



BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Upperton</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year 1896						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Names		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
1896 Nov 29th No. 158	William Mark	Mark	Alice	Upperton	Labourer	Rev. J. H. H. H.

Baptism entry in All Hallows' Church Records

William Mark Wadey was born on October 5th 1896 in Upperton and was christened at All Hallows' Church on November 29th of the same year. His parents Mark and Alice Wadey married on August 10th 1878 at Petworth and their first son, George was born in 1879, followed by Mary Jane the next year, then Felix (1882), Olive (1889), Fanny Rose (1892) and finally William Mark.

Just before his 18th birthday he enrolled in the 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, most probably D Company, and was given the service number 2211. At the time the 4th Battalion was a Territorial training unit only and hence after William had been fully trained he was most likely posted directly to the 1/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion but retained his original number until it was changed to 200499 in early 1917, along with many other regimental numbers.

On February 18th 1915 the Battalion crossed to France on 'SS Pancras' and landed at Le Havre. The unit joined the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division and first saw action in early May during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. In late August the Battalion was transferred and became the Sussex Pioneer Battalion of the 48th Division, joining the new Division on the Somme at Heruterne.



During the war it was essential to maintain roads and railways. Engineers alone could not meet the heavy demand, while rifle men were always needed at the front. Therefore pioneer battalions were raised to meet the needs of both and trained to support engineers and infantry. As pioneers, each man wore a brass badge on each collar in the form of a crossed rifle and pick.

During 1916, the Battalion fought with the 48th Division on the Somme at the Battle of Bazentin Ridge, the Capture of Ovillers, the Battle of Poziers Ridge, the Battle of Ancre Heights and the Battle of Ancre. In 1917 the 'Pioneers' went on to fight at the Hindenburg Line, Peronne and in August, the Third Battle of Ypres near Langemarck.

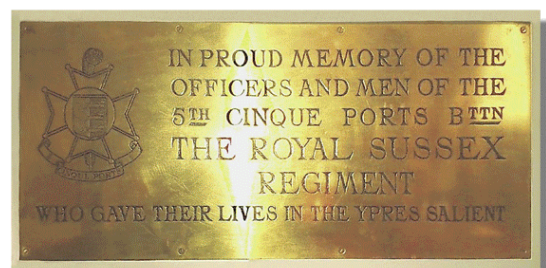
In September 1917 the Battalion was north of Ypres repairing roads, trenches and a light railway following an attack on enemy positions. Private Wadey was in D Company and this unit moved to a new battalion camp to prepare additional accommodation. Their work was continually interrupted by enemy bombing and it was in one of these raids on September 15th 1917 that Private William Mark Wadey was killed. He is buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery close to Ypres and only a few kilometres from where he died.

Name	Rank	Regt. No.
WADEY William M.	R. Sussex R. Pte	2211 200499
Medal	Date	Page
Vicereux	8/2/10/11	3108
Decorations		
Remarks		
Thence of War destroyed in		
Date of entry service		

Medal Card showing medal entitlement



A Pioneer Battalion building a wagon track from planks of wood (note the desolate countryside).



This memorial plaque is in St George's Church, Ypres. Courtesy R Rance

*You who would enter here to worship God
Think of your Brothers who before you trod
This hallowed Ground, and did not grudge to give
Their lives in war that you in Peace might live:
Ask for a heart to follow in their way
Of Sacrifice and Duty, - Rest and Pray.*

Memorial in St George's Church, Ypres