



Arthur Thomas Simmons

Arthur Thomas Simmons was born in Seaton, Rutland in 1889. His father, William Simmons was originally from Devon, his mother Ellen Simmons (nee Smith) was from Seaton. The couple had married in 1878.

The Family

In 1881 William & Ellen were living in Seaton. William was a railway labourer. The couple had two children, Robert and Alice. Mary Cunnington of Seaton was lodging with the family.

In 1901 the Simmons family was living in Lloyd's Cottages, Corby. William was employed as an ironstone labourer. With William and Ellen were their children, Alice (20), George (16), Mary (13), Arthur Thomas (11), Maud (9), Francis (6) and Emma Louisa (3).

Arthur's mother Ellen died in 1908.

Arthur was still living in Lloyd's Cottages in 1911 and was employed as an invoice clerk at the iron works. His father William, now 62, was a platelayer at the quarry and Arthur's younger brother Francis was employed as a messenger boy at the quarry. Emma Louisa was acting as housekeeper. The family had a boarder, an engine cleaner at the quarry, Edward Broomfield from Kettering.

Military Service

Arthur Simmons served as a Private (37958) in the 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment.

At the outbreak of the War, the 1st Battalion was stationed in Mauritius. It returned to the United Kingdom in December 1914 where it joined the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division.

On 21st March 1915 the Battalion embarked for Gallipoli, arriving on 25th April 1915.

On 8th January 1916 the Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli and relocated to Egypt. The Battalion had suffered heavy casualties and needed to regroup.

On 16th March 1916 the Battalion embarked for France and was to serve the remainder of the war on the Western Front.

On 4th February 1918 the Battalion joined the 112th Brigade of the 37th Division.



It is recorded in the Battalion diary that at the time of Private Simmon's death on 23rd August 1918, the Battalion was involved in an attack on German positions near Bucquoy.

Private Arthur Thomas Simmons is buried at the Bucquoy Communal Cemetery Extension and remembered on the Corby War Memorial.

The village of Bucquoy was occupied by the 7th Division on 17 March 1917, and was the scene of very heavy fighting in March and April 1918.

Bucquoy Communal Cemetery Extension was made by the Royal Naval Division burial officer at the beginning of September 1918. It contains 68 First World War burials, all dating from 23-28 August 1918.

The extension was designed by W H Cowlshaw.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

Arthur Thomas Simmons
of the Essex Regiment

d. 23rd August 1918

April 2016 Copy