

Upton Lovell

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



15996 PRIVATE

A. T. WILD

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY

23RD JULY, 1916 AGE 37

Alfred Thomas WILD

Alfred Thomas Wild was born at Hackney, London around 1880, to parents Alfred Thomas & Jane Wild (nee Watton). Alfred's parents had married at St Thomas' Church in Bethnal Green, Middlesex on 22nd December, 1878. It is possible that Alfred Wild's birth was registered in the district of Bethnal Green, London in the June quarter of 1880.

The 1881 Census records Alfred Wild as a 1 year old, living with his family at 26 Horatio Street, Bethnal Green, London / Middlesex. His parents were recorded as Alfred Wild (Boot maker, aged 22) & Jane Wild (aged 24, born Bethnal Green). Alfred was the eldest of two children list on this census, his younger sister Eleanor was aged 3 months. (Eleanor Julia Wild was baptised on 9th November, 1881 at St. Thomas' Church, Bethnal Green, where her parents had married. Her father, Alfred Wild was listed as a Cabinet Maker & the family were still living at 26 Horatio Street, Bethnal Green.)

The 1901 Census records Alfred Wild as a Private listed at the Raglan Army Barracks (North), Devonport. He was attached to 5th Provisional Battalion & was recorded as a 21 year old, born at Hackney, Middlesex.

Alfred Thomas Wild married Louisa Clifford on 4th August, 1901 in the parish church of Hackney, London. He was a 21 year old carman, living at 15 Orchard Place, Hackney. His father – Alfred Thomas Wild was listed as an Undertaker. Louisa Clifford was listed as a 22 year old, living at 41 Orchard Place, Hackney. Her father – Edward Clifford was listed as dead.

Alfred Thomas Wild enlisted with the Army and was given the rank of Private & a service number of 15996.

Private Alfred Thomas Wild was killed in action on 23rd July, 1916, aged 37 years. Private Alfred T. Wild's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

On Wednesday 19th July, 1916 the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry moved into forward positions near Longueval, in France, occupying a sunken road leading to High Wood. On the 23rd July, 1916 the Battalion attacked Delville Wood, initially making good headway and captured a strong point. The Germans made a fierce counter attack and forced the Battalion to retire to Pont St. Casualties amounted to 149 men killed during 23rd July, 1916.

War Diary Records - Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Date – 23rd July, 1916

Firing Line. "A", "B" and "D" Companies assaulted three strong points at 3.40am.

"D" Company was repulsed with heavy loss, Captain Gent, 2nd Lts. Ellery and Ellis were wounded and 2nd Lts. Liversedge and Willis were missing and believed killed.

"B" Company reached their objective but as the enemy came round their flanks they were compelled to retire with heavy loss owing to machine gun fire.

“A” Company also reached their objective but was compelled to retire owing to machine gun fire from the rear and the fact that their flanks were also in the air.

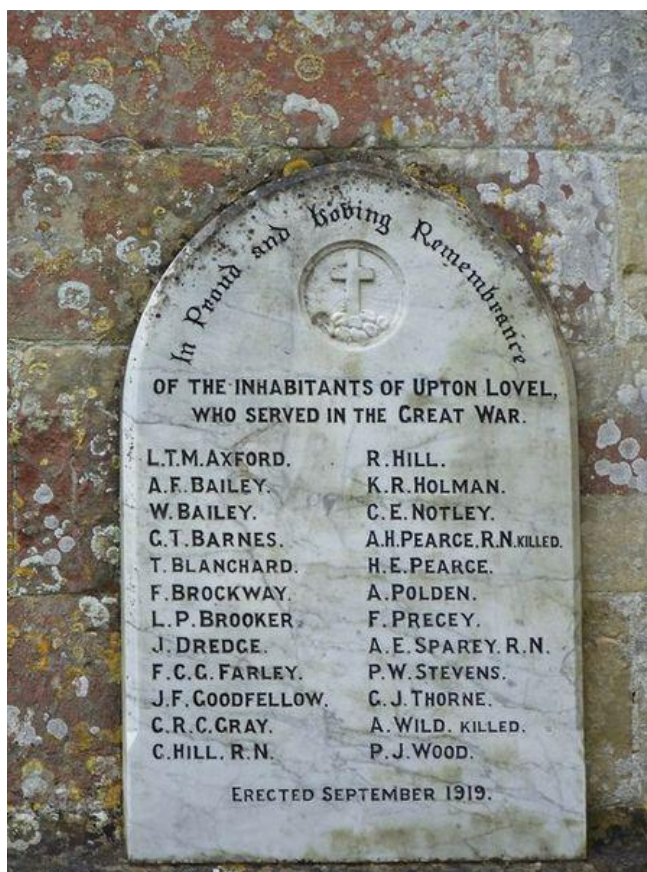
The battalion was relieved at night by the 1st Devons and returned to the trenches in Happy Valley.”

Private Alfred Thomas Wild is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial in France (Pier 6 and Face B) as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Private Alfred Thomas Wild as the son of Alfred Thomas Wild, husband of Louisa Wild, of Upton Level, Wilts.

Private Alfred T. Wild was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show when he had entered a Theatre of War.

A. Wild is remembered in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book.

A. Wild is also remembered on the World War One Plaque for those that served from Upton Lovell.



(Photo by Trish Steel 2008)

Theipval Memorial, France

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The 72,194 names of the men missing in action on the battlefield of the Somme are inscribed on 64 huge stone panels, which form each of the four faces of a total of 16 piers for the building. The Panel numbers (or Pier and Face) quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. (CWGC)

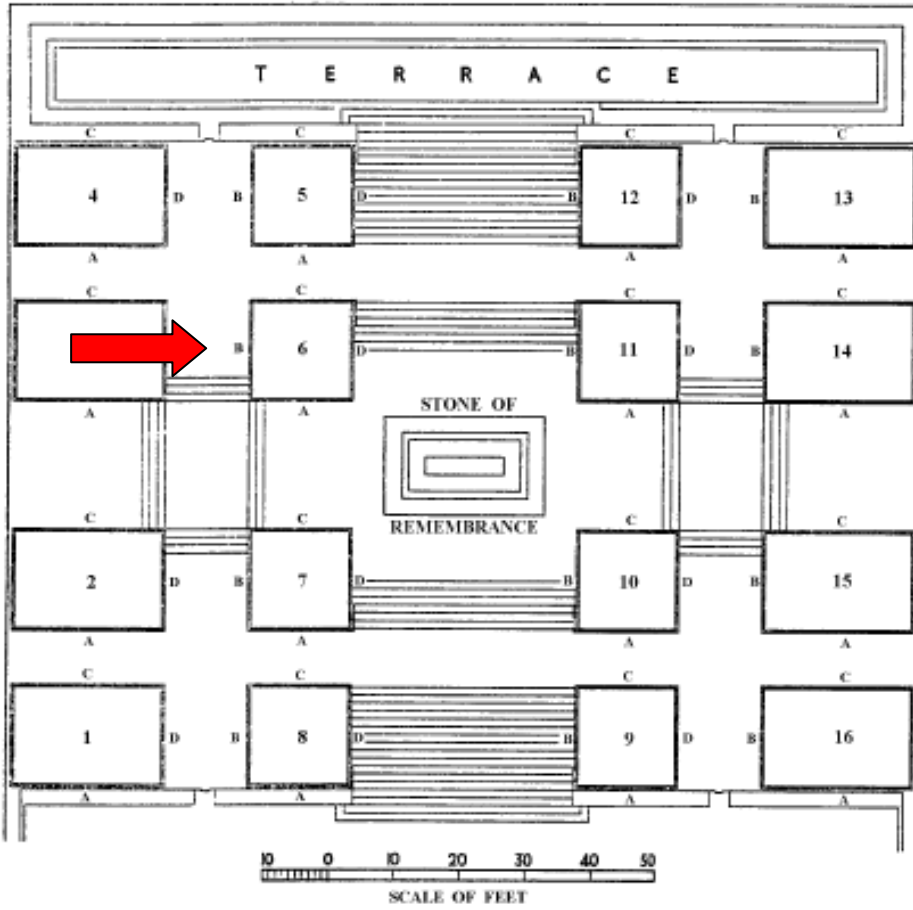


Thiepval Memorial (CWGC photo)

HERE ARE RECORDED
 NAMES OF OFFICERS
 AND MEN OF THE
 BRITISH ARMIES WHO FELL
 ON THE SOMME BATTLEFIELDS
 JULY 1915 FEBRUARY 1918
 BUT TO WHOM
 THE FORTUNE OF WAR
 DENIED THE KNOWN
 AND HONOURED BURIAL
 GIVEN TO THEIR
 COMRADES IN DEATH

	WHEELER B. K.	BANCROFT
	WHITE C.	BARKER F.
W.	WHITE R.	BRIGGS E.
K S.	WHITEHEAD A.W.	CRAVEN W.
	WILD A. T.	EASTWOOD
	WILLI J. P.	FERGUSON
P. C.	WILLIAMS A.	M
	WILLIAMS A. E.	GAWTHORP
E.	WILLIAMS H. E.	GIBSON J. V.
F. W.	WILLIAMS W. H.	GOOCH J. I.
	WILLIAMSON	HARRISON
	T. J.	HARTLEY
T. A.	WILLIS F. C.	HOBSON D.
	WILMER W. E.	KENT F.
	WOOLLEY F. H.	LEE L.
H.	WORBEY A. W.	LEISHMAN
E.	WORBY S.	LITTLEWOOD
	WRETTON C. F.	LUMB H.
	YOUNG F. G.	MOODYCLIFF
	ELLINGTON'S RECT.	PARKER T.

(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

THE NUMBERS OF THE PIERS
AND LETTERS OF THE FACES