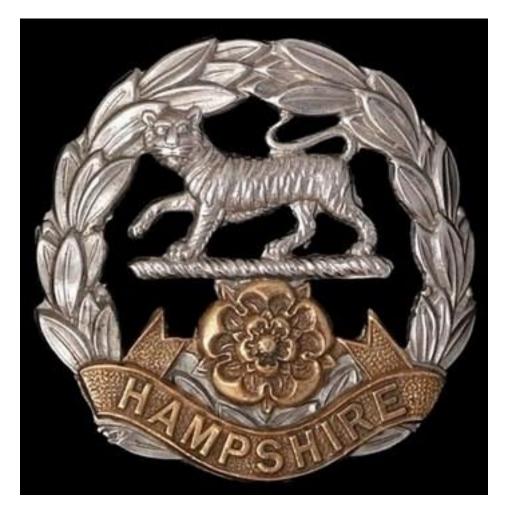
Grange U3A Family and Social History Group Project on the Grange WW1 War Memorial



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).

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_ Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
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James.		•	
	Roll. Page.	Remark-	
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Date of entry therein 31.	1.15		K 1380.

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 31^{st} July 1915 to serve with the 2^{nd} 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.

FRANCE Place 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. work Date rente 12 2 d Hour A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 730,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13. STRINGO KOAD near Fosse FARM Batter Brown F ちちんのうろう Foundad Car Kenned e Anoros stante america Contra 12 ALCO 2 Carl Corr CORCOC 2 dawner -me event Two and 0,000 RENCH à Sec. 9 Inen Curre -(derring www. machin anc C F Dire mount 00 (03 Q rande SHRAPNEL MP under Neveror 100 3 CARCERA PIEK TRENCH Junea got ann an E H 30 B. Course involo 125 WALLAND GROUP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. tes-でいろく grit TRENCH 20 8 NWW. R (Erase heading not required.) ouncles ennonna . S. WAR DIARY Summary of Events and Information Our L 21 A.C. and - Southere SUNG - Arrive 2 R 300 X ~~~~ NERNE vira 8 Carro 60 100m 50 000000 -U-Connordi 200 1000 STRING TRENC 3500 ORDERSY 12 COPSE Jord 1000000 that CLANA. 大 600 -THUNNER ---and CUP-We (T) Spr 98 × E R 202 ENNISKI FERG à 50 Diment 1sugad (代の#& 00 Dron N all していい P.d. VIENC 3 137 000-0 + è Army Form C. 2118. A 2 co 1 kemarks and references to Appendices

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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