

THOMAS NORBURY WILMOT MC

Second Lieutenant

**2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment
died on
Sunday 25th August 1916
aged 20**

THOMAS NORBURY WILMOT
is buried in
HEILLY STATION CEMETERY, MERICOURT-L'ABBE
France

***Additional information in the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register***

Son of Katharine Wilmot, of Perrystone Towers, Ross-on-Wye, and the late Rev. Francis E. W. Wilmot, M.A.

The 36th Casualty Clearing Station was at Heilly from April 1916. It was joined in May by the 38th, and in July by the 2/2nd London. The cemetery was begun in May 1916 and was used by the three medical units until April 1917. There are now 2,890 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. The burials in this cemetery were carried out under extreme pressure and many of the graves are either too close together to be marked individually, or they contain multiple burials. Some headstones carry as many as three sets of casualty details, and in these cases, regimental badges have had to be omitted. Instead, these badges, 117 in all, have been carved on a cloister wall on the north side of the cemetery.

Thomas Wilmot is buried in Plot III Row E. Grave 3.



KING'S SCHOOL WORCESTER
The Vigornian,
November 1916, No.87, Vol.VIII

Tom Wilmot, the fourth son of the Reverend F. E. Wilmot, Rector of Monnington-on-Wye, entered the School in the First Form in September, 1905, and left after five years in December, 1910, in Form IV., passing on to Hereford after his father's death. As a small boy he showed great vigour and promise in games and was an excellent Captain of the School House Class Room. He had been on active service with the Worcester Regiment since May, 1915. He was mentioned in Dispatches in September of the same year, and was awarded the Military Cross in July, 1916, for conspicuous gallantry in securing and tenaciously holding a post in the enemy's position. He was mortally wounded on August 24th, when the troops which he helped to lead, captured and held two lines of the German trenches. His Colonel writes: "He was a splendid officer, loved by all; he fell within a few yards of the objective. The attack was a huge success in no small way due to him. He would have been recommended for the Military Medal had he come through. His influence was always good and manly."

The Worcestershire Regiment
in the Great War,
by Captain H. FitzM. Stacke. 1928.

Second Lieutenant Thomas N. Wilmot was awarded his MC during the Auchy Raid that took place on 1st/2nd July 1916. Following the explosion of two mines and an intense artillery bombardment, two companies of the 2nd Worcestershire Regiment dashed forward across 'No Man's Land'. The Germans first and second lines were overrun and then systematically the enemy's dugouts and mineshafts were bombed out and destroyed. The enemy fought stubbornly and made several attempts to retake the trench, by bombing from either flank. Second Lieutenant Wilmot, in particular, distinguished himself by great gallantry during the bombing fight. In August 1916, he died of wounds received during the battle of Delville Wood.

Supplement to THE LONDON GAZETTE 27th July 1916

The undermentioned Officer has been awarded the Military Cross

2nd Lt. Thomas Norbury Wilmot, Worc. R.

For conspicuous gallantry. By his dash in securing and tenaciously holding a post in the enemy's position he contributed largely to the success of the operations.

Thomas Norbury Wilmot was the fourth son of Francis and Katharine Wilmot was born in Burbage, Buxton, Derbyshire in 1896 where his father was incumbent. The family moved to Monnington-on-Wye where his father became Rector and Rural Dean of Weobley. He went to King's School Worcester and Hereford Cathedral School. Thomas went to Canada in March 1914 to take up farming in Saskatchewan, but he returned to England in the following October after the outbreak of war. He joined the 1st Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers on 14th October 1914. He entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant The Worcestershire Regiment in May 1915. He served in France and Flanders and he was awarded the Military Cross for his actions on the first days of The Battle of the Somme. He died in at the Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly on 25th August 1916 from wounds received in the fighting at Delville Wood. His widowed mother lived at Perrystone Towers. Two of his brothers – Robert and Cecil were also killed in the First World War. All three are commemorated on the King's School War Memorial, the King's School memorial windows in the cloisters in Worcester Cathedral and on the Chaddesdon, Derbyshire War Memorial.