

Cemetery plot number 10

Victor Andrews (1897 – 1925).

IN

LOVING MEMORY

VICTOR ANDREWS

WHO FELL ASLEEP MARCH 3RD 1923

AGED 25 YEARS

“THY WILL BE DONE”

William Alfred Victor Richard was the son of William and Harriet Andrews. Known as “Vic” by all who knew him. Vic had three older sisters, Annie-Elizabeth, Daisy-May and Lily. Vic was born in 1897 at The Steps, Village Street Harvington and spent his childhood in the village community.

Vic’s boyhood came to an abrupt end when on the 1st of September 1914 at the start of The Great War at the age of just sixteen he enlisted into the Worcestershire regiment becoming one of the many volunteers responding to the call to arms in Kitchener’s Army. 18096 Private Vic Andrews would have relished the thought of this great adventure having listened to the stories of military life told by his niece’s many uncles who had travelled and campaigned around the British Empire as career soldiers.

Vic’s military training began with A Company, 5th battalion Worcestershire regiment, (a training and reinforcement battalion). He was stationed at Fort Tregantle, Plymouth, Cornwall. It was during the time of his initial training that he gained his first stripe, the rank of lance corporal.

It was not long before Vic saw action, leaving for France on the 20th January 1915 to be with the colours. Vic joined B Company, 1st battalion Worcestershire regiment, as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Vic served for a considerable time in France taking part in some heavy fighting. Noted for his acts of gallantry he was quickly promoted through the non-commissioned ranks becoming Sergeant Andrews. Later Vic was transferred into the newly raised 10th battalion Worcestershire regiment.

Vic was wounded three times during the campaign. He was badly gassed and it was the after effects of the gas that caused his eventual death some years later.

But it was in 1918 that Vic was to be returned home. His latest more serious wounds saw Vic being admitted to the General Hospital at Rouen in France on the 17th June 1918 with gunshot wounds in the face and head with a fracture of the lower jaw. These wounds the result of recent action (Battle of the Aisne, France) on the 13th June 1918. Vic was later transported for treatment at The County of London War Hospital at Horton, Epsom, Surrey. He was to lose his right eye. Eventually returning home after spending time in various hospitals convalescing.

His medals: Victory medal.

British war medal.

1915 Star campaign medal.
Silver war badge no. B102,416.

Vic's military discharge came on the 20th January 1919 recorded cause of discharge, Sickness, aged 23 years. Vic lived on four more years until his untimely death on 3rd March 1923 aged just 25 years. This was a distressing loss to the family and community of his home village of Harvington and his death was still remembered with deep sorrow and poignancy by later family generations who had known him as Uncle Vic.

Uncle Vic's service to his king and country is commemorated with the rest of the village war heroes inside Saint James Church Harvington. His photographic portrait hangs with those who made the greatest sacrifice. Uncle Vic would have been proud to see himself honoured in place with the other soldiers. But particularly to be displayed within the same memorial presentation with the images of three of his niece's uncles, remembering the time when ten years earlier he had so wanted to aspire to their military service when the call came for him to volunteer.

Jesse Ludlow
Howard Ludlow
Alfred Ludlow

BY WHOSE DEATH WE LIVE
1914 - 1919