



MATHER ALBERT CHARLES

Corporal: Essex Regiment 9th Battalion.12th Division



Killed in action Date of Death: 10/08/1918

Service No: 43576 aged 28 years

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead



He was the son of Mr & Mrs J. Mather & lived in Fingringhoe & enlisted at Colchester. Prior to enlisting, he had worked for Mr Roper at South Green Farm, Fingringhoe.

The 1901 Census shows :- Clifford Mather 1 , Elsie Mather 3, William Mather 8 Horace Mather 9, Harold Mather 10, Albert Mather 11, born & living in Fingringhoe. Joseph Mather 14 born in Norfolk at Great Yarmouth & living in Fingringhoe. The father was Shipyard Labourer Joseph Mather 41 born in Norfolk at Great Yarmouth Essex living in Fingringhoe & working as a Ship Caulker. The mother was Annie Mather 37 born at Wivenhoe living at Fingringhoe. Another daughter, Annie was born later.

It is believed Albert was originally in the 8th (Cyclist) Battalion Essex Regiment The 8th Battalion were still in the UK when he transferred to the 9th, which was part of 12th Division. This was one of the first New Army

divisions to be formed, as part of K1. It was assembled around Colchester (with the divisional artillery at Shorncliffe) from late August 1914. Divisional training was completed near Aldershot from February 1915, and the Division moved to France on 29 May - 4 June 1915.

The Division served with distinction on the Western Front throughout the war. The Battle of Loos, and subsequent Action of Hohenzollern Redoubt The Division lost it's Officer Commanding, Major-General F.D.V. Wing CB, killed in action on 2 October 1915 during it's first battle.

It is believed Albert served about 2 years before being killed, probably reaching the front during the Somme campaign. His Division was subsequently involved in :- The Battle of Albert (first phase of the Battle of the Somme 1916) The Battle of Pozieres (third phase of the Battle of the Somme 1916) The Battle of Le Transloy (eighth phase of the Battle of the Somme 1916) The First Battle of the Scarpe (first phase of the Arras Offensive) The Battle of Arleux (third phase of the Arras Offensive) The Third Battle of the Scarpe (fourth phase of the Arras Offensive) The latter action included the Division's role in the capture of Roeux. The Battle of Cambrai The First Battle of Bapaume (second phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918) The First Battle of Arras, 1918 (fourth phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918) The Battle of Amiens .

Albert was killed during this last battle. The artillery prepared with minimum registration, and laid down a fearsome creeping barrage. The assaulting infantry was deployed in great depth. Leading battalions were arrayed into 5 waves; the first guided the tanks and moved in two lines 30 yards apart. The leading units were supposed to stay close to the barrage, but the fog and smoke was so thick that in many places men could not see, only hear, the shell explosions. The second, third and fourth moved in single file, in small sections each thirty to sixty yards apart. Machine-guns, trench mortars and signals parties went with the fourth wave. At first they would follow tapes, laid out the night before, leading up to less than 300 yards from the front enemy positions. Behind came battalions in larger groups, disposed in a diamond, mopping up stragglers, neutralising strong points and taking prisoners into captivity. The total British casualties amounted to just over 22,200 of all ranks, killed, wounded and missing.



Albert was entitled to British War and Allied Victory Medals, National Archives file ref: WO329/1378

Name:	Corps:	Rank:	Regt. No.
MATHER A.C.	Boat R	Cpl.	43576
Medal:	Roll:	Page:	Remarks:
VICTORY	R/2/102 817	898	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theater of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

In the First World War brother Joseph served in the Royal Navy on *H. M. S. Laertes*



HMS Laertes was stationed in the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla based at Harwich. In the Battle of Heligoland Bight on the 28 August 1914 during the final stages :-"The German cruiser Mainz was heading into the path of the Harwich Force and her steering had been damaged by HMS Fearless. Destroyers then pummelled the damaged German cruiser, although she did manage to damage HMS Laurel, Liberty and Laertes to varying degrees. Mainz was hit many times before the British ceased fire at 1225 in order to rescue survivors from the ship that sank about forty minutes later. ". HMS Laertes was transferred to escort duties after 1917. Finally she was sold for breaking in December 1921. Joseph is shown below with brother Clifford.



Joseph 15 April 1917

Albert's brother Harold (number 13762) was a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His brother Horace joined the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1911 with service number 9181. He was promoted to sergeant and was wounded in France. Horace served 9 years and 2 months and was later re-badged as a sergeant in the Norfolk Regiment , service number 21982. He was discharged as being unfit for military service. In World War 2 Horace served in the Leicester Home Guard.



Horace & his discharge papers below

Serial No. 1/9/Dist/14/1 929 Army Form B. 2067
 NOTE.—The character given on this Certificate is based on holder's conduct throughout his military career.

Character Certificate of No. 21982 Rank Sergeant
 Name Harther Horace John
 Unit and Regiment or Corps from which discharged Norfolk Regiment

This is to certify that the ex-soldier named above has served with the Colours for 9 years 2 months, and his character during this period has been exemplary. He has proved himself to be a self-reliant, honest, industrious, reliable and thoroughly trustworthy NCO.

H. Chapman Officer in Charge
 ASST. O. IN CH. NO. 1 INFANTRY RECORDS
 Date of discharge 11/10/1919 Place WARRINGTON

To safeguard the holder of this Certificate from impersonation it should be noted that, in the event of any doubt arising as to the bona fides of the bearer, reference should be made to the description, when he left the Colours, of the soldier to whom this Certificate was given, which is recorded on his Discharge Certificate (Army Form B. 2070) Serial No. 11/10/1919 1417A, and should be in his possession.

(A13177) W. W. 188/2222 13/000 4/19 Sch. 11. D. D. & L. (P.T.O.)

Grave/Memorial Reference: VI. E. 4.

William served as a private 31191 with the Bedfordshire Regiment & was wounded. His Medal Card shows him listed as Willie Mather. Clifford shown above joined the Navy post war.



This part of the Somme did not see fighting until 26-27 March 1918, when the Third Army withdrew to a line between Albert and Sailly-le-Sec ahead of the German advance. This line was held until 4 July, when it was advanced nearly to Sailly-Laurette, and on 8 August, the first day of the Battle of Amiens, Sailly-Laurette and the road to Morlancourt were disengaged. The cemetery (named from a brick beacon on the summit of the ridge a little south-east of the village) was made by the 18th Division Burial Officer on 15 August when the 12th (Eastern), 18th and 58th (London) Divisions attacked from the Ancre to the Somme and the Australian Corps beyond the Somme. At the Armistice, the original burials numbered 109, chiefly from the 12th Division, but it was then greatly increased when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and small burial grounds. Beacon Cemetery now contains 772 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 258 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to four casualties known or believed to be buried among them. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



No. *WBR 4/20*

Army Form B. 104-121.

(If replying, please quote
above No.)

No. 2 Record Office, Record Office,
85, Warley Road,
WARLEY.

191.....
29 APR 1920

SIR or ~~MADAM~~,

In continuation of the notification sent to you
regarding the death of the late (No.) *43576* (Rank) *Lt.*

Name *A. G. Mather*

Regiment *7th Essex*

I beg to inform you that an official report has now been
received that the late soldier ~~is buried at~~ ^{was} **Exhumed & Reburied**

in Beacon British Cemetery, 1/2 miles

S.S.W. of Albert, France.

*The reburial was carried out with all
due religious reverence and care.*

Yours faithfully,

A. R. AUSTEN Colonel,

I/c No. 2 Infantry Record Office.

Office in charge of Warley.

