



William George Stoner was born in the Summer of 1892 to parents William and Eliza Stoner who at the time were living at Brinksole Limbo(w), Petworth. William was baptised at St Mary's Church, Petworth on September 16th 1892.

The **1901 census** shows that sometime between 1893 and 1896 the family moved to Upperton where father William became a domestic gardener. However, by the time of the next census they had returned to Petworth and were living in Lowheath Cottage. William George had left home but was lodging with Emily Mason (innkeeper) in the nearby inn at Lowheath, where he was employed as a Brewery Carman (a driver of horse drawn transport).

William enlisted in the army at Chichester sometime between August 25th and September 1st 1914. His army service number, 11178, suggests that he joined the 5th Reserve Battalion Coldstream Guards and trained at Windsor.

BAPTISMS solemnised in the Parish of <i>Petworth</i> in the County of <i> Sussex</i> in the Year 1892						
Wife Baptised	Child's Christian Name	Parents Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
<i>Sept 16</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Eliza</i>	<i>Petworth</i>	<i>Carman</i>	<i>Chas. H. Mason</i>
No. 220.						

Baptism entry in All Hallows' Church Records



The village of Loos after the battle of September 27/28th 1915

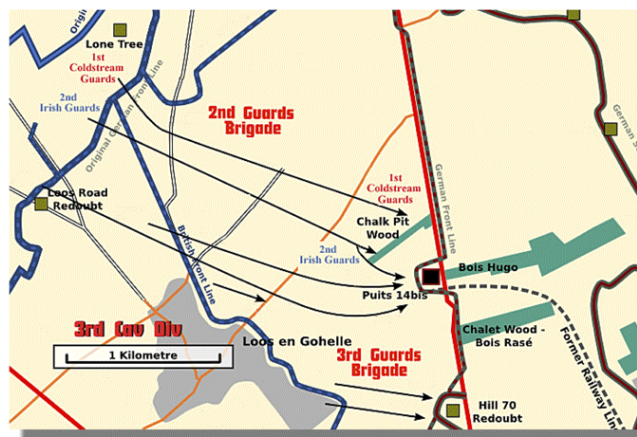
As part of the British Expeditionary Force the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards had been on the Western Front since August 1914. William joined them on February 24th 1915 with a group of reinforcements. His medal card shows that at some point he was promoted first to Lance Corporal, then to Corporal and finally, although it is not shown on his medal card, to Lance Sergeant William George Stoner 11178.

On August 4th 1915 the Battalion was in the front line trenches close to Bethune; the war diary reads: '...at midnight after three tunes from No 2 Company's band all available bombs, rifle grenades - trench mortars were fired at the enemy who had come out to hear the music. This was to celebrate the anniversary of the commencement of the war. The effect was unknown.'

After a long stay in the town of Lumbres behind the British Line, the Battalion was tasked with capturing Chalk Pit Wood at the beginning of the Battle of Loos. By 3am on September 27th the Battalion was dug into old German trenches opposite Lone Tree.

'Dug ourselves in there. Attack the WOOD & CHALK PIT in support of the 2nd Irish Guards....Captured WOOD & CHALK PIT and dug ourselves in....Difficult position to hold.

28th Tremendous shell fire on to the WOOD & CHALK PIT. At 3.45pm ordered to attack POST 14 (Puits 14 bis - a pit head building with a tall chimney) with two companies. No 1 & 2 Coys..... were met almost before they got out of the trenches by a terrific machine gun fire which enfiladed (gun fire directed along a line) them on three sides. They were absolutely mown down.



Battle of Loos, 27/28th September 1915

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
STONER	C.G. 40	Lt Col	11178
Medal	Bois	Pages	Remarks
VICTORY	24/10/15	24	11178
BRITISH	24/10	104	
15 STAR			
Thousand of War first served in	11178		
Date of entry therein	24. 2. 15		



Casualties for the 28th were 9 officers and 220 other ranks. Lance Sergeant William Stoner 11178 was one of these casualties and tragically he was never found, but he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

As well as the Coldstream Guards, the 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards also took part in the capture of Chalk Pit Wood and the attack on Puits 14 bis. Lt John Kipling, the son of Rudyard Kipling, was one of the Irish Guards killed on September 27th: he was listed as missing and never found.



*Machine guns rattle toy-like from a hill,
Down in a row the brave tin soldiers fall:*

Recalling War - Robert Graves