

Robert BALLS



- Born:** 1893 in Irstead
- Parents:** Samuel Balls and
Elthea (Martha) Allard
- Siblings:** Evelyn (born 1889)
Samuel (born 1891)
William (born 1896) served WW1
Elthea (born 1899)
- Occupation:** Armed Forces
- Address:** Nr the Broad, Irstead (1901 Census)

Military & War service:

Private, 10765, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards

Robert was already in the Coldstream Guards before the war broke and is maybe why he does not appear on the 1911 census as he would have been 18yrs then. He had wanted to join the police force but he was just under the height required and as the police force was so strict in those days it was suggested he joined one of the armed forces.

(Source: Gloria Cantwell, great niece)

All three battalions of Coldstream Guards left England for the front immediately on the outbreak of war in 1914. In the week 22 – 29 October 1914 the 1st Battalion were involved in action around Langemark which is between Ypres and Passchendale. During this week the Battalion sustained heavy casualties and lost more men than any other regiment during the first months of war.

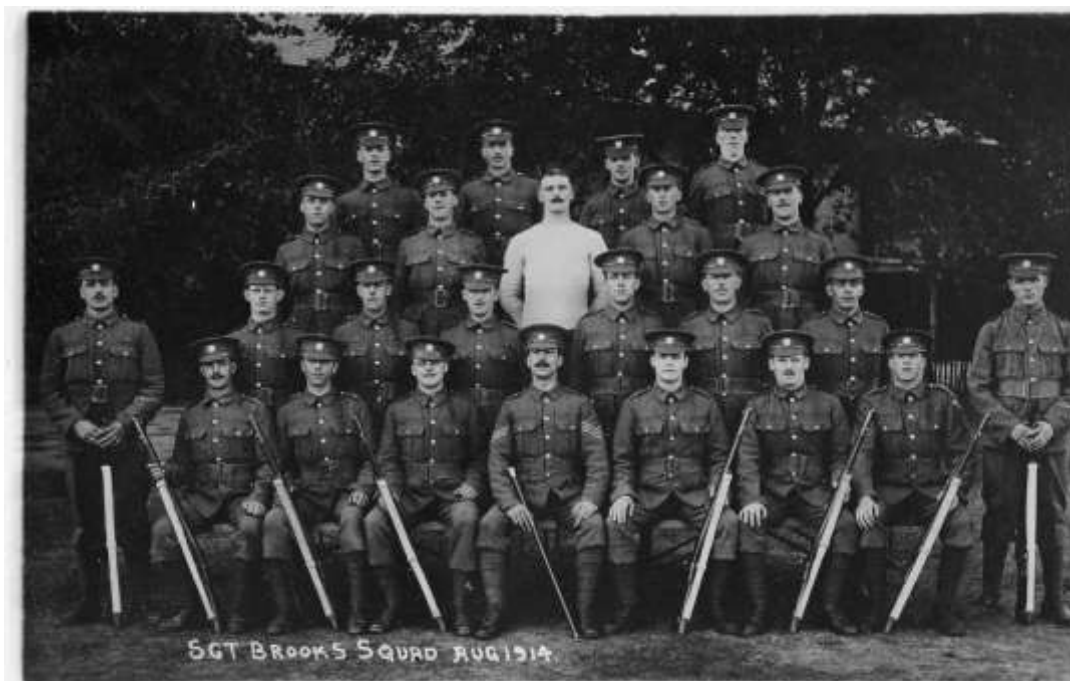
“Mrs Balls, of Irstead, after more than two years of suspense and silence, has at last been officially informed of the death of her son, who was in the Coldstream Guards.” *Text as it appears in “The Waxham Rural Deanery Magazine” April 1917, under the heading of “Barton Turf” written by J.G. Poole, Vicar.*

Death: 23rd October 1914, aged 20

Memorial: Remembered with Honour, Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and Irstead Church

Medals: Victory, British, Star, Medal Clasp

See further information about Robert in individual folder.



Robert Balls, front row, seated second from right
(Source: photographs, Gloria Cantwell, great niece)