

Sutton Veny

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



32979 PRIVATE

T. J. WEBB

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

24TH APRIL, 1917

Thomas James WEBB

Thomas James Webb was born at Towcester, Northamptonshire around 1886 to parents George & Elizabeth Ann Webb (nee Sharp).

The 1891 Census recorded George (Postman Retired, aged 43) & Elizabeth A. Webb (aged 40) living at No. 10 Spring Gardens, Towcester, Northamptonshire in a 4 roomed dwelling. Three children were listed living with them – Lizzie S. (aged 8), George H. (aged 4) & William E. (aged 1). A Thomas Sharp Webb was listed as a 5 year old living with his widower grandfather – James Sharp (Scavenger, aged 73) at Bransons Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire.

The 1901 England Census recorded Thomas Webb as a 15 year old Butcher's boy living with his family at Spring Gardens, Towcester, Northamptonshire. His parents were listed as George Webb (Rural Postman Pensioner, aged 53, born Ashton, Northamptonshire) & Elizabeth A Webb (aged 50, born Towcester). Thomas was the eldest of 4 children listed on this Census, all born at Towcester – George H. Webb (Stable boy, aged 14), William E. (aged 11) & Minnie Webb (aged 7).

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas James Webb as a 25 year old Stableman (Groom) living as a Boarder with the Wootton family at Tingewick, Buckingham in a 9 roomed dwelling. The head of the house was Alfred Wootton (Farmer & Horse dealer, aged 35). Alfred Wootton was married to Eliza Wootton (aged 38) & they had 3 children – Elizabeth Ann (aged 10), Henry David (aged 8) & Thomas Percy (aged 6). Also listed in the household was another boarder – Emanuel Cyril Wyate (Stableman- groom, aged 20) & Jane Clifford (Servant, aged 22).

Thomas James Webb married Sarah Amor at Calne Methodist Church, Silver Street, Calne, Wiltshire in 1915. Their marriage was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Calne, Wiltshire.

A birth was registered for Ernest J. Webb, (mother's maiden name Amor), in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Calne, Wiltshire. A death was registered in March quarter, 1916 for Ernest J. Webb in the district of Calne, Wiltshire.

Thomas James Webb enlisted with the Royal Wilts Yeomanry & was given the service number of 1267. Private Thomas James Webb was transferred to Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment & given the service number of 32979. Private Webb's records show that he was attached to 2nd Battalion.

Private Thomas James Webb was killed in action on 24th April, 1917, aged 30 years.

2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

The 2nd Battalion started 1915 in the Fleurbaix area remaining in the waterlogged trenches when they were relieved by the Canadians in March. They were removed from the line to prepare for a major assault at Neuve Chapelle which started on the 9th of March. By the 14th March the battalion had suffered nearly 400 casualties. After a few days rest they returned to the line at Laventie where they resumed trench warfare.

23-24 April, 1917 – The Second Battle of the Scarpe (which was a phase of the Battles of Arras), including the capture of Guemappe and Gavrelle.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

24 April, 1917 – Location – Trenches, France

About 11.0am the 2nd Yorkshire Regt advanced from their trenches in a North Easterly direction. Shortly after parties of Germans were seen advancing from the South West corner of VIS-EN-ARTROIS. Colonel GILLSON at once communicated with Brigade Headquarters, and shortly afterwards ordered the Battalion to advance in support of the 2nd Yorkshire Regt. The Battalion advanced in artillery formation, "C" and "D" companies leading, followed by "B" company and Battalion Headquarters. The enemy put down a considerable barrage and caused a few casualties, but in no way hindered the advance, which continued until we reached the

CHERISY - HENINEL road. The Battalion then dug in astride the road, and remained there until dark. The enemy continued to shell intermittently throughout the day, but being ignorant of our position caused few casualties. In the evening orders were received to proceed to the BLUE LINE and join up with the 33rd Division on our right and the 18th King's (Liverpool) Regt on our left, between O.31.c.3.6 and O.31.b.1.3. At 8.15 pm the Battalion moved to this position, "D" company on the right, "C" company in the centre, and "B" company on the left, Battalion headquarters moving to the SUNKEN ROAD at N.36.b.5.5 (Map Ref. FRANCE 51.b.S.W Edition 4a). Companies immediately commenced to improve their positions by consolidating the existing cable trench and digging "T" heads out from the trench towards the enemy. Posts were pushed out in front of the cable trench at the following points, viz, O.31.c.3.7. O.31.c.5.8., O.31.c.85.90., O.31.central, O.31.b.2.1., and O.31.b.2.2. The enemy was quiet during the night on our front.

(War Diary Entry from [The Wardrobe](#))

Private Thomas James Webb is remembered on the Arras Memorial, France – Bay 7 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas James Webb, 32979, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. No family details are listed.

Private Thomas J. Webb 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.



British War Medal & Victory Medal

Thomas Webb is remembered on the 1914 -1919 Roll of Honour located inside St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

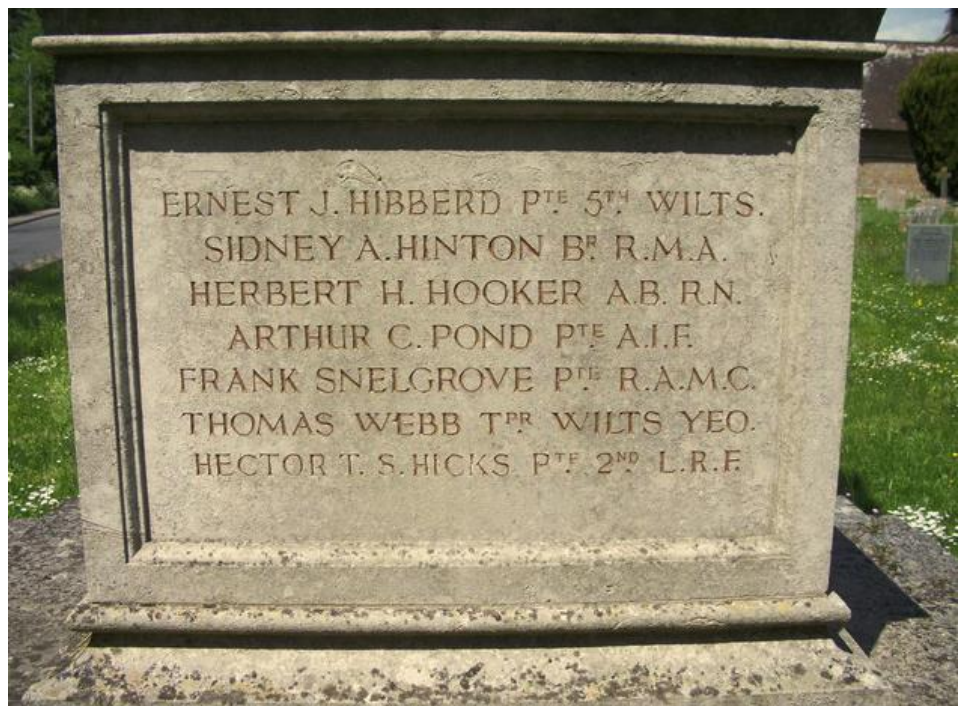


T. Webb is also honoured in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for the parish of Sutton Veny.

Thomas Webb is also remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist churchyard.



Sutton Veny War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth)



Arras Memorial, France

The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras. The cemetery is near the Citadel, approximately 2 kms due west of the railway station.

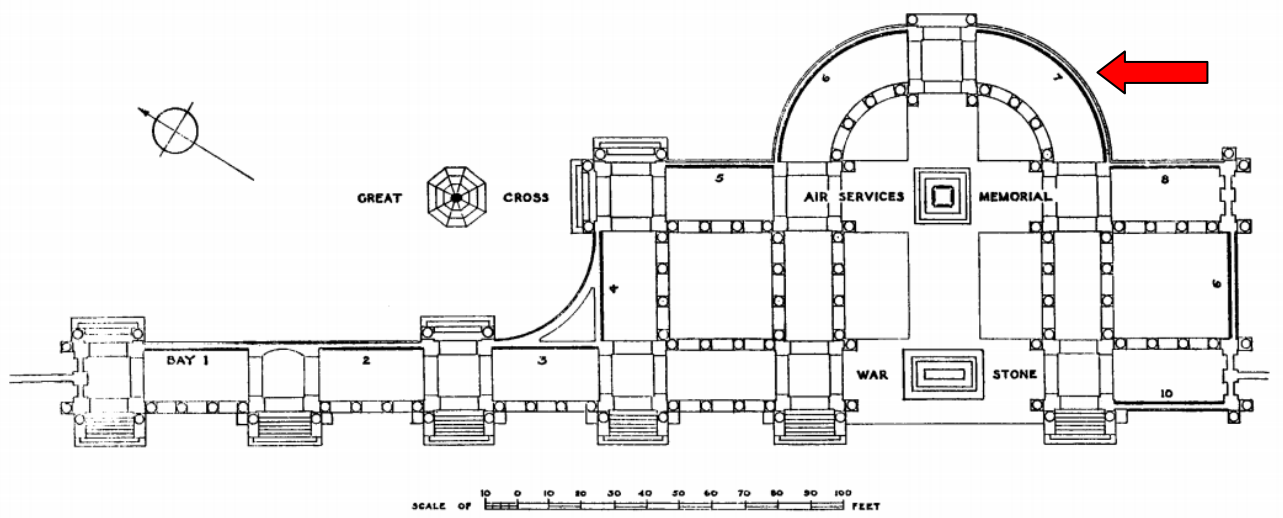
The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917.

The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial.

The adjacent ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. (*Information & photos - CWGC*)





LAY-OUT OF THE PANELS (OR BAYS).