

Codford St. Mary

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



R/2784 RIFLEMAN

ARTHUR FRANCIS SIMPER

12th BN KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS

13th FEBRUARY, 1916

Arthur Francis SIMPER

Arthur Francis Simper was born at Codford, Wiltshire to parents George & Eliza Simper (nee Shears). His birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the June quarter of 1895 in the name of Francis Arthur Simper.

The 1901 Census records Francis Arthur Simper as a 5 year old, the youngest of 5 children, living with his family at 3 Cottages over R. Wylve at Codford St. Mary. His father was recorded as George Simper (Blacksmith, aged 48) & his mother as Eliza Simper (aged 39). Included in the household were Francis Arthur's older siblings – Albert Henry (Carpenter's Apprentice, aged 16), Ethel Clara (Monitress in St. Mary's School, aged 15), Edmund George (aged 11) & Stanley Richard (aged 8). The 2 older children had been born at Wylve, Wiltshire & the 3 younger children had been born at Codford, Wiltshire.

(Note – living next door was Albert Edgar Read who is also remembered on the Codford St. Mary's World War 1 Memorial inside the church. Corporal Read was killed in action on 29th April, 1918 & is remembered on the Arras Memorial in France.)

The 1911 Census records Francis Arthur Simper as a 15 year old apprentice (Draper), living with his 3 older brothers & parents at Giggins Street, Codford St. Mary, a 5 roomed dwelling. His father is recorded as George Simper (Blacksmith, aged 58) & his mother as Eliza Simper (aged 49). Arthur's parents had been married for 28 years & had 5 children, none deceased. Arthur's older brothers are recorded as Albert Henry (Carpenter, aged 26), Edmund George (Postman, Rural, aged 21) & Stanley Richard (apprentice jeweller, aged 18).

Arthur Francis Simper enlisted at Warrington with the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was given the rank of Rifleman & a service number of R/2784. Rifleman Simper's records show that he was attached to 12th Battalion. The 12th (Service) Battalion of King's Royal Rifle Corps was formed at Winchester on 21st September, 1914 & landed at Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1915.

Rifleman Arthur Francis Simper died of wounds on 13th February, 1916.

Rifleman Arthur Francis Simper is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – between Panel 51 and 53 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Rifleman Arthur Francis Simper as the son of George & Eliza Simper, of 8, Riverside, Codford, Wiltshire.

Rifleman Arthur F Simper was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War – France on 23rd July, 1915.

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

Pte A. F. Simper of K. R. Rifles is remembered on the World War 1 Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Codford, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

The Menin Gate Memorial is located at Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium & has 54,406 identified casualties of officers & men whose graves are not known. It is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands who passed it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom.

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Photographs

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



