

In Memory of

Private

James Bate Eaton

23177, 16th Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died on 10 July 1916 Age 19

Son of Emily Eaton, of Hale, Cheshire, and the late Alfred Eaton.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private James Bate Eaton

16th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Died: 10 July 1916 Age: 19

How Died: Killed in Action

Country of burial: France

Cemetery or Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme

Town Memorial: Hale

Extra Information

Born in December 1896 in Buenos Aires, Argentina the elder son of Alfred Eaton and Emily Jane Eaton (nee Bate) who were married in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1894.

1901 Census - "Banighar", Lancaster Road, Didsbury, Manchester. Son - aged: 4 - born: Buenos Aires, Argentina. Head of household - Alfred Eaton - Married - aged: 36 - occ: Salesman of Dry Goods - born: Burnage, Manchester. Also Emily B. de Eaton - Wife - aged: 25 - born Buenos Aires, Argentina. Plus 2 sisters and 2 Domestic Servants.

1911 Census - Cranbrook Grammar School, Cranbrook, Kent. Scholar - aged: 14 - born: South America (British Subject by Parentage).

His parents were by now, residing at "Dalfield", Murieston Road, Hale (8 roomed house). Head of household - Alfred Eaton - Married - aged: 45 - occ: Retired Gentleman - born: Fallowfield, Manchester described as a Lunatic at Age 43. Also Emily Eaton - Wife - aged: 35 - born Buenos Aires, Argentina. Plus 3 siblings, a male nurse (to look after Alfred, who died less than 4 months later) and 1 Domestic Servant. Emily completed and signed the census return.

Attended St. George's C. of Eng. School, the Wadham House School, Hale and the Cranbrook College, Kent.

Enlisted in the Public Schools Company of the RVF in January 1914 and was drafted to the front in November 1915. However, his MIC - states that he

was posted to France on the 3rd December 1915, thereby just qualifying for the 15 Star. His WO363 has not survived.

The 16th Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers were serving with the 38th Division, 113 Brigade. They went into the front line trenches between Mametz and Mametz Wood on the 5th July, but were withdrawn to bivouacs near Carnoy due to overcrowding in the trenches. They took over the front line again on the 8th July in readiness for the attack on Mametz Wood that was due to commence on the 10th. The 16th Bn's C.O. was killed as he led his men into the Wood on the 10th. The Bn fought on until stopped by fire from Wood Support Trench. The RWF History states that wave after wave of men were seen advancing without hesitation and without a break over a distance which in some places was nearly 500 yards. James was killed in this attack.

Reported as being missing in the 21/07/1916 edition of the Altrincham Guardian which states that he was 24 years of age ??? His death being confirmed in the 04/08/1916 edition of the local newspaper.

Commemorated on the private family gravestone in Hale Unitarian Chapel Yard.

His father Alfred, who was listed in the local newspaper as being from Manchester & Buenos Aires, was born 03/10/1864 and died 21/07/1911 aged 46 years and his mother, Emily died 01/02/1961 aged 85 years.

Listed in the Guardian Year Book - Roll of Honour for 1917.

No known grave. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 4 A.

Memorials found on:

Altrincham United Reformed Church, Hale

Wadham House School, Hale

Altrincham & District Roll of Honour



James Bate Eaton
Royal Welsh Fusiliers.