

# ARTHUR ROBERT BUCK

**Born:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1878, Stibbard<sup>1</sup>

**Enlisted:** Norwich; 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Bedfordshire Regiment (Private 29227)<sup>2</sup>



**Died:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 1918 – killed in action, France (the Somme)<sup>3</sup>

**Age:** 41

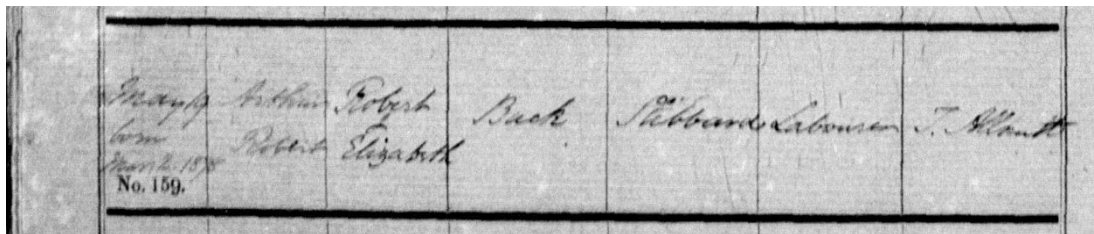
**Memorial:** Pozieres Memorial (Panel 28 & 29), France<sup>4</sup>

**Medals:** British War Medal; Victory Medal<sup>5</sup>



**Residence:** The 1918 electoral register lists Arthur as an absent voter, and his residence as The Brush, Wood Norton.<sup>6</sup>

Arthur Robert Buck was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1878, the youngest son of Robert and Elizabeth Buck, and was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1878 in Stibbard parish church.



*Figure 1: Extract from the Stibbard Baptisms Register, 1878*

<sup>1</sup> Baptisms Register, 1878, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>2</sup> UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>3</sup> CWGC commemoration ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

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<sup>5</sup> UK, WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 *Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>6</sup> First Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors, 1918; Polling District: Foulsham, Parish: Wood Norton (*Norfolk Heritage Centre, microfilm MF1038*).

The British Army WW1 Service records 1914-1920 do not appear to have survived for Arthur, but from the extant records it can be seen that Arthur was serving with the Bedfordshire Regiment when he was killed in 1918 (see Figure 2).<sup>7</sup>

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
BUCK.	Bedf. R.	Rt.	29224
Arthur. R.			
Metal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	K/2/102 No. 699		
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

**Figure 2: Medal Roll Index Card for Arthur Buck**

Arthur died during the Somme conflict in May 1918, and the war diary for the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment indicates that this was at Forceville, in Picardy.<sup>8</sup> The diary records that on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1918, amongst the officers and men killed or wounded, there were

*6 OR's Killed, 11 OR's missing, 31 OR's wounded, 1 gassed*

Arthur's Record of Soldiers' Effects notes *25.3.18 Death Presumed France*. An amount of £14 9s 6d, including a war gratuity of £12 10s, was paid to his sister, Jane (as sole legatee), in 1919.<sup>9</sup>

Arthur is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial (see Figure 3). The memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918, when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory which began on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918. It commemorates over 14,300 casualties of the United Kingdom and South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918.<sup>10</sup>



**Figure 3: Pozieres Memorial - Arthur Buck (reproduced by kind permission of the Buck family)**

There is a memorial to Arthur on the headstone for his niece, Alice, in Wood Norton churchyard (she died on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1919, aged 26). The inscription reads:

<sup>7</sup> British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>8</sup> War Dairy, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, May 1918 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>9</sup> UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects 1901-1929 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>10</sup> CWGC information for Pozieres Memorial ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

*Also Arthur Robert Buck, uncle of the above, killed in action in France, May 25<sup>th</sup> 1918, aged 41 years.*

Further research into Arthur's family reveals that his father, Robert Buck, was born c.1833 in Stibbard, the son of James and Elizabeth Buck.<sup>11</sup> He married Elizabeth Sayers on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1856, in Stibbard parish church.<sup>12</sup> Elizabeth (Betsy) Sayers was baptised on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1827 in Stibbard, the daughter of William and Martha Sayers.<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Buck died in 1894, aged 57, and is buried at Stibbard.<sup>14</sup> Robert Buck (a farm labourer) died in 1897, aged 64, and is buried at Aylsham.<sup>15</sup> The census returns for Stibbard from 1861 to 1891 record Robert and Elizabeth's growing family, with six sons and four daughters being born between 1857 and 1882:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>
William	1857, in Stibbard (baptised 18 <sup>th</sup> October 1857). <sup>16</sup>	1937, aged 79. <sup>17</sup> William is buried in Wood Norton.
John	1860, in Stibbard (baptised 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1860). <sup>18</sup>	1942, aged 82. <sup>19</sup>
James	1862, in Stibbard (baptised 16 <sup>th</sup> November 1863). <sup>20</sup>	
Jane	1865, in Stibbard (baptised 30 <sup>th</sup> June 1865). <sup>21</sup> Jane married William Wright on the 24 <sup>th</sup> December 1891, in Wood Norton parish church. <sup>22</sup> Their son, Alfred Wright (Arthur's nephew) was killed in action in 1917 (Palestine).	1950, aged 84. <sup>23</sup> Jane is buried in Wood Norton.
Lucy	1868, in Stibbard (baptised 11 <sup>th</sup> March 1868). <sup>24</sup> Lucy married William John Snowling in 1896. <sup>25</sup>	1954, aged 86. <sup>26</sup>

<sup>11</sup> 1841 census, Stibbard (p.9, Enumeration Schedule 8) ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>12</sup> Marriage Register, 1856, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD Quarter to December 1856, Walsingham Vol.4b, p.827 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>13</sup> 1841 census, Stibbard (p.16, Enumeration Schedule 11) ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); Baptism Register, 1837, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>14</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to June 1894, Walsingham Vol.4b, p.174 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>15</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1897, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.64 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Burial Register, 1897, Aylsham ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>16</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1857, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.270 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, 1857, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>17</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to June 1937, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.84 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1937 (p.132).

<sup>18</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1860, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.309 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, 1860, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>19</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1942, Wayland, Vol.4b, p.225 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>20</sup> Baptism Register, 1862, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1862, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.274 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>21</sup> Baptism Register, 1865, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1865, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.267 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>22</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1891, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.269 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1891 (p.97).

<sup>23</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to June 1950, Fakenham, Vol.4b, p.374 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>24</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1868, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.303 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, 1868, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>25</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1896, Loddon, Vol.4b, p.555 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>26</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1954, Lothingland, Vol.4b, p.799 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

Thomas	5 <sup>th</sup> May 1870, in Stibbard (baptised 9 <sup>th</sup> June 1870). <sup>27</sup>	
Samuel Henry	1873, in Stibbard (baptised 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 1873). <sup>28</sup> Samuel joined the Royal Engineers on the 14 <sup>th</sup> January 1897, and served for 23 years. He served at home and abroad, including postings in Sierra Leone, Malta and Hong Kong, before applying for his pension in March 1918. <sup>29</sup>	1938, aged 65. <sup>30</sup>
Eliza	1875, in Stibbard (baptised 11 <sup>th</sup> April 1875). <sup>31</sup> Eliza married Edward James Harrold on the 5 <sup>th</sup> February 1898 in Wood Norton parish church. <sup>32</sup>	1956, aged 81. <sup>33</sup>
Arthur Robert	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 1878, in Stibbard. <i>In the 1911 census for Wood Norton, Arthur is aged 32, and a gardener.</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> May 1918, the Somme
Mary Elizabeth	16 <sup>th</sup> June 1882, in Stibbard (baptised 10 <sup>th</sup> September 1882). <sup>34</sup> Mary married Joseph Grint in 1914. <sup>35</sup>	1959, aged 74. <sup>36</sup>

According to the 1901 census for Wood Norton, Arthur was living with his sister, Jane, and brother-in-law, William Wright.<sup>37</sup> In the 1911 census for Wood Norton, Arthur was lodging with Robert Dack's family (Robert was the blacksmith and publican of the Sun Public House), and gave his occupation in the census as a gardener. The 1918 electoral roll lists him as an absent voter, and living at The Brush, Wood Norton.

The headstone for Arthur's niece, Alice, also includes an inscription for Arthur's nephew, Alfred Wright (Jane and William Wright's son), which reads:

*Also Alfred, their second son, killed in action on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1917, buried at Enab in Palestine, aged 22 years.*

Beneath these inscriptions are the words from Alfred's military headstone: *Death Divides but Memory Clings.*

<sup>27</sup> Baptism Register, 1870, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>28</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1873, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.288* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, 1873, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>29</sup> British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>30</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1938, Mitford, Vol.4b, p.275* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>31</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1875, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.285* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, 1875, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>32</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1898, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.155* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1898 (p.98).

<sup>33</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1956, E. Dereham, Vol.4b, p.411* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>34</sup> Baptism Register, 1882, Stibbard ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>35</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1914, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.215* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>36</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1959, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.755* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>37</sup> 1901 census, Wood Norton (p.3) ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).