

George Gare, Military Medal 1889 - 1917

Born Oxford

Worked on family farm at Water Eaton, Oxfordshire

Died at an unknown location, aged 28, on 24 May 1917

Family

George Vernon Gare was the older brother of John Henry Gare, who is also listed on the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church war memorial. George was born in Oxford between October and December 1889. Their father was Henry Vernon Gare, a farmer, whose own father in 1881 was a boot manufacturer in St Aldate's parish, with nine employees. Their mother was Kate Alice Mumford, of Steeple Aston, and they had two sisters.

In 1895 the family were at Cold Harbour Farm, Abingdon Road, Oxford, but in the early 1900s the family moved to Gosford Hill Farm, Water Eaton, Kidlington, and in 1911 George was working there.

War Service: 1/1 Battalion, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars (Oxfordshire Yeomanry)

George enlisted as soon as war broke out, at Woodstock, and joined the 1/1 Battalion of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. Working on a farm with horses he was perhaps attracted to the cavalry. After training at Reading and in Norfolk, George landed in France on 20 September 1914, as part of the first Territorial unit to embark for a theatre of war and the first to see action. His battalion was engaged in a series of battles in 1914 and 1915, but in 1916 they had no major action. In 1917 the unit was active from 9 to 11 April, as part of the Battle of Arras.

By now George was a veteran who had probably lost many of his original comrades. He was in action long enough to be promoted to Corporal and Sergeant and to win the Military Medal for gallantry (the details are not known, as these medals do not carry individual citations).

George is recorded as being killed in action on 24 May 1917 aged 28. His unit was not involved in a major battle, so this may have been as a result of some minor enemy action - a typical World War I irony having survived so much combat. His body was recovered and buried at Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile.

This is the story of one of the men who appear on a war memorial at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Oxford, UK. These stories were compiled in 2018-19 from a variety of family history and military sources. In particular, Chris Baker's site, 'The Long, Long Trail' has provided valuable details of the men's experience of battle:

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>

