



## **George William Pridmore**

George William Pridmore was born in Gretton in 1885. His father was John W Pridmore (from near Southwick), his mother Sarah Pridmore (nee Mason) from Oakham.

### The Family

In the 1891 Census the Pridmore family were living in Gretton, John and Sarah together with their children Mary, George, Ernest and Cecil.

By 1901 the family were living in Brook Street, Kettering. Two additional children were resident, Charles (b. Gretton) and Florence (b. Kettering). George William Pridmore was listed as 15 years of age.

By 1911 George William Pridmore was living at Sculcoates near Hull. He was employed as a Prison Warden at HMP Hull.

He married Mabel Priestman at the Baptist Church, Hull on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1911. The couple had three children George, Miriam and Florence.

### Military Service

References in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour indicate that George William Pridmore enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1901 and served for a year in the South African War. He would have been 16 years old at the time.

De Ruvigny's also states that in 1903 he transferred to the Northamptonshire Regiment, serving 6 years in total before transfer to the Army Reserve.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 he was called-up and was sent to France on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914, serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment (7017).

It is recorded that Sergeant George William Pridmore was killed in action at La Basse on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1914. According to one report whilst endeavouring to save the life of his officer.

Sergeant Pridmore is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial and on Gretton War Memorial.

In addition, Sergeant George William Pridmore is listed on the Commemorative Roll at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which



Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. It is assumed that George's widow, who emigrated to Australia, listed her husband's death at some stage.

### The Le Touret 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.

### References

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Australian War Memorial  
Gretton Local History Society

***Lest We Forget***

**George William Pridmore**  
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 4<sup>th</sup> April 1918

George's parents and siblings Cecil and Florence emigrated to Canada in 1913. In the Canadian Census 1921 they were living in Montreal, John Pridmore was a fireman.

George's widow (Mabel) emigrated to Australia.

In De Ruvigny's it is recorded that George's three brothers all served during the First World War.

Cecil James Pridmore had emigrated to Canada before the war. He served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



Charles Edward Pridmore served in the Border Regiment; he was a professional soldier.

Ernest Pridmore served in the Scottish Rifles (The Cameronians).

All three brothers returned from the war.

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