

Draft Notes for Edward James Care in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

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E Care, Pte. Somerset L.I. ¹

Edward Care d. 11 Apr 1917 Arras. ²

We have tracked down a photo and a little more information on **Edward Care**. Christine Mottram, who is a grandmother of one of the children at school accompanied us up to the war memorial last week and then spotted a reference to him in a small exhibition in Combe Down Hall (whilst at Pilates!). He is also listed on the monument on The Firs. He seems to have been gardener at The Brow in Combe Down. ³

1877 Marriage of James Cave [sic] and Louisa Hill registered Bradford on Avon. ⁴

1881 Birth of **Edward James Care** registered Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. ⁵

1891 Census shows James Care head m age 47 General Labourer b. Limpley Stoke, Wilts. living at Westwood, Wiltshire with wife Louisa age 42 b. Frome, Somerset, and sons **Edward J** age 10 Scholar, Fredk G age 6 Scholar, and Herbt H age 2, all b. Staples Hill, Westwood, Wiltshire. ⁶

1901 Elizabeth Gould, Head wid age 67 b. Frome, Somerset living at Staples Hill, Westwood, Wiltshire with sister Louisa Care wid age 52 Laundress b. Frome, Somerset, and nephews **Edward Care** s age 19 Gardener Domestic, George Care s age 16 Labourer in Cloth Factory, and Herbert Care age 12 Agricultural Labourer, all b. Westwood, Wiltshire. ⁷

1905 Wedding of an **Edward James Care** to Florence Young was registered at Bath, Somerset. ⁸

1909 Birth of *Edward Christopher Care* registered Pershore. ⁹

1911 Census shows **Edward Care** age 29 married Gardener Domestic b. Bradford-on-Avon Wilts. living at Abberton, Pershore, Worcestershire with wife Florence age 29 married 5 years b. Warminster, Wilts., son Edward age 2 b. Pershore, Abberton and cousin Frances Gould age 11 School b. Birmingham, Ladywood. ¹⁰

Florence Young

1901 Census shows *Florence Young* single age 20 General Servant (domestic) b. Warminster, Wilts living at New Inn Freshford, Somerset servant to Edward Read age 37 Farmer & Licensed Victualler b. Freshford, Somerset and family. ¹¹

1938 Marriage of *Edward C Care* and Lillian M Roberts registered Bath. ¹²

1950 Death of *Florence Care* age 68 registered Bath. ¹³

1973 Death of *Edward Christopher Care* age 64 b. 26 Jan 1909 registered Bath. ¹⁴

First World War

Somerset Light Infantry 1914-1918: The Great War. The 1st battalion fights on the Western Front for the duration of the conflict, whilst the 2nd battalion serves in India. In total nineteen battalions were raised seeing service in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Burma and at home. In total seventy-one battle honours were awarded, including the retreat from Mons, Le Cateau, Somme 1916 and 1918, Ypres, 1915, 1917 and 1918 and Cambrai, 1917 and 1918. ¹⁵

Somerset L I 8th (Service) Battalion:- 20.10.1914 Formed at Taunton as part of the Third New Army (K3) and then moved to Halton Park near Tring as part of the 63rd Brigade of 21st Division. Nov 1914 Moved to Leighton Buzzard and then back to Halton Park. Aug 1915 moved to Witley Camp. 10.09.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including: 1915 The Battle of Loos (the Division suffered over 3,800 casualties and took the rest of the year to rebuild). 08.07.1916 Transferred to the 63rd Brigade of the 37th Division; 1916 The Battle of the Ancre. 1917. The First Battle of the Scarpe, The capture of Monchy-le-Preux, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux, The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The First Battle of Passchendaele. Note: **Edward James Care** probably died during the fighting to capture Monchy-le-Preux 9 to 12 April 1917. ¹⁶

Note: Monchy-le-Preux was one of the keys to the northern end of the Hindenburg Line, giving the Germans ideal observation over any advance from the British trenches in front of Arras five miles away. Third Army's commander, General Sir Edmund Allenby, ordered the capture of the village and surrounding high ground, as objectives for the first day of the offensive – 9 April. ¹⁷

1917 Operations around Monchy-le-Preux 9 Apr-12 Apr 1917. "Early morning April 10th. Reports of enemy movements and digging in N of MONCHY reached me. Also order that Brown Line would be attacked at noon followed later by attack of 111th Bde & 112th Bde on MONCHY, 63rd Bde in support on left. 10th April. Order received for advance at 7-30 p.m. on final objective by 8th Som.L.I. I moved 8th Som.L.I. and 8th Lincs ready to advance on trenches H 32 d but this did not mature. 9-30 p.m. Sent Coys back to their positions in line H 36 c 54 - H 36 c 7.8. 11th April "Afternoon" Position remained there all day until order arrived that 63 Bde would concentrate in H 35 d ready to support advance of 111th. No concentration was possible and when other 3 Battns. advanced to support 111th Bde 8th Som. L.I. remained in reserve in same position." ¹⁸ 9/4/17 to 12/4/17 inclusive Battalion in action. Total Casualties Officers 2 Other Ranks 101. Wounded 2nd Lt. J.H.B. Gregg. 2nd Lt H.C.Frost. Other Ranks Killed 26. Wounded 70. Missing 5. ¹⁹

1917 **Edward Care** Born Westwood Wilts, Resided Combe Down, Somerset, Nationality: British, Date of Death 11/04/1917 Killed in Action Rank Private, SN 26331 Duty Location France & Flanders. ²⁰ **Care, Edward J** Som. L. I. Reg No. Pte 26331 Medals Victory C/2/10283 Page 353, British War Medal C/2/10283 Page 353. [No other information given.] ²¹

1917 **Care, Edward** Reg. No. 26331 Somerset Light Infantry Private 8th Bn. died 11/04/1917. Arras Memorial ²² Panel: Bay 4, Pas de Calais, France. ²³

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 Email from Ruth Poole, teacher at Freshford C of E Primary School, dated 14 Nov 2014.

⁴ England and Wales, FreeBMD, Marriage Index: 1837-1983 for Bradford on Avon for Apr-May-Jun 1877 Vol 5a Page 218.

⁵ England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire for Oct-Nov-Dec 1881 Vol 5a Page 126.

⁶ 1891 England Census RG12/1605 Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 15 Folio 166 Page 7 Schedule 44.

⁷ 1901 England Census RG13/1934 Bradford on Avon, Bradford South East 13 Page 7, Schedule 45.

⁸ England and Wales, FreeBMD, Marriage Index: 1837-1983 for Bath, Somerset for Oct-Nov-Dec 1905 Vol 5c Page 1206.

⁹ England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Pershore for Jan-Feb-Mar 1909 Vol 6c Page 321.

¹⁰ 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/17720 Pershore, Pershore 1 Schedule 13.

¹¹ 1901 England Census RG13/2335 Bath, Twerton 20 Folio 147 Page 16 Schedule 120.

¹² England & Wales Marriage Index: 1916-2005 for Bath for Oct-Nov-Dec 1938 Vol 5c Page 1406.

¹³ Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Death Index: 1916-2005 for Bath for Jun 1950 Vol 7c Page 9.

¹⁴ Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Death Index: 1916-2005 for Bath for Mar 1973 Vol 7c Page 924.

¹⁵ <http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/Archives/sli/timeline.htm>.

¹⁶ 28th – 29th April Ref: <http://www1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/battle-of-arras/the-battle-of-arras-an-overview/>.

¹⁷ 'War Horse' at Monchy-le-Preux – 11 April 1917 (<http://www1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/?p=734>) by Stephen Barker licensed as Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/uk/>)

¹⁸ War Diary 8th Bde. Somerset Light Infantry. National Archives. 548 SLI Page 42 Intelligence Summary Part I.

¹⁹ War Diary 8th Bde. Somerset Light Infantry. National Archives. 548 SLI Page 38 Intelligence Summary Part II.

²⁰ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/1693362>.

²¹ Ancestry.com. British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920. Original data: Army Medal Office. WWI Medal Index Cards. In the care of The Western Front Association website.

²² The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras. The cemetery is near the Citadel, approximately 2 kms due west of the railway station. The adjacent ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917 [...]. Ref: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/82700/ARRAS%20MEMORIAL>.

²³ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details www.cwgc.org 743655.