

GUNNER HENRY KNIGHT

275364, 17th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Died aged 19 on 10 March 1920

Buried with honour in *Tewkesbury Cemetery*; C18 (437)

Not commemorated on Tewkesbury Memorial



Tewkesbury Cemetery



Gunner H. Knight [E. Perry]



Royal Field Artillery

HENRY KNIGHT was born early in 1901 in Worcestershire, the son of Joseph Knight and his wife Emily (formerly Hawkes). In the 1901 Census he was living with his mother and grandparents in Bourne Brook Cottage, Strensham, just over the border in Worcestershire, in the village where Emily had been born in 1879.

In 1901 Henry's father, a Mail Driver from Northamptonshire, was living at 6 Spring Lane, Worcester, but he died in 1904. On 8 September 1906 in Twyning Emily married again to Frederick Hyde, a farm carter, who was recognised as Henry's step-father. In 1911 the family, with the addition of one son, was living in Northway Farm Cottages, near Tewkesbury, and Henry was still at school.

Nothing is known of Henry's life after school but, aged 13/14 in 1914/1915, he was too young to volunteer and would have been one of the late conscripts.

Henry was a member of the 17th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, one of the artillery units in the 29th Division which had been formed originally in 1915 from regular battalions returning from abroad. The Division served initially in Gallipoli and then moved to France and Flanders where it operated for the rest of the war. Henry does not appear to have joined his brigade overseas prior to the Armistice as there is no record of any campaign medals having been awarded to him.

Gunner Henry Knight died after the war on 10 March 1920 in Cambridge Hospital at Aldershot Barracks. His death certificate cited influenza, pneumonia and empyema as the causes. Because he died in this country, his burial was permitted in his home town, so his grave is in *Tewkesbury Cemetery*. It is possible that his death came too late for his name to be included on the Abbey Memorial in Tewkesbury.