

FORGET ME NOT EGH (GEORGE) POWER AMELIA & IMOGEN POWER'S GREAT, GREAT UNCLE



Our great, great uncle George was the eldest son of Edward John Power of Etchingam in East Sussex. He was born in Putney on 23rd July 1887. He had four brothers and a sister and was educated at Rugby School. After leaving school he went to RMA Sandhurst.

At Rugby he became friends with Ion Benn whose father was a successful businessman and politician (MP for Greenwich). In the summer holidays George visited the Benns on their yacht. During this time George met Ion's sister Marion. Love blossomed and George and Marion were married on April 5th 1913.

Having passed out from Sandhurst, George was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment. In the lead up to the outbreak of the First World War the Battalion was stationed in Tientsin in China as part of a multi-national force including German forces. By all accounts relationships between the two nationalities were cordial. The multinational force also included Russians and combined exercises took place.

At the outbreak of war the national forces went their separate ways. In September 1914 the Battalion along with families returned to England via India on the P&O Arcadia. The Battalion arrived in Southampton on November 8th 1914 and then moved to Winchester for kitting out and training. On December 18th the Battalion left for France and on arrival on French shores moved to Aire back from the front line.

George wrote to Marion virtually everyday during the war and our father has created a blog called "George's War Letters". Each of George's letters will be posted onto the blog on the centenary of the day they were written. The blog can be accessed via this link: www.georgesww1letters.com. Do take a look, the letters are fascinating and well worth a look.

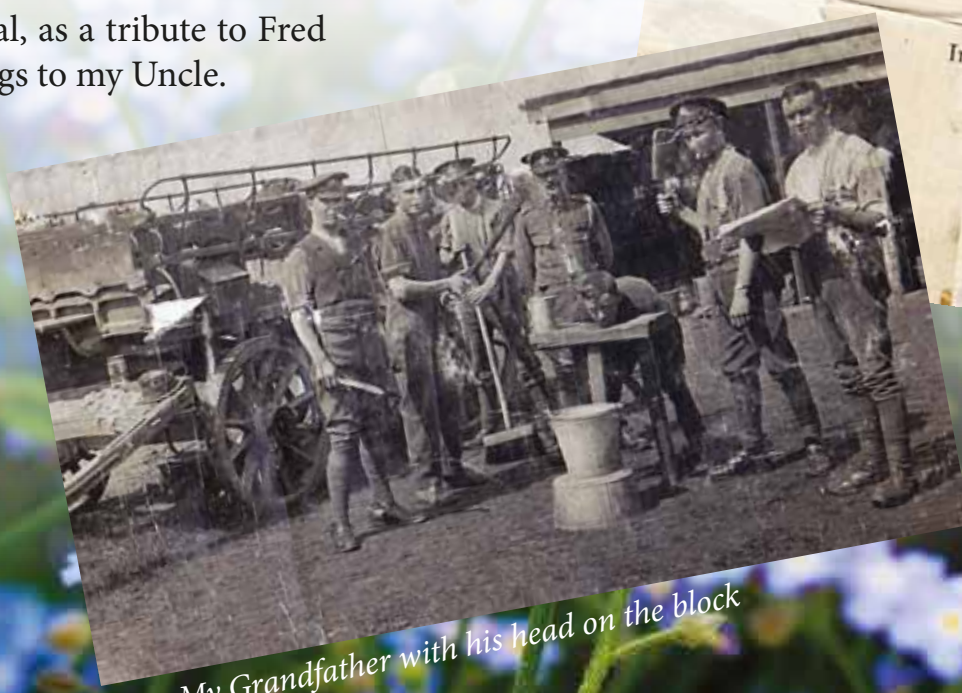
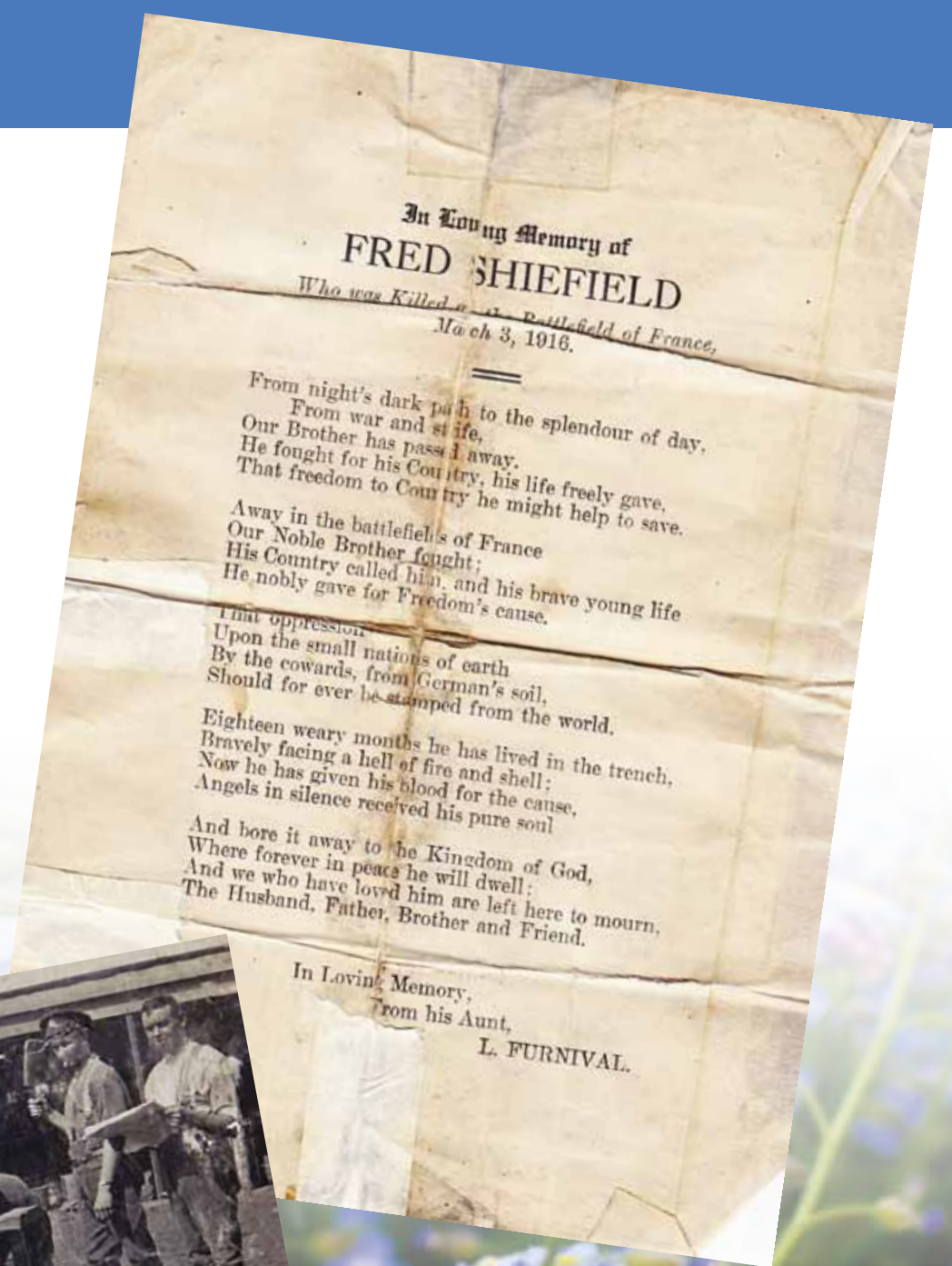


FRED SHEFFIELD JANET MORRIS'S GREAT UNCLE

A young Fred Sheffield joined the British Army at the age of 18 years in 1904. He was in 1st Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment. After serving for 12 years he was killed on the battlefields of France on 3rd March 1916; he left a widow and one child. He was awarded The Star and Clasp medal and The British War and Victory medals for his services during the Great War.

Fred was the younger brother of my grandfather George Sheffield. Grandfather who survived the Great War had been gassed badly in the trenches and suffered the after effects for the rest of his life. He died aged 62 in 1946.

The following poem was written by Fred and George's Aunt, L Furnival, as a tribute to Fred after he died. My father kept this poem safe all his life and it now belongs to my Uncle.



My Grandfather with his head on the block