Connected to Codford



World War I



10604 PRIVATE

S. W. RANDALL

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT
23RD JANUARY, 1915

Gone But Not Forgotten

Sidney RANDALL

Sidney (Walter/James*) Randall was born at Islington, London, around 1894 to parents John & Mary Randall (According to UK Soldiers Died in the Great War).

Sidney Randall enlisted at Hampstead, London with The Wiltshire Regiment. His place of residence was listed as Codford St. Mary. (Address of Codford St. Mary is from UK Soldiers Died in the Great War, however the CWGC have his parents listed as 13, Stockton, Codford St. Mary. It may be that Sidney Randall was from Stockton but Codford St. Mary was the address used).

The Medal Index Card for Pte Sidney \underline{J} . Randall shows that he first entered a Theatre of War on 4th January, 1915 in France.

Private Sidney Randall was killed in action on 23rd January, 1915, aged 21 years. He was attached to 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death.

Private Sidney Randall was originally buried in Rosignoll Cemetery, marked by a wooden cross. His body was exhumed, along with others, & reburied in Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium - Plot III. A. 16. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sidney Walter Randall, 10604, 1st Bn., Wiltshire Regiment, as the son of John and Mary Randall, of 13 Stockton, Codford St. Mary, Wilts.

(*UK Soldiers Died in the Great War has Pte Sidney Randall, 10604, listed as Sidney <u>James</u> Randall, whereas the CWGC has Pte Sidney Randall, 10604, listed as Sidney Walter Randall).

(CWGC Graves Registration Report form (top) & Concentration Document (bottom) both list Pte Sidney <u>J</u>. Randall see below, yet the CWGC Casualty Details lists Pte Sidney <u>Walter</u> Randall & his headstone is engraved with S.<u>W</u>. Randall)



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1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

In August 1914, the 1st Battalion were based at Tidworth and the 2nd Battalion at Gibraltar. The 4th (Territorial) Battalion were at their Annual Camp at Sling Plantation, on Salisbury Plain. On mobilization the 1st Battalion left for France on the 13 August, taking part in the battle of Mons 10 days later and followed by the retreat from Mons. The 'retreat 'was a fighting withdrawal with a number of significant actions fought along that route. The battalion remained intact and ended the retreat on the outskirts of Paris. Once the line stabilized the battalion took part in the First Battle of Ypres, and Neuve Chapelle by which time they had lost 26 officers and 1000 men, the equivalent of a whole battalion. This was followed by trench duty at Hooge and then Kemmel where they remained for the remainder of the year.

1915

The 1st Battalion spent the first few months on the Messines Ridge engaged in Trench warfare until March 1915.

War Diary - 1st Battalion

23rd January, 1915

Location - Kemmel, Belgium

Trenches. Heavy shell fire from SE believed to be 6" Howitzers at 12 noon and 4p.m. Trenches damaged. Continuous rifle fire on our left throughout the night. 8 Killed, 4 wounded.

(Information on 1st Battalion & War Diary from <u>The Wardrobe</u> – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire & Wiltshire)

Pte Sidney J. Randall was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

S. \underline{W} . Randall is remembered in Casualties of WW1 from the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial book for the parish of Stockton, Wiltshire.

Sidney Randall is remembered on the Stockton War Memorial, Wiltshire.



Stockton War Memorial (Photo courtesy of Michael Day 2015)

Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium

Wytschaete Military Cemetery is located 7 Kms south of leper town centre, on a road leading from the Rijselseweg N365, which connects leper (formerly Ypres) to Wijtschate (Wytschaete) and on to Armentieres.

Wytschaete (now Wijtschate) was taken by the Germans early in November 1914. It was recovered by Commonwealth forces during the Battle of Messines on 7 June 1917, but fell into German hands once more on 16 April 1918. The village was recovered for the last time on 28 September.

The cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated positions surrounding Wytschaete and the following small battlefield cemeteries:-

REST AND BE THANKFUL FARM, KEMMEL: 23 UK burials (13 of them 2nd Suffolks), mostly of 1915.

R.E. (BEAVER) FARM, KEMMEL: 18 Royal Engineer and four Canadian Engineer burials of 1915-1917.

The CEMETERY NEAR ROSSIGNOL ESTAMINET, KEMMEL: 18 UK burials (11 of the 1st Wiltshire Regiment), of January-April 1915.

SOMER FARM CEMETERY No.2, WYTSCHAETE: 13 UK burials made by IXth Corps in June 1917. GORDON CEMETERY, KEMMEL: 19 UK burials (14 of them 1st Gordon Highlanders) of January-May 1915.

There are now 1,002 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 673 of the burials are unidentified, but there are special memorials to 16 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate casualties known to have been buried at the Cemetery near Rossignol Estaminet, RE (Beaver) Farm and Rest and be Thankful Farm, whose graves could not be found on concentration.

(Information from CWGC)



Wytschaete Military Cemetery

(Photo from International Wargraves Photography Project)



(Photo from International Wargraves Photography Project)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Pte S. $\underline{W}.$ Randall's CWGC Headstone in Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium.



