

**PRIVATE ERNEST VICTOR STEPHEN NUNNEY**

16068, 10th (Service) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died aged 21 on 25 September 1915

Remembered with honour on *Loos Memorial, France*; Panel 60 to 64

Commemorated in Tewkesbury in the Methodist Church  
and on the Grammar School Memorial



*Loos Memorial,  
France*



*Pte. E.V.S. Nunney*  
[Graphic 20/11/1915]



*Gloucestershire  
Regiment*

**ERNEST VICTOR STEPHEN NUNNEY** was born in Tewkesbury on 5 March 1894, the son of James Nunney and his second wife Helen (formerly Watts), whom he married in 1893. James was born in Ashchurch and Helen came from Bredons Norton. In 1901 Ernest was living in Pamington with his parents and his uncle, Thomas Nunney. He started at Ashchurch School on 17 April 1899 and left on 18 January 1907 when he went on to attend Tewkesbury Grammar School. In 1906 his father, then a 61-year-old railway repairer, was knocked down accidentally by a train at Ashchurch Station and later died of injuries in the Rural Hospital. Little is known about Ernest's young days except that he was a member of the Wesleyan Church in Tewkesbury. In 1911 he was living in Northway with his widowed mother and had followed in his father's footsteps as a railway labourer. The 1911 Census also indicates that he was the only surviving child of three born to James and Helen. As he lived in Ashchurch, Ernest was not included on the Volunteer Memorial in the Abbey.

In Ernest's obituary in the *Graphic* it suggested that he volunteered in the early part of 1915 in the Gloucestershire Regiment although his army service number suggests it might have been a little sooner. Ernest was posted to the new 10th Battalion formed at Bristol in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army. Having been trained in Cheltenham and Salisbury Plain, the battalion landed in France

on 8 August 1915 when it was attached to the 1st Division, replacing a regular Guards battalion.

The Battalion was soon involved in the *Battle of Loos* (25 September-18 October 1915), the largest British offensive mounted in 1915 and undertaken in support of larger French offensives. The *Register* reported that '*the battle took place ... in an area utterly unsuited to an attack ... before stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery were sufficient; the battle was noteworthy for the first use of poison gas by the British Army. Despite heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day in but the opportunities could not be exploited, resulting in a costly stalemate*'.

The '*Fighting 10th*' was one of the lead battalions and achieved all its objectives despite heavy casualties. The Battalion War Diary noted that: '*The attack was delivered at 6.30am with the accompaniment of gas and smoke ... The wind proved more favourable to the enemy than ourselves ... Nevertheless the assault was pushed home with the utmost resolution*'.

**Private Ernest Nunney** was one of those killed in action on 25 September 1915, the opening day of the battle, during which the Battalion suffered a total of 459 casualties; four others from Tewkesbury also died at Loos. Private Nunney's body was never recovered and he is commemorated instead on the *Loos Memorial*. He was awarded the '*1914-15 Star*' medal.