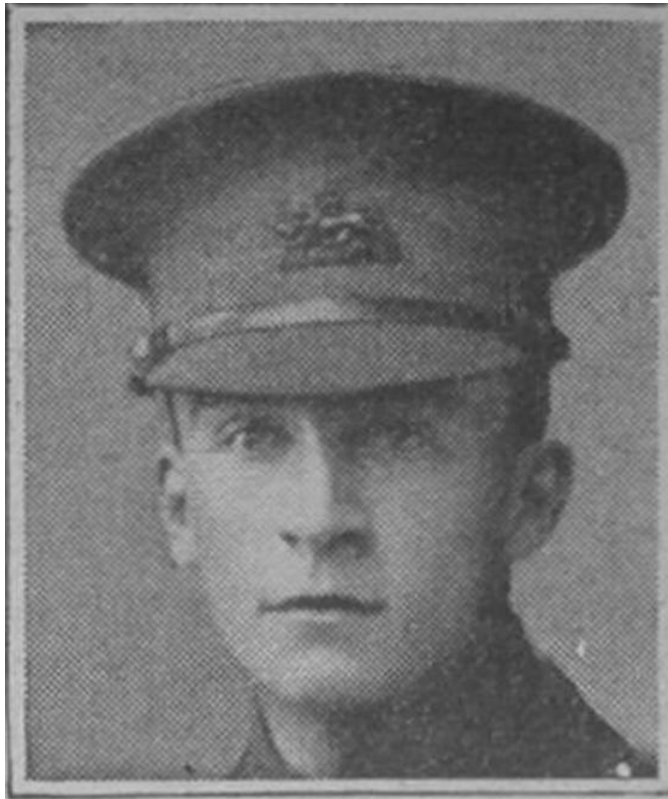


## Lt Reginald Francis De Trafford



Lt De Trafford is remembered on the Moreton Morrell Church Memorial. His connection was that immediately prior to the Great War he was employed as a private secretary at Moreton Hall the home of Charles Tuller Garland.

He was born in 1891 and was the twin son of Sigismund Cathcart de Trafford and Clementina Frances Mostyn of Croston Hall Preston.<sup>i</sup> His twin brother Geoffrey de Trafford also fought in the Great War gaining the rank of Captain in the Royal Field Artillery and won the Military Cross in 1918. Geoffrey never married and died in 1960 age 68.<sup>ii</sup>

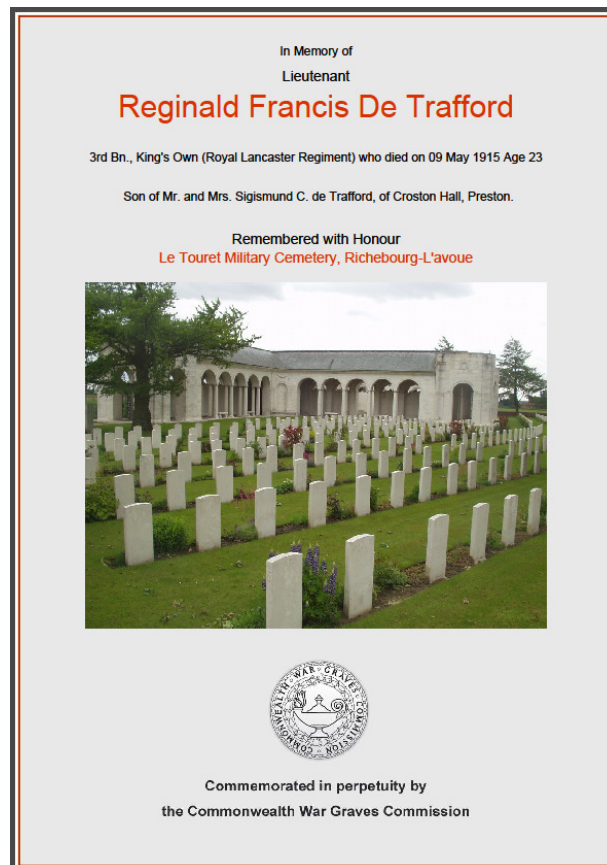
Reginald was educated at the Oratory School, Edgbaston and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. (See 1911 Census) He joined up on 7 August 1914 and gained the rank of Lieutenant serving with the Third Battalion the Kings Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). On 9 May 1915 whilst he was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucestershire's he died from wounds received in France. He was 23 years old.<sup>iii</sup>

It appears he was wounded on the same day as he died near Richebourg L'Avoue.<sup>iv</sup> This then suggests that he was wounded in the Battle of Aubers. The website of the Long Long Trail records that as part of a disastrous battle.<sup>v</sup>

At 3.57pm :

*“The leading companies of the 1/Black Watch of 1st (Guards) Brigade, brought in to replace the shattered 2nd Brigade, went over the top despite the 1/Cameron Highlanders being late to arrive and moved at the double across No Man's Land. Some reached the German breastwork just as the bombardment lifted; most were however killed or captured in the German firing trench although a small party reached the second position. The two lead companies of the Camerons, coming up on the left of the Black Watch a few minutes later, suffered heavy machine-gun casualties in crossing between the front lines. At approximately the same time, the two fresh battalions of the 3rd Brigade, the 1/Gloucestershire and 1/South Wales Borderers began to advance but were cut down without reaching the enemy.”*

Reginald is buried at Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue Departement du Pas-de-Calais.<sup>vi</sup>



i <http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/22nd-may-1915/24/et-cetera>

ii <http://www.thepeerage.com/p7558.htm#i75580>

iii Warwickshire Roll of Honour

iv [http://www.remembering.org.uk/glosregtofficers/glos\\_regt\\_offrs\\_1\\_battalion.htm](http://www.remembering.org.uk/glosregtofficers/glos_regt_offrs_1_battalion.htm)

v <http://www.1914-1918.net/bat11.htm>

vi [www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=56494611](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=56494611)