

Draft Notes for Ernest William Carter in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

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E Carter, Pte. Somerset L.I. ¹

Note: The Carter family lived around the Zeals Row and White Cross area of the village. They were primitive methodists and the Zeals Church burial book for 1846 - 1995 records 44 members of the family. The tithe map and book of 1848 shows that Priscilla Carter, who would have been **Ernest's** great grandmother, was tenant of a house and garden at White Cross and owned a cottage and garden at Zeals Row, probably Stourvale Cottage. This cottage was once a bakery and from the Kelly'd directories for 1889 and 1895, as well as the 1891 census we know Isaac Carter was a baker and grocer and he was followed by his son Ebenezer, **Ernest's** father. **Ernest's** uncle Albert Carter (bat 1847 - 1915) was a boot and shoe maker at White Cross. As for the Primitive Methodist Church, the Carter family, and particularly Ernest's cousin Walter and Walter's daughter Viola Ethel Carter (1910 - 1988), were closely involved in running the church and Sunday School. Walter and his son (Al)bert were also preachers there. ²

1896 Birth of **Ernest William Carter** registered Mere, Wiltshire. ³ Note: Mere was the Registration District for Zeals.

1901 Census shows Ebenezer Carter head m age 31 Blacksmith worker b. Zeals, Wilts living at 9 A Earl St, Christchurch, Warminster with wife Emily A ⁴ age 27 b. Zeals, Wilts and sons **Ernest Wm** age 4 b. Zeals, Wilts and Cecil E age 1 mo b. Warminster, Wilts. ⁵

1911 Census shows Ebenezer Carter head age 41 married Foreman Smith, Engineering Works worker b. Zeals, Wilts living at 45 Boreham Road, Warminster (4 Rooms) with wife Emily Augusta age 37 married 17 years (5 children born alive, 4 still living, 1 dead) b. Zeals, Wilts and sons Izaak Henry single age 16 Blacksmith Striker, **Ernest William** age 14 Baker & Confectionary Apprentice both b. Zeals, Wilts, Cecil Edward age 10 School and Victor Leslie age 6 School both b. Warminster, Wilts. ⁶

1914-1917

Carter Ernest W. Som.L.I. Pte Reg No. 25532. Medals: Victory C/2/10283 Page 364, British do. ⁷

Ernest William Carter b. circa 1897 age 20 Birth Town: Zeals, Wilts, Resided Town: Freshford, Somerset, Nationality: British, Date of Death: 28/04/1917 Fate: Killed in Action; Parents Mr & Mrs E Carter of 24 King's Weston Avenue, Shirehampton, Bristol. Rank: private, Service No.: 25532, Duty Location: France & Flanders. Battalion: 8th Batallion. ⁸ Enlistment location: Bath, Regiment Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry), Western European Theatre. ⁹

Somerset L I 8th Batallion 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: **Ernest William Carter** probably died on the first day of the Battle of Arleux. ^{10, 11}

1917 **Carter, Ernest William** Private S.No. 25532 Died 28/04/1917 age 20 Somerset Light Infantry

8th Battalion. Arras Memorial ¹² Panel: Bay 4, Pas de Calais, France. ¹³

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

² Christopher Palmer email dated 11 Jan 2014.

³ England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Mere, Wiltshire for Apr-May-Jun 1896 Vol 5a Page 208.

⁴ Stephen Family Tree owner stephenhale172 gives her name as Augusta Emily Riddick b. Zeals 1873, without citation.

⁵ 1901 England Census RG13/1942 Warminster 6 Page 18 Schedule 118

⁶ 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/12014 Warminster, Warminster 6 Schedule 151

⁷ 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.

⁸ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/1693510>.

⁹ Source Information: Military-Genealogy.com, comp. UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919. Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008. Original data: British and Irish Military Databases. The Naval and Military Press Ltd.

¹⁰ 28th – 29th April Ref: <http://ww1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/battle-of-arras/the-battle-of-arras-an-overview/>.

¹¹ David Crouch : I have researched the 10th Y & L (another battalion in the 63 Bde). They attacked along side the 8 SMLI on this date, but the battle of Arleux is a bit of a misnomer. They attacked Greenland Hill from trenches just north of Fampoux. Stephen Bakers book on the 8th East Lancs is the best book I have read to date on the subject. Apart from the Official History there appears to be very little written about this battle. Ref: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=138014> .

¹² 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>.

¹³ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details www.cwgc.org 743803.