ARNOLD WILLIAM RASH (1906-10)

| Date of Birth | 5 May 1892 |
|--------------------|--|
| School Information | One of seven brothers to attend the college. His younger brother Ralph Reginald Rash (1910-13) also died in WW1. |
| | Prefect. Queen Victoria Scholar. Goldsmith Prize and Gold Medal for Maths 1908. Book Keeping Prize 1908-09. Maths Prize 1909. |
| Career Information | None known. |
| Date Of Death | 31 July 1917 |
| Cause of Death | Killed in action – see more details below |
| Location | Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium |
| Cemetery | BUFFS ROAD CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium |
| Rank | Second Lieutenant |
| Branch of Service | Suffolk Regiment 5 th Battalion |

Below is a picture of his gravestone in Belgium.



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We were contacted by Peter Clarke who had been researching the War Memorials in the village of Wortham, near Diss and came across a couple of Old Framlinghamians - Arnold William Rash and his brother Ralph Reginald Rash - who made the ultimate sacrifice. He point out to us that there was a wonderful stained glass window in the Church of St Mary Wortham to commemorate their sacrifice. While the figures are stylised, he said he wouldn't be surprised if the faces aren't those of these two young men.

Below are some pictures taken in November 2015 of the window with some close ups, particularly of the insignias at the bottom of the window.





The scroll at the foot of the window reads "In memory of Arnold William Rash 2nd Lieut, Suffolk Regt. who fell at the Battle of Passchendaele July 31st 1917 aged 25 & of Ralph Reginald Rash 2nd Lieut, Suffolk Regt. who fell at the battle of the Somme October 12th 1916 aged 20, 4th and 6th sons of J.J. Rash JP of Wortham".

It is interesting to note that the right hand window contains the emblem of the Suffolk Regiment while the left hand window contains the emblem and motto of the College.





They are also remembered on the War Memorial in Wortham churchyard



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Peter Clarke also added the following comment "Your web-page commemorating Arnold William follows most published sources in assigning him to the 5th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment when he died in the opening battle of Third Ypres (Passchendaele). However the 1st/5th Battalion were in Palestine at that time, while the 2/5 and 3/5 were UK only training units providing drafts to other units as needed. As the war dragged on, that could be to any unit were they were needed, not just Suffolk Regiment ones. In the case of Arnold this was the 1st/1st Battalion of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, a unit with very close ties to the Suffolk Regiment." Our reference to 5th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment comes from the CWGC website and the Chapel memorial also states Suffolk Regiment as does memorial in Wortham Church.

Inside the church of St Mary there is also a framed Roll of Honour for all who served from the village which includes Arnold and Ralph and their brother **John (1903-04)**.

| Roll | | | | | | |
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At the start of 2016 we heard from Iain Shanks who was currently researching the Cambridgeshire Regiment and came across the above biography on Arnold William Rash.

He says "While he was a Member of the Suffolk Regiment he was attached as a 2nd Lt to the Cambridgeshires. I suspect that he may have been a member of the Ranks of the Suffolk Regiment who like others (AH Muirhead and AM Fison) gained a commission and were then attached to another regiment. Rash is mentioned in the regimental history and the War diary.

The Cambridgeshires were following the main attack from the canal Bank at Ypres on 31 July 1917 towards St Julien. By 10am they were advancing parallel to the road to St Julien and had reached Corner Cot (the remains



of a cottage which acted as a landmark for soldiers of both sides located behind what had been until that day the second line of German trenches. At this point the Regiment came under a heavy barrage of shell and high explosive fire - with some sniper fire coming from their right.

At this point Rash was wounded as was 2nd Lt Ritchie (a South African Officer) and Captain Awbrey all as far as I can tell serving with D Company. 35 other ranks had become casualties by this point in the day."

