

Dinton Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



8524 PRIVATE

W. F. STOKES

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

24TH OCTOBER, 1914 AGE 24

Walter Frederick STOKES

Walter Frederick Stokes was born at Woodford/ Shrewton, Wiltshire in 1891 to parents Albert Sidney & Martha Stokes (nee Fox). His birth was registered as Walter Fred Stokes in the December quarter, 1891 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census recorded Walter F. Stokes as a 9 year old living with his family at Hindon Road, Dinton. His parents were listed as - Albert Sidney Stokes (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 33) & Martha Stokes (aged 34). Walter was the eldest of 5 children listed on this Census – Harriett K. (aged 8), Sidney (aged 5), William C. (aged 3) & Annie C. (aged 1).

The 1911 Census recorded Walter Stokes as a 23 year old Boarder with the Paul Family in Bristol, who was born in Shrewton, Wiltshire. Walter Stokes' occupation was mat maker, working for the Bristol Blind Asylum. (Walter's parents & 5 siblings were recorded in the 1911 Census listed as living at East End Cottage, Hindon Rd, Dinton. His parents' details were - Albert Sidney Stokes (Farm Labourer, aged 42) & Martha Stokes (aged 42). The children listed were Sidney (aged 15), William (aged 13), Annie (aged 11), Bertie (aged 8) & Edith Mary (aged 5 months).)

Walter Frederick Stokes enlisted with B coy, 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) at Salisbury. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 8524.

Private Walter Frederick Stokes was killed in action on 24th October, 1914, aged 24 years. Pte Stokes is commemorated on Panel 53 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium, as he has no known grave.

Walter Stokes died the same day as fellow 2nd Battalion member William Tuffin, also of Dinton.

Pte Stokes' Medal Index Card shows that he entered a Theatre of War on 7th October, 1914. He was entitled to the 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. Pte Stokes was also eligible for the Mons Clasp which was awarded to soldiers who had served in France and Belgium between 5th August and 22nd November, 1914 AND who had been "under fire" during that time.

At the outbreak of war, the 2nd Wilts were serving as part of the Gibraltar Garrison. Recalled home to Britain, the 2nd Wilts was attached to the 21st Brigade, part of the 7th Division. As part of the 21st Brigade, the 2nd Wilts arrived in France in October 1914, in time to take part in the First Ypres, where it suffered heavy casualties in helping to stop the German advance

War Diaries of 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment:

Date – 24th October, 1914

Location – Belgium, Beselare

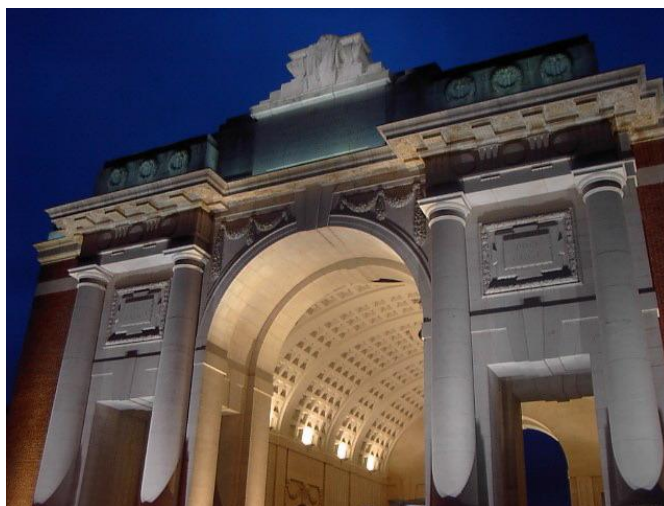
Entry – *About 5.30am (just before daybreak) the enemy attacked in a very superior force but were driven back with heavy loss. They attacked again, and after about 2 hours of almost continuous fighting in which the enemy lost hundreds in killed and wounded, they broke through the lines having previously contrived to come around on our left through trenches that had been vacated with the exception of about 30 NCOs and men mostly from trenches on right the remainder of Battalion were either killed or captured, a large number being captured. Cpl Alderton who had escaped from trench on left of BECELARE road together with Privates Dunn Holister and Jones being apparently last to leave the trenches, gathered stragglers together and formed a rear guard to Brigade ambulances by opening out in skirmishing order. On arrival at 7th Divisional HQ he was met by Cpl Bull, and in the evening the APM took party numbering 26 back to Brigade HQ where they met Cpl Richens and 50 men which included about 12 Lance Corporals. The majority of these men had been driven from their trenches by artillery fire the previous evening. The Quarter master hearing that Lieut Macnamara was wounded visited him at the field hospital and afterwards*

about 4pm collected the 50 men above mentioned taking them to Brigade HQ and was informed that no news of Battalion had been received since early morning. NOTE : special mention should be made of the gallant worth of Capt Comyn, the medical officer and stretcher bearers who for the last three days and nights were continuously handling wounded or burying dead.
 (Source: [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of Infantry Regiments of Bershire and Wiltshire)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter Frederick Stokes as the son of Albert Sidney and Martha Stokes of 1 Rose Cottage, Dinton, Salisbury.

The Menin Gate Memorial

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August, 1917 and who have no known grave. Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.



(Photo from Wikipedia – Snipersnoop)

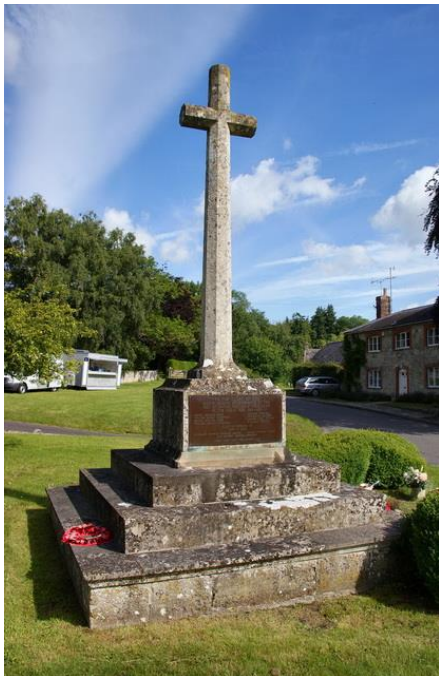
Panel 53 Menin Gate Memorial

WOOD J. 3590	HARRIS H. W.	ROGERS H. C. H.
WOOD J. 9165	HARRIS R.	ROSE H. J.
WOOD R. C.	HAWKINS C.	ROSE R.
WOOD S. E.	HAWKINS G.	ROWDEN S. C.
WOODGER A.	HEAVENS A. E.	ROWLAND W. J.
WOODROW A. G.	HEAVENS F.	RUSH R. H.
WOOL W. G.	HEDGES C. A.	SCAMMELL W. G. E.
WOOLLARD A. R.	HEDGES H.	SEAGER H.
WORTHINGTON F. T.	HEDGES T.	SELLICK J. A.
WORTON J. E.	HENDERSON G.	SHAFFS C.
WORTON W. H.	HEWETT J.	SHERWOOD T.
YORK A.	HIGGINS W. J.	SHINER E. F.
YOUNG P.	HILLIER J.	SILVERWOOD H.
YOUNG W.	HILLS L.	SLYFIELD J.
ZIMMER R. F.	HISCOCKS S. A.	SMART P.
SERVED AS	HOBBS R.	SMITH H. J.
CAIRNS F. R.	HOCKIN G. H.	SMITH J. 6035
REGIMENT	HOLLIDAY J.	SMITH J. 11001
LANCE CORPORAL	HOLMAN J. W.	SMITH W. H. 7387
EDGWICK O.	HORTON H.	SMITH W. H. 19872
HEPPARD R. H. P.	HOWARD J.	SNOOK H.
SMITH P. G.	HUDD A.	SPACKMAN P. E.
SMITH R. H.	HUNT J.	STEPHENS F.
STOCKHAM W. J.	ILSTON E. V.	STEWART E. G.
SMITHERS M.	JAMES H.	STINCHCOMBE A.
SMITHSON W. M. M.	JEFFCUTT S.	STOCK W. T.
SMYTH H. H.	JEFFERIES W. H.	STOKES W. F.
SMYTH A.	JENKINS T.	STOODLEY A.
SMYTH L.	JOHNSON J. S.	STRONG F. W. C.
PRIVATE	JOLLIFFE F.	SERVED AS STEWART J.
SMYTH A.	JONES C. L.	STROUD S.
SMYTH E. A.	JONES G. W.	SULLIVAN J. P.
SMYTH A. E.	JONES H. T.	SWANBOROUGH F. E.
SMYTH P. H.	JUDD P.	TABB W. V.
SMYTH W.	KEEL E. A.	TALBOT H. W.
SMYTH J. T.	KIMBERLEY G. F.	TAYLOR F. S.
SMYTH A.	KING C. F.	THICK F.
	KING E.	THOMAS A. E.
	KIRBY S.	THOMAS S. W.
	KNIGHT A. J. M.	TOMLIN T.
	KNOTT H. F.	TRIM H. C.
		THICK F.

(Photo kindly donated by [Frederik Sohler](#))

W. Stokes is also remembered in the Diocese of Salisbury Casualties of WW1 Memorial Book 1914 – 1918.

Walter Fred Stokes is also remembered on the Dinton War Memorial, which is located at the northern end of the Churchyard.



(Photos by Andrew Stacey)



They Died That We Might Live