

12.1.24 : 051515 Private Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES

DATE OF BIRTH: 15th March 1886.^{1550 1551}

PLACE OF BIRTH: 2 Kilkenny Street,
Bristol, Gloucestershire,
England.¹⁵⁵²

DATE OF DEATH: 01st November 1916.¹⁵⁵³

PLACE OF BURIAL: Arras Road
Cemetery, Roclincourt, Pas de
Calais, France.¹⁵⁵⁴

SERVICE NO: 9970.¹⁵⁵⁵

REGIMENT: 6th Battalion, The
Somerset Light Infantry (S.L.I.)
(Prince Albert's).¹⁵⁵⁶

PRE-WAR OCCUPATION: Galvanised Iron Worker.¹⁵⁵⁷

FATHER: Leonard George JEFFERIES ^{1558 1559}(25th October 1853 - 08th January 1894)¹⁵⁶⁰
¹⁵⁶¹

MOTHER: Georgina WHITE ¹⁵⁶²(1852 - 1937)¹⁵⁶³

SIBLINGS:

Frederick George JEFFERIES ^{1564 1565 1566}(25th August 1874 - 25th November 1944)^{1567 1568}

Alice Emily JEFFERIES ^{1569 1570}(31st January 1876 - 11th February 1952)^{1571 1572}

Mable Florence JEFFERIES ^{1573 1574}(31st January 1879 - 03rd May 1945)^{1575 1576}

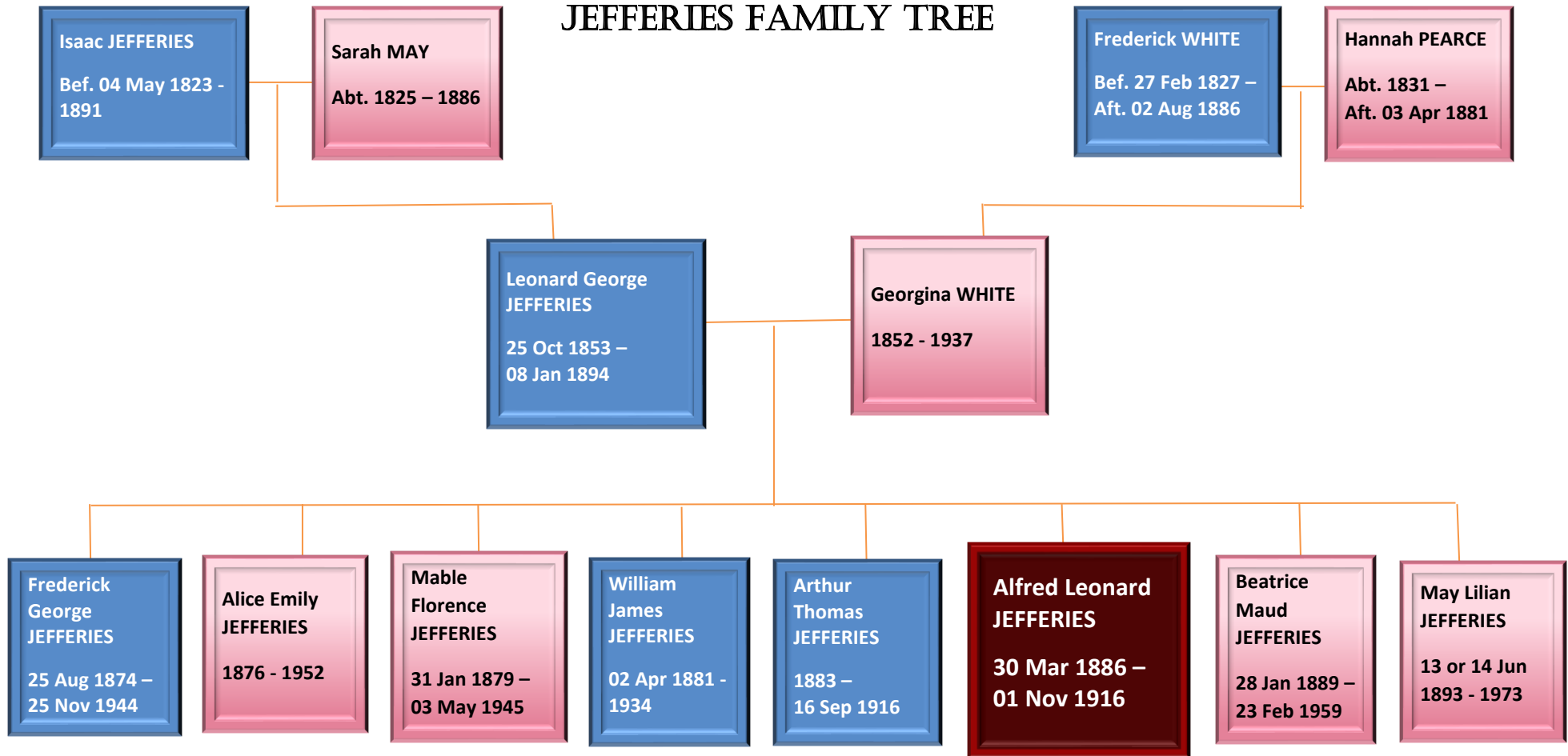
William James JEFFERIES ^{1577 1578}(02nd April 1881 - 1934)¹⁵⁷⁹

Arthur Thomas JEFFERIES ¹⁵⁸⁰(1883 - 16th September 1916)¹⁵⁸¹

Beatrice Maud JEFFERIES ^{1582 1583}(28th January 1889 - 23rd February 1959)^{1584 1585}

May Lilian JEFFERIES ^{1586 1587 1588}(13th or 14th June 1893 - 1973)¹⁵⁸⁹

JEFFERIES FAMILY TREE



Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES

(30th March 1886 – 01st November 1916)



FIGURE 83: ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES.¹⁵⁹⁰

NMA 2024 ¹⁵⁹¹	NMA 2022 ¹⁵⁹²	NMA 2017 ¹⁵⁹³	WO 71 ¹⁵⁹⁴	Parliamentary Pardons	CWGC ¹⁵⁹⁵	Formal Will ¹⁵⁹⁶
150 - Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES. Age Unknown.	150 - Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES. Age Unknown.	150 - Alfred L JEFFERIES. Age Unknown.	WO 71/515 – A, JEFFERIES & F J, HINES. In File: A JEFFERIES, Age 28 on last birthday 31 st March 1916. Prior injuries and shell-shock.	Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES.	Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES Son of Leonard and Georgina Jefferies, of 33 Edward Street, St. Philip's, Bristol. His brother, Arthur Thomas, also fell.	Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES NOK: Mother: Georgina JEFFERIES Executor: Sister – Alice HOLE Address: 33 Edward Street, Kingsland Road, St. Philip's, Bristol Dated 14 th Dec 1914.

TABLE 52: ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES RESOURCE TABLE.

Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES was the youngest son of Leonard George JEFFERIES ^{1597 1598} (25th October 1853 - 08th January 1894)^{1599 1600} and Georgina WHITE ¹⁶⁰¹ (1852 - 1937)¹⁶⁰². The couple had married on 02nd February 1874 in St Matthew's Church, Bristol, England.¹⁶⁰³

Leonard was from Bristol, Gloucestershire, England and worked as a labourer/engine driver in the sawmills. His parents were Isaac JEFFERIES ¹⁶⁰⁴ (Bef. 04th May 1823 - 1891)¹⁶⁰⁵ a butcher and labourer from Siston, Gloucestershire, England and Sarah MAY ¹⁶⁰⁶ (Abt. 1825 - 1886)¹⁶⁰⁷ from Bitton, Gloucestershire, England. Georgina WHITE hailed from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England, her parents were Frederick WHITE ¹⁶⁰⁸ (Bef. 27th February 1827 - Aft. 02nd August 1886)¹⁶⁰⁹ a groom from Bagendon, Gloucestershire, England and Hannah PEARCE ¹⁶¹⁰ (Abt. 1831 - Aft. 03rd April 1881)¹⁶¹¹ from Bristol, England.

No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
448	Thirtieth March 1886 2 Kilkenny Street N.S.C.	Alfred Leonard	Boy	Leonard Jefferies	Georgina Jefferies formerly White	Engine driver in Saw Mills	G. Jefferies Mother 2 Kilkenny Street Bristol	Third May 1886	Arthur S. Hunt Registrar

FIGURE 84: ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES BIRTH CERTIFICATE.¹⁶¹²

Alfred was one of 8 children, born at 2 Kilkenny Street, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England, on the 30th March 1886.¹⁶¹³ He was later baptised on the 20th April 1886 in the Emmanuel the Trinity Church in Bristol, England.¹⁶¹⁴ The eldest child in the family was Frederick George, followed by Alice Emily, Mabel Florence, William James, Arthur Thomas, Alfred Leonard, Beatrice Maud and May Lilian.

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(9-10-83.) London: Shaw & Sons, Fetter Lane.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Emmanuel the Unity* in the
County of *Bristol* in the year One thousand
eight hundred and *Eighty six*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1886 <i>April 20</i> No. 20	<i>Alfred Leonard</i>	<i>Leonard</i> <i>Jeff</i> <i>George</i> <i>Georgiana</i>	<i>Jefferies</i>	<i>2 Kilkenny St</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>R. Watson, Curate.</i>

FIGURE 85: ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES BAPTISM.¹⁶¹⁵

Before Alfred's birth, the family had lived at 1 Kilkenny Street shown in the 1881 census,¹⁶¹⁶ before moving to 2 Kilkenny Street and remaining there until at least 1894.¹⁶¹⁷

JEFFERIES.—Jan. 3, suddenly, at 2, Kilkenny Street, Leonard George Jefferies, the dearly beloved husband of Georgina Jefferies, aged 42. Deeply regretted by all who knew him.

FIGURE 86: DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEONARD GEORGE JEFFERIES.¹⁶¹⁸

As reported in the local newspaper, the sudden death of Leonard JEFFERIES, could have been their reason for their change of abode by the 1901 census to 2 South Parade, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.¹⁶¹⁹ This shows most of the JEFFERIES children, as well as Mother Georgina, out to work.

In the 1911 census, the family moved for the final time to 33 Edward Street, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.¹⁶²⁰ Mother Georgina is the head of the household, Alfred now aged 24, was working at Lysaght's factory as a galvanised iron worker, sister Beatrice as a tobacconist and May as a box-maker.¹⁶²¹

Census Year	1881 ¹⁶²²	1891 ¹⁶²³	1901 ¹⁶²⁴	1911 ¹⁶²⁵	1921 ¹⁶²⁶
Head of Household	Leonard JEFFERIES.	Leonard JEFFERIES.	Deceased. Georgiana JEFFERIES, Widow.	Georgina JEFFERIES, Widow.	Georgina JEFFERIES, Widow.
Age	28.	38.	48.	59.	69Y 13M.
Occupation	Engine Driver.	Stationary Engine Driver.	Boot Machinist.	-	Home Duties.
Address	1 Kilkenny Street, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.	2 Kilkenny Street, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.	2 South Parade, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.	33 Edward Street, St Philipps, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.	33 Edward Street, St Philipps, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.
Wife	Georgina JEFFERIES, 29.	Georgina JEFFERIES 40.	(See Above, Head of Household).	(See Above, Head of Household).	(See Above, Head of Household).
Child	Frederick JEFFERIES, 6, Scholar.	Frederick JEFFERIES, 16, Single, Tin Worker.			
Child	Alice JEFFERIES, 5, Scholar.	Alice JEFFERIES, 15, Single, Tobacconist.			
Child	Florence JEFFERIES, 3, Scholar.	Mabel JEFFERIES, 12, Scholar.	Mabel JEFFERIES, 22, Single, Tobacconist.		
Child		William JEFFERIES, 10, Scholar.	William JEFFERIES, 20, Single, Haulier.		
Child		Arthur JEFFERIES, 8, Scholar.	Arthur JEFFERIES, 17, Single, Bottle Maker.		
Child		Alfred JEFFERIES, 5.	Alfred JEFFERIES, 15, Single, Carter.	Alfred Leonard JEFFERIES, 24, Single, Galvanised Iron Worker.	
Child		Beatrice JEFFERIES, 2.	Beatrice JEFFERIES, 12.	Beatrice Maud JEFFERIES, 22, Single, Tobacconist.	
Child			Ma[r]y JEFFERIES, 8.	May Lillian JEFFERIES, 18, Single, Box-maker.	May Lillian JEFFERIES, 28Y, Single, Box Maker for Mardon Son Hall Printers Stationery.

TABLE 53: JEFFERIES FAMILY CENSUSES.

At the outbreak of war, Alfred and elder brother Arthur, joined the 6th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry (S.L.I).

Whilst on active duty on or around the 17th August 1916, Alfred was accused of desertion when trying to gain passage back to England. He had been stopped and asked for his 'warrant to leave' by 11185 Private Charles FRANK of the 2nd Devonshire's regiment.¹⁶²⁷ When looking at the war diaries for the 6th S.L.I, a planned attack on the German's at Hop Alley in the Somme area of France, saw many casualties for the regiment on the 18th August 1916, giving the prosecution reasoning and motive for Alfred's desertion.¹⁶²⁸

Alfred's trial took place in Arras, France on the 09th October 1916. In between this period, his brother Arthur had been killed in action on the 16th September 1916.¹⁶²⁹

In his trial, 4th witness for the prosecution Pte Frank, remarked towards the end of his statement;

*Accused wore a DLI [Durham Light Infantry] Shoulder-badge in his cap, a badge of S.L.I. Accused made wandering statements as to what he belonged to. Accused put said his name was Pte Jones of the 7th Somerset L.I., he was not sure whether it was the 6th or 7th Somersets. I could make nothing out of the Accused's statements. Accused looked well enough physically, but from the look in his eyes & his expression he was, in my opinion, mentally off balance.*¹⁶³⁰

Alfred stated on oath in his defence;

"I enlisted 17th August 1914, having had 3 years since in the 4th Gloucester's (Territorials). I came out to B.E.F [British Expeditionary Forces] in May 1915 & served with 6 S.L.I. up to June '15 when I was wounded near the right eye. I was sent to the Base for 3 months & rejoined the 6 S.L.I. in August '15. I took part in an attack near Ypres September 25th '15. I was taken out of the trenches with 'shell-shock'. I was kept in the dressing station one night & returned to my company next morning. In Nov '15 I was kept in hospital at Boulogne until after June '16' when I rejoined the Bn. I was with the Bn continuously from that time. On August 16th '16 in Montauban Alley I was with the company in reserve trenches. I was warned for gas sentry to go on duty at 12.30 a.m. At 11.30 pm. I was wandering outside the trench & was discovered by a working party of. I think the Royal Welch.

They took me out of the trench towards Bd [Brigade] H.Q. on the way to Longeuval. I remember nothing else after that & had no idea how I got down to Le Harve – I do not remember any conversation with the witness Pte. Frank. I remember nothing until I was under Escort at the A.P.M's office. I had no food in the ?. I slept one night in the train I got on to the train at Menicourt & got off again at Le Harve – We had been in the Somme area for a few days only before I left the Bn. We had been in ? in the Somme area, & I had no idea that one Bn was wanted to do an attack. I was 28 on 31st March '16."

He was further cross-examined by the prosecution;

"It was at night on 25th Sept '15, just before the attack, that I got 'shell-shocked'. I went to Le Harve on a foot passenger train on 17th August '16. Nobody stopped me or asked me for a ticket. There was other soldiers on the train going to Etaples.

During Oct '15, after my attack of shell-shock in Sept, I was quite well & did my duty with the Bn. The soldiers on the train told me where they were going. I did not tell them where I was going. I wanted to get safely out of the way to keep myself quiet. I did not intend to go down the ?.

I do not know how I reached the station at Menicourt."¹⁶³¹

Despite Alfred's prior experience of injuries, shell-shock and heavy losses and shell fire on the day that he deserted, he was executed on the 01st November 1916 at 06:10am.¹⁶³²

Alfred was buried in the Arras Road Cemetery, Roclincourt, France.¹⁶³³

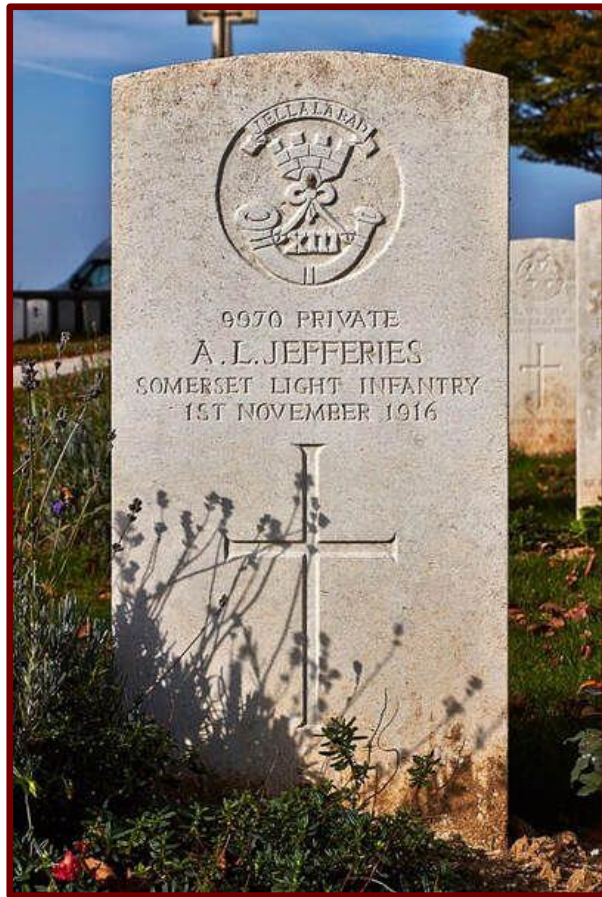


FIGURE 87: A L JEFFERIES HEADSTONE.¹⁶³⁴

Alfred had made a will a few months after his enlistment, leaving any of his possessions to Mother Georgina in the event of his death.¹⁶³⁵

Form of Will, No. 1.

To be used by a Soldier desirous of leaving the whole of his Effects to one person.

(a) The Names of the Soldier to be written in full.

I, (a) Alfred Leonard Jefferies

No. 9970, of the 6th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry Regiment of _____

do hereby revoke all former Wills by me made, and declare this to be my last Will.

After payment of my just Debts and Funeral Expenses I give to my

(b) Name "Friend," or of a relative, in what degree.

(b) Mother Georgina Jefferies

(c) The name in full.

(c) No 33 Edward Street Suxes street Kingsland Rd

(d) Insert the address, if known, or other description.

(d) st philips Bristol

(e) If to a female, add the words "for her sole and separate use, her Receipt alone being a sufficient discharge."

absolutely (e) for her sole & separate use her Receipt alone
Being a sufficient Discharge

(f) The full names and descriptions and exact addresses of the Executor or Executors should be carefully stated.

the whole of my Estate and Effects, and everything that I can by law give or

dispose of, and I appoint (f) Sister Mother Alice Hole

No 33 Edward street Suxes street Kingsland Rd
st philips Bristol

Executor of this my Will.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand

this 14 day of December A.D. 1914

(g) Soldier to sign here, or, if he cannot write, to make his mark.

(g) Alfred Leonard Jefferies

Signed and acknowledged by the said Alfred Leonard Jefferies the same having been previously read over to him as and for his last Will in the presence of us, present at the same time, who, in his presence, at his request, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our Names as Witnesses.

(h) Witnesses to sign here.

(h) Joseph Hippesley

(i) Add addresses in full.

(i) Witley Common Surrey

(h) Walker Walker

(i) Witley Common Surrey

Declaration of the Medical Officer.

I declare that I was present at the Execution of this Will and that _____ the Testator

was at the time in a fit state of mind to execute the same.

FIGURE 88: FORMAL WILL OF ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES.¹⁶³⁶

After the death of both Alfred and Arthur, their Mother Georgina and Sister May Lilian continued to live at 33 Edward Street, St Philipps, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.¹⁶³⁷ On the 11th April 1925, May married wood machinist Ernest CHAPPELL.¹⁶³⁸ The couple are listed in the 1939 register, residing at 33 Edward Street, St Philipps, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England, 2 years after Mother Georgina JEFFERIES death in 1937.^{1639 1640}

Secondary Literature

No Thankful Village: by Chris Howell.

Howell recorded the memoirs of former soldiers, including the oral history of 6th S.L.I Lance Corporal George TAYLOR. George had spoken about the JEFFERIES brothers and of how Alfred had suffered mentally due to the loss of his brother Arthur, along with constant trench warfare. However, the dates don't quite line up and these memoirs were written 70 years after the event.

The Bristol Deserter: Alfred Jefferies And The Great War: by Geoff Woolfe.

- No dates of BMD or references of BMD & census, just years.
- Good use of combining war diary entries and tying to Alfred JEFFERIES Court Marital for a more accurate timeline of events.
- p.19 Woolfe writes;

'The first soldier executed for desertion in World War One was Thomas Highgate, a teenage private from Ireland.'

No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	if added after Registration of Birth.
140	Thirteenth May 1895 Alborne Farm Shoreham K. D.	Thomas	Boy	John James Highgate	Alice Highgate formerly Tuttleby	General Labourer	X The Frank of Alice Highgate Mistress Alborne Farm Shoreham	Fourteenth June 1895	M. C. Pope Registrar	

FIGURE 89: THOMAS JAMES HIGHGATE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.¹⁶⁴¹

Woolfe documents this incorrectly as Thomas James HIGHGATE, was born in Shoreham, Kent.

- p.20 Woolfe includes mention of fellow S.L.I soldier Louis (also recorded as Lewis) PHILLIPS execution that took place on the 19th August 1915.¹⁶⁴² As Louis PHILLIPS is not case studied in this dissertation, further genealogical resources would need to be investigated.
- p.28 Woolfe gives overall account on the Lysaght's factory (Alfred's place of work) and its workers before and during the war.
- Local Newspapers: The figures on those pardoned are incorrect.¹⁶⁴³



FIGURE 90: ALFRED LEONARD JEFFERIES NMA PLAQUE WITH QR CODE.¹⁶⁴⁴