

ALFRED BISHOP

Alfred Bishop was one of nine children of William & Sarah Jane (*nee* Mansell) Bishop. They moved to Stoodleigh from Chevithorne early in 1899, and Alfred went to Stoodleigh school with his brothers Thomas & Albert. They were joined by five more of their siblings as they became old enough.

Alfred left in 1902 to start work.

By 1911 he had enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment, and was at Andover in Hants.

In 1913 he married Rhoda Chorley, from Bampton, a maid for the Carew family in Collipriest, & in 1914 their daughter Ellen Bishop was born.

The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette of 29th June 1915 had this report:

"Private Alfred Bishop 3rd Devons has died in Devonport hospital. He was the son of Mr F Bishop of Stoodleigh, was married and leaves a widow and young daughter. Deceased had been home recently recuperating from a wound received on Hill 60. Since then he had been with a recruiting party and contracted measles to which pneumonia and bronchitis supervened. He was interred at Devonport yesterday. He was at the front all through last winter, and no doubt the ordeal there weakened his constitution."

He was awarded the 1914 Star, the British Medal and the Victory Medal

Two of his brothers (Thomas & Albert) who also served in the War and are commemorated on the Memorial tablet.

The Bishop family was still in Stoodleigh in 1920; Thomas was back from the war, but Albert had not been demobilised.

Alfred is also commemorated on the Washfield memorial.

Extract from **Sir John French's Eighth Despatch**. (*Printed in the Second Supplement to the London Gazette of 10 July.*)

"On the night of Saturday, April 17th, a commanding hill which afforded the enemy excellent artillery observation toward the West and North-West was successfully mined and captured. This hill, known as Hill 60, lies opposite the northern extremity of the line held by the 2nd Corps. The operation was planned and the mining commenced by Major-General Bulfin before the ground was handed over to the troops under Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fergusson, under whose supervision the operation was carried out. The mines were successfully fired at 7 p.m. on the 17th instant, and immediately afterwards the hill was attacked and gained, without difficulty, by the 1st Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers. The attack was well supported by the Divisional Artillery, assisted by French and Belgian batteries. During the night several of the enemy's counter-attacks were repulsed with heavy loss, and fierce hand-to-hand fighting took place; but on the early morning of the 18th the enemy succeeded in

forcing back the troops holding the right of the hill to the reverse slope, where, however, they hung on throughout the day. "

You can see the commemorative certificate produced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by using this link:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2852744/BISHOP,%20ALFRED>

and following the instructions on the page