

ARTHUR FREDERICK TURK

1888 – 1918

8th (Service) Battalion, North Stafford Regiment



Surname/Christian names: Turk, Arthur Frederick.

Rank/No: Pte. 48786.

Regiment/Unit: 8th (Service) Battalion North Stafford Reg.



Date of Death: 30th May 1918, Age: 30

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Theatre of War: Battle (3rd) of Aisne near Paris, France

Born: January 1888 in Egerton, Kent

Enlisted/Attestation: Arthur was enlisted into the RAMCT (Royal Army Medical Corps - Territorial) on 19th April 1915 and was transferred to the 3rd Battalion North Stafford Regiment (compulsory War Office orders)

Son of/Address: Frederick and Mary Ann Turk (nee Collins) of Tompsett's Farm, Horsmonden, Kent
The family lived in Kingsland Lane, Egerton, before moving to Horsmonden, in 1891.

Siblings: Francis George, Ellen Susan Francis, Herbert Samuel, Reginald James.

Prior Occupation: Carman

Family History: Frederick Turk worked as a bricklayer for S.E. Railways on the Hawkhurst Branch line. In 1896 he lived at Tompsett's Farm Cottages and worked there as a farm labourer for the next 48 years until his death on the 7th July 1944.

Buried/Commemorated/Memorial: Soissons Memorial, FRANCE

Relevant Military Record/Diary of Events: Pte Turk enlisted in Maidstone 19th April 1915, when living at 30 Oakwood Rd. Maidstone, with his uncle & aunt, George & Emma (nee Turk) Godfrey.

On enlistment Arthur was placed in the Royal Army Medical Corps/Territorials and transferred to the Army Service Corps/547 Company. There was then a compulsory transfer to 3rd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.

After landing in France with the British Expeditionary Force on the 18th July 1915 he was placed in the 8th Battalion North Stafford's, a part of the 19th Division they were sent to the front line and remained on the front for the duration of the war.

The 19th Division were engaged at Battle of St. Quentin, 21st March - 23rd March 1918, Battle of Messines, 10th & 11th April, 1918, Battles of Bailleul and first Battle of Kemmel Ridge, 7th - 29th April, 1918.

In the (3rd) Battle of the Aisne, which lasted from 29th May - 6th June 1918, on 30th May 1918, Pte Arthur Turk was killed during the German Spring Offensive - Operation Blucher where the 19th Division suffered horrendous casualties

The 8th North Staffs were constantly being replenished and Compulsory transfers, such as Arthur Turk's, were probably a result of the huge number of casualties.

Arthur's body wasn't recovered from the battlefield and he is commemorated on the panels of the Soisson Memorial in France, with the 3,886 other soldiers with no known graves.

Soissons Memorial is a free-standing Memorial to honour the missing soldiers. It is made of Portland stone, there is no cemetery attached to it.

Service Records: The following pieces of information are from Arthur's service file, several pages of which were badly fire damaged and subsequently water damaged during the extinguishing of the fire, when the Army repository in Wandsworth was hit during a German air raid in 1940.



There are additional damaged documents with Pte Turk's military details

Other Relevant Documents:

Notification of death

Medals Received: Victory and British War Medals, Plaque and Scroll were received by Pte Turk's father Frederick.

War medal documentation and North Staffs medals



United Kingdom War Memorials

Horsmonden War Memorial



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry

CWGC Unit Text

TURK, Pte. Arthur Frederick, 48786. 8th Bn.
North Staffordshire Regt. 30th May, 1918.
Age 30. Son of Frederick and Mary A. Turk, of
Tomsetts Farm, Horsmonden, Kent.

CWGC CERTIFICATE


In Memory Of
Private

ARTHUR FREDERICK TURK

Service Number: 48786

8th Bn., North Staffordshire Regiment who died on 30 May 1918 Age 30
Son of Frederick and Mary A. Turk, of Tomsetts Farm, Horsmonden, Kent.

Remembered with Honour
SOISSONS MEMORIAL



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

MILITARY CEMETRY

SOISSONS MEMORIAL

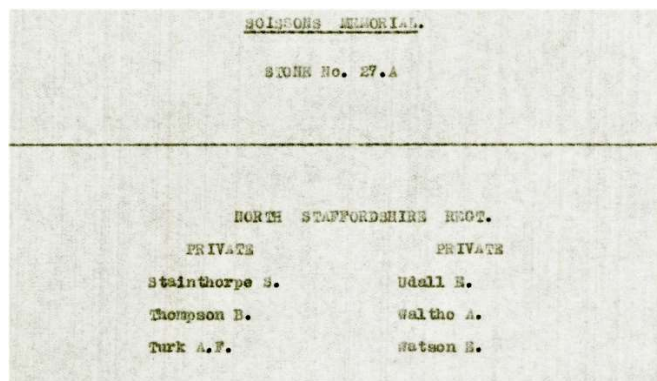
The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 40,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom Forces who died during the Battles of Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Images of Cemetery



Soissons Memorial is a free standing Memorial made of Portland stone, there is no cemetery attached to it.

Panel Names



Private Arthur Frederick Turk

1888 – 1918

Research and compilation L Burgess & J Freeman
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