

PTE FRANK EUSTACE

B/1927

'B' Company, 8th Rifle Brigade

Killed in action 15.09.1916

The Rifle Brigade was stationed near Delville Wood near Longueval and on 15 September, 'A' and 'B' companies moved up to the front line in Brown trench. At 6.20 am there followed an intense allied bombardment of the German positions. The two companies moved forward under the barrage with 'A' company suffering some casualties from British gas shells. The first 150 yards were covered with few losses, but the next 200 yards were gained only after heavy loss of life. Many Germans were found in Pint trench, which was eventually captured and the position consolidated. Three hundred and fifty yards had been gained at a loss to the Rifle Brigade alone of 40 killed and approximately 300 wounded or missing. Only six officers and 160 men achieved their objective.

Frank Eustace was the son of the late William and Eliza Eustace and the husband of Kate Eustace (née Denton). He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France (pier 16, face B/C).

In *Berkshire and the War*, on p.552, there is a photograph of Rifleman F. Eustace in uniform, which mentions his sister, Mrs Belcher of Rose Hill, Binfield.