

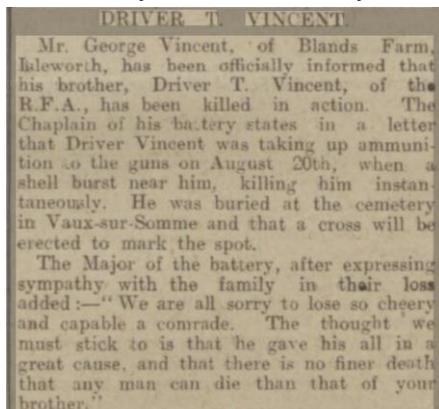
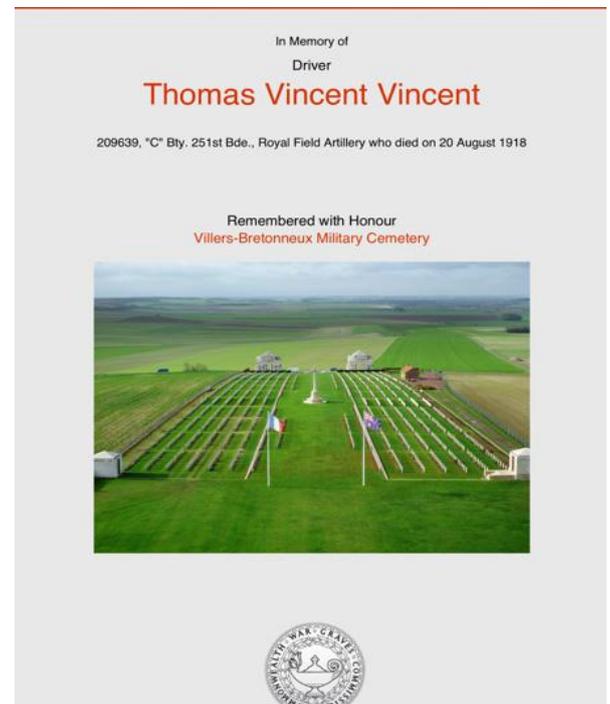
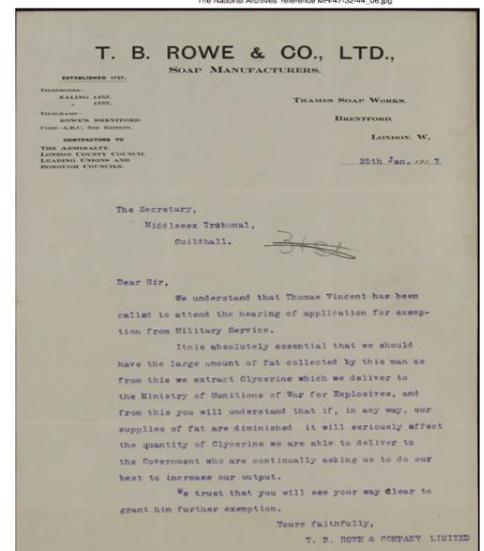
Thomas Vincent



Thomas Vincent was born on 5th April 1885 in Alperton. He was the son of John Vincent and his wife Emily, nee Futer. John and Emily, both Wandsworth-born, married in Wandsworth in 1874, but moved a few years later to Alperton, where John became a pig-dealer. John and Emily had eleven children in all but only six survived childhood. Between 1901 and 1911, the family moved to Blands Farm, Worton Road, Isleworth where John and his grown-up sons, Thomas, George and John junior continued the pig dealing and breeding business, while his daughter Annie did dairy work.

Pig farms were important to the war effort. Pigs could be reared on comparatively small plots of land, could be fed on very little and the pig fat could also be used. Once rendered down, the glycerine could be extracted and used for munitions. Thomas and his family sold the rendered-down fat to the Brentford-based soap factory of T B Rowe who were making munitions in WWI. Two of the farm hands and one of Thomas's brothers joined up, leaving only John, Thomas and one son to run the business. When conscription was introduced in 1916, Thomas was called up but appealed to the Heston and Isleworth Tribunal for exemption. On being refused, he appealed to the Middlesex Tribunal on March 21 1916 and was granted exemption for six months. In September 1916, he made a further appeal for exemption and was granted a further 4 months.

In January 1917, he appealed for exemption again and his appeal was supported by a letter from Rowe's- see *above right*. This final appeal failed and Thomas was posted to the Royal Field Artillery, 251st Brigade.



Driver Vincent was killed in action on 20th August 1918 during the final phase of the war, known as the Hundred Days Offensive. He is buried in Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery