

# 100 Year Commemoration

## BATTLE OF THE SOMME

1<sup>st</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1916



### Remembering Hedge End Heroes Lost at the Battle of the Somme.

The Allied offensive upon a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, and the battle lasted seven days. There was little effect upon the German defences and the allied forces met unexpected and fierce resistance. There were devastating losses, little progress on the southern flank and the attack failed. This was the Battle of the Somme.

**Thiepval Memorial** located near the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert Road, is a memorial to the missing of the Somme and bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 and have no known grave. Of those commemorated, 90% died between July and November, 1916.

Today, we remember all of those who lost their lives for King and Country, and here we focus on those who were born and lived in Hedge End.

**James Windsor**  
d. 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916

James was the eldest son of Charles and Alice Mary Windsor (née Page) and was born in Hedge End in 1895. His family lived in Chapel Drove. Prior to enlisting James was a Market Gardener/Labourer.

Private James Windsor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916 and is amongst those commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, he was 21 years of age.

**Alfred Tomlin**  
d. 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916

Alfred Tomlin was the eldest son of Edward and Ellen (née Sparshott) Tomlin and was born in Hedge End abt. 1890. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century his family had moved to the parish of Durley and in the early 1900's were living in Long Common, Boorley Green, where his father was a Farm Servant. The family then moved back to Hedge End, before the war,

and lived in Church Lane, Butts Road (now Granada Road). Alfred was a Domestic Gardener at the age of 21.

In 1913 Alfred married Rosalie Mary Mundy in East Preston, Sussex.

Alfred enlisted with the 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment and died of wounds on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. In that year his regiment had been involved in the battles of Albert, Bazentin and attacks on High Wood, Delville Wood, Guillemont and operations on the Ancre. He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France where 4,403 casualties of WW1 are interred. The town of Bailleul was occupied from 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. It was also a Corps Headquarters until July, 1917. The cemetery extension was opened on the east side of the grounds in April, 1915.

His parents were notified at their address in Church Lane, Hedge End. His wife Rosalie at 2, South Cottages, Wick.

Rosalie Mary, having become a very young widow at just 26, married Lawrence J. Hazelgrove in 1921 and lived in Wick, Littlehampton, Sussex. She died in February, 1991 just 5 months before her 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

**Sidney Emery**  
d. 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1916

Sidney Emery was born in Hedge End in 1898 and lived with his grandparents Peter (69) a Farm Labourer and Charlotte (59) a Laundress working from home with her own account, residing in Granada Road, formerly known as Back Road and Butts Road.

Sidney was a Corporal of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Hampshire Regiment. In 1916 the regiment were engaged in the battles of Albert and Le Transloy, amongst those of the Somme. He was killed in action and is commemorated in the roll of honour of Thiepval Memorial to those of the missing 72,000 commonwealth forces who died at the Somme and have no known grave. He was 18.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment formed a total of 32 Battalions and received 82 Battle honours and 3 Victoria Crosses, losing 7,580 men during the course of WW1.

**William Wilkins**  
d. 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1916

Born abt. 1884, William George Wilkins was the son of Thomas and Mary Jane (née Moon) Wilkins. In the late 1800's and just before the turn of the century, the family lived in Botley Road (now known as Lower Northam Road) and William was the eldest of four children. At the age of 17 years William shared his father's occupation as General Labourer and lived with his parents at 5, Botley Road Drove, Hedge End and he had four siblings, Henry, Mary, Rose and the youngest Sarah.

