

PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS AN INTIMATE WHISPER FROM THE PAST



The wonderful personal messages that one chances upon inscribed on headstones in Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemeteries never fail to touch the heart. Every visit throws up a number that stay in the mind.

It is perhaps appropriate that they are not yet all available on a database but only to the visitor to the cemetery as a sort of personal and intimate whisper from the past.

The regulations governing the personal inscriptions were sent out by the then Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) on Final Verification Forms sent to every relative immediately after the end of the Great War. These forms not only verified certain information for publishing IWGC registers but also allowed the next of kin to supply their chosen inscription.

Here are published a selection of personal inscriptions found on CWGC headstones of the Hampshire Regiment across the Western Front.

More will be added as they become available.

Marc Thompson

**THOSE THAT LOVED HIM BEST
MISS HIM MOST**

9185 Corporal Percy Tost-De-Vine ADAMS
1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 19th December, 1914
Age 25
Lancashire Cottage Cemetery

OUR DADDY, GOOD NIGHT

6404 Private George William Rogers
1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 8th August, 1915
Age 30
Mesnil Communal Cemetery Extension

CHRIST DIED FOR ME, I DIED FOR MY COUNTRY

11208 Private John Jones
11th (Service) Battalion (Pioneers), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 6th May, 1916
Age 30
Bethune Town Cemetery

**WILL GLORY O'ENGLAND EVER DIE
SO LONG AS WE'VE LADS LIKE THESE**

12593 Private Henry William Robert Chalmers
14th (Service) Battalion (1st Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 30th June, 1916
Age 19
St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery

FOR GOD, KING AND COUNTRY

6599 Corporal George Mills M.M.
1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 1st July, 1916
Age 36
Redan Ridge Cemetery No 2.

**THOU ART GONE
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
NEVER SHALL THY MEMORY FADE**

15925 Private Ernest William Wynn
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 9th August, 1916
Age 19
Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery

A GRIEF TOO DEEP FOR WORDS

13922 Private Walter John Thomas Sperring
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 9th August, 1916
Age 21
Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery

**WE DO NOT FORGET DEAR BOY
GRIEF ALWAYS DWELLS
WHERE SELDOM IS SEEN**

8158 Private William Norris
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 9th August, 1916
Age 26
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

**ONE OF THE BEST
MUM & DAD AND FAMILY**

20198 Private Alfred William Powell
15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 15th September, 1916
Age 21
A.I.F. Burial Ground

A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST

19298 Serjeant Clarence Norman Tanner
15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 17th September, 1916
Age 17

Dartmoor Cemetery

HE LIVETH IN OUR HEARTS FOR EVERMORE

20324 Lance Corporal William Henry Boyes
1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 23rd October, 1916
Age 41
Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery

**FATHER IN THY GRACIOUS KEEPING
LEAVE WE NOW OUR LOVED ONE SLEEPING**

26083 Private Harold Victor Sturgeon
15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 13th January, 1917
Age 19
Dickebusch New Military Cemetery

**A DEVOTED SON, A FAITHFUL FRIEND,
ONE OF THE BEST THAT GOD SHOULD LEND. R.I.P.**

12246 Private William Hughes
11th (Service) Battalion (Pioneers), Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 20th March, 1917
Age 20
Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery

AMOR VINCIT OMNIA
[Love Conquers All]

Captain Charles Cadwaladr Trevor-Roper
14th (Service) Battalion (1st Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 3rd August, 1917
Age 33
Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery

**A FAITHFUL SON, A FATHER DEAR,
A LOVING HUSBAND LIETH HERE. R.I.P.**

24889 Private George Edward Cooper
14th (Service) Battalion (1st Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 1st October, 1917
Age 31

Westoutre British Cemetery

FOR ENGLAND'S HONOUR TO UPHOLD

27187 Private Charles Edgar Beere
14th (Service) Battalion (1st Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 1st October, 1917
Age 27
Westoutre Churchyard and Extension

**NOT GONE FROM MEMORY, NOT GONE FROM LOVE,
BUT GONE TO A FATHER'S HOME ABOVE**

27801 Private John Thomas Manning
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 10th May, 1918
Age 21
Ebbingham Military Cemetery

**NO LOVED ONES WERE WITH YOU TO SAY GOOD-BYE
BUT SAFE IN GOD'S KEEPING NOW YOU LIE**

42362 Private Arthur Henry James Nurthen
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 29th May, 1918
Age 19
Cinq Rues British Cemetery

**HIS LIFE WAS GOOD, HIS END WAS BRAVE,
GOD WATCH AND GUARD OUR HERO'S GRAVE**

33369 Serjeant Sydney Frederick Hawke M.M.
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 31st May, 1918
Age 20
Cinq Rues British Cemetery

**SADLY MISSED BY WIFE BEATIE & LITTLE SON FRED
GOD BLESS DADDY**

43108 Lance Corporal Frederick Albert Cooper
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 18th June, 1918
Age 24

Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery

**THE SUNSHINE OF HIS SMILE IS ALWAYS WITH US
TO HELP US JOURNEY ON**

45664 Private George Watson Page
15th (Service) Battalion (Hampshire Yeomanry), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 31st July, 1918
Age 19
Esquelbecq Military Cemetery

**FATHER FORGIVE THEM
FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO**

356626 Private Harry Edwin Pompey
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 29th September, 1918
Age 48
Hooge Crater Cemetery

**STILL TO US YOUR MEMORY'S DEAR -
FOR OFT IS SHED A SILENT TEAR**

18382 Private Joseph Edward Whenham
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 9th July, 1916
Age 20
Couin British Cemetery

**SLEEP ON DEAR SON
AND TAKE THY REST**

42328 Private Edwin Charles Hudson
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 12th April, 1918
Age 19
Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery

MY COUNTRY, TWAS FOR YOU

381259 Private John William Collins
2/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action, 21st July, 1918
Age 19

Marfaux British Cemetery

UNTIL THE GREAT REVEILLE

18338 Lance Corporal Charles Drain
15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment
Died of Wounds, 28th September, 1916
Age 19
Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery

SO HE PASSED OVER AND ALL THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED FOR HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE

Captain John F.G. "Doc" Gwynne M.C.
Royal Army Medical Corps
Killed in Action, 9 July, 1915
Age 26
Talana Farm Cemetery



War Diary extract of 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment:

9th July

About 5.15 a.m. our splendid 'Doc' (Capt J. F. GWYNNE R.A.M.C.) went up to the trench to see what he could do. He spent a long time tending to the wounded left by the LANCS FUS and then bandaged up a Rifle Brigade bomber who has just blown his hand off. No sooner had he finished and straightened himself than a sniper shot him through the head, killing him instantly, and we lost one of the finest and bravest members of the Battn. He was buried in the evening in the brigade cemetery just behind TALANA FARM (S. of BOESINGHE).