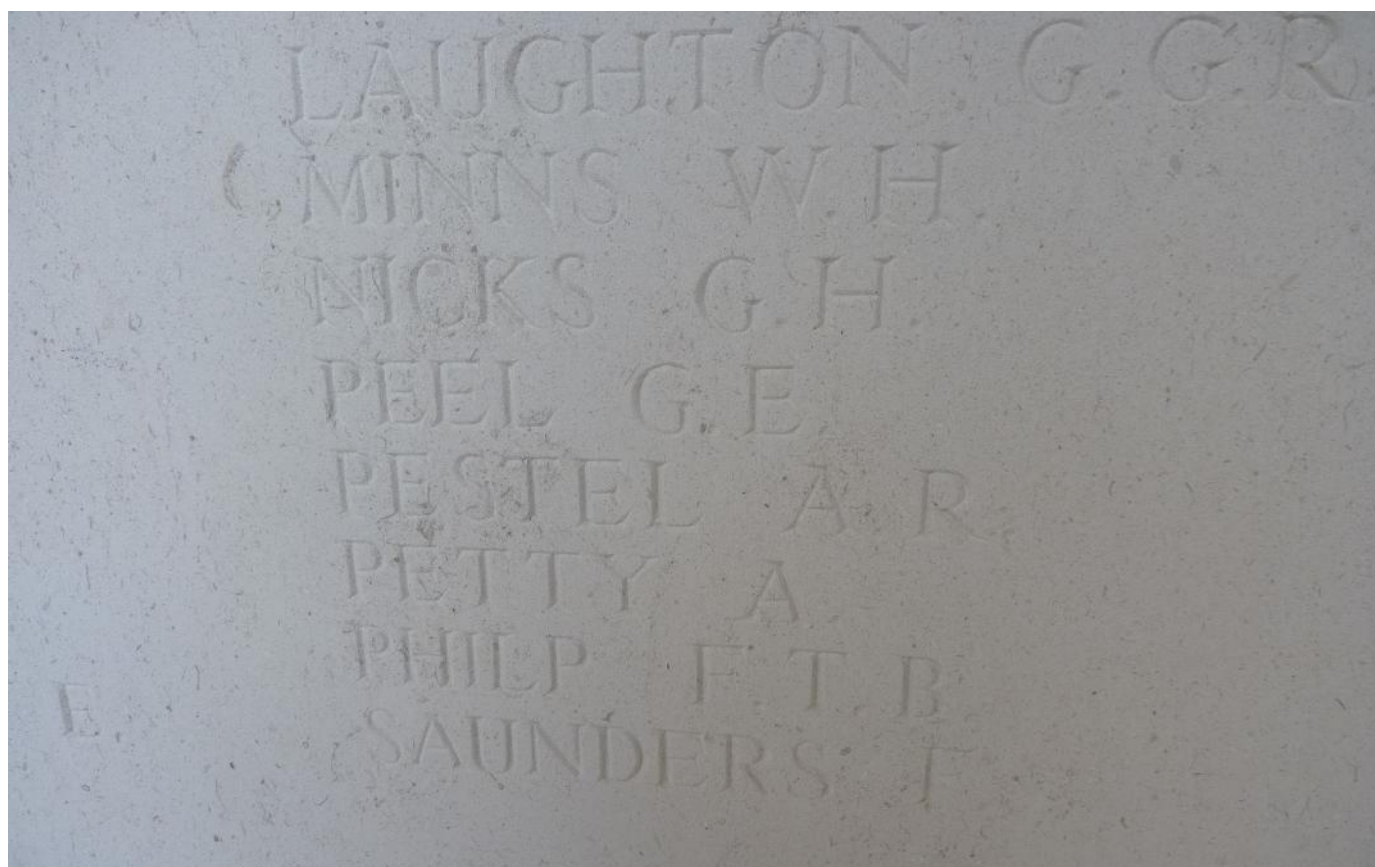


ARTHUR ROBERT PESTEL (1909-10)

Date of Birth	8 August 1893
School Information	Carpentry Prize 1910
Career Information	Photographer, Eastbourne
Date Of Death	26 January 1915
Cause of Death	Killed in action
Location	France
Cemetery	Le Touret Memorial. France – Panel 20/21
Rank	Lance Corporal
Branch of Service	2 nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

In October 2014 there was an OF visit to his grave





Le Touret Memorial & Military Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Le Touret Memorial commemorates almost 13,000 British soldiers who were killed in the sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the end of the Battle of Loos in late November 1918 when there was no more gas. The memorial takes the form of a high, rectangular wall of stone, surrounded by an open landscape. The names of those commemorated are listed on panels set into the walls of the nave and the gallery, arranged to represent rank and regimentally by narrow within the nave. The memorial was designed by John Reginald Drake, who had served as an officer with the London Regiment during the war and awarded by the British Association to Prince, Lord Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Almost all of the men commemorated on the memorial served with regiments or battalions originating from outside the United Kingdom and were killed in action. They were killed along a section of the front line that stretched from Bapaume in the north to Arras in the south. The part of the Western Front over the course of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war including the battles of La Bassée (10 October – 7 November 1914), Neuve Chapelle (10 – 12 March 1915), Aubers Ridge (16 – 18 May 1915) and Passchendaele (15 – 23 May 1917), battles starting with Indian and Canadian units who were killed in this sector in 1914 and 19 those remains were never identified are commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle and Ypres Memorials.

The British Expeditionary Force in French Flanders, 1914 - 1915
In October 1914, Corps of the British Expeditionary Force moved north from Picardy and took up positions in French Flanders where they were immediately engaged in the series of attacks and counter attacks that would become known as the 'race to the sea'. Over the course of the next year most of the British army in this sector focused on attempting to dislodge the German forces from their advantageous position on the Aubers Ridge and capture the city of Lille, a major industrial and transport centre which the Germans had occupied early in the war. The ridge is a slight incline to an otherwise extremely flat landscape from which the Germans were able to observe and bombard the British lines. Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along the ridge, reinforcing their positions with deep barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements. These were defences that forced British attempts to break through heavy fire and led to very heavy casualties on the battles of Aubers Ridge and Passchendaele in May 1915.

Le Touret Military Cemetery
The men of the Indian Corps began burying their fallen comrades in this site in November 1914 and the cemetery was used continually by field ambulances and fighting units until the German Spring Offensive began in March 1918. Reinforcing of the site was ordered by the German forces in April 1918 but the cemetery was used again in September and October after this cemetery was reoccupied by the Allies. Today over 100 Commonwealth servicemen who were killed during the First World War are buried here.

"The Last General Reserves of the Division" depicting the retreat on the eve of the Battle of Aubers Ridge, May 1915, painted by Thomas Munro.

"The Last General Reserves of the Division" is a double exposure graphic by Thomas Munro in response to the site as a battle site in the 1914-1918 sector of French Flanders.

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Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commission is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women who serve from 38 parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of none, are found around the globe in some 132 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit www.cwgc.org Enquiries are also welcome at our office: CWGC Head Office Tel: +44 (0) 1628 307200 Email: enquiries@cwgc.org CWGC France Office Tel: +33 (0) 3 21 21 97 98 Email: france@cwgc.org

For more information about this location and some of those commemorated here, scan the QR code to the right.

