

155: George Murphy

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: George Murphy
 Rank: Private
 Battalion / Regiment: 20th Bn. King's (Liverpool Regiment)
 Service Number: 49087 Date of Death: 09 April 1917 Age at Death: ?
 Buried / Commemorated at: Henin Crucifix Cemetery, Henin-sur-Cojeul, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
 Additional information given by CWGC: None

Although George Murphy is recorded, in the 1911 census, as having been born in Neston, and he was baptised here, no other connection to the town is known.

George was the (probably) second son of tailor Hugh and Emily Murphy. Hugh Murphy appears to have been born in 1845 in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, to Francis (31) and Catherine (29) Murphy.

Hugh married Emily White (22) at St Peter's, Liverpool, on 16 April 1877 and their first child, Francis, was born in April/June 1879 and registered in Birkenhead.

[Note: The census returns for the family, particularly with the place of birth, are somewhat contradictory and inaccurate. For example, although the birthplace of Francis is given as Seacombe in the 1881 census, this has been recorded as Lancashire. In 1891 his birthplace was recorded as Seaforth, as Liverpool in 1901 and Seacombe in 1911].

Mary Murphy	Law	36	Tailor	Newry
Hugh Murphy	Head	36	Tailor	Seaforth Lancs
Emily	Wife	26		Seacombe Lancs
Francis	Son	2		Liverpool
Agnes White	Sister-in-law	35	Invalided	Balbiton - Ireland

1881 census (extract) – 9B Lowndes Street, West Derby, Liverpool

Hugh Murphy	36	tailor	born Newry
Emily	26		born Seaforth, Lancs.
Francis	2		born Seacombe, Lancs.
Agnes White	35	sister-in-law, invalided	born Liverpool

The family moved around the Merseyside area extensively - all census returns record different addresses - and the family may have lived in Neston for only a short time. George was born in Neston on 5 December 1883 and baptised, at St Winefride's Church, on 28 December. However, just seven years later, his birthplace - with all the other children - was recorded as being Seaforth.

In 1891 the family was on Desmond Street (now demolished) and by the time of the 1901 census the family had moved to Thomson Street, now a site of small industry, in the south of Everton. George, now working, was recorded as a grocer's shop assistant:

By the time of the 1911 census the family had again moved and were now living at Harewood Street, south of Breck Road, a short street that has been rebuilt with modern housing.

Both Francis and George had also changed their occupation, George now being a house painter. In early 1905 Elizabeth Murphy married van driver Alexander Terrace at Emmanuel Church, Everton. In 1911, Ada Murphy (15, domestic servant) was boarding with them at 180 Breckfield Road North, Everton, not far from where her father lived.

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.					
<p><i>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</i></p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>												
<p>State whether "Husband," "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."</p>		<p>For Infants under one year state the age in months or under one month, "one month," etc.</p> <p>Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</p>	<p>State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—</p> <p>Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.</p> <p>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</p> <p>Total Children Born Alive.</p> <p>Children still living.</p> <p>Children who have died.</p>	<p>The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.</p> <p>If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(See Instructions 1 to 6 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>	<p>Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on One Account.</p> <p>Whether Working at Home.</p> <p>Write the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry. (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Overseas" (that is neither employer nor working for a trade employer).</p>	<p>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.</p> <p>(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.</p> <p>(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.</p> <p>(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."</p> <p>NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Boatman" or "Visitor" in this Country.</p>	<p>State whether—</p> <p>(1) "British subject by parentage," or "Naturalized British subject, giving year of naturalization," or "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," or "Fetters-winded," state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.</p>	<p>If any person included in this Schedule is—</p> <p>(1) "Totally Blind," or "Deaf and Dumb," or "Totally Blind," or "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.</p>				
1	Hugh Murphy	Head	68	widower	9	6	3	Tailor journeyman ²³⁰	other	County Armagh Ireland	631	
2	Francis	Son	32	Single				Labourer bricklayer ²³⁰		Seacombe Ireland	124	
3	George	Son	27	Single				House Painter ²³⁰	worker	Neston	120	
4	Agness	Daughter	18	Single						Liverpool		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		Total.	
(1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.	Male.	Female.	Persons.
(2) I have counted the males and females in Column 3 and 4 separately, and have entered 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 returned such as appeared to be erroneous.			

(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 (Kitchens, Tenements, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count cellars, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; see instructions, office, shop.

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

Signature: Hugh Murphy

Postal Address: 5 Harewood St Liverpool

S. Evans

1911 census (condensed) – 5 Harewood Street, Liverpool

Hugh Murphy	68	widower, tailor, journeyman	born Co. Armagh
Francis	32	labourer, bricklayer	born Seacombe
George	27	house painter	born Neston
Agness	18		born Liverpool

Hugh Murphy had nine children of whom six had survived.

It is believed that George enlisted in Liverpool but no other details are known.

The 20th (Service) Battalion, also called the 4th City Battalion, was formed in Liverpool on 16 October 1914 by Lord Derby, one of the six battalions of the 'Liverpool Pals'.

On the 30 April 1915 the battalion came under the orders of the 89th Brigade, 30th Division and they moved to Belton Park, Grantham. On 27 August 1915 the troops were taken over by the war office and moved to Larkhill, Wiltshire, before being mobilised in November 1915 and landing at Boulogne later that month.

In 1916 the Division was engaged in various actions on the Western front including The Battle of Albert (1 - 13 July) and The Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1 - 20 October), one of the first conflicts on The Somme. In 1917 the 20th Battalion King's (Liverpool

Regiment) was engaged in The Pursuit of the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 March - 5 April 1917) after the fighting on The Somme.

The Germans had constructed a formidable defensive system some miles to the rear of their front lines and from February 1917 they began a tactical withdrawal to it, conceding ground they had held whilst creating obstacles to the pursuing allied forces.

Immediately following this action the 20th Battalion was engaged in The Battle of Arras (which lasted from 9 April to 16 May), conducted largely by the British Third Army under General Allenby. This was one of the principal offensives undertaken by the British Army on the Western Front but was, in terms of the daily attrition rate, the most costly British offensive of the war. It is probable that George Murphy was killed on the opening day of this battle, Easter Monday, 9 April as British troops slowly moved through the sleet and snow behind their creeping barrage towards the German lines. Everard Wyrall gives some background to the Battle of Arras and the role of the 20th Battalion The King's (Liverpool) Regiment:

IN November, 1916, the military representatives of all the Allied Powers had met in conference at French General Headquarters at Chantilly.¹ There the plan of campaign for the year 1917 was discussed and agreed to. It comprised a "series of offensives on all fronts, so timed as to assist each other by depriving the enemy of the power of weakening any one of his fronts in order to reinforce another."

So far as the British Army was concerned, Sir Douglas Haig had formulated the following series of attacks: "In the spring, as soon as all the Allied armies were ready to commence operations, my first efforts were to be directed against the enemy's troops occupying the salient between the Scarpe and the Ancre, into which they had been pressed as a result of the Somme Battle. It was my intention to attack both the shoulders of this salient simultaneously, the Fifth Army operating on the Ancre front, while the Third Army attacked from the north-west about Arras. These converging attacks, if successful, would pinch off the whole salient, and would be likely to make the withdrawal of the enemy's troops a very costly manœuvre for him if it were not commenced in good time."

"The front of attack on the Arras side was to include the Vimy Ridge, possession of which I considered necessary to secure the left flank of the operations on the south bank of the Scarpe. The capture of this ridge, which was to be carried out by the First Army, also offered other important advantages. It would deprive the enemy of valuable observation and give us a wide view over the plains stretching from the eastern foot of the ridge to Douai and beyond. Moreover, although it was evident that the enemy might, by a timely withdrawal, avoid battle in the awkward salient still held by him between the Scarpe and the Ancre, no such withdrawal from his important Vimy Ridge positions was likely. He would be almost certain to fight for this ridge, and as my object was to deal him a blow which would force him to use up reserves, it was important that he should not evade my attack."

The Arras offensive, however, aimed only at securing the objectives outlined above, for on attaining them the main offensive was to be transferred to the Ypres front, where the positions held by the British Army in the salient were far from satisfactory. The Messines–Wytschaete Ridge was first to be

¹General Joffre was, at this period, Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies. He was, however, superseded, and when the Allied offensives in France began in 1917 General Nivelle commanded the French Armies.

captured and then the long ridge extending for about seven miles in a north-easterly direction through Broodseinde and Passchendaele.

Although the above plans had been definitely fixed at the Chantilly conference, "unexpected developments" early in 1917 necessitated certain modifications.

In fact, the whole operation planning had to be re-thought as a consequence both of the Russian Revolution (which commenced in March and negated the agreed role of Russian troops in the proposed actions) and the unexpected withdrawal of German troops to the Hindenburg Line (14 March - 5 April 1917).

In spite, however, of these serious drawbacks, it was decided to proceed with the spring offensive in the west.

Early in the year preparations had begun for the Allied offensives, although hampered again by snow, frost and rain. All along the line of the great section from which the attack was to take place, working parties were out night and day in constructing new railways, assembly trenches, dug-outs, gun positions, roads, and in work on a hundred-and-one things necessary in a vast offensive such as would be launched on the 9th of April, the date selected for the initial attack.

Extensive mining and tunnelling operations were carried out and the numerous underground quarries and cellars in Arras and its suburbs were fitted so as to provide safe quarters for a great number of troops. Caves and cellars were wired for electric light, and tunnels were made linking them together, the whole being connected by long subways with the trenches east of the town. The "staging" of that offensive was at once extraordinary and wonderful. In no other parts of the battlefield and at no other period of the war did our troops actually debouch from a town, such as was done at Arras in April, 1917. The arrangements for the assembly and movement of the troops before the assault and during the progress of the battle was a triumph of staff organisation.

Prior to the offensive in April, 1917, the German trenches facing the whole British line in France and Flanders ran generally in a north-westerly direction from St. Quentin to Thilloz-lez-Mofflaines, immediately south-east of Arras. From Thilloz the hostile line then crossed the valley of the Scarpe River to the Vimy Ridge. This ridge, rising to a height of some 475 feet, dominated the country round about and commanded a wide view to the south-east, east and north. It was a very desirable possession. From the Vimy Ridge the opposing lines then left the high ground, and skirting the western edge of Lens, stretched far away to the Channel, crossing rivers, dykes and canals—dead level ground broken only by the line of hills stretching from Wytschaete north-east to Passchendaele and Staden.

But on the morning of the 9th of April only that sector of the German line from just north of the village of Croisilles (south-east of Arras) to just south of Givenchy-en-Gohelle, a small hamlet at the northern end of the Vimy Ridge, was to be attacked; the front of attack was nearly fifteen miles in length and included some four or five miles of the northern end of the Hindenburg Line, which the enemy had built to meet the experiences gained by him in the Somme battles of the previous year. North of this portion of the Hindenburg Line the German defences comprised three separate trench systems, connected by a powerful switch line running from the Scarpe at Fамoux to Lievin—a highly organised belt, very strong and from some two to five miles in depth. Moreover, a new line of resistance, known as the Drocourt-Queant Line from three to six miles further east, forming a northern extension of the Hindenburg Line and with which it linked up at Queant, was just approaching completion.

Three weeks prior to the 9th of April the guns began wire-cutting while our "heavies" bombarded the enemy's back areas and communications. Night

firing, wire cutting, the bombardment of the enemy's trenches and strong points, continued without abatement and with increasing intensity. Letters and documents captured subsequently from the enemy show the extent to which the defences had suffered; their vivid description of the havoc wrought by the holocaust of shell which had swept the German trenches before the attack, was an eloquent (but terrible) tribute to the work of our gunners. Gas discharges and raids on the German trenches were also carried out by day and by night; the enemy was given no rest.

In the air, the fight for supremacy was grim and constant. Both sides lost many machines, but our airmen successfully screened our artillery machines from serious interference, and our guns were able to carry out their work effectively.

The main attack was to be made by the Third and First Armies (in that order from right to left). The Third Army, from north-west of Croiselles to the Vimy Ridge, the First Army (Canadian Corps), on the left of the Third, after capturing the ridge extending its attack as far north as the left bank of the Souchez River.

On this fifteen-mile front fourteen divisions and one infantry brigade were to make the initial assault, *i.e.*, from south to north the 21st (between Croisilles and Henin), 30th (from just east of Mercatel), 56th (west of Neuville Vitasse), 14th (from east of Beaurains), 3rd (from West of Thillooy), and the 12th, 15th, 9th, 34th, 51st, 1st Canadian, 2nd Canadian, 13th Brigade (5th Division), 3rd Canadian and 4th Canadian. The 4th Division was to pass through the 9th, and the 37th through the 15th and 12th after the initial assault.

Thus, on the first day of the battle three of the divisions engaged, *i.e.*, 30th, 14th and 3rd, contained King's men, another battalion—the 1st—was in the 2nd in reserve.

The 30th Division began to move back into the front line towards the end of March. The 89th Brigade was to be on the right of the attack and the 21st Brigade on the left.

Of the 89th Brigade the 19th King's (Lieut.-Colonel G. Rollo) was to be on the right and the 20th King's (Lieut.-Colonel J. W. H. T. Douglas) on the left; the Bedfords were to be the supporting battalion and the 17th King's (Lieut.-Colonel J. N. Peck) in Brigade Reserve.

Both the 19th and 20th Battalions moved up into the line on the 7th of April. The 19th Battalion set out from Bavincourt to Bretencourt at 10 a.m., arriving at the latter village at about 12 noon. Dinners were then served out and during the afternoon extra ammunition, bombs, sand bags, etc., were issued. At 5 p.m. the battalion had tea and two hours later again moved forward, and by midnight companies were disposed as follows: "B" and "C" in the sunken road from just west of Boiry Copse to the Cojuel River, just north of Boiry Becquerelle, "D" Company just north of Boisieux St. Marc, and "A" Company in Boisieux au Mont.

The movements of the 20th Battalion were similar, with the difference that two companies were on the left of "B" and "C" Companies of the 19th Battalion, one company north of Boisieux St. Marc (in rear of "D" Company, 19th King's) and the fourth company in Boisieux au Mont.

The 8th was a quiet day so far as the infantry work was concerned; but the guns were speeding up their bombardment and the noise was terrific. Under orders, the 20th King's relieved the Bedfords during the evening in Nos. 1, 2 and 4 Posts ("B" Company), and Nos. 5 and 6 Posts ("D" Company), just west of Henin. The 19th Battalion similarly took over positions from the Bedfords on the right of the 20th King's.

Opposite the 89th Brigade front, and in front of the Hindenburg Line, there was a small village, St. Martin-sur-Cojuel, held by the enemy as an outpost to their main line, which had to be cleared before the latter could be attacked. This operation was ordered to be carried out on the night of the 8th/9th of April by the 2nd Bedfords. The 21st Brigade, on the left, was to co-operate by assisting in an attack on two mills, which were, however, strongly held.

St. Martin was captured by the Bedfords, but the mills could not be secured. The 20th King's co-operated in the latter attack.

The 30th Division had been ordered not to advance to the attack on the 9th of April until the 56th Division, on their left, had cleared Neuville Vitasse.

(i) THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, 1917: APRIL 9TH-14TH

"Zero" had been fixed for 5.30 a.m. on the 9th of April. At that hour, under cover of a most effective artillery barrage, the British infantry, following closely on that awful tornado of shell-fire, swept like an angry flood across "No Man's Land," into the enemy's trenches. The terrible effects of our gun-fire and the fury of the attack generally, was evident in the dazed and shaken condition of little parties of German prisoners, who soon began to pass across the dread space between the opposing lines to the British trenches, accompanied by triumphant escorts. "Within forty minutes of the opening of the battle," record the official despatches, "practically the whole of the German front-line system on the front attacked had been stormed and taken." On the extreme left a fierce and bloody struggle was in progress for the possession of Hill 145, on the northern end of the Vimy Ridge.

Anxiously awaiting news of the attack on their left the assaulting troops of the 30th Division were assembled in their trenches.

On the right of the 21st Brigade the 89th Brigade was waiting to attack as soon as the order came to advance. But with the 21st Brigade held up there did not seem very much chance of the right brigade getting on. However, as the Brigadier of the 89th said: "We had to have a jolly good try and if it succeeded then it would help the 21st if we had not gone on the division on our right would not have been able to go."

The brigade had formed up for the attack with the 19th King's on the right and the 20th King's on the left. The 17th King's supplied the "mopping-up" parties and the 2nd Bedfords were in close support.

It was just after 3 p.m. when the advance began. "According to the scheduled time," says the diary of the 19th Battalion, "the waves advanced in good style and with determination; everyone was cheerful and in the best of spirits."

That advance is described by others as "magnificent." From the O.P.s the observing officers saw a wonderful sight—long lines of men advancing steadily up a long gradual slope towards the enemy's front line. Then suddenly they disappeared. The observers, quite pardonably, imagined that the German front line had fallen into the hands of the assaulting troops and that the latter were on the way to the enemy's support line. Alas! something very different had happened. When the assaulting troops had reached the summit of the long slope up which they had advanced the ground suddenly dipped before the German front line, and when the observing officers thought they were already in the Bosche lines they had not, as a matter of fact, even reached the wire. What the observers took to be the front line was really the support line; the front line could not be seen—it lay just behind the crest of that slight rise in the ground.

The first wave of the 20th King's advanced at 3.7 p.m. At 4 p.m. Lieut. Beaumont, commanding "A" Company, reported that he had had some forty casualties in passing through the enemy's barrage. The next message, timed 4.40 p.m., stated that the position of the battalion at that period was on a crest in front of the enemy's wire and about 100 yards from it. On the right the 21st Division was observed to have penetrated the enemy's front line, but on the left the right battalion of the 21st Brigade (the Wilts.) was on the St. Martin-Neuville Vitasse road; the left flank of the 20th King's was, therefore, "in the air."

Urgent messages were sent up from Battalion Headquarters to "push on, keeping in touch with right." But little else could be accomplished until those formidable belts of wire had been cut sufficiently to allow the rapid passage of the attacking troops, headed by their bombers.

At 9.30 that night 89th Brigade Headquarters ordered both the 19th and 20th Battalions to withdraw, the former to the two sunken roads running south-east from St. Martin, the latter to north-west of St. Martin; the guns had been ordered to cut the enemy's wire during the night in preparation for another attack during the 10th of April.

Along the whole front splendid progress had been made, the greatest depth of advance being in the centre east of Arras, where the village of Fampoux had fallen into our hands; all but the crest line of the Vimy Ridge had been captured by the Canadians.

In his *War Memories* General Ludendorff makes the following statement: "The battle near Arras on April the 9th formed a bad beginning to the capital fighting during the year. April the 10th and the succeeding days were critical days. A breach of 12,000 to 15,000 yards wide and as much as 6,000 yards or more in depth is not a thing to be mended without more ado. It takes a good deal to repair the inordinate wastage of men and guns, as well as munitions, that result from such a breach."

Snow fell heavily during the night of the 9th/10th of April, not a pleasant prospect for the fighting to be done next day; the weather seemed to have definitely broken on the 9th and indeed for many days after stormy weather ensued, heavy falls of snow, squalls of wind and rain being frequent. When dawn broke on the 10th, however, the snow had, for a while, ceased. Orders had been issued for the attack to be continued all along the line, but it was obvious that in some parts of the line at least further bombardments would have to take place before the infantry could assault the powerful trench systems in front of them with any chance of success. Along the front of the 30th Division for instance, any attack was doomed to failure unless the thick wire entanglements, which had held up the infantry on the 9th, were sufficiently cut to allow the passage of troops.

[Adapted from *The History of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) 1914 – 1919* vol. 11 (1916 – 1917) Everard Wyrall 1935 Edward Arnold & Co., London]

Another, briefer, account notes that:

On Monday 9 April 1917 at 5.30 a.m., after an intensive bombardment lasting four days to preclude any retaliation from the enemy, the British 1st Army comprising four Canadian divisions under the command of General Henry Horne set out to conquer Vimy Ridge. Wrestring control of this height from the Germans would allow the 3rd Army under General Edmund Allenby to advance on Douai, an important road and rail

junction, and liberate the coal-mining region. Allenby was also expected to take Monchy-le-Preux, a village lying a few kilometres to the east of Arras which gave a commanding view over the Scarpe Valley and, because of this, could hinder the second arm of the offensive directed at Cambrai, another vital base for the German military apparatus. The 5th Army under General Hubert Gough, placed on the southern wing of the offensive, was given the task of taking the village of Bullecourt, a powerful strategic base of operations for the Germans and part of the Hindenburg Line.

[<http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com/history/battles/the-battle-of-arras-april-1917.html>]

The 20th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) was part of V11 Corps. under Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas D'Oyly Snow, a section of the British Third Army. On 9 April 1917 the 30th Division, which included the 20th Battalion, were south of Arras in the vicinity of Mercatel, where they formed the right flank of the Third Army. *On 9 April Snow decided that a full frontal attack would serve little purpose as his right flank was opposed by very strong German positions. He felt that a staggered attack starting from his left and northern flank would act as a lever against the German defences. As the pivot Corps they were starting later than the 0530 Zero Hour for the rest of Third Army.*

On the left of VII Corps was the 14th Division who were located opposite a section of the Hindenburg Line where it merged into the older defence lines forming a redoubt known as The Harp. To the right of that was the sloping line of Telegraph Hill. To help get the soldiers past the redoubt and over the hill fourteen tanks had been detailed to assist with the attack.

In line with the ripple effect desired by Lt General Snow, the 21st Brigade only commenced their attack at 1138 hours to the south of Neuville Vitasse — already under attack by the 56th Division.

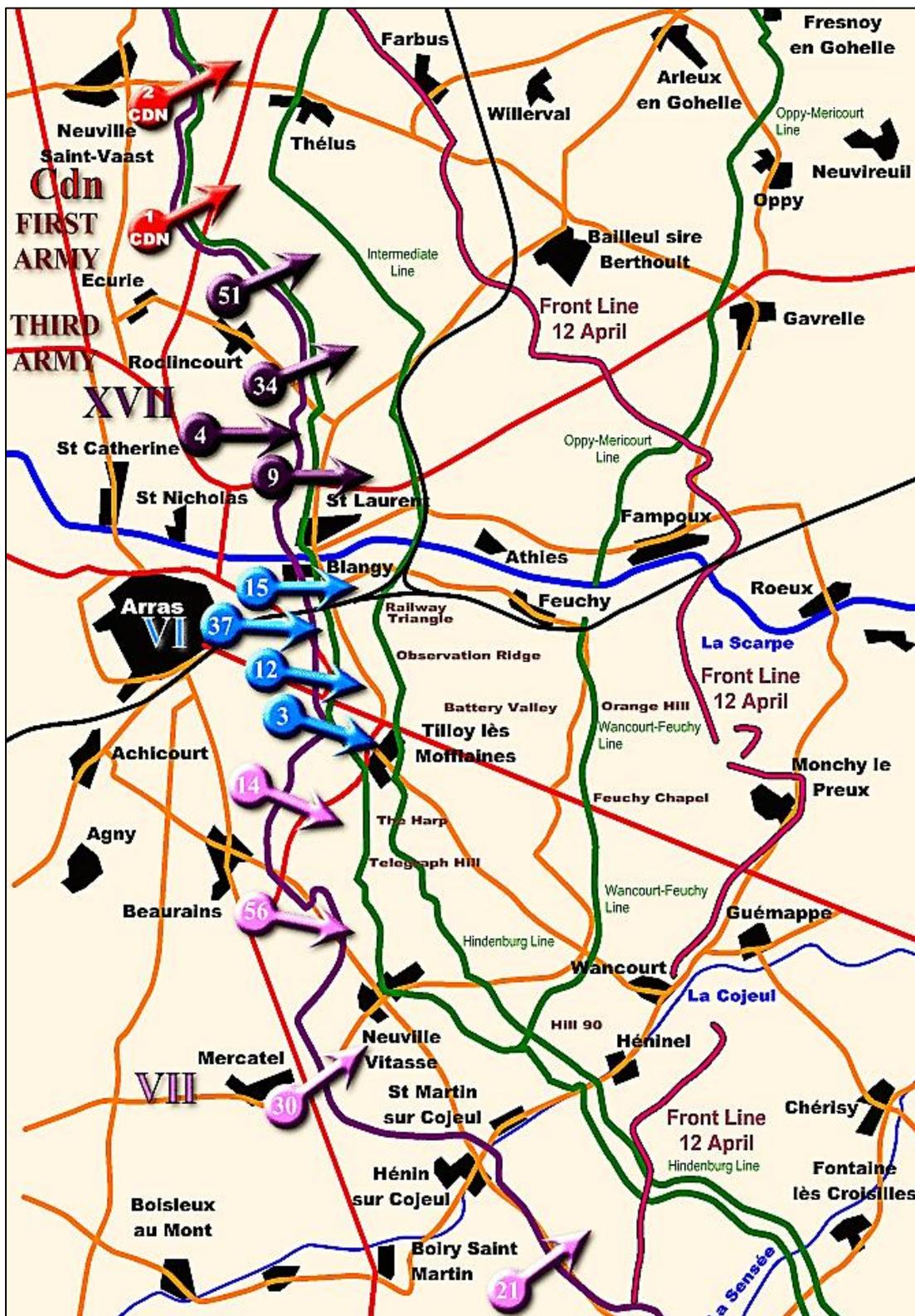
On reaching the main road between the village and Hénin they came under heavy machine gun and artillery fire. The 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regiment in particular suffered very heavy casualties and by the time that they and the 18th Bn The King's had reached the Hindenburg Line they found that the wire had hardly been touched by the bombardment and it was impossible to continue.

The story was much the same on their right for the 89th Brigade [which contained the 20th Battalion The King's (Liverpool) Regiment and George Murphy]. The Brigade had started their assault on the village of St Martin sur Cojeul at 1615 hours and found the going reasonably easy — until they got to the other side of the village. There it was the old tale of uncut wire and the Brigade could get no further and were forced to retire to the northern outskirts of St Martin.

[Text amended from: <http://www.webmatters.net/txtpat/?id=222>]

As noted previously, it is likely that George Murphy was killed in the early assault on 9 April, an action which initially had little effect. The 19th and 20th Battalions were

eventually withdrawn, having suffered heavy losses within about 100 yards of the wire; casualties for the King's during the initial phase of the Arras Offensive exceeded 700.



Disposition of the Allied forces to the north and south of Arras on 9 April 1917, the position of the Hindenburg Line and subsequent front line positions.

Front line (purple) on 9 April	German Hindenburg Line (green)
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[Source: <http://www.webmatters.net/txtpat/?id=222>]

George's father, Hugh, probably died in West Derby, aged 71, in September 1916.

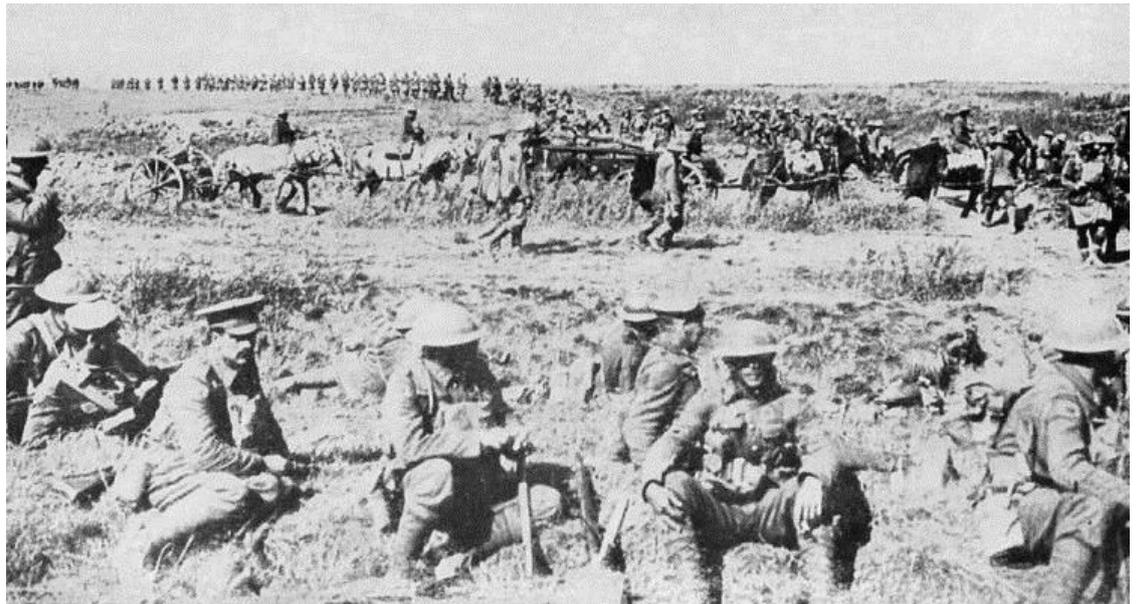
It is possible that Francis, George's brother, died in early 1912 aged 33.



Infantry leaving the trenches on 9 April 1917
[Source: www.theroyalscots.co.uk]



View from Vimy Ridge, April 1917
[Source: <http://www.ww1.co.uk/the-battle-of-arras->



British infantry advancing after the assault on 9 April
[Source: <https://forum.paradoxplaza.com/forum/index.php?threads/1914-1924-british-interests-british-honour-british-obligations.147311/page-57>]

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised			
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£			s.	d.	£		s.	d.	
473081	408631	Murphy George	10th Bn Liverpool Tia 49087	9-4-19 France	Prison 5/7	2	19	5	2	19	5	m.o. 8/19	21.8.17	Sis Agnes & Ada Legatees	2	19	5		
						3	=	=					23/10/19	- do	3	=	=		(A)

WAR GRATUITY 19.20
Transf. 28/11/19
Regd. No. 212020/45
Serial 11400

A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 17/19

Cleaned 8/7 on 49087 28/8/18

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 George's sisters Agnes and Ada, as legatees, received a payment of outstanding wages of £2 19s 5d from the army and, in October, a War Gratuity of £3. This, a total value of £5 19s 5d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £920 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.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
MURPHY	Genl R	Plt	49087
George			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	H/2/1028/18	2018	
BRITISH	h	h	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

E/408631/5

K. 1380.

George Murphy is buried at Henin Crucifix Cemetery at Henin-sur-Cojeul, a village and commune in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, 8 km south-east of Arras and 2km east of the main road to Bapaume.

Henin-sur-Cojeul was captured on 2 April 1917, lost in March 1918 after an obstinate resistance by the 40th Division, and retaken on the following 24 August by the 52nd (Lowland) Division. Henin Crucifix Cemetery is named from a calvary standing on the opposite side of the road. It was made by units of the 30th Division after the capture of the village in 1917. Henin Crucifix Cemetery contains 61 burials and commemorations of the First World War. [CWGC]