

**Grange U3A Family and Social History
Group Project on the Grange WW1 War Memorial**



2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment cap badge

**A short biography in commemoration of
James Stephenson 1882- 1917**

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James Stephenson was born in late 1882 and baptised at St James's Church, Arnside on the 24th December.

James was the only son of James and Sarah Ann Stephenson (nee Bowe) who had married at Lancaster in 1881. He had one sister, Ellen Jane who was also born at Arnside two years later.

In the 1901 Census James was a footman with Miss Emma Bannister of 39 Queens Road, Southport. The rest of the family were living at Eden Mount, Grange over Sands. James senior was a domestic gardener and Ellen was an assistant at a stationers, probably in Grange.

In the 1911 James was still living with his parents at Eden Mount but was now an ex hotel waiter (unemployed).

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
STEPHENSON	Hampsh.	PW	15921
	- - -	- - -	- - -
James.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks
VICTORY	C/1/103 B 27	2617	Kun A.
BRITISH	- - -	- - -	
15 STAR	C/1/12 B	265.	
Theatre of War first served in	(2 b) Balkans		
Date of entry therein	31. 7. 15		

K 1386.

Medal Index Card for James Stephenson

The next piece of information about James is his Medal Index Card (MIC) which is the only source as to when he enlisted or was conscripted. The booklet by Peter Robinson states that James had first joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry with a service number of 18701. Like several others from Grange this seems to have been the initial regiment chosen. In common with the others he was transferred, probably after basic training, to another regiment which was short on numbers.

The MIC shows that James left England on the 31st July 1915 to serve with the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment in the Balkans (Salonika).

The regiment had sailed from Avonmouth on the 29th of March 1915 sailing via Malta to Alexandria then on to Mudros in April. They landed at Cape Helles, Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915 and were involved in heavy fighting until the evacuation on the nights of the 7th and 8th of January 1916 when they returned to Egypt. James must have been sent to Gallipoli as part of the reinforcement programme to fill the ranks after heavy losses.

In 1916 they were sent to France from Egypt, arriving at Marseilles on the 20th March. They then travelled by train to concentrate in the area east of Pont Remy by the end of March. In July they went into action in the Battles of the Somme. In 1917 they were in action in the Battle of Arras.

The "Battle of Arras" (also known as the Second Battle of Arras) was a British offensive which took place between the 9 April and the 16 May 1917. British, Canadian, South African, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and Australian troops attacked German defences near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. There were major gains on the first day, followed by stalemate.

The 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment was involved in this offensive and the War Diary records the events as they took place. The diary of the 22nd to 24th April records the action and location where James was fighting. The diary page printed below shows the movement of the Hampshire's as they lined up for the planned attack. They came under heavy shelling and suffered some casualties. James may well have been killed in this attack as his body was never found.

The regiment suffered considerable numbers of casualties in the two days of conflict. They were relieved shortly after and retired to Simancourt for rest and regrouping. The War continued unabated.

Original

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. The pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

29th Hampshire Regt

Army Form C. 2118.

Place Date Hour

FRANCE April 22nd

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Relieved by the Worcester Regt in front line & Corp went back to Brown line S of FEVEY chapel. Batten had one remained at east near fosse FARM. During shelling fairly heavily. At 8pm. L O 1st Lt Redburn (D SO) got orders machine command of 1st Bn Brigade was for battery supporting from gas. It was about 7pm before divisional cable was laid into dug out 300 x W of LE BERRERE farm. Command of the Batten was handed over to Capt Lt Redburn. Lt Col Worcester formed for attack in the trenches along E side of MONHAY ROAD, HAMPSHIRE first behind. Heavy shelling by evening caused about 19 casualties in 1st & other Corp before our positions started. US R. Sergeant & Sgt Smith were killed. During the morning of 1st Division on our right during shelling back the Batten got machine gun fire when crossing water road & had many casualties. During the morning some of X Y T's Corp went on into Worcester's line near fosse 600 x W of BOIS DE VERT. W Coy got into TIER TRENCH and after 2 hours bombing along STINKED TRENCH captured 32 Germans in STINKED TRENCH. 1 Platoon of X Coy was in SHRAPNEL TRENCH between BORDERS & THUISKILLEN'S. About 4pm the evening counter attack of S.E. of fosse & those tracks were night Batten was relieved at night by the 8th Brigade.

A5884 W. W. 4973/M687 759000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/Cat. 8/13.

File

James is remembered on the Arras Memorial at Fauberg-Amiens Cemetery, at Arras, Pas de Calais.

James was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the Victory Medal and British Medal.

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