



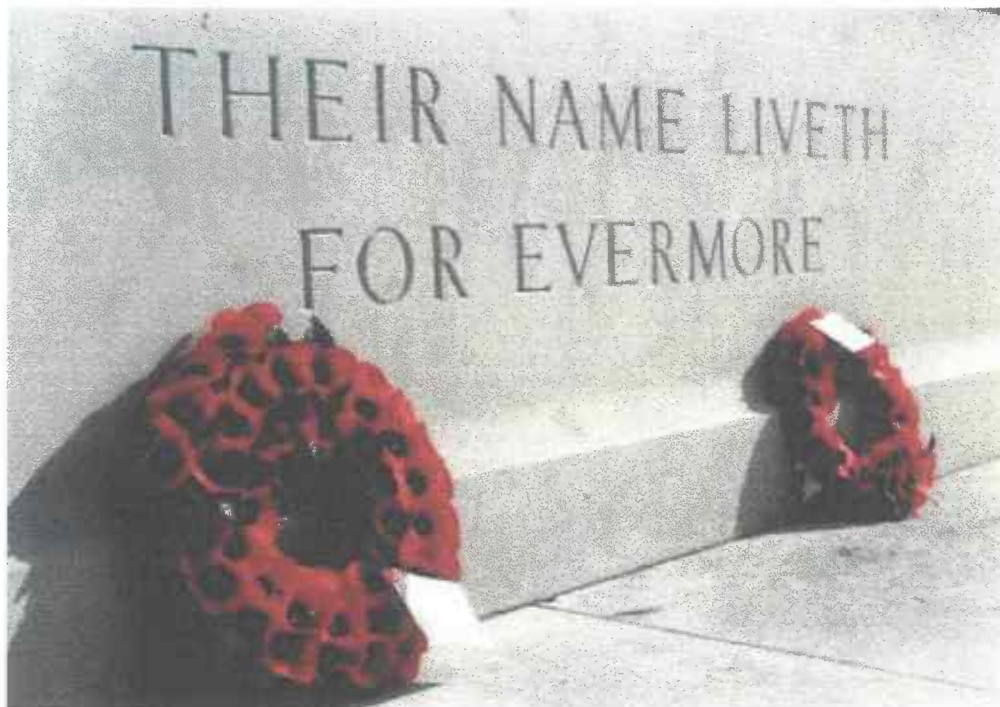
In Memory of

Private ARTHUR JAMES BIRD

*84th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Inf)
who died aged 27 on Tuesday, 24th September 1918.*

*Private BIRD was the son of James and Emily Bird, of
Little Cornard; husband of Elizabeth Sarah Bird, of
Rectory Rd., Little Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk.*

*Remembered with honour
BRALO BRITISH CEMETERY, Greece.*



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

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ARTHUR JAMES BIRD**Private****49989****84th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Inf)****who died on****Tuesday, 24th September 1918. Age 27.****Additional
Information:**

Son of James and Emily Bird, of Little Cornard; husband of Elizabeth Sarah Bird, of Rectory Rd., Little Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Commemorative Information**Cemetery:
Grave Reference/
Panel Number:
Location:**

BRALO BRITISH CEMETERY, Greece
17.

Bralo is a village sheltering under Mount Parnassos and near to Delphi. The cemetery is situated on the main road from Amfissa to Lamia and is between the villages of Gravia and Bralo. It is 3 kilometres from the Bralo railway station and some 185 kilometres from Athens.

**Historical
Information:**

BRALO BRITISH CEMETERY It lies in the Nomos (or Department) of Phthiotis and Phocis. Towards the end of 1917, in consequence of German submarine activity in the Mediterranean, the Salonika lines of communication were diverted through Bralo, Itea and Taranto, and the 49th Stationary Hospital was gradually transferred to Bralo. Rest camps were established at Bralo and Itea. The British Cemetery was begun in October, 1917, and used until April, 1919, and a large proportion of the burials are due to the influenza epidemic of 1918. It contains the graves of soldiers from the United Kingdom, men of the Russian Labour Corps, of the Maltese Labour Corps and one Bulgar prisoner. It covers an area of 2,654 square yards and stands among cultivated fields.

Display Record of Commemoration

No. 49989, Pte. ARTHUR JAMES BIRD

Arthur James Bird was born in 1891, the second son of James Bird and his wife Emily, in the village of Great Waldingfield, Suffolk. James worked as a Groom on various farms, as his first two children (Robert and Arthur), were born in Waldingfield, the third (Elizabeth), in Groton and the fourth (Bertie), in Boxted (1901 Census). By 1908 James and his family were living in Rectory Road, Little Cornard.

The Suffolk Regiment, were stationed in the Sudan, at the outbreak of World War 1, and were sent home, arriving in England on the 23rd October 1914, the unit then was bought up to strength and was ready for the Front by 17th November 1914. The 1st Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment, was part of the 84th Brigade, 28th Division.

Arthur enlisted at Sudbury, into the Suffolks, and was given the service No. 16674 (along with his brother Robert, No. 16673) and after his training, entered the theatre of war in France, with the 1st Suffolks, on 1st April 1915.

Arthur then joined the 84th Company, Machine Gun Corps, (new service No. 49989) on or after 18th May 1916 when the Machine Gun Companies were formed within the Brigades that they belonged to, (i.e. the Machine Gunners of the 84th Brigade became the 84th Machine gun Company, of the Machine Gun Corps). The 28th Division were sent to Salonika (Greece) in October 1915, where they remained for the rest of the war.

The 84th Brigade, were in action against the Bulgars, in Kodzatoria Wood on 17th/18th of September. On the morning of 18th, the 84th Brigade was covering the right flank of a Cretan Division, in echelon behind the 2nd Cheshires. By half-past eight the Battalion was in Kodzatoria Wood facing North West, under intermittent artillery fire from positions between four to five thousand feet above them. By five o'clock in the evening it was clear that the Greek attack had failed and orders were received by the 84th Brigade to cover the Greek withdrawal, followed by the 2nd Cheshires, the Suffolks provided advance, flank and rear guards. By September 20th the Battalion relieved the 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment at Signal Grec Advance.

This action was at the beginning of the Pursuit in to the Strumica Valley, which eventually pushed the Bulgars back, until on the 30th September, hostilities with Bulgaria ceased.

Arthur was killed on the 24th September, during an advance along the Kosturino defile where resistance was met, only 6 days before the cease of hostilities.

Arthur was buried in grave No. 17, in Bralo British Cemetery in Greece, 3 Kilometres from Bralo Railway Station. The Cemetery contains 95 Commonwealth burials from the First World War, (a large proportion due to the influenza epidemic of 1918).

Arthur was entitled to The 1915 Star, The British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Arthur was 27 years old. He was married on 25th August 1918 to Elizabeth Sarah Bird (nee Day). Elizabeth (Lizzy) lived to be 91 years old before she died on 8th October 1977, she is buried in Little Cornard's Churchyard.