George Edward Rich

By Amber Khan
George Edward Rich

George Edward Rich was a Lance Corporal G/12959 in the 1st Battalion of the East Kent Regiment in the 6th Division. He died of wounds on the 25th June 1917, aged 18. He was the son of Henry William and Amy Rich of 69, Commonweal Road, Worthing. Formerly TF 2/2/17 14th Royal Sussex Regiment. He served in France and Egypt, where he was hospitalized in Cairo with typhus fever in 1915. Born and enlisted in Worthing. He is buried at the St. Swithin Town Cemetery, Worthing.

We will remember them....

George Edward Rich was a young man who had enlisted in the army during the first heat. From the information I have found about my relative, I can deduce that he was a brave young man because after being hospitalized he still went out and fought in the war. But he unfortunately died at a young age.
George Edward Rich, my soldier could have had more family members, e.g. siblings he could of also been married and had children but is fairly wealthy looking at his age.
69, Cranworth Road, Worthing

George Edward Rale’s parents lived at this address and therefore it is likely likely he also lived there, however he could not have had his own place.
The Royal Sussex & The East Kent Regiment

The Royal Sussex Regiment

The regiment raised a total of 13 battalions during HHI and served in all of the theatres of war including Russia in 1919. The regiment was awarded 69 battle honours and 4 Victoria Crosses, losing 7,069 men during the course of the war. St. George’s Chapel in Chichester Cathedral was restored after the war and serves as a memorial to all members of the regiment who died during the war.

The East Kent Regiment

- "Steady the buff’s!
- "Victor" - fomentum hauritis - it flourishes in ancient honour
- The East Kent Regiment was one of the oldest regiments of the army.
- The 3rd Regiment received its nickname of "the Buffs" because it had been issued buff coats - a common name of soft leather.

6th Division

This divisional division of the pre-war army was quartered in Ireland and Egypt at the outbreak of war, and was ordered to concentrate near Cambridge. By early September it was fully equipped and trained. On the 10th September, 1914, it landed at St. Nazaire and proceeded to the Western Front, where it remained throughout the war. The division arrived in time to reinforce the hard-pressed 1st Army on the Aisne before the whole army was moved north into Flanders.
Great War West Sussex 1914-1918
www.westsussexpast.org.uk

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1st Battalion

When the outbreak of World War One (1914-18) happened the 1st Battalion was in Britain and were positioned straight to the Western Front. It stayed there throughout the conflict. The 2nd Battalion was in India, and joined the 1st Battalion for manoeuvres in January 1915, before moving to Salisbury for the rest of the war.

Lost we forgot

George Edward Nash was firstly enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve and then moved on to the East Kent Regiment, however unfortunately I could not find much information about the East Kent Regiment, and I would say that this information alone is not extremely reliable as it is confused with the Royal Kent Head Regiment. He was in the 5th Division and the first Battalion but I could not really find any information of the two.
Weapons

Rifle
The main weapon used by British soldiers in the trenches was the bolt-action rifle. 15 rounds could be fired in a minute and a person 1,400 metres away could be killed.

Machine Gun
Machine guns needed 4-6 men to work them and had to be on a flat surface. They had the fire-power of 100 guns.

Gas
The German army were the first to use chlorine gas. Chlorine gas causes a burning sensation in the throat and chest pains. Mustard gas was the most deadly weapon used. It was fired into the trenches in shells. It was colourless and took 12 hours to take effect. Effects include: blistering skin, vomiting, sore eyes, internal and external bleeding. Death could take up to 5 weeks.
Tank

Tanks were used for the first time in the First World War at the Battle of the Somme. They were developed to cope with the conditions on the Western Front.

There were many more weapons for example Artillery, Hand Grenade, Aeroplanes, Bayonets and lots more.
Lance Corporal George Edward Rich

My uncle George Edward Rich was a Lance Corporal in World War I. A Lance Corporal was responsible for a section of a platoon or other small group of men. It was his duty to make sure men carried out their individual duties, washed, shaved and pointed their teeth. He could be responsible for reporting a man sick, and he was also empowered as a Corporal. He was a non-commissioned officer when carrying out his duties. In a tent or a hut, his main job was to make sure none of the men hit him, killing a corporal was a very serious offence. The most frustrating aspect of the role of a Lance Corporal was that he could lose his position if one of his men did something wrong. If a man was charged with not having shaved or not making his bed up properly, the corporal would lose his position taken away. A successful Lance Corporal in practice to corporal had generally learned quite a bit about humanity now.
The Uniform of a Soldier in WW1

The Uniform a soldier wore depended on the country and regiment he was from however the British soldier went to war wearing the 1902 Pattern Service Dress tunic and trousers. This was a thick woollen tunic, dyed khaki. There were two breast pockets for personal items, two smaller pockets for other items, and an internal pocket sewn under the right flap of the lower tunic where the First Field Dressing was kept. Rifle patches were sewn above the breast pockets, to prevent wear from the equipment and rifle. Shoulder straps were sewn on and fastened with brass buttons, with enough space for a brass regimental shoulder title. Rank crests were sewn onto the upper tunic sleeves, while trade badges and Long Service and Good Conduct stripes were placed on the lower sleeves. A stiffened peak cap was worn, made of the same material, with a leather strap, brass fitting and secured with two small brass buttons. Bandages were worn round the ankles, and ammunition boots with nails to the soles on the feet. Normally brown, they were made of unpared hide and had steel toe-caps and a steel plate on the heel. There were also lightweight uniforms for soldiers to wear in warmer climates, known as Khaki drill.

I did not know what the uniform was for my sisters husband so I researched the standard British uniforms however it turned out to be exactly similar
The Trenches

Life in the trenches during the First World War was very tough and involved moving from sector to sector and from front to front. It was completely unexpected for those eager volunteers who signed up for war. In the August 1914 conditions in the trenches during WW1 were horrendous. One of the main illnesses the soldiers got in the trenches was trench foot. This is when the soldiers feet would turn rotten from the damp and cold conditions. Travel foot could occur with any 12 hours of exposure. Other illnesses include Trench mouth, Trench fever, Trench hyposthenuria, and trench fever. There were also millions of rats in every trench which made life in the trenches much more worse, leaving no human remains safe.

[Diagram of a trench with labels: Dead soldier, Live ammunition, Trench board, Rodent mark, Barbed wire, Hedge, Knive, Soldier]
We also knew Trenches were horrendous from what soldiers wrote themselves during World War One.

The image of the trench is atrocious...the places parts of blood in the protection wall...in the cemetery, where a post covered with rust covered...a理想信念 trench...now it...I have not slept for 72 hours. It is raining.

-Walter Rees, Irish Flanders Army

On the fighting in the trenches during night you could hear the groaning of the diggers...but you couldn't go out to help them. There were rats swimming in their flesh. They were fighting that dying is misery and pain, and the rats were sucking away at their flesh.

-George William, British Army

The rats were huge. They were so big they would eat a soldier or if he wasn't defending himself.

-Harry Patch

All my questions I have researched and know that the trenches were a horrifying, horrid and dreadful place to be. Whilst remaining I did not come across any people quite normal. How new the trenches could do therefore I think they were actually a horrible place to be. I also believe my research is very valuable as they all say the same things about the rats and how disgusting the trenches were.
The Battle of Messines was fought on June 7th, 1917. The Battle of Messines Ridge was an attempt by the Allies to capture land in the centre of Ypres to gain control of the higher land on the Ypres salient.

The attack on Messines Ridge was scheduled for June 7th. However, a thunderstorm was the main reason behind the highly successful attack. Planning for the attack had taken a year and included the building of deep tunnels by underground German lines, which made the battle different to any other battle that had been fought in 1917. The German lines were the cause of the success, with the successful attack by various parts of the army.

Twenty-one men were killed in the underground German lines with a total of 447 hours of Artificial illumination. In a week leading up to the battle, over 2200 artillery guns pounded the German lines, as many as 8 million shells were fired.

At 04:20am on June 7th, the artillery bombardment stopped. As in many other battles, the Germans knew that this indicated an attack and moved into their positions unmistakably. Messines ripper and killed about 16,000 German defenders and demonstrated that the survivorsCompared to the battles that had been fought in the Ypres Salient, the attack on Messines Ridge was a major battle success. 7,000 German prisoners were captured, however, the Allies lost 24,000 men, 36,384 killed and 88,000 wounded or missing.

I did not know what battle my soldier died in or if he even died in battle. I do not know the Battle of Messines as I assumed this was the battle he died in. I was close to his death date and he came out of his injuries from the battle.
My brother did not receive any of the two brig medals however he may of received one of these.

Medals

1914 Star
The 1914 Star was instituted in 1917 for service ashore in France and Flanders between 5 August and 22 November 1914.

1914/15 Star
Authorised in 1918, the 1914/15 Star was awarded to recruits who saw service in France and Flanders from 23 November 1914 to 31 December 1915.

British War Medal
The British War Medal 1914-1920, authorised in 1919, was awarded to eligible service personnel and civilians. Qualifications for the award varied slightly according to service. The basic requirement for army personnel and civilians was that they either entered a theatre of war, or rendered approved service overseas between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. Service in Russia in 1919 and 1920 also qualified for the award.

Victory Medal
The Victory Medal 1914-1919 was also authorised in 1919 and was awarded to all eligible personnel who served on the establishment of a unit in an overseas theatre.

Silver War Badge
The Silver War Badge, sometimes wrongly called the Silver Wound Badge, was authorised in September 1916 and takes the form of a circular badge with the legend 'For King and Empire-Services Rendered' surrounding the George V cypher. The badge was awarded to all those military personnel who were discharged as a result of sickness or wounds contracted or received during the war, either at home or overseas.
Worthing in WW1

Over 600 Worthing men were killed as a result of the war, but disease and insanitary conditions claimed more lives than any battle. The town lost a whole generation of young men in a devastating four years. Of the 600

4.5% died in 1914
15% died in 1915
27% died in 1916
27% died in 1917
22% died in 1918
4.5% died in 1919 and 1920 as a result of their wounds

By Sept 23rd 1914 more than 1000 Worthing men had enlisted, many joining the Royal Sussex Regiment. John Bishop was one of the first casualties of Worthing when he caught pneumonia and died. By March 10, 1915 at least 34 Worthing men had died and many more were missing. Many people, brothers and best friends, joined the war together in groups. People like Harry Pringle, who was killed, with his army of 70. By October 1915, 91 Worthing men were dead and with the death toll continuing to rise. Many men also received medals for their bravery. At the end of the war in March 1918 the casualties in both sexes reached almost 50,000. The sorrow of the war did not end with the fighting. Many died of the Spanish flu which swept through Europe. Many were disabled and left with physical and mental scars from which they never fully recovered. They were office paid by the people of Worthing in commemoration of the soldiers in Chapel Road. The bronze statue on a stone plinth depicts a soldier Tommy at the moment of victory. It was unveiled on April 11th 1921, and paid for by the public subscription. It forms the focus of the remembrance service which is held in reminder, on the Sunday nearest the date of the end of fighting in 1918.

My sister was born and enlisted a Worthing.
My soldier's grave is in the Bois Buterne trench. County of Berks.
When researching I found this out about my relative, however I do not know what this means maybe something to do with his medication.
Conclusions.

I chose my relative, George Edward Nash, because I found it interesting that he died on a road that I have been on and it is also near my school. I have found my relative on the roll of honour. I found my evidence from many different websites. I think the evidence I found was quite useful like the quotes to go with the trenches as they all showed that the Trenches were a confusing place to be, it also made there were bodies lying around in one of the quotes I can back this up as in my one of my pictures, showing a trench, there is a dead man with a sign lying on the trench ground this shows my evidence I found was quite reliable. However it may not all be reliable information, I also think there is factual information. I have also checked my information recently by giving on different websites for the same information. The difficulties in this project were finding there is not a lot of information on my chosen relative, as I had to make many theories from what information I did have. This project was quite enjoyable as I got to learn and research more on a persons life who lived in a different era to me from the project I have learnt. That will use a very hard time for the soldiers and caused many problems. As many names are not known for them saying that they claimed I have found and the project quite fun and very informative as it has given me an insight on what the soldiers faced. More evidence would have helped like whether he had more family and what medals he was have been awarded.
# A Soldier from World War One Project Feedback Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>I have</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>used some information from the internet but have not put it in my own words. Some of the information I have included is relevant.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>quoted out research I was directed to by my teacher, I might have included some evidence is my project.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I have added some facts about my soldier and his role in the war.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Some evidence of some research I have conducted on my own initiative and I have used this information to some extent in my work.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I have included some relevant quotes, pictures or other evidence. Written a conclusion which gives some brief details about how I carried out my project. In my conclusion I have not fully explained how useful my evidence is.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>I have shown evidence of good research skills, taking details from a variety of sources and I might have made some brief comments about their reliability. My writing is detailed, focused and well explained. My conclusion shows I have thought hard about the way I went about my research and what I would do to improve or develop it next time. My conclusion shows I have clearly thought about how useful my evidence is for this project. My research has led me to many types of evidence. I have found out things about my soldier that were not obvious at the start of my project. I have included some developed comments on the usefulness and reliability of individual sources – thinking about the purpose, author and language of the sources. Your conclusion gives lots of detail about how you went about your project and comments on what difficulties you encountered as well as what successes you had. You reflect on your experience well. I have completed fully all 7 criteria.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I cross-reference different sources to give a more accurate picture and my research is totally independent.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Overall Mark:** 70

**Teacher Comment:**

Well Done!

**Teacher Target:**

Try to record all the year sources were created, such as your quotes or the trenches, this might tell me whether they were recalled the information more than a long time after.

I am pleased with my work because:

Something I would like to improve next time would be:...