



# Lance Corporal Duncan William Wise



**1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)**

**Died 8 October 1918**

**Age 21**

**Duncan William Wise** was killed in action at the age of 21 and is buried in High Tree Cemetery, 1 km west of Montbrehain, Aisne, Northern France. The cemetery is small with just 48 casualties and located at the bottom of a rough farm track, sign posted from the road.

He was born on 28th March 1897 in Camberwell, Surrey and moved to live at 7 Walpole Road, Putney where he attended St Mary's School from 26<sup>th</sup> August 1901. He later moved to 11 Wymond Street where the Census of England and Wales 1911 records him at the age of 14 as a scholar house boy living with his Mother, Grandmother, Uncle and a boarder.

The Buffs were mobilised for war in September 1914 and landed in St Nazaire and engaged in various actions on the Western Front. In 1918 the Buffs saw action at: Battle of St. Quentin, Battle of Bailleul, First Battle of Kemmel Ridge, Second Battle of Kemmel Ridge, The Advance in Flanders, Battle of Epehy, Battle of St Quentin Canal, Battle of Beaufort, Battle of Cambrai, The Pursuit to the Selle and Battle of the Selle.

It is interesting that the village of Montbrehain where Lance Corporal Duncan Wise is buried was taken on the 3rd October 1918 by 3 Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters of the 46th Division but it could not be held at the time; it was finally captured by the 21st and 24th Australian Infantry Battalions 2 days later.

Corporal Duncan Wise at 21 years old served gallantly through the Great War sadly to fall just 5 weeks before peace. He was awarded the Military Medal - Level 3 Gallantry Award for those below commissioned rank equivalent to the Military Cross for officers. It was an award for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land. On the reverse of the medal is the inscription 'For Bravery in the Field'.

Duncan William Wise is commemorated on the lists of war dead at both All Saints' and St Mary's where he is known as D. W. Wise.

SERVICE NUMBER : G / 3710