

106: Frank Medicott (Meddicott)

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Frank Medicott (shown as 'Meddicott' by CWGC)

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 1st / 4th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: 201540

Date of Death: 01 August 1918

Age at Death: 26

Buried / Commemorated at: Raperie British Cemetery, Vilemontoire, Departement de l'Aisne, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Henry and Martha Meddicott of Puddington, Birkenhead

The name of this family is recorded with several variations including Meddicott, Middlecott, Meddlecott, Medicot, Medicott and Meddicott.

Whilst the name recorded on the memorial plaque at St Nicholas, Burton, is *Medlicott*, the recognised spelling (as given in the two census returns for 1911 which bear this name, and as recorded by the CWGC) is *Meddicott*. In this account the spelling *Meddicott* will be used within the text although the variants will be used as these appear in documents.

Frank Meddicott was the third and final child of Henry and Martha Meddicott of Oxfordshire. Henry Meddicott married Martha Church in the Witney region of Oxfordshire in mid-1882 and by the time of the 1891 census, when they were living in the village of Aston to the west of Oxford, all three children had been born:

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----------|---------------------------------|
| Henry Medicot | 29 | shepherd | born Black Bourton, Oxfordshire |
| Martha | 29 | | born Black Bourton, Oxfordshire |
| Mabel | 8 | | born Burford, Oxfordshire |
| George | 4 | | born Black Bourton, Oxfordshire |
| Frank | 1 | | born Clanfield, Oxfordshire |

At the time of the 1901 census they were still in Aston, probably at the same house:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|---|----|----------|---------------------|
| Henry Meddicott | Head | M | 37 | Shepherd | Black Bourton Oxon |
| Martha Meddicott | Wife | M | 37 | | Black . . . |
| George Meddicott | Son | | 14 | | Clanfield . . . |
| Frank Meddicott | Son | | 11 | | Black Bourton . . . |

1901 census (extract) – Bull Street, Aston, Oxfordshire

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------|-----------------------------|
| Henry Meddicott | 37 | shepherd | born Black Bourton, Oxon. |
| Martha | 37 | | born Black Bourton, Oxon. |
| George | 14 | | born Clanfield, Oxfordshire |
| Frank | 11 | | born Black Bourton, Oxon. |

Black Bourton is about 2 miles south of Carterton, Oxfordshire. Clanfield is a village and civil parish about 3 miles south of Carterton. Aston is a village about 4 miles south of Witney in West Oxfordshire. Frank's birth, as *Medlicott*, was registered in early 1890.

In 1901 Mabel May Meddlicott (her birth was recorded as *Meddlecott* in Witney in early 1883) was 18 and she was working as an assistant servant at the Vicarage in Buckland, Berkshire.

In the 1911 census the family, other than George, were together - Henry was now the publican of the Fox & Hounds in Wootton Bassett, a pub which either no longer exists or has changed its name:

| CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink. | | | | | | | | | | | Number of Schedules <i>53</i> (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.) | | | |
| The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NAME AND SURNAME | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. | AGE (last Birthday and SEX.) | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. | | | | | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. | | | | BIRTHPLACE of every person. | NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country. | INFIRMITY. |
| | | | Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards. | For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc. | For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc. | For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc. | For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc. | For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc. | Personal Occupation. | Industry or Service with which worker is connected. | Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. | | | |
| 1 <i>Henry Meddlicott</i> | <i>Head</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>married</i> | <i>29</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>Publican</i> | <i>943</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i> | <i>130</i> | |
| 2 <i>Martha Meddlicott</i> | <i>Wife</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>married</i> | <i>29</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>Assistant in Business</i> | | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Black Bourton, Bampton, Oxon</i> | <i>320</i> | |
| 3 <i>Mabel Meddlicott</i> | <i>Daughter</i> | <i>28</i> | <i>Single</i> | | | | | <i>Assistant in Business</i> | | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Upton Downs, Burford, Oxon</i> | <i>1</i> | |
| 4 <i>Frank Meddlicott</i> | <i>Son</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>Single</i> | | | | | <i>Roadman</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Worked</i> | <i>Clanfield, Farringdon, Berks</i> | <i>300</i> | |

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
 (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
 (3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator—*Red*

| Males | Females | Total |
|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>2</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>4</i> |

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature—*Henry Meddlicott*

Postal Address—*Fox & Hounds Coped Hall, Wootton Bassett*

1911 census (condensed) – Fox & Hounds, Coped Hall, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Henry Meddlicott | 50 | publican | born Cirencester, Glos. |
| Martha | 50 | assistant in business | born Black Bourton, Bampton |
| Mabel | 28 | assistant in business | born Upton Downs, Burford |
| Frank | 21 | roadman, | born Clanfield, Farringdon |

Wilts. County Council

Henry and Martha had been married for 29 years and all three children had survived.

George Meddlicott, 24, was a boarder at Tarlton, Cirencester, where he was an under-carter on a farm.

It is known that Frank Meddlicott enlisted in Neston (his initial Service Number was 4187) but it is not known why he came to this area from Wiltshire although it appears that he arrived, sometime after the 1911 census, with his parents.

The 1/4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment, a Territorial unit, was formed in August 1914, in Birkenhead, and was part of the Cheshire Brigade, Welsh Division. On mobilisation it moved to Shrewsbury and Church Stretton but by the end of August 1914 had moved to Northampton. In December 1914 the Battalion moved again to Cambridge and by March 1915 was in Bedford where, believing that the battalion would be sent to India, the troops underwent appropriate training.

On 13 May 1915 the formation became the 159th Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division and in early July 1915 the Battalion was reassigned for action in the Mediterranean. On 14 July the troops sailed from Devonport, going via Alexandria to Gallipoli where they landed at Suvla Bay on 9 August 1915. They were involved in operations in the area suffering heavy losses. In December 1915, following the disastrous campaign - the Division now stood at just 162 officers and 2428 men (approximately 15% of the full complement) - the troops were withdrawn from Gallipoli and moved to Alexandria in Egypt via Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos.

They were in action at The Battle of Romani in the Palestine campaign and in 1917 the 159th Brigade fought at The First Battle of Gaza and the whole Division was in action during The Second Battle of Gaza, The Third Battle of Gaza when they were involved in the capture of Beersheba, Tell Khuweilfe, and the Capture of Jerusalem. In December 1917 they were in action in The Defence of Jerusalem.

In March 1918 they fought at The Battle of Tell'Asur but on 31 May 1918 the 4th Battalion left the Division and moved to France and, on 1 July 1918, were attached to the 102nd Brigade in the 34th Division.

They returned to action at The Battles of the Soissonais, the Ourcq and the capture of Baigneux Ridge and took part in The Final Advance in Flanders and at the time of the Armistice (11 November 1918) the Battalion was at rest in the area east of Courtrai.

As Frank Medicott died on 1 August 1918 it is very probable that he died as a result of the actions at either The Battle of the Marne (20 July - 2 August) or at Soissonais & Ourcy (23 July - 2 August).

The actions around this time, involving the 4th Battalion, were described by Arthur Crookenden:

The 4th and 7th Battalions had come from Palestine into the reconstituted 34th Division. With all the rest of the infantry of the Division, they had had no experience of war as waged in France, except in one respect, this was no great drawback, as open warfare was expected. The one exception was that they knew nothing of gas. So, they were slow to recognize gas shelling. This caused casualties which troops accustomed to gas would have avoided.

Before they went into action in France, it had not been possible to send more than a small proportion of the men home on leave. Many of the men who were killed in this fighting had been abroad on service for over 18 months without seeing their families.

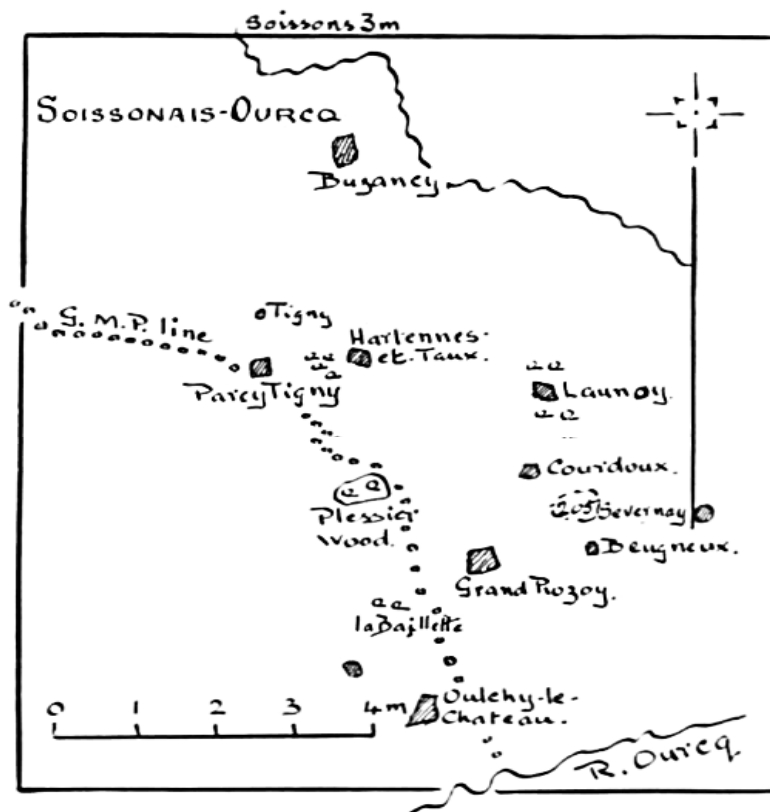
The Battalions reached France in June. Soon after this, the Division was transferred to the 30th French Corps.

On account of its experience in open warfare, French G.H.Q. had asked for this Division to assist in these operations, which were to storm the ridge dominating the whole country-side between the Aisne and the Ourcq, and so bite off the big salient which the German attacks in May already described, had driven into the Allied front.

On the 18th of July, the 10th French Army attacked the west side of the German salient, north of Soissons, and drove the enemy back some five miles, taking prisoners and guns. The 34th Division was to take part in the exploitation of this victory.

Orders on the 21st to relieve a French Division in the line, near Parcy Tigny, were quickly followed by orders for an attack to take place on the 23rd.

The 34th Divisional history says "In the most favourable circumstances, this would have been difficult for any troops. But, for a newly constituted Division, composed of troops which had not yet been in action in France and which had just completed a trying move by rail, bus and march route, it was a severe test. The country was entirely new.



There was no time for reconnaissance. There were no organized trench systems on either side. The enemy's positions were never more than approximately known till they had been captured. To all these difficulties, were added those inseparable from acting for the first time with foreign troops."

On the 23rd July the Division advanced on Launoy with two French Divisions, while other French troops made turning movements round the woods on either side of that place.

The country was looking its best. The battlefield was a stretch of fields of ripe corn, surrounded by glorious forests.

The plan was for the 7th Battalion to take Reugny Wood, and then for the 4th Battalion to pass through and secure Hartennes.

The advance was planned to begin twenty minutes after a rocket signal, but the message reached the signal station late, and even then, when the rockets did go up, they were not visible to the troops. However, orders were received in sufficient time by telephone and wireless.

Owing to the standing corn, the advance of the 7th Battalion was difficult to control, and Lewis guns had to be fired from the hip. After gaining some 1,200 yards under heavy machine gun fire, they were held up, owing to the failure of the French to capture Tigny. The companies instinctively moved into dead ground and here dug in, suffering severe casualties from shell, gas and machine guns.

During the night, the line was advanced and our two Battalions were in touch with each other and with the French.

On this day the 4th Battalion lost 4 officers and 276 others and the 7th Battalion 180 of all ranks, including Captain Thomas Furnell, who died of wounds. He had been with the Battalion since mobilization, and had gained his rank by keenness and hard work. Both Battalions were heavily shelled on the 24th by our own guns.

On the 25th, the enemy was kept alive by very active patrolling, and by continual pushing forward of small parties from trench to trench and by the construction of forward strong points.

On the night of the 27th/28th both Battalions were relieved by the French. On the next night, the Division concentrated in the Baillelte Wood, prior to launching an attack on Beugneux and Grand Rozoy. The Brigade (102nd) was in Reserve.

As soon as the main attack was held up, which became evident about 10-50 in the forenoon, the Brigade was ordered to outflank Beugneux by the west, and then to push on to the original objective.

Preparations took till 2-30 p.m., when the attack began. The 4th Battalion moved to fill a gap caused by French withdrawals on the left. Shelling was heavy and snipers in Grand Rozoy were very troublesome.

A German counter-attack delayed the advance, and the troops were halted and reorganized in the G.M.P. line (Government Militaire de Paris—outer Paris defences).

The French took Grand Rozoy on the 30th.

On the 1st August, the advance was resumed. The 4th Battalion and 1st Herefords had the task of following the attack, and holding a spur south east of Bucy Le Gras, to cover the advance of the 12th French Division.

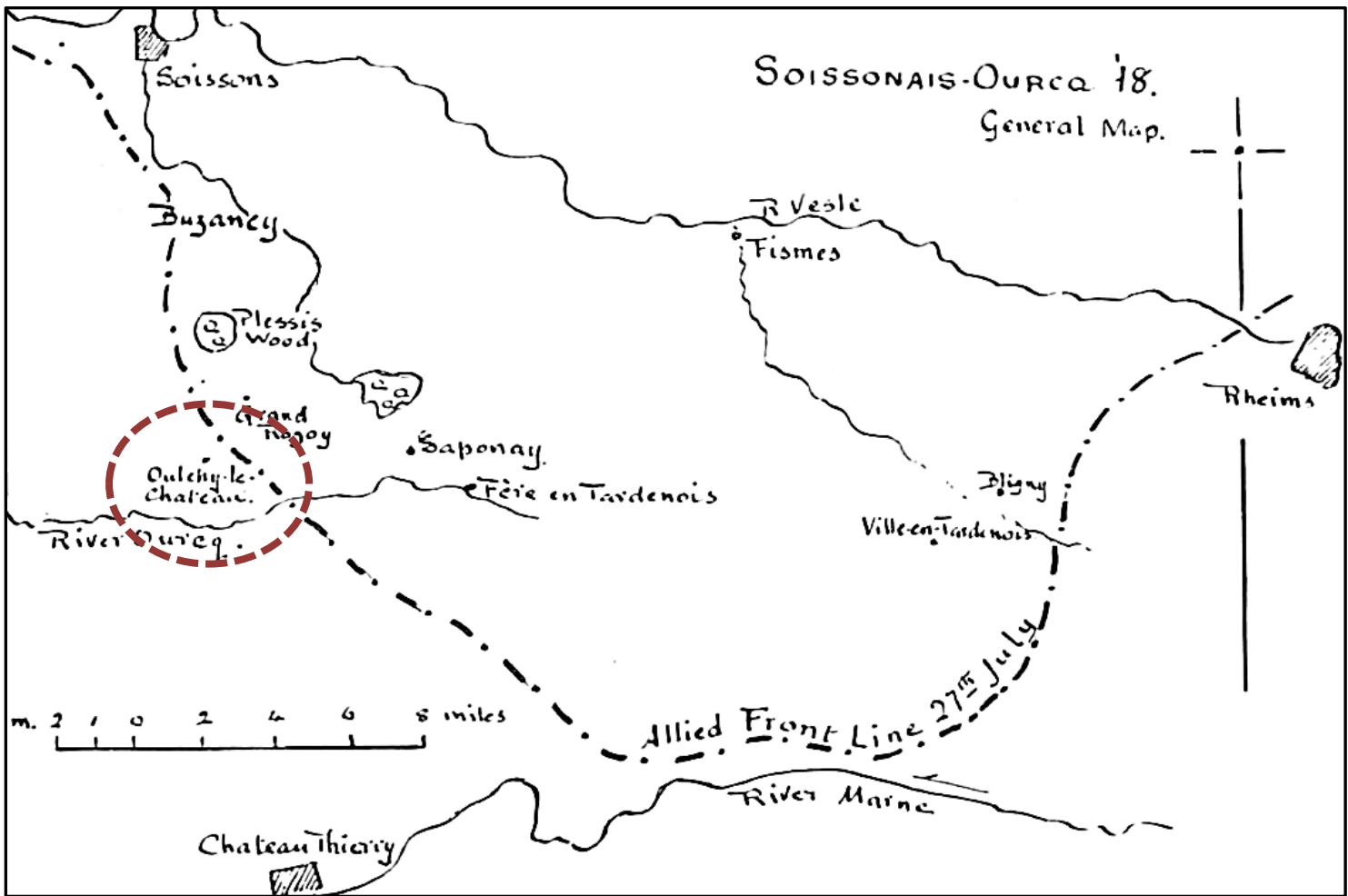
The 4th Battalion, carrying out their tasks in a way that earned the warmest praise of the French Generals, reached a line just south of the Beugneux-Courdoux Road. But they suffered a very great loss. Their gallant commanding officer, Colonel G. H. Swindells, was killed. He had commanded the 4th Battalion since October, 1914, when he was transferred from the 7th Battalion. With the exception of a short break recovering from wounds received at Suvla, Swindells had been at duty the whole war. In peace, he had been one of the keenest and most studious officers in the Cheshire Brigade. In war, he earned the devotion and affection of all who served under him.

A further advance of some 4,000 yards was necessary to command the valleys on either side of the hill 192, whence the Germans could get observation into Severnay.

However, the Germans had had enough, and began to withdraw on the 2nd August.

A feature of the operations was the splendid work done by signallers and runners. The French were most appreciative of the work of the Division and bestowed decorations promptly and handsomely on our troops.

[The History of the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War : 1914 – 1918 Arthur Crookenden, Colonel of the Regiment WH Evans, Sons & Co. Ltd. 1938]



The actions around 1 August 1918, when Frank Meddicott was killed, centred on Oulchy Le Chateau. On the sketch map this location has been encircled in red.

The War Diary extracts for the 1 / 4th Bn. Cheshire Regiment around the time of Frank's death, together with the account of the Battalion's operations from 22 July to 2 August 1918, are reproduced on the pages at the end of this account.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------|----|---|---|----------------|----|---|---|
| 815693 | Meddicott Frank | 1/4 th Cheshire Bde 2016 Wd | 1-8-18 in action | Shrewsbury 10-18 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 15-3-19 Martha | 19 | 5 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | 5/2/19 Martha | 11 | | |

WA* C A R D
 Effects 19 19 18
 Transfer 14 4 11 10 19
 Regd Paper 11 5 19 18
 Serial No. 3228163

A. F. W. 5070 SENT
 DATE 22-1-19

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In July 1919 Frank's mother Martha, as sole legatee, received a payment of outstanding wages of £19 5s 1d from the army and, in December, a War Gratuity of £11. This, a total value of £30 5s 1d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £4700 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

FRANK MEDLICOTT PTE. CHES. R.

Frank Meddlicott's name as recorded (as *Medlicott*) on the memorial plaque in St Nicholas's church, Burton.

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 201540 | Pte | MEDLICOTT, Frank | Ches.R. Pto. 4187 | One | Infantry Base Depot |
| | | | 4 Ches.R. | | |
| | | | 4 Ches.R. 201540 | | |
| | | | 4 Ches.R. | | |
| | | | 4 Ches.R. | | |

WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 British War Medal and Victory Medal

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------|----------------|
| MEDLICOTT | Ches. R. | Pte | 4187 201540 |
| Frank | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | 5/2/101 | 26 | 8925 |
| BARRAGE | do | do | |
| BRAS | | | |
| Theatre of War first served in | | | |
| Date of entry therein | | | |

Although recorded officially as being aged 26 when he died, it is probable that Frank Meddlicott was 28.

Martha Meddlicott died in late December 1923, aged 65, and was buried at Burton on 3 January 1924. She lived in Puddington.

Henry Meddlicott died in early December 1937, aged 78, and was buried at Burton on 11 December. His address was recorded as 19 Park Road, Eastham.

George William Meddlicott (born 16 May 1888), Frank's brother married Ethel Mary Hughes (born 15 January 1902) at Burton Parish Church on 7 June 1921; George, a boiler fireman,

1922 Marriage solemnized at St. Nicholas Church in the Parish of Burton in the County of Cheshire

| No. | When Married. | Name and Surname. | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------|--------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 144 | June 7 1921 | George William Meddlicott | 33 yrs | Bachelor | Boiler Fireman | Puddington | Henry Meddlicott | Labourer |
| | | Ethel Mary Hughes | 21 yrs | Spinster | | Puddington | Timothy Hughes | Joiner |

MARRIED in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me, Richard F. A. Everett

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George William Meddlicott and Ethel Mary Hughes in the Presence of us, Timothy Harmer Hughes and John Robert Lelande Vicar of Burton

was 33 and Ethel, 21, was the daughter of joiner Timothy Harmer Hughes of Puddington. They had a daughter, Doris, who was born on 20 October that year - no other children are known. In the 1939 Register the family is recorded as living at 50 Neville Road, Bromborough; George was a *fireman at margarine works* and Doris was a typist. Doris married Herbert Nixon on Wirral in mid-1944.

George died on 26 August 1971 aged 85 and was buried at Burton on 26 August. His address was recorded as 50 Neville Road, Bromborough. It appears that Ethel died in the Clun district of Shropshire in late 1983 aged 81.

102
34
182
24
Vol 3
1/4th Bⁿ THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|--|---|------------|------|---------|-----------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|-----|-----|
| MAP OULCHY LE CHATEAU | 18/18 | 2.0 am | B ⁿ moved through wire & formed up in Artillery Formation B & D Coys in Front, A & C Coys in rear forming 4 th wave of attack. 101 BDE in front, 103 BDE right flank, 25 th French Division left flank. | See Brief Account of Operations 22/7/18 to 2/8/18 attached. M.O. C. MOSS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 4.30 am | Attack commenced. Slight Artillery Fire. Slight resistance and 1 M.G. encountered in wood in square 183 - 279 just north of GRAND ROZOY - BEUGNEUX ROAD. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 7.00 | 101 BDE holding their objectives in front. B ⁿ moved out to left front to assault enemy positions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 7.30 | B ⁿ had captured all objectives. Commanding Officer Lt. COL G. H. SWINDELLS wounded. Unable to bring him in owing to severe machine gun fire. The line at this time ran approximately 849.809 to 846.814, being held by 1/4 CHESHIRE REGT and 2 Sections M.G.C. The French Division moving up from the rear commenced to fill up the line. The line was thinned by withdrawing part of this B ⁿ and forming a second line about 100 yds in rear. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 9.0 am | A cornfield about 847.812 was set on fire by tracer bullets & anti-tank shells, exploding an Enemy Ammunition dump, which killed Capt & Adj J. HOLDING. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 11.0 am | Bat ⁿ withdrawn to dead ground to reorganize. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 4.0 pm | B ⁿ occupied support line about 100 yds in rear of front line to support French attack later. Distributed in shell holes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 7.0 pm | French advanced about 800 yards. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 9.0 pm | Evening heavily shelled front line & supports but no counter attack developed. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Casualties</td> <td>O. 7</td> <td>O.R. 59</td> <td colspan="2">Officer's casualties were:-</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Killed</u></td> <td><u>Wounded</u></td> <td><u>Missing</u></td> <td><u>Gas</u></td> <td><u>Sick</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>O. O.R.</td> <td>O. O.R.</td> <td>O. O.R.</td> <td>O. O.R.</td> <td>O. O.R.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 10</td> <td>3 42</td> <td>- 3</td> <td>1 3</td> <td>- 1</td> </tr> </table> | | Casualties | O. 7 | O.R. 59 | Officer's casualties were:- | | <u>Killed</u> | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>Missing</u> | <u>Gas</u> | <u>Sick</u> | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | 3 10 | 3 42 | - 3 | 1 3 |
| Casualties | O. 7 | O.R. 59 | Officer's casualties were:- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Killed</u> | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>Missing</u> | <u>Gas</u> | <u>Sick</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 10 | 3 42 | - 3 | 1 3 | - 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Map OULCHY LE CHATEAU 1/20000 See Brief Account of Operations 22/7/18 to 2/8/18 attached.

- 1/8/18 4.0 am Bⁿ moved through wire & formed up in Artillery Formation, B & D Coys in Front, A & C Coys in rear forming 4th wave of attack. 101 BDE in front, 103 BDE right flank, 25th French Division left flank.
- 4.30 am Attack commenced. Slight Artillery Fire. Slight resistance and 1 M.G. encountered in wood in square 183 - 279 just north of GRAND ROZOY - BEUGNEUX ROAD.
- 7.0 Bⁿ had captured all objectives. Commanding Officer Lt. COL G. H. SWINDELLS wounded. Unable to bring him in owing to severe machine gun fire. The Line at this time ran approximately 849.809 to 846.814, being held by 1/4 CHESHIRE REGT and 2 Sections M.G.C. The French Division moving up from the rear commenced to fill up the line. The line was thinned by withdrawing part of this Bⁿ and forming a second line about 100 yards in rear.
- 9.0 am A cornfield about 847.812 was set on fire by tracer bullets & anti-tank shells, exploding an Enemy Ammunition dump, which killed Capt & Adj J. HOLDING.
- 11.0 am Batⁿ withdrawn to dead ground to reorganize.
- 4.0 pm Bⁿ occupied support line about 100 yds in rear of front line to support French attack later. Distributed in shell holes.
- 7.0 pm French advanced about 800 yards.
- 9.0 pm Evening heavily shelled front line & supports but no counter attack developed.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Casualties | | O. 7 | | O.R. 59 | | Officer's casualties were:- | |
| <u>Killed</u> | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>Missing</u> | <u>Gas</u> | <u>Sick</u> | <u>Killed</u> | Lt. Col G. H. SWINDELLS | |
| O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | O. O.R. | Capt. & Adj J. HOLDING | | |
| 3 10 | 3 42 | - 3 | 1 3 | - 1 | Lieut H. E. HOWES | | |
| | | | | | | <u>Gas</u> 2/Lt C. MOSS | |
| | | | | | | <u>Wounded</u> Capt B. W. CORDON MC | |
| | | | | | | 2/Lt J. N. HUGHES MC | |
| | | | | | | Lieut F. N. RYALLS | |

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Map. OULCHY LE CHATEAU 1/20,000 | 2/8/18 | 3.0 am | Relieved by 25 th French Division and withdrew to BOIS DE MONTCEAU taking up position in Paris Line at 4.30 am. Bn ⁿ commanded by Lieut J.A.L. BARNES. Areas covered in advances on 29 th /7 & 1/8 were thoroughly salvaged, dead buried and bodies of the Comdg Officer, Adjutant and Lieut H.E. HOWES brought to B ⁿ HQ for internment. A cemetery for Other Ranks killed in Action was established about 846.807. Deceased officers were interred by the senior Chaplain at about 827.787. Divis ^l Commander presented French Decorations & orders received to be prepared to move at ½ hours notice. Officers & other ranks. Casualties Officers NIL O.R. 3 (Sick) Officers decorated Lieut BARNES. CROIX DE GUERRE | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | 3/8/18 | | Salvage work over recently captured ground. Bn ⁿ Organised into 4 platoons & HQ. Remainder of day spent washing & cleaning. Warning order received for move by 'Bus at 8.18. Casualties: Sick 0 O.R. 2 | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | 4/8/18 | 11.0 am 9.0 pm | Embussed and proceeded to NANTEUIL. Debussed 5.30 pm, & commenced march. Arrived SILLY LE LONG & picked up reinforcements & parties from Leave Courses. Capt IRANSON assumed command. Bats ⁿ reorganised into 4 Companies. Casualties Sick 0 O.R. 2 | <i>[Signature]</i> |

Map OULCHY LE CHATEAU 1/20000

2/8/18 3.0 am Relieved by 25th French Division and withdrew to BOIS DE MONTCEAU taking up position in Paris Line at 4.30 am. Bⁿ commanded by Lieut J. A. L. BARNES. Areas covered in advances on 29th/7 & 1/8 were thoroughly salvaged, dead buried and bodies of the Comdg Officer, Adjutant and Lieut H. E. HOWES brought to Bⁿ HQ for internment. A cemetery for Other Ranks killed in action was established about 846.807. Deceased officers were interred by the senior Chaplain at about 827.787. Divis^l Commander presented French Decorations & orders received to be prepared to move at ½ hours notice. Officers and other ranks

Casualties Officers NIL O.R. 3 (Sick) Officers decorated Lieut B. A. R. JONES CROIX DE GUERRE

3/8/18 Salvage work over recently captured ground. Bn. Organised into 4 platoons & HQ. Remainder of day spent washing & cleaning. Warning order received for move by 'Bus at 8.18.

Casualties Sick
0 O.R.
- 2

4/8/18 11.0 am Embussed and proceeded to NANTEUIL. Debussed 5.30 pm, & commenced march.
9.0 pm Arrived SILLY LE LONG & picked up reinforcements & parties from Leave & Courses. Capt J. R. DANSON assumed command. Batⁿ reorganised into 4 Companies.

Casualties Sick 0 O.R.
- 2

Frank Meddicott is buried at Raperie British Cemetery south of Soissons and a short distance south of the village of Villemontoire.

Villemontoire is connected entirely with the victorious advance of the 15th (Scottish) and 34th Divisions, under French leadership, in the period from the 23rd July to the 2nd August 1918. The cemetery was made, after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the battlefield and from several smaller burial grounds which had been made by the Burial Officers and units of the two Divisions. [CWGC]

It is quite probable that he was, originally, buried much closer to where he fell, perhaps at Cheshire Cemetery, Parcy-et-Tigny. Many small cemeteries like this were closed after the war and the bodies were exhumed and re-interred in larger "concentration" cemeteries such as Raperie.

In accordance with Ref. 66/2 T.S. of 9/8/18

Map OULCHY LE CHATEAU. 1/20,000.
French System map references.

July 22, 1918. PUISEAUX. At 7. 30 am the Commanding Officer, with all Company Commanders, Intelligence Officer and Interpreter left PUISEAUX to reconnoitre the ground to be taken over at night. Met the G.O.C., and all Battalion Commanders at MONTRAMBOEFF FARM. After a conference the Commanding Officer and Intelligence Officer reconnoitred the line and decided upon the dispositions of Companies. At 8. 30 am the Battalion under Capt B.W.CORDEN, M.C., moved out of PUISEAUX arriving about point 87 at 3. 0 pm where the Commanding Officers and other Officers rejoined. At 9. 30 pm moved out to relieve the French in the PARIS LINE, guides meeting the Bn at junction of roads about

Relief completed 11. 50 pm. In support to the remainder of Brigade. 12. 00 midnight warning orders for attack received.

July 23, 1918. Until 3.30 am C.O. and I.O., reconnoitred forward, and covered routes to the Front Line.

7. 20 am order to advance received, and issued to Company Commanders.

7. 30 am Advance commenced, crossing ground to Front Line in artillery formation with but few casualties, in spite of furious enemy bombardment.

Orders for attack were for 1/7th Cheshire and 1/1 Herefords to take the BOIS DE REUGNY, and afterwards for the 1/4th Cheshire Regt., to push on and consolidate a position securing the CHATEAU THIERRY road at HARTENNES ET TAUX.

The advance of the leading Battalions was held up by enfilade machine gun and artillery fire from the direction of TIGNY, owing to the French not having secured this village as was ordered. Our left flank was therefore exposed and in the air and the left Companies moved over to the right into dead ground. Liaison with the French could not be established. The two Companies in front of the trenches East of PARCY TIGNY dug in under heavy fire. One Company in the PARIS LINE trenches and one in the Sunken road North East of PARCY TIGNY, with its right in the village. The position remained the same until about 9. 0 pm. Severe casualties were suffered from the heavy shelling, M.G. fire and gas, most of the casualties being from Mustard Gas, from which the S.B.R's gave but little protection.

At 9. 0 pm orders were issued for the line to be advanced. 10 pm Companies moved out under cover of darkness and proceeded to dig in. C. Company in front, at about from 00.42 to 00.45. B. Company in close support in rear, and A & D Companies amalgamated 200 yards in rear of B. Company, and in reserve. Liaison was established by joint posts on the right flank with the 1/ 7th Cheshire Regt and on the left with the French, whose right flank rested on the cross roads about 88.43. The front was actively patrolled during the night, enemy movement and much talking being heard in the Western edge of the BOIS DE REUGNY.

CASUALTIES :- 4 Officers and 276 other ranks.

| Killed | | Wounded | | Wounded (Gas) | |
|--------|----|---------|----|---------------|-----|
| o | or | o | or | o | or |
| - | 6 | 3 | 83 | 1 | 184 |

Officers casualties were - Wounded. Capt. L.H.RENDELL.
 Lieut E.J.M.GRIFFITHS.
 2/Lt. W. FORD.

Wounded 2/Lt. R.F.GREETHAD.
 (gas)

July 29th. (Continued).

3.

The Battalion remained in this position all day.

CASUALTIES :- Officers 1. Other ranks 32
Killed Wounded Missing Wounded (gas) Sick
0 OR 0 OR 0 OR 0 OR 0 OR
5 1 23 2 1 1

The Officer wounded was 2/Lieut H.C.CALDERWOOD.

July 30, 1918 Battalion remained in the same position all day under heavy shell fire.

CASUALTIES. 2 Officers 13 Other ranks.
Killed Wounded Wounded (gas) Sick
0 OR OR OR 0 OR 0 OR
- 4 2 6 1 2

Officers wounded were - Capt K.S.CHANDLER.
2/Lt.A.E.EDGE.

July 31st, 1918 During the night 30/31 the Battalion relieved the 2/4 S. L. I. in the PARIS LINE from the Northern edge of the BOIS DE MONTCE AU to about 838-784 coming into support of the 1/7th Cheshire Regt. and 1/1 Hereford Regt who held a line of coffin trenches about 600 yards in front. Heavy shelling and gas bombardments at intervals. At 11. 0 p.m., orders for the advance at dawn, 1/8/18 were received.

CASUALTIES. Officers nil Other ranks 15.
Killed Wounded (gas) Sick
0 OR 0 OR 0 OR
- 2 - 11 - 2

August 1st, 1918 At 4. 0 am the Battalion moved through the wire and formed up for the attack in accordance with operation orders received the previous night. The battalions was organised into 5 platoons, B. & D. Companies, and A & C in support, in artillery formation, forming the 4th wave of the attack. The 101 BDE was in front, the 103 BDE on the Right Flank and the 25th French Division on the left. The advance commenced about 4. 30 am under slight artillery fire. Some resistance was encountered in the wood in Square 183 - 279 just North of the GRAND ROZOY - BEUGNEUX ROAD. The 101 BDE captured and held their objectives by 7. 0 am, and the Battalion moving out to the left front assaulted and took all objectives by 7. 30 am. About this time the Commanding Officer, Lieut Col G.H.SWINDELLS was seen to fall, but owing to severe machine gun fire covering the area, several attempts made to bring him in only resulted in casualties. At this time the line ran approximately 849.809 to 846.814. This line was very strongly held by the 1/4 Bn The Cheshire Regiment, the M.G. Sections attached and also the French Infantry, who had commenced filling up the line from the rear. About 9. 0 am a cornfield about 847. 812 was set on fire by tracer bullets and anti-tank shells and an enemy ammunition dump, killing Capt & Adjt J. HOLDING, and several Other Ranks. The line was thinned by withdrawing part of this Battalion, and a support line formed 100 yards in rear. At 11. 0 am as the French continued to fill up the line, the Battalion was withdrawn entirely to dead ground about 200 yards in rear of the front line, to reorganise; this position was occupied until about 3. 30 pm. In the meantime Signal Communication had been established with the 101 BDE, and 102 BDE. Liaison was established with the 25th French Division on the left. At 3. 30 pm the French requested the Battalion to occupy the second line, 200 yards in rear of the front line, to support their attack at 7. 0 p.m. This was done at 4. 0 pm., the Battalion occupying a series of shell craters. The French advanced about 800 yards at 7. 0 pm and the enemy heavily shelled the front line and supports at 9. 0 pm, but no counter attack developed.

CASUALTIES. Officers 7 Other ranks 59
Killed Wounded Missing Wounded (gas) Sick
0 OR 0 OR 0 OR 0 OR 0 OR
3 10 3 42 - 3 1 3 - 1

Officers casualties. Killed. Lt.Col G.H.SWINDELLS. Wounded (gas)
Capt & Adjt J. HOLDING. 2/Lt C.MOSS
Lieut H.E.HOWES.
Wounded. Capt B.W.CORDEN M.C. Lieut F.N.RYALLS
2/Lt J.N.HUGHES

August 2nd, 1918

At 3. 0 am the 25th French Division relived the Battalion and a position in the PARIS LINE at the BOIS DE MONTCEAU was occupied by the Battalion at 4. 30 am. The day was spent washing and cleaning. Salvage work was carried out over the area ~~XXXXX~~ covered by the Battalion during the advance the previous day.; the dead were buried, a cemetery being established at about 846,807. The bodies of Lt.Col G.H.SWINDELLS, Capt & Adjt J. HOLDING and Lieut H.E.HOWES were brought in and buried by the Senior C.F., at about 827,787. Salvage work was also carried out in the BOIS DE MONTCEAU and the area covered by the advance on the 29th.

CASUALTIES. Officers nil. Other ranks 3. (sick).

Major.

Commanding

1/4th Bn CHESHIRE REGIMENT.

12. 8. 1918



The main street in Oulchy-le-Chateau in 1918