

Richard Henry Taylor 1896 – 1916

23.10.1916 Killed France

Pier and Face 10 D.
Thiepval Memorial
Departement de la Somme, Picardie

Age: 19

Thiepval Memorial

Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie France

Cemetery notes and/or description:
On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial. The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 31 July 1932. The dead of other Commonwealth countries who died on the Somme and have no known graves are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

In the winter of 1932-33, it was decided that a small mixed cemetery be made at the memorial's foot to represent the loss of both the French and Commonwealth nations. Of the 300 Commonwealth burials in the cemetery, 239 are unidentified. The bodies were found in December 1931 and January-March 1932, some as far north as Loos and as far south as Le Quesnel, but the majority came from the Somme battlefields of July-November 1916. Of the 300 French dead, 253 are unidentified.



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The present count on this page is 72,135 interments. (They are not actually interments of course as these are the names of the missing, casualties who have no known grave.) The actual number of casualties recorded on the memorial is 72,195 though the records show 72354 names. There are two reasons for this:

In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panel (or Pier and Face). More than 150 of these casualties served under an alias, so the alias and the true family name will appear.

Born	Parents & Siblings at Home	Locations	Marriage / Other	Jobs / Rank
<p>3rd Q 1896 Tiptree</p> <p>Siblings 3Q1896 Richard Henry 1901 Cecil Edward 1902 Stanley Percy 1904 Alec Nelson</p>	<p>Arthur George & Ellen, nee Goody</p> <p>1911 3 brothers</p>	<p>1901 Nr Stores, Tiptree</p> <p>1911 Army Cottages, Nr Stores (Road – Nr. Salvation Army Hall?)</p> <p>1920 Bretts Cottages, Ship, Tiptree</p>	<p>1901 & 1911 father agricultural / farm labourer</p>	<p>1911 farm labourer</p> <p>Enlisted Witham, resident Tiptree</p> <p>1916 Private 40265 Essex Regiment 2nd Battalion</p>