



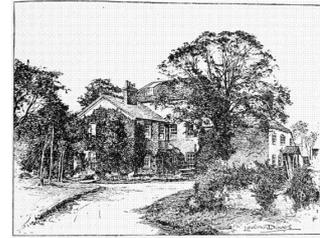
ARTHUR JOHN STRATFOLD READ

Born on June 1st 1894 at Church Farm, Saunderton

Killed in action on November 15th 1917 in Jerusalem

Commemorated on the War Memorial in the graveyard of St Mary and St Nicholas parish church of Saunderton

Arthur was born to Stratfold and Sarah Louisa Read (née Ives) on June 1st 1894, the youngest of their three children. He was christened at St Mary and St Nicholas church, Saunderton, on August 3rd 1894. His father was the farmer at Church Farm, Saunderton (*right*), having been



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farming there since before 1881, with his aunt, Anne Stratfold Read (despite taking an apprenticeship in ironmongery in Aylesbury during the 1870s), and, upon her death on September 20th 1884, he had taken over the farm completely.



Shortly afterwards, Stratfold Read married Sarah Louisa Ives at St Mary and St Nicholas on November 27th 1884. Sarah Ives had been living on Alscot Lodge Farm in Princes Risborough with her brother and widowed mother, farming the land, before she married Stratfold, and at the time of the April 1881 census, she is listed as a farm hand. The March 1901 census lists their son, Arthur, as a scholar living at Church Farm with his parents, and by the April 1911 census, he was listed as a scholar at King Alfred's School in Wantage, Berkshire (*left*).

Although Arthur's enlistment records were destroyed by fire during the Second World War, the following facts are known: he enlisted in High Wycombe with his older brother William, possibly on April 21st 1915, and joined the Household Cavalry Regiment; his battalion was the Royal Bucks Hussars, which raised three regiments during the First World War. Arthur's battalion saw service in Gallipoli, having landed at Suvla Bay in August 1915. The battalion was involved in the attack on Chocolate Hill on August 21st and 22nd 1915, and Arthur's older brother; William Stratfold Read, was killed during the action on August 21st 1915, one of 107 casualties sustained by the battalion during the battle. Arthur was promoted to Lance Corporal soon after the action at Gallipoli.

The battalion was withdrawn to Egypt in November 1916 and operated against the pro-Turkish Senussi nomadic tribesmen (*right*) along the Libyan frontier. After this, the battalion served in the Sinai Peninsula with the Mounted Brigade against the Turkish and were involved in the battles at Gaza in March and April 1917.



An offensive led by General Allenby into Palestine began in early 1917; this was the British and Allied forces' first attempt to capture Jerusalem from the Turks. The battalion were involved in the battle of Nebi Samwil, lasting from November 13th – 24th 1917, and the Royal Bucks Hussars had paintings made of the famous cavalry charge at El Mughar on November 13th, one by J. P Beadle (*left*) and the other by Thomas Cantrell Dugdale. Arthur very probably took part in this charge. Several Hussars won military honours during this charge, including a Distinguished Service Order for Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Cripps, the Officer Commanding and Lieutenant C. H.

Perkins, the last survivor of the charge, who had been detailed to carry out reconnaissance before the charge, and described being followed by a hail of Turkish machine gun bullets as he made his way across the open ground. Perkins received the Military Cross for his work that day, and is allegedly the Hussar on the right of Beadle's painting. The other charging Hussar is thought to be Major Crocker Bulteel.

Arthur was killed in this action at the age of 23 on November 15th 1917, and is buried in Plot Y, Grave 64 of the Jerusalem War Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the three campaign medals: the 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His estate, valued at £663.5s.2d, was left to his father. His older brother, William is also commemorated on the war memorial at St Nicholas' church.

The Read family also have their own family grave commemorating Stratfold, Sarah Louise, William and Arthur. Sarah Louise died on September 4th 1929 at 76 years of age; she was still living at Church Farm. Stratfold and Sarah Louise's only daughter, Hilda Mary, was born in 1891 at Church Farm and married Gerald Edward Bond in 1923; they had no children, and died within a month of each other in April 1949. Stratfold Read died on April 13th 1951 at 96 years of age; he was still living at Church Farm.