

Private Cyril Ivan Swift G/96287 Middlesex Regiment died 08/08/1918 aged 18 and is buried in Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sally-Le-Sec.

He was the son of John T Swift of Ash Lea, London Road, Retford, Notts.



The 1901 census tells us that Cyril was born in Retford his father being John Swift of Leicester a shop keeper and draper. Cyril attended Retford Grammar School

Cyril Ivan Swift, 7th London Regiment, fell in action near Albert, on August 8th 1918 when nearly the whole of his unit became casualties under fierce concentrated machine gun fire. On reaching the age of 18 he joined the Air Force as a Cadet, and trained for some time at Hastings, but although graded as A1 he failed to pass the final physical test as a flying officer and was sent to a London infantry regiment (7th). After training he left for France on July 17th less than a month before he was killed.

He is buried in a plot containing 76 other soldiers who were killed in retaking the cemetery from Germans having lost the ground to the enemy in the Spring Offensive of 1918.