

Lance Corporal A SHORTLAND

This soldier has proved something of a conundrum. He is listed as a Corporal on the Church memorial but a Private on the memorial at the Hall. The Church memorial gives his date of death as 11 November 1916 but we can find no trace of it on that date.

The Church memorial says he served with the 3rd Northamptonshire Regiment and medal records show someone of that name serving with the Northamptonshire Regiment who went on to serve with the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment. His regimental number shows that he died on 13 October 1916, a Lance Corporal, the rank recorded on the Roll of Honour.

Is this the same man? If so, his name was Arthur Shortland and he was born in about 1889 in Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire to Thomas and Annie but what is his connection to the Parish?

The 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment took part in the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916. The Somme Offensive, which continued until 18 November 1916, was the largest battle of the war on the Western Front with more than three million combatants and more than one million men wounded or killed. As well as the first use of the tank, the battle is notable for the importance of air power as a weapon of war, a new concept at the time. The Royal Flying Corps became the eyes of the British Army, directing artillery gunfire and undertaking reconnaissance and artillery observation.

If we are correct about this soldier's identity, he is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorials in Somme, France and was 28 years old.



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*