



Leonard Pierce

Lance Corporal SD/5008 Royal Sussex Regiment 13th Battalion, 39th Division

Died 30TH June 1916 aged 29

Leonard, who was born in 1887 at Coolham, was the third of five children born to Harry and Sarah Pierce. Leonard's siblings were Frank (1883), Charles (1886), **Leonard** (1887), Lilian (1891) and Ellen (1894). In 1891 Leonard was 4 years old and living with his parents and siblings on the Thakeham Road, Coolham. The 1901 Census shows the family were still at this address and Leonard, his father and his brother Frank were employed as farm labourers. By the time of the 1911 Census Leonard was aged 24, single and the family were now at Elm Cottage, Coolham. Both Leonard and his father continued to be employed as farm labourers. At the time of Leonard's death in 1916 Service records show that his father Harry was living at 4 Daux Road, Billingshurst and that he was a widower.

Leonard enlisted at Worthing into one of the Southdowns* battalions which subsequently became known as "Lowther's Lambs", and after completing his training embarked for France in March 1916. He was killed in action on the Rue de Bois during a diversionary attack, known as The Boars Head*, which took place the day before the main Somme offensive commenced on 1st July 1916. All three Southdowns' Battalions suffered grievous losses, the 13th being almost wiped out. Most of the men in these battalions were from Sussex and the day became known as the "Day Sussex Died". Two Shipley men died on this day, Leonard and Reginald Russell, who was in the 11th Battalion. Leonard has no known grave.

Leonard was remembered in a memorial service held by the Reverend Baker in Shipley Church in November 1916, a year of great losses for Shipley families.

Leonard is commemorated on the Loos Memorial and in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

*See Southdowns Battalions and The Battle of the Boars Head in Supporting Research

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

LEONARD PIERCE

Service Number: SD/5008

13th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 30 June 1916 Age 30

Son of Harry Pierce, of 4, Daux Rd., Billingshurst, Horsham, Sussex,
and the late Sarah Ann Pierce.

Remembered with Honour

LOOS MEMORIAL

Panel 69 to 73.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WARGRAVES COMMISSION