

CUTHBERT J PEARCE – 2nd Lt, 117th Machine Gun Company, 4th Sep 1916, Age 22

Cuthbert James Pearce was the son of Reverend William Pearce and Sarah Pearce. He was born near Easingwold at [Husthwaite](#) in 1894.



Figure 1 - Flyford Flavell Church, Worcestershire

His Father moved from one ecclesiastical appointment to another starting in Chichester and moving to West Horsley, Surrey (Curate, 1881), Beachampton, Buckinghamshire (Reverend, 1891) and Pershore, Worcestershire (1911) where he died a few months before Cuthbert in 1915. In 1911, Cuthbert was a 16 year old market gardener, living at home with his Mother, Father and sister Winifred, at Kingston Rectory, [Flyford Flavell](#), Worcestershire ⁽¹⁾.

Cuthbert served as a 2nd Lieutenant with 117th Machine Gun Company, as part of the 117th Brigade, 39th Division. The 117th Brigade took part in the Battle of the Somme and on 3rd September they attacked north of the Ancre river. The attack started at 05.10am after an intense 4 minute bombardment. Losses were heavy. It's likely that Cuthbert was killed during operations the following day. He was 22 years old.

At present, I can establish no obvious connection with Brompton-on-Swale, so why Cuthbert is commemorated here is a

mystery (to me at least, for the time being).



Figure 2 - Knightsbridge Cemetery

Cuthbert is buried in grave B.3. at [KNIGHTSBRIDGE CEMETERY, MESNIL-MARTINSART](#) ⁽²⁾.



Figure 3 - Knightsbridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart

Sources:

(1) 1911 Census

(2) Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/180608>