

## Arthur Edward Denton

Royal Berkshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

25<sup>th</sup> Brigade 8<sup>th</sup> Division

Attack on Orvillers Battle of the Somme 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916

Our own wire was not sufficient cut and parties were sent to clear it.

6.30 am The intensive bombardment began as scheduled.

7.15 am The enemy opened rifle and Machine Gun fire on our line

7.20 am Companies began filing down trenches for the assault.

7.30 am The three assault Companies advanced to attack the German line. They were by intense rifle and Machine Gun fire which prevented any of the waves reaching the enemy lines. A little group on the left of the battalion succeeded in getting in but were eventually bombed out.

7.45 am The Commanding Officer and Second in Command in Command were wounded in the sap, by then the parapet was being swept by Rifle and Machine gun fire which prevented any exit from our trenches . The enemy replied to our intensive Bombardment by barraging the front line from 6.30am onwards. No message was received from other Battalions in the vicinity.

11.am Orders came from Brigade H.Q. to stand by and await orders. About 200 men of the Battalion were collected on the right of the front line and in the assembly trenches off Ulverston Street.

!2.30 pm News received that the Battalion would be relieved.

Casualties. Officers Killed 2 Died of Wounds1 Missing 9 Wounded 8

Other Ranks Killed 33 Died of Wounds 3 Missing 118 Wounded 260



In Memory of

**Arthur Edward Denton**

Lance Corporal

**Royal Berkshire Regiment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Service Number: 9848

**Died of Wounds: 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 (Battle of the Somme)**

Age: 22

Son of Frederick & Emily Denton  
of Denchworth, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Millencourt Communal Cementery. Ext (A12)





In Memory of

**Percy Edwin Ellaway**

Sergeant

**Hampshire Regiment  
1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Service Number: 1646

**Died of Wounds: 16<sup>th</sup> October 1915**

Age: 36

Son of Joseph & Ronna Ellaway  
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered With Honour:

**Embarkation Pier Ocean Beach Cemetery, Gallipoli**







In Memory of

**Harry Sydney Ellaway**

Bombadier

**Royal Garrison Artillery  
321 Siege Battery**

Service Number: 41307

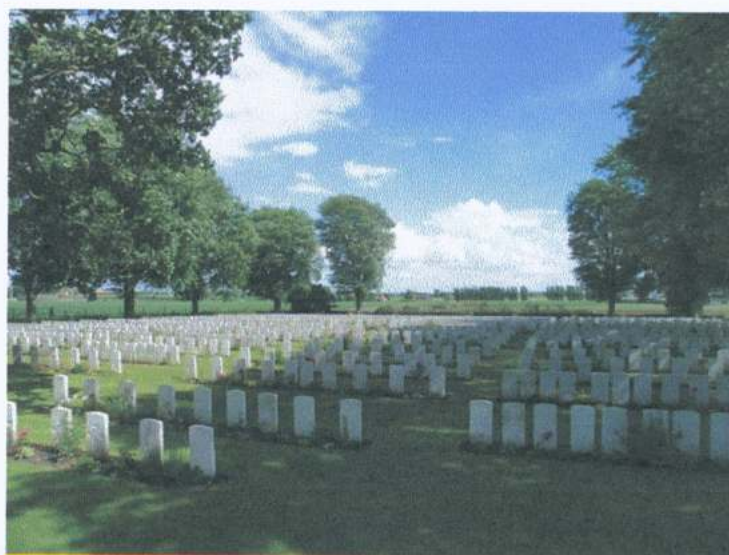
**Killed in Action: 25<sup>th</sup> June 1917**

Age: 21

Son of Albert & Agnes Ellaway  
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered With Honour:

**Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery (Grave 111 C15)**



**essdee**

Lieut-Colonel



Old Sweats

656 posts

Gender:Male

Posted 28 April , 2009

ID: 18

Robert

The detail comes from II Corps HA diary for the end of June'17, unfortunately the narrative through to August doesn't really give much away in terms of possible moves prior to the 8th.

Stuart

PS I seem to remember the PM function doesn't work until you have reached 10 posts.

**essdee**

Lieut-Colonel



Old Sweats

656 posts

Gender:Male

Posted 28 April , 2009

ID: 19

LB

I need to correct myself, the positions of 163 and 321 Siege shown on the previous map should be exchanged.

The gun position of 321 is a short walk north up the lane from Voormezele as you can see from the attached Google map

Stuart



**liverbird**

Corporal

Posted 28 April , 2009

ID: 20

Stuart, thanks very much for the correction, this is all adding up nicely for my files.



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 Cemetry (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.



In Memory of

**George Evezard**

Acting Captain

**Royal Warwickshire Regiment**

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Service Number:

**Died of Wounds: 9<sup>th</sup> May 1917 (Battle of Arras)**

Age: 23

Son of Julian & Alice Evezard  
of Steventon Berkshire

Remembered With Honour:

**Aubigny Communal Cemetery (Ext V1 G 7)**







In Memory of

**Frederick George Fletcher**

Private

**Canadian Infantry  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion (F Company)**

Service Number: 1014

**Killed in Action: 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 (Battle of St. Julien/2nd Ypres)**

Age: 24

Son of Richard & Sarah Fletcher  
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered With Honour:

**Menin Gate Memorial (Panel 24-26 -28 30)**







# Canadian Great War Project

## Private Frederick George Fletcher

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Name:** Fletcher, Frederick George  
**Date of birth:** 1891-04-04  
**Place of birth:** Hill Farm, Steventon, Berkshire  
**Next of kin:** R. Fletcher (father), Hill Farm, Steventon, Berkshire  
**Marital status:** single  
**Occupation (attested):** Miller  
**Height:** 68 inches  
**Chest size (inches):** 35  
**Chest expansion (inches):** 2  
**Date of death:** 1915-04-25  
**Cause of death:** killed in action  
**Buried:** No known grave

### MILITARY INFORMATION

**Regimental number:** 1014  
**Rank:** Private  
**Unit:** 8th Battalion  
**Enlisted/conscripted:** enlisted  
**Date enlisted:** 1914-09-22  
**Location enlisted:** Valcartier, Quebec  
**Survived war:** no  
**Battle wounded/killed:** Battle of St. Julien/2nd Ypres  
**Rank assignments**  
 1. Private, Army, 8th Battalion (Canadian Infantry).

### Images



Private Fletcher



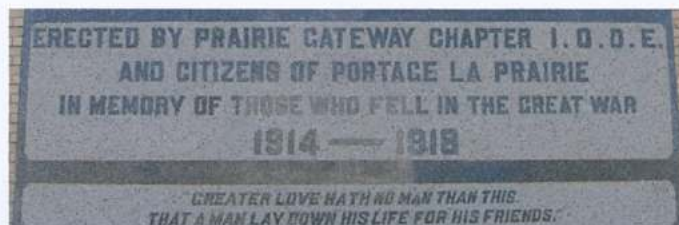
Roll of Honour, Lake of the Woods Milling Company



Portage la Prairie War Memorial



Portage la Prairie War Memorial: Fletcher F.C.



Portage la Prairie War Memorial: In Memory

## RESEARCH INFORMATION

**CVWM ID:** No CVWM ID in our database.

**CWGC ID:** 1592191

**LAC ID:** 393945

**REF:** RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3145 – 39

**Service file:** B3145-S039.

### Uploader's Notes:

Frederick was the son of Richard and Sarah Fletcher of Steventon, Berkshire, England. Richard and Sarah were married in 1874 and Richard worked as an agricultural labourer. They had ten children, all born in Steventon, but two of them died young. Frederick was their youngest child, born in April 1891.

In April 1910 two weeks after his 19th birthday Frederick left England on the Campania, headed for New York. He was listed as single, a farmer from Steventon and next-of-kin was his father Richard Fletcher of Hill Farm. Frederick moved to Canada not long before the war started. He lived in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and worked for the Lake of the Woods Milling Company for several months before enlisting.

Mobilization orders were issued in Canada on 7 August 1914, three days after Britain declared war. Officers and volunteers were told to go to Valcartier, an area about 20 miles north of Quebec City that would become the site of a large military camp. Within a few weeks there were 30,000 men and 7,000 horses there.

Frederick would have travelled by train to Valcartier with other volunteers from Manitoba. At the camp they underwent training, medical tests and inoculations. On 22 September he enlisted with the 8th Battalion, a new unit made up of recruits from Winnipeg and northwestern Ontario. The 8th Battalion embarked for England in October, leaving from Quebec City on the SS Franconia. They were part of a convoy of 32 transport ships protected by a Royal Navy escort because of the danger from German submarines. The convoy arrived safely in Plymouth, England on 14 October.

The 8th Battalion was sent to Salisbury Plain in southern England where they trained for several months. The men were billeted in tents and huts and due to the cold, wet winter weather many of them became sick with severe colds and pneumonia. In December they were given a period of leave for the holiday season and Frederick likely visited his family in Steventon, which was only about 100 km away. In February 1915 the men were sent to France and by April they were in the trenches in Belgium.

Poison gas was first used by the Germans on a large scale on the Western Front on 22 April 1915 at Gravenstafel Ridge. The 8th Battalion was hit by it on 24 April. From the War Diary of the 8th Battalion, 24-25 April 1915, Gravenstafel: "The trenches were all attacked at night, and all the men in the trenches except the reserves were weak from fumes - in fact some men had already died from fumes." The 8th Battalion suffered heavy casualties in the gas attack and in the Battle of St. Julien, which began the same day. Frederick was killed in action on the second day of the battle, 25 April.

Frederick's final resting place is unknown. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial (Ypres, Belgium), which bears the names of 55,000 men who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

He is also commemorated on Portage la Prairie War Memorial, the WW1 Roll of Honour for the 8th Battalion (Royal Winnipeg Rifles) and the Lake of the Woods Milling Company plaque in Keewatin, Ontario. The plaque honours staff and citizens who gave their lives in the Great War.

### Uploader's Research notes:

Frederick is listed in Company "F" on the 8th Battalion's Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.





In Memory of

**Albert Howard**

Private

**Royal Berkshire Regiment**

**Labour Corps**

**Service Number: 16123**

**Died at Home: 17<sup>th</sup> February 1919**

**Age: 31**

**Son of Martha Collins (Formerly) Howard  
of Steventon, Berkshire**

**Remembered with Honour:**

**Steventon (St Michael's Church)**







In Memory of

**James Huggins**

Private

**Gloucestershire Regiment**

**12<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

**Service Number: 38011**

**Killed in Action: 14<sup>th</sup> April 1918 (Battle of Hazebrouck)**

**Age: 20**

**Son of George & Ellen Huggins  
Of Steventon, Berkshire**

**Remembered With Honour:**

**Merville Communal Cemetery (Ext 111 D 60)**





In Memory of

**Allan Hutchings**

Private

**Royal Berkshire Regiment**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Service Number: 14011

**Killed in Action: 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915 (Battle of Bois Grenier, Loos)**

Age: 18

Son of Ambrose & Ellen Hutchings  
of Steventon, Berkshire

Remembered with Honour:

Ploegsteert Memorial. Panel 7 & 8

