



In Memory of

Joseph Stephen Belcher

Private

**Royal Berkshire Regiment
2/4th Battalion**

Service Number: 201747

Died at Home: 3rd December 1917

Age: 23

Son of James & Emily Belcher
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

St Michael's Churchyard (Steventon)



James William Biles

OX and Bucks L.I. 6th Battalion

60th Brigade 20th Division

Action Trones Wood Battle of the Somme 1916

7th October 1.45 am The Battalion left all trenches and attacked Rainbow Trench the leading waves moved out of the British line close up to our barrage. Arrived at the German barbed wire (40yds in front of our trench) and laid down. The enemy had manned his parapet 60 yds to our front @ was delivering a very hot fire from 6 M.G.s and Rifles our troops answered, shortly afterwards the advance began again, some men were able to crawl through the wire others were able to move round through the gaps others by planting their feet on the top strand of wire were able to get through. The wire extended along the whole frontage of the Battalions left company it was about 2'6" high and appeared more of an alarming obstacle than it was. During the period Zero to zero plus 4 minutes the enemies M.G. fire was very intense at the later time it was silenced, The enemy then left their trenches unarmed and ran back towards their second line during their retreat large numbers were seen to fall from the fire of our Lewis Guns and few Germans got back. The enemy in front trenches were Bayoneted or surrendered. The advance to the German second line was accomplished with comparatively little loss. Our troops reached their final objective and consolidated their positions. The attack was launched in conjunction with 56th Division on the right and 12th Division on the left.

Casualties

Officers 13 Other Ranks 230



In Memory of

James William Biles

Private

**Ox & Bucks Light Infantry
6th Battalion**

Service Number: 32754

Killed In Action: 7th October 1916 (Battle of the Somme)

Age 24

Son of Henry & Mary Biles
of Drayton, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Thiepval Memorial (To The Missing) Pier & Face, 10a & 10d





In Memory of

Arthur Richard Betteridge

Private

**Royal Berkshire Regiment
3rd Battalion**

Service Number: 34069

Died at Home: 18th February 1917

Age: 32

Son of Jonathon & Agnes Betteridge
of Steventon, Berkshire
Husband of Amy Florence Betteridge
of East Hendred, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

St Michael's Churchyard, (Steventon)





In Memory of

Albert Ernest Broad

Private

Royal Fusiliers (City of London)

4th Battalion

Service Number: G/76492

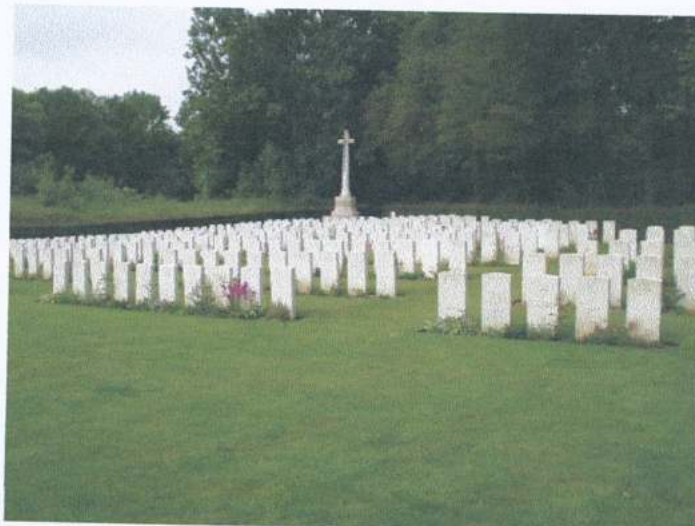
Killed in Action: 24th April 1918 (Battle of Lys)

Age: 19

Son of Peter & Mary Broad
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil (I.A.6)



George Bunce

Essex Regiment 15th Battalion

177th Brigade 59th Division

Location Harleck Castle Near Laventie France

21st September 1918

4.36 am Raiding Party consisting of 2 Officers and 30 Other Ranks carried out a raid on **Two Tree Farm**. Leaving Windy Post at 4.36 am a considerable amount of wire had to be cut.

7 Germans were occupying a trench and ran out. 5 of them were killed.

The party was then attacked by about 20 men who came out of the farm and were beaten back by rifles and hand grenades.

At the same time another enemy party attacked but was broken up by gun fire.

Party then advanced on **Farm** but met with heavy Machine Gun fire.

Party after evacuating wounded retired to Windy Post.

Casualties

1 Officer Wounded

1 Other Rank **Killed** 6 Other Ranks Wounded



In Memory of

George Bunce

Lance Corporal

Essex Regiment

15th Battalion

Service Number: 55570

Killed in Action: 21st September 1918

Age: 40

Son of Henry & Mary Bunce

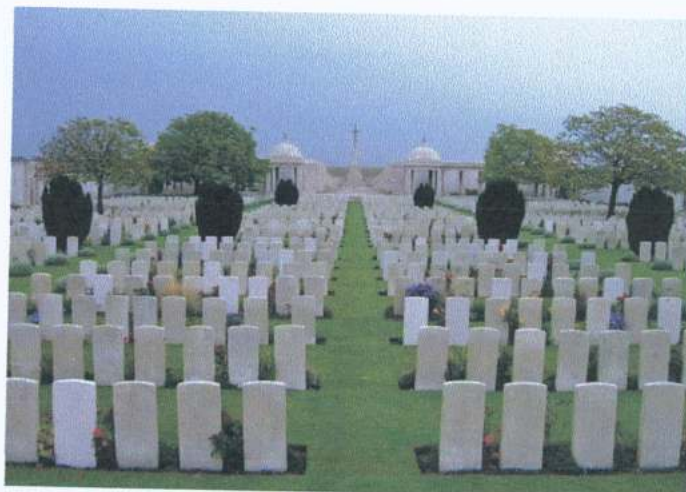
of Steventon, Berkshire

Husband of Alice Bunce

of Oxford

Remembered with Honour:

Loos Memorial (Panel 85-87)





In Memory of

Walter Bunce

Private

**Border Regiment
7th Battalion**

Service Number: 29034

Died at Home: 19th November 1918

Age: 33

Son of Tom & Sarah Bunce
of Steventon, Berkshire
Husband of J. E. Bunce
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

St Michael's Churchyard (Steventon)





In Memory of

Frederick George Dearlove

Private

**Royal Berkshire Regiment
2nd Battalion**

Service Number: 16654

Killed in Action: 25th September 1915 (Battle of Bois Grenier, Loos)

Age: 19

Son of George & Louisa Dearlove
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Ploegsteert Memorial (Panel 7 & 8)





British front line at Bois Grenier, near Armentieres. August 1915.

Photograph, World War One, Western Front (1914-1918), 1915.

Belts of wire protected the front-line trenches. These were placed far enough from the trenches to prevent the enemy from approaching to within grenade-throwing distance. Sometimes barbed-wire entanglements were designed to channel attacking infantry into machine-gun and artillery fields of fire. Armies therefore tried to destroy the wire with artillery prior to any offensive, often with mixed results.

Soldiers on all sides hated the wire and dreaded getting caught in it. A classic British song, entitled 'Hanging on the Old Barbed Wire', summed up this fear:

If you want to find the old battalion, I know where they are, I know where they are, I know where they are. If you want to find the old battalion, I know where they are. They're hanging on the old barbed wire. I've seen 'em, I've seen 'em, hanging on the old barbed wire. I've seen 'em, I've seen 'em, hanging on the old barbed wire.

One of 193 British and Allied official photographs taken on the Western Front.

NAM Accession Number

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Location

National Army Museum, Study collection

Frederick George Dearlove

Royal Berkshire Regiment 2nd Battalion

25th Brigade 8th Division

Battle of Bois Grenier 25th September 1915 France

4.25 am Artillery bombarded the three enemy lines . The first line with Field guns for 5 minutes. Second line with Field Howitzers for 15 minutes. Third line and communication trenches till 5.am

4.30 am The lines attacked the enemy front trenches

A Coy The enemy put up flares@used a search light and came under heavy rifle fire the Coy failed to get in, Possibly due to the enemy wire not being well cut and search light showing up the attackers.

B Coy Got in with few casualties and disposed of the defenders but found a gap between B Coy and A Coy and immediately attacked but their Bombs ran out and the enemy held the trench. C Coy got into the enemy trench @ either bayoneted the occupants or drove them out a M. G. caused some casualties. In the dark @ in the deep and narrow trenches it was difficult to see what was happening. Dugouts were cleared either by bayonet, revolver or bombs. The fight became one of bombs and grenades, during the morning there was constant shelling in both directions.

2.15 pm The men were forced back to our own original trenches.



11pm Battalion relieved by Battalions of the 24th Infantry Brigade.

Casualties

Officers Killed 7 Wounded 5

Other Ranks Killed 32 Missing 143 Wounded 216

Record Details for William George Dewe (Princess Charlotte Of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment))

First Name:	William George
Initials:	W G
Surname:	Dewe
DOB:	Circa 1892
Age:	25
Birth Town:	Sutton Wick, Berkshire
Resided Town:	Steventon, Berkshire
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	07/05/1917
Fate:	Killed in Action
Information:	Parents: Charles and Charlotte Dewe of Sutton Courtney Abingdon; husband of Beatrice Alice Dewe of The Causeway, Steventon, Berks.
Rank:	Lance Corporal
Service Number:	15638
Gallantry Awards:	<p>Military Medal This Level 3 Gallantry Medal was established during the First World War on the 25th March 1916 and introduced in the London Gazette issue 29535, (back dated to 1914) to personnel of the British Army and other services, and personnel of Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank. It was the other ranks' equivalent to the Military Cross (M.C.), (which was awarded to Commissioned Officers and, rarely, to Warrant Officers, who could also be awarded the M.M.).</p> <p>The military decoration was awarded to William George Dewe for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal.</p> <p>Conferment of the medal was announced in the London Gazette and William George Dewe earned the right to add the letters M.M. to his name.</p>
Duty Location:	France And Flanders
Campaign Medals:	<div>  <p>Victory Medal Given the information we have available it is likely that William George Dewe was entitled to the Victory medal, also called the Inter Allied Victory Medal. This medal was awarded to all who received the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star and, with certain exceptions, to those who received the British War Medal. It was never awarded alone. These three medals were sometimes irreverently referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.</p> <p>Eligibility for this award consisted of having been mobilised, fighting, having served in any of the theatres of operations, or at sea, between midnight 4th/5th August, 1914, and midnight, 11th/12th November, 1918. Women who served in any of the various military organisations in a theatre of operations were also eligible.</p> </div> <div>  <p>British War Medal From the information available to us, it is very possible that William George Dewe was entitled to the British War Medal for service in World War One. This British Empire campaign medal was issued for services between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918.</p> <p>The medal was automatically awarded in the event of death on active service before the completion of this period.</p> </div>
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Princess Charlotte Of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment)
Battalion:	6th Battalion
Commemorated:	Britain

The Scarpe, Arras, Fampoux and Roeux (8th April to 14th May 1917)

The misfortunes of Britain's allies in 1917 dictated circumstances in which three major battles, Arras, 3rd Ypres and Cambrai, were planned and fought.

The Household Battalion was involved to the hilt in all three. The French commander Nivelle was replaced by Marshals Foch and Petain in Spring 1917 after part of the French army mutinied.

Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig launched the Arras offensive on Easter Monday 1917 to draw German attention away from the disaster which had overtaken the French army, further South. As a cavalry officer, he saw the mission of cavalry as the exploitation of the eventual break through in the trench war stalemate and put the 3rd Cavalry Division into the attack on the Hindenburg Line at Monchy le Preux on Easter Monday, 9th April 1917.

There was a general advance of the infantry north and south of the 45 foot wide, 6 foot deep Scarpe River flowing east to west through Arras. North of the Scarpe, the Household Battalion, as part of the 10th Brigade in the 4th Infantry Division were allotted the task of advancing along the swampy banks of the muddy little river on the hamlet of Fampoux, (formerly pop. 1,015 but now flattened and enemy held).

While their brothers of The 1st and 2nd Life Guards and Blues rode against barbed wire and machine guns with the 3rd Cavalry Division to Monchy, The Household Battalion stalked towards Fampoux with rifles and bayonets in the sleet. With them were the Warwicks, Seaforth and Royal Irish Fusiliers.

It took the Brigade 11 days to take Fampoux and The Household Battalion lost 9 Officers and 166 non Commissioned Officers and Men killed in action.

Ahead was the smaller but even more formidable German defence at Roeux at a bend in the river, one mile from Fampoux and 6,000 yards from the Hindenburg Line itself.

Roeux Cemetery (3rd May and 12/13th May 1917)

Roeux cemetery, 50 yards north west of the village, must have been among the least attractive pieces of land in northern France in 1917. Packed with Germans, well entrenched, it was even less desirable when The Household Battalion attacked on 3rd May. With the Irish Fusiliers, who had attacked the village. The Battalion was forced back with above 230 casualties.

The attack was renewed on the 12th May, the same battalions taking the same objectives. Smoke shells gave a screen which prevented a clear picture of the attack from Battalion Headquarters, but overnight, and in the early hours of the 13th May, The Household Battalion won one Military Cross and nine Military Medals and forced the Germans out of Roeux at bayonet point.

The squalid little villages of Fampoux and Roeux cost The Household Battalion nine Officers killed and a total of nearly 500 casualties, that is to say, more than half the original strength of The Battalion.

The remnant moved to the cellars under the old city of Arras, ruined and bleak. They rested here for some days while their losses in manpower were made good by new faces - recruits from Windsor.



In Memory of

William George Dewe

Lance Corporal

**Royal Berkshire Regiment
6th Battalion**

Service Number: 15638

Killed in Action: 7th May 1917 (Awarded Military Medal)

Age: 25

Son of Charles & Charlotte Dewe
Husband of Beatrice Drew
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Arras Memorial Bay 7

