Thame Remembers

Lance Corporal Edward Benoni Burgess

Edward Benoni Burgess was born in Transvaal, South Africa on the 17th June 1892. His father was Alfred Augustus Burgess, a gentleman, and his mother Ada Eliza (nee Jones). Travelling to England at a few months of age, he was baptised in Bisley, Surrey in August 1893.

After his parents were divorced in 1898, Edward went to live with his maternal grandparents in Skittle Green, Haddenham, and went on to Lord Williams's Grammar School in Thame. He returned to South Africa, after leaving school, and was employed as a pumpman. In August 1915 he enlisted with B Company of the 4th South African Scottish Regiment, which was formed from men of the Transvaal Scottish Regiment. The regiment, as part of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade, sailed for England on the 25th August 1915, and then to Egypt, before being sent to the western front in early 1916. The regiment suffered heavy casualties throughout the war, particularly at Delville Wood in July 1916.
In December 1917, 5266 Edward Burgess, by now a Lance Corporal, was severely wounded, and subsequently died in hospital in Rouen on the 6th January 1918. He is buried in the St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

Edward is commemorated on Haddenham War Memorial and in Thame on the Lord Williams's Grammar School honours board.

The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
10 May 2016
by
Gill Bellis
Thame Resident &
former teacher at
Lord Williams's School

AH Apr 2016