

Arthur George CROSS



- Born:** 1895, Padstow, Cornwall
- Occupation:** Apprentice turner at shipbuilding engine works
- Enlisted:** Ayr, Scotland: 8th September 1914 (Volunteer)
- Unit:** 10th & 8/10th Gordon Highlanders
- Rank/number:** Corporal: No.5687
- Death:** Died of wounds, 20th June 1916
- Detail:** Arthur was fatally injured as his Scots battalion defended the line at Hulluch, north of Loos in France. On 19th June 1916 the 8/10th Gordons suffered repeated mortar, minenwerfer and rifle-grenade attacks and was badly wounded in his left shoulder. He was taken to a field ambulance, then on to a casualty clearing station, but died at 5pm on the 20th.
- Age at death:** 21
- Military info:** Arthur enlisted in The Gordon Highlanders, a famous old Scottish regiment, a month after war broke out. He was 19 years old, 5ft 9ins tall, with blue eyes and fair hair. He was posted to the 10th Battalion, a Kitchener unit being raised in Aberdeen. They were part of 44th Brigade in the 15th (Scottish) Division. The battalion first trained at Aldershot and in November moved to Midhurst, West Sussex. In March 1915 they went to Chisledon, Wilts and the following month Arthur was promoted to lance-corporal. In May the battalion arrive at Tidworth near Salisbury Plain for their final exercises. On 9th July 1915 Arthur and the 10th Gordons landed in France at Boulogne. Within a fortnight Arthur came down with rheumatic fever and spent a month in hospital at Rouen. He was discharged on 12th September. On the 25th the 10th Gordons went into action at the Battle of Loos, suffering 489 casualties, though it is not know if Arthur had rejoined his unit by then. In April 1916 the battalion were involved in the German gas attacks near Hulluch, and in May they suffered heavy losses at the defence of the Kink position. That month the Battalion merged with the 8th Gordons, and became the 8/10th Gordons. On 19th June Arthur was injured at Hulluch during an enemy mortar and aerial torpedo barrage and he succumbed to his wounds the following day.
- Grave/memorial:** Arthur is buried at Bethune Cemetery in France and is also commemorated at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on Padstow War Memorial.
- Family info:** Father: Arthur George Cross, born Ipswich, Suffolk in 1865. Mariner. He served in the war as a transport officer in the Black Sea Force. Mother: Emily Champion Bastard, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1866. Daughter of notable Padstonian Captain William Bastard. The couple married in 1893. Arthur was their only child. The family moved to Troon in South Ayrshire.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email smithpeter24@gmail.com