

World War I



**Worcestershire Regiment,
3rd Battalion**

Lance Corporal GEORGE EDWARD SKIDMORE

Born in Quarry Bank, Staffordshire, in 1888.

Killed in action at Caudry, France on 26 August 1914.

Aged 26.

GEORGE EDWARD SKIDMORE was born in 1888 in Oak Road, Quarry Bank, son of John Skidmore, an ironworker, and his wife Sarah Jane (née Bishton). Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Bell Street, Tipton, Staffordshire.

Younger brother to Esther Louisa and Joseph Thomas, and older brother to Alice, Sarah Jane, Maud Ethel and Emma.

George was a fitter in a Tipton factory and joined the army in 1905.

He enlisted at Dudley on 25 August 1905 and entered the 3rd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. Under the Short Service system, he agreed to 3 years with the colours and 9 years as a Reserve.

In fact, after two years at Aldershot, he left with the 3rd Bn for South Africa, where there was concern about native uprisings. Trouble did not, however, materialise and after a year, the battalion returned to England, where they were stationed at Shaft Barracks in Dover.

He appears to have agreed to further service since he remained at Dover, becoming a Lance Corporal in October 1909.

In July 1911, he became a Reservist and returned to his family in Tipton.

He was called up at the outbreak of WW1 and with his battalion left for France on 14th August as part of the 4th Division of the first British Expeditionary Force. His specialism was that of signaller.

They travelled by train from Rouen to Aulnoye and then spent days marching to Caudry where they formed part of the fighting known as the battle of Le Cateau, in the retreat from Mons. George Skidmore was recorded as missing on 26th August. We do not know where he was buried initially but we know that his body was eventually brought to Vailly.

VAILLY BRITISH CEMETERY.



Vailly British Cemetery was established after the Armistice when the remains of Commonwealth soldiers were brought here from other burial grounds and battlefields throughout the region. Most of those buried here were killed during the Battle of the Aisne in September 1914, but the cemetery is also the final resting place of over sixty Commonwealth soldiers who were killed or mortally wounded in the summer of 1918.