

## 133: Frederick Arthur John Ellicott

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Frederick Arthur John Ellicott  
 Rank: Second Lieutenant  
 Battalion / Regiment: 6th Bn. King's Own Scottish Borderers  
 Service Number: ? Date of Death: 09 July 1916 Age at Death: 24  
 Buried / Commemorated at: Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban-de-Picardie, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France  
 Additional information given by CWGC: Son of His Honour Judge A. B. and Mrs. L. F. Ellicott, of Rydal House, 22, Portarlington Rd., Bournemouth; husband of Lettice Eleanor Ellicott, of Green Place, Stockbridge, Hants.

Frederick Arthur John Ellicott's connection to Neston lies through his marriage to the daughter of a prominent citizen of the town, Sir (Arthur) Norman Hill of Leighton House.

Frederick Ellicott was born in April/June 1892 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, the eldest child of Judge Arthur Becher Ellicott.

Arthur Becher Ellicott was born on 24 September 1849, the son of The Rt. Rev. Charles John Ellicott and Constantia Ann Becher. He married Louisa Frederica Reynell-Pack, the daughter of Lt.-Col. Arthur John Reynell-Pack and Frederica Katherine Hely Hutchinson, on 20 July 1875 and they were the parents of one son and one daughter (a third child died young). Louisa died on 25 May 1927 and Arthur Becher died on 3 June 1931, aged 81, in Bournemouth.

At the time of the 1901 census the family was living at Painswick, a small town between Gloucester and Stroud:

Arthur B. Ellicott	Head	M	51	County Council Judge JP for City and County of Gloucester & Borough Tewkesbury Chancellor of Gloucester & Bristol	Marylebone London
Louisa F. do	Wife	M	48		St George's Hanover Square
Frederick A. do	Son		9		Glos. Painswick
Victoria L. do	Daughter		4		Glos. Painswick
Mary G. Grey	Serv	F	20	Governess (Domestic)	Wiltshire Stroud
Frank R. do	Serv	M	35	Ind. House Servant (Domestic)	Levy. Herts. Down
Edward R. do	Serv	M	49	Coachman (Domestic)	Dorset. Life Head
Sarah J. Poulton	Serv	W	43	Laundress (Domestic)	London. Chelsea
Alice J. Britton	Serv	F	22	Laundress (Domestic)	Wilt. Little Banger
Edith Shipp	Serv	F	25	Laundress (Domestic)	Glos. Painswick

### 1901 census (extract) – The Culls, Painswick, Gloucester

Arthur B. Ellicott	51	County Council Judge JP for City and County of Gloucester & Borough Tewkesbury Chancellor of Gloucester & Bristol	born Marylebone, London
Louisa F.	48		born St George's, Hanover Sq, London
Frederick A.	9		born Painswick, Glos.
Victoria L.	4		born Painswick, Glos.

In the household there was also a governess and five servants.

Arthur Becher Ellicott was a Judge of County Courts Circuit, Gloucestershire (1892 - 1920) and Chancellor of the Dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol (1891 - 1919).

At the time of the 1911 census Frederick was recorded as 19, a student at Eton College, Windsor, and his sister, Victoria Louisa (14) was recorded as a visitor with Adria Georgina Bush at 7, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, Bristol. Their parents were now living with Arthur's widowed mother, Constantia, at 3, Royal York Crescent:

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)										(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 certify that— (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column. (2) I have entered the age and date of birth in Column 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have entered such as appeared to be erroneous.										I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.									
Total.										Signature									
Males Females Persons										18									
1	Constantia Anne Ellicott	Head	83	Widow						Private means	370					Middlesex, London Marylebone			
2	Arthur Becher Ellicott	Son	61	married						Judge of County Courts, Diocesan Chancellor and JP	425					Middlesex, London Marylebone			
3	Louisa Frederica Ellicott	Daughter-in-law	58	married	35	3	2	1		Private means	370					Middlesex, London Marylebone			
4	Rosalind Frances Ellicott	Daughter	53	single						Private means	018					Cambs: Cambridge			
5	William Ernest Hillman	Servant	29	single						Indoor manservant (Domestic)	018					Sussex: Haverhill			
6	Louisa Chattell	Servant	45	single						Cook (Domestic)						Huntingdonshire, Catworth			
7	Hennietta Knight	Servant	23	single						Head Housemaid (Domestic)						Middlesex, Clapham			
8	Elizabeth Taylor Slack	Servant	29	single						Ladies' Maid (Domestic)						Middlesex, London St Giles in the Fields			
9	Alice Maud Rust	Servant	22	single						Under Housemaid (Domestic)						Hants, Fawcett			
10	Florence Griffiths	Servant	24	single						Kitchen Maid (Domestic)						Birthplace not known			
11	Archibald Horace Crisp	Servant	22	single						Groom (Domestic)	076					Norfolk, Langley			
12	Rachael Pryde	Servant	36	single						Sick Nurse	437					Northumberland, Tyne and Wear			
13																			
14																			
15																			

#### 1911 census – 3, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, Bristol

Constantia Anne Ellicott	83	widow, private means	born Marylebone, London
Arthur Becher Ellicott	61	Judge of County Courts, Diocesan Chancellor and JP	born Marylebone, London
Louisa Frederica	58	daughter-in-law, private means	born Marylebone, London
Rosalind Frances	53	daughter, private means	born Cambridge

In the household there were eight servants.

Arthur and Louisa had been married for 35 years and two of their three children had survived.



Royal York Crescent, Bristol [Source: <http://property.mitula.co.uk/property/flats-terraces-furnished-city-bristol/>]

It is known that Frederick left Eton College at the end of the academic year in 1911.

Frederick Ellicott married Lettice Eleanor Hill in Weymouth, Dorset, in April/June 1915.

Lettice was the eldest child of Arthur Norman Hill and Elen and was born in early 1891.

In 1901 the Hill family was living in the Garston district of Liverpool:



A Norman Hill	Head	M	37	✓	Solicitor	Employer	Middlesex Tottenham
Elen M Stratford Hill	wife	W	36	✓			Lanc Lpool
Lettie E Hill	Daughter		10	✓			Lanc Aigburth
Norman Gray Hill	Son		6	✓			Lanc —
E Laurie Hill	Brother	Wid	30	✓	Mechanical Engineer	Noted	Middlesex Tottenham

1901 census (extract) – 3, Barnham, Ashfield Road, Garston, Liverpool

A. Norman Hill	37	solicitor	born Tottenham
Elen M. Stratford	36		born Liverpool
Lettie E.	10		born Aigburth
Norman Gray	6		born Lancashire
E. Laurie Hill	30	brother, widow, mechanical engineer	born Tottenham

Arthur Norman Hill was the second son of George Birkbeck Hill, Doctor of Civil Law and Honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford and Annie (née Scott) of Wigan.

Arthur Norman married Elen Mary Stratford Danson at Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch, in July/September 1889; she was the eldest daughter of the late John Towne Danson, barrister-at-law, of Grasmere.

Arthur Norman Hill was educated at Bruce Castle School, Tottenham, and was admitted as a solicitor in 1885. He became a member of the firm of Hill, Dickinson & Co., Solicitor, Liverpool and the Secretary of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association and the Chairman of the Board of Trade Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee.

Arthur Norman and Elen lived at Leighton House, Neston (an early 18<sup>th</sup> century - and possibly earlier - brick house near the junction of Leighton Road and The Runnell) and had a second house, 'Green Place' at Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Arthur Norman Hill was also the British Delegate at the Safety of Life at Sea Conference, a Member of the Imperial Defence Committee (which framed the Government War Risks Insurance Scheme of 1913-14) and a member of the Port & Transit Executive Committee (of which he became Chairman in 1917).

The Hill Baronetcy, of Green Place in Stockbridge in the County of Southampton, was created in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom on 6 September 1919 for Norman Hill who, by then, had a prominent position as a shipping lawyer. The title became extinct when the second Baronet, Norman Gray Hill - Norman and Elen's only son - was killed in action in 1944.

**SIR ARTHUR NORMAN HILL.**—Chairman of the Port and Transit Executive Committee. Special war services to the Ministry of Shipping.

*The Times* - Wednesday, 13 August 1919 [Birthday Honours]

In the 1911 census the family was divided between their two homes; Arthur Norman Hill, and the couple's young daughter (Rosalind, born 14 November 1908 in Neston), were living in Neston and Elen was with Lettice and her brother, Norman Gray Hill, at their second home at Stockbridge in Hampshire:



**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.

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.
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," or "Son," or "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," or "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Personal Occupation.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether: (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalisation, (3) "If of foreign nationality, state whether: "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is: (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Insane," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.		
(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Total Children Born Alive.	No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instructions 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.		
No one else must be included.		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children still living.		(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."		
(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children who have died.		NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.		
1. Arthur Norman Hill	Head	47	Married	Solicitor	Tottenham, Middlesex	241	
2. Rosalind Mary Theodosia	Wife	2			Neston, Cheshire		
3. Ellen Beckett	Servant	42	Single	Nurse domestic	Leamington, Warwickshire	606	
4. Catherine Irvine	Servant	39	Single	Cook domestic	Tonbridge, Kent	058	
5. Sarah Ellen Irvine	Servant	20	Single	Parlour maid domestic	Tonbridge, Kent		
6. Ruthie Annie Harriet Pittard	Servant	17	Single	House maid domestic	Leamington, Warwickshire	450	

(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 enquiries 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: *Ed*

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

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

14

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

Signature: *Arthur Norman Hill*

Postal Address: *Leighton House, Neston, Cheshire*

### 1911 census (condensed) – Leighton House, Neston

Arthur Norman Hill	47	solicitor	born Tottenham
Rosalind Mary Theodosia	2		born Neston

Also in the household was a nurse and three other servants (none local to Neston).

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

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of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," or "Son," or "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," or "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Personal Occupation.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether: (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalisation, (3) "If of foreign nationality, state whether: "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is: (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Insane," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.		
(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Total Children Born Alive.	No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instructions 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.		
No one else must be included.		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children still living.		(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."		
(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)		Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "None," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Children who have died.		NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.		
1. Elen Mary Stratford Hill	Wife	46	Married	Student	Liverpool, Lancashire	058	
2. Lettice Eleanor Hill	Daughter	20	Single	Student	Liverpool, Lancashire		
3. Norman Gray Hill	Son	16	Single	Student	Liverpool, Lancashire		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

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Initials of Enumerator: *MA*

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

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

5

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

Signature: *Elen Mary Stratford Hill*

Postal Address: *Green Place, Stockbridge, Hampshire*

### 1911 census (condensed) – Green Place, Stockbridge, Hampshire

Elen Mary Stratford Hill	46	born Liverpool
Lettice Eleanor	20	born Liverpool
Norman Gray	16	born Liverpool

Elen & (Arthur) Norman had been married for 21 years and all three children had survived.

It is worth commenting on Rosalind Hill, the third - and last - child of Arthur Norman and Elen Hill as she became a prominent Professor of History. Her life was summarised in the obituary published in January 1997 and this is reproduced as a postscript in the text box at the end of this entry.



Norman Gray Hill, the second child of Arthur Norman and Elen, was born in the Wavertree district of Liverpool in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1894 and he died in WW2 in Sicily during the Italian Campaign. He became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps, gained the Military Cross and the Territorial Decoration (TD), a military medal awarded for long service in the Territorial Army. He died, aged 49, on 24 February 1944 and was buried at Catania War Cemetery.

As noted previously, Frederick Ellicott married Lettice Eleanor Hill in Weymouth, Dorset, on 24 April 1915 when he was already serving as a Second Lieutenant in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, a rank that he had obtained in January 1915.

Whilst Frederick's Service Record has not been located some further details of his education, and the early days of his army career can be found in the reports of his death in *The Times* and *Liverpool Echo*. Clearly, it had been Frederick's intention to follow his father into the legal profession before he accepted a commission, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on

probation, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Special Reserve of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in January 1915. Although the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, formed in Dumfries in August 1914, was a training unit which remained in UK throughout the war, troops moved from this unit to other Service battalions when required. Frederick must have been transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, under the orders of the 28<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division, following his training and he must have joined them in France in August 1915, just in time for their involvement in The Battle of Loos (25 September - 18 October 1915). This was the largest British offensive mounted in 1915 on the Western Front and the battle was the first mass engagement of the New Army units.

Involving six Divisions this was a mighty offensive ('The Big Push') with large stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery and poison gas being used by the British Army for the first time. Despite heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch, but the reserve forces had been held too far from the battle front to be able to exploit the successes and the succeeding days bogged down into attritional warfare for minor gains.

Full details of this battle can be read on The Long, Long Trail website where it is noted that:

*More than 61,000 British casualties were sustained in this battle. 50,000 of them were in the main fighting area between Loos and Givenchy and the remainder in the*

**SEC. LIEUT. F. A. J. ELLICOTT.**  
Mr. Frederick Arthur John Ellicott, of the 3rd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, was on Tuesday night gazetted to a second-lieutenancy.

He is the only son, born in 1892, of his Honour Judge Ellicott, M.A. He is an ex-cadet of the Officers' Training Corps, and on passing his examination for a barrister he at once enlisted as a soldier.

*Gloucestershire Echo* - Wednesday 27 January 1915

**MR. F. A. J. ELLICOTT AND MISS HILL.**

A marriage has been arranged, and will very shortly take place, between Frederick Arthur John Ellicott, 2nd Lieutenant, King's Own Scottish Borderers, only son of his Honour Judge Ellicott and Mrs. Ellicott, of Royal York-crescent, Clifton, Bristol, and Lettice Eleanor, eldest daughter of Sir Norman and Lady Hill, of Leighton House, Neston, Cheshire.

*The Times* - Saturday 17 April 1915

*subsidiary attacks. Of these, 7,766 men died. Casualties were particularly high among Scots units. Many New Army units, rushed into a battle area for the first time only a matter of days after landing in France, were devastated. A significant proportion of the remaining pre-war regular troops were lost, and more than 2,000 officers were killed or wounded. This irreplaceable asset in experienced men and leaders was a most serious loss to the army. The New Army units that had taken part in a major action for the first time had suffered heavily - but had shown without doubt that they were worthy soldiers.*

The Long, Long Trail [<http://www.1914-1918.net/bat13.htm>]

Despite the initial gains the combined British and French forces failed to break through the German lines and, despite heavy losses, little ground was gained.

On 23 October 1915 the *Supplement to the London Gazette* recorded that Frederick had been confirmed in his rank of Second Lieutenant.

On 6 May 1916 the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers transferred to the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division and at the beginning of July they were involved in The Battle of Albert and it was here that Frederick Ellicott was wounded and subsequently lost his life on 9 July 1916. Note: both *Soldiers Died in the Great War* and the *Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects* give his date of death as 8 July - this is, most probably, the date he was injured.

The Battle of Albert (1 - 13 July 1916), comprised the first two weeks of Anglo-French offensive operations in The Battle of the Somme. The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division, were then in the southern sector.

The Allied preparatory artillery bombardment commenced on 24 June and the Anglo-French infantry attacked on 1 July, on the south bank from Foucaucourt to the Somme and from the Somme north to Gommecourt, 2 miles beyond Serre.

Details of the movements and involvement of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division were recorded by Brevet-Major John Ewing MC in *The History of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division : 1914 - 1919* [pub. John Murray, 1921] from which much of the following is taken.

It was obvious to the dullest man that the Division was intended to take part in some business more enterprising than the mere holding of a section of trenches. The whole hinterland behind the trenches was a hive of industry and traffic. Swarms of troops from every part of the kingdom were to be seen in every village; at night the roads groaned with the passage of guns of all sizes and of transport carrying every conceivable variety of material, and the whole countryside was covered with dumps containing R.E. material, bombs, shells, and stores of all kinds. Hospitals and aerodromes formed additional villages in the district. The back areas of the Somme in the

summer of 1916 were the busiest centres of activity in the whole world. It was a wonderful exhibition of the resources of the British Empire, and a visible proof of the diligence with which workers at home had applied themselves to the manufacture of munitions of war. It was not a feverish bustle that one witnessed, but a steady and systematic application of labour; every movement was directed by an organisation that was not surpassed by any other nation in the war. The whole of the work performed by Britain in its administrative arrangements has probably never been appreciated at its full value.

Until the end of May 1916 the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division was based near Ploegsteert in Belgium, about 2km north of the French border. In early June the Division moved 50km south-westwards and relocated at Bomy in the Hauts-de-France region of northern France. Here it was recorded that

*The men were in the best of spirits, and training and recreation were carried on with vigour and keenness, while the glory of the summer and genial weather raised the usual hopes that the year would see the end of the war.*

However, on 11 June, orders were received by the Division that it was to join the X111 Corps. which was commanded by Lieutenant-General Walter Norris Congreve VC <sup>1</sup> and that the men would be taken by rail on 16 June (then changed to 13 June) and concentrated at Vaux-en-Amienois, 8km north of Amiens.

*All this industry and all these preparations were the obvious prelude to a great battle, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> June the Division received from the Corps. instructions for the attack that was to be made.* The plan made it clear that the 19<sup>th</sup> Division would be kept in reserve.

The other object of the British Commander-in-Chief<sup>1</sup> was to wear down the strength of the enemy by a steady offensive. The choice of the battlefield was governed by the fact that the British armies were not sufficiently numerous to take the offensive on a large scale without the co-operation of the French, and the district selected was therefore in Picardy, where the two armies joined.

Picardy was one of the most delightful spots in France. Here there were none of the grimy coal-pits and slag-heaps that had figured so prominently in the Battle of Loos. This was the agricultural part of France, with wide open and rolling country, in which there was hardly a fence to be seen. The numerous small villages that broke the fields seldom contained more than a few hundred inhabitants. On the battle front the prominent feature was the extensive ridge running from Thiepval to Combles, with alternate spurs and valleys thrown out to the south-west. This ridge, which afforded the enemy magnificent observation over the British trenches and hinterland, was the main watershed of the high ground that stretched from the valley of the Somme in a north-easterly direction to the low-lying ground between Lens and Cambrai. Beyond this were the plains of Douai. On the western side the slopes, steep and rugged, were a formidable obstacle, but towards the north-east, the ridge fell in

a gradual slope, rising again to a gentle ridge on the farther side of Bapaume. Beyond this second ridge, which was about a hundred feet lower than the main one, the country, broad and undulating, offered no great difficulty to an army that had won its way to it. But stiff fighting would be necessary to reach this, because these ridges formed the buttress that shielded the great railway centres of Cambrai and Douai. A feature of the terrain, especially in the south, was the large number of woods thick with summer foliage and carpeted with a dense undergrowth that made progress, except by means of the small paths running through them, all but impossible. These woods played an important part in the battle.

The main object of Sir Douglas Haig is indicated by his description of the Somme campaign as the “wearing-out battle.” It is more commonly referred to as the policy of attrition, and under that name has been subjected to a good deal of criticism. But there is no question that the policy was based upon sound military principles that could not be neglected.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Douglas Haig succeeded Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief in December 1915.

<sup>1</sup> This was the Walter Norris Congreve of Burton Hall whose son, Billy La Touche Congreve VC, was killed near Corbie (just 20km south-east of Vaux-en-Amienois) the following month (20 July 1916) [See 123: William La Touche Congreve VC DSO MC in this work].



On the eve of the battle the attitude of the Germans was one of assured confidence. From the high ground they occupied to the south of Arras they could not fail to detect the signs of an imminent offensive, and though the preliminary bombardment, which commenced on the 25th June, was supplemented by artillery demonstrations at Ypres and Arras, they had realised that the great attack would take place in the Somme, and in this district their defences were the strongest on the whole battle front. For eighteen months there had been no operation of any magnitude in the sector, and the enemy was given time to make his defences as perfect as they could be made. The front line trenches were protected with broad belts of wire entanglements, which had to be swept away before the attackers could come to grips with the defenders, and numerous and elaborate dug-outs had been constructed to protect the garrison during a bombardment. Most of these shelters went down into the earth for at least thirty feet, and some were so strong that even the most powerful shell could not penetrate them. While such shelters are excellent for protection, they have special dangers of their own. To one in a deep dug-out the noise of a bombardment

overhead has a peculiarly sinister and terrifying sound; even a shell that bursts a hundred yards away seems to fall at his door. In such a case a man who thinks more of his own skin than of his duty is loth to leave his refuge, and there were many instances during the battle of enemy garrisons being trapped in their dug-outs before they had time to man their parapets. The Germans had also erected skilfully concealed machine-gun posts, strengthened by concrete, and they had several similarly protected posts for snipers. It was therefore with good reason that the Germans believed their positions to be impregnable.

As the time for battle drew near, the Division was moved closer to the front line, and on the 23rd it was concentrated near Corbie, where D.H.Q. were established. All the sappers and pioneers were busy on roads and dumps. Numerous conferences in connection with the battle were held by the G.O.C. On the next day the Ninth moved to Etinehem, and on the 27th to Grovetown, a city of dumps.

The Division was not to take part in the first day of battle, but it was instructed to be ready to do so when called upon.

The assault was to be made on the 29th June. To prevent the date being conveyed to the enemy this was known and spoken of as "Z" day, and the days prior to the battle were designated by the corresponding letters of the alphabet. Thus the 25th June, on which date the preliminary bombardment commenced, was "V" day. During the last week of June the weather was bad, and zero was wisely postponed until the 1st July. Thick ribbons of mist floated over the landscape and rendered the work of the Flying Corps exceptionally difficult. Until the 27th June there were frequent and heavy showers of rain, and Grovetown became a sea of mud, but on the following day the sun shone from a cloudless sky, and a typical French summer day ushered in the greatest battle fought in history up to that time.

The bombardment that fell on the German lines was of an intensity far exceeding that at Loos, and to the distant observer their positions seemed to be shot into the air. The bursts of our shells resembled the smoke from an endless row of factory chimneys, stretching north and south, and through the fountains of smoke one could see sods of earth and fragments of timber leaping upwards. For six days the ground throbbed under the unceasing cannonade, and the nights, gleaming with the flashes of thousands of guns, were almost as bright as the days. In this bombardment the guns of the Ninth Division contributed their share, for they were in action with the artillery of the Eighteenth and Thirtieth Divisions. During all this period the enemy's artillery was extraordinarily quiet, as if reserving itself for the final attack.

On 30 June 1916 the battle HQ of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division was at Grovetown and the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade, which contained the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was in Billon Wood Valley, Copse Valley and Trigger Wood Valley. For the first days of the offensive they were in support of the front line and spent much of their time providing carrying parties (ammunition and supplies) for the remainder of the Divisions at Montauban Wood.

The Battalion War Diary records that on the night of 30 June/1 July, the battalion paraded as late as 11:10pm at the cross roads at Grovetown then marched to Trigger Wood Valley, all arriving by 12:45am. It was recorded that the men were *in splendid condition* and very keen to be involved in the forthcoming actions noting that *Bombardment all night by us, very intensive from 5:00 to 7:30 a.m. Our infantry*



*attacked on large front at 7:30am. At 12 noon, objective reported taken in immediate front, MONTAUBAN. Weather splendid, Wind S.W.*

On 2 July the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade, together with the South African Brigade, was tasked with relieving the 90<sup>th</sup> Brigade (in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division) which was holding Montauban.

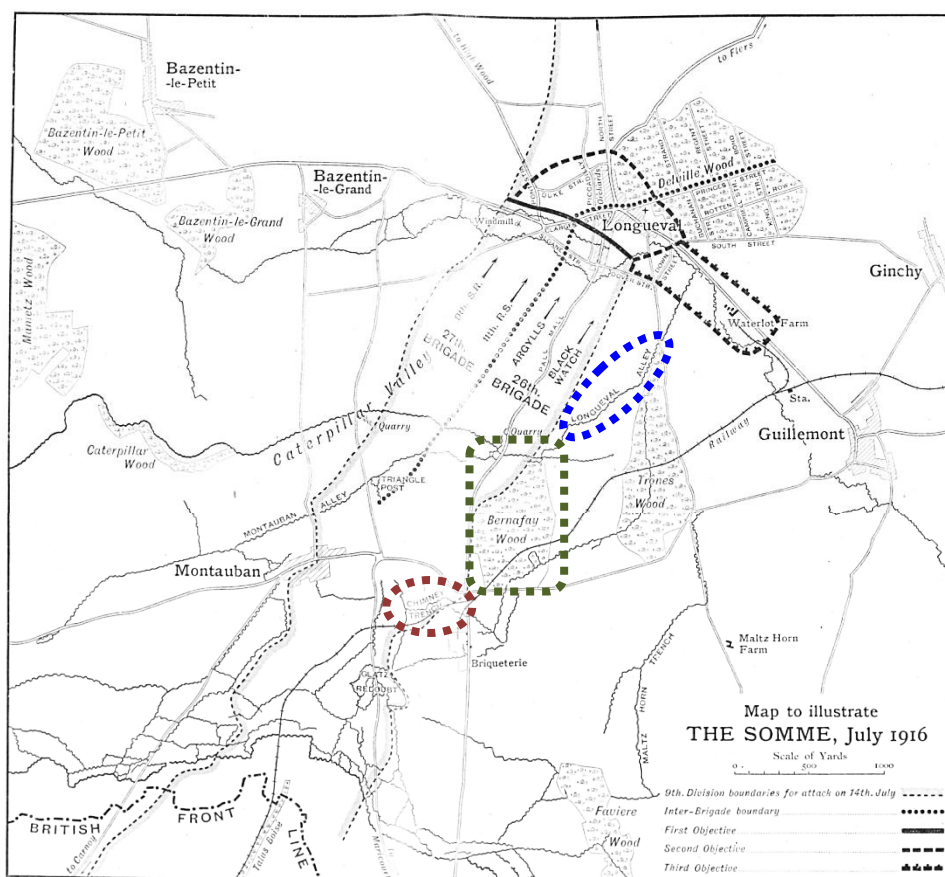
However, congestion in the trenches and unfamiliarity with the captured positions meant that this task was not completed until 3.0am on 3 July.

More specifically the War Diary of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers reported, for 2 July, that the battalion was ready to move out at short notice, but stayed in place for most of the day until they left Trigger Wood Valley at 9:15pm for Train Alley, arriving there at 5:15am on the morning of 3 July. Here they formed working parties, presumably repairing and reinforcing trench positions.

At 7:00pm the battalion received Operational Orders to attack Bernafay Wood (about 500m east and northeast of Montauban) <sup>2</sup> and the attack commenced at 9:00pm accompanied by the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Scots. The attack was successful and the wood was taken, with 2 machine guns being captured and 11 prisoners taken, 5 casualties being incurred. Although the wood proved to be relatively easy to capture, it proved costly to hold; at

6.0am on 4 July a violent and heavy enemy bombardment of the newly captured positions began and this continued for six hours. Headquarters for the battalion was established in a shell hole in the southwestern end of the wood and consolidation of the positions was undertaken. Intense enemy bombardment continued into 4 July and Headquarters was moved to Chimney Trench.

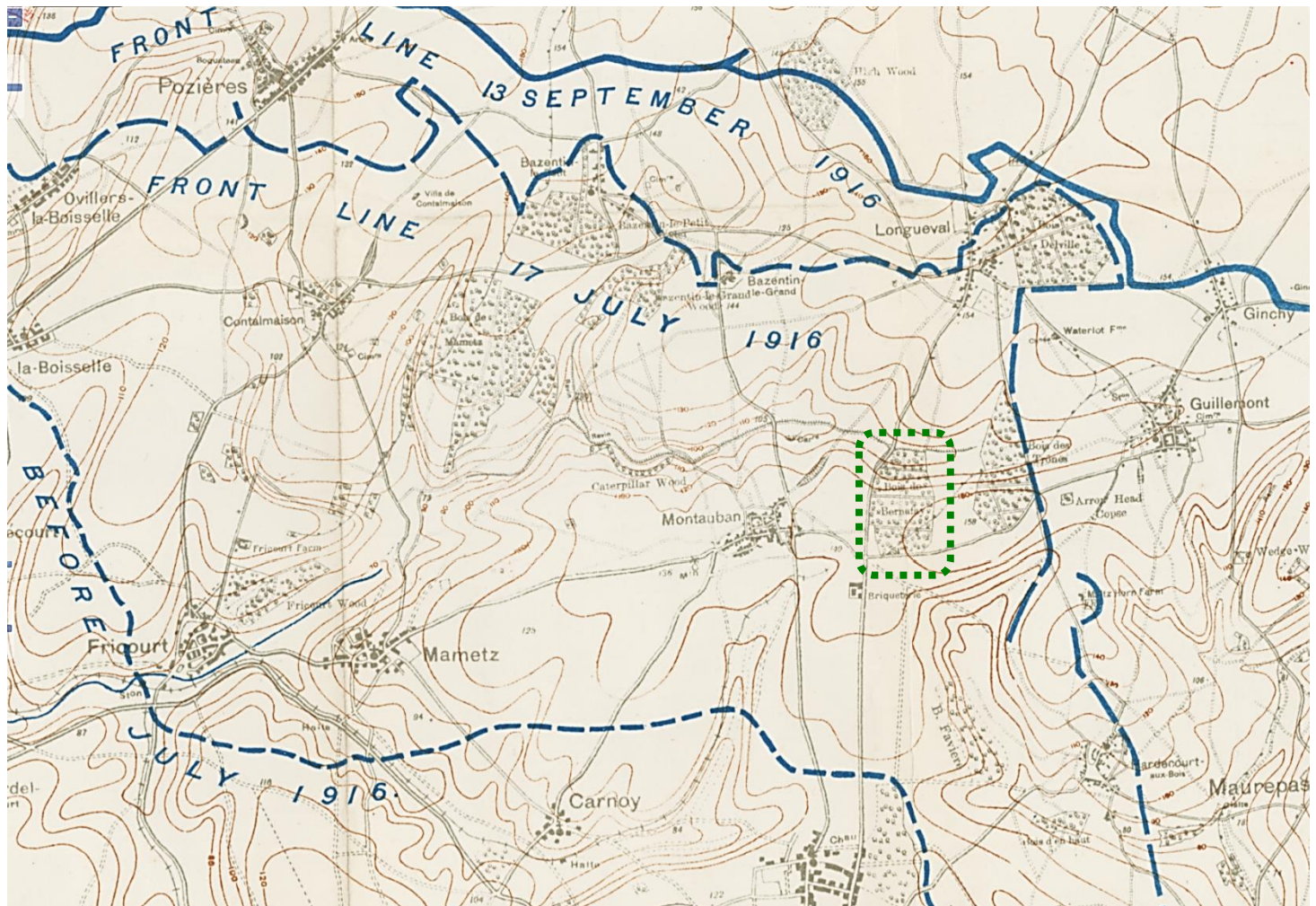
Enemy bombardment continued throughout the following days, with a steady stream of casualties in officers and also Other Ranks.



Bernafay Wood lies within the green rectangle and the position of Chimney Trench is outlined in brown. Longueval Alley is outlined in blue.  
[The History of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division : 1914 – 1919 : Brevet-Major John Ewing MC]

<sup>2</sup> Bernafay Wood and Trones Wood were two dense woodlands which lay between the British positions and the German second-line fortifications at Longueval and Delville Wood.

Shelling was particularly severe in the southern part of the wood, south of the railway line, and the men of the King's Own Scottish Borderers had to be withdrawn further into the wood although casualties were still heavy. German shelling of Bernafay Wood continued throughout 6 July - and it may have been here that Frederick Ellicott was wounded - but the King's Own Scottish Borderers subsequently advanced eastwards and attacked Trones Wood. The effect of the constant German shelling of Bernafay Wood during the first week of July 1916 was to remove most of the trees; it was recorded (by Brevet-Major John Ewing MC) that *...the wood, which before its capture had been so thick that the rays of the sun could not penetrate it, became so thinned out that one could see through it from end to end.* On 7 July, the day before Frederick Ellicott died, the Brigade Headquarters moved to a German dugout in Bernafay Wood.



The east and northward movement of the front line between Albert (off the map to the west) and Longueval in mid-1916. Bernafay Wood has been outlined in green; Trones Wood is to its east.

[<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15&lat=50.0113&lon=2.8019&layers=101723165&b=1>]

On the night of 6/7 July the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade sent out a patrol which established a post in Longueval Alley, just 300m from the western side of Trones Wood. On the night of 8 July the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade was relieved and moved back to its past position in Billon Valley and, the following day, Frederick Ellicott died of the wounds that he had received shortly before.



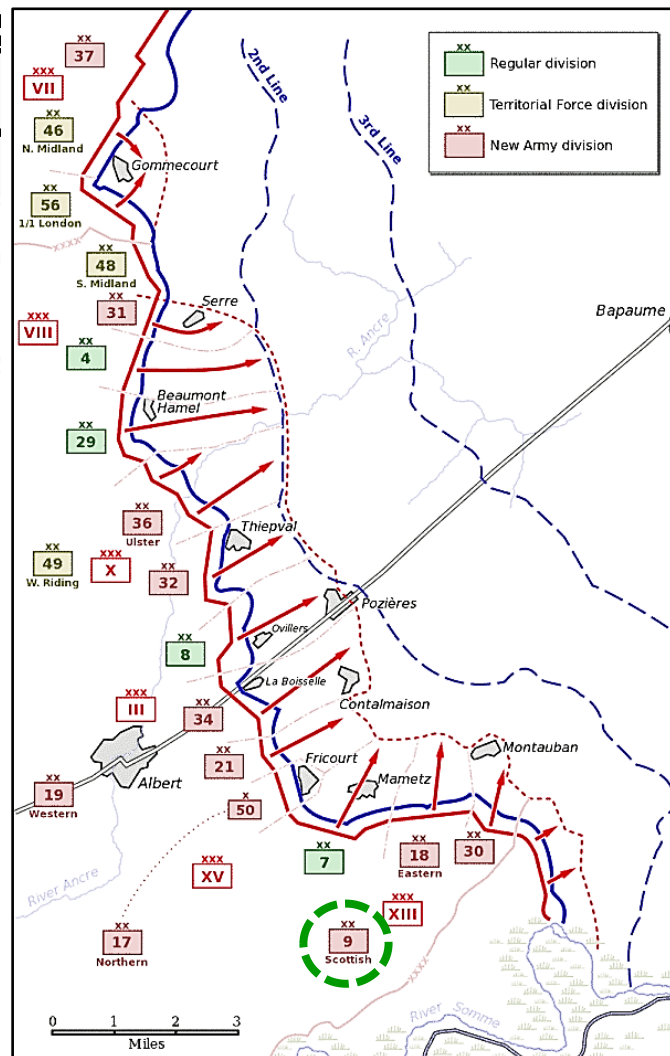
**SECOND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK ARTHUR JOHN ELLICOTT**, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who died of wounds on July 9, was the only son of his Honour Judge and Mrs. Ellicott, of 8, Royal York-crescent, Clifton, Bristol, and grandson of the late Bishop of Gloucester (sometime Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol). He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and graduated in June, 1914. In October of the same year, having passed his final examination for the Bar, he joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. In January, 1915, he accepted a commission in the 3rd Battalion, Special Reserve, K.O.S.B., going to the front in August of the same year. He married in April, 1915, Lettice Eleanor, eldest daughter of Sir Norman and Lady Hill, of Leighton House, Neston, Cheshire. He was in his 25th year. His colonel writes:—"With the very greatest sorrow we, his comrades, mourn his loss, as he was always so cheery and full of life. He was thought very highly of by all ranks."

*The Times* - Tuesday, July 25, 1916

The French Sixth army and the right wing of the British Fourth Army inflicted a considerable defeat on the German 2<sup>nd</sup> Army but from the Albert-Bapaume road to Gommecourt the British attack was a disaster, where most of the c. 60,000 British casualties of the day were incurred. Against Marshal Joffre's wishes, General Sir Douglas Haig abandoned the offensive north of the road, to reinforce the success in the south, where the Anglo-French forces pressed forward through several intermediate lines, until close to the German second position. [Wikipedia] When he died Frederick Ellicott was second in command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Platoon, "B" Company, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

**SEC. LIEUT. F. A. J. ELLICOTT.**  
Second Lieut. Frederick Arthur John Ellicott, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who has been killed in action, was the only son of his Honour Judge Arthur Becher Ellicott, and was born in the same year (1892) that his father was appointed Judge of County Court Circuit No. 53, which includes this part of Gloucestershire. He was therefore a grandson of the late Bishop of Gloucester, and on his mother's side of the late Colonel Arthur John Reynell-Pack, C.B. He has spent all his life in this county. He received a commission in the Special Reserve of the K.O.S.B. in January, 1915, and was the senior second-lieutenant of his battalion.

*Cheltenham Chronicle* - Saturday 22 July 1916



British objectives, Somme, 1 July 1916  
[Source: Wikipedia]. The position of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division is encircled in green.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

### SECOND-LIEUT. F. A. J. ELLICOTT.

Second-Lieutenant Frederick Arthur John Ellicott of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who died of wounds, married, in April, 1915, Lettice Eleanor, eldest daughter of Sir Norman and Lady Hill, of Leighton House, Neston, Cheshire.

Lieutenant Ellicott was the only son of his Honour Judge and Mrs. Ellicott, of Clifton, Bristol, and grandson of the late Bishop of Gloucester (sometime Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol).

He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and graduated in June, 1914. In October of the same year, having passed his final examination for the Bar, he joined the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, and in January, 1915, he was given a commission in the Special Reserve of the Borderers.

He went to France in the August immediately following. His commanding officer wrote: "With the very greatest sorrow we, his comrades, mourn his loss, as he was always so cheery and full of life. He was thought very highly of by all ranks."

*Liverpool Daily Post* - Thursday 27 July 1916



Record No.	Registry No.	NAME AND RANK	Regt. or Corps	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS					
					Account	Effects 1916-1917			Effects 1917-1918	
18466	112182/3	Ellicott 2nd Lieut	F.A.G.	6 K.O.S.B. of wounds 8-4-16	C.P. Base 8/16 Cox & Co 9/16/20 Transfer 1 26/9/16	1 4 61	15 5 2	8 = 6	✓ ✓ 	
<div>WAR GRATUITY. Transfer 4547 26/9/18 19/150 Cox &amp; Co 18-9-19 Print 18/19 20</div>										
										5

### 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. Payment of outstanding wages of £70 6s 2d from the army and a War Gratuity of £5 were paid, partly to Cox & Co., the banking organization used by many officers, partly as a 'transfer' and partly to 'C.P. Base'. This, a total value of £75 6s 2d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £10, 900 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.

1886 1915 Star Baw 10m 8/3/22		Name		Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
ELLICOTT		K.O.S.B.		2nd Lieut	X	
Frederick Arthur John						
Medal	Roll	Page	Rank			
Vincennes	Off 134	134	Kin A. 9-7-16			
Barras	Off 134	23	iv. x/8886 19/3/22 EF/5/8823			
15 Star	Off 134					
Theatre of War first served in		France				
Date of entry therein		8.8.15				
EF/5/8823						

A. B. Ellicott applies for late son's Medal 27/12/21  
Correspondence

Mrs F.A.J. Ellicott  
Leighton House  
Neston  
Cheshire

Address 8 Royal York Crescent  
Clifton

(921) W 101/2. P. 6000 1,000m. 24/6/21 N.H.A.C. Ltd. E. 7600

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920 The reverse of the card notes that 'A. B. Ellicott applies for late son's medals, 27/12/21', with the address 8, Royal York Crescent, Clifton given. It appears that Lettice, Frederick's widow, was then living in Neston as the address for her is given as Leighton House.

Frederick Ellicott is commemorated on the Cambridge Trinity College War Memorial.

Frederick's widow, Lettice, died on 6 December 1941 in the Uxbridge area aged just 50. It is believed that Frederick and Lettice had no children.

**ELLICOTT.**—On Dec. 6, 1941, LETTICE ELEANOR ELLICOTT, widow of Frederick Arthur John Ellicott, K.O.S.B., and daughter of Norman and Mary Hill, of Stockbridge.

*The Times* - Tuesday December 9 1941

Frederick Arthur John Ellicott  
[<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205294276>]







Battle of Albert. Fricourt, showing British troops clearing away the debris, July 1916. Fricourt was captured early on 2 July by the 17<sup>th</sup> Division.  
[Source: [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)]

*The Times* - Thursday, January 20, 1944

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

### SIR NORMAN HILL

A memorial service for Sir (Arthur) Norman Hill was held yesterday at St. Andrew Under-shaft, E.C. The Bishop of Kensington officiated. The Secretary of State for Air was represented by Mr. Raymond Jones. Relatives and others present included:—

Miss Beatrice Hill (daughter), Mr. Maurice Hill, Mr. Martin Hill (also representing Sir Leonard Hill), Major R. G. Rudolf, Dr. Bradford Hill, Mrs. W. A. R. Thomson, Miss Betty Hill, Miss D. Deansley.

Lord Essendon, Lord Rea, Sir John Barran, Sir Vernon Thomson, Mr. I. C. Geddes, president, and Sir Leighton Seager, vice-president (Chamber of Shipping), Sir Robert Rankin, M.P., Mr. T. D. Nudds (representing Sir Percy Harris, M.P.), Mr. Dingle Foot, M.P. (also representing Mrs. Dingle Foot), Mr. F. B. Vigor (Ministry of War Transport).

A memorial service was also held yesterday at St. Nicholas's Parish Church, Liverpool. The Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves officiated, and the congregation included many leading shipping, commercial, and professional men in the city.

During WW1 Elen Hill, Lettice's mother (she didn't assume the title of Lady Hill until September 1919 when Norman Hill was awarded the baronetcy) was actively involved in the Red Cross in Neston.

When Norman Hill died in early 1944, aged 81, his son Norman Gray Hill became the second Baronet, but on his death - just one month later - the title became extinct.

Arthur Becher Ellicott, Frederick's father, died aged 81 in early June 1931. Frederick's mother, Louisa Frederica Ellicott, died in Bournemouth on 25 May 1917 aged 75.



Bernafay Wood, looking towards Trones Wood, 1916  
[IWM Art 4484]  
[<https://17thmanchesters.wordpress.com/trones-wood/>]

### JUDGE ELLICOTT

His Honour Arthur Becher Ellicott, formerly a County Court Judge, died on Wednesday, at Bournemouth, in his eighty-second year.

Born in London on September 24, 1849, he was the only son of Dr. C. J. Ellicott, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, by his marriage to Constantia Ann, daughter of Admiral Becher. He went to Eton in 1861, to Miss Evans's, and Mr. E. C. Austen Leigh was his tutor. He went up in 1868 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree; was called by the Middle Temple in 1875; and went the Oxford Circuit. In 1879 he was appointed secretary to the Cathedral Establishments Commission, and in 1891 Chancellor of the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, continuing after the separation of Bristol until 1919. In 1892 he was appointed Judge of the Gloucestershire County Court Circuit and retired in 1920. Mrs. Ellicott, who was a daughter of the late Colonel A. J. Reynell-Pack, of Avisford, Sussex, died in 1927. He leaves an only daughter, who married Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Troup, D.S.O.

*The Times* - Friday 5 June 1931



## **Rosalind Mary Theodosia Hill [November 1908 - January 1997]**

At her death, in January 1997, her obituary in *The Independent* noted that she had been a Lecturer in History, Westfield College 1937-55; Reader in History, London University 1955-71; Professor of History 1971- 76 (Emerita); died Radlett, Hertfordshire 11 January 1997. Her obituary read:

*Rosalind Hill was Lecturer, Reader and Professor of History at Westfield College in London University for 39 years, a wonderful teacher and scholar, and a person of exceptional charm and kindness. As a scholar she will be particularly remembered for opening the riches of medieval bishops' registers, especially those of Oliver Sutton of Lincoln in The Rolls and Register of Bishop Oliver Sutton 1280-1299 (published in eight volumes, 1948-86), and for her edition of the first chronicle of the first Crusade, Gesta Francorum et Aliorum Hierosolimitanorum (1962).*

*Also notable was the help and support she gave to other scholars - in public office as Secretary (1963-73) and President (1973-74) of the Ecclesiastical History Society and Editor and Chairman of the Canterbury and York Society; as a member of the seminars on the Crusades at the Institute of Historical Research, which she greatly relished and which she continued to attend until a few weeks ago; and by the quiet encouragement which so many enjoyed.*

*In her teaching she brought her own research to life: and her third special interest, in the world of Bede, enabled her to lead her pupils over the Northumbrian hills. She loved the north of England - and any mountainous country so long as she could walk in it: she excused herself from my own inaugural lecture at Cambridge (as she approached 70) owing to a prior engagement to walk in the Himalayas.*

*Rosalind Hill's parents were Sir Norman and Mary Hill; her father was a leading Merseyside solicitor, a notable figure in the Liverpool shipping world. In his later years he acquired a substantial house on the edge of Stockbridge in Hampshire, where Rosalind Hill herself preserved ancient tradition, when she inherited the title of Lady of the Manor, by holding the manorial court each year and sorting out local difficulties, which included geese wandering on the common marsh by the River Test. Her generosity to Stockbridge is commemorated in Rosalind Hill House, a home for elderly residents of the village.*

*She studied history at St Hilda's College, Oxford, and taught briefly at University College, Leicester (as it then was), where (Sir) John Plumb was among her first pupils.*

*In 1937 she was summoned to Westfield College, London, by a telegram from the Principal, and at Westfield she worked - and also at the Institute of Historical Research in Bloomsbury - till she retired as Professor of History, after a notable spell of service as Vice-Principal, in 1976. She continued to take a deep interest in the college. She had known and preferred it as a relatively small college for women students; but she accepted its transformation - when it became a mixed community in the mid-Sixties, and then (after her retirement) was joined to Queen Mary College - with a good grace, giving a helping hand to reconcile the alumni of Westfield to these changes.*

*For many of her friends the house in Radlett, Hertfordshire, where she lived with two colleagues - latterly one, Gwen Chambers, a former Finance Officer at Westfield, who cared marvellously for her in the infirmities of her final years - was an epitome of the Westfield of history.*

*The union of enthusiasm and the warmth and charm and kindness which all who came near her felt explains the spell she cast over many generations of students. She combined these qualities with discipline - some to the students, for she could correct the erring geese of Westfield as well as those of Stockbridge; but much more to herself: in regular preparation, sheer hard work, and a punctuality sometimes disconcerting to those less disciplined. Nothing ever interfered with this regularity, save an unhappy student or a sick animal.*

*In a delicious way, her devotion to animals and to the Middle Ages are combined in Both Small and Great Beasts (1953), a pamphlet exploding many myths about the medieval treatment of animals, which she and the great cartoonist Fougasse conspired to write for the University Federation for Animal Welfare. Quite without sentimentality, brimful of humour, yet barely hiding a great depth of feeling and humanity.*

Christopher Brooke    *The Independent*    3 February 1997