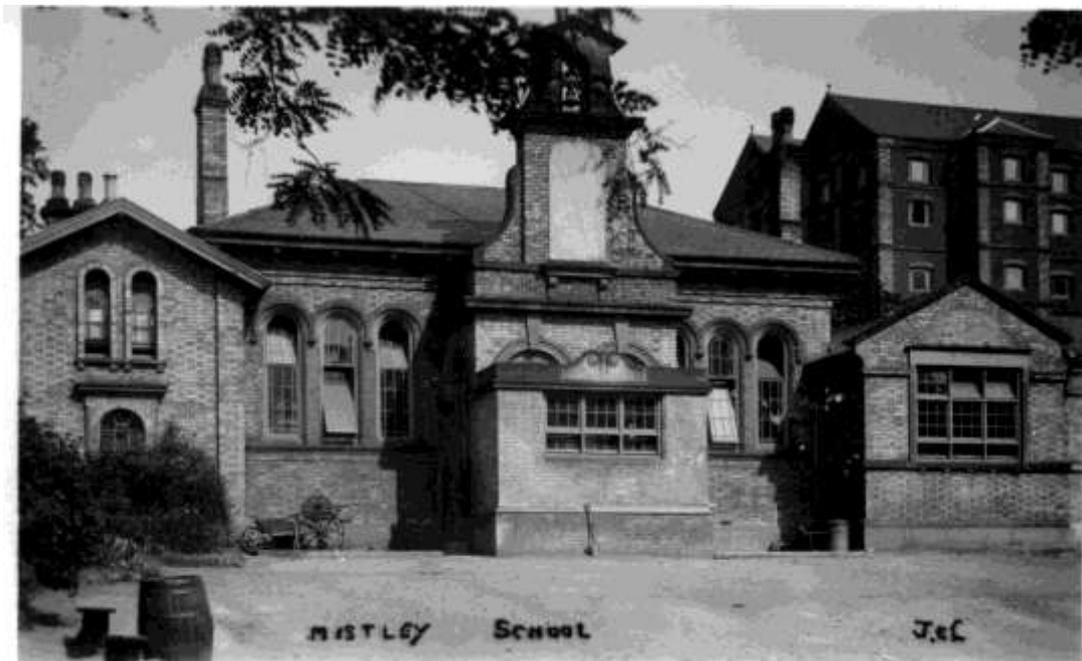


Mistley Memorial : John Tippins 26th November 1914

John's parents were both School teachers, his father Luke coming from Herefordshire. After training at St John's college in Battersea, from 1880-83 he was Head Master at a boy's school in Kent. His mother Rose Ann Ellingham came from Hertfordshire, training at Hockerill college near Bishops Stortford. The couple married in late 1882 in Tendbury, Worcestershire where Luke was working at the elementary school.

The Norman national, elementary school in Mistley was built in 1862 at a cost of £4,000. It had its own masters house and was funded by a £35 annual income derived from 26 acres of land in Lawford, donated to the school by the Edward Kensit Norman of Mistley Place. Built initially for 170 children it expanded in 1908 with a new infants room costing a further £700.



John Tippins was born in 1887 whilst the couple were living and working in Winsford, Somerset, his sister Rose a couple of years later. In 1889 the family moved into Mistley School & house, with Luke, the 'Master' and wife Rose the school 'Mistress'. Lily Bond a 15 year old domestic servant lived with them later.

Luke Tippins had at some stage served in the army and developed an interest and expertise in guns and gun making. He helped found the Colchester Rifle club in 1900 and went on to write a book in 1906 on the subject 'Modern Rifle Shooting in Peace, War and Sport' and later 'The Rifleman's Companion'.

Whilst still living and working at the school in 1908 Luke enlisted at Manningtree as a Volunteer with the 5th Battalion Essex territorial Regiment.



John Tippins.

John remained at home in the run up to the war, working with his father who had established a Rifle Making company, testing and adjusting rifles and guns for people from all over the world. The experiments they carried out were said to be of great value to the nation in preparation for war. His sister Rose, also in her mid twenties, for her part became a school mistress, helping her mother. John also joined the army, at first with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Essex Regiment and became an expert

marksman competing in local and international competitions.

Whilst still part of the territorial army, at the outbreak of war father Luke was declared medically unfit for further military service. John though is keen to serve. De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour has the following entry:

"TIPPINS, John, Corporal and Acting Sergeant, No 3105, 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment and son of Luke R. Tippins of Mistley, Essex, Schoolmaster and Rifle Expert; Born. Winsford, Somerset, 10 March, 1887; educated Norman School, Mistley, and privately: served first in 2nd Voluntary Battalion, Essex Regt, then in the 5th Essex (TF) as Machine Gun Sergeant, and finally in 8th Essex (TF) as Motor Cycle Sergeant; joined 2nd Battalion as Private 18 Sept, 1914, in order to get at once to the front, and was appointed Corporal, and left for France the following day, and was killed in action at a farm near Armentieres, 26 Nov. 1914, having been appointed Acting Sergeant, in charge of a machine gun a few days previously.

Buried in 2nd Essex Cemetery, near Armentieres; unmarried John Tippins was one of the finest rifle shots in the United Kingdom. He qualified for the final stage of the King's Prize Competition at Bisley in the years 1908-11 inclusive and in 1913; he won the Wimbledon Cup, 1909, the Aggregate Service Rifle Championship, 1911, and took first place in the second stage of the Albert

Competition the same year. He shot in the Elcho, Mackinnon, and Challenge Trophy teams, and was one of the Empire Team chosen to go out to Australia, whose departure was prevented by the outbreak of war.

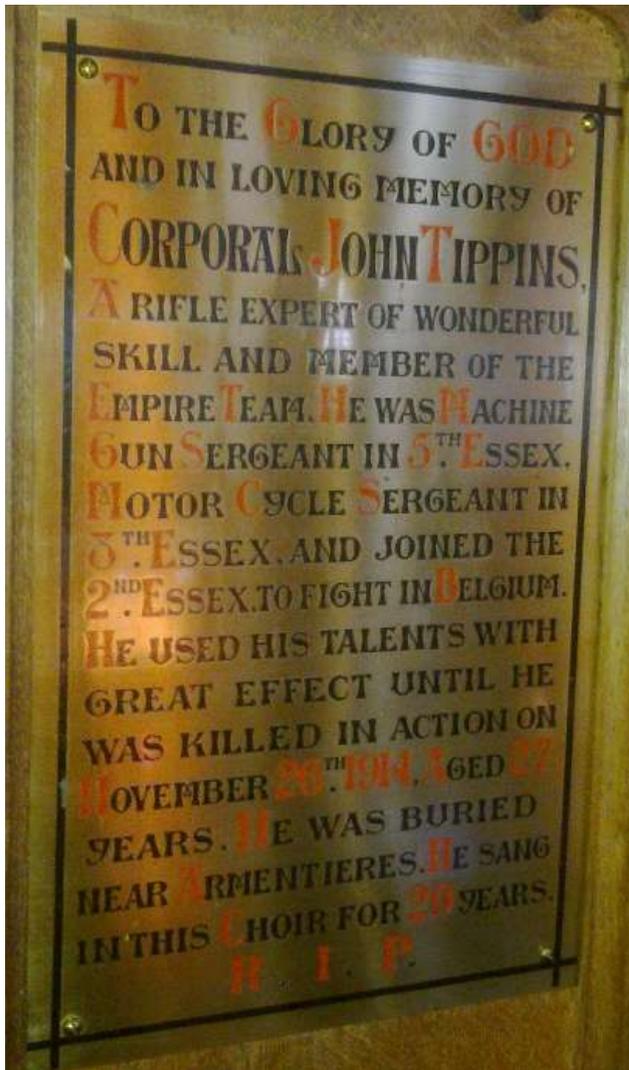
On the night he fell, he had gone himself to get water for the Maxim in his charge, as it was a dangerous job in daylight, and was killed on his return. Captain Binstead (since killed) wrote: He had already gained for himself a reputation as a daring sniper and splendid shot, which had spread far beyond his own regiment, and which had he not been shot, would, I feel, have obtained for him a coveted distinction'.



His Medal Index card shows that he was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal, date of entry (to theatre) 22nd September 1914.

John is buried in Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Belgium I. C. 6.

John is also commemorated on a Plaque within St Mary & St Michael Church, Mistley, behind where the Choir is situated.



His mother died in April 1925 at age 65.

Luke continued at the school until 1923 and as a Gun Maker up to 1937 whilst living at the 'Haven' in Mistley. Dying in January 1940 he left his estate to his daughter Rose Tippins.

Rose had by then become a headmistress taking a post at Wrabness in order to be close to her father. She lived on at the family house until she died in 1959.