**Nelson Riddle**

Nelson Alfred Milton Riddle, born and baptised in 1877 in Hastings, Sussex was the son of John Milton and Eliza Julia Anne Riddle. He was brought up by his mother and grandparents in Hastings. He spent a period in the Royal Navy and at the time of the 1901 census he was aged 24 and in Sydney, Australia, aboard the Royal Naval vessel, *HMS Royal Arthur*, which served as the flagship of the [Australian Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Station) and provided escort for the [Royal Yacht *Ophir*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Ophir) carrying the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (the future [King George V](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_V_of_the_United_Kingdom) and [Queen Mary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_of_Teck)) to Australia to open the [new Federal Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Australia#History) in 1901.

In 1905 Nelson Riddle married Elizabeth Tillyard and at the time of the 1911 was resident at 119 Vicarage Road, Watford. In August 1914 he attested at Watford for the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment and landed in France on 8 November as Private 3/7646 with the 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He was awarded the DCM for bravery as a non-commissioner officer, while participating in the Battle of Festubert. *The London Gazette* supplement notification of the award of DCM was 14th January 1916 and citation 11th March 1916. The Citation for DCM reads: ‘For conspicuous gallantry.  After his non-commissioned officers had all been put out of action, he took charge of the platoon and led it to the attack with bravery and judgement.’

He was killed in action on 12 October 1916. He is remembered with honour at Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Pier and Face 2C. He is commemorated on the memorial at St Matthew’s Church, Oxhey in Hertfordshire and on the Hastings and St Leonard’s War Memorial.

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DistinguishedConductMedalUKRev.jpg)[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DistinguishedConductMedalUKObv.jpg)