

**In Memory of  
Private AMBROSE JAMES ELBOROUGH (ELBROW)  
5083, 1st/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment  
of Little Coxwell who died, age 29, on 16 May 1916  
Remembered with honour  
Little Coxwell War Memorial and  
HEBUTERNE MILITARY CEMETERY**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Hebuterne is a village 15 km north of Albert (Somme) and 20 km south-west of Arras. The village gave its name to a severe action fought by the French on the 10th-13th June 1915, in the "Second Battle of Artois". It was taken over by British troops from the French in the same summer, and it remained subject to shell fire during the Battles of the Somme.

It was again the scene of fighting in March 1918, when the New Zealand Division held up the advancing enemy; and during the following summer it was partly in German hands.

It was later "adopted" by the Borough of Evesham. Hebuterne Military Cemetery was begun by the 48th (South Midland) Division in August 1915, and used by fighting units and Field Ambulances (particularly those of the 56th (London) Division) until the spring of 1917; and it was reopened in 1918. The conditions of burial explain the irregularity of the rows.

There are now over 750, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 50 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom, known or believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers an area of 6,502 square metres and is enclosed by a red brick wall.

## War Diary

Monday 15th May 1916 France, Hebuterne: Working parties as before. Their guns were active most of the day - 77mm, 10.5cm and 15cm, especially the latter. No registration was done. It was a very quiet night up to 12.30a.m., when a very heavy bombardment, followed by a raid, was made. A detailed report of this is attached. Weather:- a fine day with rain at intervals. Remarks: casualties - 18 Killed, 51 Wounded, 29 Missing.

Tuesday 16th May 1916 France, Hebuterne: The Acting GOC, the Brigadier, and GSO 1 came up about 9.0a.m. All the morning was spent in repairing the damage where possible. We were relieved by the 8th WORCESTERS, the relief beginning about 3.30p.m. Parties of C and D Companies were left behind to search the ground and carry out the dead and wounded who could not be moved by day. The Battalion moved to bivouacs at Couin. Capt Aldworth remained behind to attend the funeral of 12 who were buried at night. Weather:- a fine day.

### **Ambrose James Elborough**

Ambrose's name on the war memorial is the sole recorded evidence that I have found linking him to Little Coxwell.

From records it is quite obvious that his links are more strongly with Longcot and Fernham; Ambrose was an ordinary village lad with strong roots in this area of Berkshire.

Ambrose James Elborough (also Elbrow) was born in 1886 at Hatford; his father Charles was employed as a carter. The family moved later to Longcot where at 14 years old Ambrose was working as a plough boy.

Later Ambrose married Rosetta

Jane Roberts at Longcot and became a cowman. It is likely that when he and his family were living at Little Coxwell he continued to work as a cowman. Ambrose served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Ambrose was killed in action on the 16th May 1916, aged 29; he was buried at Hebuterne Military Cemetery, France. N.B. Also on the war memorial at Longcot: as 'Ambrose Elbrow'.

Of the nine men whose names are listed on the Little Coxwell war memorial Ambrose James Elborough is the one individual who is not included on the war memorials in Faringdon.

Ann Preston. Faringdon Folly 2018