

enlisted at Adelaide on September 19, 1914, his birthplace is given as Kooringa, South Australia (this may well be a distinction without a difference). Either way, he was the son of Waldemar Gaskell Hawkes, of Koonoona Station, Kooringa, Young Waldemar described himself as a natural born British subject of 19 years 11 months on his attestation form, and his occupation as a station overseer. He had previously served for two and a half years in the 23rd Light Horse. Given the number 550, he was sent to the 9th Light Horse Reinforcement, undertook machine-gun training with 7th Machine Gun Company, and proceeded to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli, May 16, 1915. He received a gun-shot wound in the right chest, neck and arm on August 7, 1915, which was serious enough for him to be transferred first to hospital in Malta, and then to England later that month. He returned to the MEF in March 1916, joining the 3rd Training Battalion at Tel el Kebir, Egypt, on April 12, 1916. A month later he left Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. He was at Etaples, France, from October 3, 1916, and was taken on the strength of 7th MG Company in the field on November 11. He was wounded in the right thigh only a fortnight later and returned to England to recover. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant February 28, 1917, and joined 21st MG Company at Camiers on August 12. He was promoted Lieutenant on September 6, went on leave in Paris on October 17, but only a week after returning to his unit he was killed in action, on October 29. His will, dated January 11, 1915, left his estate to his siblings.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Hawkes has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, his service history records that he was originally buried in Battery Corner Military Cemetery, one mile south west of Ypres. There is an interesting letter in Hawkes' file, written by his father to Major Lean, Officer in

Charge of Base Records in Melbourne, dated July 11, 1922. In it Hawkes senior wrote:

"I have in my possession a small photograph of what I believe to be the exact spot where my son fell and was buried. It shows a small cross bearing my son's name, and alongside another similar cross bearing the name of Lieut Martin . . . who was killed at the same time and place as my son. The graves nestle under what was apparently our side of a rough bushy eminence at Passchendaele which our men took in the 1917 advance . . . This photograph was sent to me almost immediately after the sad event by one of the officers . . . I hope to visit that part of the battlefield next year . . ."

On July 15, 1922, Major Lean replied, explaining that this photograph was of a memorial only; it was not accurate in locating the specific spot where Waldemar Hawkes was buried and no trace of his remains could be found. This must have been very sad news for the Hawkes family.

As well as these memorials in the church, the following graves are located in the churchyard. Commonwealth War Graves data is given first, then the data from *Soldiers Died In The Great War* (where appropriate). Readers will notice that there are certain discrepancies between the two sets of data.

Lance Corporal H. GIFFIN 200934, 1/7th Middlesex Regiment who died aged 21 on November 26, 1917. Son of Mr and Mrs W. Giffin of Lednambury, Bishop's Stortford. Born at Sawbridgeworth.

HENRY ROBERT GIFFEN *Born Bishop's Stortford. Enlisted Hornsey, Middx. Residence Barnet.*

Private C. J. REED 3353, 1/Hertfordshire Regiment who died aged 25 on June 28, 1916. Son of Charles and Elsie Reed of 46 Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth.

CHARLES JOHN REED *Enlisted Hertford. Residence Sawbridgeworth.*

Gunner DAVID CORNELIUS HUTCHIN 157854, 3rd Home Counties Brigade,

Royal Field Artillery transferred to (465879) 553rd Agricultural Coy, Labour Corps who died aged 32 on November 23, 1918. Son of Cornelius and Emma Hutchin; husband of Annie Elizabeth Hutchin, of Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford. Born at Spellbrook. *Not recorded in Soldiers Died . . .*

Private GEORGE HENRY WATSON WALKER S/10801, 3/Seaforth Highlanders who died aged 39 on May 8, 1918. Son of G. W. and Mary Walker; husband of Louisa Walker, of 2 Station Road, Soham, Ely. Born at Alnwick.

Born Boston. Lincs. Enlisted Hitchin, Herts.

Serjeant J. A. PAYNTER 32354, 41st Protection Coy, Royal Defence Corps, who died aged 45 on October 30, 1918. Husband of Louisa Amelia Paynter, of "The Laurels," Sayerbury Road, Sawbridgeworth.

JOSEPH ARTHUR PAYNTER *Born Chelmsford. Enlisted Hertford. Residence Sawbridgeworth.*

Flying Officer GEOFFREY FRANKLIN BRITTLEBANK 101004, Royal Air Force, who died aged 21 on September 29, 1942. Son of Colonel Joseph William Brittlebank and Maud Evelyn Brittlebank, of Sawbridgeworth

Sergeant ROBERT JAMES SCARFF 656067, Royal Air Force, who died aged 22 on March 20, 1942. Son of Frederick William and Florence Annie Scarff, of Sawbridgeworth.

Pilot Officer GEOFFREY OWEN SHARPE 168970, 77 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, who died aged 20 on December 9, 1943. Son of Frederick Revell Sharpe and Bessie Elizabeth Sharpe, of Sawbridgeworth. [According to a website, www.wartimememories.co.uk/airfields/elvington.html, that commemorates the men of 77 Squadron flying from Elvington, Sharpe was the navigator of Halifax 5 LL122 KNY (Z-Zebra) which crashed on December 9, 1943 (location not given)].

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