



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Arthur Leonard Allen

1 November 1894 - 14 October 1918

Family

Arthur was born on 1894 to John and Jane Allen (nee Muskett). The 1911 census reveals that he was one of thirteen. The family lived in Eady's Row Woodford.

John (Arthur's father) was born in Great Addington in 1848 to John and Elizabeth Allen and was baptised on 5 November 1848 at Great Addington Parish Church. He was a shoemaker by trade. He married Jane Elizabeth Muskett of Woodford in 1871. Jane had been born to William and Harriett (nee Tiney) in the spring of 1852.

Their first born was Clara, born in Great Addington in 1872. The remaining children were born in Woodford. Elizabeth (1873-75), Thomas William (1875-76), George (1877-79), Julia Jane (1879-79), George (1877-79), Julia (1879-79), Frederick (1880), John Thomas (1883), Harry (1885), Edith (1888-1895), Elizabeth (1891-92), Mabel (1893-93), Arthur (1894) and Horace (1896). John and James both were admitted into membership of the Woodford Baptist Chapel in April 1880 and Elizabeth, Thomas, George, and Julia are buried in the Chapel yard. Edith, Elizabeth and Mabel are interred in St Mary's Churchyard, as is John (Arthur's father) who died in March 1900. In all instances the funerals were conducted by Pastor Tyrrell of the Baptist Church.

Arthur attended the village schools commencing at the infant School on 18 April 1898 at the start of the school year. On leaving school he worked as an Ironstone miner at the nearby quarries for the Islip Furnaces.

Army Service

Arthur enlisted on 22nd November 1915 joining the 10th Battalion the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment, Regimental number G10117. The Regiment moved to France in May 1916. During his time at the front he was gassed once and also wounded.

The fifth Battle of Ypres had stalled on 2nd October 1918 due to a lack of supplies and the conditions (deep mud). The 10th RWSR were involved in the Battle of Courtrai which was part of the next push forward commencing at 5.35am on 14th October 1918. The advance which started from the River Lys at Comines and was a huge success moving at a rate of 100m per minute. British, French and Belgian Forces advance rapidly through Flanders, and by the 19th of the month had reached Bruges. This was very much the beginning of the end of the conflict, by 11 November the front line had moved forward 45 miles over a period of four weeks. Arthur was Killed in Action on the first day of the advance, with the news reaching his mother in early November.

Arthur's brother Horace, also a serviceman at this point was serving in Dublin having lost an eye during the conflict.

Burial / grave

No known grave

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Panels 14/17 and 162/162A.

Woodford War Memorial

St Mary's Church Memorial



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If you can help with more information please contact

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