



PRIVATE ARTHUR (“ARCHIE”) HAYNES

1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment

Service number 16877

16th August 1916 – missing presumed dead (Somme) age 21

Pier and Face 11A and 11D, Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Born Little Brington, 7th October 1895

Father – Levi Haynes (Bricklayer). Mother – Jane Fisher from Hargrave

Brothers – Leonard, John, William, Albert, Harold, Levi, George, Peter

Sisters – Florence, Frances.

Lived at 35, Great Brington

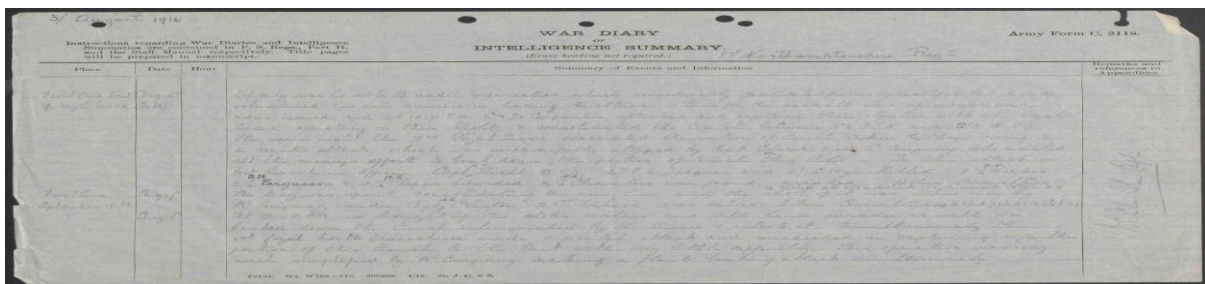
Arthur left Brington school and became a farm labourer.

Volunteered in 1916 to join the Army and became a sapper.

Arthur came from a large family which had been in West Northamptonshire for at least a century before the Great War and which still has many local connections. There is very little evidence about his early life. He was admitted to the Infant School in Little Brington in January 1899 and later moved to the main school which he attended from 1904 to 1909. By the time of his death, his family had moved from Little Brington and lived at 35, Great Brington.

War service

Arthur was a Private in 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment. He died on the Somme on 16th August 1916 when he was posted as missing presumed dead. It is likely that he died in a fight to capture and retain a trench close to High Wood near the village of Bazentin-le-Petit. An extract from the regimental war diary for that day (illustrated below) states that 'in the attack, we lost heavily in officers (7 named). Other casualties 4 killed, 28 wounded, 10 missing. Total 42.'



Arthur is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, approximately 2.5 miles from his probable place of death. His death was also recorded in a small entry in the Northampton Mercury of 6 October 1916 without further comment, along with many others from the Northamptonshire Regiment who had died recently.

The Medal Rolls Index Cards suggest that he received the Victory and British War Medals at the end of the war. Arthur was described by his brother as being "the best of all the brothers" and Leonard later said that, had he been an officer, he would have received a VC.

Family history

Family histories on Ancestry.co.uk suggest that Arthur's great grandparents were John Marriott Haynes (1781 -1848) and Ann Butler (1785 – 1865) who were married in Daventry. His grandfather, Samuel Haynes, who was one of 11 children, was born in Great Brington around 1833 and was married to Eliza Bird in Everdon. He was living here at the time of his death at the age of 73 in 1906. He and Eliza had 11 children including Levi Haynes.

Levi Haynes was born in 1873 and married Jane Fisher, who came from Hargrave, in 1893. They had at least 10 children. Nine were recorded in the 1911 Census including 7 sons – Leonard, Arthur (known as "Archie"), John (known as "Jack"), William, Albert, Harold Butler (known as "Samuel"), Levi, George and 2 daughters – Florence and Frances. The Haynes family have identified another brother, Peter, presumably born after the 1911 census.

In 1901 Levi and his family were living in Little Brington at St James' Place, in or near the present Blacksmith's Lane (known at one time as Jockey's Lane after 'Jockey' Williams, John Williams' blacksmith grandfather). By the 1911 Census they were at 35 Great Brington, a cottage that almost certainly stood on the current site of Yew Tree House on the New Cross Farm side of the big bend, and probably

fronting the street. (Nos 38-40 were up a path to the rear, then 41, 42 and adjoining forge, 43 and 44 up another path, and finally 45 before the pub). The family also recall visiting older relatives living opposite Brington Lodge where 28-30 are situated.

There was another related John Haynes, possibly a cousin, who lived in No 66 opposite the church, who was married but had no children, and whose barn (or barns) for his shire horses was at the bottom of Slash Hill – there is a photo of him plus horse in *Aspects of Brington*. The wider family must have been a big one, with 11 children in the previous generation.

The records contain little to indicate the lives led by members of the family but they all worked on the land and, presumably, on the Althorp Estate. They were reported to be good poachers and Leonard apparently excelled in this!

The family at war

Leonard also served in 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment, and later recounted stories of the war to the family; always in a light-hearted way although they must have been horrific experiences. He told of retrieving the injured from 'no man's land'. Leonard was wounded and had a spell of treatment and recuperation in this country before returning to the front. At some point, he became a stretcher bearer. He was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery.

It is probable that John and William were also in the same Regiment although no records have been discovered for them and there is also some evidence that he may have been in The Cheshire Regiment. The family understands that Leonard, John and William, were all taken prisoner and subsequently worked in a factory in Germany. An interview with John Haynes recorded by Stephen Mattingly records his period as a prisoner-of-war and family members recall that he spoke of this time. At home, he also spoke of his good fortune in surviving the war and especially the machine guns killing those on either side of him.

The community at war

The Haynes family seems to provide an example of the way the war must have impacted on communities such as the Bringtons. The brothers and their comrades in arms had been to school together and probably most worked on the Althorp Estate. The effects of losses on colleagues at the front must have been increased by the close relationships and the impact of major battles was potentially devastating for communities at home. We know that in addition to the relationships that are obvious by name, there were other links and, in the case of the Haynes brothers, Thomas Chandler, another of those lost, was a cousin.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Arthur's relatives, Joyce Haynes, Duncan Shepherd, Delia Turner and Sue White, who were very generous with their time, for family details; and to Bridget Barford and Tony and Janet Ambler for their recollections of earlier times in Great Brington.