



ARTHUR WOOD

14853, Acting Corporal, Arthur Wood, 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment.

Born in 1898 at Poynton, son of railway signalman, Henry Cooke and Sarah Ann Wood, who in 1901 were living at Station Houses, Goostrey, Cheshire, and by 1911, had moved to Hand Cottages, Woodford. Arthur was the younger brother to John Henry Wood, another casualty. His other siblings were Sarah Elizabeth, Fred, Frank and Ernest.

Arthur enlisted in Macclesfield, and after his training was drafted with the British Expeditionary Force to France, 26/09/1915. In 1918, the Cheshire's were in the 25th Division, 7th Infantry Brigade. On the 21st March the Great German Offensive commenced and the battalion war diary gives an account of those early days: *At 6.00 am on the 21st March 1918 the Battalion received orders to proceed by march route from camp at ACHIET-LE-GRAND to a camp west of FREMICOURT. On arrival at the camp, I received orders to reconnoitre the Army line, west of VAUX, with my company commanders, prior to taking over, and holding 1000 yards of the line with the battalion. The disposition of the battalion on the morning of the 22nd March were as follows, 'C' and 'B' companies with front line 'D' and 'A' companies in support. At 9.30 am on the morning of the 23rd March the enemy attempted a surprise attack on the left, taking in a part of my left company front. This attack absolutely broke down under rifle and Lewis gun fire. At 2.00 pm, enemy artillery opened out with a terrific barrage of heavies on our wire, front and support lines. This was kept up until 3.15 pm, when he attacked vigorously in large numbers in four waves. The attack completely broke under our intense rifle and Lewis gun fire and not a single man reached our wire.*

Arthur was killed in action, 23/03/1918, aged 20 years.

Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

These medals were sent to his parent's new address which was Lower Swine's Eye, Woodford, Cheshire. Acting Corporal, Arthur Wood has no known resting place and he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. C.W.G.C. Ref: - Panel 5 and 6.

