

East Knoyle Roll of Honour
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

Here are recorded the names of officers and men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme battlefields July 1915 February 1918 but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death



Thiepval Memorial, Picardie, France

WILLIAM THOMAS FRICKER

of East Knoyle, Wiltshire

Date/place of birth	7 November 1889 East Knoyle (School Admissions Register)	
Birth registered	Sept Q 1889 Mere Reg District 5a 209	5
Baptised		
Father	James Fricker of Donhead St Andrew Wiltshire. Married March Q 1887 Mere Reg District 5a 289	5
Mother	Annie (nee Read) of East Knoyle	5
Siblings	Frederick, Elsie, Alfred	2
1891 Census	67 Upton, East Knoyle. Age 2. Father's occupation Gardener	2
1901 Census	Wise Lane, East Knoyle. Age 12, occupation Under Groom	2
1911 Census	Milton, East Knoyle. Age 21, occupation Farm Labourer	2
Rank	Private	3
Regiment	5 th (Service) Battalion (Princess Charlotte of Wales) Royal Berkshire Regiment	3
Enlisted	Devizes	6
Service Number	23678	3
Medals	British War / Victory	4
Date of Death/Age	19 October 1916 age 26	3
Cause of Death	Killed in action	3
Burial/Memorial	Thiepval Memorial, Picardie, France. Pier & Face 11.D	3



£3 War Gratuity paid to Wm Fricker (father)



East Knoyle

Name	FRICKER	Grade	Private	Regt. No.	23678
William T.					
Home	2/105/87	Page	1198	Remarks	
Vocifer	do	Page	do		
Barrow	do	Page	do		

The 5th Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment arrived on the Somme on 3rd July 1916 at Ovillers, fighting over ground strewn with the bodies of men from the 2nd Battalion who attacked two days before. The winter of 1916 was spent in and out of the trenches and training.



Final Phase of the Second Battle of the Somme

War Diary (summary). 5 Royal Berks Regiment. France, Front Line Trenches.

18 Oct 1916. Attack (on Bayonet trench) to be carried out by a coy of this Bn attacking from the right and a coy of 7 Royal Sussex (att. to us for the operation) from the left. Attack timed for 3am. The success of the operation made impossible as enemy opened a huge barrage at 2.45am. Owing to situation revealed by patrols, attacks were not launched. Casualties: 2Lt H K May wounded, 3 o.r. killed, 22 o.r. wounded, 2 o.r. missing.

19 Oct 1916. Battalion relieved by 16 Mddx Regt of 86 Brigade 29 Division. The weather was very bad and the mud so thick that the Bn did not reach Mametz Wood till 6.30am. Casualties: 9 o.r. killed, 23 o.r. wounded, 2 o.r. missing.

William Thomas Fricker was one of the 9 men that died on 19 October.

Commemorated: War Memorial East Knoyle, Memorial plaque St Mary's Church East Knoyle



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1 = Parish Registers
4 = Medal Index Card

2 = 1891/1901/1911 Census
5 = GRO Register

3 = Commonwealth War Graves Commission
6 = UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1918