



Name: Bombadier Matthew ERRINGTON
Sex: Male
Father: William ERRINGTON (1852 - 29 Dec 1937)
Mother: Sarah DOBINSON (1853 - 17 Nov 1924)

Individual Facts

Birth	12 Jun 1894	Cornish Street, New Seaham
Burial	1917 (age 23)	Duhallow ADS cemetery, Belgium
Death	17 Oct 1917 (age 23)	Belgium
Military		WW1

Marriages/Children

I. Lena FERGUSON

Marriage	23 Aug 1913 (age 19)	Seaham Harbour Primitive Methodist Chapel
Children	George Ferguson ERRINGTON (1914 -)	

Notes (Individual)

Burial (1917): Bombadier Matthew Errington, MM, 760486, A Bty, 317th Bde Royal Field Artillery is buried at Duhallow ADS cemetery, Belgium, in grave reference IE 18. Buried alongside are members of his gun crew.

Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station was a medical post 1.6km north of Ypres. The cemetery was begun in July 1917 and in October and November 1918 was used by the 11th, 36th and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations. The cemetery contains many graves of the artillery and engineers and 41 men of the 13th Company Labour Corps killed when a German aircraft dropped a bomb on an ammunition truck in January 1918, are buried in Plot 2. After the Armistice the cemetery was enlarged when graves were brought into this cemetery from isolated sites and a number of small cemeteries on the battlefields around Ypres.

Matthew is also commemorated on several memorials in his home town of Seaham, including the large war memorial, an engraved wooden organ at Christ Church and the 'Roll of Honour' detailing those men from Lord Londonderry's mines and estates who served their country during the conflict.

Military: The 317th Brigade RFA went to France as one of four field artillery Brigades of the 63rd (2nd Territorial Northumbrian) Division. It disembarked in Le Harve, France on 3rd July 1916. Two days later the 63rd Division was renamed 63rd (Royal Naval) Division and the 317th Brigade joined it new Division.

The Brigade's war diaries show that Matthew was in the Arras sector, France in May 1917 and the entry for the 21st of that month states :

Decorations - the following NCO received the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery :- 760486 Br Errington. The entry in the London Gazette referring to Matthew's award is dated 9th July 1917. The Military Medal was first instituted in march 1916 as an award for distinguished service in the Field for Warrant officers, NCO's and lower ranks.

An earlier entry relating to operations that Matthew was involved refers to a letter received from Brigadier General L Phillips, commanding 189th Infantry Brigade : "Would you kindly convey to all ranks of the Divisional Artillery the thanks of the officers and men of the Brigade under my command for the very effective support they received from the guns in the recent operations. All ranks spoke of the accuracy and intensity of the barrage which they described as 'magnificent.' The men in the front line fully realise that hard work which is thrown on their comrades in the Artillery by the frequent calls for retaliation and barrage fire in operations of this description and personally cannot speak too highly of the military efforts of my group commander to help the infantry in every possible way. I thank him and all officers, NCO's

Summary of Bombadier Matthew ERRINGTON

21 Jun 2007

and men of the Divisional Artillery from the bottom of my heart."

On the 28th September 1917 the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division received orders that it would be relieved by the 47th Division from its positions around Gavrelle and Oppy, in the Arras sector. After several rest days out of the line the Divisions artillery entrained for Poperinghe. The 3rd battle of Ypres was moving into it's final phase with the front line now strung over the Passchendaele Ridge, the Canadian Corps were brought to the salient to finish the job. The next operation was to be launched on the 26th October with the bombardment commencing two days earlier.

The 63rd (Royal Naval) Division came under the command of XV111 Corps, Fifth Army and were required to relieve the 9th (Scottish) Division around the village of Poelcapelle. The field artillery commenced the relief on 16th October 1917. A day later Bombadier Matthew Errington died of wounds, along with his gun crew. It is probable that they were targeted by enemy artillery, aware that a relief was underway.

Sources

Prepared by: