

*LEST WE FORGET*



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

## HAROLD GEORGE SUMMERS

Army Number 3567

Private, 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment

Died of wounds in France on 27 July 1916, aged 21

Address: 1 Pilley Cottages, Pilley Lane

He is buried in at Labucquière Communal Cemetery Extension, Plot II, Row C, Grave 21 and he is named on the War Memorials at Leckhampton and Cheltenham. He is also commemorated by a wooden cross in the churchyard.

Harold Summers was born in Leckhampton, the son of Edwin and Annie Summers of the above address. In August 1914 he signed up at Cheltenham in the 1/5<sup>th</sup> (Territorial) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment and was in France during the Somme offensive which began in July 1916.

During one of many night-time operations his company had moved forward into ‘no-man’s-land’ and lay waiting for the order to charge. They were spotted by the enemy, however, who bombarded them with artillery fire. Few men survived, and Harold Summers was among the wounded. He died later at a casualty clearing station.

His brother Arthur also died in the war, on 3 February 1917.

One of these three “Flanders Crosses” in the churchyard (Block J) commemorates Private Summers. They are copies of original wooden crosses which had marked the spot where the soldiers had fallen. Photo – Eric Miller

