



# Sergeant Arthur Cyril Adams



*1<sup>st</sup> Artists' Rifles, training in Richmond Park, prior to departure for France in October 1914*

**1st Artists' Rifles, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment**

**Died 28 March 1918**

**Age 41**

**Arthur Cyril Adams**, commemorated at All Saints' Church, Putney Common, was a Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Artists' Rifles, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the London Regiment.

According to the London War Memorial archive and the 1911 Census, Arthur was born in 1877 in Putney but prior to setting sail for Flanders, his last known home address was at 94 Avondale Road, South Croydon. Before joining the War, he was listed as a member of the Climbers' Club in their 1914 List of Members; so we can therefore assume that he had a head for heights! His profession was noted as 'Insurance Clerk'.

Following the outbreak of the War in 1914, Arthur's battalion, the Artists' Rifles, arrived in France at the end of October that year and selected Artists' officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) were transferred to run a separate Officer Training Corps, with the remainder being retained as a fighting unit. Given that Arthur held the rank of Sergeant and was therefore an NCO, it is very likely that he may have been one such officer to be transferred to co-ordinate these training programmes.

However, the Artists were eventually sent to the front as a unit for the first time in June 1917, where they fought in the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele and thereafter were engaged in various actions until the First Battle of Arras, which commenced on 28 March 1918.

At 3am on 28 March, the Germans launched a huge artillery bombardment on the British front line and shortly after 7am, the German infantry attacked. Several accounts suggest that there was a heavy fog that morning which, coupled with significant resistance from the British artillery and strategically positioned machine guns along the British lines, meant that the German infantry were unable to break through despite repeated attacks throughout the day.

Arthur was killed in action that day during the successful British defence, one of 2,003 members of the Artists to be killed during the War. He is buried at Arras Memorial.

SERVICE NUMBER: 760485