



## Arthur Samuel Burrows

Arthur Samuel Burrows was born in Corby in 1890. His father, John William Burrows was from Ketton, Rutland. His mother, Mary Ann Burrows (nee Humphrey) was from Geddington. The couple had married in Kettering in 1879.

### The Family

The newly married couple was living in Corby in 1879 when their son John William junior was born.

The 1891 Census has John & Mary Ann living in Corby with their children, John William, Jane Elizabeth, Mary Louisa, Sarah Jane, Alfred, Mary Ellen & Arthur Samuel. All of their children were recorded as being born in Corby. John William was employed as a labourer. Also living at the house was Joseph Humphrey an agricultural labourer from Great Oakley.

In the 1901 Census, John William Burrows is recorded as lodging with the Clarke family in Wood Street, Kettering. His employment was as a farm labourer.

In the 1911 Census, John William Burrows is living with his son, John William junior and his family in Edmund Street, Kettering.

In the 1911 Census, Arthur Samuel Burrows is visiting his sister Mary Louisa Rawson and family in William Street, Kettering. Arthur's occupation is soldier.

Arthur Samuel Burrows married Mary J Haugh on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1912 in Devonport. A daughter, Margaret, was born in Devonport on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1912.

### Military Service

Arthur Samuel Burrows was a professional soldier. He attested on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1906, joining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment in March 1906. His previous occupation is given as shoe hand; his residence Corby. In his enlistment papers from 1906, his father John William Burrows was living in Field Street, Kettering.

As stated above, according to the 1911 Census he was still a soldier at that date.

He was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1914 being appointed Acting Lance Corporal in October 1914. He was posted back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1914 at the time of his embarkation to France.



Arthur Samuel Burrows, serving in “D” Company, was killed in action at the Battle of Aubers Ridge on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915. Four other soldiers from the Borough, serving in the Northamptonshire Regiment, were killed that day (two others from Corby, one from Weldon, one from Gretton).

Arthur Burrows is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial and the Corby War Memorial.

The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and who have no known grave. The Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court. The names of those commemorated are listed on panels set into the walls of the court and the gallery, arranged by regiment, rank and alphabetically by surname within the rank. The memorial was designed by John Reginald Truelove, who had served as an officer with the London Regiment during the war, and unveiled by the British ambassador to France, Lord Tyrrell, on 22 March 1930.

Almost all of the men commemorated on the Memorial served with regular or territorial regiments from across the United Kingdom and were killed in actions that took place along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war, including the battles of La Bassée (10 October – 2 November 1914), Neuve Chapelle (10 – 12 March 1915), Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915), and Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915). Soldiers serving with Indian and Canadian units who were killed in this sector in 1914 and '15 whose remains were never identified are commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle and Vimy memorials, while those who fell during the northern pincer attack at the Battle of Aubers Ridge are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

The British Expeditionary Force in French Flanders, 1914 – 1915 - In October 1914, II Corps of the British Expeditionary Force moved north from Picardy and took up positions in French Flanders where they were immediately engaged in the series of attacks and counter attacks that would become known as the ‘race to the sea’. Over the course of the next year most of the British activity in this sector focused on attempting to dislodge the German forces from their advantageous position on the Aubers Ridge and capture the city of Lille, a major industrial and transport centre which the Germans had occupied early in the war. The ridge is a slight incline in an otherwise extremely flat landscape from which the Germans were able to observe



and bombard the British lines. Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along the ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements. These extra defences frustrated British attempts to break through enemy lines and led to very heavy casualties at the battles of Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May 1915.

Le Touret Military Cemetery - The men of the Indian Corps began burying their fallen comrades at this site in November 1914 and the cemetery was used continually by field ambulances and fighting units until the German spring offensive began in March 1918. Richebourg L'Avoue was overrun by the German forces in April 1918, but the cemetery was used again in September and October after this territory was recaptured by the Allies. Today over 900 Commonwealth servicemen who were killed during the First World War are buried here.

#### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

***Lest We Forget***

**Arthur Samuel Burrows**  
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915