

Private 240733 Albert Charles Worth

Mortor Mason of Spare Hill House, St Tudy

1st/5th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Born 24th September 1895

Killed in Action 17 April 1918 aged 23

The third son of William Henry and Mary Worth (nee Brock) of St Tudy, Albert Charles had ten older sisters. They were all born in Spare Hill House, the birthplace of his great-great-grandfather, Robert Worth, and his grandparents, John and Elizabeth (nee Sloggett) and their 12 children. Albert started St Tudy School on 10th October 1898 attending until perhaps 1912. His first job was in the family building business as a mortar mason. His oldest brother, William John was born on 15th August 1884 and married Emily Amelia Carthew in St Teath on 4 July 1912.

Albert and William both enlisted in Bodmin in November 1915 joining the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. The middle brother, Alfred Sloggett Worth (born 5 September 1886) enlisted in Bodmin at the same time but joined the Royal Engineers at Chatham serving in the Pioneer Battalion in the Liverpool Regiment. Alfred left his wife Edith nee Osborne at home in St Tudy. Their cousin Cyril George Hicks Worth followed them to Bodmin in April 1917 to enlist as a Machine Gun Corps infantryman.

In May 1915 Albert and William were posted to Laventie in France and in October were sent to the Somme, fighting in various engagements until May 1917. In June and July they served at Arras then Ypres in August where the Germans made a heavy attack on the British lines but were eventually repulsed. The Battalion was sent to Cambrai and back to Ypres Salient. They took part in the action from La Bassée to Ypres which commenced on 11th April 1918. There was very heavy engagement west of Armentière, Merville following which Albert was reported missing presumed killed. Next day his cousin, Cyril, was also killed.

Albert is remembered with honour at Loos Memorial.

Albert's brother, William, went on to fight at Estaire until the Armistice, returning to Spare Hill House, St Tudy where he died 12 June 1974, just short of his 90th birthday. Their brother Alfred was wounded at St Quentin, sustaining a thigh wound. He died in St Tudy in 1938.

Albert and Alfred are the great uncles of Joy Knight (nee Armstrong), William is her grandfather.

