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 PRIVATE HERBERT SYDNEY MUSSON
 

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*Service Number: 40181*

*8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment*

*Killed in action Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916, Aged 27*

*Thiepval Memorial, France*

*Pier and Face 2C and 3A*

*Burbage War Memorial*



Herbert Sydney Musson was the eldest of the nine children born to Arthur and Mary Musson; born at Wolvey in the spring of 1889. It is likely he was known as Sydney Musson. By 1890, the family had moved to Claybrook Magna the birthplace of his father.

His father was an agricultural labourer and later worked as a Shepherd. The family moved around and worked at the various farms, living in the tied cottages around the villages.

Herbert would have attended the small village school at Claybrook. As there was little employment in the villages apart from agricultural work he may have followed his father into farm work.

By 1911, Herbert had left home and the remaining younger children and their parents lived at Wibtoft. In 1911, the 22-year-old Herbert cannot be traced but it is likely he was working out of the area where his family lived.

Prior to enlistment he was reported as working in the coal mines at Bedworth.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, the family, including Herbert, are living at 12 Three Pots Road (now Coventry Road), Burbage. Musson was a common name in Burbage, perhaps they had relatives in the village. After the war the family obtained one of the new council houses on Lutterworth Road.

Soon after war was declared, Herbert enlisted at Hinckley in September 1914. He must have survived some of the horrific battles of the Somme that the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been engaged in.

In the Autumn of 1916, his family were informed that Herbert was wounded and missing since 25th September. The parents appealed for news of him in the Hinckley Times.

The War Diaries of the Leicestershire Regiment report as follows – “On the 25th September platoons of the 8th Leicester Battalion were engaged in an attack at 12.30pm to the right of the village of Flers on the Somme. The objective was the first German line, a distance of some 1000 yards from the trench from which the Battalion launched the attack. This was gained in 45 minutes and they pressed on to the village of Gueudecourt. By this time their ranks were sadly thinner due to a tremendous barrage of Machine Gun fire which wrought terrible havoc. Nevertheless, with dauntless gallantry they pressed on reaching the village and engaging with the enemy in hand to hand fighting which took place all night”.

As Herbert’s body was not recovered his name is on the Memorial at Thiepval, erected for those who fought on the Somme. It is likely that the family would not have had confirmation that he had been killed until after the war. Note: Military Records record the forenames of “Sidney Herbert” and under Civil Records he is recorded as “Herbert Sidney”.

BURBAGE FALLEN OF THE GREAT WAR

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
MUSSON	Linc R	Pte	40181
Sydney			
Medal.	Holl.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	F/IC2 B14	1643	
BARRISK	— do —		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Figure 213 Medal Card

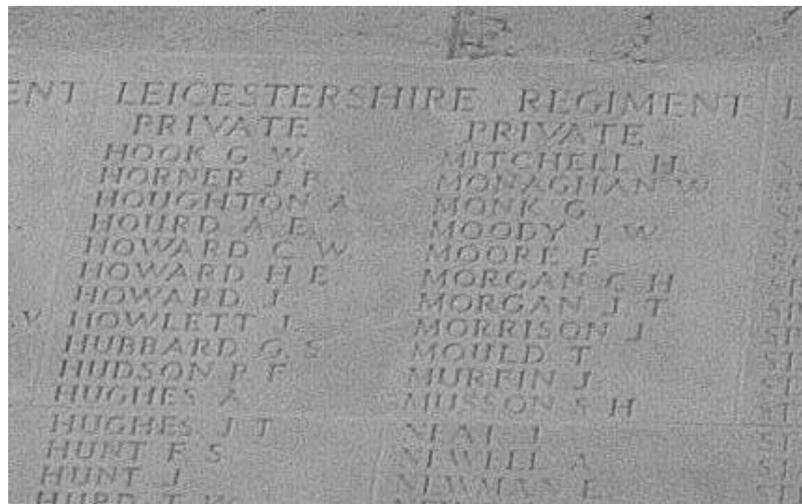


Figure 214 Thiepval Memorial



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