



HENRY JAMES WATTS **1893 - 1918**

Service Nos 18468 & 8518

Henry (Harry) James Watts was born in 1893, the son of George and Mary Watts of Fritwell and brother of William (see previous record).

In 1911 at the age of 18 he was living with his parents in Somerton and working as a plough boy on one of the farms.

He served as a private in France in the Oxon & Bucks. Light Infantry. no 18468 but was transferred to the 8th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

At the end of April 1918, 5 Divisions of Commonwealth Forces (IX Corps) were posted to the French 6th Army in this sector to rest and refit following the German offensives on the Somme and Lys. Here at the end of May they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which despite fierce opposition pushed the Allies across the Aisne to the Marne. Having suffered 15,000 fatal casualties IX Corps was withdrawn from this front in early July.

He died during this campaign on the 27th May 1918 aged 25 and is buried in the Department de l'Aisne, Picardie, France.

He is remembered on the Soissons Memorial approx. 100km north east of Paris. 3,876 identified casualties of the UK forces are commemorated here.