

## *Frederick Bishop.*

### *Private. No. 32376. 1/5<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment.*



Frederick's father, William Bishop, was born in Brailes, Warwickshire. He worked as a Farm Labourer and met and married Annie Maria Hiatt from the nearby hamlet of Honington in the latter part of 1871. During their marriage Annie gave birth to four children.

William brought his family to the hamlet of Walton, near Wellesbourne where he worked on the Walton Hall estate and where his son Frederick was born in the early days of 1884. He was baptised on the 17<sup>th</sup> February in the church of St, James in the grounds of the Hall.

The school records no longer exist, but it is likely that Frederick attended the school in Walton. By the time he was 17<sup>i</sup> he was working as a Carpenter for the Walton estate and lived with his parents in a cottage in the hamlet. Mr. Frederick Kibler, the manager of the estate, lived about six properties away. In his employ was a housemaid called Harriett Reynolds.

Harriett Amelia was the daughter of Walter and Caroline Agnes Reynolds (nee Pitcher) from Wellesbourne. She and Frederick Bishop were married in St. Peter's Church in the village on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1909. The following month, in the same church, their first child, Charles Percy was baptised. In 1910 a second son, Walter was born and their third, Frederick William in 1913. The family continued to live in Walton but in a cottage at the edge of the Hamlet now known as No. 14, Walton<sup>ii</sup>.

As with a number of other World War I fatalities from Wellesbourne and Walton, Fred Bishop's service records were destroyed in a German Air raid during World War II. Their lives in the military however, appeared to follow a similar pattern. It is likely that they were called up as the result of conscription during 1916<sup>iii</sup>, and were initially put into



*Fred and his wife Harriett (known as Addie).*

a transient Battalion, Training or Reserve. In Frederick's case, after enlisting in Warwick, to the Dorsetshire Regiment, Service No. 32031 (Battalion unknown). They were then subsequently transferred when required to front line units: Fred to the 1/5<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment. His new Service Number being 32376. This Battalion served in India at the early part of the war and landed in Egypt in April 1917. The following year it became part of the 185<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 62<sup>nd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> West Riding) Division arriving in Marseille on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1918 for transfer by train to the Western Front. We can only speculate to the fact that Frederick joined the Devonshire's around this time.

The Battalion fought in the successful phases of the second Battle of Arras; the Battle of Scarpe (August 26-30, 1918) and the Battle of Drocourt-Quéant (September 2-3, 1918).

Frederick Bishop died, aged 34 years, on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1918 in the aftermath of the Battle of Havrincourt, near Cambrai. It is unclear whether he was killed in the heavy shelling of the British trenches or during the advance to Havrincourt village. His body was never recovered and he is therefore commemorated on Panel 4 of the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, amongst the names of 9000 others, who also have no known grave and who died between the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and the date of the Armistice.

For a number of years after his death entries continued to appear in the 'In Memoriam' section of the Stratford upon Avon Herald on behalf of his wife, sons and Caroline Reynolds, his mother-in-law.

He was awarded the Victory and British medals and is further commemorated on the Walton Roll of Honour for the Dead, St.James's Church and on the Walton War Memorial.

All three of Frederick's sons served in World War II.

*Researched by Grev Hudson (Aug. 2014)([grev.hudson@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:grev.hudson@tinyworld.co.uk)).*

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<sup>i</sup> Census 1901

<sup>ii</sup> Tony Bishop and Ken Olorenshaw

<sup>iii</sup> Medal Card. He was not awarded the 1914 -15 Star which indicated that he was not in action before 1916.

*Other Sources:*

*1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment (NA. WO/3083/2*

*Tony Bishop for providing the photos and family information.*