

LIEUTENANT THOMAS HAROLD MOORE

1st/5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died aged 32 on 27 September 1915

Remembered with honour in *Serre Road Cemetery No.1, Puisieux Churchyard*; Mem. 2
Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross, in the Abbey & on the Grammar School Memorial



*Serre Road Cemetery No.1,
Puisieux Churchyard*



Lt. T. H. Moore
[Graphic 9/10/1915]



*Gloucestershire
Regiment*

THOMAS HAROLD MOORE was one of the few Tewkesbury officers and was the first Territorial Force soldier from the town to be killed. Harold (as he was known) was born in Tewkesbury in 1883, the eldest of 7 children of Thomas Weaver Moore and Ellen (formerly Watson), living at 'Battledown', Gloucester Road (now demolished). Thomas Moore was a partner in the famous auctioneering firm; Ellen was the daughter of philanthropist, draper George Watson. In 1911 Harold was still living and working, as an auctioneer, with his father.

It was T. W. Moore himself who re-formed the Tewkesbury Company of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion in 1885 and led it for some years as its Captain. Harold joined the battalion in 1902, obtaining his commission at the age of 20. In 1914 bank manager Ernest G. Moore, a pre-war Territorial, was Major in command of the Tewkesbury contingent before it went abroad: he was the father of Harold's fiancée, and second cousin, Katharine Dorothy Moore.

With the creation of the Territorial Force in 1908, the 2nd Volunteer Battalion became the 5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, part of the South Midland Division. Like many Territorial units, the battalion had just departed for their annual summer camp when war broke out; they were recalled at once and mobilised for war service on 5 August 1914. Along with some 90% of the battalion, Thomas agreed to serve overseas in the re-titled 1st/5th Battalion, which landed on 29 March 1915 at Boulogne as part of the 48th (South Midland) Division.

In September 1915 Harold came home on leave. As biographer David Cole wrote: 'He

returned to France on a Sunday evening and the following Friday Tom Moore opened a dreaded telegram ... A letter from his C.O. followed – your son was an exceptional officer ... died bravely ... shot while in charge of a patrol engaged in reconnaissance work and while nobly attempting to rescue a stricken corporal'.

Lieutenant Thomas Harold Moore was killed on 27 September 1915 during a night-time reconnaissance patrol in the Hébuterne sector on the Somme. Historian W. J. Wood reported that Lt. Moore and L/Cpl. Rodway were killed when surrounded in no-man's land: *'these brave men, trapped, fought to the end. In the morning light, their bodies were seen lying near the enemy wire; around them were at least 4 German dead'*. Pte. H. Davies served with him: *'we were told Mr. Moore had not returned from reconnoitring and later on we heard the sad news of his death. He is a great loss ... especially to his platoon who were very fond of him and who would have followed him anywhere'*. It was not until 23 October 1915 that a letter received from the wife of a German officer gave details of Lt. Moore's burial with military honours. His death was not officially announced until 3 November 1917; he was awarded the '1915 Star'.

Both Lt. Moore and L/Cpl. Rodway were buried originally by the Germans in Puisieux Churchyard on the Somme but their graves were destroyed in later battles; they are commemorated instead with token graves in *Serre Road Cemetery No. 1* near Albert. Harold's brother, **Lt. L. W. Moore** [†], also with 1st/5th Battalion, was killed on 27 August 1916, again on the Somme.