

2.CATLING G.L

Buried Ashford Cemetery / King's School Peterborough

APPROVED 20 OCTOBER 2005



Captain George Lionel CATLING. Royal Field Artillery (RFA). Formerly (Private) 4th Lincolnshire Regiment. Died from the effects of being gassed 2nd January 1920 aged 27 years. Born Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire 1892. Died at The Firs, Broad Down, Wye, Ashford, Kent. Husband of Gladys Catling (nee Woodcock) of Fernley Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Only son of Walter and Lucy Catling of Peterborough Hotel, St Leonard Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Buried 7th January 1920 at the Old Ashford Cemetery, Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent. Grave reference 2557.

George Lionel Catling is remembered on King's School Memorial, which is located inside St Sprite's Chapel, Peterborough Cathedral.

George was the only son of Walter and Lucy Catling. Walter Catling was born in 1862 in Tilbrook and died in 1938, age 76, in Hastings. Lucy was from Camberwell, Surrey. Walter and Lucy were married on 19th May 1889. In 1891 they were proprietors of the Lion Hotel, Kimbolton before moving to Peterborough to run the Peterborough Hotel around 1897. George had one older sister, Hilda, born at Tilbrook in 1889. Walter Catling was President of the Peterborough Licence Victuallers Association by 1915 and ran the

Young George Lionel Catling was educated at King's School, Park Road, Peterborough, and at the City of London School of which he was a Cadet in their Officer Training Corps (O.T.C).

George Catling was working in the accounts department of the Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway Company in Chile when the War broke out and returned to England in 1915 to enlist into the 4th Lincolnshire Regiment as a Private soldier. He later transferred to an Officer Training School and was gazetted as 2nd Lieutenant on 6th July 1915 (London Gazette 5-7-1915). 2/Lt. George Catling's promotion to Lieutenant was gazetted in 1917 (London Gazette 19-7-17) and antedated to the 1st June 1916. For a brief time in 1917, between 25th October and 20th November 1917, **George Catling was appointed Acting-Captain.**

Entitled to British War Medal, Victory Medal. Entitlement to 1914-15 Star unknown (MIC not located).

George Catling avoided being wounded during the War, but was admitted to Rouen General Hospital on 12th November 1918 suffering from the effects of poison gas. After treatment at Exeter Hospital, George returned home but fell ill in late 1919 and died in January 1920 from a combination of lung disease (reportedly tuberculosis brought on by his gassing) and measles.

In 1919, George Catling married Gladys Woodcock of Ashford, Kent.

George's headstone clearly records the following inscription – **“George died at Wye from Gas Poisoning in France”.**

Lionel's father Walter Catling was present at his sons death. George's death certificate gives the cause of death as T.B and Measles. It is clear that damage to ones lungs from something like gassing can show up with T.B like symptoms.

Lionel's death was widely reported in the Kentish Express newspaper in Ashford.

It would appear that Lionel's death slipped through the net. The Ministry of Pensions failed to inform the Ministry of Defence of Lionel's death and this may have led to Lionel's name being omitted from the death indexes. Alternatively Lionel's service papers may have been lost (which might account for Kyle Tallett not being able to locate his service papers in the National Archives – an unusual occurrence in the case of officers whose papers are usually to be found).

Lionel was invalided from the service having contracted T.B on active service in France. He died of the SAME disease.