

## CORPORAL VERRIOUR WYNNE MARMENT

80003, 31st Alberta Regiment, Canadian Infantry

Died aged 35 on 3 May 1917

Buried with honour at *Liévin Communal Cemetery, Lens, France*; II F 5

Only commemorated in Tewkesbury as a Volunteer in the Abbey



*Liévin Communal Cemetery*



*Canadian National Vimy Memorial*



*Canadian Infantry*

**VERRIOUR WYNNE MARMENT** was born on 9 April 1882 in Middlesex to Frederick Verriour Marment and Emily (formerly Major). Frederick came from Cheltenham whilst Emily was born in Kent. They had a total of four children of whom two were still alive in 1911, although they both died in the war. In 1891 the family was living in the Tottenham area of north London and Frederick was working as a furniture shop-keeper. By 1901 they had moved to Edgware; Frederick was a company director and Verriour was working as a shipping clerk.

Sometime between 1908 and 1911 the family moved to Tewkesbury to live at Uplands House, the Mythe, when Verriour was working as secretary to a shipping company. He was also involved with Charles Edwin Chatham as 'butchers and farmers'; the partnership was dissolved at the end of 1913 when Verriour withdrew from the business, possibly because he planned to emigrate. On 11 March 1914 Verriour, described as a farmer, sailed from Bristol on *SS Royal Edward* bound for St. John in Canada.

Verriour volunteered in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Calgary on 2 December 1914 and was posted to the 31st (Alberta) Battalion, part of the 2nd Canadian Division; he sailed for Europe in May 1915. After completing its training the division crossed to France on 15 September 1915 and fought in many of the major actions of the war, including a number of the *Battles of the Somme* (1 July-18 November 1916). In 1917 Canadian forces played a prominent role in the *Arras Offensive* (9 April-16 June), designed to attract German reserves away

from the major French *Nivelle Offensive*, which promised as a decisive breakthrough. Considerable success was achieved initially in the *Arras Offensive*; from the Canadian perspective the capture of Vimy Ridge was a notable achievement. However, the Nivelle Offensive failed to deliver what had been promised, leading to mutinies in the French Army. As a result, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was compelled to continue with the campaign longer than planned to keep pressure on the German forces.

**Corporal Verriour Wynne Marment** was killed by an exploding shell on 3 May 1917 during the *Third Battle of the Scarpe* (3-4 May 1917), one of the last actions in the Arras Offensive. His body was recovered and he was initially buried in a small battlefield cemetery, but after the Armistice he was re-interred in *Liévin Communal Cemetery, Lens*.

At the time of his death, Verriour was engaged to Miss Doris Dyer of Bredon, a nurse at Mitton V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Hospital. His father, Frederick, became President of the Tewkesbury YMCA in 1919; two years earlier, he had given 98 Church Street for the use of the YMCA and soldiers in need of respite.

Verriour's brother, **Driver Philip Lewis Marment**, also served in the war; he was in the Army Service Corps and died of influenza on 21 October 1918 at Le Havre in France. Neither brother is commemorated on the War Memorial although they (and their parents) were living in Tewkesbury from 1911. Verriour was, however, classed as a Volunteer. In 1917 his cousin, Emily May, married Harry W. Bloxham, brother of Raymond and **L/Sgt. Heneage Bloxham** [†].