

13th Battalion Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) Service No. S/1159



Rifleman HERBERT DOSWELL

Born in Barton Stacey in 1894.

Killed in action on 11th April 1917.

Aged 22.

HERBERT DOSWELL was born in 1894 in Barton Stacey, son of Walter Doswell, a farm labourer, and his wife Sarah Collins. They lived in one of the thatched cottages which stood between Wade's Farm and the Methodist Chapel in Barton Stacey.

Herbert was younger brother to Ernest, Lily, Frank, Robert, Kate and Olive and older brother to Charles. Herbert was a shepherd.

He had a consecutive service number to his cousin Sidney Doswell so they would have enlisted together in Winchester.

He enlisted in 1914, with his cousin Sidney Doswell (who also fell) as a Rifleman in the 13th (Service) Battalion, the Rifle Brigade.

The battalion was raised in Winchester in October 1914 as part of the 21st Division. After training in the UK, they were transferred to 111th Brigade, part of 37th Division and proceeded to France for War on 31st July 1915.

The unit was part of the assault at Loos on 26th September 1915, suffering heavy casualties. After the battles of the Somme in 1916, the battalion was in action against the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in 1917. This included the Arras offensive which lasted several days during April.

Herbert was killed in this action on 11th April 1917.

He is buried in the Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery at Wancourt, France. Grave Reference 11.A.3.

FEUCHY CHAPEL CEMETERY, WANCOURT



The cemetery was begun in May 1917 and used at intervals until September 1918. At the Armistice, it contained 249 graves. It was then enlarged when 834 graves were brought from the battlefields of Fampoux, Roeux, Monchy and Wancourt, and from a few smaller burial grounds, including FEUCHY CHAPEL QUARRY CEMETERY, containing the graves of 17 UK soldiers who fell in April 1917.

Generated by the Barton Stacey Parish Local History Group.