the cost of Haig's own troops. Third Army was compelled to fight phase five of the offensive, the Third Battle of the Scarpe, between the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May, and another major action, the Capture of Roeux, on the

13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May. Finally, General Gough's Fifth Army undertook a flanking operation, the Battle of Bullecourt, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> –16<sup>th</sup> May.

Lt Victor George Ursell was Killed in Action on the first day of the Third Battle of the Scarpe (above) May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917 about five miles from Arras, he was buried where he fell. The circumstances of his death were described in a letter from Major Likeman (KSLI) *"He was shot through the head and died instantly, doing an act of the greatest bravery The battalion had advanced and was making an attack on a very strong enemy position, and was held up by machine-gun fire from a flank. Realizing the danger to his men, he tried to work forward to improve the position and neutralize the hostile guns. He was almost immediately shot down. If it can be the least consolation to you in your loss to know that your son died doing as brave an act as has been done during the war, then you most certainly have it. He is a very great loss to us as well as to you, as he was so greatly respected and admired by his men, and everyone had the greatest confidence in his*

*ability and courage... Be assured it was a gallant soldier's death to die, and it took a splendid lad to do it. We are all proud of him, as I am sure you are".*

From his Headmaster at Monmouth Grammar School - *"All through I have admired so much the splendid way Victor enlisted at once; it is a gallant life gladly given for England's sake, and so full of promise unfulfilled."*

The Master at Balliol also wrote *"He would have been a distinguished man of great service to his country; now he has served it in a still nobler way, and in the greatest of all possible causes He was a keen oarsman, and when at Balliol rowed in the First College VIII. He was specially gifted with musical ability, playing organ and piano with great verve and brilliancy".*

He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial

The ARRAS MEMORIAL

commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the

eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Although he was buried where he fell and his grave would have had a temporary marker the subsequent shelling in the war destroyed huge numbers of these temporary graves and markers and he now has no known grave.

He has a monument to him in Ross Churchyard and is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
URSELL	*4/ Gren. Sec.	* Lt	* 18471
Victor George	Sharp. L.I. *	2/Lt.	
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
* Sharp. L.I. Off. 157			* Appl. Comm. R.S.S. 16-1-15
15 * 23	" - "	23	Dec. 2/5/17 N.X. 6881. 28/2/23 NW/8/17371
Theatre of War first served in (1)			
Date of entry therein 8/3/22 - 10.15. *NW/8/17371			
Address (Father) A.W. Ursell Esq 10 Cantilupe Rd Ross-on-Wye Herefordshire			

He was awarded



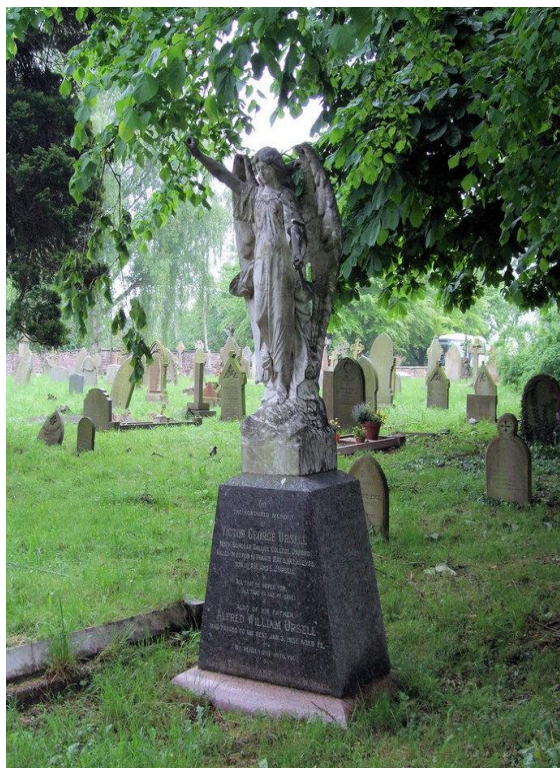
the 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

This trio were known affectionately by the troops as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred" after the Daily Mirror cartoon characters.

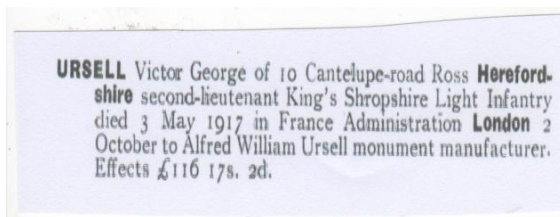


**UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919**

**Name:** Victor George Ursell  
**Death Date:** 3 May 1917  
**Rank:** T/2/Lieutenant  
**Regiment:** King's (Shropshire Light Infantry)  
**Battalion:** 8th Battalion  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action



**Monument to Victor George Ursell and his parents grave in St Mary's Churchyard, Ross**



In Memory of  
 Second Lieutenant  
**Victor George Ursell**

8th Bn., attd. 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 03 May 1917 Age 23

Body found 17 days later deep in enemy lines, but grave lost afterwards through shell fire. Son of Alfred William and Ellen Jane Ursell, of Waterloo House Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Also served as liaison and intelligence officer at Salonika. Mathematical Scholar of Balliol College, Oxford; first in the 1st Class Honours List-Math. Mods. in 1913; was proxime accessit in the Univ. Junior School Exam., 1914.

Remembered with Honour  
 Arras Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**GS/12355 Private**

## 12809 L/Corporal William Veale



8th Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

### William George Veale

William George Veal(e) was born 11th November 1895 and baptised on 14th December same year in Ross. His parents were William Veale a shoemaker and his mother was Alice Ann Teague from Walford. They were married in 1889. In 1891 they were living in Kyrle St. and William was a shoe fitter and they had one daughter Louisa. On 1st October 1898 their daughter Alice died aged four months. William's father

also named William died and was buried in Ross on 4th January 1900 aged 35. They were living at 21 The Nursery. In 1901 They were living at 54 The Nursery and Alice (William's mother) was a widow and a dressmaker 'on her own account'. In 1911 They were living at 40 The Nursery, Ross, William was a Grocer's Port, Alice was a dressmaker, William Teyne was Alice's brother and a tinman.

### The Great War

12809 Private William Veale. His number indicates he enlisted in September 1914. Following training he was sent to France arriving there with the 8th Battalion on 6th September 1915. They stayed in France only 6 weeks and left Marseilles on 28 October, landing at Salonika 6 November 1915.

### Salonika Campaign.

In October 1915, a combined Franco-British force of some two large brigades was landed at Salonika at the request of the Greek Prime Minister. The objective was to help the Serbs in their fight against Bulgarian aggression. However the expedition arrived too late,

the Serbs having been beaten before they landed. It was decided to keep the force in place for future operations, even against Greek opposition. The Greek Chief of the General Staff in Athens had told them "You will be driven into the sea, and you will not have time even to cry for mercy" (Some Greek factions, including King Constantine, were pro-German). The outcome of the Gallipoli campaign was in the balance and most shipping in the area was involved so they really had no choice.

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

In December 1915 the British element fought a battle at Kosturino, north of Lake Doiran, after withdrawing from Serbia. After this there was little action except for occasional air raids on Salonika. On January 7<sup>th</sup> German machines flew over and caused eighteen casualties. On February 1<sup>st</sup> a Zeppelin caused fires and damage. On March 27<sup>th</sup> the French stores were hit causing considerable damage. The Zeppelin came over for a third and last time on May 5<sup>th</sup> but it was caught in the searchlight of HMS Agamemnon whose 12 pounder in the forward bridge blazed away and eventually brought it down in the marshes at the mouth of the Vardar. Up on the 'Birdcage' the early months of 1916 had some heavy falls of snow and the Vardar wind blew from the north freezing everything. The only diversion for the force was the affair at Kara Burun. The Kara Burun Forts at the mouth of the Vardar were in Greek hands and the international force under General Mahon were not too happy that they were seen laying in stocks of armour piercing shells and building gun emplacements. The French, Russian, Italian and British warships in the harbour under the forts

decided enough was enough and British Marines landed and French troops marched round from behind the city. The Marine Officer called on the first fort to surrender as the fleet had orders to fire if it heard any gunfire. The NCO in charge (his officers were away on leave) only had 70 men so he complied. The other forts seeing this followed suit. This was a dangerous business because if the Greeks had resisted King Constantine would have used that as an excuse to bring the Germans into Greece against us. By bluff and careful disposition of the International forces this was averted. The Salonika Force dug-in until the summer of 1916, by which time the international force had been reinforced and joined by Serbian, Russian and Italian units. The Bulgarian attempted invasion of Greece in July was repulsed near Lake Doiran. At the beginning of Oct 1916, the British in co-operation with her allies on other parts of the front, began operations on the River Struma towards Serres. The campaign was successful with the capture of the Rupell Pass and advances to within a few miles of Serres. It was the "forgotten campaign" of the Great War

- with German/Bulgarian troops holding virtually impregnable positions in the hills of Macedonia. The physical conditions endured by the troops were dreadful freezing cold and then blisteringly hot. Diseases such as malaria and dysentery were commonplace.

There were two major attacks on attack on the Grand-Couronne and Pip Ridge in April-May 1917, and September 1918 and in between a period of constant minor engagements. One of these was on the 15th April 1918 when several KSLI men were killed and wounded L/Corporal Veale was one of those wounded, he was taken back to the . 21st Stationary Hospital at Sarigol where he died of his wounds the next day 16th April. 1916.

He is buried in the Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
VEALE	Shrops L. I.	LC	12809
W. Veale			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victoria	J/1102	6. 1131	Do of W. 16. 4. 18.
Honour	do	do	
15 STAR	8/1/881	239	

Theatre of War first served in	(1) France
Date of entry therein	6-9-15.

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal

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

**Name:** William Veale  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Death Date:** 16 Apr 1918  
**Death Place:** Salonika  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** L Corporal  
**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 8th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 10809  
**Type of Casualty:** Died of wounds  
**Theatre of War:** Balkan Theatre

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**W G Veale**

12809, 8th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 16 April 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 2731 L/Corporal Louis Allen Waites



1st/1st Herefords Regiment

### Louis Allen Waites

He was born in Mill Brook Terrace, Ross and baptised on 11th November 1888. His father was William Waites a Plasterer from Ross and his mother was Mary Townsend was from Maisey Hampton, Gloucestershire. 1891 They were at 2 Millbrook Terrace. 1901 They were living at 20 Mill Pond St, Ross. Father was still a plasterer and daughter Lilly was a Laundress. 1911 Louis was a Cooper by trade. On 25th February 1915 Louis Allen Waites married Maud Marion Adams at Cirencester Congregational Church.

Following the marriage they moved to Cirencester.

### The Great War - Gallipoli

2731 Private Waites enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment at the beginning of the Great War went with the Battalion to 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 1pm. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel

fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed. 10th August The Battalion moved up the line of the Azmak Dere and were met with heavy shrapnel fire but little or nothing was seen of the enemy except snipers whose fire was galling but no officers were hit.

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



Border Regt came to assist the Bn!  
18th/19th August more casualties with heavy sniping.  
22nd Aug. Two men accidentally shot themselves and 2/Lt Lloyd and 187 ORs joined us from Alexandria.  
Remainder of the month was in trenches with heavy sniping barrages from Turks and casualties.  
Casualties for August. 25 Killed, 146 Wounded, 2 Missing.  
**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.

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

I am not sure what happened to Louis Waites after Gallipoli. The Regiment went to Egypt, fought at Romani, three battles of Gaza, Beersheba and Jerusalem and in 1918 at Tell Azur. In June they returned to France. His wife had a son (Peter Waites) in September Quarter 1916. This means Louis must have been in the country late 1915 or early 1916. His medal card states he was in Gallipoli so it seems likely he was wounded/sick and returned to UK either during or after the Gallipoli campaign.

## 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.

Lance Corporal Louis Allen Waites was Killed in Action in this engagement on 23rd July 1918. He is buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Vilemontoire and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

## Soldiers who died in The Great War

<b>Name:</b>	Louis Allen Waites
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross, Herefords
<b>Residence:</b>	Cirencester, Glos.
<b>Death Date:</b>	23 Jul 1918
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Hereford
<b>Rank:</b>	L Corporal
<b>Regiment:</b>	The Herefordshire Regiment
<b>Battalion:</b>	1st 1st Battalion
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	235865
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
WAITES, Louis A	* Hereford R. -1-	Plt	4781 235865
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	* 5/1/1918	393	Hereford 235865
BRITISH	-	-	-
15 STAR	5/1/18	44	
Theatre of War first served in (20)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal





In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**Louis Alan Waites**

235865, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 23 July 1918 Age 29

Son of William and Mary Waites, of 20, Millpond St., Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire; husband of Maud Marion Waites, of 50, Purley Rd., Cirencester, Glos.

Remembered with Honour  
Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 11959 Private Samuel Bennett Wall



5th Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Samuel Bennett Wall

He was born on 2nd December 1886 at Wye Villa, Dock St, Ross. and baptised on 28th July 1887. His father was John Golding Wall a Jeweller from Ross and his mother was Laura Prichard from Trelleck. 1891 At Wye Villa, Dock St, Ross. His parents though were living at Gloucester Rd where his father was a Watchmaker and Jeweller. 1901 He was a pupil at Clyde House School, Hereford



## Clyde House School

1911 At Poolspring Farm Much Birch. His Aunt Louisa was a Farmer. Samuel was helping on the farm.

## The Great War

11959 Private Samuel Wall enlisted into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) in September 1914 and was posted to the 5th (Service) Battalion. He went with the Battalion to France on 20th May 1915 landing at Boulogne on 22nd May.

*The following are extracts which include large sections from the War Diaries.*

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 Ostrohave 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 Erkesbrugge 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.**

**Below is a letter from another soldier who was at this battle.**

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

[Bridgnorth Journal, 2nd Oct.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."

Private Wall was one of those Killed in Action in this battle. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** Samuel Bennett Wall  
**Birth Place:** Much Birch, Hereford  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 25 Sep 1915  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 5th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 11959  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
Wall S.B.	5/K Shropshire L.I.	Plt	11959
Metal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J/1/102/4	997	K. in A. 25-9-15.
BRITISH	-10-	-50-	
13. STAR	J/1/4/53	195	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	22-5-15.		

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**Samuel Bennett Wall**

11959, 5th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 25 September 1915

Brother of Mr. H. P. Wall, of "Oliver," Archenfield, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# Milson Ernest Watkins



## 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards

### Milson Ernest Watkins

He was born in 1891 in New Street, Ross. His father Thomas was a chimney sweep and in 1891 was living in New Street, Ross and originally came from Monmouth. His mother was Martha Davies also from Monmouth. Albert Thomas, Thomas

James, Frederick Henry and Milson Ernest Watkins were all received into the Church at Ross-on-Wye on 26th November 1900 after having been baptized in their infancy in the Wesleyan Chapel. In 1901 the family were living at 46 Edde Cross Street and their father Thomas was a chimney sweep. In 1911 they were still in Edde Cross St and Thomas was still a chimney sweep, Milson worked in the Brewery, His brother James was a Malt houseman, Frederick was an assurance agent and Charles was an apprentice in the Ross Gazette Office.

### The Great War

I do not know when GS/12355 Private Milson Ernest Watkins joined the army. His number has the prefix GS/ this means General Service. It means he was almost certainly conscripted and with his age and as a single man he would have been one of the first to be called up. *The introduction of conscription by the Military Service Act in January 1916 meant that all future enlistments were for "general service", for the duration of the war.* Seventeen Cavalry Reserve Regiments were formed by the British Army on the outbreak of the Great War

in August, 1914. These were affiliated with one or more active cavalry regiments, their purpose being to train replacement drafts for the active regiments. He would have gone to Tidworth for training with the 4th Cavalry Reserve Regiment.

Following training he was sent to join his Regiment 7th Dragoon Guards. They were part of the 9th Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade. They were in India at the start of the Great War and brought back to France in August 1914 and by 1916 were in France at Cerisy.

I do not know when he went to France but it was not until after the end of 1915 because his medal entitlement does not give the 1914/15 Star and does not give his 'Theatre of war first served in' or a date and if he had been sent abroad prior to 1916 it would have included it. I have therefore given a brief outline of the major events of the 7th Dragoon Guards from January 1916 until the death of Milson Watkins.



Dragoon Guards Regt. in the Great war  
1916.

January/February/March. Duties consisted of 'road control duties', repair and maintenance of trenches, practices and drills. Main problems seem to have been the weather, very cold and a lot of snow.

April. Started month in Cerisy, more training, weather improved a bit but more rain on 10th/11th of month. Holiday on 4th in honour of the new Viceroy and Governor General of India. On 20th April moved to billets in S.E. of St Riquier Horses were in the open. 21st rain and manoeuvres, 22nd more rain, horse lines very muddy. 22rd-29th Regimental and Brigade drills and manoeuvres. 30th back to Cerisy.

May. On 8th moved to Gapennes until the 13th. On 14th back to Cerisy until the end of the month, largely digging

duties and exercises but on 24th May a Divisional Display for a French Division a Gallop past, trick riding etc. June. The regiment was at Cerisy, St Riquier and Riencourt on digging duties and exercises. On 23rd the Regiment marched out with 26 Officers and 525 ORs including 41 men who were dismounted for whom there were no horses. On the 27th the regiment moved to Querrieu.

July 1916 (The Somme) At Pont Noyelles, weather fine with some rainy days. Over next few days the Regiment prepared to move at 3 hours notice, later cancelled, then 2 hours notice, later cancelled then 1 1/2 hours notice then cancelled. On 13th moved to bivouac at Meaulte. 14th July 1916. 8.15 Ordered to attack High Wood informed that Longueval and Bazentin Le Grand were occupied by our infantry but patrols found they were held by enemy rifles and machine guns. Regt unable to advance. At 5.30pm Regiment ordered to cooperate with infantry attacks on High Wood and Longueval and to keep in touch with the right of the infantry. Deccan Horse were on our right and we advanced to Sabot Copse. Came into contact mounted

with enemy infantry and disposed of them, one troop was sent towards Flers but were checked and forced to retire by heavy rifle and machine gun fire. 15th July ordered to withdraw. Casualties: Trumpeter Horton and Private King Killed, 21 Officers and Men wounded. Horses 14 Killed, 2 Missing, 24 Wounded.

#### **Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–15 July** German defensive lines, High Wood, Somme 1916

The Fourth Army attacked High Wood with divisions from XV Corps on 14 July, during the Battle of Bazentin Ridge. The wood was abandoned by the Germans but delays meant that the British did not attempt to occupy it until 7:00 p.m. Rawlinson had ordered the 7th Division forward at 12:15 p.m. but the order was overruled by Lieutenant-General Henry Horne, the XV Corps commander, because the capture of Longueval, on the flank of the proposed advance was incomplete. The 7th Division advanced and two battalions managed to occupy the southern half of the wood, after German reserves had arrived and counter-attacked several times. On the right flank, a squadron from each of the

7th Dragoon Guards and the 20th Deccan Horse of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division, had been ordered forward at 7:40 a.m. but took until early evening to make their way across trenches and devastated ground, to make the only cavalry charge of the Battle of the Somme, against III Battalion, Infantry Regiment 26 concealed in crops east of the wood. The crew of an aircraft of 3 Squadron RFC saw the infantry and cavalry advance and the pilot dived at the German troops, strafing them from a height of 300 feet (91 m). The observer dropped a sketch of the German dispositions onto the cavalry before the aircraft departed, having been riddled by ground fire. Reserves of the 2nd Guard Division were incapable of assisting the defenders, as they had been caught by British machine-gun fire as they moved up towards Bazentin-le-Petit and machine-gunners in Longueval were silenced by the cavalry machine-guns. German heavy artillery had been withdrawn and field artillery was unable to take aim at such a fast-moving target. About 100 Germans were killed or taken prisoner in the cornfields, eight cavalrymen were killed, about 100 were wounded

and 130 horses were killed or wounded.

This was the only cavalry charge of the Somme offensive.



Attack on High Wood (Deccan Horse)



print of the Charge of the 7th Dragoon Guards and the Deccan Horse

The regiment then stayed in bivouac and were involved in numerous 'digging duties', a lot of marching to

various locations until 25th September when they arrived in a position of readiness at Mametz. On 16th the bivouac was shelled during the night and casualties were 4 horses killed, one horse and one mule wounded. On the 17th marched in Brigade back to Daours. For the remainder of the month and throughout October it was training and exercises with opportunities for some relief. On 9th October it was baths in the jute factory at Ailly-sur-Somme. The weather was very varied, some fine days but a lot of rain and wet weather. November and December More training, digging parties, Regimental tactical exercises.

## 1917.

At Fouquieres (Abbeville). January and February the war diaries record little activity.

March and April. There was a lot of moving to different parts of the front, with a variety of activities. The regiment did a lot of reconnaissance work.

2nd June 1917. At Le Verguier, Enemy artillery activity increased, a report was received that the enemy had evacuated their front line trenches a patrol was sent out to ascertain the

accuracy of this but the enemy were found in considerable strength. Enemy opened considerable amount of fire on our patrol. Reinforcements were also heard to be coming up so the patrol withdrew. Rest of the month were daily patrols up to the front interspersed with training and tactical exercises.

July at Vadencourt. 3rd July a raiding party approached the enemy line with Bangalore Torpedoes in silence until they had been fired. They got to within 50 yards of the wire when a party of Germans came upon the party and nearly slipped upon them in the clover, two Germans were shot and the remainder rushed with the bayonet. This gave away the whole surprise which might have been very effective. The party then withdrew to our own lines. On the 18th following a series of marches the regiment went into bivouac at Anvin Le Petit. Stayed at Anvin until 7th October when they marched to Boesinghen and then on to Watou, the weather turned very wet and stormy. On the 20th they moved to Coupelle - Vielle but the weather was now fine but cold. Stayed practicing tactical exercises and squadron training until 1st November

when moved back to Anvin On the 1st they had regimental outfront scheme at Azincourt. The regiment marched to numerous location in the area and on 21st Nov. at Marcoing they moved towards Noyelles to see if the bridges were intact. They were then ordered to Clear Noyelles and to ascertain if it was possible to cross by the bridges there. Noyelles was captured and 25 prisoners taken with no casualties, we then carried on up the Cambrai road until met with MG fire at 4pm ordered to rejoin the brigade. On the 30th the regiment was ordered to 'saddle up' immediately, the Germans had broken through, regiment advanced to Gouzecourt, 1 troop chased a group of Germans in the village killing 4, enemy shelled the village heavily. Regiment took up defensive position in touch with the infantry. 7.30pm 'Off saddled' 1st December 1917. Moved up dismounted to the sunken road S.W.of Gouzecourt. 1.45pm very heavy enemy shelling. 9pm regiment relieved by Coldstream, Grenadier Guards and the Poona Horse. Casualties 1 Officer and 3 ORs killed, 13 ORs wounded.

Private Milson Watkins was one of those killed in action on this day. He is buried at St Laurent-Blangy He is commemorated on the Ross War Memorial.



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

**Name:** Milson Ernest Watkins  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hereford  
**Residence:** Tredegar, Mon.  
**Death Date:** 1 Dec 1917  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Newport  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line  
**Battalion:** 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal)  
**Regimental Number:** 12355  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
WATKINS	7th Dragoon Guards	Private	052/1355
Milson E.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	CC/16/81.	37.	
Baronet	as	as	
Baron			
Baronet			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded the:



British War Medal & Victory Medal

In Memory of  
 Private  
**M E Watkins**  
 21355, 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's) who died on 01 December 1917

Remembered with Honour  
 Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 36908 Private Horace William Weale



1st Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment

## Horace William Weale

He was born in Howle Hill and baptised 19th March 1893. His father was William Weale a Waggoner from Llangarron and his mother was Clara James from Monmouthshire. On 23rd March 1897 William died aged 35 leaving Clara a Widow. In 1901 they were living in Walford (Hom Green). 1911 They were living at Hom Green, Howle Hill. Horace was a Waggoner on a farm, his mother was a Laundress,

his brother Frank was a Farm Labourer and Brother George was a Garden boy.

In 1922 Clara married Edgar George Fleetwood in Walford.

## The Great War

Horace (William) Weale enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment at the beginning of the war. The Herefords were a Territorial Force unit and not required to serve overseas. The regiment did however go to Gallipoli in July 1915 but Private Weale did not go with them. He was later posted into the Gloucestershire Regiment (1st Battalion). He was posted to the Depot on 30th August 1916 and posted to the 1st Gloucesters on 6th September 1916. We are not sure when his draft arrived at the front but the war diaries on 14th September state no training except for last draft, implying they had arrived some time previously. The CWGC website does not list any 'deaths' with 36000 numbers prior to November 1916 so Early September would appear to be the arrival date for Pte Weale at the front.

## *Extracts from the war diaries 1st Glousters.*

8th Sept. 1916. Attacked at High Wood

11am. Left Bazentin-Le-Grand for High Wood on way to trenches heavily shelled by our own howitzers causing many casualties and unable to occupy assembly trenches. Our shelling slackened and we moved off but our guns were still firing short and at 2.05 pm wire cutting shrapnel was falling on Kew Trench. At 3.35 our guns were still shelling our positions. 4pm steady bombardment by trench mortars. 6pm intense fire by all guns, trench mortars, machine guns etc. 6.45

Flammenwerfers opened up from our saps but flames were blown over our men. Arrived at objectives but trenches occupied by Germans. 7.40pm demands for reinforcements but none to be had. 9th Sept. Enemy attacked our left attack driven off and 16 ORs taken as prisoners. 10th Relieved and marched back to Quadrangle Trench. **Casualties. 44 killed 136 wounded 45 missing.**

11th. Marched back to Henencourt Woods and into billets. Then next day to billets in Franvillers. 16th Marched

back to Henencourt Woods until 19th then into Black Wood and on 20th to Bazentin-Le-Grand and Mametz Wood stayed there until 25th on fatigues. 26th Bivouacked at Black Wood. On 28th marched to Millencourt and tents. **October.** At Henencourt until 4th when moved to Fouquieres Platoon and Company training. Stayed there remainder of month. Football competitions, Rugby matches Glosters Vs Munsters (Glosters won 9-0). Church parades, training parades. on 31st Division moved to Corps training area and bussed to Amiens-Albert Rd. Marched to camp at Bazieux. **November 1916** 1-4th In camp training. 5th Into reserve at Millencourt into billets and training until 9th Nov. 10th. Relieved SWB at Mametz Wood. 11-26th In billets, road mending fatigues, inspections and support battalion. 27th Took over in the line from Northants regt. The relief was delayed because the mud was so thick men went in over their boots and many had to leave their boots behind and carry on in bare feet until new boots arrived. 2 killed 5 wounded. 28th Several heavy barrages by enemy and front line trench mortared 3 wounded 4 missing.

29th. Quiet day, slight trench mortaring and some shelling. 30th November 1916. Large amount of 'pip squeaking' on left (*Pip squeaks were small calibre shells and rifle grenades*) and intermittent shelling on Hexham Rd. 5 killed 2 wounded.

36908 Private Weale was one of those killed on 30th November 1916. He has no known grave so is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and Ross War Memorial.

[Soldiers who died in the Great War](#)

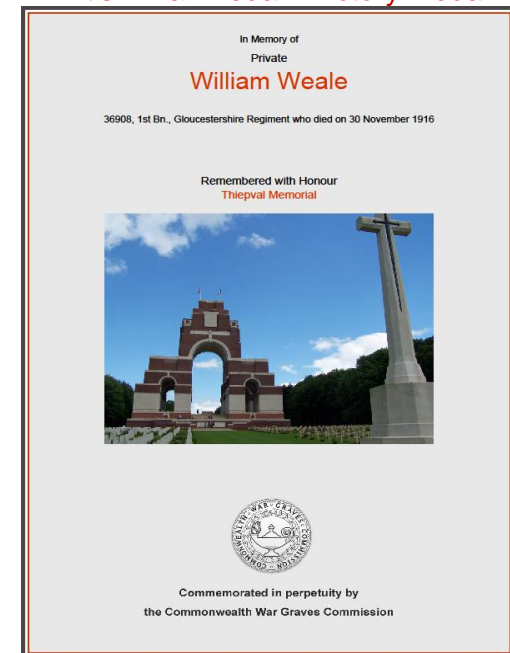
**Name:** William Weale  
**Birth Place:** Lydbrooke, Herefordshire  
**Death Date:** 30 Nov 1916  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Gloucestershire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1st Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 36908  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre  
**Comments:** Formerly 2325, 1St Herefordshire Regiment.

Name.	Corps.	Regt. No.
WEALE.	Hereford. B. Glouce. R.	2325 36908.
William.		
Metal.	How.	Page.
Victory	L/101628	4983.
Barrow		
Sea		
Theatre of War first served in		
Date of entry therein		

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal



# 28593 Private Alfred Robert West



1st Battalion  
East Surrey Regiment  
Formerly



242459 Pte. West  
Duke of Cambridge's Own  
(Middlesex) Regiment

## Alfred Robert West

He was born in 1897 in Brampton Abbots. His father was George West a Carter on a farm from Llangarron and

his mother was Eliza Anne Roberts from Ross (Walford) they had married Christmas Day 1877. 1901 The family were living at Netherton Cottage, Brampton Abbots. Alfred's father George died in 1908. 1911 Alfred was with his widowed mother and the family at Thrushes Nest, Ripe Walk, Ross. Alfred's brother in Law James Mills was a Miller, Albert was a Coal Porter, Caroline was a Laundry Packer, James a Brewers Labourer, Frances a Domestic Servant, Harold a Farm Labourer Alfred and Ernest at school and Rosa a Servant, Domestic.

## The Great War

242459 Private West joined the army and was posted to the Middlesex Regiment. We are not sure when he joined but he was sent to the 3/8th Battalion. The 2/8th Battalion was in Egypt fighting the Senussi tribes and in 1916 returned to France where it was disbanded at Rouen. The 3/8th then became the 2/8th. The 3/8th had only served in England and were disbanded in October 1917. A large draft of these men were sent to France to reinforce other regiments.

*1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment -  
France*

*Extracts from the war diaries.*

## Battle of Passchendaele

10-24th September 1917. Penin - Villers Str. Simon. Two large drafts arrived, one of 100 men from the 2/8th Middlesex consisting largely of old and rather inefficient men and one of younger men aged about 20 with 8 months training from a training reserve battalion. Sports were held and a reading room was established at Villers for the men. As usual the estaminets refused to sell beer to the men but only white wine by the bottle, this resulted in a few cases of drunkenness. 25th Sept. Fine and hot. Batt.moved by rail to Nort Leulinghe and marched to Ligny. The men were tired and an unusual amount fell out on the march almost all of the new drafts, whose training does not seem to have impressed upon them the need for correct march discipline. Billets were not very good and the men were crowded. 27th Weather fine, training in the morning 4.45pm orders to move at once to Moullin and shortly after arriving to Houler and billeted in the village, The Devons were in the same village. 28th Fine and hot paraded at Moule and marched to Cassel. 29th Fine, paraded and marched to Maison Blanchr, order of march Devons,



Cornwalls, Gloucesters, MG Coy, Surreys etc. Billeting at Meteren therefore was rather close.

**October 1917** 1st. Fine. At 7am embussed at Meteren and moved to Ridge Wood had dinner and the battalion moved forward at 4.30pm, had a short break at Canal Bank, then the light began to fail so followed the guides towards Zillebeke Pond and on to Menin Rd at Hooze. Here progress was held up by a series of S.O.S. signals which drew heavy fire from the guns of both sides and shelter was found in shell holes and a shallow trench by the side of the road we lost our guides and this led to confusion but the relief was eventually made at 2am. At point South of Polygon Wood. Casualties 1 killed 4 wounded.

2nd Oct. Rations came up the Menin Rd. and Coys sent their men to collect rations from the ration camp, their journeys could hardly have been more unpleasant, they suffered casualties on almost every journey. The tracks to the front were littered with dead men and mules, ammunition, petrol tins, arms and equipment, derelict tanks were laying about in various stages of destruction. From this waste a few Lewis guns and ammunition were

saved for immediate needs. After the first day the supply of sufficient carrying parties was a problem because of the casualties.

Communications to HQ were maintained by buried cables but to Coys by runners only, signals could be made by lamps but at times of shelling they could not be read. pigeons were useful. The forward Coys had no communications at all.

3rd Oct. Shellfire continued to be our biggest annoyance and heaviest at night. Our neighbours were also free with the S.O.S signals and apparently the enemy did make local attacks near the Menin Rd. Full instructions given for the attack on the following day.

4th Oct. 5am the barrage started on a front of several miles and assaulting Batts. went forward, at first all went well until they reached the Chateau when the enemy had the opportunity to develop their best means of defence. Under cover of MG fire from the Chateau they fired into the backs and enfiladed our men as well as sweeping the slopes of the ridge and practically isolating those who reached the crest. The enemy then threw in his counter attack and regained that part of the ridge which had been won. In the

confusion our companies of support, which had suffered badly from the barrage and MG Fire became mixed with the Cornwalls and some companies on the left. That night the 10th Corps and two ANZAC Corps made another attack.

Casualties. The Diaries only give details of the Officer losses. The GWGC though list 38 men who were killed in action on the 4th. This was usually accompanied by 5 or 6 times as many wounded or missing.

5th Oct. Day spent in reorganising. A readjustment of the line was carried out 'without a hitch' once again Officer casualties were reported 'Capt Jones report missing' but CWGC listed 11 men KIA this day. 6th Oct. Rain during the night, shellfire persistent. 7th. Oct Rain, heavy showers. 20 men in a pill box were heating a petrol tin supposedly containing water, actually it contained petrol, it exploded and they were all burnt some very badly. An enquiry failed to establish blame as the water was drawn from various sources.

8th Oct. The 2 ANZAC Corps will resume the offensive on the 9th. The 5th Division (Includes East Surreys) will complete the capture of

Polderhoek Ridge and extend to the Polygon Beek. Attack will be resumed tomorrow 9th at 5am.

9th Oct. The attack was resumed at 5.20 and was unsuccessful, the Chateau once more holding up the 5th Division. This strong point had been given a very scanty bombardment due to its proximity to our line. It had been hoped that the attack following so closely to the 4th would be carried by surprise. The Battalion attacking it lost direction and allowed the enemy MG guns to come into action. At 11.30am when the artillery had slackened fire somewhat the Batt. moved back to the Canal Bank, where dinners were issued. The Batt. marched back to huts in Ridge Wood. 10th Oct. Rain almost constant all day. Batt. marched back to Westoutre, as a result of our following the route given by 13th Brigade orders we found ourselves in tracks so deep in mud that more time was lost than if we had followed the main road, including time spent blocked by traffic.

There is no detail of casualties in the war diary but CWGC gives 61 men Killed in Action from 8-10th October in this battle.

One of those was Private Alfred Robert West He is buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



His mother Eliza died in 1918.

### Soldiers who died in the Great War

<b>Name:</b>	Alfred Robert West
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Brampton Abbots, Herts
<b>Residence:</b>	Ross-on-wye, Herts
<b>Death Date:</b>	10 Oct 1917
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Hereford
<b>Rank:</b>	Private
<b>Regiment:</b>	East Surrey Regiment
<b>Battalion:</b>	1st Battalion
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	28593
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	Western European Theatre
<b>Comments:</b>	Formerly 242459, Middlesex Regt

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
WEST	Middx R. E Surr R	Pte	242459 28593
Alfred R.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	E/1103 B14	2650	
Barrack	CLD	11	
Sea			
Theatre of War first served in			E/663593/4
Date of entry therein			9-11-23

He was awarded





The British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**A R West**

28593, 1st Bn., East Surrey Regiment who died on 10 October 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Tyne Cot Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

J.14735 Able Seaman

# GODFREY PAUL WILDEN



## Royal Navy HMS Hampshire

Godfrey Paul Wilden

He was born on 21st February 1895 in the School House, Weston under Penyard. 1901 census. They lived at the School House, Weston under Penyard. Arthur, Godfrey's father was the Schoolmaster, originally from

Tipton, Staffs, Archibald Godfrey's brother worked in the Post Office (Telephonist),. His parents were Arthur Wilden and Eliza Mock originally from Eastleigh, North Devon. Arthur Wilden, Godfrey's father died and was buried in Ross on 2nd August 1905.

1911 census Ethel Louise, his sister was a council school teacher. and Eliza was a widow. Godfrey was a Law Clerk.

### The Royal Navy

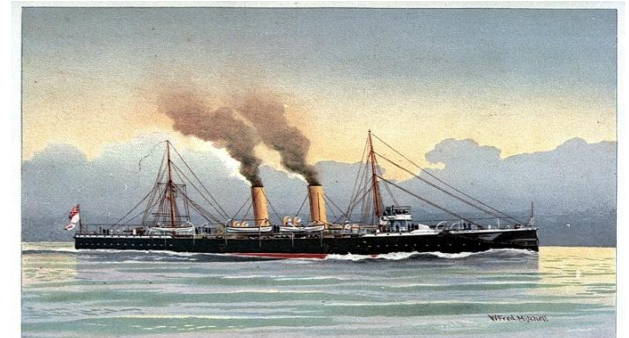
Godfrey joined the Navy as a boy on 1st November 1911 and went to HMS Impregnable, a Royal Navy training ship.



HMS Impregnable 1910-1915

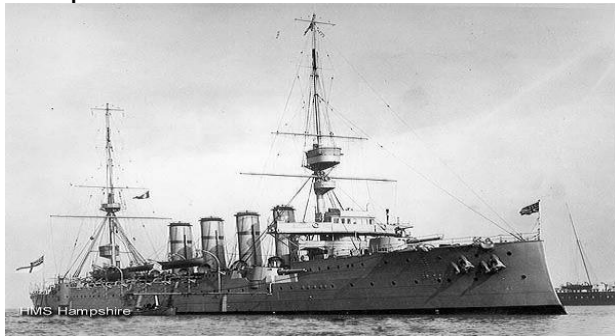
From Impregnable he went to HMS Ganges. HMS Ganges was a training ship and later stone frigate of the Royal Navy. She was established as a boys' training establishment in 1865, and was based aboard a number of hulks before moving ashore. She was based alternately in Falmouth, Harwich (from 1899) and Shotley (from 1905). She remained in service at RNTE Shotley until October 1976. On 3rd June 1912 he went as a 'Boy 1st' to HMS Berwick an armoured cruiser which served in home waters.

In September 1912 he served aboard HMS Victory (a shore establishment). and in October he moved to HMS Latona.



He enlisted into the Royal Navy as an Ordinary Seaman on his 18th birthday 21st February 1913 for 12 years. Whilst on HMS Latona.

From 16th December 1913 until 26th January 1914 he was with HMS Europa.  
27th January 1914 he joined HMS Hampshire on the China Station.



**HMS Hampshire**

When the war began, Hampshire was in Wei Hai Wei, and was assigned to the small squadron led by Vice Admiral Martyn Jerram, commander-in-chief of the China Station. She was ordered to destroy the German radio station at Yap together with the armoured cruiser Minotaur and the light cruiser Newcastle. En route the ships captured the collier SS Elspeth on 11 August and sank her; Hampshire was too short on coal by then to make the island so Jerram ordered her back to Hong Kong with the crew of the Elspeth. At the end of the month, she was ordered down to the Dutch East Indies to search for any German ships at sea, narrowly missing

the German light cruiser Emden. The German ship had not been reported since the war began and she sailed into the Bay of Bengal and began preying upon unsuspecting British shipping beginning on 14 September. Hampshire was ordered there to search for Emden and remained there through October and November, together with the armed merchant cruiser Empress of Asia, looking for the raider until she was destroyed on 9 November by HMAS Sydney. Hampshire then escorted a ANZAC troop convoy through the Indian Ocean and Red Sea to Egypt. Hampshire was refitted in Gibraltar in December before returning home to serve with the Grand Fleet. She was assigned the 7th Cruiser Squadron in January 1915 and was detached in November to escort shipping in the White Sea. She returned home in time to participate in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916 with the 2nd Cruiser Squadron. During the battle she was never actually engaged and only fired four salvos at the German II Scouting Group that fell well short of their targets in addition to shooting at illusory submarine periscopes throughout the day. Hampshire then returned to Scapa

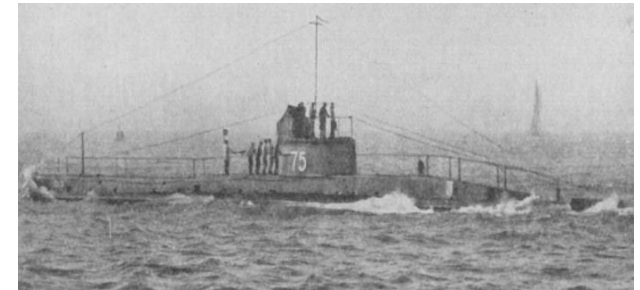
Flow on 3rd June 1915. Despite furious gales and awful sailing conditions, the ship set out at 16.45hrs on 5th June on route to Archangel, in North Russia to escort the War Minister and British hero, Lord Kitchener, who was to explain the Allied financial and military policy to the Russian Tsar. He had been chosen for this mission because his prestige and status in foreign countries was almost as great as at home. An hour later, Captain Savill sent his two escorts back due to appalling weather conditions. At 19.40hrs, when the *Hampshire* was only one and a half miles from shore between the Brough of Birsay and Marwick Head, there was an explosion which tore out the centre of the ship, and within fifteen minutes she sank with almost her entire company. Many perished due to the stormy sea and exposure rather than the explosion. The ship had struck a mine field of 22 mines laid by *U75* on the night of the 28/29th May. *U75* was one of the German submarines ordered to watch the British bases during the German fleet's sortie before Jutland.

As soon as news of the disaster came through to the Commander-In-Chief, four of the Grand Fleet destroyers were ordered out. They were followed by five others but all hopes of saving life were vain. By the time the destroyers and patrol vessels reached the spot there was hardly a trace of wreckage. Fourteen men reached the shore on Carley rafts, but two died before the rescue parties could reach them. Lord Kitchener and his staff were not amongst the survivors and over 600 men had died when she sank. More may have survived if the lifeboats had not been smashed by the heavy seas during the lowering operations or become entangled in the main rigging. This had left the crew to the mercy of the sea and had to use anything with a floating capacity or Carley floats in an attempt to survive. Survivors have stated that Kitchener was not killed in the explosion and must have made it to the upper deck, as they were told to "Make way for Lord Kitchener!" whilst mounting the hatchway ladder, although they did not see him after this.

HMS Hampshire was sunk by German Submarine U-75  
On 23rd May 1916 the U - 75 German submarine laid 22 mines after travelling around the west coast of Orkney undetected. The U - 75 together with two other U - boats the U - 43 and the U - 44 were part of a German master plan, the intention was to ambush the British Grand Fleet as it sailed from Scapa Flow. As a result of poor communications the German U - boats did not receive any signal to begin attacking British ships. The Grand Fleet also sailed later than was originally planned which helped to confuse and mix up any plans the Germans had. Once the Grand Fleet returned to Scapa Flow, they were wounded but undefeated after the battle of Jutland (30th/31st May) the three German submarines had already left the Pentland Firth, but by this time the U - 75 had laid its 22 mines in the area.

The Captain of U-75 was  
Kapitänleutnant Kurt Beitzen.

U-75



AB Godfrey Paul Wilden died on HMS Hampshire on 5th June 1916 his body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and the Ross-on-Wye War Memorial and when completed, the Kitchener memorial to the dead of HMS Hampshire in the Orkneys.

## Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919



**Name:** Godfrey Paul Wilden  
**Rank:** AB  
**Birth Date:** 21 Feb 1895  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hereford  
**Branch of Service:** Royal Navy  
**Cause of Death:** Killed or died as a direct result of enemy action  
**Official Number Port Division:** J.14735. (Po)  
**Death Date:** 5 Jun 1916  
**Ship or Unit:** HMS Hampshire  
**Location of Grave:** Not recorded  
**Name and Address of Cemetery:** Body Not Recovered For Burial  
**Relatives Notified and Address:** Mother: Eliza;  
Terampore, Ashfield,  
Ross, Herefordshire

In Memory of  
Able Seaman  
**Godfrey Paul Wilden**

J/14735, H.M.S. "Hampshire.", Royal Navy who died on 05 June 1916 Age 21

Son of Eliza Wilden, of 1, Serampore Villas, Ashfield, Ross, Herefordshire, and the late Arthur Wilden. Born at Weston-under-Penyard, Ross.

Remembered with Honour  
Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 777 Company Serjeant Major Reginald George Yemm

(Mentioned in Despatches)



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

### Reginald George Yemm

He was born on 5th August 1893 in Ross (Peterstow). His father George Henry Yemm a Cooper by trade and then became a soldier - 1766 Private Yemm 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards and at 1891 census he was at St George's Barracks, London. Joined up 25th March 1889 at Monmouth, transferred to 1st Class 'A' Reserve on 25th March 1892 recalled to service

20th December 1899 and posted 26th Dec. 1899. Completed his service 25th March 1902. He did all his service in the UK. George died and was buried 31/8/1916 aged 44 he had lived at Berryfields. His mother Annie Counsell Born in Peterstow in 1873. 1881 living at New Road, Peterstow with her family. In 1891 in service to Lt Col Money-Kyrle of Homme House, Much Marcle She died 31/10/1932 at Brookfield Rd, aged 59. George and Annie married in 1893. Reginald Yemm like his father before him was a Cooper by trade and worked before the Great War at the Cooper's shop at the Alton Court Brewery in Ross.

### The Great War.

CSM Reginald Yemm. His Herefordshire number 777 indicates that he joined the regiment in 1909. The Herefords were a Territorial Force and not a regular army unit (part time soldiers) the TF were all renumbered in early 1917 hence the number 235053 on his medal card.. He was mobilised at the start of the war and following regimental training they were sent with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) to Egypt and then Gallipoli.

### Gallipoli

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

Corporal Yemm. On 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 Calgary 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.

In 1916 they stayed in Egypt and took part in the Egyptian and Palestinian campaign

## 1916 EGYPT

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

Corporal Yemm was wounded at the Battle of Gaza but recovered and took part in the remainder of the Palestine campaign.

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.

One might have thought they had done enough by this stage but they were needed in France.

Corporal Yemm was promoted to Serjeant 12/1/1918 and was 'Mentioned in Despatches' London Gazette 11th January 1918 (same day as Captain Whitehouse of Sellack).

#### 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.

777 CSM Reginald Yemm was seriously wounded by gunshot and evacuated to the No 8 General Hospital at Bois Guillaume, Rouen (The Sick Sisters Hospital) where he died from his wounds on 5th August 1918. He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

#### [UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919](#)

<b>Name:</b>	Reginald George Yemm
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross, Herefords
<b>Death Date:</b>	5 Aug 1918
<b>Death Location:</b>	France & Flanders
<b>Enlistment Location:</b>	Ross
<b>Rank:</b>	C.S.M.
<b>Regiment:</b>	Herefordshire Regiment
<b>Battalion:</b>	1/1st Battalion
<b>Number:</b>	235053
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Died of wounds
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	Western European Theatre



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
YEMM, Reginald G	Hereford	Serjt	235053
		WOOL 2	
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	8/10/18	82	Row No 235053
BRITISH	20-20		
15 STAR	24/11/18	6	
Theatre of War first served in	F B I		
Date of entry therein	9-8-18		

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star, The British War Medal, The Victory Medal. And the Oak Leaves on the Victory Medal for Mentioned in Despatches

In Memory of  
Company Serjeant Major  
**R G Yemm**

235053, "A" Coy. 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 05 August 1918 Age 25  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. G.H.T. Yemm, of Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery Extension

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

27841 Private  
**Thomas Henry  
Yemm**



11th Border Regiment.  
(Lonsdale Pals).  
Formerly

**Herefordshire Regt**



King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

**Thomas Henry Yemm**

He was born 7th October 1896 Peterstow at 55 The Nursery and baptised on 3rd November 1903 at Ross. In 1911 he was an errand boy at the Alton Court Brewery in Ross aged 14 and presumably became apprenticed as a Cooper like his father and brother before him.

**The Great War**

1497 Private Thomas Henry Yemm enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment in May 1914 (a TF force not required for overseas service) at the start of the war he immediately volunteered for overseas duties to see active service and was awarded the Territorial Force Medal. He was not however sent overseas immediately and did not go with the 1st Battalion to Gallipoli. He was posted into the 3rd Battalion.

1st July 1916 The opening day of the Battle of the Somme. The Army had over 57,000 casualties of which 20,000 were killed in action. The 11th Battalion Border Regiment had over 500 casualties on this day (out of 800 men). To remain as a fighting force they required reinforcements.

The Herefordshire Regiment - At the end of July 1916 approximately 500 Men of the 3rd Battalion Herefordshire Regt. went under canvas at Abergavenny 22nd September the Herefordshire men were transferred to the 3rd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and then on 1st October posted to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Base Depot at Rouen. Embarked from Southampton to Rouen 2nd October. 3rd October 1916 arrived Rouen and transferred to the 5th KSLI and then on 10th October 232 Herefords were transferred to 11th Border Regiment arriving with them on 10/11th. 11th October 1916. Cambrian Sector. Battalion in support line (VillageLine). Supplied R.E. parties. Reinforcements of 212 ORs arrived for Battalion. 12th. C/O and party from East Yorks arrived with purpose of gaining information prior to the Batt. taking over the line from us. 13th. Batt. in reserve visit to Batt.of Brig. Gen Jardine. 14th. Batt.left trenches for Bethune after being relieved by 1st E. Yorks. 15th. Batt left Bethune, full marching order. Arrived Labeuvriere and billeted there. Batt. parade in afternoon under C/O.

16th. Batt. left Labeurvrere full marching order arrived Monchy Breton at 1pm, stayed there overnight. 17th. Batt. left Monchy Breton full marching order arrived Moncheaux at 3pm. 18th. Batt. Left Moncheaux full marching order arrived Longuevillete 3.15pm. 19th. Batt. Left Longuevillete full marching order, marched for two hours and returned to Longuevillete. 20th. Batt. remained in billets during day. Batt. parade for general instruction and bombing and grenade throwing. 21st. Batt. Left Longuevillete 8am full marching order arrived Herissat at .45pm. Parade of bombers for live grenade throwing. 22nd. Batt remained at Herissat. Batt. parade in morning Bombing afternoon, live grenade throwing. Re-inforcements 6 men arrived. 23rd. Batt. Left Herissat for Bouzincourt arriving at 6.15pm. 24th.- 27th. October. At Bouzincourt General parades of instruction. 28th. G.O.C. (General Haig) in company with O/C Brigade and Division visited billets and also congratulated C/O 11th Border Regt. on state of his Batt.. 29th. In Bouzincourt general parade of instruction. R.E. parties. 30th. Batt.

Left Bouzincourt full marching order arrived 11.30am in Herissat. 31st October 1916. Left Herissat full marching order arrived at La Vicogne.

November 1916. La Vicogne. 1st. General parade of instruction under C/O. 2nd. Brigade Field Day. At 2.25pm Batt. took up position in Artillery Formation in a wood 2000 yards West of Herissat near Talmas. At 2.30 Batt. advanced in Westerly direction on bearing 300%. Leading Coy passed through Val De Maison followed by remaining Coys. Rear of Batt. passed at 3.35pm with no opposition. 3.45pm the Batt. broke into extended line making an advance of four waves at 100yds intervals on La Vicogne. Rear of Batt. experienced difficulties with the to rear Coys becoming mixed. Country rough and wire fenced with deep gullies. 4.12pm Batt. again held up with Coys mixed and slightly disorganised. Batt. again advanced. At 4.30pm well past the rough country and attacked La Vicogne rear through by 4.40pm. Position consolidated and occupied Western side of La Vicogne and patrols pushed forward.

3rd-5th. General parades of instruction under C/O. 6th. Batt. took part in Brigade Field Day. Advanced from a position South of Val De Maison and marched toward Beauval breaking into artillery formation on the way and finally assaulted a position South of Beauval having broken into extended order at Fme de Rosel. 7th/8th General parades of instruction 9th. Batt. went for route march under C/O. 10th. General parades. 11th. Visit of Brig. Gen. Jardine to meet all officers of 97th Brigade. Border Officers under C/O for tactical scheme. 12th. Church parade. 13th. Orders received to march. Batt. left La Vicogne at 10.am and arrived at Contay 3pm. 14th. Batt. left Contay full marching at 1pm and arrived Black Horse Bridge 7pm. Tiring march for Batt. and little accommodation for men. 15th. Orders to dump packs etc. then paraded in battle order at 2pm marched to Englebelmer arriving 5pm. 16th November . Batt. remained at Englebelmer fitting out with bombs etc. for action.



### 17th November. Redan Sector

Batt. left Englebelmer at 11am. in full fighting order for the trenches. Passed through Maily Maillet and passed through 'White City' having formed into single file. At this point the Batt. went across the open headed by the C/O. towards the trenches opposite Wagon Road occupying any trench front or back where we relieved the E. Lancs and the N.Lancs. On the way o these trenches the Batt. passed under shellfire and casualties were caused. After some difficulties the relief was completed at 6am. The ground was very bad and the wire much cut about by shellfire. The shellfire continued throughout and while in trenches the Batt suffered a few more casualties. The tape was laid out for the Batt. To form on ready for the attack. About 12 noon a heavy artillery barrage was opened on to the enemy lines opposite us. Half an hour later enemy artillery opened on ground held by us with heavy fire, this continued until well after dark. Companies were sent into position on the tape and the enemy artillery barrage continued playing havoc with our lines. Men of various companies who had got separated were got together and

everything got in readiness for the Batt. to take up position for the attack.

### 18th November Redan Ridge (Beaumont Hamel).

At 12 midnight marched along Wagon Rd to the positions. By 4am all were in readiness and by 5am Coys had moved on to the tape and were in position.

At Zero 6.10am the artillery barrage opened and the Regiment advanced in perfect order to attack. The men being a fine sight to see in spite of the intense cold in which they had to lie and wait. The Coys got well away and it is certain that the leading platoons and several others got well over Munick Trench after this it was difficult to ascertain the precise position of every company.

The Germans put over a very heavy bombardment and fired several rockets which burst into four red stars. There was considerable hostile machine gun fire some of which seemed to come from well in the rear of Frankfort Trench doing indirect fire on to the ground where the attack was delivered. Soon after daylight Capt Rosoe & Lt Greenhill were found with some Border men and some KOYLI near the communication trench with

Munick Trench. Here sharp fighting occurred with bombing attacks were delivered.

10pm. In the trench at approx. Q6 a bombing post was established and a little behind two Lewis Guns were placed in position, commanding both flanks. After dark several men, this is all of the men who were left on the Wagon Road side of Munick Trench returned after holding shell holes opposite the German line and in is wire to a position in Wagon Road. During the day and up till 10pm stretcher bearers were continuously over the top and about bringing in wounded men.

Those that were left of the battalion were re-organised and Wagon Road was placed in a state of defence by them. From accounts it is believed that several men got right through Munick Trench. Wounded men crawling back were continually sniped at by the enemy.

19th. November. Batt. in same position. No action taken by the enemy except for Shrapnel and heavy H.E. Barrage causing several casualties.

During the attack and after, when men were holding onto ground taken, the enemy adopted several cowardly devices, such as some coming out unarmed with their hands up and when our men showed themselves to get enemy prisoners they (the enemy with hands up) would suddenly drop and our men were shot by concealed Germans further on.

A little after noon the battalion was relieved by the Enniskillen Fusiliers.

Private Thomas Henry Yemm was reported 'Missing' on 18th November 1916 in the battle of Redan Ridge. He was later reported as Killed in Action.

140 men of the Border Regiment died on the 18th November of which 53 were from the Herefordshire Regiment.

He is commemorated on 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.

On Ross War Memorial  
The 'Roll of Honour' for the Border Regiment.

Thomas Yemm's medal card. It shows his name, rank and numbers. The Regiments he served with (Herefords, KSLI, Border Regt.) but not the Battalion, however his Commonwealth War Graves information gives his Battalion number with the Border Regiment.

It also gives his medal entitlement. Victory/British/T.F.Border Regt. TFM (Territorial Force Medal).

S.A. No. 20577 - Bord. R. *		No. 27844	
Name: YEMM, Thomas. H.		Regiment: Hereford R. X. S.I. 1	
Service: Bord. R.		No. 116	
Medal:	Roll:	Page:	Remarks:
Victory	* 11/16/16	222	
British	do	do	
Sea			
T.F.-WAR-BORD-R-TFM 7/14			
Theatre of War first served in:			
Date of entry therein:			
TFM/for his: correct = 3 <sup>rd</sup> K. 1990			

He was awarded



The British War Medal, The Victory Medal, The Territorial Force Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**Thomas Henry Yemm**

27841, 11th Bn., Border Regiment who died on 18 November 1916

Remembered with Honour  
Thiepval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 43465 Private Hubert Downing



12th Battalion  
Welsh Regiment

## Hubert Downing

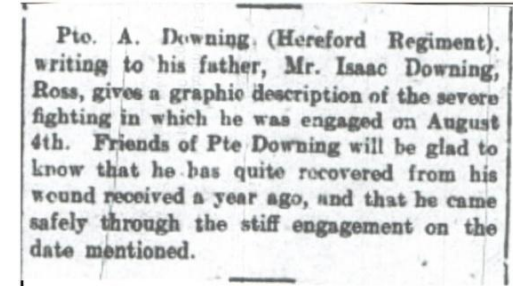
His name was Hubert Downing but on a number of records, especially military ones he has become Herbert Downing. He was born in 1876 in Preens entry, Broad St, Ross. His father was Isaac Downing Master Sweep & Bill Poster Town Crier & Lamp Lighter was originally from Paddington.. Hubert's mother Carolina Lock Lawrence was

born in Wilton, Wiltshire (christened 24th July 1842). They had married in Wiltshire in 1863. They had 18 children of which 16 survived to adulthood. By 1891 They had moved from Broad St. to New St, and his father and Albert were chimney sweeps. 1901 Father a Chimney Sweep and Bill Poster . Living at 47 New St, Ross. Herbert was a Bill Poster and Chimney sweep as well. 1911 Living at 48 New St. Ross. Isaac, Hubert and Arthur were all chimney sweeps.

## The Great War.

Hubert Downing joined the Herefordshire Regiment at the beginning of the Great War (August 1914). The Ross Gazette 17th September 1914 lists him and his brothers Arthur and Henry as being in the Herefords at that date. His home address was 48 New St, Ross. His two brothers both went off to Gallipoli with the Herefords landing in Gallipoli in July and August 1915 respectively. Henry served throughout the war in the Herefords and then the Labour Corps and served in Gallipoli, Palestine until 1918 and then went to France finally returning home on 9th February 1919. Arthur was wounded in Gallipoli and on

recovering went to Egypt to rejoin his unit. He fought at the Battle of Romani 4th August 1916 It was reported in The Ross Gazette 31st August 1916.



At some stage Hubert transferred from the Herefords (the Herefords sent huge numbers of men to other regiments 212 to the 11th Border Regt. about 60 to the Warwickshire Regt. A large contingent to the 11th Cheshires etc.) he was posted to the 12th (Reserve) Battalion, the Welch Regiment. These reserve units were there to train men and supply reinforcements to the 'front line' battalions.

Private Downing did not serve overseas so there is not Medal card for him, also his service record was destroyed in the Blitz in WW2. The 12th Battalion Welch Regt were part of 13th Reserve Brigade along with the 13th Batt. South Wales Borderers and based at Kinmel Park (Rhyl).

In March 1916 Private Downing became ill with *Phthisis* (a progressively wasting or consumptive condition especially : pulmonary tuberculosis.) he was sent to the Second Western General Hospital, Princess Street, Manchester and on 9th June 1916 he succumbed to the illness and 'Heart Failure' and died. The Ross Gazette reported that he was with SWB.

He is buried in Manchester Southern Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

**UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War.**


**Name:** Hubert Downing  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Death Date:** 10 Jun 1916  
**Death Place:** Home  
**Enlistment Place:** Ross-on-ye, Herefords  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Welsh Regiment  
**Battalion:** 12th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 43465  
**Type of Casualty:** Died  
**Theatre of War:** Home



In Memory of  
Private  
**Herbert Downing**

43465, 12th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died on 10 June 1916 Age 33  
Son of Isaac and Catherine Agnes Downing, of 38, Over Ross St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Manchester Southern Cemetery

  
Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission