

Draft Notes for Edward George Bath in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

Created on Sunday, 19 October 2014 at 17:10

E Bath Bombr. Royal Field Artillery. ¹

Edward Bath d. 13th November 1916, Somme. ²

Edward George Bath, b. 1 Apr 1890 in Freshford, Somerset, d. 13 Nov 1916 in Cotalmaison, Somme; Parents Lazarus Thoas Bath & Mary Ann Mundy. Siblings: Martha Ellen Bath 1888-1968, Lily Bath 1888-?, Annie Eliza Bath 1892-1972, Gladys May Bath 1898-?, Henry Charles Bath 1902-1967, Elsie Louisa Bath 1904-?. ³

1890 Birth of **Edward George Bath** registered Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire ⁴

1893 Bap. at St John the Baptist, Hinton Charterhouse on 2 Jul 1893 of **Edward George** b. 1 Apr 1890 father Thomas Bath Labourer, mother Mary Ann abode Friary. ⁵

1891 Census shows Thomas Bath age 29 Quarryman b. Freshford, Somt. living in High Street, Upper Stoke with wife Mary A age 26 Laundress b. Freshford, Somt. and children Martha age 2 and **Edward** age 1 both b. Limpley Stoke, Wilts. and Lodger Annie Bynham single age 21 Laundress b. London. ⁶

1901 Census shows Thomas Bath (Tom) age 38, Stone Quarryman Underground b. Freshford, Somerset living at Ashes Lane, Freshford, with wife Mary age 37, Laundress b. Freshford, Somerset and children Martha age 12 b. Limpley Stoke, Wilts, **Edward Geo** single age 10 b. Limpley Stoke, Wilts, Annie E age 8, Gladys age 1 both b. Freshford, Somerset. ⁷

1911 Thomas Bath (Tom) age 49 Labourer (General) b. Freshford, Somerset living at Park Corner, Freshford, Bath (3 Rooms) with wife Mary age 46, married 24 years, Laundress b. Freshford and children Martha age 22 single Laundress (assist in the Business), **Edward** single age 21 Rubber Worker at Rubber Works, ⁸ b. Freshford, Somerset, Gladys age 11 School, Henry age 9, and Elsie age 6 all b. Freshford, Somerset. ⁹ Note: next to Mr W Wates in Clematis Cottage.

First World War

Bath, Edward G, Corps: RFA, Rank A Bombr, Reg No. 16371, Deceased, Theatre of War: France, Qualifying Date: 7-7-15. Victory medal RFA/130B Page 5948, 15 Star FRA/1AB1615. ¹⁰

1916 **Edward George Bath**, b. c 1890 in Bath, Somerset, Residing Bath Somerset, British d. 13 Nov 1916 Killed in Action. Parents Thomes and Mary Ann Bath of Park Corner, Freshford, Bath, Acting Bombardier Service No. 16371 Duty France & Flanders. Royal Field Artillery, B Battery, 73rd Brigade. ¹¹ **Edward George Bath** Acting Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery age 26 d. Nov 13 1916, Burial Place: Contalmaison Chateau Cemetary, Contalmaison, Department de la Somme, Picardie, France Plot I C 21. ¹² Bath, Edward, George Acting Bombardier, S. No. 16371, died 13/11/16 age 26, Royal Field Artillery, "B" Bty. 73rd Bde., Grave ref: i.c.21 Contalmaison Chateau Cemetery; Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Bath of Park Corner, Freshford, Bath. ¹³

Note: The 73rd Brigade was a unit of the 24th Division. ¹⁴ This Division was established in September 1914 as part of Army Order 388 authorising Kitchener's Third New Army, K3. The units of the Division began to assemble in the area of Shoreham. Early days were somewhat chaotic, the new volunteers having very few trained officers and NCOs to command them, no organised billets or equipment. It was March 1915 before makeshift drab uniforms arrived and not until July before rifles were issued. The Division moved 19-23 June 1915 to Aldershot for final training. Lord Kitchener inspected the Division at Chobham ranges on 19 August and next day it was the turn of King George V. Orders were received on 19 August to move to France and the first units departed one week later. Concentration was completed in the area between Etaples and St Pol on 4 September. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days, lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26 September, whereupon it suffered over 4178 casualties for very little gain. ¹⁵ 1916 Battle of the Somme 1 Jul - 18 Nov 1916. On 13 November the BEF made a final effort on the far east of the salient in the Battle of the Ancre, in which they captured the field fortress of Beaumont Hamel. Despite the slow but progressive British advance, poor weather - snow - brought a halt to the Somme offensive on 18 November. During the attack the British and French had gained 12 kilometres of ground, the taking of which resulted in 420,000 estimated British casualties, including many of the volunteer 'pal's' battalions, plus a further 200,000 French casualties. German casualties were estimated to run at around 500,000. ¹⁶ The 24th Division fought in the

Battle of Delville Wood, 15 Jul - 3 Sep, and the Battle of Guillemont 3 - 6 Sep.¹⁷

¹ Plaque on Freshford Village war memorial sited on the village Tynning.

² Alan Dodge, *Freshford - History of a Somerset Village* (2000; reprint, Freshford Manor Bath Somerset: Freshford Publications, 2000)

³ Sanders Family Tree ancestry.co.uk - owner: Kylie Saunders.

⁴ England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire for Apr-May-Jun 1890 Vol 5a Page 130.

⁵ FreeREG <http://www.freereg.org.uk/> © 1998-2013 The website, its layout, search engine, and database are copyright by the Trustees of FreeBMD, a charity registered in England and Wales, Number 1096940. File Number 6120.

⁶ 1891 England Census RG12/1605 Bradford on Avon, Bradford on Avon South Eastern 8 Folio 73 Page 11 Schedule 45

⁷ 1901 England Census RG13/2335 Bath, Twerton 20 Page 9, Schedule 68.

⁸ Possibly working at the Moulton Rubber Works at Kingston Mills in Bardford on Avon.

⁹ 1911 England & Wales Census RG14//14681 Bath, Twerton 18 Schedule 64.

¹⁰ British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920.

¹¹ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/1588931>.

¹² Find a Grave <http://www.findagrave.com/Memorial/56140130>.

¹³ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details www.cwgc.org 599159.

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_battle_for_the_Battle_of_the_Somme#Battle_of_the_Ancre:_13.E2.80.9316_November_1916.

¹⁵ The Long, Long Trail - The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. The Long, Long Trail is owned, designed, built and written by Chris Baker. <http://www.1914-1918.net/> 24th Division.

¹⁶ <http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/somme.htm>.

¹⁷ The Long, Long Trail - The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. The Long, Long Trail is owned, designed, built and written by Chris Baker. <http://www.1914-1918.net/> 24th Division.