

Connected to Codford



Lest we Forget

World War I



9791 PRIVATE

H. CUMMINS

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

11TH MAY, 1916

Harry CUMMINS

Harry Cummins was born at Bapton, Wiltshire in 1891 to parents Harry & Emma Cummins. Harry's birth was registered in June quarter, 1891 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. Henry Cummins had married Emma Lawrence in 1888 at Fisherton de la Mere.

The 1901 Census recorded Harry Cummins as a 9 year old living with his family at Stockton, in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Harry Cummins (Agricultural Labourer, aged 41, born Stockton) & Emma Cummins (aged 35, born Bapton). Harry was the eldest of 3 children listed in this Census – Daisy F. (aged 6, born Stockton) & Victor J. (aged 3, born Bapton).

The 1911 Census recorded Harry Cummins as a 19 year old Farm Carter, living with his family at Stockton, Codford St. Mary, Wiltshire in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Harry Cummins (Farm Labourer, aged 51) & Emma Cummins (aged 46). Harry & Emma Cummins had been married for 22 years & had 5 children in that time, 2 children having since died. Also listed was Harry's younger brother – Victor (aged 13, at school) & William Foley – Boarder (Farm Carter, aged 27).

Harry Cummins enlisted at Salisbury. He was residing at Codford at the time of his enlistment (UK Soldiers Died in Great War).

According to his Medal Index Card, Pte Harry Cummins first entered a Theatre of War at the Balkans on 30th June, 1915.

Private Harry Cummins died on 11th May, 1916 in Mesopotamia. He was attached to 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death.

Private Harry Cummins was buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq - Plot VI. A. 9. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private H. Cummins, 9791 of 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. No family details are listed.

5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

The 5th (Service) Battalion was raised at Assaye Barracks in Tidworth, August 1914. The numbers raised were too large so the 6th (Service) battalion was also raised from the 5th Battalion overspill of manpower.

In July 1915 the 5th (Service) Battalion set sail for the Dardanelles and by the 17th were all ashore at Cape Helles, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Two days later they were in the trenches facing the Turkish Army. On the 6th August they took part in a night attack to capture a ridge of hills to assist the British landing at Suvla bay. The following day they took part in the attack at Sari Bair. This was a successful attack, but the response was fast and very violent. They were attacked by a Turkish Division led by Mustapha Kemal. The battalion was overrun with half the battalion never being seen again. The battalion was reorganised, returning to trench warfare with the main enemy being dysentery and jaundice. On the 18th December they embarked for Mudros returning ten days later in a blizzard, here they saw in 1916.

The 5th (Service) Battalion evacuated from Cape Helles in January going to Port Said where they were reinforced with 750 men. In February they went to Kuwait and in March to Amara via the Tigris River. They then relieved the Lahore Division south of Kut. In April they took part in the attempt to relieve Kut and attacked the Turkish Trenches at Hannah, followed by an attack on Sanna-I-Yat. All the efforts to relieve Kut failed and eventually the garrison was forced to surrender. *(Many men who had been transferred from the 1st and 2nd/4th Regiments in India were captured with units besieged in Kut)* May was spent in defensive positions after which they returned to the Amara area where they remained until the end of December when they crossed the Hai River ready to move North to Kut.

(Information from [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire)

Private Harry Cummins was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

H. Cummins is remembered in the Casualties of WW1 Memorial Book for the Diocese of Salisbury for the parish of Stockton, Wiltshire.



Amara War Cemetery, Iraq

Amara is a town on the left bank of the Tigris some 520 kilometres from the sea. The War Cemetery is a little east of the town between the left bank of the river and the Chahaila Canal.

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there.

Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. 925 of the graves are unidentified. In 1933, all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it. Plot XXV is a Collective Grave, the individual burial places within this are not known. There are also seven non-war graves in the cemetery.

(Information & photo from CWGC)





Panel where Pte H. Cummins' name is recorded

(Photo from International Wargraves Photography Project)



