



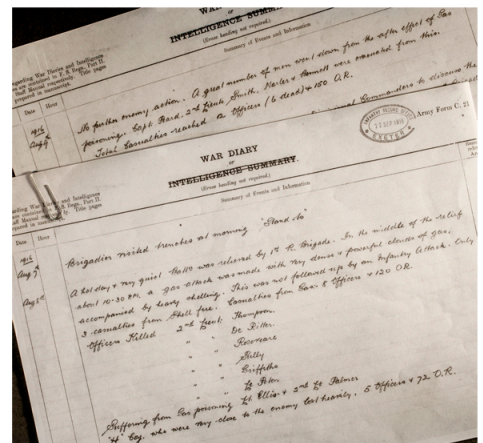
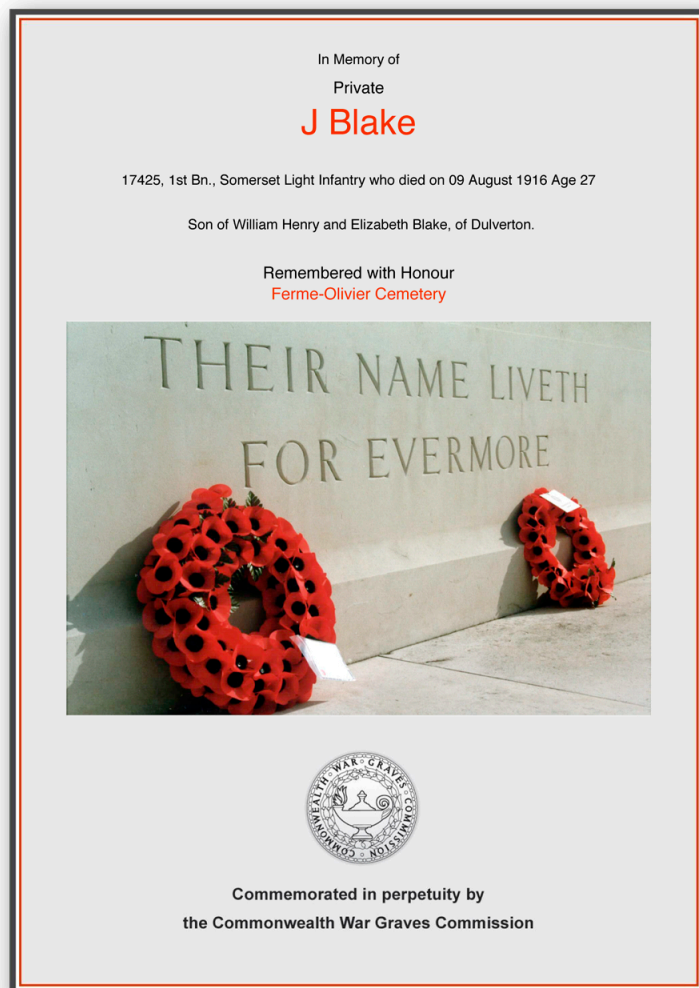
James Blake

1890 - 1916

James Blake was born in Dulverton in 1890, the son of William and Elizabeth Blake of Higher Spire Dulverton. Prior to enlisting he was a farm labourer working at Liscombe.

James served as a Private in the 1st Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry.

The Battalion left for France on the 22nd August 1914 and first saw action in the Battle of Le Cateau during the retreat from Mons. They remained on the Western Front throughout the war and were in action in the Battle of Marne, the Battle of Aisne and the Battle of Messines in 1914. In 1915 they fought in the Second Battle of Ypres and in 1916 moved south for the Battle of the Somme.



Entry in the War Diary
August 7th-12th 1916.

On the 8th August 1916 near Poperinge, whilst the Somersets were being relieved in the line, there was a gas attack accompanied by heavy shelling. Whilst the Battalion only received 3 casualties from the shellfire they lost 128 on the day from the gas attack and a further 40 died from the effects the following day, one of these being James.

James died on the 9th August 1916 in Flanders age 27. He is Remembered with Honour at the Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, Belgium and in Winsford Church.



Winsford 1914