

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

87276 PRIVATE

A. J. DARCH

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

25TH NOVEMBER, 1916



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Darch is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 46 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 26)

Alfred James DARCH

Alfred James Darch was born in Clayhidon, Devon to parents John Francis & Emily Darch (nee Sparks). His birth was registered in the March quarter of 1884 in the district of Wellington, Somerset, which included the civil parish of Clayhidon, Devon.

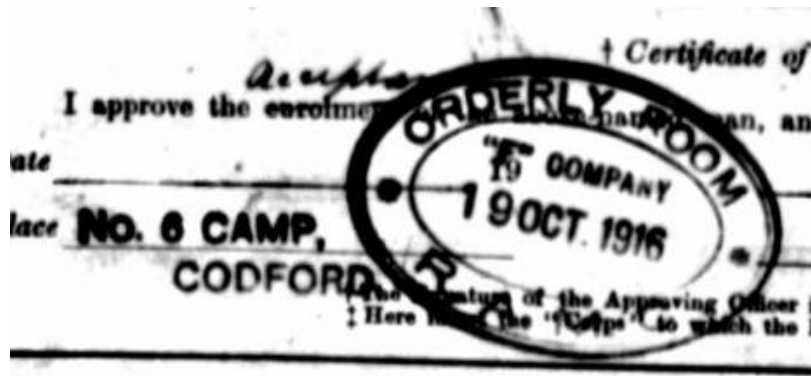
The 1891 Census records Alfred Darch as a 6 year old scholar, born at Clayhidon, Devon, living with his family at Battle Street, Clayhidon, Devon. His parents were listed as John Darch (a 35 year old Rural Postman & General Labourer) & Emily Darch (aged 35 years). Also recorded were Alfred's siblings – Willie (aged 8), Ernest (aged 4), Sarah Jane (aged 2) & Lucy Ann (aged 8 months). Also recorded on the census was 4 year old Dick Jones, a visitor.

The 1901 Census records Alfred as "Albert James", a 16 year old Shoemaker's Assistant, living with his family at Eight Acres, Wellington, Somerset. His parents were listed as John Francis Darch (a 45 year old Rural Postman) & Emily Darch (aged 45 years). Also recorded were Alfred's siblings – William John (a Baker, aged 18), Ernest Albert (Telegraph Messenger, aged 15), Saragane (aged 12), Lucy Ann (aged 10) & Mabel Ellen (aged 8).

The 1911 Census records Alfred James Darch as a 27 year old, single, Shoemaker living at 22 Eight Acre Lane, Wellington, Somerset (a five roomed dwelling) with his family. His parents were recorded as John Francis Darch (aged 55, Postman, born Skilgate, Somerset) & Emily Darch (aged 55, Laundress, born North Curry, Somerset). John & Emily Darch had been married for 29 years & had 6 children – none deceased. Also recorded was Alfred's sister – Sarah Jane (aged 22 years, Laundress, born Clayhidon, Devon).

Alfred James Darch enlisted with Royal Army Medical Corps & was medically examined on 13th September, 1916 at Taunton, Somerset. At the time he enlisted, Alfred was a Boot repairer, single & aged 32 years & 9 months. His address was listed as 22 Eight Acres, Wellington. He had never served in any Military or Naval Force & was 5 foot 4 inches. His Next of Kin was listed as John Darch, father of 22 Eight Acres.

The Statement of Service records that Alfred James Darch was called up for Service on 12th October, 1916 & posted to RAMC as Private, Service number 87276 on 14th October, 1916. Private Alfred James Darch's Enrolment Paper – shows that these words were crossed out & replaced with "Record of Service" & was stamped at bottom with "Orderly Room R.A.M.C. "F" Company , No. 6 Camp, Codford" & dated 19th October, 1916.



Private Alfred James Darch was admitted to New Zealand Hospital at Codford on 17th November, 1916 until 25th November, 1916 when he died. His medical sheet records that Pte Darch had joined the Army 5 weeks prior to his being admitted to Hospital on 17th November, 1916 & he had been vaccinated a fortnight before 17th November, 1916 & reported sick 8 days after being vaccinated. Pte Darch's medical sheet records that on 24th November, 1916 - "He became increasingly cyanosed & signs of Heart failure appeared. He died at 5.45 a.m. on November 24th 1916". Pte Darch's headstone records his date of death as 25th November, 1916. Cause of death was recorded as Pneumonia – 9 days in Hospital.

Army Form W. 5080 states Widow of Soldier – None, Children of Soldier – None. Father – John Francis Darch, Mother – Emily Darch, Brothers – William Darch (aged 37 of Dulverstan, Somerset), Sisters – Jane Wright (Aged 32 of Wellington, Somerset), Lucy Darch (aged 30 of Gerestones, Wellington) & Mabel Scribbins (aged 28 of 4 North St, Wellington).

A death for Alfred J. Darch, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Alfred James Darch was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford in Second Row, left hand side of Anzac Cemetery amongst the New Zealand soldiers that had also died.

Information obtained from FreeBMD, 1891, 1901 & 1911 England Census, 11 pages of Pte Alfred James Darch's Service record

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Private A. J. Darch has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone & is buried in Codford War Graves Cemetery – St. Mary's New Churchyard .

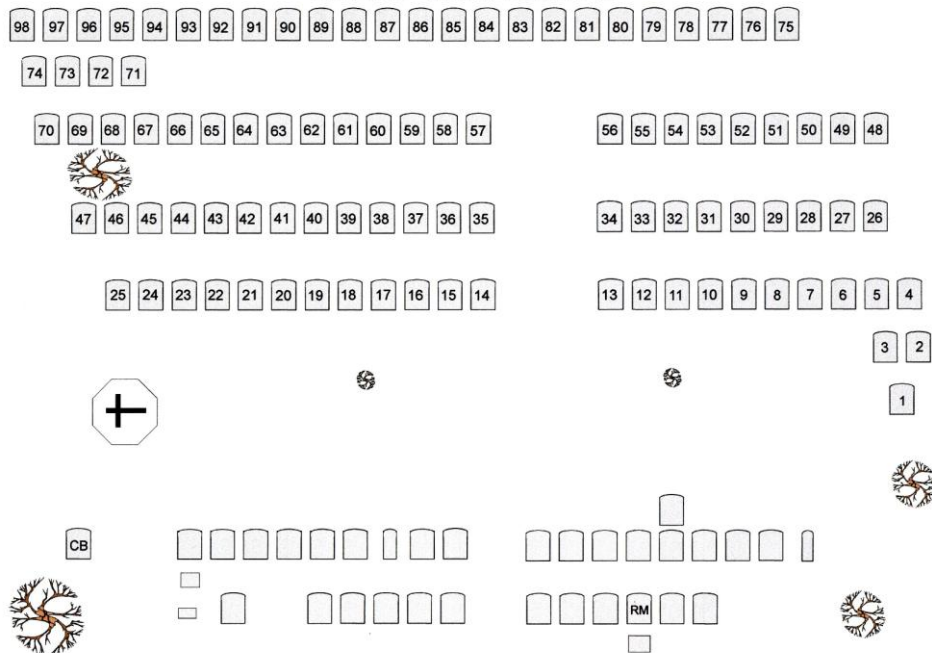


(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



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ANZAC WAR GRAVES



Codford War Graves map by Brian Marshall – courtesy of Romy Wyeth

Pte Darch is buried in position 46

Ernest Albert Darch, young brother of Alfred James Darch, also enlisted in the Army. Pte Ernest Albert Darch, service number 203030 was with 1st Battalion of Wiltshire Regiment. He died on 24th July, 1917 & is buried in Grave XVI. E. 15 at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Ernest Darch had married Etrice Parsons in the June quarter of 1914. She remarried in September quarter of 1921 to Frederick Hellier.



Headstone of Pte Ernest Albert Darch