

In Memory of Captain Kenneth Walton Grigson

1895 - 1918

(7th Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment)

Age: 23

Parents: William Shuckworth Grigson & Mary Beatrice Boldero

Conflict: World War I, The Great War

Country Enlisted In: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

Country of Death: Marfaux, Grand Est, France

Relation: Paternal 4th Cousin 2X Removed



Captain Kenneth W. Grigson was twenty-three years old when he was killed in the heat of the Second Battle of the Marne, one of the decisive turning points of the First World War. He served with the 7th Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment, a unit that had been blooded on the Western Front since 1915 and had fought through some of the war's hardest campaigns.

By the summer of 1918, the German Army had launched its last desperate offensives, striking along the Marne River in hopes of breaking through before American reinforcements could arrive in full. The Allies, weary but resolute, counterattacked with fresh strength. The fields and vineyards of Champagne and the Marne valley became a storm of battle once again, littered with burning villages, broken guns, and the fallen of both armies.

In the midst of this, Kenneth Grigson bore the heavy responsibilities of command at an age when many men are only just beginning their lives. The Devonshires were thrown into the fighting near Marfaux, where German machine-gun nests and artillery tore into the advancing waves. The noise was unrelenting — the shriek of shells overhead, the hammering of rifles and machine guns, the shouted orders carried on the smoke-filled air. Men moved through wheat fields cut down by fire, across ground that shook with the pounding of guns.



*Captain in the Devonshire
Regiment*

On the 20th of July, 1918, Kenneth was killed in action. The exact manner of his death is unrecorded, but it came amid the fury of the Allied counteroffensive that turned the tide of the war. He was twenty-three, an officer who had lived with the weight of responsibility beyond his years, and he fell in one of the final great battles that brought the war toward its end.

He was laid to rest in Marfaux British Cemetery, where rows of white headstones stand in quiet order among the fields of France. Today the cemetery is peaceful, with flowers blooming between the stones, a place of silence where once the ground trembled with fire. There, Captain Kenneth W. Grigson's name is carved in stone, a reminder of a young officer who gave his life in the last great struggle of the war.

Kenneth's story is one of youth, leadership, and sacrifice. At just twenty-three, he commanded men in the fiercest of battles, and he fell in the effort to drive back the enemy and secure victory. His life was short, but his courage and service endure in the soil of Marfaux, part of the legacy of the Devonshire Regiment and of the countless young officers who gave all they had in the Great War.



*Marfaux British Cemetery
Marfaux, Departement de la Marne, Champagne-
Ardenne, France*

Find a Grave 56470505