

Compton Chamberlayne

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



10420 PRIVATE

E. H. CASE

2ND BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

15th JUNE, 1915

Ernest Harold CASE

Ernest Harold Case's birth was registered in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire in the March quarter of 1888. However the plaque in St Michael's Church at Compton Chamberlayne names him as Ernest *Howard* Case.

The 1891 Census records Ernest H Case as a 3 year old. His place of birth was listed as Compton Chamberlayne. Ernest was listed with his parents –Frank Case, a 35 year old Agricultural (worker) & Alice L Case, aged 31 years. Also listed was 1 year old Percy H Case. The family were recorded at Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census records Ernest H Case as a 13 year old Agricultural Labourer, living with his parents – Frank, a 44 year old Agricultural Labourer & Alice L Case, aged 40. Also included in the household were 5 other children – Ernest (eldest), Percy H (aged 11), Beatrice L (aged 8), Herbert G (aged 6), Hector C (aged 3) & Ellen D (aged 1). The family were recorded at Shaftesbury Road, Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire.

The 1911 census records Ernest Case as a 23 year old Horseman on a farm, living with his parents – Frank, a 54 year old Labourer on a farm & Alice, aged 51. Also included in the household were 5 other children – Ernest (eldest), Percy (aged 21), George (aged 16), Hector (aged 13), Ellen (aged 11) & *Aurthur* (aged 8). The family were recorded at Turnpike, Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury, which was a 5 roomed dwelling.

Private Ernest Harold Case, service number 10420, was enlisted with the 2nd Bn, Duke of Edinburgh's - Wiltshire Regiment. He enlisted at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

He was killed in action on 15th June, 1915, aged 27 years. Pte Ernest Harold Case is remembered on Panel 33 and 34 of the Le Touret Memorial in France. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Le Touret Memorial was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to record the names of men who died in the Great War and whose graves are not known.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Pte Ernest Harold Case as the son of Frank and Alice Case of Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury.

Pte Ernest Harold Case was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War – France on 24/3/1915.

2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment War Diary

Date – 15/6/1915

Location – France, Givenchy Trenches

During the day trench J7 - I5 was shelled and the defenders (2 platoons of each 'C' & 'D' Coys) suffered a few casualties. At 6pm the battalion commenced to attack the line I12, J14 -J13. On quitting their trenches, the leading companies ('C' & 'D') were subjected to a heavy frontal and enfilade fire, the latter from I4 - I9. As the advance progressed it was enfiladed by machine gun fire from both flanks, on the right from the foot of the hill between I12 & I3, on the left from machine guns concealed in the grass somewhere west of J13 'B' coy followed in support of 'C' & 'D' and occupied J9 -I5. 'A' coy in reserve in Scottish trench. 'A' Company had been kept in reserve intact, as it had orders to make a reconnaissance after the position had been captured, the reconnaissance to be on VIOLAINES. The firing line reached a point about 50 yards west of German trench at J14. There was then only one officer not hit in the two leading companies. At 7.5pm half 'A' company went forward to endeavour to push on the attack which had been held up. This half company with half 'D' company then advanced, and were subjected to enfilade fire

from the crater, and could not advance beyond the disused Old German trench. At 9pm the situation was as follows:- The regiment was occupying the old German trench, with 'C' & 'D' Coys in front of them, and the trench J7 - I5, and were in touch with the Grenadier Guards on left of J7. Groups from 'C' & 'D' companies were returning to old German trench from the front. Orders were received to attack the German line at 9.15pm in conjunction with the Bedford Regt & Yorkshire Regt. The time was subsequently altered to 10pm. In order to form up for the attack the companies which were holding the old German trench & were being enfiladed from the right were ordered back to Scottish trench with orders to form up in rear of it to clear the field of fire of the company holding J7 - I5. The order to attack was subsequently cancelled as far as the Regiment was concerned, and instructions were received to hand over the trenches to the Bedford Regt and return to WINDY CORNER. [continued from 15th] During the action of 15th 16th, the Germans used incendiary bullets, and also sniped the wounded in front of their trenches.

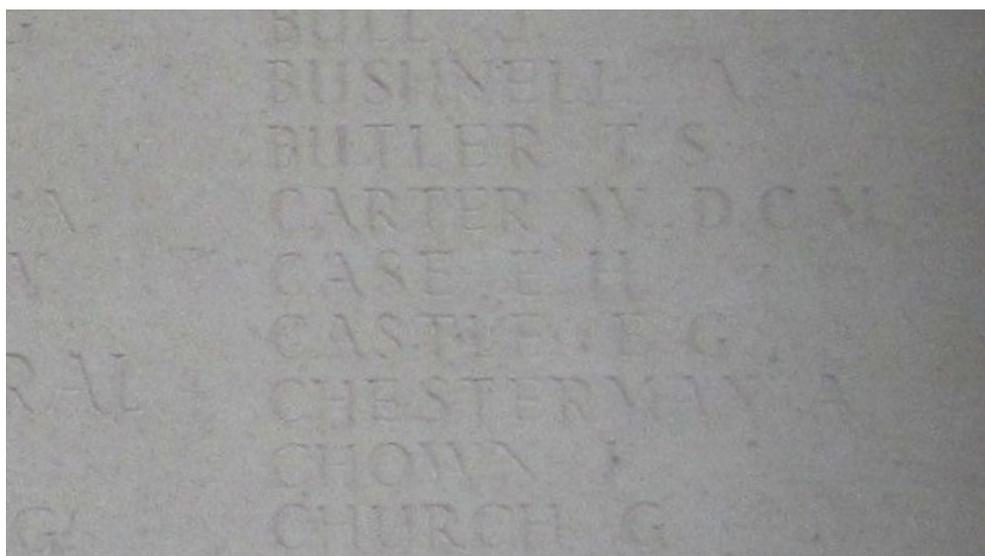
Date – 16/6/1915

Location – France, Givenchy trench

This move was completed at 3am most of the casualties occurred in 'C' & 'D' companies. 'C' coy had 100 casualties out of 180 who went into action, and had no officer left 'D' coy had one officer left. During the operation the Battalion suffered the following casualties. Officers Captain EHB Richardson killed 2/Lieut JST Cortis killed 2/Lieut GM Stamford killed 2/Lieut JGG Janasz killed wounded Captain B Cave-Brown-Cave Lieut SJ Belsham 2/Lieut JM Bales 2/Lieut FH Verran 2/Lieut CJ Mack Other Ranks killed 25 wounded 127 missing 48 total 200 The majority of the 48 missing were mostly killed in front of the German trench. Officers present during the action. Lieut Col WS Brown Comdg Capt RMP Gillson 2nd in command Capt JM Ponsford Adjutant Lieut FLD Shelford T'sport Offr Lieut WP Sergeant Grenade Coy 2/Lieut HJ Samut MG Offr Lieut S Hewitt Quartermaster Lieut GB Horrocks Medical Offr 'A' Company 'B' Company Lt A St J CDM King Capt B Cave-Brown-Cave 2/Lt FH Friend Lt GMN Wilson 2/Lt JC Badgeley 2/Lt FH Bone 2/Lt HH Morris 2/Lt LE Schultz 2/Lt HA Price 'C' Company 'D' Company Capt EHB Richardson Capt EP Lewis 2/Lt FH Verran Lt SJ Belsham 2/Lt GM Stamford 2/Lt JST Cortis 2/Lt EG Mack 2/Lt JGG Janasz 2/Lt JM Bales The following officers remained with 2nd line transport as per orders by GOC 7th Division. Captain EL Makin } Lieut BF Lyon Williams } convalescent 2/Lieut G Bryer-Ash } 2/Lieut HH Martin 2/Lieut CFB Hodgins After leaving the firing line the Battalion moved into reserve dug-outs in rear and had breakfast. About 9am orders were received to proceed to CHATEAU GORRE where Divisional 1st line of transport were stationed and remained in GORRE wood for the night.

(Source: The War Diaries of 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regiment – [The Wardrobe](#))

A photo of Pte Ernest Case's Memorial Panel at Le Touret Memorial in France.



(Photo kindly supplied by [British War Graves](#))

**Pte Ernest Case died on 15th June, 1915. Less than 2 months later on 10th August, 1915 Ernest's younger brother - Pte Herbert George Case was also killed in action, aged 21 years. Pte Herbert George Case is remembered on Helles Memorial in Turkey – Panel 156 to 158.

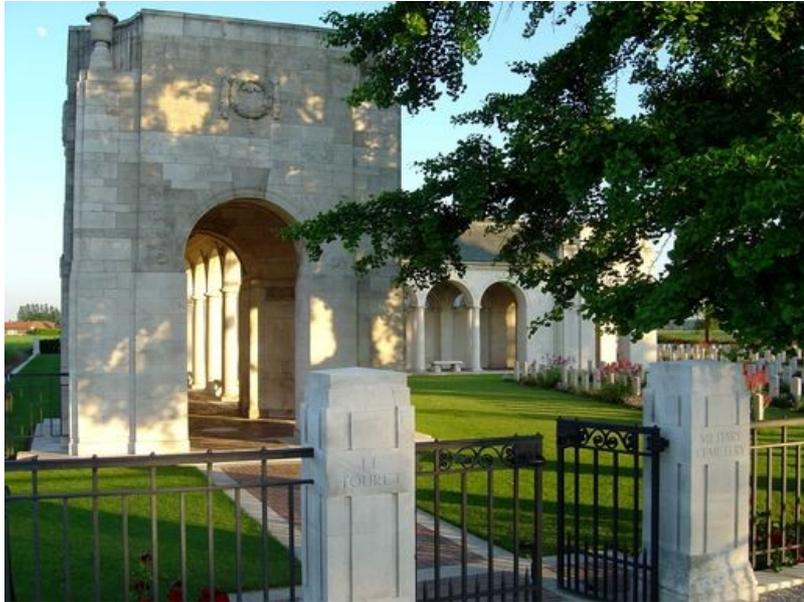
Le Touret Memorial

The Le Touret Memorial is a World War 1 memorial in the Pas-de-Calais region of France. The Memorial lists 13,389 names of British & Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave, who were killed in the area from October 1914 until 24th September, 1915 when the Loos Memorial takes over.

The Wiltshire Regiment names are listed on Panels 33 & 34. 286 men from the Wiltshire Regiment are recorded on the Le Touret Memorial to the missing.

To the Glory of God and in Memory of 13,482 British officers and men who fell fighting in this neighbourhood from October 1914 to September 1915 whose names are here recorded but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death

Le Touret Memorial Photographs – France



(Photographs used with permission from [In Memory](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)

