



## **Wilfred George Faires**

**Lance Corporal SD 672 Royal Sussex Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 39<sup>th</sup> Division**

**Died 18<sup>th</sup> October 1916 aged 19**

Wilfred's parents, Edmund Faires and Emily Venn were married in 1892 and had seven children, of whom Wilfred, born in 1897, was their fourth. All were born in Shipley. Edmund and Emily's children were Frederick (1894), Emily Kate (1895), Minnie (1900), **Wilfred**, (1897) Leonard born (1902), Arthur (1905) and Charlotte (1907).

Wilfred attended Shipley School and is recorded in 1906 as being a 'delicate child' who had been withdrawn from school on medical advice. The 1911 Census records Wilfred as living with his parents and five siblings at Ivy Cottage, Coolham. He and his father and his older brother Frederick were employed as farm labourers. His younger siblings were still at school.

Wilfred signed his military papers in Dover on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1914, but it is probable that he enlisted at Horsham along with other Shipley friends as his regimental number is consecutive with other Shipley men. He was one of the so called "Lowther's Lambs". (See accompanying document *The Southdowns Battalions*)

Wilfred's battalion embarked for France in March 1916 where in late September and early October, as part of General Haigh's projected Somme autumn offensive, took part in victories at Ancre Heights and Schwaben Redoubt.

Wilfred was wounded during the Somme campaign, most likely during actions leading up to the Battle of Thiepval, and taken to Base Hospital at Etaples where he died of his wounds. His mother Emily received his effects, war gratuity and medals. Wilfred was remembered in a special memorial service held by the Reverend Baker in Shipley Church in November 1916. This was a particularly sorrowful year for Shipley as eight of the young men named on this memorial gave their lives over the course of the year.

Wilfred is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France and commemorated in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

In Memory Of  
Lance Corporal

# WILFRED GEORGE FAIRES

Service Number: 672

11th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 18 October 1916 Age 19

Son of Edmund and Emily Charlotte Faires, of Ivy Cottage, Coolham, Horsham, Sussex.  
Native of Shipley, Sussex.

GRANT HIM THY ETERNAL REST O LORD

Remembered with Honour  
ETAPLES MILITARYCEMETERY

VIII. B. 11.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION