

BOLEY Bertie



Lance Corporal : Royal Fusiliers : 1st Battalion.

17th Brigade, 6th Division

Aged 33 Killed in action: 19/11/1915

Service No: L/11524

He was born in Salcott, enlisted in London and his residence was at Chiswick. He served in France & Flanders. He was killed in Action. The 1901 census confirms he was born in Salcott and shows he was aged 19 working as a waiter at Wood Green. The 1st Battalion in August 1914 had been in Kinsale in Ireland. It was part of 17th Brigade, 6th Division. This peacetime Division of the army was quartered in Ireland and England at the outbreak of war, and was ordered to concentrate near Cambridge. By early September it was fully equipped and trained. On the 10 September 1914, it landed at St Nazaire and proceeded to the Western Front, where it remained throughout the war. The Division arrived in time to reinforce the hard-pressed BEF on the Aisne, before the whole army was moved north into Flanders. After much hard fighting the 17th Division was transferred to the 24th Division, 14 October 1915. This transfer was to beef up the 24th Division, which had been severely mauled in the Battle of Loos 25 September - 19 October 1915. This attack of 6 Divisions was a mighty offensive indeed - it was referred to as 'The Big Push'. Taking place on ground not of their choosing and before stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery were sufficient, the opening of the battle was noteworthy for the first use of poison gas by the British Army. Despite heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. But the reserves had been held too far from the battle front to be able to exploit the successes and succeeding days bogged down into a war of attrition for minor gains



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

Name	Grade	Regt. No.	
BOLEY	11 R Fus	L/Cpl	
BOLEY		L/1152	
BOLEY			
Name	Regt.	Grade	Remarks
BOLEY	L/1152	2nd Lt	7860/100
14	7 PFS	13	19. 11. 15
Theatre of War Service in			
Date of entry 20. 9. 14			



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War
Dead Grave/Memorial Reference:
Panel 6 and 8. Memorial: YPRES
(MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

The Menin Gate is one of four
memorials to the missing in Belgian
Flanders which cover the area known
as the Ypres Salient. Broadly
speaking, the Salient stretched from
Langemarck in the north to the
northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in
the south, but it varied in area and
shape throughout the war. The Salient
was formed during the First Battle of
Ypres in October and November 1914,
when a small British Expeditionary
Force succeeded in securing the town

before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence. There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele. The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September. The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates those of all Commonwealth nations (except New Zealand) who died in the Salient, in the case of United Kingdom casualties before 16 August 1917. Those United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. Other New Zealand casualties are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery. The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer in July 1927. No. of Identified Casualties: 54322

