

George Henry Turvey



Scots Rifles and 57th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

1882 - 1916

George was the son of George Turvey, a farm labourer born in Swanbourne and his wife Emma (nee Cheney) from Cublington, who lived in Nearton End (possibly Brook Farm). George was born in Swanbourne in the Spring of 1882 and was baptised at St Swithuns on 7th May 1882. He had an older sister Edith (1880), and three younger siblings, Daisy (1884), Reginald (1886) and Ethel (1889).

In 1891, George was a scholar, aged 9. In 1901 he was living with his parents, brother Reginald and sister Daisy, at 58, Archway Road, Highgate, London. He was working as a Carman. In 1911, he was living at 9, Coronation Villas in Aylesbury and working as a postman. He had married Olga Emma Helena Steele in 1909 (Registered Jan-Mar Newport Pagnell). At the date of the Census in 1911, his wife Olga and daughter Mildred (age one) are living with her parents at 1, Alexandra Villa, Upper Vale, Surrey.

He enlisted in Highgate, London, and the last address that we have for his wife is 7, Holmesdale Road, Highgate.

He seems to have initially joined the Scots Rifles, but at some point was transferred to the 57th Company of the Machine Gun Corps. This Corps was formed in October 1915 in response to the need for the more effective use of machine guns on the Western Front. The Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps was the first to use tanks in combat, and the branch was subsequently turned into the Tank Corps, later called the Royal Tank Regiment.

He died on 29th May 1916, at the 4th London General Hospital, RAMC aged 33 years. His death certificate states his cause of death as 1. Carcinoma of the tonsil 9 months and 2. Heart Failure. His occupation at death was Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Machine Gun Corps of 7, Holmesdale Road, Highgate. He was buried in Highgate Cemetery.

The owner of unconsecrated burial plot 40285 in Highgate Cemetery is Olga Emma Helena Turvey. It was purchased on 31st May 1916 at a cost of £2.8s. Interred are George Henry Turvey on 3rd June 1916, and his brother Reginald Arthur Charles Turvey on 2nd November 1918.



Note: This photograph is taken at Highgate cemetery, but is not of George Turvey's grave. There are 257 Commonwealth War Graves from the First World War at the cemetery.