

Samuel Reuben WORDEN

Gunner 147782, 19th Division Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery

Died November 21st 1916, aged 20

Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, France.

Samuel Worden was born at Port Isaac in 1896 to William Moyse Worden and Jessie Worden. William was the local butcher with premises at the bottom of Church Hill (which was still a butcher's shop until 1999). In 1901 William and Jessie were living with their five children, Jennifer Moyse 14, Olive 11, Lillian 10, William Ewart 7 and Samuel Reuben 4. They also had 16 year old Bessie May as a domestic servant. In 1911 Olive was no longer with them, and there was no live-in servant. The four children are all recorded as working at home, presumably helping in the shop.

Samuel's older brother William had already joined the Royal Field Artillery. This may be why Samuel also served in this regiment, where he was in the 19th Division Ammunition Column. The 19th (Western) Division arrived in France in July 1915, although Samuel may not have joined them until 1916. His medal record shows he did not receive the 1914-15 Star, awarded for service in any theatre of war up to December 31st 1915. In 1916, the 19th fought in the Battle of Albert and the attacks on High Wood in July, the Battle of Pozieres Wood in late July to early September, the Battle of Ancre Heights in October to November 11th, and the Battle of the Ancre from November 13th to 18th.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
WORDEN	R.F.A.	Dvr.	147782
Samuel R.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	R.F.A. 265-B	33037	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Samuel Worden's medal record card in the Royal Field Artillery showing he was entitled to the Victory Medal and the British War Medal

Campaign :—				(A) Where decoration was earned.
1914-15				(B) Present situation.
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) WORDEN	R.F.A.	Dvr.	147782	VICTORY MEDAL R.F.A. 179/B/573 BRITISH MEDAL do do
(B) William B.	"	"	"	15 STAR R.F.A. 179/B/3905
Action taken				
THEATRE OF WAR				
(1) France				
QUALIFYING DATE 5-9-15				
(6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER]				

His brother William's medal record card showing he was additionally entitled to the 1914-15 Star, since he served in France during 1915

The 19th was in the line about six miles north east of Amiens. On November 18th they were to attack Grandcourt, Somme, and nearby Baillescourt Farm. The first snows of winter fell on the night of November 17th/18th and the attack began at 06.10am in sleet, later turning to rain with no visibility. The 19th lost direction in the poor visibility and veered to the left, leaving a gap into which German machine gunners moved to annihilate two companies and the seven runners sent towards the missing battalions. The British advance continued to meet stiff opposition with heavy machine gun fire in a bloody battle with poor visibility. The German lost around 45,000 men during November 1st to 18th, which their most senior officer General Ludendorff called 'a particularly heavy blow'. The total British casualties between November 11th to 24th were 23,274 men, of which Samuel was one.

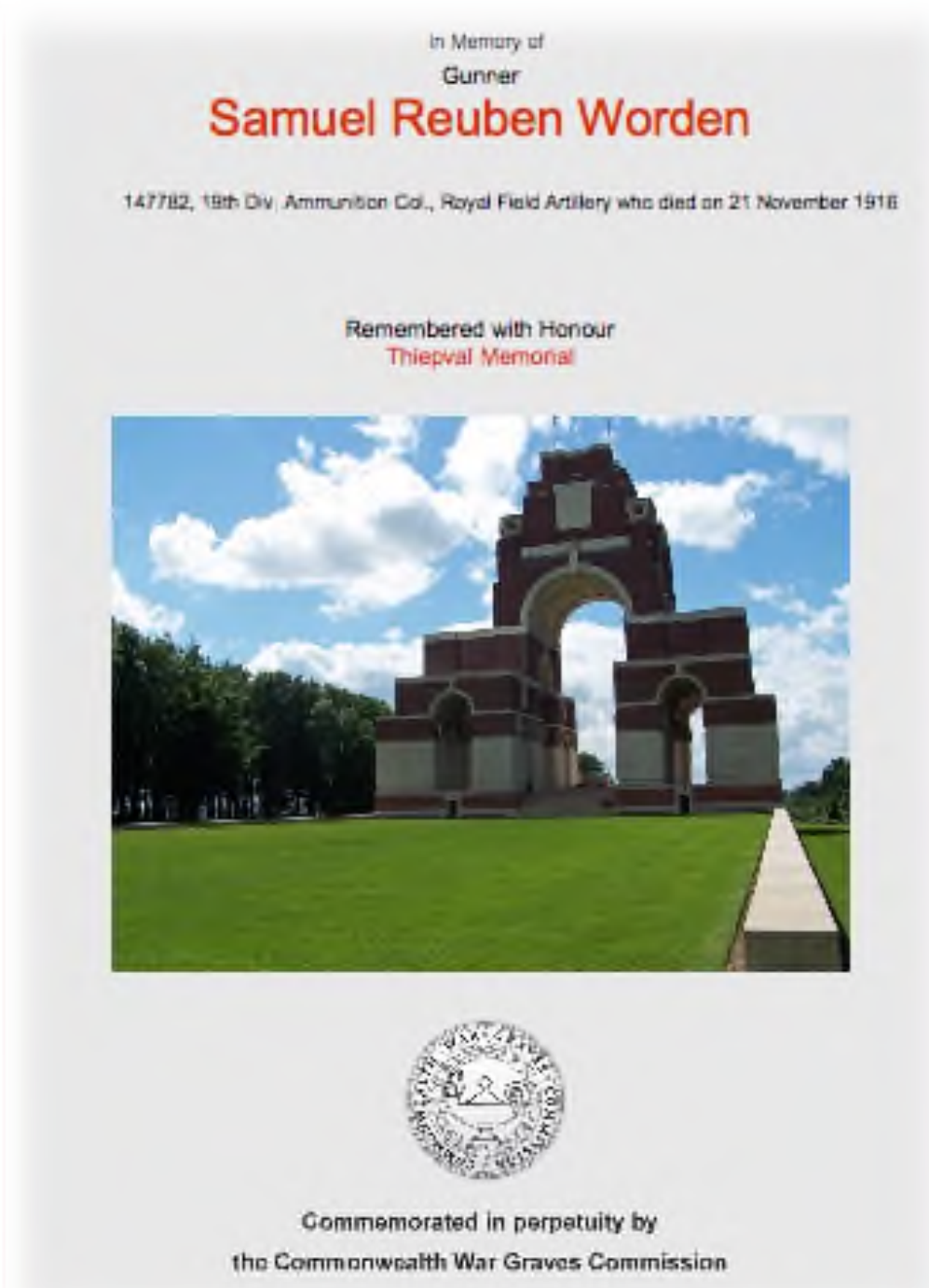
Gunner Samuel Reuben Worden has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, only a mile from the battle around Grandcourt.

The Thiepval Memorial contains the names of 72,195 officers and men of the UK and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before March 20th 1918 and have no known grave. Over 65,000 of those died in the five months from July to November 1916. The dead of other nationalities who died on the Somme with no known graves are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

Samuel's older brother William survived the war, living here until May 1972 when he died at the age of 78. His sisters, Jennifer, Lillian and Olive also lived here into the 1970s and are buried at St Endellion, along with William and their parents.



Gunner Samuel Reuben Worden on the Thiepval Memorial



Samuel Reuben Worden's memorial on the family grave at St Endellion Church

Sources

19th (Western) Division: <http://www.1914-1918.net/19div.htm>
 Battle of the Ancre: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Ancre