

Private Ernest Harold Winterbourne

201870 1st/4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment



Ernest Winterbourne was born in 1900 and was one of ten children of Frederick and Sarah Winterbourne. He was born in Whitchurch but at the 1911 census the family was living in a six-room house in Winchester Street, Overton. In July 1914 he was working as a gardener at Ashe House. He joined the 1st/4th (T.F) Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment when he was sixteen and sent to Quettar in India to train with British Indian Forces. They were transported by sea to Basra to attack the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

He was killed near Kut on 5th February 1917.

Hants and Berks Gazette 24th June, 1917

***Roll of Honour.** Another name has, we regret to say, to be added to the ever-growing list of the Overton Roll of Honour, viz., that of Private Ernest Winterbourne, Hants Regt., who has been officially reported as having been killed near Kut on the 5th inst. He was the youngest of the four soldier sons of Mr. and Mrs. Winterbourne, of Fair Close Cottage Overton. Joining the Hants Regt. at the age of 16 he was sent almost immediately to Quettar in India and from there drafted to the Persian Gulf. Only a few days ago a notice was sent to him at his home from the Recruiting officials requesting him to report himself and be attested. Previous to entering the Army he worked for Admiral Stopford, of Ashe House, and he was only 17 years of age when he died. Great sympathy is felt for the bereaved family who have one son a prisoner of war in Germany, another with the Salonika contingent, and another has been on the Western Front since the beginning of the War.*

The siege of Kut in 1916 was one of the worst British military disasters of WW1. A relatively small force of British and British Indian forces advanced against the Turks from Basra towards Baghdad in 1915. The Turks counter-attacked and surrounded the British force in the town of Kut. There followed a 147 day siege which ended on 29th April 1916 with 8,000 troops surrendering the town. Half of them died in captivity from disease and starvation. The town was eventually retaken by the British on 24th February 1917 soon after Albert was killed. They then advanced on Baghdad and took the oilfields of Mosul before the Turks surrendered on 30th October 1918. The campaign cost 33,000 British and Indian lives.

Ernest Winterbourne



Ernest Winterbourne's name is inscribed on Stone 22b at the Basra Memorial, Iraq.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
WINTERBOURNE, Ernest, H.	Hampshire R.	Pte	3972 201870
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	6/1/103 ^B	31	3074
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

He was awarded the Victory and British medals.