

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

A T Turner

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201089, 2nd/4th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry who died on 27 August 1917 Age 24

Son of Harry and Fanny Turner, of 397, Beckton Rd., Silvertown, London. Born Canning Town, London.

Remembered with Honour
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lance Corporal A T Tom Turner

2nd/4th Battalion, Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Died: 27 August 1917

How Died: Died

Country of burial: Belgium

Cemetery or Memorial: Turin Town Centre Cemetery

Town Memorial: Altrincham

Extra Information:

Arthur Thomas Turner, was born in Canning Town, London in 1893. He was known in the family as Tom. In 1901 he was living with his parents, brother, baby sister and maternal grandmother at 8 Ford Street, West Ham.

By 1911 the family had moved to 11 Brock Road, Victoria Docks, Canning Town and Tom was working as a pupil teacher. He attended Borough Road College from 1913 — 1915. The N.U.T War Records listed him as employed at Russell Road School in West Ham.

He enlisted with the 1st /4th Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry at Oxford, probably straight after completing his time at college. He embarked at Folkestone and reached France on 29 March 1915. The War Diary for the 1st /4th Battalion recorded that he was one of seven men wounded in action at Bayencourt on the night of 9 April 1916 whilst employed with "D" Company in digging a new trench about four hundred yards in advance of the present front line.

At some point later he was attached to the 2nd/4th Battalion. The War Diary for the 2nd/4th Battalion reports an attack against the Germans from front line trenches at St Julien at 4:45 am on 22 August 1917. Three Officers were killed and six wounded. Twenty six other ranks lost their lives, seventy-four were wounded and forty-four reported missing/probably killed or wounded. Thomas must have been one of the missing.

He died of gunshot wounds to the head and chest in No 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on Monday, 27 August 1917, aged twenty four.

He was awarded the Military Medal in action with the 1st /4th Battalion at Hebuterne in 1916, "*For consistent good work. His example and influence over the men have on many occasions proved invaluable*". Described by his Officer as a quiet and reserved man, Tom wrote some poetry in the trenches which was published as '*Farewell and other poems*' by his family after the war. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. His tombstone bears the legend '*For a Little While Goodnight*', a quotation from one of his poems.

His parents received official notification that he had died posted on 31 August 1917. A week after his death 2nd Lieutenant W.H. Moberly, his Platoon Commander in "B" Company, wrote to his father to express his deepest sympathy and to tell him what a personal grief his death had been. He described the circumstances of his death,

"On the morning of 22nd we were in an attack; your son was hit just before we reached our objective. All that day he lay in a shell hole and no one was able to get to him owing to snipers. We got to him at night and gave him water and did what we could to make him comfortable. But we had no stretcher-bearers, and we did not dare to move him towards our trench owing to his bad wound (apparently through the lung). So, to our great distress, we had to leave him out another day. The next night, when we were relieved ourselves, four volunteers from among our own men carried him out."

