

## **Albert Kinsey** 1898 - 1917

**Born in Dublin**

**Died near Ypres, aged 19, on 16 August 1917**

### **Family and Education**

Albert Thornley Kinsey was born in Clontarf, Dublin, between January and March 1898. His father, who had the same name as him, was a Superintending Telegraph Engineer. His mother was Sara Anna and he had 4 brothers. In 1901 the family was still living in Dublin.

In 1911 the family had moved to Bristol and were living at 51 Manor Park, Redlands: the 13-year-old Albert was at school. He was 16 when war broke out and probably joined up when he was 18 in 1916. He is not listed in the Oxford University Roll of Service, which, in addition to Oxford students, includes some who were offered places to study but enlisted without taking them up. It is unclear what connection he had with Oxford.

### **War Service: 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry**

The records show that Albert joined the Gloucestershire Regiment as a Private but transferred quickly to the Somerset Light Infantry and took a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Albert arrived in France in March 1917, and by this time his battalion had fought at Loos and at the Somme. His first taste of action would have been shadowing the German Army as they retreated to the Hindenburg Line in March/April 1917. He was then in the trenches until the opening stages of the Third Battle of Ypres (also known as the Battle of Passchendaele). On 16 August 1917 he was among the British who attacked at Langemarck, near Ypres. As an officer, he would have been leading his men: the fighting was fierce, and he was one of the many who died, for little gain. He was aged 19. His body was recovered and he is buried at Sanctuary Wood Cemetery.

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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/>