

# Codford St. Mary

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



**14131 CORPORAL**

**ALBERT EDGAR READ**

**ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY**

**29th APRIL, 1918\***

\*UK Soldiers Died in the Great War has date of death as 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1918

\* Commonwealth War Graves Commission has date of death as 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1918

**Albert Edgar READ**

Albert Edgar Read was born at Codford to parents Charles & Jane Read. His birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1894.

The 1891 Census, before Albert Edgar Read was born, records Charles Read as a 46 year old General Labourer, born Widcomb, Bath, Somerset, living with his wife Jane, aged 43, born Downton, Wiltshire. The couple were living at Chitterne Rd, (Cheapside) at Codford St. Mary, Wiltshire with their 8 children – Edward W (Under Gardener, aged 16, born Netton, Wiltshire), Hedley (Under Groom, aged 14), Kate (aged 12), Jesse (Male, aged 10), Edith (aged 7), Annie (aged 2) & Frederick W. & Ellen M. Both aged under 1 month. All the children after Edward had been born at Codford St. Mary.

A death for Ellen Margaret Read, aged 0, was registered in the March quarter of 1892 & a death for Frederick William Read, aged 1, was recorded in the September quarter of 1892 – both in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

A death for a Charles Read, aged 50, was registered in the June quarter of 1896 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

In the June quarter of 1898, a marriage was registered between Jane Read & John Axford in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census records Albert Edgar Read as a 6 year old living at 3 Cottages over R. Wylle at Codford St. Mary. Albert is recorded living with his step-father – John Axford (Labourer in Water Cress Beds, aged 38), his mother – Jane Axford (aged 52) & sister – Annie Read (aged 12).

(Note – living next door was Francis Arthur Simper who is also remembered on the Codford St. Mary's World War 1 Memorial inside the church. Rifleman Simper died of wounds on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1916 & is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.)

The 1911 Census records Albert Edgar Read as a 16 year old Labourer, living at Giggins Street, Codford St. Mary, in a 4 roomed dwelling. Albert is recorded with his step-father – John Axford (Labourer, aged 50) & his mother – Jane Axford (aged 63). John & Jane Axford had been married for 13 years with no children. Albert has been recorded as "Son" however it appears that the enumerator has decided that because Alfred's surname was Read & not Axford – "In Law" was added to the "Son" in the relationship column – when in fact it should have read "step-son".

Albert Edgar Read enlisted with the Royal Horse Artillery & Royal Field Artillery Regiment at Salisbury, Wiltshire. He was given a service number of 14131. Corporal Read's records show that he was attached to Royal Field Artillery "D" Bty. 71<sup>st</sup> Bde & entered a Theatre of War on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1915.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, served with 15th (Scottish) Division. 15th (Scottish) Division was formed in September 1914, as part of Kitchener's Second New Army. They proceeded to France in the second week of July 1915. They were in action in the The Battle of Loos in 1915. In spring 1916, they were involved in the German gas attacks near Hulluch and the defence of the Kink position. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including The Battle of Pozieres, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette and the capture of Martinpuich, The Battle of Le Transloy and the attacks

on the Butte de Warlencourt. In 1917 they were in action in The First and Second Battle of the Scarpe, including the capture of Guemappe during the Arras Offensive. They then moved north to Flanders and were in action during the The Battle of Pilckem and The Battle of Langemark. In 1918 they fought in The First Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras, The Battle of the Soissonais and the Ourcq taking part in the attack on Buzancy, and The Final Advance in Artois.

Cpl. Albert Edgar Read was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 \* (Some records show date of death as 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1918), aged 23 years.

Corporal Albert Edgar Read is remembered on the Arras Memorial at Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France – Bay 1, as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists no additional information for Corporal Albert Edgar Read. (The additional information usually consists of parents and/or wife's name & addresses).

Corporal Albert E. Read was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War – France on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1915.

A. E. Read is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Codford St. Mary.

Cpl. A. E. Read of R.F. Artillery is remembered on the World War 1 Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Codford, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*

## Arras Memorial

The Arras Memorial is located in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery in the western part of the town of Arras, France. The Arras Memorial commemorates 34,791 identified casualties of servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa & New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 & 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The Canadian and Australian servicemen killed are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux.

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April, 1917.

The Commonwealth section of the Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery was begun in March, 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial. (CWGC)

## Arras Memorial

(Photographs courtesy of [In Memory](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)

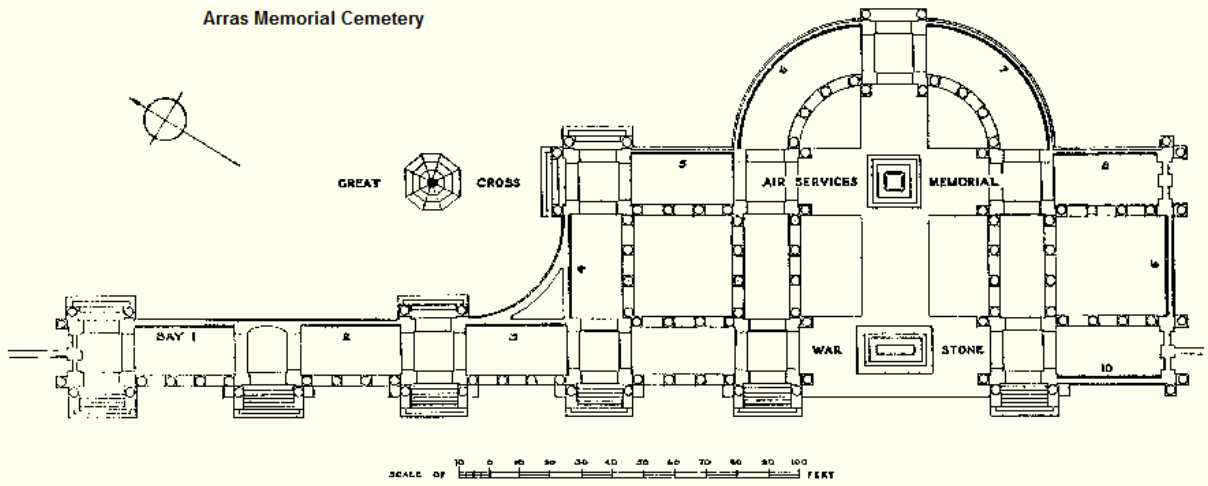




AMIOT C.F.L.	HARDHAM E.	BROWN
ASHWORTH K.E.	HATTON W.	BROWNLOW A.T.
BARRASS M.	INSTONE J.	SPYNE J.
BENTHAM D.	JORDON F.	BUCHAN S.J.M.
COLE F.W.	McCALL E.	BUCKLEY C.
COLES F.	McCARILLY E.	BUCKSEY B.J.
CROWDY E.	McLOUGHLIN J.H.	CANN A.
DUFFUS C.M.M.	PRICE A.M.M.	CARNEGIE G.
FLYNN E.	READ A.E.	CARSBERG F.G.
GARDNER J.M.M.	RUSSELL R.	CARVER W.
GILBERT A.W.	SEYMOUR J.P.	CAVENOR F.E.
GRAY W.	SHAW T.	CHERRY R.E.
GREEN J.	STEPNING G.	CHITTY W.J.
HAMMOND E.	TAYLOR J.W.	CHROFTES E.J.
HARMER A.M.M.	TYRRELL W.A.G.	CLARK J.G.
HOCKING J.	WHEATSTONE J.A.	CLARKE F.P.
HOWARD A.R.M.M.	M.N.	CLARKE H.
KNIGHTLY H.C.E.	LOMBARDIER	CLARKE H.W.
LEONARD R.F.		CLAYTON C.I.

*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*

Arras Memorial Cemetery



LAY-OUT OF THE PANELS (OR BAYS).