



BYERS GREEN

The Village War Memorial

An Archive researched and compiled by John E Cartwright, resident 1940 - 1949

Acknowledgements

I want to acknowledge the kind and very generous support, advice and contributions given to me by many people, particularly the following, whilst researching the names in this project during the last eight years:

At Byers Green:

Reverend Dr Caroline Friswell, Priest in Charge at St Peter's Byers Green

The Late Reverend Bill Scott . Formerly Rector at St Peter's Byers Green

Robin (Deceased) & Sylvia Bestford, St Peter's PCC (Lovingly remembered)

Mrs Jennifer Harbour, Churchwarden at St Peter's, Byers Green

Mrs Hilary Dryden, St Peter's Church, Byers Green

At Durham:

All staff at the Durham Light Infantry Museum, Durham City

Mr John Sheen of Durham City for Photos of CSM Turton MM

At Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

Miss Gail Nix (HQ)

Mr Stephen Liversage (Area Rep)

Friend and Military Historian:

Mr Robert Lovesey

I particularly want to thank John and Jim Grainger of Spennymoor for their dedicated and detailed research of biographical data graciously given to me for inclusion in the last stages of this project .

Gravestones, Memorials and Map Media

All photographs of individual gravestones, cemeteries and memorials are those taken by the author during visits to these sites, including battlefield panoramas.

Photographs of cemeteries in Tripoli, El Alamein , Cairo and Gallipoli are by courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site.

Maps have generally been taken from open sources and contemporary maps have also been used and annotated personally by the author to illustrate relevant battlefield situations.

Advisory Note

As far as has been possible we have researched most of the available data to provide a meaningful and true record of those who are named on the Byers green War Memorial.

Nonetheless, Historians will agree that research will not always be perfect. In this project we have identified four anomalies that deserve scrutiny, which hopefully and with better access to archived data, future historians will be able to resolve.

The dichotomies in this project are:

Private DLI or AB Davison (Not the same family ?)
Private DLI or L/Sergeant Northumberland Fusilier Robinson
Private KRRC or AB Sheldon – Two conflicting issues
Private Hodgson – Lack of data/tenuous association

*The biographical details presented for these individuals will help to explain the dilemma.
Comments will be gratefully received*

This has been a long journey and at times a most profound experience; first to collect the data on these men from Byers Green, to visit their graves and memorials and then to walk their battlefields. The anguish, stirred up by every tragic revelation or image from the past has frequently brought me to tears.....each time I review it, it has much the same effect.....

*John Cartwright
Cambridgeshire
11 March 2014*

First Edition: March 2014

In the beginning.....

It all began when I started researching my own Grandfather's participation in the Great War, tracing the origins of the embroidered postcards on which he had pencilled loving notes, sent to his family in Bishop Auckland from Flanders. Later, I retraced his footsteps on the steep stairs up to the Chapel in Talbot House (The Home of Toch H) in Poperinge.

Fortunately, my Grandfather survived the war, being invalided from the front, just before the Third Battle of Ypres and Passchendaele in November 1917. He never spoke much, not in any detail, of the horrors of the war but his personal need to find his own time and space and a quiet calm was blindingly obvious and respected by his family.

When my own Father died, I found the photograph of the Byers Green War Memorial dedication ceremony.....It's just gone on from there.....



6th July 1948.

My Father, Rev Richard Cartwright, the Rector of St Peter's Byers Green, conducts the service of Re-dedication of the War Memorial after its refurbishment and the addition of the names of the fallen in the 1939-45 War.

Over a period of two years in 1947 and 1948, villagers of every faith and many without, contributed generously towards the costs of the refurbishment and sculptural work that today, in 2014, stands in remarkably good condition. The village is I am sure, justly proud of this monument, it's history and it's symbolism.

Having researched the lives of those named on this memorial I have unearthed the unimaginable tragedy that befell this tiny community and have been deeply moved.

I wish to give the people of today's Byers Green an awareness of their past and my love and affection for those families who had suffered so much, yet continued to care for children like me during the later war years. In this Centenary year of the Great War let us not forget the young men of this village who gave their all for us who live today.

John E Cartwright. Cambridgeshire. 2014.

TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN HONOURED MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF
BYERS GREEN
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY
DURING THE GREAT WAR.

1914 —

"THEIR BODIES ARE BURIED IN PEACE,
BUT THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE"

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

TO THE
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OF THE MEN OF
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DURING THE GREAT WAR.
1914 -
THEIR BODIES ARE BURIED IN PEACE,
BUT THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

Here are recorded the names of 37 villagers who died in the Great War. Between them, they received four gallantry awards; one Military Cross (MC) and three Military Medals (MM).

An intermediate section is devoted to the names of Byers Green men whose names are not recorded on the Village War Memorial. (Courtesy J & J Grainger). The second section gives details of 9 villagers who died in the Second World War.

I have tried to maintain a standard layout; to show brief details of the person commemorated: Rank, Service No, Regt, DOB, DOD, brief family data and location of Grave/Memorial, and photo of the same where I have been able to provide it. Photos of the cemetery/memorial location are also included and where possible, maps and a description of the action in which these men went missing.

For each entry, biographical details of individuals have also been included, courtesy of John & Jim Grainger of Spennymoor, to whom I am deeply grateful.

Part One - The Great War

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private John Burdess (3/12313)
20th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
123rd Bde. 41 Div.
Died 3 September 1916. Aged 19 years

Son of Michael (Coal Hewer)
& Margaret Burdess (Washerwoman)
63 Southchurch
St Andrew Auckland
No Known Grave
Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial
Pier & Face 14A & 15C

BRUCE R. H.
BRUCE W.
BRYAN R.
BUCK G.
BUCKTON J. E.
BULLOUGH T.
BURDESS J.
BURN J. W.
BURNS F.
BURNS P.
BURTON G. F.
BUTLER F.



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of The Somme

Biographical Notes

John Burdess

Pte 3/12313 20DLI 3.9.1916 Thiepval Memorial. Born Willington, lived Byers Green

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LIGHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Smith/Gunner Joseph Dodds Clark
(59363)
105th Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery

Died 18 July 1916. Aged 24 years
Son of Ralph (Foreman Blacksmith)
& Emma Clark of
2 Richmond Street, Byers Green

Grave: I.D.13
Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt
Near Albert, Belgium





Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Belgium

Biographical Notes

Joseph Dodds Clark

Gnr 59363 Royal Garrison Artillery 105th Siege Battery 18.7.1916 24 years Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, France. Born 1892 at Byers Green. Son of Ralph & Emma Clark (nee Dodds), 2 Richmond St, Byers Green. Employed as a colliery blacksmith. Brothers and sisters; Florence, Evelyn Mary, Edward and Laura all born Byers Green.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
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ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
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MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private John Cornforth (1384)
6th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
151 Bde. 50 Div. (Northumbrian)
Died 19 August 1914
Aged 25 years
Son of James & Margaret Cornforth
77 Lollo Barns Farm
Witton-le-Wear

Grave:
St Peter's Churchyard (SW Part)
Byers Green





Private Memorial to Private John Cornforth
St Peter's Churchyard, Byers Green

Biographical Notes

John Cornforth

Pte 1384 6DLI 19.8.1914 Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green.

Enlisted 22.5.1911 with the DLI Territorial Force at Spennymoor, he was aged 22 years 4 months, occupation engine driver with the Rural District Council. He lived with his wife Annie Elizabeth Cornforth (nee Meek) and one child (b 1911) at 2 Lodge Street, Byers Green. On 5.8.1914 he was mobilized with 6DLI, and on 7.8.1914 discharged as being medically unfit for war service, he died at home on 19.8.1914.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
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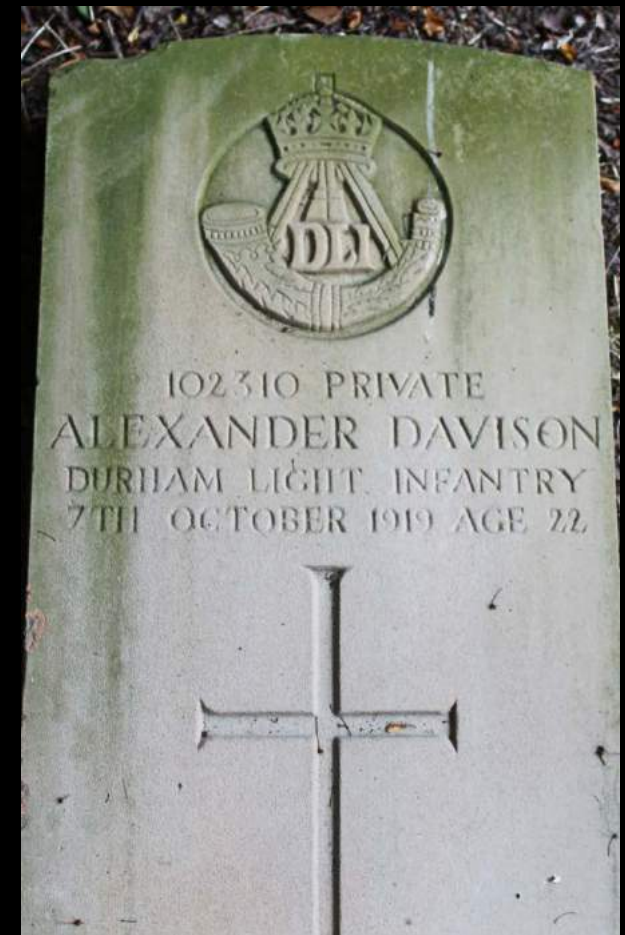
Private Alexander Davison (102310)
B Coy 4th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
Died 7 October 1919
Aged 22 years
Son of James & Hannah Davison
4 Vine Street, Byers Green

Grave: 72.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green

The younger brother George listed below died six months earlier. It is reasonable to assume that both died from their wounds and thus were buried at home. *It is believed that the eldest son William, also listed, was the first to be killed, on the Somme in 1916 and has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.*

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
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HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Alexander Davison (102310)
B Coy 4th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
Died 7 October 1919. Aged 22.
Son of James & Hannah Davison
4 Vine Street, Byers Green
Grave: 72.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension



Biographical Notes

Alexander Davison

Pte 102310 4DLI 7.10.1919 22 years. Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green
Enlisted 9.12.1915 with DLI, he was aged 18 years 6 months, occupation miner living with his parents at 9 Vine Street, Byers Green. He was placed on the army reserve and mobilized 13.6.1918 with 4DLI, and posted to 'B' Company. Did not serve overseas, he was discharged from the army on 31.1.1919 suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Gave the army his home address as 4 Old Hall, Byers Green. Died home 7.10.1919. Son of James & Hannah (nee Richardson) Davison 4 Vinc St, Byers Green, brother of George (below).

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
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MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private George Davison (30228)
20th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
123rd Bde. 41 Div.
Died 21 May 1919 Aged 24 years

Son of James & Hannah Davison
4 Vine Street, Byers Green

Grave: 71.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green

George died six months before
Alexander and both are buried in St
Peter's Churchyard. *James and Hannah
had four sons of which the three eldest
were presumed lost to the great war.
BUT SEE END BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.*

**THE WILLIAM DAVISON NAMED ON THE MEMORIAL
MAY NOT BE THE ELDEST SON OF JAMES & HANNAH
– YET TO BE CONFIRMED - SEE BIOGRAPHICAL
DETAILS AT THE END OF THIS ENTRY**

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
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Private George Davison (30228)
20th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
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Died 21 May 1919 Aged 24 years
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Grave: 71.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension



Biographical Notes

George Davison

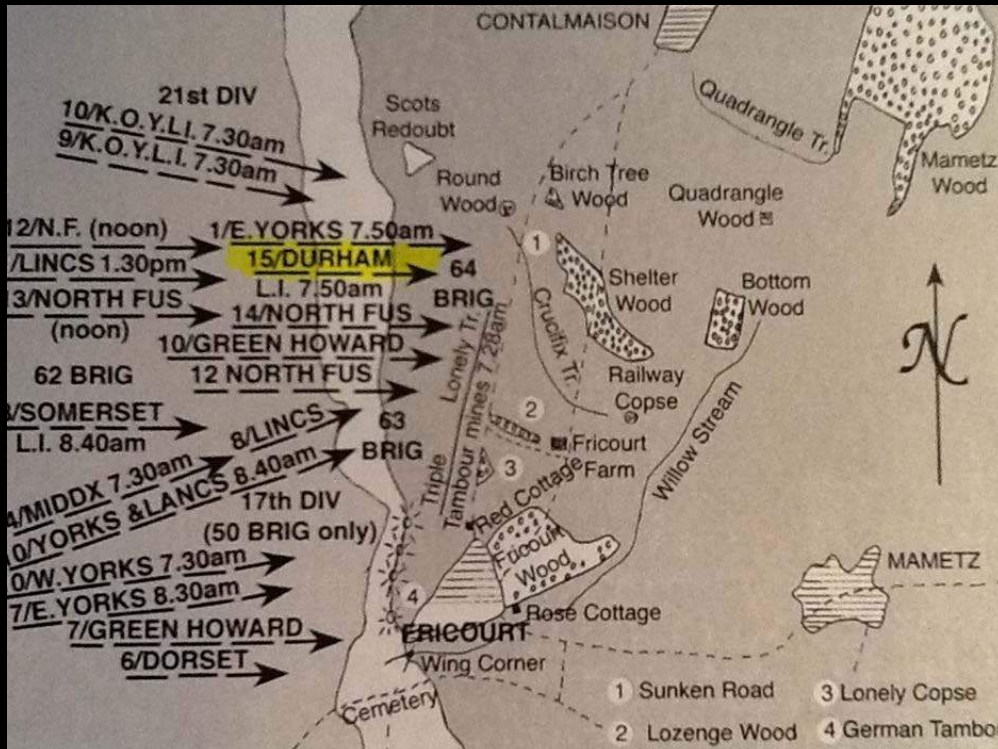
Pte 30228 20DLI 21.5.1919 24 years. Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green
Enlisted 8.12.1915 with DLI, he was aged 21 years 2 months, occupation miner living with his parents. He was placed on the army reserve and mobilized 28.1.1916 with 17Bn DLI. On 10.3.1916 posted to 20DLI, and entered France 5.5.1916.
On 17.11.1917 he was posted to Italy, and returned to France on 11.3.1918. Wounded in action 11.5.1918, gunshot wound to right thigh, he was evacuated to England for treatment to his wounds. August 1918 he was admitted to Eastbourne Military Hospital suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Discharged from the army 30.9.1918 as he was no longer fit for war service, he was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.
Died home 21.5.1919. Son of James & Hannah (nee Richardson) Davison 4 Vine Street, Byers Green, brother of Alexander (above).

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
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MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

**THIS MAY NOT BE THE ELDEST SON OF JAMES &
HANNAH – YET TO BE CONFIRMED - SEE
BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS AT THE END OF THIS ENTRY**

Lance Corporal William Davison
(20152)
15th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
64th Bde. 21 Div.
Died 1 July 1916. Aged 25 years
Sunken Rd. Fricourt – Contalmaison
The First Day of The Somme
Believed to be:
Eldest Son of James & Hannah Davison
4 Vine Street, Byers Green
If so; The first of three brothers to die.
No Known Grave
Commemorated on the Thiepval
Memorial. Face 14A & 15C.

COUSINS J. A
CRANMER J. A
CURRY T. A
DALKIN J. A
DANIELS J. A
DAVISON E. A
DAVISON W. A
DAY V. W. A
DOBSON W. J. A
DONALDSON F. A
DONNELLY J. A



The Battleground - View from Lochnagar Crater towards Shelter Wood

Battlefield Southwest of Contalmaison

The 21st Division was assembled West of the Fricourt to Contalmaison road at points between Fricourt and Round Wood. It faced a strong German defence system including Fricourt Farm, Crucifix and Lonely Trenches and the Sunken Road. The triangular shape of Fricourt Wood provided excellent defensive positions. Fricourt itself was well fortified with very deep dugouts, some having two storeys, capable of withstanding the British bombardment. No Man's Land varied between 200 and 300 metres.

It had been decided not to attack the strong defences at Fricourt directly but to isolate it by flanking attacks by 21 Div on the left and by 7 Div on the right. The 50th Bde (attached from 17 Div) was to assault the village later in the day.

The 64th Bde was on the left wing and in touch with the 34th Div on its left. The two assault battalions, the 9th and 10th KOYLI moved to forward positions helped by a prepared Russian sap but even before the British bombardment reached its conclusion, the German machine guns had been brought into action and swept the whole of No Mans Land. At 7.30am the Yorkshiremen went forward from hole to hole still under heavy fire but they stuck to their task and, finding the wire well cut, stormed the enemy front line trench, with the rear companies following close behind. The support battalions, the 1st E Yorks on the left and the 15th DLI on the right moved forward. The enemy fire had not diminished and both support battalions were reduced to almost half strength. The thinned numbers joined the Yorkshiremen. After a brief pause the remnants of all four battalions moved forward once more and seized the support trench. Two lines of trenches and about 200 prisoners had been taken in ten minutes but it had been a costly affair.

They were now well forward and had to wait for the creeping barrage to move forward before attempting to cross the considerable width of ground between themselves and the Sunken Road. Enemy fire was still pouring out of Shelter and Birch Tree Woods and Fricourt Farm as the men moved forward again from hole to hole suppressing isolated pockets of German resistance with either bomb or bayonet. In 30 minutes they had covered 1,500 metres of open ground and were now in the Sunken Road leading from Contalmaison to Fricourt. Here the men halted to consolidate the defences in the Sunken Road and Lonely Trench, just to the West. However, parties from the four battalions went forward and occupied the northern end of Crucifix Trench. The immediate concern was to consolidate the entry as the creeping barrage would soon pass over the German strong points and a counter attack was almost inevitable. With very little cover, yet more men fell while trying to strengthen this position. Fortunately, the British artillery was able, for the time being, to keep most of the German infantry at a distance. Some of the 1st E Yorks moved up from the Sunken Road to Crucifix Trench where they found some Royal Scots from the 34th Division under attack. The Scots and Yorkshiremen repulsed the attack driving the enemy back into Shelter Wood. The 64th Bde was now well ahead of units on either flank and received orders to halt their advance. The 1st Lincoln and 10th Green Howard's, both from 62 Bde, moved up to strengthen the weakened flanks. The 12th and 13th Northumberland Fusiliers of 62 Bde were sent forward in the early evening to relieve the exhausted 64th Bde which had taken all its objectives and this was completed about dawn on the following day.

The 63rd Bde was to take Fricourt later the next day but for their part in the Brigade attack on Fricourt, the 10th West Yorkshire Bn also suffered dreadful losses.....710 officers and men, the highest single loss of any battalion on the 1st July. The official history records casualties of 4,256 in the 21st Division and 1,155 in the 50th Bde.

Eye Witness Accounts

" Left trench at 7.30am. Couldn't have faced it unless afraid offunking before the men. Scrambled from shell hole to shell hole, through the wire and craters and awful havoc, terrible sights. Terrible slaughter by the Hun artillery and machine guns, the latter with snipers hurling bullets from every direction. Even behind us men were mown down right and left. Hun trenches simply myriads of shell holes. Not so many casualties as expected, as they crowded into deep dugouts and surrendered to attackers. Stopped a bullet in my head about 8 am. Dozed for about an hour or so. My steel helmet saved my life without a doubt, it cannot stop a direct bullet hit, but this one was glancing - a huge dent. Can remember shooting Hun officer who was shooting into backs of our men in front. Had dozens of close shaves and admit to being in frightened stew throughout the whole advance. One Hun machine gunner held up his hands but the line could not stop to secure him prisoner, leaving this for the second line. As soon as first line passed over he turned his gun and mowed them down from behind. Can vouch for this. Such cases makes you want to skin alive every Hun you see. Never stopped to explore Hun dugouts or prisoners. 9.15am saw four Hun lines (1,200 yards) cleared. Still murderous machine gun fire. Dug in."

Captain Rex Gee. 15th Bn. DLI. 64th Bde. 21 Div.

Eye Witness Accounts

Later that afternoon, the mixed remnants of the assaulting and support battalions tried to push forward from their positions in Crucifix Trench on to Shelter Wood. The result was disastrous.

" Attempted two charges from our hasty trenches but no use. Was the only survivor from second charge. Critical situation, strong enemy position in front, attackers on left withdrawing leaving our left flank exposed. Held on firmly all day and repulsed two enemy attacks to bomb us out. Very trying. Relieved shortly after midnight. Am the only officer left in the company. Cannot understand how anyone escaped alive, never mind capture and hold Hun trenches. Haven't got much left in the way of nerves. Had no sleep for fifty hours and no proper meals or rest. Am dog-tired and not worth much. Everything was horrible, ghastly and awful. May I never experience the same again. Saw scores horribly wounded, horribly killed. Am being converted to conscientious objector. Words cannot express the horror of it all."

Captain Rex Gee. 15th Bn. DLI. 64th Bde. 21 Div.

Biographical Notes



Alternatively, could this William Davison be the young man commemorated on the Byers Green War Memorial ?

?

William Davison

AB Tyneside Z/3675 Royal Naval Division, Collingwood Battalion. 4.6.1915
Dardanelles. Helles Memorial

Born 20.5.1895, occupation miner, lived 6 Old Park Terrace, Byers Green with his father James Walter Davison. Enlisted 26.1.1915 and sent to Crystal Palace for training, he was recommended for the signals. On 25.3.1915 he was drafted from the Machine Gun Section and Scouts 4th Bn to Blandford, and on the 26th he was posted to Collingwood Battalion. On 10.5.1915 he was rated as Able Seaman and was serving in the Dardanelles. He was killed in action on 4.6.1915 'near the Dardanelles' by his naval file, which was then endorsed, 'Discharged Dead'.

His name is also recorded on Whitworth war memorial.

Collingwood Battalion

Landing at Cape Helles at the end of May 1915, the Royal Naval Division (RND) prepared to deliver an attack in what has become known as the Third Battle of Krithia. Amongst their ranks were the sailors of the Collingwood Battalion, who had done much of their military training in the practice trenches surrounding Blandford Camp during the winter of 1914/15.

On 4 June, the seven hundred strong Collingwood Battalion took part in the second phase of the attack. The battle started with a heavy bombardment and at 1200 hours the RND advanced and captured the enemy front line but suffered heavy casualties. At 1215 hours the Collingwood Battalion was to take over the advance but the communication trenches were choked with stretcher-bearers and wounded, which delayed the Battalion's move forward.

The attack finally went ahead, from the captured enemy trenches and the Collingwoods seized the Turkish second lines four hundred yards further on. However, the neighboring French Senegalese troops were driven back by a counter-attack, leaving the Battalion's right flank exposed. Flanking fire caused devastating casualties amongst the Collingwoods, with over five hundred men killed or wounded.

The remnants of the Battalion withdrew but so heavy were the casualties that the Battalion was not reformed. A memorial to Dorset's naval infantry stands at Collingwood Corner on the Salisbury to Blandford Road.

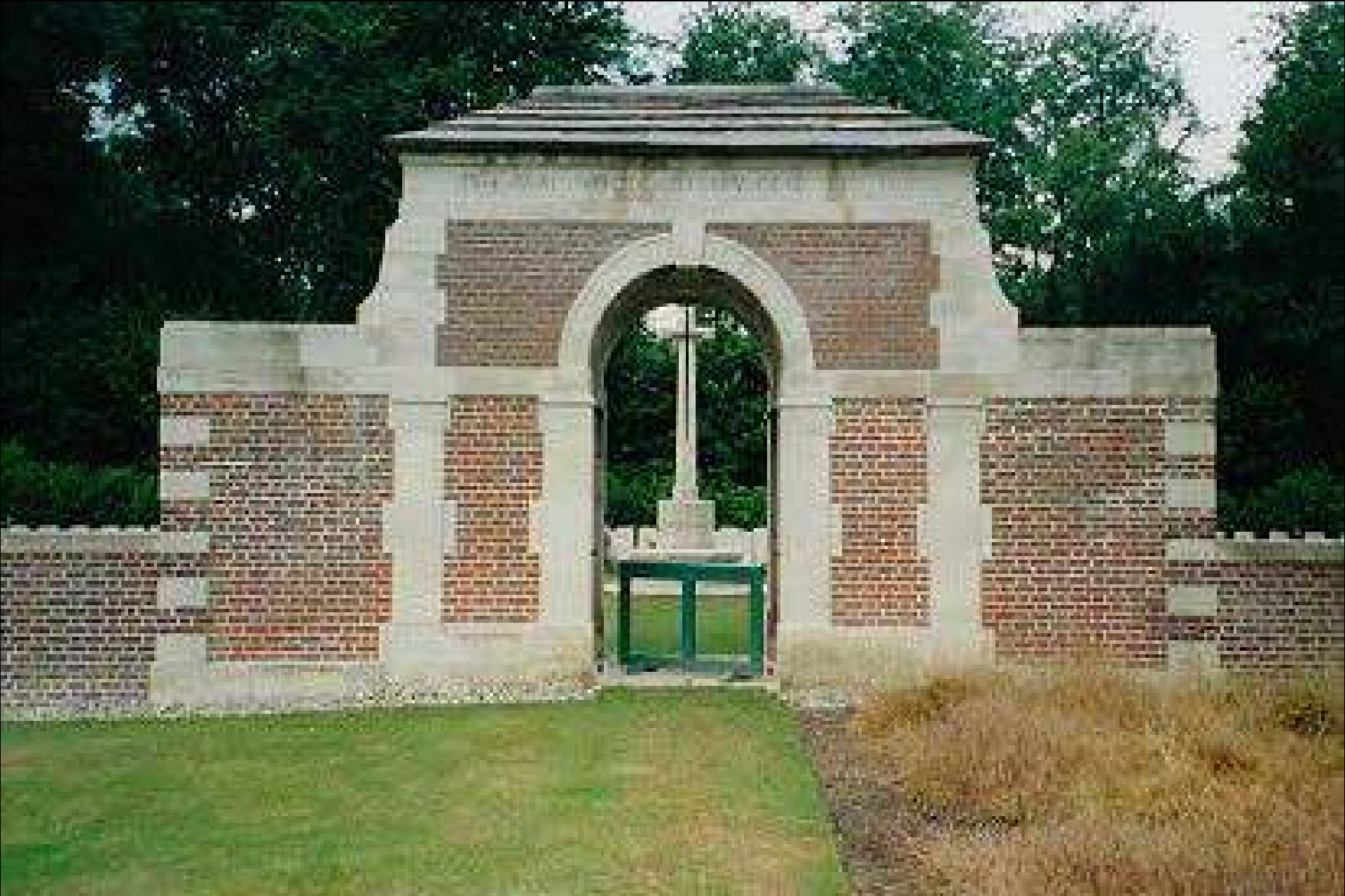


The Helles Memorial, Dardanelles, Turkey

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN CIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LIGHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Robert H Dinsley (18734)
12th Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment
Died 26 June 1918. Aged 29 years
Son of Joseph and Mary Anne Dinsley
21 Southgate Street
Bishop Auckland
Grave: I.C.41.
Aval Wood Military Cemetery
Vieux-Berquin, Near Bailleul, France





Aval Wood Military Cemetery, Vieux-Berquin, France

Biographical Notes

Robert Henry Dinsley

Ptc 18734 12 (Service) (Bristol) Bn Gloucestershire Regiment 28.6.1918 29 years
Born Spennymoor. Aval Wood Military Cemetery, Vieux-Berguin. (Killed at Plate
Becque, France). Son of Mary Ann (nee Lambert) & Joseph Dinsley, 21 Southgate,
Bishop Auckland

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
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THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Frederick Dobson (17712)
7th Bn. Border Regiment
Died 2 October 1915. Aged 22 years

Youngest of four sons of J J Dobson
(Joiner & Carpenter)
2 Cooperative Terrace, Byers Green

No Known Grave
Commemorated on Panel 35
The Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres



Biographical Notes

Frederick Dobson

Pte 17712 7Bn Border Regiment 2.10.1915 22 years Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. (Formerly 18342 DLI) Enlisted 3.9.1914 as Private 18342 DLI, he was born Newfield, aged 21 years 1 month, single man, occupation labourer, lived at 5 North Street, Byers Green with his father, brothers and sisters. On 6.9.1914 he was posted to the Border Regiment as Pte 17712. Entered France 24.7.1915 and killed in action on 2.10.1915. Son of John Johnson Dobson of 50 Princess Street, Brandon Colliery. Brothers; Robert lived Willington and served with HMF, George lived Brandon Colliery, John Edward lived Byers Green. Sisters Mrs Hedley Emmerson and Madge Dobson lived with their father at Brandon Colliery.

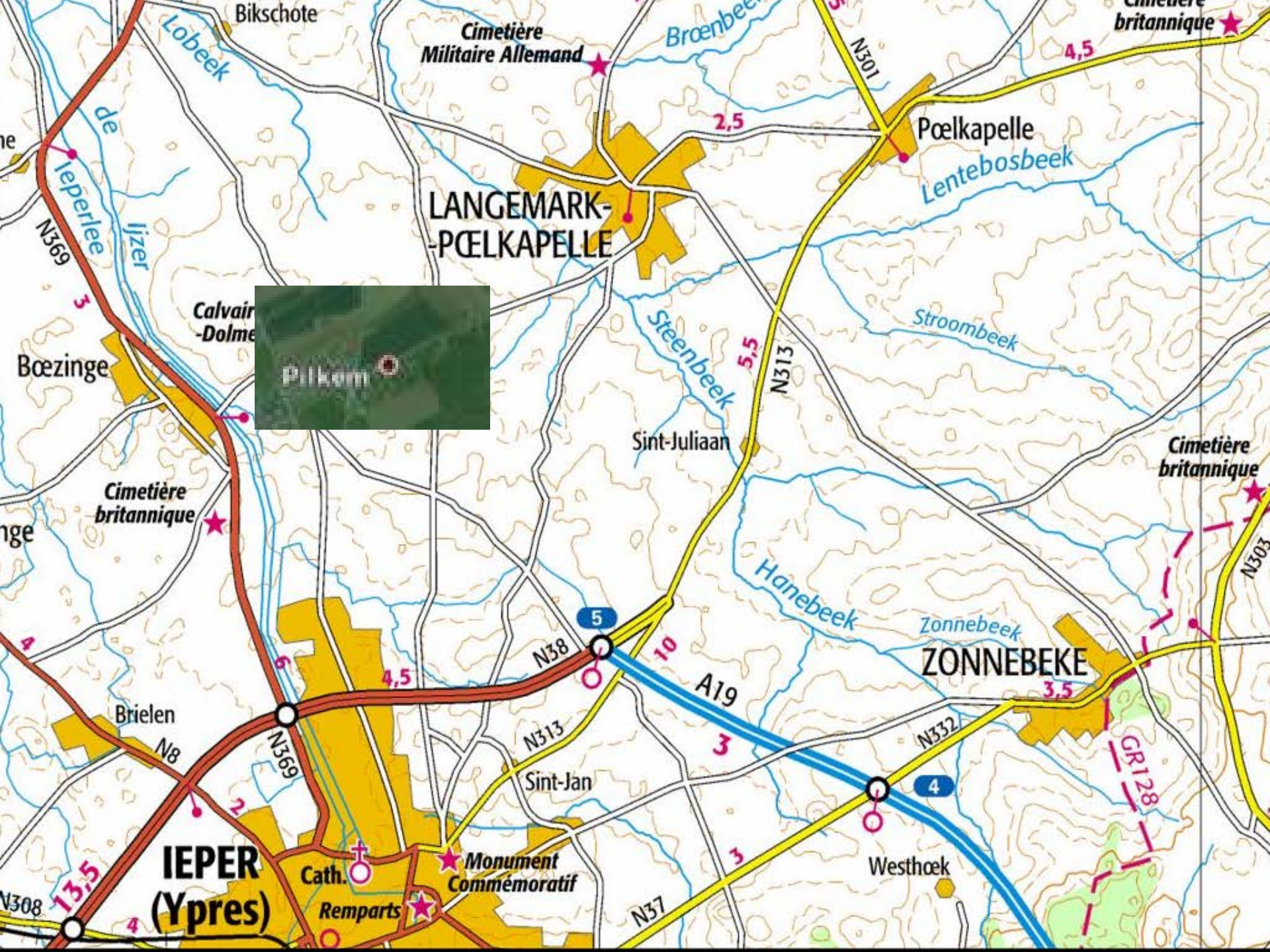
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CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Thomas Easton (36883)
7th Bn. East Yorkshire Regiment
Died 14 November 1917
Aged 30 years
Grandson of Elizabeth Easton
32 High Street. Byers Green.
Welsh Cemetery (Caesar's Nose)
Boezinge, Belgium. Grave: I.C.4.





The Welsh Cemetery (Caesar's Nose), Boezinge, Belgium



At the beginning of November, 7th Bn East Yorks were held in reserve near Langemark in the ruined village of Pilkem (Just East of the canal from Boezinghe).

In the subsequent advance towards Passchendaele, Private Easton was killed in one of these engagements on 14 November 1917.

"There were no trenches here, both reserve and front line posts consisting of consolidated shell holes, muddy and in abominable condition, the mud being almost as bad as on the Somme. the only means of progress to and from these shell holes was by duckboard tracks, for the whole ground had been churned up by shell fire and so saturated by water that the movement across country except by these tracks was impossible. The East Yorkshires had to find accommodation in these shell holes and in order to provide protection against wind and rain they were issued with tarpaulins. The spongy and muddy state of the ground made digging impossible"

*Quote from: East Yorkshire Regiment in the Great War 1914 - 1918.
Everard Wyrall.*

Biographical Notes

Thomas Easton

Pte 36883 7Bn East Yorkshire Regiment 14.11.1917 30 years Welsh Cemetery (Caesars Nose), Boesinghe, Belgium. Enlisted 10.12.1915 with EYR, he was born Byers Green, aged 28 years, occupation miner.

Lived at 2 Winters Buildings, Byers Green with his wife Frances Wilkinson Easton & their son George William b 12.10.1914. Placed on army reserve, mobilized 6.6.1917, and entered France 15.9.1917, posted to 13Bn at Etaples. On 22.9.1917 posted to 7Bn, and killed in action on 14.11.1917.

On 22.1.1918 his wife, who was then living at 2 Shafto Street, Byers Green, was informed of his death. Son of Annie Hutchinson, Temperance Street, Toft Hill. He had a stepbrother James and stepsister Ethel Maud who lived with their mother at Toft Hill.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Martin Gibbon (46324)
13th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers
Died 22 August 1917. Aged 29 years
Husband of Margret Marr of
3, Pratt's Buildings, Byers Green.
No known Grave
Commemorated on Panel
Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele.



Biographical Notes

Martin Gibbon

Pte 46324 13Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers 22.8.1917 29 years Tyne Cot Memorial Born Newbottle. Married Margaret Marr of 3 Pratts Buildings, Byers Green on 26.4.1913, they had two children, Mary Ann b 1.1.1914 Oakenshaw & John b 9.6.1916 Byers Green. Enlisted 11.12.1915 aged 27 years 5 months, occupation miner living at Hall's Buildings, Byers Green. Informed army he had previous service with the Royal Field Artillery in August 1914 but nothing on his army file as to why he was released from the army at that time. He was placed on the army reserve and mobilized 24.4.1917 with the 3Bn RSF 'B' Coy. On 17.7.1917 he was posted to 13Bn and embarked for France the next day. On 22.8.1917 he was reported as missing in action, his army records were later endorsed, 'Died, presumed for official purposes 22.8.1917'. On 8.7.1920 his memorial plaque and scroll were forwarded to his widow at 3 Pratts Buildings, Byers Green, however the envelope was marked, 'return to sender'. On the CWGC site his widow is recorded as deceased. His medals which were also returned were later issued to his son John who was living at 38 Double Row, Oakenshaw, there no date for the issue of the medals to his son. The memorial scroll was later accepted with the signature of 'Marr', this was possibly his mother in law who may have cared for her grandchildren when her daughter died.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Thomas Glendenning (16564)
15th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
64th Bde. 21 Div.
Died 10 January 1916. Aged 28 years
Son of James & Mary Ann Glendenning
of Todhills, Willington, Byers Green
Grave II.C.43.
Bailleul Communal Cemetery (Nord)
France





Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), France

Biographical Notes

Thomas Glendenning

Pte 16564 15DLI 10.1.1916 28 years Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Pas de Calais. Entered France 11.9.1915. Son of James & Mary Glendenning of Todhills. His name is also commemorated on Newfield war memorial.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private James J Haddon (201524)
5th Reserve Bn. Yorkshire Regiment
Died 18 August 1917. Aged 40 years
Son of Harrington & Mary E Haddon
of Bridlington
Born at Scarborough
Grave: 43.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green



Biographical Notes

James Haddon

Pte 201524 5th (Reserve) Bn Yorkshire Regiment 18.8.1917 40 years
Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green. Born Scarborough.
Son of Harrington & Mary E Haddon of Scarborough

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private William Harrison (24/1593)

6th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 16 December 1917

Aged 34 years

Second eldest Son of George L Harrison
(Railway Engine Stoker) & Jane
Harrison and brother of Wilfred listed
below.

176 Loco Terrace, Byers Green

Husband to Ellen Murphy (formerly
Harrison) of 24 Buckingham Terrace,
Leeholme, Bishop Auckland
Grave: VIII.C.21.

Dochy Farm New British Cemetery,
Belgium



JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private William Harrison (24/1593)
6th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers
Died 16 December 1917

Aged 34 years

Second eldest Son of George L Harrison
& Jane Harrison and brother of Wilfred
listed below.

Dochy Farm New British Cemetery,
Belgium. Grave: VIII.C.21.



Biographical Notes

William Harrison

Pte 24/1593 1/6Bn Northumberland Fusiliers 16.12.1917 34 years.
Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle. Belgium.
Born Spennymoor. Husband of Ellen Murphy (formerly Harrison) 24 Buckingham
Terrace, Leecholme. In October 1916 he was wounded in action, details of injuries not
known. By the War Diary, on 16.12.1917 his Battalion was heavily shelled by German
artillery and it is possible that this is the action when he was killed.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LIGHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Wilfred Harrison (31408)
18th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
93rd Bde. 31 Div.

Died 12 April 1918. Aged 21 years
Youngest Son of George (Railway
Engine Stoker) & Jane Harrison and
brother of William listed above.
176, Loco Terrace, Byers Green
Grave: I.H.20.

Outtersteene Communal Cemetery
Extension. Bailleul, Pas-de-Calais,
France





Site Visited on 11 April 2013.
Photos by J E Cartwright

Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension. Bailleul, Pas-de-Calais, France

Biographical Notes

Wilfred Leonard Harrison

Pte 31408 18DLI 12.4.1918 22 years Outtesteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul. Enlisted 7.12.1915 with 23 (Reserve) Bn DLI, born Bishop Auckland, aged 19 years 14 days, occupation grocer, and lived 15 Locomotive Terrace, Todhills with his parents. Placed on the army reserve, he was mobilized 31.3.1916 with 3DLI, and entered France 12.9.1916. On 13.9.1916 posted to 14Bn, and on 1.10.1916 posted to 18Bn. Killed in action 12.4.1918 and his body was buried where he fell.

Son of George Lancelot & Jane Ann (nee Angus) Harrison of 15 Locomotive Terrace, Todhills. Brother to Frederick (on active service), George Lancelot, John Thomas & Elizabeth Ann Kirkby

On 22.7.1920 Mr Harrison received a letter from Number 1 Infantry Record Office informing him that his son's body had been exhumed from its original burial place and reburied at Outtersteen Communal Cemetery Extension.

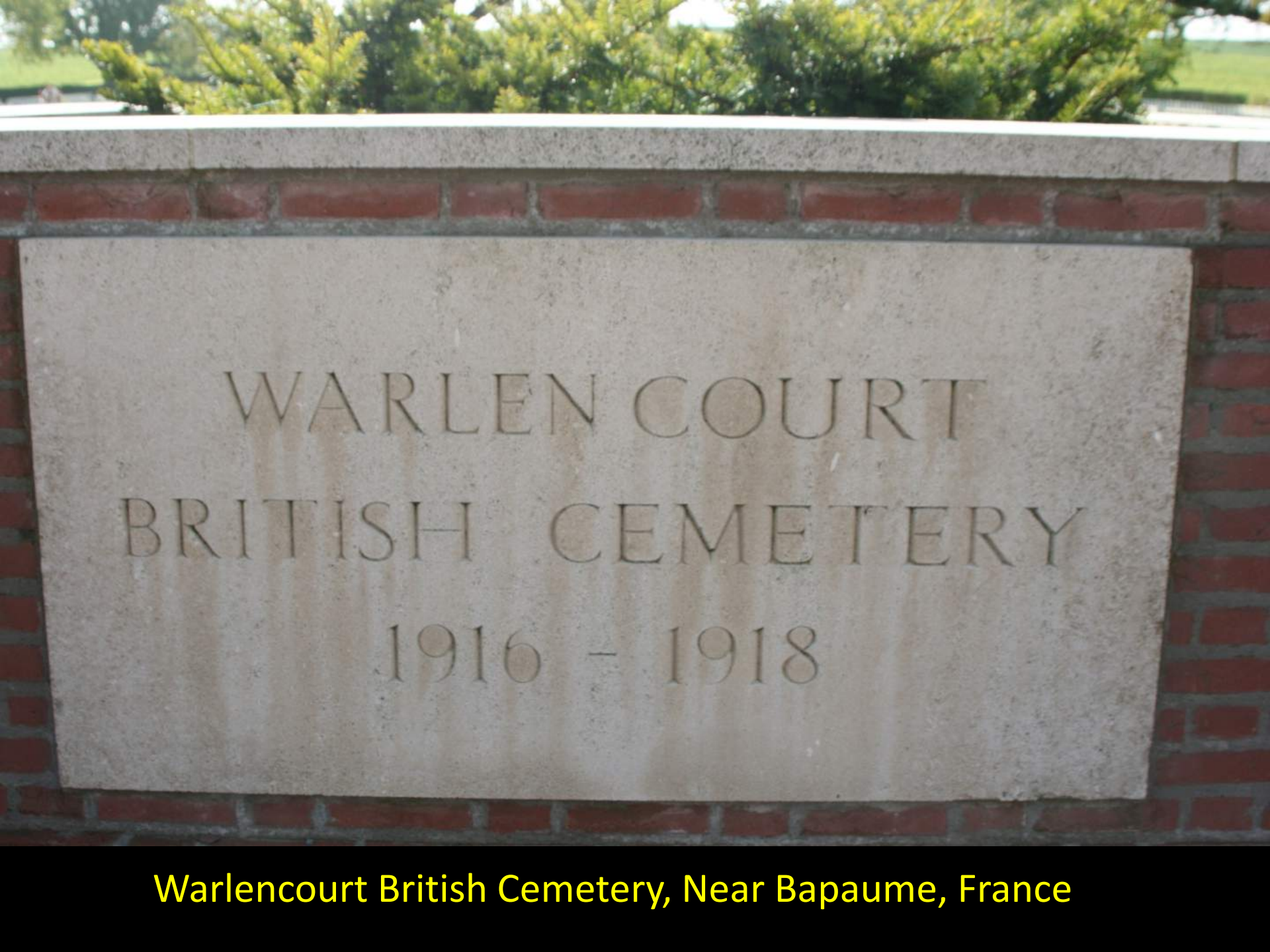
His name is also recorded on Newfield war memorial.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Corporal Arthur Hetherington (2558)
6th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
151st Bde. 50 Div. (Northumbrian)
Died 1 October 1916. Aged 21 years
Son of William & Sarah Hetherington of
Eden Pit, Shildon St John, Auckland
Grave: III.D.37.

Warlencourt Cemetery, Near
Bapaume, France



A stone marker for the Warlencourt British Cemetery, featuring a light-colored rectangular plaque mounted on a red brick wall. The plaque has the text "WARLEN COURT", "BRITISH CEMETERY", and "1916 - 1918" engraved in a serif font. The background shows green foliage.

WARLEN COURT
BRITISH CEMETERY
1916 - 1918

Warlencourt British Cemetery, Near Bapaume, France



Warlencourt British Cemetery, Near Bapaume, France

Biographical Notes

Arthur Hetherington

Corporal 2558 1/6Bn DLI 1.10.1916 Warlencourt British Cemetery
Lived Coundon. Entered France 19.4.1915.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LIGHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Corporal Henry Lightfoot Hetherington
(241873). Formerly (2327). D.L.I.
2nd/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment
Died 11 April 1917. Aged 23 years
Son of John Thomas Hetherington &
Jane Ann Hetherington
of 121 Garden Street, Newfield but
born at 66 High Street, Byers Green
Grave: IV.F.14.
Ste.Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-
Faucon, near Peronne, France



STE EMILIE VALLEY

CEMETERY

MCMXVII-MCMXVIII



Ste.Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, near Peronne, France

Biographical Notes

Henry Lightfoot Hetherington Corporal 241873 2/5Bn Lincolnshire Regiment 11.4.1917 23 years Ste Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon (Formerly Pte 2327 DLI). Lived 16 Wilkinson Street, Byers Green. Student at Bede College, Durham and a member of the Territorials. Son of John Thomas & Jane Ann Hetherington of 121 Garden Street, Newfield. His name is also recorded on Newfield war memorial.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Believed to be but not confirmed:
Private Charles Hodgson (2409)
Duke of Wellington's West Riding
Regiment
Died 25 September 1915
Aged 23 years
Son of Charles & Elizabeth Hodgson of
135 Spencer Street, Coundon Grange
where Charles was born.

No Known Grave
Commemorated on Panel 20.
The Menin Gate. Ypres



Biographical Notes



Charles Hodgson

No information on this man available.

JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LICHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Solomon Jolly (20921)

Coldstream Guards

Enlisted 11 December 1915

Address Given:

1 High Street, Byers Green.

Died 25 November 1918. Aged 24 yrs

Youngest son of William Jolly (a
Colliery Labourer) & Eliza Jolly of
29 High Street, Byers Green

*His death so soon after the Armistice
suggests that he died from his wounds
and was buried 'at home'.*

Grave: 80.

St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green



JOHN BURDESS
JOSEPH CLARK
JOHN CORNFORTH
ALEXANDER DAVISON
GEORGE DAVISON
WILLIAM DAVISON
ROBERT DINSLEY
FRED DOBSON
THOMAS EASTON
MARTIN GIBBON
THOMAS GLENDENNING
JAMES HADDON
WILLIAM HARRISON
WILFRED HARRISON
ARTHUR HETHERINGTON
HENRY LIGHTFOOT HETHERINGTON
CHARLES HODGSON
SOLOMON JOLLY

Private Solomon Jolly (20921)
Coldstream Guards
1 High Street, Byers Green.
Died 25 November 1918. Aged 24 yrs
Grave: 80.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green



Biographical Notes

Solomon Jolly

Pte 20921 Coldstream Guards 25.11.1918 24 years Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green. Enlisted 10.12.1915, he was born Byers Green, aged 21 years 5 months, occupation miner, and lived at 1 High Street, Byers Green with his parents. Placed on the army reserve, he was mobilized 11.12.1916 with the Coldstream Guards and sent to the Guards Depot, Caterham for training. On 27.6.1917 he was discharged from the army as being no longer physically fit for war service and he was awarded a pension, he did not see service overseas. Died home on 25.11.1918. Son of William & Eliza Jolly of 1 High Street, Byers Green.

TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN HONOURED MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF
DYERS GREEN
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY
DURING THE GREAT WAR.

1914 -

THEIR BODIES ARE BURIED IN PEACE,
BUT THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

The Great War – Panel Two

Private Walter Kirkby (040444)
Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Died 10 December 1919
Aged 24 years
Youngest son of Ellen Kirkby
(Fish Merchant)
17 High Street, Redcar
*Yet another death so soon after the
Armistice suggests that Walter also died
from his wounds and was buried 'at
home'.*
Grave: 84.
St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

Private Walter Kirkby (040444)

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Died 10 December 1919

Aged 24 years

Youngest son of Ellen Kirkby
(Fish Merchant)

17 High Street, Redcar

*Yet another death so soon after the
Armistice suggests that Walter also died
from his wounds and was buried 'at
home'.*

Grave: 84.

St Peter's Churchyard Extension
Byers Green



Biographical Notes

Walter Kirkby

Pte 040444 Royal Army Ordinance Corps 10.12.1919 Died at his home in Byers Green. Buried St Peters Churchyard, Byers Green

Private George Lascelles (47097)
Formerly (78918) Northumberland
Fusiliers. 15th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
64th Bde. 21 Div. Died 16 October 1918
Aged 26 years. Son of Thomas &
Mary Lascelles of Byers Green
Grave: I.A.30.

Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery,
Crevecoeur-sur-L'Escaut,
Villers Outreaux, Cambrai, France





Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery, Crevecœur-sur-L'Escaut, Villers Outreaux, Cambrai, France

Biographical Notes

George Lascelles

Pte 47097 15DLI 6.10.1918 Age 20. Bois-Des-Angles British Cemetery, Crevecœur-sur-L'Escaut. Enlisted 10.1.1916 with Northumberland Fusiliers, he was born Byers Green, aged 18 years 2 months, occupation miner and lived with his parents at 10 Brockwell Street, Byers Green. Placed on the army reserve, he was mobilized 10.5.1918 as Pte 78918 4Bn NF. Entered France 14.9.1918, and while at Etaples he was transferred to the 15Bn DLI as Pte 47097 with 'C' Coy. Joined Battalion in the field 17.9.1918 and killed in action 6.10.1918. Son of Ralph Henry & Annie Lavinia (nee Wilberforce) Lascelles of 10 Brockwell Street, Byers Green. Brother to Joseph, William, Eleanor, Maria, Elizabeth Ann, Marjory Gladys and Mabel Lascelles.

Private William Mason (19560)
C Coy. 13th (Service) Bn, Forest of Dean
(Pioneers), Gloucestershire Regiment
Died 10 May 1916 . Aged 46 years
Born Son of Anthony & Jane Mason of
Westerton. But later of Shaftoe Street,
Byers Green and Husband of Mary
Mason, later of 10, Seventh St. North
Easington Colliery, Co Durham
Grave: III. R. 5.
Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner,
Cunhy, France



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Private William Mason (19560)
C Coy. 13th (Service) Bn, Forest of Dean
(Pioneers), Gloucestershire Regiment
Died 10 May 1916 . Aged 46 years
Born Son of Anthony & Jane Mason of
Westerton. But later of Shaftoe Street,
Byers Green and Husband of Mary
Mason, later of 10, Seventh St. North
Easington Colliery, Co Durham
Grave: III. R. 5.
Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner,
Cunhy, France



Biographical Notes

William Mason

Pte 250510 DLI 19.5.1917 (Formerly Pte 4208 DLI) 46 years
Niederzwehren Cemetery, Germany. He died as a prisoner of war.
Son of Anthony & Jane Mason of Westerton. Husband of Mary Mason of 10 Seventh
Street, Easington Colliery.

Sergeant Jacob Pyle (45281)
Formerly (30805) D.L.I.
The London Rifle Brigade
Died 8 November 1918. Aged 25 years
Three days before the Armistice !
Son of William and Susannah Pyle of
Old Hall, Byers Green
Grave: II.B.16
Cambrai East Military Cemetery, France



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

Biographical Notes

Jacob Pyle

Sgt 45281 Rifle Brigade (London) 1/5Bn 8.11.1918 25 years Cambrai East Military Cemetery. (Formerly 30805 1/5Bn DLI) Born Byers Green.
Son of William & Susannah Pyle of the Old Hall, Byers Green

Private Mathew Raine (270268)
Northumberland Hussars
Died 30 October 1917. Aged 24 years
*Killed in Action at Broenbeeke, near
Langemark German Military Cemetery.*
Youngest Son of John & Mary Raine of
3 Station Cottages, Byers Green
*Elder brother William, a Captain was
killed almost a year later.*

No Known Grave
Commemorated on Panel 3
Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

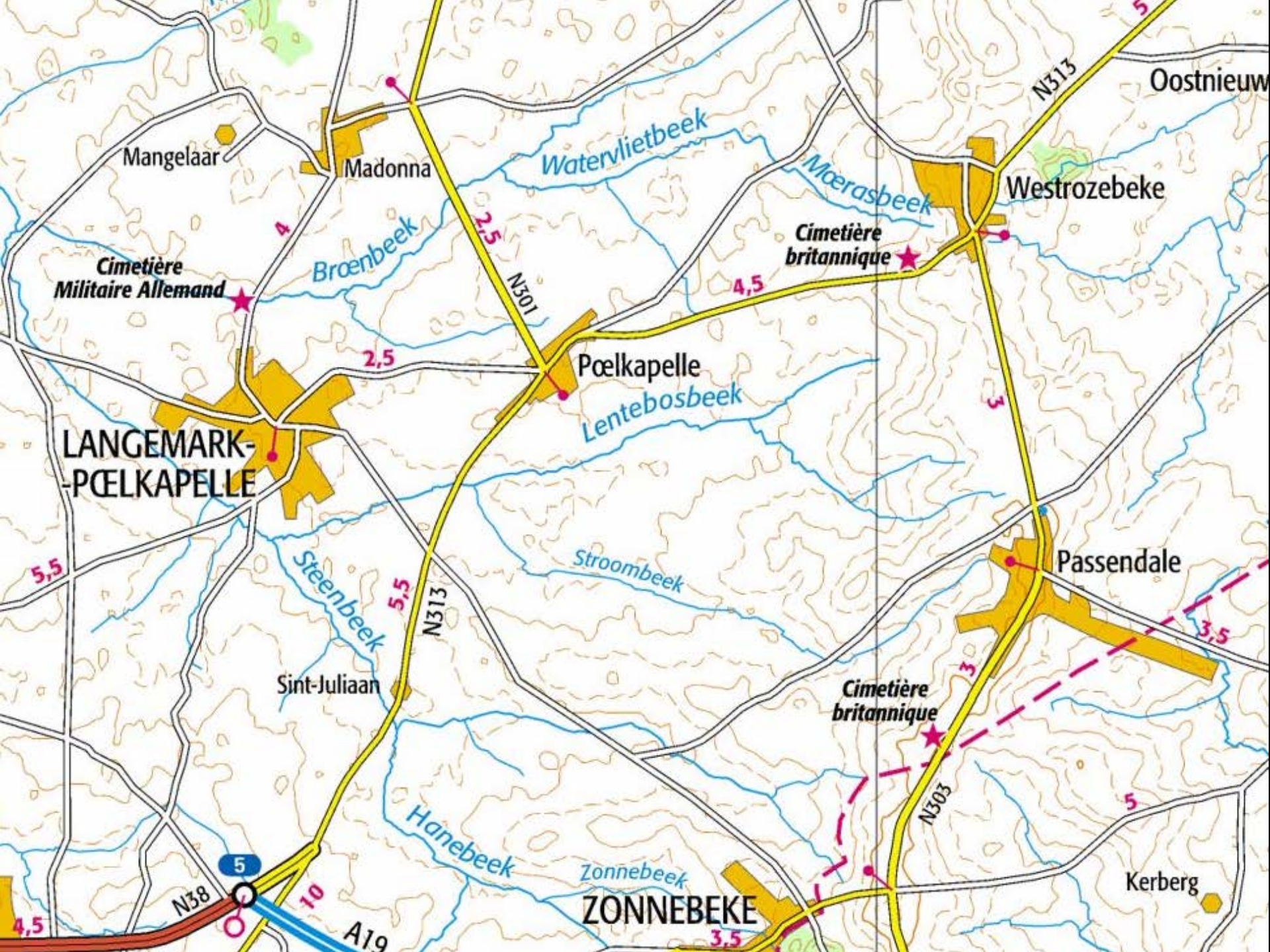
Private Mathew Raine (270268)
Northumberland Hussars
Died 30 October 1917. Aged 24 years
*Killed in action at Broenbeeke near the
German Military Cemetery at Langemark*
Youngest Son of John & Mary Raine of
3 Station Cottages, Byers Green
*Elder brother William, a Captain was
killed almost a year later.*

No Known Grave
Commemorated on Panel 3
Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY
PRIVATE
ARRISON C.J.
NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSARS
PRIVATE RAINE M.
WESTMORLAND & CUMBERLAND YEO.
LIEUTENANT PARKER T.C.
WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY
LIEUTENANT BEAUMONT CHECKLAND M.D.



In 1915, The Northumberland Hussars, 9th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers, was part of 52 Bde in 17 Div who embarked for France in July 1915 and initially deployed in the front line to defend a section of the southern salient at Ypres.

Later, in August 1917, 9th Bn absorbed 2/1st Bn Northumberland Yeomanry under 103 Bde. 34 Div and saw action at Broenbeeke (near Langemark German Military Cemetery) in the Third battle of Ypres in September/October 1917. During one of these actions, in the most appalling battlefield conditions Private Raine was killed and his body never recovered.

Biographical Notes

Matthew H. Raine

Pte 270268 Northumberland Hussars 30.10.1917 24 years Tyne Cot Memorial
Born Ferryhill (Attested for service with Northumberland Hussars Yeomanry in 1913
and allocated regimental number 2273) Employed at Spennymoor Co-op Stores.
Mobilized August 1914 and entered France 5.10.1914. Son of John James & Mary
Raine of 3 Station Cottages, Byers Green. Brother to William Raine MC (below) and
George T. Raine. Also named on Binchester War Memorial.

Captain & Adjutant William Raine MC
9th Bn The King's Liverpool Regiment
Died of Wounds. 8 September 1918
Aged 27 years. *Brother killed in 1917.*
Son of John & Mary Raine, of
3 Station Cottages, Byers Green and
Husband of Sarah A.D. Raine of 14
Prospect Terr, Eighton Banks, Gateshead
Grave: B.1.
Ecoust St Mein British Cemetery, France



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

ECOUST ST MEIN
BRITISH
CEMETERY

Biographical Notes

William Raine MC

Captain Kings (Liverpool) Regiment Adjutant 9th Battalion 8.9.1918 27 years Ecoust-St Mein British Cemetery. Born 18.2.1891 at Ferryhill. Employed as clerk at Turisdale Colliery. On 1.4.1913 he attested for service with the 1/1Bn Northumberland Hussars Yeomanry as Pte 2216. On 5.8.1914 he was embodied for war service and embarked for France 4.10.1914. Promoted Lance Corporal 21.10.1914, Corporal 10.12.1914 and Lance Sergeant 21.7.1915. He was discharged to a commission with the 1/9Bn Kings Liverpool Regiment on 24.10.1915. In 1916 he married Sarah Ann Dodds Simpson at Chester le Street and they set up home at 14 Prospect Terrace, Eighton Banks, Gateshead. On 29.12.1916 he was gazetted for the Military Cross. On 11.1.1918 he was gazetted as Lieutenant (Acting Captain) and on 5.7.1918 gazetted as Company Commander with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. On 7.9.1918 the Battalion was heading up the line passing through Riencourt when he was struck by shell fire and died of wounds the next day in the 3/2nd West Lancashire Field Ambulance.

Son of John James & Mary Raine of 3 Station Cottages, Byers Green. Husband of Sarah A D Raine of 14 Prospect Terrace, Eighton Banks, Gateshead.

Brother to Matthew H. Raine (above) and George T. Raine.

Also named on Binchester War Memorial.

Private Joseph Robinson (95092)
15th Bn. Durham Light Infantry.
Died 6 October 1918. Aged 29.
Possibly Son of Ralph & Ann Robinson of
Todhills, Byers Green.
Killed in the last offensive against the
German Beaurevoir Defence Line.
In the same action, George Lascelles
(second named on this panel) was also
killed, Their graves lie 20 feet apart in the
British Cemetery at Bois Des Angles,
Crevecoeur Sur L'Escaut, Nord France.
Grave: 1. A. 17



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

SEE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE BIOGRAPHY AT
END OF THIS SECTION.

Unresolved Private Joseph Robinson (Case No 1).

Private Joseph Robinson (95092). 15th Bn Durham Light Infantry. Died 6 October 1918. Grave 1.A.17. At Bois des Angles British Cemetery, Crevecoeur Sur L'Escaut, Nord France.

During the battle for Montecouvez Farm in which Pte George Lascelles was also killed. If this Joseph is the Son of the Todhills family, then two Byers Green boys died together, are buried together and remembered together on the Byers Green memorial.

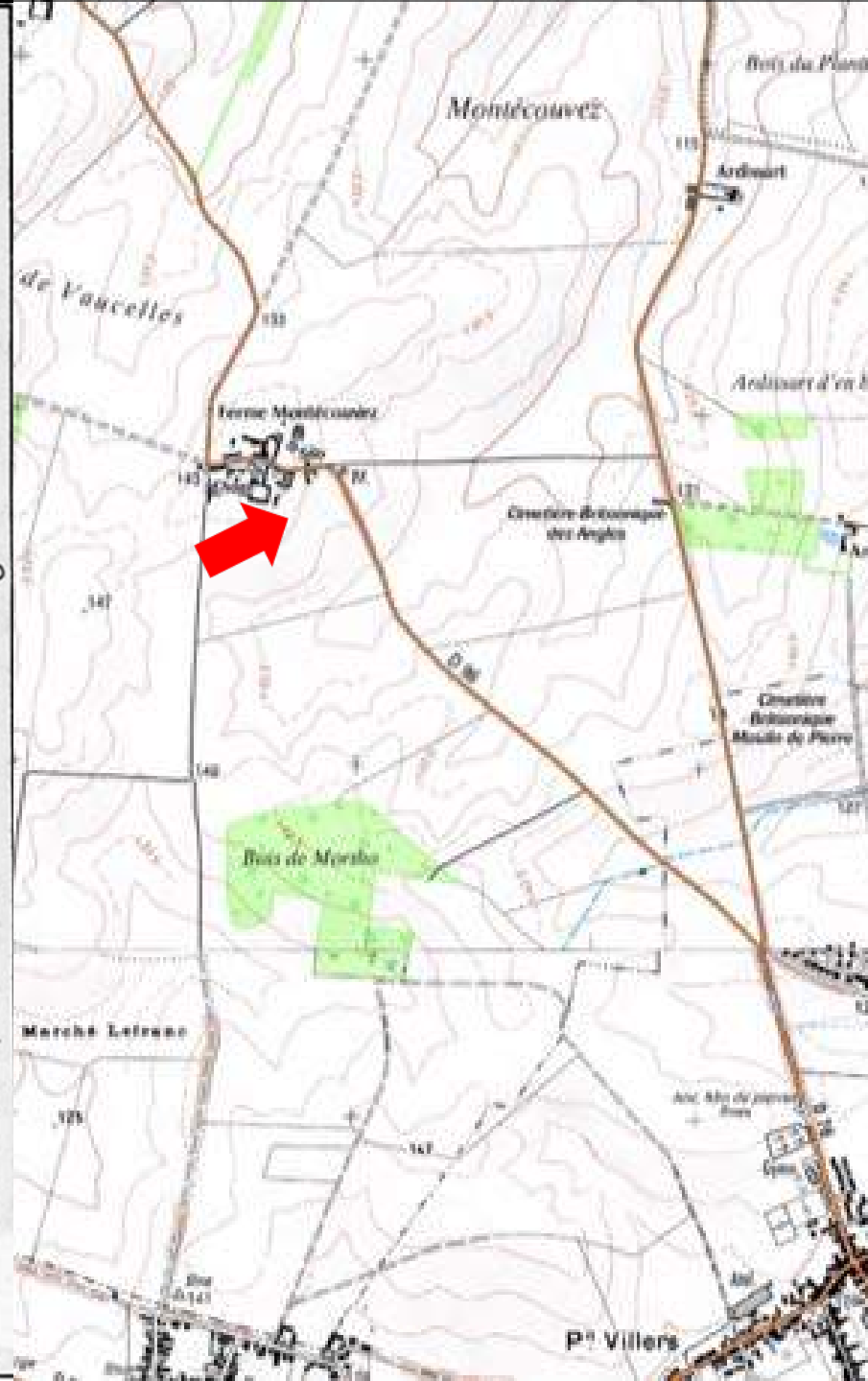
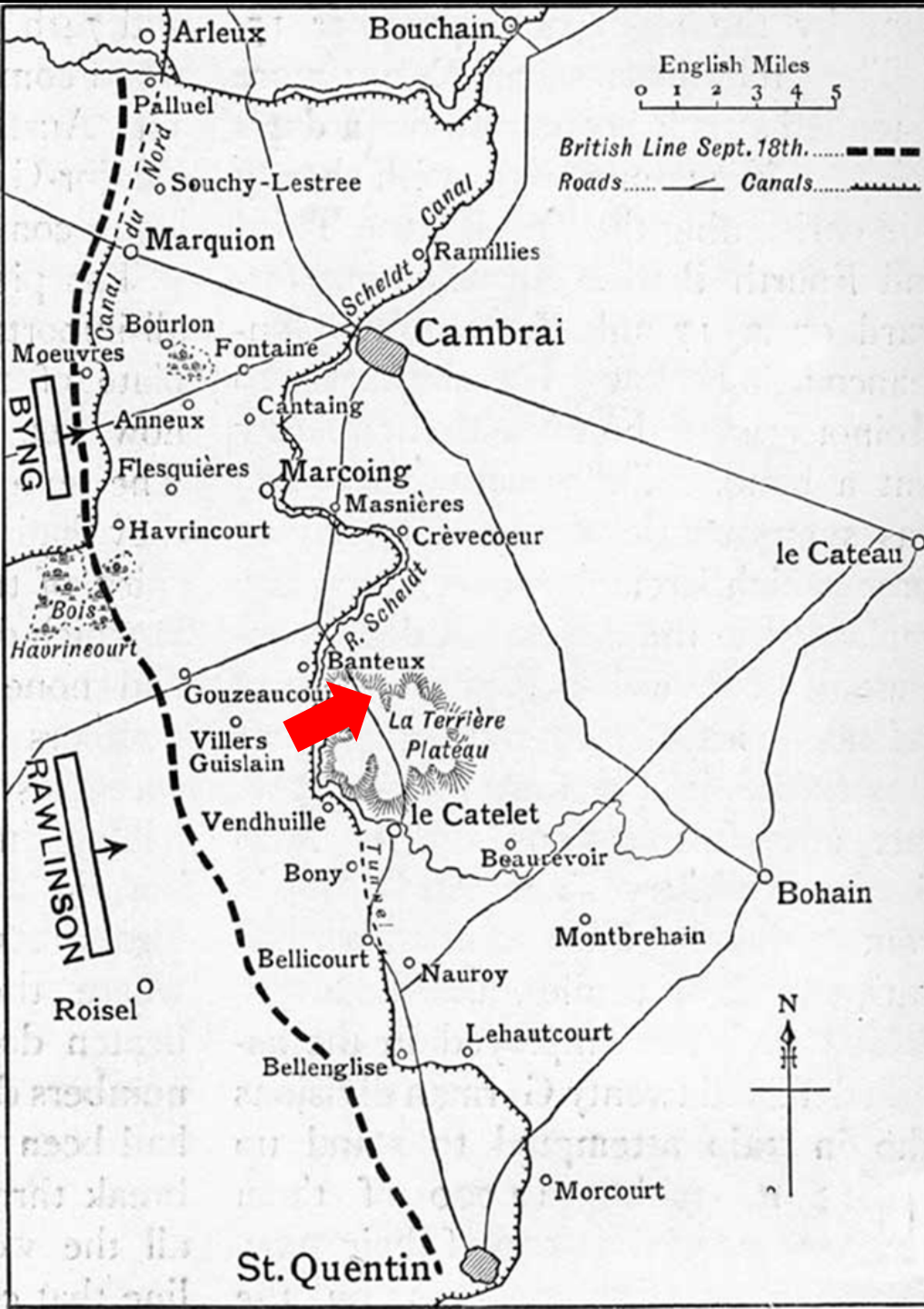
"On October 5th, 64 Brigade moved forward. The Durhams crossed the St Quentin Canal south of Bantouzelle and in the evening occupied the le Catelet – Nauroy line in readiness to attack.

The Beaurevoir Defensive System, well wired and strong in concrete machine gun emplacements and shelters, was held in great strength by the Germans who also occupied Montecouvez Farm (a high point) with other advanced positions.

The assault commenced at 6 a.m. on October 6th, with the 15th Durhams on the right and the East Yorkshires on the left. In spite of machine gun fire the Durhams pushed on with great resolution and by 11.30 a.m. one company had carried Montecouvez Farm, while two companies, after hard fighting, were established in the road running south-east towards the Beaurevoir line. The Durhams also held a trench running back from this road to Mortho Wood,

This breaking of the Beaurevoir Line, the last of the elaborate defensive zones constructed by the Germans had now been won but it cost the 15th Bn, 213 casualties".

(Extract from Durham Forces in the Field 1914-1918)



Unresolved Private Joseph Robinson (Case No 2)

Private Joseph Robinson (203113) 1st/6th Bn Durham Light Infantry. Died 30/05/1918. Commemorated on the Soissons Memorial.

This Joseph (203113), was killed in action in the same battle as Private Brian Wetherell during the German Offensive near Rheims/Soissons in retreat to the South bank of the Vesle, west of Muizon on 30/05/1918. 1/6 Bn DLI was part of 50th Div. (See the entry under Private Wetherell for a fuller description of the battle). (Durham Forces in the Field pp. 298 - 306 and Faithfull pp 410 – 413).

We have no details of Joseph's age or of his family details but in August 1914 the Battalion was billeted at Bishop Auckland as part of the DLI Brigade, Northumbrian Division.

Unresolved Private Joseph Robinson (Case No 3)

Private Joseph Robinson (4/9983) 2nd Bn Durham Light Infantry. Died 21/03/1918 and commemorated at the Arras Memorial. Bay 8.

In February 1918 the British Army was reorganised. The number of infantry battalions in each division was reduced from 12 to 9. Brigades had 3 rather than 4 battalions. The government of the day refused to pay for more and by March 1918 the British Expeditionary Force was 40% below establishment.

This Private Joseph Robinson (4/9983) fell In the same battle, on the same day as CSM Joseph Turton MM, south of Arras, Croisilles to the Oise. 2 Bn DLI, 50th Div in Third Army, were in the line in the Morchies sector, north of the Cambrai/Bapaume road.

21 March 1918 was the first day of the German offensive and the attack commenced on a foggy morning at 5 am accompanied by gas and artillery attacks until 11 am by which time large elements of Third Army had been overwhelmed and suffered heavy casualties. The German barrage and advance was unrelenting and 2 Bn ultimately had to yield. Of thirty officers and 639 NCOs and men in the trenches here on 21 March, by evening on 22 March only two officers and 58 men were standing.

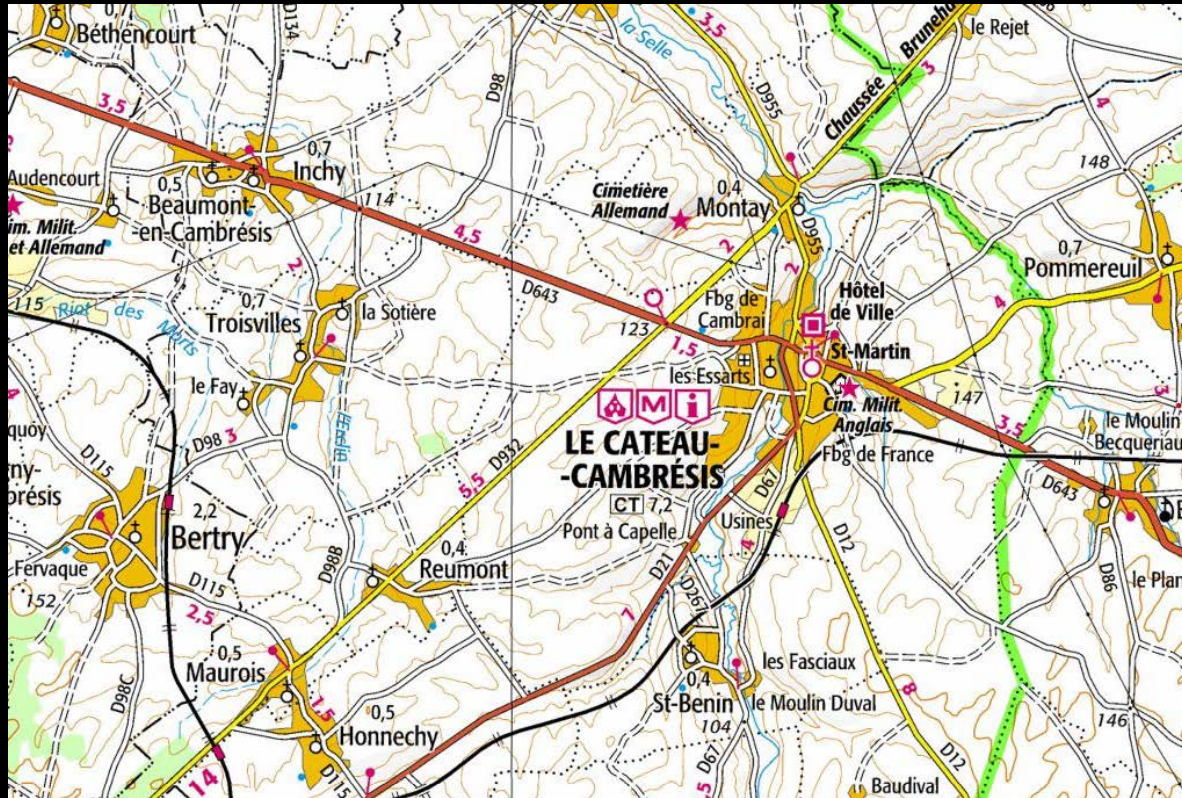
(Faithfull. pp 396 - 400. Durham Forces in the Field pp 260 ...)

We have no details of Joseph's age or family details

?

Biographical Notes

Is this the boy from Todhills ?



Joseph Robinson

Lance Sgt 813981 2Bn Northumberland Fusiliers 18.10.1918 Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, France. Born Byers Green, son of Ralph & Ann Robinson of Newfield, formerly Todhills, Byers Green. Also recorded on Newfield war memorial.



The Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, South East of Cambrai, France

Private John Henry Robson (20599)
King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Died 8 May 1915. Aged 27 years

Son of Elizabeth Robson of New Shildon
and husband of Maria Robson of
2 Pratt's Cottages, Byers Green
No Known Grave
Commemorated on Panel 47 of the
Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

Biographical Notes

John Henry Robson

Pte 20599 1Bn KOYLI 8.5.1915 25 years. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Born 2.3.1890 at Eldon Lance. Entered France 15.1.1915, and killed in action at the
battle of Frezenberg Ridge. Husband of Maria Robson of 2 Pratts Cottages, Byers
Green. Son of Elizabeth Robson (nee Jackson) of 25 Thomas Street, New Shildon, and
the late George Andrew Robson.

Private John James Selby (16564)
7th Bn Border Regiment
Enlisted Bishop Auckland
Died of Wounds on 9 August 1916
Aged 33 years
Son of James & Elizabeth Selby of
5 High Street, Byers Green
Grave: III.D.1.
Heilly Station British Cemetery



A large, grey, rectangular gravestone with a list of names inscribed on it. A yellow arrow points from the left towards the name 'JAMES SELBY' in the list. The names are arranged in a column and read from top to bottom:

WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Heilly Station British Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme, France

Biographical Notes

John James Selby

Pte 16564 7Bn Border Regiment 9.8.1916 33 years Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe. Enlisted 2.9.1914 as Pte 17122 DLI, he was born Byers Green, aged 31 years 6 months, occupation miner. On 4.9.1914 transferred to 7Bn Border Regiment as Pte 16564 and sent to Carlisle for training. Entered France 14.7.1915, and died of wounds 9.8.1916. Son of James & Elizabeth Selby of 5 High St, Byers Green.

Believed to be:

Rifleman James Henry Sheldon MM
(R/3355)

18th Bn. Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Died of Wounds 24-28 March 1918

Aged 25 years

Son of William & Mary Sheldon of
39, Granville Terrace, Binchester

Grave: 1.M.15.

Bancourt British Military Cemetery





Bancourt British Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

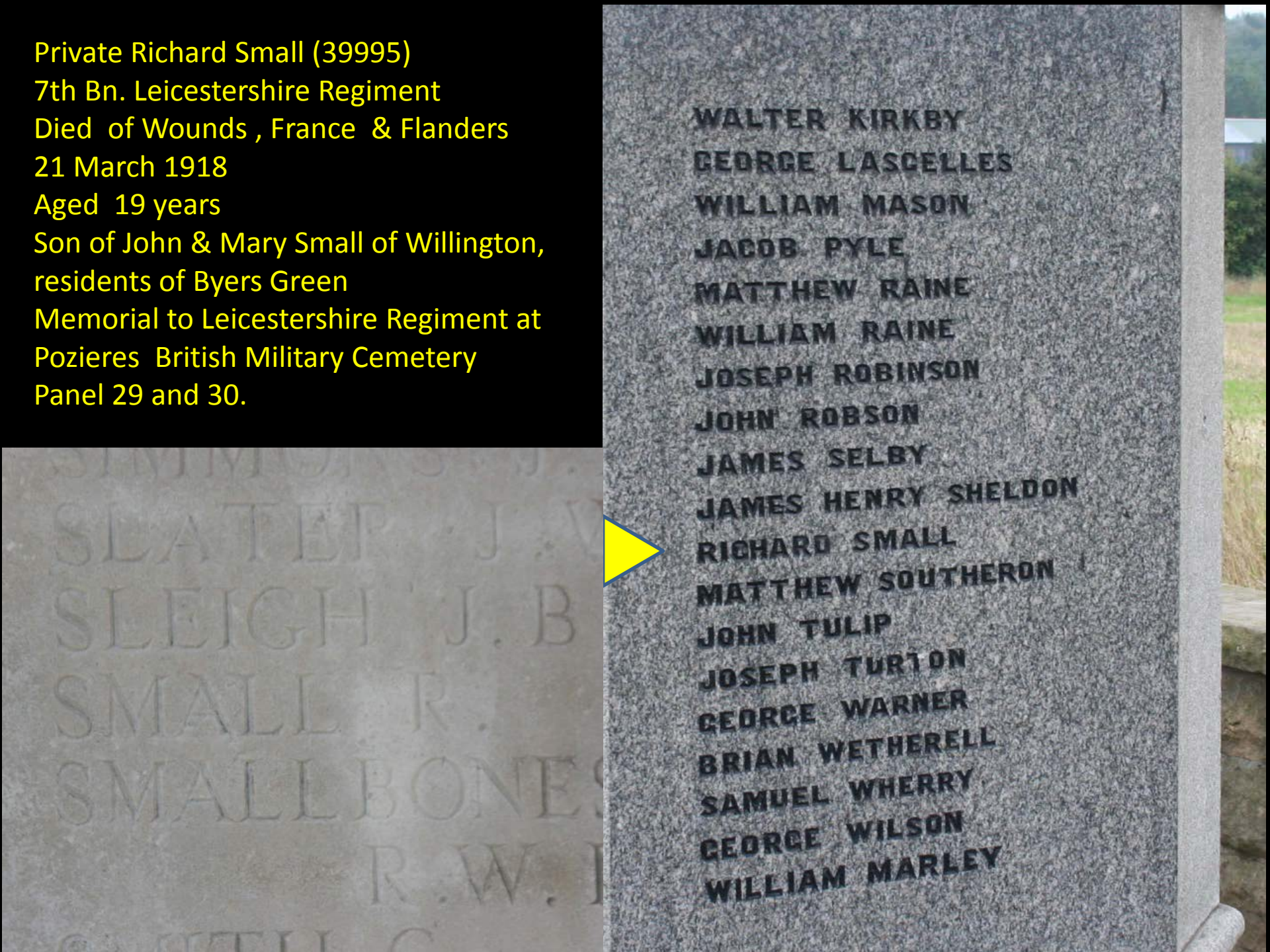
Biographical Notes



James Henry Sheldon

AB Tyneside Z/296 Royal Naval Division 4.6.1915 Dardanelles Helles Memorial
Enlisted 10.10.1914 with RND, he was born 7.8.1893, occupation miner and lived at 32
Hylton Terrace, Pelton. On 2.11.1914 he was posted to Hood Battalion, 'C' Coy.
He served in the Dardanelles and was killed in action on 4.6.1915 and buried by an
unknown regiment. Recorded on his navy file on 17.9.1915 is, 'Reported missing,
since dead'. Son of Mary Jane Sheldon of 13 Lodge Terrace, Byers Green.

Private Richard Small (39995)
7th Bn. Leicestershire Regiment
Died of Wounds , France & Flanders
21 March 1918
Aged 19 years
Son of John & Mary Small of Willington,
residents of Byers Green
Memorial to Leicestershire Regiment at
Pozieres British Military Cemetery
Panel 29 and 30.



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Pozieres British Military Cemetery, Ovillers-la-Boisselle, Somme, France

Biographical Notes

Richard Small

Pte 39995 7Bn Leicestershire Regiment. 21.3.1918 Pozieres Memorial.
Enlisted 5.2.1917 with the 15th Training Reserve Battalion. He was born Willington, aged 18 years 4 months, occupation brick yard labourer, and lived at 8 Institute Street, Byers Green with his parents. Transferred to Leicestershire Regiment and entered France 18.11.1917. His mother completed an army pension form on 2.9.1919 with the following information. Parents John Spence & Mary Elizabeth Small of 8 Institute Street, Byers Green. Brothers George, John R., Wilfred, James & David, sister Emily.

Private Matthew Southeron (Southern)
(43627)
19th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
104 Bde. 35 Div.
Died of Wounds. 22 July 1918. Aged 39

Enlisted at Spennymoor
Son of William & Rachael Southern of
3 Harvey Street, Byers Green

Grave: III. B. 11.
Arneke British Military Cemetery,
Pas de Calais, France



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

Private Matthew Southeron (Southern)
(43627)
19th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
104 Bde. 35 Div.
Died of Wounds. 22 July 1918. Aged 39



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Arneke British Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

Biographical Notes

Matthew Southeron

Pte 43627 19DLI 22.7.1918 39 years. Arneke British Cemetery, Belgium. Born Byers Green. Occupation screen man in local colliery.

Son of Rachel & the late William Southeron of 3 Harvey Street, Byers Green. Brother Thomas Henry lived at 8 High Street, Byers Green.

Sergeant John Tulip (16669)
1st Bn. Hampshire Regiment
Died 31 August 1918. Aged 27 years
Son of Thomas & Mary Ann Tulip of
Lodge Street, Byers Green
Grave: B.17.

Eterpigny British Cemetery,
Nord Pas-de-Calais, France



16669 SERJEANT
J. TULIP
HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT
31ST AUGUST 1918

WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Biographical Notes

John Tulip

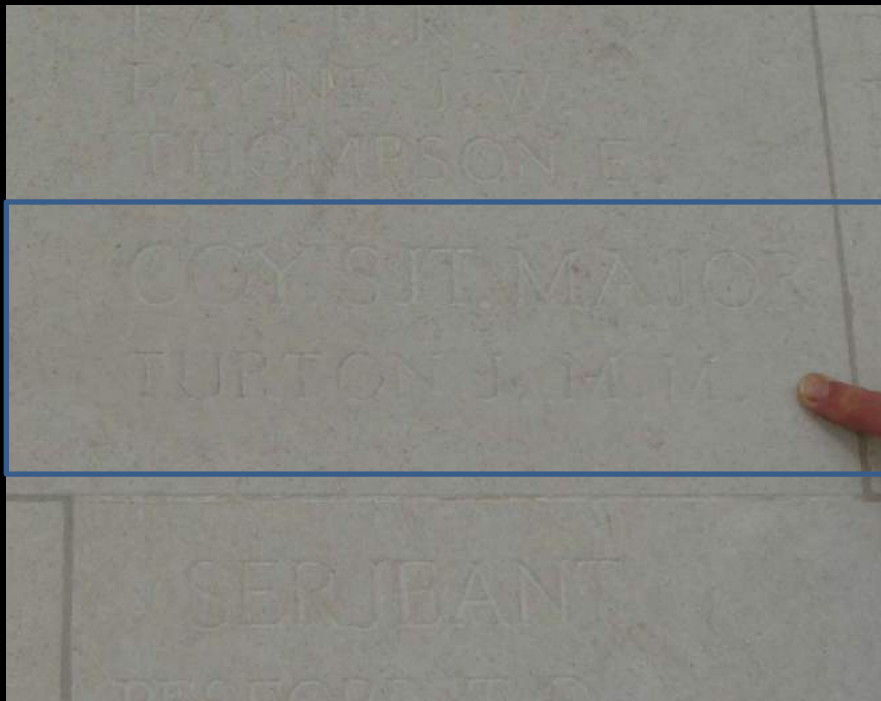
Sgt 16669 1Bn Hampshire Regiment. 31.8.1918 Eterpigney British Cemetery.
(Formerly 12533 10th Reserve Cavalry Regiment) Born Byers Green. Occupation
miner. Lived North Street, Byers Green as a boarder with Mr & Mrs James Wilson.

CSM Joseph Turton (8915) MM
C Coy. 2 Vol Bn. Durham Light Infantry
18 Bde. 6 Div.

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 33 years

Husband of Margaret Clarke (formerly
Turton) of 1120 West View, Byers Green
No Known Grave

Commemorated on Bay 8 of the
Arras Memorial, France



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



CSM Joseph Turton MM C Company 2nd Bn Durham Light Infantry. Died 21/03/1918 and commemorated at the Arras Memorial. Bay 8.

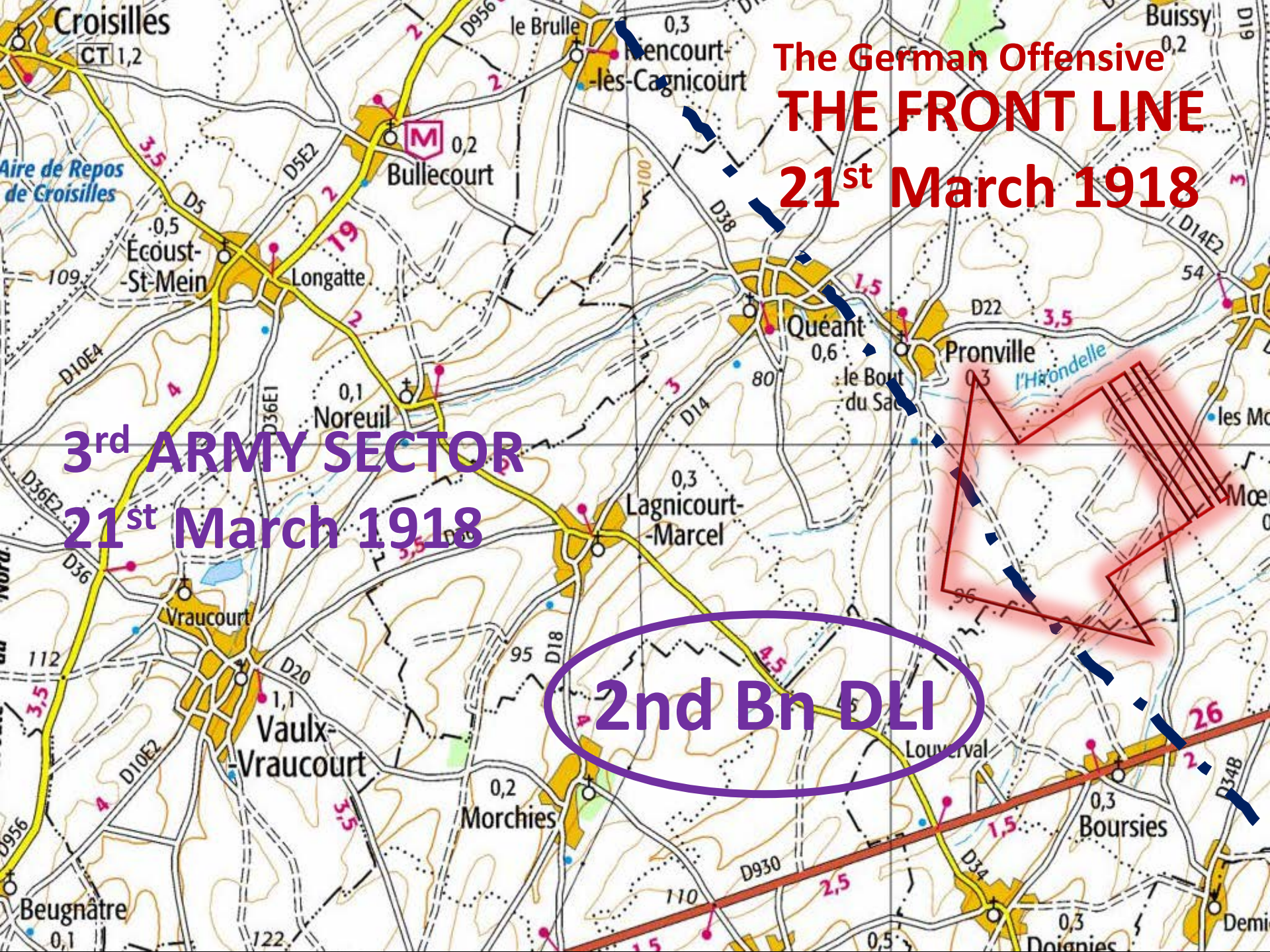
In February 1918 the British Army was reorganised. The number of infantry battalions in each division was reduced from 12 to 9 and Brigades had 3 rather than 4 battalions. The government of the day refused to pay for more and by March 1918 the British Expeditionary Force was 40% below establishment.

21 March 1918 was the first day of the German offensive. 2nd Bn DLI, 50th Div. in Third Army, were in the line in the Morchies sector, north of the Cambrai/Bapaume road. B and D companies were in the front line and A and C companies were in reserve.

The attack commenced on a foggy morning at 5 am accompanied by gas and artillery attacks, principally on the reserve line until 11 am by which time large elements of Third Army had been overwhelmed and suffered heavy casualties. The German barrage and advance was unrelenting and 2nd Bn ultimately had to yield. Of thirty officers and 639 NCOs and men in the trenches here on 21 March, by evening on 22 March only two officers and 58 men were standing.

(Extract from Faithfull. The Story of the Durham Light Infantry. S.G.P. Ward. pp 396 – 400).

CSM Turton died defending his line in this ferocious battle near Morchies. See map on following frame and also biographical notes.



The German Offensive
THE FRONT LINE
21st March 1918

3rd ARMY SECTOR
21st March 1918

2nd Bn DLI

Biographical Notes

Joseph Turton MM

CSM 8915 2DLI 'C' Company 21.3.1918 33 years Arras Memorial.

Born 29.2.1884 at Hetton Downs. On 16.8.1904 he attested for service with the DLI as Pte 8915, he did not see overseas service, and was discharged to army reserve on 16.8.1907 having completed his term of engagement.

On 15.10.1907 he was appointed to Durham County Constabulary as PC 298 and was posted to Darlington. On 21.8.1909 he married Margaret Irvin at Thornaby, they later had a daughter Rena Irvin Turton (b 18.9.1912) at Darlington where they lived at 62 Vancouver Street. December 1912 transferred to Byers Green living with his family at 110 West View, Byers Green.

On 5.8.1914 he was recalled to the colours to rejoin his regiment and entered France 8.9.1914. Twice promoted for gallant conduct, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and also served as Acting Company Sergeant Major. On 25.9.1916 he was gazetted for the award of the Military Medal.

Son of Arthur & Hannah (nee South) Turton of 2 Sunderland Street, Wheatley Hill. Husband of Margaret Clarke (formerly Turton, nee Irvin) of 110 West View, Byers Green. Brothers and sisters; Herbert, Martha, Sarah, Henry (serving as Acting Sergeant 7912 Coldstream Guards), Arthur, Albert (serving as Corporal 318 Royal Sussex Reg., also awarded Military Medal for gallantry), George Frederick (serving with Royal Navy as Stoker K498329, and Nellie. His name is also commemorated on the war memorials of Wheatley Hill and Durham County Constabulary.

Biographical Notes

DURHAM COUNTY CONSTABULARY



PC Joseph TURTON wearing the uniform of a Serjeant with the Durham Light Infantry

Article from local newspaper;
PC Turton of the Bishop Auckland Division has had a narrow escape from being killed whilst serving with the 2nd Durham's at the front. For his services he has been promoted to the rank of serjeant. He was one of 18 who returned out of 214 in a recent action. In a letter to PC Hamilton of Newfield, Serjeant Turton writes;

'We are now in the firing line and we have been for ten days. The weather is wet and things are in an awful state as the earth falls away, and sometimes men get buried with the trench falling in. I wish you could see us, we all get as black as coal as we haven't the opportunity to wash or shave until we come out of the firing line for a day or so'.

May 1916 Serjeant Turton was involved in an incident with an armed deserter and his name was brought to the attention of Major General Ross HQ 6th Division. A report from the Assistant Provost Marshal, 6th Division, to the GOC 6th Division made its way down the chain of command to Battalion HQ.

Assistant Provost Marshall 6th Division
I desire to take the earliest opportunity of drawing your notice to the action taken today by Lieutenant and Quartermaster Shea 2/DLI, and Serjeants Turton and Anslow of the same battalion.

A deserter who had previously been apprehended by Lieutenant Shea and had escaped from the 3rd Division was reported to be living in a house near G10.B3.7 armed with rifles and revolvers. This officer together with the two NCO's and two men, whose names I regret I have not, advanced to the house and although armed behaved if I may say so in a brave and cool manner. The deserter had managed to escape but was caught shortly afterwards by Lieutenant Shea and his men who drove the surrounding fields. The deserter when apprehended

by Lieutenant Shea was armed. May I also add my personal thanks through you to Lieutenant Shea, the NCO's and men of 2/DLI who so ably apprehended the deserter without inflicting any damage on anybody else present. Signed Clanwilliam. Captain.

When the report reached HQ 6th Division, it was read with pleasure by Major General Ross, who ordered his AA & QMG, Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Walsh to write to HQ 18 Brigade.

To 18 Brigade

The Major General Commanding has read the attached report with much pleasure. He desires that you will express to Lieutenant and Quartermaster Shea, Serjeants Turton and Anslow and the two men of 2/DLI his high appreciation of the courage and sense of duty displayed by them on this occasion. Will you kindly forward me the names of the two men in question.

13.5.1916 Signed W. R. Walsh Lieutenant Colonel AA & QMG 6th Division

When the report reached HQ 18 Brigade the following was added:- To 2/Durham LI

I am very pleased to forward the foregoing from the Major General Commanding expressing his high appreciation of the courage and sense of duty of Lieutenant and Quartermaster Shea and Serjeants Turton & Anslow and the two men of 2/Durham LI.

Please forward the names of the two men. Signed W. K. McClintock Brigadier General Commanding 18 Brigade

Names of other two men were forwarded to Brigade HQ, they were Private's 12033 E Simpson & 4/8399 R Smith

25.9.1916 London Gazette award of Military Medal (Wheatley Hill)

6.5.1917 Appointed Acting Company Serjeant Major 11.5.1917 Relinquished acting rank and resumed duties as Serjeant, he was later promoted CSM Class II.

On the 21st March 1918 the Germans bombed the support and reserve lines of the DLI. The Germans attacked and were initially repulsed by rifle and Lewis gun fire, it was then decided by senior officers to retire but it would be impossible in daylight and they had to hang on until nightfall. The order to retire was given and out of 300 men about 250 reached the Corps line. As they left the Germans opened up with machine guns and a number of men were killed, there was no chance to rescue any wounded and those that fell were left behind. CSM 8915 Joseph Turton who had been involved in the defence was not seen again and was posted as missing believed killed.

21.3.1918 (Thursday) KIA France aged 33 years. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 8.

Commemorated on the war memorials of Durham County Constabulary, Wheatley Hill (page 53) and Byers Green (page 55)

2.12.1918 Widow received an army pension of 26/5d a week for herself and her daughter.

20.12.1919 Widow received late husband's 1914 Star

3.6.1921 Widow, name now recorded as Margaret Clarke received Turton's BWM & Victory medal.

TURTON Joseph
CSM 8915 (WO class II)
Durham Light Infantry
2nd Battalion
'C' Company

Awards Military Medal, 1914 Star, BWM & Victory
Born 29th February 1884 at Dene Street, Downs, Hetton le Hole

Birth was number 395 of 1884 in the Sub-district of Hetton le Hole and was registered by his father on the 25th April. Fathers occupation coal miner. Parents Arthur & Hannah (nee South) Turton lived at the above address.

16.8.1904 Attested at Newcastle for service with the Durham Light Infantry as Private 8915. He was born Hetton le Hole and aged 20 years 6 months, height 5'9 1/4, occupation labourer.

He served in this country only and passed classes of instruction to Corporal rank and as mounted infantry, he was discharged to the army reserve on the 16th August 1907 having completed his term of engagement.

When applied for police service he was a single man, occupation coal miner, and an army reservist with the Durham Light Infantry.

Appointed Durham County Constabulary 15th October 1907 as PC 298, 3rd class constable.

January 1908 Posted Darlington

May 1908 Appointed 2nd class constable

21.8.1909 Married Margaret Irvin at the Parish Church of St Luke, Thornaby. They had a daughter Rena Irvin Turton (b 18.9.1912) at Darlington.

1911 Lived 62 Vancouver Street, Darlington

December 1912 Transferred to Byers Green living at 110 West View, Byers Green.

5.8.1914 Recalled to the colours to rejoin his regiment, mobilized Newcastle

8.9.1914 Entered France, he was twice promoted on the field for gallant conduct.

21.11.1914 Appointed Acting Serjeant

Turton's parents were living at 2 Sunderland Street, Wheatley Hill when he was killed in action. Brothers and sisters:- Herbert, Martha, Sarah, Henry, Arthur, Albert, George Frederick & Nellie.

Four of his brothers served during the 1st WW:-

Albert as Lance Corporal 318 Royal Sussex Regiment, he entered France 31.5.1915 and was wounded on the 7th July 1916. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry, London Gazette 14th September 1916.

Frederick born 3.2.1899, served as Stoker K49832 Royal Navy on HMS Victory.

Henry as Acting Serjeant 7912 Coldstream Guards. He was a reservist and was recalled to the colours 6.8.1914 with the 3rd Battalion and entered France 21.8.1914. He was wounded in action on the 22nd October 1914, he received a gunshot wound to the foot and was invalided to England and admitted to the Armstrong Hospital, Newcastle for treatment.

He later rejoined his regiment in France where he was appointed Acting Serjeant, he was appointed as an anti gas instructor at a Gas School.

He married Mary Elizabeth Booth on the 27th March 1915 at the Parish Church, Wingate.

I have been unable to trace the other brother who served.

L/Cpl George Warner (18130)
73rd Bn. Durham Light Infantry
Died 18 October 1918
Aged ?? years
Father of Master D H Warner of
Helmington Cottage, Hunwick, Byers
Green
Grave: III. D.26.
Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



DOINGT
COMMUNAL

CEMETERY
EXTENSION



Biographical Notes

George Henry Wm Warner	L/Cpl 18130 13DLI 8.10.1918 Born Felixstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk. Prior to war worked as a horseman at Hall Farm, Byers Green which was farmed by William & Annie Madderson. Entered France 25.8.1915. Unable to trace his burial.
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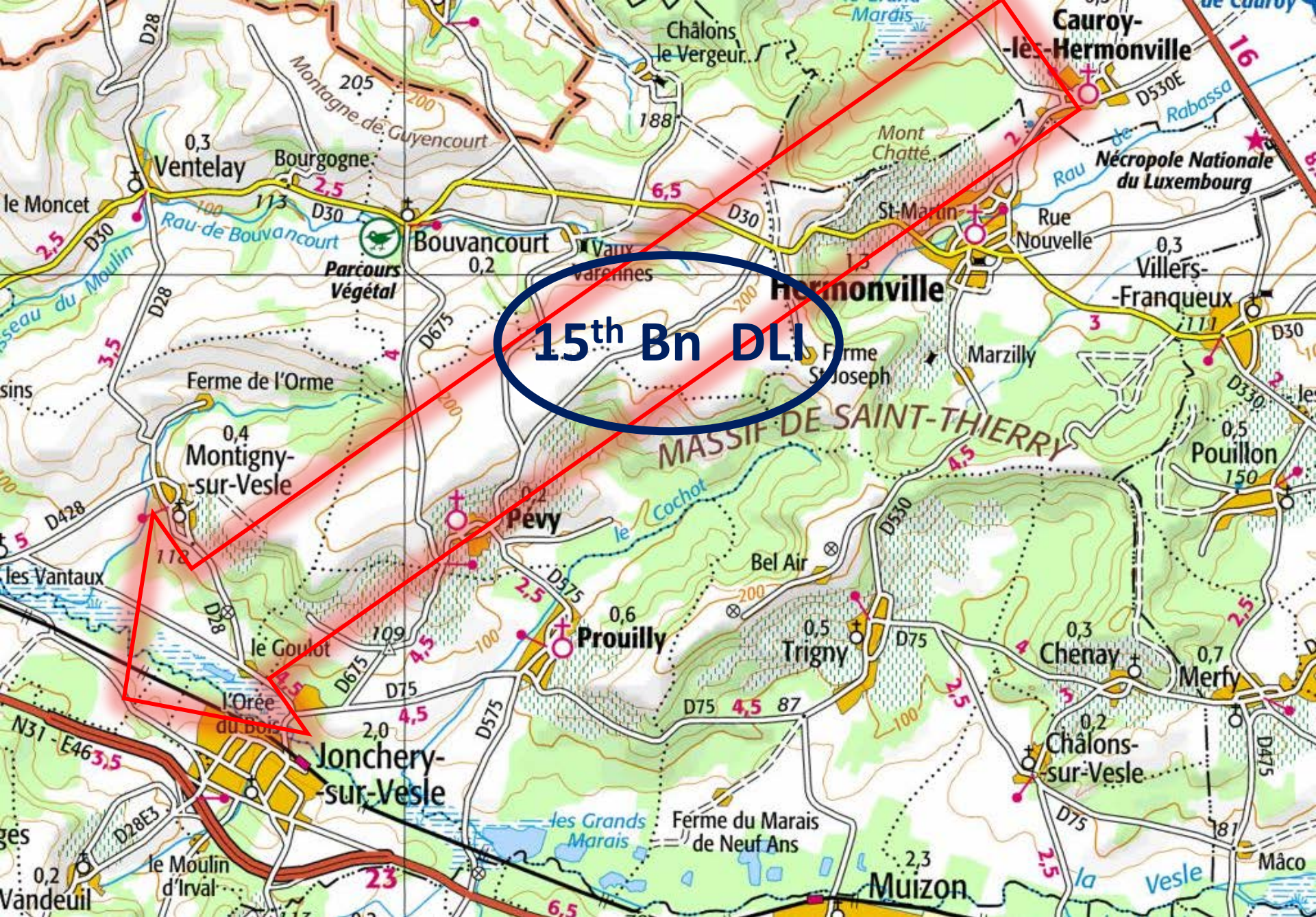
Private Brian Wetherell (18082) **MM**
15th Bn. Durham Light Infantry
64 Bde. 21 Div.
Died 29 May 1918. Aged ?? years
Byers Green resident, Enlisted in Bishop
Auckland
Hermonville British Cemetery, Near
Reims, France. Grave: II.C.6.



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Hermonville Military Cemetery, near Reims, France



The German Offensive and Retreat from Cauroy 27 -29 May 1918

The German Offensive – 1918

On 12 May 1918 in perfect weather, the 15th Bn DLI were moved by rail to Savigny and marched across the River Vesle to the little village of Pevy. Next morning they reached Hermonville and at night relieved the 6th Bn of the 299th (Bayard) French regiment in the line. The enemy showed little signs of activity and in the words of the French, the whole front was 'tres calme'

It remained relatively quiet and on 21 May, the Durhams were relieved and withdrew to a support position, moving a day later into a reserve camp at Chalons-le-Verguer. Warning of an expected attack was received on the evening of the 26th and when the battalion turned out at 01.00am on the 27th, a heavy bombardment of mustard gas shell came down upon the camp. The Fifteenth moved off in respirators through the dense fumes and reached Cauroy by way of woodland tracks.

At 10.00am, C company were sent forward to reinforce the 9th K.O.Y.L.I. but the Yorkshiremen had been forced to give ground and the German infantry were already on the main road. This company accordingly reinforced some of the 14th Northumberland Fusiliers holding the Avancee de Cauroy, while B company pushed out on the left to hold that flank. D company also occupied several central strong points.

The Germans came on in determined fashion supported by a fierce bombardment and pushed B company back. The Durhams counter-attacked with bombs and a bloody struggle was waged in these trenches on the outskirts of the village until the German numbers prevailed. By 7.30pm, a further onslaught of overwhelming strength pushed the British line back to the road behind the village.

The Fifteenth still held some posts on the right but by midnight the orders came to withdraw. Reassembling at a camp at Lujthernay Farm at 04.30am on the 28th May, they were now a brigade reserve but the Germans made rapid progress on the left flank and three hours later the Durhams were under machine-gun fire.

A position was hurriedly taken on the east end of the ridge that led west towards Molntigny but the rapidly advancing Germans required another 500 yards withdrawal to escape annihilation. The next position was on the ridge between Trigny and Prouilly but not all the survivors of the Fifteenth arrived here. Throughout the later part of the day there was heavy shell fire and some German patrols were active but no infantry advance. Prisoner reports indicated that the advance would be resumed next morning on the 29th May.

The Germans were known to be in Jonchery and before dawn the line was drawn back to the River Vesle. The Durhams first held the south bank west of Muizon. A fierce bombardment continued until 2.30pm when the Fifteenth were relieved by French troops and moved back to Rosnay and eventually south of the Marne to the Forest of Epernay.

In the heavy fighting of the 27th and 28th alone, the Fifteenth had lost 456 men in killed, wounded and missing, the heaviest casualties in the brigade.

(Extract from Durham Forces in the Field 1914-1918)

Many officers and men of 15th Bn DLI received gallantry awards in this action, not least of all, Private Brian Wetherell MM of Byers Green who died here on 29th May 1918

Biographical Notes

Bryan Wetherell MM

Pte 18082 15DLI 27/29.5.1918 Hermonville Military Cemetery, France.
Enlisted 5.9.1914 with 13Bn DLI. Born Byers Green, aged 31 years 4 months, miner.
He lived at 86 High Street, Byers Green with his wife Frances Mary Wetherell and children Roy (b 5.11.1908) and Robert (b 4.10.1912).
On 30.4.1915 posted to 3Bn, and 12.10.1915 entered France with 10Bn. On 25.6.1917 attached to the 43rd Trench Mortar Battery, posted to 11Bn on 6.4.1918, and 15Bn on 17.5.1918. Reported missing in action between 27/29.5.1918, and on 30.7.1918 he was struck off the strength of the Battalion as his death was presumed to have occurred on or since 27/29.5.1918.
On 18.2.1919, his widow, who was living at 49 High Street, Byers Green wrote to the army authorities requesting that the Military Medal her late husband had been awarded for an action in December 1915 be forwarded to her. They informed her that the MM could not be forwarded to her until the War Office authority for disposal had been received, she eventually received the medal which is named to 10Bn DLI on 3.11.1919. Widow completed an army pension form on 3.11.1919 with the following information; Frances Wetherell and children Roy & Robert of 52 Stockton Street, West Hartlepool. Father none, mother Annie Maria Wetherall of 86 High Street, Byers Green. Brothers William, Robert, Thomas & Hodgson, sisters Mary Wetherell & Ethel Fishburn

Private Samuel Wherry (23651)
13th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers
Died 20 August 1917. Aged 42 years
Son of Mrs Wherry and husband of Mary
Ann Wherry of 4 Flagg Road, Byers Green
Grave: 4, "U". H. 48.
Crook and Willington (Willington)
Cemetery, County Durham



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY



Crook and Willington (Willington) Cemetery, Witton Le Wear, Durham

Biographical Notes

Samuel J Wherry

Pte 23651 13Bn Northumberland Fusiliers. 20.8.1917 42 years
Buried Crook & Willington (Willington) Cemetery. Died at Alnwick from injuries received in action, he had been sent to Alnwick for convalescence, and died suddenly. His body was conveyed to Willington on 24.8.1917 for internment at above cemetery. Born Willington, he had previously served in the Boer War.
Son of Mrs Wherry of 5 Chapel Street, Willington. Husband of Mary Ann Wherry of 83 High Street, Byers Green (later 4 Flagg Street), daughter Elsie aged 6 years.

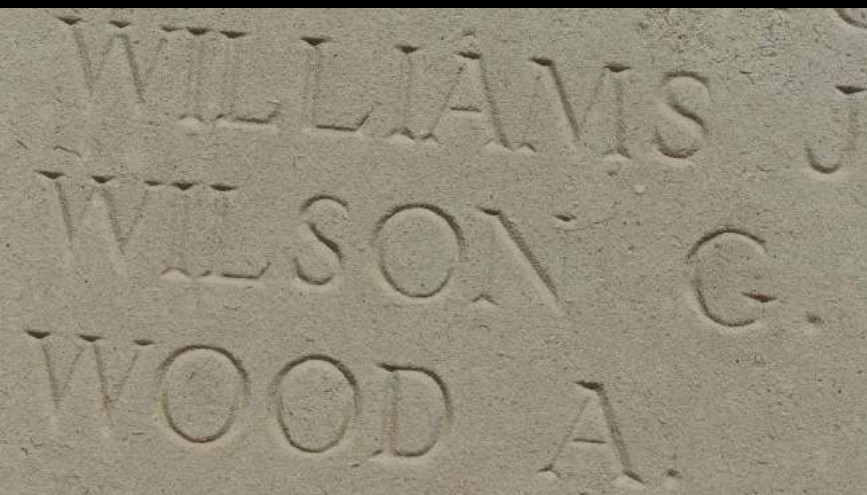
Believed to be:

Private George Wilson (50802)
Formerly (73582) Durham Light Infantry
Princess Charlotte of Wales
1st Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died 7 September 1918. Aged 30 years
Born in Byers Green. Resident of
Spennymoor, Enlisted at Ferryhill

No known Grave

Commemorated on Panel 7

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais,
Haucourt, France





Vis-en-Artois Military Cemetery & Memorial, Harcourt, France.

Biographical Notes

George Wilson

Pte 50802 1Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment. 7.9.1918 Vis-En-Artois Memorial (Formerly 13582 DLI). Born 1988 at Byers Green. Parents Richard & Elizabeth (nee Allinson) Wilson. Husband of Martha (nee Robinson) Wilson, they had five children. Also recorded on Newfield war memorial.

Private John William Marley (2879)
1/6th Bn Durham Light Infantry
Died 8 February 1916. Aged 22 years
Son of Ralph & Margaret Jane Marley of
8, The Barracks, Byers Green.

Grave: I. L. 3.
Perth Cemetery (China Wall)
Zillebeke, Belgium.



WALTER KIRKBY
GEORGE LASCELLES
WILLIAM MASON
JACOB PYLE
MATTHEW RAINE
WILLIAM RAINE
JOSEPH ROBINSON
JOHN ROBSON
JAMES SELBY
JAMES HENRY SHELDON
RICHARD SMALL
MATTHEW SOUTHERON
JOHN TULIP
JOSEPH TURTON
GEORGE WARNER
BRIAN WETHERELL
SAMUEL WHERRY
GEORGE WILSON
WILLIAM MARLEY

Biographical Notes

William Marley

Pte 2879 1/6Bn DLI 8.2.1916 Perth Cemetery (China Wall)

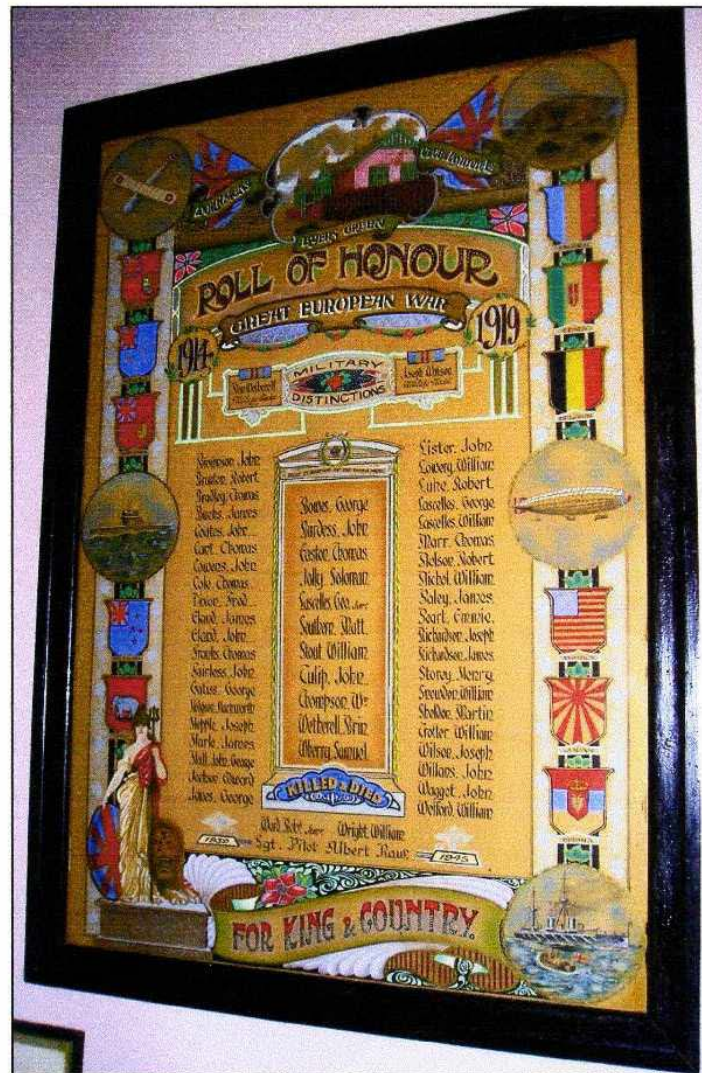
Born Byers Green, full name John William Marley. Occupation miner.

Son of Ralph & Margaret Jane Marley of 8 The Barracks, Byers Green. Later lived 2 Hopworth Yard, Dans Castle, Tow Law.

The Great War

Byers Green Working Men's Club Memorial

Byers Green Working Men's Club Memorial



Killed or Died (Central Column)

George Bowes
Solomon Jolly
William Stout
Brin Wetherell

John Burdess
George Lascelles Jnr
John Tulip
Samuel Wherry

Thomas Easton
Matthew Southern (Sotheron)
William Thompson

Of the above men, only the names of Bowes, Stout and Thompson are not recorded on Byers Green War Memorial.

Photo & Data Courtesy of John & Jim Grainger (Spennymoor)

Byers Green Men not commemorated
on the Village War Memorial

Biographical Notes

From: Byers Green Working Men's Club Memorial

George Henderson Bowes	Gnr 71863 Royal Field Artillery 21.3.1918 23 years Crook & Willington (Willington) Cemetery. Born Willington. Occupation pony driver. Son of Thomas & Annie Bowes of 121 School Row, Page Bank.
William Stout	Pte 95154 15DLI 2.11.1918 23 years St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen Born Shildon. Occupation coke plant worker. Son of Robinson & Elizabeth Ann Stout of Shildon. Husband of Ada Bradley (formerly Stout) 31 King Street, Witton Park.
William Thompson	No information, possibly William Coltman Thompson. Occupation bricklayer. Lived with his wife Jessie Blake Thompson and their children Mary Elizabeth and Ellen Hannah at High Street, Byers Green.

From: Other Sources

John Bell	Pte 250482 DLI 1/6th Battalion 29.3.1918 Pozieres Memorial. Formerly 4068 DLI. Born Stanhope lived Byers Green
Robert Raine	Sapper 175601 Royal Engineers 258th Tunnelling Company 15.10.1916 34 years Loos memorial. (Formerly R4/089473 ASC). Born Fylands Bridge, St Helens Auckland, and lived at Byers Green Colliery. Husband of Ann Fenwick (formerly Raine) 71 Garden Street, Witton Park.
Roger Stephenson	Pte 270902 Northumberland Hussars 3.7.1917 27 years Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Born Oakenshaw, lived Byers Green. Son of George & Clara Stephenson 61 High Street, Byers Green.

Sapper Thomas James Sorrell
(WR/125512)
Royal Engineers
Died 27 March 1921. Aged 42 years
Husband of Lilly Sorrell of 28 Aldam
Street, Darlington.
Byers Green St Peter Churchyard
Extension. Grave Ref: 101.

There is no inscription on the Byers
Green War Memorial to record Thomas
Sorrell's name. His late post-war death in
1921, dying probably from wounds, may
account for this oversight.



Part Two - The 1939 - 45 War

1939-1945

JOHN BRIGGS

WILLIAM MOORES

JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

ARTHUR ERIC POYNTER

ALBERT RAW

JOHN GEORGE RICHARDSON

LAURENCE SCANLON

SYDNEY SMITH

FREDERICK WARD

**"THEIR SEED SHALL REMAIN FOR EVER AND
THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT."**

Sapper John Briggs (2013681)
Royal Engineers
Died 22 September 1941. Aged 26 years

Son of Charles Goodswen Briggs and
Mary Briggs, of Byers Green

Buried in Byers Green (St Peter)
Churchyard Extension
Grave: Section D. Row 14N. Grave 2.



1939-1945

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WILLIAM MOORES

JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

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Gunner William Moores (1609387)
Royal Artillery, 292 Bty, 94 HAA Regt.
Died 24 January 1943. Aged 32 years

Son of William & Julia Moores and
Husband of Elizabeth Ann Moores of
Byers Green

Grave: 5. A 10.
Commonwealth War Cemetery,
Tripoli, Libya



1939-1945

JOHN BRIGGS

WILLIAM MOORES

JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

ARTHUR ERIC POYNTER

ALBERT RAW

JOHN GEORGE RICHARDSON

LAURENCE SCANLON

SYDNEY SMITH

FREDERICK WARD

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Gunner Joseph Michael O'Connell
(880014)

Royal Artillery . 1 Field Regiment
Died 9 August 1941. Aged 21 years

Son of Thomas & Bridget O'Connell of
Glin, County Limerick, Ireland

Grave: K.95.

Commonwealth War Memorial
Cemetery, Cairo, Egypt



1939-1945

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WILLIAM MOORES

JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

ARTHUR ERIC POYNTER

ALBERT RAW

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SYDNEY SMITH

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Private Arthur Eric Poynter (4468954)
Durham Light Infantry
Died 28 May 1945. Aged 42 years

Son of Walter & Florence Poynter and
Husband of Alexandrina Poynter of
Todhills, Byers Green

Buried in Crook & Willington
(Willington) Cemetery
Section 4. Row R. Grave 63.



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Sergeant (Pilot) Albert Raw (748237)
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died 20 October 1941. Aged 24 years

Son of Ernest Arthur and Elizabeth Alice
Raw and Husband of Mary Raw of
Spennymoor

Buried in Spennymoor Cemetery
Section C. Grave 1510.



1939-1945

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FREDERICK WARD

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Gunner John George Richardson
(1082101)
104 Essex Yeomanry Regiment
Royal Horse Artillery
Died 30 October 1942. Aged 36 years

Son of Thomas and Jane Richardson of
Byers Green

Grave: V.F. 19.
El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt



1939-1945

JOHN BRIGGS

WILLIAM MOORES

JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

ARTHUR ERIC POYNTER

ALBERT RAW

JOHN GEORGE RICHARDSON

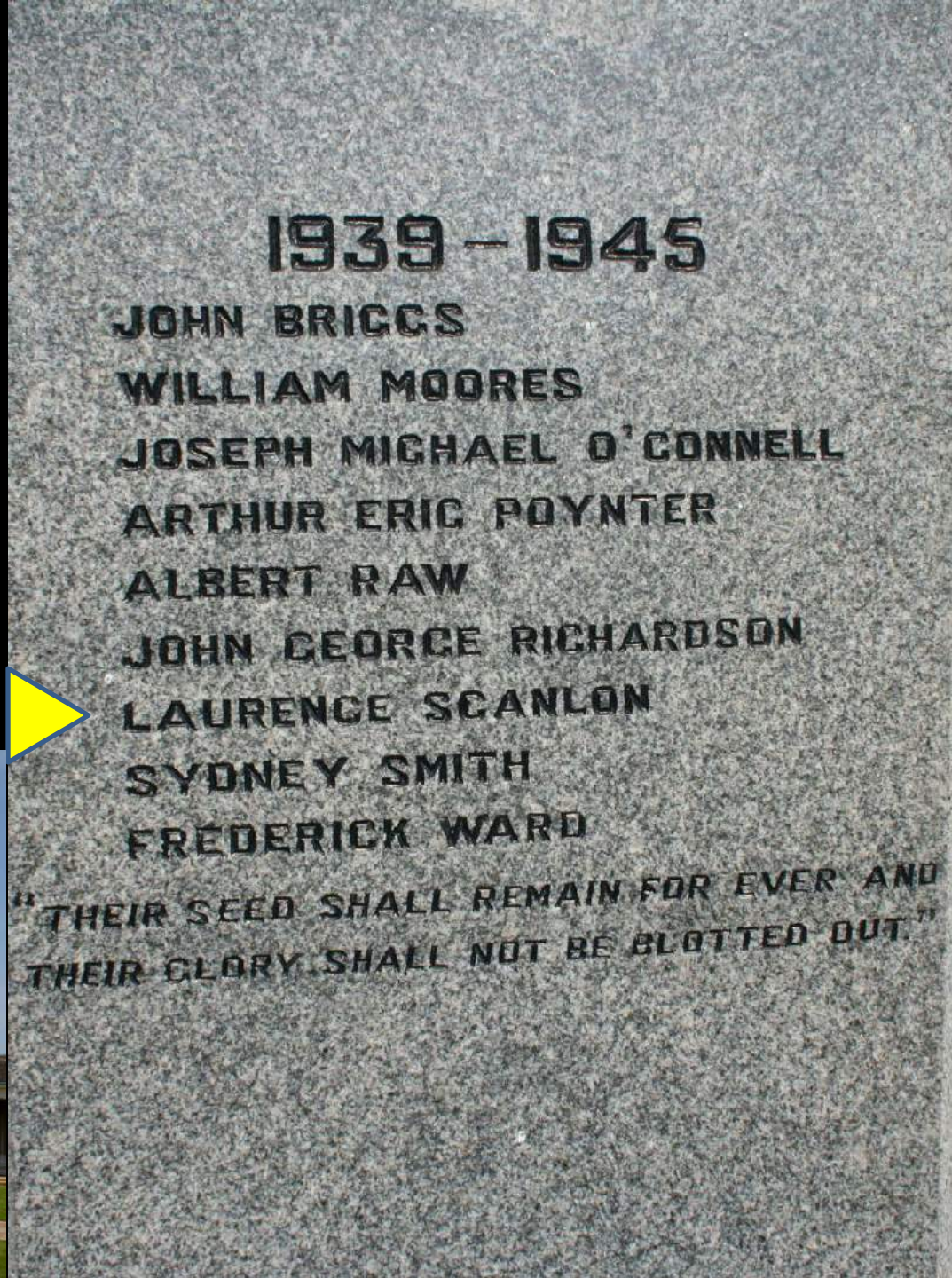
LAURENCE SCANLON

SYDNEY SMITH

FREDERICK WARD

"THEIR SEED SHALL REMAIN FOR EVER AND
THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT."

Leading Aircraftman Laurence Scanlon
(1670043)
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died 7 November 1944. Aged 21 years
Son of John Thomas Scanlon and Isabella
Scanlon of Byers Green
No known grave
Commemorated on Panel 242.
The Runnymede Memorial, Surrey



Believed to be:

Sergeant Sydney Smith (623798)

220 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Died 2 August 1940. Aged 26 years

Son of Robert and Alice May Smith of
Deneside, Seaham, Co Durham

Buried in Thornaby-on-Tees Cemetery
Plot O, Row N. Grave 5.



1939-1945

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JOSEPH MICHAEL O'CONNELL

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Thornaby-on-Tees Cemetery, North Yorkshire

Corporal Frederick Ward (4469032)
Lincolnshire Regiment
Formerly Durham Light Infantry
Died 8 January 1944. Aged ? years
Son of John Robert and Hannah Ward of
Low Spennymoor.
Commonwealth War Cemetery,
Cassino, Italy. Grave: III. A. 21.





Byers Green Men in 1941 and Members of the War Memorial Committee in 1948

Back Row: Joe Armstrong, Mr F Talbot, Mr M Fairless, George Storey, Jack Waters, Mr H Wilkinson, Bill Elliot, Mr S Wilson, Joe Waters, Arthur Hodgson
Front Row: Jack Brownson, Mr G Tulip, Charlie Moulton, William Robinson, Richard Cartwright, Mr W Jolly, Jack Hartley, Jack Richardson

Not Present: Mr M Carr, Mr T Coney and Mr P McKernon

NB: Some uncertainty exists concerning the identity of those named in blue.

About the Author:

John Cartwright completed his education at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle in 1957, joined the Royal Air Force as an Air Photographic Interpreter and was later commissioned as an RAF Intelligence Officer.

Holding various Senior Staff appointments in the UK and in Germany he also saw active service with Special Forces during the Falklands Campaign in 1982. As an active mountaineer, he served as Chairman of the RAF Mountaineering Association and in 1985 was Chairman of the UK Joint Services Mountaineering Committee.

He retired in 2002 but for twelve years has continued to work as a consultant satellite imagery analyst specializing in nuclear counter proliferation, holding down an appointment with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, with the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) in Madrid, and with other non-government agencies.

His other interests include sailing and military history.

End Note:

This work is incomplete, inasmuch as there is much more still to be told. I have much more data yet to be recorded with regard to the many individual actions where most of the casualties occurred. But I would also hope that the data so far given here will provide a platform for family members and students of military history to pursue their own research and enquiries surrounding these momentous days of our history.

In the spirit of remembrance we should seek to uncover the difficulties and the tragedies endured by this war time generation and the special qualities of our people who found the strength and fortitude to survive these awful times.

Feel free to contact me if you have any more information or would wish to comment:

jeccartwright@aol.com

Or contact John & Jim Grainger of Spennymoor at:

Monreith@aol.com