



PRIVATE BERTIE FREDERICK ANDREW

2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment

Service number 16867

Killed 9th May 1915 ~ The Battle of Aubers Ridge, France

Ploegsteert Memorial, panel 7

Born East Haddon, 1893

Parents: John, born East Haddon 1860 (shepherd)
& Elizabeth, born East Haddon 1869

At the time of his death he was listed as:

Son of Mrs Elizabeth Andrew, Stowe Hill, Weedon

Address in Brington Parish: Britannia Cottage, Little Brington

He was one of 12 children with 5 brothers & 6 sisters,
born between 1887 & 1906

On the local school register from 1902 – 1904;
described as a “farm labourer” from the age of 14

Enlisted in Northampton on 4th January, 1915;
was killed within four months

1914-1915 Star Medal & Victory Medal & British War Medal

The Battle of Aubers Ridge lasted from 2.30am on 9th May until 1.20pm on the 10th, 1915. There were more than 11,000 casualties in the conflict, the vast majority of which were within yards of the combatants' own front-line trenches. Mile for mile and division for division this was one of the highest rates of loss during the War. There is no memorial to the Battle of Aubers Ridge.



Looking from Vimy Ridge towards Aubers Ridge

Northamptonshire Regiment 2nd Battalion

9th May 1915 The Battle of Aubers Ridge: The Northern pincer 2nd Battalion Queens (Royal Wes Regiment)

2.30am: all units in the North report that they are in position, having assembled at night. 4.06am: sunris all very quiet on this front.

5.00am: British bombardment opens with field guns firing shrapnel at the German wire and howitzers f High Explosive shells onto front line. Many reports are received that British 4.7-inch shells are falling s and even on and behind the British front line (Later it is agreed that this is due to faulty ammunition, as excessive wear to gun barrels). 5.30am: British bombardment intensifies, field guns switch to HE and a at breastworks. Two guns of 104th Battery, XXII Brigade RFA had been brought up into the 24th Briga and they now opened fire at point blank range against the enemy breastworks; they blow several gaps, a one of the guns is inaccurate due to the unstable ground on which it is located. The lead battalions of the assaulting Brigades of 8th Division (24th Brigade has 2/Northants and 2/East Lancashire in front; 25th l has 2/Rifle Brigade, 1/Royal Irish Rifles and 1/13 London Regiment (Kensingtons)) move out into the r No Man's Land (in this area it is only 100-200 yards across). German bayonets can be seen behind their parapet.

5.40am: On the further advance the East Lincs are hit by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire by the time t progressed thirty yards from their own trench; the Northants, coming up ten minutes later, were similar but a party got through one of the gaps blown by the field guns, and into the German front trench. The e 25th Brigade is much more successful: the wire on the left had been well-cut and the infantry poured the crossing the almost-undamaged breastworks and into the German fire trenches. They moved onto the fi objective (a bend in the Fromelles road), and the Rifle Brigade bombers extended the trench system the; occupied to 250 yards broad. On the blowing of the two mines at 5.40am, the lead companies of the Kensingtons rushed to occupy the craters, moved forward to capture Delangre Farm, and then formed a defensive flank as ordered.

6.10am: Br-Gen. Oxley (24th) orders the support battalion, 1/Notts & Derbys, to support the attack of tl Lancashires, but they are also held up with high losses, at almost unbroken wire. The front and commur trenches are by now very crowded and chaotic; German shelling adds to confusion. By now, the fire ac Man's Land was so intense that forward movement was all but impossible. The support battalion of the Brigade, the 2/Lincolns, was ordered forward, to cross by the craters; they did so, despite losing many r the way. Men of the Brigade were at this time seen to be retiring to their front line, having apparently re a shouted order. German prisoners, making their way to the British lines, were mistaken for a counteratt there was a great deal of confusion. Br-Gen Lowry Cole, CO 25th Brigade, was mortally wounded whe standing on the British parapet in an attempt to restore order.

8.30am: the attack had established three small lodgements in the enemy positions, but they were not i with each other and were under tremendous pressure. Otherwise the attack had come to a standstill and movement into or out of the trench system had become impossible. The men in the German positions w off. 8.45am and again at 11.45am: Haig orders Rawlinson (CO, IV Corps) to vigorously press home the

1.30pm: A renewed attack (with 2/Queens of 22nd Brigade in support), did not take place as the troops heavily shelled in the assembly areas and many casualties were suffered even before the original suppor had been reached. Major-General Gough (CO, 7th Division, whose 21st Brigade had now also been ord forward by Haig) reported that after a personal reconnaissance he was certain that forward movement w the present time impossible. 5.00pm: General Haig, hearing of the continued failure of the Southern attt the hold-up after initial success of the Northern attack, orders a bayonet attack at dusk, 8.00pm.



Ploegsteert Memorial

STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
How of the Soldier ...	None	
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	None	
Father of the Soldier ...	None	
Mother of the Soldier ...	Elizabeth Andrew Widow	Little Berrington Northampton
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ...	George Andrew 57 John Andrew 81 Henry Andrew 28 Frank Andrew 16
	Half blood ...	Little Berrington Gussetts Herdon Worbury Park Parkbury Little Berrington
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ...	Ann Daughter 32 Solith Done 30 Miriam Andrew 24 Agnes Mallitt 21 Kathleen Andrew 15
	Half blood ...	147 Bultenham Rd Waltham 463 Forest Rd Waltham 29 St Andrew's Square 47 Queens Road Doncaster 193 Kettering Rd Northampton

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—