

Trooper George Elliot

Trooper George Elliott, whose connection with Teffont I have had great difficulty in establishing but clearly he must have lived in Teffont at some time otherwise he would not be recorded on our War Memorial. He is also remembered on the War Memorials of East Knoyle and in the Winterbournes. He was born in East Knoyle in the hamlet Upton in 1885, living at number 17 Upton and this map (Figure 1) dating from 1840s shows a cluster of buildings which no longer exists just to the north of the Fox and Hounds public house.

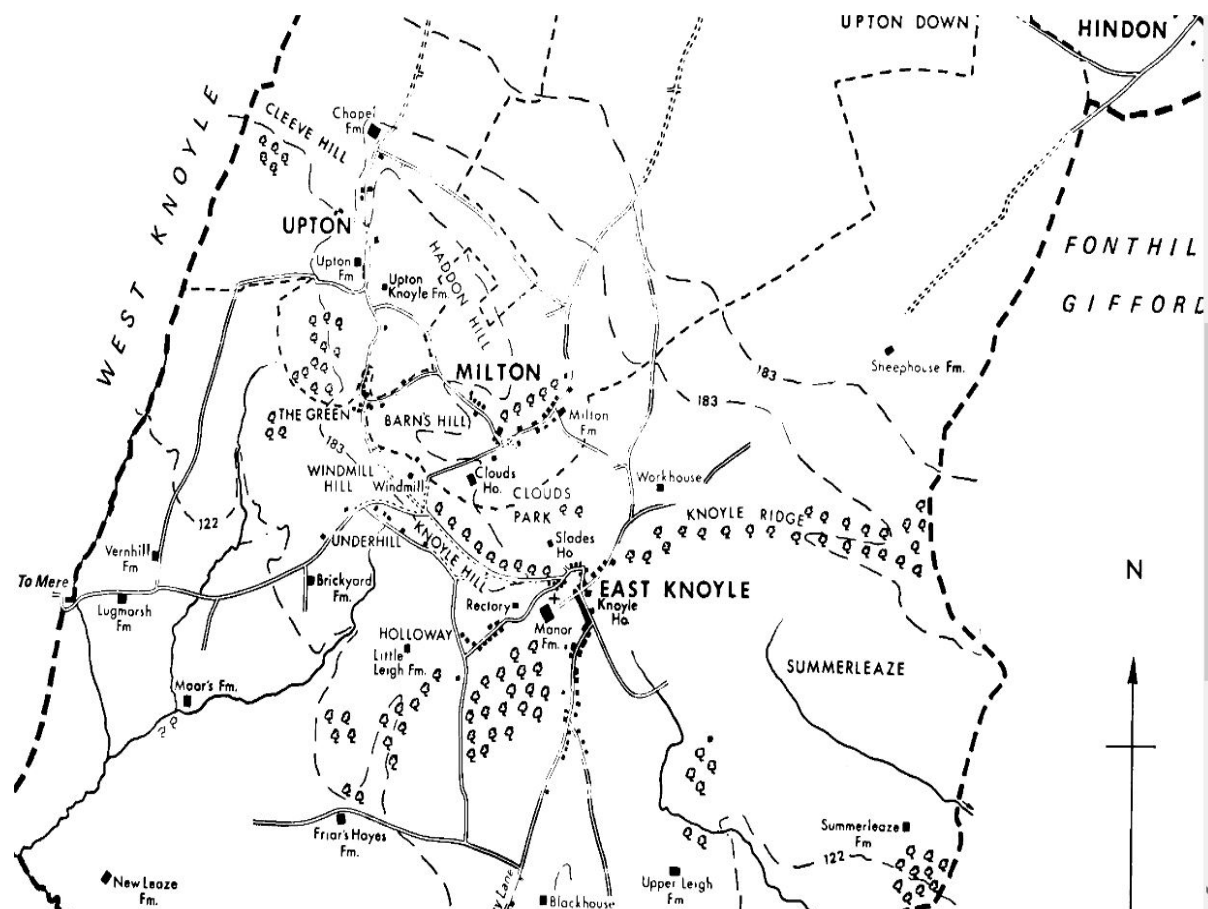


Figure 1 - Upton 1840

However, close by the public house is a cottage (Figure 2) of the period which no doubt is an amalgamation of two or three cottages and probably typical of the sort of house that George Elliott lived in with his four siblings and parents George and Florence Elliott.



Figure 2 - Cottage Upton

His father was a farm worker in Upton, but at some stage he moved his family to Durnford in the Avon Valley South of Amesbury, where he is recorded as a carter and the young George Elliott, by now, 16 years of age is also recorded as a carter. As a carter he no doubt worked with horses and in the period between 1901 and 1914 he must have worked in the Winterbournes and subsequently Teffont. His Regiment does not record the year in which he enlisted, but it would seem reasonable to assume that he joined the Army either just before the First World War, or on the declaration of war. This is because his Regiment was in India at the outbreak of war and he was posted to the Life Guards rather than to the Kings Dragoon Guards in India. Being familiar with horses would probably have been his motivation for joining the cavalry. At that time the Kings Dragoon Guards were trained at Castle Barracks, Dunbar to the east of North Berwick on the Scottish Coast. The picture (Figure 3) of Lauderdale House which was part of barracks.



Figure 3 - Lauderdale House Castle Barracks, Dunbar

On completion of his training he was attached to the 1st Life Guards who were stationed in London, and here is a picture (Figure 4) of them just prior to deploying to France.



Figure 4 - 1st Life Guards London

The Life Guards were part of the 7th Cavalry Brigade, which was one of the Brigades in the 3rd Cavalry Division. The 7th Cavalry Brigade only formed on 1 September 1914, at Ludgershall. Albeit cavalry the Regiment, fought predominantly in a dismounted role and took their turn in the trenches. It was only at the very beginning the First World War that cavalry actually were use in the traditional role. Here is a picture (Figure 5) of the 16th Lancers in France during the early part of the war.



Figure 5 - 16th Lancers in France

The Regiment embarked on the 7 October 1914 and arrived in the Zebrugge at 6 AM and in a tale (Figure 6 and 7) familiar to all who have served they remained on the quayside until 3:30 PM in the afternoon before receiving orders to move off.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY		Army Form C. 2118.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.		
Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6 a.m. Oct 8 th ZEEBRUGGE	10 a.m. / Squads (Dienb. Red) + remained awaiting orders on the quay till 3.30 p.m. Then moved slowly through BLANKENBERGHE. The column was considerably delayed in the streets of the town owing to being hampered ^{hampered} on receipt of orders. This was unfortunate as it delayed the order being considerably lost when by inhabitants offering hospitality. It seems undesirable for troops to remain halted on friendly towns.	
6 p.m. Oct 8 th BLANKENBERGHE	Orders received through O.C. 2 nd Life Guards to bivouac for the night. This was carried out on the shore $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W. of the town.	
5 a.m. Oct 9 th BLANKENBERGHE	5 th town to arrive at 4 a.m.	
8 p.m. Oct 9 th 9 th	Received orders to be at JABBEKE at 10.30 a.m. accordance with ^{the above} the above Operation Order No. 1. Bike orders. Owing to inability to enter of progress was slow. ^{the above} the above Operation Order No. 1. It reached till 11.30 a.m. Squads ^{the above} the above at OSTEND the previous day.	
12.35 p.m. Oct 9 th JABBEKE	^{the above} the above received.	B.M. 1
5.30 p.m. Oct 9 th LOPHEM	Squads reached their collecting places.	
5 a.m. Oct 10 th 4 th	Stand to arms. At 7 a.m. Operation Order No. 2 (the above) received.	Operation Order No. 2

1211 W. 3299 300,000 (2) 8/11 J.P.C. & A. Form C. 2118/1.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to A.P.
5 a.m. Oct-10 th LOPHEM	Order received to forward all C. D. depts to take a patrol to THOUROUT. Report attached. This report was the first news received of the enemy.	1 st L. G. 2.
12 noon Oct-10 th Q.	Order received for Bde to assemble at BEERNEM. March there considerably delayed at OOSTCAMP by large bodies of BELGIAN artillery retreating from GHENT and ANTWERP on the same road.	
2.30 p.m. Oct-10 th BEERNEM	Received destination orders then received to go into billets at RUDDERVOORDE. On reaching this place it was found to be crowded with BELGIAN troops, so regiment bivouacked 1½ M. S. of village at DE CHATEAUX at 6 p.m.	
5 a.m. Oct-11 th RUDDERVOORDE	Bde order attached. Sighted at 5 a.m. and started to march till 7 a.m. 5.15 a.m. 2 officers patrol was sent out in accordance with order received from Bde H.Q.	Operation Orders No.
	One order at 11 a.m. R. H. H. to THIELT on EENHEM.	
	One order at 12.15 a.m. to X. on 11 a.m. V. of railway at RITHEM.	
	My report to all above. Reports attached.	

1217 W 5270 200/000 (S) 8714 J.H.C. & A. Form C 21811.

By 13 October they were in action in the first battle of Armentières and subsequently the first battle of Messines. Out of interest, the first patrols deployed, were led by Lt, the Honourable Wyndham perhaps of Dinton origin and Lt Lord Somers displaying the aristocratic credentials of the Life Guards.

We must assume that George Elliott was fully involved in these early battles and the 1st Life Guards went on to fight in the battles of, Ypres 1914 '15, Langemarck 1914, Gheluvelt, Nonne Bosschen, St. Julien, Frezenberg, Somme 1916, and again we must assume that he was involved in all of these. He does not appear to be listed in the Life Guards war diary, but much of it is rather indecipherable. Life Guards charging at Klein Zillebeke 6 Nov 1914 (Figure 8).



Figure 8 - Life Guards charging at Klein Zillebeke Nov 1914

However, at some stage in September 1916 he was hospitalised with appendicitis and on 21 September, he died in hospital and again his death is not recorded in the Life Guards diary, probably due to the fact that he was not actually with the Regiment at the time of his death. He is buried in the Abbeville communal cemetery extension. The picture in (Figure 9) shows the women of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, creating the cemetery at Abbeville and re-burying the dead.



Figure 9 - Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Abbeville

(Figure 10) shows the Abbeville cemetery as it is today with George Elliott's grave in this area of the graveyard.



Figure 10 - Abbeville cemetery as it is today

We remember George and honour his sacrifice.