

**THE ANGLO -AMERICAN ISHAM ANCESTRY ASSOCIATION**

**Lt. Col. VERE ARTHUR RICHARD ISHAM, MC**

1889 – 1968

**AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS**

AT THE RANK OF CAPTAIN, AGED 26;  
SERVING IN THE 7TH. SUFFOLKS REGIMENT

“FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY IN ACTION.

HE LED AN ATTACK ALONG THE ENEMY'S TRENCH WITH GREAT DASH.

300 YARDS OF THE TRENCH WAS CAPTURED AND CONSOLIDATED.”

This action was on **3 August 1916** during the **Battle of Pozieres Ridge**, at the Somme, that citation appeared on page 9426 in the London Gazette of 26 September 1916.

**AWARDED TWO MENTIONED-IN-DISPACHES**

These were cited as being in the London Gazettes of 26 Sept. 1916 and 3 Feb. 1920.

“At 7.30 a.m. on July 1, 1916, the British Army launched their infantry offensive on a front of over 15 miles with the main attack extended over a 10 mile front from the Somme to its tributary the Ancre rivers.

The winter which followed a dreary November 1916 was a miserable one, with water in the trenches often waist deep.

The Suffolk earned the right to bear on their colours the honour of the Somme, which in retrospect is an honour but at the time must have seemed like a cross.

Before being removed from the Somme area the 11th Suffolk took part in the Battle of Pozieres Ridge: a simple name for a mixture of fighting that would cost the Suffolk a further 100 men in one night.

The British Army lost some 405,000 in the battles of 1916.”

**SERVED IN THE NORTH RUSSIA EXPEDITION OF 1918**

After WWI the USA established their “Intervention” in Archangel and Murmansk after US President Woodrow Wilson, at the British behest, agreed to provide troops for the American North Russia Expeditionary Force in order to fulfill the Winston Churchill's words - “to strangle at birth the Bolshevik State”.

**This Anglo-American campaign was embarked upon in the last months of WWI.**

**Staff Captain Vere Isham volunteered to serve in the British Expeditionary Force**

He went by sea to Archangel under the command of Field Marshal Ironside in 1918, with objectives to assist White Russians and secure Allied war materials in Archangel. However, this Expeditionary Force became overwhelmed and departed in Feb. 1919.