



Sergeant 9458

Richard Gabriel Callear M.M.

2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment
10th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment



1886 - 1918

Life in the Community

Richard was born on 29th January 1886 and at the time of the 1891 Census Richard Gabriel Callear aged 5 lived with his parents Richard and Alice and his three brothers and three sisters in Willenhall, Staffordshire. His father worked as a lock maker.

At the time of the 1901 Census Richard Gabriel Callear aged 15 still lived with his parents and one sister. He was working at then as a presser in a lock factory.

The town is historically famous for the manufacture of locks and keys. As early as 1770 Willenhall contained 148 skilled locksmiths and its coat of arms reflects the importance of this industry to its growth.

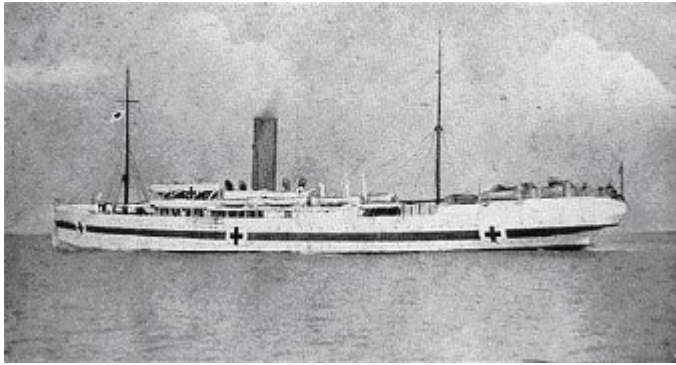
At the time of the 1911 Census Richard Gabriel Callear was a regular soldier serving in India having joined the 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment on 20th September 1905 aged 19 years and nine months.

Whilst he was recovering in Wales following injuries that he had sustained he married Louisa Emily Rowberry of Priory Nursery Langstone on 6th August 1917. They later moved to No 6 Langstone Cottages, Langstone.

Military Service

As a regular soldier prior to the First World War he served in Dublin from November 1906 to April 1907 and India from January 1908 to February 1913. Periods in between those dates his service was carried out in England. Richard was promoted to Lance Corporal on 5th September 1908, Corporal on 26th July 1910, and Lance Sergeant 31st August 1914.

In November 1914 the 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment left for France to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Richard was promoted to Sergeant on 31st January 1915. Richard was wounded in the field on four separate occasions being twice sent home by hospital ship in October 1915 and again in 1917 and twice he returned to France.



The Hospital Ship Western Australia

The Second Supplement to The London Gazette of Tuesday, the 10th, of October, 1916 reads:-

War Office, 11th October, 1916.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the undermentioned:-

9458 Sergeant R. Callear, Worcestershire Regiment

Following the successful recovery from his injuries he returned to France in January 1918 and was attached to the 10th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment and was again involved in front line fighting. Doullens was Marshal Foch's headquarters early in the First World War and the scene of the conference in March 1918, after which he assumed command of the Allied armies on the Western Front.



In March 1918 whilst the Battalion was at Doullens during the German advance and the desperate fighting on this front Richard was again wounded and died of his wounds in the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital on 26th March 1918.

CALLEAR, Serjt. Richard Gabriel, 9458, M.M. 10th (late 2nd) Bn. Worcestershire Regt. Died of wounds 26th March, 1918. Age 33. Husband of L. E. Callear, of 6, Langstone Cottages, Langstone, nr. Newport, Mon. Late of Priory Nurseries, Langstone. V. C. 44.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
CALLEAR	Worcestershire	Sgt.	9458
Richard			

Metal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	H/102 A5	1045	W of W.
BRITISH	de	de	
15 STAR	2/5 B	35	

Theatre of War first served in	France
Date of entry therein	24-11-14

K. 1360.





In Memory of
Serjeant
Richard Gabriel Callear
M.M.

9458, 10th Bn. late 2nd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment who died on 26 March 1918 Age 33

Husband of L. E. Callear, of 6, Langstone Cottages, Langstone, nr. Newport, Mon. Late of Priory Nurseries, Langstone.

Remembered with Honour
Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 1




 Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Richard is buried at the Communal Cemetery Extension No. 1 Doullens, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France Plot: V. C. 44. The Communal Cemetery Extension No. 1 contains 1,335 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There are also seven French and 13 German war graves from this period.



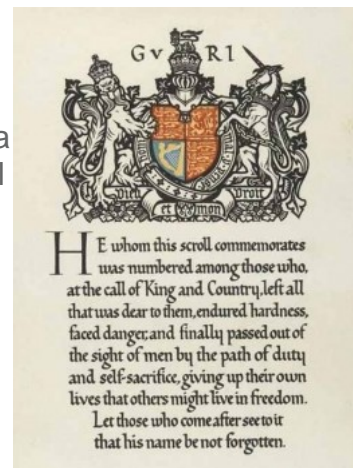
Medal Entitlement



The medal entitlement for Sergeant 9458 Richard Gabriel Callear M.M. was the Military Medal the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The medals were issued to the fallen serviceman or woman's legatees if a Will existed. If no Will existed, they were issued to the next-of-kin in the order of precedence laid down in Army Order 256 of 1917.

This Scroll accompanied the medals of servicemen and women who fell in the War and carried the full Name, Rank and Number beneath the last line of the script.

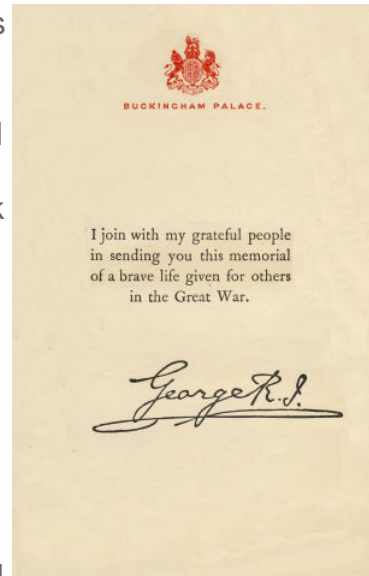


Commemoration of the Fallen



The Bronze Memorial Plaque was issued to the next of kin of servicemen or women who had fallen in the Great War. It just had the recipient's name cast in the box above the lion's head no rank was given as it was intended to show equality in their sacrifice. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes

of bronze, 600 of these plaques were issued to women. Distribution started in November 1919 and they continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war. The circular shape and coin-like appearance soon contributed to the nickname of this memorial plaque becoming widely known as the "Dead Man's Penny", the "Death Penny", "Death Plaque" or "Widow's Penny".



Whilst Private 13595 Arthur Callear from the Worcestershire Regiment, who was killed in action in France on 28th January 1916, is commemorated on the War Memorial at Willenhall, Staffordshire, Sergeant 9458 Richard Callear is not.

The Newport cenotaph was unveiled by Lord Tredegar in June 1923, to commemorate the local people who died in active service in the First World War. It now also commemorates people who died in subsequent wars. There are no names on the memorial but Sergeant 9458 Richard Callear's name appears on the listing.

Following the request in July 1918 by Richard's widow for the return of his personal property the following form was raised. The reverse side of the form shows how few personal possessions were carried by the fighting men.

363

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Officer in charge of

Infantry Co. 4

WAR OFFICE
PARK BUILDING
ST. JAMES'S PARK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

32nd July 1918

R. 107585 / 1 (Accounts 4)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the late Sergeant Richard Callear 4th Bn. Worcestershire Regt. should be despatched to—
Mrs Louisa Emily Callear
Trinity, Glasgow

W. Harris
Assistant Financial Secretary.

- Letters
- Photo
- Relief Book
- A.C. Card
- Tobacco Pouch
- Hat
- Combs
- 2 Canvas Cases
- 20 Buttons
- Case of Small Tools
- Cards
- 3 Badges
- Match Box Case
- 2 or 3 Washes
- 1 or 2 Ribbons
- 1 or 2 Buttons
- 1 or 2 Pins