

LEST WE FORGET

ERNEST JOHN THOMPSON

Army Number 10463

Company Quartermaster Sergeant, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards

Killed in action in Belgium on 29 October 1914, aged 30

Address: The School House, Hall Road, Leckhampton

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial and on his parents' grave in Leckhampton Churchyard (Plot A10). He is named on the Leckhampton and Cheltenham War Memorials.

Ernest Thompson was the second son of Barnard George Thompson (headmaster of Leckhampton School from 1886 until his death in 1913) and Susan Isabel Thompson.

He was a regular soldier who had joined the Grenadier Guards before the war. He landed with his unit at Zeebrugge on 7 October 1914 and later that month was fighting in the area of Ypres. By 29 October, under heavy artillery fire, the battalion was outnumbered by the enemy by ten to one, and at the roll call at the end of the day only 5 officers and 192 men were left out of almost 1000 who had originally 'gone over the top'.

His older brother, Acting Sergeant-Major Sydney Barnard Thompson of the 21st Lancers, was killed in nearby fighting on 28 October 1914.

The Menin Gate Memorial, on which are carved the names of the 54,389 missing officers and men of the British and Commonwealth Forces who died while defending Ypres and whose bodies were never recovered.

Photo – Commonwealth War Graves Commission

