



Second Lieutenant Arthur Walter Dudley -17032



2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment attached to 8th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Killed in action 28th March 1918 age 31

Pozières Memorial, Somme, France,
panel 41,

Son of Edward and Elizabeth Dudley
Victoria Cottage, Coventry Rd Burbage



The youngest of eight children. Born in Burbage, 21st January 1887. At the age of three he started school in March 1890. He attended the Burbage National school until the age of 13 when he became a grocer's apprentice probably at the local Co-op.

The family had lived for many years in the Victoria Rd and Three Pots lane area now Coventry Rd. The Father Edward had been an agricultural labourer working his way to eventually becoming a farmer.

By 1911 the family were living at Victoria Cottage on Coventry Rd. Arthurs three unmarried older sisters were dressmakers and conducted their business from home. Perhaps the combined incomes enable the family to purchase the property.



Victoria Cottage

By 1908 Arthur was employed as a grocer's assistant with the Nuneaton Co-op. On enlisting with the Warwick Regiment in March 1916 he had become a manager at one of the Co-op branches.

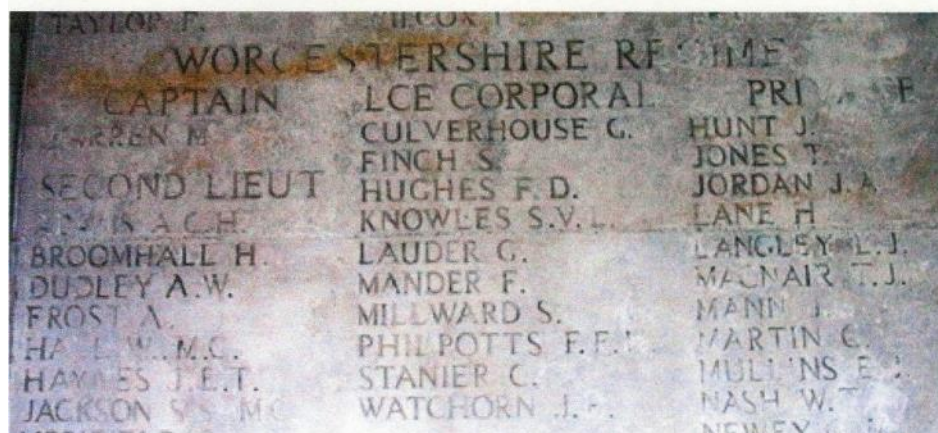
He served in France from November 1916 and returned home in March 1917 to study for a commission. He was appointed a second Lieutenant in October 1917 serving with the Worcesters.

December 1917 saw him posted to the front line on the former Somme battlefields. By Spring 1918 the allied fifth army were driven back by overwhelming numbers.

In June 1918 he parents received the news Arthur had been killed. The Hinckley Times reported –

Burbage Officer killed in action. - Second Lieutenant A W Dudley who splendidly led his men under heavy fire.

His commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Bilton wrote to his parents that he was killed instantaneously along with another officer by a shell that pitched between them. During the battle he had done splendidly leading and controlling his men under heavy artillery and machine gun fire.



Arthur Dudley has no known grave and his name is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial France.