ALBERT OSMOND 16/9/1897 – 28/9/1918

& EDGAR OSMOND. October 1895 – 27/9/1918

(Cousins who died within 24 hours of each other)

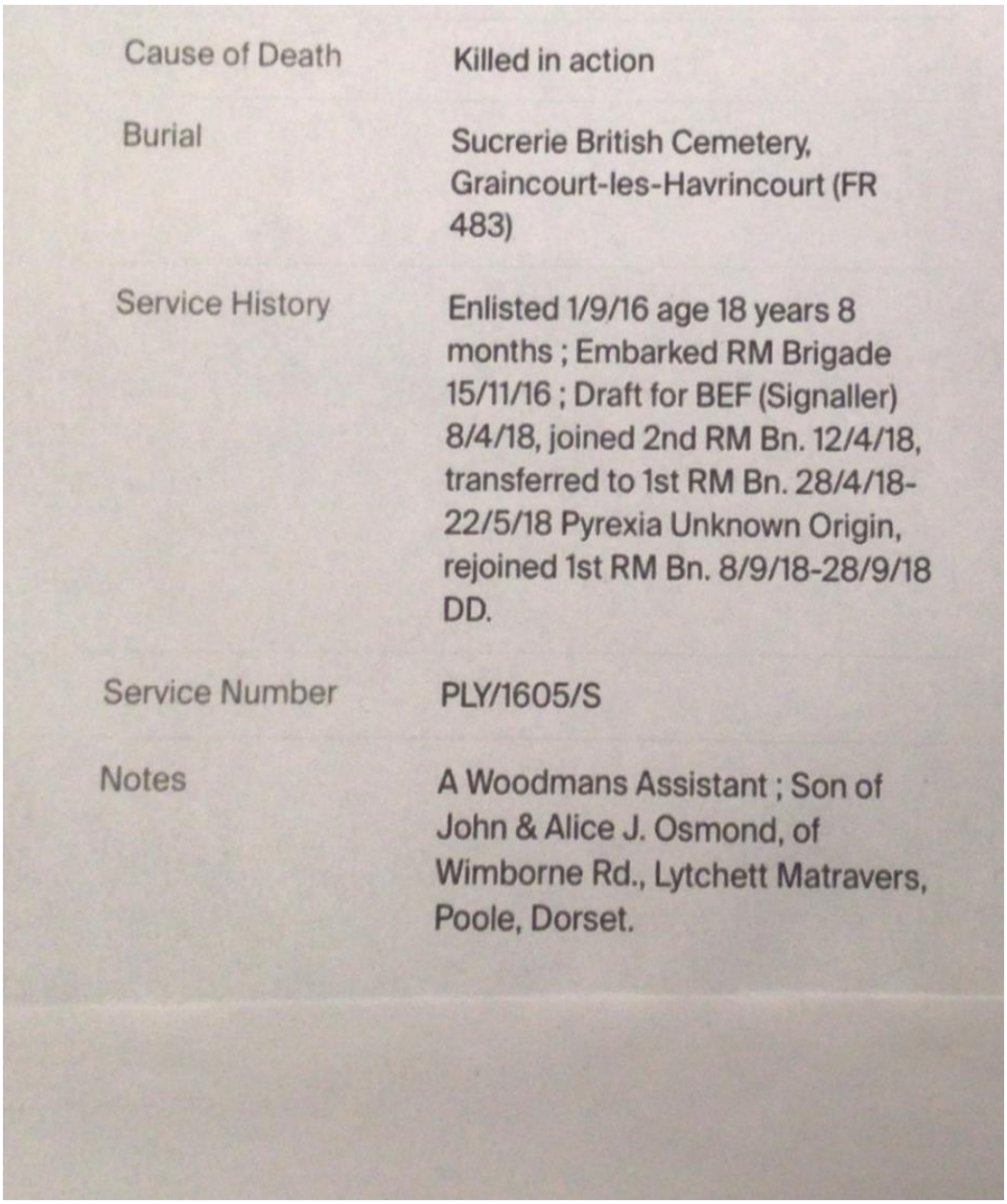
ALBERT GEORGE TAYLOR OSMOND.



Albert's father John (b.1864) was raised at Dowdens Farm, he married Alice Taylor in 1892. She lived with her grandparents in the farm next door. When both grandparents died in 1893, John and Alice took over Taylor's farm (in Wimborne Road). This 1899 photo is of John and Alice Osmond with their children – Wilfred b.1896, Albert b.1897 and Effie b. 1899.

Footnote: Wilfred became the Lytchett Matravers Postmaster. He named his daughter Effie (after his sister). His daughter also became Lytchett's Postmistress.

There follows details of Albert's Military Service as found on "Ancestry":-



Cause of Death	Killed in action
Burial	Sucrerie British Cemetery, Graincourt-les-Havrincourt (FR 483)
Service History	Enlisted 1/9/16 age 18 years 8 months ; Embarked RM Brigade 15/11/16 ; Draft for BEF (Signaller) 8/4/18, joined 2nd RM Bn. 12/4/18, transferred to 1st RM Bn. 28/4/18-22/5/18 Pyrexia Unknown Origin, rejoined 1st RM Bn. 8/9/18-28/9/18 DD.
Service Number	PLY/1605/S
Notes	A Woodmans Assistant ; Son of John & Alice J. Osmond, of Wimborne Rd., Lytchett Matravers, Poole, Dorset.

EDGAR JOHN OSMOND.



Edgar's father George (b.1866) married Louisa Samson in 1894. George and Louisa took over Dowdens Farm on the death of his parents. In this 1905 photo they were living in Flowers Drive with their children Edgar b.1895, Hilda b.1897, Harold b.1898 & Mabel b.1904 (Maurice was b.1906)

In 1915, aged 19, Edgar was conscripted into the Army. He sent letters and photographs home to his mother and siblings. Louisa Osmond saved these and kept them in a box tied with ribbon. In 2023 these were donated to the Lytchett Matravers Local History Group. They tell the story of Edgar's experiences during WW1.

Firstly Edgar was enrolled in the Army Service Corps, 59th Field Bakery in Abergavenny and later he was stationed at York and Hartlepool.



(Edgar is second from the left, without a hat)

In March 1917 Edgar wrote to his mother – "I dare say you will be surprised to hear I have got my first stripe……so I shouldn't be surprised if we leave here and go for our proper training and instruction. The sergeant major has had me picked out soon after I got here"….

Sure enough Lance Corporal E.J. Osmond went to "B" Company Training Reserve Battalion at Chiseldon and The School of Instruction, Tidworth.

By the end of his training Edgar (standing) was a Corporal.



By December 1917, Edgar was with "D" Company, Royal Warwick Regiment and stationed at Connaught Barracks, Dover, in preparation to leave for the front line in France. He was transferred again in May, 1918 to "A" Company, 1st Kings Liverpool Reg.

On 30th August, 1918, in his first letter he had been able to write in 12 days, Edgar wrote to his mother that he had been sent "down from the line" on a journey that took nearly two days by slow train to "G.H.Q. Lewis Gun School". Just a month later his

mother’s letters to him were returned and she had notification that he had “Died of wounds received in action” on 27th Sept. (3 weeks before his 23rd birthday)

Tragically when Albert (Edgar’s cousin) lost his life on 28th September, 1918, just 12 days after his 21st birthday. He probably would not have known that Edgar had died the day before!

Albert Osmond, is remembered at SucrerieBritish Cemetery, Graincourt-Les-Havrincourt, France.



The headstone of Edgar Osmond is at Beaumetz-Les-Cambrai, France. (Just 12 miles away from his cousin's memorial)



Two young men from a close family whose expectations in life had been to carry on the family farming traditions in Lytchett Matravers. Instead they were thrust into the horrors of WW1 in France, which culminated in their lives being lost just six weeks before the War ended.

Written by Hilary Hayes. September, 2024.