

PRIVATE ALFRED CHARLES SALLIS

31348, 8th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died aged 30 on 13 November 1918

Buried with honour at *Awoingt British Cemetery, France*; III D 22

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross and in the Abbey



Awoingt British Cemetery, France



Gloucestershire Regiment

ALFRED CHARLES SALLIS (possibly known as Charles) was born in Tewkesbury in 1888, the son of William Sallis and Elizabeth (formerly Chamberlain). William was born in Tewkesbury and Elizabeth was from Tirley. William, who died in 1908, was a worker at a Corn Dealer and lived for many years in St. Mary's Lane. In 1901 the family had nine children of whom six were daughters. In 1911 Alfred was working as a Waggoner on a farm and he was living with his widowed mother at 3 Back of Swilgate.

Little is known of Alfred's war service. His medal rolls indicate that he joined the Gloucestershire Regiment, probably in 1916 or 1917 as a conscript. His casualty record on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows that he was posted to the 8th (Service) Battalion. This battalion was originally formed at Bristol in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army and joined the 57th Infantry Brigade of the 19th (Western) Division. The Division moved to France in July 1915 and spent the rest of the war on the Western Front.

During the next three years the Division was

engaged in many of the key battles in France and Belgium, including the *Battles of the Somme* (1916), the *Third Battle of Ypres* (1917) and the campaign known as '*The Last Hundred Days*' which saw the Allies inflict a series of crushing defeats on the German Army, culminating in the Armistice. On 11 November 1918 the Division was stationed in billets near Bavay in France, close to the border with Belgium.

Private Alfred Charles Sallis died from pneumonia on 13 November 1918, just two days after the Armistice, after contracting influenza in the epidemic that was rife at the time. He was buried in *Awoingt British Cemetery*, near Cambrai in France, presumably after being treated unsuccessfully at one of the three Casualty Clearing Stations in the neighbourhood.

As well as Alfred, Elizabeth lost another son in the war. **Private Arthur Francis Sallis** [†], of the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, was killed on 21 March 1918, the opening day of the German Spring Offensive or *Kaiserschlacht* (Kaiser's Battle).