



TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN HONOUR
OF THE MEN OF
THIS PARISH WHO
FELL IN THE GREAT
WAR OF 1914-1918

E. J. PARKER R.O. LANC
P. W. LONG C.E.F.
CPL H. MATTHEWS WILTS REG
PVT G. POTTER WILTS REG
PVT B. KYTE R.A.M.C.
PVT H. MEADEN R. ENGINEER
CPL C. CIDDINGS R. WILTS YEOP
PVT A. MUNBY R. FUSILIERS
LCPM W. YATES R. WARWICK
PVT H. F. KYTE R. WARWICK
PVT W. J. KYTE LEINSTER REG
S. A. A. KYTE O. W. RIFLES

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE
1939-1945
CECIL BUNDY R.C.S.



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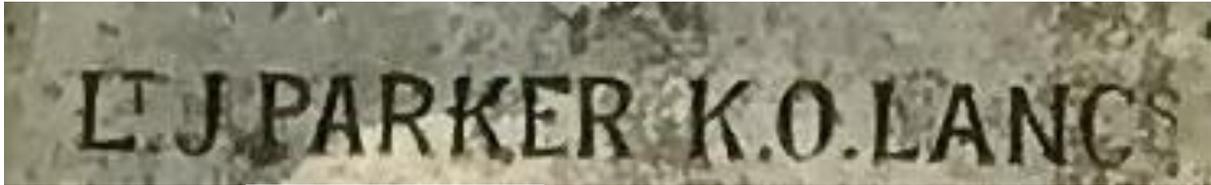
PTE H. F. KYTE RYL WARWICKS

PTE W. J. KYTE LEINSTER REGT

SPT A. A. KYTE O. W. RIELES



This Memorial Plaque medallion was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British Empire service personnel who died as a result of the war.



SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN R PARKER

John Parker Jnr was born 28 Jan 1890 in Woolwich, London the son of a Royal Artillery Corporal (Later Warrant Officer). A baptismal record exists for John in All Saints Rotherhithe dated 2 Mar 1890.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>All Saints Rotherhithe</u> in the County of <u>Summ</u> in the Year 18 <u>90</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<u>March 2</u> <u>Born</u> <u>28 Jan</u> <u>1890</u> No. 1380.	<u>John</u>	<u>John</u> <u>&</u> <u>Harriet</u> <u>Maria</u>	<u>Parker</u>	<u>7 Rilla</u> <u>Street</u> <u>Woolwich</u>	<u>Soldier</u>	<u>J. Heyler Owen</u> <u>??</u>

His father, John Parker Snr, was born around 1864 in Staveley, Cartmel, Lancashire. His mother was Harriet Maria Parker (Nee Keeble) who was born around 1869 in Chislehurst, London. John Snr and Harriet married on 19 May 1889 at St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich and according to the 1911 Census they had 3 children, 2 of which were alive in 1911.

In 1891 the family were in Woolwich and were still there in 1901 when John Snr was a Staff Sergeant Gymnastic Instructor. Also present in 1901 was daughter Amy Dorothy Parker born in Woolwich in 1892.

In 1911 the family were living in the Black Horse Pub in Tilshead, less sister Amy who had married Hugh Crail in Bulford in 1910. John Snr is recorded as the Inn keeper and Army Pensioner and John Jnr is recorded as a Potman (a man who serves drinks in a pub or bar).



The Western Gazette obituary for John Jnr reports he had gone to Canada as a schoolteacher but returned to Liverpool from Montreal Quebec on the RMS Grampian (as a civilian but probably with elements of the Canadian Expeditionary Force) on 28 Nov 1914.

101-1014-210-20,000 8/13 H.W.V. P.M. 23.

Name of Ship *Grampian* Port of Arrival *Liverpool* Date of Arrival *28 Nov 1914*
 Steamship Line *Allan* Whence Arrived *Montreal Quebec*

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.

(1) Port of Embarkation.	(2) Port at which Passengers have been landed.	(3) NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	(4) CLASS (Whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd).	(5) Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers. <small>In the case of First Class Passengers this column need not be filled up.</small>	(6) AGES OF PASSENGERS. <small>Except for First Class Passengers, state the age last birthday.</small>						(7) Country of last Permanent Residence.†	(8) Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.†				
					Adults of 12 years and upwards.		Children between 1 and 12.		Infants.			Spain.	Portugal.	France.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
					Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.						
		<i>Money Penny John</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Painter</i>			<i>23</i>				<i>Canada</i>				/	
		<i>No address given.</i>														
		<i>Marsh</i>	<i>Shos.</i>	<i>Wearer</i>			<i>31</i>				✓				/	
		<i>Blangollen.</i>														
		<i>Parker John</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Teacher</i>			<i>24</i>				✓				/	

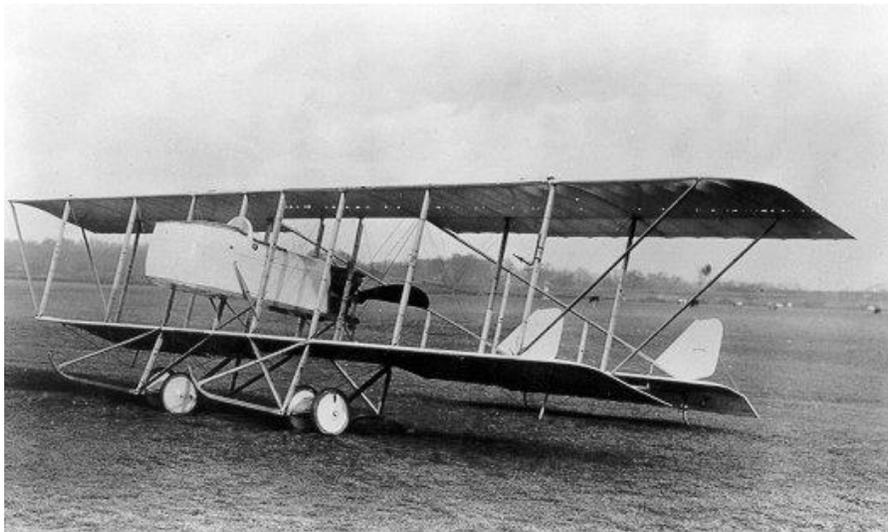
Passenger Manifest Return to England 1914

When he returned, he initially enlisted in the Public Schools and University Corps then in short order was posted to the 20th Service Battalion Royal Fusiliers. His potential was obviously recognised and after Officer Training at Sandhurst he commissioned into King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). His father had re-enlisted and was apparently a Regimental Sergeant Major in the same regiment.

After a short period at the front on 19th May 1915 John Jnr was then attached to 4th Squadron Royal Flying Corps as an observer. He was graded as a qualified observer on 8th July 1915, 8 days before being forced down.

No. 4 Squadron was formed at Farnborough in 1912 and quickly moved to Netheravon where it remained until the outbreak of the First World War. The more useful aircraft in its inventory were sent to France under the command of Major G. H. Rayleigh on 16 August 1914, to carry out reconnaissance in support of the British Expeditionary Force. On 19 August Lieutenant G. W. Mapplebeck flew the squadron's first mission over France, a reconnaissance flight searching for German cavalry in the vicinity of Gembloux, Belgium.

The contingent in France was reinforced on 20 September by the personnel who had remained behind in England, forming C Flight, equipped with Maurice Farman "Shorthorns". It concentrated on the reconnaissance role.



Farman MF.11

Role: Reconnaissance / Bomber
Manufacturer: Farman Aviation Works
First flight: 1913
Introduction: May 1914



John's plane was forced down on 16 Jun 1915 and he died in a German Field Hospital in the area of Baupaume on 21 July 1915. His colleague Corporal Victor Judge the pilot was taken prisoner. He too was wounded. Victor was repatriated at end of war and died aged 35 on 23 June 1924.

The Western Gazette report, validated by the Tilshead Church stained glass window citation, states that a German plane dropped a message on the 4th Squadron airfield saying John Junior had died at a German hospital after a desperate air fight.

Victor Thomas Judge RFC record supports the newspaper report on the incident. 'Plane forced down at Baupaume'.

John is buried at ACHIET-LE-GRAND COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION
plot IV. H. 10.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant
J R PARKER
4th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps who died on 21 July 1915
Remembered with Honour
ACHIET-LE-GRAND COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION
IV. H. 10.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF LIEUT.
JOHN PARKER ROYAL LANCASTER REG. 4TH REG. KILLED
AFTER A DESPERATE FIGHT IN THE AIR AT
BAUPAUME IN FRANCE JULY 21ST 1915 AGE 25
LAMENTED BY HIS FRIENDS RESPECTED BY HIS ENEMIES



Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps R.O. R. 2 Regt

Regimental No. _____ Rank Lieut Name Parker J.

Enlisted (a) 1 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____

Date of promotion to present rank | Date of appointment to lance rank | Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. |

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Attached from		19/15	
		Graced Qualifier Honor		27/15	R0207
		Missing		21/15	
21/15	own officer	Unofficially report to have died on 21/15 (result of wounds received after a desperate fight in the air) (messages from German aviators)		21/15	W.O. List. X19547 9/15/15
22/10		Officially reported dead in this column. Bapaume shot in train & left chest		21/15	9/20/15 (Bapaume or Bapaume)

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

P.T.O.

Casualty Notification form

0AIR 56356

Parker, 2/Lt. Hon Lt. John,
R. A. F.

Tilshead
Hills.

Age 55

Pension Record Card (Father's age is shown)

Central-Nachweis-Büro. P.A. 3144
No.

- 2 - 20 AUG 1915

Engländer.
26.8.1915.

Beerdigt auf d. Gefechtsfelde westl. Poelkapelle
b. Boulers.

Kidd, ? Oxf. Lt. Inf. W.G.B. Erk. Nr. 9668. Ende
Juli 1915 begraben. Hh. unb.

Beerdigt zu Niederwehren.

Reeles, Frédéric, Sold. Scots Guards Reg. verst. 20.6.15
in Gef. Lag. Cassel Niederwehren.

Beerdigt zu Bapaume.

Parker, Jack, Flieger Lt. 4. Schwadr. Fliegerkorps in
Beauguesne. verst. 21.7.15 in W.R. Feldlaz.
1 Bapaume. Gehirnschuss. lk. Schulter.

Beerdigt zu Kortryk.

German Prisoner of War Card

Name.	274-15	Stm.	Blk	Wm	Rank	1/3/22	Regtl. No.
PARKER.		R. Lan. R.			2/Lt.	-X-	
John							
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Died of Wds. 21.7.15				
VICTORY	101	145	14.7863 W ⁴ /1.3.22 NW/1/12576				
BRITISH							
STAR							
Theatre of War first served in							
Date of entry therein							
							NW/7/12876 K. 1380

Medal Index Card



1914/15 Star

War Medal

Victory Medal

WILTSHIRE AVIATOR
KILLED.

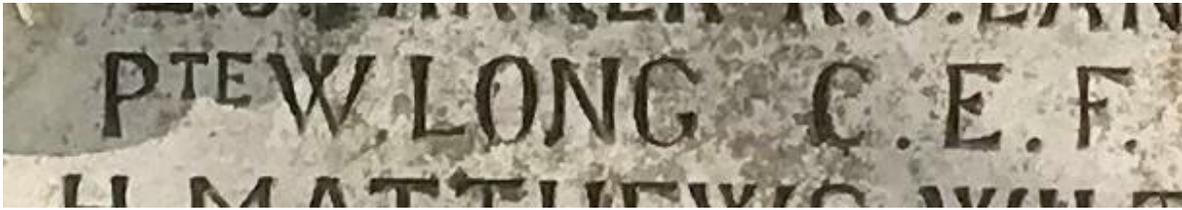
GERMAN THOUGHTFULNESS :
BRITISH THANKS.

ADMIRATION FOR OUR AIR
SERVICE.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Parker, of Tilshead, Wilts, in the bereavement they have sustained by the death of their only son at the Front. The first intimation of the sad occurrence was from a chum of the deceased, who sent the following letter:—

"Dear Mrs. Parker,—Just a line to let you know how deeply all of us in No. 4 Squadron sympathise with you in your great loss. I expect you will have heard by this time that your son was killed in a flight in the air. The only information I have been able to gather is from a message which was dropped by a German machine, which said that your son had been wounded and died in hospital. The German message also said that they wished to express their admiration for the extreme gallantry of the English aviator. I think no-one could wish for a better tribute to gallantry than this.—Yours sincerely (signed), CHARLES LONGCROFT."

On the outbreak of war he paid his own fare back to England, and enlisted in the Public Schools and University Corps, joining the 20th Service Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He went through Sandhurst Military College, and subsequently received a commission in the King's Own Loyal Lancashire Regiment. He soon afterwards went to the Front, where he was attached to the 4th Royal Flying Squadron. His father is Battalion Sergeant-Major in the same regiment, he having re-enlisted on the outbreak of war.



PRIVATE WILLIAM JAMES LONG

William was born on 30 April 1891 in Greenwich London. He was the son of John Long a Policeman (born 28 Sep 1851 in Tilshead, died 26 Jan 1900 and buried at Tilshead) and Annie Long (nee Larkin) (born 1856 in Northiam, Sussex died 1934 Wiltshire). John and Annie married 22 Jul 1879 in Streatham Common Immanuel, Lambeth.

William is recorded as being a Machinist (Agricultural)? by trade and his religion is recorded as being Baptist/Congregational.

Just before William was born the family are recorded in the 1891 Census living in Greenwich with Father John, Mother Annie and children Alice (b 1882) Lizzie (b 1884) and Sydney (b1889).

His Father John, died in 1900.

In the 1901 Census William is recorded (aged 9) as living in Tilshead with Mother Annie, brother Sydney (b 1890) sister Annie (b 1897) and youngest brother Edward (b 1899).

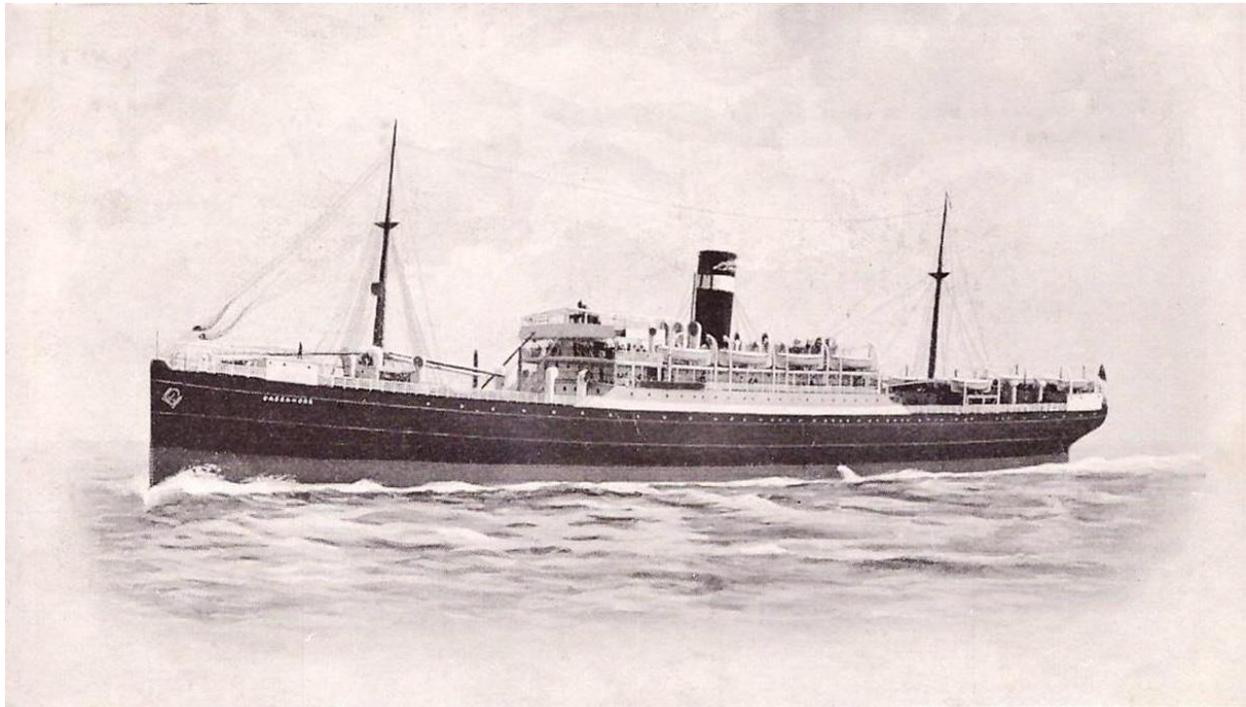
I cannot identify exactly when, between 1901 and 1914, or why William emigrated to Canada. It appears his hometown was Peterborough, Ontario.

His mother Annie later married William Nash in 1904 and lived in Tilshead. She, William Nash and her son Edward, then aged 12 appear on the village 1911 Census return. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation records Annie living at No 1 Mill Street, Tilshead.

Service History

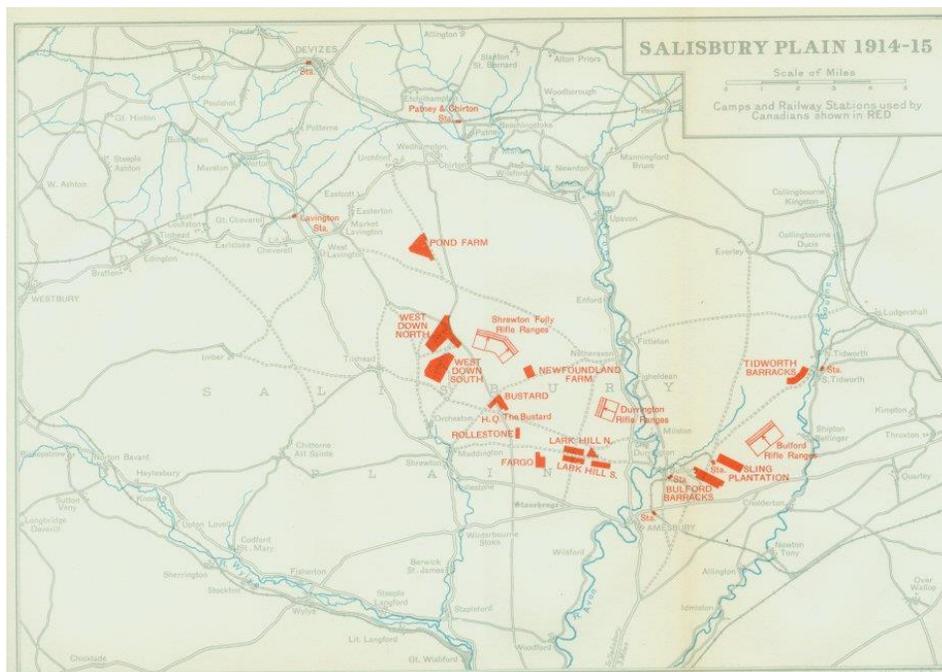
Service Number 7652, William attested on 22 Sep 1914 in Valcartier Quebec and joined 2nd Battalion Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment). His Canadian service record shows he also previously served in 57th Canadien-Français Regiment.

The battalion boarded the S.S. Cassandra from Quebec City on 22 September 1914, but sailed only as far as the Gaspé Basin, where more troops were collected. The battalion finally left the Gaspé Basin on 3 October as part of a convoy of at least 30 other ships, carrying a combined 32,000 Canadian soldiers, which would be the first of the Canadian infantry contributions to the war.



DONALDSON LINE TO CANADA.—NEW TWIN-SCREW STEAMSHIP "CASSANDRA." 9000 Tons.

The Cassandra landed at Plymouth on 25 October, where the battalion disembarked and began rigorous training for the European battlefield. The 2nd Battalion trained at Bustard Camp on the Salisbury Plain for the next 4 months, just down the road from William's Mother in Tilshead! Here they trained in very wet and muddy conditions as part of the 1st Canadian Brigade (all 4 battalions of the Brigade were from Ontario) of the 1st Canadian Division.



On 8th February 1915, the 2nd Battalion was mobilised for war. They sailed out of England aboard the S.S. Blackwell, bound for France.

By 17th February the Battalion had moved up to the front near Armentieres, France where they were attached to a British unit, the North Staffordshire Regiment. Under their tutelage, the Battalion was introduced to rigors of trench duties, field engineering, the habits of the enemy and matters of like nature.

On February 19th, the 2nd Battalion entered the front-line trench west of Armentieres, where they were finally faced with the realities of trench warfare. On February 20th the

Battalion suffered its first wartime casualty, when Pte. R.T. Cardew was killed when his trench shelter was destroyed by a German shell. The 2nd Battalion had bloodied itself.

By early April, the 2nd Battalion found themselves in the vicinity of Ypres, Belgium and soon found themselves involved in the Second Battle of Ypres (the First Battle of Ypres had taken place in Oct. of 1914). It was on 22nd April the battalion first saw the horrors of German gas attacks. They were in reserve positions several kilometers behind the French line when they witnessed a large number of French Colonials (Algerians) streaming away from the front lines. These men were dropping in convulsions and vomiting. All the Canadians could get from the poor souls were the hoarsely wheezed words: "Asphyxie-asphyxie!!".



It was apparent the 2nd Battalion was headed for no ordinary fight. The Battalion was moved up to the area of St. Julien-Kitchener Woods to help stop the German advances made after the gas attacks. Over the course of the next 3 days the 2nd Battalion along with a number of other Battalions, would fight in the brutal Battle of St. Julien (a part of the Second Battle of Ypres).



The Canadians advance at Ypres

By the time the 2nd Battalion was relieved and withdrawn, they had lost close to 400 men, 162 wounded. This was well over half of the Battalion. It was with great sorrow the Battalion left so many of their own, in 'Flanders Fields'. So ended the Second Battle of Ypres for the 2nd Battalion.

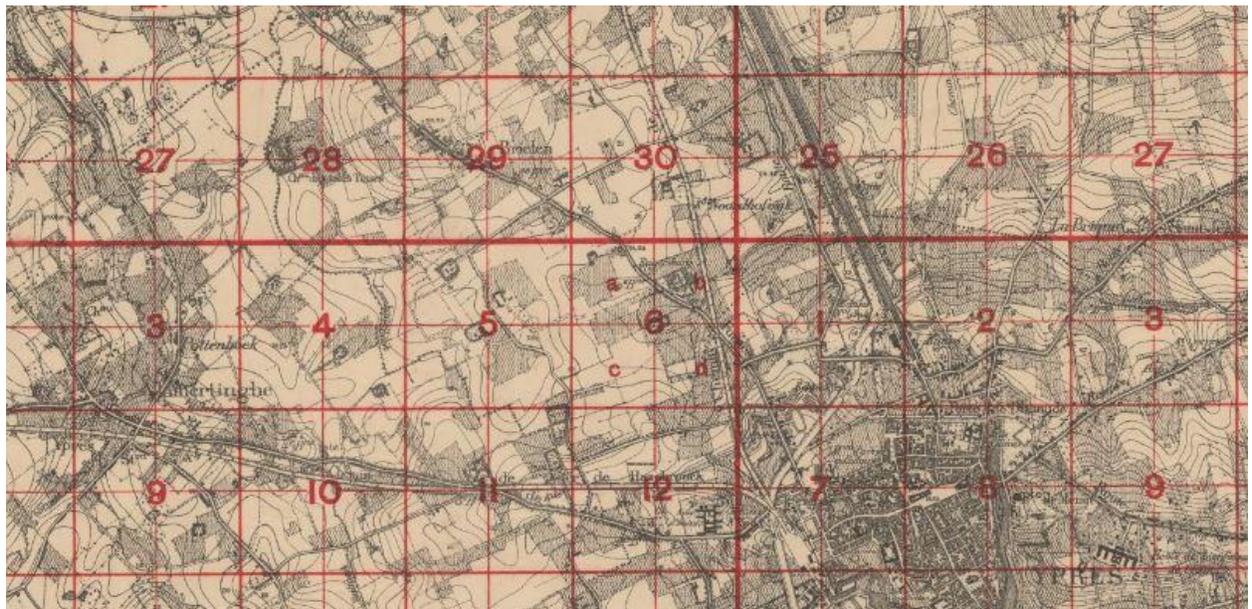
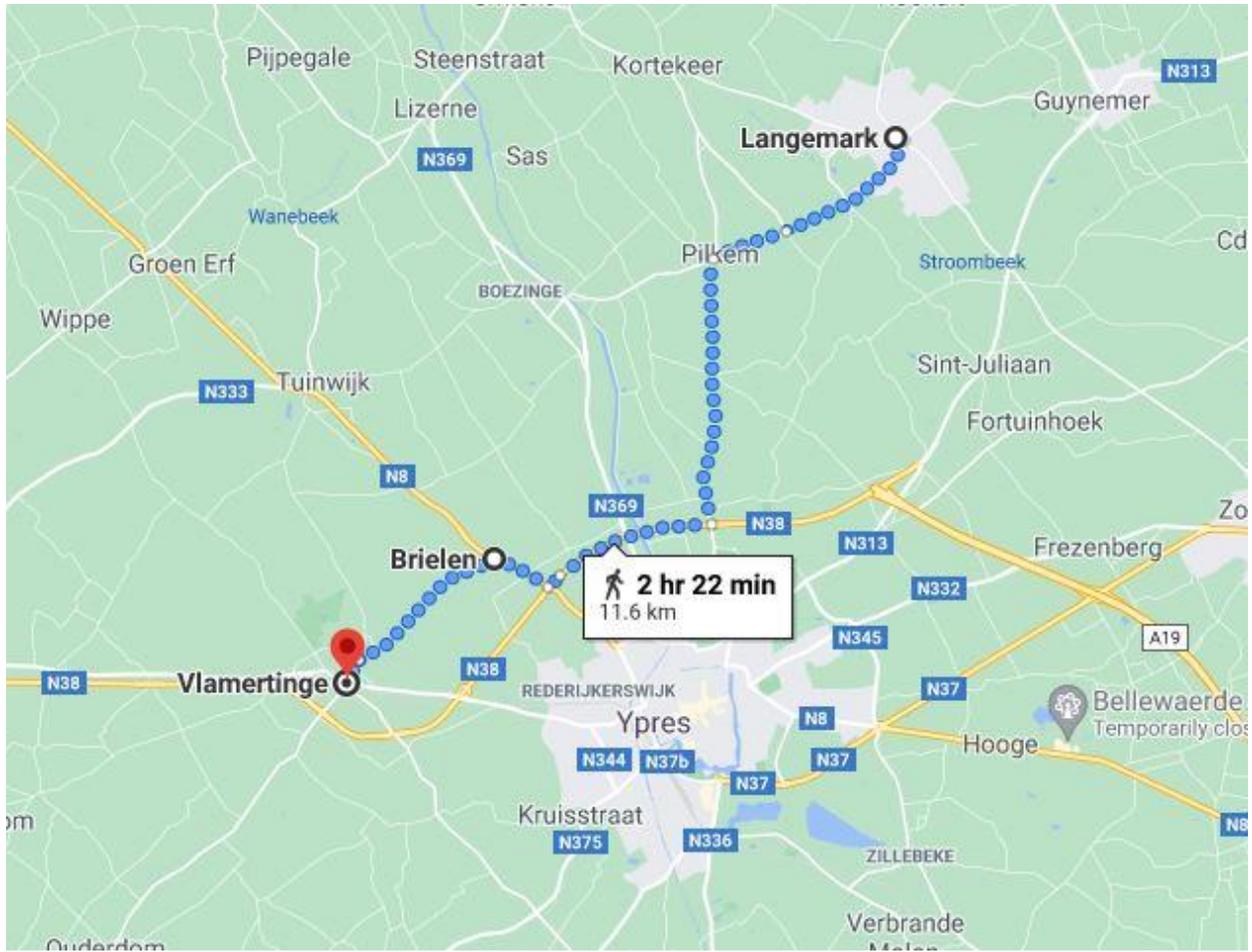


German artillery barrage at Ypres

The original 2nd Battalion was virtually destroyed at Ypres. As would happen again over the course of the war, new 'drafts' (replacements) would be added to the battalion as needed.

1st Canadian Brigade War Diary extract for 26th April 1916 is shown (refer to maps below war diary for locations)

<p>Monday 26th April 1916. Ede.Hqrs.B.29.d.G.2.</p>	<p><u>1 a.m.</u> Staff Officer reported 13th Ede.Hqrs. B.29.d.G.2. for instructions the 13th Ede. had left the bridges.</p> <p><u>2.30 a.m.</u> Orders were issued for the 1st Bn. to hold the CANAL Bank and 2 bridges at C.25.a. and C.25.d., the 4th Bn. to hold the 2 bridges in I.1.a.</p> <p><u>3 a.m.</u> 1st and 4th Battalions in position.</p> <p><u>4 a.m.</u> 2nd Bn. reported from 3rd Ede. and moved to billets VLAERTHOUT.</p> <p><u>12 noon.</u> 3rd Ede. asked to despatch 3rd Bn. to rejoin the Brigade.</p> <p><u>1 p.m.</u> 1st Can.Div. Operation Order No.12 received. (1)</p> <p><u>120p.m.</u> Orders to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Bns. issued. (2) Bombardment commenced by French, British & Canadian Artillery. Bns. replied vigorously especially against canal bridges held by 1st and 4th Battalion.</p> <p><u>3 p.m.</u> As French and British attack not progressing, the 2nd Bn. was ordered up to the Cross Roads B.29.d. Bombardment of batteries and vicinity of Ede. Hqrs. all afternoon.</p> <p><u>Midnight.</u> Situation 1st & 4th Bns. holding canal bank, 2nd Bn. dug in and bivouacked at B.29.d.</p>	<p>1 App.III.</p> <p>2 App.III.</p> <p>RH</p>
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With no known grave he is commemorated at MENIN GATE (YPRES) MEMORIAL
Belgium on Panel 10 - 26 – 28.

W J LONG

Service Number: 7652

2nd Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 26 April 1915 Age 23

Son of Mrs. John Long, of 1, Mill St., Tilshead, Salisbury, England.

Remembered with Honour

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Panel 10 - 18 - 26 - 28.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WARGRAVES COMMISSION

The Menin Gate Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town of Ypres (now Ieper) in the Province of West Flanders, on the road to Menin and Courtrai. It bears the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient in the First World War. Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and erected by the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, it consists of a Hall of Memory", 36.6 metres long by 20.1 metres wide. In the centre are broad staircases leading to the ramparts which overlook the moat, and to pillared loggias which run the whole length of the structure. On the inner walls of the Hall, on the side of the staircases and on the walls of the loggias, panels of Portland stone bear the names of the dead, inscribed by regiment and corps. Carved in stone above the central arch are the words:

TO THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO STOOD HERE FROM 1914 TO 1918 AND TO THOSE OF THEIR DEAD WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE.

Over the two staircases leading from the main Hall is the inscription:

HERE ARE RECORDED NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN WHO FELL IN YPRES SALIENT BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH.

The dead are remembered to this day in a simple ceremony that takes place every evening at 8:00 p.m. All traffic through the gateway in either direction is halted, and two buglers (on special occasions four) move to the centre of the Hall and sound the Last Post.

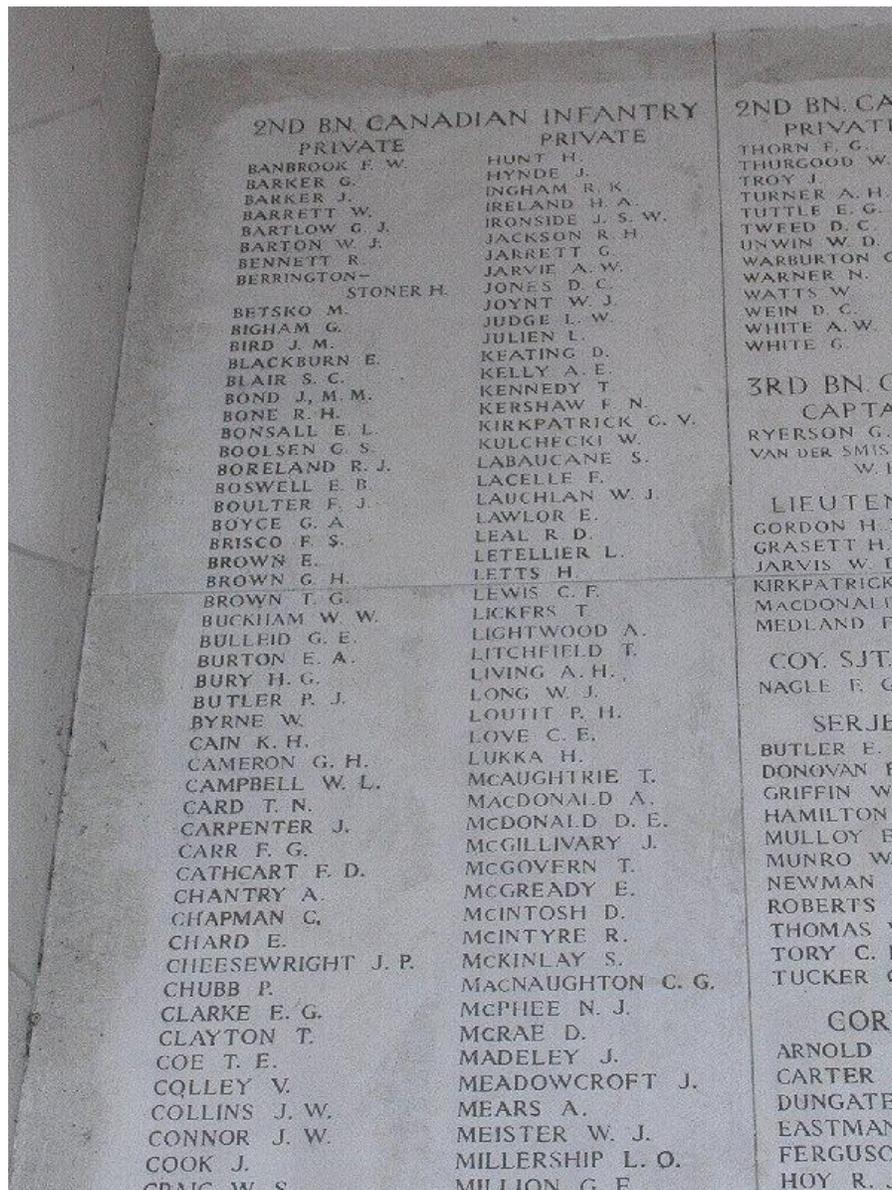
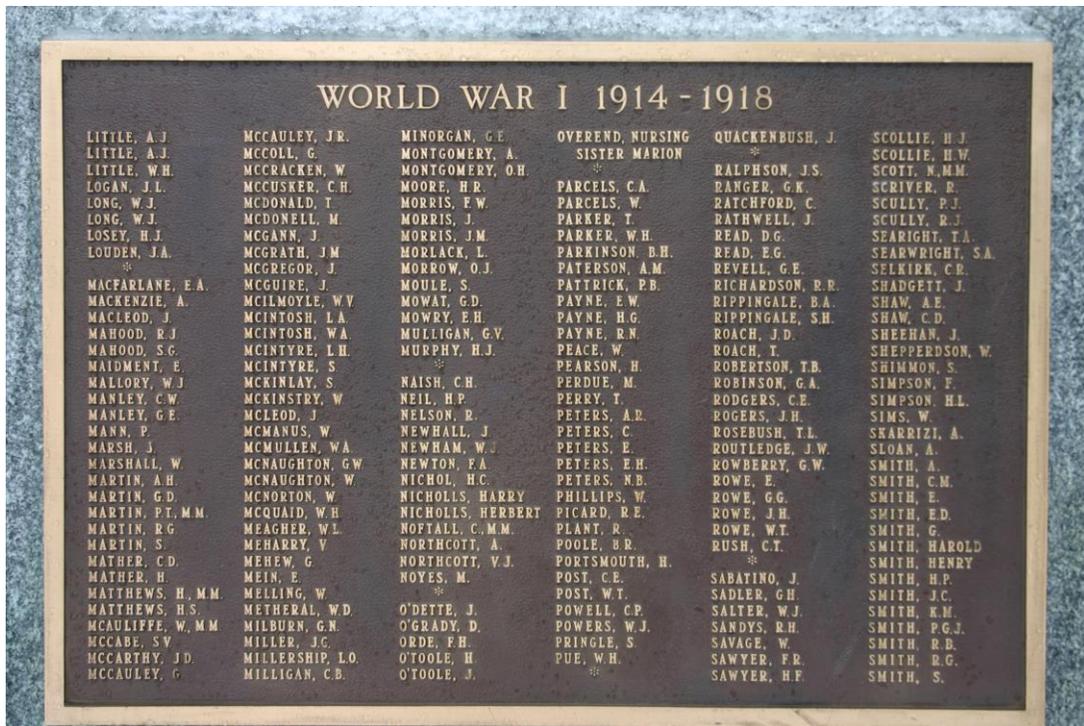


Photo courtesy of Gary Nelson
Photo fournie gracieusement par Gary Nelson

Peterborough, Ontario Memorial and Plaque



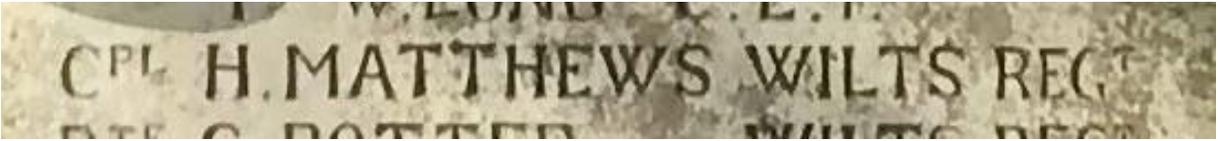
William was entitled to the 1914/15 Star, War and Victory Medals



1914/15 Star

War Medal

Victory Medal



CORPORAL HENRY JAMES 'HARRY' MATTHEWS

Henry James 'Harry' Matthews was born in 1889 with his birth registered in the 3rd Qtr of 1889 in Amesbury, Birth Register Volume 5a Page 163 refers. He was baptised in Tilshead on 21st July 1889 and the baptismal record shows his mother was 'Fanny', no father was shown.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Tilshead</i>						
in the County of <i>Wilts</i>				in the Year 1889-90		
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
No. 220						
1889						
July 21 st	<i>Henry James</i>	<i>Fanny</i>	<i>Matthews</i>	<i>Tilshead</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>W. Thompson</i> <i>Vicar</i>
No. 227						

His mother Fanny Matthews was born in 1868 in Tilshead. Her parents (and Harry's Grandparents) were Phillip Matthews (born 1841 in Imber and died 1901 in Tilshead) and Elizabeth Matthews (Nee Foyle or Fogle). They married on 1st February 1868 in Tilshead.

On the 1891 Census Fanny is recorded as being a Servant at 22 Kildare Gardens Paddington.

Meanwhile on the 1891 Census in Tilshead her son Harry is recorded as living with his Grandparents Phillip and Elizabeth, Great Grandmother Harriet Long (born 1813 in Tilshead) and Uncles both born in Tilshead, William Mathews, then aged 16 and born 1875 and James, then aged 10 and born in 1881.

The 1901 Census throws up another conundrum. Harry, then 11, is recorded as still living in Tilshead with Grandparents Phillip and Elizabeth, Uncle James, now 21, and a George William Hillings, aged 8 (born 1893 in London) who is also recorded as being a Grandchild of Phillip and Elizabeth. George has a Baptismal record showing he was born on 15 March 1893 and christened on 13 September 1893 at St John the Evangelist, Smith Square, Westminster son of a George Bridges Hillings (1870-98) and Florence Susan Hillings.

Is this Florence Fanny? Is George Harry's cousin or even brother of some description?

Service Record

Sadly, no service record exists for Harry, but an analysis of his Service Number: 7751 suggests he joined 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) sometime between January 1907 and March 1908 (7728 joined on 10th January 1907 and 8108 joined on 8th March 1908).

He probably joined the Battalion in India, where it was said that the Queen's and the Wiltshire's were the best two battalions in India at that time. The 1st Battalion remained in India until 1909 when it moved to South Africa for five years, based in Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

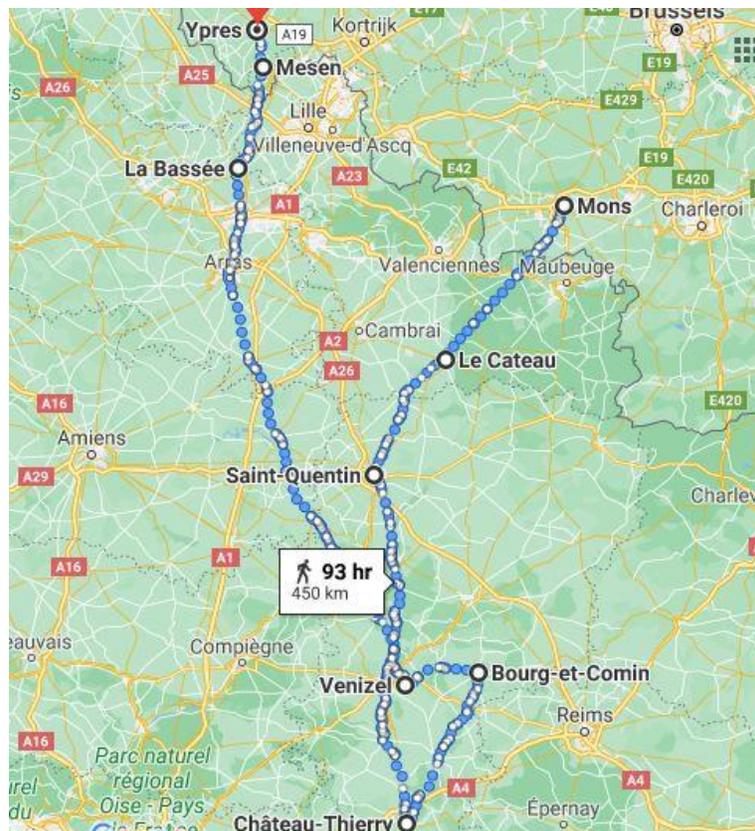
Harry is recorded on the 1st Battalion's 1911 Census return in Pietermaritzburg.

The Battalion returned to England in 1913 and on the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914 they were based at Tidworth under command of 7th Brigade in 3rd Division.

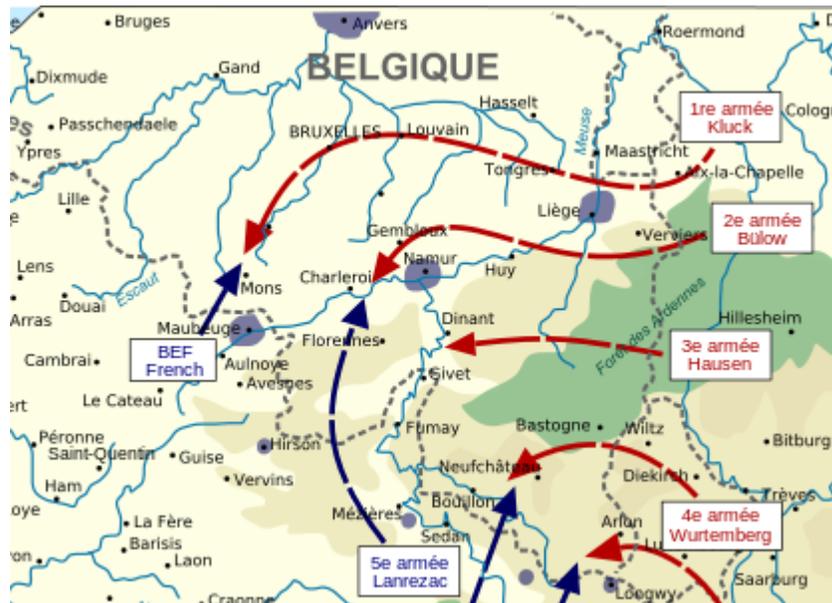
Upon mobilisation and the declaration of war, the 1st Battalion, Wilts deployed to France as part of the II Corp's 3rd Division's 7th Brigade, landing in Roen on 14 August 1914, and were soon involved in action at the Battle of Mons. The Battalions of the 7th Brigade were:

- 3rd Bn, the Worcestershire Regt
- 2nd Bn, the South Lancashire Regt
- 1st Bn, the Wiltshire Regt
- 2nd Bn, the Royal Irish Rifles

3rd Division Mons to Ypres 23 Aug – 22 Nov 1914



The Battle of Mons 23 August 1914 was the first major action of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in the First World War. It was a subsidiary action of the Battle of the Frontiers, in which the Allies clashed with Germany on the French borders. At Mons, the British Army attempted to hold the line of the Mons–Condé Canal against the advancing German 1st Army. Although the British fought well and inflicted disproportionate casualties on the numerically superior Germans, they were eventually forced to retreat due both to the greater strength of the Germans and the sudden retreat of the French Fifth Army, which exposed the British right flank.



The Battle of Le Cateau 26 August 1914 - On the morning of 26 August, the Germans arrived and attacked II Corps (General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien). Unlike the Battle of Mons, where the majority of casualties inflicted by the British were from rifle fire, Le Cateau was a Gunners battle, demonstrating the devastating results which modern quick-firing artillery using shrapnel shells could have on infantry advancing in the open. The British deployed their artillery about 50–200 metres (55–219 yd) behind the infantry, while the German artillery used indirect fire from concealed positions. With the guns so close to the infantry, the British had unintentionally increased the effectiveness of the German artillery-fire, because shells aimed at the British infantry could just as easily hit the British guns.

The British 5th Division was on the right flank, on the southern side of the Le Cateau–Cambrai road between Inchy and Le Cateau. The 3rd Division (including 7th Brigade and 1 Wiltshire's) was in the centre, between Caudry and Inchy and the 4th Division was on the left flank, on the north bank of the Warnelle. The road was sunken in places, providing inadequate long-range firing positions and in many places the Germans could close up to the British positions unobserved. On the right flank, west of Le Cateau, the Germans marched along the road from the north to Le Cateau. The British were on a forward slope and suffered many casualties during the withdrawal.

At 03:30, Smith-Dorrien decided to "strike the enemy hard and after he had done so, continue the retreat" but the purpose of the operation was unclear to his subordinates.

Holding their ground despite many casualties, around noon, the British right and then the left flank began to collapse. The arrival of the Corps de cavalerie Sordet (French Cavalry Corps, General André Sordet) provided a shield for the British left flank and enabled the British to slip

away, despite German attempts to infiltrate and outflank them. That night, the Allies withdrew to Saint-Quentin.

The Battle of the Marne 6–12 September 1914 – The battle resulted in an Allied victory against the German armies in the west. The battle was the culmination of the Retreat from Mons and pursuit of the Franco–British armies which followed the Battle of the Frontiers in August and reached the eastern outskirts of Paris.

Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), began to plan for a full British retreat to port cities on the English Channel for an immediate evacuation. The military governor of Paris, Joseph Simon Gallieni, wanted the Franco–British units to counter-attack the Germans along the Marne River and halt the German advance. Allied reserves would restore the ranks and attack the German flanks. On 5 September, the counter-offensive by six French armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) began.

By 9 September, the success of the Franco–British counteroffensive left the German 1st and 2nd Armies at risk of encirclement, and they were ordered to retreat to the Aisne River. The retreating armies were pursued by the French and British, although the pace of the Allied advance was slow: 12 mi (19 km) in one day. The German armies ceased their retreat after 40 mi (65 km) on a line north of the Aisne River, where they dug in on the heights and fought the First Battle of the Aisne.

The German retreat between 9 September and 13 September marked the end of the attempt to defeat France by crushing the French armies with an invasion from the north through Belgium and in the south over the common border. Both sides commenced reciprocal operations to envelop the northern flank of their opponent, in what became known as the Race to the Sea which culminated in the First Battle of Ypres.

The Battle of the Aisne 13–28 September 1914 -

When the Germans turned to face the pursuing Allies on 13 September, they held one of the most formidable positions on the Western Front between Compiègne and Berry-au-Bac.

In dense fog on the night of 13 September, most of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) crossed the Aisne on pontoons or partially demolished bridges, landing at Bourg-et-Comin on the right and at Venizel on the left. At Chivres-Val east of Venizel, there was an escarpment the Germans had selected as their strongest position.

It soon became clear that neither side could budge the other and since neither chose to retreat, the impasse hardened into stalemate, that would lock the antagonists into a relatively narrow strip for the next four years. On 14 September, Sir John French ordered the entire BEF to entrench, but few entrenching tools were available. Soldiers scouted nearby farms and villages for pickaxes, spades and other implements. Without training for stationary warfare, the troops merely dug shallow pits in the soil. These were at first intended only to afford cover against enemy observation and artillery fire. Soon the trenches were deepened to about seven feet. Other protective measures included camouflage and holes cut into trench walls then braced with timber.

Race to the Sea 17 September – 19 October 1914 - For a three-week period following the unexpected development of trench warfare, both sides gave up frontal assaults and began trying to envelop each other's northern flank. The period is called "Race to the Sea". As the Germans aimed for the Allied left flank, the Allies sought the German right wing. The "race" ended on the North Sea coast of Belgium around 19 October, when the last open area from Diksmuide to the North Sea was occupied by Belgian troops who had retreated after the Siege

of Antwerp (28 September – 10 October). The outflanking attempts had resulted in a number of encounter battles but neither side was able to gain a decisive victory.

The western front thus became a continuous trench system of more than 400 miles (640 km). From the Belgian channel town of Nieuwpoort, the trench lines ran southward for many miles, turning southeast at Noyon, continuing past Reims, Verdun, Saint-Mihiel and Nancy; then cutting south again to the northern Swiss border twenty miles (32 km) east of Belfort.

After the opposing forces had reached the North Sea, both tried to conduct offensives leading to the mutually costly and indecisive Battle of the Yser from 16 October to 2 November and the First Battle of Ypres from 19 October to 22 November.

During the Race to the Sea 3rd Division took part in a major action at La Bassée.

The Battle of La Bassée 10 October – 2 November 1914 was fought by German and Franco-British forces in northern France in October 1914, during reciprocal attempts by the contending armies to envelop the northern flank of their opponent, which has been called the Race to the Sea. The German 6th Army took Lille before a British force could secure the town and the 4th Army attacked the exposed British flank further north at Ypres. The British were driven back and the German army occupied La Bassée and Neuve Chapelle. Around 15 October, the British recaptured Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée but failed to recover La Bassée.

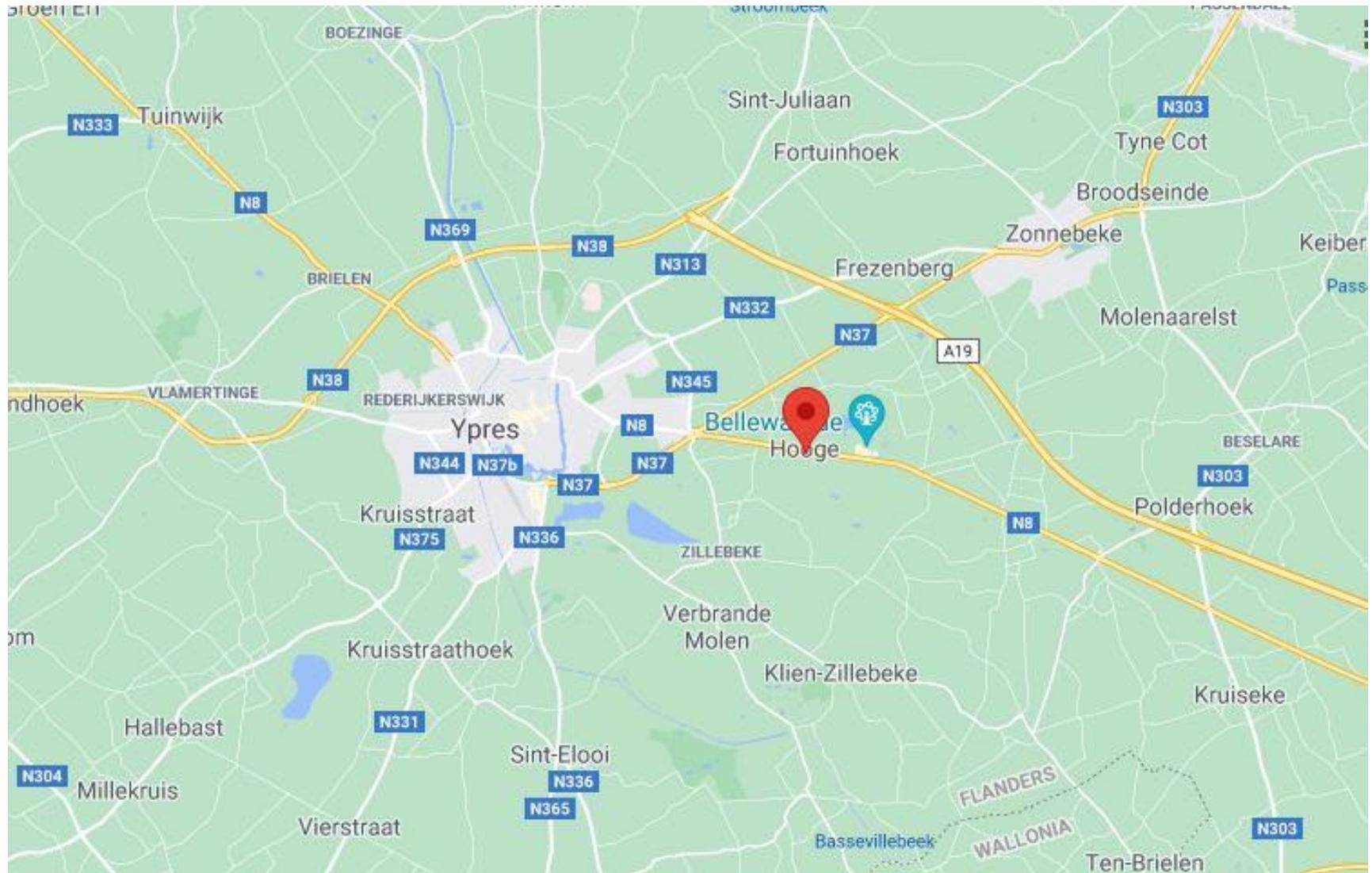
German reinforcements arrived and regained the initiative, until the arrival of the Lahore Division, part of the Indian Corps. The British repulsed German attacks until early November, after which both sides concentrated their resources on the First Battle of Ypres. The battle at La Bassée was reduced to local operations. In late January and early February 1915, German and British troops conducted raids and local attacks in the Affairs of Cuinchy, which took place at Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée and just south of La Bassée Canal, leaving the front line little changed.

The First Battle of Ypres 19 October – 22 November 1914 - was part of the First Battle of Flanders, in which German, French, Belgian armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) fought from Arras in France to Nieuport on the Belgian coast, from 10 October to mid-November. The battles at Ypres began at the end of the Race to the Sea, reciprocal attempts by the German and Franco-British armies to advance past the northern flank of their opponents.

The fighting has been divided into five stages:

- An encounter battle from 19 to 21 October,
- The Battle of Langemarck from 21 to 24 October,
- The battles at La Bassée (described above) and Armentières to 2 November, coincident with more Allied attacks at Ypres and the Battle of Gheluvelt (29–31 October),
- The last big German offensive, which culminated at the Battle of Nonne Bosschen on 11 November,
- Local operations which faded out in late November during which Harry was killed in action.

On the 17th November 1914, when Harry fell, the 7th Brigade and 1st Battalion Wiltshire's were just to the east of Ypres in the vicinity of Hooge. The Battalion and Brigade War Diaries shown below describe the situation on the day.



The Battalion War Diary

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>15th November HOOGE</p>	<p>Made M Gun trench from which to support the firing line. Attack against firing line repulsed. Started snowing. Germans shelled at intervals. Three companies relieved the Gordons we have now taken over the whole of the section, the other two regiments of the Brigade being greatly reduced in officers and men. The trenches were very wet, heavy musketry between at 12 and 2 am.</p>	<p>BBG 62 m</p>
<p>16th November HOOGE</p>	<p>In trenches Germans continued to sap towards our centre. Heavy shelling. 2 killed 3 wounded.</p>	<p>BBG</p>
<p>19th November HOOGE</p>	<p>Shelling started about 9 am. Infantry ^{attack} about 10.30 am at noon about 150 German got into D Boys advanced trenches at 12.10 a platoon of D company executed a bayonet charge against them, and drove them out killing about 50 Germans and wounding many others. They then started to shell D company very heavily also using a mortar.</p>	<p>BBG</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
17 th November HOOGE	Major Roche killed by shell on St Goodhart took over duties of ^{of adjutant} Lt Brown seriously wounded Lt Chandler killed by bullet wound wounded 11 killed 15 wounded	RMJ
18 th November HOOGE	Major Roche buried 200' NE of of Chateau S of MENIN-YPRES road near HOOGE Dug new trench E of wood for use under shell fire German shelled heavily D Coy moved out into little wood E of many hostile aeroplanes. Cold and wet.	RMJ
19 th November HOOGE	Very bad weather Freezing hard with snow Germans shelled in morning afternoon quiet Relieved Gordons about 9 pm Attack on Okershire (left of our line) about midnight. Many hostile aeroplanes. 3 killed 12 Wounded	62 see RMJ

7th Brigade War Diary extract

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

7th Infantry Brigade

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information (2)	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>HOOGE Nov 17th (continued)</p>	<p>A new trench was dug ^{just} behind the present line at this point but owing to the boggy nature of the ground also had much water in it.</p> <p>Enemy's shelling began early in the morning and was very heavy on our reserve trenches causing several casualties in officers.</p> <p>About 10AM a German mortar was reported playing on the trenches of the K.O.S.B's. The fire of this mortar and also the enemy's shelling was directed by an aeroplane which patrolled over our lines during the greater part of the day and which was responsible for the accuracy of their fire.</p> <p>Shortly before noon about 150 Germans occupied the night trenches of the 1st Wiltshire Regt: these were expelled by a bayonet charge under Capt. Cary Barnard 1st Wiltshire Regt and driven back 500 yards or more.</p> <p>The enemy's shelling was very heavy throughout but no infantry developed as appeared likely at one time: our artillery assisted materially by shelling the woods in front of our position</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

7th Infantry Brigade

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																			
HOOGHE Nov 17 th (continued)	<p style="text-align: center;">(4)</p> <p>Our losses during the day were roughly as follows:-</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Officers</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other ranks</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Killed</th> <th style="text-align: center;">wounded</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Killed</th> <th style="text-align: center;">wounded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2nd South Lancashire Regt</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Wiltshire Regt</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Gordon Highlanders</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Royal West Kent Regt</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd K.O.S. B^s</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Officers		Other ranks			Killed	wounded	Killed	wounded	2 nd South Lancashire Regt	2	1		1	1 st Wiltshire Regt	2	7	11	15	1 st Gordon Highlanders	1	1	1	5	1 st Royal West Kent Regt		1		1	2 nd K.O.S. B ^s			4	15	<p>7 A Bree</p>
	Officers		Other ranks																																		
	Killed	wounded	Killed	wounded																																	
2 nd South Lancashire Regt	2	1		1																																	
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1 st Gordon Highlanders	1	1	1	5																																	
1 st Royal West Kent Regt		1		1																																	
2 nd K.O.S. B ^s			4	15																																	
Nov 18 th	<p>All quiet during the night 17/18 Nov.</p> <p>About 7.30 AM enemy's shelling commenced directed by German aeroplane which patrolled above our lines. Mortar in front of the trenches occupied by the 2nd K.O.S. B^s also commenced firing about this time. Throughout the morning the shelling continued with hostile aeroplane hovering over the trenches; there was however no infantry fire.</p> <p>Germans were reported about 1 PM to be collecting opposite our left trenches but no infantry attack followed.</p>																																				

At between August and the end of the First Battle of Ypres the battalion had lost 26 officers and over 1,000 other ranks.

Harry has no known grave and is commemorated at YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL Panel 53.

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

HARRY MATTHEWS

Service Number: 7751

1st Bn, Wiltshire Regiment who died on 17 November 1914

Remembered with Honour
YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Panel 53.



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Harry was entitled to wear the 1914/15 Star, The British War Medal and Victory Medals. His medals were sold for £170 nearly 100 years after his death on the 25th March 2014 Lot 45 by auctioneer Dix Noonan Webb.

62
 Campaign: — 1914

(A) Where decoration was earned.
 (B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)												
(A) MATTHEWS MILLER	Plc		4451	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>MEDAL</th> <th>ROLL</th> <th>PAGE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>VICTORY</td> <td>C/1/10289</td> <td>970</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRITISH</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 STAR</td> <td>C/1/3</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE	VICTORY	C/1/10289	970	BRITISH	—	—	14 STAR	C/1/3	45
MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE														
VICTORY	C/1/10289	970														
BRITISH	—	—														
14 STAR	C/1/3	45														
(B) Harry	—	—	—	Kin A — 17.11.14												

Action taken
 always / 2 / 2009

QUALIFYING DATE. 14. 8. 14

(6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.]

Medal Index Card

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

1st Bn, WILTSHIRE REGIMENT.

Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned.

15

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 350 of 1917.

Original

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation.		NAME.	Date of Disembarkation.	REMARKS. (a) If non-effective:—Cause, etc. (b) If transferred:—Present Regtl. No., Rank and Unit. (c) If forfeited:—Cause.	Record of disposal of decoration. (a) Presented. (b) Despatched by Post. (c) Taken into Stock.	To be left Blank for use in War Office.
	Regtl. No.	Rank.					
✓	3/567	Pte	MASLEN S.	23.10.14.			
✓	9029	Pte	MASLIN T.H.	14.8.14.	(b) 29237 Pte, 2/5 R. Wk, Rgt,		
✓	6315	Pte	MASSEY A.	28.8.14.	(a) Died of Wds, 21.10.14.	Class only 9/2/3214. 1.V. 1565. C	30-5-22
✓	6781	Pte	MASSEY S.	22.8.14.	(a) Died of Wds, 12.9.17.		
✓	7653	Pte	MATON F.J.	14.8.14.	(a) Med, unfit, 3.9.15.		
✓	9030	Pte	MATTHEWS A.R.	14.8.14.	(b) P11585 Pte, M.F.P.	Class for Recs 8/10. 8.10. 11. 21. Authy. 1.2002.	
✓	5229	Pte	MATTHEWS F.J.	28.8.14.	(a) Med, unfit, 1.1.17.	Class for Recs 9/2/332. 1.V. 476/199. 29/6/20.	
✓	7751	Pte	MATTHEWS H.	14.8.14.	(a) Killed 17.11.14.	Class for Recs 1.V. 664. 27.19.10. 21. Authy. 47725.	
✓	8233	Sergt,	MATTHEWS P.	28.8.14.			
✓	8245	Pte	MATTHEWS R.J.	21.9.14.	(a) Discharged 15.3.16.	Class for Recs 1.V. 597. 8/10. 26.2.20.	
✓	6786	Pte	MATTHEWS W.T.	28.8.14.	(a) Died 8.7.17.	Class for Recs 1.V. 2886. 8. A. 4. 2. 20.	
✓	7947	Pte	MAY G.R.L.	28.8.14.	(b) 56167 Sgt, Nth, land, Fus,	Class for Recs 1.V. 8364/C. 21. 10. 9. 21. Authy. 6/2/2203.	

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place Exeter,

Date 26 APR 1918

Lt-Col, for Lt-Col.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

In Charge, No.1 Infantry Records, No.8 District.

1914/15 Star Medal Index Roll

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S (WILTSHIRE)

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

SUPPLEMENTARY ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or-British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301

of 1919

970

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inserted on the roll.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regtl. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
01105	Pte.	MATTHEWS George Joseph	4th R. Dub. Fus. 4/25827 2nd Lab. Coy. R. Ir. Regt. 21181	08/11/18	Medal for Con. 14.8.1916				*Medals forfeited. Disc. for misconduct. Auth. Gen. (Ad. B. War M. Unit)
27963	Pte.	MATTHEWS Harold	1/5 D. of Corn. L.I. 37306 Pte. 1st Wilts R. 27963	08/11/18					Class Z. 14.1.20.
7751	L/Cpl.	MATTHEWS Harry	1st Wilts R. 7751 Pte.	08/11/18					K. in A. 17.11.14.
26189	Pte.	MATTHEWS Henry Charles	5th Wilts R. 26189 Pte.	08/11/18					K. in A. 2.7.16.
9943	Pte.	MATTHEWS Henry Thomas	5th Wilts R. 9943 Pte.	08/11/18					K. in A. 2.7.16.
18995	Pte.	MATTHEWS Robert Herbert Henry	2nd Wilts R. 18995 Pte.	08/11/18					Died 25.9.15.
27092	Pte.	MATTHEWS Joe	36th T.R. 8/4879 6th Wilts R. 27092 Pte.	08/11/18					Class Z. 17.10.19.
8292	A/CQMS	MATTHEWS John Edgar	2nd Wilts R. 8292 A/C/Sgt.	08/11/18					K. in A. 17.2.17.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

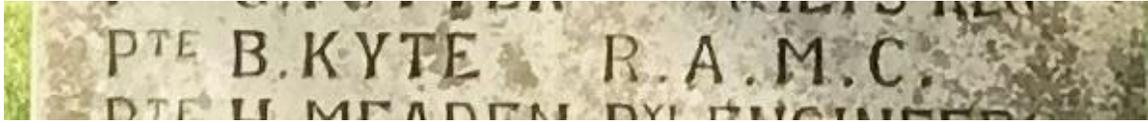
Capt. for

Place EXETER.

Date 22.5.1920

Signature and rank of Officer certifying. *G. May* Lt Colonel, District.

British War and Victory Medal Index Roll



Private Bertram Kyte

Bertram Kyte was born in 1887 in Tilshead, the son of Enos and Eliza Kyte. He was baptised in Tilshead on 6 November 1887.

Page 27

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Tilshead</i>						
in the County of <i>Wills</i>				in the Year 18 <i>87</i>		
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1887 Nov. 6	Bertram s. J.	Enos + Eliza	Kyte	Tilshead	Labourer	Horace V. Thompson Vicar
No. 215						

I can find no record of any of the family in the 1891 Census.

In the 1901 Census Bertram (then 13) is recorded as living in a St Joan a Gore Farmhouse cottage with Father Enos Kyte. Enos was born in 18 Aug 1861 in Tilshead and died in Salisbury in 1940. Enos is recorded as being a Shepherd on St Joan a Gore Farm. Bertram's Mother was Eliza Kyte (nee Sprat). Eliza was born in 15 Sep 1866 in Netheravon and died in 1950 in Salisbury. Enos and Eliza were married on 15 Jan 1887 in Amesbury. Bertram's siblings recorded in 1901 were brother Camond Kyte (born 1889 Tilshead) sister Annie Kyte (born 1892 Tilshead) and sister Ellen Louisa Kyte (born 1894 Tilshead).

In 1911 only Enos (now recorded as a small holder) his wife Eliza and daughter Ellen Louisa are together in Tilshead and I can find no record for Bertram in the 1911 Census although a statement on the bottom of his medal index card shown below suggests he might have married. In 1939 Enos and Eliza are living in Hoopers Farm, Tilshead.

Service Detail

Sadly, no service record survives for Bertram (nearly 2/3 of WW1 service records were destroyed in the blitz and the rest are fire and water damaged). His nephew Bernard Kyte confirmed Bertram was a very religious man and was a conscientious objector and as such decided to save lives rather than take them. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in Gallipoli and the Middle East and an analysis of his service number and medal cards confirms the following information.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
KYTE B. Bertram	RAMC.	Pte	2254
	-do-		*477223
Medal	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RAMC/101761	4642	D.O.W. 30-3-17.
BRITISH	-do-	-do-	
15 STAR	RAMC/15B	1208	
Theatre of War first served in	(3) Egypt		* W.S./5/3490. K. 1986. 1=1349911/2
Date of entry therein	18-12-15.		

Off Recd requests Auth. to dispose of medals. 2-5-22.
Correspondence.

Medal Index Card

2254 Private Bertram Kyte enlisted in Walthamstow, Essex and served with 1st/3rd East Anglian Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps attached to the 54th (East Anglian) Division.

Field Ambulance

The Field Ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit (it was not a vehicle), manned by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Most Field Ambulances came under command of a Division, and each had special responsibility for the care of casualties of one of the Brigades of the Division. The theoretical capacity of the Field Ambulance was 150 casualties, but in battle many would need to deal with very much greater numbers. The Field Ambulance was responsible for establishing and operating a number of points along the casualty evacuation chain, from the Bearer Relay Posts which were up to 600 yards behind the Regimental Aid Posts in the front line, taking casualties rearwards through an Advanced Dressing Station (ADS)

to the Main Dressing Station (MDS). It also provided a Walking Wounded Collecting Station, as well as various rest areas and local sick rooms. The Field Ambulances would usually establish 1 ADS per Brigade, and 1 MDS for the Division.

East Anglian Division

The East Anglian Division was a formation of the Territorial Force. It was formed as a result of the reforms of the army carried out in 1908 under the Secretary of State for War, Richard Burdon Haldane and was one of 14 Divisions of the peacetime Territorial Force.

1914

The units of the Division had just departed for annual summer camp when emergency orders recalled them to the home base. All units were mobilised for full time war service on 5 August 1914 and moved to their allotted positions at Brentwood by 10 August 1914. Ten days later the entire Division moved to the areas of Chelmsford, Bury St Edmunds and Norwich.

1915

The Division moved to St Albans in May 1915 under orders for overseas service.

On 8 July the Division was ordered to refit for service at Gallipoli. Leaving the artillery and train behind, the rest of the Division left 14-19 July and embarked at Devonport. Sailing from Liverpool and Devonport, the first ships reached Lemnos on 6 August. On 10 August units landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli.



Artillery exploding behind Field Ambulance at Suvla Bay

The Division was then involved in the following moves and engagements:

- The landing at Suvla Bay (10-15 August)
- Operations in the Suvla Bay area

On 26 November the Division was ordered to prepare to withdraw to Mudros. On 3-8 December the Division was evacuated from Galloli, only 240 officers and 4480 men strong. On 13 December it then went on to Alexandria, where it arrived on 18 December. The units then concentrated at Sidi Bishr..

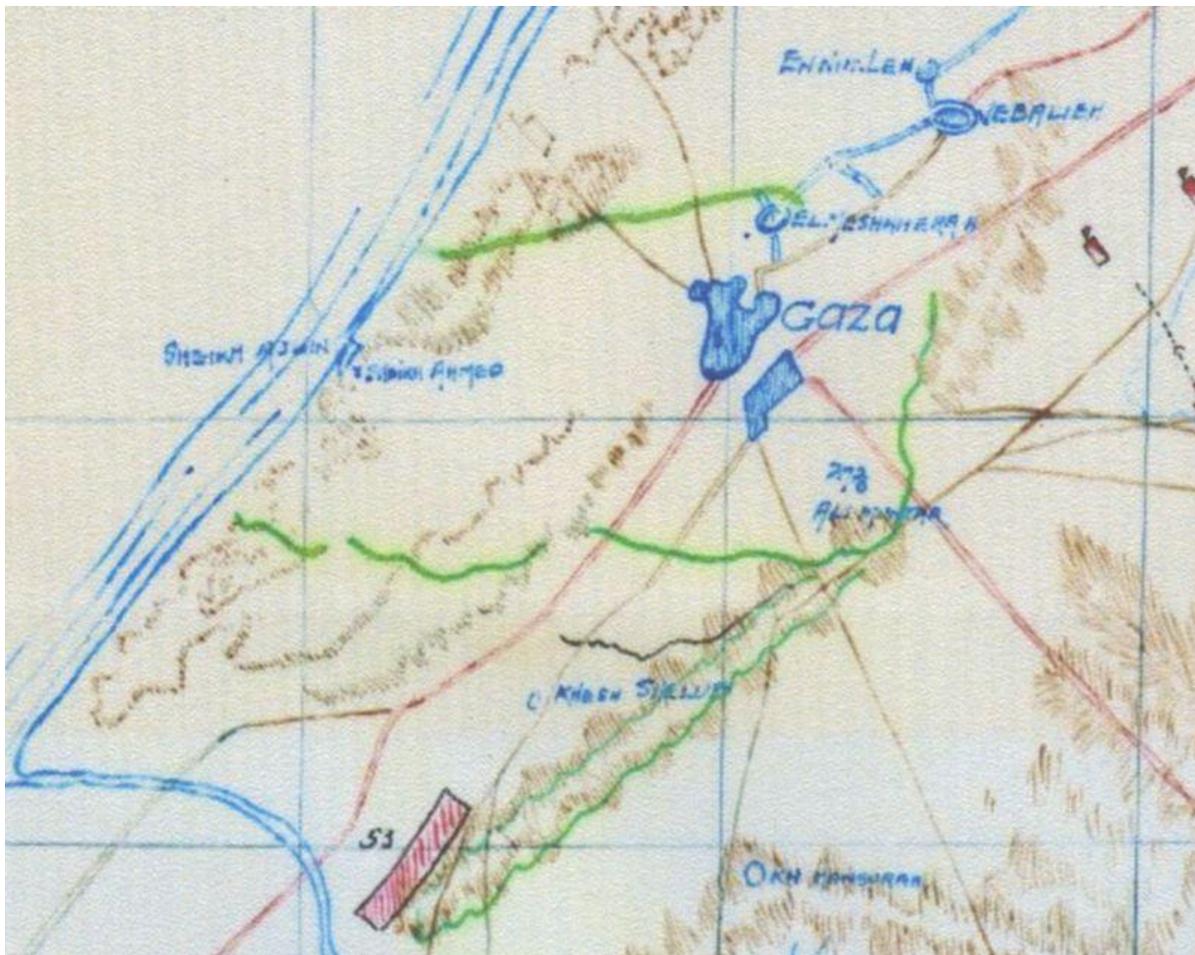
1916

The divisional artillery rejoined at Mena Camp (Cairo) 11-15 February 1916. The Division occupied No 1 (Southern) Section of the Suez Canal defences on 2 April 1916.

1917

The First Battle of Gaza (26-27 March).

The First Battle of Gaza was fought on 26 March 1917, during the first attempt by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) to invade the south of Palestine in the Ottoman Empire during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of the First World War. Fighting took place in and around the town of Gaza on the Mediterranean coast when infantry and mounted infantry from the Desert Column, a component of the Eastern Force, attacked the town. Late in the afternoon, on the verge of capturing Gaza, the Desert Column was withdrawn due to concerns about the approaching darkness and large Ottoman reinforcements. This British defeat was followed a few weeks later by the even more emphatic defeat of the Eastern Force at the Second Battle of Gaza in April 1917.



Gaza Defences 1917

Bertram died of wounds on 30 March 1917 probably after the First Battle of Gaza fought on 26/27 March 1917. He is buried in plot D7 of the DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY in Gaza along with 732 other Commonwealth soldiers.

In Memory Of
Private

B KYTE

Service Number: 2254

1st/3rd East Anglian Field Amb, Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 30 March 1917

Remembered with Honour

DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY

D. 7.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY LOCATION



R.A.M.C.

Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned.

1208

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 20 of 1919

ORIGINAL

To be left blank	On date of Disembarkation		NAME	Date of Disembarkation	REMARKS (a) If non-effective:—Cause, etc. (b) If transferred:—Present Regtl.No., Rank and Unit. (c) If forfeited:—Cause.	Record of disposal of decoration (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	To be left Blank for use in War Office
	Regtl. No.	Rank					
✓	1679	Pte	KELLY P.J.	6.6.15/2b	Died. 5.7.15		
✓	1698	"	KNOWLES A.	2.7.15/2b	Dismbd. 19.3.19		
✓	1739	"	KEPPIE J.	3.7.15/2b	" 16.4.19		
✓	1797	Sgt	KEECH A.J.	23.9.15/2b	" 13.4.19		
✓	2256	Pte	KITCHENHAM T.	17.12.14/1	Dis. 14.4.19		
✓	71049	"	KEAVENEY O.	8.10.15/HS	Class Z. 19.4.19		
✓	71080	"	KENNEDY J.	"	Dis. 16.8.17		
✓	71190	"	KEATING E.	"	" 7.3.19		
✓	2254	"	KYTE B.	18.12.15/3	D.of.W. 30.3.17		
✓	596	"	KIRK A.	23.5.15/3	Dismbd. 14.3.19		
✓	277	"	KELSEY N.F.	25.7.15/3	" 13.6.19		
✓	1591	Sgt	KNIGHT F.W.	22.4.15/3	" 20.4.19		

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place WOKING.

Date 5.1.20.

No. 13134 Blue Ticked
I.V. 21074
Date 26-7-20 CHNo. 1742 Red Ticked
I.V. 462/4
Date 16-9-20 CH

For Officer i/c R.A.M.C. Records.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

J. Thom Reit

1914/15 Star Medal Index Roll



1914/15 Star War Medal Victory Medal

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

Army Form W. 5102. B.4672.

R.A.M.C. REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301 & 266. of 1919.

On 11/11/18 or on becoming non-effective	NAME	Unit previously served with. Regt. No. and Rank in same on entry into theatre of war	Theatres of war in which served								Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS	
			From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To				
2356	Sgt KAY	2356 RAMC Sgt												<p><i>See & for note. Issue on Camp. No. 211, 7783.</i></p> <p><i>* Verify issue check at RAMC/101/04</i></p>
446	KITCHEN Alfred James.	446 " "	✓											
1797	Robert Snowden.	1797 " "	✓											
45631	Archdale John. KEELER M.M.	45631 " A/Cpl	✓											
1890	Frederick William. KAY	1890 " Pte	✓											
2254	Percy. KYTE	2254 " "	✓											
1635	Bertram. KENNEDY	1635 " "	✓											
35	Eric. KELLY	35 " "	✓											
18	Frank Scofield. KEEPING	18 " "	✓											
3090	Stanley. KEIGHTLEY	3090 " "	✓											
291	Percy William. KAY	291 " "	✓											
1323	James. KEEBLE	1323 " "	✓											
3223	Frederick Richard. KING	3223 " "	✓											
71141	Henry. KINGSLAND Benjamin.	71141 " "	✓											

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place WOKING.

H.V. Date 5-4-20.

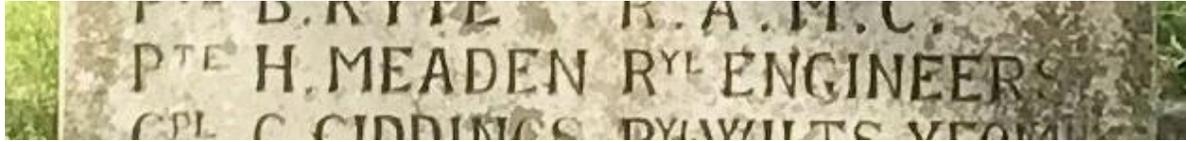
14/1

FOR OFFICER I/C. R.A.M.C RECORDS.
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

War and Victory Medal Roll

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised	
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	£	s.		d.
102146	11111111	Sl. 08	Ltd 12	23.4.17 N. 1		5	17	0									
93150	349911	Kyte Bertram	R.A.M.C. S.S. Pte 2254	30.3.17 Warley 5.6.17 Died of Wounds	4	18	-	4	18	=	m.o. 10/17	18.10.17	Fa. Enos. Fa. Enos	4	18	-	Ro
		after 8670 sent 13.6.19	477223	WAR GRATUITY. 19/20 30/1819 Transfer 679 Regd. Paper 21/2020 Serial No. 18640 2-128	10	10											

Bertram Kyte – Record of Effects Register entry



Private Harry Meaden

Born circa 1893, Harry's domestic history has been hard to fathom. Whilst I can confirm that his Grandfather was Joseph Meaden, an Agricultural Labourer from Tilshead (b 1840 Imber bapt 4 Jun 1840 Imber d 1922 Amesbury) who is recorded as Next of Kin for Harry on his service record, I can't work out with any degree of accuracy who his Mother and Father were.

He appears on the 1901 Census with Grand Father Joseph and other sons and daughters of Joseph (then widowed). Were one of these his mother (Jane) or father (Harry)?

The census return shows this family group living in Tilshead in 1901:

- Head - Joseph Meaden b 1840
- Samuel Meaden b 1867 Tilshead d 1928 Yardman on Farm
- Jane Meaden b 14 Mar 1869 Tilshead d 1948 Housekeeper
- Harry Meaden b 1873/4 Tilshead Gen Lab
- William Meaden b 23 Mar 1881 Tilshead Shepherd
- Harry Meaden b 1894 - Amesbury - Grandson to Joseph

There are 2 other children of Joseph (and unknown wife possibly Emma) not on this Census.

- Henry Meaden b 1865 Imber
- AN OTHER NK

The 1911 Census for this Tilshead family identifies another Grandson of Joseph - Charles DoB circa 1903 Tilshead (is this Harry's brother or cousin)?

In 1911 – Harry is recorded as a boarder with the family of Edward Rumble at Edward Rumble at Stockton, Codford, Wilts where he is recorded as a 'Farm Under Carter'.

Service History

A Service record for Sapper Harry Meaden (Service Number: 215424 - WR/504215) exists but only gives sketchy detail.

He was attested on 6 Dec 1915 in Trowbridge, Wilts and posted to the Army Reserve on 8 Dec 1915. His record states he was mobilised 31 Jan 1916 but this slightly contradicts detail in a medical found for him which suggests he was actually mobilised as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers (Inland Waterways and Docks) circa Jan 1917 and deployed to France March 1917.

In 1914 General French in one of his dispatches called attention to the desirability of utilising the waterways of France and Belgium as means of military transport. The outcome of which was the formation of a branch of the Royal Engineers (Inland Waterways and Docks) whose duties were to operate a barge system, in the seat of war, across the English Channel. This corps had a very small beginning, and at its inception consisted of one tug, two barges, and a small store at the headquarters, Dover.



A medical record exists that shows Harry was admitted into 4th Stationary Hospital, based in Arques, with Myopia and was returned to duty 31 Oct 1917. This record shows he had been in the army for 10 months and in France for 8 months.





His 'Soldiers Record of Effects Register' entry shows he died by drowning on 27 Jan 1918 and given he was buried at DUNKIRK TOWN CEMETERY (Plot IV. B. 13) one could assume the tragic accident occurred there as Dunkirk was at the Northern end of a waterway system that paralleled behind the front line.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
MEADEN Harry	R E 4	Sr	215424 WR/504215
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RE/104/2225694	4	
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Medal Index Card



War Medal

Victory Medal

K. W.

S/B/954.

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

ROYAL ENGINEERS

I.W.D.

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

B. 5394.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders

301AND266

of 1919.

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regtl. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
WR. 504131.	2/CPL.	✓ WARNER, Cecil. F.	R. Naval. Res. 5123.A. Royal Engineers. 214153. 2/CPL.	/					
WR. 504150.	A/SGT.	✓ NEWBY, Albert.	Royal Engineers. 215212. CPL.	/					
WR. 504174.	SPR.	✓ YATES, Francis.	Royal Engineers. 215292. SPR.	/					
WR. 504215.	SPR.	✓ MEADEN, Harry.	Royal Engineers. 215424. SPR.	/					
WR. 504222.	SPR.	✓ MOYER, Ernest. H. F.	Royal Engineers. 215457. SPR.	/					

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place

Date


 Signature and rank of Officer certifying, for Colonel i/c
 R. E. Records,

Lieut.

Medal Index Roll Entry

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised	
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	Account and Date	£		s.
595962	571255	Meden Harry	P. E. In. Waterham; disarmed; France. W.R. 50425.	27.1 London	7	8	10	7	8	10	17-6-18	Grandfather Joseph	7	8	10	4 - -	AD
											27/11/19	Grand Pa Joseph					

At W 5070 part
18 JUL 1919

WAR GRATUITY
1919 20 9/8
1920 6 5/8
1921 2 2/8
1922 2 2/8
1923 2 2/8
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2000 2 2/8

Record of Effects Entry

ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE BOOK										FIELD SERVICE															
HOSPITAL																									
Regiment, Battalion, Corps, or other Unit	Squadron, Battery, or Company	Regl. No.	Rank	Surname	Christian Name	Completed years of		Completed months with Field Force	DISEASES (Wounds and injuries in action to be entered according to classification on fly leaf)	Date of Admission		Date of Discharge			Date of Transfer				Number of days under treatment	Number or designation of ward in which treated	Religion	OBSERVATIONS (Number and page of case book to be recorded in it. In hospital or sick quarters the designation of the hospital or sick quarters to which or from which transferred, must be noted here, and any other facts bearing on the man's destination)			
						Age	Service			For original disease	By new disease super-vening	To Duty	By new disease super-vening	By Death	To Sick Convoy	Other Hospitals	From Sick Convoy	Other Hospitals							
3 Home Bn	RND	R.3446	AD	Thompson	M	20	3	12	measles																
1 " "	"	R.3448	"	Thompson	G.A.	22	5	12	typhoid																
5 R.C. Coy		215124	Apr	Meden	H	21	10	12	typhoid																
6 11 West Yorks		51438	Plt	Luaball	G.J.	27	14	12	typhoid																
4 8 Yorks		235130	"	Moley		31	16	12	typhoid																

Medical Record Entry 4th Stationary Hospital, Arques

In Memory Of
Sapper

H MEADEN

Service Number: WR/504215

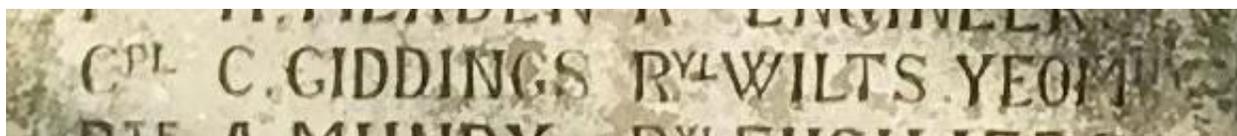
Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers who died on 27 January 1918

Remembered with Honour
DUNKIRK TOWN CEMETERY
M. B. 13.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Charles Giddings

Charles was born in Tilshead and his birth was registered in the first quarter of 1895 in Amesbury (Baptismal Record Volume 5a Page 169 refers). He was Christened on the 14th April 1895 in Tilshead.

Page 35

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Tilshead</i>						
in the County of <i>Wilt</i>				in the Year 1894 <i>5</i>		
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1895 <i>April 14th</i> <i>Evangel Day</i>	<i>Charles</i>	<i>Frank</i> + <i>Mary</i>	<i>Giddings</i>	<i>Tilshead</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Horace Vincent Thompson</i> <i>Vicar</i>
No 274						

The 1901 Census records Charles as living in Tilshead with:

- Father - Frank Giddings b 1865 Tilshead - Farmer
- Mother - Mary Giddings (Nee Blake) b 1865 Tilshead
- Brother - Robert Giddings 1907 Tilshead

On the 1911 Census he is shown at aged 16 as living and working on Paynes Farm, Tilshead with:

- Father - Frank Giddings Then aged 46 - Farmer
- Mother - Mary Giddings (Nee Blake) Then aged 46
(Frank and Mary married 20 May 1894 in Tilshead)
- Brother - Robert Giddings Then aged 14 also a Farm Worker

- Brother - Norman Giddings Then aged 2

The census also shows Frank and Mary had 3 other children who died young before 1911.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation for Charles shows that after his death Frank and Mary Giddings were living on Glebe Farm, Great Cheverell.

Service Record

Charles served in two regiments in World War One. 1/1 Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment) Service Number 683 (the Regiment which appears on the War Memorial) and 6th Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) (6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion) (the Regiment with which he died on 26 March 1918) Service Number 204134.

Sadly, no service record survived for Charles, but a lot of detail can be drawn from his service numbers.

The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry were formed part of the 1st South Western Mounted Brigade which was administered from Salisbury.

Charles' Yeomanry Service Number was 683. Other records confirm that:

- Service Number 584 joined on 9th March 1912
- 647 joined on 21st January 1913
- 681 Oakley attested on 8th March 1913 at Chippenham
- 682 Cuzner attested on 8th March 1913 at Chippenham
- 719 Parsons attested on 17th March 1913 at Salisbury
- 784 joined on 25th February 1914
- 871 joined on 8th August 1914

By 1914 the RWY was headquartered at Chippenham with its four squadrons disposed as follows:

- A Squadron: Warminster
- B Squadron: Chirton
- C Squadron: Chippenham
- D Squadron: Swindon

The regiment was mobilised in August 1914 as part of the 1st South Western Mounted Brigade but did not proceed to France until December 1915. In May 1916, two squadrons joined the XV Corps cavalry unit, with two further squadrons joining IX Corps Cavalry regiment. During 1916–17, duties mainly involved policing, traffic control, dispatch riding and similar activities. In March 1917, the regiment played its only part in the War as horsed cavalry, during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. Over an eleven-day period, German forces retreated 20–25 miles to prepared positions. The RWY formed part of the advanced guard of the British Army, attempting to keep in touch

with the German rearguards, but this was difficult owing to the broken nature of the ground behind the original German lines. Contact was made several times with Uhlans and a lance captured in one of these engagements is still in possession of the regiment.

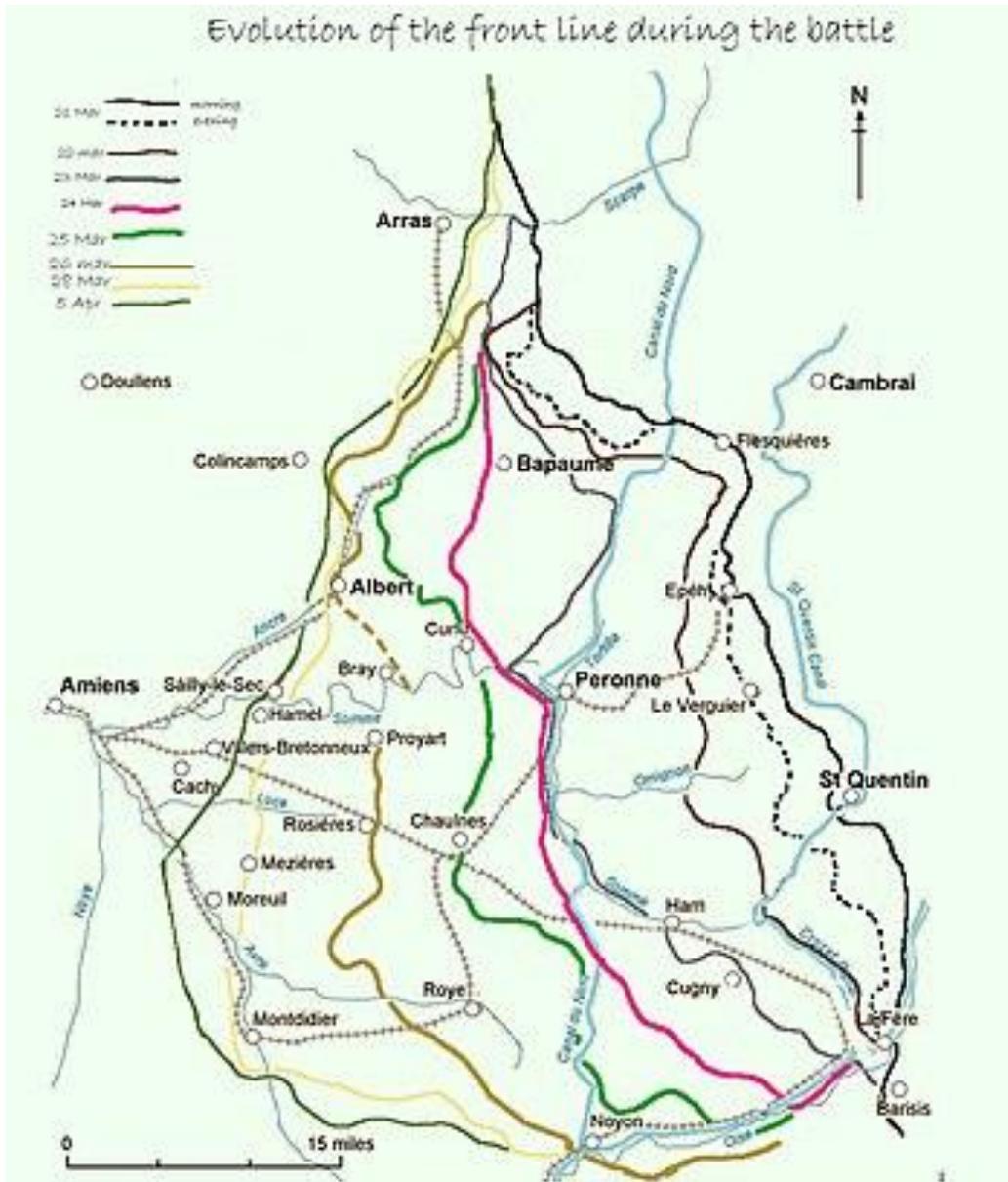


In September 1917, it was finally conceded that there was little place for horsed cavalry in the Western Front. On 20th September the regiment was converted to infantry and joined the 6th Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment (6th Wilts), fighting in the trenches at Ypres and Cambrai in 1917 as part of 58th Brigade 19th (Western) Division. The Battalion was re-named the 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion.

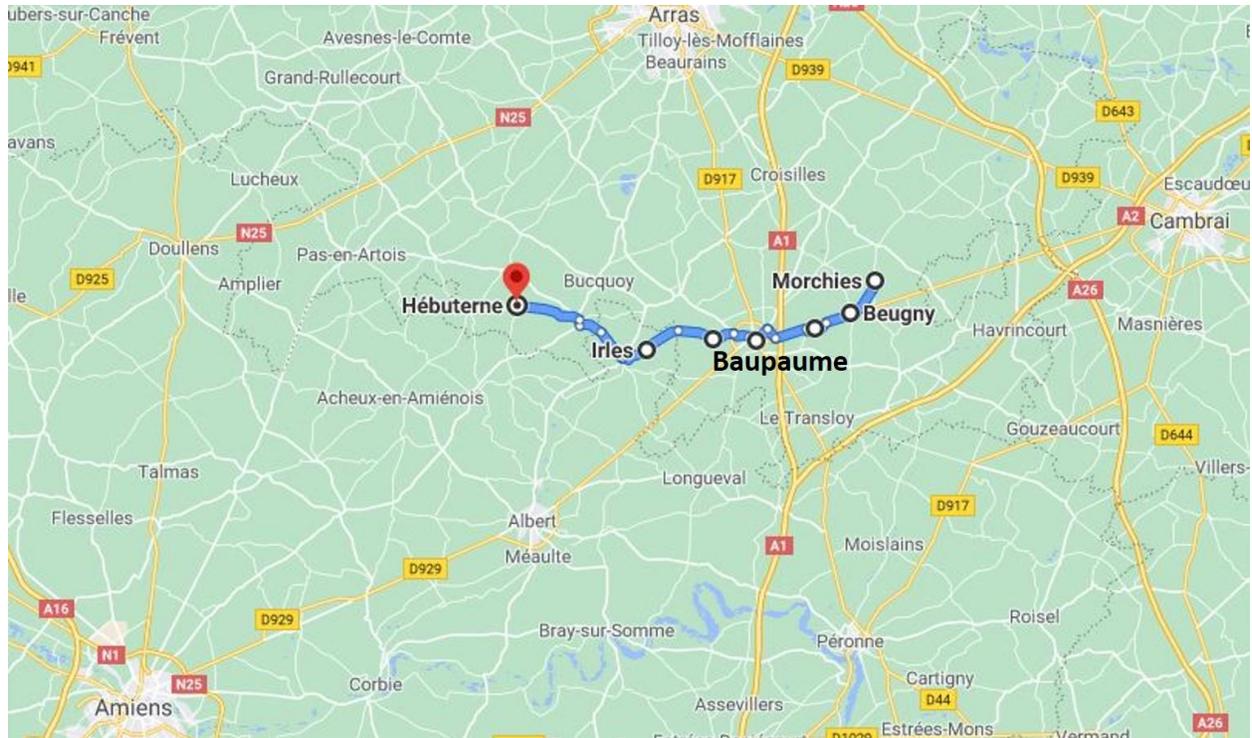


On 21st March 1918, the German army mounted its Spring Offensive 'Operation Michael'. 6th Bn Wilts were now operating in the area of Baupaume. The German offensive was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin,

France. Its goal was to break through the Allied (Entente) lines and advance in a north-westerly direction to seize the Channel Ports, which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and to drive the BEF into the sea. Two days later General Erich Ludendorff, the chief of the German General Staff, adjusted his plan and pushed for an offensive due west, along the whole of the British front north of the River Somme. This was designed to first separate the French and British Armies before continuing with the original concept of pushing the BEF into the sea. The offensive ended at Villers-Bretonneux, to the east of the Allied communications centre at Amiens, where the Allies managed to halt the German advance; the German Army had suffered many casualties and was unable to maintain supplies to the advancing troops.



At one point Charles, now a Lance Corporal, and the 6th Wilts took the whole weight of the offensive at Bapaume.



After a week of combat, 6th Wilts (half of whom were ex-RWY) had taken over 500 casualties including Charles.

Charles was Killed in action on 26 March 1918.

War Office Daily List No.5587 on 8th June 1918 officially reported Charles as missing

He is buried at the BANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY Plot I. H. 18.

Headstone inscription: REST IN PEACE WAITING FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

C GIDDINGS

Service Number: 204134

6th Bn., Wiltshire Regiment who died on 23 March 1918 Age 23

Son of Frank and Mary Giddings, of Glebe Farm, Great Cheverell, Devizes. Native of Tilshead, Salisbury, Wilts.

REST IN PEACE WAITING FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Remembered with Honour

BANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY

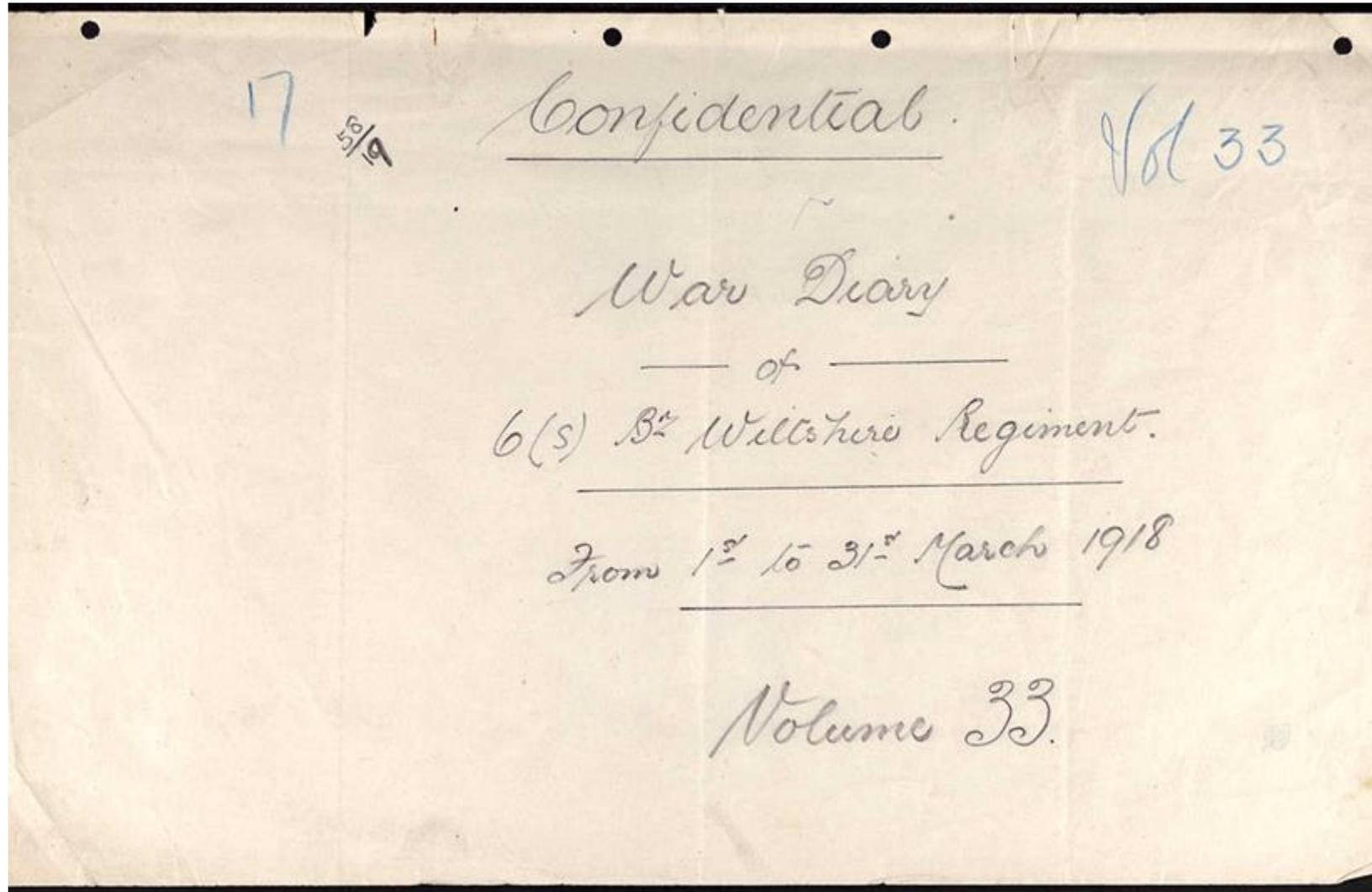
L.H. 18.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The Battalion War Diary entry shown below for the 23rd must be read to get a better sense of the heroic sacrifice Charles and the 6th Wilts made.



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

II

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SANDERS CAMP	1918 March			
	20		Brigade Scheme (WILTS + RWF) with "Tanks". RWF as Enemy & Wilts assaulting troops. <i>al.</i>	
	21 st - 28 th		Battalion took part in active operations in German offensive including battles for MORCHIES, BENOY, FREMICOURT, BAPAUME, GREVILLERS, IRLES, HEBUTERNE <i>al.</i>	
	21		Intense bombardment in early morning. Battalion ordered to "Stand by" at 5.23 a.m. Moved to Assembly Position GAIKA Copse 11.30am. Moved to Deployment position for Counter Attack on DOIGNIES at 4.30pm consolidating position in support of 5 th Brigade. Battalion moved up 21 Officers & 478 O/Ranks. <i>al.</i>	
	22		Moved to ground W. of LEBUCQUIERE at 2.30am. Moved to MORCHIES at 11.30am and consolidated 3 rd line of Defence from MORCHIES Village to Sugar Factory on BAPAUME Road. 'D' 'A' & 'C' Companies in front, 'B' Coy. in direct support, Battalion H.Q. in SUNKEN Road immediately in rear of 'B' Coy. At 4 p.m. Enemy advanced from N. & N.E. checked by our Shell, Lewis Gun and Rifle fire on line LAGNICOURT-VAULX, heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Counter Attack by Tanks on our left threw the enemy back. <i>al.</i>	
	23		During night 22/23 rd troops in front of us fell back to our line which now became the line of resistance. Troops on our right flank S. of BAPAUME Road fell back leaving our right flank unprotected. Defensive flank formed on our right. General attack on all positions by enemy started at 8am. All frontal advances by enemy were repulsed by steady & controlled rifle & Lewis gun fire. At 2.15 pm order received from Bde. to fall back. Owing to general attack being in progress and the nature of the ground - a glacié upward slope - heavily barraged and swept by cross fire from enemy machine guns - it was decided to try to hold on until	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

IV

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 March 25 th (cont)		<p>W. of LOUPAERT Wood where a stand was made. Troops on our right continued to fall back and a further withdrawal to a defensive position E. of IRLES was made. Troops on our right flank had now completely given way and after fighting a delaying action at this point, a further withdrawal was made through MIRAUMONT where an outpost line was est^{ab} established to E. of PUISSIEUX where an outpost line was established. 3 Battalions of the Brigade ^{being formed} into a composite Battalion. ^{ab.} Transport moved from IRLES to ACHIET-LE-PETIT arriving 9 am moving again at 12 noon to BUCQUOY and at 3/30 p.m. to PUISSIEUX. ^{ab.} Marched night 25/26 from PUISSIEUX to SOUBASTRE via COLINCAMP arriving at 2 a.m. ^{ab.}</p>	
	26 th 27 th	26 th	<p>During night 25/26 Bde Composite Battalion (being very weak in numbers) were relieved and withdrew forming successive lines of outposts about HEBUTERNE-FONQUILLERS and in front of BAYENCOURT where battalions were re-^{ab.} reinforced and a strong line of outposts established forming the 3rd line of Defence. Enemy held along the line BEAUMONT HAMEL - SERRE.</p>	
	28		<p>^{Bde.} Composite Battalion relieved by a Canadian Battalion and Battalion moved to FAMECHON after inspection and congratulation by G.O.C. Division ^{ab.} Casualties were as follows - 7/6 C. GREENWOOD Killed in Action; 1/6 E.E. PEGGE Wounded & Missing; 1/6 J. STODDON Wounded & Missing; 1/6 S.H. WILLIAMS Wounded & Missing; 2/6 D.B. CAMPBELL Wounded & Missing; 2/6 L.R. MILLERSHIP Wounded & Missing; 2/6 A.G. AUGUSTIN Wounded & Missing; 1/6 M.G. SUMNER Wounded & Missing; 1/6 F.H. BONE Wounded; 1/6 H.G. PRICE Wounded; 1/6 Col. Lord A.G. THYNNE D.S.O. Wounded; 2/6 E.J. OXLEY Wounded; 2/6 C.P. FRIEND Wounded; 2/6 M. SILLARS Wounded; 2/6 L.E. EDWARDS Wounded; 2/6 G. SNOOK Wounded;</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

V
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	March		2/c. G. SMITH Wounded; Major C.S. AWDRY Missing; Capt. N.L. FLOWER Missing, Capt Goodrich R.A.M.C. Mofc. Mining; Capt A. GARTHWAITE M.C. Wounded (remained at duty) Ocher Ranks 497 (Killed, Wounded & Missing)	at
	29/30.		Left FAMECHON at 9.15pm and marched to CANDAS arriving at 3 a.m. Entrained at CANDAS at 6 a.m. Detrained at CHESTRE at 3/30p.m. Moved by Lorries to BIRR BARRACKS LOCRE arriving at 6p.m.	at
	31		Army Commander inspected NCOs and men who took part in active operations at 12.45p.m. Reorganising Battalion	at
<p>The above is the skeleton summary of the work performed by the 6th (Br) Welch's Reg^t during the month of March. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the limitations imposed by the form of the official summary fail to do justice to the effort made by the Battalion and to the results achieved. The stand made by the Battalion at MORCHIES from 4pm on the 22nd March to 5pm on the 23rd and all that it meant, is a glorious episode in the history of the Welch's Regiment. It is a heroic record of self sacrifice stemming the victorious rush of a superior enemy and a model lesson of a rearguard fight. The subsequent retirement from FREMICOURT through BAPAUME to GREVILLERS and thence to BAYENCOURT was only one endless and stubborn fight. Suffice it to say that only one officer, 1 Sergeant, and 18 Other Ranks came out the struggle, and that officer had also been wounded.</p>				

This is an extract of the 58th Brigade HQ Narrative for this action on the 23rd.

S E C R E T.

Headquarters
19th Division.

HEADQUARTERS. 58th BRIGADE.
No. <i>Br 311</i>
Date

Herewith narrative of battles of 58th Brigade during
period 21st - 28th March, 1918.

AG
Brigadier General

Commanding 58th Infantry Brigade.

5.4.18.

SECRET

58th Infantry Brigade.

Narrative of events from March 21st to 28th 1918.

- March 21st. On the morning of March 21st the 58th Bde. was situated in camps along the BERTINCOURT - HAPLINCOURT Road. Bde. H.Q. at C.5.c.8.B.
- 5.0.a.m. At about 5.a.m. the enemy opened a heavy barrage on our front line trenches.
- 5.12.a.m. At 5.12.a.m. orders received from Division to "Stand by".
- 11.30.a.m. At 11.30.a.m. information received from Division that enemy was reported to have reached 2nd system between LOUVERVAL and LAGNICOURT. One Coy. of the 6th Wilts Regt. was moved to the high ground between BEUGNY and LE BEUCQUIERE to form a line of posts and to keep the Bde. in touch with the situation on the front. This Coy. was relieved during the night by a Coy. from the 56th Bde.
- 11.44.a.m. At 11.44.a.m. orders from Division to move to "Assembly Positions" in GAIKA COFSE. At the same time the 9th Welch Regt was ordered to send a Coy. and establish strong posts along the HERMIES - BEAUMETZ Ridge from HERMIES to Cross roads in J.28.a. inclusive, one Coy. of 57th Bde. continuing the line to BEAUMETZ.
- 12.35.p.m. The Brigade was concentrated in GAIKA COFSE by 12.35.p.m. and remained there until about 4.45.p.m. The vicinity of GAIKA COFSE was shelled intermittently both during the morning and afternoon.
- 4.45.p.m. About 4.45.p.m. in accordance with verbal orders received from Div. (subsequently confirmed in writing) the Brigade was ordered to move to the Ridge West of HERMIES as far as J.27. central and entrench itself there. 57th Bde. was at the same time to form on left of 58th Bde. preparatory to attacking DOIGNIES. At this time information was that the enemy were in possession of both LOUVERVAL and DOIGNIES. Battalions arrived on the HERMIES Ridge about 6.45.p.m. and started entrenching as under:-
- 9th Welch Regt. on Right from HERMIES to J.28.a.9.2. (Junction of 3rd system and Railway Line), 9th R.W.Fusiliers from this point to J.27. central, 6th Wilts Regt. in Support. 2nd Field Coy. R.E. and 1 Coy. of Pioneers were detailed to assist in digging the line. Observation Posts were pushed forward to occupy HERMIES SWITCH.
- 8.30.p.m. At 8.30.p.m. orders received from Division for the Bde. to occupy HERMIES SWITCH. Orders issued accordingly but before this movement was completed verbal orders received from Division that the Brigade would probably have to move en bloc to west of LEBUCQUIERE. Orders at once despatched for Battalion to concentrate behind HERMIES Ridge.
- 11.25.p.m. At 11.25.p.m. orders from Division to concentrate the Bde. in a position of readiness West of LEBUCQUIERE and to push out patrols to MORCHIES to keep in touch with the situation on the BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES Line.
- March 22nd. This move was completed by 4.a.m. Battalions being then concentrated along the road running in I.29.a. and b.
- 1.26.a.m. At 1.26.a.m. orders were received from Division that the Bde. was to be prepared to counter-attack, assisted by Tanks, if the enemy broke through the BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES Line. No. 6 M.M.G. Battery were in position in I.23.a.

March 22nd.

- 10.a.m. At 10.a.m. orders from Division that situation N. and N.W. of MORCHIES was insecure and that the Bde. was to move forward at once and dig in on the spurs in I.10.a., I.11.a. and I.17.b. with one battalion allotted for the defence of BEUGNY. "C" Coy. 18th M.G. Battn. and No. 6 M.M.G. Battery placed under orders of Bde.
- 11.a.m. Brigade occupied this position as under:-
- 6th Wilts Regt. 3 Coys. in front "dug in" along a line of posts E. of Sunken Road MORCHIES - SUGARBEET Factory on BAPAUME - CAMBRAI Road left flank swung back to meet 9th R.W.Fus. about I.11.a.8.2. 1 Coy. in Support.
- 9th R.W.Fus. were on the left of the 6th Wilts R. and were dug in on a line covering the two ridges in I.10. and I.11. about 500 yards S.W. of MORCHIES Village the left being about I.10.a.1.5. 3 Coys. in line and 1 Coy. in Support. Battn.H.Q. of 9th R.W.F. and 6th Wilts R. in Sunken Road I.17.a.5.7. The 9th Welch R. were detailed to garrison and hold the village of BEUGNY. Three Coys. occupied a line extending from I.15.d. through I.16.a. and d as far as the main BAPAUME-CAMBRAI Road. The fourth Coy. was in the village in Reserve. The 56th Bde. were on the right S. of the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI Road. Bde. H.Q. moved from O.5.c.8.8. to old Div. H.Q. in I.34.a.
- 2.30.p.m. As 9th R.W.F. were unable to obtain any touch with troops on their left two companies of the 9th Welch R. and a section of M.G's were sent forward at 2.30.p.m. to endeavour to gain touch with troops on our left flank or failing that to form a defensive flank back to GREEN Line in I.14.b. At the same time the enemy could be seen massing in large numbers on the high ground between VAULX and MORCHIES. Repeated requests for Artillery fire met with no response. It appeared at this time that some of our troops were still in positions North and West of MORCHIES but they subsequently withdrew through our line leaving no troops in front of 9th R.W.F.
- 3.30.p.m. The enemy developed a heavy attack about 3.30.p.m. along the front held by the 9th R.W.F. although no attack developed on the front held by the 6th Wilts Regt. The attack was beaten off at all points with much loss to the enemy. Cavalry could be seen in readiness to support this attack on the high ground between VAULX and MORCHIES.
- 5.p.m. About 5.p.m. a counter-attack by Tanks was launched. This attack drove back the enemy to about the MORCHIES - VAULX Road and inflicted heavy casualties on him.
- 8.p.m. The enemy attempted to raid the post of the 6th Wilts R. nearest MORCHIES. The raid was repulsed leaving 1 killed.
- Night 22/23rd. During the night 2 battalions of the 123rd Brigade came up and took over the line as far as the road in I.10.b. The two Coys. of 9th Welch Regt. on left flank of 9th R.W.F. then rejoined their Battalion in BEUGNY and one Coy. of the R.W.F. from the left relieved the left Coy. of the 6th Wilts Regt. the 6th Wilts Regt. then extending their right down to the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI Road. The R.W.F. line then ran approximately from I.10.central to I.11.b.6.3. Three Coys. in line and 1 Coy. in support. The 6th Wilts line ran from I.11.b.6.3. to the Beetroot Factory in I.17.d. keeping East of the Sunken Road. Three Coys. in line and one in support. The 9th Welch Regt. were in and around BEUGNY as before, but 1 Coy. had again to be sent out to form a defensive flank back from the 123rd Bde. left as they could get no touch with the troops who should have carried on the line to the left. 1 prisoner and 1 light Machine gun were captured by the 9th R.W.F. during the night. Consolidation was continued during the night 22nd/23rd and the early morning of the 23rd

- March 23rd. Patrols sent out by 6th Wilts R. in the early morning reported that the enemy held MORCHIES - CRUCIFIX Line and that troops of 56th Bde. with whom the right of the battalion had been in touch had disappeared. To meet this situation two companies of a Cheshire Battn. of 25th Divn. (whose Battn. H.Q. was with R.W.F. and Wilts) were sent to form a line from Beetroot Factory in a S.W. direction.
- 7.a.m. Between 7.a.m. and 8.a.m. the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the 6th Wilts R. and small portions of the enemy could be seen moving across the front of the Wilts to the BAPAUME Road at a range of about 1200 yards. No frontal attack was attempted by the enemy at this time. The shelling in I.17.a. and particularly round Bn. H.Q. of the R.W.F. and Wilts became very heavy and machine gun fire swept all the slopes between BEUGNY and MORCHIES making movement very difficult.
- 9.a.m. At about 9.a.m. orders were received from the Division for a withdrawal to the GREEN or ARMY Line after dusk. The Bde. to hold the line from the BEUGNY - FREMICOURT Road (inclusive) to the Grid running E. and W. through I.14.central. Orders were at once issued to Battalions to withdraw at 9.30.p.m. 9th Welch to withdraw to GREEN Line and hold it R.W.F. and Wilts to send parties to N. and E. of BEUGNY, remainder retiring through them.
- 11.a.m. Bde. H.Q. moved to BANCOURT.
- Later in the morning information was received through Div. that the K.O.S.L.I. on the right of 6th Wilts R. had retired on to GREEN Line thus leaving the right flank of 6th Wilts and 9th Welch completely in the air. Orders sent to Battalions giving this information and ordering 6th Wilts and 9th R.W.F. to withdraw to the outskirts of BEUGNY and complete movement to Green Line at dusk. This order reached the front line battalions about 2.30.p.m. by which time the whole line was very heavily engaged and a strong enemy attack had developed behind the 6th Wilts from between LE BUCQUIERE and BEUGNY. Orders were thereupon sent out to advanced Coys. to commence the withdrawal but owing to an intense barrage on Battn.H.Q. few runners succeeded in getting through. Personnel of Battalion H.Q. endeavoured to form a defensive flank to assist the withdrawal of the forward Coys. but most of the men were killed or wounded. By 5.p.m. however it was evident that Coys. were endeavouring to fight their way back and O.C. 6th Wilts and 9th R.W.F. with such of their H.Q. as were left withdrew. Before doing so all codes and maps etc. were burnt as escape seemed most improbable. Meanwhile 9th Welch in BEUGNY had been compelled to bring nearly all their men on to the East and Southern edges of BEUGNY and were very heavily engaged. O.C. had sent up word to forward Battalions that enemy were attacking heavily from the South and that there appeared to be none of our troops in front South of the main road.
- 3.10.p.m. A message was received from O.C. 9th Welch timed 3.10.p.m. stating that evacuation of forward line was proceeding and that he was holding enemy attack well. A later message stated that no considerable number of Wilts or R.W.F. had come through and he feared many must have been cut off.
- 5.20.p.m. A further message timed 5.20.p.m. stated that he was very heavily engaged and that all other troops appeared to have retired to GREEN Line but that he would hang on till dusk to cover withdrawal of any more of Wilts or R.W.F. who might possibly get back. The 9th Welch held the village till dusk when they withdrew in good order to the Green Line. They had however suffered very heavy casualties. I am of opinion that had it not been for the fine defence of the village by 9th Welch none of the Wilts or R.W.F. would have got away at all.

Bde. H.Q. moved to between BANGCOURT and BAPAUME.

- 1.p.m. By 11.p.m. the remnants of the Bde. were re-organised in the GREEN Line Welch and Wilts holding the front line. R.W.F. and 1 Coy. S.W.B. in support. At this time the GREEN Line was full of troops of many different units. These subsequently side-stepped Northwards.
The remainder of the night was spent in consolidating and no further attack by the enemy was made.
During the evening all available men (about 120 in all) from depots were sent up and reinforced their Battalions.
- 4 March
8.a.m. About 8.a.m. on 24th the enemy attacked the 9th Cheshire and 9th Welch holding the GREEN Line but was repulsed - about noon these attacks were renewed and by 1.30.p.m. the troops on the right began to retire. At about 2.30.p.m. it was decided to commence withdrawal to RED Line. Welch and Wilts accordingly withdrew covered by 9th R.W.F. and S.W.B. The retirement was continued to a position East of FREMICOURT where a further stand was made and several local counter-attacks delivered to relieve the pressure. The withdrawal was then continued to a line East of BAPAUME. Here the Brigade was re-organised and occupied a line from Brickyard in H.28.c. to BAPAUME - BEUGNATRE Road on the left. The 9th Cheshire were on the right and later the 10th Worcesters extended on the left of 53th Bde.
Bde.H.Q. had meanwhile moved to GREVILLERS.
- 9.30.p.m. At 9.30.p.m. orders were received from Division that the Division was to occupy the line LIGNY THILLOY to Railway at H.25.a.8.3. inclusive. The 58th Bde. to hold from ALBERT Road at N.1.a.5.8. exclusive to H.31.a.7.3. All available men that could be collected from the transport and about Bde.H.Q. (including the guard on dumps of blankets in GREVILLERS) Bands, Cooks, etc. were at once sent out to occupy the line pending the arrival of the remainder of the Brigade. These reinforcements amounted to some 50 to 60 men per battalion. The remainder of the Bde. withdrew unmolested from the Eastern side of BAPAUME and by midnight were re-organised on their new line. Including the reinforcements that had been sent in the whole Bde. at this time did not amount to more than about 270 rifles. Bde.H.Q. then moved to IRLES. The night was spent consolidating and passed quietly.
- March 25th. By the morning of 25th telephonic communication had been established between Bde. H.Q. and Bde.H.Q. of 9th R.W.F. and 9th Welch.
- 5.30.a.m. Patrols pushed forward into BAPAUME reported it unoccupied by enemy up to 5.30.a.m.
- 7.a.m. About 7.a.m. an attack developed South of the BAPAUME - ALBERT Road and by 9.a.m. was general along the whole front but mainly South of the road. About this time the troops South of the road withdrew some 500 yards and the right of 9th Welch was thrown back to keep touch.
- 11.a.m. About 11.a.m. as the right was still giving way a withdrawal was made to the high ground running from East of LOUPART Wood to West of GREVILLERS about G.29. This position was a good one and could have been held for many hours but for the fact that the enemy still continued to press forward South of LOUPART Wood beyond the flank of the Division.
The position was held till about 2.p.m. when a further retirement was made to a position West and N.W. of the Wood. Here a gallant stand by a portion of 10th R. Warwicks held up the enemy's outflanking movement for nearly an hour. At about 3.15.p.m. the withdrawal was continued to a line in front of IRLES.
- 3.15.p.m. At about 3.p.m. the remnants of the Bde. withdrew to PUISIEUX where they were re-organised on a line just East of the village.
- 5.p.m.

- 10.30.p.m. At 10.30.p.m. the Bde. (with 56th and 57th Bdes.) withdrew to HEBUTERNE and occupied that village with outposts on the Eastern and Southern outskirts of the village. 58th Bde. being responsible for the portion from Road in K.16.b. (inclusive) to road running through K.16.a. - K.16.d.5.8. (exclusive). The Bde. was re-organised as a Battn. each Battn. forming one Coy. with from 1 to 3 platoons.
- March 26th. At about 9.45.a.m. reports were received that the enemy were
9.45.a.m. on the S.W. outskirts of the village. Patrols were at once pushed forward, the Bde. stood to arms, and took up a position in K.9.a., North of the village, the 57th Bde. taking up a position further back in the direction of the CHATEAU de la HAIE. Fighting patrols and mopping parties were then sent through the village to establish a line of posts on the far side. This was eventually done but desultory fighting went on throughout the day in the village, during which a few prisoners and 1 machine gun were captured.
- 10.30.p.m. At about 10.30.p.m. a Bde. of the 4th Australian Division relieved the Bde. in front of HEBUTERNE and the Brigade withdrew to BAYENCOURT pushing out an outpost line West and South of the village.
- March 27th. On 27th the Bde. remained in BAYENCOURT and on 28th marched to FAMECHON.

The casualties incurred by the Brigade during these operations amounted to -

52 Officers
1382 Other Ranks.

W.M. 1892/18-10 Regs-37, & Form 144, 1901

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised	No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£				
875111	8/746571/1	Giddings Charles	6 B att Wilts L/pt 204134	23-3-18 Exeter 7-19 Presumed Dead	24	15	8				15-10-19 J. Frank	24	15	8
Includes W.S. 21-														

Record of Effects Entry

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
GIDDINGS Charles		R Wilts Yeer Wilts R	Pte	683 204134
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	81/102 B16	1883		
BARRER	do	"		
Star				
T.F. War	Wilts R.TFM	37		
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

Medal Index Card (Note TF War Medal entitlement)

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S 4TH (T.F.) BN. (WILTSHIRE) REGIMENT OR CORPS. 301 of 1917. 1883

SUPPLEMENTARY ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. No. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless referred for misconduct, being shown against the name of the Regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Claps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
						(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
209230	Pte.	GIBSON Robert Edward	21st Rif. Brig. 477 Pte. 2/5 Hamps. R. 260058						Disembodied 3.4.19.
200473	Pte.	GIDDINGS Albert Nelson	1/4 Wilts R. 1998 Pte.						Died 10.8.16.
203181	Rpl.	GIDDINGS Charles	1/1 R. Wilts. Yeo. 1772 Cpl.						Discharged N.L.P.F. 20.12.18.
204134	L/Cpl.	GIDDINGS Charles	6th Wilts R. 203181 1/1 R. Wilts. Yeo. 683 Pte.						Died 23.3.16.
200448	Pte.	GIDDINGS Victor Samuel	6th Wilts R. 204134 1/1 Wilts R. 200448 Pte.						Disembodied 17.7.19.
203019	Pte.	GILBERT Daniel Ernest	2nd D. of Corn. L.I. 202829 Pte.						Class 2. 12.2.19.
204639	Cpl.	GILBERT Albert Lionel Ernest	1st Wilts R. 203019 1st Wilts R. 204639 Cpl.						Disembodied 24.2.19.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above. *9/17/17* Capt. for Lt. Colonel Infantry Record Office.

Place EXETER. 7
Date 3.7.20
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

Medal Index Card Entry

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

PAGE 37

WILTSHIRE SUPPLEMENTARY. REGIMENT or CORPS

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Territorial Force War Medal, granted under Army Order 143 of 1920.

Held by the individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted		NAME	Regt. No., Rank and Unit on date of first proceeding overseas	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
No.	Rank			(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
200538	Pte	GEALER Frederick	2082 Pte 2/4 Wilts Rgt	✓			Demob'd 25-12-19
200550	Pte	GEE Alfred Jesse	2100 Pte 1/4 Wilts Rgt	✓	✓		Demob'd 20-9-19
204134	L/C	GIDDINGS Charles	683 Pte 1/1 R. Wilts Yeo	✓	✓		Died 23-3-18

ROYAL WILTSHIRE YEOMANRY

ALPHABETICAL LIST		circa 1914/18 **		of KNOWN O/Rs to DATE		
NAME + Initial	1st No	2nd No.	RANK.	SQDN	REMARKS.	FILE.No
GIBBS.	W.L.		PTE.	X. T.	2/1	299
GIDDINGS.	C.	1184	PTE.	X. 1.W.	DIED HOME.	303
GIDDINGS.	C.	0361	320036	CPL.	B. W. 6W. POW. TFWM. F.	300
GIDDINGS.	C.E.	0683	320108	L/CPL.	B. 6W. KIA. TFWM. F.	301
GIDDINGS.	K.			X.		304
GIDDINGS.	R.C.	0980	320259	SGT.	B. W. COMMISSION. F.	302
GILBERT.	C.J.			PTE.	D. F.	307
GILBERT.	G.H.	0518		PTE.	B. TO 2/1	305
				SS.	C.	932



War Medal Victory Medal TF War Medal

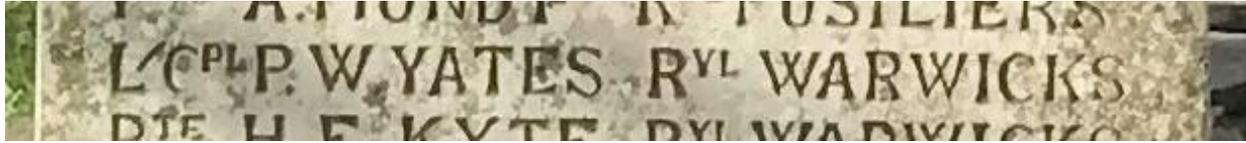
Note: George was entitled to the Territorial Force War Medal. The TF War Medal was a campaign medal awarded to members of the British Territorial Force and Territorial Force Nursing Service who served overseas in World War I. It is the rarest of the five British Great War campaign medals.

The medal was established in April 1920 for award to members of the Territorial Force and Territorial Force Nursing Service who volunteered for service overseas on or before 30 September 1914 and served overseas. They had to:

- have been serving with the Force on 4 August 1914; or
- have completed four years' service with the Force before 4 August 1914 and rejoined on or before 30 September 1914.

In addition, provided they:

- undertook, either verbally or by written agreement on or before 30 September 1914 to serve outside the United Kingdom, such agreement being operative after 4 August 1914, and
- have served outside the United Kingdom between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 (both dates inclusive; the last date was in 1918 though the years on the reverse said 1914-19) and
- did not qualify for the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star.



LANCE CORPORAL PERCY WILLIAM YATES

Percy's birth was registered in the 3rd Quarter of 1894 in Wilton, Birth Record Index for Wiltshire Volume 5a Page 178a refers.

In 1891 before Percy's birth the Census record for the family shows them living in Steeple Langford. Recorded in the family group are Father Frederick Robert Yates (b circa 1865 Wyle bapt 3 Jun 1865 d 1940) a Carter/Farmer, Mother Annie Bessie Yates (nee Curtis) (b 1862 Marhull Dorset d 1936 Salisbury) (They were married on 26 Sep 1885) with children Mabel J Yates born 1887 in what looks like Sutton Veney and John E Yates born 1890 in Steeple Langford.

I can find no 1901 Census record for the family.

The 1911 Census shows the family in Great Bathampton, a farm in Steeple Langford, Wiltshire. Recorded on this census are

Frederick Robert Yates as a Carter/Farmer and mother Annie Bessie Yates and children:

- John Yates (b 1891 Steeple Langford) a Carter/Farmer
- Edwin Yates (b 1892 Steeple Langford) a Grocer
- Percy Yates (b 1894 Fisherton) Carter/Farmer
- Harry Yates (b 1897 Winterbourne Stoke) Carter/Farmer
- Cyril Yates (b 1902 Shrewton)
- Earnest Yates (b 1904 Shrewton)

This Census states that by 1911 Frederick and Bessie had had 10 children of whom 3 had sadly died.

Percy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation shows that in 1918 Percy's parents, Frederick and Bessie were living in 2 Queen Street, Tilshead.

Service Record

Service Number 28052 Royal Warwickshire Regiment (RWR).

Sadly, no service record exists for Percy so I will make some assumptions with respect to his service history.

His Medal Index Roll entry shows he served with 2/7th Battalion RWR and his Commonwealth War Graves Citation the 14th (Service) Battalion RWR.

He is not awarded the 1914/15 Star, so I am assuming he joined up in 1915/16 and was subsequently posted to 2/7th Battalion RWR (which was part of 182nd Brigade in 61st (2nd South Midland) Division).

In February and early March 1916, the Division moved to Salisbury Plain. King George V inspected the Division at Bulford on 5 May 1916.

The 61st Division was warned in May 1916 that it would go on overseas service and entrainment began on the 21st. By 28th May the Division, less the Ammunition Column (which was still at Le Havre), had concentrated in the area of Merville – Gonnehem – Busnes – Thiennes. The Division then remained in France and Flanders and took part in the following engagements (Pse note that only a detailed study of the 2/7th Battalion War Diary can confirm their level of involvement in these actions).

1916

The Attack at Fromelles

The first major action in which the Division was engaged turned out to be an unmitigated disaster. An attack was made on 19 July 1916 at Fromelles, a subsidiary action to the much larger battle taking place further south on the Somme. The Division suffered very heavy casualties for no significant gain and no enemy reserves were diverted from the Somme. Such was the damage to the Division and its reputation that it was not used again other than for holding trench lines until 1917.



1917

The Operations on the Ancre

The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line

The 61st was one of the Divisions employed in the cautious pursuit of the enemy, when the Germans carried out a deep withdrawal from the area of the Somme to formidable pre-prepared positions that the British called the Hindenburg Line, in March 1917. On 17 March, it captured Chaulnes and Bapaume.

The Battle of Langemarck 916-18 August 1917)

In late August and early September, the Division was involved in the efforts to push the line forward at positions around Schuler Farm and Aisne Farm near Kerselaar.

In late November 1917, the British Third Army made a highly successful attack, using massed tanks for the first time, near Cambrai. 61st Division was initially held in reserve and was still in the area when the enemy made a determined counterattack on 30 November. The Division was ordered up to reinforce the units under attack in the area of La Vacquerie and for some days was involved in a hard fight to stem the enemy attack.

1918

The Battle of St Quentin~

The Actions at the Somme Crossings~

On 21 March 1918, the enemy launched what was intended to be a decisive offensive, attacking the British Fifth and Third Armies on the Somme in overwhelming strength. The 61st (2nd South Midland) Division was holding the forward zone of defences in the area northwest of Saint Quentin in the area of Ham and lost many men as it fought a chaotic but ultimately successful withdrawal back over the Somme crossings over the next ten days. In the initial clash, the South Midland faced three enemy Divisions and only began to retire on the afternoon of 22 March, when ordered to do so in consequence of the enemy's progress at other parts of the line.

- Phases of the Battles of the Lys
 - The Battle of Estaires
 - The Battle of Hazebrouck
 - The Battle of Bethune

By the time it was relieved after fighting all the way back to the very gates of Amiens in the First Battles of the Somme 1918, the Division had been involved in continuous action since August 1917 and was most exhausted. The remnants were moved north to what had been a quieter part of the line on the La Basse Canal near Bethune. Unfortunately, it was near where the Germans launched the second phase of their offensive on 9 April 1918.

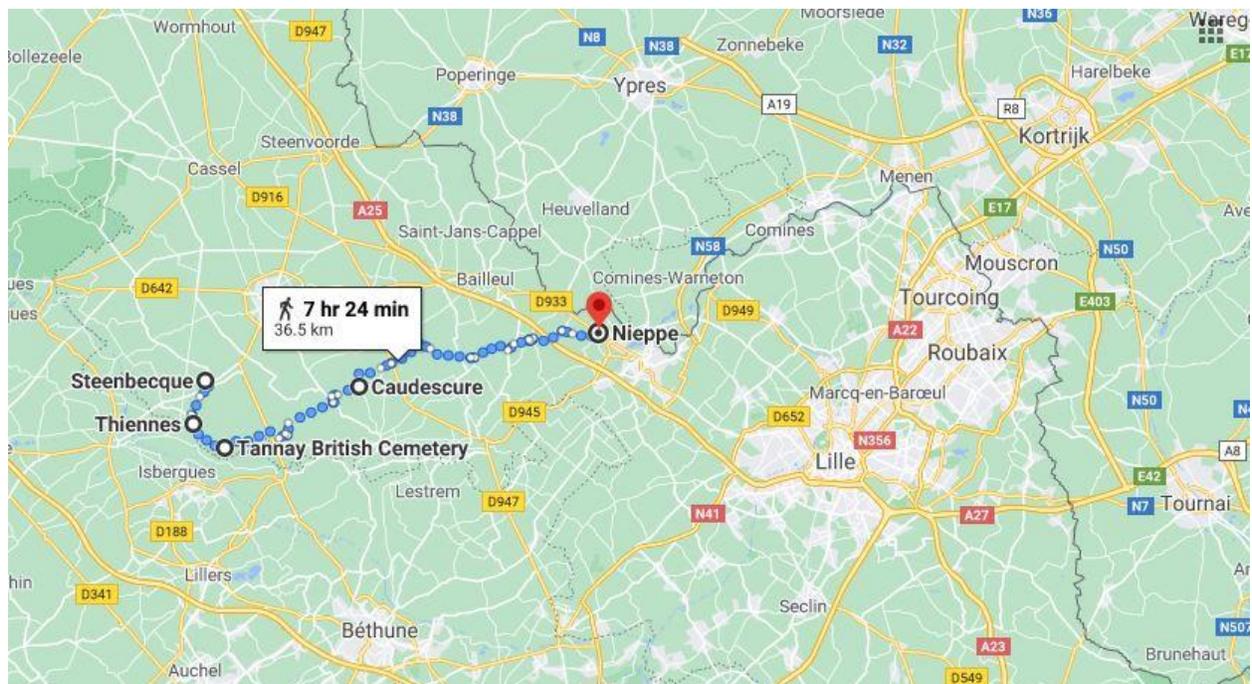
At some stage, and for reasons unknown, Percy was transferred from the 2/7th Battalion to 14th (Service) Battalion RWR. My best guess is that this transfer took place

sometime in early 1918 but I cannot be certain. It is possible he was re-assigned to the 14th Battalion when it returned to France from Italy in April 1918. The 14th Battalion RWR were part of the 13th Infantry Brigade within the 5th Division.

13th Infantry Brigade Order of Battle

- 2nd Bn, the King's Own Scottish Borderers
- 1st Bn, the Royal West Kent Regt
- 14th Bn, the Royal Warwickshire Regt
- 15th Bn, the Royal Warwickshire Regt

Percy is reported to have been killed in action on the 23rd May 1918. I have attached below the 14th Battalion War Diary for the month of May 1918. The battalion was operating in the area of the Nieppe Forest not far from where Percy was buried in the Tannay British CWGC Cemetery.



Confidential

19

(15th Dec)

Register No.

Part No.

Volume No. 31.

Vol #30

War Diary

of

14th (Service) Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

for the month of

May 1918.

1-6-18.

Wm. Herbert

Lt. Colonel.

Comdg. 14th (S) Bn R. War. R.

14th R. War. Regt.

WAR DIARY

May 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Sheet 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Caudesmont	1/5/18	-	The Battalion is still in Front line trenches. 2 nd Lt FT Smith & 3 OR report for duty. The R.S.M. - TH Taylor - who had been wounded by shell fire seriously in the leg dies of his wounds in the e.e.s.	See Major
"	2/5/18	-	The Bn sends out two raiding parties each of 1 Officer & 20 OR. One party brings back useful information but the other is fired on heavily by the enemy. 2 nd Lt G. MOORE & one OR is missing & 5 OR wounded. A draft of 4 OR is received.	See Major
"	3/5/18	-	The Bn is relieved in the evening, & withdrawn to reserve just inside the wood. 15 RWAR occupy Front line instead of us. During the night Bn HQ is bombarded with gas shells but no casualties are caused by gas. 3 OR are wounded during the day & 13 OR report for duty.	See Major
"	4/5/18	-	Bn remains in Reserve.	See Major
Nieppe Forest.	5/5/18	-	2 nd Lt Townend J.L. reports for duty & remains with "Dumped Personnel" at Thiennes.	See Major
"	6/5/18	-	Bn remains in Reserve. All the work is done at night principally wiring as no movement is allowed by day. A few web days make of the trenches very uncomfortable. Otherwise all goes well.	See Major.
"	7/5/18	-	Capt CW Hughes Lt M Jones & 2 nd Lt WE Richardson GE Phillips & 6 OR Wood report for duty. Also 10 OR. Casualties are very slight only 3 or 4 OR wounded.	
"	8/5/18	-		

4. R. War Regt.

WAR DIARY

May 1918
Sheet 2.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Nieppe Forest.	9/5/18	-	The 13th Inf Bde is relieved by 95th Inf Bde & withdraws to Birmace area in the centre position of Nieppe Forest. (See Bn 00 179 attached). On the way out the Bn is badly shelled by gas shells. One man a direct hit on a section of pawns of A Company killing two men & wounding several more. Lt-Col Munn also got a touch of gas & arrived at Bn Headquarters considerably fatigued.	amk "A" C/Major
"	10/5/18	-	Capt O'neal & Capt A.W. Nichols report for duty. Capt & adjt Rehatto comes up from Thiennes & takes over from Lt Col Munn. The Bn spends the day washing & cleaning up.	C/Major
"	11/5/18	-	Lt Col Munn goes to hospital as result of the effect of the gas on his already somewhat weak constitution. The Bn carries out work on the Divisional line.	C/Major
"	12/5/18	-	The Bn attends a Church Parade (Brigade) at which Lt Gen Sir R.C.B. Hakin the Corps Commander presents Company Banners made by Lady Hakin to the C.S.Ms. They are beautifully made & the Battalion is very much pleased to have them.	C/Major
"	13/5/18	-	The Bn carries out work on the Divisional line & on Spresiano Camp. 2nd Lt Turner & 16 OR report for duty. Mr W. Walker of 1st Bn 11th Div assumes cmd. of the Bn vice Capt Rehatto who takes over the duties of 2nd in command.	C/Major

14 R. War Regt

WAR DIARY

May. 1918

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Nieppe Forest.	13 th May	Continued	Capt R. Watts M.E. inspects the army Musketry camp & corps. Musketry & Reinforcement Camp. There is a about 150 recruits there for the Battalion all very young, mostly 18 1/2 years old & some very small but all seem & healthy looking.	C. Major
"	14/5/18	-	Work is continued on the Divisional line, & new battlements.	C. Major
"	15/5/18	-	ditto -	C. Major
"	16/5/18	-	13 th Inf Bde relieves 15 th Inf Bde in the Right Sector in accordance with Bn OO 180 (See copies attached) the relief takes place in excellent order & no casualties take place.	C. Major
"	17/5/18	-	1 st Coy of Bn in Front line. Nothing of any importance occurs.	C. Major
"	18/5/18	-	ditto -	C. Major
"	19/5/18	-	ditto - 7 Cooks are unfortunately casualties in a dugout near cookhouse - a shell landing straight into it. As a result the cooks are sent back to Tannoy. One cook dies the following day.	C. Major
"	20/5/18	-	Nothing of importance occurs.	C. Major
"	21/5/18	-	A Draft of 71 OR arrives at Tannoy & from the corps M & R Camp. They seem very much pleased to join the Bn. Capt W. Bourne takes them to the wood where they bivouac until going up the line two or three days later.	C. Major

Mulberry

4 R.N.R.

May 1918

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Sheet 4.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kippe Forest	22/5/18	-	<p>The BR remains in the front line. At night a raid is carried out by part of A Company as follows. 2nd Lt FT Smith with Sgt Brown, Cpl Lawton & 19 OR go into position at 11.50 PM according to a pre-arranged plan. Cpl Lawton worked forward to the objective - a house & knocked a Mills bomb in it at the same moment a very carefully thought out L-fun barrage opened up & slow Artillery fired. At zero - midnight the whole raiding party pushed forward, & threw in another bomb & then examined the house. No sign of the enemy was seen. The whole party then pushed forward to a hedge K 26 1/3 to K 26 7/8 & searched the ground but found no enemy. Only one casualty was inflicted sustained & that slight. The L-fun barrage was excellent & the Artillery barrage also all that was wanted. There was no hostile retaliation.</p>	
"	23/5/18	-	<p>a few more men return to the BR from hospital.</p>	Lt Major
"	24/5/18	-	<p>8 men become casualties</p>	Cpl Major
"	25/5/18	-	<p>The BR is relieved in the front line by 1 R.N.R. Coy & withdraws to support. Unfortunately the BR is badly exposed to gas shelling. Company in particular come in for it badly. We lose 12 OR & 19 OR by gas. Lt Whitley reports for duty.</p>	Lt Major
"	26/5/18	-	<p>12 OR go down with gas. 1 OR W.S.F. 3 OR report for duty.</p>	Lt Major
"	27/5/18	-	<p>3 OR go down with gas.</p>	Lt Major
"	27/5/18	-	<p>7 OR report as a draft for duty.</p>	Lt Major

A7092 Wt. 1125.9/M1293 759.000.1172 D.D. & I. Ltd. Forms/C2118/24.

W. H. ...

On the 23rd May the war diary records bluntly '8 men become casualties'. This is the day Percy is recorded as being killed, possibly as a consequence of an artillery or gas attack

14 R War R
 May 1918

WAR DIARY
 or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 5

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Drope Forest	28/5/18	-	Bn remains in support. 3 OR are wounded.	182 ADP C
"	29/5/18	-	Bde is relieved in the line in accordance with Bn order attached. Bn arrives in Steenbecque at about 7.0 PM. Enemy aircraft drops a heavy bomb on a hill of the Coy killing 4 & wounding 6 OR. The barn is completely destroyed.	ADP C
STEENBECQUE	30/5/18	-	The day is spent in cleaning up & inspections. The Div. Band plays in the field near D-Strip billets.	ADP C
"	31/5/18	-	Training is carried out by Companies & a very profitable morning is spent. The 1 st E Sappers give an excellent concert in the evening. Bn Mess is started on the Bn coming to Rest Billets & promises well. During the month the following awards are won. 14/1181 Supt SW Tuffley D.C.M. 32474 Cpl Moorey N. 14/207 Pte W B Cherman. 14/709 Pte G J Smith 20276 Pte Smith G.O. all Military Medal.	ADP C

Mitchell
 for Watts Major
 O.C. 14 R War R

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised		
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	Account and Date	£		s.	d.
709648	604607	Yates Percy William	14th Bn R. Warwick Rgt. Lepl 28052	24.5.18 In action	Warwick 6/18	9	5	-	9	5	-	16.8.18	21.8.18	Mo. Solby Bessie G	9	5	-	
						9	10						16/12/19	170 rsly Bessie G	9	10	-	RD

A. F. W. 6670 SENT
DATE 15/4/19

Register of Soldiers Effects entry for Percy

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 2669301

of 1919

B.8015.

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regd. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
556	Pte.	YATES, Rupert.H.	1st Bn.R.War.R. 556 Pte.						
28052	Pte.	YATES, Percy.W.	2/7th Bn.R.War.R. 28052 Pte.						
1188	Cpl.	YATES, Thomas	1st Bn.R.War.R. 1188 Cpl. 11th Bn.R.War.R. 1188						
1876	Pte.	YATES, Thomas	1/5th Bn.R.War.R. 1876 Pte.						
4876	Sgt.	YATES, Thomas	1st Bn.R.War.R. 4876 Sgt. 11th Bn.R.War.R. 4876						

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this BOLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place WARWICK

Date 20 JAN 1921

5-3

A. G. Owen Lieut. Colonel
i/c Infantry Records, WARWICK
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

Medal Index Register entry for Percy

Percy is buried near to where he fell at TANNAY BRITISH CEMETERY, THIENNES
Plot 2. Row E. Grave 12.

Personal Inscription

NOT GONE FROM MEMORY NOR FROM LOVE BUT GONE TO OUR FATHER'S
HOME ABOVE

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

PERCY WILLIAM YATES

Service Number: 28052

14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment who died on 23 May 1918 Age 24

Son of Frederick Robert and Bessie Ann Yates, of 2, Queen St., Tilshead, Wilts.

NOT GONE FROM MEMORY NOR FROM LOVE BUT GONE TO OUR FATHER'S HOME ABOVE

Remembered with Honour

TANNAY BRITISH CEMETERY, THIENNES

Plot 2. Row E. Grave 12.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
YATES		R. War R.	Pte	28052
Percy W.				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	L/104 B38	8015		
BRITISH	- do -	- do -		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

Medal index Card



War Medal

Victory Medal

PTE H. F. KYTE RYL WARWICKS



Private Herbert Francis Kyte

Brother of William James Kyte who also died in WW1 and is recorded on the Tilshead Memorial.

Herbert Francis Kyte (b 3rd Qtr 1877) was the 2nd son Francis (Frank) (b 1846) and Rosanna Kyte (nee Wild) (b 1848) of Tilshead, Wiltshire. He was baptised 7 Oct 1877.

Page 13

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Tilshead</u>						
in the County of <u>Wilts</u>			in the Year 18 <u>77</u>			
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <u>77</u> <u>Oct: 7</u>	<u>Herbert-</u> <u>Francis</u>	<u>Francis</u> <u>Rosanna</u>	<u>Kyte</u>	<u>Tilshead</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>J. H. Johnson</u> <u>Vicar</u>
No. <u>101</u>						

His other 9 siblings were:

- Bessie - b 1870
- George - b 1873
- Fanny - b 1875
- Louisa – b 1880
- Laura - b 1881
- Edwin - b 1884
- Henry – 1888
- William – b 1893 (Also Killed in Action see detail below this history for Herbert)
- 1 other sibling died young

He married Edith Lily Rose Cooper (b 1895) on 17 Nov 1917 whilst on convalescent leave. She married again in 1921 after Herbert's death.



The 1881 Census records the family living at The Island, Tilshead.

- Frank and Rosanna with Bessie, George, Fanny, Herbert and Louisa.

The 1891 Census shows the family still in Tilshead.

- Francis (Frank) and Rosanna with George, Fanny, Herbert, Louisa, Edwin, Laura and Henry.

The 1901 Census records them at The Lane, Tilshead

- Frank and Rosanna with Herbert, Laura, Elwin, Henry and William.

By 1911 the majority of Herbert's siblings have flown the nest.

- Frank and Rose (Rosanna) are in Tilshead with just Herbert and William.

Herbert's Service Record

- **2 Dec 1915** - Enlisted/Attested – Devizes - 5079 – Posted Reserve 8th Reserve Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment (RWR) aged 38
- **22 Mar 1916 – 21 Jul 16** – Mobilised and completed basic training.
- **22 Jul 1916 – 1 Mar 1917** – Served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders.
- **1 Sep 1916** – Evacuated to 1/1 5th Medical Field Ambulance with Pyrexia (or Trench Fever).

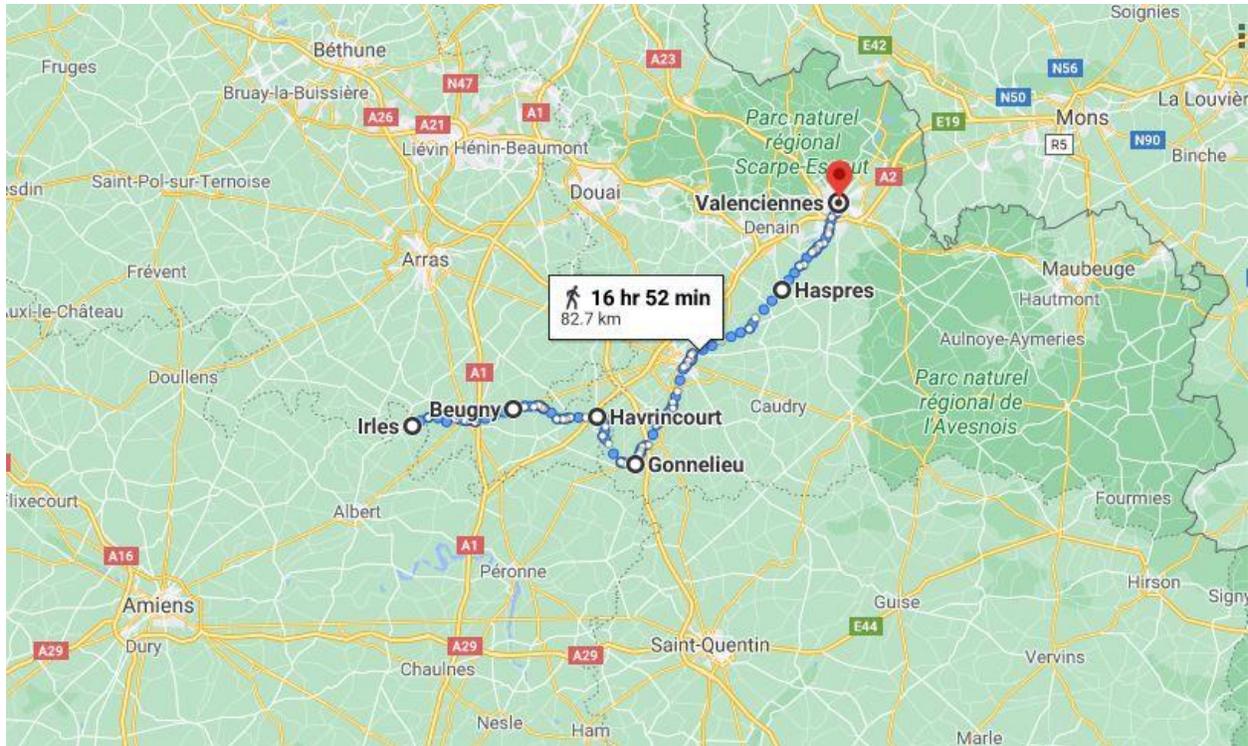
Trench fever, often classed as “pyrexia”, is a condition that was first reported from troops in Flanders in 1915, when individuals suffered from a febrile illness that relapsed in five-day cycles. At the time, the cause of the disease was unknown.

It is estimated to have affected 380,000 to 520,000 members of the British army and had a debilitating effect, leaving a large numbers of men incapacitated.

A lot of research was carried out by the British and US to identify the cause and mechanism of transmission.

Due to its similarity to Malaria, many thought that lice were the cause, but attempts to find a treatment were not successful, and efforts to prevention were mainly focused in using insecticides to delouse clothing.

- **6 Sep 1916** – Evacuated to 4 Casualty Clearing Station and then by Train to 1st Canadian General Hospital in ETAPLES.
- **17 Feb 1917** – Contracted Malaria Evacuated to 1/1 5th Med Fd Amb (see Medical Record below)
- **18 Feb 1917** – Transferred to 1st Australian General Field Hospital in Rouen
- **1 Mar 1917** – Transferred to England
- **2 Mar 17 – 18 Jan 18** – England and Ireland for treatment and convalescence (married 17 Nov 1917)
- **29 Nov 1917** – Taken on Strength 7th Res Bn RWR from Convalescence Depot in Ireland
- **18 Jan 1918** – Transferred to Base Depot in France
- **19 Jan 1918 – 24 Aug 1918** – British Expeditionary Force
- **22 Jan 1918** – Transferred to 16th Battalion RWR
- **24 Jan 1918** – joined unit in the field
- **8 Jun 1918** – Evacuated to 13th Field Ambulance with Pyrexia (Unknown Origin)
- **20 Jun 1918** – Transferred to 30th General Hospital
- **26 Jun 1918** – Transferred to 7th Convalescent Depot
- **8 Jul 1918** – Posted 15th Battalion RWR in the 13th Infantry Brigade of 5th Division.
- **13 Jul 1918** – Joined Unit
- **14 August 1918** – 5th Division was withdrawn for rest and placed in GHQ Reserve. Two weeks later it entered into what became a series of complex, endless, overlapping Allied attacks that forced the German Army into retreat.



- **23rd August 1918 the 13th Infantry Brigade War Diary reports:**

TRENCHES L 17 b 8/5 In confirmation of verbal instructions given to COs OO 213 (operation Order) was issued. At 11 am Bde HQ moved forward to L 17 b 8/5.

By noon Battalions were in position for attack carried out by 95th and 15th Inf Bdes. The 13th Inf Bde was to pass through the two Bdes and exploit success. The 15th and 95th Inf Bdes were to have captured IRLES and ridge running NE of IRLES. Orders were issued and preparations were made for the attack at 5.30 pm and Bdes commenced move forward to assembly positions. Shortly after issue of orders and movement of Battalions information was received that IRLES had not been captured. Orders eventually received for the 13th Inf Bde to attack with objectives GREVILLERS, LOUPART WOOD and IRLES. The attack was launched under great difficulties at 7.30 pm. The attack was completely successful and by nightfall 14 RWR and 15 RWR were established on high ground NW of LOUPART WOOD and RWR had captured IRLES and established themselves on eastern side of village. (see report appx X). Over 700 prisoners, several guns and a considerable number of Machine Guns and Trench Mortars were captured during these operations.

- **23 August 1918 – 15th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment War Diary Reports:**

Operation Order No 213 received. 5th Division will attack in conjunction with 37th Division on left and New Zealand Division on the right.

Objective Red dotted Line.

11.00 am 15 RWR with one section of A Coy 5th Machine Gun Battalion attached moved from assembly area L11 a L10b and L10a. Bn HQ at L10 a 8/1.

2.30 pm 15 RWR with MG Section move to assembly area east of ACHIET LE PETIT.

4.00 pm Bn HQ in position and established at G 14 c 33

7.05 pm Verbal orders 13th Inf Bde will carry out an immediate attack with 1st R West Kent Regt on the right 14 RWR Centre and 15 RWR on left

15 RWR will attack and capture high ground commanding GREVILLERS

Assy Area G21 a and b

Zero Hour 7.30 pm

B Coy Right C Coy Left carry out the attack with D Coy in Support. A Coy in Reserve. Coys move forthwith to assembly area in time to close with barrage.

8.45 pm Objective gained and consolidation begun.

Prisoners and Captives included about 6 Officers and 220 ORs.

Actually counted and collected:

4 x 4.2" Howitzers, 4 x 77mm Field Guns, 35 x Rifles, 1 x 3" Trench Mortar, 8 x Hvy MG with stands complete, 9 x Light Machine Guns, 84 Boxes MG Belts

Besides other Ordnance, munitions and stores which could not be counted or collected.

Offrs 1 x wounded, 1 x wounded at duty

ORs 3 wounded

- **24 August 1918 – 13th Infantry Brigade War Diary Reports:**

RAVINE G 19 d 9/2 at 4.15 am The New Zealand Div passed through the Brigade with objectives BAPAUME and the Brigade form a defensive flank on a line South of IRLES. (L 3 a 9/0 to G 36 a 5/0) 15 R War R on right 14 R war R centre KOSB left. 15 R War R in position about G 28 c and d. The day being spent consolidating this line. Bde HQ moved to G 19 d 9/2

- **24 August 1918 – 15th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment War Diary Reports:**

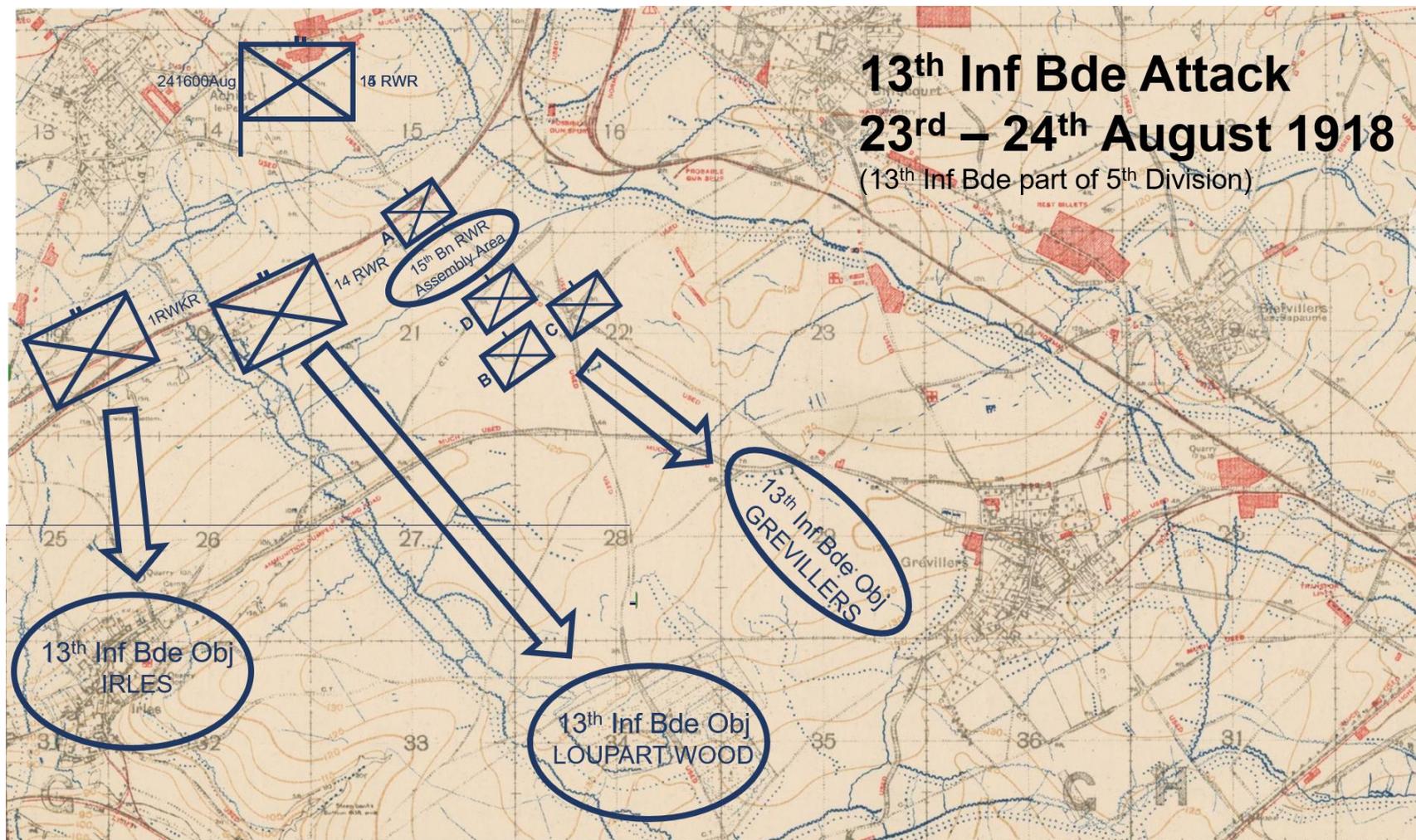
Situation

1.30am 15 R War R in touch with 14 R War R on the right. Patrols sent out but no British Troops found on the left. Defensive flanks formed with D Coy. Line (approximately) runs in G 29a and c.

Battn HQ G28 central.

Casualties - Offr 1 x Wounded ORs 7 x Killed 28 Wounded 14 Missing

13th Inf Bde Attack 23rd – 24th August 1918 (13th Inf Bde part of 5th Division)



~~Confidential~~

24

Vol 49

War Diary

of

13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters

for

August 1918.

1918

3a Lt Col Lupton
for Brigadier General
Commanding 13th Inf Bde.

WAR DIARY

141 Army Form G. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SALMON PI	22nd		<p>Brigade in Divisional Reserve.</p> <p>At 8.45 pm orders received that Brigade will probably attack tomorrow 23rd and must be prepared to relieve tonight. C.O. C. phoned Div^o and arranged to go down for further instructions. Commanding officers were sent for and on the C.O. C. return verbal instructions were given.</p>	
Tranches L 17 28/3	23rd.		<p>In confirmation of verbal instructions given to C. O. O.O. 213 was issued. At 11 am Battalion moved forward to L 17 28/5.</p> <p>By noon Battalion were in position for attack carried out by 95th and 15th Inf^y Bde. The 13th Inf^y Bde was to pass through the two Bdes and exploit the success. The 15th Inf^y Bde & 95th Inf^y Bde were to have captured IRLES and ridge running N.E. of IRLES. Orders were issued and preparations made for the attack at 5.30 pm. and Battalion commenced to move forward to assembly positions. Shortly after issue of orders & movement of Battalion information was rec^d that IRLES had been not been captured. Orders were eventually received for the 13th Inf^y Bde to attack with objectives GREVILLERS LOUPART WOOD & IRLES. The attack was launched under great difficulties at 7.30 pm. The attack was completely successful & by nightfall 14th Bwth R & 15th Bwth R were established on high ground N.W. of LOUPART WOOD & 14th Bwth R had captured IRLES & established themselves on Eastern side of the village. (See Report App^s I)</p> <p>Over 700 men prisoners, several guns and a considerable number of M.G. T.M.C. etc were captured during these operations.</p> <p>Bde had moved forward during</p>	<p>App^s IX</p> <p>App^s X</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form G. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVINE G 19 d. 9/2.	24 th -		At 4-15 am The New Zealand Div ^s passed through the Brigade with objective BARRAME, and the Brigade formed a defensive flank on a line S. of IRLES - (L. 3. a 9/0 to G 36 a 5/0). 14RWR on right 14RWR in centre 2KOSB on left. 15RWR in position about G 28. c + d. The day being spent in consolidating this line. Base HQ. moved to G 19 d 9/2.	306
W. GREVILLERS G 29 d. 1/8.	25 th		The Div moved to assembly positions on G 29. d. In position by 12 noon (OO 216). The whole of the assembly area was shelled during afternoon evening. (See App ^s XI)	306 + XI 306
BIHUCOURT	26 th		Brigade relieved 111 st Bde on the line. Relief carried out successfully, under great difficulties. 2KOSB took of from 3 B ^s of 111 st Bde in front line. 14RWR in Support 15RWR in Reserve and 14RWR remained in G 29. a. At 6.30 am 2KOSB moved forward in conjunction with New Zealand Div ^s on right to protect N. Z. flank to a line approx. west of the village of BEUGNATRE. Captain B. C. LAKE Bde Major took over command of 2KOSB via Major DUDDEON wounded. Captain S. B. PERLER G.S.O. 3. took over duties of Bde Major. At 6 pm The 2KOSB attacked and captured the village of BEUGNATRE together with about 400 prisoners & several MG's. During the attack Capt. LAKE was wounded. (See App ^s XI)	306
SARIGNIES	27 th		Situation unchanged at 5 am. - Major KAY 14RWR took command of 2KOSB via Capt. LAKE wounded. Situation quiet throughout the day. Base HQ. SARIGNIES Batt ^{le} relief in evening. 14RWR relieved 14RWR on left - 15RWR relieved 2KOSB on right 14RWR withdrew to support 2KOSB withdrew to reserve (See App ^s XI)	306

WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

13
5

VII 33

War Diary

15th (S) Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

For the Month of

August, 1918.

1st September 1918.

G. S. Miller
Commanding
15th (S) Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Lieut. Colonel.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 21 st	2.20 a.m.	15 th R. War. R. in position in Assembly Area. Battn. H. Q. in WAAC Trench, K. 6. d. 16.3.	
		8.0 p.m.	Rations and water delivered to Battn. H. Q. by limbers. Casualties - NIL.	fw
	22 nd		In Assembly Area. Casualties - 4 O.R. wounded - Gas.	fw
	23 rd		Operation Order No. 213 received. 15 th Division will attack in conjunction with 37 th Div. on the left and New Zealand Division on the right. Objective - Red Dotted Line.	
		11.0 a.m.	15 R. War. R. with one section of "A" Coy, 5 th M.G. Bn. attached, moved off from Assembly Area, L. 11. a., L. 10. b. and L. 10. a. Battn. H. Q. at L. 10. a. 8. 1/4.	
		2.30 p.m.	- 15/R. War. R. with M.G. section move to Assembly Area east of FCHIET-LE-PETIT.	
		4.0 p.m.	- Battn. H. Q. in position and established at G. 14. 0. 33.	
		7.5 p.m.	- Verbal Orders, 13 th Inf. Brigade will carry out an immediate attack with 1 st R. W. Hunt R. on the Right, 14/R. War. R. in the centre and 15/R. War. R. on the left. 15/R. War. R. will attack and capture high ground commanding GREVILLERS Assembly Area - G. 21. a. and b. Zero hour 7.30 p.m.	fw

Continued on

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
	1918 Aug. 23		<p><u>Continued.</u></p> <p>7.5 p.m. "B" Coy on the Right, "C" on the left, carry out the attack, "D" in Support, "A" in reserve. Coys. move forthwith to assembly area in time to close with Barrage.</p> <p>8.45 p.m. Objective gained and consolidation begun.</p> <p><u>Prisoners and Captures</u> - included about 6 Officers, 220 O.R.</p> <p>Actually counted and collected:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 - 4.2" Howitzers. 4 - 77mm Field Guns. 35. Rifles 1 - 3 inch trench mortar. besides other Ordnance, munitions, and stores which could not be counted or collected. <p><u>Casualties.</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Ranks</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1 wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 wounded.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1 " at duty.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	1 wounded	3 wounded.	1 " at duty.		fw
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>									
1 wounded	3 wounded.									
1 " at duty.										
	24 th 1.30 3 rd p.m.		<p><u>Situation.</u></p> <p>15/P War. R. in touch with 14/P War. R. on the right. Patrols sent out but no British troops to be found on the left. Defensive flank formed with "D" Coy.</p> <p>Line (approximately) runs in G. 22 a. and c.</p> <p>Balkn H.Q. - G. 28 central.</p>	fw						

Continued on

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brace heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Aug 24		Continued.	
			<p><u>Casualties</u> <u>Affects</u> 1. Wounded.</p> <p><u>Other Ranks</u> 7. Killed 28. Wounded. 14. Missing.</p>	GW
	25	9.10 a.m.	- Orders received to close Battalion at once and to prepare to move into Assembly positions in G. 29. b. on receipt of Orders.	
		10.55 a.m.	- 15/R. War R. move to assembly positions in N.W. corner of G. 29. b.	
		12.0 noon	- In position in assembly area.	
		10.30 p.m.	- Orders received that 13 th Brigade will relieve 111 th Brigade to-night. 15/R. War R. relieve 15 th Bde of Wellingtons West Riding Regiment in support.	
			<p><u>Casualties</u> <u>Other Ranks</u> 6 wounded.</p>	
	26	7.0 a.m.	- Battn. in position in Quarry H. 14. d, H. 14. central and 2. Battn. H.Q. G. 24. b. 7.4.	GW
		11.15 a.m.	- Battn. H.Q. H. 14. c. 3.8.	
		4.40 p.m.	- Owing to hostile shelling, A.B. & D. boys move to N.W. of Quarry in H. 14. b. Battn. H.Q. established east of Road about H. 14. b. 9.9.	
		11.26 p.m.	- 14/R. War R. call for assistance of one Company. "B" Coy. move to trench in H. 16. b just east of FAYREUIL and come under orders of O.C. 14/R. War R. for tactical emergency	GW
			Continued on _____	

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised	
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	£	s.		d.
771283	613470	Kytle Herbert	15 th Bn R War 96	24.8.18 War 10.18	13	10	4	13	10	4	19.0.18	19.12.18	Wid. Edith L	13	10	4	
			306744										5/12/19 wid. Edith L	11	-	-	P10
					WAR GRATUITY Effects 19.19.19 Transfer 6.8.34 Regd Papers 23.8.22 Serial No. 29537			11 - -									

Register of Soldiers Effects entry

ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE BOOK										FIELD SERVICE													
31 Ambulance Train HOSPITAL																							
Index number of admissions. Transfers are not to be numbered consecutively with the admissions, but should be left un-numbered, or numbered in red ink as a separate series	Regiment, Battalion, Corps, or other Unit	Squadron, Battery, or Company	Regl. No.	Rank	Surname	Christian name	Completed years of		Completed months with Field Force	DISEASES (Wounds and injuries in action to be entered according to classification on fly leaf)	Date of Admission		Date of Discharge		Date of Transfer				Number of days under treatment	Number or designation or ward in which treated	Religion	OBSERVATIONS (Number and page of case book to be quoted for all cases recorded in it. In transfers the designation of the hospital or sick convey, to which or from which transferred, must be noted here, and any other facts bearing on the man's destination; also in movable field hospitals the place where the admission, etc. took place should be indicated. Place of action to be noted in case of wounds and injuries received in action)	
							Age	Service			For original disease	By new disease super-vening	To	By new disease super-vening	By Death	For Sustained	Other	From Sustained					Other
70	8 R.A.M.C.	B.	5079		Kytle	H.			Myalgia														
71	5 S.A.M.C.	A.	20483		Llewellyn	J.			Rheumatism														
72	2 S.A.M.C.	C.	2104		McAlpine	A.			Sw. Arm (S)														
73	2 R.A.M.C.	D.	17521	Sgt	Pool	H.			Syph. heal														
74	M.C.C.	14.B.	22064	Pte	Soutney	W.F.			Bronchitis														

Medical Record entry 17 Feb 1917

306744 Private Herbert Francis Kyte was probably killed in action in the early hours of 24th August 1918 during the final stages of the 15th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment assault on the high ground overlooking GREVILLERS.

He is buried at ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT plot II. J. 5.

In Memory Of

Private

HERBERT KYTE

Service Number: 306744

15th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment who died on 24 August 1918 Age 44

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kyte, of Tilshead, Wilts.

Remembered with Honour

ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT

II. J. 5.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



WCA 295
W.I.

Name Kyte Herbert Regimental No. 306444 Case No. 5984
 Regiment Rl Warwick Rank Plt

Form 104-88 received 4.9.18 Date of notification of death 10.9.18 Form 104-76 received 11.9.18
 Date and cause of death 24.8.18. Killed in action

Widow Edith Lily Rose Cottage Islehead Date of birth 12.8.95.
 Children :- Wilts

Name	Date of birth	Date of Expiry	Remarks
			<u>£5 Grant received 9.18</u> <u>50F 18 2 19</u> <u>No. for whom S.A. is paid</u> <u>sent to action. S.</u> <u>28.4.19.</u>

Pension 13/9. a week from 14.3.19.
 Date awarded 2.8.2.19. If refused, reason _____
 Papers awd 31.0077. reason _____

F6217 Wt.13643,854 50,000 (12) 1/18 J.P. Gp. 158

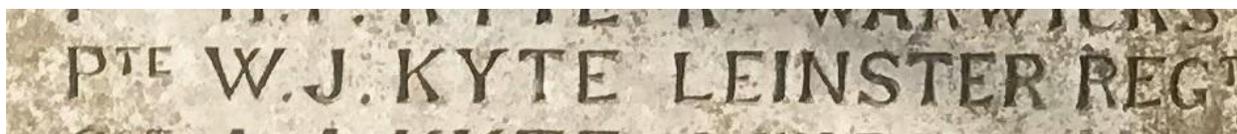
Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
KYTE Herbert.		R. War. R.	Pte	306744.
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	L/104 B 20.	4244		
BRITISH	do	do		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380



War Medal

Victory Medal



Private William James Kyte

Brother of Herbert Francis Kyte who also died in WW1 and is recorded on the Tilshead Memorial.

William's birth was registered in the first ¼ 1893 in Amesbury Birth Register Volume 5a Page 162 refers. He was Baptised 21 May 1893 in Tilshead. Note his medical record states his religion was 'Weslyan'.

Page 32

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Tilshead</u>						
in the County of <u>Wilt</u>				in the Year 1892-3		
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1893 May 21 No. 255	William James	Francis & Roseanna	Kyte	Tilshead	Labourer	Edw. Sheldon Reece

Sadly, no service record exists for William but what records do exist suggest he enlisted into the Wiltshire Regiment (Service No 13291) with whom he probably did his basic training, possibly with the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion a depot/training unit in Devizes. The 3rd Battalion moved to Weymouth in April 1915 when he was possibly transferred to 'back fill' 6th Battalion Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) when they moved from Ireland to Basingstoke prior to their deployment to Gallipoli in May 1915. (His Leinster Service Number was 1068). His Medal Index Card shows he disembarked in the Balkans (Gallipoli) on 9 July 1915 (so he was entitled to the 1914/15 Star). This ties in with the Leinster's WW1 record.

On 9 July 1915 the Leinsters embarked at Liverpool and sailed to Gallipoli via Mudros and landed at Anzac Cove on 5 August 1915.



On 29 September 1915 the Leinsters then moved via Mudros to Salonika. A medical record exists (wound or illness not known) from 28th General Hospital in Salonika that shows William was evacuated to Hospital on 23 Dec 1915.

At some stage William was 're-assigned' from the Leinsters to 9th (Service) Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, possibly before the Leinsters moved to Egypt on 14 September 1917 and whilst the Gloucesters were still in Salonika.

On 4 July 1918 the Gloucesters returned to France and on arrival on 21 July 1918 they were attached to 198th Brigade in 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division.

On 22 September 1918 the 9th Battalion became a Pioneer Battalion in the same Division.

William's Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation records he died on 27 October 1918 Age 25 (in a Rouen General Hospital) probably as a result of a Gas attack (see Pension record card) on either the nights of 16/17th or 18/19th October 1918 in the area of Maurois, Reumont or Le Cateau. (See Battalion War Diary).

DCB. 3082 /

DEPENDANT'S PENSION. D.1

Name Lyle William James Regimental No. 41025

Regiment or Ship Gloucester Rank Private

Documents received from Paymaster 5/3/19.

Date and cause of death 24/10/18. Died. Gas shell.

Dependant Mrs R. Lyle

Address Filshead, N^o Salisbury, Wilts

Relationship Mother.

Pension 5/- Ret: 21. 12. a week from 7. 5. 19.

Date awarded _____ If refused {

Papers _____ reason {

F6406 18149/875 50m (72) 2/18 J.P. Gp. 159
F7622 4115/1043 100m (72) 6/18

Lyle Mrs R. D.P. 59/12.
Gloucesters

Wilts
N^o Salisbury
Filshead

No: 41025 Pl^e: William James Lyle
Gloucester Regt.

He is remembered with honour at the CWGC St Sever Cemetery Extension in Rouen
Plot S. III.C. 12.

In Memory Of
Private

W J KYTE

Service Number: 41025

9th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 27 October 1918 Age 25

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kyle, of Tilshead, Salisbury.

Remembered with Honour
ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN
S. III. C. 12.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
100 KYTE William James.	* Leini R.	Pte	1068
	Glouc R.	Pte	41025
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	L/101 B 16	2865	Died 27.10.18.
BRITISH	1 do-	do	
15 STAR	2/2C	37	
Theatre of War first served in	2 ^B Balkans.		
Date of entry therein	19.7.15.		

K. 1380.

Medal Index Card



1914/15 Star, War and Victory medals

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 246 & 301

of 1919 No. 2865

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein - the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regtl. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
12955	Pte. ✓	KYTE Charles F.	9th Bn. Glouc. R. 12955. Pte.	✓	✓				
50057	T/Sjt ✓	KYTE Frank Hubert	1st Bn. Worc. R. 37936. A/Cpl. 177th Worc. R. 37936.	✓	✓				
41025	Pte. ✓	KYTE William James	6th Bn. Leinster Regt. 1068. Pte. 6th Leinster Regt. 1068. 9th Glouc. R. 41025.	✓	✓				

94

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

WARWICK

Place

Date 8 - OCT 1919

W. H. ...
CAPTAIN
RECORDS, WARWICK.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

ms
OK M

Medal Index Roll Entry



Connect map above to 9th Battalion War Diary entries for 15th-18th Oct 1918

Oct 15 th	The Battalion remained in the Front Line until the night of the 16 th /17 th
16 th	Enemy Artillery shelled the Front Line and vicinity of En Hignis intermittently throughout the day and night with H.E. and Gas Shells. Casualties:- Wounded to Field Ambulance:- 11. 12746 Lt Coppinger J., Wounded Gas to Field Ambulance:- 4 O.K.'s.
	Orders were received on the 16 th inst., that the Battalion would be relieved in the Front Line on the night of the 16 th /17 th inst. by the 5 th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and on relief would march to billets at MAUROIS. The relief was completed by 1930 hours and the Battalion was established in billets by 2200 hours. Memorandum N-117 was

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A788) Wt. 580g/M1672 350,000 4/17 Seb. 52a Forms/C/1118/14

accordingly issued and is attached as Appendix "K".

One Company remained in Reserve for the purpose of assisting the R.C.'s in accordance with Memorandum N° 48 attached as Appendix "L".

Orders were received to the effect that the 66th Division would continue its advance to its final objective known as (Reserve). Memorandum N° 49 was accordingly issued, and is attached as Appendix "M".

Oct 17th

Work was carried out by Co^s in accordance with Memorandum N° 50 attached as Appendix "N". Casualties. Wounded to Field Ambulance: 22680 Pls Dough Co. On this day orders were received that the Battalion, less "B" Teams would return to and hold the Sector of the Line from which they were relieved the previous night. Memorandum N° 51 was accordingly issued and is attached as Appendix "O".

Oct 18th

The Battalion remained in the Front Line until the night of the 18/19th inst., when it was relieved by the 13th Royal Welch Fusiliers. Relief was completed by 2050 hours and the Battalion returned to billets at REUMONT at approx. 2230 hours. Wounded to Field Ambulance: 41055 Pls Beat W. Gas Casualties to Field Ambulance: 2nd Lt H. Wood, 2nd Lt J. S. Burton, 2nd Lt B. Griffiths, 2nd Lt F. S. Nicholson & 19 ORs



Alfred Augustus Kyte

Alfred Augustus Kyte's birth was registered in the 4th Quarter of 1879 in Amesbury, Wiltshire (Registry of Births Volume 5a Page 174 refers). He was baptized 21 Oct 1879 in Tilshead.

Page 18

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Tilshead</i>						
in the County of <i>Wilts</i> in the Year 1879						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1879 Dec. 21	Alfred Augustus	Edwin Catherine	Kyte	Tilshead	Labourer	J. H. Johnson Vicar
No. 140						

His father was Edwin Kyte (b 1856 in Corfu d 1933) and his mother was Catherine Kyte (nee Matthews) (b 1847 Imber d 1915 bur 20 Feb 1915 Tilshead).

The 1911 Census records they had 9 children 5 of whom had died early. The 4 children that survived were:

- Edwin G Kyte (b 1877 d 1957)
- Florence Bessie (b 1883)
- Flora R (b circa 1888)
- Ethel M Kyte (b circa 1890)

The 1891 Census records the Father Edwin, Mother Catherine and Children Edwin, Alfred, Flora and Ethel living in Tilshead.

In the 1901 Census Alfred is recorded as being a boarder in Willesden, Middlesex.

On 27 Jun 1903 Alfred married Emma Pearson at St Andrew Church in Willesden, Harrow, England

The 1911 Census records Alfred living at 107 Oakland Road Hanwell Nr Ealing West London Middlesex where he is a conductor on electric trams. Living with him are his wife Emma (b circa 1880) and children Ethel Gladys born 1904 and Edward Augustus born 1907.

He is also recorded as having a 3rd child, Marjorie Vera born in 1913.

Service Record

On the basis of surviving service records Alfred possibly enlisted in 4/8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and probably was then posted to 2/8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on 18 July 1915 after basic training. Given the deployment and Theatre dates shown on his Medal Index Roll entry it may have actually been the 2/7th Battalion that he actually deployed to Egypt with.

Based on these dates the following service record is offered. It should be understood that the actions relate to the Division his Battalion served in at the time and does not necessarily mean his Battalion was directly involved in them. More research of the Battalion War Diaries would be needed to confirm what involvement the Battalion had.

4a (Egypt) 1.9.15 to 8.5.16

2/7th Battalion

- 31 August 1915: landed at Alexandria in Egypt and proceeded to Cairo.
- November 1915: returned to Alexandria and formed part of the Western Frontier Force.
- 8 May 1916: moved to France, arriving in Marseilles on 15 May 1916. Whole Bn went into quarantine camp for Typhus.
- 2/7th Battalion disbanded in France on 10 June 1916 as a consequence of the Typhus.

1a (France and Flanders) 15.5.16 to 8.9.16

- Arrived No 5 Infantry Base Depot Rouen 13th June 1916.
- Transferred to the 1/8th Battalion Middlesex Regt and then attached to 9th London Regiment 3rd July 1916.
- Transferred to 9th London Regiment 8th September 1916 (Army Order 204. 1916)
- War Diary 1/9th Londons shows - 4th July 'Draft arrived 80 ORs 7th Middx 80 ORs 8th Middx'

8819 & 554536 -1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles)

- 10 February 1916 : Battalion transferred to **169th Brigade in 56th (London) Division.**

1a (France and Flanders) 9.9.16 to 21.9.16

- The Battle of Ginchy (9 September)
- The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15 -22 September)

There is a gap here (21 Sep 1916 to 16 April 1917) that I can't account for. He may have been wounded and returned to the UK.

1a (France and Flanders) 16.4.17 to 4.11.18

1917

- The First Battle of the Scarpe (9 – 14 April)
- The Third Battle of the Scarpe (3 – 4 May)

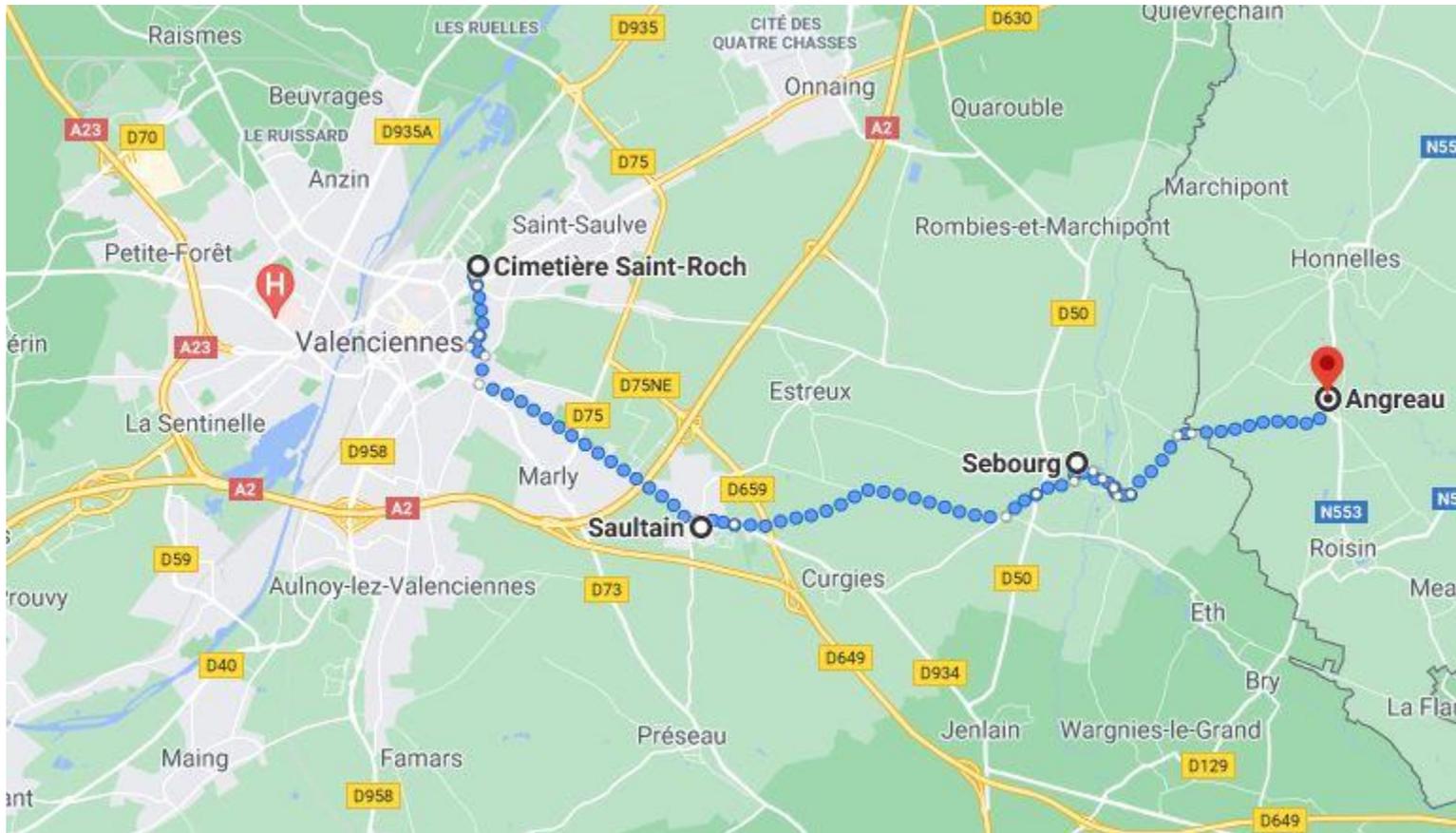
(Phases of the Battles of Arras 1917)

- The Battle of Langemarck (16 – 17 August) (Phase of the Third Battles of the Ypres)
- The capture of Tadpole Copse (21 November)
- The capture of Bourslon Wood (23 – 28 November)
- The German counter attacks (30 November – 2 December)

(Phases of the Cambrai Operations)

1918

- The First Battle of Arras (28 March) (Phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918)
- The Battle of Albert (23 August) (Phase of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918)
- It should be noted that on 27 Aug 1918 he is recorded as being in the 18th General Hospital in Camiers. having been transferred from 19 Casualty Clearing Station in Boisleux au Mont with a Gun Shot Wound to the right hip set. I could guess that the wound was sustained in the Battle of Albert. He was transferred on 28 Aug 1918 to No 6 Convalescent Depot Etaples.



Connect this map with the Battalion War Diary entries below

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	4th	(Contd)	<p>roads (each on the extreme flanks of the Battalion front). On the left "A" and "D" Companies were relieved by 168 Brigade troops and moved South and established a position in the centre of the Battalion front, protecting the river.</p> <p>"C" and "B" Companies established themselves as a semi circular screen, thrown out from the sunken road, back towards "A" Company.</p> <p>The K.R.B. who were closely supporting the Battalion completed the line across the Battalion front and a portion of the front of the Battalion on the right.</p> <p>The situation was now unpleasant. Word was passed that the Battalion on the right was being counter-attacked.</p> <p>The village was continuously and very heavily shelled.</p> <p>The whole situation was dominated by hostile M.G.'s. who made any movement practically an impossibility and thus prevented any re-organization taking place.</p> <p>The line ran from 700 to 300 yards in front of the AUNELLE river.</p> <p>In the evening the Battalion was relieved by L.R.B. and reformed just in the rear of SEBOURG where rations were issued and ammunition completed.</p> <p>Orders were received during the night for a further advance the following day.</p> <p>Company Commanders came to Battalion H.Q. for their instructions. By the time these instructions were issued to the men, it was Zero and for the third night the men had practically no sleep.</p> <p>Casualties:- 1 Officer. 2nd Lieut. F.H.B. MOORE and 20 O.Rs. Killed. 1 Officer. Lieut. I.P. Mc EWAN and 52 O.Rs. Wounded, 2 O.Rs. Sick.</p> <p>At 0530 hours the Battalion advanced in support to L.R.B.</p> <p>In spite of very heavy shelling the L.R.B. Captured ANGREAUX, an advance of over 3000 yards. The Battalion occupied positions in the sunken road and open ground in rear of the village. The enemy shelled this area all day and night and it rained continuously, the men getting soaked in the wet ground.</p> <p>Casualties:- 1 Officer. 2nd Lieut. H.R. SMITH, MC. and 3 O.Rs. Killed, 3 O.Rs. Wounded. 10 O.Rs. Sick,</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A.P. Powell</i> Lieut Colonel.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Commdg. 1st Battn. QUEENS WESTMINSTER RIFLES.</p>	
	5th.			

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	6th.		At 0530 hours the L.R.B. and 2nd Londons again advanced, but were met by strong opposition and were unable to maintain captured ground. They suffered heavy casualties and "C" and "D" Companies went forward to reinforce the L.R.B. and "A" and "B" Companies to reinforce the 2nd Londons. Only 2 Companies were eventually required and consequently "A" and "D" Companies were withdrawn to their original positions. The rain and shelling continued all day. The Officers and men under the most trying circumstances maintained the utmost cheerfulness. It is thought that the Battalion has never before experienced such an unfavourable combination of shelling, rain, mud and the lack of sleep. In the evening the battle area was taken over by 167th Infantry Brigade and the Battalion withdrew to billets in SEBOURG.	
	7th.		Casualties:- 2 O.Rs. Killed. 7 O.Rs. Wounded. 16 O.Rs. Sick. The men dried their clothes by fire as far as possible, washed and shaved and rubbed their feet, which owing to the wet were in very bad condition. The usual returns and indents were compiled.	
	8th.		Casualties:- 7 O.Rs. Sick. Moved from SEBOURG at 1000 hours, arriving ANGREAU, 1100 hours. Transport had great difficulty in operating. The roads were very congested and the transport accommodation is quite inadequate for the baggage which it is essential to carry. Vehicles, therefore, in many cases have to do double journeys. Also there is a deficiency of 6 horses and Brigade H.Q. use Officers chargers for Mounted Orderlies. Our limber has now to carry T.M. Ammunition. The whole section is in a state of immobility and if the advance continues will not be able to keep up with the Battalion.	
	9th.		Casualties:- 2 Officers. 2nd Lieut. I.P. WORTHINGTON, 2nd Lieut. H.F. SIMONDS and 9 O.Rs. Sick. Preordered move did not take place and Battalion repaired roads in the afternoon. News from Divisional Commander that German peace delegates had come through Allied Lines and been given untill 1100 hours 11th inst to accept Allied Peace terms. The 167th Brigade which was in the line reported to have gone forward a great distance in pursuit of the enemy. Casualties:- 6 O.Rs. Sick.	
			<i>W. H. Wall</i> Lieut Colonel.	
			Commdg. 1st QUEENS WESTMINSTER RIFLES.	

Brigade War Diary Entries

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LIEU ST AMAND	1	-	<p>Quiet day. 56th Division W.O. G.280 dated 1.11.18 received stating this Division would relieve 49th Division in line night 2nd/3rd inst. (APP. A). 56th Division O.219 dated 1.11.18 (APP. B) confirming 56th Division Warning Order received and 169th Infantry Brigade Order 229 dated 1.11.18 (App. C) issued, based thereon. B.G.C. attended G.O.C.'s conference at Div. H.Q. BASSEVILLE at 1400 today - subject attack to be carried out by 56th Division on 4th inst. 169th Infantry Brigade is to be on RIGHT 168th Infantry Brigade on LEFT and 167th Infantry Brigade in reserve prepared to pass through if all goes well. Notice very short and certain administrative arrangements made today. B.G.C. held conference of C.Os. today at Brigade H.Q. and discussed future operations.</p>	A B C
LINE	2	-	<p>Brigade moved to forward area today ready to relieve 147th Infantry Brigade (49th Division) tonight 2nd/3rd inst. Brigade halted just South of MAING until it was necessary to move forward. 2nd Londons took over RIGHT Subsector and Q.W.R. the LEFT Subsector. L.R.B. were in Reserve. T.M.B. was attached to Battalions - 2 to each Battalion. Brigade H.Q. MAING. Relief was complete at 0400 3rd inst.</p> <p>Div. Operation Order 220 received (APP. D) reference attack to be carried out on 4th inst. and Brigade Order 230 (APP. E) issued.</p>	D E
	3	-	<p>Quiet night. About 0830 Division stated that the enemy were withdrawing on our LEFT and on enquiry Battalions in the line stated that their patrols had just ascertained that the enemy opposite our front had commenced to retire. Our patrols were quickly supported and very soon SAULTAIN was in our hands. When SAULTAIN had been captured the Q.W.R. were ordered to withdraw into SUPPORT whilst the 2nd Londons continued the advance across the whole Brigade front halting for the night on the line F.16.central F.23.central F.29.b.4.4. no casualties were sustained by 2nd Londons during this advance.</p> <p>Brigade H.Q. moved to CAUMONT FARM K.21.a.O.O. at 1100. Div. Order No. 221 (APP. F) received and orders issued for the advance to be continued tomorrow (B.M.727 APP. G attached)</p>	F G.

CO. FIDENCIAL.

H.Q. 169th Infantry Brigade

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(2)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

NOVEMBER

(Erase heading not required.)

1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	4	-	Advance resumed at 0600 - Q.W.R. in Front line L.R.B. Support and 2nd Londons Reserve. Advance was carried out without serious opposition until just E. of SEBOURG when strong opposition from enemy Machine Guns was encountered. Brigade halted for the night on a line just E. of SEBOURG. 56th Division G.416 and G.422 (APP. H) received ordering advance to be continued tomorrow and Brigade Orders 232 and 233 issued accordingly (APP. I and J respectively) Brigade Order 231 (APP. K) also issued ordering L.R.B. to relieve the Q.W.R. tonight. Brigade H.Q. moved to SAULTAIN at 0800 today.	H I J K
	5		The advance was resumed under a barrage at 0530 today. L.R.B. was Front line Battalion Q.W.R. Support and 2nd Londons Reserve. No great opposition was encountered and the Brigade halted for the night on a line just East of ANGREAU. Div. Order 222 (APP. L) received ordering continuance of advance tomorrow and Brigade Order 234 (APP. M) issued accordingly. During the night the 2nd Londons took over the RIGHT half of the Brigade front from L.R.B. in readiness for tomorrows operations. Brigade H.Q. moved to SEBOURG at 0800 today.	L M
LINE	6	-	Zero hour was at 0530 and the attack was made under a creeping barrage by the L.R.B. and 2nd Londons in the line and Q.W.R. in support. The first objective - the Sunken Road A.12.d. A.18.b. - was nearly reached after very considerable opposition had been overcome but an immediate and strong counterattack forced both the L.R.B. and 2nd Londons back to their original line. The Brigade suffered heavy casualties on this day and no further operations were carried out. During the night the Brigade was relieved by 167th Infantry Brigade in accordance with 56th Division G.534 dated 6.11.18 (APP. N) and 169th Infantry Brigade B.M.789 dated 6.11.18 (APP. O) attached. On relief Battalions moved back to SEBOURG in which village Brigade H.Q. remained. 56th Div. Order No. 223 received (APP. P) reference operations to be carried out by 167th Infantry Brigade.	N O P
		NOTE	(The attached Report on Operations dated Nov. 7th 1918 (APP. Q attached) gives the Summary of Events of this Brigade from Nov. 3rd to 6th inclusive. In all the villages captured during the period a large number of civilians were found and they accorded our troops a most sincere and enthusiastic welcome.	Q

The 169 Bde Operation Order 4th Nov 1918 followed by the Bde Report on the action

(710) APP D

Copy No. 3

56th DIVISION ORDER No. 220.

Reference Maps 1/20,000 Sheet 51A E.E. Eni Reg. 1218.
1/40,000 " " 51.

1. (i). The advance will be continued by XXII Corps on 4th inst., the attack being carried out by 11th Division on the right and by 56th Division on left.

(ii). The 53rd Bde., 11th Division, will be on the right. 'A' Bde. 4th Can. Divn. will be on the left. H.Q. of above will be communicated when known.

(iii). Zero hour will be notified separately.

2. (i). The objective of XXII Corps is the general line of the left bank of the ANSELLE River about G.7.b.5.5. - high ground in L.5.a. & b. - F.29.d. - F.25 central - F.15 central.

(ii). The Canadian Corps is to cover the left of XXII Corps, placing its right flank about F.15 central and capturing KUTHEUX.

3. The attack will be carried out by 169th Infantry Brigade on the right and by 168th Infantry Brigade on the left.

4. The objective and Divisional boundaries are shown on the attached map. The dividing line between 169th & 168th Infantry Brigades will be - fork-roads E.6.a.7.4. (incl. to 168th Bde.) - cross-roads F.25.b.4.5. (incl. to 168th Bde) - fork roads F.22.c.0.1. (incl. to 168th Bde.) - F.23 central.

5. (i). The attack will be conducted in two stages. The 1st objective will be the spur from CHESTNEY (F.27.c.) - F.27.a. - F.21.c. - F.20.b. The 2nd objective will be the RED LINE shown on attached map.

(ii). After reaching the RED LINE, Brigades will push out patrols to exploit towards the line of the Pio. ANSELLE River. It is important to get in information rapidly from these patrols, since if there is any sign of enemy retreat, the G.O.C. intends to push on mounted troops to secure the crossings and will order the leading Brigades to support them.

6. (i). The Division will be covered by 8 R.F.A. Bdes.

(ii). The C.R.A. will issue Artillery Instructions, showing grouping of Field Artillery and also Barrage Maps.

(iii). The C.R.A. will place 1 Battery R.F.A. at the disposal of each attacking Infantry Brigade as soon as SAULTAIN is captured, with a view to close support and anti-tank defence.

(iv). 3 Batteries of 6" Hows. and 1 Battery of 80-pdrs. will be directly under the orders of the G.O.C. 54th Division.

7. 169th and 168th Brigade H.Qs. will, in the first instance, be located not further West than the PAMERS - QUERREING road. After the final objective has been captured they will be established in the vicinity of SAULTAIN.

8. The G.O.C. 54th Bn. M.G.C. will place 3 Sections (8 guns) at the disposal of each attacking Brigade for use as weapons of opportunity, and to form the advanced line of M.G. Defence to cover consolidation of the line finally reached. He will arrange M.G. defence in depth behind this advanced line, and will keep at least 1 Coy. in Div. Reserve.

/s/

9. The C.R.E. will place 1 Section R.E. and 1 Platoon of Pioneers at the disposal of each attacking Brigade for such R.E. work as may be required, the remainder being in readiness to move forward, as necessary.
10. Advanced Dressing Station will be at J.15.c.6.4.
Main Dressing Station will be at I.29.d.9.3.
11. Div. H.Q. will be at MONCHAUX SUR ECAILLON.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Tom Biekan
maps
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

Issued at 0800.

Distribution :-

- | | | |
|----------|-----|---------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1. | * 167th Infantry Brigade. |
| | 2. | * 168th Infantry Brigade. |
| | 3. | * 169th Infantry Brigade. |
| | 4. | * 1/5th Cheshire Regt. |
| | 5. | * C.R.A. |
| | 6. | * C.R.E. |
| | 7. | * 56th Bn. M.G. Corps. |
| | 8. | * 56th Div. Signal Coy. |
| | 9. | * A.D.M.S. |
| | 10. | * 'Q'. |
| | 11. | * D.A.F.M. |
| | 12. | * D.A.D.O.S. |
| | 13. | x 56th Div. Train. |
| | 14. | x A.D.C. |
| | 15. | x Camp Commandant. |
| | 16. | x 22nd Corps. |
| | 17. |) |
| | 18. | x 49th Division. |
| | 19. | x 4th Division. |
| | 20. | ∅ 11th Division. |
| | 21. | ∅ 4th Canadian Division. |
| | 22. | x 52nd Squadron R.A.F. |
| | 23. |) |
| | 24. |) War diary. |
| | 25. | File. |

* Maps already issued.

∅ Map herewith.

x No map.

SECRET.

880
56th Division G.A.191.

ADDENDUM to 56th DIVISION ORDER No. 220.

2nd November 1918.

1. The left boundary of the Division (including 148th Infantry Brigade attached) will be from E.17.c.0.2. - F.15.d.0.2. - F.11 central.
The right boundary has been modified so as to include the CEMETERY F.27.c.7.6. entirely to 11th Division.
2. 148th Infantry Brigade, (49th Division) with H.Qrs. at J.23.b.8.8. has been placed under the orders of G.O.C. 56th Division for the operations of 4th November.
It will hold the front from the FAMARS - QUAROUBLE road (exclusive) to the left Corps boundary as given in para. 1 above.
 - (a). Its task on 4th inst. will be to mop up under a barrage such part of the area in the triangle E.30.a.0.0. - F.13.c.5.2. - E.16.d.7.0. as has not been already captured before Zero hour.
 - (b). It will also be prepared to advance on left of 56th Divn. to capture ESTREUX in the event of this Village not being attacked by 4th Can. Divn.
3. (a). The following mounted troops will be attached to the Division :-
O.C. Lieut-Colonel HINDEAUGH, Commanding. Two Squadrons Australian Light Horse, One Coy. New Zealand Cyclists quartered at the BOLT FACTORY - THIANT.
(b). O.C. Mounted Troops will remain in close touch with Div. H.Q. and be prepared to move at 1 hours notice after Zero hour on 4th inst.
4. The 18th & 26th Brigades, R.F.A. are placed at the disposal of 56th Division for forthcoming operations, making 8 Arty. Bdes. in all.
5. The following will be the Brigades on the flanks of the Division :-
On right - 33rd Inf. Bde. 11th Divn. - H.Q. QUERENAING.
On left - 11th Can. Inf. Bde. - 4th Can. Divn. - H.Q. K.3.a.6.0.
6. B.Gs.C. Infantry Brigades will arrange for liaison with neighbouring Brigades as follows :-
169th Inf. Bde. - with 11th Divn. -
 - (1). At cross-roads L.1.b.
 - (2). At Cemetery F.27.c.
 - (3). At Cross-roads F.29.b.9.2. (LE TALANDIER), where a joint post will be established.

Liaison points for 168th Inf. Bde. will be communicated later.
7. An Officer of the Divisional Staff will visit H.Q. of 168th and 169th and 148th Infantry Brigades between 1500 and 1600 hours on 3rd November to synchronize watches. B.Gs.C. those Brigades will arrange to synchronize with all troops attached to them except Artillery.
Synchronization will also be carried out at Div. H.Q. at 1700 and 2100 hours on 3rd November. Representatives of the following will attend :-
C.R.A. for R.F.A. & attached Heavy Arty.
D.M.G.C.
C.R.E.
Corps Mounted Troops attached.

2 mins?

8. The colour of the flares will be RED.
9. (a). The S.O.S. Signal of XXII and of Canadian Corps is
RED over GREEN over RED.
- (b). In addition Canadian Corps is using the following light
signals :-
- O.K. - Rifle Grenade - GREEN over GREEN over GREEN.
- WE ARE HERE - Three WHITE Very Lights in quick succession.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

B Pakenham

Issued at 2000.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

Distribution :-

167th Infantry Brigade.
168th Infantry Brigade.
169th Infantry Brigade. ✓
1/5th Cheshire Regt.
C.R.A.
C.R.E.
56th En. M.G. Corps.
56th Div. Signal Coy.
A.D.M.S.
'Q'
D.A.P.M.
D.A.D.O.S.
56th Div. Train.
A.D.C.
Camp Commandant.
22nd Corps (2 copies).
49th Division.
4th Division.
11th Division.
4th Canadian Division.
52nd Squadron R.A.F.
War Diary (2 copies).
File.
148th Infantry Brigade.
XXII Corps Mounted Troops attached 56th Divn.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY
169th INFANTRY BRIGADE from 3/11/18
to 6/11/18.

GENERAL STAFF
66th DIVISION

No. CA 771
Date 7/11/18

On the night November 2nd/3rd 56th Division relieved 49th Division in the line, 169th Infantry Brigade relieving 147th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade front was from K.12.b.8.6. to K.6.a.6.5. where it joined with 160th Infantry Brigade on the LEFT. 2nd Londons were on the RIGHT and Q.W.R. on the LEFT. L.R.B. were in Reserve. Brigade H.Q. were at MAING.

November 3rd.

At about 0830 November 3rd it was reported that the enemy had commenced to retire. Both Battalions in the line closely followed their patrols and by 12 noon SAULTAIN had been occupied. Brigade H.Q. moved to CAUMONT FARM at 1100. As soon as SAULTAIN was in our hands I ordered the Q.W.R. to halt and reform and the 2nd Londons to continue the advance across the whole Brigade front. When 2nd Londons had reached the line FHE de Moulin - F.27.central the Q.W.R. went forward to hold this line whilst the 2nd Londons again pushed forward. The L.R.B. moved to an area just South of SAULTAIN. My final objective for the day was the "RED LINE" F.16.central - F.23.central - F.29.b.5.4. This line was reached by 2nd Londons by 1800 3rd instant. During the advance very little opposition was encountered but when the final line was reached enemy Machine Guns were active from a derelict tank about F.29.b.7.6. and from LE TALANDIER. On orders being received that operations were to be continued on 4th instant, the Q.W.R. were ordered to pass through the 2nd Londons at 0600 4th instant with the L.R.B. in support, which battalion was to move forward by bounds. The 2nd London Regt. was to become Brigade Reserve.

November 4th.

The advance was made without a barrage and, after some opposition from enemy Machine Guns had been overcome, the Q.W.R. entered SEBOURG and by 0915 the village was reported clear of the enemy, about 50 prisoners remaining in our hands. Brigade H.Q. moved to SAULTAIN at 0800. As soon as our troops attempted to continue their advance East of SEBOURG they came under intense enemy Machine Gun and rifle fire from a line of rifle pits about the general line A.15.central and A.21. Several attempts were made to overcome this resistance and to turn the enemy flanks, both without success. I therefore decided after consultation with the G.O.C. to halt on the line of the road A.14.d.4.2. - A.20.d.6.8. and to resume the advance next morning under a barrage. Orders were issued for the L.R.B. to relieve the Q.W.R. as early as possible. On relief the Q.W.R. were to assemble in A.19.d. ready to support closely the attack to be carried out by the L.R.B. and to carry it forward if necessary. 2nd Londons were to remain in F.24.a & c. and F.23.b. & d. The Brigades on the RIGHT and LEFT were to co-operate with my Brigade.

November 5th.

The Brigade's objective was the high ground in A.16.a & c, an outpost line to be established along the line of the sunken road in A.16.b. and A.17.c. Zero hour was 05.30.

As far as the main objective the attack was made under a creeping barrage.

At an early hour reports were received that the advance was proceeding very well. I consequently ordered L.R.B. to push on and effect the crossing of the GRANDE HONELLE, but not to proceed further than the Railway in A.18. and A.19.

At 08.30 I reported in person to Divisional H.Q. and informed the G.O.C. of the orders I had issued. Brigade H.Q. then moved forward to SEBOURG.

By 0730 L.R.B. were across the ANGREAU River, with Battalion H.Q. at A.17.d.3.3. (Southern end of ANGREAU) East of which a bridge head had been established. The situation at this time was as follows: enemy M.G. and Snipers very active from wooded ground East of River: N. portion of ANGREAU under heavy and close M.G. and rifle fire from ANGRE and A.11.c & d. Heavy artillery fire on ANGREAU.

160th Infantry Brigade was well back on our Left flank, their line running from cross-roads N. of A.16.central to A.3.central.

Owing to the situation on my Left Flank I at 1100 ordered L.R.B. to halt on a line East of ANGREAU until further orders. The L.R.B. displayed great energy in getting their L.T.Ms. and M.Gs. into action and succeeded in improving our position in the North of ANGREAU, dealing with considerable opposition.

Q.W.R. moved in close support of L.R.B. to sunken roads in A.16.b. and A.17.c., but were heavily shelled and withdrew one Company from the N. portion of above road to A.16.central, where they dug in.

2nd Londons were passed over the AUNELLE River and moved to the vicinity of NOUVEAU MONDE as Brigade Reserve.

During the later part of the day the situation on our left improved touch being effected in A.11.d.

In preparation for the resumption of the advance on 6th instant I ordered 2nd Londons to take over the RIGHT half of the L.R.B. front thus putting the Brigade on a 2 Battalion front. The Q.W.R. remained in their positions near NOUVEAU MONDE.

November 6th.

The objective was MONTIGNIES and Zero hour was 05.30. The 2nd Londons attacked on the RIGHT and the L.R.B. on the LEFT - the Brigades on the flanks attacking simultaneously.

A creeping barrage was arranged to precede the Infantry as far as the 1st objective - the Sunken Road A.12.d. and A.18.b. - after which the artillery was to engage selected points from which resistance was expected.

Under a creeping barrage, Both Battalions crossed the river shortly after Zero and after overcoming very considerable enemy opposition on the East bank they continued their advance. *A.12.d. + A.18.b.*

The L.R.B. reached the 1st objective as also did a number of troops of the 2nd Londons which battalion encountered serious opposition in the Bois de Beaufort. The enemy rallied rapidly and as soon as our troops had reached the points before mentioned they were heavily counterattacked both from the front and also by parties of the enemy who had remained under cover in the Bois de Beaufort during our advance and our troops were driven back to their original jumping off line. The L.R.B. suffered considerable casualties from enemy Machine Guns in ANGRE, A.11.b. and A.6.d. both during the advance and during the counterattack.

During the counterattack our riflemen and Lewis Gunners were afforded excellent targets and it is stated that many enemy were accounted for. A party of 40 O.R. of the 2nd Londons held on to a position in a deep ditch in the Bois de Beaufort about A.18.central after the remainder of the battalion had been forced back. This party was not able to maintain its position owing to being practically surrounded by the enemy, but eventually succeeded in fighting its way through and rejoining its Battalion.

The GRANDE HONNELLE was found to be 2-4 ft. deep and fordable everywhere but the banks are very steep - the East bank dominating the West. The enemy held strong positions along the East bank on a general line 50 yards from the RIVER.

80 prisoners were captured East of the river but when the counterattack developed only 20 consented to go back to our lines, the remainder hesitating or refusing. Of those latter many were killed or wounded.

In view of the general situation I decided to halt on the original jumping off line. This line was handed over to

167th Infantry Brigade on night November 6/7th by Battalions moving back to SEBOURG.

Casualties. (Nov. 1-7th both inclusive)	Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.
<u>2nd Londons.</u>	-	8	4	80	1	28	5	116
<u>L.R.B.</u>	1	15	2	120	1	19	4	154
<u>Q.W.R.</u>	2	26	1	70	-	3	3	107
<u>T.M.B.</u>	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5

Total for Brigade							12	382

Prisoners. 1 Officer 42 O.R.

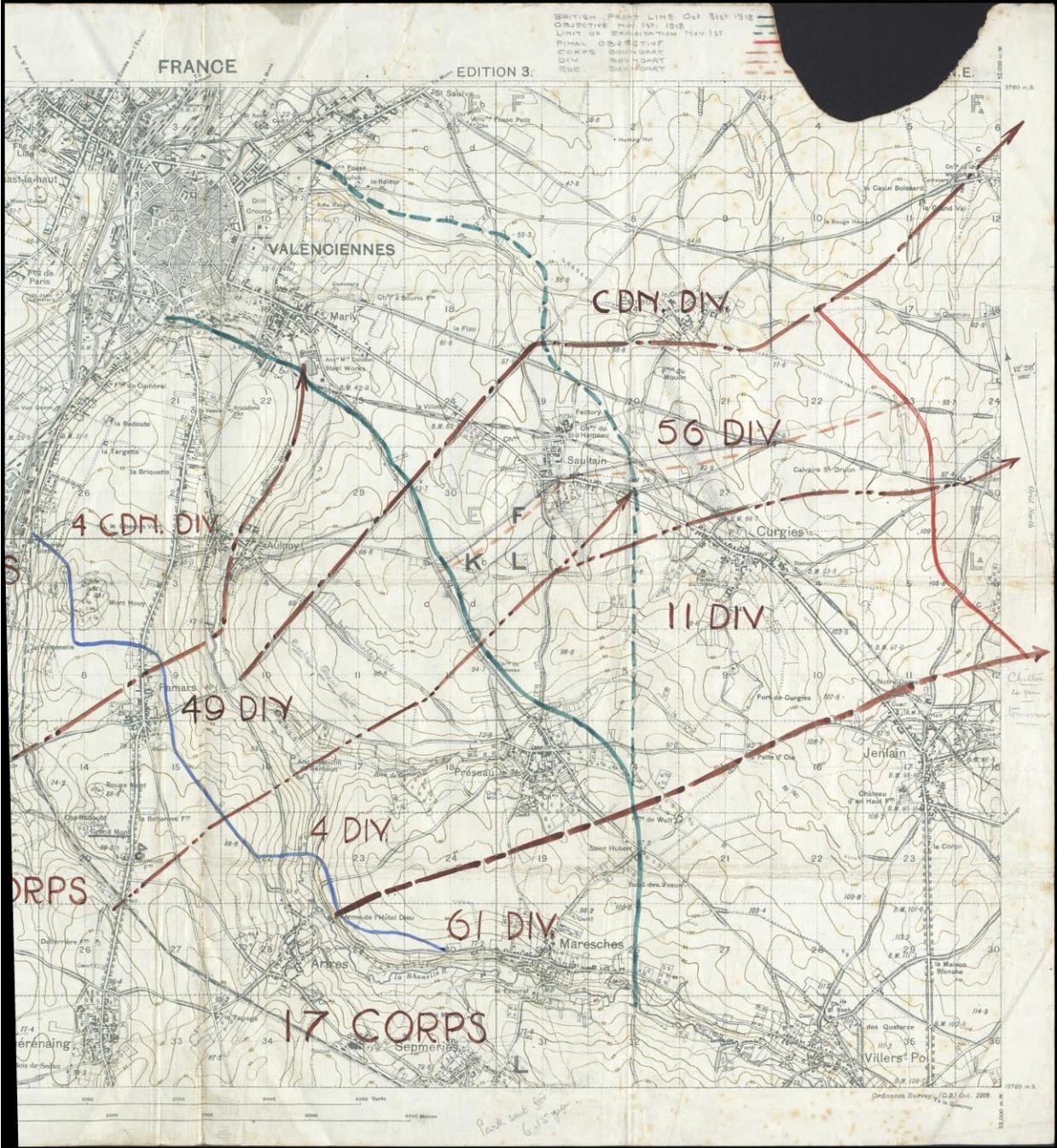
B. J. Stone

Brigadier General,
Commanding 169th Infantry Brigade.

7th November 1918.

G.S.O.	<i>cut</i>
G.S.O. 1	<i>BP</i>
G.S.O. 2	<i>✓</i>
G.S.O. 3	<i>MM</i>

MM *RY*
MM



APP F

240

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

56th DIVISION ORDER No. 221.

3rd November 1918.

Ref. 1/40,000 Sheets 51A & 51.

1. The advance is to be resumed tomorrow towards the BAVAI - HENSIES road, which is to be the final objective of the present phase.
2. 169th Infantry Brigade will remain on the right of the Divisional front and 168th Infantry Brigade on the left.
3. The infantry advance will commence at 0600 hours.
 - 1st bound. The high ground on the line A.21 central - A.15 central - A.9 central, securing the crossings of the AUNELLE River.
 - 2nd bound. To secure two crossings of LA GRANDE HONNELLE river between B.13.c.O.O. and a point about 1500 yards N. of ANGRE.
4. With reference to 56th Div. G.A.222 of this date, the artillery now in position will cover the infantry across the AUNELLE River. For the advance beyond this, the following artillery will be placed directly under B.Gs.C. Infantry Brigades :-
 - 168th Inf. Bde. - 281 R.F.A.Bde.
 - 169th Inf. Bde. - 280 R.F.A.Bde.
 The remainder of the Arty. will be directly under the C.R.A. and will move forward in support as necessary.
5. 167th Infantry Brigade will remain in Divnl. Reserve and will move to AULMOY at 0800 tomorrow. Attention is called to 56th Div. G.A.222 of this date re movement on roads. It will be prepared for a further advance during the day.
6. The C.R.E. will place 1 Section R.E. and 1 Platoon of Pioneers at the disposal of each Bde. in the line with a view to assisting the infantry to cross the AUNELLE and GRANDE HONNELLE Rivers. He will arrange to throw bridges suitable for artillery over those rivers, and repair roads where damaged.
7. The O.C. 56th Div. M.G.Bn. will keep the 2 Sections now attached to each Brigade in the line under their orders, and, with the remainder of his battalion and attached Companies of 102nd M.G.Bn., will arrange to establish M.G. defence in depth for each bound.
8. The Mounted Troops attached to the Division, if they have not already secured the crossings of the AUNELLE River, will continue the advance at 0530 hours and make them good. GRANDE They will then push forward towards LA/HONNELLE River and feel for the enemy, with a view to securing the crossings over that stream. They will forward their reports to the joint Bde. H.Q. at SAULTAIN.
9. The Southern Div. Boundary is extended forward from A.17.d.O.O. - A.14.a.O.O. - A.15.a.9.9. The inter-brigade boundary will run from F.23 central - A.14.d.O.O. - A.16.b.3.7. - A.11.d.4.5. - A.12 central - B.2.d.2.6.

10. The advance will be general, but each Division will act independently.

Brigades will carry out the advance with vigour and temporary opposition will be promptly brushed aside, so as to deny the enemy the opportunity of settling down in organized positions.

The principle of exploiting soft spots will be carried out by Brigades.

The inter-Brigade and Divisional Boundaries will not be taken as restricting tactical movements.

11. 168th and 169th Infantry Brigades will establish their Bdc. H.Q. by 0800 hours to-morrow in SAULTAIN.

12. Div. H.Q. will open at FAMARS at 1000 hours to-morrow and close at MONCHAUX at the same hour.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at

TRH
TRH *Hald* Capt
for Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

To List 'C' less 148th Inf. Bde., 49th Divn.
102nd M.G. Bn., D.A.D.V.S. and Div. Reception Camp.

In Memory Of
Serjeant

A A KYTE

Service Number: 554536

16th Bn., London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) who died on 04 November 1918

Remembered with Honour

VALENCIENNES (ST. ROCH) COMMUNAL CEMETERY
II F. 25.



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
KYTE Alfred Augustus	* 2/8 Middlesex Bn.	* Pte.	4830
	16/ Lond. Bn.	Sgt.	554536
	16 - - -		8819
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	* TP16/101/134	264	No. in A. to 11-18
BRITISH	- do -	- do -	
15 STAR	TP/20c	8	
Theatre of War first served in	(3) Egypt.		
Date of entry therein	24. 8. 15		

K. 1380.

Medal Index Card



1914/15 Star, War and Victory medals

(To be rendered in duplicate.) LAST SERVED WITH.

18th BATT, LONDON **Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned.** C.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 20 of 1919 Original. Sheet 8.

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation.		NAME.	Date of Disembarkation.	REMARKS.	Record of disposal of decoration.	To be left Blank for use in War Office.
	Regtl. No.	Rank.					
2/London.	2933.	L/Cpl.	Hull, E.J.	27.8.15(3)	Dis. 392(XVI) 15.8.17. 554575. Cpl.		
2/London.	2651.	Dxpr.	Hunt, E.W.	27.8.15(3)	554504. Rfn.		
2/8 M'sax.	R/208.	Sgt.	Inglis, A.G.	24.8.15(3)	Dis. 392(XVI) 26.3.19. 554548. Sgt.		
2/London.	3220.	Pte.	James, W.G.	27.8.15(3)	Dis. 392(XVI) 8.10.18. 554524. Rfn.		3. Verified. Authy. TP/90c
2/8 M'sax.	R/222.	Pte.	Johnson, F.G.	24.8.15(3)	554562. Rfn.		
A.V.C.	13324.	Horse-keeper	Johnson, F.L.	21.11.15(1)	Dis. 392(XVI) 18.3.19. 552767. Rfn.		
19/London.	2587.	Pte.	Jones, C.E.	27.8.15(1)	555642. Rfn.		
2/8 M'sax.	4907.	Pte.	Jordan, H.R.	24.8.15(3)	Pres. dead 10.9.16. 554580. Rfn.		
do.	3294.	Pte.	Keap, L.	do (3)	Pres. dead 10.9.16. 554587. Rfn.		
2/London.	2982.	Pte.	King, H.S.	27.8.15(3)	554427. Sgt.		Ref. RB. 263/73 d 17.9.73.
R.E.F. P. Sect.	30182.	Spr.	Knight, G.L.	22.3.15(3)	566664. Sgt.		
2/8 M'sax.	4830.	Pte.	Kyte, A.A.	24.8.15(3)	Killed in A. 4.11.18. 554526. Sgt.		

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place London.
Date 27 AUG 1919

12. 8
W.C. ADAMSON COL.
1/C INFANTRY RECORD OFFICE of Officers certifying.
LONDON

Medal Index Roll Entry

Name Ryle Alfred Augustus Regimental No. 554536 **W.I.** Case No. 2494
 Regiment 16th London Rank Sgt WEL. 6602
 Form 104-88 received 3.12.18 Date of notification of death 23.11.18 Form 104-76 received 6.12.18
 Date and cause of death N. i. G. 4.11.18 Fugate
 Widow Emma 105 Oaklands TP Date of birth 12.8.79
 Children:— Hammell. W.

Name	Date of birth	Date of Expiry	Remarks
<u>Ethel Gladys.</u>			<u>28 Grant Rd. 3.12.18</u> <u>50F. 50.4.19.3</u> No. for whom S.A. is paid
<u>Edward Augustus</u>			<u>Returned from P. Branch.</u> <u>3.7.19.</u>
<u>Margerie Vera.</u>			<u>widow not eligible.</u>

Pension 32/- a week from 26.5.19.
 Date awarded 21.5.19. If refused, reason _____
 Papers _____
 F6217 W.I.15643,854 50,000 (72) 118 J.P. **Gp. 158**

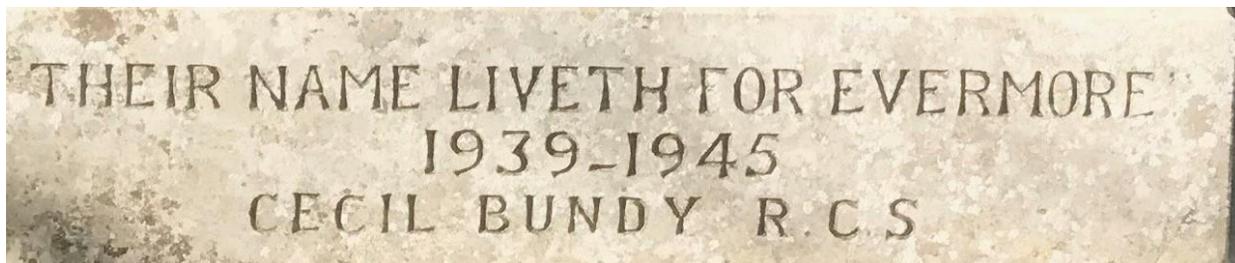
Pension Record Card

W889. HB249/1/18-100 Bks.—W.I. & Sons, Ltd. 1789

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£			s.	d.		
<u>776012</u>	<u>699443</u>	<u>Ryle Alfred Augustus</u>	<u>16th Lond. Regt. in Detach. Sgt. Hammell. 554536.</u>	<u>4.11.18. London</u>				<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>						
											<u>10.4.19. W.I. Emma</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>		
											<u>13.5.19. do</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>		

Including War Gratuity P. 23.

Soldiers Register of Effects entry



Serjeant Cecil Bundy Royal Corps of Signals

Son of George and Elizabeth Bundy, of Tilshead, Wiltshire; husband of Dorothy Kitty Bundy nee Sartain, of Southampton.

Cecil was born 22 Nov 1910 in Tilshead with his birth registered in Amesbury in Jan 1911 Birth Register Volume: 5a Page: 133 refers

He was baptised on 22 Jan 1911 in Tilshead.

Page 53

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Tilshead</u> in the County of <u>Wiltshire</u> in the Year <u>1910</u> & <u>1911</u> <small>1912</small>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 1911 January 22 No. 419	Cecil	George & Elizabeth	Bundy	Tilshead	Labourer	H. Emery Vicar

The 1911 Census records the following Bundy family members living in Tilshead (all born Tilshead except Elizabeth):

- George Bundy 43 b 20 Aug 1867 d 1940
- Elizabeth Bundy (nee Neil) 42 b 30 Mar 1867 Southampton d 1957

1891. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Market Lavington in the County of Wilts

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
399	October 17 th	George Bundy Elizabeth Mill	24 24	Bachelor Spinster	Labourer	Market Lavington Market Lavington	David Bundy John Mills	Labourer Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, after Banns by me, William Henry Brattings Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between us, the Mark X of George Bundy in the Presence of us, William Henry Brattings and Jane Burgess

- William Bundy 18 b 1893
- Percy Bundy 14 b 1897
- Linda Bundy 12 b 1899
- Leslie Bundy 8 b 1903
- Freda Bundy 3 b 1908
- Cecil Bundy 4/12 b 1910
- James Bundy 59 b 1852 (George's elder brother an Army Pensioner (1st Bn Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade possibly served circa 1871-1876)
- (2 other children were born to George and Elizabeth who were still living in 1911 but not at the family address in 1911. Was one Lilian C Bundy b 5 Jun 1892 who appears on 1939 Register?)

Cecil married Dorothy Kitty Sartain in 1937 – Registered in Amesbury. Marriage Register Record Volume: 5A Affiliate Line Number: 78 refers

Dorothy was born 19 Feb 1916 and her death was registered on 1st Nov 2000 in Salisbury

They had a daughter

- Cecily RK Bundy b 1938

1939 Register shows Dorothy living with Mother Kate Sartain (b 18 Sep 1884) Brother-in-Law Percy Bundy (b 13 Sep 1896) and the blacked-out record is probably Cecily all living in Queen St, Tilshead, Wiltshire.

Also, a separate 1939 Register entry shows George, Elizabeth and Lilian C Bundy living in the High St, Tilshead.

Service Record

2319902 Serjeant Cecil Bundy served with the Hong Kong Signal Company Royal Corps of Signals. I would assume that holding the rank of Sergeant/Serjeant he enlisted before the war and was then posted to Hong Kong. His service record will confirm when he enlisted.

Cecil's actual service record is still subject to 100-year disclosure and privacy rules. You can apply for a copy of someone else's service records if any of the following apply:

- you're their immediate next of kin, for example their spouse or parent
- you've got consent from their immediate next of kin
- you have a general research interest - you'll only have access to limited information, unless they died more than 25 years ago

You need to know the person's full name, date of birth and service number.

There are 2 forms to fill out and a £30 cost.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-someone-elses-records>

The Battle of Hong Kong (8–25 December 1941), also known as the Defence of Hong Kong and the Fall of Hong Kong, was one of the first battles of the Pacific War in World War II. On the same morning as the attack on Pearl Harbor, forces of the Empire of Japan attacked the British Crown colony of Hong Kong, without declaring war against the British Empire. The Hong Kong garrison consisted of British, Indian and Canadian units, also the Auxiliary Defence Units and Hong Kong Voluntary Defence Corps.

The Japanese attack began shortly after 08:00 on 8 December 1941 (Hong Kong Time), four hours after the Attack on Pearl Harbor (difference in time and date is due to the day shift that occurs because of the International Date Line). Commanded by Major-General Christopher Maltby, British, Canadian, Indian, as well as the local Hong Kong Chinese Regiment, and the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, resisted the Japanese attack by the Japanese 21st, 23rd and the 38th Regiments (Lieutenant General Takashi Sakai) but were outnumbered nearly four to one (Japanese, 50,000; Allied, 14,000) and lacked their opponents' recent combat experience. The colony had no significant air defence assets and Hong Kong also lacked adequate naval defences; the destroyers were to withdraw to Singapore Naval Base.

By the afternoon of 25 December 1941, it was clear that further resistance would be futile and British colonial officials headed by the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Aitchison Young, surrendered in person at the Japanese headquarters on the third floor of the Peninsula Hong Kong Hotel. This was the first occasion on which a British Crown Colony had surrendered to an invading force. The garrison had held out for 17 days. This day is known in Hong Kong as "Black Christmas".



Cecil Bundy is recorded as being captured on 25 Dec 1941

大阪 3 / 74/389 *191

收容所 Camp	香港 昭和 17 年 1 月 7 日	番 No. 號	香 港 2660
姓名 Name	BUNDY CECIL バンディ、セシル	生年月日 Date of Birth	1910.11.28.
国籍 Nationality	英	所屬部隊 Unit	No. 231902 HONG KONG SIGNAL COY.
階級身分 Rank	SERGEANT 軍曹	捕獲年月日 Date of Capture	昭和 17 年 12 月 26 日
捕獲場所 Place of Capture	九龍防禦陣地	母ノ名 Mother's Name	ELIZABETH
父ノ名 Father's Name		職業 Occupation	機械工
本籍地 Place of Origin	TILSBRAD, WILTS, ENGLAND.	特記事項 Remarks	
通報先 Destination of Report	MRG. C. BUNDY, 3 QUEENS STRAET, TILSBRAD, SALISBURY, WILTS, ENGLAND.		

分所 (vertical text on right)

死亡 (vertical text on right)

153 (stamp on left)

POW Card

Cecil was initially held with others from his Company in the Sham Shui Po POW Camp. Sham Shui Po Barracks was a British Army facility built in the 1920s in the Sham Shui Po area of Kowloon, Hong Kong. The base was bounded by Fuk Wa Street, then to the east by Yen Chow Street and to the west by Tonkin Street and Camp Street.



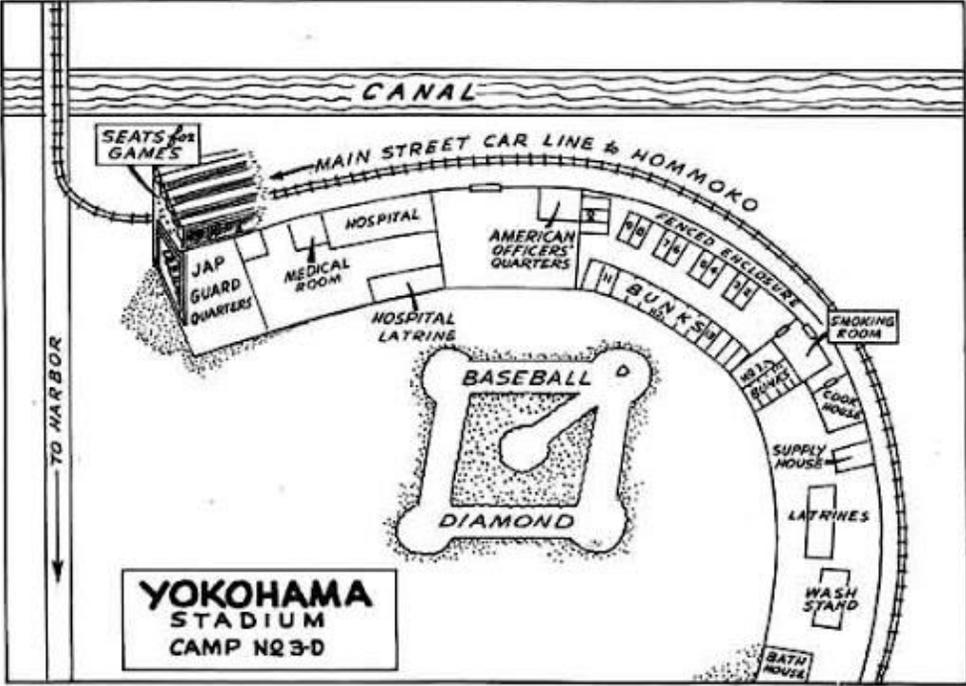
The buildings on one side were known as Hankow Barracks, and the other Nanking Barracks. There was a large parade ground. Smaller buildings were later added, and the large Jubilee Buildings were constructed as married quarters.

During World War II, the Imperial Japanese Army used it as a POW camp for British, Indian and Canadian soldiers. This was the main POW Camp in Hong Kong, operating from before the British surrendered the Colony, to the Japanese surrender. By the latter date, it was the only POW facility operating in Hong Kong, bar the hospital at the Central British School (now King George V School). Many POWs died here, especially in the diphtheria epidemic of 1942, and all shipments of POWs to Japan left from Sham Shui Po's Bamboo Pier.





Cecil was transported from Hong Kong on the infamous Japanese cargo liner the 'Lisbon Maru'. He survived it's sinking then sadly died of bacillary dysentery at Osaka POW Hospital Camp Ichioka (Itchioka).





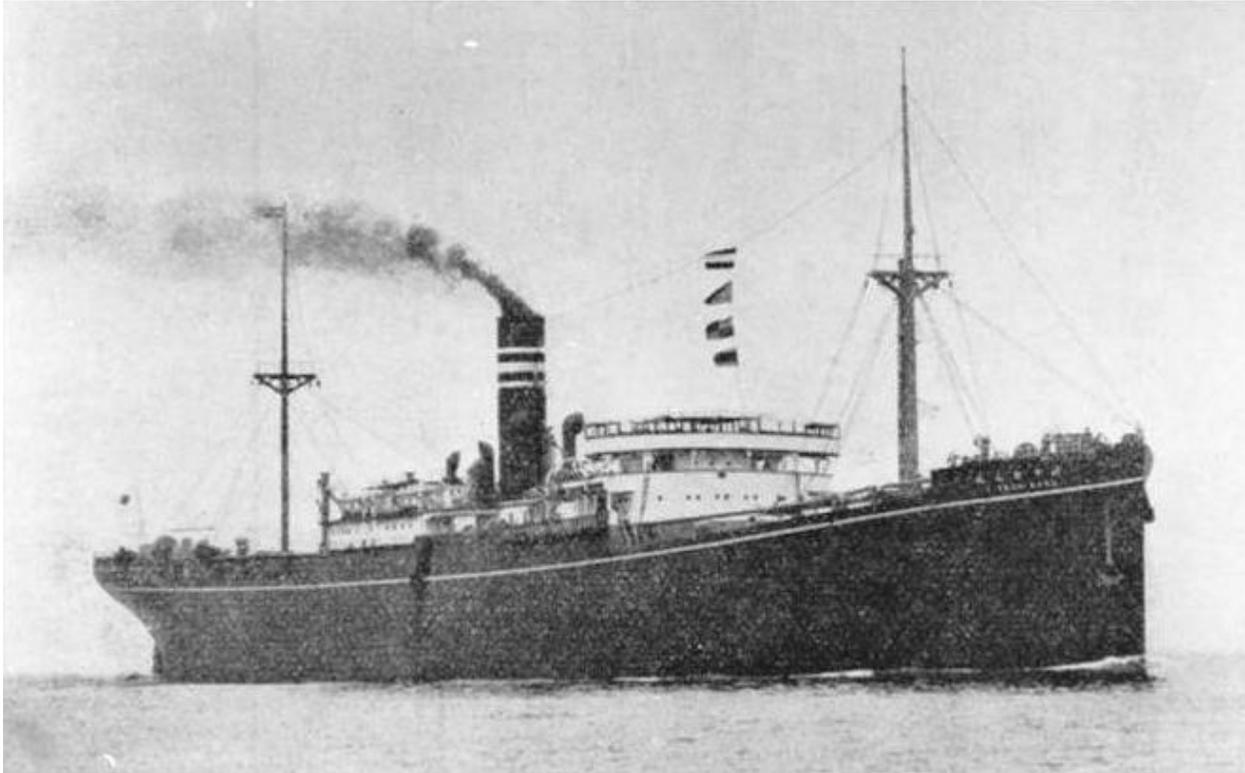
The Lisbon Maru was a Japanese cargo liner built at Yokohama in 1920 for a Japanese shipping line. During World War II, the ship became an armed troopship. On her final voyage, Lisbon Maru was being used to transport POW between Hong Kong and Japan when it was torpedoed on 1 October 1942, sinking with a loss of over 800 British lives.

On her final voyage she was carrying, in addition to 700 Japanese Army personnel, 1,816 British and Canadian prisoners of war captured after the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. The POWs were held in "appalling conditions ... [those] at the bottom of the hold ... showered by the diarrhea of sick soldiers above".

On 1 October 1942, the ship was torpedoed by the submarine USS Grouper. The Japanese troops were evacuated from the ship, but the POWs were not; instead, the hatches were battened down above them and they were left on the listing ship. After 24 hours it became apparent that the ship was sinking, and the POWs were able to break through the hatch covers. Some were able to escape from the ship before it sank. The ladder from one of the holds to the deck failed, and the Royal Artillery POWs in the hold could not escape; they were last heard singing "It's a Long Way to Tipperary". Survivors reported that Japanese guards first fired on the POWs who reached the deck; and that other Japanese ships used machine guns to fire at POWs who were in the water. Later, however, after some Chinese fishermen started rescuing survivors, the Japanese ships also rescued survivors.

The British government insisted that over 800 of these men died either directly as a result of the sinking, or were shot or otherwise killed by the Japanese while swimming away from the wreck. The ship was not marked to alert Allied forces to the nature of its

passengers. The Japanese Government insisted that British prisoners were in fact not deliberately killed by Japanese soldiers and criticised the British statement.



Detail from The Hong Kong Signal Company account

Before dawn on 1 October 1942 off the small islands at the eastern extremity of the Zhoushan archipelago near Shanghai, Lieutenant Commander Rob Roy MacGregor, United States Navy, commanding the submarine USS Grouper, spotted a perfect target—a Japanese freighter of about 7,000 tons. Having delayed his attack until just after daylight, MacGregor fired a first salvo of three torpedoes; all missed. A fourth hit the freighter's stern and she hove to. Sometime later, seeing that she was not sinking, MacGregor fired a fifth torpedo and then a sixth, which also missed. Grouper had now been spotted, however, and under attack she made a run for safety.

The freighter was the SS Lisbon Maru, a 22-year-old general cargo ship converted to carry a human cargo. On board were 1,834 prisoners of war from Hong Kong and 780 Japanese soldiers.

Japan had attacked Hong Kong on 8 December 1941. After 17 days of hard fighting the garrison surrendered on Christmas Day—for the first time, a British colony had been captured and a little under 11,000 men went into captivity on or near the island. Early in 1942, the Japanese reorganised the prisoners, with those of the British Army being imprisoned in Sham Shui Po Barracks in Kowloon. Officers were moved to Argyle Street Camp, also in Kowloon, in April 1942, along with some men to act as cooks and batmen. Amongst the prisoners in Sham Shui Po were the men of the Hong Kong Signal Company.

When the battle began, the Company numbered seven officers and 178 other ranks. Its efforts during the battle, which were highly praised, were greatly added to by a section from the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, numbering 33 all ranks, which supported 'C' Force, the Canadian contingent. Additionally, support was provided by the signalers of the locally raised Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force Fortress Signal Company and Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force Signals. The diary compiled by the Chief Signals Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Eustace Levett, describes in detail the work done by the Company during the fighting and it is clear that it contributed materially to the battle. For their services during the defence of Hong Kong Lieutenant Colonel Levett would be awarded the OBE, Lieutenant Spong earned an MBE, Sergeant Charles Page and Corporal James Stott were awarded the Military Medal and Signalmen Colin Hodgson was mentioned in dispatches.

Needing labour to support the war economy at home, the Japanese planned to move prisoners from Hong Kong to Japan in the summer of 1942. The first transportation of 620 men left on board the SS Shi Maru on 4 September. The second transportation was scheduled for the end of the month.



In late September 1942, 1,834 men were moved to the docks to board the freighter Lisbon Maru; this contingent included three officers and 126 other ranks from the Hong Kong Signal Company, including Sgt Cecil Bundy. On 26 September, 780 Japanese soldiers, including some wounded men, boarded the ship and she sailed the next day. Conditions on board for the prisoners were grim—the holds were cramped, the air was hot and foul, food was minimal, and diseased men went untreated. Diphtheria broke out after a few days at sea and the few medical supplies available soon ran out. Hugging the coast, the ship sailed north until on 1 October it was in the East China Sea about 20 miles off the Zhoushan archipelago.

On the evening after it had been hit while under tow to shallower water, the ship began to list, and a Japanese destroyer and another cargo ship took off most of the Japanese soldiers and crew. The hatches to the holds had been battened down and the prisoners were left to their fate as the Lisbon Maru settled by the stern. The following morning the ship listed further, and men began to break out of the hold, only to be confronted by guards willing to shoot them down. The guards were soon overpowered, and the men took to the sea. Land could be seen in the distance—the Dongji Islands—and those that could struck out, taking hours to swim the four miles or so to land. Some were picked up by Chinese fishing boats that had set out from the island when they were told the swimmers were British. Later in the day some men were picked up by Japanese boats.

It was on 2 October that Signalman Topliff, who had managed to swim to the islands, acted most bravely. The currents along the islands' weather shores were strong and the waves battered the shoreline with considerable force. Topliff saw that another survivor was unable to reach shore and was being taken out to sea by a change in the current. Although exhausted, and at considerable risk, he went back into the water and rescued an officer of the Middlesex Regiment, Captain Christopher Man.

Eight hundred and twenty-eight men died when the Lisbon Maru sank or in trying to swim to safety or were murdered in the water by the Japanese. One officer and 49 Royal Signals soldiers died, among them were Sergeant Page and Corporal Stott, who would never hear that they had been rewarded for their gallantry during the battle; all are commemorated on the Sai Wan Memorial in Hong Kong.



The survivors from the Lisbon Maru, including Cecil, were taken by the Japanese to Shanghai before sailing again for Japan and captivity. Forty-four men, those too sick to be moved and men detailed to look after them, were left behind in Shanghai. Sixteen of these men died, including two soldiers of the Corps—Corporal Joseph Watts and Signalman William Newbold, whose ashes were buried in Woosung (Wusong) Cemetery; they were reinterred in Yokohama War Cemetery in 1946.

Seventy-nine survivors from the Signal Company, including Cecil, finally arrived in Japan and went to work in Osaka as stevedores in the port; most remained there, although some were moved to other camps in the region. A further 23 men were brought to Japan on other transports. Sadly 17 men including Cecil, did not see the end of the war; their ashes are interred in Yokohama War Cemetery. Two others died in an air crash after their release in 1945.



The Hong Kong Signal Company had suffered grievously—93 men, more than half, were killed in action, died of wounds or died in captivity.

Official Date of Death: 28 Oct 1942 aged 37 (Cecil was actually 32 born in 1910)

Probate Date: 12 Jun 1946 Winchester, Hampshire, England, United Kingdom

Beneficiary's Name: Dorothy Kitty Bundy

Ashes interred & commemorated at YOKOHAMA WAR CEMETERY Brit. Sec. L. D. 4.

Personal Inscription. JUST GONE FROM SIGHT A LITTLE WHILE OUR LOVED ONE
IN GOD'S KEEPING



War Medal 39-45 and 39-45 Star

In Memory Of
Serjeant

CECIL BUNDY

Service Number: 2319902

Royal Corps of Signals who died on 28 October 1942 Age 37

Son of George and Elizabeth Bundy, of Tilshead, Wiltshire; husband of Dorothy Kitty Bundy, of Tilshead.

JUST GONE FROM SIGHT A LITTLE WHILE OUR LOVED ONE IN GOD'S KEEPING

Remembered with Honour

YOKOHAMA WAR CEMETERY

Brit. Sec. L. D. 4.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Tilshead Cemetery Commonwealth War Grave Commission Registered Graves

GUNNER PERCY SAWYER CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Service Number: 40016

HQ 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery

Attested Valcartier 23 September 1914

Died 21 October 1914 by being accidentally dragged by horse at Westdown North Camp

Age 19 years old – Born 4th June 1891 Rickmansworth Herts

Next of Kin - Brother Thomas Sawyer Stonehall Lodge, Oxted, Surrey

Son of John and Sarah Sawyer.

GUNNER WALTER PENDLETON CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Service Number: 43171

Driver 1st Heavy Battery Canadian Field Artillery

Born 11 June 1890 Montreal, Quebec

Attested Valcartier 24 September 1914

Died 09 November 1914 Not being of sound mind committed suicide in Westdown Camp North.

Next of Kin - Walter Pendleton/ Mrs N Gagnon 126 Cathedral St, Montreal

PRIVATE CHARLES MATTHEWS CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Service Number: 33217

2nd Field Ambulance Canadian Army Medical Corps

Born 22 Feb 1892 East India

Civilian Employment - Crane Operator

Resident of Hamilton Ontario

Attested 23 September 1914 Valcartier

Died 11 December 1914 Fitting out old stone house on Lavington to Pond Farm Road, lifting an old door he fell down an old well underneath the door.

Next of Kin Brother Fred Matthews 39 Kinrades Ave, Hamilton

FLYING OFFICER DANIEL PERCY CRITTALL ROYAL AIR FORCE



Service Number: 41559 - 225 Squadron Royal Air Force

On 11 October 1939 225 Squadron was reformed at Odiham, equipped with Westland Lysanders. 225 Squadron were based at RAF Tilshead between the 1st of July 1940 and the 29th of July 1941. The unpaved airfield was open from 1925 until 1941.

Daniel died aged 24 when his Lysander III R9128 aircraft crashed at Old Sarum on the 21st of October 1940. The official report states - At 12.25 hrs the plane crashed on take-off killing the Pilot Flying Officer 41559 Daniel Percy Crittall and Sergeant 625563 William Batson who was the aircraft Wireless Operator and Air Gunner.

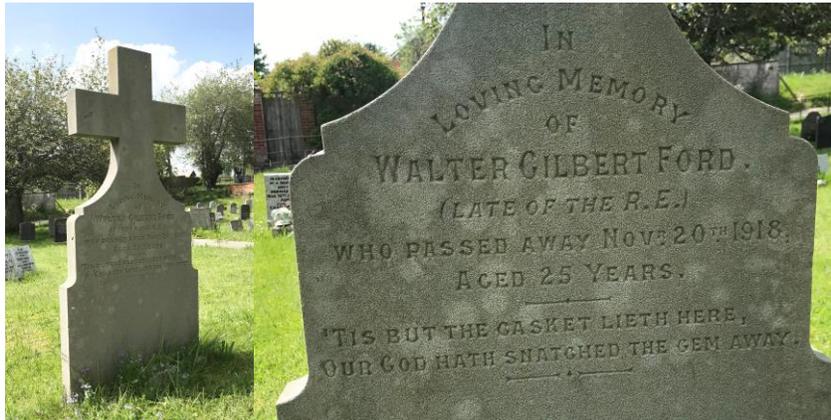


Daniel was the son of Holroyd Berrington Crittall and Ethel Lily Crittall and husband of Mary Marjorie Crittall, of Liverpool.

Personal Inscription:

DEARLY LOVED BY HIS WIFE MARY MARJORIE AND ETHEL, HOLROYD AND BETTY

PIONEER WALTER GILBERT FORD



Birth registered 1st Qtr 1893 in Amesbury – Birth Register Volume 5a Page 162 refers
Death registered in 4th Qtr (Oct) 1918 in Amesbury – Death Register Volume 5a Page 363 refers

Recorded in the 1911 Census as an Assistant Blacksmith living with:

- Father - Walter Ford aged 43 born Tilshead. Occupation: Blacksmith
- Mother - Kate Alice Ford aged 44 born Salisbury
- Sister - Alice Irene Ford aged 16 born Tilshead
- Brother - Henry Heator Ford aged 8 born Tilshead

Service Number 254951 Walter Ford Royal Engineers is recorded as enlisting on 1 Oct 1916. His civilian trade is then recorded as being an 'electrician's assistant'. He was attested 1 Mar 1917 in Croydon and was posted on 7 Mar 1917 to the Royal Engineers. He undertook a medical on 22 Mar Wrest Park Camp, Silsoe Near Hitchin and was Classified C2 – Labour Corps.

His Labour Corps Service Number was 337119 and he was posted on 4 Aug 1917 to 589 Coy Labour Corps and then on 13 Apr 1918 was posted 338 (HS) Labour Corps Works Coy

Discharged 17 July 1918 as a consequence of Infantile paralysis wasting of left leg – which was 4 inches shorter than right. Aged 9 he fell off his bike which clearly resulted in a severe injury to his left leg.

His Pension record card shows he died on 20 November 1918 after he had been discharged. His pension record records 'Died of Decease' (was this Spanish Flu)?

November 1918 saw instances of influenza and suspected Spanish Flu in the village, indeed the Thomas a Becket School history records only 18 children attended school in that month so it was closed until the health of the local population improved.

At the time of his death his parents were then living at 2 Mill Cottage Tilshead.

He is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave Commission registered grave in the Tilshead Cemetery even though he was not 'in service' at the time of his sad death.