

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

**Arthur Brompton**  
**Driver**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Battery Royal Field Artillery**  
 Service no. **81651**



Date of Birth	Date died	Age
1871	6 June 1919 Buried: N Collingham	48 yrs

## Background: Arthur Brompton

**1881 Census:** High Street Collingham

Father: William Brompton. Miller/Baker. b. Besthorpe c1844 buried North Collingham June 1915

Mother: Harriet Brompton. b. Bickington, Lincs c1840 (c 1833 buried North Collingham 7 Nov 1917)<sup>1</sup>

Children:

George Henry Brompton. b. N Collingham c1870 (baptised N Collingham 18<sup>th</sup> January 1872)

**Arthur Brompton b. N Collingham c1871 (baptised N Collingham 18<sup>th</sup> January 1872)**

Walter Brompton b. N Collingham c1873

Emma Brompton b. N Collingham c1875

Herbert Brompton b. N Collingham c 1877 *buried N Collingham in 1951*<sup>2</sup>

**1891 & 1901 Census:** Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich Dockyard

**Arthur Brompton: Driver**

**1911 Census:** 146<sup>th</sup> Battery Royal Field Artillery Barracks Woolwich Dockyard

**Arthur Brompton: Driver**

<sup>1</sup> East Trent Genealogy website.

<sup>2</sup> as above

## **Military History: Driver A Brompton, R. F. A.**

Arthur Brompton had been in the regular army for several years before the outbreak of war. In 1910 he received his Long Service & Good Conduct medal. This was awarded after 15 years' service – suggesting that he enlisted in 1895<sup>3</sup>. In January 2014, 5 of Arthur Brompton's medals were sold, including the Mons Star.

**The 119<sup>th</sup> Royal Field Artillery** (RFA) was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was mobilised to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. The RFA was the largest arm of the Artillery. They were mobile (horse-drawn) medium calibre guns that operated close to the front line. One of their key roles was bombarding the enemy trenches ahead of an offensive to prepare the way for the infantry to attack.

Prior to the outbreak of war, the 5<sup>th</sup> Division was based in Ireland. Between August 1914 and November, 1917, it served in Flanders. It then served in Italy (but took no part in any major actions), returning to France in 1918, where it served until the Armistice.

Engagements in France & Flanders included:

Battle of Mons. 23-24 Aug 1914.

Action of Elouges. 24 Aug 1914.

Battle of Le Cateau. 26 Aug 1914.

Rearguard action of Crepy en Valies. 1 Sep 1914.

Battle of the Marne. 7-10 Sep 1914, including the passage of the Petit Morin and the passage of the Marne.

Battle of the Aisne. 12-15 Sep 1914, including the capture of the Aisne Heights including the Chemin des Dames.

Battle of La Bassee. 10 Oct-2 Nov 1914.

Battle of Messines. 12 Oct-2 Nov 1914.

Battle of Armentieres. 13 Oct-2 Nov 1914, including the capture of Metern.

Battle of Nonne Bosschen. 11 Nov 1914.

Capture of Hill 60. 17-22 Apr 1915.

Battle of Gravenstaffel. 22-23 Apr 1915.

Battle of St. Julien. 24 Apr-5 May 1915.

Attacks on High Wood. 20-25 Jul 1916.

Battle of Guillemont. 3-6 Sep 1916.

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<sup>3</sup> If Brompton was in barracks in 1891, as the census shows, then he was probably a soldier even earlier than this

Battle of Flers-Courcelette. 15-22 Sep 1916, including the capture of Martinpuich.  
Battle of Morval. 25-28 Sep 1916, including the capture of Combles, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt

Battle of Vimy. 9-14 Apr 1917.

Attack on La Coulotte. 23 Apr 1917.

Third Battle of the Scarpe. 3-4 May 1917, including the capture of Fresnoy.

Capture of Oppy Wood. 28 Jun 1917.

Battle of Polygon Wood. 26 Sep-3 Oct 1917.

Battle of Broodside. 4 Oct 1917.

Battle of Poelcappelle. 9 Oct 1917.

Second Battle of Passchendaele. 26 Oct-10 Nov 1917.

Battle of Hazebrouck. 12-15 Apr 1918, including the defence of the Hinges Ridge and the Nieppe Forest.

Action of La Becque. 28 Jun 1918.

Battle of Albert. 21-23 Aug 1918, including the capture of Chuignes.

Second Battle of Bapaume. 31 Aug-3 Sep 1918.

Battle of Epehy. 18 Sep 1918.

Battle of the Canal du Nord. 27 Sep-1 Oct 1918, including the capture of Bourlon Wood.

The pursuit to the Selle. 9-12 Oct 1918.

Battle of the Selle. 17-25 Oct 1918.

On the CWG record card, Arthur's next of kin was listed as: Mr G H Brompton. 65 Wellington St. New Whittingham, nr Chesterfield (this is his older brother, George).

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008: A memoriam notice was placed in the Derby Telegraph: BROMPTON Driver Arthur 119th Bty RFA, died 06/06/19, age 48. Remembered always. Broughton Family.



## Grave and Memorials

**Arthur Brompton is buried in All Saints Church, North Collingham. Arthur is also remembered on the Cross War Memorial of All Saints.**

Note: Arthur's name is not on the Parishioners' Plaque inside All Saints. We can only presume this oversight is because Arthur died after the plaque had gone to be cast.

*Left: Arthur Brompton's grave in All Saints Churchyard 2016 He was buried 9<sup>th</sup> June 1919 photograph: HP*

**Researched by Jeremy Lodge 2014**

## Arthur Brompton: Additional Information

From T. Frecknall p 146<sup>4</sup>

*'Driver Arthur Brompton passed away while on 28 days leave<sup>5</sup> pending discharge on pension following 29 years army service. He served abroad with the Royal Field Artillery through the war, taking part in the retreat at Mons and the Battle of Loos. He held the Mons Star, the Good Service Medal, the Coronation Medal and the Long Service medal. The funeral took place at North Collingham Church on Whit Monday. Thus, Arthur joined his parents who had died worrying about their boys during the war.'*

The research by Jeremy Lodge and Trevor Frecknall shows that Arthur Brompton had served in the army for many years and had seen some major conflicts. He died in 1919. It is likely he was exhausted and perhaps succumbed to the Spanish Flu which was prevalent at the time. To have survived the war and then die so soon after it seems a cruel twist of fate.

### The Mons Star



*Above: The 1914 Star sometimes known as the Mons Star with 'Aug' and 'Nov' above and below the year. Image courtesy of R. Clark*

Arthur Brompton was awarded the Mons Star, presented to those who were serving from August 5<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1914. This is not to be confused with the '1914-15 Star' another WW1 medal awarded to those who fought in the early stages of WW1. The difference between the 'Mons Star' - officially the '1914 Star' - is that it has '1914 Aug - Nov' in the middle whereas the 1914-15 Star doesn't have the months on it.

## Bromptons in Collingham

<sup>4</sup> Book: 'Collingham and district in the Great War' by T Frecknall published 2015.

<sup>5</sup> It is unknown where Arthur would spend his leave as both parents were dead. Perhaps he had brothers still in Collingham? Sister Emma was living in Grantham in 'Collingham House' in 1911. She married Arthur Eatch 1901 a bricklayer & had 3 children all born in Newark. Died Grantham 1933.



*Above: Postcard showing the area where the Bromptons lived. It is likely William worked at the bakery and mill shown on the extreme left of the photo. Davies Cycle Agents is behind the ancient cross.*

*Image c 1907 c/o Collingham and District Local History Society*

The Bromptons originally came from Besthorpe. Arthur's grandfather, William Brompton (1815-1897), was a publican. Arthur's father, also called William, (1844-1915) moved to North Collingham soon after his marriage to Harriett Marshall in 1868. Here he swapped making bricks (he was a bricklayer in Girton on the 1871 census) for making bread (baker 1881-1911). By 1911, William (67) is classed as a jobbing gardener & general labourer. He is living with his wife Harriet Brompton (73)

near the Cross on the High Street (next to W Davies, cycle dealer). This would be about no 156 High St today. With them is 12-year old Olive, a granddaughter born in Coventry. Harriet Brompton (née Marshall) records she has been married for 43 years, has 8 children born of whom 7 are living.

Also in 1911, their youngest son, John William, is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. He married Sarah Jane Brant of Spilsby, Lincs in 1909. Died 1945 address 'The Gate Inn, Ulceby, Lincs.'<sup>6</sup>

#### **Brompton Burials in All Saints Churchyard, North Collingham:**

1915: William Brompton 1843 – 1915 buried 9 June aged 72 (Arthur's father)

1917: Harriet Brompton 1833 -1917 buried 7 Nov aged 84 (Arthur's mother)

**1919: Arthur Brompton 1872 – 1919 aged 48**

1951: Herbert Brompton 1877 - 1951 aged 74 (Arthur's brother)

Arthur's brother, Herbert, lived in Collingham all his life. He was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Notts Sherwood Foresters and also served in the war. According to Frecknall's book he lost an arm and was the village post man.

#### **Sources (J Lodge 2014):**

<http://www.britishmedals.us/files/lsgcra.htm> Accessed 20/08/2014

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/WW1-Medal-Group-Of-5-Mons-Star-Trio-Army-LSGC-Medal-1911-Coronation-Medal->

<sup>6</sup> Ancestry.co.uk

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<http://www.family-announcements.co.uk/derby/view/1147810/arthur-brompton> Accessed  
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[http://www.warpath.orbat.com/divs/5\\_div.htm](http://www.warpath.orbat.com/divs/5_div.htm) Accessed 20/08/2014

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<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/2290>

<http://www.ypres-salient.com/119th-battery-royal-field-artillery.html> Accessed 20/08/2014

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2750187/BROMPTON,%20ARTHUR>

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/medal-index-cards-ww1.htm> for medal cards

### **Sources in Additional Research 2018:**

East Trent Genealogy <http://www.easttrentgenealogy.co.uk/parish-res/burials/?n2=brompton>

Census returns (Ancestry.co.uk – free access to Inspire Nottinghamshire Libraries users)

Trevor Frecknall 'Collingham and District in the Great War' (published 2015)

Website: Researching the Lives and Service Records of World War One Soldiers:

<http://www.researchingww1.co.uk/> (Mons Star info and medal picture with kind permissions)

