

EVERARD HISTORY

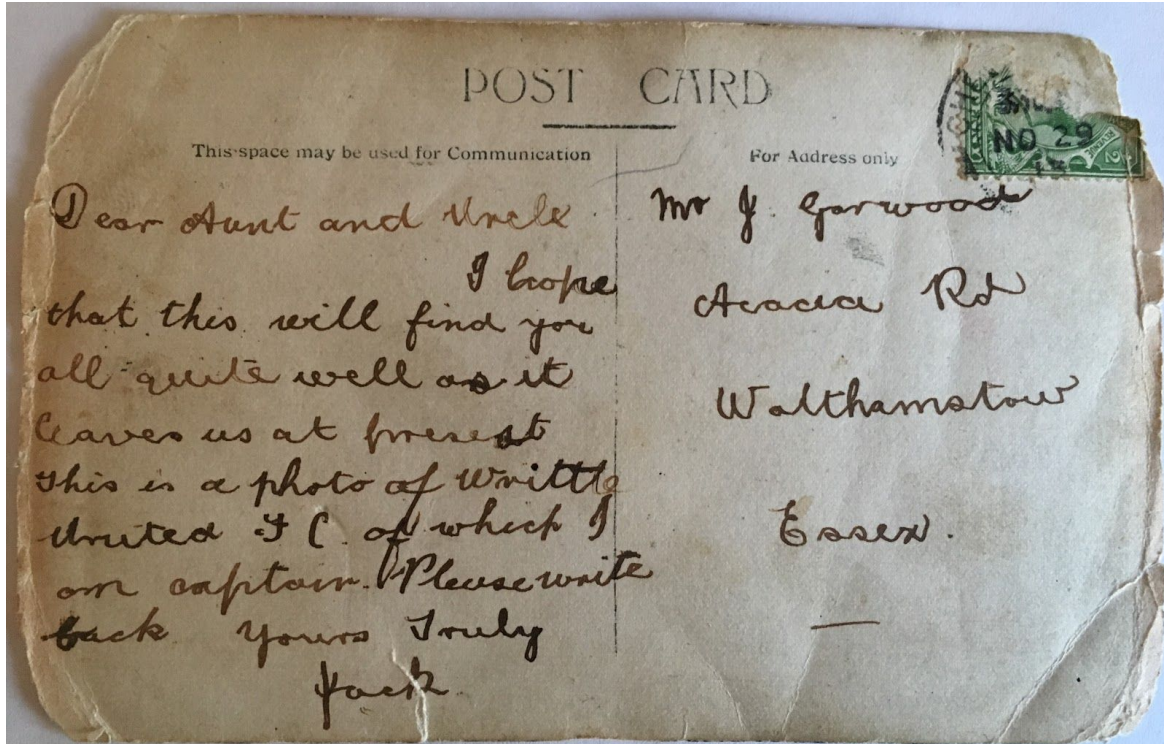
This is a timeline of John Robert Everard's movements in World War 1 during 1915 - 1918. Information was gathered from family members, Ancestry, World Forces Records, wikipedia.org, greatwarforum.org, longlongtail.co.uk, essexregiment.co.uk, hertsatwar.co.uk, bedfordregiment.org.uk & maps.nls.uk.

You can also view the same information plotted across locations on google maps [here](#). The coloured headings and numbers below match the coloured sections on the map.

Background

John Robert Everard, also known as 'Jack' was born on 28th June 1895 in the village of Writtle, Essex. He had two older brothers Ernest and Walter, and three sisters, one older called Alice, and two younger sisters, Violet and Rose. Aged 15, he worked as an Engineer's Painter. Aged 18, he captained Writtle United Football Club. See the photo postcard below (he's in the center holding the football). And just 2 years later, on 19th November 1915, he joined the Essex Regimental Army to serve in World War one.





The message on the postcard says..... "Dear Aunt and Uncle. I hope that this will find you all quite well as it leaves us at the moment. This is a photo of Writtle United F.C of which I am captain. Please write back. Yours truly Jack".

1a. Enlistment

19th November 1915

John Robert Everard enlisted into the Essex reserves which was part of the Bedfordshire Regiment.

Regiment number: 39800

- Age: 20yrs 5 months
- Height: 5ft 3.5 inches
- Weight: 126 lbs
- Vision: R6/9 L6/12
- Girth: 34.5 inches
- Right handed

[See recruitment record](#)

[See photos](#)

1b. Military Training

Military Training

20th November 1915 - 27th February 1916

Location: Warley Barracks, Essex

He lived and trained at Warley Barracks, near Brentford for 2 years, which was the main training camp for the Essex Regiment. It was an ideal base, as it was less than a day's march to Tilbury, where the troops would leave for foreign service.

Activities included:

Lifestyle and daily routine; food rations; preparing for room and kit inspections. Basic training, kitting out; drill; weapons training; PT; weekend training, fieldcraft and tactical exercises; annual camp. Recollections of conditions of service.

PT including milling, cross country runs and assault courses; drill; weapons training including Bren gun, Sten gun, hand grenades and bayonet; patrol training and exercises; gas mask training.

On 27th February 1917, he and his regiment were called up to service and began the preparation to join other Battalions on the front line and go to war.

[See photos](#)

State of the war : May 1917 - The tides were turning and British troops began attacking German defences near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. The British went on to achieve the longest advance since trench warfare had begun

1c. Mobilisation / Arrival

Arrived at Felixstowe Port on 16th May 1917, which was one of the key points of departure for men and supplies from the UK.

Travelled by ship to Boulogne-sur Mer Port on 16th May 1917 and John Joined Base Depot in Calais on 17th May 1917

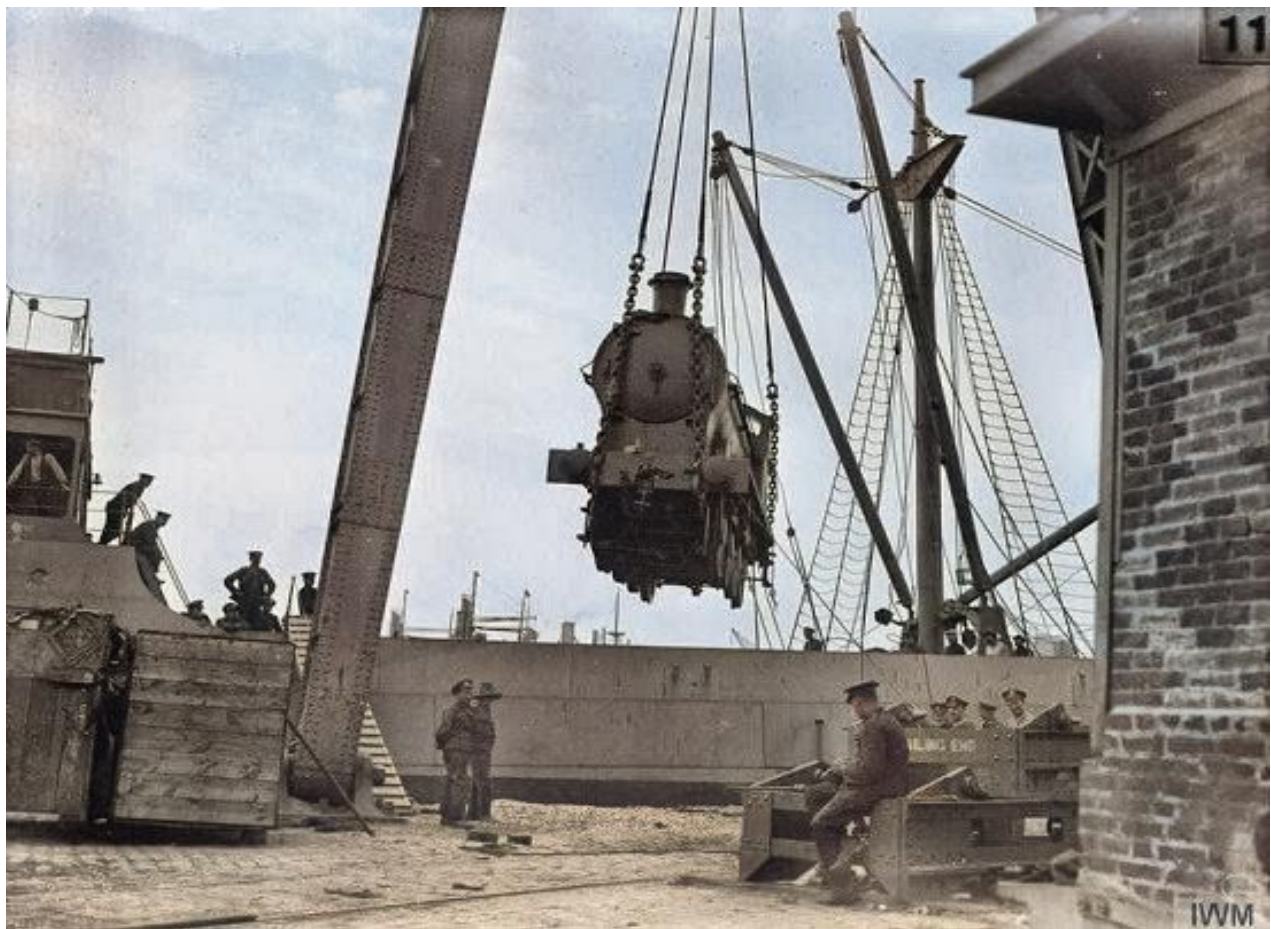
On his records it also states he was "posted to Bedfordshire 2nd Battalion for record purposes"

Base Depots were established at the Channel Ports in France and at other places on the lines of communication. They had a variety of purposes.

- As a transport hub: Goods arrived in bulk by ship and were broken down into wagon-loads and sent on by rail.
- For organising soldiers: General Base Depots were the centres for collecting, sorting and dispatching reinforcements to units in the field (see also Infantry Base Depots).
- For storing and organising ammunition and ordnance supplies: specialist ammunition stage depots were also established, with technical workshops of the Army Ordnance Corps.

The places selected for Base Depots became centres of a very considerable industry with workshops, stores, barracks, camps, hospitals, etc. Most of the facilities of the Base Depots were manned and operated by the Army Service Corps.

[See photos](#)



2. Battles - 6th Bedfordshire Regiment

John Robert Everard joined the 6th Bedfordshire Battalion on 9th June 1917, as part of the 1st Essex regiment.

5th Army
/34th Division
/112th Infantry Brigade
/6th Bedfordshire Battalion
/1st Essex Regiment

With the acute manpower shortage that had developed throughout 1917, the British Army reorganised itself into a smaller Army, disbanding many of the 'junior' service battalions and transferring the men into other units. As a result, the 112th Brigade became a three Battalion Brigade, having lost all its Battalions other than the Bedfords and gaining only two others in their place. The Brigade changed completely and included:

- 6th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.
- 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment.
- 13th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

[See photos](#)

1. The Battle Of Pilckem Ridge

Battle of Ypres - The Battle Of Pilckem Ridge

31st July 1917

Location: Rifle Farm, Ypres, Belgium

Outcome: Allied victory



The Third Battle of Ypres was a campaign for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders. On the opening day of the Third Battle of Ypres, the British Fifth Army were tasked with securing Pilckem Ridge, the only high ground to the north east of Ypres.

A huge artillery bombardment followed by a creeping barrage opened the assault as British infantry including the Bedfordshire 6th Battalion advanced towards German lines. Great progress was made in the early hours of the battle, but as the day progressed the attack lost momentum, slowed by heavy rain and determined German counter-attacks.

Gains included the strategically important Pilckem Ridge, Bellewaarde Ridge and German observation posts on Gheluvelt Plateau, but were less than half of those intended and cost nearly 32,000 casualties.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

2. Battle of the Menin Road Ridge

Battle of Ypres - The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge

20th - 25th September 1917

Location: Shrewsbury Forest (Groenenburgbos), Belgium

Outcome: Allied victory.



The third major Allied attack of the Third Battle of Ypres

The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge saw nine divisions attack on a 10,000 yards (9.1km) front, from the Ypres-Comines Canal, north of Hollebeke, to the Ypres-Staden railway north of Langemarck, Belgium, towards Polygon wood.

A period of poor weather in August had caused a hiatus in the offensive, but following better weather in September, the British Army was able to re-launch the attack with an assault on the German positions on the vital high ground of the Gheluvelt Plateau astride the Ypres-Menin Road.

At the start of the battle, British artillery unleashed an incredibly concentrated bombardment – there was one gun for every five yards of ground. Objectives for the attack were limited to within 1,500 yards, well within range of the British artillery.

112th Infantry Brigade moved forward on 22nd September to support 39th Division, X Corps, in positions east of Shrewsbury Forest (Groenenburgbos). Some of the severest fighting took place in the south around an area known as ‘Tower Hamlets’, just west of Gheluvelt village. Despite repeated attacks by the British, German troops were still in control of the area by nightfall.

The attack was largely successful despite strong German defences including concrete block houses and fierce German counter-attacks.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

3. Battles Of Ypres - Battle Of Polygon Wood

25th September 1917

Location: Gheluvelt Wood, Belgium

Outcome: Allied victory



On 25th September a German counter-attack around Polygon Wood had recaptured some of the ground lost during the Battle of the Menin Road.

Polygon Wood was a significant landmark in the Ypres Salient battlefields. It had been fought over throughout the war and the trees had been all but destroyed by shellfire. The Germans recognised its importance and in 1916/1917 fortified the wood with multiple concrete block houses and thick tangles of barbed wire.

The following day the Allied advance, comprising 3 other corps including Bedfords, resumed on a front extending from the Menin Road to St Julien, and centred on Polygon Wood, to remove them.

37th Division in IX Corps, Second Army, and 34th division were in positions east of Shrewsbury Forest (Groenenburgbos) as 39th Division advanced on their left to capture Tower Hamlets.

On 30th September, a German raiding party aimed with flamethrowers forced 13th Royal Fusiliers from a blockhouse near the western edge of Gheluvelt Wood (Geluveld Wood). However it was quickly recovered by a swift counter-attack.

Although the Battle of Polygon Wood is regarded as a victory for the British Army, its forces suffered more than 20,000 casualties, killed and wounded. German losses are contested, with estimates being some 13,500 casualties.

The Divisional front came under heavy artillery bombardment as the Germans launched their series of counter-attacks on 1st October and 3rd October.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

4. Battles Of Ypres - Battle Of Broodseinde

Date: 4th October 1917

Location: Lewis House, Zonnebeke, Belgium

Outcome: German defensive success



Following successful advances in late September 1917 at the Menin Road and Polygon Wood, the objective of the attack was to complete the British hold on Gheluvelt Plateau; by capturing German positions on the Broodseinde Ridge and the ruined villages of Zonnebeke, Gravenstafel and Poelcappelle.

Two objectives were set, a line just short of the ridge and a second just over the crest. A creeping barrage with machine-gun support would move forward with the assault troops, both following a strict timetable. At 06.00am as a hurricane bombardment hit the German lines, British troops left their trenches. Despite the artillery barrages, fierce resistance slowed the advance. The bombardment caught German soldiers in the open as they prepared for an attack of their own. Many were killed or wounded, and the others forced back.

The top of Broodseinde Ridge was cleared shortly after 09.00am; by midday both X Corps and the Fifth Army had gained their objectives. With their next objective to secure a number of strong points, including Lewis House, in Gheluvelt Wood, they suffered badly in several unsuccessful attempts to capture them, machine-guns from this position protected the other blockhouses in the wood. A fire from Lewis House also forcing the Brigade to abandon Tower Trench.

The operation was not without cost, Second Army and Fifth Army losing almost 17,000 killed, wounded and missing in the period from 4th to 8th October.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

5. Battles Of Ypres - Battle Of Poelcapelle

Date: 4th October 1917

Location: Gheluvelt Wood (Geluved Wood), Belgium

Outcome: German defensive success



The 5th army were sought to renew the offensive against the high ground of Pilckem Ridge for the main assault.

The incessant rain which hampered preparations had turned the battlefield into a sea of mud. At 05.20am British and Australian troops attacked across a waterlogged landscape devoid of any form of cover except water filled shell holes.

The creeping barrage, under strength because neither sufficient ammunition or heavy artillery pieces could be brought forward, failed to suppress the German defenders or cut the thick belts

of barbed wire. Many of the artillery shells landing in the soft ground failed to impact hard enough to explode.

Around midday the attack halted, and they were forced to withdraw and by the end of the day the survivors had returned to their lines. Of an attacking force of 30,000 men, 7,000 were killed, wounded or were missing and only one of the main objectives was taken.

South of the area of attack, 37th Division in IX Corps, Second Army, continuing to hold positions on the edge of Gheluvelt Wood (Geluved Wood), south of the Menin Road, did not attack on 9th October. 112th Infantry Brigade were instructed to be prepared to advance should the Germans withdraw on their front. The withdrawal not being forthcoming the brigade held their position, coming under heavy German retaliatory artillery fire throughout the day.

Assault troops had struggled for hours through miles of mud before even reaching their start lines, and many were exhausted. It proved impossible to bring up sufficient artillery ammunition to support the advance, and the few gains were quickly lost to German counter-attacks.

After hours of fighting, most of the attacking units had been pushed back to their starting positions. Only in the north, at the villages of Veldhoek and Poelcappelle, was there any real success.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

6. Battles Of Ypres - First Battle Of Passchendaele

Battles Of Ypres - First Battle Of Passchendaele

Date: 12th October 1917

Location: Gheluvelt Wood (Geluved Wood), Belgium

Outcome: German defensive success



The First Battle of Passchendaele was the penultimate phase of the Third Battle of Ypres

After an attempted advance on 9 October had failed, British Empire forces launched a new attack three days later in appalling weather. British, Australian and New Zealand troops were tasked with the capture of the Passchendaele Ridge from the Germans.

Allied troops selected for this attack included 1st and 2nd Anzac Corps to the centre and right of the line with five British Divisions to the left. As with the disastrous attack at Poelcappelle, the weather was a deciding factor; the continuation of heavy rain, a waterlogged battlefield and poor artillery support contributed to an operation which was little more than a repeat of that at Poelcappelle.

Sufficient artillery could not be brought forward, neither could suitable ammunition; horses and men struggled in mud which could be more than knee deep in places. Those that slipped into the numerous shell holes risked drowning. In the early hours it began to drizzle, adding to the discomfort of those waiting to attack. Troops coming up to the line in pouring rain were also subjected to shellfire.

At 05.25am as the troops started their attack on a weak artillery bombardment, they could do nothing but herald their advance. Exhausted by their long march, the attacking British infantry, slowed by deep, glutinous mud halted in front of thick belts of barbed wire and were cut down by heavy machine-gun fire. The first push towards the village of Passchendaele saw minor advances.

Movement through the quagmire was almost impossible at times. The attack was called off the following day, in the hope that the weather would improve. It would not be until 26 October that the second effort to capture Passchendaele would begin.

British Empire casualties numbered some 13,000 killed and wounded. Estimates for German casualties vary, but were roughly 12,000 from 11-21 October.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

7. First Battles Of The Somme - Battle Of The Ancre

First Battles of the Somme (German Spring Offensives)

Date: 5th April 1918

Location: Rossignol Wood (Bois de Rossignol), France

Outcome: British defensive victory

Operations Michael or Kaiserschlacht



At the Battle of the Avre on 4th April, the Allies had stopped the Operation Michael offensive towards Amiens.

The following day the German Army staged a major assault along the River Ancre in an attempt to resume it. Although the offensive was aimed on both sides of the Ancre, the major attack was against British Third Army units on the north bank.

The attack began at 07.00am with an artillery bombardment of high explosive but particularly gas shells along the entire front. The gas combined with heavy mist meant that when the German infantry launched their attack at 08.00am. They were hidden until just a few yards from the Allied trenches, and gained ground in several places.

In the early morning of 5th April, the 63rd Infantry Brigade attacked the German positions in Rossignol Wood and south of it, 8th Somerset Light Infantry on the left, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment on the right. 11 tanks were detailed to assist with the attack, but only one arrived, the brigade then attacking without their assistance.

Overcoming heavy resistance both 8th Somerset Light Infantry and 8th Lincolnshire Regiment gained their first objectives, but were halted on the second line. The Germans delivering their own attack around 09.00am, 4th Middlesex Regiment coming up in support, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment were pushed back to their original line and 8th Somerset Light Infantry out of much of their gain.

To the north 112th Infantry Brigade, holding trenches south of Bucquoy, came under pressure from the main German attack at 08.45am and after a desperate fight were pushed back to their reserve positions.

The Bedfords were ordered to retire just as their ammunition ran out and retreated through the lines of the 20th Division, having lost half their number.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

3. Disbandment & illness

John was sick and away from the front line between 14 Apr and 27 August 1918. He was admitted on 14 April 1918 to 49 Field Ambulance with Pyrexia,

No 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens

Date: 14th April 1918

He was transferred for a day to No 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens, records show diagnosis of Pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO) (aka trench fever)

No 2 General Hospital, Le Havre

Date: 15th April 1918

Location: Le Havre, France

The next day he was moved again, to No 2 General Hospital in Le Havre, still listed as a pyrexia case. He was also seen by a doctor on 18th April 1918 suffering from Laryngitis.

[See document](#)

No 4 Convalescent Camp, Calais

Date: 7th June - 26th August 1918

Location: Calais, France

On improvement he was transferred to No 4 Convalescent Camp, in Calais on 7th June 1918, where he appears to have been kept back doing base duties until he left for the front on 26 Aug 1918. He was possibly not A1 fit when he left the convalescent camp and needed a little more time.

[See photos](#)

6th Bedfordshire Battalion Disbanded

The Bedfordshire Battalion was disbanded on August 4th 1918, as part of a larger restructure due to depleted numbers in other Battalions.

Battles - Hertfordshire 1st Regiment

Enrolment: Hertfordshire 1st Battalion

Date: 11th May 1918

John Robert Everard joined the Hertfordshire 1st Battalion known as 'The Hert's Guard's. He was part of 700 men transferring from the 6th bedfordshire battallion.

5th Army
/34th Division
/112th Infantry Brigade
/1st Hertfordshire Battalion
/1st Essex Regiment

[See photos](#)

The Herts Division suffered huge losses during the German Spring Offensives of 1918 and was so badly depleted that it was reduced to a cadre (just a small group). In what would be their final move of the war, they saw the battalion transferred into the 112th Brigade of the 37th Division. Essentially they replaced the disbanded 6th battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment who's rank and file made up the 1st/1st Hertfordshire's for the first weeks of its existence after the entire battalion were affected by Gas Shelling at Foncquevillers.

For the final phase of the war they comprised the following battalions:

- The 1st/1st battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment
- The 13th (Service) battalion of the Royal Fusiliers
- The 1st battalion of the Essex Regiment

1. Second Battles Of The Somme - Battle Of Albert

Date: 21st August 1918

Location: Albert, France

Outcome: A decisive Allied victory



In holding the German Spring Offensive, the Allies particularly took increased confidence in their ability to turn the tide of war in their favour.

Replacement troops, including newly-arrived Americans, and new equipment helped to rebuild after the losses earlier in the year and it was decided by the Allied command to go on the offensive. The Third Army, still under the command of General Byng were to take and hold the alignment of the Arras to Albert railway.

Infantry were trained to work in cooperation with the armoured regiments (the new Whippet and Mark V tanks were much improved compared to their predecessors) and to coordinate with the RAF when air cover was needed.

111th Infantry Brigade on the left, 13th Rifle Brigade the lead battalion, 112th Infantry Brigade in the centre, 1st Essex Regiment the lead battalion and 63rd Infantry Brigade on the right, 8th Somerset Light Infantry the lead battalion. Capturing and clearing the villages of Ablainzeville and Bucquoy, they halted east of these positions as 5th Division and 63rd Division passed through to continue the advance eastward.

Passing through 5th Division and 63rd Division again on 22nd August, 37th Division resumed its advance on 23rd August, reaching the railway cutting west of Achiet-le-Grand during the morning. This was taken with light resistance, 13th Royal Fusiliers alone reportedly capturing over 1000 prisoners, the village itself being cleared by 10th Royal Fusiliers during the afternoon.

The German armies on the Western Front fell back to the Hindenburg Line, from which they had launched their spring offensive.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

The Hindenburg Line

The Hindenburg Line ran over 100 kilometres between Arras and Laffaux. It comprised four parallel defensive structures. Commonly referred to as 'lines', these were the Outpost, Main, Le Catelet and Beaurevoir Lines. The Beaurevoir Line is the last one, which you see on this map.

On the 16th March 1917, faced with substantial numerical inferiority and a dwindling firepower advantage, the new German commanders, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg and Gen. Erich Ludendorff, shortened their lines, and began their withdrawal as part of Operation Alberich, which saw a retirement of 40 kilometres. This was a planned and strategic retreat to impede enemy forces on route.

The system was a complex of trenches, installed concrete pillboxes, belts of barbed wire, sometimes 40-metres deep armed with machine guns as the start of an extended defensive system up to eight miles deep, along with a combination of firepower and counterattacks.

They also adopted a 'scorched earth' policy by poisoning wells, uprooting trees and thousands of laying mines.

You will see this planned withdrawal to the Hindenburg line referenced in the recent film **1917**
[Watch clip](#)

2. Battles Of The Hindenburg Line - Battle Of Havrincourt

Battles Of The Hindenburg Line - Battle Of Havrincourt

12th September 1918

Location: Trescault, France

Outcome: British victory.



To prevent the retreating German Army from regrouping and mounting a counter-attack, General Byng was eager to keep up the pressure that the Allies were able to apply.

To gain a commanding position for observation and to bring his Third Army to within striking distance of the Hindenburg Line, the high ground of the Havrincourt and Trescault ridges would have to be taken. Shortly before 05.30am, troops from the infantry brigades of 37th Division, 62nd Division and the New Zealand Division attacked along a front almost 5 miles long, from Gouzeaucourt north to the Canal du Nord.

As the attacks progressed, German resistance increased and fierce fighting, much of it at close quarter slowed the rate of advance. The New Zealand Division, against determined German defence advanced the least but 62nd Division was able to capture Havrincourt and 37th Division took Trescault.

The day proved to be one of the hottest of the year and at 11.08 the advance began.

The Essex 1st were in the vanguard of the attack and halted at the trenches by the railway line as there were no British troops to their left which left them exposed to counter attack. By 7.30 the rest of the line had caught up with the Essex men and the advance continued with Essex taking up a reserve role. Within 5 days the sector had been consolidated. Over 1000 prisoners plus a large quantity of military equipment had been captured and the way to Bapaume was open. 1st Essex had 3 officers and 78 other ranks killed with 10 officers and 197 other ranks wounded with 8 men.

The Essex 1st were then given the task of clearing Havrincourt Wood. Z Company under Captain W D Mathieson captured some German trenches and then Corporal Wells led a bombing party which captured 5 more Germans and a machine gun to prevent another obstacle to the advance.

During the advance near Havrincourt Lieutenant Young from the 1st Herts battalion who were advancing next to the Essex was awarded a VC for his actions and Lance Corporal Robinson was captured by The Germans but managed to escape and made his way back through the lines during an artillery barrage.

By the end of September 1918 the 1st Essex were taken back into reserve by which time they had taken 38 more casualties including 5 men killed.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

3. Battles Of The Hindenburg Line - Battle Of The Canal Du Nord

Battles Of The Hindenburg Line - Battle Of The Canal Du Nord

1st October 1918

Location: Gouzeaucourt, France

Outcome: Allied victory



In early September the German Army had been forced out of all the territory gained during its Spring Offensive and had retreated back to the Hindenburg Line.

One portion of this was on the eastern bank of the partially built Canal du Nord. Begun in 1913 to link the Oise River with the Dunkirk-Scheldt Canal, construction had been halted on the outbreak of war.

During their retreat, the Germans had destroyed all the bridges over the canal and made the area north of Sains-les-Marquion virtually impassable by deliberately damming and flooding it. Halting the advance to put preparations in place for assaulting the Canal du Nord, on 27th September the Allies launched their attack on the Hindenburg Line.

Third Army in the centre of the attack, south of the Canal du Nord which was to be assaulted by the First Army. In reserve near Gouzeaucourt during the opening of the advance, 37th Division in IV Corps, Third Army, held these positions as 5th Division and 42nd Division led the IV Corps attack.

[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

4. Battle Of Cambrai - The Battle Of The Hindenburg Line

Battle Of Cambrai - Also known as the Battles Of The Hindenburg Line

8th October 1918

Location: Briseux Wood, France

Outcome: Allied victory



Background

The battle took place in and around the French city of Cambrai between 8th and 10th October 1918. As the German Army retreated, The Fifth Army needed to maintain the Allied momentum and planned an ambitious three phase assault with British Third and Fourth Armies attacking alongside French First Army, on a front of 17 miles to the south of Cambrai.

The first series of carefully-phased attacks was planned in the attempt to seize a northward extension for the Beaurevoir Line, the last line in the Hindenburg line which was still in German hands

1st Hertfordshire Regiment / Essex 1st Regiment

The Herts Battalion assembled at 0400 hours. No.2 Company of left, No.1 Company on the right with Nos 3&4 Companies in support. Moving off at 04.34am, 1st Hertfordshire Regiment and 4th Middlesex Regiment faced strong resistance as they attempted to clear Briseux Wood and Briseux Chateau, just south of Cambrai.

No.1 Company had difficulty passing through the trees and bushes as they slowly forced their way through the eastern edge, and then encountered opposition from machine guns on the right flank. A section of trench mortars silenced them after firing a few rounds.

They also found that two strong barbed wire systems had not been sufficiently cut in front of them by a planned artillery barrage, and had great difficulty getting through in the dark. They came under further fire from machine guns in concrete posts which should have also been destroyed in the barrage too and suffered heavy casualties as they attempted to get through.

These had to be overcome and the German gunners were eventually killed or taken prisoner. A few pill boxes were missed in the darkness and confusion of the battle, which were mopped up by the 1st Essex who took 30 German prisoners.

The Company then continued the advance and then occupied the line along the south side of Briseux Wood at 0740 hours. No.2 Company on the left were held up by machine gun fire from the Chateau and sustained severe casualties. No.3 Company was pushed forward to assist No.2 and together they cleared the wood.

Contact could not be gained with units on the left so patrols were sent out and it was found that the right flank of the Middlesex Regiment was resting on the Chateau. A platoon from No.3 Company was sent up and joined the line from the North east corner of Briseux Wood to the right with the 4th Middlesex Regiment.

They dug in on this line and at 1300 hours handed over the line to the 4th Middlesex Regiment, and withdrew to a previous line.

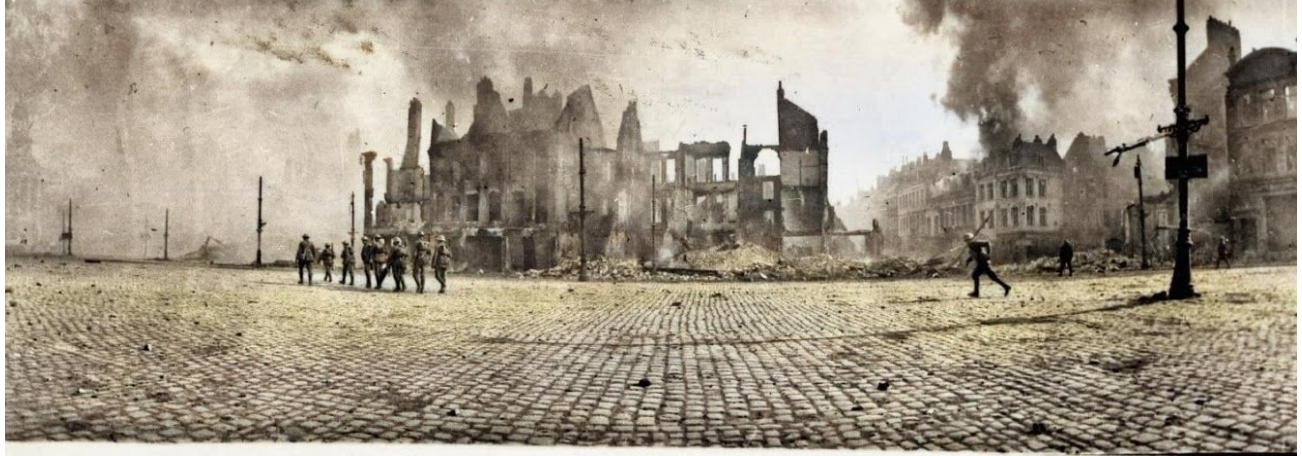
It was on this day that John Robert Everard suffered a gunshot to the left thigh and was taken out of action. The exact time of day is unknown.

Other brigades including 63rd Infantry Brigade, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment and 8th Somerset Light Infantry, continued the advance at 05.20am the following morning, they took the line up to Haucourt-en-Cambresis. 112th Infantry Brigade then passed through, 1st Essex Regiment and 1/1st Hertfordshire Regiment had reached Ligny-en-Cambresis by 08.00am on 9th October 1918 and the outskirts of Caudry by the afternoon. From then on the advance progressed with little resistance capturing more ground before nightfall.

Outcome

Despite some setbacks overall the attack proved a great success with more than 2600 prisoners captured and the last line of the Hindenburg Line, the Bearevoir Line was broken. The German forces could no longer hold Cambrai, so evacuated the town under cover of darkness and withdrew behind the River Selle and much of it was burned - several battalion war diaries record seeing fires in the sky above Cambrai on October 8 and 9.

This second battle of Cambrai was the one that convinced Germany's generals of the need for peace. But to the desperately weary soldiers, mourning the thousands of their fallen comrades, the war went on and they girded themselves for the next battle. 1st Essex suffered 166 casualties including John Robert Everard with 3 officers and 24 other ranks killed, four officers, and 107 other ranks wounded and 27 missing.



[See photos](#)

[See trench map](#)

4. Casualty



No.50 Casualty Clearing Station, Tiscourt

John Robert Everard was admitted to no 50 Casualty Clearing Station in Tiscourt, France on 8th October 1918.

The Casualty Clearing Station was part of the casualty evacuation chain, further back from the front line than the Aid Posts and Field Ambulances. It was manned by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with attached Royal Engineers and men of the Army Service Corps. The job of the CCS was to treat a man sufficiently for his return to duty or, in most cases, to enable him to be evacuated to a Base Hospital. It was not a place for a long-term stay.

No.43 Casualty Clearing Station, Frévent

John was admitted to no 43 Casualty Clearing Station in Frévent, France on 9th October 1918.

Casualty Clearing Stations were generally located on or near railway lines, to facilitate movement of casualties from the battlefield and on to the hospitals. Although they were quite large, CCS's moved quite frequently, especially in the wake of the great German attacks in the spring of 1918 and the victorious Allied advance in the summer and autumn of that year. The locations of wartime CCSs can often be identified today from the cluster of military cemeteries that surrounded them.

83rd General Hospital, Boulogne

Admitted to 83rd General Hospital, Boulogne, France on 10th October 1918.

Casualties from the Western Front during the First World War were often evacuated to base hospitals on the northern coast of France for more advanced and specialist care. These temporary base hospitals frequently had more than 1,000 beds and were typically staffed by older, more senior doctors than were present nearer the front line. In May 1917, this hospital was renamed the 83rd (Dublin) Hospital when the staff was augmented by volunteer staff from Irish hospitals. The hospital subsequently housed an innovative 'physical medicine' or rehabilitation unit.

No 35 General hospital, Calais

Admitted to 5th General hospital, Calais, France 15th October 1918.

This hospital which was situated in the town and then he moved to a Convalescent camp on the outskirts of Calais, which is a place or part centre where soldiers recovering from serious injury who are getting better can stay.

[See photos](#)



Concert party held for wounded soldiers at Calais Hospital 1918

5. Marches - Hertfordshire 1st Regiment

John Robert Everard was released from hospital and returned to his Hertfordshire Battalion on 9th November 1918

End of WW1 - 11th November 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a ceasefire came into effect and the guns fell silent.

11/11/18. The Battalion marched back to Bethencourt, France and remained there in training until 1st December 1918. During this period Brigade sports were held, this Battalion being well represented. In the Divisional football league the Battalion won its first two matches, beating the 13th Royal Battalion by 2 goals to 1 and Divisional HQ by 7 to 1 respectively

21/11/18. The 112th Infantry Brigade. was inspected by Major General. H.B. Williams commanded the 37th Division.

22/11/18 - The Battalion marched to Caudry, France for Divisional inspection by the Divisional Commander.

2/12/18. The Battalion marched to Bry, France and remained there until December 14th.

11/12/18. The Battalion colours which had been deposited in All Saints Church, Hertford since August 1914, arrived from England, for a colour party which preceded the next day.

14/12/18. The Battalion marched to Bellignes, France.

15/12/18. The Battalion marched to La Longueville, France.

7/12/18. The Battalion marched to Maubeuge, France, arriving in the town at 12 noon. All ranks had the opportunity of visiting places of interest.

18/12/18. The Battalion marched to Binche, Belgium - everyone in good billets ("a place for soldiers to stay in for a short time)

19/12/18. The Battalion marched to Trazegnies, Belgium.

31/12/18. The Battalion is still at Ransart, Belgium. Plenty of amusement and recreation still being afforded for all ranks. Extra Christmas fare was provided for the men on the 25th. On Christmas morning the Battalion football team played 50th Field Ambulance (friendly match) - result, draw. During the afternoon the hockey match - Officers versus Sergeants - resulted in a win for the Officers, the final score being 4 to 3.



Hertfordshire Regiment, Christmas celebrations, Belgium, 25th December 1918

7/02/19 Granted leave to the UK

12/02/19 Returned from leave

[See photos](#)

Please note - Most of the photos used in the document are from the events / battles mentioned but may not feature the regiment's that John Robert Everard served in, unless annotated to state otherwise.

6. Details Battalion

4th April 1919 - John Robert Everard was posted to the Details Battalion at the 4th Army Headquarters, located at Namur, Belgium, where he remained until July.



This photo of John in uniform was taken at R. St Jaques 7 in Namur by a local photographer 'Émile Gilles (see embossed stamp in the bottom right of the photo). This was a photo postcard to his wife Violet Everard with this message on the back.


"With all my fondest love to my dearest girl, JE xxx"

26th April 1919 - Base Details Battalion Headquarters 4th Area (F.C.) In Namur 'Base Details' men were organised as a unit and 'detailed off' for certain tasks. These could be guarding, clearing up, any maintenance work etc that were needed within the Base area.

Here are the rest of his movements and information on the medals he earned and badges he acquired.

26th April 1919	He was posted to the 'Base Details Battalion Headquarters 4th Area (F.C.) In Namur	'Base Details' men were organised as a unit and 'detailed off' for certain tasks. These could be guarding, clearing up, any maintenance work etc that were needed within the Base area.	Namur, Belgium
11th July 1919	On leave		
25th July 1919	Back from leave		
30th July 1919	Posted to 4 area (F.C) / 259 AECoy		Namur, Belgium
24th September 1919	Statement as to disability	See document	
27th September 1919	Casualty recorded	See document	
8th October 1919	Transfer record	Transferred to france	France
11th October 1919	Transfer record setup - from whom received 'Boulogne france'	Transferred to england from HQ france & flanders	HQ France & Flanders
12th October 1919	Protection certificate and certificate of identity	See document	Calais, France
13th October 1919	Protection certificate and certificate of identity approved		
13th October 1919	Demobilised	See document	
8th November 1919	Discharged to UK		



Medals & Badges

<p>Awarded on 24th September 1920</p> <p><u>See award roll</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wound Stripe as authorised under Army Order 204 of the 6th July 1916 (on his sleeve)● Victory medal - also called the Inter Allied Victory Medal. This medal was awarded to all who received the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star and eligibility for this award consisted of having been mobilised, fighting, having served in any of the theatres of operations, or at sea, between 1914- 1918● British War Medal for service in World War One. This British Empire campaign medal was issued for services between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918.	
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The horseshoe shaped badge on his arm is the divisional flash of 37th Division.

The chevron (heart shape) on his forearm is a Long Service & Good Conduct badge, in this case for 2 years good conduct.

<p>Hertfordshire Regiment Silver lapel badge</p>	<p>The badge which has been passed down 3 generations from John Robert Everard, is a lapel badge for wearing on a civilian coat or jacket, the horseshoe fitting slips into the slot on the lapel. The words at the bottom read 'British Expeditionary Force'.</p>	
<p>Hertfordshire Regiment Cap badge</p>	<p>This badge would slot into the front of the Military cap and can be seen in the photo on John's cap in Namur, Belgium.</p>	



This is a photograph of John Robert Everard taken just after the war, around 1919. He's 2nd on the left, holding a cane which was likely used to help him walk after his injury. You will also see him and the two men on the right wearing their Hertfordshire Regiment Badges on their suit jackets The location is unknown.

The photo on the next page is of John Robert Everard, his son Jon Alford Everard and Wife Victoria. This was taken around 1928 when John was 34. You will also see him wearing the Hertfordshire Regiment lapel badge on his suit jacket.



He married Violet in October 1921 at All Saints Church, Writtle Essex. He continued to work as a painter and also an Electrical Switchgear Engineer in 1939.



John Robert Everard centre in the blue suit with the rest of the family.

When I received this photograph. I wondered what this type of vehicle was that our family used to ride around in, as this 18-seater convertible truck didn't look like any ordinary form of transport I'd ever seen.

The photo was taken around 1930, judging by the age of John 'Jack' Robert Everard. This is also highly likely to be taken in the Writtle, Essex area as that's where the family lived.

I got in touch with The Society of Automotive Historians to see what they could find out...

"It's probably a Fiat, a bit like this vehicle below (the visible details fit). It's probably an old army vehicle from the war and rebuilt to this Charabanc. Fiat trucks were very common during the Great War and I have the impression that their numbers increased towards the end."

[Read full findings here](#)



John Robert Everard, with wife Victoria wearing the silver Herts Lapel badge (approx 1970)

John died in January 1972 in Chelmsford aged 76. He had one grandson, 3 great grandsons and one great granddaughter who are still alive today.



This document was collated by Jack Everard.
A great grandson of John Robert Everard.

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photos of John Robert Everard and family
members for use on your site or publications,
along with information on him.

