



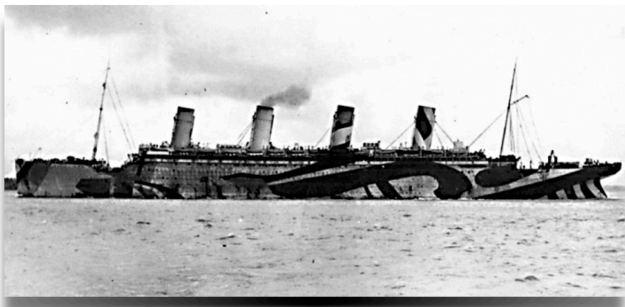
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Tillingham</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year 1894						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
1894 Oct. 4	William	Herbert Duck	Emily	Griffitham Farm		George Shaffin R.
No. 108						

Baptism entry in All Hallows' Church Records

Before the outbreak of war, in early 1914, William decided to join the mounted 1/1 Sussex Yeomanry which at that time was part of the home defence, Territorial Force. He probably enrolled in Chichester and became Private William Duck 1857, C Squadron.

320155	L/Sgt.	DUCK	1857	1/1st. Suss. Yeom.
		William		Cpl.
			1857	16th. R. Suss. R.
			320155	16th. R. Suss. R.

Medal Roll showing service numbers and battalions



RMS Olympic complete with 'dazzle paint' to make it difficult for the enemy to identify the ship, its speed and heading.

During their time at Gallipoli the Yeomanry fought at Border Barricade and Fusilier Bluff, but by December the campaign was deemed hopeless and the entire Army was evacuated to Egypt. The Sussex Yeomanry arrived in February 1916 and was moved to defend the Suez Canal. In March 1917 the regiment was reorganised and became the 16th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment and later that year Corporal Duck's service number was changed to 320155.

During the next month the battalion fought in the Second Battle of Gaza and then the Third Battle of Gaza and in December they were involved in the capture of Jerusalem. At the end of April 1918 the 16th Battalion sailed from Alexandria arriving at Marseilles on May 7th, when it was transported by train to Abbeville in Northern France. By this time Corporal Duck had been promoted to Lance Sergeant.



British Infantry marching in Palestine

In early October 1918 Cambrai was liberated and the Hindenburg line breached, which turned into a large scale pursuit of the retreating German army. The 16th Battalion was part of this advance and the Battalion History reads: *'At last the stage was set for the same old scene and we started crawling forwards toward the railway line. The two right companies got over with little opposition and established themselves on the far side. The left company worked up to the edge of the wood with the pill boxes and during this operation lost an invaluable N.C.O. in Sergt Duck, who was killed while advancing on the wood with a patrol. This N.C.O. had been with us ever since the Gallipoli days and had proved his great worth time after time'*.

Lance Sergeant William Duck 320155 was killed in the early hours of October 14th 1918. It is clear that he fought gallantly in Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine and France and inspired the men under him. Another two days and he would have enjoyed the welcome shown by so many French people as their villages were liberated.

Lance Sergeant William Duck now rests in Aubers Ridge British Cemetery some 10 kilometres south of Armentières in northern France.

Name	Rank	Regt.	Regt. No.
DUCK William	L/Sgt	16th	320155
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
15 STAR	E/M/1018	3885	From 24.10.18.
Thouless of War (entered in)	(2D) Balkans		
Date of entry therein	7.10.18.		



1914-15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal



*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

For the fallen - Laurence Binyon