



Alfred Henry Hoff

Private 1st Bn. Worcestershire Regiment

At KES:

Alfred came to KES in 1897 because he had no father. He was described as "*good tempered, thoughtful and kind*". His occupation was in the tailor's shop. When he left in 1900 he went straight into the Worcestershire Regiment where he continued to use his skill as a tailor. In 1913 he married and had a son.

Date of Death: 12th March 1915

Place: France

Buried: Longuenesse St Omer Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais

Alfred was killed during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, fought between the 10th and 13th March 1915.

With the employment of carefully co-ordinated attacks of often hand to hand fighting by British and Indian infantry, initial progress was rapid, quickly breaking through a section of the German line, secured by only a single division of Crown Prince Rupprecht's Sixth Army at Neuve Chapelle village. It had taken four hours to secure the village. Having achieved a real gain in the capture of the village, supply and communication problems began to plague Haig's troops.

The Germans dispatched reserves to Neuve Chapelle, launching a counter-attack on the 12th March. The British managed to hold their gains: 2km of ground originally lost in October 1914. However further progress towards Aubers proved impossible. Some 1000 troops attacked Aubers, but none survived and the attack was halted on 13th March.

Allied casualties during the battle were 11200 (7000 British, 4200 Indian) German losses were similar and 12000 German troops were captured by the British.