

The Extraordinary and the Everyday

A Year in the Life of a Rural Community, 1914-5



Lt Holbech, gathering foliage to camouflage trenches. Ghent, October 1914. Copyright Imperial War Museum



Lt Holbech's grave in Farnborough Churchyard

Newsletter No. 3: Remembrance Day Edition November 2014

Lieutenant William Hugh Holbech, 1882-1914

This Remembrance Day edition of the newsletter commemorates the first local man to lose his life in the war. We are able to chart his experience in great detail, due to the presence of a regimental photographer, Sgt. Pilkington. For full details and more photographs see the blog.

17 Aug 1914: Lt Holbech rejoins his regiment, the Scots Guards

6 Oct 1914: Leaves Dover for Belgium

7 Oct 1914: Lands at Zeebrugge, takes train to Bruges

8 Oct 1914: Marches to Ostend

9 Oct 1914: Rests at Sommergem. Arrives in Ghent

10 Oct 1914: Supervises trench building at Ghent

12 Oct 1914: Leaves Ghent for Thielt

13 Oct 1914: Marches to Roulers

14 Oct 1914: Arrives at Ypres

15 Oct 1914: Takes part in first Battle of Ypres

25 Oct 1914: Wounded in action, taken to England

1 Nov 1914: Dies in hospital in Woolwich

6 Nov 1914: Lavish funeral at Farnborough Hall

Lt Holbech was seriously wounded in action at Kruseke Ridge, near Ypres. The Scots Guards had come under heavy attack from the Germans for over a week and were exhausted. On the evening of 25th October at 8.30 pm the Germans rushed their trenches and two companies were overwhelmed. Nine officers, including Lt Holbech, were killed or wounded during the action. His commanding officer wrote: "He defended his trench all night at Kruseid when the Germans got through our line... I only wish I could tell you more; in him we have lost a gallant soldier and a great friend." His grave was lined with white flowers and evergreens from the garden at Farnborough Hall. There was a cross of violets at the foot of his coffin with the inscription: *Thanking God for the most loving and truest of sons and brothers.*



Follow events on our blog: ww1.avondassett.com





IN AVON DASSETT...

22 Sept: Army remount services calls for horses of all types to be donated for the war effort.

3 Oct: The private ownership of carrier and homing pigeons is banned



7 Oct: An appeal is put out for field glasses for use by non-commissioned officers

8 Oct: At the cub-hunting meet at Princethorpe, there was only one horseman present

14 Oct: Four furniture vans overturned on Sun Rising Hill blocking it for four days

18 Oct: The meeting of Farnborough Rural District Council reported on the Radway Drainage question, widening the road at Ratley, the diversion of a watercourse at Warmington and overcrowding at Avon Dasset



LOTTERY FUNDED



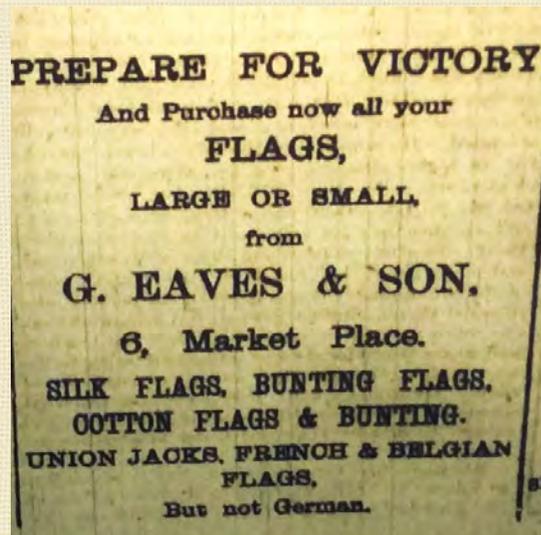
... EVERYDAY LIFE GOES ON

19 Oct: Seven Belgian refugees arrive in Avon Dasset. Three children enrol in the school

28 Oct: A letter to the *Banbury Guardian* makes a plea for no bonfires on November 5th as it will waste good fuel at a time of anxiety and distress.

30 Oct: At the Petty Sessions at Kineton, Herbert Chilton and George Prentice were fined 10s each for stealing wood from the side of the road in Avon Dasset.

7 Nov: A plea goes out to recruit another 100,000 men



Please get in touch with Jill or Sarah if you would like to know more about the Avon Dasset WWI Centenary Project. For all projects see: <http://www.historypin.org/en/explore/first-world-war-centenary/>

