

Hindon

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War 1



7555 PRIVATE

G. A. BURT

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

25TH SEPTEMBER, 1915

Albert George BURT

Albert George Burt was born at Fonthill Gifford in 1888 to parents Frank & Annie Burt (nee Godwin). His birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1888. Albert George Burt's parents had married at Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire in 1875.

The 1891 Census recorded George Burt as a 2 year old living with his family at Fonthill St, Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Frank Burt (General Labourer, aged 38, born Fonthill Gifford) & Annie Burt (aged 35, born Fonthill Gifford). George was one of six children listed on this Census, all born at Fonthill Gifford – Arthur (Scholar, aged 11), Henry (Scholar, aged 10), William G. (Scholar, aged 8), Kate (Scholar, aged 6), then George & Flora (aged 8 months). Also living with the family was Frank Burt's mother-in-law – Hannah Godwin (Annie's mother, widow, aged 72, born Hindon).

(A death for a "Annie Burt" aged 40, was registered in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire in June quarter, 1896)

The 1901 Census recorded Albert George Burt as a 12 year old, Inmate at Mullers Orphan Houses, Ashley, Bristol, Gloucestershire. Albert George Burt's younger sister – Flora Burt (aged 10) was also listed at the same Institution.

A "George Albert Burt", aged 23, born Salisbury was listed on the 1911 Census as a Private (Signaller) in the 1st Wiltshire Regiment in South Africa.

George Albert Burt enlisted at London with Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 7555. He was residing at Salisbury at the time he enlisted.

Private George Albert Burt's Medal Index Card shows that he first entered a Theatre of War on 7th October, 1914.

Private George Albert Burt was killed in action on 25th September, 1915. He was attached to 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death.

Private George Albert Burt is remembered on the Loos Memorial, France – Panel 102, as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Private George Albert Burt, 7555, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. No family details are listed.

2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

The First World War

1914

The 2nd Battalion mobilized on the 29th July, 1914 when the 'Alarm in Fortress' was sounded in Gibraltar, sailing for England a month later. They landed at Zeebrugge as part of the 7th Division in October. Their initial deployment to defend Antwerp was abandoned after it was captured by the Germans. They redeployed to a position East of Ypres and very soon were in action at Reutel near Ypres. This first action for many was also their last as the battalion lost 450 men and 18 officers captured, 76 men and 7 officers were killed and 229 wounded after being assaulted by two complete German Regiments. After many other actions they ended 1914 in the line at Fleurbaix.

1915

The 2nd Battalion started 1915 in the Fleurbaix area remaining in the waterlogged trenches when they were relieved by the Canadians in March. They were removed from the line to prepare for a major assault at Neuve Chapelle which started on the 9th of March. By the 14th March the battalion had suffered nearly 400 casualties. After a few days rest they returned to the line at Laventie where they resumed trench warfare. In May the battalion took part in the battle of Festubert where they suffered 158 casualties for one mile of ground taken. This was followed by a rest period in the Bethune area where they were reinforced. In June they were one of the leading battalions in the attack at Givenchy where after taking significant casualties the operation was cancelled. This was followed by many months

of trench warfare in different sectors leading up to the Battle of Loos in September where their casualty figure was 400. Rest and reorganisation followed and in early December they were again redeployed to another Division, the 30th ending the year at Autheux.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion 25th September, 1915

Location – France, Verquin

Entry - Battn moved at 12.30am marched via LA BOURSE and SAILLY, arriving at a reserve line of trenches SE of NOYELLES at point L12 o 6.6 at about 3am. Bombardment becomes intense. At about 6am the attack was launched. Battn ordered to advance through VERMELLES up communication trench (CHAPEL ALLEY) to occupy front line at point G11 o 9.8. Capt King wounded. 2/Lt FH Friend assumed command of 'A' Coy. Following the advance of the 20th Brigade the Battalion occupies the front and support German lines. Lt Col BH Leatham DSO then gave orders for the Battn to advance in open order in direction of CITE ST ELIE keeping to the north of HULLUCH ROAD, our right flank connecting with the 2nd Bedfordshires left. The Battn advanced in the following order, 'B' Coy on the left Capt WM GEDDES in command, 'A' Coy on right 2/Lt FH Friend in command, two platoons of each comp leading, two platoons immediately behind, 'C' Coy in support, 'D' Coy in reserve, Major RMP Gillson in command of 'C' Coy, Capt EC Mudge in command of 'D' Coy, the whole were led by Major CG Forsyth, and experiencing extremely heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the front came to a line held very weakly by a mixture of 8th Devon & 2nd Borders. The trench contained 4 German field guns and ammunition. Our losses were heavy and included the following Officers casualties Capt GMU Wilson, 2/Lts CFB Hodgins JH Clarke WHG Durrant killed. Major RMP Gillson, 2nd Lt FH Friend wounded the latter seriously. At dusk the Battn was relieved by the 9/Devonshire Regt and took up a new front at BRESLAU AVENUE our right resting on the latter Regiment.

(Information on 2nd Battalion & War Diary from [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire & Wiltshire)

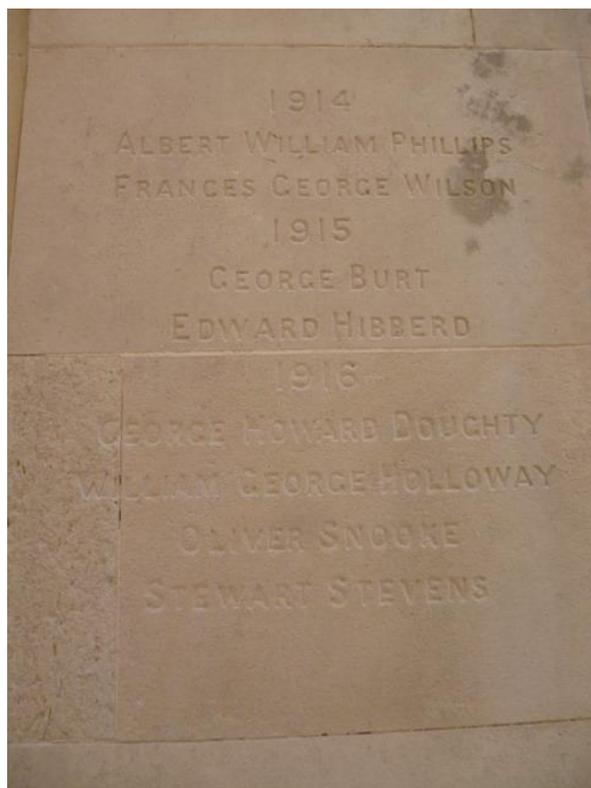
Private George Albert Burt was entitled to 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. According to his Medal Index Card he was also entitled to the Clasp (2/2480). The Clasp was awarded with the 1914 Star which was sewn onto the ribbon, bearing the date '5th AUG. - 22nd NOV. 1914' which indicated that the recipient had served under enemy fire during that period.



1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

G. Burt is remembered as a casualty of World War 1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book 1914-1918 for the parish of Hindon.

George Burt is remembered on the Hindon War Memorial, Wiltshire.



Hindon War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Linda Robson 2013)



Loos Memorial

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.

Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the D943, the main Lens to Bethune road.

Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle.

The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice.

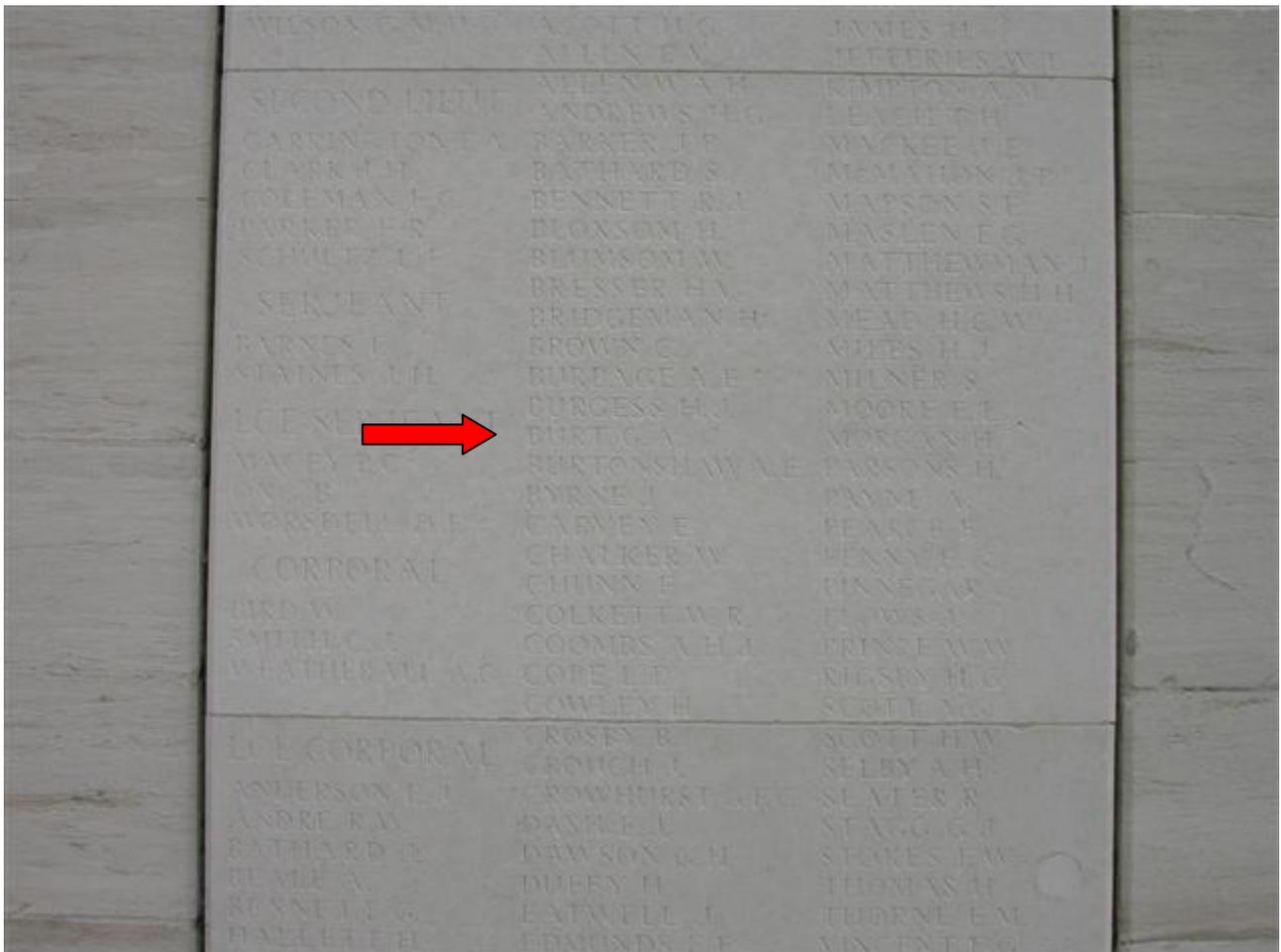
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Dud Corner Cemetery (above) & Loos Memorial (below)

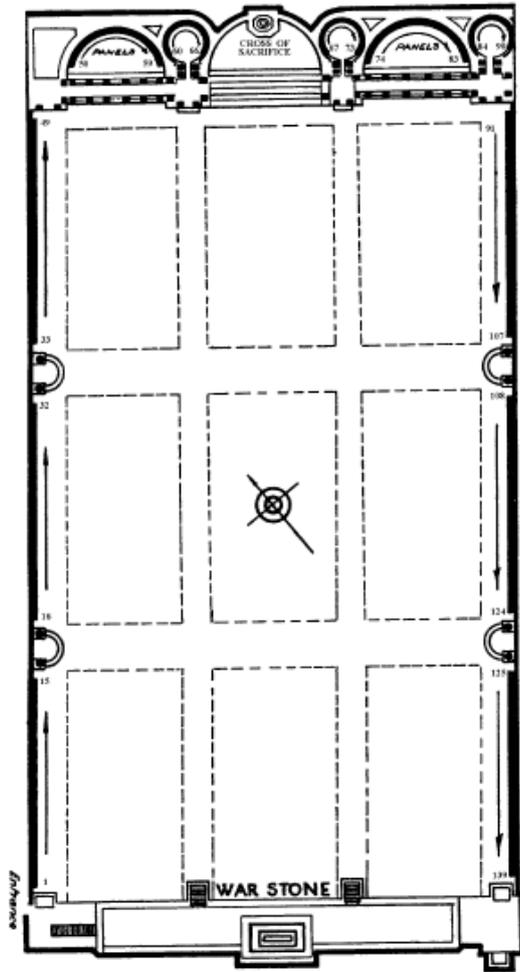


Photo of G. A. Burt's name on Loos Memorial, France – Panel 102.



(Photo from International Wargraves Photography Project)

MEMORIAL



LAYOUT OF THE PANELS, LOOS MEMORIAL

MEMORIAL

