

WILSHIRE William



Private King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) 2nd Battalion.

Killed in action: 08/05/1915

Service No: 9147

He was a regular soldier. He joined the Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1908 and rejoined at the start of the war. He went overseas 15th January 1915. He served in France and was invalided home. . After recovery he returned to France.

The 2nd Battalion in August 1914 was in Leborg, India. They returned to England 22 December 1914. Joined 83rd Brigade, 28th Division, which was formed in England December 1914-January 1915, from regular units returning from India, Singapore and Egypt. In January 1915 the moved to France, landing at (Le) Havre and proceeded to the Western Front. The Battle of Frezenburg - 8th - 13th May 1915 :- *Gas attacks by the Germans on 8 May forced the British over the next six days to give further ground on the Frezenburg Ridge. The battle finally came to an end on the 25 May 1915 with the Ypres Salient closer to the town, but with the Allies still hanging on to it.*

Now though the German Army held the all important ridges and in a countryside with so little in the way of definition, every bump and undulation in the terrain was of vital importance.. Without realising it the Germans had been within a whisker of breaking the allied line, yet the British had managed to claw themselves back from the precipice. British casualties amounted to about 58,000 and the French suffered a further 10,000 casualties. German casualties were reckoned at about 38,000. Originally he had been reported missing in May & later erroneously in the September it was thought he was a Prisoner of War but sadly he had been killed.



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

Campaign: **1914-15.** (A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	REGIMENTAL NO.	REGIMENTAL NO.	REGIMENTAL NO.
(A) <i>Wilshire Richard R 9147</i>						
(B) <i>William</i>						

Action taken: *08/25*

THEATRE OF WAR: *(1) France*

QUALIFYING: *15.1.15*

(0-24-00) (25-49-00) (50-74-00) (75-99-00) (100-000) (100-000)



Casualty Type:
Commonwealth War Dead
Grave/Memorial
Reference: Panel 12.
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

Last updated 25/01/2008

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



Saint Mary's Tollesbury