

PRIVATE H W GAULT (G/14266)



(Royal Sussex Regiment)

The 1837-1915 Births Marriages and Deaths Index lists births registered between October and December 1890 with Harry William Gault's birth being registered in the district of Thingoe (parishes, including **Bradfield Combust**, in Thingoe registration district became part of the new county of West Suffolk on 1st April 1889). The 1891 England Census confirms that Private Gault was born 'about' 1890 in **Bradfield Combust** in the civil parish of **Stanningfield Combust**; the census states that his parents (father Alfred, a bricklayer from **Cockfield**, and mother Sarah from **Beccles**) had 3 daughters and 3 sons; Harry was the youngest sibling aged 6 months at the time.

Private Gault served with the 8th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment; the 8th Battalion was formed at Chichester in September 1914 as part of the new Kitchener's [volunteer] Army. On 24th July 1915 the Battalion crossed to France to join The Great War as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

At the time of his death, Private Gault's 8th Battalion had moved to Flanders to take part in the Third Battle of Ypres as part of the overall objective of 'wearing out the enemy' with a high-tempo series of bite-and-hold attacks, intended eventually to force the German army into a general withdrawal and then 'securing the Belgian coast and connecting with the Dutch frontier'. The 8th Battalion fought in the Battle of the Menin Road Ridge from 20th to 25th September 1917. On 20th September the Allies attacked and successfully captured most of their objectives and foiling German counter-attacks which had been held back waiting for another British advance which British Official History records as never coming. Following the Menin Road battle the German defensive tactics were changed.



Battle of Menin Road

British casualties for the 5 day battle are given as 20 255 of which 3 148 were killed.

Private Gault's records state that he was killed in action in the Western European Theatre on 25th September 1917. His Medal Rolls Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Private Gault died at the age of 27 and is laid to rest in grave plot I.C.44 in Duhallow A. D. S. Military Cemetery in Ypres, Belgium.



Remembered With Honour

