



CARDEY, FRANCIS HENRY

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Private Service No: G/14595

Regiment: Royal Sussex Regiment 2nd Battalion, 1st Division 2nd Brigade.

originally Essex Regiment 2419, Age: 19

Died of Wounds Date of Death: 29/09/1916

The 2nd Battalion was a Regular unit. On the 4th August 1914 they were stationed at Woking in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. Arrived in France in August 1914. At the time of his death the Division had been involved in two battles :-

Battle of Flers-Courcelette. 15-22 Sep 1916, including the capture of Martinpuich.

The last great Allied effort to achieve a breakthrough came on 15 September in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette with the initial advance made by 11 British divisions (nine from Fourth Army, two Canadian divisions on the Reserve Army sector) and a later attack by four French corps.

The battle is chiefly remembered today as the debut of the tank. The British had high hopes that this secret weapon would break the deadlock of the trenches. Early tanks were not weapons of mobile warfare — with a top speed of 2 mph (3.2 km/h), they were easily outpaced by the infantry — but were designed for trench warfare. They were untroubled by barbed wire obstacles and impervious to rifle and machine gun fire, though highly vulnerable to artillery. Additionally, the tanks were notoriously unreliable; of the 49 tanks available on 15 September, only 32 made it to the start line, and of these, only 21 made it into action. Mechanical breakdowns were common, and many others became bogged or ditched in the shell holes and trenches of the churned battlefield.

Troops advancing at Morval

New Zealand infantry in the Switch Line. The British made gains across the length of their front, the greatest being in the centre at Flers with an advance of 3,500 yards, a feat achieved by the newest British division in France, the 41st Division, in their first action. They were later joined by the tank D-17, giving rise to the optimistic press report: "A tank is walking up the High Street of Flers with the British Army cheering behind."



It was also the first major Western Front battle for the New Zealand Division, at the time part of the British XV Corps, which captured part of the Switch Line west of Flers. On the left flank, the Canadian 2nd Division

captured the village of Courcellette after heavy fighting, with some assistance from tanks. And finally after two months of fighting, the British captured all of High Wood, though not without another costly struggle. The plan was to use tanks in support of infantry from the 47th (1/2nd London) Division, but the wood was an impassable landscape of shattered stumps and shell holes, and only one tank managed to penetrate any distance. The German defenders were forced to abandon High Wood once British progress on the flanks threatened to encircle them.



German prisoners bringing wounded to a Field Station at Morval

British infantry advancing near Ginchy during the Battle of Morval, 25 September. The British had managed to advance during Flers-Courcellette, capturing 4,500 yards of the

German third position, but fell short of all their objectives, and once again the breakthrough eluded them. The tank had shown promise, but its lack of reliability limited its impact, and the tactics of tank warfare were obviously in their infancy.

The least successful sector on 15 September had been east of Ginchy where the Quadrilateral redoubt had held up the advance towards Morval — the Quadrilateral was not captured until 18 September. Another attack was planned for 25 September with the objectives of the villages of Gueudecourt, Lesbœufs and Morval. Like the 14 July battle of Bazentin Ridge, the limited objectives, concentrated artillery and weak German defences resulted in a successful attack. On this occasion the tanks remained in reserve. Reference:- [http://www.danceage.com/biography/sdmc_Battle_of_the_Somme_\(1916\)](http://www.danceage.com/biography/sdmc_Battle_of_the_Somme_(1916))

Battle of Morval. 25-28 Sep 1916, including the capture of Combles, Lesboeuufs and Gueudecourt. George Green also from Fingringhoe died the previous day in the same battle with the Northamptonshire Regiment.

He was the son of Harry and Hannah Cardey, of Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex. He had been living at Great Bromley in 1900 with his parents and 2 little sisters before they moved to Fingringhoe; their arrival being delayed because Frank had the measles. They lived in Hall Cottage below the churchyard; Mr Cardey worked at the Hall. Frank joined the Church Choir. He left school at 14 and was apprenticed to Mr. Hopwood, optician and clockmaker, of High Street, Colchester. He enlisted at Colchester and joined the Cyclists Battalion of the Essex Regiment but was sent to France with the 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Having been wounded, he died in hospital at Rouen.

1901 Census shows the family all living at Fingringhoe ;- Violet Cardey 5 months born at Great Bromley , Frances Cardey aged 3 born in at Myland , Mildred Cardey aged 5 born at Donyland and his mother Hannah Cardey aged 30 born at Layer Marney .



MEMORIALS

Colchester Town Hall and Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: B. 19. 67.

Cemetery: ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. During the Second World War, Rouen was again a hospital centre and the extension was used once more for the burial of Commonwealth servicemen, many of whom died as prisoners of war during the German occupation. The cemetery extension contains 8,345 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (ten of them unidentified) and 328 from the Second World War (18 of them unidentified). The extension was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYPOND, FINGRINGHOE, LANGENHOE