





Semley Roll of Honour  
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

 <p>Alfred Edward Wills</p>	 <p>Thiepval Memorial, France</p>	<p><b>ALFRED EDWARD WILLS</b></p> <p>of Herringstone, Dorset</p>
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Date/place of birth	21 June 1891 Herringstone Dorset (Keawe Woodmore)	
Birth registered	Sept Q 1891 Dorchester Reg District 5a 319	5
Baptised	25 October 1891 Winterbourne Monkton, Dorset	1
Father	Alfred John Wills of Puddletown, Dorset. Married Mar Q 1890 Dorchester Reg District 5a 501	5
Mother	Laura (nee Gollop) of Charminster, Dorset	5
Siblings	William, Evelyn Laura and Ethel	2
1901 Census	Winterbourne Herringstone, Dorset. Age 9. Father's occupation Cowman	2
1911 Census	Winterbourne Herringstone, Dorset. Age 19. Occupation Garden Boy ( household of Capt Edward Wilmot Williams)	2
1916 Electoral Roll	Alfred & Laura Wills living at Whitebridge Farm Cottages, Semley (and 1917)	

Rank	Private	3
Regiment	5 <sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment	3
Enlisted	Dorchester 31 August 1914 (Attestation)	6
Service Number	10638	3
Medals	14-15 Star / British War / Victory	4
Date of Death	26 September 1916 age 25	3
Cause of Death	Killed in Action	3
Burial/Memorial	Thiepval Memorial, Picardy, Somme, France. Pier & Face 7.B	3

   <p>Baptist Chapel Plaque</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Name: <u>WILLS</u> Corp: <u>Dorset R</u> Rank: <u>Private</u> Regt. No: <u>10638</u></p> <p><u>A.E.</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Medal</th> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Page</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> <tr> <td>VICTORY</td> <td>9/2/10/13/14</td> <td>939</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRITISH</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>STAR</td> <td>9/2/10/13/14</td> <td>939</td> <td>Run A 26-9-16</td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>In July 1916 the 5<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment were sent to France. Although the Somme offensive had begun on 1st July, the Battalion first went into the line in the quieter sector south of Arras. In September, they moved south, to just below Thiepval at Mouquet Farm.</p> <p>It was a bloody introduction to the Somme. The farm was partly held by the Germans, huge numbers of whom occupied a vast dugout below it. In this and in the attack that followed, two thirds of the 5th were killed or wounded.</p> <p>Alfred Wills died fighting alongside his brother William at the Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26 - 28 September 1916)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Roll of Honour. Killed in action with the BEF in France Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Private Alfred E Wills, Dorset Regiment, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Wills of Semley, late of Steepleton Dorset, aged 25. <i>Western Gazette Friday 01 Dec 1916</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Brother William Wills, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment, died of wounds 1st October 1916</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Commemorated: Semley Baptist Chapel Plaque, Winterbourne Steepleton Church Plaque, Winterbourne Abbas War Memorial (right)</p>	Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks	VICTORY	9/2/10/13/14	939		BRITISH				STAR	9/2/10/13/14	939	Run A 26-9-16	  
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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