

## Carl RADFORD

Born Dawlish, Q2, 1896  
Lance Sergeant , 14757

Died 3 September 1916, aged 20  
12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

**Carl Radford** was the fourth son of Henry Radford (1864-1934) and Mary Ann Matthews (1864-1964).

Henry was born in Dawlish to Richard and Elizabeth Radford who lived in Church Street, Dawlish (1871 census). Richard had been an agricultural labourer and his wife a "washerwoman."

Henry Radford was a "mason" (1901) and then a "plasterer"(1911) and their four children, born in Dawlish, survived to adulthood; Stanley (1889-1965), Claude (1891-1962), Percy (1892-1974) and **Carl** (1896-1916). By 1911 the parents had been married 23 years and were living at Swan Cottage, Dawlish. (Warren family tree)

Carl was working as a grocer's apprentice at Dawlish Co-Operative Stores at the age of 15, and then moved to the Co-operative in Bristol. The Dawlish Gazette report of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 said that he was "a smart young fellow".

**Carl Radford** is recorded as enlisting in the Gloucestershire Regiment at Weston-super-mare and entering France on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915. He was home on leave in the Spring of 1916 but was on the sick list with 'shell shock' for a while on his return.

He was killed in one of the assaults in the Battle of the Somme which started on 1 July 1916. His grave is in the cemetery at Guillemont and it would connect him with the "Battle of Guillemont" which took place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September. The defence of Guillemont was judged by some to be the best performance of the War by the German Army on the Western Front.

Carl Radford's rapid progress to Lance Sergeant at the age of 20 suggests a capable soldier, or a rapid depletion of NCOs in his regiment.

His three brothers were also serving, one in India with the Devonshire Regiment, one with the R.A.M.C. in France and the other in munitions work which had its own dangers.

The Commonwealth War Graves entry is:

Radford C, Lance Sergeant 14757 03/09/1916 Age: 20

Gloucestershire Regiment, 12th Bn.

Grave Ref: XIII. I. 9. Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont

Son of Henry and Mary A. Radford, of Bridge Cottage, Church St., Dawlish, Devon.

Carl Radford appears in the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish and on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: RADFORD C. L/SERGT. GLOUC. REGT.

Devon Heritage site info: C. RADFORD 14757 Lance Sergeant of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment. Son of Henry and Mary Ann Radford of Bridge Cottage, Church Street, Dawlish. Born in Dawlish in the June Quarter of 1896. Died 3 September 1916, aged 20.

Next of kin: Henry Radford, father.

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects shows that Death grant of £8.5s.3d and the War Gratuity of £10 were paid to his mother, Mary, Sole Legatee.

Medal Rolls Index Cards show him awarded the 15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

References: CWGC and census records Warren Family tree (Ancestry)

The **Battle of Guillemont** (3–6 September 1916) was an attack by the Fourth Army on the village of [Guillemont](#). The village is on the D 20 running east to Combles and the D 64 south-west to Montauban. Longueval and Delville Wood lie to the north-west and Ginchy to the north-east. The village lay on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the [French](#) Sixth Army. The Fourth Army had advanced close to Guillemont during the [Battle of Bazentin Ridge](#) (14–17 July) and the capture of the village was the culmination of British attacks which began on 22/23 July to advance on the right flank of the Fourth Army, to eliminate a salient further north at Delville Wood. German defences ringed the wood and had observation over the French Sixth Army area to the south towards the Somme.

Preparatory to a general attack intended for mid-September, from the Somme north to Courcellette (beyond the Albert–Bapaume road) the French Sixth Army, the Fourth Army and Reserve Army conducted numerous attacks to capture the rest of the German second line and to gain observation over the German third line. The German defences around Guillemont were based on the remaining parts of the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Hem, [Maurepas](#) and Combles, to Falfemont Farm, Guillemont, Ginchy, [Delville Wood](#) and High Wood, which commanded the ground in between.<sup>[[Note 1](#)]</sup>

Numerous attempts were made by [Joffre](#), [Haig](#), [Foch](#) and the army commanders [Rawlinson](#) and [Fayolle](#) to co-ordinate joint attacks, which failed due to a recovery by the German army from the disorganisation caused by the defeats in early July, disagreements over tactics by Haig and Joffre in July and August and organisational constraints caused by congestion behind the front, roads and tracks obliterated by Anglo-French artillery-fire becoming swamps in periods of rainy weather and increasing German artillery-fire on targets behind the front line. Inexperience, unreliable machinery, guns and ammunition and an unpredictable flow of supplies from Britain reduced the effectiveness of the British armies. Difficulty in co-ordinating attacks by the Allied armies and the large number of piecemeal attacks resorted to by the British have been criticised as costly failures and evidence of muddle and incompetence by Haig and Rawlinson, even though the French Sixth and Tenth armies had similar difficulties and despite the severe strain put on the German Second and First armies, which were forced into a similar piecemeal defence.

Wilfrid Miles noted in the [British Official History](#), that the defence of Guillemont was judged by some observers, to be the best performance of the war by the German army on the [Western Front](#). A pause in Anglo-French attacks at the end of August to organise bigger combined attacks and postponements for bad weather, coincided with the largest counter-attack by the German army in the Battle of the Somme. Joffre, Foch and Haig abandoned attempts to organise large combined attacks in favour of sequenced army attacks and the capture of the German defences from Cléry on the north bank of the Somme to Guillemont from 3 – 6 September brought the French Sixth and British Fourth armies onto ground which overlooked the German third position. Rain, congestion and reliefs of tired divisions then forced a pause in French attacks until 12 September. In the [Battle of Ginchy](#) (9 September) the Fourth army captured the village, ready for the [Battle of Flers-Courcellette](#), (15–22 September).

Exx- Wikipedia