

PRIVATE JOHN LEDVILLE GREENWOOD

27663, 16th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died aged 20 on 10 May 1917

Remembered with honour on the *Arras Memorial, France*; Bay 3

Commemorated in Tewkesbury on the Grammar School Memorial at the Town Hall,
on Awre Village War Memorial, and on the RGH Memorial, Gloucester



Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens



RGH Memorial



Royal Warwickshire Regiment

JOHN LEDVILLE GREENWOOD was not a Tewkesburian, the only connection to the town being that he attended Tewkesbury Grammar School. He was born in 1897 to Isaac Greenwood and Ann Williams (formerly Mably), both from Cornwall where his older siblings, Gwendoline and William Edgar, had been born. By 1901 the family had moved to Old Farm, Standon, Ware, Hertfordshire, where John was born. By 1905 presumably the family had moved to Gloucestershire as John's brother, William, was a boarder at Tewkesbury Grammar School, and his home address was given as Berrow. The *Address Book of Old Theocsbrians* of 7 March 1914 lists an 'E. Greenwood; Box Farm Newnham near Gloucester; 1905-1909'. (William had left the school by 1909 aged 15 and in the 1911 Census he was using Edgar as his forename rather than William). Although there is no proof that John was a pupil, his inclusion on the Grammar School Memorial is evidence enough. In 1911 both brothers were living with their parents at Box Farm, Awre, Newnham. John was also using his middle name of Ledville at this time. William was described as 'Working on Farm' and John was at school.

Both John and William enlisted in Gloucester in the Gloucestershire Yeomanry, a Territorial Force cavalry regiment: John joined the 2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, a home service unit, and William the 1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, a unit liable for overseas duty. Whilst William remained with the Hussars, John was transferred to the infantry, probably in 1916 based on his medal entitlement. By that time the need for cavalry had rapidly diminished with the

switch from mobile warfare to entrenched siege warfare and John was posted to the 16th (Service) Battalion (3rd Birmingham), Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This was originally formed in September 1914 and was part of the 95th 32nd Division. The battalion landed at Boulogne on 21 November 1915 and on 26 December 1915 transferred to the 15th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division. In April-May 1917, it was heavily involved in the *Arras Offensive* (9 April-16 June), a series of battles designed primarily to attract German reserves away from the Champagne area where the French were due to launch a massive attack one week later.

Private John Ledville Greenwood was killed in action on 10 May 1917. According to their War Diary the battalion was in the front line on that day and subjected to an artillery barrage for some hours. John was no doubt a victim of enemy artillery fire; his body was not recovered or identified and his name is commemorated on the *Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery*, in France.

John's brother, **Private William Edgar Greenwood** [†], remained in the Hussars, served in Egypt where he was captured by the Turks, and died of cholera a few months later on 19 September 1916; he is commemorated on the *Angora Memorial, Baghdad Cemetery*, in Iraq.

Locally John and William Greenwood are commemorated in several places: on the Tewkesbury Grammar School Memorial, the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars War Memorial at College Green, Gloucester, and also in Awre on the War Memorial and on a framed illuminated scroll in the Church.