

George William Manchett

*205122, 4th Battn. Northamptonshire Regiment: 68546, 17th Bttn. Royal Fusiliers:
DOW 2nd Dec. 1917 aged 25*

George was born on the 29th July 1892 in Great Ravelly/Upwood the son of Amos and Mary (nee Parker) Manchett. He was the eldest of 6 children and his father was an Engage Driver on Rowells Farm in Ramsey Hollow and George also worked there as a labourer.

He enlisted in Ramsey and joined the 4th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment later transferring to the 17th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City Of London Regiment).

This battalion fought in the Battle of Cambrai .which began on the 20th November 1917.This battle is generally regarded as the first mass use of tanks in battle and was initially hailed as a great success. Two months later, however, there was an enquiry into why the Germans were able to launch a counter attack on 30th November which apparently came as a surprise and caused the Allies to lose the hard won ground of the previous days and to suffer many casualties including George and **Thomas Hodson**.

The second division, to which George's Battalion belonged, were attacked by three divisions of the German army who, under a barrage of phosgene gas, intended to cut the road between Bapaume and Cambrai. The fact that they did not achieve their objective was due to the division's machine gun barrage. George was wounded during this battle and died 2 days later on 2nd December 1917.



Machine Gunners at Cambrai (IWM)



British losses were heavy, over 44000. Including **Thomas Hodson** and George. He is buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt British Cemetery, Manacourt. which was begun in April of that year and was used mainly by the 21st and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations at Ypres.

George's brother Alfred also fought but survived returning with his lungs damaged by gas.

Amos died in 1920 aged 51 living in Tick Fen.