

**Christ Church Churchyard,  
Tilstock, Shropshire,  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**959 CADET**

**E. J. C. TREADWELL**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS**

**20TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 22**

## Edward Jabez Cooper (Ted) TREADWELL

Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was born at Ascot Vale, Victoria in February, 1895 to parents Edward Cooper Treadwell & Mary Jane Treadwell (nee Dawson).

Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell attended the Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne, Victoria.

Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was a 21 year old, single, Printer and Publisher from 32 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th October, 1916 with the Australian Flying Corps, No. 4 Squadron, Headquarters Flight of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 959 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Edward Cooper Treadwell of 32 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria. Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 5 years with Citizen Force & 2 ½ years as Lieutenant. He also stated he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to Hammer Toes.

According to information supplied by Edward Cooper Treadwell, father of Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell, for the Roll of Honour - Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell *"was a Lieutenant in Australian Citizen Forces and sunk his Commission on enlisting. He was thrice rejected for active service because of foot trouble. In 1915 he was a Lieutenant in Seymour Camp where he twice acted as Adjutant, Up to time of enlisting in 1916 he was for seven months orderly officer to State Commandant Brigadier General William, who wrote me in eulogistic terms concerning my son when he was killed."*

Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was posted to 3rd Company, A.A.M.T. as Driver on 19th October, 1916. He was transferred to 4th Squadron, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) as Lance Corporal on 26th October, 1916.

Lance Corporal Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell embarked from Melbourne on RMS *Omrah* on 17th January, 1917 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 27th March, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was marched in from Australia to A.F.C. Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 27th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was transferred to No. 71 Squadron, A.F.C. at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham on 2nd April, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was marched in from Wireless School, South Farnboro to Bromwich on 24th June, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was on Command at Cadet Battalion, Oxford & posted as Air Mechanic 2nd Class (2/A.M.) on 6th July, 1917.

2/A.M. (Cadet) was attached to 29th Training Squadron, A.F.C., Shawbury from O.T.C. Oxford on 9th August, 1917.

2/A.M. (Cadet) was detached & taken on strength with 30th Training Squadron at Shawbury on 9th September, 1917 from 29th Training Squadron.

Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell died around 9 am on 20th September, 1917 at Military Hospital, Prees Heath, Salop, (Shropshire), England from injuries sustained in an aeroplane accident.

Report on the Death of Cadet Treadwell E. J.C., 30th Training Squadron, A.F.C. by Capt H. R. Sturridge, R.A.M.C.:

*"I was called in to see above Cadet in the Waiting Room of the Military Hospital, Prees Heath at 08.35 the morning of the 20.9.1917. Deceased was lying on a stretched with a piece of lint covering his eyes and head. On examination I found that his pulse was hardly palpable, respirations sighing and at the rate of about one per minute.*

*The scalp over the frontal bone was completely stripped off to the bone which was exposed and badly fractured. The right eye and socket with the superciliary ridge above were completely pulped and the bone of the socket fractured. Blood was being discharged from the right ear and the mouth.*

*Deceased was evidently in extremis and nothing could be done. He died at about 09.00 o'clock.*

A Court of Enquiry was held at Tern Hill on 20th September, 1917 by order of O.C. 30th Training Squadron, A.F.C., Tern Hill enquiring into the cause of the accident resulting in the death of Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell, A.F.C. on the 20th September, 1917.

1st Witness – No. (Aus) 401 2/AE Rayner P.O. states:

*On the 20th Sept. at 7 am I was starting the propeller of Sopwith Bomber No. 6945 on the Aerodrome at Tern Hill. As soon as the engine started I moved away towards the left hand plane and stood by the man who was holding the check line. At that time Cadet Treadwell was standing on the left hand place talking to the pilot, Cadet Benjamin. A few seconds later I heard the air mechanics shout and looking round I saw Cadet Treadwell stepping down off the machine from the front or loading edge side. As he places his foot on the ground his back being towards the propeller, he stumbled and was struck by the propeller. The engine was throttled down at the time. Cadet Treadwell fell on to the ground with his head badly cut. I assisted to put him in the ambulance which happened to be within a few yards of the machine at the time of the accident.* (Sgd. P. O. Rayner)

2nd Witness – Cadet L. Benjamin states:

*On the 20th September at 7 am I was sitting in the Pilots seat of Sopwith Bomber No. 6945 preparatory to making a flight Cadet Treadwell was standing on the left hand plane and looking into the cockpit as he had previously expressed a wish to follow the working of the throttle controls and instruments in the cockpit since he had not previously flown this type of machine. Having run up the engine, I throttled down preparatory to signalling for the check to be removed. I then asked Cadet Treadwell to get down. A few seconds later I looked to see if he was standing clear of the machine and I saw him on the ground his right arm raised and his hand pressed against his head. Apparently he stumbled for almost simultaneously he was struck by the propeller and fell to the ground with the blood streaming from his head. I stopped the engine and got out of the machine and assisted putting him in the ambulance.* (Sgd. L. Benjamin Cadet)

3rd Witness – No. (Aus) 51 2/A.M. B. S. Baird states:

*On the 20th September at 7 am I was standing by the left hand plane of Sopwith Bomber No. 6945 holding the check line. Cadet Treadwell was standing on the plane talking to the pilot. I saw him step off the machine. I shouted a warning to him and waved my arm. He ducked under the flying wire and stumbled towards the propeller which struck him.* (Sgd. B. S. Baird)

FINDING – *The Court having considered the evidence, is of opinion that Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell in stepping off the machine accidentally came in contact with the propeller, which struck him and caused his death. Cadet Benjamin was in no way to blame.*

A death for Edward J. C. Treadwell, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Whitchurch, Shropshire, England.

Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was buried at 3.20 pm on 22nd September, 1917 in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England – Plot number 17 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Cadet Treadwell - Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was given a Military Funeral. *Mr E. T. Wade expressed great satisfaction with all the arrangements made for the funeral and much appreciated the many expressions of sympathy. Wreaths were sent by the Officers under instruction at Tern Hill and by the Australian Flying Corps Cadets at Shawbury Aerodrome. Relatives present at the funeral – Mr E. T. Wade, "Randalls" Leatherhead, Surrey.*

Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell stated that his Will was held by his father E. C. Treadwell, 32 York Street, St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. He requested in a letter dated 20th August, 1917 *“To Lewis S. Truscott I, Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell, of the Australian Flying Corps, A.I.F., do hereby ask you to take charge of all my belongings and personal effects and send them to Messrs. James Spicer and Sons Ltd., 50 Upper Thames Street, London, E.C. un the event of my death while flying. I ask you to get them to forward my belongings to my father. I also ask you to inform my father of the exact manner in which I was killed should such happen. My father’s address is:- E. C. Treadwell, 32 York Street, St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.”*

Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cadet Treadwell’s father - Mr E. C. Treadwell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell – service number 959, aged 22, of 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Edward Cooper Treadwell, of 32 York St., St. Kilda, Victoria and the late Mary Jane Treadwell.

Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The St. Kilda Cenotaph located at Catani Gardens, Fitzroy Street & Jacka Boulevard, St. Kilda does not list individual names.



**St. Kilda Cenotaph** (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

E. J. C. Treadwell is remembered on the Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll, located in Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Road, Melbourne, Victoria.



**Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll** (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)





(82 pages of Cadet Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



**Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell**

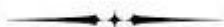
Obituary Notice – Old Melburnians 1914-1918 (Compiled & edited by J. Beacham Kiddle, O.B.E., 1923):

*Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell who died as the result of an aeroplane accident at a military hospital in England on 20th September 1917 was the eldest son of Mr E. C. Treadwell. He was born in 1896 and was at School from 1909 to 1913. He was a Prefect and in the football teams of 1912 and 1913 and in the athletic team of 1913. He went into business with his father. From the day war broke out "Teddy," as we all knew him, was keen to enlist. At first he was prevented by family reasons. In April 1915, however, he obtained his father's consent, but he could not pass the medical test. He was a Lieutenant in the Citizen Forces, and longed to do some service, but on three occasions he failed to pass. However, after being appointed A.D.C. to the State Commandant, he managed to get into the Motor Transport, but after a week in camp the trouble which had held him back developed again. He managed to get a transfer to the Flying Corps, and after training at Laverton he sailed for England. In August he passed a severe examination at Oxford and went to an aerodrome at Castle Bromich, near Birmingham. There he had lessons in flying, and as he progressed was moved to different aerodromes to successively learn the higher rudiments. The*

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month he was killed he went up solos, lost his bearings, and knowing his petrol was fast giving out, picked a spot and made a successful landing in field in which there were horses, cattle and sheep. Killed one of the latter, but otherwise no damage was done. Lawrence Benjamin (3987), his old School mate, who was his officer at Market Drayton, writes thus: "Ted and I were at School together and were comrades in camp, afterwards as Citizen Force officers. We separated then, and you can imagine our delight in coming together at this aerodrome. On the fatal morning I was showing him how to run up the engine of a machine I was going to test, called a Sopwith Bomber. He was keen to see it all from the pilot's seat and stood on the wings to watch it done. I tested the engine, which was satisfactory, then 'throttled down' and asked him to get off it, as I was going to test it in the air. He got to the ground, seemed to stumble, and apparently did not hear the mechanics calling out to him, for he walked straight into the revolving propeller. There is one blessing that he suffered no pain, and died immediately. He died the death he would have wished to die, namely, as a soldier on active service. We buried him the next day at a pretty little cemetery near the hospital at Press Heath, Wynchbury, with full military honors.

(Obituary Notice & photo with permission from Melbourne Grammar School Archives)



## **Newspaper Notices**



### **LANCE-CORPORAL E. J. C. TREADWELL**

Son of Councillor E. C. Treadwell, of this city, who has left for the front with the 4th Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps. Rejected on several occasions for active service because of a slight pedal defect, Lance-Corporal Treadwell (then a lieutenant) acted for seven months as Orderly Officer to the State Commandant, Brigadier-General Williams, who speaks highly of the lad's ability, reliability and personal worth.

(*Punch*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 18 January, 1917)

## **SOCIAL**

Lance-Corporal E. J. C. Treadwell, son of Cr. E. C. Treadwell, of Melbourne, left recently as a member of the Australian Flying Corps. He was a lieutenant in the Citizen Forces, but was rejected on several occasions for a minor defect. He acted as orderly officer to the State Commandant for seven months.

*(Table Talk, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 18 January, 1917)*

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## **ABOUT PEOPLE**

Cadet-Sergeant E. J. C. Treadwell, of the First Australian Flying Squadron, son of Cr. E. C. Treadwell, of Melbourne City Council, died as the result of an aeroplane accident in a military hospital in England on 20th inst. Prior to enlisting last November, he was thrice rejected. When he was a lieutenant last year he was for seven months orderly officer to Brigadier-General R. E. Williams and occupied that position at the time of enlisting for active service as a private. He was 22 years of age last February, and prior to the outbreak of war was a prefect at Melbourne Grammar School. He played for three seasons in the school's football team.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 27 September, 1917)*

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Very deep sympathy has been expressed by members of the Melbourne Swimming Club at the bereavement which has befallen their late honorary secretary, Mr Frank S. Treadwell, Cr. E. C. Treadwell, and his sisters, in the loss of their mother and brother, and to their father in his double loss. On Monday last intelligence was received that Lieut. E. J. C. Treadwell, had died on the 20th September, at the Prees Heath Salon military hospital (England), from injuries received as the result of an aeroplane accident, and on Tuesday Mrs Treadwell, who had been in ill-health for some months, died at her residence, York-street, St. Kilda, but without the knowledge of her son's fatal accident having been communicated to her. Lieut. Treadwell was educated at the Melbourne Grammar School. On leaving school he went into his father's office, Later on he offered his services to the Defence Department, and was appointed staff officer and A.D.C to the Commandant (Brigadier-General Williams). He resigned his position and relinquished his commission to join the A.I.F. as a private. He did his training at the Flying School at Point Cook, and was allotted to the Australian Flying Corps. He had been in England for some months when he lost his life.

*(The Prahran Telegraph, Victoria, Australia – 29 September, 1917)*

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## **MARKET DRAYTON**

### **FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN AIRMAN**

An accident occurred at the aerodrome on the 20th inst., resulting in the death of Edward Jabez Cooper Treadwell, aged 22, a cadet in the Australian Flying Corps. From the evidence given at the inquest, held by Mr T. H. Garside, it appeared that the deceased had expressed a wish to see the instruments in the cockpit of a machine, and that upon the morning of the accident Cadet Benjamin explained to the deceased the working of the various instruments and tested the engine. Hearing the mechanics calling out to him to beware of the propeller, he turned and walked in a crouching position towards the propeller, which struck him on the head, and he died shortly afterwards at Prees Military Hospital. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

*(Staffordshire Advertiser, Stafford, Staffordshire, England – 29 September, 1917)*

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## **MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE**

The deepest sympathy is felt for Cr. Treadwell in the loss of both wife and son within a few days of each other. Mrs Treadwell, who had been ill for some time, died on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at her residence, York Street, St. Kilda, while Lieut. E. J. C. Treadwell lost his life on Sept. 20, as the result of an aeroplane accident in England. He did his training at Point Cook Flying School and was allotted to the Australian Flying Corps.

*(Graphic of Australia, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 5 October, 1917)*

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## THE LATE LIEUTENANT TREADWELL

Per mail last week, the proprietor of 'The Sporting Judge' received further particulars concerning his son Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell, of Australian Flying Corps, who, prior to enlisting (he had been thrice rejected) was Staff Officer and A.D. C. to Brigadier-General Williams.

The following is from Lieutenant Lawrence Benjamin, son of Mrs L. Benjamin, of Queen's Road. Melb.:—

Royal Flying Corps,  
Market Drayton,  
26/9/17.

*"Dear Mr Treadwell,— I really cannot tell you how deeply and sincerely I feel for you, Mrs Treadwell and your family in the irreparable loss which you have sustained in the death of poor old Ted. Although a week has now passed since that fateful day, I cannot realise that he is no longer amongst us, brightening us up with his cheery smile and happy ways. He was beloved by all of us, who were proud to be friends of his, and I mourn the loss of a true and noble friend.*

*"Probably you are aware of the fact, though I have never had the pleasure of knowing you, that Ted and I were, at school at the Melbourne Grammar together, and were comrades in camp afterwards as Citizen Force officers. We separated then, as I enlisted as a private, and you can imagine our delight in coming together at this aerodrome, and to share the same room here. We had built up great plans for our future work in France when we went across. On the fatal morning I was showing him, how to run up the engine of a machine I was going to test, called a Sopwith bomber. He was keen to it all from the pilot's seat, and stood on the wings to watch it done. I tested the engine, which was satisfactory, then "throttled down," and asked him to get off it, as I was going to test in the air. He got to the ground, seemed to stumble, and apparently did not hear the mechanics calling out to him, for he walked straight into the revolving propeller. There I sat, powerless to move, and saw him struck down before my very eyes. That is why I think Fate is so cruel—that it should be my machine of all others. There is one blessing, that he suffered no pain, and died almost immediately. He died the death he would have wished to die, namely, as a soldier on active service. We buried him the next day at a pretty little country cemetery near the hospital at Prees Heath, Wychbury, with full military honors. The infantry provided the firing party, and the officers, N.C.O.'s, cadets and men of the squadron and the wing followed the guncarriage. I have had some photos taken of it all, and will send them out to you. I am sure you would like to have had that done.*

*"I feel I cannot write; you more now. I find it impossible to adequately express my heartfelt sympathy to you and yours in these sad times, so will close in the sincere hope that the knowledge of how much he was beloved and admired by everybody fortunate enough to know him will be of some little consolation to you. With best wishes, believe me, sincerely yours,*

LAWRENCE BENJAMIN.

Several letters were also received from members of the Flying Squadron, as well as from a distant relation, who acted the part of a father, and forwards the following account of the funeral : —

*"I suggested he should be buried at Hartley, Kent, where many of your ancestors are buried, but as the reply from headquarters in London was to the effect they would only carry it out as far as the railway, if that happened, I acceded to the wish of his comrades. He was given an officer's funeral, with full military honors. It took place at Tilstock Church, near Wychbury, Salop. It was a most impressive ceremony. Left the military hospital and walked all the way— about 1 ¾ miles. Five of his comrades and myself acted as bearers. He was taken, on a guncarriage, drawn by four black horses, with one outrider astride a black horse. There was a firing party at the head of the procession, then the band, followed by the gun-carriage, the bearers walking on either side, then his comrades from Tern Hill Aerodrome from Shawberry Aerodrome, and Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, representative from headquarters, and a party from Prees Heath Camp. The service was simple, and taken by a clergyman attached to the latter camp. He came and shook hands with me after the service, and said: 'I am very sorry for this poor lad, and sympathise with you. Will you kindly convey my deepest sympathy to his parents.' I may say those were the words of practically all present. They one and all came to me, and it really made me feel proud that I was connected with a person to whom so much respect was shown. Officers at Tern Hill Aerodrome sent a wreath, and there was one from the men, and the same from Shawberry. Three volleys were fired over the grave, and the Last Post was sounded.'*

(Sporting Judge, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 December, 1917)

## NOTES & THINGS NOTED

The Public Schools "Head of the River" boat race, and commencement of League football season probably accounted for the falling off in attendance at Williamstown. Many well known racing men were noticed on the river, among them Mr H. A. Armytage (who once rowed with Geelong Grammar eight), Mr L. K. S. Mackinnon and Mr Rupert Greene, latter pair having motored from Williamstown immediately after V.R.C. chairman's filly had run third in the Jubilee Hp. As we write, before us stands a cup, won in 1911 by late Lieutenant E. J. C. Treadwell (son of the proprietor of "The Judge"), who stroked the winning crew at a regatta on Albert Park Lake, conducted by Church of England Grammar School.

(*Sporting Judge*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 18 May, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

TREADWELL – To the memory of our dear brother, Edward J. C. (Aust. Flying Corps), who died at Prees Heath Military Hospital, England, on September 20, 1917.

Our Ted.

Per adua ad astra

Ora er labora

- (R. and R. Brett)

TREADWELL – An affectionate tribute to the memory of Lieut. E. J. C. (Ted) Treadwell, died of injuries received, result of aeroplane accident, 20th September, 1917. (Inserted by his friends, Mr and Mrs A. Yunnie, and Marjorie).

TREADWELL – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Cade E. J. C. Treadwell, Australian Flying Corps (formerly staff officer and A.D.C. to Brigadier-General Williams), died, result of aeroplane accident, England, September 20, 1917.

The sunshine of our home.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 20 September, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

TREADWELL - In revered memory of our devoted wife and mother, Mary Jane, who passed away September 25, 1917, five days after the death of her noble son, Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell.

Two souls, communing in heaven,

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 25 September, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

TREADWELL – In loving memory of our friend, Lieut. Ted Treadwell, A.I.F., killed in aeroplane accident in England, 20th September, 1917.

(Mr and Mrs A. Yummie and Marjorie)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 20 September, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

TREADWELL – In loving memory of my son, Lieut. E. J. C. (cadet A.I.F), killed in aeroplane, England, September 20, 1917.

Our noble boy.

- (Inserted by his loving father, E. C. Treadwell)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 25 September, 1919)

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### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government. *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England**

There are 22 Commonwealth burials of World War 1 in the churchyard. There are a further 23 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the Extension. The Extension is 100 metres from the Churchyard and across the road. It was opened in 1917.



**Christ Church, Tilstock, Shropshire** (Photo from CWGC)



**Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire**

Photo of Cadet E. J. C. Treadwell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of S. J. Clark)*