



Photo from *Leaving All that was Dear* by J Devereux and G Sacker

DOUGLAS REYNOLDS, Victoria Cross

Major, Royal Field Artillery

Died of wounds in France on 3 February 1916, aged 33

Parents' address: Thorncliff, Lansdown Road. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Grave I.A.20, and is commemorated on his parents' grave in Leckhampton Churchyard (Plot F.50) and on the War Memorials at Cheltenham and at Cheltenham College. A commemorative Victoria Cross paving stone was laid in his honour in his home town of Bristol on 26 August 2014.

Douglas Reynolds was born in 1882, the second son of Colonel Henry Charles Reynolds, Royal Engineers, and Eleanor Reynolds. His grandfather was General John Williams Reynolds.

He was educated at Cheltenham College and entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1896 and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1900. He served during the South African War with the Mounted Infantry attached to the Royal Artillery and received the Queen's Medal with three clasps. He spent most of the period up to the First World War in India but in 1913 went to Ireland, where he was serving when war was declared.

He went abroad immediately and was involved in heavy fighting from the start. On 26 August, during a prolonged artillery battle at Le Cateau, east of Cambrai, he led two teams of volunteer drivers to recapture British guns. On 9 September 1914, during a reconnaissance mission, he discovered an enemy battery that was holding up the advance and silenced it single-handedly. For these two actions he was awarded the Victoria Cross, together with the volunteer drivers. He was twice mentioned in despatches and made a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

He was later wounded twice, and as a result of the second injury in December 1915 he was admitted to the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital at Le Touquet, where he died some weeks later of septicaemia and gas poisoning. In 1915 he had married Doris Peterson, of Cherkley Court, Leatherhead. At the time of his death, their son was four weeks old.

Continued overleaf

LEST WE FORGET



Etaples Military Cemetery, where Douglas Reynolds is buried

Photo – Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Inscription commemorating Douglas Reynolds on his parents' grave in Leckhampton Churchyard

Photo – Eric Miller