

## CYRIL HARRY SHEPARD

Birth: 1877. St Johns Wood, City of Westminster, Greater London, England

He was the son the late Henry Duncan Shepard FRIBA, architect, and Harriet Jessie Lee from at 34 Shooters Hill. They lived at 41 Blackheath Park.

*His brother was Ernest Howard Shepard who illustrated "Winnie-the Pooh" and "the Wind in the Willows". He lived at 34 Shooter's Hill Road.*

*English artist and book illustrator, best known for his human-like animals in illustrations for "The Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame and "Winnie-the-Pooh" by A. A. Milne. He received a commission in the Royal Artillery and 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross for his service in World War I. Hired by Milne to illustrate his book of poems "When We Were Very Young, he went on to illustrate "Winnie-the-Pooh". Shepard modelled Pooh not on the toy owned by Christopher Robin, Milne's son, but on "Growler", a stuffed bear owned by his own son, Graham. Both of Shepard's children, Graham and Mary, became illustrators, also.*

**Second Lieutenant, SHEPARD, CYRIL HARRY. 9th Bn. Devonshire Regiment. Died 01/07/1916, Aged 39. DEVONSHIRE CEMETERY, MAMETZ [B. 6] (France).**

### **War Service:**

Second Lieutenant with the 9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment, Cyril Harry Shepard died 1 July 1916 on the first day of the battle of the Somme aged 39.

On 1 July, Captain Duncan Martin, 9th Battalion, who had noted that a German machine gun that was located in the civilian cemetery of the village of Mametz, could attack, not towards Mametz across the road, but at right angles towards the more distant village of Fricourt. Working from a plasticine model he had made of the area, Martin calculated that if this particular machine gun was not put out of action by the artillery barrage before the attack then it would fire into the right flank of his men causing heavy casualties. The machine gun position survived the bombardment and when, on the morning of 1 July 1916, the Devons advanced Martin's prediction came tragically true.

Cyril Shepard is buried in Devonshire Cemetery, Mametz (France) together with 160 other officers and men from the 8th and 9th Devons, among them is Captain Duncan Martin, 9th Battalion.



**Location of Memorial:**

He is commemorated on the memorial at St Margaret's, Lee.

**Dates:**1877-1916