



SAPPER ALBERT HAWTIN

210th Field Company, Royal Engineers

Service number 398770

17th April 1917– killed in action

Borre Churchyard, Borre near Harzebrouk, Belgium French border

Born in Oxfordshire, 1884

Father – Daniel (shepherd). Mother – Mary

Brothers -Fred, William, Aubrey. Sisters – Agnes Ellen, Harriett.

Lived in Kingsthorpe and then at Saracens' Head, Little Brington

Wife – Annie Denton of Church Brampton married in 1910 (worked at Althorp Park)

Albert was a dairy herdsman.

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

British Battles at Arras

The British attacks began a week before the French offensive, with the **Battle of Arras** (9 April - 4 May 1917) comprising 8 battle phases:

1. the **First Battle of the Scarpe** (9 to 14 April 1917)
2. the **Battle of Vimy Ridge** (9 to 12 April 1917)
3. the **First Battle of Bullecourt** (10 to 11 April 1917)
4. the **Battle of Lagnicourt** (15 April 1917)
5. the **Second Battle of the Scarpe** (23 to 24 April 1917)
6. the **Battle of Arleux** (28 to 29 April 1917)
7. the **Third Battle of the Scarpe** (3 to 4 May 1917)
8. the **Battle of Bullecourt** (3 to 17 May 1917)

The British attacks achieved some limited success, but the French offensive further south was a failure with 187,000 casualties. Mutiny in the French units became widespread and morale was very low. Once again General Pétain was requested to take control of the situation and he was appointed as Commander-in-Chief of French Forces on 15 May.

