

Roll of Honour

Connected to Chicklade



Lest we Forget

World War I



8993 LANCE CORPORAL

R. G. HACKER

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

30th SEPTEMBER, 1915

Reginald Garfield HACKER

Reginald Garfield Hacker was born at Fonthill Bishop, Wiltshire in 1893 to parents William & Martha Hacker. Reginald's birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1893. Reginald Garfield Hacker was baptised on 13th October, 1893 at Fonthill Bishop.

The 1901 Census recorded Reginald Hacker as a 7 year old, living with his Uncle & Aunt at Berwick Road, (Northeast side of Watercourse), Berwick St. Leonard, Tisbury, Wiltshire. His Uncle & Aunt were listed as Frederick Hacker (Carter on a Farm, aged 27, born Fonthill Bishop) & Edith Hacker (aged 30, born Lower Pertwood).

The 1911 Census recorded Reginald Garfield Hacker, aged 14, Farm Labourer, living with his family in a four roomed dwelling at Knoyle Down, Hindon, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as William Hacker (Farm Labourer, aged 53, born Bishops Fonthill) & Martha Hacker (aged 50, born Chilmark). Reginald's parents had been married for 28 years & had 7 children, with one child deceased. Reginald was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census - Ivan Percival (Farm Labourer, aged 13, born Bishops Fonthill) & Violet Gladys (aged 9, born Chicklade)

Reginald Garfield Hacker enlisted at Salisbury with the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment. He was given the service number of 8993.

Lance Corporal Reginald Garfield Hacker died of wounds on 30th September, 1915, aged 22 years. Lance Corporal Hacker's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

Lance Corporal Reginald Garfield Hacker was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France in Plot number IV. H. 10A. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone. The CWGC lists Lance Corporal Reginald Garfield Hacker, service number 8993, aged 22, as the son of William and Martha Hacker of Hindon, Wilts.

The Medal Index Card for Reginald G. Hacker shows that he entered a Theatre of War on 7th October, 1914. He was entitled to 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. He was also entitled to a Clasp with the 1914 Star which was issued to those that had served under enemy fire during the period on 5th August – 22nd November, 1914.

R. G. Hacker is remembered in the Casualties of WW1 Memorial Book for the Diocese of Salisbury for the parish of Chicklade.

Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES OF THE WILTS REGIMENT

DIED OF WOUNDS

2nd Battalion – Hacker, 8993 Lance-Corporal R. G.

(*Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle* – 15 October, 1915)

DEAD ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR



Lance-Cpl R. Hacker
(Chicklade, Wilts)

Died of Wounds, France

(*Western Gazette*, Yeovil, Somerset - 15 October, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

HACKER - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal R. G. Hacker, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Hacker, Chicklade, who died of wounds received in action at the Battle of Loos, Sept 29th 1915, aged 22.

A brave soldier and loving son.
He gave his all for his country.
God knows how much we miss him,
He sees the tears we shed and whispers Hush!
He only sleeps, your loved one is not dead.

Inserted by his sorrowing Parents, Brother and Sisters

(*Western Gazette*, Yeovil, Somerset - 13 October, 1916)

Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town, on the west side of the road to Boulogne.

During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern or the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained.

The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

Hospitals were again stationed at Etaples during the Second World War and the cemetery was used for burials from January 1940 until the evacuation at the end of May 1940. After the war, a number of graves were brought into the cemetery from other French burial grounds. Of the 119 Second World War burials, 38 are unidentified.

Etaples Military Cemetery also contains 662 Non Commonwealth burials, mainly German, including 6 unidentified. There are also now 5 Non World War service burials here.

The cemetery, the largest Commission cemetery in France, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.



Headstone of Lance Cpl. Reginald G. Hacker (Photo from International Wargraves Photography Project)



Etaples Military Cemetery (*Photos from CWGC*)



