

19855

Private



# HAWKINS

Edward Robert

Devonshire Regiment



<b>Death regarded as</b>	20 July 1916
<b>Place of Death</b>	Battle of the Somme
<b>How Died</b>	Killed in Action
<b>Birth Registration</b>	1896
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Aldbourne
<b>Baptism</b>	29th January 1899 at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne
<b>Father</b>	Henry Hawkins
<b>Mother</b>	Emma Deacon
<b>Residence</b>	Census 1901: Upper Upham, Aldbourne Census 1911: The Butts, Aldbourne
<b>Occupation</b>	Census 1911: Plough boy on farm
<b>Military Service</b>	<p>Edward Robert enlisted with Devonshire Regiment in the early part of the war and was posted abroad in 1915, arriving in Egypt on 16th October. He was then transferred to 8th Battalion, Devonshires, stationed in France in time to take part of the Battle of the Somme.</p> <p>Although he was listed as "Missing" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office on 7th September 1919, his death was assumed to have occurred in July during the Battle of Bazentin Ridge. "His death was 'regarded' as being on 20th July 1916 during a night time assault on Bazentin Ridge, but again nobody really knows. He has no known grave.</p> <p>By a cruel twist of fate, his brother (Army No. 19283) Pte Frederick Thomas (Tom) Hawkins died just eight days later in Mesopotamia while serving with the 5th Wiltshire Regiment. To lose one son is tragic, but to lose two within a week of each other is unimaginable".</p>
<b>Memorials</b>	Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 1 C. Aldbourne Village War Memorial Roll of Honour plaque at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne
<b>Aldbourne WW1 website</b>	The Dependant Pension Card names his mother, Emma Hawkins, resident in Bishopstone, as next of kin. It states that she was entitled to receive a dependants' separation allowance for Tom which precluded her receiving a further pension for Edward Robert.
<b>Medals Awarded</b>	British and Victory Medals: C/2/103 B10 Page 733 15 Star: C/2/4 B2 Page 399

**Source:** With thanks to Paul Williams, Bishopstone & Little Hinton Archivist, for sharing his research 2022.