

Major General Hubert Ion Wetherall HAMILTON

CVO, CB, DSO

Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

St Martins Graveyard

Cheriton

Folkestone

Kent

Maj-Gen Hamilton was General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 3rd Division in 1914. He was **Killed in action** 14 October 1914 at La Coutre, (north of) Vielle Chapelle, France when a shell exploded near where he was standing!

Captain Thorpe his ADC and Hamilton had gone out to the field to see personally why their left was being held up. They were both dismounted and standing on the road, when a salvo of shrapnel burst right over them. One bullet hit Hamilton in the forehead, and he died almost immediately. He never spoke or opened his eyes. There were several other officers besides Thorpe and Hamilton standing in the same location but no one else was hit. General Hamilton's body was recovered and then buried against the outside wall of La Coutre Church. General Smith-Dorrien attended his funeral with full military honours. An ornate piece of wood was erected over his grave.

General Hamilton's body did not remain in France for very long. On 21 October 1914 his body was re-buried in the St Martins Churchyard, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent. It is not known how his body came to be recovered to the UK like this because it was government policy to bury men on or near the battlefield where they fell.

His headstone in Folkestone bears no reference to his rank or appointment which is rather disappointing. Local residents appear ignorant of the facts surrounding this man's headstone.

The headstone is located in the churchyard very near to the main gate (Horn Street).

The authors are investigating the case with a view to having the situation remedied.

OFFICERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR: COMMANDS AND STAFF
PRO 45/2063



HUBERT HAMILTON

1861 - 1914

QUESTION NOT BYT LIVE AND LABOUR
TILL YOUR GOAL BE WON
HELPING EVERY PEOPLE NEIGHBOUR
SEEKING HELP FROM NONE







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