

Name of Soldier: **Hammond, Albert Edward**  
 Rank: Private  
 Regiment: 1/5<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry  
 Service no: 77962 (77817 on enlistment)



*Above: Cap badge of the Durham Light Infantry Reproduced with the permission of the Trustees of the Former Durham Light Infantry Regiment and the DLI Collection*

Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1898	11 <sup>th</sup> April 1918	19

### Background: Albert E Hammond

The Hammonds lived in South Collingham (somewhere on the Green) from around 1900. Father, Pimlico-born George was a coachman - possibly for Charles Constable Curtis who lived in South Collingham House at the time.

From the 1911 census we can glean:

Father: George Walter Hammond born 1869

Mother: Mary Jane Hammond née Pearson<sup>1</sup> married George in Grantham district in 1894 She was born in 1871 Redmile, Nottinghamshire (according to the 1911 census) or Colsterworth, Lincolnshire (according to the 1901 census)

Children:

- George Walter Hammond Jr born 1895 born Redmile
- Annie Elizabeth born Elston c 1894 married Joseph **Judson** in 1925<sup>2</sup>
- William Henry born c 1896 Elston<sup>3</sup>
- **Albert Edward** born c 1898 born in Muskham
- Ellen Mary born Collingham baptised 1901 married **Frank Leverton** in 1924
- John Thomas born Collingham baptised 1905
- Frederick James born Collingham c 1906<sup>4</sup>

The 9 of them lived in a property with 3 rooms upstairs and 3 down next to Arthur Hoe the butcher (Hoe's house being 'Rusper House' no 8 The Green).

<sup>1</sup> According to the Steingold family tree on Ancestry.co.uk

<sup>2</sup> East Trent Genealogy website

<sup>3</sup> Census return for 1901 states Elston, 1911 states Muskham as William's place of birth

<sup>4</sup> 1911 Census

## Military History: Private Albert Hammond

Albert Hammond enlisted in August 1916<sup>5</sup> at the age of 17yrs and 11months, two months before his brother, William Hammond, was killed in action on Oct 7th 1916. Albert was residing in South Scarle, working at South Scarle Hall for the Colton family as a 'Gardener' when he enlisted.<sup>6</sup>



*Left: South Scarle Hall with kind permission of Mrs Pat Pennington*

**WW1 Engagements on the battlefield of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry from when Private Hammond joined. They were part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 50<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Division:**

### **1916**

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, The Battle of the Transloy Ridges.

### **1917**

The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Capture of Wancourt Ridge, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

### **1918**

12.02.1918 The Durham Lights transferred to the 151st Brigade of the 50th Division & were involved in the Battle of St Quentin, the Actions at the Somme Crossings, the Battle

<sup>5</sup> See attestation paper can be viewed online but are subject to Crown copyright. T Frecknall's info on p 147 gives 1917 as Hammond's enlistment date.

<sup>6</sup> T Frecknall 'Collingham and District in The Great War' p 147

of Rosières, **The Battle of Estaires** (when Albert was killed) The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of the Aisne (May).

**April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 1918: The Battle of the Lys (Estaires)**, was codenamed 'Operation Georgette' - the second German Spring Offensive '*...with the (German's) objective of capturing key railway and supply roads and cutting off British Second Army at Ypres. After initial successes the German attack is once again held after British and French reserves are somehow found and deployed.*' (The Long Long Trail)<sup>7</sup>

Private Hammond's battalion was involved in some of the worse fighting. 'On 21 March 1918, after a shattering bombardment of gas, high explosive, and shrapnel shells, the German Army attacked on the Somme front. Recently moved to the 151st Brigade, the 1st/5th Battalion was thrown into the fighting in a desperate bid to halt the German advance but was driven back with heavy casualties.'<sup>8</sup> This is probably when Hammond was killed. Incredibly, his parents were not informed of his death until June 1919 – over a year later. '*After thirteen months of agonised fading hope, George and Jane Hammond of South Collingham received confirmation that they had lost a second son in the Great War.*' (Source: T Frecknall)

In a further reflection of how bitter the conflict had now become in this 'end game', the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry were all but wiped out in battle on the River Aisne on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The surviving soldiers were sent to other battalions and the 1st/5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry ceased to exist as a fighting unit. The battalion was finally disbanded in France on 9 November 1918.

**Private Albert Hammond is remembered in Ploegsteert Cemetery, Haincourt, Belgium Panel 8.9 (near 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Leonard Ashworth, North Collingham KIA 12<sup>th</sup> April 1918).**

Albert is also remembered alongside his brother, **William Hammond**, (KIA 1916) on the South Collingham Roll of Honour in St John the Baptist Church and Parishioner's Plaque (right).

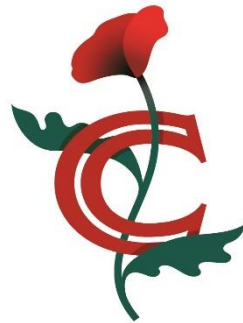
Albert's brother, George Walter Hammond, a groom at the Midland Hotel in Newark, enlisted in September 1914 & survived the war.



<sup>7</sup> <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battles/battles-of-the-western-front-in-france-and-flanders/the-battles-of-the-lys-1918/>

<sup>8</sup> Source: Durham County Record Office <http://www.durhamatwar.org.uk/story/12509/>

Albert (19yrs 7 months) and William Hammond (19 yrs 7 months) were the two youngest men on the Collingham War Memorials who lost their lives in the Great War.



### Sources and Acknowledgements

- ◉ With thanks to Charlie Stothard for his original research on Albert Hammond in 2014
- ◉ Mrs Pat Pennington for use of her photograph of South Scarle Hall
- ◉ Private Hammond's attestation paper can be viewed on Ancestry.co.uk website
- ◉ Durham at War ([www.durhamatwar.org.uk](http://www.durhamatwar.org.uk))
- ◉ Trevor Frecknall's book 'Collingham and District in The Great War' published 2015
- ◉ East Trent Genealogy Database
- ◉ The Long, Long, Trail <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>

