

Arthur Elijah Bridcutt

Arthur was the youngest of the five Bridcutt brothers who served in the Great War. He was born in 1896 in Roke where the family earned their livings as farm labourers. He originally enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery Reserve in Oxford in 1912 (aged just 16), but later enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery (Gunner 40822) at Coventry in 1914. At this time he was working away from home and gave his job as a coal miner. His record shows he was 5ft 6 inches tall, weighed just 124lb, has a fair complexion, brown hair and brown eyes.

Arthur served as a Gunner with the artillery on the Western Front from November 1914 until early 1919, but then instead of being sent home, he was sent to Russia in May 1919.

He found himself part of the little known and ill-fated British North Russian Expeditionary Force, operating out of Archangel in support of the White Russians against the Red Army. As such, he was involved in an attack on Kotlas – a Red Army base on the river Dvina – on 10th August 1919, which was considered a success with over 1,200 Bolsheviks reported killed for a loss of only 55 British casualties. Sadly, Arthur was one of the few to be killed that day. He died some 9 months after the Armistice.