

GNR ARTHUR ELIJAH BRIDCUTT 40822

Royal Garrison Artillery
Killed in action 11.08.1919

In mid-1918, British, French and American troops under British command seized Murmansk and occupied Archangel in North Russia. This, it was argued, would contribute to a counter revolution and topple the Bolsheviks who had seized power the previous year.

On 10 August, 1919, British and Russian troops attacked the Bolshevik forces on the River Dvina. Six enemy battalions were destroyed, prisoners exceeded 2,000, with 12 field guns and many machine guns captured. The attack was considered a success.

The Allied line was advanced about 12 miles to Chudinova and Borok. The 45th and 46th Royal Fusileers and the 201st Machine Gun Company carried out an attack after a fierce bombardment by British and Russian artillery batteries and gunboats. When the bombardment ceased the British charged with bayonets.

Casualties, believed to be about 55, were mainly British. Gunner Bridcutt is listed as killed in action while seconded to the Field Artillery who were stationed at Troitza. Britain ultimately withdrew from North Russia about a month later, with the last troops leaving on 17 September.

Gunner Bridcutt, 23 years old when he died, is believed to be buried in Troitza Churchyard and commemorated on Memorial B12 in Archangel Allied Cemetery. His next of kin were given as

John and Esther Bridcutt of Roke, Benson