



**Lance Corporal 9188 Henry George Penny
2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
Killed in Action on the 12th March 1915**



Regimental Badge of the Wiltshires

Henry George Penny was born at Stockton, Wiltshire to parents Henry Robert & Emily Penny (nee Savage). His birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1893.

The 1901 Census records Henry G. Penny as a 7 year old living with his family at Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Henry R. Penny (Coachman (Groom), aged 29, born Fonthill Bishop) & Emily Penny (aged 29, born Stockton). There were 5 children recorded in the Penny household, Henry George being the oldest listed. The other children were - William G. H. (aged 6, born Teffont Magna), Lillian M. (aged 5, born Teffont Magna), Sidney C. (aged 4, born Stapleford) & Edward F. (aged 3, born Winterbourne Stoke). Also included in the census was Elizabeth E. Newbury (aged 13, a visitor, born Stockton).

The 1911 Census records Henry George Penny as an 18 year old Carter on Farm, living at Stockton in a 5 roomed dwelling with his family. His parents were listed as Henry Robert Penny (Groom on a Farm, aged 41) & Emily Penny (aged 41). Henry & Emily Penny had been married for 21 years, had 11 children, 2 of whom had died. There were 8 children recorded in the Penny household, Henry George being the eldest listed. The other children were - William Gidson Hobbs (Carter on a Farm, aged 18), Sidney Charles (Odd

Boy on Farm, aged 15), Edward Frank (aged 12), Rosina Kathleen (aged 9, born Winterbourne Stoke), Fredric Albert (aged 7, born Stockton), Montague Harrold (aged 6, born Stockton) & Walter James (aged 2, born Stockton).

Henry George Penny enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment at Salisbury, Wiltshire. He was given the rank of Private and a service number of 9188. Private Penny's records show that he was attached to 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. His residence was listed as Tisbury, Wiltshire.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

12th March, 1915 Location - France, Trenches

Just at the moment the rations were arriving about 5.30 a.m. the Germans carried out a bomb attack along the trench. This attack drove back 'C' Company and forced part of it into 'A' Company's trench. Unfortunately the end of 'A' Company's trench was uncovered by this attack and the consequence of this was that A and part of 'C' Company were driven into the British trenches. Exactly what happened was not known at this time and it was believed that 'A' Company had been captured. The German advance was easily stopped by 'D' Company. 'C' Company organized a new attack and made good progress assisted by the bombers of the 2nd Yorkshires, but coming under a heavy machine gun fire they were again driven back. These attacks were most unfortunate as they prevented the issue of water and rations. Still 'B' Company got theirs and 'D' Company got a rum issue.

9.30 a.m. - The Borders made an attack which was soon stopped as it was started through some mistake an hour before the artillery bombardment was timed to take place. This attack died away quickly.

10.30 a.m. - The artillery bombardment and about 10.15 a.m. a new bombing attack was started along the German trench. Unfortunately Lieutenant Morison who led the attack was killed at once and the attack never really started so the Commanding Officer organized another with 1/2 platoon of 'B' Company and the bombers of the Grenadier Guards. The Commanding Officer led them out and this time the attack was quite successful. About 350 persons were captured by a mixed detachment, chiefly Wiltshires. It was just at this time the lost 'A' Company were discovered in the British trench. So 'A' Company was pushed forward to assist to hold the captured line. The Commanding Officer went back to try and collect more men for this purpose so sent forward the remainder of 'B' Company. The result was that at dusk this line nearly as far as 23-30 was held by a jumbled mass of Wiltshires, Gordons, Warwickshires and Scots Guards.

13th March, 1915 Location - France, Trenches

During the night it was proposed to relieve the Wiltshires by the Warwickshires but through some error only one and a half companies of the Warwickshires arrived and that in daylight. 'D' Company and Battalion Headquarters were successfully got away about noon but the remainder were forced to remain in the trenches till dusk and suffered rather severely under a heavy German shellfire all day. At dusk most of the men were got away and returned to billets in Cameron Lane, but it was not till quite late at night that the whole Battalion was re-assembled. In fact odd men and parties kept arriving during the next day. These were chiefly from the 64 men sent as bridge carriers on the 10th with the 2nd Yorkshires and 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers. The following are the casualties of the Battalion during the 10th and 13th March. Killed wounded missing sick officers 6 11 - 2 NCOs and men 58 162 56 - total officers 19 men 276.

Diary Extracts taken from the records held by The Wardrobe

Henry George Penny was killed in action on 12th March, 1915, aged 22 years.

Having no known grave Henry George is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France on Panels 33 and 34.

His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and his rank is given as Lance Corporal.

Henry George Penny was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War and Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War on the 3rd November, 1914.

G. Penny is named in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book under the Codford St. Mary section.

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Revised 9 December 2016 by Maureen Withey

Private G. Penny of Wiltshire Territorials is commemorated on the WWI Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Codford St. Mary.

Both The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the UK Soldiers Died in Great War, 1914-1919 publication list George Penny's rank as Lance Corporal.



St. Mary's WWI Memorial Plaque (Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

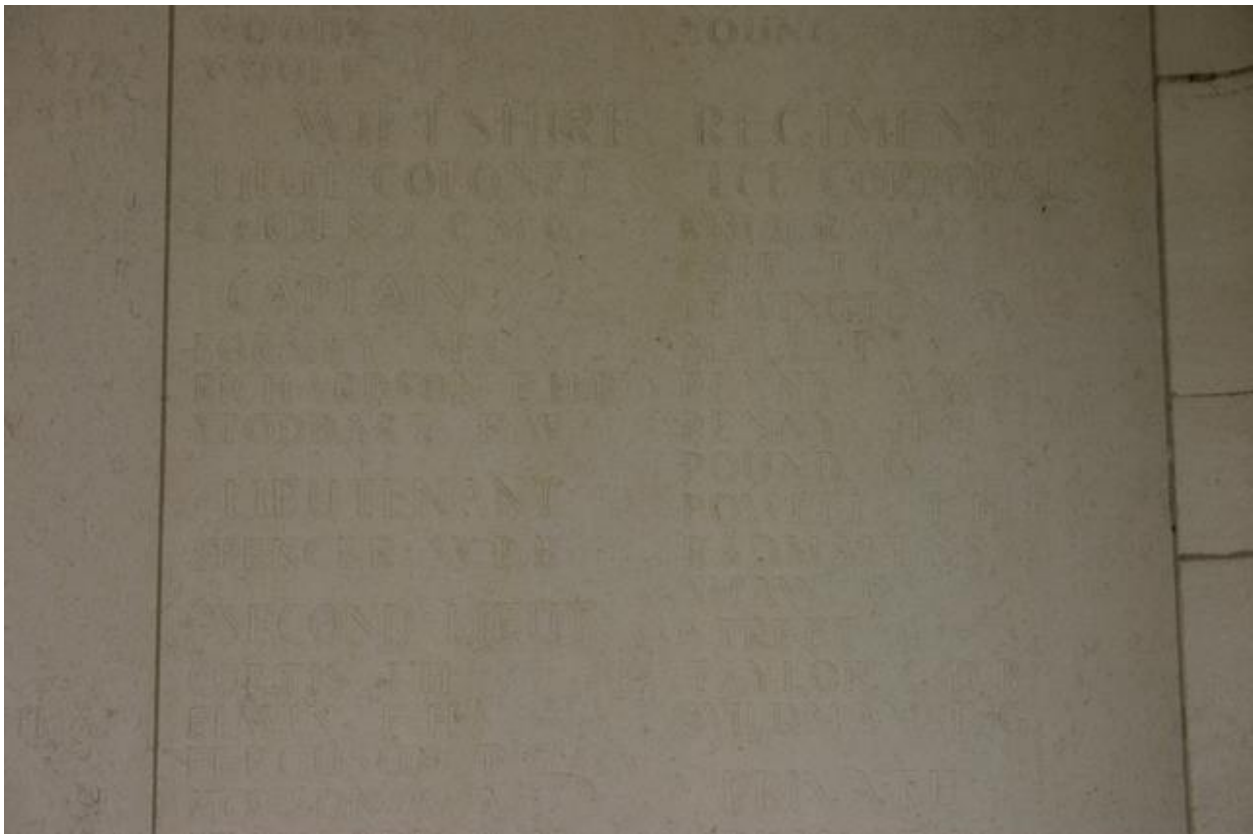
Le Touret Memorial is located at the east end of Le Touret Military Cemetery on the Bethune-Armentieres main road. The Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court. The court is enclosed by three solid walls and on the eastern side by a colonnade. East of the colonnade is a wall and the colonnade and wall are prolonged northwards (to the road) and southwards, forming a long gallery. Small pavilions mark the ends of the gallery and the western corners of the court.

The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October, 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in a late September, 1915 and who have no known grave. The names of those commemorated are listed on panels set into the walls of the court and the gallery, these are arranged by Regiment, Rank and then alphabetically by surname within the rank.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Le Touret Memorial, Pas De Calais, France courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Panel showing the name of Henry George Penny courtesy of David Milborrow

A photograph of Henry George along with the announcement of his having been killed in action appeared in the local newspaper.



Western Gazette, Friday, 16 April 1915