



George Alton 1892 - 1916 9 Park Grove



George Alton's links with this area are through his mother Mary Anne who lived at 9 Park Grove.

George was born in August 1892 – he was christened at St Alkmund's Church about three weeks later. His father Harry Alton and mother Mary Anne Needham had married just a few months earlier – Harry's occupation was a clerk. Sadly, Harry died in 1895, aged just 26, when George was only two years old. His mother, Mary Anne, remarried in 1897 - John Macklaier Bloor, a Railway Clerk. From the 1901 and 1911 census returns it appears that George lived with his grandparents George and Emma. In 1901 they were at 13 Trinity Street and in 1911 at 37 Carrington Street. By 1902 George's mother and stepfather were living at 9 Park Grove, some of the earliest residents on the street.

In 1911 the young George appears to have been the main breadwinner at 37 Carrington Street, as his grandfather, who was a confectionary sugar boiler, was listed as unemployed. George, now aged 18, was working as a clerk at the Midland Drapery, with his employer

listed as Sir Edwin Ann, who at that date lived at West Parkfields, a large house just off Wheeldon Avenue, the site of which is now occupied by Wheeldon Manor apartments.



Badge of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby)
(Wikimedia Commons)

It is not clear when George enlisted for the army, but he was assigned to 1st Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby) Regiment, and he served on the Western Front (France and Flanders). It is probable that he volunteered as he was already serving in France only a few months after conscription was introduced in March 1916. Training usually took at least 6 months to a year before a man was posted to active service.



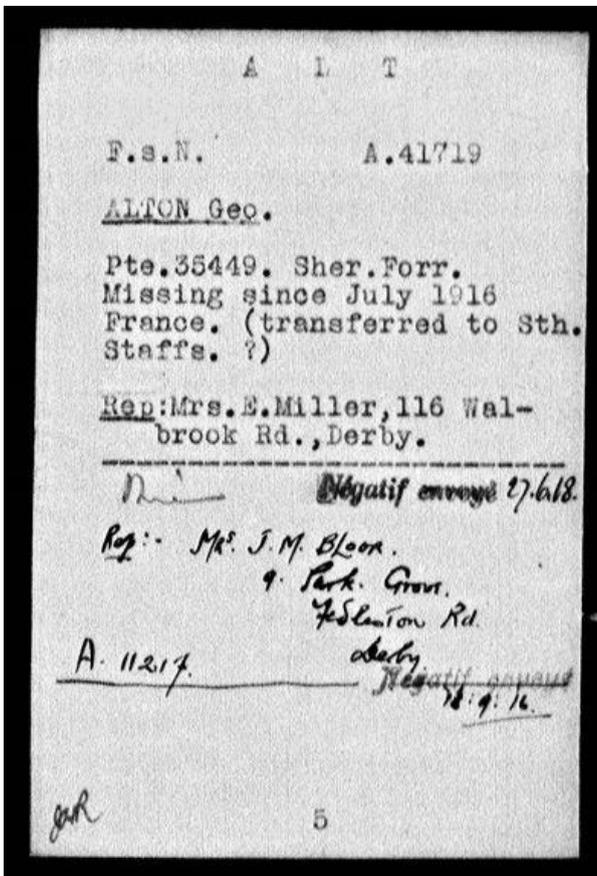
George Alton continued

On 15 July 1916, while his battalion was moving between Poulainville and Longeau near Amiens on the Somme in Northern France he was reported missing, presumed killed, and a Red Cross missing soldier's card survives for him. Interestingly the person to be informed is Mrs E Miller of 116 Walbrook Road but we don't know what links George had with her.

He is remembered on the memorial at Loos in Northern France, one of over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave.



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His name is listed on the St Alkmund's War memorial which can be seen inside the church on Kedleston Road, Derby.



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