



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

SYDNEY BARNARD THOMPSON

Army Number 6207

Acting Sergeant-Major, 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers

Killed in action in Belgium on 28 October 1914, aged 34

Address: The School House, Hall Road, Leckhampton

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the memorial at Le Touret and on his parents' grave in Leckhampton Churchyard (Plot A10). He is named on the Leckhampton and Cheltenham War Memorials.

Sydney Thompson was the son of Barnard George Thompson (headmaster of Leckhampton School from 1886 until his death in 1913) and Susan Isabel Thompson.

He was a regular soldier and had already served in the South Africa Campaign of 1899 – 1902, during which he was awarded the Queen's Medal. His name appears on the South African memorial in the Long Gardens in Cheltenham Promenade.

He went to France in August 1914 and in the following month took part in what was to be the last battle in which lances were used by mounted cavalymen. On 28 October his regiment was defending a line around Ypres and during a heavy German artillery bombardment many of the troops were killed, including Sydney Thompson.

His younger brother, Quartermaster Sergeant Ernest Thompson of the Grenadier Guards, was killed the following day during fighting only a few miles away.