



WWI Casualty

Reginald George Box

Rifleman 6360, London Regiment (The Rangers)



Reginald (Reggie) George Box was born in North Bradley and registered in the December Quarter of 1895 in the Westbury Registration District. He was the son of Fredrick G. and Rosina Box (nee Bull).

Although Reggie was born in North Bradley by the time the 1901 census was taken the family had moved to Kemps Buildings, Mortimer Street, Trowbridge. The family included the following:-

Frederick G. Box, Head, aged 42, a woollen cloth weaver, born in Melksham; Rosina, wife, aged 42, cloth worker (piecer), born in Trowbridge; Florence, daughter, aged 17, cloth worker feeder, born in Westbury; Bertie, son, aged 13, born in Trowbridge; Walter, son, aged 12, born in Trowbridge; Cuthbert, son, aged 8, born in Trowbridge; Reginald, son, aged 6, born in Trowbridge; Mary, daughter, aged 3, born in North Bradley.

Ten years later the family had moved to 89 Dursley Road, Trowbridge. The family now recorded as follows:-

Frederick, head, aged 54, cloth weaver, born in Frome, Somerset; Rose, wife, aged 53, housekeeper, born in Trowbridge; Alfred, son, aged 32 (married), plate layers labourer, born in Trowbridge; Bert, son, aged 22, Great Western Railway porter, born in Trowbridge; Walter, son, aged 20, farm labourer, born in Trowbridge; Kerwin (Cuthbert), son, aged 18, cloth weaver, born in Trowbridge; Reggie, son, 16, slaughterman labourer, born in North Bradley; May, daughter, aged 12, at school, born North Bradley; Mary Ann Bull, mother-in-law, widow, invalid, aged 81, born in Trowbridge.

Reggie worked for Case & Sons, Butchers when he registered for active service under the Derby Scheme at Trowbridge (men could enlist but not be called up until required). When he was called up in April 1916, he had been passed for home service duties only and attached to the 9th Middlesex Regiment as Private 4415.

At some point he was passed as being fit for active service and was sent to France as Rifleman 6360 serving with the 1st/12th Battalion London Regiment (The Rangers) in September 1916.

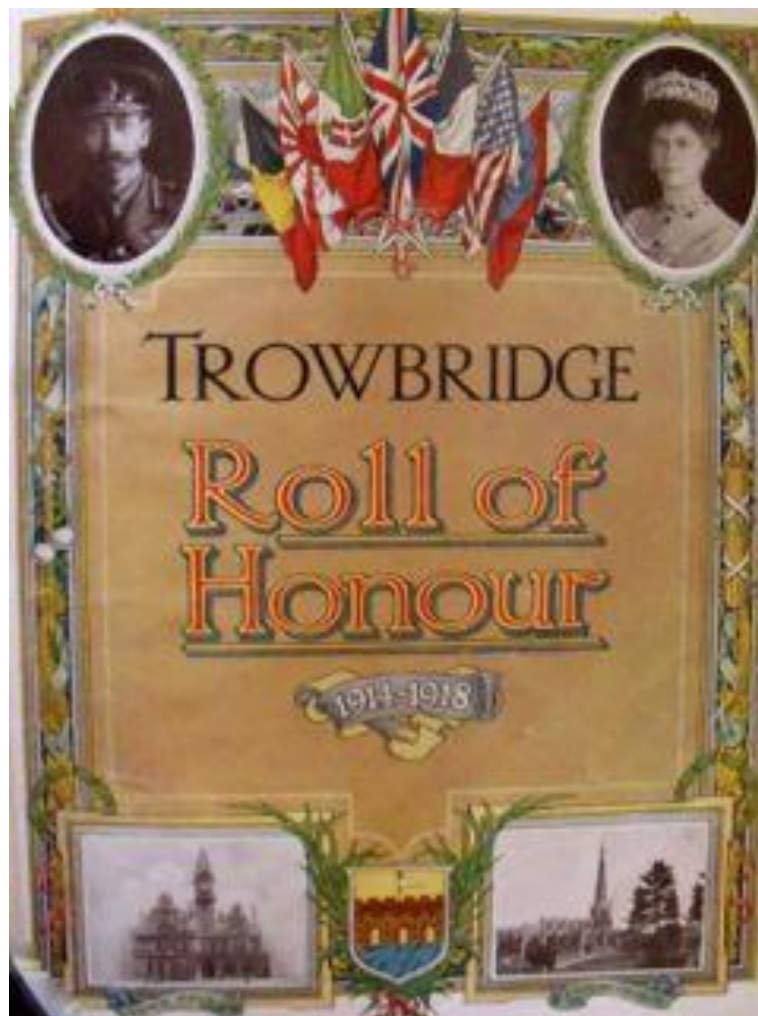
Just two weeks later his parents received a letter from one of Reggie's comrades saying that Reggie had been killed on 7th October 1916. No official confirmation had been received from the War Office and the parents wrote to Reggie's Commanding Officer who gave false hope in his reply stating that Reggie was alive on the 14th October. It wasn't until mid November that official confirmation of his death on the 7th October was received.

He had been killed in the Battle of Ancre Heights on the Somme presumably when the Rangers made an assault on a German trench which failed. This was probably the first action Reggie had taken part in.

Reginald's name is recorded on the Thiéval Memorial on the Somme on pier and face 9C, having no known grave.



Reggie is also commemorated in the Trowbridge & District Memorial Book



Holy Trinity Trowbridge War Memorial