



## Private John Douglas Adkin 1031018



13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry, (Quebec Regt.)

Died of wounds, Friday 25 October 1918

Aged 25

Born 10 July 1893, Netherseal, Leicestershire.

Enlisted 26 June 1917 Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regt.)

St Catherine's Churchyard, Burbage



John Douglas Adkin was the son of John and Martha Jane Adkin of Chesslyn, Sketchley Road, Burbage.

The Adkin family moved to Burbage from Huncote sometime after 1896. The Father John Edward Adkin found employment as a Nursery Labourer at Burbage Nurseries. John's first Christian name was Douglas on the census but on all his army details, he is known as John.

His elder sister Edith was a teacher at the Burbage National School. During WW1, Edith joined the W.V.A.D. and became a Nurse stationed in Malta. Elder Brother Joseph was killed in the Zeppelin raid on Loughborough in January 1915.

In 1907, the pioneering geneticist Charles Chamberlain Hurst established the Burbage Experimental Station on land at Grove Road. This area is now the Burbage Infant School. Many locals worked here tending the land and livestock that Hurst was experimenting with. It was here that John junior found employment with his father and his friend's son George Scott, whose father also worked at the Experimental Station.



Location of Burbage Experimental Station, Grove Road

The Hurst Family had connections in the USA and Benjamin Charles C. Hurst's father and owner of the Burbage Nurseries had lived in the Salem area as a boy before becoming orphaned and returning to Burbage in the 1860s. It may have been this connection that helped John move and take up gardening in Lynn Massachusetts before he enlisted in 1917.

George Scott, his work mate, had decided to emigrate as he had Uncles in Massachusetts. Passenger lists show John Adkin sailed from Liverpool to Boston in May 1913. At the start of the War Major C. C. Hurst, an Army Reservist, was mobilised in 1914 and shut the station. The few men not called up kept the rest of the nurseries running on a shoestring staff producing food.

Probably, as with George Scott, the attraction of owning 165 acres of land, after the war, encouraged him to enlist on the 26 June 1917. Being in the same Regiment, as his old workmate, it is quite possible he visited Burbage at some point before his death at the end of October 1918, probably in the same conflict as George Scott. John however survived for another three weeks and must have returned wounded to the UK, dying on 25 October 1918. He was laid to rest in St Catherine's Churchyard, Burbage.



### CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 165-  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the columns. The entries should be written in ink.*

*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, and in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

1 NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who  (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or  (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.  No one else must be included.  (For order of entering names see Example on back of Schedule.)	2 RELATIONSHIP to head of Family.	3 AGE AND SEX.		4 MARRIAGE.				5 PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		6 BIRTHPLACE of every person.	7 NATIONALITY of every Person of Foreign Country.	8 INFIRMITY.
		9 Males	10 Females	11 Single	12 Married	13 Widowed	14 Orphan	15 Children born alive to present Marriage. (If wife is now living, in Column 7.)	16 Personal Occupation.			
1 John Edward Oadkin Head		49		Married						Director of the South Devon Railway	English	
2 Alice Annie Oadkin Single	Wife	30		Single					Assistant Market Clerk	English		
3 Douglas John Oadkin Son	Son	17		Single					Boys' School	English		
4 Edward John Oadkin Son	Son	15		Single					Warehouse Boy	English		
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6												
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15												

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that —  
 (1) All the ages in this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.  
 (2) I have placed the total number of persons in the appropriate columns.  
 (3) After making the necessary corrections, I have completed all entries on such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: J.H.

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: John Edward Oadkin  
 Postal Address: Balls Lane, Brixham

5-100 m.s.