

LEST WE FORGET

ARNOLD ALDRICH

2nd Lieutenant, 1st/8th Worcestershire Regiment

Killed in action in Italy on 1 May 1918, aged 34

Address: Enderley, 57 Charlton Lane, Leckhampton

He is buried in Granezza British Cemetery in North-east Italy, Plot I, Row A, Grave 9. His name is listed on the Leckhampton and Cheltenham War Memorials.

Arnold Aldrich originally joined up as No 9917 with the 28th London Regiment (Artists' Rifles) and later transferred as No 763918 to the Worcestershire Regiment. He was commissioned as a Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in May 1917.

His battalion went to Italy in November 1917, one of several British and Empire units sent to assist the Italian Army which had entered the war on the Allied side in 1915 and had suffered major defeats against German and Austrian forces on the remote Asiago Plateau, in the Veneto region. (Though described as a plateau, it is a mountainous area and today Asiago is a ski resort.) Late in April 1918 the unit was struggling through rugged terrain in icy conditions. Lieutenant Aldrich was acting as Convoy Transport Officer and on 1 May, after a rest on a mountain road, he was about to restart the convoy when his horse panicked, slipped on the ice and went over an embankment, killing his rider.

Arnold Aldrich left a widow, Mrs Gertrude A Aldrich, at the above address.

Arnold Aldrich's grave stone in Granezza Cemetery. The date inscribed is shown incorrectly as 2 May but this will be amended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Photo – by Catherine Switzer on <http://www.remembering.org.uk> website

