

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



26175 SERGEANT

A. J. SIVELL

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

21ST MARCH, 1918 AGE 41

Arthur James SIVELL

Arthur James Sivell's birth was registered during the first quarter of 1878, in the district of Chelsea, London. His parents were Jacob & Hannah Sivell (nee King).

The 1881 Census recorded Authur J. Sivell as a 3 year old, living with his family at 29 / 6th Avenue, Chelsea, London. His parents were listed as Jacob Sivell (Bootmaker, aged 34) & Hannah Sivell (aged 34). There were 5 children listed on this Census – Agnes (aged 10), Berth (aged 9), William (aged 6), then Arthur & Herbert (aged 1).

The 1891 Census recorded Arthur J. Sivell as a 13 year old Errand Boy, living with his family at 5 Estcourt Place, Devizes. His parents were listed as Jacob Sivell (Foreman, Bootmaker, aged 44) & Hannah Sivell (aged 44). There were 6 children listed on this Census – William (Whitesmith, aged 16), then Arthur, Herbert (aged 11), Percy (aged 9), Lilian (aged 7) & Minnie (aged 5).

The 1901 Census recorded Arthur's Family living at 12 Estcourt Crescent, Devizes. His parents' details were Jacob Sivell (Bootmaker, aged 54) & Hannah Sivell (aged 54). Four of Arthur's siblings were included in the household - William (Blacksmith, aged 26), Herbert (Grocer's Assistant, aged 20), Lilian (aged 17) & Minnie (aged 14). Arthur was not recorded living with the family.

Arthur James Sivell married Lilian Jesse in the first quarter of 1908 in the district of Hackney, London.

The 1911 Census recorded Arthur Sivell as a 33 year old Gymnastic Instructor in a Public School, who was born at Queen's Park, London. He is recorded with his 27 year old wife Lilian, whom he had been married for 3 years. Also listed was 2 year old son Arthur and 7 month old Barbara – both born at Felsted, Essex.

A birth was registered in the December quarter, 1912 for William G. Sivell, mother's maiden name Jess, in the district of Dunmow, Essex.

Arthur James Sivell enlisted with Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) at Braintree, Essex. He was given a service number of 26175 & was the rank of Sergeant with the 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment.

1918 - 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment:

In January, 1918 the 2nd Battalion together with the rest of the 30th Division moved south to relieve the French and took up positions in the trenches South of St Quentin. In February they were out of the line preparing for a German offensive that was known to take place sometime in March. In the middle of March they took over redoubts west of St Quentin. On the 21st March the German attack started and the battalion was very quickly out flanked and were soon completely surrounded. The battalion lost 22 officers and 600 other ranks. The battalion's battlefield reinforcements were themselves engaged in a desperate rear-guard action, not knowing what happened to their comrades. They joined a composite battalion. By April the battalion had been reformed and they were again fighting the Germans near Ypres.

Sergeant Arthur James Sivell was killed in action on 21st March, 1918, aged 41, and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in France – Panel 64 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Sergeant Arthur James Sivell's Medal Index Card does not show a date that he entered a Theatre of War. He was entitled to the British War & Victory medals.

War Diaries of 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment:

Date – 21st March, 1918

Location – Frances, Trenches

Entry – An intense enemy bombardment of our trenches and back areas with HE and gas shells at 4.30am and continued throughout the day. The enemy attacked at 10am with two Divisions on our Battalion front, and owing to the dense mist which prevailed broke through on our flanks and surrounded the Battalion in spite of the strong resistance which was offered. No definite information was forthcoming owing to the Battalion being cut off, but a message was received by pigeon carrier at 1.30pm from Lt Col AVP MARTIN to the effect that he was still holding out in the redoubt with 50 men. The Battn Transport moved back from FLUQUIERES to DURY at 4.40am and again moved at 11pm to ESMERY HALLON.

(Source: [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sgt Arthur James Sivell as the son of the late Jacob and Hannah Sivell of 13 Estcourt Crescent, Devizes and husband of Lilian Sivell (nee Jesse) of Dinton, Salisbury, Wilts.

Arthur James Sivell is also remembered on the War Memorial in the centre of Felsted, Essex and on a World War 1 plaque in the Holy Cross Church at Felsted. He also has his own plaque in the bell ringing chamber at Holy Cross Church, erected by his fellow bell ringers. Sergeant Arthur James Sivell is also remembered by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers due to his connection as a bell ringer with the Felsted Tower.



(Photos from Felsted & Little Dunmow Roll of Honour Project)



Pozières Memorial

The Pozières Memorial is a World War 1 memorial located near Pozières, in the Somme, France. The memorial lists 14,492 names of British and South African soldiers that were killed between 21st March, 1918 and 8th August, 1918 that were killed during the Second Battle of the Somme and that have no known grave. The memorial consists of a colonnade of wall panels forming the far border of the cemetery.



(Photo by Chris Hartford – Wikimedia Commons)

Sergeant A J Sevill – Panel 64 left column 9th row down.



(Photo used with kind permission of Gary Nelson from [International War Graves Photography Project](http://www.wargravesproject.com).)