

Arthur Edgar Wormington.

Lance Corporal, No M2/18649, Army Service Corps.

Joseph, the father of **Arthur Edgar Wormington**ⁱ was born in Bradley Green, Worcestershire as was his grandfather, Charles. Joseph became a Stud Groom which, both before and after his marriage to Alma Maud, took him to various locations in the country.



One of those locations was Fethard, Co. Tipperary where Arthur was born in 1894 and where much of the Irish horse racing industry of today still flourishes. The family lived in Canterbury for a short time but as the nineteenth century came to a close, moved to Halford Bridge, Warwickshire only a short distance from the village of Wellesbourne and the hamlet of Walton. It was around 1905 that Joseph came to work for Mr. Frank Hargreaves of Friz Hill, Walton in the capacity of a Stud Groom and he and his family occupied a property close by. Arthur subsequently joined the employ of Mr. Hargreaves as a Chauffeur.

When war broke out in August 1914, Arthur was one of the first in the area to volunteer. He enlisted in Londonⁱⁱ and joined the Army Service Corps, service no. M2/018649 arriving in France on the 13th July 1915 and was attached to the 17th Divisional Headquartersⁱⁱⁱ



The A.S.C.'s function was to keep the Army supplied with food, equipment and munitions without which it could not operate. It was to become the unsung hero of World War 1 meriting only four mentions in the Official History of the War. Nevertheless, in 1918, in recognition of its contribution, the title of 'Royal' was conferred.

Arthur's past driving experience saw him attached to the Motor Transport Company and during the course of the war was to have a number of lucky escapes, having seven lorries, that he had been driving, 'smashed by shells'.

His military records no longer exist and therefore it is impossible to track his exact movements during the war. He returned home on leave in July 1917 and was reported at the time to be a picture of health and in good spirits^{iv}.

At the end of March 1918 he was again granted leave and boarded a boat to bring him home; he was to marry his fiancé, Annie Billing^v. On the 21st March a massive counter attack was launched by the German Army in a final attempt to win the war. All leave was cancelled. Arthur was to return immediately to the Somme.

In April, a month after returning to the Front, Arthur's luck finally ran out. As he entered a storage shed, a shell exploded. Receiving wounds to his neck and back^{vi} he died on the 24th April in the 3rd. Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens, France^{vii}.

Together with 1334 other Commonwealth graves of World War 1, Arthur Wormington lies buried in the Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension 1 (Somme).(Grave VI.B.57)

In February 1920 Arthur's father Joseph applied for and received his son's medals, the 1914-15 Star and Victory and British Medals. Arthur's name is remembered on the Walton Roll of Honour (St. James's Church, Walton.), the Walton War memorial and in Irelands Memorial Records 1914 -1918.

At the end of the war Annie Billing ran a sweet shop in Rosefield St, Leamington Spa. She never married.



3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens, France, where Arthur died.

Researched by Grev Hudson (May 2014 rev. Oct 2014) grev.hudson@tinyworld.co.uk

ⁱ The surname is spelt as Warmington or Wormington in various records. The latter, which appears in birth and probate records is the one used here.

ⁱⁱ UK. Soldiers Died in the Great War (Ancestry.com)

ⁱⁱⁱ CWGC

^{iv} Stratford upon Avon Herald 20/7/1917

^v Stratford upon Avon Herald 3/5/1918

^{vi} Warwick Advertiser 4/5/1918

^{vii} National Probate Calendar 1858-1966.

Other Sources:

Dennis Wormington (nephew) for the photo and family memories information.