

Private GEORGE SILVER

George was born in about 1895 to William and Annie Silver and grew up in Walcote, one of seven children. His father was an agricultural labourer and by the age of 16 George was a labourer too. His three brothers also fought in the war: William, who died on 3 December 1918 and Thomas and Edward, both of whom were injured but survived.

George enlisted with the 1st Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, “the Tigers”, which saw action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, the third main phase of the Battle of the Somme. He lost his life on 15th September 1916, the first day of the battle, when Fred Cook, another village lad, also perished.

The main attack began at 6.20am when the leading companies advanced at a walk into heavy machine gun fire. The Battalion War Diaries refer to the mist and smoke being terribly thick causing a slight error in navigation resulting in a gap at the centre of the line. The allied artillery barrage was also late in opening. “Throughout the advance the Battalion suffered very heavily from Machine Gun fire. The Battalion had not gained its objective line, held up by very heavy fire and the very strong and undamaged wire of the trench...” By night most



survivors had achieved good cover but by then George was dead. He was 21 years old and is buried at Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, France.



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