

George Stratton

154547, "D" Battery .,Royal Field Artillery. Died 19th December 1918 aged 37

George was born in 1881 in Warboys, the son of George and Fanny (nee Newman) Stratton. He was one of 8 children and they lived in Puddock Drove, neighbours of the **Roses** and the **Hodsons**. George senior worked on his own farm and George worked as a farm labourer.



He enlisted into D Battery 20th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery who provided howitzers and medium artillery near the front line.



Guns in Salonika
IWM

This Brigade was part of the 27th Division who served in Salonika. They were in action in the final offensive in Salonika in September 1918 and after the armistice there on 30th September, continued to advance until ordered eastwards to the Black Sea on 2nd November.

The Division reached Constantinople on 19 December 1918 a city which the British Army was to occupy until 1923. George was not with them. He was in Thessalonica which was the HQ for the army and where the hospitals were. Disease there, particularly Malaria, killed more men than the fighting. In 1918 alone over 30,000 were sent home because of it, **Thomas Amps** being one.

Not George though. A clerk working in a hospital there recalls in his diary for this time that the weather was very cold and that "**Poor fellows are dying like flies from Bronchial Pneumonia**". George was one of these, dying on 19th December 1918 aged 39. He is buried in Mikra British Cemetery Kalamaria, a suburb of Thessalonica.

His parents continued to live in Warboys, his mother dying in 1931 aged 80 and his father in 1940 aged 86.

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