



**LCpl George Stanley Kirby 53635**



114<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps.

Killed in action Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1917

Age 25

Essex Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

Burbage War Memorial

The Burbage Wesleyan Methodist War Memorial

George Stanley Kirby was the third child and only son of George and Sarah Kirby. He was born on Windsor Street, Burbage in 1892.

By 1911 the family had moved to No. 1 (now 12) Salem Road, one of the houses that Benjamin Hurst, owner of Burbage Nurseries, had built for his horticultural workers. George senior worked as a nursery labourer at the Burbage Experimental Station, Grove Road, Burbage.

The Hurst family were devout Methodists and preferred their employees' children to attend the Wesleyan Day School. It is likely that George and his three sisters would have attended the school next to the chapel on Windsor Street where the family attended on Sundays.

At the age of thirteen George would have left school and followed his two elder sisters Lilian and Mable into hosiery manufacturing.

By the age of nineteen George had trained as a Niantic machine operator, a highly skilled job in the hosiery industry. The Niantic was a circular machine which made the heels on hosiery.

George enlisted at Hinckley on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1914.

There are no records of where George served but the 114<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Corps were attached to the 38<sup>th</sup> Welsh Brigade from 19<sup>th</sup> May 1916 and saw active service throughout the main battles of the Somme during 1916.

The Machine Gun Corps suffered such heavy losses that they did not regroup to serve again until 1917.

To have served with the Machine Gun Corps and reach the rank of Lance Corporal George must have been a very competent man.

Also surviving service for over two years he must have survived many battles.

It is difficult to trace where he eventually fell, as Essex Farm was used as a dressing station as well as a cemetery.

It is highly likely George may have survived his injuries for a short time as there are no significant battles around his date of death.

George died in 4<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and was buried at Essex Farm.

His name is also commemorated on the Wesleyan Memorial at the church he attended throughout his short life.



**TERRITORIAL FORCE.**

*Hesleyan*

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

**ATTESTATION OF MACHINE GUN CORPS.**

No. *53635* *3365* Name *George Stanley Kirby* Corps *5th B Co Leicesters Regt*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? ..... *George Stanley Kirby*  
*1 Salem Road*  
*Burgage*
2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so long require your services) for the County of *Leicestershire* to serve in the *5th B Co Leicesters Regt*? ..... *Yes*
3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them? ..... *Yes*
4. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge ..... *No*

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

*George Stanley Kirby* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

*George Stanley Kirby* SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

*Geo Bell* Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *George Stanley Kirby* swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, *A.P. Atkins* do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit, above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at *Hesley* on this *15* day of *November* 1914. *A.P. Atkins* Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Recruits.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 80 (6), Army Act. The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501A. \* Here insert County. † Here insert Corps.

Service Record – LCpl George Stanley Kirby



