



Photo from *Leaving All that was Dear* by J Devereux and G Sacker

# JOSEPH MIDDLETON STAINES

Army Number 1809

Regimental Sergeant-Major, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade

Killed in action in France on 21 August 1916, aged 43

Address: Ferncroft, 97 Church Road

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and is named on the War Memorials at Leckhampton and Cheltenham.

Joseph Staines was born in Norfolk in 1873 and before the war had been a regular soldier for 21 years, including service with the Indian Army. On retirement he became a gymnastic instructor at Cheltenham College and re-enlisted in the Rifle Brigade in Winchester, giving a home address in Leckhampton.

In the summer of 1916 his unit was stationed on the Somme and on 18 August took part in an attack on enemy trenches at Longueval, near to Delville Wood. He was killed three days later and left a widow, Flora Staines, living at the above address.

The Thiepval Memorial, commemorating 72,195 missing British and South African men who died in the Battles of the Somme of the First World War between 1915 and 1918 with no known grave

Photo – Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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