

**IN MEMORY OF
16636 PRIVATE THOMAS WILLIAM CURTIS M.M.
8th BATTALION LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
DIED ON 14th NOVEMBER 1918**



A MILITARY MEDAL AWARDED TO PTE. THOMAS CURTIS



**NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY, CASSEL, GERMANY WHERE PRIVATE
THOMAS WILLIAM CURTIS' GRAVE IS LOCATED IN PLOT V. M. 13.**

DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2022

History information on the cemetery

The cemetery was begun by the Germans in 1915 for the burial of prisoners of war who died at the local camp. During the war almost 3,000 Allied soldiers and civilians, including French, Russian and Commonwealth, were buried there.

In 1922-23 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Niederzwehren was one of those chosen and in the following four years, more than 1,500 graves were brought into the cemetery from 190 burial grounds in Baden, Bavaria, Hanover, Hesse and Saxony.

There are now 1,796 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Niederzwehren. This total includes special memorials to 13 casualties buried in other cemeteries in Germany whose graves could not be found.

The following cemeteries are among those from which graves were brought to Niederzwehren:

BAYREUTH TOWN CEMETERY, Bavaria. 24 burials of 1918.

DARMSTADT FOREST CEMETERY, Hesse. In use from 1915. 102 burials.

DIETKIRCHEN PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Hesse-Nassau. 45 burials (28 of Irish regiments) of 1914-18.

FREIBURG IN BREISGAU MAIN CEMETERY, Baden, 43 burials of 1918.

GERMERSHEIM CEMETERY, Palatinate. 26 burials of 1915-1918.

GIESSEN MILITARY CEMETERY, Hesse. 99 burials of 1914-1919.

GOTTINGEN MILITARY CEMETERY, Hanover. 88 burials of 1914-1919.

HAMELN PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Hanover. 70 burials of 1915-1918.

INGOLSTADT CEMETERY, Bavaria. 23 burials of 1917-1918.

LANGENSALZA PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERIES No. 1 and No. 2, Prussian Saxony. 225 burials of 1915-1918.

MAINZ MILITARY CEMETERY, Rhein-Hessen. 23 burials of 1915-1919.

MANNHEIM MAIN CEMETERY, Baden. 21 burials of 1916-1918.

MESCHEDE PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Westphalia. 49 burials of 1917-1918.

OHRDRUF PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Thuringia. 107 burials of 1915-1918.

PADERBORN CEMETERY, Westphalia. 29 soldiers burials of 1914-18.

QUEDLINBURG CENTRAL CEMETERY, Prussian Saxony. 102 burials of 1914-1918.

SENNELAGER PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Westphalia. 32 burials of 1914-1918.

In addition, in June 2018, five special memorial headstones were erected to five Second World War airmen who were known to have been buried in Ohrdruf Cemetery, but whose graves were later lost.

**IT IS CONFIRMED ON THE WAR GRAVE DOCUMENTATION
AT THE END OF THIS PUBLICATION THAT 16636 PRIVATE
THOMAS WILLIAM CURTIS' BODY WAS EXHUMED AT
GIESSEN MILITARY CEMETERY, HESS AND REBURIED AT
NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY, CASSEL**

**FROM COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
WEBSITE CERTIFICATE**

In Memory Of
Private

T CURTIS

Military Medal

Service Number: 16636

8th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment who died on 14
November 1918

Remembered with Honour

NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY, CASSEL

V. M. 13.



**COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES**



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

16636 PRIVATE THOMAS WILLIAM CURTIS M.M. BIOGRAPHY

In 1901, Thomas William Curtis at the age of 11, not knowing what the future held for him, was living in Griffydam with his mother, father and four siblings. All the siblings are recorded as being born in Thringstone, but this was most likely Pegg's Green:-

John Curtis, aged 51, a coal miner, born in Coalville - Died 1906

His wife Harriet, aged 50, born in Worthington

Children

Kate E, daughter, aged 18, unmarried and working as a hose seamer (hosiery trade)

[Harold, son, aged 13, a coal miner-horse driver](#)

[Thomas William, son, aged 11](#)

Herbert, son, aged 8

James Arthur, son, aged 7

In 1911, Thomas William's mother Harriet was living in Pegg's Green with her sons, Harold, Herbert and James Arthur. The April 1911 census shows Thomas William was residing as a boarder at 104, Warsop Vale, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Notts with the family of Charles Fewkes, a 70 year old coal miner, born in Whitwick. Thomas William's occupation is given as a coal miner.

It is not known where or when Thomas William enlisted to fight for his country in the 1st World War but at some point he was posted to the 8th Battalion Leicester Regiment and was engaged in battle in France. The following report appeared in the Leicester Mercury on the 20th February 1917:-

LOCAL MILITARY MEDALLIST

The name of 16636 Private T. Curtis, Leicestershire Regiment, appears in yesterday's "London Gazette" amongst those who have been recently awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

No record has been found for what the act of bravery involved.

Private Thomas Curtis is recorded as having died on the 18th November 1918 which was 3 days after the war ended (28th July 1914 to 11th November 1918). A short history of the 8th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment follows and from the fact that by July 1918, the battalion had been reduced to Cadre strength (a key group of officers and enlisted personnel necessary to establish and train a new military unit) and their troops had been transferred to the 7th Battalion, the author leans towards the view that Private Thomas Curtis had become a German POW and had died in one of their POW camps.

Thomas Williams elder brother Harold was killed in the 1st Word War on the 29th of June 1916. and a publication to his memory is also on the author's website under Griffydam & Peggs Green - "Wartime / Lest we Forget subsection"

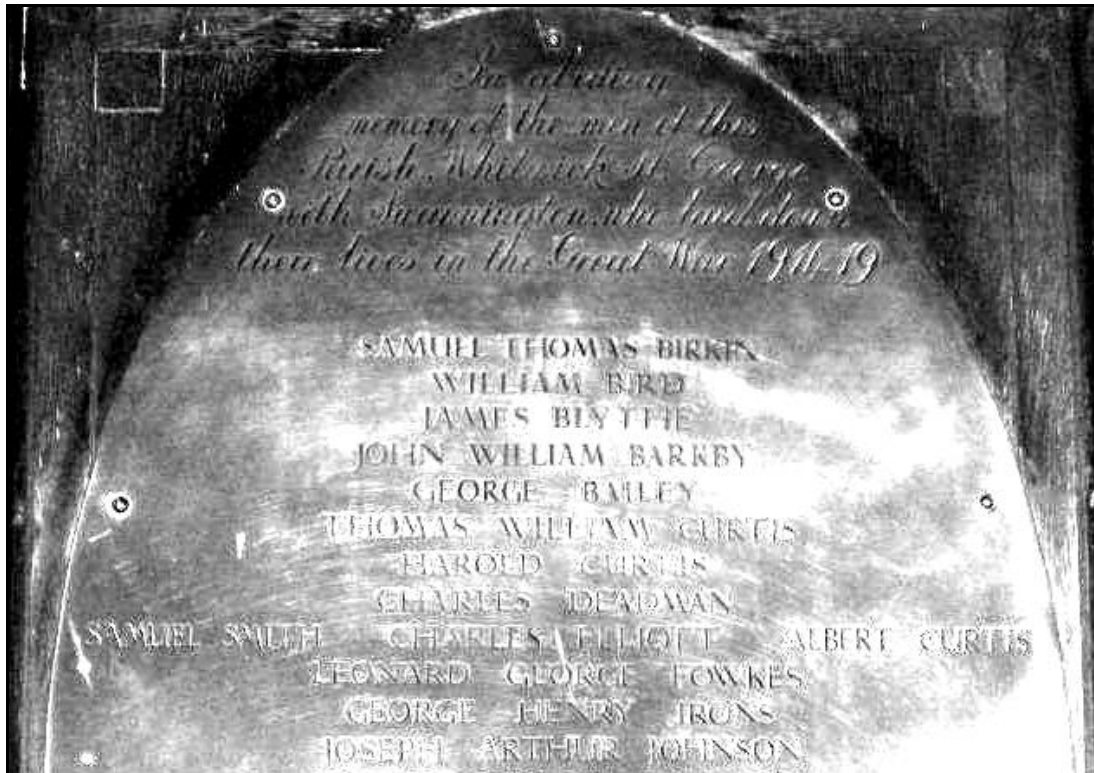
8th BATTALION (SERVICE), LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

As part of Kitchenr's Third New Army Battalion (K3), the 8th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was raised at Leicester in September 1914 and attached as Divisional Troops to the 23rd division. In April 1915 they were transferred to the 110th Brigade, 38th Division. They landed in France on 29th July 1915 for service on the Western Front. They were in action in the Battles of the Somme. In 1917 they were in action during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the third battle of Ypres and The Cambrai operations. In 1918 they fought on the Somme, then moved north and were in action during the Battles of the Lys suffering heavy losses. On the 28th June 1918, the 8th Leicesters' was reduced to Cadre strength with troops transferring to the 7th Leicester's. The cadre transferred to the 25th division and returned to England. On the 7th of July they were absorbed by the 14th Battalion, West Riding Regiment.

The 6th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was famously involved with the 7th and 8th Battalions in the Battle of Ephy from 21st to 30th March 1918 as part of 110the brigade, 21st Division. the battalion lost 18 Officers and 445 other ranks.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission recorded 818 deaths for the 8th Battalion Leicestershire regiment during the 1st World War.

**THE BRASS MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN ST. GEORGE'S
CHURCH SWANNINGTON ON WHICH BOTH PRIVATE
THOMAS WILLIAM CURTIS AND HIS BROTHER
SAPPER HAROLD CURTIS ARE COMMEMORATED
NEXT TO EACH OTHER**



**IN ABIDING
MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THIS
PARISH, WHITWICK ST. GEORGE
WITH SWANNINGTON WHO LAID DOWN
THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 -1918**

WAR GRAVE DOCUMENTATION FOR 16636 PRIVATE THOMAS CURTIS

CASSEL 1-99E

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

BURIAL RETURN. A) Particulars found on cross. B) Particulars found on remains.

Certified all crosses erected.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY CASSEL. Date: 18.12.23

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
5	M	13	Plot. Row. Grave. 3 E 130	Yes.	A) 16636 Pte. T.Curtis ✓ 8/Leicesters. 14.11.18 B) Nil.	Cross.	No.
5	M	14	Cem. GIESSEN Military on the Roßberg Map Reference Sheet No. 38 B.1	"	A) 41563 Pte. G.Fraser ✓ 2/Middlesex 22.10.18 B) Nil.	"	"
5	M	15		"	A) 8259 Pte. D.O'Connell ✓ 2/R.Mun.Fus. 4.10.18 B) Nil.	"	"

ENTERED *8.1.24*
FILES CHECKED *16.1.24*
CANCELLED BY
CHANGED REPORT
 Initialed *(initials)*
(Signature)
 Registration Officer
 Cassel Area.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

2024 W.L.W.211A/H.P.631A. 210,000(2). 2/19. S.O.P.B.A.

CASSEL AREA. Serial No.45

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

NIEDERZWEHREN
CASSEL. HESSEN
GERMANY.

REPORT No. 1

SCHEDULE No. 45 c

PLACE OF BURIAL NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY. CASSEL..

ALL BURIALS IN THIS ROW ARE CONCENTRATIONS

Map Reference Sheet No.30 C.3 (on hill 200, South of Niederzwehren)
This report cancels report No.1 Schedules 1 c - 10 c of 7.6.20

The following are buried here :-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
Plot: 5 Row: M						
11/Ches.	285042	✓Darville ✓	L/Cpl.G.H.	1.1.19	E.	1/
7/D.C.L.I.	26219	✓Best ✓	Pte.A.	1.11.18	E.	2/
2/R.Mun.Fus.	10882	✓Murphy ✓	Pte.P.	9.12.18	E.	3/
1/4 K.S.L.I.	201110	✓Roberts ✓	Pte.G.	22.10.18	E.	4/
9/K.O.Y.L.I.	49741	✓Fearnley ✓	Pte.S.	30.10.18	E.	5/
R.G.A./120/S.B	57128	✓Brock ✓	Gnr.W.	20.12.18	E.	6/
R.E.456/Coy.	476164	✓Houghton ✓	Spr.A.T.	30.10.18	E.	7/
12/R.Scots	35321	✓Pugh ✓	Pte.E.	2.8.18	E.	8/
2/R.Irish.Rgt.	3881	✓Potts ✓	Pte.J.C.	29.7.18	E.	9/
11/Lancs.Fus.	331011	✓Mitchell ✓	Pte.R.W.	29.7.18	E.	10/
2/Lincolns	235503	✓Michael ✓	Pte.C.	22.10.18	E.	11/
1/Suff.	7541	✓Starmer ✓	Pte.G.	22.7.18	E.	12/
8/Leicesters	16636	✓Curtis ✓	Pte.T.	14.11.18	E.	13/
2/Middlesex	41563	✓Fraser ✓	Pte.G.	22.10.18	E.	14/
2/R.Mun.Fus.	8259	✓O'Connell ✓	Pte.D.	4.10.18	E.	15/

Certified correct and complete.

[Signature]
Registration Officer in Charge
I.W.G.C. Germany.

Date:- 8.10.24

ENTERED
CLIPS CHECKED

[Handwritten notes]
M.D.P.
1.1.25

No. of Contract _____ Dated _____
 Name and Address of Firm. _____

Imperial War Graves Commission.

Schedule "A" Page 34

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
 to this report is attached
 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
 (those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
 and

Name of Cemetery.
 NIEDERZIMMERLIN CEM.,
 GERMANY. "B".
 To be stencilled on foot of
 headstones below ground level
 abbreviated thus:—
 NIED.C.

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death. <small>In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death entered laterally.</small>	Age.	Centre of Stone. Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row B. Grave G. F. R. C.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1030/2A 331011	PRIVATE	R. W. MITCHELL	10 LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS	29TH JULY 1918		NONE ⁴⁹ CROSS	5 M 10	996
1057/2A	PRIVATE	C. MICHAEL	LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT	22ND OCTOBER 1918		⁴⁸ NONE CROSS	5 M 11	997
1059/1A	PRIVATE	G. STARMER	SUFFOLK REGIMENT	22ND JULY 1918		³⁸ NONE CROSS	5 M 12	998 1/2
1035/1A	PRIVATE	T. CURTIS	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	14TH NOVEMBER 1918		⁵⁰ NONE CROSS	5 M 13	999
1040/1A	PRIVATE	G. FRASER	MIDDLESEX REGIMENT	22ND OCTOBER 1918	AGE 21	⁴⁹ CROSS	5 M 14	1000

(* 996 See Rev. No. 2502.)

* These headstones are not to be executed until further orders.

Proof Checked.
 Final Check No. 1.
 Office Copy Prepared.
 Final Check No. 2. *CH*

CULLEY, Pte. Robert Charles, 3/9948. 2nd Bn. Wiltshire Regt. 19th April, 1918. Age 22. Son of Albert John and Elizabeth Culley, of East Kennett, Marlborough. IX. D. 15.

CUMMINGS, Pte. T., 22007. 7th Bn. The Queen's. Died of wounds 26th June, 1917. Age 38. Son of Patrick and Ellen Cummings, of Cambow, Calry, Sligo. IV. D. 3.

CURPHEY, Pte. P., 376365. 1st/7th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 11th Oct., 1918. IV. F. 5.

CURTIS, Pte. A. H., 634285. 20th Bn. London Regt. 9th April, 1918. VI. B. 9.

CURTIS, Pte. G., 21077. 7th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 27th July, 1918. Age 24. Son of John and Elizabeth Curtis, of Croft Rd., Cosby, Leicester. VI. B. 5.

CURTIS, Pte. T., 16636. 8th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 14th Nov., 1918. V. M. 13.

CURTIS, Pte. W., 31064. 1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. 17th Dec., 1918. II. G. 12.

DAGGITT, Pte. G. H., 240278. 4th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 1st Nov., 1918. VIII. A. 12.

DALEY, Pte. John Denness, 201195. 4th Bn. Yorkshire Regt., att'd. Trench Mortar Bty. Died of dysentery 11th Oct., 1918. Age 23. Son of the late John and Margaret Daley. VI. D. 15.

DALGLEISH, Pte. W., 7063. 1st Bn. Gordon Highlanders. 14th Jan., 1915. VII. F. 12.

DALTON, Cpl. Arthur Noel, R/2969. 9th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps. 13th Nov., 1918. Age 23. Son of Fanny Dalton, of 6, Walter St., Tennyson St., Nottingham, and the late William Dalton. II. K. 9.

DALTON, Pte. Harold, 21170. 12th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 22nd Oct., 1918. Age 22. Son of George Robert and Adelaide Dalton, of 52, Salisbury St., Middlesbrough. VIII. D. 16.

DALY, Pte. R., 7701. 2nd Bn. Leinster Regt. Died of pneumonia 13th May, 1915. Age 28. Son of Christopher and Anne Daly, of Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Native of Rathnew, Co. Wicklow. III. K. 11.

DANBY, Pte. Edgar, 203265. 2nd Bn. The Cameronians (Sco. Rif.). 12th June, 1918. Age 19. Son of William Henry and Ellen Danby, of 7, Malvern Terrace, Gillett St., Hull. II. F. 14.

DANNATT, Lce. Cpl. Walter, 18547. 12th/13th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers. 12th Oct., 1918. Age 23. Son of Walter and Annie Dannatt, of 137, Well Lane, Treeton, Rotherham. V. H. 10.

DANNETT, Dvr. G., 23305. 5th Bty. 45th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 17th June, 1918. VI. C. 16.

DARTON, Pte. P. G., 266987. 1st Bn. Hertfordshire Regt. 25th Jan., 1918. IV. K. 10.

DARVILL, Lce. Cpl. G. H., 285042. 11th Bn. Cheshire Regt. 1st Jan., 1919. V. M. 1.

DARVILLE, Pte. W. E., 203769. 7th Bn. Somerset Light Inf. 28th Aug., 1918. Age 20. Son of Elizabeth Darville, of 52, Carol St., Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and the late William Darville. III. D. 6.

DAVENPORT, Pnr. Reginald Joseph, 69130. 50th Div. Signal Coy. Royal Engineers. Died of pneumonia 26th Dec., 1918. Age 21. Son of Joseph and Alice Davenport, of 203, Churchill Rd., Bordesley Green, Birmingham. VI. J. 8.

DAVEY, Pte. Ronald Ablard, 81002. 1st/7th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 14th Oct., 1918. Age 19. Son of William and Gertrude Davey, of 77, Huntingtower Rd., Grantham. VIII. K. 9.

DAVIDSON, Pte. George, 9971. 1st Bn. Gordon Highlanders. 27th Oct., 1918. Age 30. Brother of Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobs, of Park St., Port Credit, Ontario, Canada. IX. F. 3.

DAVIES, Lce. Cpl. A., 11894. 6th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Inf. 8th Aug., 1918. Age 33. Son of Mrs. Ann Maria Davies, of 27, Ketley Bank, Oakengates, Salop. VIII. BE 12.

DAVIES, 2nd Lt. D. H. Wiltshire Regt., att'd. 1st Bn. 18th Nov., 1918. VII. B. 4.

DAVIES, Pte. G., 64841. 9th Bn. Welch Regt. 28th Sept., 1918. Age 30. Son of William Griffith Davies and Catherine Davies, of Glandulyn, Abersoch, Carnarvonshire. VIII. K. 14.

DAVIES, Gnr. I., 229490. 251st Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 8th July, 1918. V. K. 14.

DAVIES, Lce. Cpl. J. W., 12007. 1st Bn. East Yorkshire Regt. 7th June, 1918. X. F. 3.

DAVIES, Pte. T., 93340. 1st/7th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 5th Oct., 1918. VIII. F. 17.

DAVIES, Pte. W., 34911. 4th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 17th Oct., 1918. VIII. E. 17.