

Captain Arthur Curgenvan Magor

3rd Btn, attached 2nd Btn, H.M. Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment

Born 3rd March 1879, Lamellan, St Tudy

Died 17th October 1914, aged 35

Arthur was the fourth of five children born to Edward Auriol Magor (1850-1886) and Mary Caroline nee Chilcott (1853-1937). He went to Blundell's School, Tiverton where he gained 2nd XXI Colours in Autumn 1896 and won the Tennis Challenge Cup the same year. He was House Monitor for three terms. In Spring 1897, Arthur became Captain of the Petergate Senior VX. He is remembered in Characters of Blundell's 1st XV as "9st 10lb – a light forward and a neat dribbler, good in open work but rather inclined to avoid scrum work".

In the autumn of 1897, he went up to Exeter College, Oxford to read for a Pass degree, a general degree taken by most Oxford undergraduates at that time. At the start of the Boer War, he obtained a commission in the Wiltshire Regiment, joining the 2nd Battalion in Spring 1900. He went to South Africa a few weeks after Fermoy taking part in actions at Bethlehem and Wittenbergen and awarded both medals with five clasps.

In 1900 Arthur Magor was promoted to Lieutenant and gazetted as Adjutant. In the 1901 Census, he was staying at Lamellan and is listed as Lieutenant in a Line Regiment. This may have been when he was sent home for several weeks, suffering from a severe attack of enteric fever, before rejoining his regiment in South Africa. A 1909 photograph shows him attending a brother officer's wedding in Ireland. The 1911 census states he was stationed in Portobello Barracks in Dublin.

In Autumn 1912, he married Dora Fisher of Devizes and retired from the army, remaining on the special reserve. They lived at Whitley House, Melksham and their only son, Arthur Frank Tegarthen Magor, was born October 1914. Young Arthur grew up to marry Lilian Pakenham-Walsh in 1940 but he died in Alexandria in November 1941 leaving no children.

Captain Magor was called up at the outbreak of the War. After a few weeks at Weymouth, his regiment shipped out to the front as part of the 21st Brigade. They landed at Zeebrugge on the 7th October 1914, leaving Ostend on the 11th October, just before the Germans captured the town. The Wiltshires arrived in Ypres on the night of the 14th October, having marched all day. From there they advanced east and on the 16th/17th October they were entrenched astride the road in the area of Reutel and Bedelaere, about six miles east of Ypres. Skirmishes took place with some German Cavalry patrols. During the night, the enemy were massing opposite the right flank of the trenches approximately 400 yards away. No. 15 Platoon opened fire on the enemy

and soon all joined in. During this firing Captain Magor was killed. His remains or grave were never identified or recovered and hence his memorial on the Menin Gate at Ypres.

When Captain Arthur Curgenvin Magor died he left effects valued at £14,654 18s 1d. (approximately £950,000 at today's value). Blundell's School Magazine reporting his death wrote as follows: "His death, we are assured by one who knew him well, was one which he himself would have chosen."

