

SERGEANT GEORGE EZRA PORTER

SERVICE NO. 4092

RIFLW BRIGADE (PRINCE CONSORTS' OWN)

DIED 24TH APRIL 1916 AGED 24

The Porters, lived at the Bury. Arthur, a bricklayer's labourer, and his wife, Lynn timer (née Burrows) had twelve children, eight sons and four daughters¹ according to names recorded in the censuses of 1901 and 1911, one child appearing to have died under the age of 10. In 1916 Arthur and five of his sons were all servicemen².

The eldest son, George, who was born in 1893, joined The Rifle Brigade in 1910 and was a Private stationed at Winchester Barracks at the time of the 1911 census³. He subsequently spent two years in India with the 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own). This battalion began the journey back to the United Kingdom on 4th August 1914, when it left Kuldana en route to Bombay to board a ship bound for Liverpool on 20th September 1914. They arrived in the United Kingdom on 22nd October 1914 and transferred to Hursley Park, Winchester, where they joined the 25th Brigade, 8th Division. Two weeks later, the 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, presumably with the rest of the Division, left for France, arriving at Le Havre at 10.30 am on 7th November 1914⁴. By the time of his death at the age of 24 in the first battle of the Somme on 24th October 1916, George had reached the rank of Sergeant. He was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal 1914-20⁵, affectionately known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred (See Fig.1). His death is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial⁶ which represents those who died on the Somme with no known grave.



Fig.1: WW1 medals awarded to George E Porter – from left to right - 1914 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19

¹ 1901 census – Odiham - Class: RG13; Piece: 1102; Folio: 35; Page: 26 and 1911 census - Odiham – RG14PN6245 RG78PN296 RD109 SD1 ED11 SN159

² Obituary of George Porter in Hants and Berks Gazette 15 November 1916.

³ 1911 Census – Winchester – RG14PN6129 RD103 SD2 ED16 SN9999

⁴ Soldiers Died in the Great War database (Findmypast.co.uk)

⁵ Ancestry.com. *British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920* [database on-line].

⁶ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Roll of Honour – www.cwgc.org

