

Mrs. Janet Brown,
Chair,
North East Memorial Project,
Morpeth.

Dear Mrs. Brown,

Thank you for your kind letter of the 1st March 2008, and please accept my apologies in being late in responding, and yes, I would appreciate the photograph of my Grandfather Harry Jenkins being put on the Shildon website.

The enclosed photograph is the only one we have in the family and unfortunately its pristine days are well and truly over, you will see that the enlarged copy is taken from the family group, after some thought I decided the group photo may also be of some interest. The names stating with the Wife are Ethal Elizabeth Jenkins (nee Moody) with baby John William Jenkins, the boy standing is Norman Moody Jenkins (my father) the next child is Mary Jane Jenkins sitting on her fathers Knee, Harry Jenkins. Details are entered on the back of the photographs.

When I first started researching my Grandfather's war history the data I found was conflicting regarding his Regiment either the 1st/5th or 1st/6th D.L.I.

The entries in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and --- Soldiers died in the Great War, Part 62 D.L.I. record Harry as serving in the 1/5 Battalion. Also born Bishop Auckland, (but actually born at Burnley), enlisted at Bishop Auckland, lived at Shildon. Killed in action, F/F. 26 April 1915.

Members of his family recalled Harry as a member of the 1/6th Battalion, also a silk bookmark in the family bears the name Harry Jenkins with the date of his death and his Battalion number The 6th D.L.I.

Now to the Medal Rolls,

The 1914/15 Star Roll, states, 1/6TH DLI.

The British War Medal and Victory Medal Roll, states 1/5th DLI.

Finally I decided to accept that my grandfather enlisted in the 1/6th and due to the confused fighting in the Ypres area of Belgium he may have been transferred to the 1.5th.

Press — The Northern Echo Newspaper for the 11th of May 1915 under the heading Shildon Men, Mrs. Jenkins of Spensley St. Shildon had received word that her Husband Pte. Harry Jenkins of the 1/6th DLI was killed in action on the 26th of April near Ypres.

During the newspaper search I came across a photograph of Private George William Jary of the 6th DLI who was KIA. On the 26th of April 1915, plus the entry informing his wife of his death. I know that William Jary and Harry Jenkins along with their families were close friends, so to this end I have enclosed copies of the above extracts for both soldiers, you will see that also enclosed, are copies of the records of items from the previous page, again I wondered if they would be of use to you or maybe elsewhere.

Additional reading — I have enclosed copies of the hand written War Diary for the 1/5th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry for the Month of April 1915, beginning at Newcastle Upon Tyne and ending at Brienlen, Belgium.

2 Type sheets for the 1/5th Durham Light Infantry covering 17th April 1915 (landing at Boulogne) to 4th of May at St. Laurent. Plus a 3rd sheet, headed, Confidential War diary 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, which only covers the first 3 days of May 1915.

Another 2 typed sheets for the 5th Yorkshire Regiment War Diary from part of April 24th to May 4th 1915.

Finally a hand written copy of instructions for the York and Durham brigade dated 24th of April 1915.



Dear Mr Jenkins

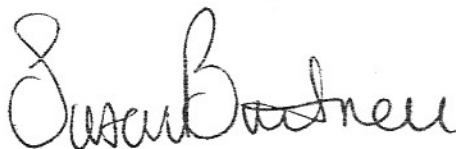
Thank you for your recent letter. I can give you the following information from our records.

Private Harry Jenkins, 2508 1st/5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry died on 26 April 1915. After the war his grave was among those the Army Graves Service was unable to trace and he is therefore commemorated, by name, on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. The names of the men of the Durham Light Infantry are engraved on Panels 36 and 38.

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the Eastern side of the town on the road to Menin and Courtrai.

I hope the above information is of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Bricknell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan Bricknell (Mrs)
for Director-General

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War

On 11/11/18 or on becoming non-effective		NAME	Unit previously served with. Regtl. No. and Rank in same on entry into theatre of war	Theatres of war in which				
Regtl. No.	Rank			From	To	From	To	From
6/2497	Pte	HUTCHINSON, Edward	6th Durh. L.I. 6/2497. Pte.					
6/2498	Pte	KIRKWOOD, Joseph William	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2498. Pte.					
6/2501	Pte	MOODY, George	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2501. Pte.	X				
6/2504	Pte	MERRIGAN, John	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2504. Pte.	X				
6/2505	Pte	COMMON, Thomas	1/9th Durh. L.I. 9/2505. Pte. 1/9th Durh. L.I. 9/2505.	X				
6/2506	Pte	VICKEPS, Thomas Turnbull	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2506. Pte.	X				
6/2507	Cpl	STEVENSON, Albert	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2507. Cpl.	X				
6/2508	Pte	JENKINS, Harry	6th Durh. L.I. 6/2508. Pte.	X				
6/2509	Pte	BALL, Henry	8th Durh. L.I. 8/2509. Pte.	X				

INFANTRY RECORD OFFICE

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named

Place

25 MAR 1920

Date

No. 1 YORK

PRC

ROL

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation.		NAME.	Date of Disembarkation. Appendix A.	REMARKS (a) If non-effective (b) If transferred: No., Rank & (c) If forfeited;—C
	Regtl. No.	Rank.			
✓	2505	Private	COMMON. Thomas	Para. 1. 27.6.15.	Disembodied
✓	2506	Private	VICKERS. Thomas Turnbull	Para. 1. 19.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2507	Private (L/Opl)	STEVENSON. Albert	Para. 1. 20.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2508	Private	JENKINS. Harry	Para. 1. 19.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2509	Private	BALL. Henry	Para. 1. 19.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2513	Private	HUNTER. William Harrison	Para. 1. 19.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2514	Private	HERBERT. Thomas Gibson	Para. 1. 20.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2515	Private	MILLER. Benjamin	Para. 1. 30.10.15.	Dead.
✓	2516	Private	MILBURN. George Edward	Para. 1. 16.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2521	Private	TURNER. Arthur	Para. 1. 17.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2523	Private	RAPER. Thomas	Para. 1. 20.4.15.	Dead.
✓	2524	Private	DODDS. John Thomas	Para. 1. 19.4.15.	Dead.

INFANTRY RECORD OFFICE

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the

Place

4 OCT 1919

Date

No. 1 YORK.

i/c

"Busy Dodging Shells."

Private Ernest Hardwick, of Eston, a member of the 4th Yorks., has been killed whilst working a Maxim gun. Friends of Sergt. W. J. Hardwick, brother of the above, a member of the Council of the North Riding Football Association, and the well-known referee, and Regimental Quartermaster Peter Stewart, late secretary of the North Riding F.A., will be pleased to learn that both are still well and playing their parts.

Writing to a Middlesbrough friend, Sergt. Hardwick says the Yorks. have just finished a term of five days and five nights in the trenches. "I am dodging shells and Peter is sending up the grub."

Teesside Men Missing and Wounded.

It is stated that no fewer than four Middlesbrough teachers who went to the front are missing. One of them, named Nicholle, was last seen by a comrade when the British were being severely shelled.

Richard Philip, a nephew of Miss Wright, photographer, Middlesbrough, who is in the 4th Yorks., has been slightly wounded and is also suffering from the effects of being "gassed."

News of Shildon Men.

Mrs. Jenkins, of Spensely-st., Shildon, has received word that her husband, Pte. Jenkins, of the 6th Durhams, was killed in action on 26 April, near Ypres.

Mrs. Pratt, of Albert-st., on Sunday received intimation from the War Office that her husband, Private J. W. Pratt, of the R.A.M.C., has been missing since 26 April.

France and Belgium in Horrible State.

Private Edward Taylor, of the 2nd D.L.I., who has been at the front since November, writing to his mother at 28, Silver-st., Bank Top, Darlington, says:—"I am all right and in the best of health. I have been seven months in the fighting line and it has passed over soon. The Germans have left France and Belgium in a horrible state. There are very few houses or churches left, but they are paying dearly for it day by day.

It is like hell on earth, but it has to be done before we can get them beat.



PRIVATE G. W. JARY, of Summer-
son's-*yd.*, Shildon (6th D.L.I.),
killed in action on 26 April 1915

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Shildon Man Killed.

Mrs. Jary, of Summerston's yard, Shildon, has received official information from the War Office that her husband, Private George Wm. Jary, of the 6th Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action on 26 April. Mrs. Jary's brother, P. C. Tierney, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

News of Benwick Men

1/5th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry.

April 1915

- 1/5 D. L. I.

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Hours Date & Place	Summary of events & information	Remarks
Newcastle. April 1.	Company Training continued, medical inspection of complete Battalion.	
April 3 rd	Company Training, medical inspection of recruits, Porter Platoon cross country race won by No. 9. C Coy. Lieut. Meek.	
April 5 th	Running Drill & Bolt drill before breakfast. Company Training continued.	
April 8 th	Casuals (23) proceed to Portland under Lieut. Moscrop to fire men being losses. 75 recruits were included in this number. Officers & men leave cancelled preparatory to moving ahead.	
April 12-14	Company Officers had three days for Company Training & final preparations for going ahead, news of kit etc. were made.	
April 14 th	Parade under Company arrangements & fitting out with kit. Transport & machine gun personnel entrained at Old Cattle Docks Firth Goods Station for Southampton at 12.30 A.M. under Capt. H. Wilson, & Lieuts. Robson & H. es. es. es. Jun.	

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Flows Date Station	Summary of events & information	Remarks
April 15 th	Battalion was inspected in the morning at Stalybridge by Rowland Burdon, Hon. Colonel of the 5 th Durham L. Inf.	
April 16 th	The Battalion entrained in two halves at Central Station Newcastle and left at 1.30 P.M. en route for Folkestone arriving at 1 A.M. the next day. Battalion boarded	
April 17 th Boulogne	Landed at Boulogne after a very good crossing and after disembarking climbed up the long hills out of the town up to St. Martin's Camp where we unrolled canvas until the evening. In the evening we marched to Point-du-Briqueux where we entrained for Cassel.	
April 18 th	We detrained at Cassel & marched out to Steenwoude where we billeted in outlying farm houses.	
April 19 th Steenwoude	Paraded under Coy. arrangements	

Hours date Station	Summary of events: no information	Remarks
April 20 th	Long T rainings, Officers were listed at night in assembling at alarm post.	
April 21 st	Battalion practised as test concentration on Battalion alarm post.	
April 22 nd	Battalion inspected in the morning by a general Sir J. Lindsay K.C.B. D.S.O.	
April 23 ^d	Alarm given early in the morning for a move and left about mid day in motor buses went into the rest camp for a few hours. Rest camp A. near NOORDHOF.	
April 24 th	Left the rest camp at 1 A.M. + moved towards the TSER canal. + halted in a field for some hours. About mid day the Battalion crossed the canal under a bridge. A few march into support trenches near St. Leam. where a staffed several casualties from 5 Snaphel fire. Lieut. E. W. F. also being severely wounded.	
April 25 th 3 AM	Marched out along the ST. Leam road + took up a line of trenches behind FORTUN.	

How date Station	Summary of Events & Information	Remarks
April 26 th ST. JULIEN.	<p>from which we moved back to the Yvelonbrook road. After a short rest we advanced to the attack on the "FORTUNE" position & took up a line of trenches east of the ST. JEAN ST. JULIEN Rd. Losses suffered several casualties including J. C. Brown being wounded. This day we dug a bunker in these trenches which was under heavy shells fire the whole time, the Battalion had got split up after the attack & remnants of companies trickled in.</p>	
April 27 th	<p>Moved from these trenches & took up a position in the first line trenches the having the 5TH YORKS on our right & the ROYAL IRISH on our left.</p>	
April 28 th	<p>Continued to hold this position under shells fire this being several casualties. We were relieved at 11 P.M. by the 4TH E. YORKS. & returned to rest camp B near BRIERLEN.</p>	

Hour date (taken)	Summary of Events & occurrences	Remarks
Rest camp near BRIERLEY April 29 th	During the Rest Camps being under danger of fire from shells, all men turned out to entrench before breakfast. As it during the day - Prepared for move at 7 P.M but it was cancelled & the night was spent in camp.	
April 30 th BRIERLEY	Casualties to date	
	Officers Killed nil " wounded 3.	Capt. Grogan 28 April Lieut E. Taber 24 th " Lieut J.C. Brown 24 th "
	Men killed 33	
	" wounded 93	
	" missing 25	

1/5th Durham Light Infantry.

April-May, 1915.

BOULOGNE.

April 17th.

Landed at Boulogne after a very good crossing, and after disembarking climbed up the long hill out of the town up to St. Martin's Church where we were under canvas until the evening. In the evening we marched to POULLE-DE-BRIQUES where we entrained for CASSEL.

April 18th.

We detrained at CASSEL and marched out to STENVOORDE where we billeted in outlying farmhouses.

STENVOORDE.

April 19th.

Paraded under Coy. arrangements.

April 20th.

Coy. training. Officers were tested at night in assembling at alarm post.

April 21st.

Battalion practised a test concentration on Battalion alarm post.

April 22nd.

Battalion inspected in the morning by General Sir J. Lindsay K.C.B., D.S.O.

April 23rd.

Alarm given early in the morning for a move, and left about midday in Motor Buses. Went into a rest camp for a few hours. Rest Camp A. near NOCHENOF.

April 24th.

Left the rest camp at 1 a.m. and moved towards the YSER Canal, and halted in a field for some hours. About midday the Battalion crossed the Canal under shrapnel fire and moved into support trenches near ST. JEAN where we suffered several casualties from shrapnel fire. Lt. E.A. FABER being severely wounded.

April 25th.

Moved out along the ST. JEAN-FORNUIN road, and took up a line of trenches behind FORTUIN, from which we moved back to the VERLONHOOLE road. After a short rest we advanced to the attack on the FORNUIN position and took up a line of trenches East of the ST. JEAN-ST. JULIEN road. We suffered several casualties. Lt. J.C. Brown being wounded.

3 a.m.

ST. JULIEN.

April 26th.

This day was spent in these trenches which were under heavy shell fire the whole time. The Battalion had got split up after the attack, and remnants of Companies trickled in.

April 27th.

Moved from these trenches and took up a position in the first line trenches having the fifth YORKS on our right, and the Royal Irish on our left.

April 28th.

Continued to hold this position under shell fire, there being several casualties. We were relieved at 11 p.m. by the 4th B. Yorks, and returned to rest camp B. near BRIEFLEN.

REST CAMP
near
Brierley.
April 29th.
EMBLEY.
April 30th.

Owing to rest camp being under danger of fire from shells, all men turned out to entrench before breakfast. Heated during the day. Prepared for a move at 7 p.m. but it was cancelled and the night was spent in camp.

Casualties to date. Officers killed, Nil. Officers wounded, 3. (Capt. Gloag, 28th April.
(Lt. E. Faber, 24th "
(Lt. J. C. Brown, 24th "

Men killed, 33. Men wounded, 93. Men missing, 25.

May 1st.

Spent the day in camp and moved at 8 p.m. in the direction of POPERINGHE. Went by a cross-country route to avoid shell fire and the village of VLAUPTINGHE. Bivouaced in an open field about three miles from POPERINGHE, and owing to danger of shell fire proceeded to dig in.

Near
POPERINGHE.
May 2nd.

Spent the day in the field here, and were not shelled though several hostile aeroplanes passed over. At 8.30 p.m. left for STEENVOORDE where we billeted for the night. The march was very long and trying and rans fell out.

STEENVOORDE.
May 3rd.

Stood by here until 6.30 p.m. and then moved into billets about two miles from STEENVOORDE, named ST. LAURENT, there we billeted in farm houses.

ST. LAURENT.
May 4th.

In billets at ST. LAURENT. Addressed in the morning by Field Marshal Sir John French.

Confidential war Diary
of 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

April-May, 1915.

WILLEBRKE.
2nd May.

Returned to our trenches about 5.30 a.m.. Were shelled heavily all day by shrapnel and exploding shells and lost a number of men. Five men were killed and 17 wounded, due to a shell bursting in the trench while they were sleeping, by shrapnel. At 11.45 p.m. the Battalion moved off under heavy shell fire (1 man being killed and 4 wounded), and marched along the railway line South of YPRES.

POSSINGHE.
3rd May.

Marched by a route to the South of YPRES and VLAER KIRKE to POSSINGHE, arriving there about 3.30 a.m. and were billeted in the College Episcopal. At 7.30 p.m. paraded with the remainder of the Brigade and marched to WATOU, arriving about midnight. The Battalion found billets about 12 miles west of WATOU just over the French Frontier.

WATOU.
4th May.

The whole Brigade paraded about 10 a.m. in a field near DROGLANDT and were addressed by Field Marshal Sir J.D.K. French. After the address the troops dismissed, and rested for the remainder of the day at their respective billets.

(2)

Attempted repeatedly to get into touch with York and Durham Brigade but could obtain no reply. ^{Taken over} ~~Commandeered~~ by Canadian General. Re-inforced one of his trenches and received following order:- "You will take up a position and entrench in rear of our present line in C. 16.C. aaa. You will be ready to counter-attack when necessary (Signed) G.B. Hughes, Lt. Col. 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade". Constant rain all night, Several men wounded; one killed.

April
25th.

At 3.0.a.m. received orders to proceed to Fortuin. En route passed number of detached bodies of troops in retreat. Arrived rendezvous about 5.a.m. in company with 5th D.L.I. and met G.C.C.Y. & D. Brigade. With daylight shelling commenced. "E" and "F" Companies occupied line of reserve trenches on right of road to left of D.L.I., but no shelter available for "A" and "D" except hedge bottom on road side. About 6.0.a.m. these latter Companies advanced to support of Royal Irish across open field and were met with heavy shrapnel fire. Leading parties obtained the objective when the order was given to retire as Royal Irish were falling back. In this movement "A" and "D" Companies suffered severely, losing ~~xxx~~ 8 killed and about 40 wounded, (the latter including the Adjutant). "A" and "D" Companies then dug themselves in in the hedge bottom of a field to the left of the road.-- "D" Coy in line with "E" and "F" and with "A" at right angles on the left of "D" Coy. The 7th Northumberland Fusiliers Machine Gun Section was placed on "A" Coy. line. Alternating bursts of shell and rifle fire continued throughout the day. About noon the D.L.I. who had been ordered to search a farmhouse, requested assistance, and a party of 25 of "D" Coy. under Capt. G.C. Barber and Lieut. H. Brown was sent out. It was met by the fire of a machine gun concealed in the house, and Capt. Barber and a lance Corporal were immediately killed. Capt. Purvis reported small parties of Germans dug in in trenches. Orderlies were sent to Brigade stating that "Enemy was inclined to press" and asking, "Have you any orders"? No reply could be obtained. Other casualties occurred from shell

- April 25th. /and rifle fire, which died down at nightfall, when the dead were collected and buried. The wounded had all been attended to under fire and conveyed to the advanced dressing station. Trenches were improved and preparations to hold the line for the night at all costs.
- April 26th. Same position. Reported position again to Brigade. Ordered to remain. 2/Lt.E. Majolier acting Adjutant. Heavy shelling as on previous day with considerable sniping. Closely adjacent farmhouses destroyed by enemy's incendiary shells. Slight relief in local area when Lahore Division went into action during afternoon on the slopes to west of our position. Trenches further improved. Further Casualties. At night advanced and occupied line of trenches in relief of London Regt. in Borseshoe.
- April 27th. In these trenches. Shelled, but replied vigorously to rifle fire.
- April 28th. In trenches. Relieved midnight by 4th East Yorkshire Regt. Casualties for tour. Killed, 1 officer. 23 O.R. Wounded; 1 Officer. 106 Other ranks. Of these 6 subsequently died of their wounds.
- th.
April 29. REGT CAMP "C" HUTS, where arrived 2.0.a.m.
- April 30th. "C" HUTS. Shelled out and sheltered in trenches north of the Camp.
- Signed, H.R. Crockett,
Adjutant 5th Yorkshire Regt.
-
- May 1st. "C" HUTS 8.0.p.m. Night march to BRANDBOCK.
- May 2nd. Arrived BRANDBOCK 12.0.a.m. Left 8.0.p.m.
- May 3rd. Arrived ABEEL 3.0.a.m. Left 4.45.p.m. Arrived STEENVOORDE 7.30.p.m.
- May 4th. Billets STEENVOORDE. Addressed and complimented by Field Marshal Sir John French.
-

24th April 1915.

Y.D. Bde.

Y.D. Bde.

Cdn Div to 3rd CIB. (time 71.35 am)

Two Bns Y.D. Bde placed at disposal 3rd CIB.

4th Yorks to 2nd & 3rd CIB (time 72.35 pm)

Am taking up line of trenches C 22b, C 23a, C 29a.

3rd Cdn Div Int (Mitchell) (time 7.15 pm) to 3rd CIB.

Two Bns Y.D. Bde now entering Gt H trenches about 1/4 mile E. of Weltje with instructions to push up to North and get astride Weltje-Poelcapelle road and support you. A third battalion is following.

3rd CIB to 3rd Field Co (time 1.20 pm.)

Construct trench on high ground 21c, 22d,

I 4b for three battalions.

3rd CIB to 5th D Bn & 4th Yorks and 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16 Bns
(time 1.40 pm)

You will hold Gt H line AAA. From ST JEAN
POELCAPELLE road south.

3rd CIB to GOC 2nd Bde. (time 1.45 pm)

Have instructed troops to hold Gt H line. Orders
for counter attacks cancelled.

3rd CIB to Third and fourth Bns of Y.D. Bde (5th Yorks & ~~5th DLI~~) + E Yorks
(time 2.00 pm)

You will hold a position E and W in C 21d and C 22c.

~~FOE~~ 3rd CIB to Y.D. Bde (time 2.55 pm)

Cdn Div has placed Y.D. Bde under 3rd CIB.

You & other two Bns are to take up a position on
Weltje ridge C 21d and 22c East & West.

1st Cdn Div to 3rd CIB (time 4.35 pm)

Use Y.D. Bde to make head against Germans
opposite break through between 3rd & 2nd CIB.

3rd CIB to 5th Yorks (time 5.05 pm)

You will entrench in rear of our present line in C 16c.
Be ready to counter attack when necessary.

Col Lamb to Gen Turner (time 6.15 pm)

5th DLI are in support immediately E of this Rd
(E.P. 14.14.15)

1st Cdn Div to 3rd CIB and Y.D. Bde (time 6.50 pm) received 8.30 pm.
Y.D. Bde will not relieve 3rd CIB.

3rd CIB to Royal Irish (time 7.20 pm)

Counter attack will probably be made tonight about 10 pm.