

*“For your Tomorrow  
we gave our today”*

*The stories behind  
Belmont War Memorial*

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## **BELMONT WAR MEMORIAL**

The war memorial which stood near the north wall of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Belmont, was unveiled on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 at 3.00 pm by the Right Reverend Handley Moule, Lord Bishop of Durham. Other clergy present were Rev. E. F. Chapman, Vicar of Belmont, Rev. F. Thomas, Vicar of St. Giles, Durham, Rev. J. B. J. Bevan and Rev. E. H. Maish, the Bishop's resident chaplain and a future vicar of Belmont.

In spite of a heavy snowstorm a large number of relatives of the fallen and other parishioners attended the unveiling ceremony. Two wreaths were laid on the memorial, one a laurel wreath from Belmont Working Party and the other a tribute from the children of Gilesgate Moor School.

The memorial was erected by Emley & Sons of Newcastle and takes the form of an obelisk of red Peterhead granite. It was erected at a cost of £184 and was paid for by public subscription. Durham Diocesan Faculty 857 granted permission for the memorial on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1919. It bears the following inscription: - "In ever grateful remembrance of the men of this parish who have given their lives for king and country in the Great War 1914 – 1919 Mors Janua Vitae".

The names were repainted in 1928, 1947 and 1980 by John Lowes and Sons, and in 2008 (with the help of the War Memorials Trust) by Scotts of Seaham.

The fund for the World War II pillars was inaugurated after a public meeting convened by the Parish Council in the church on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1946. Funds were raised by means of house-to-house collections between January 10<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1947, and from a public dance held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a condition of appearing on the war memorial that the casualty had been resident in the Civil Parish of Belmont at the time of enlistment. It is noticeable that what appears as G. T. Watson on the memorial is clearly listed as C. T. Watson in the minutes of the War Memorial Committee. The memorial was provided by Messrs John Lowes & Sons of Durham at a cost of £180. The new Memorial was unveiled and dedicated by the vicar, the Reverend Pickles, on Remembrance Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 1947, at 10.30a.m. Wreaths were laid by Cub Keith Forster, whose father's name is on the memorial, and Brownie Margaret Robinson.

In 2008, the Friends of Belmont War Memorial was set up, a co-operative venture between the Parish Council and the Church. Its first step was to obtain the agreement of all concerned that the War Memorial was the property of the Parish Council. The Diocesan Registry stated this unequivocally. The next task was to improve the appearance of the War Memorial. Money was raised for this from the church, the Parish Council, the War Memorials Trust, councillors and residents of the parish. The lettering on both World War memorials was re-gilded in the early autumn of 2008.

However, during this process, it had been suggested that a better site for the memorial was available on Carrville High Street adjoining the churchyard. Publicity for this produced further donations from residents, councillors, Belmont Community Association, the church, the Barbour Trust and, most important of all, the County Durham Environment Trust. The Parish Council purchased the land from the City Council. Permissions were sought and obtained from the diocese and the County Council, and the memorial was translated to the

new site, which had been carefully landscaped. A small container was placed under the central obelisk, sadly containing nothing from the previous site as nothing had been found, but containing a personal tribute associated with J L Quinn. Also a message was left from the Friends of Belmont War Memorial.

New surrounds were introduced, with the Kohima Epitaph added on the front, and two new pillars to allow for the addition of casualties from other conflicts. The “new” memorial was re-dedicated at a special service starting at 10.30a.m. on Remembrance Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the presence of the family of the one new name added, Rifleman Aaron Lincoln. The service was led by the vicar, the Reverend Canon Diana Johnson, with the assistance of the Methodist Minister, the Reverend Alison Wilkinson. The re-dedication was carried out by the Archdeacon of Durham, the Venerable Ian Jagger, and, for the first time, the full names of the commemorated were read out before the wreaths were laid. The Last Post and Reveille were played on the bugle by a student from the local school, Tom Wallage, and the police stopped the High Street traffic for the silence. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Belmont Parish Council, Belmont St John Ambulance Brigade, Carrville Methodist Church, Durham Light Infantry Association, Friends of Belmont War Memorial, Girls’ Friendly Society, St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rifles, 235 Squadron RAF, 1<sup>st</sup> (Belmont) Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, Guiding Unit and Rainbows. Individual tributes were also laid, including to J. W. Kirkwood, A. Lincoln, H. Marshall and J. L. Quinn, names on the various parts of the memorial.

**A small proportion of the following information is not fully proved, where this applies there is a note at the beginning of the text.**

If anyone finds errors here, please report them to us with any further information you may have.

## CASUALTIES WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR ONE

### ***4171 Private James Alderson D.L.I.***

Private Alderson served with the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Carrville. He was born very early in 1895 at Pit House Lane, Leamside, the son of John and Alice Alderson. He had 2 brothers. In 1901 he lived at Grainger Terrace, West Rainton, aged 6. In 1911 he was listed at 51 Grainger Terrace, Leamside, and worked as a putter. At enlistment he lived in Carrville. He was killed in action 18<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He is listed as killed in the *Durham Chronicle* of 15<sup>th</sup> December 1916.

### ***42435 Private Joseph Bell D.L.I.***

Private Bell served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in March 1916. He was born at Westnewton, Cumberland, in May 1882. The son of John Bell (a farmer), he had 4 brothers and 4 sisters; he worked as a “cowman and milk retailer”. In 1901 he lived at High Grange Farm, Kepier Lane, aged 19. In 1911 he still lived at High Grange Farm and was single, aged 29. He was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and is buried at the A.I.F. Burial Ground Flers Plot II J 6.

**39816 Private Frederick Brown N.F.**

Private Brown served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (listed on the memorial as 13<sup>th</sup> Hussars, but Northumberland Fusiliers on all records and on his gravestone in Belmont Churchyard). He was born in Gilesgate Moor. In 1901 he lived at 5 Marshall Terrace, aged 5 with 4 sisters. He was the son of Thomas and the late Mary Brown. In 1911, aged 15, he is listed at 4 Eden Terrace, (this may be No. 7 and poor writing by the registrar has led to different interpretations by different officials) and was an assisting onsetter. He died from gas poisoning 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1920, aged 24, and is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot C10 (Commonwealth War Grave).

**19418 Lance Sergeant John Thomas Bunce D.L.I.**

Lance Sergeant Bunce served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born at Fryston near Castleford in March 1892, the son of John Thomas Bunce. In 1901 he lived at 9 Bainbridge Street, aged 9, and had one brother. In 1911 he lived at 99 Broomside Lane, he was single, aged 19, and worked as a putter/hewer. His uncle Silas also appears on the memorial (see below). His wife was called Catherine. They lived at 56 Bridge Road, Broomside. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals.

He arrived in France 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915. His unit moved from Loos to Armentieres on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1915. On 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 1916 they were in line east of the town and were heavily shelled for all three days. In early February they were back in the line in heavy snow in front of two No Man's Land craters known as "The Mushroom". Lance Sergeant Bunce must have been injured in one of these engagements as he was evacuated to a base hospital at Etaples. He was listed as wounded in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 18<sup>th</sup> February 1916. He died of wounds 15<sup>th</sup> February 1916, aged 23, and he is buried at Etaples Plot VI C 14A.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1916: "Mrs Bunce of Broomside has received news that her husband has died in hospital in France from wounds received about three weeks ago. Before enlisting in September 1914, he worked as a hewer in Ludworth Colliery. He played association football for Gilesgate Moor team and afterwards for the Crook Town Club".

From the *Durham Chronicle* of 17<sup>th</sup> March 1916: "By his death Belmont C.C. has lost one of its most popular and useful playing members". He was a wicketkeeper/batsman.

**61622 Private Silas Bunce Yorks.**

Private Bunce, uncle of John (see above), served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire) Regiment (The Green Howards). He enlisted at Newcastle. He was born at Belmont in mid 1886. In 1891 he lived at 19 Broomside Cottages, aged 4, in 1901 he lived at 82 Broomside Cottages, working as an underground driver boy and living with his brother John T. Bunce senior. He was the son of David and Mary Ann Bunce; he had 2 brothers and 4 sisters and later lived at Annfield Plain. He died 24<sup>th</sup> June 1918 and is buried at Stanley (Harelaw), Plot 10 "C" 63.

**20040 Private Anthony Carr D.L.I.**

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Carr served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Middle Rainton in February 1890. In 1901 he lived at 140 Murton Lane, Hetton-le-Hole, aged 11. In 1911 he was boarding with John George and Mary Brown at 52a Townley Street, Stanley; he was single, aged 21. He was listed as wounded in both the *Durham County Advertiser* and *Durham Chronicle* of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1915. He was killed in action 15<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

**6074 Private Joseph March Clarkson W. Yorks.**

Private Clarkson (formerly 4614 Durham Light Infantry) served with 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Belmont in early 1881, the son of John and Lucy Clarkson. He had 1 brother. In 1891 he lived at 1 March's Buildings, aged 9. In 1901 he was aged 19, living at the same address and working as a coal miner. In 1911, aged 29, he was a general dealer, his mother had died and his father was remarried with one son by his second wife. He was killed in action 27<sup>th</sup> September 1916, aged 35, and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial Panel 2 A. C. D. He was commemorated on a family grave in Belmont churchyard, which has been "lost".

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 20<sup>th</sup> October 1916:

CLARKSON – The Brothers and Sisters of the late Pte. J. M. Clarkson wish to thank all friends for kindness shown to them in their sad bereavement.

**A GILESGATE MOOR SOLDIER KILLED**

Mrs Reed, of Gilesgate Moor, has received the following letter intimating that her brother, Private J. M. Clarkson, West Yorks. Regiment, has been killed. He was listed as killed 27<sup>th</sup> October 1916.

“In the Field 28<sup>th</sup> September 1916: Dear Mrs Reed, it is with deep regret that I have to inform you that your brother, Private J. M. Clarkson, was killed in action on the 26<sup>th</sup>. He was killed instantly by a shell while on duty in the front line trenches. He died a perfectly painless death. I trust you will find some consolation in the fact that he died doing his duty for his King and country”.

W. G. KENNY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, West Yorks.

In the *Durham Chronicle* of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1916, he is listed as killed.

**45697 Private George Cockburn D.L.I.**

Private Cockburn served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He enlisted at Durham. He was born early in 1883, the son of Hannah Wise; in 1901 he lived at 23 Alma Place, Gilesgate Moor, working as an apprentice brass finisher. He was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He is buried at Flers A.I.F. Burial Ground, Plot III J 13.

***18/1307 Private Atherley Ernest Bebberstock Coulson N.F.***

Private Coulson served with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (later with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion); he enlisted 16<sup>th</sup> January 1915 at Newcastle. He was born at Leadgate on December 16<sup>th</sup> 1895, and, according to the 1901 Census, he lived at 39 Leadgate, Iveston, aged 4. The son of Edward Thomas and Annie Coulson of 5 Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Works, he was the youngest of 9, with 6 brothers and 2 sisters. He later worked as a miner. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals and was discharged under King's Regulations for illness 18<sup>th</sup> May 1917. He died 31<sup>st</sup> May 1918, aged 21, and was buried in Belmont Churchyard 4<sup>th</sup> June 1918. Plot J 32.

***25/1489 Private Alexander P. Coulson N.F.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Coulson served with the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish), having enlisted at Newcastle. He was born at Hetton-le-Hole in late 1886 or early 1887. In 1891, aged 4, he lived at Coal Bank Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole. In 1901 he lived at 51 Grange Terrace, Pelton Fell. In 1911, aged 24, he was at the same address, working as a coal miner. The son of John and Mary A. Coulson, he had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He worked as a pump driver. He was awarded the Victory Medal. He died 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and is commemorated at Thiépval Memorial Pier/Face 10B 11B 12B.

***16969 Private Thomas Henry Cowell D.L.I.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Cowell served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Wallsend. He was born at Dunston in late 1890, the son of John and Jane Cowell; he had 2 brothers and 1 sister. In the 1891 he lived at 11 Moor (sic) Street, Gateshead. In 1901, aged 11, he lived at 9-11 Moore (sic) Street, Gateshead. In 1911 he lived at 11 Moor Street, Gateshead, he was single, aged 21, and was working as a bricklayer. When he died, he was living in Durham. He was awarded the 1915 Star along with the British and Victory Medals. He arrived in France 17<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was killed in action 5<sup>th</sup> January 1916. His death was reported in both the *Durham County Advertiser* and *Durham Chronicle* of 28<sup>th</sup> January 1916. He is buried at Potijze Burial Ground (Ypres) Plot N3.

***34154 Private Thomas Craddock S. Staffs.***

Private Craddock served with the 2/5<sup>th</sup> (T.F.) Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment (formerly 20037 Durham Light Infantry), having enlisted at Gilesgate Moor. He was born in Whitehaven; he arrived in France 21<sup>st</sup> May 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star and was killed in action 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917. His grave/memorial is untraced.

***45696 Private Edmund Craggs D.L.I.***

Private Craggs served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham; his original service number was 3800. He was born in Haswell in early 1894. In 1901 he lived with his grandparents James and Mary at 5 Ernest Place, aged 7 (he was also registered for the census by his parents at 10 Teasdale Terrace). In 1911 he was still living with his grandparents, now at 9 Teasdale Terrace; single, aged 17 and worked as a putter. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals; he was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was reported missing in the *Advertiser* of November 17<sup>th</sup> 1916. He is commemorated at Thierval Memorial Pier/Face 14A 15C.

***4/9622 Private Robert Willis Dawson D.L.I.***

Private Dawson served with A Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born at Sixth Pit, Great Lumley, in May 1891, the son of John (a pit deputy) and Mary; he had 5 brothers and 4 sisters. In 1901 he was aged 9 and lived at Little Lumley. In 1911 he lived at 15 Bell's Villa, he was single, aged 19 and worked as a hewer. He lived with four sisters (all called Dawson), the son of Martha Thwaites, according to the 1911 census. When he died, he was living at 7 Malvern Terrace, Gilesgate Moor. He arrived in France 24<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star and British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915, aged 24. His death was reported in both the *Durham County Advertiser* and *Durham Chronicle* of 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915. He is buried at Potijze Burial Ground (Ypres), Plot C1 17.

***34698 Lance Corporal Robert Elliott N.L.***

Lance Corporal Elliott (formerly 180770 Royal Engineers) served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in Durham towards the end of 1881; the son of Dixon and Sarah Elliott, he had 3 brothers and 4 sisters. In 1891, aged 9, he lived at 2 Sunderland Road, Gilesgate. In 1901, aged 19, he lived at 3 Young Street, Gilesgate, and worked as a mason as his father did. In 1911, aged 29, he lived at 21 Edward Street, Durham. He was married to Agnes, and he was a well known Durham footballer. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1917 and is commemorated on St. Giles' War Memorial and on the Menin Gate Panel 41/43.

***12556 Lance Corporal William Owen Gaffney Yorks.***

Lance Corporal Gaffney's name is incorrectly spelt on the memorial. He served with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire) Regiment (The Green Howards). He was born in Wakefield in late 1883. In 1891 he lived at 3 Northumberland Street, Workington, aged 7, in 1901 he lived at 9 Giles Yard, Wakefield, aged 18. He married Rose Ann Bond in 1905. They had three children. In the 1911 census they were living at 24 Braithwell Street, Denby Main, Rotherham. He was an iron foundry worker, living at New Durham, when he enlisted at Durham. He arrived in France 13<sup>th</sup> July 1915; he was awarded the Allied Victory Medal, British War Medal and the 1915 Star. In the *Durham County Advertiser* of 25<sup>th</sup> May 1917 he is listed wounded and living at Gilesgate Moor. He was killed



in action 4th October 1917, aged 33. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1917 his death was recorded in St. Cuthbert's R.C. Church Durham notice book. On the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1917 he was included in a mass said for the dead at the church. He is commemorated on Tyne Cot War Memorial Panel, 52 – 54, 162A and on St. Cuthbert's R.C. Church War Memorial.

***13655 Private John Graham E. Yorks.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Graham served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. He enlisted at Durham in October 1914 while resident at Sherburn Hill. He was born at Brasside in May 1894, the son of James and Ada Graham. He had 1 brother and 2 sisters. In 1901, aged 6, he lived at 38 Engine Row, Sherburn. He worked as a miner. He was killed in action 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915 in the Dardanelles.

***21/556 Private Albert Gray N.F.***

Private Gray served with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Scottish), having enlisted at Stanley. He was born at Broomside in 1893; in 1901 he lived at 46 Broomside Lane, aged 8. The son of Mary Ann, he had 3 brothers. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916 and is buried at Bécourt Cemetery Plot I N 5.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1916:

Private Albert Gray, son of Mrs M. A. Gray, Tempest Terrace, Stanley, has been killed. His death was also reported in the *Durham Chronicle*.

***45820 Private George William Gray D.L.I.***

Private Gray served with the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in February 1915. He was born at Durham in the second half of 1881. The son of Abraham and Mary Ann Gray, he had 1 brother. In 1891 he lived at 13 John Street, Kimblesworth, aged 9. In 1901 he lived at 7 Brook Street, Coundon, aged 19, and worked as a hairdresser. The husband of Mrs S. J. Gray, he lived at 6 Providence Place at the time of his death. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916. His death was reported in the *Durham County Advertiser* and *Durham Chronicle* of 24<sup>th</sup> November 1916, with the information that he died of wounds. He is buried at Dartmoor Cemetery (Bécordel-Bécourt) Plot II D5.

***4/9729 Private George William Hamilton D.L.I.***

Private Hamilton served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born at Spennymoor in April 1880. The son of George and Caroline Hamilton, he had 1 brother and 2 sisters. In 1891 he lived at 39 Castle Street, East, Hylton, aged 10. In 1901 he lived at 9 Ernest Place, aged 20, and was working as an agricultural machine hand. In 1911 he lived at 18 Alma Place, aged 31, married to Harriet

Louisa (from Thornaby). He worked as a miner and had 1 daughter and 2 sons. When he died, he was living in Broomside. He arrived in France 11<sup>th</sup> August 1915; he was awarded the 1915 Star and the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 28<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and is buried at Dernancourt Communal Extension Plot I B 31.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1916:

Died of wounds received in action in France on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1916. Pte G. W. Hamilton 9729 10<sup>th</sup> D.L.I. C Company, machine gunner, aged 36 years, dearly beloved husband of Harriet Louisa Hamilton, of Broomside.

(A verse follows)

Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and children; also sister-in-law and brother, a prisoner in Germany.

***272215 C.E.R.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cl. George Harle R.N.***

Chief Engine Room Artificer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Harle served with the Royal Navy on HMS Negro. He was born at Hartlepool late 1884; in 1901 he lived at 1 Railway Terrace, Haswell. He was aged 16, the son of Robert and Sarah Jane Harle of Hartlepool and had 4 sisters. He was the husband of Florence Harle, 29 Garfield Road, Gillingham. He died 21<sup>st</sup> December 1916, aged 31. He is commemorated on Chatham Naval War Memorial Panel 17.

ROLL OF HONOUR

HARLE – In memory of George Harle, of H.M.S. Negro, drowned on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1916, only and beloved son of Mrs J. and the late Robert Harle, of Belmont, aged 31 years. Deeply mourned by his loving wife, mother and sisters.

***24/1744 Private George Harris N.F.***

Private Harris served with the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish), having enlisted at Durham. He was born in Belmont in early 1880. In 1891 he was aged 10 and living in Dragonville; in 1901 he was aged 20 and living at 56 Dragonville; in 1911, aged 31, he was living at High House, Sherburn Hill, working as a housekeeper for the Co-op. He was the son of Alfred Henry and Elizabeth Mary Harris, and he had 1 brother. He was the husband of Mrs Jennie Harris, whom he married in 1905. They had one son, born in 1910. His wife was living at 16 Teasdale Terrace, his parents at 49 Dragon Villas, at the time of his death. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, aged 37, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial Bay 2 and 3.

***G/13980 Private David Hindson Buffs.***

Private Hindson served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Buffs (East Kent Regiment), having enlisted in Durham 7<sup>th</sup> December 1915. He was born in Rainton in January 1895. The son of George (a coalminer), and Sarah, he had 2 sisters and 1 brother. In 1901, aged 6, he lived at 30 Broomside Lane, Belmont, and he worked as a miner. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 1<sup>st</sup> August 1917 and is buried in Perth Cemetery (China Wall 3km east of Ypres), Plot II K 14.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

HINDSON – In loving memory of David, beloved son of George and Sarah Hindson, of Belmont, who was killed in action August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917, aged 23 years.

(A verse follows)

Ever remembered by his loving father and mother, sister and brother, and all who knew him.

***17020 Private John Hodgson D.L.I.***

Private Hodgson served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born at Sherburn in December 1888, the son of Emmerson and Ann Hodgson, (his mother is only listed at death) with 2 sisters and 3 brothers. In 1901 he lived at Pit Row, Sherburn, aged 12. In 1911 he lived at 9 Marshall Terrace; he was single, aged 22; his father was dead and he now had three sisters. At the time of his death he was living at 4 Renny's Lane. He arrived in France 25<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star and the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917, aged 29. He is commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 128-131, 162 and 162a. From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917:

Killed in action on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1917, Private John Hodgson, D.L.I., of Dragon Villa. Ever remembered by his loving mother, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

***27/1032 Private John Iveson N.F.***

Private Iveson (J. Ivison on the war memorial) served with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish); he was transferred from the Northern Cyclist Battalion. He enlisted at Newcastle in February 1915, while living at 18 Ravensworth Terrace, Bensham. He was born at Gateshead in 1893; in 1901 he was aged 7 and living at 40 Southey Street, Gateshead. In 1911 he lived at 12 Bell's Ville, he was 17 and working as a coalminer/putter. The son of Robert and Charlotte Iveson, 11 Bell's Ville, he had 1 brother. At the time of death he was resident at 7 Rosa Street, Westoe. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals; he died of wounds 5<sup>th</sup> July 1916, aged 23, and is buried at Daours Communal Cemetery Extension I A 2.

His death is reported in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 28<sup>th</sup> July 1916 as:  
Local Casualties: Iveson / 1032, J. (Gilesgate Moor).

***760031 Gunner Frederick Ivison R.F.A.***

Gunner Ivison served with the 109<sup>th</sup> Battery 261<sup>st</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery (his original number was 480), having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Brandon late 1888, the son of Ann and Benjamin Ivison. In 1891 he was aged 2 and living at 18 Meadowfield Street, Brandon with 2 brothers and 1 sister. In 1901, aged 12, he lived at 28 Frederick Street, Meadowfield, now with 3 brothers; his father was deceased. In 1911, aged 22, he lived at 29 Bell's Villa and worked as a coal miner. At his death he lived at 12 Fleet Street, Cockton Hill, Bishop Auckland. He arrived in France 19<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star

and British and Victory Medals. He died 24<sup>th</sup> February 1918, aged 29. He is buried at Maroeuil Br. Cemetery (6km north-west of Arras), Plot IV G 3.

***11204 Private John William Jarvis N.F.***

Private Jarvis served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, having enlisted at Haltwhistle. He was born at Moorsley in 1882, the son of Ishmael and Margaret Jarvis. In the 1901 census he was aged 19 and living at Blue House Farm, Carrville, working as an agricultural labourer. In 1911, aged 29, he was a farm labourer at South Street, West Rainton, the husband of Mrs Taylor Jarvis, with 3 sons. He arrived in France 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> June 1915 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Panels 36 and 38.

***7744 Private Thomas Jones N.F.***

Private Jones served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Broomside in 1889. In 1891, he was aged 1, living at 37 Broomside Cottages. In 1901 he was aged 11, living at 100 Broomside Cottages. He was the son of Samuel Jones, a coal miner, and Isabella; he had 3 sisters and 1 brother. He arrived in France 25<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 20<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 28<sup>th</sup> October 1916:

ROLL OF HONOUR

JONES – Killed in action on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1916, Private T. Jones, Northumberland Fusiliers, beloved husband of Emily Jones, Carrville, near Durham, aged 38 (sic) years.

His life he gave for one and all.

Deeply mourned by his loving Wife and Family, his Father and Brother, also his Father, Mother and Sisters-in-law.

In the *Durham County Advertiser* of 10<sup>th</sup> November 1916, the death of Jones (of Durham) was announced.

***18/1601 Private Frederick King M.M. D.L.I.***

Private King served with the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Durham in mid 1897. In 1901 he lived at 61 Dragon Villa, aged 3, the son of Matthew (a coal hewer) and Annie King. In 1911 he was aged 13, still at school, with 4 brothers (two of which were twins) and 1 sister. He was killed in action 19<sup>th</sup> July 1918 at Vieux Berquin aged 21 (Gazette 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 1918) and is commemorated at Ploegsteert Memorial Panel 8 and 9.

On the 1914 – 1918 War Memorial at St. Nicholas Church in Durham Market Place is written: “These are the names of the men belonging to this parish and congregation who laid down their lives in the Great War.” At the top of the second column of the 59 names is “x Frederick King M.M.”. Below are the words “x Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Durham Boys Brigade.”

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 17<sup>th</sup> May 1918:

HEROIC DEEDS BY DRAGON VILLA SOLDIER  
PRIVATE FRED. KING, D.L.I., AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL

Mr and Mrs Matthew King, of Dragon Villa, have been notified that their son has been awarded the Military Medal. Before joining the colours three years ago, Private King was employed by Mr Driver, draper, Market Pace. He has been in most of the actions, and was slightly wounded. This is the second Military Medal awarded to Dragon Villa soldiers, Sergeant Newby being the other recipient.

“This soldier acted in exemplary manner on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, during the action in front of Le Becque. He, with his Company Commander, remained until the last company of the platoon had withdrawn. On moving back, they found Second Lieutenant Wilson, of this unit, lying seriously wounded on a stretcher. They carried the stretcher 400 yards over open country, under an intense machine gun barrage, and finally Second Lieutenant Wilson was wounded again, mortally, in the stomach, by a bullet. He was at the point of death, and the German front was within 200 yards of them. They therefore left Second Lieutenant Wilson and overtook their company. Later in the morning his Company Commander was wounded in the leg while in the front line. Private King supported him to a farm under galling fire and, getting a wheelbarrow, wheeled him to Meters over difficult country. This village was then being heavily shelled, but Private King managed to get him to the dressing station. His exemplary devotion, his coolness and fine determination marked him out as a fine example to all ranks.”

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 16<sup>th</sup> August 1918:

DRAGON VILLA HERO KILLED

Mr and Mrs Matthew King, of Dragon Villa, Sherburn Road, have received a letter from the Rev. C. B. Chappell, C. E. Chaplain, D.L.I. reporting the lamented death of their son, Private Frederick King, Military Medallist. Mr Chappell, who is himself wounded and in hospital, writes: - “I must send you one word of sympathy in your grief at the loss of your son. We know what a great loss it is because your son was always splendid. He was reliable and brave, and his comrades all speak so highly of him. He was shot through the chest by a machine gun bullet, and died almost instantly. May God be with you and help you in your sorrow.”

***2498 Private Joseph William Kirkwood D.L.I.***

Private Kirkwood served with the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Carrville, Durham. He was born in Durham. In 1901 he lived at 12 High Street Carrville, aged 5. In 1911 he lived at 74 High Street, Carrville, was aged 15 and worked as an underground driver. His father was dead and the family, including his mother, lived at his father's brother's house. He arrived in France 19<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star and the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1915, aged 20. His death was reported in the *Durham County Advertiser* on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1915. He is buried at Wimereux. Communal Cemetery Plot 1 J 31A.

***13034 Bugler George Burt Liddell K.R.R.C.***

Bugler Liddell (incorrectly listed as “Liddle” on the war memorial) served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King’s Royal Rifle Corps, having enlisted at Durham. He was born at Sherburn House 21<sup>st</sup> February 1898, the son of William (a pit deputy) and Mary Ann Liddell. In 1901, aged 3, he lived at 3 Scudamore Street, Annfield Plain. In 1911, aged 13, he lived at 9 High Street (his father was deceased and the family was living with grandmother, Mary Burt). He was brother of Doris Burt Liddell, 3 North Terrace, Chopwell; he worked as a draughtsman at the Grange Iron Works. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals and was killed in action 10<sup>th</sup> July 1917, aged 19, and is commemorated on the Nieuport Memorial.

***85185 Private Robert William Liddle D.L.I.***

Private Liddle (his initial is B. on the war memorial, and he was probably known as Bert) served with the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry (formerly 49772 West Yorkshire Regiment). He enlisted at Durham in August 1914, adding two years to his actual age when filling in his enlistment form. He was born at Brandon on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1898; in 1901 he lived at 25 Newcastle Street, Brandon, aged 2. The son of Margaret Ann Liddle, 22 South Street, Brandon Colliery, he was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died 1<sup>st</sup> June 1918 aged 19; he is buried at Anzac Cemetery, Sailly-sur-la-Lys Plot III N5. He is also commemorated on the World War I plaque in the Royal British Legion Club in Meadowfield.

Private Liddle is mentioned in the *Durham County Advertiser* shortly before his death:

**GILESGATE MOOR HEROES**

During the last weeks presentations have been made to the following local soldiers (Private R. Liddle is second on the list). The presentations were made by the Vicar of Belmont.

In the *Durham County Advertiser* of June 26<sup>th</sup> 1918, we read, “Mr and Mrs G. Liddle, of Brandon Colliery, have received information that their son, Pte. Robert Wm. Liddle, has been killed, whilst a prisoner, by bombs dropped from one of the Allies Aeroplanes.”

This seems to be the likely development of Liddle’s life: he got a job, probably as a farmer, possibly as a miner, in Belmont; signed up under age without the knowledge of his parents (probably only occasionally seen) and with or without the connivance of the farmer(?), who was then responsible for his name appearing with the B for Bert, by which he was presumably known, on the Belmont memorial. This lad’s total history is a source of fascination.

***9865 Private Ridley Elliott Martin D.L.I.***

**[The following information is not fully proven]**

Private Martin (R. A. Martin on the war memorial) served with the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born in Allendale in January 1881, the son of Hannah Martin. He had 1 brother and 2 sisters. In 1891 he lived at 7 William Street, Benfieldside; in 1901 he was aged 19 and living in Buddle Street, Consett, working as a coal miner; in 1911, he was a coalminer, aged 30, having married Margaret Ann

in Houghton-le-Spring in 1902. They were living at 35 High Moorsley and had 4 children. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was reported missing in the *Durham County Advertiser* and *Durham Chronicle* of 11<sup>th</sup> August 1916. He died 8<sup>th</sup> July 1916 and is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial Panel Pier/Face 14A/15C.

***13532 Private Charles Metcalfe D.L.I.***

Private Metcalfe (Metcalf on the war memorial, the way his family sometimes spells his name) served with the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born at Belmont in November 1884, the son of Harry and Elizabeth Metcalf, 8 Bridge Row, Belmont. He had 4 brothers and 1 sister. In 1891 he lived at 4 Wood Row, The Grange, aged 6; in 1901 he lived at Witton Gilbert, aged 16. He married Mary Doble and they lived at Witton Gilbert. He worked as an iron moulder at the Grange Iron Works. He arrived in France 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915; he was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He died 10<sup>th</sup> October 1918 aged 34 and is buried at Terlincthun Cemetery, Wimille, Plot V D 10.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

METCALFE – On October 10<sup>th</sup>, at Stationary Hospital, Wimeronx (sic), from wounds received in action, Pte. Charles Metcalfe, D.L.I., beloved husband of Mary Doble Metcalf (sic), aged 34 years. Memorial service on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Witton Gilbert Parish Church.

METCALFE – Died of wounds in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Stationary Hospital at Wemereux (sic), October 10<sup>th</sup> 1918, aged 34 years, Charles, beloved son of Harry and Elizabeth Metcalfe of Belmont.

***20418 Private Norman Sexton Modral R.M.F.***

Private Modral (formerly 13737 Dorset Regiment) served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, having enlisted in Durham. He was born at Gateshead, the son of William Carr Modral (a gardener in 1891, a blacksmith's striker in 1901) and Jemima Modral; he had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1891, aged 2, he lived at Forsters Yard, Hallgarth Street; in 1901, aged 12, he lived at 182 Gilesgate. In 1911, aged 21, he lived at 19 Bell's Villas, and worked as a cartman. His mother was deceased. He arrived in France 16<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 26<sup>th</sup> October 1918, aged 29. He is buried in St. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre Div. (Graville-Ste Honorine, north of the N182) Plot 62 V N 7.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918:

The subscribers to the Welcome Home Fund, together with friends of soldiers on leave, met at the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Tuesday evening to welcome its local heroes who have returned from the battlefield for a brief rest. Mr C. J. L. Gowland, the secretary, handed over gifts to [12 men including] Private N. Modral.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 8<sup>th</sup> November 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

MODRAL – In loving memory of Pte. Norman Modral, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 19 Bell's Villas, Gilesgate Moor, who died of wounds received in action in the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital, Havre (sic), France, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 1918.

Gone but not forgotten

Deeply mourned by his sorrowing father, brothers, sisters, Elsie, and all friends.

***50488 Gunner Edward Morgan R.G.A.***

Gunner Morgan served with the 31<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in New Durham late 1889, the son of Edward and Rebecca Morgan, and had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. By 1891 he was living at 3 Love Street, New Durham, and his mother was a widow. In 1901, aged 11, he lived at 18 Sherburn Road. In 1911, aged 21, he lived at 35 Marshall Terrace and worked as a coalminer/hewer. At his death he lived at 8 Teasdale Terrace. He arrived in France 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1915; he was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916, aged 26, and is buried at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery (5km west of Ypres) Plot IV A 13.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 13<sup>th</sup> July 1917:

ROLL OF HONOUR

MORGAN – In loving memory of Gunner Edward Morgan, No. 50488, 31 Siege Batt. R.G.A., beloved son of the late Edward Morgan, of Gilesgate Moor, who was killed in action in France, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1916, aged 16 (sic) years.

(A verse follows)

Ever remembered by his loving mother, sister Mary, and Eddie.

***14348 Private Robert Wilson Muncaster Yorks.***

Private Muncaster served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales's (Yorkshire) Regiment (Green Howards). He enlisted at Durham. He was born at Hornsby Hill, Lanchester, early in 1892. In the 1901 census he lived in Front Street, Lanchester, aged 8. In 1911, aged 18 and a coalminer/hewer, he was living at 18 Bainbridge Street. When he died, he was living at 78 Four Lane Ends, Hetton-le-Hole. He arrived in France 26<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was awarded the 1915 star and the British and Victory Medals. He died 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918, aged 26. He is buried at Bettrechies Communal Cemetery West End Plot A 14.

***8/4185 Private Stephen Murton D.L.I.***

Private Murton served with the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in Durham in 1877. In 1911, he was married to Frances Julia, with 4 daughters and living at 50 Springwell Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole. At his death he was living in Broomside. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 19<sup>th</sup> December 1916 and is buried at Dernancourt Communal Extension Plot IV E 14.



**30181 Private William Oliver D.L.I.**

Private Oliver served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was born at Sherburn mid-1893. He had 1 sister and 3 brothers. And was the son of Dorothy and Robert Oliver. In 1901 he lived at 14 Marshall Terrace, aged 7. In 1911, aged 17, he was a cartman, living at 10 Belle Vue Terrace. He enlisted at Gilesgate Moor in January 1915, when he was still at the same address. At the time of his death his parents were living at 8 Marshall Terrace. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916 aged 23; he is commemorated at Thiepval, Pier/Face 14A 15C. He was commemorated on a family grave in Belmont churchyard, which was "lost".

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 24<sup>th</sup> November 1916:

Mr and Mrs R. Oliver, contractor, Gilesgate Moor, have received news that their son, Private William Oliver, No. 30181, D.L.I., is missing since September 1916 (previously reported wounded). Any information from any pal will be thankfully received. Mr and Mrs Oliver have other two (sic) sons at the front in France.

**27/580 Lance Corporal William Henry Patterson N.F.**

Lance Corporal Patterson served with the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish), having enlisted at Newcastle. He was born at Sherburn House. In 1901 he lived at 3 Reform Place, Framwellgate Moor, aged 4. He was the son of William Alfred and Matilda Patterson and had 2 brothers and 3 sisters. He is listed as being from Gilesgate Moor and missing in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 29<sup>th</sup> June 1917. He died of wounds 25<sup>th</sup> April 1917 and is commemorated at Arras Memorial Bay 2 and 3, and on Sherburn Village War Memorial (2007).

His brother George (25<sup>th</sup> Battalion) was wounded in August 1916 and was discharged 21<sup>st</sup> March 1919 from the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1917:

ROLL OF HONOUR

PATTERSON – In loving memory of my dear husband, Lce. Corporal W. H. Patterson, previously reported missing, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1917, now presumed dead.

(A verse follows)

Ever remembered by his loving wife and three children.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 26<sup>th</sup> April 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

PATTERSON – In loving memory of Lance Corporal W. H. Patterson, N.F., who was killed in action April 25<sup>th</sup> 1917, dearly loved husband of E. Patterson, 3 Providence Row, Gilesgate Moor, and son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Patterson, 2 Providence Row, Gilesgate Moor.

**57824 Private Thomas Bowerbank Pyburn D.L.I.**

Private Pyburn was transferred from the Durham Light Infantry via the 429 Army Cyclist Corps to the King's Liverpool (19<sup>th</sup> Battalion). He was born in Belmont in 1890 and had 1 brother and 2 sisters. In 1891 he lived at Carville Southside, aged 6 months, in his grandmother's house, with his parents and 3 uncles. The name Bowerbank was his mother's maiden name. In 1901 he lived at 37 High Street, Carrville, aged 10. In 1911, aged 20, he is listed at 112 High Street, with his grandmother, his mother and two younger sisters. He was a student in teacher training. At the time of his death, he is listed as the son of Mrs Annie and the late Phillip Pyburn, 111 High Street Carrville. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917, aged 26, and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Panel 4 and 6. He is also commemorated on the Staff War Memorial at Durham County Hall as Thos. B. Pyburn in the lower half of column 3.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 17<sup>th</sup> August 1917:

“Official news has been received by Mrs Pyburn that her son, of the King's Own Liverpool Regiment, was killed in action on July 26<sup>th</sup>. He was 26 years of age. He began his career at the Model School, Durham, where he won a scholarship, which entitled him to enter the Johnston Technical School. In 1910 he proceeded to Dundee Training College, and during the two years he was there his father and brother died. He struggled bravely on in his studies, and came out with a first-class certificate, being appointed to the Hetton Lyons Council School. From there he joined the forces and had been in France nine months.” His platoon commander wrote: “He was killed in a direct hit from a shell, and as he died a soldier's death was given a soldier's grave, being buried by his comrades. He was one of the old boys of the Regiment, having been with us for some time.” In the Roll of Honour, he is listed as killed on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**786345 Driver Peter Richardson R.F.A.**

Driver Richardson served with B Battery 312<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in 1884 at Gilesgate Moor, the son of Mary Jane Richardson (already a widow in 1891), with 3 brothers and 1 sister. In 1891, aged 7, he lived in Benthouse Lane, Gilesgate Moor; in 1901, aged 17, he lived at 5 Eden Terrace, in his sister Elizabeth Arkley's house, and worked as an underground putter boy. In 1911, aged 27, he still lived with his sister at the same address and worked at the colliery as a surface labourer. He was the husband of Susannah Richardson of Malton, Yorkshire. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918, aged 33, and is buried at Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery Plot ii a 3.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 16<sup>th</sup> August 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

RICHARDSON – Killed in action in France on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1918, Driver Peter Richardson, R.F.A., aged 32 (sic) years, beloved husband of Susannah Richardson (née Lumsden), late of 3, Eden Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, and beloved brother of Mrs Arkley, Alma Place, Gilesgate Moor.

***115111 Gunner Joseph Watson Robinson R.F.A.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Gunner Robinson served with A Battery, 250<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery, having enlisted at Crook. He was born at Sunnyside (Crook) in early 1897. In 1901, aged 3, he lived in Front Street, Sunnyside, the son of Joseph and Jane Robinson. He had 3 brothers and 1 sister. In 1911, aged 13, he lived at the same address. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals and was killed in action 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918, aged 21. His parents were living at 3 Garden Row, Sunnyside. He is commemorated on Sunnyside Mission Church Roll of Honour located in St. Thomas Church Stanley. He is buried in Wancourt British Cemetery Plot V D 11.

***45160 Gunner Charles Steele Rowell R.G.A.***

Gunner Rowell served with the Royal Garrison Artillery. He enlisted 21<sup>st</sup> August 1914, omitting the “e” three times from the Steele in his name. He was born in Durham, April 1892, the son of John and Martha Rowell of 17 Vane Terrace, Carrville. He was an apprentice boiler smith and had become a plate layer at his time of enlistment. He arrived in France 26<sup>th</sup> December 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He died 9<sup>th</sup> October 1919, aged 27, and is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot A18.

***GS/47246 Private Joseph Rowell R.F.***

Private Rowell (formerly R4/066071 A.S.C.) served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He was born in Belmont mid 1894, the son of John (a cast iron moulder) and Martha Rowell. He had 3 brothers and 1 sister. In 1901, aged 6, he lived at 17 Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Works. The coincidence of address with C. S. Rowell suggests there may have been some, as yet undiscovered, family relationship. At the time of his enlistment and of his death, he lived in Houghton-le-Spring. He arrived in France 27<sup>th</sup> March 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals; he was killed in action 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 and is commemorated on Arras Memorial Bay 3.

***260125 Private Mark Sheridan Shaw Yorks.***

Private Shaw served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire) Regiment (The Green Howards), (formerly 4320 Durham Light Infantry). He enlisted at Durham. He lived at 42 Dragon Villa and was the adopted son of John and Mabel Shaw. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917, aged 22. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Panel 33.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917:

**DEATH OF DRAGON VILLA SOLDIER PRIVATE M. S. SHAW**

Mr and Mrs J. Shaw, of 44 Dragon Villa, have received official news that their son, Private Mark Sheridan Shaw, of the Yorkshire Regiment, died of wounds received in action in France

on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Private Shaw, who was 22 years of age, prior to joining the colours worked at Sherburn Colliery.

In a letter to Mrs Shaw, Lieut. Cunningham states: "It may help you in your sorrow and loss to know that your son died fighting for his country and doing his duty with courage and bravery for which he was known throughout the company. His loss is greatly felt by all his comrades who value him for his cheerfulness, which was manifested at all times and under all conditions."

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918:

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

SHAW – In loving memory of Pte. Mark Sheridan Shaw, who died of wounds received in France, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1917, the adopted son of John and Mabel Shaw, of 44 Dragon Villa, Durham.

Gone, but not forgotten.

Ever remembered by his foster parents, brothers and sisters.

#### ***760080 Gunner Albert Edward Short R.F.A.***

Gunner Short served with D Battery, 296<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in Spennymoor early 1883, the son of Albert (a coal heaver from Taunton) and Martha Short, with 2 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1891, aged 8, he lived at West Sherburn; in 1901, aged 18, he lived at 8 William Street, New Durham and worked as an Underground Putter. In 1906 he married Jane Ellen and had twin sons born early in 1911. In 1911, aged 28, he lived at 17 Ernest Place and worked as a coalminer/hewer. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 1.

Gunner Short was erroneously reported in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1917 to have "died of wounds."

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1918:

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

SHORT – Killed in action in France on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1918, Gunner A. Short, R.F.A., beloved husband of Mrs Short, of Gilesgate Moor, Aged 33 years.

#### ***18/1226 Private George William Smith D.L.I.***

Private Smith (erroneously listed as T. W. Smith on the memorial) served with the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was born at Ryhope, the son of George and Elizabeth Smith of Wingate, and he married Margaret Wilson, 4 Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Foundry, on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1917. He worked as a miner. His granddaughter was living in Belmont in 2009. He died, probably aged 25, from gas poisoning on September 19<sup>th</sup> 1918. He is buried in La Kneule British Cemetery, 1¼ miles north of Hazebrouck Plot III E 10.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918:

Mrs G. Smith, of 4, Vane Terrace, Grange Ironworks, has received information that her husband, Pte. G.W. Smith D.L.I. (Pals), died of gas poisoning, on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, at the 17<sup>th</sup> C.E.S., France. Private Smith was the nephew of Mr and Mrs B. Love, 65, Ryhope Street, Ryhope Colliery.

***46035 Private William Stoker W. Yorks.***

Private Stoker served with the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), although he was originally No. 12421 D.L.I. He was born at New Durham, late 1889, the son of William (a coal hewer) and Hannah Stoker. In 1891, aged 1, he lived at 5 Love Street, New Durham with one brother. In 1901, aged 11, he lived at 16 Love Street with 2 sisters and 1 brother. In 1911, aged 21, he lived at 9 Love Street, with his wife, Eliza. He was a coal miner. He arrived in France 21<sup>st</sup> May 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star and the British and Victory Medals. He died at 2 Love Street, New Durham (from an entry in St. Mary Magdalene Belmont burial register), 21<sup>st</sup> April 1920, aged 30. His wife remarried and was listed as Eliza Harrison of 92 High Street, Carrville, when the roll of honour was compiled. He is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot J4.

***102713 Sapper Arthur Selway Thomas R.E.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Sapper Thomas served with 177<sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, having enlisted at Newcastle. He was born at Tow Law in the second half of 1893, the son of Charles (a coal miner) and Sarah Ann Thomas, and he had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1901, aged 7, he lived at 50 Railway Terrace, Willington; in 1911, aged 17, he lived at 19 Watling Terrace, Willington, and worked as an apprentice colliery fitter. He was killed in action 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1915 and is commemorated on Bedford House Enclosure No. 2 VI A 76. (South of Ypres).

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915:

Mrs J. Thomas, of 91 Framwellgate, Durham, received official notice on Sunday morning that her husband, Sapper A. Thomas, of the 177<sup>th</sup> Company Royal Engineers, was killed in action on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at a place not stated. Deceased joined the Tyneside Irish, but afterwards transferred into the Royal Engineers.

***1417 Corporal Josiah Tremain D.L.I.***

Corporal Tremain (spelt as Tremayne on the memorial) served with the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Chester-le-Street. He was born at Swalwell in the first half of 1884, the son of Josiah and Mary Tremain; with 2 brothers and 1 sister. In 1891 he lived in Plawsworth Road, Chester-le-Street; in 1901 he lived in 11 Adelaide Street, Chester-le-Street, aged 16. In 1911 he lived in 23 Broomside Lane, aged 28, with his wife Mary. He worked as a putter in a coal mine. He was awarded the 1915 Star, along with the

British and Victory Medals. He arrived in France 19<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He is listed on 8<sup>th</sup> Durham's Roll of Honour as missing on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1915, and also listed as missing in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 11<sup>th</sup> June 1915. He was killed in action 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Section 36/38 and on a plaque for the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion D.L.I. at the Drill Hall (where his name is spelt Tremaine).

***9/6442 Private Harrison Watson D.L.I.***

Private Watson served with the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Newcastle. He was born at Moscow, Alston, in January 1885. He was the son of George (a mason) and Fanny Watson; he had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1891, aged 6, he lived in Teasdale Terrace, Belmont; in 1901 he lived at 5 Teasdale Terrace, aged 16. At enlistment he lived at 7 Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, being employed as a general cartman. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 11<sup>th</sup> May 1917:

PRIVATE H. WATSON

News was received on Wednesday morning that Private Harrison Watson, D.L.I., of Sunderland Road, Durham, was killed in action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. For a long period prior to enlisting Private Watson was in the employ of Messrs. T. and H.C. Colpitts, Criterion Hotel, Durham.

ROLL OF HONOUR

WATSON – Killed in action in France, on 23<sup>rd</sup> ult, Pte. Harrison Watson, D.L.I., dearly beloved husband of Ettie Watson, 7 Sunderland Road, Durham, and dearly beloved third son of Mr and Mrs George Watson, Ivy Cottage, Gilesgate Moor.

***22704 Private John Watson R.D.F.***

Private Watson served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, having enlisted at Durham in September 1915. He was born at Willington probably in late 1892, the son of George Henry and Mary Jane Watson, and he had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1901, aged 7, he lived at 18 Rosa Street, Spennymoor; in 1911, aged 17, he lived at 16 Jolliffe Street, Chester-le-Street, and worked as a blacksmith. He died 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916 and is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot J34.

***242550 Private Percy Edward Watson N.F.***

**[The following information is not fully proven]**

Private Watson served with B Company 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (previously the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion) Northumberland Fusiliers, having enlisted at Newcastle, and had two previous service numbers: - 6/4747, then 5/7390. He was born in late 1895, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Watson of 281 Salters Road, Gosforth, and he had 2 brothers. In 1901 he was aged 5,

living at 28 Beech Grove, Cullercoats. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals; he died 31<sup>st</sup> October 1917, aged 21, and is buried in Ghent City Cemetery Plot D 16. (Ghent West).

***242005 Private George William Williams N.F.***

Private Williams served with 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (formerly 20116 then 5/6774 Durham Light Infantry). He enlisted at Durham. He was born at Grange Ironworks, Belmont in early 1892, the son of Charles and Elizabeth Williams, and he had 1 sister. In 1901, aged 8, he still lived at Grange Ironworks. In 1911, when his mother was dead, aged 19, he was living at 5 Bainbridge Street and working as a miner putter. He was the husband of Jane Tweddle (remarried) of 13 Durham Street, Sherburn Hill. He arrived in France 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915 he was awarded the 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals, he was killed in action 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917, aged 25. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 19 to 23 and 162 and on Sherburn Hill War Memorial.

***124142 Air Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Laurd Wilson R.A.F.***

Air Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Wilson served with the Royal Air Force. He was born in Houghton-le-Spring in 1899. The son of Tom and Phoebe Froud of 15 Grange Row, he died of pneumonia 20<sup>th</sup> May 1918, aged 18. He is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot A16.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* 7<sup>th</sup> June 1918:

“In our last issue we regretfully recorded the death at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, of Air Mechanic Laurd Wilson, R.A.F., beloved son of Mr and Mrs Froud, Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Works, and grandson of Mr Joseph Wilson, High Shincliffe. The deceased served his apprenticeship at the Grange Iron Works, and eventually joined the R.A.F. After four months training at Aldershot he contracted pleurisy and double pneumonia, which proved fatal on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. He was only 19 years of age. The remains, enclosed in a polished oak coffin, were brought home and accorded a military funeral at Belmont. The procession was headed by a firing party and a bugle band from Newcastle. Following the coffin there was a large number of mourners, sympathetic friends and the deceased’s fellow workers at the Grange. The obsequies were conducted by the vicar of Belmont, the Revd Chapman, and the Revd Bevan.”

***202899 Private Alfred Agincourt Wright D.L.I.***

Private Wright served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham. He was born in Belmont late 1894. In 1901 he lived at 12 Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Works, aged 6. He was the son of Alfred Agincourt and Charlotte Elizabeth Wright. His father was born on the troopship “Agincourt” off the Cape of Good Hope on 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1853. He had three brothers, Ernest Renan (see below), Kitchener and Robert Ingersol. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 5<sup>th</sup> October 1917, aged 22. He is buried at Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, (16 km south of Ieper, between Poperinghe and Hazebrouck, east of the village) Plot I L 27. He is commemorated in Belmont Churchyard Plot A17.

The *Durham County Advertiser* of 19<sup>th</sup> October 1917 states he died of wounds received in action.

***G/14580 Private Ernest Renan Wright Buffs.***

Private Wright served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and was previously R/4/066066 of the Army Service Corps. At the time of his death, he was serving with the Yorkshire Regiment with service number 34057. He enlisted at Houghton-le-Spring. He was born at Belmont in 1893. In the 1901 and 1911 censuses, as the brother of Alfred Wright, he is, of course, recorded at the same address. He worked as an iron moulder. For details of his family see above. He arrived in France 28<sup>th</sup> March 1915, and was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He died of wounds 28<sup>th</sup> September 1918, aged 25, and he is buried in Belmont Churchyard Plot A17.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 4<sup>th</sup> October 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

WRIGHT – At Norwich Hospital, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1918, from wounds received in action, Private Ernie Wright, Kent Regiment, beloved son of Alfred A. and Elizabeth Wright, of 12 Vane Terrace, Grange Iron Works. Aged 25 years interred at Belmont Churchyard on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private A. Wright, D.L.I., dearly loved son ...., who died of wounds in France, October 5<sup>th</sup> 1917.

Ever remembered by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Lydia and Will Jones, Horden.

WRIGHT – In loving memory of Private Alf Wright, D.L.I., dearly loved ...., who died of wounds received in action .... aged 22 years.

A verse follows.

***11052 Corporal John George Wright D.C.M. Yorks.***

Corporal John George Wright (J. W. Wright on the War Memorial) served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire) Regiment (The Green Howards). Born at Thornley in mid 1887, the son of Mrs Margaret Jane Wright, resident at 62 Dragon Villa at the time of his death, the husband of Annie Carr, who remarried and then lived at 6 Lord Street, New Durham, he enlisted at Sunderland and arrived in the Balkans 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915. He was awarded the 1915 star, and the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 28<sup>th</sup> September 1916, aged 29. He is commemorated at Thiepval War Memorial Pier 3 A and D and at Thornley Workmen's Club.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916:

Corporal John Wright of West Sherburn and Thornley, killed in action September 27<sup>th</sup>. For his bravery in the fighting on 14<sup>th</sup> September the late Corporal Wright was awarded the D.C.M.



From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1916:

Corporal John George Wright, formerly of Thornley, was shot by a sniper on September 28<sup>th</sup> and died immediately. He was 28 years old, and had served 15 months at Suvla Bay, Egypt, Salonica and France. His widow, who resides at West Sherburn, has been officially notified that her husband has been posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Excerpts from the *Durham County Advertiser* of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1916:

#### WHEATLEY HILL HEROES

There was an enthusiastic gathering at the Thornley Workmen's Club last week . . . . A . . . . presentation was made to Mrs J. Wright, widow of the late Corporal John Wright, Yorkshire Regiment, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallant work on September 14<sup>th</sup>, but fell in action a fortnight later. Corporal Wright resided at Thornley before joining the Army, but his widow removed a short time ago to West Sherburn. . . . They were all very sorry that Corporal Wright could not be with them. . . . [Mr Calvert, chairman] would like to have handed the [gold signet] ring to Corporal Wright, but he was pleased that the members had decided to present it to his widow. . . . Where he lay in France was still remembered by the members of Thornley Workmens's Club.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 1<sup>st</sup> December 1916:

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THORNLEY

A memorial service was held at Thornley parish Church on Sunday night to commemorate the deaths of Corporal John Wright D.C.M. [and three privates], four Thornley men. The congregation was so large that seats had to be provided in the aisles. The service included special hymns and part of the burial service.

#### ***20133 Private Joseph Wynne D.L.I.***

Private Wynne served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, having enlisted at Durham in September 1914. He was born in Fence Houses (Burnmoor) in February 1890, the son of Matthew and Susannah Wynne; he had 2 brothers and 1 sister. In 1901 he lived in Daleside, Ford, aged 11. In 1911 he was living at 20 Church Street, Hetton-le-Hole, married to Catherine with a son, John, who was born in that year. At the time of enlistment, he lived at 1 Love Street, New Durham. He arrived in France 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915. He was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory Medals. He was killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1916, aged 25. He was listed as killed in the *Durham County Advertiser* of 11<sup>th</sup> February 1915. He is buried at Cite Bonne Jeanne Military Cemetery, Armentieres Plot IX. E. 82

## CASUALTIES WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR TWO

### ***4453213 Private Dixon Lynn Ashworth Green Howard's (Yorkshire Regiment)***

Private Ashworth served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Green Howards (Alexandra Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment). He was born in Gateshead, the son of Christopher Charles and Eliza Ashworth, who later moved to Belmont. He was a despatch rider; he was at home on the Monday and was dead by the following Friday. He died 1<sup>st</sup> October 1944, aged 23, and is commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial Panel 3.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1944:

Official word has been received that Pte. Dixon Lynn Ashworth, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. C. Ashworth, 83, Broomside Lane, Belmont, was killed in action in North West Europe on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Aged 23 years, he was formerly employed as a miner at Sherburn Hill Colliery. Dixon, with his "pals", Wm. Mortimer, Belmont, and Joe Dunn, of the City, joined the D.L.I. as Territorials before the outbreak of war, and served together until Dixon's untimely death. He took part in the evacuation from Dunkirk, and after a short stay in England, was sent to Iceland, where he served for 18 months. On "D" Day, their ship met with an accident, and Dixon, after spending several hours in the water, was picked up and returned to this country for a few days before being sent back to the Western Front. Whilst serving in France, he was transferred from the D.L.I. to the Green Howards. His father, Mr Charles Ashworth served with the D.L.I. and the Machine Gun Corps during the last war, and with the D.L.I. and the defence corps during this war. His two brothers, Thomas and Robert, also of the D.L.I., have been prisoners-of-war since the evacuation from Dunkirk. A memorial service will be held at Belmont Parish Church on Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

### ***759127 Sergeant Stanley Bews R.A.F.V.R.***

Sergeant Bews served with 107 Squadron Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve as a U/T observer. He was born in 1914 and lived at Church Villas, Belmont. He died 4<sup>th</sup> September 1940 and was buried in Belmont Cemetery 9<sup>th</sup> September 1940, Section I C of E 172.

### ***4470467 Private Cecil Noel Carr D.L.I.***

Private Carr served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, the son of Matthew and Henrietta Carr of Gilesgate Moor. He died 29<sup>th</sup> June 1944 aged 20, and is buried at Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville Plot III J 9.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1944:

Private C. N. Carr, D.L.I., son of Mr and Mrs Carr, Frank Street, Belmont, died of wounds in Normandy on 29<sup>th</sup> June, having been wounded on the previous day. He was a popular young man, only 20 years old, and had hosts of friends who sympathise with the family on their loss. He was a member of the C.L.B. at Sherburn Village. Pte Carr served his time as a painter with Mr T. Taylor, painter, 10, Lovegreen Street, Sidegate, and enlisted two years ago.

***5337350 Craftsman William Henry Devine R.E.M.E.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Craftsman Devine served with A Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Special Air Service Regiment. He died 20<sup>th</sup> July 1944, aged 24, and is buried at Crain Communal Cemetery Plot 3 Row T Grave 2.

***C/JX128283 Able Seaman Arthur McLeod Falconer R.N.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Able Seaman Falconer served with the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Veteran, the son of Samuel and Isabella Falconer of Blyth. He died 26<sup>th</sup> September 1942, aged 32, and is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial Panel 54 1.

***11052577 Lance Bombardier John Walton Forster R.A.***

Lance Bombardier Forster served with 242 Battery 48 Lt. A.A. Regiment Royal Artillery. He was born in 1905 at Rookhope, the son of John James and Mary Elizabeth Forster. In 1911, aged 6, he lived at Chapel Row, Rookhope, and he had 3 sisters and 2 brothers. The husband of Hannah Bell Forster of Gilesgate Moor, he died 14<sup>th</sup> March 1945, aged 40. He is commemorated on Singapore Memorial Column 9.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1943:

Prisoner in Borneo – After one year of suspense, Mrs M. Forster, 12 Teasdale Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, Durham, has at last received news of her husband, Lance Bombardier John Walton Forster (38), Royal Artillery. He is now known to be a prisoner of war in Borneo. A native of Darlington, he is the second son of Mr and Mrs J. J. Forster, of Darlington. He has, however, lived for many years in Durham, and prior to the war had a drapery and confectionery business at 96, Elvet Bridge, Durham. He has been in the army for nearly two years and he has one little son.

***102127 Private William Garside A.M.P.C.***

Private Garside served with 73 Company Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps. He was born at Durham, the son of William and Harriet Garside, and he was the husband of Agnes Garside of Belmont. He died on S.S. Lancastria (Liverpool) 17<sup>th</sup> June 1940, aged 27, and is commemorated on Dunkirk War Memorial Column 151.

***4456175 Private John William Barnett Harland D.L.I.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Harland served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. The son of John W. and Jane Harland, he had 3 sisters and 1 brother. In 1901, aged 6 months, he lived at Lyons Colliery, Hetton-le-Hole. In 1911, aged 10, he lived at 40 Lyons, Hetton-le-Hole. He died 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1940, aged 39. He is buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery Plot 2 Row 6 Grave 5.

***4464553 Private George Hesp D.L.I.***

Private Hesp served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry; he was born at Hill Top Farm, Broomside, the son of George H. Hesp. Private Hesp lived at Teasdale Terrace; he died 25<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and is buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery Chouain Plot C12.

***3252533 Gunner Lindon Hill R.A.***

Gunner Hill served with the Royal Artillery 1<sup>st</sup> Maritime Regiment. He died at sea 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1943, aged 28, and is commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 8 Column 3.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1944:

Official intimation has been received by Mrs Ellen Hill (widow of the late Mr Albert Hill), 5, Broomside Lane, Belmont, that her son, Gunner Lindon Hill, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Maritime Royal Artillery, was killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1943, at sea. He was originally a miner, but joined the Army before the war, and had served in India.

***P/SR16340 Engine Room Art. 4<sup>th</sup> Class John Burgess Ivison R.N.***

Engine Room Artificer 4<sup>th</sup> Class Ivison served with the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Mohawk. The son of Thomas and Norah Burgess Ivison of Blaydon, he was known as "Jack". He lived in Gilesgate Moor; he died 16<sup>th</sup> April 1941, aged 22. He is commemorated on Blaydon War Memorial (Blaydon Cemetery) and also on Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 53 Column 2.

***T/73377 Corporal Thomas Ivison R.A.S.C.***

Corporal Ivison enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps then served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Air Service Regiment. He died 21<sup>st</sup> September 1944, aged 31. He is commemorated at Durham City Workmen's Club and is buried in Durnbach War Cemetery Plot 3 K 15.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 10<sup>th</sup> November 1944:

Mr and Mrs J. Ivison, 8 Bell's Ville, Gilesgate Moor, Durham, have been notified by the War Office that their eldest son, Cpl Thomas Ivison, Special Air Service Regiment, is posted as missing in N.W. Europe since September 9<sup>th</sup>. Formerly employed for 11 years by Mr J. W. Nelson, Gilesgate, Durham, he was called up on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939, and proceeded to

France with the R.A.S.C. He took part in the evacuation from Dunkirk, and during last year was sent to North Africa. Whilst he was there, he was transferred from the R.A.S.C. to the S.A.S. Regiment, and before leaving Africa, had the good fortune to be able to spend seven days leave with his only brother, Billy, who is serving with the R.A.F. His parents and friends are anxiously awaiting news of him.

***4749543 Private Stephen Jones Y.L.R.***

**[The following information is not fully proved]**

Private Jones served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment; he was born in Yorkshire but was resident in Durham. He died 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941 and is buried at Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery Plot P 101.

***1537643 Lance Corporal John Robert Knox Shropshires***

Lance Corporal Knox served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry. The son of Jane Knox of Gilesgate Moor, he died 19<sup>th</sup> April 1945, aged 24, and is buried at Becklingen War Cemetery Lower Saxony Plot 18 E 2.

From the *Durham County Durham Advertiser* of 4<sup>th</sup> May 1945:

L: Cpl J. R. Knox, K.O.Y.L.I., is officially reported killed in action by a sniper's bullet while serving in Germany. The news has brought grief to the many relatives and friends. He was only son of Mrs J. Knox (now an invalid) and the late Mr Knox, M.M., who died of wounds in the last war. He lived with his uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs W. Tindale, 68, Kepier Crescent. L/Cpl Knox joined up in November, 1939, in the anti-aircraft personnel, and was transferred over a year ago. He was safely evacuated at Dunkirk and went overseas two months after D-Day. A sympathetic letter from an officer says he met his death on the banks of the Elbe, instantly killed by a sniper's bullet. The officer ..... said that the lance-corporal, known as "The Colonel", will always be remembered and respected. He was well known at Durham Bethel Church.

***4451760 Private Victor Lappage D.L.I.***

Private Lappage served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. The nephew of S. T. and Mary Lappage of Gilesgate, he died 25<sup>th</sup> May 1940, aged 20, and is commemorated on Dunkirk Memorial Column 122 No. 20.

***T/194785 Driver John Thompson Laverick R.A.S.C.***

Driver Laverick served with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Group Company, Royal Army Service Corps. The son of Alfred and Jane Laverick of Gilesgate Moor, he was born at Durham. In 2011 he has a nephew living in Pilgrims Way. Jack's ship was sent into Singapore on the direct orders of Churchill after it had fallen to the Japanese. Cholera was the official cause of

death. It is probable that the labour camp contributed more. He died 13<sup>th</sup> August 1943, aged 23, and is buried in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Malaya Plot B 3 W 2.

***1531322 Gunner John Wesley Lowerson R.A.***

Gunner Lowerson served with 171 Battery, 57 Lt. A.A. Regiment Royal Artillery, the son of Henry and Dorothy Lowerson of Belmont. He died 7<sup>th</sup> March 1943, aged 25, and is buried in Tripoli War Cemetery Plot 7 G 10.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 26<sup>th</sup> March 1943:

ROLL OF HONOUR

LOWERSON – Killed in action, Middle East, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1943. Gunner John Wesley, aged 26, dear son of the late Harry and Dorothy. Greater love hath no man than this, that he giveth his life for his friends.

***14508445 Lance Corporal Herschell Marshall Leicesters***

Lance Corporal Marshall served with the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. The son of Herschell and Mary Annie Marshall, and husband of Caroline Elizabeth Marshall of Gilesgate Moor, he had a daughter resident in Carville in 2009. He died 15<sup>th</sup> November 1944, aged 35, and is buried at Medola War Cemetery, Italy Plot I B 14.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 8<sup>th</sup> December 1944:

ROLL OF HONOUR

MARSHALL – Killed in action, Italy, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1944, Herschell, aged 35, beloved husband of Caroline Elizabeth (née Gibson), 3, Belle Vue Terrace, Gilesgate Moor. Ever remembered by wife and two daughters.

*Also:*

Lce-Corpl. Herschell Marshall, 3, Belle Vue Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, was killed in action in Italy on November 15<sup>th</sup>. He was 35, and before the war was employed as a bricklayer. He was second son of Mrs Marshall, 34 Marshall Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, and the late Herschell Marshall. In his younger days he was a keen football player for Gilesgate Juniors and played a game or two for Durham City. He was secretary of the Traveller's Rest Leek Club. He joined the D.L.I. on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942, but while fighting in Italy was transferred to the Leicestershires. He leaves a widow (formerly Miss Gibson) and two daughters.

***274614 Sister Sarah Morgan Q.A.I.N.S.***

Sister Morgan, who appears in the 1911 Census as aged 3 and resident at 7 Love Street, New Durham, with 1 brother, served with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service. She was born 9<sup>th</sup> December 1907, and died 12<sup>th</sup> February 1944 on the SS Khedive Ismail, formerly the SS Aconcagua. The ship was launched by Scotts of Greenock in 1922, weighing 7,513 tons.

(The name was changed when it came under Egyptian ownership, after the ruler of Egypt from 1863 – 1879). Having sailed on 6<sup>th</sup> February from Kilindini Harbour, Mombasa, Kenya, heading for Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), in Convoy KR-8 (5 troop transports, escorted by a heavy cruiser and two destroyers), the ship was attacked in the early afternoon by a B1 type Japanese submarine (I-27, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Toshiaki Fukumura); it was hit by two torpedoes and sunk in the One and A Half Degree Channel, south west of the Maldives. On board were 178 crew, 996 officers and men of the East African Artillery's 301<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, 271 Royal Navy personnel, 19 Wrens, 53 Nursing Sisters, 1 Matron and 9 members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. 1,297 people died, including 77 women. 208 men and 6 women survived. The submarine was eventually destroyed by one of the escorting destroyers, HMS Paladin, whose attack on the submarine with depth charges was unfortunately responsible for many of the deaths. This sinking was the third worst Allied shipping disaster of World War II and the worst loss of female personnel in the history of the Commonwealth. Sister Morgan is commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial, Surrey, Panel 22 Column 2. She is also commemorated at the East Africa Memorial Cemetery, Kenya, and is in the Book of Remembrance of Queen Alexandra's Nurses in Westminster Abbey. She has nieces living in the area in 2011.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 10<sup>th</sup> March 1944:

#### BELMONT NURSING SISTER MISSING

Official news has been received that Sister Sally Morgan, of the Queen Alexandra Imperial War Nursing Reserve, has been missing at sea since 12<sup>th</sup> February. Sister Morgan, who is 36 years of age and a State Registered Nurse in civil life, is the daughter of Mrs S. A. and the late Mr John Morgan, of 8 Teasdale Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, and has been in the nursing profession for 15 years. She first served at Sunderland Royal Infirmary, where she took her C.M.B. and then proceeded as operating theatre sister at the Nose, Throat and Ear Hospital, Rye Hill, finally taking up an appointment as theatre sister at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. She obtained leave of absence to serve in the Q.A.I.W.N.R. twelve months ago. Since then Sister Morgan has served in East Africa. It is presumed she was being moved to another theatre of operations.

#### ***4615095 Private George Edward Newby W. Yorks.***

Private Newby served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. He was born 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1920 at 5 Vane Villas, the son of George Edward and Margaret Newby. They later lived at Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate Moor. He was the eldest of 4 brothers, the last two of whom both died in 1996. He died 9<sup>th</sup> March 1944, aged 24, and is buried in Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio. Plot VII C 6.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1944:

Mr and Mrs G. E. Newby, 64 Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate Moor, Durham have received news that their eldest son, Pte George Edward Newby, Duke of Wellington Regiment, was killed in action in Italy. A native of Belmont, he was educated at Gilesgate Moor School, where he played football. He was a regular attender at Belmont Mission Church. Joining the Army as a regular six years ago, he served in the evacuation of Dunkirk and was sent to North Africa a little over a year ago. In April last year, he was wounded in both legs, but on his recovery, rejoined his unit and went to Italy. He was 24 years of age and engaged to Miss Mary

Marshall, Carrville. His father served in France and Italy during the last war and two younger brothers are also in the forces; they are Gunner Kenneth Newby, R.A., and Sapper Jim Newby, Royal Engineers. Kenneth recently returned home after four years in Malta. Sympathy is extended to Mr and Mrs Newby in their great loss. Rev. G. Suthrien, Vicar, will officiate at a memorial service in Belmont Mission Church on Sunday at 6 p.m.

***11428465 Trooper Reginald Potts R.A.C.***

Trooper Potts served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps. The son of Thomas Hardy Potts and Lethia Potts of Carrville, he died 21<sup>st</sup> April 1945, aged 23, and is buried in Ravenna War Cemetery Plot I D 16.

***14207696 Lance Corporal John Lawrence Quinn Highlanders***

Corporal Quinn served with C Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) Glasgow Highlanders. The son of the late Joseph and Margaret Quinn of Quebec, he lived at Blue House Farm. He was killed in action 15<sup>th</sup> July 1944, aged 25, and is buried in Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery, Calvados Plot VI F 20.

He was killed outside the village of Esquay as the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division was preparing for an assault as part of operation "Epsom". There was shelling from Hill 112 which overlooked the area, and it is possible that the whole section was killed by a mortar round landing among them as they crossed a field.

His last letter includes: "It was pretty hot for a while and we are back for a bit of a rest and don't we need it. We hadn't been washed for a week and you can imagine what we are like being in slit trenches but believe me they were a godsend. Jerry is red hot with his mortar." He was killed less than twelve hours after posting this letter, but his death was not confirmed until October. His nephew, for whose parents he was going to be best man, was named after him.

***4455444 Private Arthur Raine D.L.I.***

Private Raine served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was born in Houghton-le-Spring in 1910, the son of James Benjamin and Mary Raine, with 3 sisters and 1 brother. In 1911, aged 1, he lived at 76 High Street, Hetton-le-Hole. He was the husband of Elizabeth Raine of Gilesgate Moor. He died 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1940 aged 30 and is buried in Givenchy-en-Gohelle Communal Cemetery Grave 6.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 28<sup>th</sup> June 1940:  
Raine (of Marshall Terrace, Gilesgate Moor, Durham). Killed in Action. Pte. Arthur, D.L.I., aged 30, dearly beloved husband of Betty (née Marshall). Memorial Service Sunday, 6p.m. Belmont. Deeply mourned by wife and baby.



## KILLED IN ACTION

Official information has been received that Private Arthur Raine, a despatch rider in the Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action during the evacuation from Flanders. Formerly of Pity Me, he was 30 years of age, and well-known in the city and district. He leaves a widow and one infant child who reside at Marshall Terrace, Gilesgate Moor.

### ***1144371 Leading Aircraftsman Allan Richardson R.A.F.V.R.***

Leading Aircraftsman Richardson served with 489 (Royal New Zealand Air Force) Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer reserve. The son of Charles Edwin and Winnie Richardson of Providence Place, Gilesgate Moor, his niece was living in Belmont in 2008. He died 13<sup>th</sup> February 1943, aged 21. He is commemorated on Runnymede Memorial Panel 171.

### ***D/SSX12949 Able Seaman James McNay Towers R.N.***

Able Seaman Towers served with the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Penylan. The son of James and Eliza Towers of Durham, he was born in 1907. In 1911 he lived at 12 Wanless Terrace, Durham, and for some time in Bell's Ville, Gilesgate Moor. He had 2 sisters. He was husband of Margaret May Towers, also of Durham. They had a son named Jim. Able Seaman Towers died 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1942, aged 36. He is commemorated on the memorial in the Town Hall Durham, and is buried in Belmont Cemetery Section IC of E Grave 175.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 11<sup>th</sup> December 1942:

Towers (James McNay, Togs). 3<sup>rd</sup> December, by enemy action, dearly beloved husband of Margaret (née May Read). To be interred at Belmont, Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, at 3 p.m. Friends please meet at church.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

TOWERS – In loving memory of Jim, who lost his life on H.M.S. -----, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1942. Beautiful memories of a smiling face, a link we will never be able to replace. From all his friends at Bootle, Liverpool.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 25<sup>th</sup> December 1942:

Lost at sea. Official news received from the Admiralty by Mrs Towers, 28 Goodyear Crescent, Sherburn Estate, Durham, says that her husband, Able Seaman James McNay "Togs" Towers, R.N. Reserve, has been lost at sea when his ship was sunk by a German U-boat at the beginning of December. Able Seaman Towers, a native of Durham, was well-known in the city. He was a former member of 1<sup>st</sup> Durham Company, Boys Brigade, and was also a keen footballer and cricketer with St. Nicholas football and cricket teams. He continued to play these games when he joined the Navy, playing for his ship. He served seven years with the Navy as a youth, then leaving as a reservist. He was employed by Durham Rural District Council as a plumber. Shortly before the outbreak of war he was called up and was on of the crew of a destroyer until last Christmas. Last August he was drafted to another destroyer. Able Seaman Towers leaves a wife and seven-year-old son. He was buried at Belmont Parish Church by Rev. G. Suthrien.

From the *Durham County Advertiser* of 1<sup>st</sup> December 1944:

The “In Memoriam” section names his ship as the H.M.S. Penlyn

***4438568 Sergeant Charles Thomas Watson D.L.I.***

Sergeant Watson, incorrectly listed as G. T. on the memorial, served with the Durham Light Infantry; he also served in the Territorial Army between the two World Wars. He was born in 1895 at 27 Ernest Place; in 1901 he still lived at this address, aged 6. He is also known to have lived at 50 Kepier Crescent. At the time of his death he lived at 59 Frank Street. His wife was named Alice and his daughter Doreen. His wife remarried after the War and moved to Pontefract. They had three sons, two of whom served in the Royal Navy, one on H.M.S. Hood, from where he was transferred shortly before it was sunk. He died 31<sup>st</sup> May 1940 at Dunkirk and is buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery Plot FF 9.

***1109871 Sergeant William Oswald White R.A.F.V.R.***

Sergeant White served with 404 Squadron (Royal Canadian Air Force), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. The son of John James Nicholas and Elizabeth White of Murton, and husband of Sarah Ann White of Gilesgate Moor, he died 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1942, aged 28. He is commemorated (as Oswald White) on the cenotaph at Murton and is buried at East Murton, Cold Hesleden and Dalton-le-Dale Burial Ground Section G Row K Grave 3.

## **THE OTHER CASUALTY ON THE MEMORIAL**

***Rifleman Aaron Lincoln The Rifles***

Rifleman Lincoln served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion The Rifles. He was born 30<sup>th</sup> November 1988, the son of Peter and Karen Lincoln, Bede Avenue. He had 2 sisters and 1 brother (he was third eldest). His great-grandfather served with the Durham Light Infantry, and “Lincs.” enlisted as a Light Infantryman. He wanted to become a gunner like his great-grandfather. He was a Newcastle United supporter. He trained at Catterick until July 2006; he loved The Rifles cap badge because it was like a Durham Light Infantry badge. He arrived in Iraq in January 2007, having already volunteered for Afghanistan. He died in Basra 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007. His funeral took place at St. Giles Church 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007, and he was buried in Belmont Cemetery. Pelaw View Centre at Sherburn Road Estate has a Rifleman Aaron Lincoln’s Room.

Rifleman Lincoln was one of the first two soldiers whose bodies were repatriated via R.A.F. Lyneham through Wootton Bassett, a journey which became famous in 2009, when more than 100 dead soldiers from the conflict in Afghanistan were saluted by a respectful silence by the people of the town. Interviews with both soldiers’ parents were carried in “The Mail” on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> body being repatriated along this route. The bodies of Rifleman Lincoln and Kingsman Danny Wilson (of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and from Workington) were repatriated on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Originally bodies of repatriated soldiers were flown to R.A.F. Brize Norton. The station was undergoing restoration at the time of Rifleman Lincoln’s and Kingsman Wilson’s return,

leading to R.A.F. Lyneham being used. The Wootton Bassett tradition became so strong that Brize Norton was not immediately brought back into use for this purpose when the station became operational again in 2010.

Rifleman Lincoln was posthumously awarded the Queen Elizabeth medal for bravery when it was introduced.

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The following internet sources were invaluable: Ancestry.co.uk, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Findmypast.com, Mail Online, National Census 1891, 1901, 1911, and Soldiers Who Died in the Great War.

The following books provided information and ideas:

Simon Fowler: Tracing your First World War Ancestors

John Sheen: Tyneside Irish

John Sheen and Graham Steward: Tyneside Scottish

Honours and Awards to the D.L.I.

These newspaper sources were of incredible value: The Durham County Advertiser, The Durham Chronicle, The Manchester Guardian, The Mail, and The Times.

Any errors in the information are entirely the fault of the writer, who accepts that there is significant possibility of error in some cases and that work such as this will never be finished.

David J. Drinkwater

ADDENDA TO “FOR YOUR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY”

Page 3: We now know that at a quarterly meeting of the works committee on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1918, it was decided that the “Council will raise no objection to the site being erected in the triangular strip of roadside waste referred to, provided that the area taken up by such a memorial is not more than 6 feet square”. This is, of course, the area now occupied by the Millennium Garden.

June Garside, the daughter of Private William Garside, living in Carrville in 2012, unveiled the left-hand pillar. The right-hand pillar was unveiled by Keith Forster.

Page 13: Joseph William Kirkwood: a niece was living in Carrville and a nephew, with his uncle’s full name, in North Shields in 2011.

Page 24: Alfred Wright’s grandfather fought in the Indian Mutiny.

Page 26: Dixon Ashworth married the daughter of John Thomas Bunce (see page 5), and his grandson was living in Carrville in 2011. This provides an unusual link between the first name on the memorial for World War 1 and the first name on the memorial for World War 2.

Page 27: Private Garside lived at 62 Broomside Lane, Belmont. He had worked as a miner locally and, most recently, at Sherburn Hill. He was in the engine room of the S.S. Lancastria at the Dunkirk evacuation, when a bomb, in a freak event, went down the funnel and exploded in the engine room, with the result that all those lost were in that section

Page 36: The acknowledgments list should include Christopher Ashworth, June Dodds, Muriel Lamb and Elsie Salmon.

ERRATUM

Page 32: John Quinn was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Division, rather than the 51<sup>st</sup>.