

HARRY BRAILSFORD

1888–20.9.14 aged 26 years

Lance-Corporal 10108 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters.



Harry was born at Cropwell Bishop and was the son of Thomas and Ellen Brailsford of The Rushes, Gotham. Harry enlisted at the age of 18 in August 1906 and then was called back to the colours at the outbreak of war. The battalion war diary is very detailed; at odds with diaries compiled later in the war. The battalion mustered and kitted at Cambridge in August 1914 and then travelled by train and route march to Newmarket where they entrained for Southampton and thence to St Nazaire on the 8th of September. There then followed train journeys and route marches to the front via Coulommiers, Dove, Chateaux Thierry, Parcy Tigny, Charise and Druzel on the 19th they stood to at 3.0am at the sound of heavy gunfire to their front. They crossed the Aisne by pontoon at Bourg and then to Vendresse where they took over the line from the Black Watch. They were then relieved that night by the Gloucesters and they took over lines from the KRR just north of Troyon on the extreme right of the BEF and in touch with the French on their right. On the 20th the enemy were seen to have taken trenches on their right on the ridge at the head of Troyon valley, the most vital point in the line of defence. The battalion moved to re take the trenches. A German column was seen to be marching prisoners away and A and C Companies, who were in bivouac nearest the trench moved up under captains Popham and Parkinson to the head of the valley. Their advance was met by heavy machine gun fire from the front and left causing many casualties, the ground being devoid of cover and very cramped. The advance was checked. The other two companies of the battalion reinforced the line then a general advance was made with great dash. In spite of heavy losses the trenches were re taken. Casualties were 4 officers killed and 8 wounded (all named) OR casualties 180 of which some 40 were killed.

Harry has no known grave and is recorded on the La Ferte Sous Jouarre memorial. Harry's service record survives.