



FRANCIS, JOHN WALTER

Private : Essex Regiment: 11th Battalion.

Age: 22

Date of Death: 25/09/1916

Service No: 12917

Son of James and Eliza Francis, living post war at 15, Bourne Rd., Colchester. 1901 census shows John Francis aged 7 born at Elmstead living in Colchester. His mother Eliza Francis aged 36 born London at Eltham & father James Francis aged 33 born in Colchester working as a Corn Merchant. He went to France 30/08/1915 entitles him to the 1914-15 Star (WO329/2748) and the British War and Allied Victory Medals (WO329/1376)



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
FRANCIS. J. W.	11/ Essex R	Private	12917
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	K/2/102 B. H.	189	Dead.
BRITISH	do.	do.	
15 STAR	K/2/16 B.	83	
Theatre of War first served in	11/ France		
Date of entry therein	30-8-15		

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest

successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918. The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial. The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 31 July 1932. The dead of other Commonwealth countries who died on the Somme and have no known graves are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere. No. of Identified Casualties: 72103

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 10 D.

Cemetery: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL



His name also appears on the Colchester Memorial in the Town Hall. and the St. Michael's, Berechurch, Memorial.



Also a list which was held in Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe

William Fookes (Cpl.)	R.A.S.C.
☒ Joshua Fookes	R.G.A.
☒ John Francis	Essex Regiment
William A. Fuller	R.A.O.D.
James Gear (Driver)	R.A.S.C.
William Gear (L/Cpl.)	Military Police Corps
Geo. Reginald Gifford (Lt.)	Essex R.H.A.
James Gibson	King's Own Yorks. L.I.
Stanley Goody	H.M.S. "Renown"
☒ Daniel Abbott Green (Lt.)	King's (Liverpool) Regt.
Croyden Burlace Green (Bdr.)	Essex R.H.A.
Geoffrey Abbott Green (Lt.)	Lancashire Fusiliers
Maxwell H. C. Green (Lt.)	Rifle Brigade
☒ George John Green	Northamptonshire Regt.
Ⓜ Stanley Greenleaf	Essex Regiment
Edward Dixon Grubb	Northamptonshire Regt.
Ⓜ Albert Hayward (Gr.)	Hon. Artillery Company
Albert Edward Jay	H.M.S. "Ocean"
Reginald King	H.M.S. "Ure"
Ⓜ Joseph Lee (Sergt.)	South African Regiment
Joseph Mather	H.M.S. "Laertes"
☒ Albert Mather (Cpl.)	Essex Regiment
Harold Mather (Gr.)	R.G.A.
Ⓜ Horace Mather (Sergt.)	Northamptonshire Regt.
Ⓜ William Mather	Bedfordshire Regiment
Ⓜ George Mortlock	Rifle Brigade
☒ Harold F. Nicholas	H.M.S. "Surprise"
Lionel Nicholas	H.M.S. "Emperor of India"
☒ William J. Nicholas	4th Hussars
Harry Pyett	The Queen's(R.W.S.) Regt.
Bert Neville Radford	8th Hussars

☒ Died on Active Service.

Ⓜ Wounded.



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