

Private Harry Butcher

12609 6th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment



On Saturday November 18th 1916 the Hants and Berks Gazette reported:

Roll of Honour News was received this week of the death of Pte. Harry Butcher, Wiltshire Regiment, of Overton. He was one of four brothers all serving their country and was a most promising young soldier, having of late acted in the dangerous role of messenger between the front trenches and the rear. On the night of 4th Nov. he was out with his brother Ted when a shell burst close to them, killing him on the spot but leaving his brother uninjured. The deepest sympathy is felt with the bereaved relatives. He was 22 years of age.

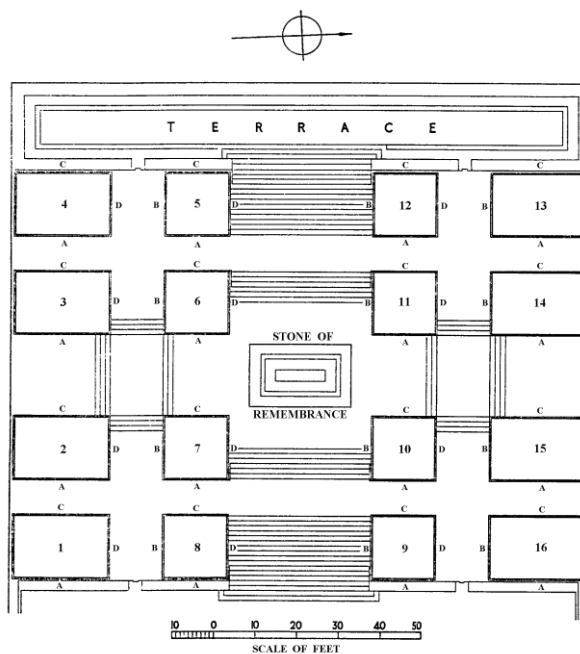
Harry died on 4th November 1916. The 6th Battalion was serving near Aveluy and the War diary records them being in the trenches from 3rd to 5th. Presumably Harry is one of the 13 'Other Ranks' killed in this period. Aveluy village is immediately north of Albert. It was held by Commonwealth forces from July 1915 to March 1918. It was lost during the German advance in March 1918 but retaken at the end of August.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.			Army Form C. 2118.	
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.				
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NE AVELUY	Nov 1	-	Day spent in general cleaning up.	at MAP SHEET
	" 2	-	Battalion relieved 8 th Gloucester Regt in STUFF & REGINA Trenches - #, B, C & D Companies in firing line and 'A' in support. Headquarters in STUFF Redoubt.	57 th SE. W 18a
IN THE TRENCHES	" 3	-	During relief enemy artillery were very active causing some 30 casualties.	at
	" 4	-	State of trenches very bad indeed. During this hour in trenches enemy artillery continually shelling. On the 3 rd 2d Lt J. Green was killed. Our total casualties were 13 other ranks killed, 43 wounded and 1 Missing. On the night of 5/6 Battalion were relieved by 4 th South Lancs Regt and proceeded to billets in AVELUY.	R. 21
AVELUY.	" 6 th	-	Day spent in cleaning up.	at R. 17a.
"	" 7 th	-	Usual company inspections. Some of the men had baths. 2nd Lt Randall from 4 th Wilt joined.	at "
"	" 8 th	-	Nearly all available men for work were employed unloading	at "
"	" 9	-	trains at AVELUY STATION from 8am to 4pm both these days.	at "
"	" 10	-	Usual company inspections - Working party of 30 men unloading	at "

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

Harry Butcher

Harry Butcher is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial for men killed during the Battle of the Somme with no known grave, reference Pier and Face 13A.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

THE NUMBERS OF THE PIERS
AND LETTERS OF THE FACES

Harry Butcher



These photographs taken in 2016 show the Thiepval memorial and poppies and crosses planted on a nearby bank to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.



29/10/2016

Harry Butcher

Harry's medal record shows him Killed in Action in France, having first served there on 19th July 1915.

Medals awarded to Harry Butcher were the Victory, British and 15 Star.

62
Campaign:— 1914-15. (A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name.	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any).		
(A) BUTCHER	Wiltshire	Pte	12609	MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(B) Harry	—	—	—	VICTORY	6/1/02 3/2	248
				BRITISH	do	do
				15 STAR	9/11/15	129

Action taken: K. in A.

THEATRE OF WAR. (1) France

QUALIFYING DATE. 19. 7. 15.

(6 34 46) W231—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.]

29/10/2016

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