

Rifleman RICHARD WILLIAM MORRIS

Richard was born in about 1893, one of seven children, at Newbold on Avon, near Rugby. Before he enlisted with the 11th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, Richard was a labourer.

The Battle of Cambrai (20 November to 8 December 1917) saw the first large-scale effective use of tanks in the war. On 20 November the British carried out a surprise assault on the German Hindenburg Line. The terrain was especially suitable for tank movement and over 300 fighting tanks were used. The British ripped through the German defences and took some 7500 prisoners but bad weather intervened and the cavalry could not exploit the breakthrough. By 29 November the offensive halted. On 30 November the Germans launched a surprise counter-attack.

The Battalion war diaries record that at 7:50 am a nearby Division reported that it was under attack. An hour later the Rifle Brigade was ordered to move but the German attack was more extensive than first believed. They had broken through the front-line system and the British were badly outnumbered.

Richard was killed that day. He is commemorated at the Cambrai Memorial, France.



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