

## *PRIVATE WILLIAM IPSON*

T/206070, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Formerly: 3508, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Yorks Regiment



It is thought Pte. Ipson died during the Battle of the Selle, which took place in the area around the town of Le Cateau. Certainly the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Buffs were in this area at the time of his death.

The Battle of the Selle, 17 – 25 October 1918

By 11 October, British forces had closed up upon the retreating Germans, now hastily dug-in immediately to the east of the River Selle. Haig, sensing the enemy's near exhaustion, initiated a series of operations designed to get British troops in strength across the river and move towards the Sambre-Oise Canal.

After a six day halt for preparations and artillery bombardments, Fourth Army troops attacked in thick mist at 5.20am, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, infantry and tanks, preceded by creeping barrage, moved forward on a ten mile front south of Le Cateau. The centre and left of Fourth Army forced crossings of the river, despite unexpectedly tenacious enemy resistance and much uncut wire. Fighting was particularly fierce along the line of the Le Cateau – Wassigny railway. The right of the attack, across the upland watershed of the Selle, made most progress and by nightfall enemy defences had been broken and Le Cateau captured. Severe fighting continued on 18 and 19 October, by which time Fourth Army, (much assisted by the French First Army on its right), had advanced over five miles, harrying the enemy

back towards the Sambre-Oise canal. The Battle of the Selle constituted a highly significant British victory. Considerable advances were made and over 20,000 prisoners taken.

William is buried in Brancourt – Le – Grand Military Cemetery together with six others of his battalion, who died on the same day. R. Ipson Jnr. is shown as the next of kin on the Imperial War Grave Commission forms for Brancourt cemetery. The village of Brancourt was captured on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918 by the American Forces and 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment erected a Memorial in the village, which lies between the towns of Le Cateau and St Quentin in Aisne, France. There are 42, 1914-18, casualties commemorated in this site and the cemetery covers an area of 306 Square metres and is enclosed behind a brick wall.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire regiment leave Pickering to board a train for Scarborough and Divisional Camp in August 1914.

Imperial War Graves Commission.

Schedule "A" Page 3

No. of Contract \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and Address of Firm \_\_\_\_\_

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS  
 to this report is attached  
 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS  
*(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)*  
 and  
 TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Name of Cemetery  
 BRANCOURT LE GRAND M.C.  
 To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—  
 BRAN/GD. M.C.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line.	2nd Line.	3rd Line.	4th Line.	Centre of Stone.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level.		
	Number and Rank.	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment.	Date of Death.	Age	Relig. Emb.	Plot P. Row R. Grave G.	No. of Stone
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1027/1B	<u>SECOND LIEUTENANT</u>	<u>EDWARD HENRY RONCA</u>	<u>16 E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)</u>	<u>17TH OCTOBER 1918</u>	<u>AGE 36</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>BP B 4</u>	<u>31</u>
1027/1A	3535 PRIVATE	BENJAMIN SIDNEY	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	AGE 21	CROSS	BP B 5	38
1027/1A	14967 LANCE CPL.	T. J. COOMBS	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	BP B 6	35
1027/1A	206070 PRIVATE	<u>R. W. IPSON</u>	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	BP B 7	34
1027/1A	8900 LANCE SERJT.	G. H. MOUNT	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	BP B 8	35
1027/1A	SECOND LIEUTENANT	C. VINGENT	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	BP B 9	36
1027/1C	SECOND LIEUTENANT	E. C. PITT PITTS	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)	17TH OCTOBER 1918	AGE 26	CROSS	BP B 10	37

In Memory of

Private

**W Ipson**

206070, 1st Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 17 October 1918

Remembered with Honour  
**Brancourt-Le-Grand Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## William Ipson – Family History

William Ipson appears on the War Memorial on the Green in Hutton le Hole. Private William Ipson enlisted in Malton and originally joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment.

His connection to the village is through his younger sister Amy. She appears on the 1911 Census and is recorded as a visitor to the village staying with the then publican of the Crown George Ford and his wife Emily. She may have been living in Hutton le Hole prior to this date due to the unfortunate circumstances of the Ipson family.\*



William's birth was recorded in Malton in 1898. His parents, Robert and Ada (nee Marshall), married at St Andrew's Church, Rillington in 1892. His grandparents were Robert Ipson Sen. and Amy. Robert Ipson Jnr had two sisters, Esther Mary Foster (nee Ipson) and Annie who lived at Scarborough.

The 1901 Census shows William and his two sisters, Amy and Lily, living with their parents in Skipton-on-Swale, near Thirsk where his father Robert was a shepherd. Sadly in 1902 his mother, Ada, and sister, Lily, both died.\*

William's sister Amy continued to live at the Crown and her connection to the village is a possible reason why his name appears on this War Memorial rather than that of Thorpe Bassett where he had relations.

Although not listed on the Thorpe Bassett memorial, in the Yorkshire Gazette of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1918, in the section headed 'Roll of Honour', there is the following tribute to William:

*“Pte William Ipson of the 1<sup>st</sup> East Kent Regiment, son of R Ipson Jnr. and grandson of Mr and Mrs R Ipson, Thorpe Bassett who was killed in action in France on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1918 aged 20 years 10 Months.*

*He is so young and so brave,  
A nice boy that was all  
But he died for King and Country  
And he answered duty's call.*

*Ever remembered by his loving father, sister and grandparents, uncles and aunts, Thorpe Bassett and Rillington; also Aunt Annie, Scarborough.”*

Amy, aged 19, married Walter Trenholme, 23, at the parish church in Lastingham on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1920. Walter, originally from Oswaldkirk, was a farmer living at Low Askew. After their marriage they had 3 children and lived in Pasture House, before moving to Fir Tree Cottage – both in Hutton le Hole.

Their children, Muriel, born 1921, married a Reginald Rathborne in 1942, a soldier at Lowna Camp and moved to Wandsworth, London.

Robert, born in 1923, lived all his life at Fir Tree Cottage.

Mary, born 1927, married George W Colledge in 1950 and lived at Westmoreland House, Hutton le Hole.



Amy Ipson (William's sister) and her husband Walter Trenholme (on the right of the picture) at the marriage of their daughter outside the church in Hutton Le Hole.



