



FOOKES: JOSHUA THOMAS

Gunner: Royal Garrison Artillery

214th Siege Battery.14th Brigade Fourth Army

Age: 20

Killed in Action Date of Death: 27/07/1917

Service No: 146949

Joshua Fookes was known locally as "Bubs". He was born at the Forge on Pigsfoot Green and lived in Fingringhoe. Son of Thomas. and Emma Fookes, of Forge, Fingringhoe. He used to blow the organ in Church every Sunday. He enlisted at Colchester at the outbreak of war. He and a group of young friends , some only 16, went to the Recruiting Office at the Hythe. The sergeant told them to go home to their mothers. Joshua , of a quick and independent turn of mind, replied that he had volunteered, and now if the Army ever wanted him, they must force him to go. For a while he was exempted because of his trade, but was eventually sent to France with the Royal Garrison Artillery. Within three months he was dead killed with the others of his gun crew by a direct hit.

The Fookes family had been village blacksmiths since 1470. Unfortunately changing times meant that with horses giving way to tractors on the land that the forge closed after the Second World war and was demolished in the 1970s. Joshua was the youngest of three brothers, the others being William and Joe. His brother William was a corporal in the Army Service Corps. There were several sisters though. 1901 Census shows Ellen Fookes 9, Violet Fookes 12 , Maude Fookes 18 all born & living at Fingringhoe

Old Tom, the father died in 1945 aged 80. The shipwright's anvil from the forge stands on Pigs's Foot Green as a memorial to the family. The inscription reads :- ***The Parish Council of Fingringhoe** This anvil was presented in 1980 by W. B. Fookes, who was the last of his family who had been blacksmiths since before A. D. 1470 at a forge situated opposite this green.*

He was christened in January 1897 as Joshua Thomas son of Tom & Emma Jane by Rev. C Walker. He had been born 9th November 1896.



The 1914- 20 War Medal , 1914-1919 Victory Medal, 1914 - 15 Star

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
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Metal.	Bell.	Page	Remarks.
VICTORY	R.F.A. 184 B	8350	
HUTCHIN	- Do -	- Do -	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1384



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: VIII. B. 5.

Cemetery: VLAMERTINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY



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For much of the First World War, Vlamertinge (now Vlamertinge) was just outside the normal range of German shell fire and the village was used both by artillery units and field ambulances. Burials were made in the original Military Cemetery until June 1917, when the New Military Cemetery was begun in anticipation of the Allied offensive launched on this part of the front in July. Although the cemetery continued in use until October 1918, most of the burials are from July to December 1917. The cemetery now contains 1,813 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYPOND, FINGRINGHOE, LANGENHOE