



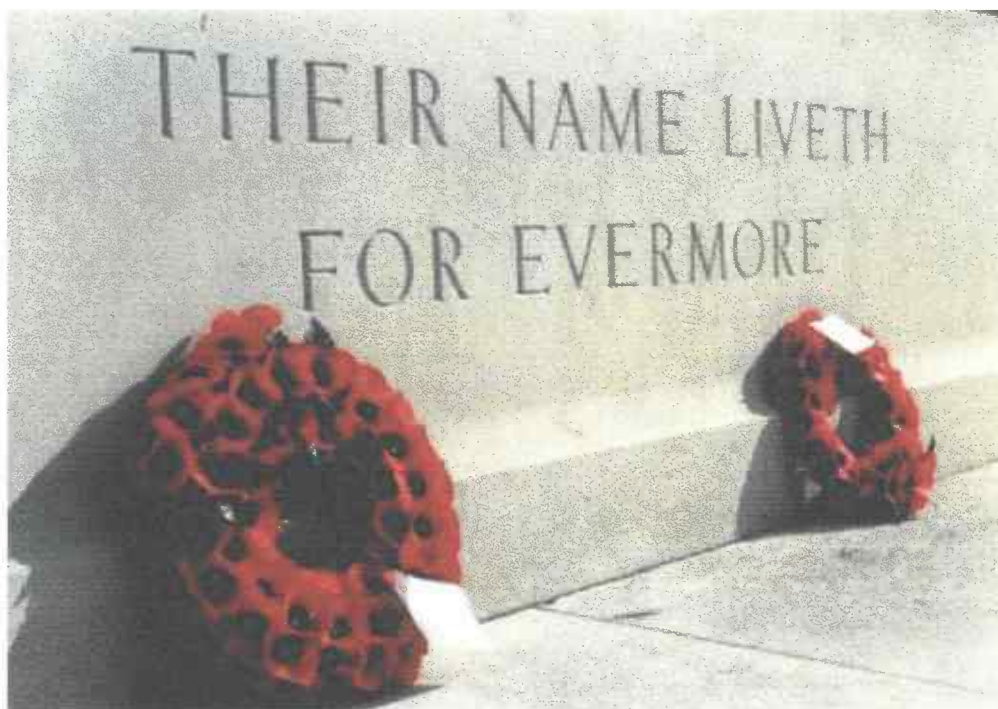
In Memory of

Lance Corporal PERCY ALBERT OUTING

*10th Bn., Essex Regiment
who died aged 19 on Saturday, 1st July 1916.*

*Lance Corporal OUTING was the son of Mrs. Beer, of 5,
Church Rd., Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk.*

*Remembered with honour
DANTZIG ALLEY BRITISH CEMETERY, MAMETZ, Somme,
France.*



*In the perpetual care of
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

No. 14999, L/Cpl. PERCY ALBERT OUTING

Percy Albert Outing was born in 1897 in Cornard, son of Mrs Beer, of Great Cornard, Suffolk. In the 1901 Census, Percy was living at the Railway Crossing cottage in Little Cornard, with his Grand parents, Robert and Hannah Outing, his Aunt Ellen and her brother William, and his younger brother, Ernest.

Percy enlisted into the army in Sudbury, in or about the first week of September 1914, he was posted to the 12th (reserve) Battalion, The Essex Regiment for his training and was given the service No. 14999. His name appeared on a Roll of Honour of those men serving, who had attended Great Cornard council school, printed in the Suffolk Free Press, on 27th January 1915, He was sent to France, on 8th September 1915, to the 9th Battalion, The Essex Reg. (formed at Warley, Essex, August 1914), part of the 35th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division. Percy was wounded on 13th October 1915, whilst serving with the 9th Battalion, during the Battle of Loos (25th September to 19th October), this was the battalion's first engagement of the war.

After he was passed fit for active service again he was sent back to France and was posted to the 10th Battalion, The Essex Regiment, 53rd Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division. Who were to take part in a forthcoming offensive on the Somme.

Percy was killed in action, near Albert, on 1st July 1916, the First day of The Battle of The Somme, where, after a final count, when the stragglers had returned, the total casualties for the day was 57,470 men. This figure is equal to almost half of the 143 battalions that were sent into battle becoming casualties, or for every yard of the 16-mile front from, Gommecourt to Montauban, there were 2 British casualties. As a result of this battle, the decision was eventually made to bring in conscription, to avoid the volunteering of many men from one community into regiments, as had happened with the 'Pals' Battalions, of which, many were all but completely wiped out on the Somme, resulting in some towns and or villages losing nearly all of their men folk.

In the confusion of battle it is nigh impossible to say who died where, and how, but the following extract from Martin Middlebrook's book, 'The First Day on the Somme', may help to describe the scene that the 10th Essex faced.

The British had placed huge mines out under 'No Mans Land' and close to the German trenches. These mines were exploded at 7.28am, but one failed to explode. The Royal Engineer Officer who was in charge of the mine was in a dilemma as the British infantry was up and running towards a German machine gun post at 'Kasino Point', so he decided to fire the mine which this time exploded. One section leader of the 10th Essex was in 'No Mans Land' when it went up, - L/Cpl. E. J. Fisher of the 10th Essex said,

"I looked left to if my men were keeping a straight line. I saw a sight I shall never forget. A giant fountain, rising from our line of men, about 100 yards from me. Still on the move I stared at this, not realizing what it was. It rose, a great column nearly as high as Nelson's Column, then slowly toppled over. Before I could think, I saw huge slabs of earth and chalk thudding down, some with flames attached, onto the troops as they advanced."