



## **PRIVATE GEORGE CALLOW**

**1st Battalion Coldstream Guards**

Service number 14482J

George Callow was killed in action during the Somme Offensive in France on September 15th 1916. He was 22 years old. He is believed to be buried C.W.G. Guards Cemetery Lesboeufs, Picardy, France.

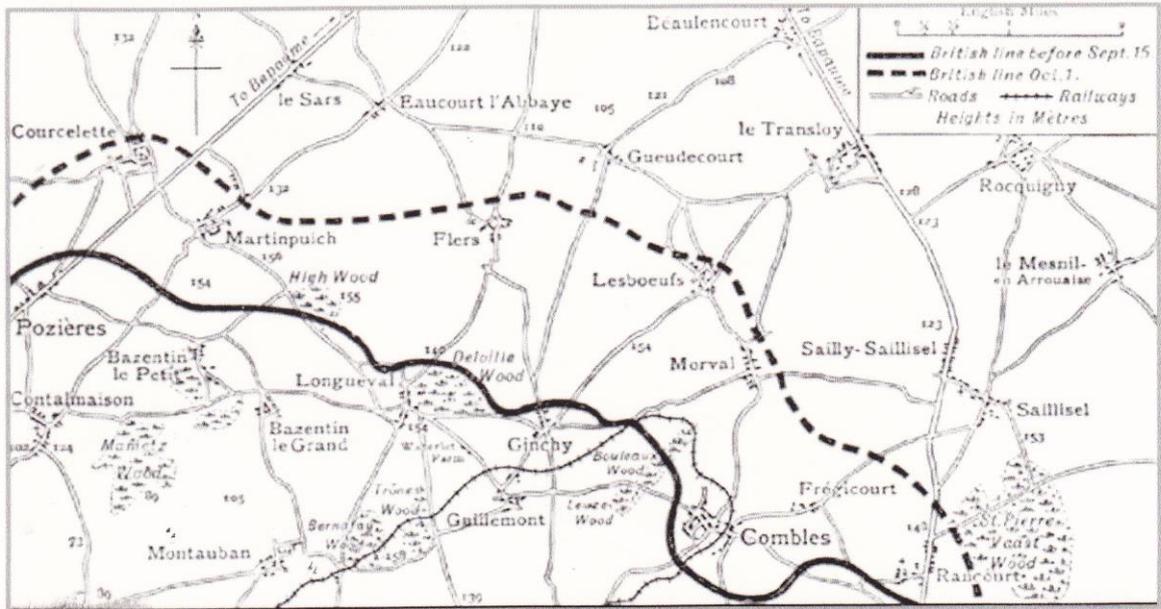
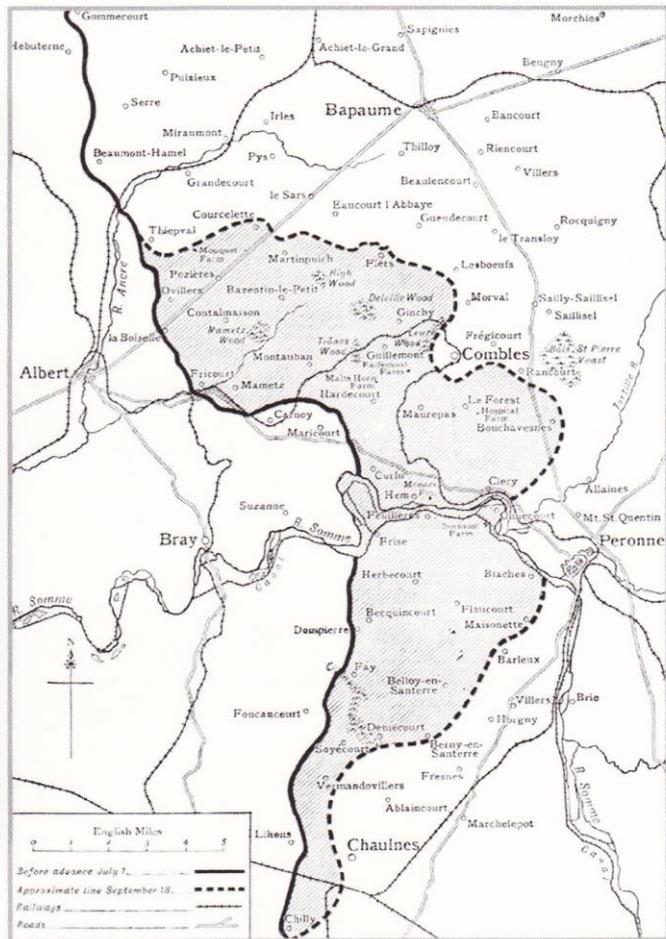
George was born in Little Brington, Northamptonshire, on October 15th 1894. He was the eldest son of Frank and Ellen Callow of 10 Elliotts Lane next to the Washington House. His father worked as a painter. George had a brother, Thomas and a sister, Elizabeth Mary. After leaving school in Great Brington, he worked as an assistant gardener.

Janet Ambler, formerly of Great Brington, now residing in Market Harborough, is a descendant.

The village of Lesboeufs, Picardy, was attacked by the Guards Division on the 15th September 1916, the day that George Callow was killed and successfully captured by them on September 25th.



# Battle of The Somme - 1916



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Fought between July and November 1916, the Battle of the Somme was one of the defining events of the First World War.

Remembered for huge losses on the first day (1<sup>st</sup> July 1916) the Somme offensive lasted 141 days and men from every part of Britain and across the Empire took part. When halted in Nov, over 1,000,000 Commonwealth, French and German soldiers had been wounded, captured or killed.

The October 28<sup>th</sup> 1916 edition of the Northampton Independent Magazine reported there was considerable anxiety as to the fate of Private George Callow who had been missing since the engagement at Ginchy on September 15<sup>th</sup> during the Battle of the Somme.

The Battle of Flers – Corcellette 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1916 (see maps) was a large scale renewal of the Somme offensive after weeks of fighting for the Third German System at Poziers, High Wood, Delville Wood, Guillemont and Ginchy. Noteworthy for the first time tanks were used in battle. Few in number, mechanically unreliable and without proven tactics for best use but the small number had an important positive effect. Developed in secrecy, they were a surprise to Germans and British alike. High & Delville Wood were cleared and a deep advance was made to Flers and to Combles.