



Thame Remembers



Private Lewis Rhymes

Lewis Rhymes was a Private (7657) with the 1st Battalion, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, and participated in the Battle of the Aisne and the 1st Battle of Ypres, before being severely wounded in action at Festubert, near Givenchy, France on 20th December 1914. He was evacuated to the rear and died of his wounds in hospital at Boulogne on Christmas Day 1914, age 29. He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery. Lewis had been born in Chipping Norton in 1885, the son of Edwin and Eliza Rhymes. He worked as a farm labourer before enlisting with the 2nd Battalion, Gloucesters in 1904, transferring to the 1st Battalion in 1910. He was discharged into the reserves in 1911 and after a short employment with the Chipping Norton Gas company, enlisted into the police with the Oxfordshire Constabulary in August 1911. After training in Oxford, PC 79 was posted to the Bullingdon Division in September 1912, and stationed in Thame. He married Ellen Sale in April 1914 in Abingdon moving to live in Married Quarters in Bicester in June 1914. He was recalled to his Regiment on 4th August 1914, and disembarked with the 1st Battalion at Le Havre on the 13th August 1914.

In the spring of 1915 Ellen gave birth to Edwin L H Rhymes, a son his father never saw. Lewis is commemorated on the Chipping Norton war memorial, but is not currently remembered in Thame.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
23 May 2016
by
Allan Hickman
Thame Remembers**

