



Bushey Fatalities at the Somme



Lieutenant

Evelyn H Veresmith

was the son of Daniel Wehrschmidt, tutor at the Herkomer Art School, who changed his name because of anti-German attitudes. He joined up at the beginning of the war and died at No 5 casualty clearing station on 9 July

1916 from wounds received in action between Albert and Pozieres at the Battle of the Somme.

His Commanding Office wrote to his parents:

'The battalion was ordered to attack and your son gallantly got out of the trench and led his platoon, but was soon seriously wounded and died two days later. He was a gallant young officer, and I am very sorry for you. Our brigade made a very successful and important gain, so you must think of your son's death as a glorious end.'

Source : De Ruvigny's Roll Of Honour Vol 2

His brother, Captain **Daniel J C Veresmith** also fell on 14 April 1917.



William Gordon

Blackwell, 'Don',

was the seventh son of Samuel John Blackwell, JP, of the Crosse & Blackwell family. He joined the family firm and became a member of the Stock Exchange in 1908. On the Declaration of War he enlisted straight away in the Honourable

Artillery Company and

obtained his commission in the 4th Royal Fusiliers in 1915.

He fell at Fiers in the Battle of the Somme on 5 October 1916, aged 31.

One of his Commanding Officers wrote of him:

'I saw a great deal of him and he naturally endeared himself to me by his kind nature and manliness of character. I deplore his loss; the nation has lost a gallant soldier and a great gentleman.'

His Major wrote:

'He was a grand soldier; he could get the utmost out of his men and did so, but they all worshipped him.'

Lieutenant Blackwell married Nina Mary O'Malley of County Mayo in 1910. He left a widow and one son.

Source : The Stock Exchange War Memorial 1914-1918



2nd Lieutenant

John Richard Gutteridge Smith

of Wiggshall House, Watford, was the son of Joseph Gutteridge Smith, a paper manufacturer of Hampermill. He joined the Artists' Rifles in August 1915 and obtained a commission in November 1915 with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

He married Elsie Marjorie Ferryman in Watford on 7 September 1916.

He died at Le Touquet on 30 December 1916 of wounds received in action at the Battle of the Somme.

He is commemorated at Etaples in France and on the St Matthew's Church memorial.

Source : De Ruvigny's Roll Of Honour Vol 3

1916

15 SEPTEMBER

British troops introduced tanks for the first time - an effective weapon but far too few to make much difference.