



Codford St. Peter

Roll of Honour

World War I



8848 PRIVATE ALBERT EDWARD THOMAS

2ND BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

24th OCTOBER, 1914

Albert Edward Thomas was born at Codford St. Peter, Wiltshire to parents Arthur Albert E. T. & Eliza Jane Thomas (nee Pearce). His birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the March quarter of 1890.

The 1891 Census records Albert E. Thomas as a 1 year old, born at Codford St. Peter, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at Codford St. Peter. His parents were recorded as Arthur A. Thomas (Agricultural Labourer, aged 28) & Eliza J. (aged 28). Also included in the household was Albert's older brother - Francis H. (Scholar, aged 5) & Herbert W. Pearce (Builder's Labourer, aged 25) – brother of Eliza & Albert's uncle.

The 1901 Census records "Edward" as an 11 year old living with his family at Codford St. Peter. The next household enumerated after the Thomas' was the George Hotel. Edward's parents were recorded as Albert Thomas (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 38) & Eliza Thomas (aged 38). Eight children were recorded – Henry (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 15), then Edward, Elsie (aged 9), Alice (aged 7), Orina (aged 6), Margaret & Arthur (Both aged 2) & Douglas (aged 4 months). All the children were recorded as being born at Codford, Wiltshire.

In the December quarter of 1904 a death was registered in Warminster, Wiltshire for Eliza Jane Thomas, aged 41.

The 1911 Census records Edward as a 21 year old Farm Labourer living with his family at Codford St. Peter in a 6 roomed dwelling. His father is listed as Albert Thomas (Farm Labourer, aged 49). After the death of Eliza Jane, Edward's mother in 1904, Albert Thomas remarried in 1906 to Alice Porter. Alice Thomas is recorded on the 1911 census as a 38 year old who had been married for 5 years with 2 children. Edward is listed as the oldest of 7 children in the household – the youngest 2 children being his half-brothers. The children listed were Alice (aged 17), Margaret & Arthur (both aged 12), Frederick (aged 10) & half-brothers John (aged 4) & William (aged 1).

Albert Edward Thomas enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment at Warminster, Wiltshire. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 8848. Private Thomas' records show that he was attached to 2nd Battalion (Duke of Edinburgh's) Wiltshire Regiment. His residence was shown as Codford St. Peter, Wiltshire.

Pte Albert Edward Thomas was killed in action on 24th October, 1914, aged 24 years – 17 days after entering a Theatre of War.

War Diary - 2nd Wiltshire - 23rd October, 1914

Location – Belgium, Beselare

Entry - The enemy bombarded the whole of the trenches with heavy artillery fire doing considerable damage both in casualties and destroying trenches. During night the firing on both sides was comparatively light occasional shots only being fired. The Battalion was reinforced early in the evening by about one company of Scots Guards. (Source: [The Wardrobe](#) –Home of the Berkshire & Wiltshire Regiments)

War Diary - 2nd Wiltshire – 24th October, 1914

Location – Belgium, Beselare

Entry - About 5.30am (just before daybreak) the enemy attacked in a very superior force but were driven back with heavy loss. They attacked again, and after about 2 hours of almost continuous fighting in which the enemy lost hundreds in killed and wounded, they broke through the lines having previously contrived to come around on our left through trenches that had been vacated with the exception of about 30 NCOs and men mostly from trenches on right the remainder of Battalion were either killed or captured, a large number being captured. Cpl Alderton who had escaped from trench on left of BECELARE road together with Privates Dunn Holister and Jones being apparently last to leave the trenches, gathered stragglers together and formed a rear guard to Brigade ambulances by opening out in skirmishing order. On arrival at 7th Divisional HQ he was met by Cpl Bull, and in the evening the APM took party numbering 26 back to Brigade HQ where they met Cpl Richens and 50 men which included about 12 Lance Corporals. The majority of these men had been driven from their trenches by artillery fire the previous evening. The Quarter master hearing that Lieut Macnamara was wounded visited him at the field hospital and afterwards about 4pm collected the 50 men above mentioned taking them to Brigade HQ and was informed that no news of Battalion had been received since early morning. NOTE : special mention should be made of the gallant worth of Capt Comyn, the medical officer and stretcher bearers who for the last three days and nights were continuously handling wounded or burying dead. (Source: [The Wardrobe](#) –Home of the Berkshire & Wiltshire Regiments)

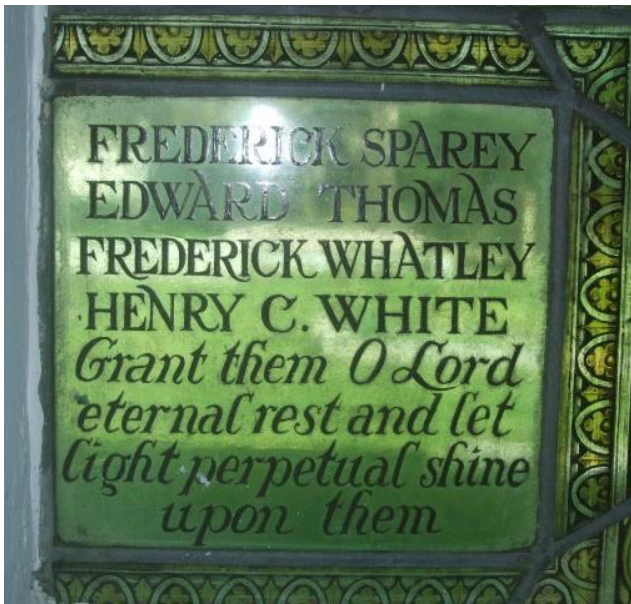
Pte Albert Edward Thomas is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – Panel 53 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Pte Albert Edward Thomas as the son of Albert E. Thomas of 133, Ivy Cottage, Codford, Wiltshire.

Pte Albert Edward Thomas was entitled to the 1914 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War – on 7th October, 1914.

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

Edward Thomas is remembered on the World War 1 Stained Glass Memorial window in St. Peter's Church, Codford, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



Codford St Peter -North aisle By F C Eden, 1920 - War Memorial window with Saints Michael and George (Photo by Rex Harris 2011)

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

The Menin Gate Memorial is located at Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium & has 54,406 identified casualties of officers & men whose graves are not known. It is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands who passed it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom.

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.



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

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

