

**In Memory of  
Signaller JOHN THEODORE LEGG  
204805 15th (Hampshire Yeomanry) Bn.,  
Hampshire Regiment,  
who died on 4 September 1918  
Remembered with honour  
Faringdon War Memorial and  
VOORMEZELE ENCLOSURE NO.3**



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

Voormezele Enclosure No.3 is located 4 km south-west of Ieper town centre. The Voormezele Enclosures (at one time there were a total of four, but now reduced to three) were originally regimental groups of graves, begun very early in the First World War and gradually increased until the village and the cemeteries were captured by the Germans after very heavy fighting on 29 April 1918.

Voormezele Enclosure No.3, the largest of these burial grounds, was begun by the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in February 1915. Their graves are in Plot III, the other Plots from I to IX are the work of other units, or pairs of units, and include a few graves of October 1918. Plots X and XII are of a more general character. Plots XIII to XVI were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites and smaller cemeteries to replace the French graves (of April and September 1918) that were removed to a French cemetery. These concentrated graves cover the months from January 1915 to October

1918, and they include those of many men of the 15th Hampshires and other units who recaptured this ground early in September 1918.

There are now 1,611 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Voormezele Enclosure No.3. 609 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 15 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of five casualties whose graves in Pheasant Wood Cemetery could not be found on concentration.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

### **Faringdon Advertiser October 26 1918**

#### **Killed in Action**

We much regret to learn that Signaller John Theodore Legg, elder son of the Rev. E. Legg, Congregational Minister, Faringdon (now United Church) who was reported 'missing' on September 4<sup>th</sup>, has now been reported as killed on that date by machine gun bullets, whilst bravely and zealously carrying out his dangerous duties at the fighting front somewhere near the borders of France and Belgium. He joined up in the Hants Yeomanry early in October 1914, and his regiment was engaged with other cavalry regiments in patrolling the south-eastern coasts until April 1916, when they passed over to France, and were subsequently dismounted and re-named the 15<sup>th</sup> Hants. Last October (1916) they were sent to Italy, and helped to the Austrian offensive there, and in March of this year they were still more strenuously engaged in stopping the last big German offensive in France. Needless to say much sympathy is extended to the parents and their family in their bereavement.

#### **1/1st Hampshire Yeomanry**

The 1st Line regiment mobilized at Winchester in August 1914 as part of the 1st South Western Mounted Brigade and moved to the Portsmouth defences. In October it moved with the brigade to the Forest Row area, and in October 1915 to Eastbourne. In March 1916, the regiment was split up as divisional cavalry squadrons:

- Regimental HQ and B Squadron joined 60th (2/2nd London) Division at Warminster on 26 April 1916 and landed at Le Havre on 25 June. Three days later, the RHQ joined IX Corps Cavalry Regiment along with C Squadron and A and B Squadrons, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry at Bailleul. B Squadron was attached to XVII Corps Cavalry Regiment from 8 July and Cavalry Corps Troops from 5 September. It re-joined the regiment on 19 January 1917.
- A Squadron joined 58th (2/1st London) Division at Ipswich on 21 March 1916. It moved to the Sutton Veny area in July 1916 and landed at Le Havre

on 20 January 1917. Five days later it re-joined the regiment in IX Corps Cavalry Regiment at Bailleul.

- C Squadron joined 61st (2nd South Midland) Division at Ludgershall on 18 March 1916 and landed at Le Havre on 25 May. From 31 May to 16 June it was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division before re-joining the regiment.

IX Corps Cavalry Regiment was formed on 28 June 1916 with the RHQ and C Squadron of the Hampshire Yeomanry, and A and B Squadrons, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry at Bailleul. In November the Wiltshire squadrons departed and A and B Squadrons, Hampshire Yeomanry joined in January 1917 to complete the regiment.

The regiment left IX Corps on 25 July 1917 and on 26 August it was dismounted and sent to No. 3 Infantry Base Depot at Rouen for training as infantry. On 27 September 1917, 12 officers and 307 men were absorbed into the 15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Portsmouth), Hampshire Regiment at Caëstre which became 15th (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. The Battalion was in 122nd Brigade, 41st Division. On 12 November 1917, it moved to the Italian Front with the division, arriving at Mantua on 17 November. It returned to the Western Front in between 1 and 5 May 1918 and remained there, in 122nd Brigade, 41st Division, until the end of the war. By the Armistice it was at Neukerke, south of Audenarde, Belgium.