

Nimrod Boughton

Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

1885 - 1915



Nimrod Boughton was born on 6th August 1885 in Winslow, and was baptised in Winslow a year later on 9th August 1886. His mother was Ann Boughton, the daughter of John and Sarah Boughton (nee Hopkins) of Swanbourne. Ann was unmarried, and Nimrod may have had an elder brother, George, born a year earlier. In 1891, George and Nimrod were living with their grandparents at Church Street, at what is now 3, Winslow Road. At that time, it was the post office, and John was the post master. Nimrod's mother seems to have been working as a servant in Battersea, with the name Hannah Boughton.

In 1901, aged 15, he was in the Navy and on board HMS Boscowan, a vessel docked at Portland. In 1911, he was listed as being in the OBLI in India. His mother, still known as Hannah, was living at Chesham Lodge, 22 Lime Grove, Malden, Surrey, where she was a domestic servant.

The Infantry returned to England at the start of the war, and Nimrod seems to have been drafted into the 5th (Service) Battalion which was formed at Oxford as part of the First New Army (K1) in August 1914, which then moved to Aldershot to join the 42nd Brigade of the 14th Division and then moved to Cranleigh, Guildford. In February 1915, they moved to Salamanca Barracks, Aldershot, and on 21st May 1915, were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne. They were quickly into action and were engaged in various actions on the Western Front including The Action of Hooge, part of the first flamethrower attack by the Germans, and The Second Attack on Bellewaarde. It was in this second action that Nimrod, who was by now a Lance Corporal, was killed on 25 September 1915, aged 29, although he was still listed on the Vicar's roll of honour in February 1916. On the same day, Halford Fremantle, the eldest son of the 3rd Lord Cottesloe, also in the 5th battalion, was injured.

His memorial is at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper,



Belgium, Panel 37 and 39, as his body was never found. His last known address, according to Bucks Remembers, was New Malden, Surrey, which would seem to be where his mother was living at the time. There is also a tombstone in Swanbourne Cemetery bearing his name, together with those of two of his cousins, George and John Leonard, who also lost their lives during the war.



The tombstone was very probably erected by Polly Boughton, who was aunt to all three of these young men, and who had taken over from her father in running the post office, and by other members of the family.