

Sutton Mandeville

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



22475 PRIVATE

G. CROSS

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

25th NOVEMBER, 1916

George CROSS

George Cross was born at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire in 1882 to parents James & Maria Cross (nee Toller). His parents – James Cross & Anna Maria Toller had married in 1870 at All Saints, Sutton Mandeville. George's birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1882.

The 1891 Census recorded George Cross as an 8 year old living with his family at Townsend, Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as James Cross (Wood Sawyer, aged 52, born Sutton Mandeville) & Maria Cross (aged 48, born Somerset, Wellington). George was one of six children listed in this census with all the children born at Sutton Mandeville – Robert (Gentleman's Servant, aged 18), James (Farm Labourer, aged 17), Harry (Farm Labourer, aged 13), Bessie, (Scholar, aged 11), then George & Rose (aged 2).

The 1901 Census recorded George Cross as an 18 year old Shepherd living at Hole Cottage, Sutton Mandeville. George is listed as living with his brother – Robert Cross (Assistant to Butcher, aged 28). George & Robert's parents were listed as still living at Townsend, Sutton Mandeville – James Cross (Sawyer – Wood, aged 62) & Maria Cross (aged 56). Only 3 children were listed as living at home in this Census – James (Sawyer – Wood, aged 27), Bessie (aged 21) & Rose (Scholar, aged 12).

A death was registered in March quarter, 1908 at Tisbury, Wiltshire for James Cross. A death was registered in the March quarter, 1911 at Tisbury, Wiltshire for Maria Cross.

The 1911 Census recorded George Cross as a 29 year old, single Gardener (Under) living at Townsend, Sutton Mandeville. George is listed as living with his brother & sister – James Cross (Cowman on a Farm, aged 37) & Bessie Cross (aged 31).

George Cross enlisted with the British Army at Salisbury, Wiltshire & was living at Fovant at the time he enlisted. Records show that he was last attached to 12th (Labour) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment & had the rank of Private & a service number of 22475.

Private George Cross died on 25th November, 1916.

Private George Cross is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, France – Grave No. VI. C. 4. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private George Cross was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show a date that he had entered a Theatre of War.

G. Cross is remembered on the 1914 -1919 Memorial plaque located inside All Saints Church at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire.



World War 1 & 2 Memorial Plaques

(Photo by Antony Firth)

G. Cross is also honoured in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book.

Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, France

Mericourt-l'Abbe is a village approximately 19 kilometres north-east of Amiens and 10 kilometres south-west of Albert. Heilly Station Cemetery is about 2 kilometres south-west of Mericourt-l'Abbe, on the south side of the road to Corbie.

Historical Information

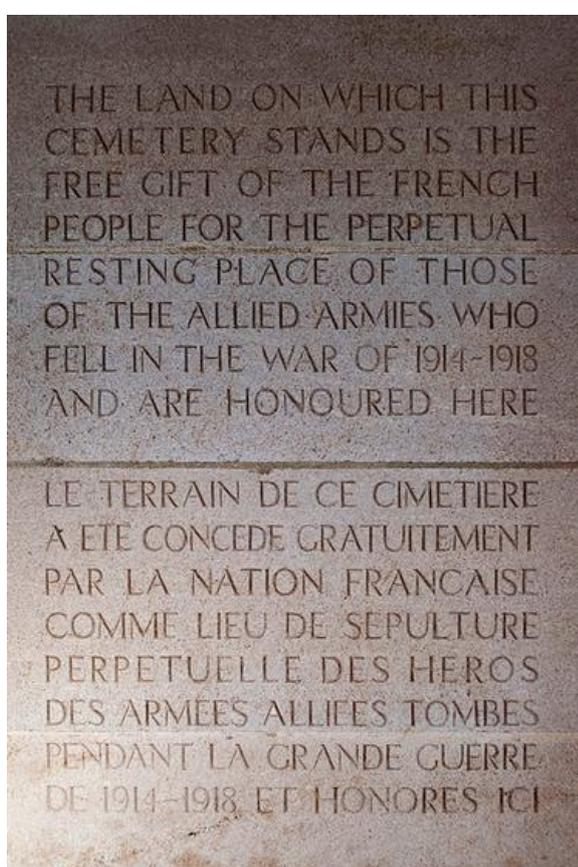
The 36th Casualty Clearing Station was at Heilly from April 1916. It was joined in May by the 38th, and in July by the 2/2nd London, but these hospitals had all moved on by early June 1917.

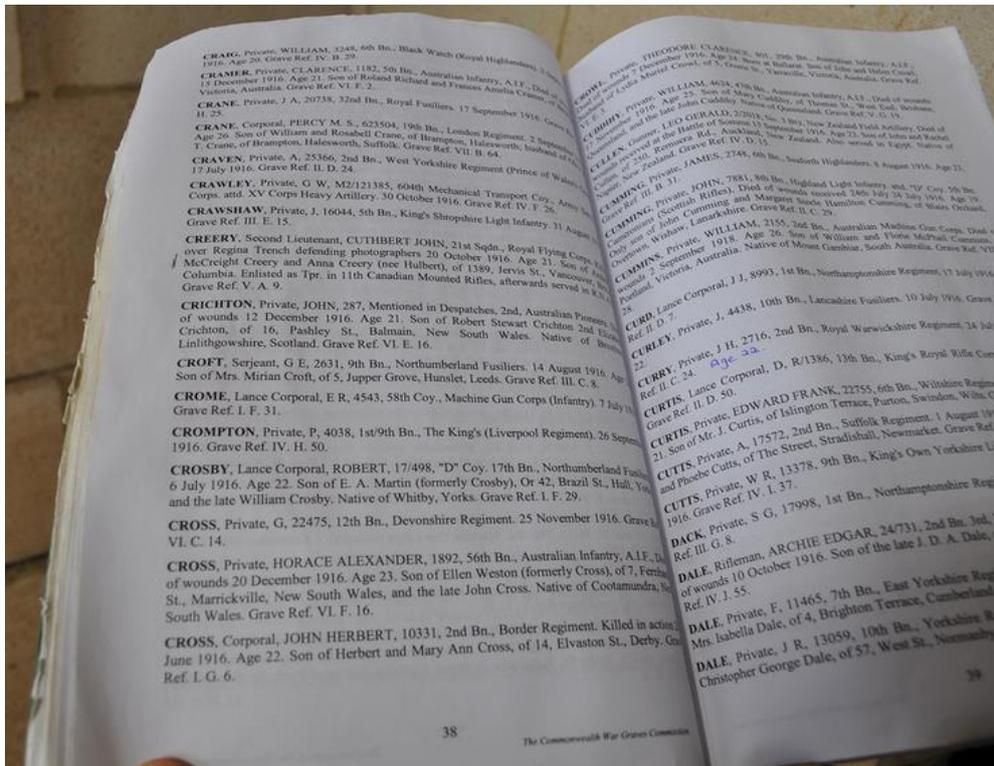
The cemetery was begun in May 1916 and was used by the three medical units until April 1917. From March to May 1918, it was used by Australian units and in the early autumn for further hospital burials when the 20th Casualty Clearing Station was there briefly in August and September 1918. The last burial was made in May 1919.

There are now 2,890 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. Only 12 of the burials are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 21 casualties whose graves in the cemetery could not be exactly located. The cemetery also contains 83 German graves.

The burials in this cemetery were carried out under extreme pressure and many of the graves are either too close together to be marked individually, or they contain multiple burials. Some headstones carry as many as three sets of casualty details, and in these cases, regimental badges have had to be omitted. Instead, these badges, 117 in all, have been carved on a cloister wall on the north side of the cemetery.

Photos of Heilly Station Cemetery – *(Courtesy of Fabrice Martin thru Antony Firth)*







Pte George Cross (Front – far right)





Pte George Cross is buried in the next row – 6 C (Photo from CWGC)

