

## **First World War Service Record of Bartle Davers Rushbrooke**

The following is from the National Archives Ref WO 339/9127

Capt. R. D. Rushbrooke  
Suff. R.

The following information has been received regarding this Officer:-

G.O. 23203.

Missing 25 May '15

3rd Ech. 24777

Wounded & Missing 25 May '15

Extracts from statement made by Sgt. Pegg:- This officer was wounded on the 24th May at Hooze Chateau on the right of Ypres... Could not get away... He possibly might be wounded and Prisoner of War... Was wounded by machine-gun fire.

Extracts from statement made by Sgt. Tarmann:- At Gillebeke on Whit. Monday he was killed during an attack and was left out between our trenches and those of the enemy... We had to retire 400 or 500 yards... Did not actually see Capt. Rushbrooke killed but there are others who did, and it is pretty certain that he is dead.

Extracts from statement made by Capt. Needham:- He was seen to fall and was left wounded.... Next day the ground was in German hands; there was no sign of him, so we consider there is a chance of his having been taken prisoner... It was dark at the time.

Extract from statement by 2nd Lt. Packard:- Major Maycock told me after the first charge that we had "lost poor Rushbrooke". Major said he fell like a log and did not think he ever knew he had been hit... He fell close against the German trenches.

[P.T. Over.]

Extract from Letters of Administration (Will annexed).  
~~Probate of Will.~~  
Confirmation.

Dated 16th December, 1919. Granted at P.P.R.

Resealed

1. Estate of Bartle Davers Rushbrooke of Rushbrooke Park Bury St  
in the County of Suffolk Captain Suffolk Regiment

2. Date and Place of Death 25th May 1915 in France or Belgium made and duly  
his last Will and Testament and did not therein

3. Will *Soldiers dated 15 May 1915*  
Executor

4. Grantee Constance Julia Rushbrooke widow the mother of decd  
the residuary legatee named in the said Will

5. Gross Value £ 1690.10.3

6. Disposal of Movable

Declarations

*} To the Mother*

7. Extracted by May How & Chilver,  
Solicitors,  
49 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
W.C.

8. Produced by

9. Returned to

(2)

To C. of Records  
Reg District  
Warley

2nd BATTALION  
SUFFOLK REGIMENT  
No 9 DISTRICT  
1 FEB 1916

5th February  
1916

Dittow Lagoon  
Thames Ditton  
Surrey

Dear Sir

Please forgive me

Passed could you kindly  
inform the Person who wrote  
the letter of the circumstances  
as to the decision arrived  
at that Captain Rushbrooke  
was killed. This letter was  
written to Mrs Rushbrooke  
whose son, above mentioned  
was reported missing in May  
1915 and then reported killed  
in January 1916.  
H. J. Smith Revere Lieut  
Fitzroy Comd 3rd Buff Regt

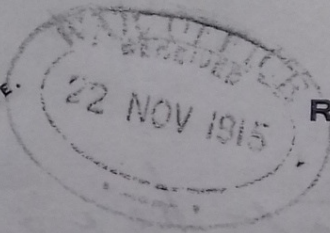
travelling me, but seeing  
the notice of the late Captain  
Rushbrooke's death in  
the papers & believing he  
was in the same action  
on May 25th 1915. Went to

1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk

Maycock, was in, & afterwards  
reported "missing", everything  
has been done to try & trace him  
but without success. Would you  
kindly tell me by what means  
you ascertained the information  
regarding your lamented son  
I am asking this on behalf of  
Major Maycock's aged parents  
who are heart broken at hearing  
nothing. Apologizing for trouble

Yours faithfully  
Isaac Jacob.

WFA  
TELEGRAMS  
SICKLESHERE.



hoo 24.  
RUSHBROOKE PARK,  
BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Gentlemen. -

Seeing the announcement  
in the Morning Post of a  
new system of Inquiry for  
missing officers I am writing  
to ask if you will do your  
best to find my son for  
me. He was reported  
wounded & missing May 25.  
& my own impression always

has been that he is a  
prisoner in Belgium. -  
I have tried every inquiry  
office without success -  
If you could help me I should  
be so grateful -

Yrs very truly  
Constance J. Rushbrooke.

Reported wounded or missing  
May 25 - 1915 - near Ypres -  
Capt. Baillie-Lavers Rushbrooke  
Age 22 years -  
in Command of A Company  
1st Batt Suffolk Regt. -

1 SUFFOLKS

RUSHBROOKE Captain S.D.

It was at Ypres at a place called Shrapnel Corner on  
Whit Monday when the Germans gassed the Regiment that was in the  
front trenches at two o'clock in the morning, that heavy  
bombardment took place in the trenches in front. We were lying  
behind at Vlamertinghe when this happened and we had orders  
to stand by. We fell in and marched just behind Ypres, then  
between 12 and one o'clock, midday, we got ammunition and  
advanced over open country to about 600 yards from the enemy.  
There we halted until it got dark, then we formed up and made  
the attack, but had to retire again as we were not strong  
enough. Then we made a second attack about two in the morning  
and then it was that Captain Rushbrooke disappeared. No  
prisoners were taken I believe, and we fear he must have been  
killed. We took the position again and some other Regt. occupied  
the trench and we went back. Search was made for Captain  
Rushbrooke but he was never found. Stretcher-bearers were up there  
picking up the wounded but they did not ~~found~~ find him as far as  
I know. Reference: Corporal A. Goodall, 7894, Gare Maritime,  
July 14th 1915 Boulogne.

EFN.

Written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.

A<sup>o</sup>  
Prefix

9.6.15

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

24711

A<sup>o</sup>  
Prefix

Code

(Inland Official

Telegrams only.)

No. of Telegram

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Words.

Sent

I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the

O. H. M. S.

At . . . M.

WAR OFFICE.

To

By

(Signature) *E. Bailey*

Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof.

Dated Stamp.

TO { <i>Mrs C. J. Rushbrooke</i>				
<i>Rushbrooke Park Bury St Edmunds</i>				
Regret	to	inform	you	that
<i>Laf.</i>	<i>B. D</i>	<i>Rushbrooke</i>	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Regt</i>
<i>previously</i>	<i>reported</i>	<i>missing</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>reported</i>
<i>reported</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>missing</i>	<i>May 25<sup>th</sup></i>	

FROM { Secretary, War Office.

The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.

Copy.

On Whit Monday May 24th 1915 we were ordered at 2 a.m. to move up from billets to join Divisional Reserve. We moved about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the Vlamertinghe Ypres road & awaited orders.

At 11 a.m. we received orders to reinforce Cavalry who had been gassed; we arrived at G.H.A. lines at 3 p.m. and the Northumberland Fusiliers & Cheshires were front line supported by Welsh Suffolks, under command of Major Toke (Welsh Regt).

During the second line advance A & B Companies were in front. After advancing about 700 yards we were ordered to fix bayonets & Capt. Rushbrooke asked me to get him a rifle & bayonet, which I did.

When the line halted Capt. Rushbrooke said that he would go & find Major Maycock who was in command, as he was not satisfied that we were going in the right direction, leaving his rifle & bayonet with me.

After waiting about 5 mins. I saw the line move & I advanced with them, thinking that Capt. R. <sup>had</sup> joined his company & given the order to advance.

I have not seen him since, & in my opinion he is undoubtedly killed. The attack was not a success and we had to retire.

(Sgd) Edward C.S.M.

"A" Company

1st Suffolk Regiment.

