

Herbert Adley Sheppard was born on the 30th.November 1889 in Betchworth.His family came to live in Albury where his father ,Sergeant Sheppard, was the Albury policeman.

Herbert enlisted in the 1st.Battalion,London Regiment.

The opening day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st.July 1916 was a disastrous day for the British Army in France. 11 Divisions attacked along a 15 mile front.For a week beforehand the British artillery pounded the German trenches,but the Germans had been there a long time and had constructed deep concrete reinforced shelters beneath their trenches and mainly survived the bombardment.

The Londoners were detailed to take a German stronghold called the Quadrilateral.The wire had not been cut properly and whilst they were waiting to pass through they were hit by concentrated machine gun fire.Some did make it through and were hit by German artillery and then the German defenders who had emerged from their deep dug outs.By mid-day the Londoners were running short of grenades and they were under strong bombing attacks which forced them back;the wounded started crawling back across no-mans land.By 4pm the Germans had retaken their 2nd trench and had footings in the 1st.By 9.30pm the last party of Londoners made it back suffering badly en route.

Over 19,000 British soldiers were killed on this day including Herbert Sheppard.He was aged 25.He has no grave but is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

1. Memorial

2. 1911 Census

3. Service Medal and Award Rolls

4. Army Register of Soldiers Effects

5. Commonwealth War Graves

6. London War Memorial

In Memory of

Rifleman

Herbert Adley Sheppard

300963, (1547). 1st/5th Bn., London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) who died on 01 July 1916 Age 25

Son of Herbert Edward and Susan Sheppard, of 1, Bath Villa, Weydon Hill Rd., Farnham, Surrey.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



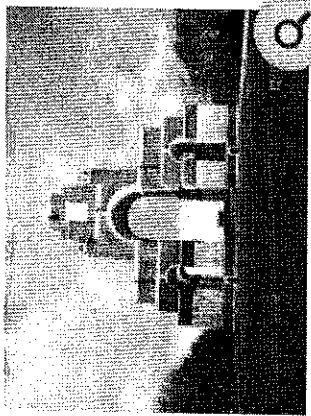
Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

- SHEPPARD, Rfn. Edgar Richard John, S/20435. 12th Bn. The Rifle Brigade. 7th Oct., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Cpl. Edward, 6612. 2nd Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 14th July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Edward, 24454. 16th Bn. Welch Regt. 11th July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Lce. Cpl. Ernest, A/423. See "SMY," the true family name.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Frederick, 305892. 1st/8th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 1st July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Serjt. Godfrey Thomas, 20408. 1st Bn. Hampshire Regt. 23rd Oct., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Harold, 2897. 2nd/7th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers, attd. 8th Bn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt. 16th Aug., 1916. Age 19. Son of W. A. and M. A. Sheppard, of 21, Great Cheetham St., Higher Broughton, Manchester.
- SHEPPARD, Lce. Cpl. Harry, 24822. 17th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. 30th July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Rfn. Herbert Adley, 300963 (1547). 1st Bn. London Rifle Brigade. 1st July, 1916. Age 25. Son of Herbert Edward and Susan Sheppard, of 1, Bath Villa, Weydon Hill Rd., Farnham, Surrey.
- SHEPPARD, Lce. Cpl. James, 200385. 1st/4th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers. 15th Sept., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. John, 21936. 9th Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Inf. 1st July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Lce. Cpl. Joseph Valentine, G/9906. 10th Bn. The Queen's. 17th Sept., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Lce. Cpl. Josiah, 11702. 6th Bn. Wiltshire Regt. 13th Nov., 1916. Husband of Elizabeth Alma Sheppard, of East Hendred, Steventon, Berks.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Sidney Edward, 8543. 2nd Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers. 6th Nov., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Stanley Cecil, 19891. 3rd Bn. Grenadier Guards. 15th Sept., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Sydney Daniel, 3/6773. 2nd Bn. Devonshire Regt. 8th March, 1917.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Thomas Norgrove Owen, 18280. 20th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.), formerly (10654) Devonshire Regt. 2nd July, 1916. Age 21. Son of Mrs. M. Sheppard, of 43, Torrington Place, Plymouth, Devon.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Walter, 4281. 1st/5th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. 3rd Sept., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. Wilfred, 266810. 1st/7th Bn. Sherwood Foresters. 1st July, 1916. Age 17. Son of Mrs. Kate Patchett, of 298, Carlton Hill, Carlton, Nottingham.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. William, 1530. 4th Bn. Suffolk Regt. 20th July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. William, 12249. 7th Bn. East Yorkshire Regt. 8th July, 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Pte. William, 16749. 9th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 21st Sept., 1916.
- SHEPPARD, Dvr. William, 56698, M.M. "A" Bty. 166th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 14th July, 1916. Age 24. Son of Mr. W. and Mrs. L. E. Sheppard, of 24, Fernhead Rd., Paddington, London.
- SHEPPARD, Rfn. William C., 301436. "C" Coy. 1st Bn. London Rifle Brigade. 1st July, 1916. Age 18. Son of Mr. W. T. and Mrs. M. J. Sheppard, of 15, Webster Rd., Bermondsey, London.
- SHEPPERD, Pte. Albert Edward, 16805. 2nd Bn. Essex Regt. 1st July, 1916.
- SHEPPERD, Gnr. Fredrick Stanley, 262. 4th South Midland Howitzer Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 2nd July, 1916. Age 21. Son of Mrs. E. M. Shepperd, of 67, Broomfield Rd., Coventry.
- SHEPPERD, Lce. Cpl. Walter, 10392. 2nd Bn. Hampshire Regt. 24th Feb., 1917.
- SHERATON, Pte. Robert Ainsley, 7144. "B" Coy. 1st/9th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 5th Nov., 1916. Age 34. Husband of Sarah Annie Sheraton, of 25, Westfield Rd., West Ealing, London.
- SHERBURN, Pte. Charles, 21746. 2nd Bn. York and Lancaster Regt. 25th Sept., 1916.
- SHERBURN, Pte. William Cecil, 27984. 8th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 6th Aug., 1916. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Sherburn, of "Helmsley," 13A, Onslow Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
- SHERCLIFF, Serjt. Henry, 22835. 20th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. 30th July, 1916. Age 23. Son of John R. and Margaret M. Shercliff, of 137, Wyggeston St., Burton-on-Trent.
- SHERIDAN, Pte. Francis William, 14356. 6th Bn. Dorsetshire Regt. 9th July, 1916.

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THIEPVAL MEM.
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PROFILE PAGE



First Name:	Herbert Adley	Last Name:	SHEPPARD
Date of Death:	01/07/1916	Lived/Born In:	Clerkenwell
Rank:	Rifleman	Unit:	London5
Memorial Site:	Thiepval Memorial		

Current Information:

Age-25

Enlisted-London

The opening day of the Battle of the Somme 1st July 1916

This was a disastrous day for the British Army in France. Eleven divisions of Fourth Army attacked along a 15 mile front from Maricourt to Serre. Two further divisions of Third Army launched a diversionary attack just to the north of Serre at Gommecourt. For a week beforehand the British artillery pounded the German trenches but the Germans had been there for a long time and they had constructed deep, concrete reinforced shelters beneath their trenches and many survived the bombardment. The troops went over the top at 7.30 am but even before they had left their overcrowded trenches, many had been killed or maimed by German artillery. The Germans knew that

they were coming. Once in No-Man's-Land the artillery continued to take its toll and then the machine guns opened up on the advancing British infantry. They fell in their thousands and the attack came to a standstill almost everywhere. Survivors sought cover wherever they could find it and at night they crawled back to their own lines, often dragging a wounded soldier with them. Only in the south were any advances made with the attack on Fricourt and Mametz. Over 19,000 British soldiers were killed on this day, including 2,500 from London.

The attack on Gommecourt

The **56th (London) Division** and the **46th (North Midland) Division** carried out the diversionary attack on Gommecourt. It was intended to draw German reserves away from the main battle further south and to pinch out the Gommecourt salient. It failed on both counts. The German defences at Gommecourt were among the strongest any British attack faced on **1st July**. Nevertheless **56th Division's** attack on the southern edge of the salient began promisingly. The first two German lines were taken but they could get no further. 46th Division's attack came to grief on the uncut wire and by the end of a very bloody day, all but the dead and injured were back in their own trenches.

On **1st July**, **169 Brigade**, **56th Division** attacked with **5th London (London Rifle Brigade)** and **9th London** detailed to pass through them once they had taken their objectives and capture a German stronghold called the Quadrilateral. But events did not work out as planned. The wire had not been cut properly and there were only a few gaps in it through which the attacking troops of **5th London** could pass and whilst they waited they were hit by concentrated machine gun fire. Despite this some did make it through and into the German trenches. At this stage the German artillery opened up with full force, plastering no-man's land and preventing supplies and reinforcements getting across. By now the German defenders had emerged from their deep dug outs and were pouring fire on the Londoners from their strongly held reserve trenches. Even so, some of the attacking force managed to push on to Nameless Farm road, a sunken road, but this is as far as they got. To show one's head above the 4 ½ foot bank of the sunken road meant instant death. By midday the Londoners were running short of grenades and they were under strong bombing attacks from Gommecourt Park which forced them back. There was little help from British artillery and the wounded began crawling back across no-man's land. By 2pm they were still holding parts of the German **1st & 2nd** line and the southern part of Gommecourt Park. But their position was doomed. There was no further attack from **46th Division** and to the south news came of the failure of **31st Division**. Nevertheless they continued to resist but by 4pm the Germans had retaken their **2nd** trench and had footings in the **1st**. Before dark the Londoner's numbers had been reduced to 70 holding a small part of Ferret Trench 200 yards from Gommecourt Park and at 9.30pm the last party made it back suffering badly en route. The planned renewed attack did not take place.

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27 AUGUST 1918 #OTD another 250 Londoners lost their lives during the continued fighting on the Somme. One of these...