

R Cantle

CWGC - PRIVATE R CANTLE

Service Number: 35239

Regiment & Unit/Ship

Wiltshire Regiment

4th Bn.

Died 09 August 1917

Buried or commemorated at

[KEYNSHAM CEMETERY A. 93.](#)

United Kingdom

Additional Info Adopted son of Mrs. M. Cantle, of 63, Temple St., Keynsham

Notes - Possibly because of poor health or some other disability, when Robert Cantle enlisted for military service on 8th August 1917, he joined the 4th Territorial Force (Reserve) Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment, based at Sutton Veny in the Wylve Valley. Only 24 hours later at No. 6 camp, and after 'having his eyes seen to', Robert joined his squad on the parade ground for the first time. After just 20 minutes, at 3.10pm, there was a crash and a sudden flash of lightning. It seemed to stagger everybody. Company Sergeant Major Henry James Bennett was brought to his knees and when he recovered, he saw three men, two of whom were struggling on the ground. He immediately rushed over and did what he could to organise respiration parties. The medical officer, Major Stocker, tried artificial respiration for about ten minutes. It was found that Robert Cantle had been killed, but the other two men recovered. Mary Cantle, as next of kin, was notified immediately by wire and informed that an inquest would be held two days later at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny.