

POLLEY Amos



Private Essex Regiment : 9th Battalion.

Age: 40

Date of Death: 28/09/1918

Service No: 40098

Son of David and Mary Polley, of Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Three times wounded in France. Born at Tolleshunt Knights. He enlisted at Colchester & was a resident of Great Oakley. The 1881 census shows Amos aged 2 living with his parents David aged 21 & Mary aged 20.

The 9th (Service) Battalion was formed at Warley, August 1914, as part of K1. August 1914 : attached to 35th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division. He was brought home to die. The actions just prior to his death were :-

The Battle of Albert (first phase of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918) Under the command of III Corps and on the left flank of this Corps front along the River Ancre, the Division generally played only a holding role on 8 August 1918 when Fourth Army made its great attack. However, German withdrawal from the Ancre and from Dernancourt being observed before the attack took place, 35 Brigade - on the Division's right - became involved. The 7/Norfolk and 9/Essex advanced to their objectives, consolidating a new line from the west of Morlancourt to the Ancre, but the Cambridgeshires on the right were held up by heavy fire from the Sailly Laurette road. The battalion renewed its attack later in the day, assisted by a tank, and achieved its objectives, capturing 316 enemy, 14 machine guns and 10 mortars. 37 Brigade took up this attack later on 9 August and succeeded in further captures. By the evening of 10 August the old Amiens defence line had been recaptured: in all the Division had by now advanced almost two miles. After a brief rest, the Division attacked again on 22 August, pushing right across the wilderness of the old Somme battlefield, capturing Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, Hardecourt and Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week's continuous fighting. The Division had made an advance of another 15000 yards. It was relieved on 30 August by 47th (London) Division and moved back to the Carnoy-Briqueterie area

. On 4-5 September 1918 the Division relieved 18th (Eastern) Division east of the Canal du Nord and just south of Manancourt, for an attack on Nurlu. Formidable wire defences and German counter attacks were overcome, Nurlu was taken. The German army retreated in haste for several miles, pursued by the Division which reached the line Sorel Wood - Lieramont cemetery. The advance was continued early on 8 September, capturing Guyencourt although in spite of heavy casualties. The movement halted 1000 yards west of Epehy and Pezieres, where the Division was relieved. It was now some 17 miles ahead of where the offensive had opened on 8 August. More than 1000 prisoners had been taken, as well as 17 artillery pieces and dozens of smaller weapons.



1914-20 War Medal & 1914-1919 Victory Medal

Name		Rank		Regt.		No.	
POLLEY		A.		Pte.		40098	
Service		No.		Page		Remarks	
K/40205		7150					
1914		1918					
Theatre of War		Date of entry					
France		1918					

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Cemetery: TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD



His name is recorded on the Great Oakley Memorial