

CAPTAIN GEORGE RICHARD WYLD 1879 – 1914



George Richard, born 8th July 1829, at Woodborough, Wiltshire, the only son of Edwin George Wyld, Vicar of Melksham, Wiltshire and of Mary Caroline Wyld, eldest daughter of Sir Hungerford Pollen, 3rd Baronet. George Wyld was educated at Marlborough and on leaving there entered the stock exchange.

George saw active service in the South Africa Campaign 1899 – 1902 with the 13th Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps (known as the Queen's Westminster's). George Wyld was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with four clasps. July 1st 1901 he was appointed an Honorary Lieutenant. When the Great War broke out he was on the Reserve of Officers and immediately volunteered for Foreign Service.

MELKSHAM

A Welcome Home – Lieutenant G. Wyld, Queens Westminster Volunteers, who has been on active services in South Africa, arrived at his home, the Vicarage, on Tuesday evening, and received a hearty welcome. The Vicarage was bedecked with flags, and the Parish Church bells were rung in his honour.

The Western Gazette, Friday, June 7th, 1901.

George was attached to the King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 19th August 1914 and was gazetted as a Captain in the 3rd Wiltshire Regiment on 7th October 1914. On the 1st December 1914 he was attached to the 1st Battalion Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Berkshire Regiment) from the 2nd Battalion. He went to France with the 7th Division and was killed in action at Givenchy, 24th December, 1914.

The Chaplain wrote: "He was most popular with his brother officers of the Berkshire Regiment and was considered very efficient in his duty, and it was whilst doing his duty in trench at Givenchy that he was mortally wounded by a bullet."

George is buried in Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais, France, Plot V, Row A, Grave 6.

George's death prompted his father, the Rev. Edwin George Wyld, Vicar of Melksham and Canon of Salisbury to pursue the erection of the Melksham Memorial 5 years later, to honour those who died in WWI. On 23rd August, 1919 the Melksham War Memorial in Canon Square, is unveiled by Lord Methuen.

