

Compton Chamberlayne

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



SECOND LIEUTENANT

T. PENRUDDOCKE

8TH BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

25TH APRIL, 1917 AGE 19

Thomas PENRUDDOCKE

Thomas Penruddocke was born on 2nd September, 1897 at Bratton, Wincanton, Somerset. He was the youngest of six children born to parents Charles Penruddocke & Annie Elizabeth Dickinson Carew Bamford Speke.

The 1901 Census records Thomas Penruddocke as a 3 year old living with his parents – Charles Penruddocke, aged 42, living on own means & Annie Penruddocke, aged 33 at Compton Park, Compton Chamberlayne. Thomas's 4 older siblings were also recorded– Flora, aged 10, Charles, aged 8, George W, aged 6 & Letitia, aged 5. Also recorded were in the household were a Governess, Butler, Cook, Upper housemaid, Under housemaid & Kitchen maid.
(Sybil Penruddocke – twin to George is not listed).

The 1911 census records Thomas Penruddocke as a 13 year old school boy, born Somerset Bratton, as one of 11 boarders at Clifton College, 12 The Avenue, Bristol.

On 4th November, 1915 temporary 2nd Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke was transferred from Reserve Battalion to Service Battalion with the Wiltshire Regiment. *(Source: London Gazette 30th June 1916)*

Second Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke served with the 8th Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment.

He was killed in action on 25th April, 1917, aged 19 years. Second Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke is remembered on the Doiran Memorial in Greece, as he has no known grave and his death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant as the son of Charles and Annie Elizabeth Penruddocke, of Compton Park, Salisbury.

Second Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War on 18.4.1916.

A death notice was placed in *The Times* newspaper for 5th May, 1917:-

KILLED IN ACTION

PENRUDDOCKE – *Killed in action, on the 25th April, THOMAS PENRUDDOCKE, 2nd Lieut., Wiltshire Regiment, the dearly-loved and youngest son of Charles Penruddocke and Mrs Penruddocke of Compton Park, Salisbury, aged 19.*

An Obituary for Thomas Penruddocke appeared in *The Times* newspaper for 5th May, 1917:-

SECOND LIEUTENANT THOMAS PENRUDDOCKE, *Wiltshire Regiment, killed on April 25, aged 19, was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Penruddocke, of Compton Park, Salisbury. Born in 1907*, he was educated at Clifton College, and on leaving school entered the Bristol University O.T.C., obtaining his commission in November 1915. Proceeding to the front in the following spring, he was wounded in July, 1916, and invalided home but recovered sufficiently to be able to rejoin in November of the same year. At school Mr Penruddocke was a fine runner, and won several school races. He was one of three brothers serving with the Forces.*

Administration in the estate of Thomas Penruddocke, of Compton Park, Salisbury, who died 24-25th April, 1917 in Greece or Serbia - was granted on 24th October, 1917 in London to Charles Penruddocke esquire. Effects £1,286.

(Thomas Penruddocke was born in 1897)*

7th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment War Diary

Date – 25/4/1917

Location – Greece, Doiran Sector

*6 pm. Weather fine. Strength. 15 Officers 589 OR. Detached 7 Officers 80 OR. 2 Officers and 7 OR killed. 2nd Lieut COWTAN F.S. " " **PENRUDDOCKE T.** 7 Officers and 217 OR wounded. Capt WAYLEN H. Lieut LONGLAND A.C. Capt. KNOTT F.H. 2nd Lt DIXON W.A. 2ndLt COWIE J.L. Lieut CHANDLER C.H. " BUTLER A.S. 5 Officers 89 OR missing. Capt OSBORN G.A.C. (believed killed) Lieut PLOWMAN C.H. " HAYWARD E.H. " TAYLER J.A. (believed wounded) 2ndLt BARTRAM H.F. 3 OR Died of Wounds, 1 OR to Base, 2 OR struck off strength. On the night of 24th/25th April the Battalion attacked O1 and O2 trenches, 12th HANTS attacked O3, 10th DEVONS PETIT COURONNE. A Coy. Objective 21-27 (reference "Sketch of Enemy Trenches" South of DOIRAN 1/5000). 'A' Coy left B2 trenches at 2105. There was then strong T.M. fire and field gun fire on our front line. The company went down the PATTY RAVINE in sections in file and formed up in line in the ravine on the N.W slope. The enemy put up a very heavy T.M barrage in the ravine during the whole of this time, which caused many casualties. The company crawled up the slope in line and having got to the top advanced to the wire. Gaps had been cut but it was impossible to get into the trenches owing to M.G fire on left of O1 and heavy rifle fire all along the line and enemy's bombers. Knife rests had been put up on the parapet behind the main wire and partly blocked the gaps. The Bulgars supports were seen coming down the CT. on left of O1 and the front line was very strongly manned. Our advance was held up and the company was forced to lie down in shell holes in front of the wire. The main party never got through the wire. A few got into the enemy trenches but were not seen again. By this time all the officers had become casualties and Sgt TOWNSEND returned to our lines and reported the situation. He received orders from the company to withdraw and got what was left of them back to our lines, bringing what wounded he could with him. Two Lewis guns were put out of action, one was brought back undamaged. 'C' Coy. Objective Z8 - Z10. The Company formed up outside our wire at 2115. Liaison was established and on the barrage lifting the company entered the enemy trenches and drove him out after lively fighting with bombs during which serious losses were inflicted. A portion of this sector was cleared but owing to lack of co-operation on left*

flank ('D' Coy being held up by the uncut wire) the company was forced, on the delivery of a vigorous enemy counter attack, to evacuate the enemy's lines. A rally of the company was effected 50 yards from the enemy's trenches but the attack failed owing to heavy casualties, all the company officers and 8 Senior N.C.Os being either killed or wounded. CSM THORNE who was left in command saw that there was nothing for it but to withdraw to our lines. One Lewis gun did not return. The second was brought back undamaged. 'D' Coy. Objective Z11 - Z16. The Company left our lines at 2126. Liaison was established and on the barrage lifting, the first two attacking waves got through the first line wire but were held up by the second line, which was insufficiently cut. The enemy trenches were packed with bombers who had great advantage of position as our men were unable to get through the wire. The company retried three times but on each occasion was brought to a standstill by the wire and owing to very severe casualties had no alternative but to withdraw to our lines. All the officers with the exception of 2nd Lt DENNE were either killed or wounded. One Lewis gun was put out of action by a shell, one returned to our lines undamaged. A gun which was sent up from the reserve (B) Coy did not return. 'D' Coy were the first to get back to our lines followed by C, then 'A'. No Company ever got into direct communication with Battn HQRs and it was difficult to obtain information of what had taken place. The firing line was reorganised but the CO decided that a fresh attack with the reserve company and the few men available from the three assaulting companies would serve no useful purpose. The stretcher bearers worked throughout the night bringing in wounded. In the early hours of 25th the 12th A and S Highlanders arrived to attack O1 and O2 through us. This order was subsequently cancelled and they returned to their camp at dawn. The attack on O3 failed. A portion of the attacking companies got into the trenches but were driven out by strong counter attack. The 10th DEVONS succeeded in getting on to PETIT COURONNE and held the position for four hours when they were ordered to withdraw. HANTS casualties about 450 Devons 500, D.C.L.I (who supported and reinforced DEVONS) about 150. The Brigade casualties were about 2300 OR and 50 Officers. The 78th Bde attack failed. The 22nd Div gained their objective on P 4 1/2 and maintained their position. Operation Orders and Casualty lists attached During the next day the enemy artillery, after bombarding our lines at dawn was quiet. Stretcher parties led by M.O. went out at intervals during the day and brought wounded in. The trench mortar fired a few rounds otherwise the enemy did not interfere.

7th Bn. THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT CASUALTY RETURN APRIL 24th/25th 1917 Officers. Killed. C Coy 2nd Lieut Cowtan F.S. **A Coy 2nd Lieut Penruddocke T. Wounded.**

(Source: The War Diaries of 7th Bn Wiltshire Regiment – [The Wardrobe](#))

Date – 2/5/1917

Location – Greece, Dova Tepe Sector

6pm. Weather fine. Strength. 22 Officers 876 OR. Detached 5 Officers 62 OR. **2nd Lt T PENRUDDOCKE previously reported killed, now reported missing.** 12294 Pte GEE W.O. previously reported missing now reported wounded. 1 OR rejoined for M.G Course. Observation. Night. Patrols along railway line had nothing to report. Day. At 0905, 1450 and 1600 hours motor transport observed on DOIRAN ROAD proceeding towards DOIRAN. 1130 2 men observed to leave HODZA REDOUBT and entering shed on west side of the redoubt. 1200 men observed walking about in neighbourhood of NIKOLIC CHURCH and were fired on by our artillery. Heliograph reported working from centre of BREST across lake.

(Source: The War Diaries of 7th Bn Wiltshire Regiment – [The Wardrobe](#))

Doiran Memorial

The Doiran Memorial commemorates nearly 2,200 Commonwealth servicemen who died whilst holding the line in Macedonia during the Great War and have no known grave. The Memorial can be found in the North of Greece close to the border with what was Yugoslavia.



(Photograph courtesy of [British War Graves](#))

**Pte George Herbert Rose, who was born at Compton Chamberlayne, is also remembered on the Doiran Memorial, Greece. Pte Rose was with the 7th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment & died on 24th April, 1917, the day before Second Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke.

Thomas Penruddocke is also remembered with a plaque in St Michael's Church at Compton Chamberlayne

In ever loving memory of

Thomas Penruddocke

2nd Lieut 7th Battn. Wiltshire Regt.

third and dearly loved son of

Charles & Annie Penruddocke

Born Sept. 2nd 1897

Killed in action in the Battle of

Lake Doiran Salonika.

April 24th 1917 aged 19 years.

I have fought a good fight

I have finished my course

I have kept the Faith.



(Photo by Neil MacDougall)

A memorial notice appeared in *The Times* newspaper for Thomas Penruddocke on 24th April, 1919 & 25th April, 1921 :-

PENRUDDOCKE – *In ever-loving memory of our darling boy, THOMAS PENRUDDOCKE, 2nd Lieut., 7th Batt., Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action in the Battle of Lake Doiran, Salonika, 24h April, 1917, aged 19.*

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The following story appeared in an Australian newspaper in 1923 – recounting a visit to the church at Compton Chamberlayne, by an Australian soldier, & his encounter with Thomas Penruddocke's mother.

AN ALLEGORY of EMPIRE

The Penruddocke Burial Ground from 1598 to 1917

By W.R.M.

Five years ago to-day, an Australian soldier, strolling from the crowded camp, at Fovant, on Salisbury Plain, came, in a quiet hour and in a quiet church, upon an allegory of Empire.

Fovant Camp, like Hurdcott, form one of a chain stretching along the Salisbury Plain. Three roads converge at the foot of Fovant Railway Station, a short line, used almost exclusively for military purposes. One leads to Dinton, the other across a watercress bordered brook to Salisbury and the third past the A.I.F. headquarters to Compton Chamberlayne, past where the old Roman milestone, "To Sarum XI" still stands sentinel.

"After the parade was dismissed, I determined to visit the church, which teems with old-time memories. Fifteen minutes' walk along a wood track brought me to the usual well-kept road, bordered by a high wall and just visible through the trees was the church. Interrogating a sturdy little lass, with the first season's violets freshly gathered in her hand, I asked if I might enter.

"Everbuddy goes in; the lock bruk," she replied enigmatically.

Without further question the broken lock admitted me to Saint Catherine's* Church burial ground, Compton-Chamberlayne.

At the rear of the church is the castle. Picturesquely situated, with a lake in front, the remains of a moat running round one side and the burial ground almost forming part of the ground itself, it was built in the fifteenth century, probably a century later than the church. I entered.

Replacing fresh wax candles on the altar and pulpit was a lady in deep mourning and with a warm smile of welcome she quickly dispelled any fears I might have had of intruding.

It was a gloomy Saturday afternoon and the snow was falling lightly and the appearance of the little church, with its burnished brasses and the white-haired lady in deep mourning, trimming the tapers in their brass holders, filled me with a feeling that had come only once before – in Westminster Abbey.

Obeying a welcoming smile, she led me to a tablet affixed to the wall saying, “This is a list of the Penruddocke family.” Inscribed on the tablet were 32 names, the first being Edward Penruddocke, buried in August, 1598; the last on the tablet being Flora Henrietta Penruddocke, November 7, 1902. Half-way down the list of names I caught sight of “John Penruddocke, beheaded at Exeter in May, 1655 and buried here three days later.” Glancing around my eye fell upon a brass tablet set apart from the rest, affixed to the opposite wall. It bore the words:-

Sacred to the Memory
Of
THOMAS PENRUDDOCKE (Lieut.)
Who Lost His Life At Lake Doiran,
SALONIKA,
On
April 24, 1917

“Said the soft sad voice of the lady over my shoulder, “That was my youngest son.”

* * *

“I tried to express the usual commonplace sympathy, recovered my hat and tip-toed out of the warmly-lighted little church into the dusk and now the fast-falling snow, past rows of thatched cottages with their cosy interiors, past the King’s Elm hostelry, where the sign “sold out” was exhibited in the window and on to the cheerless hut, where some Australian soldiers from France were seated round the stove, singing a lively chorus to the accompaniment of a violin, played by a lad scarcely more than 19 years of age; and then crept into damp blankets, to dream of Edward Penruddocke, beheaded in 1598** and of the sweet, sad smile of the lady in mourning who lost her youngest son at Salonika in 1917.

(Frankston & Somerville Standard (Victoria, Australia) Wednesday 19 December, 1923)

Footnote:

* The Church is St Michael’s but the story still is correct for St Michael’s.

** It was John Penruddocke that was beheaded – in 1655