

## FRED WINZER

**Fred Winzer** was one of the sons of Thomas & Lea Winzer. Thomas came from Bishops Nympton & Leah (*nee*Wood) from Rackenford, but Fred and two of his brothers were born in Tiverton. They then moved back to Rackenford (where two girls were born) and after that to Witheridge where another three children were born.

They moved to Stoodleigh (probably about 1895) to live at Whitnole and then to Bapcott in Spring 1903. Three of his siblings went to Stoodleigh School. When Fred died they were living in Sawyard Cottage.

Fred enlisted early on in the war and served in the Devonshire Regiment.

He was killed while preparations were being made for the attack on Passchendaele. He was awarded the British Medal and the Victory medal.

The family were still in Stoodleigh after the war. In 1920 Thomas, Leah & their youngest son Albert were living at Ash Cottage.

From Sir Douglas Haig's "Passchendaele" Despatch:

"Unfortunately bad weather still persisted in the early part of October and on the 7th October (1917) heavy rain fell all day. The unfavourable conditions interfered with our artillery preparations; but every effort was made to engage the enemy's batteries in their new positions and on the date last mentioned our artillery co-operated effectively in the repulse of two hostile attacks.

On the 8th October rain continued and the slippery state of the ground, combined with an exceptionally dark night, made the assembling of our troops a matter of considerable difficulty. No interference, however, was encountered from the enemy's artillery, and at 5.20 a.m. on the 9th October our attack was renewed on a front of over six miles from a point east of Zonnebeke to our junction with the French north-west of Langemarck. On our left our Allies prolonged the front of attack to a point opposite Draaibank. At the same time, minor operations were undertaken on the right of our main attack, east and south-east of Polygon Wood".

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/150602/WINZER,%20FRED>

and following the instructions on the page.