



# Codford St. Mary

## Roll of Honour

### World War I

**265988 PRIVATE ARCHIE ARTHUR PORTINGALE**

**7<sup>th</sup> BN SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY**

**16th AUGUST, 1917**

Arthur Archie Portingale was born at Monkton Deverill, Wiltshire, the youngest of 9 children born to parents Edmund/Edward & Elizabeth Portingale (nee Tudgay or Tugday). His birth was registered in the district of Mere, Wiltshire in the June quarter of 1895 with the spelling of Portingall – as with all his siblings except for Ernest F. who had the spelling of Portingale. Arthur's father had married using the surname Portingale.

Arthur Archie Portingale was christened on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1895 at Deverill Kingston, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Edward & Elizabeth Portingale.

The 1901 Census records Archie A. Portingale as a 5 year old living with his family at 78 Sand St, Longbridge Deverill, Warminster, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Edward Portingale (Shepherd on a farm, aged 50, born Monkton Deverill) & Elizabeth Portingale (aged 47, born Kingston Deverill). 6 children were listed in the household – Ernest F. (Shepherd on a farm, aged 22), Bertha (aged 12), Walter G. (Shepherd boy, aged 15), Emma B. (aged 10), Elise M. (aged 7) & Archie A. All the children had been born at Monkton Deverill, Wiltshire.

The 1911 Census records Archie Portingale as a 15 year old Shepherd on a Farm, living with his family a Cheapside, Codford St. Mary in a 2 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Edward Portingale (Labourer on a farm, aged 60) & Elizabeth Portingale (aged 52). Also listed in the household were Archie's siblings – George (Carter on a farm, aged 23), Bertha (General Servant, aged 21), Elsie (aged 17) & Archie.

He enlisted with the Somerset Light Infantry at Warminster, Wiltshire. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 2030, later renumbered to 265988. Private Archie Portingale's records show that he was attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Somerset Light Infantry, formerly with the Wiltshire Regiment, service number 2030.

The 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of Somerset Light Infantry originally was formed at Taunton in September, 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army. The Battalion landed at Boulogne, France on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1915. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1917, in a renewed thrust of the Allied offensive, the British troops captured the village of Langemarck from the Germans. The ambitious, meticulously planned offensive began on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a British and French attack on German positions near the village of Passchendaele, located in the much-contested Ypres Salient. After the initial assault met with less success than had been anticipated, heavy rains and thickening mud bogged down the Allied infantry and artillery & prevented them from renewing the offensive until the second week of August. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, at Langemarck, to the west of Passchendaele, four days of fierce fighting resulted in a British Victory; the gains were small given the high number of casualties incurred.

Archie was killed in action on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1917, aged 22 years, during the battle of Langemarck. Pte A. A. Portingale is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium – Panel 41 to 42 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Pte Archie Arthur Portingale as the son of Edmund & Elizabeth Portingale of 33, Cheapside, Codford St. Mary, Wiltshire.

Archie was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show a date that he had entered a Theatre of War.

A. A. Portingale is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Codford St. Mary.

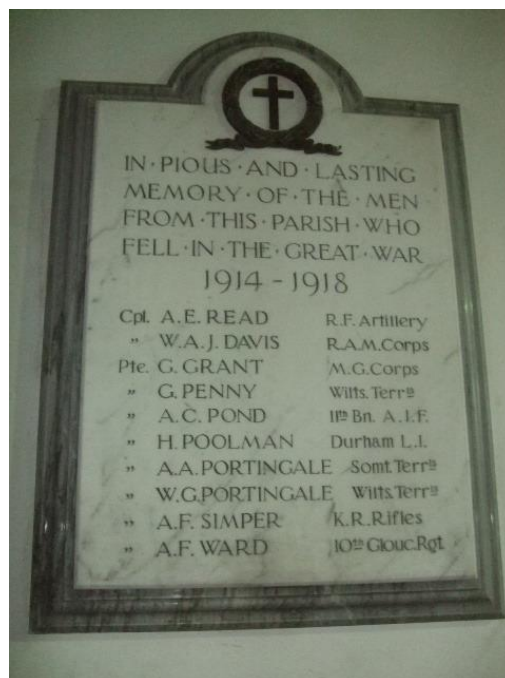
Pte A. A. Portingale of Somerset Territorials is remembered on the World War 1 Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Codford, Wiltshire.

(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

### Tyne Cot Memorial

Photo of Pte A. A. Portingale's name on Memorial Panel

(Photo from Find a Grave – Misty & Company)



### Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery in the locality of Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. The names of those from United Kingdom units are inscribed on Panels arranged by Regiment under their respective Ranks. There are 34,592 identified casualties.

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area & shape throughout the war.



(Photo from CWGC)

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

### Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

Private Walter George Portingale, 200495, older brother of Archie Arthur Portingale was killed in action on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 whilst serving with the Wiltshire Regiment. He was buried in Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel in position L 29.

Pte Walter George Portingale is also remembered, along with his brother, in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Casualties of WW1 & on the WW1 Memorial plaque located inside the Church at Codford St. Mary.

