



# Private Arthur Edward Down



**11<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Lewisham)**  
**Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment**  
**Died 1 October 1916**

**Age 22**

**Arthur Edward Down** is commemorated by a screen wall in the First World War plot (section 213. 9. 16.) at Kensal Green (All Souls') Cemetery. The wall records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Half of the 473 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery.

He was married to Mary Ann Down, of 12 Beckway St, East St, Walworth, London. And his parents were from Putney as was his brother who also died in the war.

Private Down died of his wounds while fighting in France and Flanders. Judging from the date of his death he was most probably fought at The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September 1916) and then died at the start of The Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1-18 October 1916).

The Battle of Le Transloy was the final offensive mounted by the British Fourth Army during the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The battle, which opened on 1 October, began well with the capture of Eaucourt L'Abbaye by the 47th (1/2nd London) Division as well as an advance along the Albert–Bapaume road towards Le Sars. The advance was resumed on 7 October and Le Sars was taken by the British 23rd Division but progress along the Canadian lines stalled. In XIV Corps, the 56th Division attacked Hazy, Dewdrop and Spectrum Trenches in the afternoon but were forced back by nightfall and the Germans reoccupied Rainy Trench, which had been left empty. The weather was rapidly deteriorating and the battlefield, which had been pummelled to dust by relentless artillery bombardment over the preceding three months, turned into a quagmire.

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