

BLANDFORD WW I MEMORIAL

*GILBERT + MAURICE BENNETT*

*Born:* 1890 Moor Critchel Dorset

*Rank:* Private

*Service No:* M/279706 Formerly 16757 7<sup>th</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment

*Date of Death:* 10/12/1918 Accidental Death France

*Age:* 28

*Regiment/Service:* Royal Army Service Corps Base M T Depot

*Grave Reference:* II A 18

*Cemetery:* Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery

*Family:*

*Father* Alfred Henry Gilbert b 1855 Witchampton Dorset  
Gamekeeper

*d* 1932 Witchampton Dorset

*Mother* Elizabeth Adams b 1856 Gussage All Saints Dorset

*m* 1877 Wimborne Dorset

*d* 1931 Witchampton Dorset

*Siblings* Alice E Gilbert b 1878 Moor Critchel Dorset

George Gilbert b 1880 Moor Critchel Dorset

Kate Gilbert b 1883 Moor Critchel Dorset

Hurbert J Gilbert b 1884 Moor Critchel Dorset

Alfred William Gilbert b 1888 Moor Critchel Dorset

*Ivy Gilbert b 1892 Moor Critchel Dorset*

*Frank Gilbert b 1894 Moor Critchel Dorset*

*Constance Gilbert b 1897 Moor Critchel Dorset*

*Ronald Gilbert b 1900 Tarrant Rushton Dorset*

*Spouse Lilian Amy Easter b 1891 Blandford Dorset*

*m 1916 Blandford Dorset*

*Children Maurice Alfred George Gilbert b 1916 Weymouth Dorset*

***Census:***

*1891 Manswood Gussage St Michael Dorset given age 1*

*1901 Dean Hill Tarrant Rushton Dorset given age 11*

*1911 Dean Hill Tarrant Rushton Dorset given age 21 Footman*

***Notes:***

*Alfred Henry Gilbert was the brother of James Bennett Gilbert father of **Harry Gilbert** named on the Moor Critchel Memorial*

*Also on Witchampton Memorial*

*Service Record (Badly burnt and water damaged)*

*14/12/1915 Attested 7<sup>th</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment 16757*

*11/02/1916 Mobilised*

*04/03/1916 3<sup>rd</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment*

*29/09/1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment*

*01/02/1917 Transferred to Army Service Corps M T M/279706*

10/12/1918 Died at No 32 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station from  
accidental  
wound to the scalp

Next of Kin Lillian Amy Gilbert "Rothbury" Orchard Street  
Blandford Dorset

24/12/1918 Report from Capt C S Donovan R A M C  
Wound on scalp probably G S W depressed front skull  
Paralysis ?? leg arm ?? Over left ??

18/12/1918 Enquiry for information from his wife from Orchard St  
Blandford Dorset

19/12/1918 Court of inquiry called for

Statement made by No. 471585 Rfn. HUSSEY, E., 1/12th London  
Regiment, attd. 56th Divisional Headquarters.

On the 24th November 1918 I was proceeding from VALENCIENNES to FAYT-LE-FRANC and I met deceased on the SAULTAIN-CURGIES Road - just on the outskirts of SAULTAIN - (on the right hand side of the road) - at about 2.30 p.m. Deceased was carrying a kit-bag and informed me that he was trying to pick up a lorry to CURGIES. We had been standing there about three minutes when I heard a click as if a spent bullet was hitting something. Deceased fell backwards. Some artillerymen were standing on the opposite side of the road and about 6 or 8 of them ran across the road. I got a field dressing from one of the artillerymen and bound deceased's head, having found a wound in the back of the head. The missile passed through the back of the deceased's cap - I did not see any bullet. I then stopped a passing ambulance and accompanied deceased to a Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in VALENCIENNES, and made a statement in the Orderly Room of the C.C.C.S. When deceased was admitted to the C.C.C.S. he was still alive.

I am of opinion that the missile was fired from a considerable range as I did not hear the report of any weapon and at the moment the road was perfectly quiet. The hole in the cap and head of deceased was quite clean and did not show any signs of singeing.

With thanks to Bill Lovell for the information.