



Private William Bryder

William Bryder was born in Tillington in the winter of 1898 to William and Kate Bryder of Tillington Hill, where his father was a carpenter and undertaker. On leaving school at the age of 14 years it is likely that William was employed by his father as an apprentice carpenter.

We know from his first army number, 2212, that he joined the 5th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment before March 1917, since at this time new regimental numbers were issued and he became Private William Bryder 260042. Since he did not qualify for the 1914-15 Star we also know that he did not enter a theatre of war until sometime after January 1st 1916.

The 5th (1st/5th) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment had been abroad since mid-1915, so William would probably have trained with the home-based 2nd/5th Battalion before being posted overseas. There is no evidence to suggest when he went to France, but men with similar regimental numbers from the 2nd/5th were posted as replacements to various battalions of the Regiment arriving in France before August 1917. It is certain, however, that on the day of his death he was serving with C Company, 7th Battalion and it is likely that he was posted directly to it from the 2nd/5th in the UK.



Crossing the River Ancre amid the desolation

260042	Pte.	BRYDER,	2212.	5th.R.Suss.R
		William.	Pte.	260042.5th.R.Suss.R.
				260042.7th.R.Suss.R.

Medal Roll showing service numbers and battalions

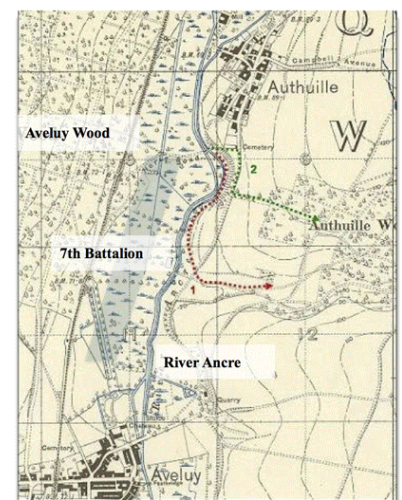
In December 1917 the 7th Battalion was billeted close to Albert in the valley of the Ancre River. With preparations for Christmas well in hand the men hoped that they would not be disturbed, but on December 23rd the whole Brigade was moved to the village of Berguette. The Christmas fare, pigs, turkeys, geese, beer, fruit, etc was ordered to be thrown away since the transport was only for regulation loads. Needless to say many of the provisions, including pigs, found their way to the new billets and the Battalion spent a very happy Christmas.

In the early hours of March 21st 1918 the German Army launched 'Operation Michael' including a five hour long bombardment from over 7,000 guns, followed by an attack of the massed German infantry. The British 3rd and 5th Armies were poorly prepared for this overwhelming attack and retreated throughout the night and over the next few days. The enemy took Albert on the night of March 26th/27th and moved quickly to the banks of the River Ancre.



British Infantry moving forward near the Ancre Valley to meet the German advance, 26 March 1918.

On March 25th the 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment moved west, resting in Albert for the night. The next afternoon the Battalion crossed the River Ancre, taking up a position in front of Aveluy Wood, with orders to defend 1,200 yards of river frontage. On March 27th, around 11am, the German infantry began to arrive at the river and by 6pm they attacked the British defences in force, pushing them back into the woods. Eventually, however, the Battalion had to retire in the face of this advance, with heavy losses on both sides.



The 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment lost 23 men on March 27th 1918 including Private William Bryder TF/260042. William has no marked grave but is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial which is dedicated to the men who lost their lives on the Somme in the British retreat of March and April 1918, across the former Somme Battlefields.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BRYDER William	R.Suss.R	Pte	2212 260042
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
Victory	44/10/16 351	de	
British War			
Other			
Theatre of War Entitled to			
Date of entry theatre			

Medal Card showing medal entitlement



British War Medal Victory Medal



If ye forget - If ye forget
Then your children must remember,
If ye forget - G A Studdert Kennedy