



Photo from *Leaving All that was Dear* by J Devereux and G Sacker

ANKETELL MOUTRAY READ, Victoria Cross

Captain, Northamptonshire Regiment

Killed in action in France on 25 September 1915,
aged 30

His connection with Leckhampton is that he was born at Beaumont House, Shurdington Road, where there is a blue plaque in his honour. He has the most distinguished record among all those recorded in this book.

He is buried at Dud Corner British Cemetery and is named on the Cheltenham War Memorial and on the Regimental Memorial in Sandhurst Memorial Chapel. He is also named on the War Memorial in Wicklow Parish Church, Eire, and has a memorial in St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton, Devon; both are places with family connections.

A M Read was the youngest son of Major (later Colonel) John and Mrs Edith Moutray Read and was educated first in Cheltenham at Glyngarth School, Douro Road. He later attended the United Services College, at that time located in Westward Ho!, before moving on to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in 1901. He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Gloucestershire Regiment from 1903 to 1907, when he transferred to the Indian Army. He was an outstanding boxer and had an unequalled record as a heavyweight and middleweight champion among the services in India and in England.

In 1911 he joined the Northamptonshire Regiment and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps, obtaining his flying certificate in 1912.

At the outbreak of war he rejoined the Northamptonshire Regiment, going to France as early as 11 August 1914, and was severely wounded the following month. He took part in action around Ypres in March the following year, but in September he was killed during the first day of the Battle of Loos. Although partially gassed, he several times led and encouraged scattered groups of men into the firing line, under 'withering' fire and regardless of danger to himself. For this and earlier acts of bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

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Memorial in Bampton Church, Devon

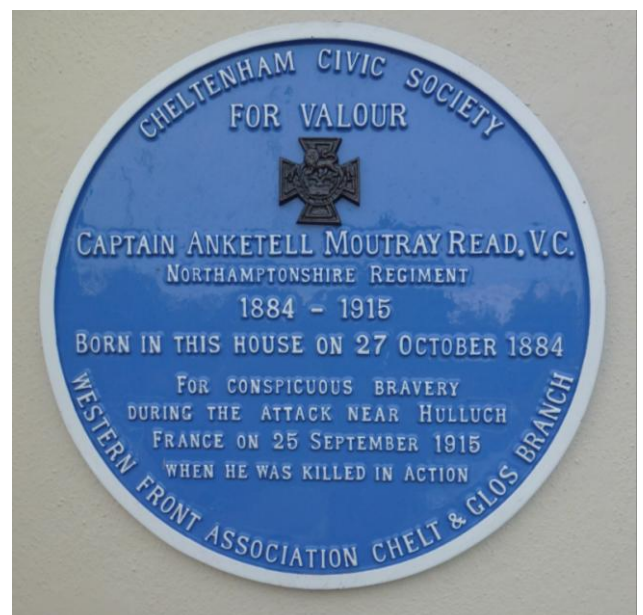
Photo – Mr Tom McManamon of Bampton on <http://www.remembering.org.uk> website

Captain Read's headstone in Dud Corner Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

Photo – Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Commemorative blue plaque on former Beaumont house (now Beaumont Hotel), Shurdington Road, where A M Read was born

Photo – Eric Miller by permission of Mr Alan Bishop



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