

WILCOCK Henry Blamires



Lieutenant Essex Regiment 3rd Battalion. attached. 13th Battalion.

Age: 20

Killed in action: 13/11/1916

Additional information: Son of the Rev. W. H. Wilcock, and Mary Ellen Wilcock, of The Rectory, Tolleshunt Knights, Essex.

The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion in August 1914 was in Warley. Remained in UK throughout the war. Henry would have been assigned to this unit to complete his training. Thereafter he joined the 13th (Service) Battalion (West Ham), which had been assigned on the 22 December 1915 to the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division. At the time of his death, his unit was involved in the final phase of the Battle of the Somme. Final effort to capture ground west of the Ancre (Battle of The Ancre) before winter makes operations impossible - opens on 13 November 1916. He was initially posted as "Missing" . The following are the details of the action on the day he fell :-

"Mon., Nov 13, 1916 Day of the Attack. At 2.30 am each man received a cup of hot cocoa. At 3.0 am the WAVES moved into position in open country. At 4.15 am all WAVES and clearing up parties were in position. Orders were given that they should be in position by 4 am but on account of the waves not being in touch with the Battalion on my LEFT, everyone had to be moved. The men lay quiet till the barrage commenced at 5.45 am. Then the whole of the waves moved forward followed by the 1st KINGS. Immediately the barrage lifted, they assaulted the FIRST LINE. After that I lost touch with them and got no information back. At 8 am I sent 2nd Lieut. LOWINGS & 2nd Lieut. SHERMAN with two men each to gather what information they could. They reported that the RIGHT could not be seen but that on the LEFT the men were about the GERMAN FRONT LINE WIRE, and that a party of about 50 were lined up behind a small bank, 100 yards in front of our wire and were under very heavy Machine Gun & Rifle fire, and it was impossible for them to advance. I gave orders for this party to consolidate the position they held and to await instructions. Reference my X2 of the 13th. A Second Officer's patrol was sent out and brought back the same report as the first. I had previously given orders that if it was possible, the Machine Guns in the QUADRILATERAL should be rushed, but on the officers report on the condition of the ground, I decided that it was an impossibility. I came to this decision at about 8.45 am. Up to this time I had received no information from my front whatever. At 3 pm. 2nd Lieut PATERSON (Signalling Officer) who had gone to find accommodation for the new HQ's) returned from the GREEN LINE (the objective), and reported as follows:- He and 2/Lieut HONE of this Regiment, with a party of ESSEX and KINGS, numbering about 50, had gone through to the GREEN LINE with the OXFORD and BUCKS and 22nd ROYAL FUSILIERS. They found nobody [inserted: no British troops] on their left and on making reconnaissance, they found a party of GERMANS on their LEFT and we they immediately made a blockade and strong point with 3 Lewis Guns. 2/Lieut PATERSON was [inserted: subsequently] interviewed by the Brigadier General Commanding 6th Infantry Brigade. At 4.30 pm I was informed that the 22nd ROYAL FUSILIERS were coming up to form a defensive line facing NORTH, South of the QUADRILATERAL and asking me to give them every assistance. I decided to run out a trench from BUSTER to the small sap in GERMAN FRONT LINE, 200 yards SOUTH of the QUADRILATERAL. This was reconnoitred. During the reconnaissance it was found that CAT TUNNEL could be used with great advantage, and I asked permission from the Brigade to allow me to use it. Consent was given (Later the same night the R.E. Officer in charge informed that this tunnel could not be used by us without express instructions from the Division) About 6 pm I was informed that the construction of the trench was handed over to O.C. 22nd ROYAL FUSILIERS who decided to nullify my proposed scheme and

cut it from EGG STREET to the QUADRILATERAL. This was started by the R.E. and 10th D.C.L.I. and a certain amount of progress was made. (The next night the R.E. Officer who came up to continue the work came and saw me and said that owing to the state of the ground, to continue the trench in that direction was useless and I decided that it should be turned half right to join up with the two craters about S of the QUADRILATERAL. This was done and the trench completed. At 9 am I received intimation that O.C. 1st KINGS took over command of the RIGHT SUB-SECTION."

reference War Diary 13th Essex Regt – November 1916

Henry earned the 1914-5 Star, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal.



Name	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
WILCOCK	Essex R.	2/Lt. x	
Henry Blamires			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	104/110	94	1.V. x/9395. -/9/13 14 16 NW/8/16/60
BRITISH 15 STAR	104/110	27	
Theatre of War first served in Gallipoli			
Date of entry therein 9/15.			
2/2/22			

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: I. E. 36.

Cemetery: SERRE ROAD CEMETERY No.2



In June 1916, the road out of Mailly-Maillet to Serre and Puisieux entered No Man's Land about 1,300 metres south-west of Serre. On 1 July 1916, the 31st and 4th Divisions attacked north and south of this road and although parties of the 31st Division reached Serre, the attack failed. The 3rd and 31st Divisions attacked once more on the 11 November, but again without success. Early in 1917, the Germans fell back to the Hindenburg Line and on 25 February, Serre was occupied by the 22nd Manchesters. The village changed hands once more in March 1918 and remained under German occupation until they withdrew in August. In the spring of 1917, the battlefields of the Somme and Ancre were cleared by V Corps and a number of new cemeteries were made, three of which are now named from the Serre Road. Serre Road Cemetery No 2 was begun in May 1917 with the burials in Plots I and II, but was greatly enlarged after the Armistice. British graves from the following cemeteries were brought to Serre Road Cemetery No.2:- BAIZIEUX COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one United Kingdom grave March, 1918. BOISMONT CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of October, 1914. BUCQUOY COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): 25 United Kingdom graves of August, 1918. ERCHEU CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of March, 1918. FRETTECUISSÉ CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave September, 1916. HERVILLY CHURCHYARD (Somme): one R.F.C. grave of September, 1916. HOLNON COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Aisne): five United Kingdom graves April, 1917. LABOISSIÈRE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April, 1917. LE SARS GERMAN CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): one United Kingdom grave. MADAME MILITARY CEMETERY, CLÉRY-SUR-SOMME (Somme): three United Kingdom graves of February, 1917. MEAULTE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April, 1916. POZIERES COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one Canadian grave of September, 1916. REMIENCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April, 1918. SOMME AMERICAN CEMETERY, BONY (Aisne): two United Kingdom graves of July and October, 1918, and one Australian of September, 1918. VOYENNES CHURCHYARD (Somme): seven United Kingdom graves of March, 1918. YTRES CHURCHYARD (Pas-de-Calais): 14 United Kingdom and four New Zealand graves of September, 1918, mainly from the 15th Field Ambulance. There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, mostly dating from 1916. Of these, 4,944 are unidentified. The cemetery, which was not completed until 1934, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. No. of Identified Casualties: 2184



TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS