



# Woodford Remembers



## Pte. Lawrance Bertram Manley

23 January 1892 – 17 November 1914

### Family

Bertie's parents were not Woodford people. His father John was born in 1858 in Stoke Doyle (moving to Denford in his teens) and his mother Mary Ann Warren came from Ringstead. The couple married in 1884 at Northampton. The birthplaces of Bertie's older siblings suggest the family moved frequently following the marriage probably living in Ringstead for a number of years prior to moving to Woodford before 1891 where the census suggests they lived in cottages close to Chew's farm, most probably opposite the present-day junction of Church street and The Moorings. John Manley was employed as a Furnace Labourer.

By the turn of the century the family had moved to Church Green, Woodford, living in a row of cottages which once stood where DeCapel Close is now located – at that time two doors away from the Arbon family (see Woodford Remembers)

Bertie was the fifth of twelve siblings, nine of whom were living at the time of the 1911 census. He was born in Woodford.

Bertie was christened in St Mary's Church Woodford on 16 April 1892 (day before Easter Sunday) and started school in the High Street in March 1895. He left the Infant School in May 1901 and transferred to the Junior School in Church Street, where he would have stayed until the age of 14 years.

### Army Service

Bertie's regimental number, 9422 indicates he joined the army as a regular soldier after January 1911. He is listed as a Private living at the Northampton Barracks at the time the census was taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911. He was a keen swimmer holding the Gibraltar Certificate for swimming a mile at sea. At the outbreak of war, he was stationed in Egypt. The battalion returned to the UK and was billeted near Winchester. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt transferred to France on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1914, landing at LeHavre on 5<sup>th</sup> November. His medal record states that he entered the Theatre of War (Pas de Calais) on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1914 and was killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1914. At this time the Northamptonshire Regiment was involved in the defence of Festubert & Givenchy. His commanding officer wrote to Bertie's mother advising of his death and how he and his fellow comrades had buried him on the evening he fell. His grave was marked with a carved wooden cross displaying his name.

*NB Pte L B Manley 9422 on some archive sites is incorrectly attributed to the Northumberland Regiment rather than Northants.*

### Burial / grave

No known grave.

### Dependants

He had no dependants.

### Commemoration

Le Touret Memorial Panels 28/30 (545 members of the Northamptonshire Regiment out of 13479 names)

Woodford War Memorial Village Green

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial



Le Touret Memorial to the missing (left)

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