

LEWIS William



Private : Essex Regiment 11th Battalion.

Age 34 Killed in action: 25/09/1915

Service No: 12961

He was born at Tollesbury and resided at Tiptree. His father was Samuel Lewis & his mother Sarah. In 1901 he had a sister Annie aged 16. He enlisted at Colchester. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action. In November 1915 there were reports he had been wounded and was "missing in action" sadly he had been killed. He was first of all seen to fall seriously wounded. While his wounds were being dressed a stray bullet from a machine gun struck him in the head and killed him outright. His cousin, Uriah Leavett, who was also in the charge, spoke to him and said goodbye. Uriah died of wounds a month later. William had enlisted on the outbreak of war, and although he had been away from Tollesbury for some years, he often visited his old home. On his last visit, just before going to France, he took communion in the Church which he loved so well.

The 11th (Service) Battalion was formed at Warley, September 1914, as part of K3. In September 1914 it was attached to 71st Brigade, 24th Division. On the 11th October 1915 it was transferred with Brigade to 6th Division. Then on the 27th October 1915 ; transferred to 18th Brigade, 6th Division.

The 11th Essex as part of the 24th Division of K3, were assembled around Shoreham during September 1914. The Division crossed to France 28th August - 4th September 1915. It served on the Western Front throughout the war. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days, lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26th September, whereupon it suffered more than 3,900 casualties. He was killed in action. in this fighting.



1914-1915 Star; 1914- 1920 War Medal; 1914-1919 Victory Medal

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War
Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel
85 to 87. Memorial: LOOS
MEMORIAL

Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle. The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice. No. of Identified Casualties: 20582

Last updated 06/03/2008

His name is recorded on the Roll of Honour at Saint Mary's Tollesbury



Saint Mary's Tollesbury