

## Geoffrey Walter Akerman 1896 - 1919



Geoffrey Walter Akerman was born 20th April 1896 at Seend, Wiltshire to Albert Edward and Ada Akerman. The 1901 census shows the family living in a rented house at Sells Green, Seend, Geoffrey then was the only child, aged 4 years. Geoffrey went attended Seend Parish School and he can be found in the National Schools Admission Register 1870-1940 Seend Parish School Register, date of admission 05/03/1902 (his name has incorrectly been spelt Jeffrey).

Name and Address		Date of Admission		Name of School		Remarks			
No.	Name	Day	Mon.	Day	Mon.	Day	Mon.		
235	Nash, Geo E	15	1	02	12	2	1896	Robert	St. Peter's Church
236	Hancock, Lucy	15	1	02	12	3	1891	John	"
237	Hancock, Parker	15	1	02	12	4	1890	"	"
238	Hancock, Ada	15	1	02	12	4	1895	"	"
239	Wheeler, Mary	5	3	02	01	8	1894	Albert Edward	"
240	Briggs, John	5	3	02	01	9	1895	John	"
241	Wheeler, Nellie	7	4	02	10	3	1897	Margaret Jenae	"
242	Wheeler, Clara	7	4	02	10	3	1896	William	"
243	Wheeler, Joseph	7	4	02	10	3	1897	John A	"
244	Wheeler, Mary	7	4	02	10	3	1897	John	"
245	Wheeler, Thomas	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
246	Briggs, Sarah	7	4	02	10	3	1895	John	"
247	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	Harriet W. Beach	"
248	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
249	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
250	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
251	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
252	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
253	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
254	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
255	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
256	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
257	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
258	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
259	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"
260	Wheeler, John	7	4	02	10	3	1896	John	"

*National Schools Admission Register*

1911 Census shows the family now living at Trowbridge Place, Seend, and Near Melksham. The father Albert Edward is a farmer and his wife Ada is working on the farm, Geoffrey is 14 years old and now has a 5 year sister called Winifred Ada Akerman.

Geoffrey Walter Akerman was Attested and Embodied 19th October 1915 at Chippenham. His medical inspection report states that he was 5' 3" tall, his physical development was fair and he was considered fit for the Territorial Force and was on home duties until 15th September 1916, he was transferred to The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment as a Private and 1st October 1916 he was transferred to The Royal Scots Fusiliers and went as part of the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) to Salonika in Macedonia.

Geoffrey died 13th January, 1919 from Pneumonia & Influenza at No. 40 Casualty Clearing Station, in Salonika.

Geoffrey Walter Akerman is commemorated on the War Memorial and plaque at Seend Holy Cross Church.





British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card 1914-1920

21.	Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
	ANKERMAN	R.S. Lus.	Pte	33419
	Geoffrey W.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	D/102 B/10/085			
BRITISH	do	do		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

Correspondence

# *Royal Scots Fusiliers during World War I*



Since 1815 the balance of power in Europe had been maintained by a series of treaties. In 1888 Wilhelm II was crowned 'German Emperor and King of Prussia' and moved from a policy of maintaining the status quo to a more aggressive position. He did not renew a treaty with Russia, aligned Germany with the declining Austro-Hungarian Empire and started to build a Navy rivalling that of Britain. These actions greatly concerned Germany's neighbours, who quickly forged new treaties and alliances in the event of war. On 28th June 1914 Franz Ferdinand the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was assassinated by the Bosnian-Serb nationalist group Young Bosnia who wanted pan-Serbian independence. Franz Joseph's the Austro-Hungarian Emperor (with the backing of Germany) responded aggressively, presenting Serbia with an intentionally unacceptable ultimatum, to provoke Serbia into war. Serbia agreed to 8 of the 10 terms and on the 28th July 1914 the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia, producing a cascade effect across Europe. Russia bound by treaty to Serbia declared war with Austro-Hungary, Germany declared war with Russia and France declared war with Germany. Germany's army crossed into neutral Belgium in order to reach Paris, forcing Britain to declare war with Germany (due to the Treaty of London (1839) whereby Britain agreed to defend Belgium in the event of invasion). By the 4th August 1914 Britain and much of Europe were pulled into a war which would last 1,566 days, cost 8,528,831 lives and 28,938,073 casualties or missing on both sides.

The Regiment raised 19 Battalions; it was awarded 58 Battle Honours and 4 Victoria Crosses losing 5,600 men during the course of the war.

## **8th (Service) Battalion**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 01 Oct-1914 | Formed at Ayr as part of the Third New Army and then moved to Codford St. Mary, Salisbury Plain in the 77th Brigade of the 26th Division. |
| Nov 1914    | Moved to Bristol.   |
| April 1915  | Moved to Sutton Veny.   |
| 20-Sep-1915 | Mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne.   |
| Nov 1915    | Moved to Salonika and engaged in various actions against the Bulgarian Army including;  |
| 1916        | The Battle of Horseshoe Hill.   |
| 1917        | The Battles of Doiran.  |
| 1918        | The Battle of Doiran.   |
| 30-Sep-1918 | Ended the war near Strumica N.W. of Lake Doiran, Macedonia.   |



## SOFIA WAR CEMETERY

SOFIA War Cemetery is 2 kilometres North-East of the railway station, on the far side of the Town Cemetery. It contains German and Serbian War Plots, and between them is the British plot, containing the graves of 160 soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom (three of whom are unidentified) and one demobilised British soldier. The plot is enclosed by a low stone wall.

Sixty six of these graves (mainly those of prisoners) were brought from DUBNITZA CEMETERY, RADOMIR CEMETERY and MILITARY CEMETERY, SOFIA TOWN CEMETERY and VARNA (or STALIN) PROTESTANT CEMETERY.

In 1960 a new plot 3 was formed to contain 83 burials concentrated from RUSE (formerly RUSCHUK) British Cemetery and one burial from RUSE (formerly RUSCHUK) JEWISH CEMETERY.

The Register records particulars of 157 War Graves.

There are also 38 War Dead from the 1939-1945 War.

## THE REGISTERS OF THE WAR DEAD

ACKERMAN, Pte. G.W., 33419. 8th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers. 13th January, 1919. III. D. 13.

ADAMS, Pte. Frederick James, 35606. 11th Bn. Worcestershire Regt. 14th January, 1919. Age 40. Husband of Milly Adams, of "Raviloe," Totland Bay, Isle of Wight. III. E. 15.

ALLEN, Cpl. D.R., 31865. 12th Bn. Hampshire Regt. 13th December, 1918. III. C. 9.

AMOR, Lce. Cpl. Edgar William, 36129. 8th Bn. Duke of Cornwall's Light Inf. Died of pneumonia 19th December, 1918. Age 26. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Amor; husband of Edith Marian Amor, of "Taringa," Bloomfield Park, Bath. Born at Wrington, Somerset. III. D. 15.

ANDREWS, Pte. William, 128047. 78th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 18th December, 1918. Age 20. Son of Charles Edward and Annie Andrews, of 33, Allerton Terrace, Eagle Bank, Bolton. III. E. 7.

ARCHER, Pte. T.G., 28422. 8th Bn. Oxf. and Bucks Light Inf. 29th Nov., 1918. III. D. 10.

AYLIFFE, Pte. Gilbert Edwin, 74534. 78th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). Died of pneumonia 5th December, 1918. Age 26. Son of Edwin and Ellen

Ayliffe. Born at Oaksey, Malmesbury, Wilts. III. C. 1.

BACKHOUSE, 2nd Lt. St. J.S. Cameron Highlanders and Royal Air Force. 3rd April, 1918. I. D. 2.

BAILEY, Lce. Cpl. E.W., 38218. 107th Field Coy. Royal Engineers. 21st December, 1918. III. C. 4.

BAILEY, Pte. W., 18466. 6th Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 20th March, 1916. I. B. 2.

BANT, Pte. A.E., 16193. 8th Bn. Oxf. and Bucks Light Inf. 17th December, 1918. III. A. 18.

BARLOW, Pte. E., 202436. 2nd/5th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 14th November, 1918. I. E. 5.

BARTON, Serjt. Harold Remington, 39332. 80th Field Amb. Royal Army Medical Corps. Gold Medal of Serbia. Died of pneumonia 10th December, 1918. Age 27. Son of T.J. and Ellen Barton, of "Thornlea," Street Rd., Glastonbury, Somerset. Born at Bridgwater, Somerset. I. A. 8.

BEATTIE, Pte. J., 14000. 8th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers. 15th November, 1918. I. C. 10.

BECK, Pte. C.N., 16225. 8th Bn. Oxf. and Bucks Light Inf. 4th December, 1918. III. A. 16.

(n.b. unfortunatley surname has not been spelt correctly by Commonwealth War Graves Commission).





(Pictures Commonwealth War Graves)

**GEOFFREY WALTER AKERMAN SERVICE RECORDS**  
 (includes Army death notice telegrams and personal effects information).

**TERRITORIAL FORCE**  
 4 years' Service in the United Kingdom

**ATTESTATION OF** WILTS REGT

Geoffrey Walter Akerman

Questions to be put to the Recruit before his Enlistment

What is your Name and Address? Geoffrey Akerman, 12 Broadways Road, Leeds, W. Yorkshire

Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of years specified? His Majesty shall be pleased to receive your services for the term of 4 years.

Have you received a notice making the liability you are subject to ending, and do you understand them?

Have you ever before, in, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Middle East Forces, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteer Force, the Army Reserve, the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Air Force, or any other branch of His Majesty's Armed Forces of the United Kingdom?

Are you a British Subject?

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, Geoffrey Akerman do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfill the engagements made.

Hamm 1195 SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT  
G. Akerman SIGNATURE OF WITNESS  
P. J. ... SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**

I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will be in His duty, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**

I do hereby certify that I am present at the foregoing attestation of the above named Recruit, and that the answers given to the questions above stated, are true and correct, and that the Recruit is of the age of 21 years, and is a British Subject.

Territorial Force Attestation papers and medical report.

Description of Akerman Geoffrey Walter and Enlistment

**MEDICAL INSPECTION REPORT**  
 (Applicable to all Ranks.)

Name Geoffrey Walter Akerman

Age 21 years 2 months

Height 5 feet 7 inches

Chest measurements: Girth when fully expanded 34 1/2 inches. Range of expansion 2 1/2 inches.

Vision R.E. - V = D - 6, L.E. - V = D - 6

Physical development Good

\* Chest measurement will be obtained by adjusting the tape so that its posterior upper edge touches the inferior angles of the shoulder blades, and its anterior lower edge the upper part of the nipples, while the arms hang loosely by the side.

**Certificate of Medical Examination.**

I have examined the above named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations. He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; he does not suffer from hernia; and declares that he is not subject to any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations.

I consider him fit for the Territorial Force.

Date 15th October 1915 Place Chippingham

W. J. ... Medical Officer

**NOTE.**—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing certificate only in the case of those who have been attested and will briefly state below the cause of unsuitability.

**Certificate of Primary Military Examination.**

I hereby certify that the above-named Recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him fit for service in the 1st Battalion and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date 17th October 1915 Place Chippingham

W. J. ... Recruiting Officer

**Certificate of Approving Officer.**

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 1st Battalion.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 17th October 1915 Place Chippingham

W. J. ... Approving Officer





Regiment **ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS**

Army Form W. 5080

To be filled in by  
Officer in Charge of  
Records.

No 33419 *Pte Geoffrey Walter Akerman* deceased

**STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.**

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...	None	None
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	None	None
Father of the Soldier ...	<i>Edward Akerman</i>	<i>Howbridge Rd Seend</i>
Mother of the Soldier ...	Deceased	<i>Trickettsham Wilts</i>
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ...	<i>Akerman Arthur James 3</i>
	Half blood ...	None
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ...	<i>Winifred Ada Akerman 13</i>
	Half blood ...	None

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...	<i>James Phillips</i>	<i>Rosecroft Farm Seend Nr Melksham</i>
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...	None	None
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

**DECLARATION.**

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.



Relationship to the Soldier *Father*  
Address in full *The Dicks Howbridge Rd Seend Wilts*  
*Albert E Akerman* Signature of the Declarant.

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at *Seend* this *26<sup>th</sup>* day of *July* 19*19*  
Signature of Minister or Magistrate *[Signature]* Qualification *J.P. Const of Wilts*  
Address *Claydon Wilts*

17. W. 5080/GP/184. 1,000,000(6). 2/19. S.O.P.M.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

 <b>C. OR B.</b>	Delivery and Charges.	<b>POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.</b> If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.	Sent, or Sent out	No. of Telegram	
	Means.....		At.....M.	Office Stamp.	
	Distance.....		To.....		
	Collected.....		By.....		
Prefix	Handed in at	Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words	Received here at	
	1250	Attesto London	26	251	



Attesto Hamilton

Cas B17437 O.C. 40. Reports 15.  
 Sic Islandia 8 R. I.  
 33419 Akerman Pte C. Proelias Ave

Received at From By Charges to pay s. d.

**NI** B or C B M 4480 Wt. 30890/F357 10,000,000 2/18 C & B (257)

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

 <b>C. OR B.</b>	Delivery and Charges.	<b>POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.</b> If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.	Sent, or Sent out	No. of Telegram	
	Means.....		At.....M.	Office Stamp.	
	Distance.....		To.....		
	Collected.....		By.....		
Prefix	Handed in at	Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words	Received here at	
	4407	Attesto London	27	6:50	

Attesto Hamilton

Cas B18623 3 Reports on 16 Jan died 13 Jan influenza and influenza 8/ Royal Scots Inc. 33419 Akerman Pte C. Proelias Ave

Received at From By Charges to pay s. d.

**NO. 3 DELIVERED BY MESSENGER**

B or C B M 4480 Wt. 30890/F357 10,000,000 2/18 C & B (257)



Place Howbridge Rd. Sand

Date May 27 1919

SIR,

I have to acknowledge receipt of the articles as  
stated overleaf.

Yours faithfully,

(Sign here) A. C. Aherman

The Officer i/c Records,

Station Hamilton

*The following is a list of*  
*the state of affairs*  
*which should be addressed*  
*to the Secretary of the*  
*War Office and War Office reference*  
*numbers if known.*

**MEMORANDUM FOR**

The Officer in charge of Infantry Records,

WAR OFFICE,

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE,

SOUTH KENSINGTON,

LONDON, S.W. 7.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—  
The Secretary,  
WAR OFFICE,  
Imperial Institute,  
South Kensington,  
LONDON, S.W. 7.  
and the following number quoted

191

E. / 172 / (Accounts 4.)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the late Private

should be despatched to:—

- No medal
- Arrest ✓
- Cards ✓
- Wallet ✓
- Watches ✓
- Letters ✓
- Badges ✓
- Medals ✓
- Song Book ✓
- Coins ✓
- Course ✓
- Dose ✓
- Medals ✓
- Notes ✓
- Review ✓

Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your possession or that may hereafter reach you should be disposed of to:—

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Assistant Financial Secretary.