



**Private Hughes**

This photo of a young soldier from the Great War is of Private Hughes of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. That's almost all we know about him at present.... No Christian name....no service number.

We believe that he was probably killed during the Great War, but as yet we don't know where or when. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records cannot be much help in this case.... There were 219 men named 'Hughes' from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were killed during that conflict, so deciding exactly which of them the young man in this photo shows is a bit difficult at present.....

What we *do* know is that he was Marian Dingle's grandfather... although it should be added that even Marian has only known that for a relatively short time.

Marian has written to explain the story..

***"I have been looking for information on the soldiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were billeted in Moordown from late in 1914 until April 1915.***

***It was not until my mother had passed away in the 1990's that I discovered that my Aunt Florence - whom we all knew as her older sister - was in fact her mother, and my grandmother.***

***I then discovered the attached photo of a soldier - taken at Deayton's, the photographers then at 203 Wimborne Rd, Winton - who I assume is her father, as his cap badge is the Welsh fusiliers, and there is a striking resemblance to my mother.***

***On her birth certificate the father is listed merely as 'Hughes', but she was always only known as 'Vera Head', her mother (sister) being 'Florence Head'. However, on her passport it says 'Hughes Head', confirming the identity of her father.***

***Until I was thirteen I lived at 6 Jameson Road and my dear 'Auntie Flo' at number 10. It is sad that back then all was kept a secret, and I assume that my grandfather was killed, and didn't return..."***

**Marian Dingle -- August 2015**