

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

Hammond, William Henry

Private 1/8th Sherwood Foresters

No: 2964 (Lewis Gunner)



Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
March 11 th 1897	Oct 7 th 1916	19

Background: William Henry Hammond

The Hammonds lived in South Collingham from c 1901. Father George a coachman. From the 1911 census we can glean:

Father: George Walter Hammond b 1869, a 'domestic' coachman, born in Pimlico, London

Mother: Mary Jane Hammond née Pearson¹ married George in Grantham district in 1894 She was born 1871 Redmile, Nottingham (according to 1911 census) or Colsterworth (according to 1901 census)

Children:

- George born 1895 in Redmile
- Annie Elizabeth born Elston c 1894 married Joseph Judson in 1925²
- William Henry born c 1896 Elston
- Albert Edward born c 1898 born in Muskham
- Ellen Mary b Collingham baptised 1901 married Frank Leverton in 1924
- John Thomas b Collingham baptised 1905
- Frederick James born Collingham c 1906³

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

William was a 'houseboy' in 1914 on 'Joseph Gibson's farm' in South Collingham. He would be about 17 when he enlisted. A houseboy was a general servant in a larger house.

¹ Steingold family tree Ancestry.co.uk

² East Trent Genealogy website

³ 1911 Census

Military History: Private William H Hammond

William Hammond is cited as going to war 'early' in 1914⁴, perhaps like his older brother George, who enlisted on September 12th and was also in the 1/8th Sherwood Foresters. This would have made William just 17 years of age.

From 1915, the 1/8th were part of the 139th Brigade in 46th (North Midland) Division. Other battalions included the 1/5th, 1/6th, 1/7th Sherwood Foresters, the 1/4th Black Watch, 1/3 London Regiment, 139th Machine Gun Co and 139th Trench Mortar Battery (Source: The Long, Long Trail⁵).

It would appear the 1/8th Battalion's stay at Bellacourt, near Arras, France, between July 2nd and October 29th (when they moved on to Gommercourt), was a fairly stable one. Captain W C C Weetman, one of the commanding officers, wrote in his history of the battalion that: *'The sector was reputed to be the quietest on the British Front.... rumour said that some of our troops had been in the habit of going out and repairing the barbed wire by daylight.'*⁶ He goes on to say: *'Our casualties during this period amounted to 7 killed and 47 wounded.'*

Weetman did not name the 7 killed or note how they died. Judging by the roll of honour on page 269 (right) some of those wounded later died, too, as the death tally between July 2nd and Oct 29th was 12.

Weetman concludes his chapter on Bellacourt: *'Eventually, on Oct 29th, we were relieved by the 16th Manchesters and said goodbye to that delightful area where we had such good times.'*

Losing only seven men in three months on the Somme was no doubt seen as an achievement but it is doubtful that William Hammond's parents would have shared the CO's attitude.

Another son, Albert, would be killed in 1918, also aged 19 (see Hammond, A. entry). This makes the Hammonds the youngest men on the Collingham War Memorials to die in the Great War. Luckily their brother George survived.

Right: Roll of Honour showing William Hammond was the last soldier of the 1st /8th Sherwood Foresters to die in 1917

"	15—Pvte. L. CHANDLEE	"	17—Sergt. W. H. MARKHAM
"	17—Pvte. W. NORTH	"	17—Pvte. E. H. MUTTON
"	18—Pvte. H. ELLIS	"	18—Pvte. E. NELSON
"	18—Pvte. W. ROBINSON	"	18—L.-Corpl. J. FOOTITT
"	18—Pvte. G. MARRIOTT	"	18—Pvte. G. H. JOHNSON
"	18—Pvte. L. J. MOORE	"	20—Pvte. H. HICKING
"	20—Pvte. T. B. TERRY	"	25—Pvte. C. WELLS
June	3— Pvte. H. SKILLINGTON	June	20—Pvte. A. E. PULFORD
"	20—Pvte. J. FOGG	"	20—Pvte. G. A. BINGLEY
"	20—Pvte. L. TYERS	"	20—Pvte. T. STOUT
"	24—Pvte. A. FROGGATT	"	24—Pvte. J. W. MOOR
"	24—Pvte. A. ENGLISH	"	24—Pvte. T. COPE
"	25—Pvte. M. JOHNSON	"	25—L.-Corpl. A. E. SOOLEY
"	26—Pvte. E. TOYNE	"	26—Corpl. W. G. MOORE
"	26—Pvte. E. JUDSON	"	27—L.-Corpl. A. A. GRANT
"	27—Pvte. F. W. BONSER	July	1— Pvte. F. CLARKE
July	1— Corpl. E. ALLEN	"	1— Pvte. J. W. EDWARDS
"	1— Pvte. G. SEAGRAVE	"	1— Corpl. S. MATTHEWS
"	1— Corpl. J. J. ALVEY	"	1— Pvte. T. F. BARLOW
"	3— Pvte. A. BOUSFIELD	"	6— Pvte. G. TALBOT
"	10—Pvte. G. JEFFERY	"	12—L.-Corpl. W. YOUNG
"	13—L.-Corpl. E. PRIDE	"	13—Pvte. W. E. BEARDSLEY
"	14—Corpl. A. E. PALING	"	17—Pvte. J. F. WOOD
"	24—Pvte. J. R. SEYMOUR	August	18— Pvte. J. BURKE
Sept.	21—Pvte. A. STOCKS	Oct.	7— Pvte. W. HAMMOND
		1917.	
Jan.	24—Pvte. J. H. SPENCE	Jan.	24—Pvte. J. STAFFORD
"	24—Pvte. R. KNEE	Feb.	12—Pvte. F. ROBERTSON
Feb.	16—Pvte. F. W. BEIGHTON	"	17—L.-Corpl. E. SLACK
"	17—Pvte. J. W. SHARMAN	"	17—Pvte. F. MAKIN
"	17—Pvte. G. ADDISON	March	4— L.-Corpl. R. MARRIOTT
March	4— Pvte. H. RIMES	"	4— Pvte. J. MYATT
"	4— Pvte. P. FAULKNER	"	4— Pvte. F. S. COOPER
"	5— Sergt. J. HENLEY	"	5— Pvte. S. J. PREECE
"	6— Pvte. J. H. HASLAM	"	15—Pvte. C. H. BRYAN
April	21—Pvte. G. STUBBINS	April	21—Pvte. J. E. WILKINSON
"	21—Pvte. L. BURROWS	"	23—Corpl. W. STREET

⁴ Source: T Frecknall 'Collingham and District in The Great War.'

⁵ <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/46th-north-midland-division/>

⁶ The Sherwood Foresters in the Great War 1/8th by Capt W C C Weetman 1920 republished by Dodo Press

The Newark Advertiser reported William Hammond's death as follows:

Sunday 15 October 1916:

*'Collingham discovered it had lost James Liley⁷, 26, and William Henry Hammond, 19, who went to War early in 1914 and never had a chance to return home. William, a house-boy in the village who became a Lewis gunner in the 1/8th Sherwoods, was dodging down a trench at Blairville in search of rations when a mortar shell exploded near him on 7 October.'*⁸

Private 2964 Hammond is buried in the Military Cemetery at Bellacourt, a village 10km from Arras Plot:

I.A.1.

He is also listed alongside his brother, Albert Hammond, KIA in 1918, on the South Collingham & Brough Memorial and Roll of Honour in St John the Baptist Church.



Right:

Photograph of W H Hammond's headstone at the Military Cemetery, Bellacourt. Plot 1 Row A. 1

c/o Murray Biddle on the Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour website via Cliff Housley

Image p1 of William Hammond in uniform c/o the late Cliff Housley. Original source The Newark Advertiser.

⁷ James Liley of South Collingham, killed in action 26th September 1915. See profile

⁸ Source: Trevor Frecknall's book 'Collingham and District in The Great War.'

Sources

Books:

'Collingham and District in The Great War' - T. Frecknall (2015)

'The Sherwood Foresters in the Great War 1914-1918 1/8th Battalion' - Captain W C C Weetman (1920) Reprinted by (Dodo Press) 2009.

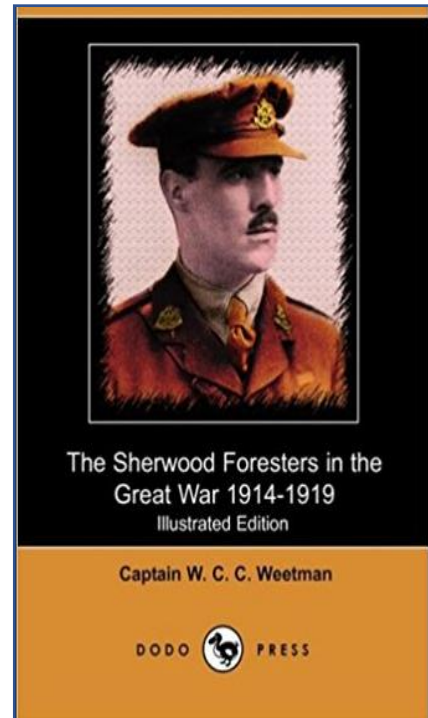
Websites:

Ancestry.co.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Long, Long Trail



Correspondence:

Cliff Housley, Curator, Sherwood Foresters Museum, Nottingham.

