

Wallace Ethorne Griffin

Wallace was the son of Thomas George and Lily Griffin (nee Hartshorn). He was born in 1899 in Thurmaston, Leicestershire. Thomas's own father George had been the proprietor of the tea gardens at Ratley Grange according to the 1881 Census. Lily had been born at Thurmaston.

In 1901 according to the Census they were living at 8 Battle View, Ratley Grange (now Edgehill). By 1911 the Census shows him still living at Ratley Grange with his mother, his brother Thomas who was one year older and Constance who was some seven years younger. There is no mention of his father whose occupation had been stated in 1901 as being that of a licensed jockey. Lily described herself as married and the head of the household. It could be Thomas was away working.

Thomas and Lily according to the Warwickshire Roll of Honour and the entry on the Commonwealth War Graves Certificate had been living at New Houses, Warwick Road, Kineton. However the only family named Griffin living on Warwick Road according to the 1901 Census were the family of Thomas and Mary Griffin. There does not seem to be any connection. There is no mention either in the Census 1911.

At the outbreak of the War, the Warwickshire Roll of Honour records that Wallace was living in Moreton Morrell, although it has not been possible to confirm this beyond the name W.E. Griffin on the War Memorial. However Wallace enlisted in Leamington and at first served as army number 51814 with the Devonshire Regiment before joining the 5th (Service) Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales (Royal Berkshire Regiment) as a private army number 43883.



He died of wounds on Monday 24th June 1918 and is buried in the Varennes Military Cemetery, Somme. He is also commemorated on the Ratley War Memorial.

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