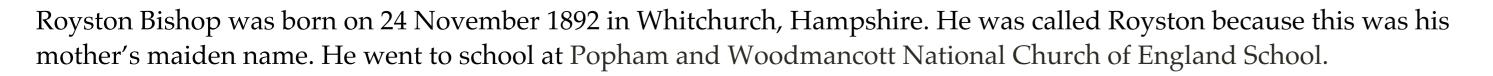
Royston Bishop

died of wounds 16 November 1916

age 25 years



His father Henry, who was also born in Whitchurch, was living in Dummer in 1911. His occupation was listed as a farmer of a smallholding. He had previously been head gamekeeper living at Manor Farm in Woodmancott. Royston's mother was Hannah Maria, known as Annie. She was born in Cardiff, Wales.

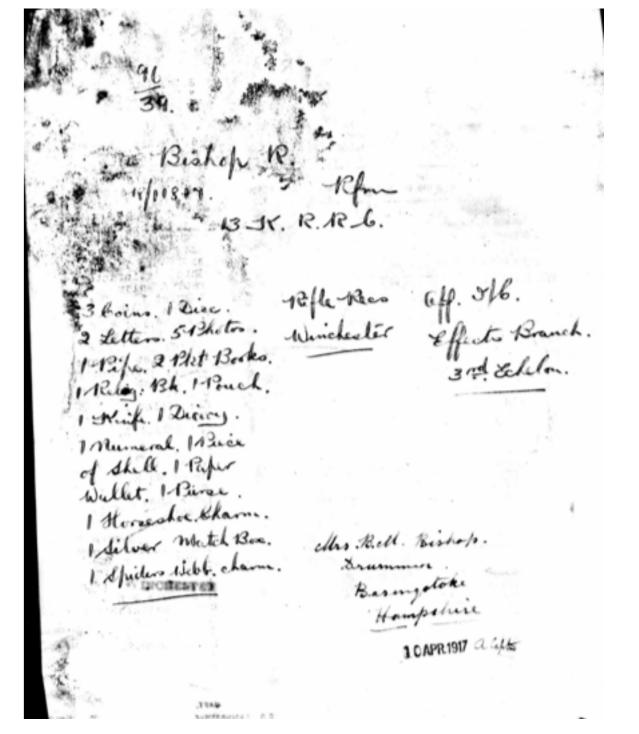
Royston had two younger sisters: Ruby who was born in Whitchurch in 1894 and Annie who was born in Dummer in 1908.

When Royston enlisted on 14th April 1915 he was described as single, a gamekeeper, age 23 years and 6 months, and 5ft 7½ inches tall. He was initially enlisted in the 5th Battalion King's Royal Rifles, R/ 11817. He was subsequently posted to the 1st Battalion when he left Southampton for Le Havre on the 4th August 1916 and reposted to the 13th Battalion almost immediately, in the field. He was a qualified Vickers and Lewis Gunner.

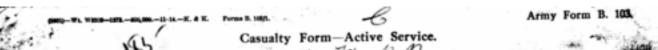
On 29th October 1915, before he was posted abroad, he married Bertha Mary Sainsbury. Bertha's father Robert was a carpenter and joiner living in Dummer. In 1901 the Sainsbury family were living in Down Street.

On the 15th November 1916, during the Battle of the Ancre, Royston suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder and groin, dying of his wounds the following day.

Royston is recorded on the Bellringer's memorial in Winchester Cathedral, the only Dummer ringer to be so remembered.



A list of Royston's personal effects recorded on his death





Flooded area in the Ancre Valley, November 1916. A work party can be seen in the foreground. Q 1568 IWM

The Battle of the Ancre, 13 - 18 November 1916.

The attack of the British Fifth Army against German First Army along the River Ancre between Thiepval and Beaumont Hamel was the final large-scale British attack on the Somme before winter set in.

After Thiepval had fallen on the 28th September 1916, the Germans no longer had dominating positions overlooking the valley of the River Ancre. The British attack, long since dormant in this area, was now renewed.

From the 13th of November the battle was extended northwards across to the far side of the River Ancre. During the afternoon of the 13th November the 13th Battalion KRRC had marched up from Mesnil arriving at the battle area at 9.30pm where they were ordered to reinforce the 189th Brigade near Beaucourt.

Name Bishop Rovetor Was Service reckons from (a) 14 (a) Huralin roll of N.C,Os. Date of appointme Qualification (b) Freld

Royston Bishop's Service Record





King's Royal Rifle Corps Memorial at Winchester Cathedral

13th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps

Originally part of the 34th Division, between 6 July and 22 August 1916 the 13th KRRC was transferred to the 37th Division, 111th Brigade. At the Battle of the Ancre they were part of V Corps under Lt-Gen Edward Arthur Fanshawe.

37th Division

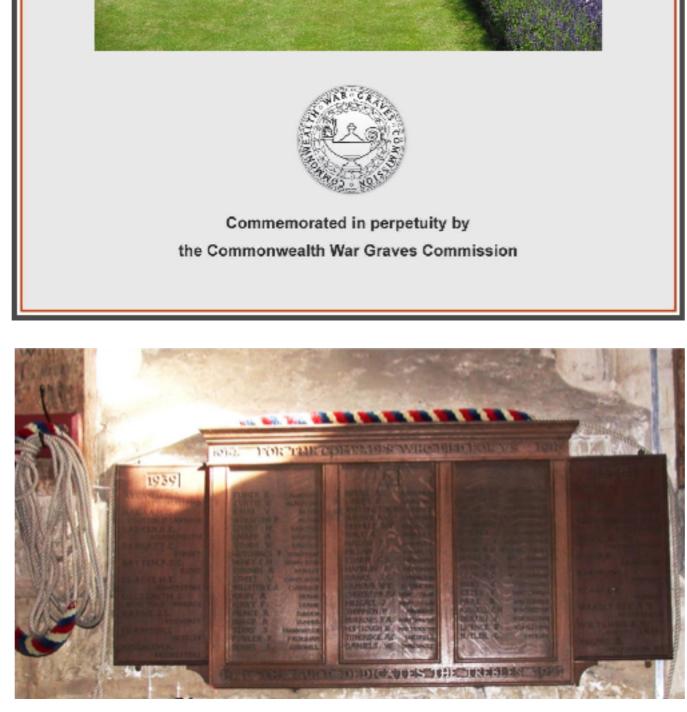
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Raised for the Sixth New Army, 37th Division began to form in March 1915. It was originally known as 44th Division. A War Office decision to convert the Fourth New Army into training units led to it being "promoted". It became 37th Division and a Divisional HQ was established at Andover on 12 April 1915. Many units that had been formed for a while came into its command.

The British 63rd Division attacked in fog and snow on 13 November from the very same front lines from which the attack had failed so badly on 1 July. On the morning of the 14th the 13 KRRC went into battle. C and D Company were commanded by Captain Proctor and Captain Stokes, however the C Company officers were almost immediately killed by a British shell.

As soon as the initial barrage lifted, the order was given to advance. Beaucourt Road was taken quickly and the edge of the village reached by 8am. During the day they took the village, the dug-outs being full of Germans most of whom surrendered. They were still subject to bombers and snipers and suffered losses. The Battalion dug in on the far edge of the village.

After the other battalions were withdrawn that evening, overall command passed to the Commanding Officer of the 13th KRRC, Lieutenant Colonel Chester-Master. They were the only Battalion involved in the capture of Beaucourt who were not relieved after the battle and who remained in the front line for a further five days.



In April 1915 the Division concentrated at Cholderton on Salisbury Plain. On 22 July 1915 the Division began to cross the English Channel and by 2 August all units were concentrated near Tilques. The 13th King's Royal Rifles joined the Division at the end of August 1916. The Division then remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, the Battle of the Ancre being its first engagement.

At the Armistice on 11 November 1918 the Division was in the area of Le Quesnoy. On 1 December 1918 it moved to Charleroi. Demobilisation began on Boxing Day and by 25 March 1919 the Division ceased to exist.

The Great War cost 37th Division 29,969 men killed, wounded or missing.

Memorial to the Cathedral Bellringers in Winchester Cathedral. Royston's name is on the second panel from the left, fourth from the bottom.