

Private 23964 Alfred Osborne

Farm labourer of Elm Cottage, School Street, St Tudy

C Company, 10th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Born c 1881

Died 23rd March 1917, Senlis Camp, aged 37

Alfred was born to John Meneer Osborne (born Egloshayle 1845, died 1919 and buried in St Tudy Churchyard) and Ann Osborne nee Rowe (born St Tudy and baptised in St Tudy Church 31st December 1848, died in 1933 and buried in St Tudy Churchyard). Alfred was baptised in St Tudy Church on 28th April 1882. He had ten siblings and his younger sister, Edith, married Alfred Sloggett Worth, (the brother of Albert Charles Worth who died at Ypres on 17 April 1918). The descendants of their daughter, Bertha Worth, live in St Tudy and are well-known members of the community.

Educated at St Tudy School between 12th April 1886 - 28th June 1893, Alfred married Lily Worth on the 28th November 1903 in St. Tudy. She was born in St Tudy on the 26th June, 1878. She died in St Tudy in 1965 aged 77. They had two daughters, Daisy and Nora. In 1911 their one-year-old nephew, Stanley William Richard Pull, lived with them in a two-roomed cottage in Churchtown.

Alfred enlisted in the 10th Battalion, DCLI at Camelford in 1915, when the Battalion was raised by the Mayor and citizens of Truro. This became one of the outstanding Pioneer battalions on the Western Front. The role required physically robust tradesmen and labourers, who were frequently highly-trained infantrymen. They followed retreating German troops, repairing damaged roads, replacing destroyed bridges over rivers, constructing command posts and dug-outs for the advancing Allied Forces. This was dangerous work, often carried out at night and within range of the German front line.

In March 1917, the Germans were withdrawing to behind the Hindenburg Line, leaving roads cratered and blocked by trees, bridges destroyed and masses of booby traps. The 10th Battalion were fully employed clearing the way for the British guns and ammunition of the 2nd Division to move forward and engage the enemy as they fell back. There was very little time to 'write-up' War Diaries but on the 20th March, C & D Companies had made an early start to work on the Grevillers-Albert-Bapaume road, allowing artillery previously held up, to move along. The 10th moved with the 6th Brigade to Senlis Camp on the 22nd March. This is where Alfred died during the night of the 23rd March 1917. He is remembered with honour at the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, 21 kilometres north-east of Amiens, Northern France.

Following the end of hostilities in 1918, Private Osborne's widow was sent the British War Medal, the Allied Victory Medal and a Bronze Death Plaque.

TRANSCRIPTION OF WAR DIARY

March 22nd – Owillers Huts – Senlis Camp

Battn left OVILLERS HUTS and marched with 6th Bde Column to SENLIS CAMP (about 6 miles). Arrived in the camp about 5.00 p.m.

March 23rd – Senlis Camp - Battalion remained in camp.

March 24th & 25th – Senlis Camp – Battalion remained in camp. Two Companies (A&B) had baths. Pte Osborne "C" Company died in camp in night. C of E service at 12.15 in theatre at SENLIS. Pt Osborne buried at WARLOY in the afternoon by Rev MURRAY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.		WAR DIARY or <u>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</u> <small>(Erasing handing not required.)</small>	Army Form C. 2118. 1	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS HUTS - SENLIS Camp	22 nd		Battn left OVILLERS HUTS and marched with 6 th Bde. Column to SENLIS CAMP (about 6 miles). Arrived in the camp about 5.0 pm.	Ref Map LENS 1/100,000
SENLIS CAMP	23 rd		Battn. remained in camp	
	24 th		Battn. remained in camp. Two Cos (A & B) had baths. Pte Osborne "C" Co died in camp in night.	
	25 th		C. of E service at 12.15 in theatre at SENLIS. Pte Osborne buried at WARLOY in the afternoon by Rev MURRAY.	
- do. to LONGUEVILLE	26 th		Battn. left camp at 10.0 am. and marched with 6 th Bde. Column to LONGUEVILLE. Route: - WARLOY - CONTAY - HERRISSART - Val-de-MAISON - Fme. de. ROSEL - CANDAS - LONGUEVILLE. Distance about 19 miles. One mtn. lorry carried A & C Cos blankets. Arrived in Lilleb about 8.15 pm. Mtn. Lorry carrying blankets broke down just outside LONGUEVILLE and was abandoned in the night.	
- do. to BARLY	27 th		Battn. left LONGUEVILLE 12.0 noon and marched to BARLY. Route: - LONGUEVILLE - MAFER - MONPLAISIR - DECOCHES - BARLY. Distance about 6 1/2 miles. Mtn. Lorry after having been extricated from the mud from previous night again	

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