



## 2nd Lieutenant William Arthur Derrick Eley (1897-1917)

The memorial to 2nd Lieutenant Eley reads:

For his King and Country  
in very tender and loving memory of  
William Arthur Derrick Eley  
2nd Lieut. 1st BATTN. K.R.R.C.  
only son of Lt Col W.G. Eley D.S.O.  
and of Helen his wife  
who fell in action Near Miraumont  
17th Feb 1917 aged 19  
his body lies at Courcellette in France  
"Greater love hath no man than this  
that a man lay down his life for his friends"

Above the inscription are the arms of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and below two family crests.

*Monument on right when entering the baptistery*

William Arthur Derrick was born on 6 September 1897 in Dublin, the only son of Lt. Col. W.G. Eley, D.S.O. and his wife Helen Marim, of Whiteshoots Hill, Bourton-on-the Water, Glos.

His father was born in Hertfordshire and became an officer in the 14 Hussars. By 1901, when Derrick was aged three, the family had moved to Fulford. Ten years later they were living at The Villa in Escrick. By then Derrick had two younger sisters. Also in the house were a governess and several servants.

Derrick was educated at Eton and became master of the College Hounds. He was given two hunting horns inscribed with his initials. In the summer of 1916 he left Eton and joined the Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

In February 1917 the 1st Battalion was serving in France, and on the 17th the Regiment took part in operations near Miraumont. Derrick, aged 19, was killed.

He was the only son, and his sisters died without having children. He was buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt at Plot 1V C 28.

Derrick's two hunting horns, inscribed 1915-16, were found in a house clearance at Bury St Edmunds. They were put up for auction and Rupert Eley, a nephew of his great-grandfather, successfully bid for them paying £150 for the pair.