

## Sidney Charles Bushnell



On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1916, Sidney's Battalion mobilized for war and landed in Havre on the French coast. His 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion had joined the 190<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 63<sup>rd</sup> (Naval) Division, which stayed on the Western Front for the remainder of the war and included The Battle of Ancre – one of the many battles under the general title of the Battle of the Somme. At 5.45am on 13<sup>th</sup> November the companies advanced. "It was so foggy that no one could actually see what was happening" They "met with heavy rifle and machine gun fire". After heavy losses they returned to their starting point. A second wave of men advanced and although all the platoon commanders became casualties, this time the German front line "was rushed in five minutes". Other battalions continued in their attempts to advance further, but had failed to make headway against the German rifles and machine gun fire.

"At the end of the third attack the company was reduced to 50, and Captain Rattigan decided to hold on where he was. They remained in this position for four and a half hours – during this time the Captain was killed and Second Lieutenant Downing, finding a mine shaft leading back, went down it, reported to battalion headquarters and was ordered to bring the remains of the company back to the British front line. The battalion was reorganised about 2am on November 14<sup>th</sup> and at 6am the Fusiliers attacked once more". (*The Royal Fusiliers in the Great War by H.C.O'Neill OBE*)

At some point on this day, Sidney lost his life.

The majority of those buried in the cemetery died on 1 July, 3 September or 13 November 1916.

Sidney's birth was registered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 1891 in Kingston on Thames to Charles Bushnell, a florist, and his wife Bessy, nee Day. He was baptised in Hanworth Parish Church on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1891.



**Surrey Comet, 23 Dec 1916, page 11**

HAMPTON HILL  
PTE. BUSHNELL KILLED

Information has reached Hampton Hill that Private Sidney C. Bushnell of the Royal Fusiliers, son of Mr Bushnell of Fulwell Road, Teddington, was killed in action on November 13. He was for six years a valued assistant to Mr C. Weedon, baker and confectioner, of Hampton Road, Hampton Hill and joined the Army in August 1914, proceeding to the Dardanelles, where he was wounded. Afterwards, on the way to Malta, his ship was torpedoed. His only leave was last Christmas, and after some months in France he was again wounded. Pte. Bushnell, whose age was 25, attended the Council School, Teddington and was unmarried.



"God Bless our Darling and only Son  
A Broken Hearted Mother"

