

Name: **Joseph Taylor**
 Private 934 17th Lancers (Duke of
 Cambridgeshire's Own)
 Serving with 9th Lancers when
 fatally wounded



Date of birth	Date died of wounds	Age
March/April 1888	14 th Nov 1918	30

Background **Joseph Taylor**

Joseph was the son of N. Collingham-born William Henry Taylor, a farm labourer, (1856-1929) & N. Collingham-born Sarah Ann née Cook (1860 – 1919). The couple married in All Saints Church on 27th October 1879. They had 13 children, 6 children listed as baptised in Collingham on ETG¹:

George Henry 1880, Harry 1881(died at 12 months), Lucy 1882, William 1883, Sarah Ann 1884, John 1885 and Joseph 1888.

By the time Joseph was 3, the family were in Lowdham (near Lowdham Hall) where William was a shepherd on Chequers Farm and brother George was an Agricultural labourer like his father. A further 3 children were born: Emily 1894 in Bleasby, Walter 1897 Bleasby and Edith c 1899/1900 in Thurgaton. Children William, John and Sarah Ann (1884-1929) do not appear on the 1901 census.

By 1911 William and Sarah are back in Collingham living in a 5-roomed house on Woodhill Rd. With them are George (31) Emily (17) Walter (14) and Edith (11). Lucy (29) is a servant for a Mary Iredale Bailey on Low St. 9 of their 13 children are still alive. William Henry Taylor was still on Woodhill Road in 1925 and a juror (source: Electoral Register 1925).

1911: Joseph was in the 9th Lancers, stationed in barracks at Lydd Camp, Lydd, Romney Marsh² in Kent.

¹ ETG = East Trent Genealogy database

² 1911 census 67/6 4689 Registered district number

Military History: Private Joseph Taylor

Going by the 1911 census, Taylor was already a professional soldier when war broke out. He began with the 17th Lancers but was in the 9th at the time he fell in battle. The 9th & 12th Lancers website (Derby) does not have any information about J Taylor's war service & none is given elsewhere³, which is odd given his military background.

On the MOD/British Legion 'Roll of Honour' website page for the 9th Lancers there is a photograph of the Memorial to the 9th Lancers in Canterbury Cathedral. J Taylor is listed but the website states 'died on active service – cannot locate on CWGC.'⁴ His medal index card indicates he was in France was soon as war was declared – 30th August 1914 – and so served throughout the 4 years. He was awarded the Star, Victory and British medals.

From T. Frecknell, p 135, we learn: *'Joe had gone to war with the 17th Lancers but was serving with the 9th when he was fatally wounded. He is remembered in Etaples Military Cemetery along with the dead who were taken from the 17 hospitals and one huge convalescent home erected among the sand dunes. Joe's death broke his mother's heart; Sarah (born 1860) died on 25th February 1919⁵.'*

It is difficult to know which battle Pte. Taylor was wounded or how long it took to die from his wounds but was probably sometime during the final 'push' in November.

The 9th Lancers were involved in the following engagements during this period:

"1918: Lancer Wood and the last German Push" (March 1918)

'The Germans launched a massive offensive on the 21st March 1918. Both Lancer regiments supported the hard-pressed infantry. The 12th won praise at Bois de Hangard (France) which was renamed "Lancer Wood". Casualties were heavy and the 9th lost more than a third of their men. The cavalry then prepared for the Allied 'Big Push' of August 1918. However, there were no cavalry battles. When the Armistice was declared on the 11th November 1918, ending the war, the opposing forces were close to where they had started in 1914.'⁶

NOV 4th: Battle of the Sambre.

The 9th/12th Lancers were by then part of the 4th Army led by Rawlinson (25th/50/60 Division). On Nov 4th they advanced on the Sambre-Oise Canal and Solve de Cateau.⁷

³ Contacted the museum 9/1/2018

⁴ <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Kent/Canterbury9thLancers.html>

⁵ It is also possible Mrs Taylor died of the Spanish Flu sweeping the country at this time.

⁶ <https://www.9th12thlancersmuseum.org/about>

⁷ P 22 Detail via Google Books online extracted from 'The Last Great Cavalryman' by Richard Meed

It is probable that this (Nov 4) is when Private Taylor received his wounds. He died ten days later, three days after the Armistice.

Pte J. Taylor is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France Plot L C 13 (Etaples is the largest CWGC cemetery in France). He is also remembered on the North Collingham War Memorials and Canterbury Cathedral Roll of Honour to the 9th Lancers.



Left: The 9th Lancers Roll of Honour in Canterbury Cathedral Cloisters. J Taylor's name is on the bottom right hand side column under 'Other Ranks'. Also mentioned is George Pilgrim (Other Ranks' left-hand side of the board) KIA 27th March 1918 (see separate profile).

Image source: David Underdown 2009 creative commons copyright

TAYLOR, Pte. John William, 41027. 2nd Bn. METEMERY Fr. 40 Essex Regt. 22nd April, 1917. Age 36. Husband of E. E. Taylor, of Chapel Rd., Attleborough, Norfolk. XIX. F. 14.	ETAPLES PART VI U.K. GRAVES SENIOR to ZELLEY
TAYLOR, Pte. Joseph, 141718. 42nd Bn. Machine Gun Corps. Died of wounds (gas) 3rd May, 1918. Age 20. Son of James and Mary Taylor, of 8, Roebuck St., Blackburn, Lancs. Native of Blackburn. LXV. A. 9.	
TAYLOR, Pte. J., 25447. 1st Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers. 9th May, 1917. XIX. R. 6.	
TAYLOR, Pte. J., 11781. 1st 12th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. Died of pneumonia 12th Oct., 1918. Age 26. Son of Alfred and Mary Ann Taylor, of Liverpool. LXVII. J. 17.	12th / Labour Corps
TAYLOR, Pte. J., 203032. 12th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. 948th Coy. Labour Corps. 19th June, 1918. LXVIII. E. 31.	
TAYLOR, Pte. J., 934. 17th Lancers. 14th Nov., 1918. L. C. 13.	
TAYLOR, Pte. J. W., 267777. 1st/6th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. 8th Nov., 1918. Son of Edward and Emma Taylor, of Cottingley, Bingley, Yorks; husband of E. E. Taylor, of Addingham, Ilkley, Yorks. XLIX. D. 32.	
TAYLOR, Pte. N., 16988. 1st/6th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt. 1st Nov., 1917. Husband of Clara Taylor, of Winson Green, Birmingham. XXX. H. 25A.	
TAYLOR, Capt. N.A., M.C. 1st Bn. First Surrey Rifles. Died of wounds, received at Bazentin-le-Petit Wood, 26th March, 1918. Age 22. Son of Austin and Lucia Taylor, of 30, Eccleston Square, London. Native of Liverpool. XXVIII. E. 2.	
TAYLOR, Pte. Peter, 266554. 1st/6th Bn. Gordon Highlanders. 3rd May, 1917. Age 21. Son of Charles and Jane Taylor, of Culvie Hill, Banffshire. Native of Culvie Hill. XVIII. G. 11.	
TAYLOR, Serjt. Robert, D/24225. 2nd/2nd Lovat's Scouts. Died of pneumonia 4th Nov., 1918. Age 27. Son of Isabella and the late David Taylor, of Auchtermuchty, Fifeshire; husband of Barbara Taylor, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire. LXXI. A. 1.	

Left: Grave information courtesy of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission website, shows how little was recorded about Joseph Taylor (6th entry up). No current address or next of kin etc. given.

Joseph Taylor was the last Collingham soldier to die of his wounds in 1918 (two died in 1919). His death came 3 days after the Armistice.

Two other Taylors appear on the List of Collingham Volunteers:

Taylor Harold
 Taylor Leonard (1887 -1960) address in register 'The Bungalow', High St.
 They are not Joseph's brothers, although they may have been related. Taylor is a common surname in the local baptism registers.

A Mr and Mrs Joseph Taylor made a donation to the War Memorial fund (June 1919 newsletter for South Collingham) Earlier, in March 1919, a Mr James Taylor had also subscribed. This does not mean they were related to Joseph but might bear further research.

Thanks to Mrs Angela Tarnowski, Curator of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers Museum, for permission to use the regimental insignia

