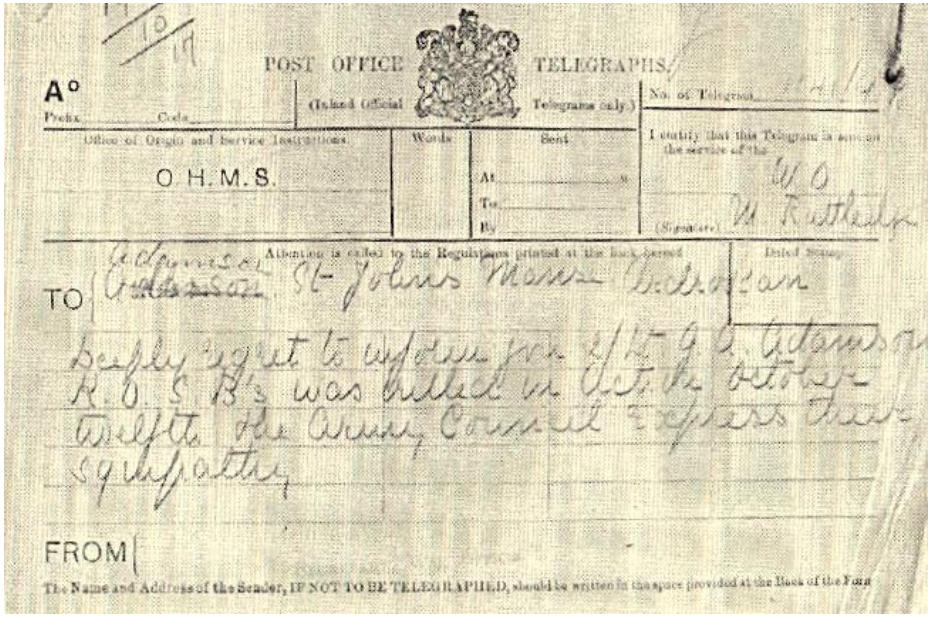
George Addis
Adamson

A few days after George's death, his parents received a telegram with the tragic news. In his last will, George had stated that his parents should inherit all his belongings, a meager comfort for them.

Obituary George (National Archives) →


POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS

A°

(Inland Official Telegrams only.)

No. of Telegram

Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Words | Sent

O.H.M.S.

At ... s.

To

By

I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the W.O.

(Signature) M. Rattle

Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof. | Dated

TO Adamson St Johns Manse Edinburgh

Deeply regret to inform you Lt G A Adamson R.G.S.B. was killed in Action the October twelfth. The Army Council express their sympathy

FROM

The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.

Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

Robert, George's oldest brother, did not survive the First World War either. He was killed in France on 23 April 1917 and his name can be found today on the Arras Memorial, which commemorates nearly 35,000 British, South African and New Zealand missing soldiers, meaning his body was not identified after the war.

← Arras Memorial (CWGC)

Robert and Robina had to bear the loss of their two sons for many years to come. It is not known exactly when they died. Two of George's brothers died relatively young: Alistair in 1945 at the age of 43 in San Francisco (US), Graham in 1949 when he was only 39 years old.

George's parents found comfort in their faith after their sons fell. They donated a baptismal font to St. Johns Church, where Robert was the minister. They dedicated their gift to God and to their deceased sons, as can be seen from the inscription.

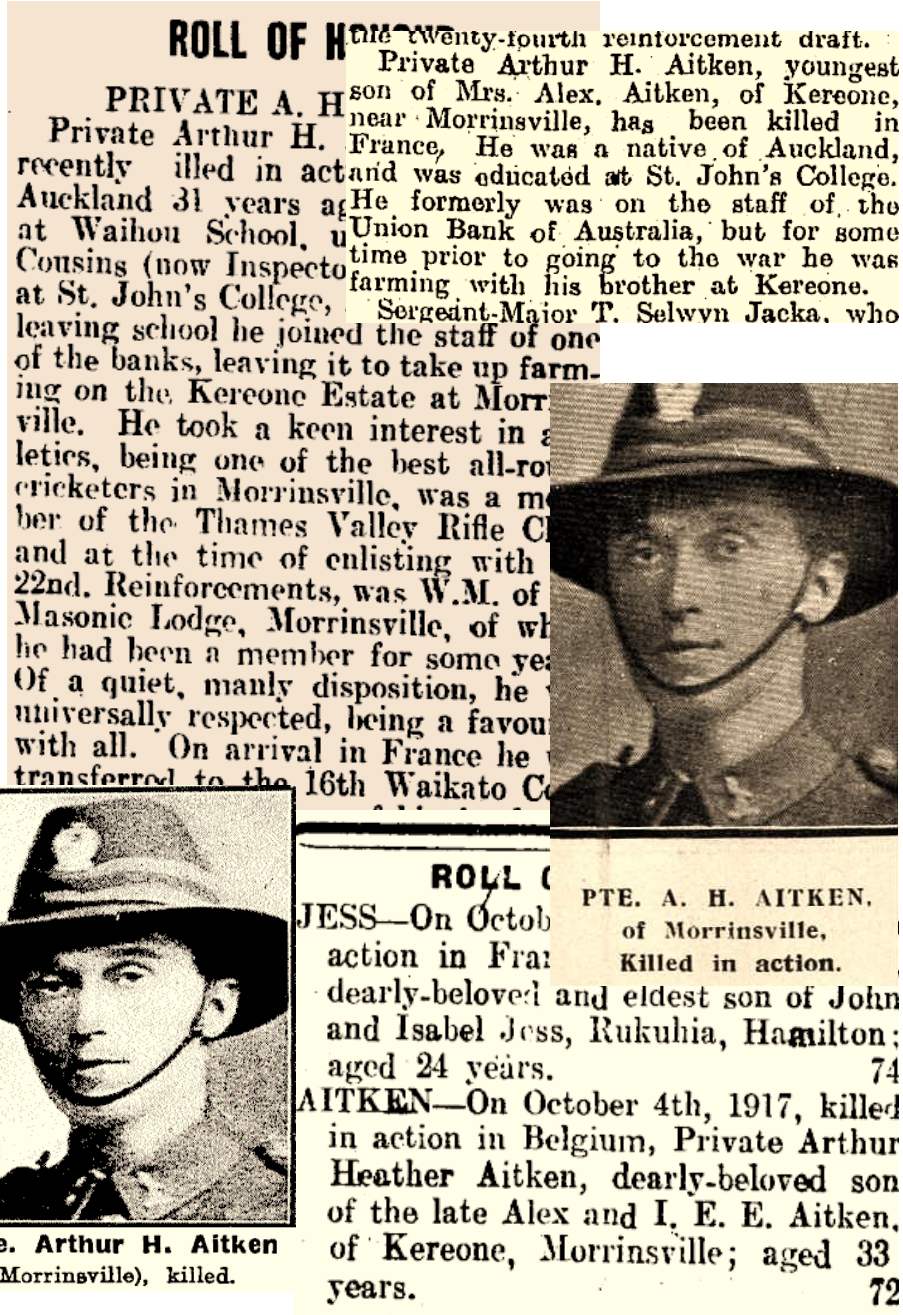
After the First World War, a monument was erected in Ardrossan for the fallen of the city. In addition to the 150 names of those who died, the front of the cross also refers to the local community. Saint Columba, a figure from Celtic Christianity, stands for religion. Two Scottish medieval warriors represent the army and the navy. At the bottom are three Scottish celebrities: a poet, an inventor and an explorer. They symbolize peace.

Arthur Heather
Aitken

About a week and a half after Arthur fell, his mother Isaline was notified of his death. Shortly thereafter, a death notice was published in several newspapers. More often than in other countries, photos of the fallen were published in New Zealand, to immortalize their faces.

Both Isaline and Arthur's brother William moved to Auckland after the war. Isaline died in 1938, William in 1960. The Aitkins' farm still exists today.

← Aitkin Estate (Morrinsville Museum)



ROLL OF H

PRIVATE A. H

Private Arthur H. recently illed in act Auckland 31 years a at Waihou School, u Cousins (now Inspecto at St. John's College, leaving school he joined the staff of one of the banks, leaving it to take up farming on the Kereone Estate at Morr ville. He took a keen interest in a letics, being one of the best all-ro cricketers in Morrinsville, was a m ber of the Thames Valley Rifle C and at the time of enlisting with 22nd. Reinforcements, was W.M. of Masonic Lodge, Morrinsville, of wh he had been a member for some ye Of a quiet, manly disposition, he universally respected, being a favou with all. On arrival in France he transferred to the 16th Waikato C

the twenty-fourth reinforcement draft.

Private Arthur H. Aitken, youngest son of Mrs. Alex. Aitken, of Kereone, near Morrinsville, has been killed in France. He was a native of Auckland, and was educated at St. John's College. He formerly was on the staff of the Union Bank of Australia, but for some time prior to going to the war he was farming with his brother at Kereone.

Sergeant-Major T. Selwyn Jacka, who

PTE. A. H. AITKEN, of Morrinsville, Killed in action.

Pvte. Arthur H. Aitken (Morrinsville), killed.

ROLL

JESS—On Octob action in Fra dearly-beloved and eldest son of John and Isabel Jess, Rukuhia, Hamilton; aged 24 years. 74

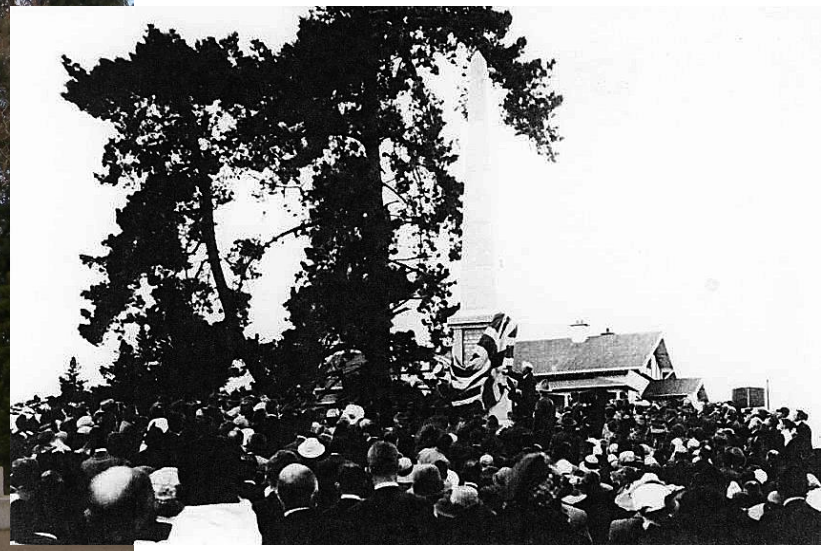
AITKEN—On October 4th, 1917, killed in action in Belgium, Private Arthur Heather Aitken, dearly-beloved son of the late Alex and I. E. E. Aitken, of Kereone, Morrinsville; aged 33 years. 72

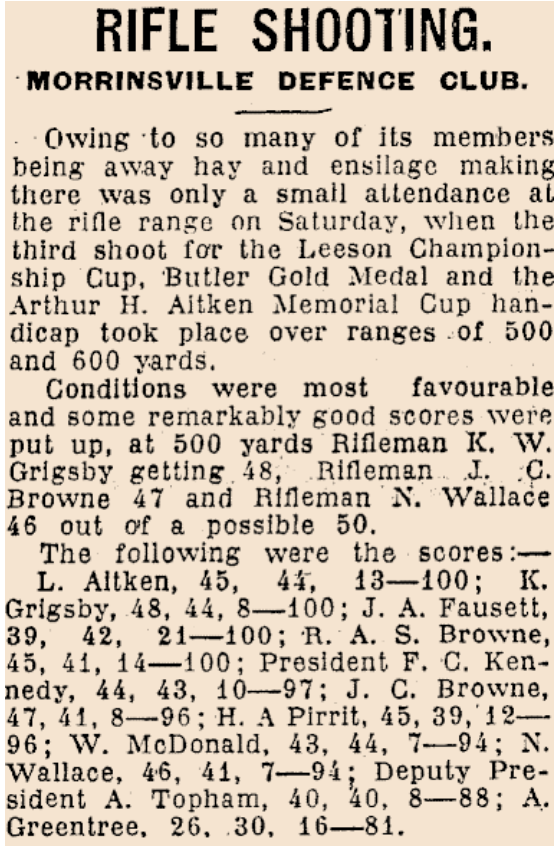
After the First World War, many New Zealand towns and villages wanted to erect memorials to those who died. Morrinsville was no exception. Funds were acquired and the construction of an obelisk began in early 1922. The monument, which cost £1,500, a huge amount of money at the time, was made of both local and Australian granite. In April 1922, the monument was inaugurated by Lord Jellicoe, the Governor General of New Zealand, in front of a large gathering. To this day, a memorial service is held at the monument every year on Anzac Day, on April 25.

Arthur was an avid rifle shooter. During the interwar period, an "Arthur H. Aitken Memorial Cup" was organized in his honour several times in Morrinsville by the local shooting club.

← Morrinsville War Memorial, 2007
(Michael Gribble)

Inauguration of the monument, 1922
(Morrinsville Museum) ↓





RIFLE SHOOTING.

MORRINSVILLE DEFENCE CLUB.

Owing to so many of its members being away hay and ensilage making there was only a small attendance at the rifle range on Saturday, when the third shoot for the Leeson Championship Cup, Butler Gold Medal and the Arthur H. Aitken Memorial Cup handicap took place over ranges of 500 and 600 yards.

Conditions were most favourable and some remarkably good scores were put up, at 500 yards Rifleman K. W. Grigsby getting 48, Rifleman J. C. Browne 47 and Rifleman N. Wallace 46 out of a possible 50.

The following were the scores:—L. Aitken, 45, 44, 13—100; K. Grigsby, 48, 44, 8—100; J. A. Fausett, 39, 42, 21—100; R. A. S. Browne, 45, 41, 14—100; President F. C. Kennedy, 44, 43, 10—97; J. C. Browne, 47, 41, 8—96; H. A Pirrit, 45, 39, 12—96; W. McDonald, 43, 44, 7—94; N. Wallace, 46, 41, 7—94; Deputy President A. Topham, 40, 40, 8—88; A. Greentree, 26, 30, 16—81.

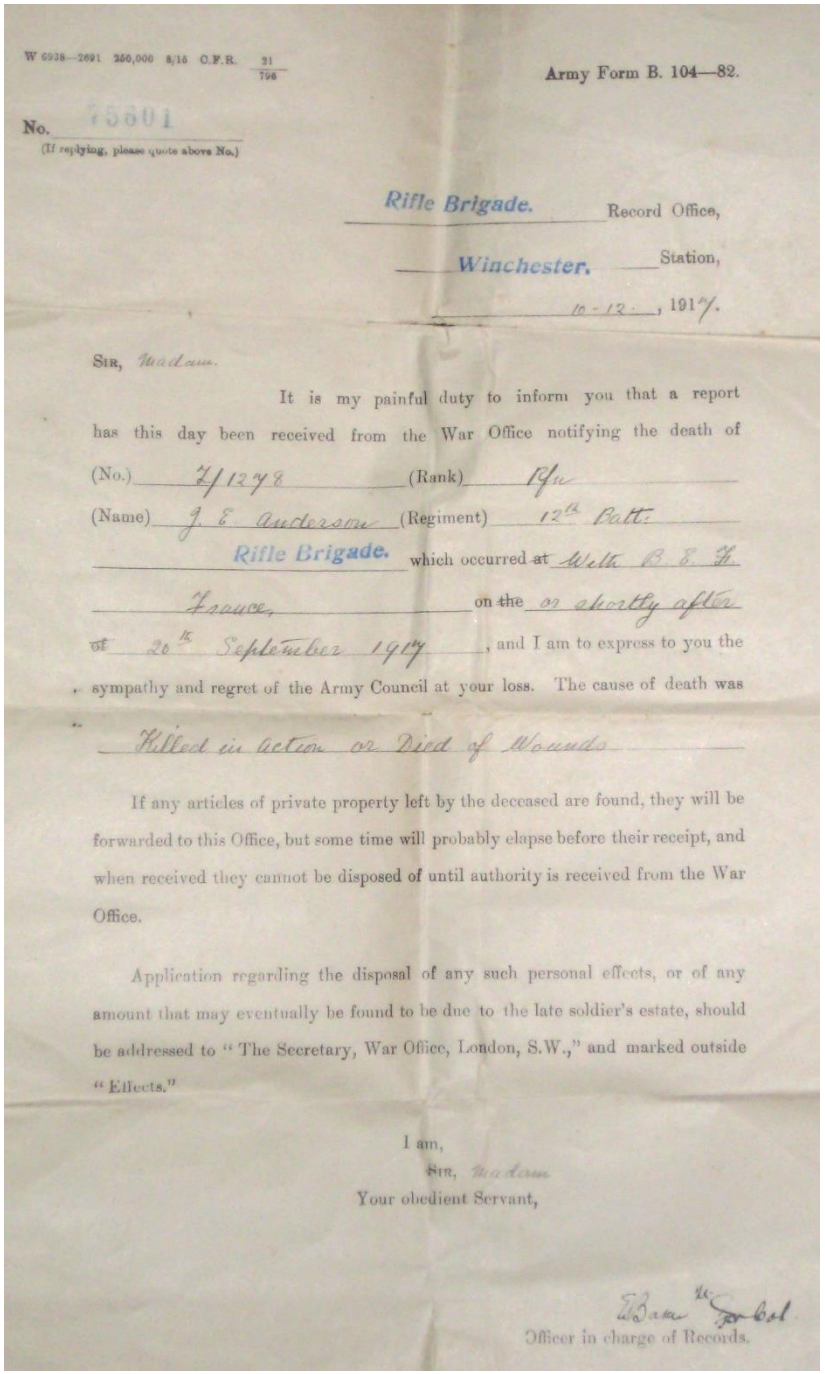
Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

James Edward Anderson

Lottie, James' widow, received a letter in December 1917 with the news that her husband had died. After the September 20 attack, it may not have been immediately clear what exactly had happened to James. If a soldier did not return after an attack and there were no witnesses to his death or the body was not found, it might mean that he had been taken prisoner. To verify this, prisoner of war lists in Germany were checked via the International Red Cross. This took some time, which may explain why Lottie received the message so late.

Lottie was sent a few of James' personal belongings in early 1918: footwear, some photos, a wallet, postcards and scissors. The items were probably recovered in his unit's encampment far behind the battlefield.

Irene was seven years old when she lost her father. But Dorothy was not even a year old when James was killed. Today's descendants of Dorothy assume that James was never able to see his youngest daughter.



W 6938—2691 250,000 8/15 C.F.R. 21/796

Army Form B. 104—82.

No. 75501
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Rifle Brigade. Record Office,
Winchester. Station,
10-12-, 1917.

Sir, Madam.

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of (No.) 7/1278 (Rank) Pte
(Name) J. E. Anderson (Regiment) 12th Batt.
Rifle Brigade. which occurred ~~at~~ West B. E. F.
France, on ~~the~~ or shortly after
~~of~~ 20th September 1914, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was
Killed in Action or Died of Wounds

If any articles of private property left by the deceased are found, they will be forwarded to this Office, but some time will probably elapse before their receipt, and when received they cannot be disposed of until authority is received from the War Office.

Application regarding the disposal of any such personal effects, or of any amount that may eventually be found to be due to the late soldier's estate, should be addressed to "The Secretary, War Office, London, S.W.," and marked outside "Effects."

I am,
Sir, Madam
Your obedient Servant,

Officer in charge of Records.

Notification of James' death →

After the war, Lottie received a bronze Memorial Plaque and three standard medals in tribute to her fallen husband: the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. In addition to her widow's pension, these were a small consolation to her. Although the medals could not compensate for the loss of her husband, she and her descendants kept them carefully.

Throughout her life, Dorothy preserved a postcard that James sent to her. It is one of the few tangible memories she had of a father she never knew.

RIFLE BRIGADE Record Office,
WINCHESTER.
21st Jan.1921.

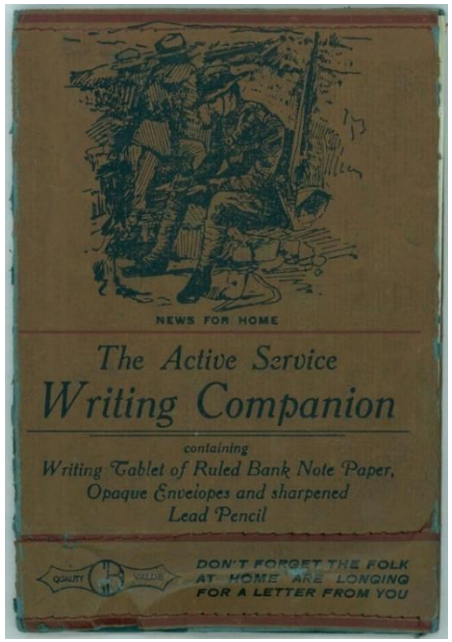
I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying
BRITISH WAR MEDAL.
which would have been conferred upon
No. Z/1278. Rifleman. J. E. Anderson.Rifle Brigade.
had he lived, in memory of his services with the British Forces during the Great War.
In forwarding the Decoration I am comma
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's
appreciation of the services rendered.
I am to request that you will be so goo
acknowledge the receipt of the Decoration
attached form.
I am,
Your obedient Servant,
for Colonel i/c Records.

Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

Neville Henry Arden

Shortly after Neville died, his mother Fanny was informed. She carefully kept some of her son's possessions, including a series of cartoons that Neville drew in 1907.

Neville's mother probably also received some personal items from Europe, including "The Active Service Writing Companion," a booklet with writing paper, envelopes and a pencil.



Personal belongings of Neville (Puke Ariki) →

On 22 November 1917, Neville's obituary was posted in the Auckland Weekly News (right). In New Zealand, an obitiary often included a photo to immortalize the face of the fallen soldier.

A few weeks later, on 2 January 1918, the local newspaper the Taranaki Herald published an article detailing how Neville died (left). In a letter to Fanny, Lieutenant Rohan described his final moments.

CAPTAIN N. H. ARDEN, OF NEW PLYMOUTH, KILLED IN ACTION.

HOW HE MET HIS DEATH.

Mrs. Arden, Frankley Road, has received a letter from Lieutenant M. D. Rohan, of the 4th Otago Company, dated from France, November 19, giving some particulars of the death of her son, Captain Neville Arden, on October 4. Lieutenant Rohan writes:—"I was his second in command during the battle and had been an officer with him ever since the brigade was formed. We were the firmest of friends, and even here, where life counts for little or nothing, his death has been a very severe shock to me. Captain Arden was as upright and brave a man as it was possible for a British officer to be. He had long ago earned the respect and admiration of his men. They would, and indeed did, follow him to the death. Had he lived he would assuredly have gained a high decoration. The preparation for our attack was made under the worst conditions. The enemy suspected that we were concentrating for the attack, and all through the night his bombardment was fearful. Under this several of us laid the "kicking-off" tape, and Captain Arden was the whole time exposed to certain death. Our company's objective was a ridge known as Abraham Heights, strongly fortified. The most dangerous fortification was a pill-box known as Van Meulen. At 6 a.m. on October 4 our barrage fell, and we moved forward. I can still picture Captain Arden as we advanced, watch in one hand and revolver in the other. Half-way up a shell blew his watch out of his hand and gave him a nasty wound over the right eye. He refused to go back and have it dressed. I did not see him alive again, but those who did tell how he led the men again and again against machine-gun positions, and finally led them up to Van Meulen. It was here that he was killed. After being hit he lived only a few minutes, though I don't think he knew he was dying. Practically his last act was to send me a message saying he was hit, and telling me to carry on. The other two officers of our company were badly wounded the same morning. I am the only officer who came out untouched. We brought his body in next morning and buried him in a little cemetery, and our padre, the Rev. Lopdell, read the burial service."

Lieutenant Rohan adds that he never knew a man more fearless than Captain Arden, whom he was proud to have known. Both by his life and his death he revealed himself a man of noble nature.

Another letter received by Mrs. Arden from France is from Percy Whitcombe, who, after describing where his friend Neville was buried, says: "It is a hero's grave, with inverted rifles and a wooden cross with the inscription 'Captain N. H. Arden.'"

Neville's field grave near Aisne and Somme Farm, late 1917 - early 1918. ↓

John Nicholas Crowley

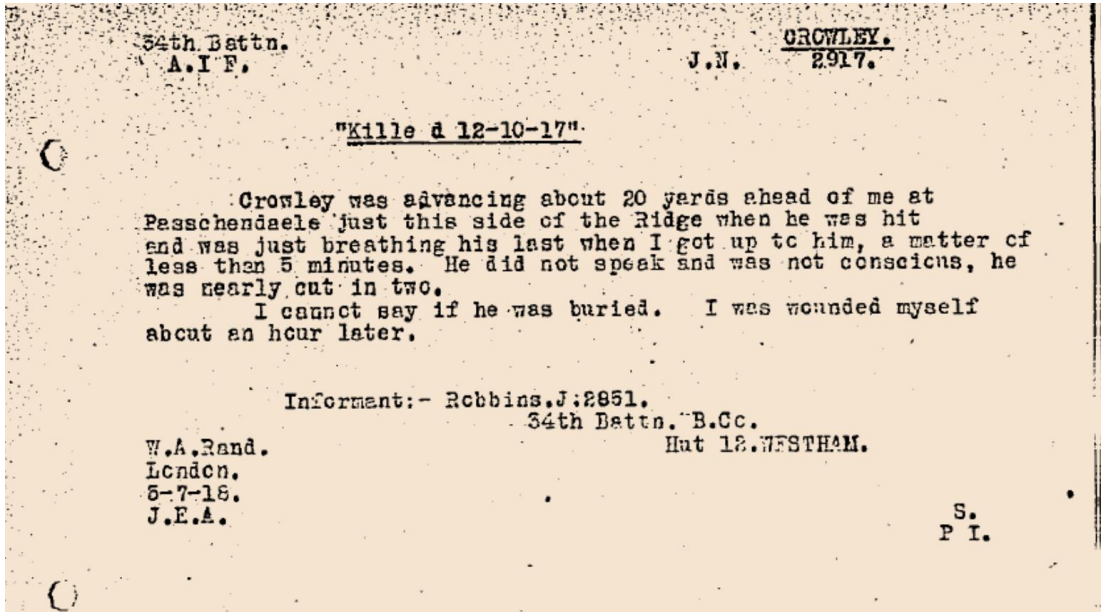
The loss of John was a heavy blow to his wife and children. For his mother Bridget, by then 75 years old, it meant one more great sorrow. Her son Matthew, a younger brother to John, had already died in the Battle of Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915.

After the October 12 attack, it was not immediately clear what exactly had happened to John. His wife and children remained in limbo for months. Although the family had been notified in writing that John had not returned to his unit, they wanted to know more about exactly what had happened.

Oswald, John's son, sent a letter to the Australian Red Cross Society in late November 1917. The Red Cross collected information about prisoners of war through sister organizations in Germany and Switzerland. They also went through official lists of fallen soldiers and prisoners, and interviewed possible witnesses.

The Red Cross soon confirmed that John was missing. At the beginning of 1918, the Australian military services sent an official verdict: "killed in action". Finally, on 4 July 1918, the Red Cross announced that their findings confirmed this conclusion.

Detail of testimony in John's dossier, Australian Red Cross records (National Archives of Australia). ↓



34th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROWLEY.
J.N. 2917.

"Kille d 12-10-17"

Crowley was advancing about 20 yards ahead of me at Passchendaele just this side of the Ridge when he was hit and was just breathing his last when I got up to him, a matter of less than 5 minutes. He did not speak and was not conscious, he was nearly cut in two.

I cannot say if he was buried. I was wounded myself about an hour later.

Informant:- Robbins.J.:2851.
34th Battn. B.Co.
Hut 12.WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand.
London.
6-7-18.
J.E.A.

S.
P I.

John Nicholas junior ("Jack"), Oswald James and Reginald Baden, three of James' sons, also signed up as war volunteers. Thomas, born in 1906, was too young to sign up.

Reginald (Australian War Memorial) ↓

Born in 1900, Reginald served in the same unit as his father. He was killed on 4 April 1918, when he was shot at close range by a German officer with a revolver, during an attack on Hangard Wood near Villers-Bretonneux, France. At the time of his death, he was only 18 years old. Reginald had lied about his age when he registered in 1916.

After the war, a memorial was erected for John and Reginald at Temora Cemetery, a kind of final resting place close to their home.

Published letter from John's eldest son John Nicholas about his father's death. (Cootamundra Herald, 24 July 1918) →

THE LATE PTE. J. N. CROWLEY.

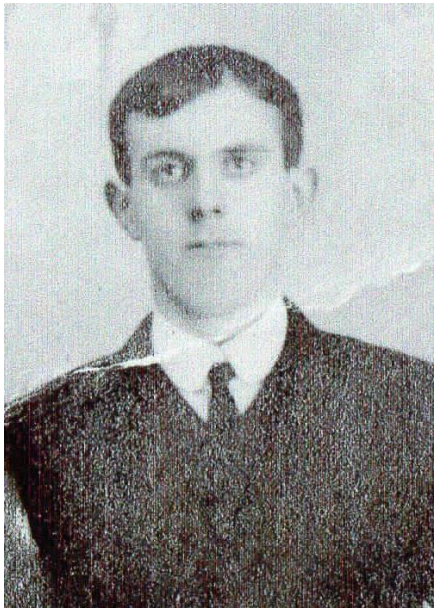
The Wyalong Pressman.

News from J.N., jun.

Writing to Mr. Stephenson, of Wyalong, Trooper J. N. Crowley gives the following particulars of his father's death:

No doubt you will be surprised to hear from J. N. junr., but as I am aware that you and my late dad were intimate friends, I was thinking perhaps you would like to know a little more than that conveyd by the cold official "Killed Notice." He was posted "missing" as from 12th October, 1917 ,and from conversation with several chaps of the same battalion, I learnt that the battalion was in very heavy fighting that day and did not manage to hold all the ground advanced over. He was seen to be wounded in the hand shortly *after the "hop over the top,"* but went on, and in all probability he stopped another "packet" and got down in the mud, which was waist deep in most parts the batallion was in. He was officially reported "Killed in Action" later, last January. I know there were hopes cherished out there that he was or would be a prisoner of war, but myself and Oss, who after a couple of years of the western front, know the condition too well to entertain any hopes after being reported "missing." Reg. was in the same battalion and was killed in action on Friday, August 5. Oswald was all right up to the 27th ult., but haven't heard from him since that date. The Australian divisions have fought wonderfully well in this battle of carnage, but we were never crying out louder for the help of our comrades in civilian clothes in Australia than we are to-day. We must lack men in Australia who are unable to inspire these young men with their sense of duty towards God, Freedom and Humanity. What must these slackers feel inwardly when they hear of the determination of us boys in France and Flanders from every part of the British Empire fighting with our backs up against the wall for all that we hold most dear. We see daily with our own eyes women and children homeless; once peaceful villages ruined and in flames. However, you know all this. No peril can be too great, no sacrifice too extreme, to save that fair country of ours from the fate of Belgium and Northern France. It has taken this war *to find out the real men worthy* of the name of men, and the British Army in France to-day will fight to the last man before we will see our homes devastated; our sisters enslaved by the Boche military heads of Germany. My father and brother, both of whom have paid the supreme sacrifice, feel confident that it was for the greatest cause the world has ever known. All I can add is that surely no greater love hath man for his friends that he that dies so that they may live.

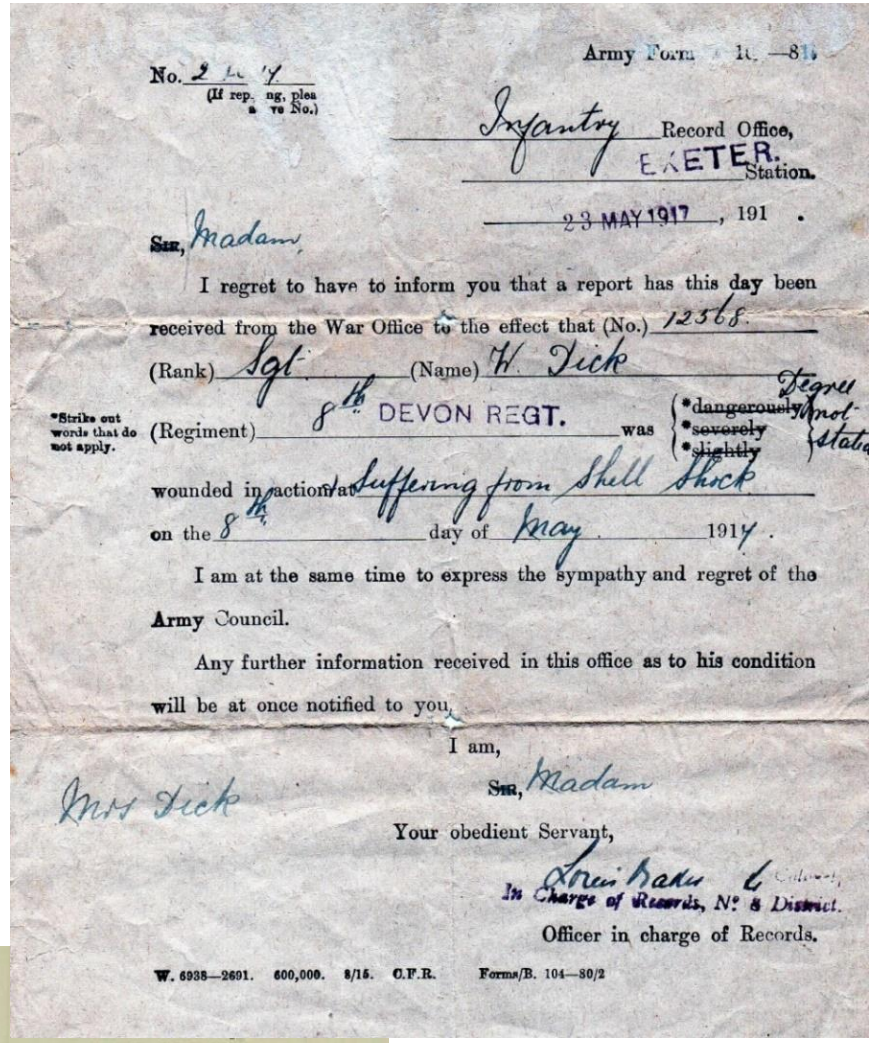
I hope your boys are alright. I know Jack used to write to the old chap now and again. We are getting fairly decent weather at present, but France at its best does not even compare with the worst days in that land of perennial sunshine to which we all hope to return in the near future, which we know is not possible, but those of us who do will adopt a motto created from the memory of those who have fought and died for their country, which will be done if we remain as united as we are in France to-day.



William Waterstone
Dick

William was evacuated twice for medical reasons during the war. His mother Marion received a message each time, one in July 1916 to report that her son was suffering gunshot wounds to his neck and shoulder, and one in May 1917 mentioning shell shock, or war neurosis due to traumatic events at the front.

After the war, relatives could have a text put on the gravestone of their fallen relative. William's father probably got his inspiration from a biblical fragment and chose to engrave "HIS WARFARE'S O'ER".



Army Form [illegible] —81[illegible]

No. 2 [illegible] 7
(If replying, please quote No.)

Infantry Record Office,
EXETER. Station.

23 MAY 1917, 191 .

Sir, Madam,

I regret to have to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 12568.

(Rank) Sgt. (Name) W. Dick

(Regiment) 8th DEVON REGT. was *dangerously / *severely / *slightly wounded in action at Suffering from Shell Shock on the 8th day of May 1917.

*Strike out words that do not apply.

Degree not stated

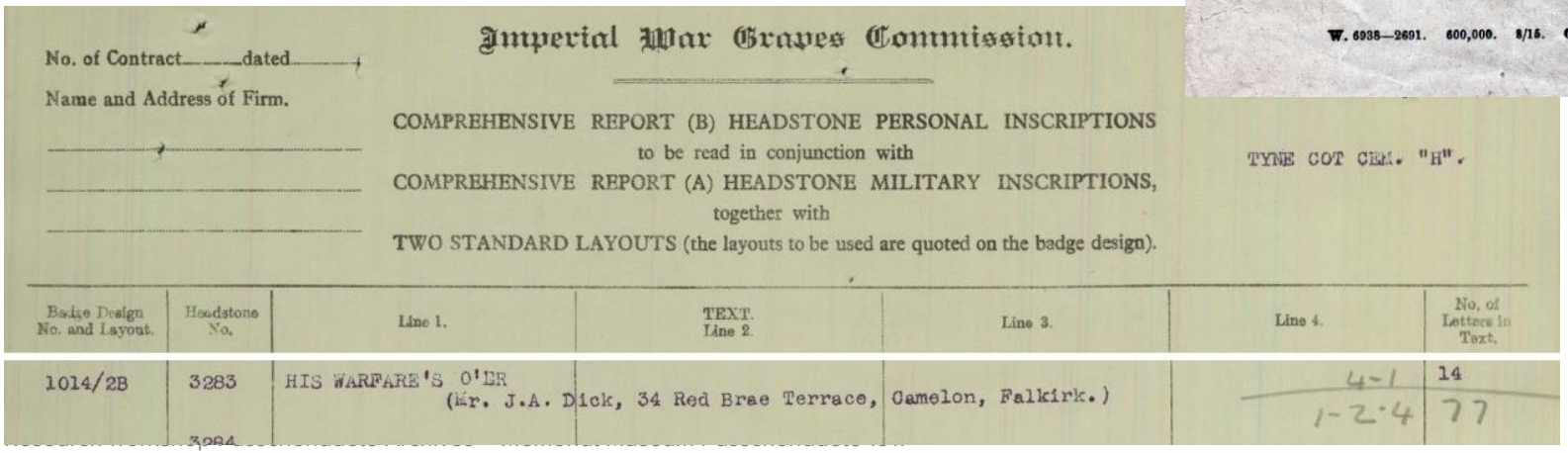
I am at the same time to express the sympathy and regret of the Army Council.

Any further information received in this office as to his condition will be at once notified to you.

I am,
Sir, Madam
Your obedient Servant,
Louis Bates
In Charge of Records, No. 8 District.
Officer in charge of Records.

Mrs Dick

W. 6938—2691. 600,000. 8/15. C.F.R. Forms/B. 104—80/2



Imperial War Graves Commission.

No. of Contract ____ dated ____
Name and Address of Firm.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS
to be read in conjunction with
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS,
together with
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

TYNE COT CEM. "H".

Badge Design No. and Layout.	Headstone No.	Line 1.	TEXT. Line 2.	Line 3.	Line 4.	No. of Letters in Text.
1014/2B	3283	HIS WARFARE'S O'ER	(Mr. J.A. Dick, 34 Red Brae Terrace,	Camelon, Falkirk.)	4-1 1-2-4	14 77

382.

Why art thou so o'erwhelm'd with grief?
Why look with sorrow on the sod,
That covers now his dear remains,
Whose spirit ever rests with God:
O let thy tears and sorrows cease;
His warfare's o'er—he rests in peace.

Many relatives of those killed during the war felt the need to visit the place where their loved one had died or disappeared. They gave a final salute to a cemetery or a monument to give a place to the loss. After the war, some social organizations enabled family members to make the crossing, such as the British Legion, which organized special pilgrimages for surviving relatives. Tens of thousands traveled to Ypres in the 1920s. Often they were women, sometimes accompanied by a husband, a father or a son, but more often a mother, sister or daughter, because their husband, son or father had not returned.

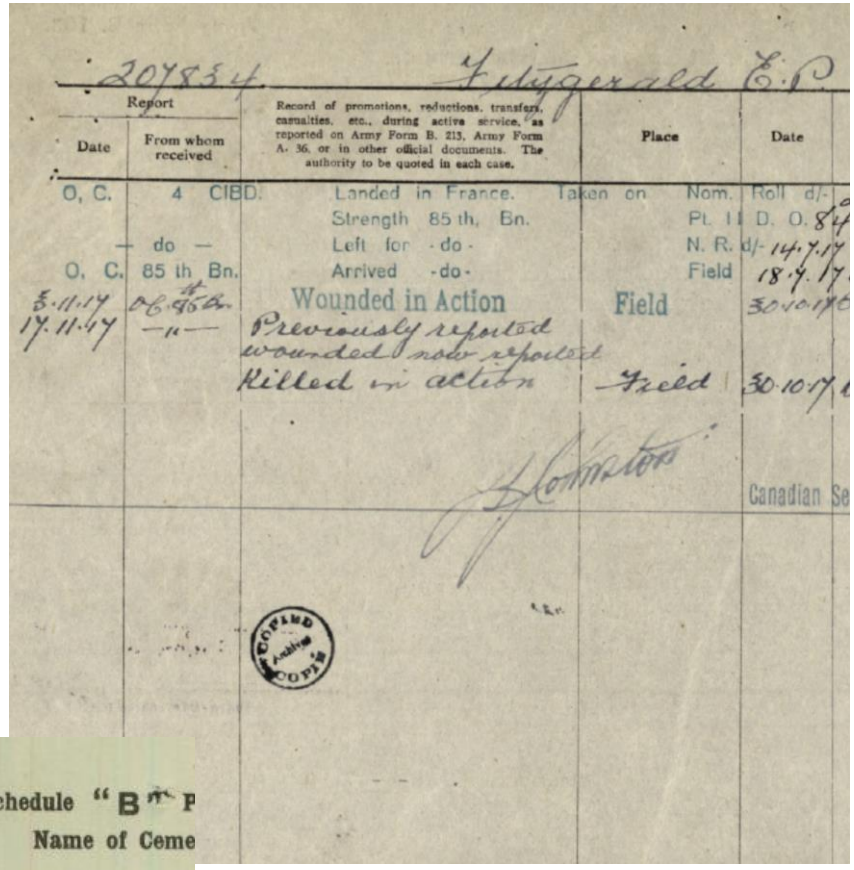
Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

During the interbellum, many group trips to the former battlefields were organized. James, William's younger brother, visited Ypres in 1938 with a group of veterans from Larbert, a small town near Falkirk where he was probably living. He also visited his brother's grave. In July 2017, nearly a hundred years after William's death, James' son and granddaughter did the same, leaving a cross on William's grave.

← James Dick at the Menin Gate, back row, centre, 1938.

Edwin Patrick
Fitzgerald

Edwin's wife Mabel lived in Toronto while her husband served in Europe. There she received the tragic news only a few weeks after Edwin's death. For Mabel, who had been hospitalized for a long time because of illness, it was the second major blow in a few months. Shortly after Edwin left, the couple had another child who lived for only seven weeks.

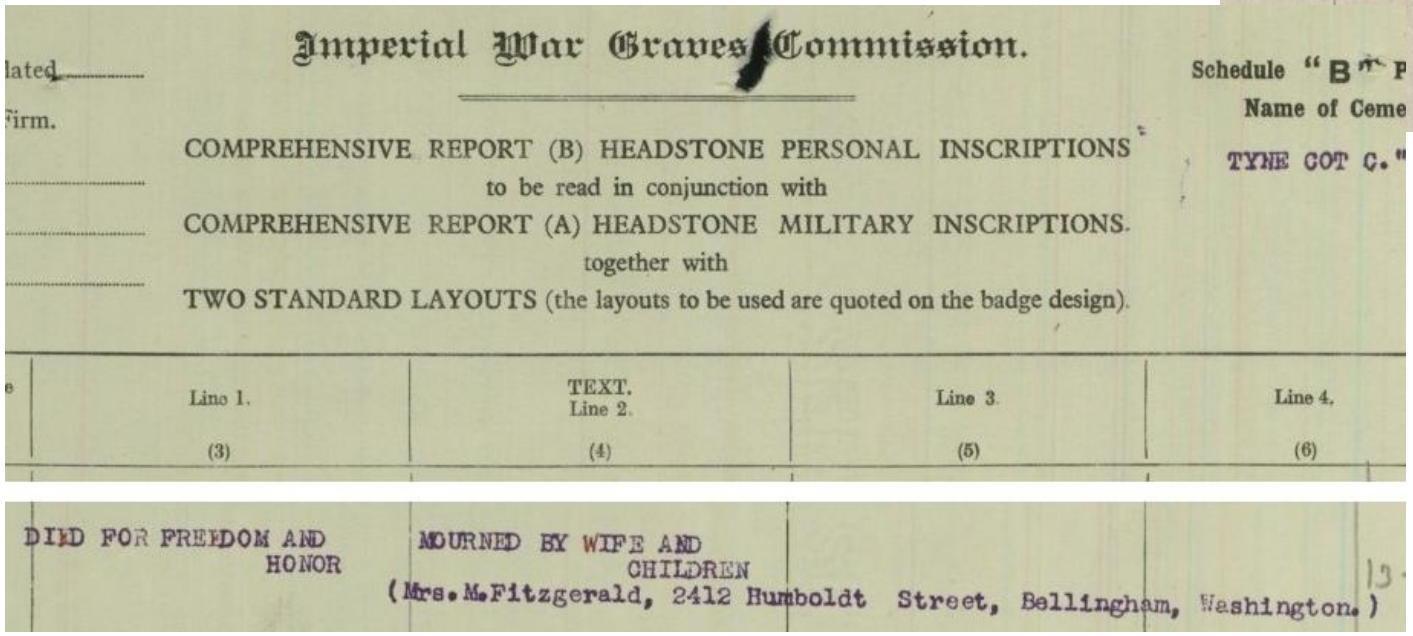


207834 Fitzgerald E.P.

Date	Report: From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date
O. C.	4 CIBD.	Landed in France. Taken on Strength 85 th. Bn.	Nom. Roll d/- Pt. II D. O. 84	
	— do —	Left for -do-	N. R. d/-	14.7.17
O. C.	85 th Bn.	Arrived -do-	Field	18.7.17
5.11.17	06.45 h.	Wounded in Action	Field	30.10.17
17.11.17	—"—	Previously reported wounded now reported Killed in action	Field	30.10.17

Canadian Se

Detail from Edwins' service record ↑



Imperial War Graves Commission.

Schedule "B" P

Name of Ceme

TYNE COT C."

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS
to be read in conjunction with
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS.
together with
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Line 1. (3)	TEXT. Line 2. (4)	Line 3. (5)	Line 4. (6)
DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOR	MOURNED BY WIFE AND CHILDREN (Mrs. M. Fitzgerald, 2412 Humboldt Street, Bellingham, Washington.)		

After the war, relatives could put a text on the gravestone of their fallen relative. Mabel, by then living back in the United States, had two sentences engraved that point to Edwin's beliefs and the sense of loss his absence caused his family.

Besides Edwin, at least 12 soldiers of American origin are buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery. Most of them fought under the Canadian flag; three served with the British, one with the New Zealanders and one with the Royal Air Force.

In addition, 17 Americans are commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. They all served in British units.

In June 2017, the American Legion, an organization whose primary purpose was to honour veterans and fallen American soldiers, launched the "Adopt a US Tommy" project. It enabled people to adopt the grave of an American who fought and died in the service of a Commonwealth nation in World War I or World War II.

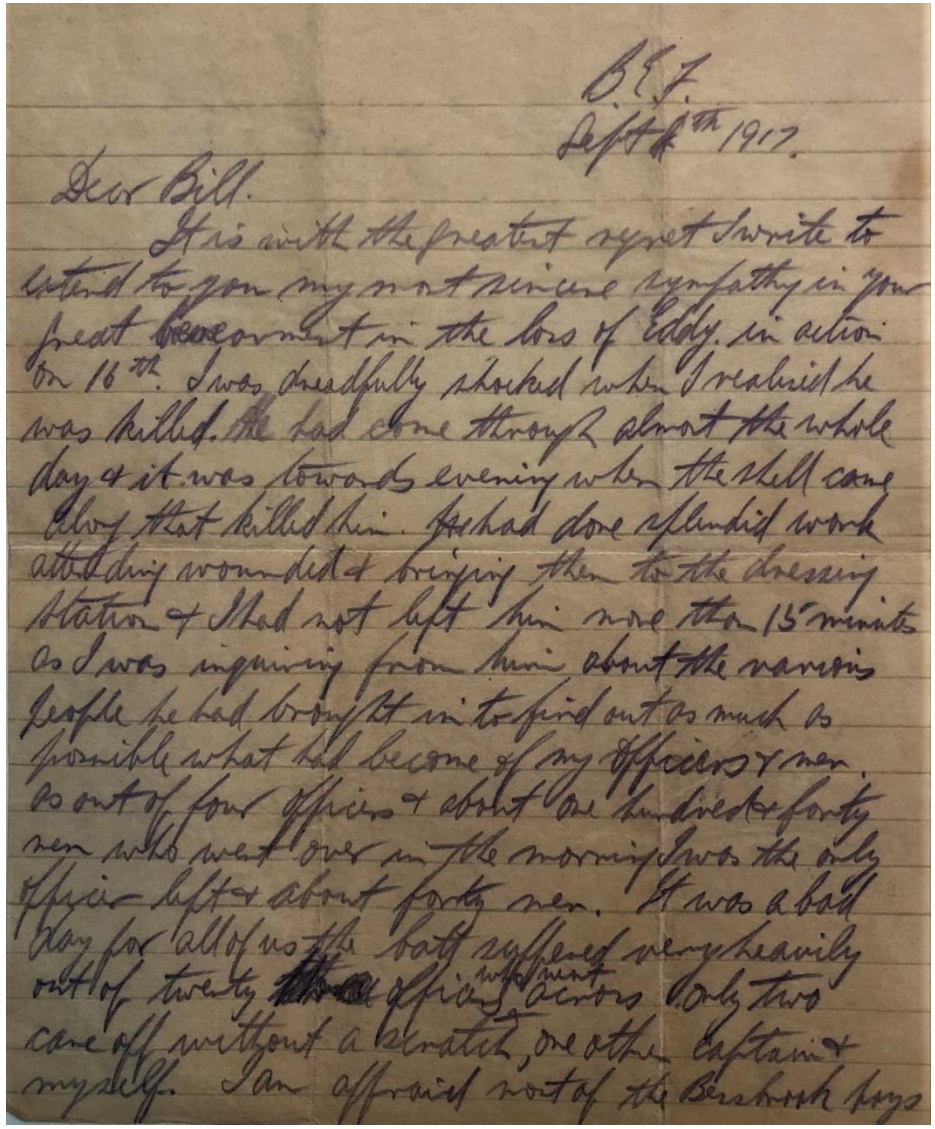
The intention was that the adopter paid appropriate attention to the adopted soldier, visiting his grave several times a year, laying flowers and looking up information about him.

Edwin's grave was adopted in 2017. The adopter honoured the soldier by adding him to "The Passchendaele Archives", a project of the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 that is intended to give a face to the individuals behind the names in WWI cemeteries and monuments, and tell their stories.

Edmund Gray

A certain Captain Robert Samuel Flood wrote a letter to Edmund's family in early September 1917. In it he talks about the circumstances in which Edmund died. Captain Flood reports that Edmund had attended to the wounded throughout the attack and had transferred them to the dressing station. In the evening, shortly before his unit was relieved, Edmund was killed by a shell while helping a wounded soldier. His companions, not wishing to leave him, buried Edmund in no man's land. Unfortunately, his field grave was not identified after the war.

Sadie Alderdyce had a hard time coping with her fiancé's death. She was seen walking on country lanes crying and talking to herself. In those days, outward expressions of emotions were often not appreciated by the local community. She was driven nearly mad with grief, and few people showed understanding for her behaviour.



B.E.F.
Sept 8th 1917.

Dear Bill.

It is with the greatest regret I write to extend to you my most sincere sympathy in your great bereavement in the loss of Eddy. in action on 16th. I was dreadfully shocked when I realised he was killed. We had done through almost the whole day & it was towards evening when the shell came along that killed him. He had done splendid work attending wounded & bringing them to the dressing station & I had not left him more than 15 minutes as I was inquiring from him about the various people he had brought in to find out as much as possible what had become of my officers & men. As out of four officers & about one hundred & forty men who went over in the morning I was the only officer left & about forty men. It was a bad day for all of us the battn suffered very heavily out of twenty officers engaged across only two came off without a scratch, one other Captain & myself. I am afraid most of the Birkenhead boys

↑ Letter from Captain R. S. Flood, 8 September 1917

Over time, Sadie became engaged to another man. She moved with her husband to the Northern Irish city of Londonderry, far from the region that reminded her of Edmund. Sadie died there during the birth of her first child.

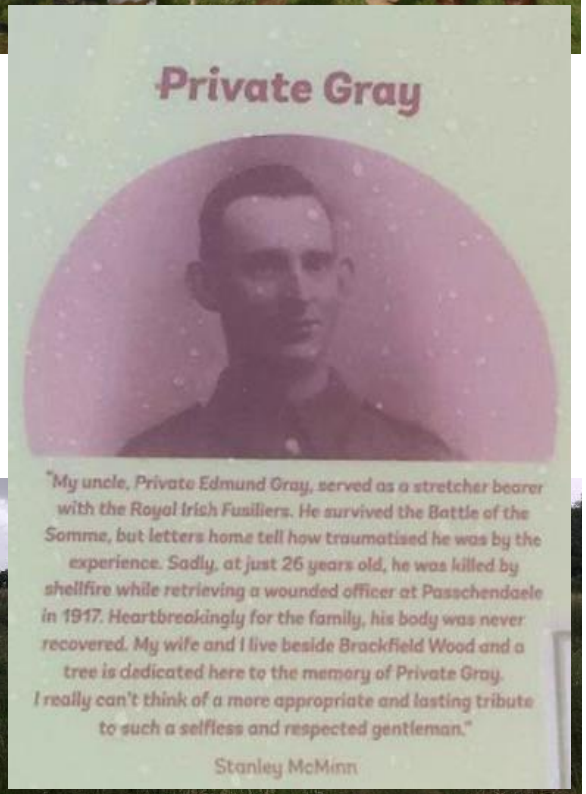
A grandson of Edmund's sister, Anna, described in 2020 how Sadie's grief was further tested: “I'm ashamed to say that [...] my grandmother Anna, and two of her sisters Lucinda and Sarah-Jane, visited Sadie and asked her to return all the presents, jewellery, etc. that Eddie had ever given her. As far as I know, she complied, which is how the brooch with her picture and Eddie's came to be found with my grandmother's jewellery when she died. It seems an incredibly cruel and harsh thing to do at this distance in time, but my grandmother justified it to my mother many years later by saying that she was going to belong to another man and Eddie would no longer be part of her life, whereas he would always be their brother.”

↓ Stanley McMinn (second from left) during the tree planting.

In 2014, the Woodland Trust planted Brackfield Wood in Northern Ireland in memory of those killed in the First World War. Stanley McMinn, Edmund's nephew, planted a tree for his uncle in the wood. In 2019, another family member, John Gray, honoured his great uncle by adding him to 'The Passchendaele Archives', a project of the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917. As a result of the press attention caused by the tree planting, the museum was able to bring John and Stanley, who did not know each other, together in 2020.

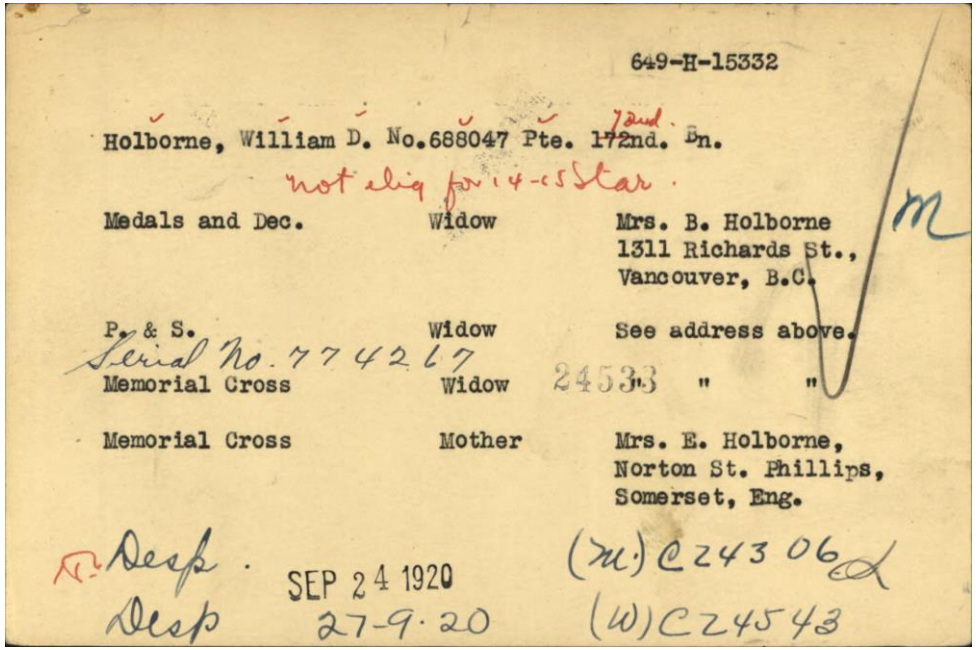
↓ Brackfield Wood.

Detail of an information panel in Brackfield Wood. →



William Daniel
Holborne

When her husband was killed, Blanche, William's wife, lived in Vancouver, the capital of British Columbia. There she received the tragic news shortly after her husband's death.



649-H-15332

Holborne, William D. No.688047 Pte. 172nd. Bn.

not elig for 14-15 Star.

Medals and Dec.	Widow	Mrs. B. Holborne 1311 Richards St., Vancouver, B.C.
P. & S.	Widow	See address above.
Memorial Cross	Widow	24533 " "
Memorial Cross	Mother	Mrs. E. Holborne, Norton St. Phillips, Somerset, Eng.

Serial No. 774217

Desp. SEP 24 1920 (M) C24306

Desp 27-9-20 (W) C24543

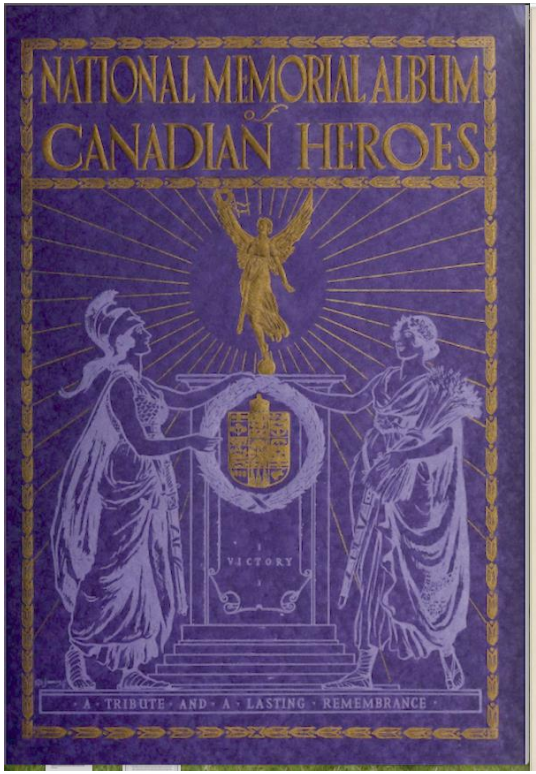
A Memorial Cross Card is included in Edwin's service record. It tells us that William's medals and a bronze Memorial Plaque ("P. & S.", a kind of commemorative medallion) were sent to Blanche in 1920. William's mother, who still lived in England, received a Memorial Cross. This Canadian badge of honor was designed for widows and mothers of Canadians who fell during the First World War, as a "memento of personal loss and sacrifice".

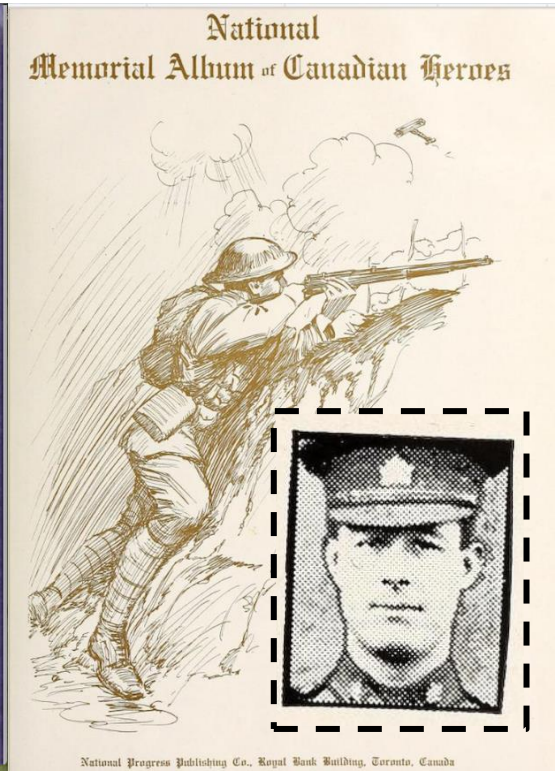
Memorial Cross ↑

Shortly after the war, a monument was erected in Vernon for the fallen of the city. It commemorates 124 World War I casualties, as well as those who died in World War II and the Korean war of 1950-1953.

It was not easy for William's family to visit the distant grave of their loved one. Blanche therefore had a memorial stone erected at the Vernon cemetery. It also mentions their deceased infant son Richard.

In 1919 William was included in the National Memorial Album of Canadian Heroes, a memorial book with hundreds of photos and names of Canadian casualties.



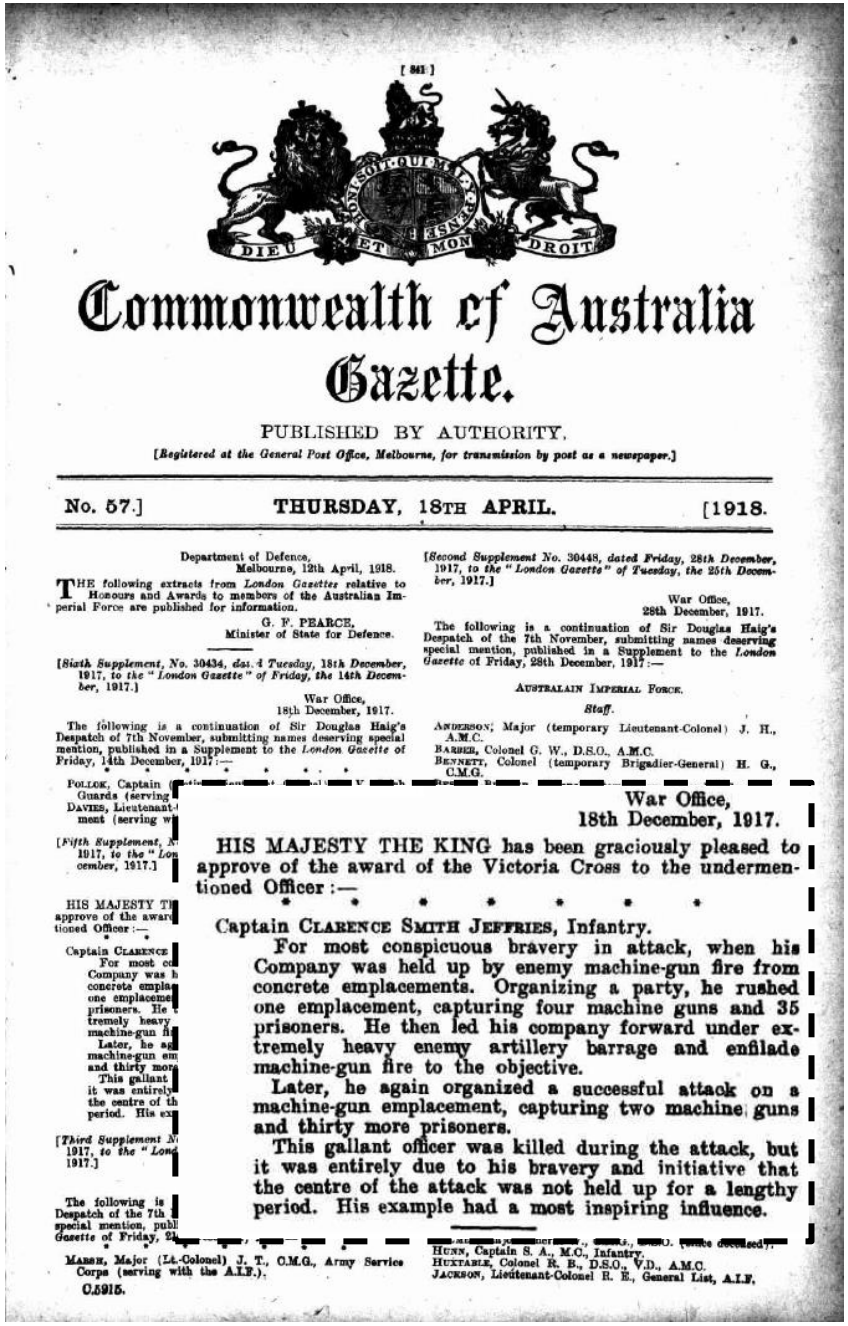


Clarence Smith
Jeffries

The first major battle Clarence experienced was the Battle of Messines, where he was wounded in his thigh on 9 June while conducting a reconnaissance patrol. For his courage, he was promoted to captain on June 26. By September he had recovered sufficiently to rejoin his unit.

On the day that Clarence Jeffries was killed, his company was held up by two bunkers. He organized and led a "bombing party" to the site, a group of men who eliminated resistance nests with hand grenades. Thirty-five enemy soldiers were captured. Clarence then led his company to their final target under heavy fire.

A little later, his battalion was delayed by a machine-gun post. Jeffries led a second bombing party and managed to eliminate the point of resistance, but he was killed during this action. For his courage and initiative, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest British military award.



[841]

DIEU ET MON DROIT

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

[Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a newspaper.]

No. 57.] THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL. [1918.

Department of Defence,
Melbourne, 12th April, 1918.

THE following extracts from *London Gazettes* relative to Honours and Awards to members of the Australian Imperial Force are published for information.

G. F. PEARCE,
Minister of State for Defence.

[*Sixth Supplement, No. 30434, dated Tuesday, 18th December, 1917, to the "London Gazette" of Friday, the 14th December, 1917.*]

War Office,
18th December, 1917.

The following is a continuation of Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of 7th November, submitting names deserving special mention, published in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday, 14th December, 1917:—

War Office,
18th December, 1917.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer:—

Captain CLARENCE SMITH JEFFRIES, Infantry.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his Company was held up by enemy machine-gun fire from concrete emplacements. Organizing a party, he rushed one emplacement, capturing four machine guns and 35 prisoners. He then led his company forward under extremely heavy enemy artillery barrage and enfilade machine-gun fire to the objective.

Later, he again organized a successful attack on a machine-gun emplacement, capturing two machine guns and thirty more prisoners.

This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the centre of the attack was not held up for a lengthy period. His example had a most inspiring influence.

[*Second Supplement No. 30448, dated Friday, 28th December, 1917, to the "London Gazette" of Tuesday, the 25th December, 1917.*]

War Office,
28th December, 1917.

The following is a continuation of Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of the 7th November, submitting names deserving special mention, published in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday, 28th December, 1917:—

AUSTRALAIN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Staff.

ANDERSON, Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) J. H., A.M.C.
BARBER, Colonel G. W., D.S.O., A.M.C.
BENNETT, Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) H. G., C.M.G.

HUNN, Captain S. A., M.C., Infantry.
HUXTABLE, Colonel R. B., D.S.O., V.D., A.M.C.
JACKSON, Lieutenant-Colonel R. E., General List, A.I.F.

C.5915.

Treasure: Principal Robyn Cragg with the historic World War I letters found in a school clean-up.

Hero lives again after King's letter found in school clean-up

By EDWARD O'REILLY

STAFF of Waratah Technology High dug up more than they bargained for when they embarked on a recent clean-up of the school's old store rooms.

Hidden among the fading posters and tattered textbooks was a piece of history regarded to be of national significance.

At the centre of interest are two framed letters relating to former student and later a captain in the Australian Imperial Forces during World War I, Clarence Smith Jeffries.

Capt Jeffries was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross after charging two machine-gun nests at Passchendaele, France, in October, 1917.

The 23-year-old's group of 15 men captured more than 60 enemy soldiers and six machine guns during the two attacks.

The letters, accompanied by a miniature Victoria Cross, are addressed to Capt Jeffries's father Joshua, then superintendent at Abermain Collieries.

The first told Mr Jeffries of the details of his son's death and of King George's approval of the granting of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in the former British Empire.

In the second letter, signed personally by King George, Mr Jeffries was told that the King regretted he could not present the award personally.

Awarded: Capt Jeffries

How and when the letters came to be in the school's possession is unknown, but the recent clean-out almost resulted in them being lost forever.

Covered in dust and grime, the letters could not be seen beneath the frame's glass and were thrown into the garbage skiffs by the school staff.

It was only by chance that the school caretaker Mr Ron Woodhouse noticed the frame itself was in good condition and rescued it from the garbage.

'I rubbed the dust off it and saw it was signed by someone called George,' Mr Woodhouse said.

'I didn't think much of it at first, but then I cleaned the rest of it and realised it may have been important.

'I had someone check them out and found they were authentic.'

School principal Ms Robyn Cragg, who is also a lieutenant-colonel in the Australian Army Reserve, recognised the letters' value immediately.

Ms Cragg said it was only last year that the school built a memorial display to Capt Jeffries in the school's foyer.

'No doubt about it, these are of national significance,' Ms Cragg said.

'How they came to be discarded is unknown, but from the amount of dirt and grime on them they have been stored for a long, long time, possibly since the school moved to this location in 1936.'

Ms Cragg said the documents would need restoration and the school wanted to forward them to another location for permanent public display.

Many locations in Australia remind us today of Clarence Jeffries. Barbara, Clarence's mother, died in 1954. Shortly before her death, she donated her son's Victoria Cross to Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle, New South Wales. Today the decoration is on display in the cathedral.

Clarence Jeffries is commemorated elsewhere too, in various ways. For example, in Abermain Holy Trinity Anglican Church a memorial chair is named after him, donated by his uncle and aunt, and in Abermain a park bears his name. In Adamstown, near Newcastle, an entire residential area is named after Jeffries.

For a long time, Clarence's story was not generally known in his former hometown. Two letters to Clarence's father, including a copy signed by King George V, were rescued from a rubbish skip in 1998. Waratah Technology School, where the documents were found, eventually donated them to the city of Newcastle.

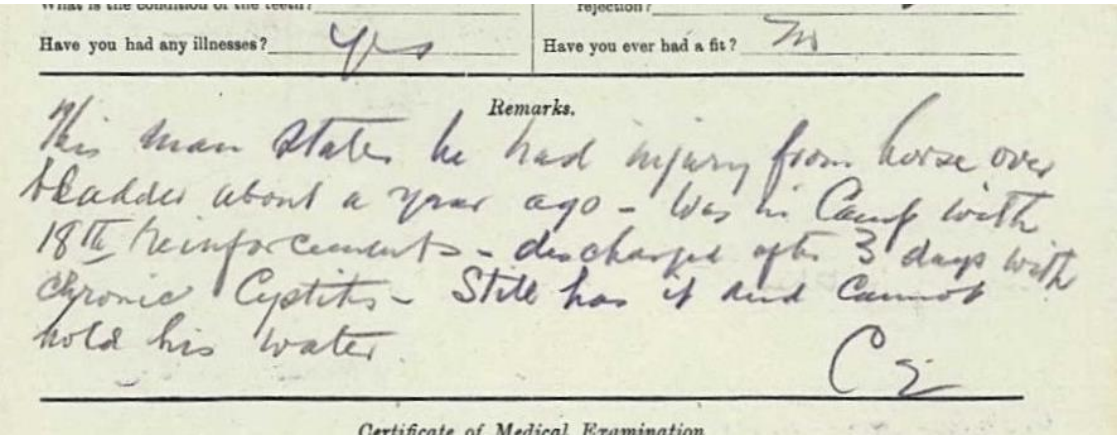
The fact that Clarence won a Victoria Cross gives him a special appeal. His story is told by many guides to groups at Tyne Cot Cemetery. Many people today place a memorial cross or memorabilia at the grave of Clarence Jeffries.

Athol
Kitchen

Shortly after Athol died, his mother Eliza was informed by telegram. An obituary was posted for him in the Auckland Weekly News (right). A photo was often published in New Zealand to immortalize the face of the fallen.

Ashley Kitchen wanted to join the army in 1916, just like his brother Athol, but was rejected because of gonorrhoea. In mid-1917 he was again declared medically unfit for service due to a chronic bladder infection after a riding accident. Ashley was never able to join up.

Details from Ashleys medical file ↓



Have you had any illnesses? Yes

Have you ever had a fit? No

Remarks.

This man states he had injury from horse over bladder about a year ago - Was in Camp with 18th Reinforcements - discharged after 3 days with Chronic Cystitis - Still has it and cannot hold his water

C.E.

Certificate of Medical Examination

December 27, 1917. THE AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS. 41

GNR. C. G. EDWARDS, of Nelson. Died of wounds.
CORP. E. H. WOOD, of Onehunga. Killed in action.
RFN. B. W. POTROZ, of Kaimata. Killed in action.
RFN. HUGH. G. RUSCOE, of Wellington. Killed in action.
L.-SGT. G. A. PARR, of Awakino. Killed in action.
PTE. SAM. R. VIALL, of Warkworth. Killed in action.
PTE. FRED. HAM, of Wellington. Killed in action.
CORP. J. D. KILGOUR, of Gowerfield (Bulls). Killed in action.

PTE. CECIL COLEMAN, of Ohinewai. Died of wounds.
PTE. J. D. B. TOMLIN, of Waimea West (Nelson). Killed in action.
PTE. WM. MORRISON, of Waltham. Died of wounds.
RFN. F. E. PHILIPPS, of Kohukohu. Killed in action.
PTE. JOHN CALDWELL, of Auckland. Died of wounds.
RFN. DAVID TWEEDIE, of Milton. Died of wounds.
PTE. WM. WINTER, of Wyndham. Died of wounds.
PTE. H. S. RITCHIE, of Christchurch. Died of wounds.

PTE. D. McN. S. FINCH, of Kaitangata. Killed in action.
RFN. W. J. WATTS, of Napier. Killed in action.
PTE. A. J. ANDERSON, of Wellington South. Killed in action.
PTE. JOHN N. SABIN, of Makotuku. Killed in action.
PTE. C. F. FITZGERALD, of Grey Lynn. Killed in action.
RFN. J. Y. CORK, of Whangarei. Died of wounds.
PTE. A. MACDONALD, of Moutoa. Killed in action.
PTE. FRANK TANSLEY, of Blenheim. Killed in action.

CORP. P. S. DAVIES, of Hastings. Killed in action.
PTE. WM. T. CLARKE, of Milton. Killed in action.
PTE. H. E. DERENHAM, of Jackson (Westland). Killed in action.
PTE. R. J. WATSON, of Oamaru. Killed in action.
L.-CORP. H. ELLIS, of Fernside. Died of wounds.
SAPPER W. G. SAGE, of Wellington. Died of wounds.
SAP. P. FIRTH, of Port Ahuriri, Aust. Forces. Killed in action.
PTE. JOHN T. OXNAM, of Longford. Killed in action.

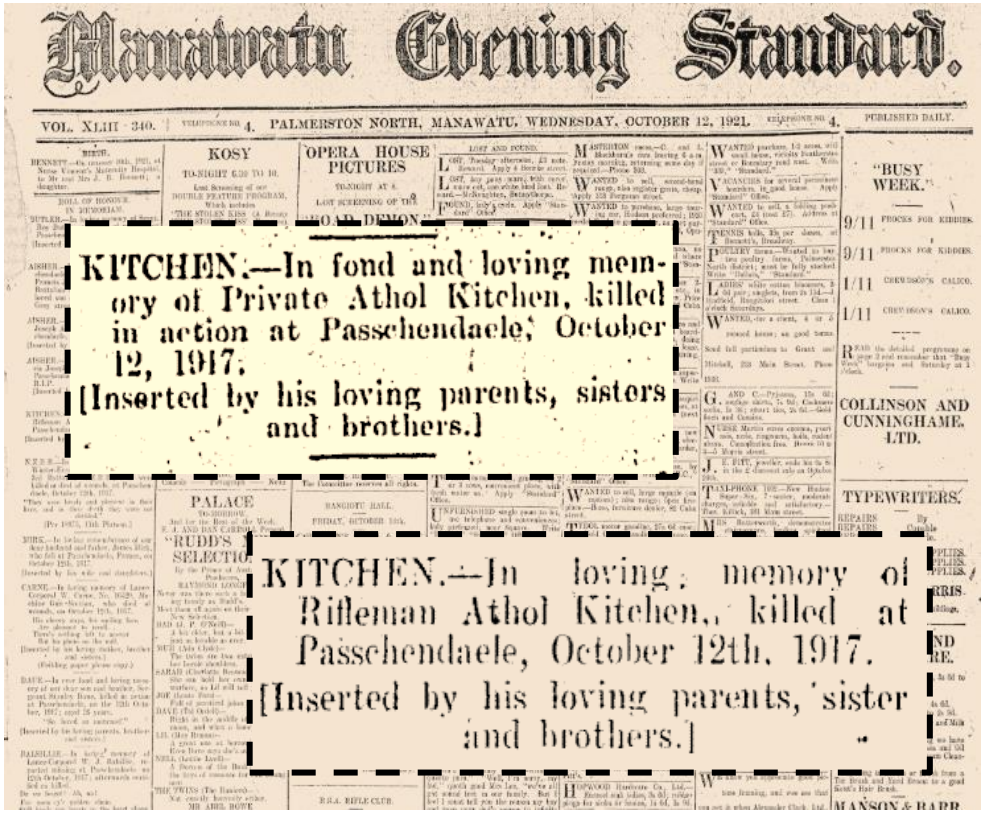
PTE. HENRY C. WELLS, of Waren. Killed in action.
RFN. A. KITCHEN, of Terrace End (Palmerston North). Killed in action.
PTE. JASP. S. RIDDLE, of Normanby (Taranaki). Died of wounds.
PTE. H. W. BOLTON, of Wellington South. Killed in action.
PTE. A. J. T. PELL, of Kaeori. Killed in action.
RFN. THOS. S. SCLATER, of Ashburton. Killed in action.
PTE. J. P. CLEAVE, of Grey Lynn. Died of wounds.
PTE. C. D. HARRIS, of Omihi. Killed in action.

RFN. W. C. PATTON, of Tairua. Killed in action.
PTE. G. C. McKENZIE, of Bluff. Killed in action.
PTE. HUGH C. BROWN, of Auckland. Killed in action.
PTE. W. H. NANKERVIS, of Auckland. Military Medal. Killed in action.
PTE. W. JOHNSON, of Dunedin. Killed in action.
PTE. J. FITZGERALD, of Waimate. Killed in action.
PTE. E. McLAUGHLIN, of Rangatuau. Missing.
PTE. F. S. D. STEWART, of Feilding. Killed in action.

NEW ZEALAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR: NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE CAUSE OF CIVILISATION.

After the war, a monument was erected in Palmerston North for the fallen of the city. It records 507 World War I casualties, including two nurses. The monument also bears the names of victims of World War II and of smaller world conflicts.

In remembrance of Athol, his family had some obituaries posted in the local newspaper, the Manawatu Standard, in the early 1920s.



Manawatu Evening Standard.

VOL. XLIII · 340. PALMERSTON NORTH, MANAWATU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1921. PUBLISHED DAILY.

KITCHEN.—In fond and loving memory of Private Athol Kitchen, killed in action at Passchendaele, October 12, 1917.
[Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.]

KITCHEN.—In loving memory of Rifleman Athol Kitchen, killed at Passchendaele, October 12th, 1917.
[Inserted by his loving parents, sister and brothers.]

Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

Hugh MacInnes

Oban War Memorial →

Hugh's parents were notified shortly after his death, but the report gave little information about the circumstances in which he died. The MacInnes family wanted to know more about what exactly happened and inquired of the appropriate authorities. The Circumstances of Death Register has the answer they probably received: Hugh was taken to Tyne Cot with a wound behind his ear, and there he was killed by a shell.

After the war, a monument was erected in Oban for the fallen of the town. Besides Hugh, 12 other men are listed on the memorial, all of whom died in Canadian service.

Circumstances of Death Register (Library and Archives Canada) ↓

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
288413	Private	McINNES	Hugh

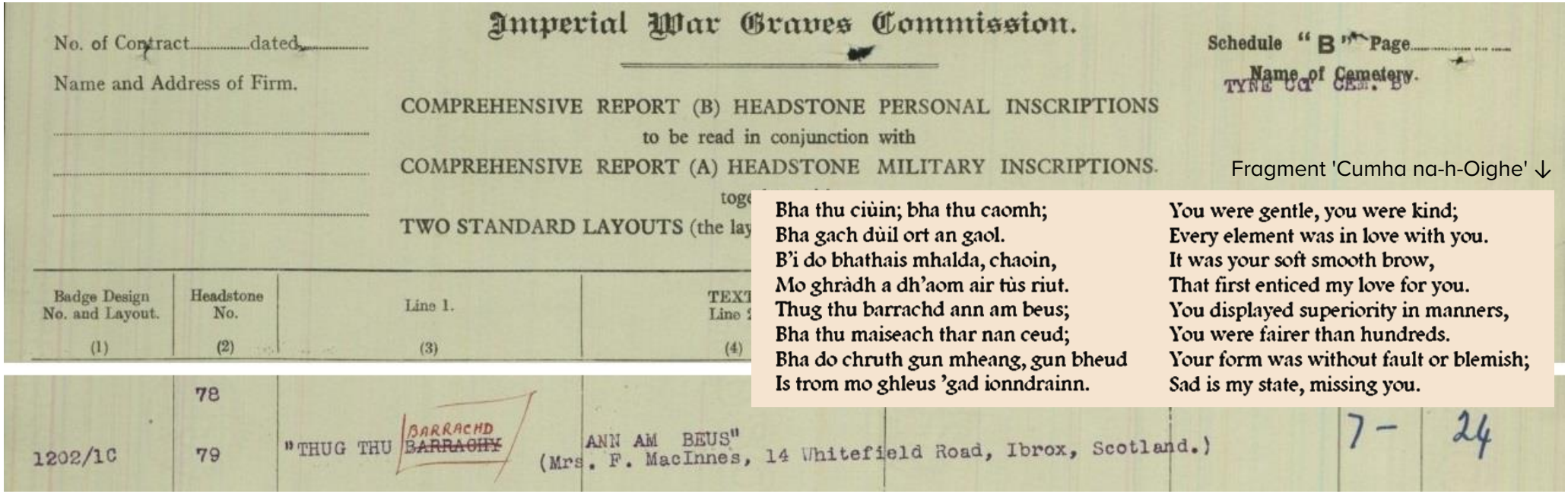
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
78th Battalion	30-10-17	649-M-27337	Church of England

9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY	10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
"Killed in Action" While in the front line during operations at Passchendaele, he was wounded behind the left ear by shrapnel. He made his way to a dressing station, where he was instantly killed by an enemy shell.	

In 1920 Flora, Hugh's mother, received medals and a Memorial Cross, a Canadian medal specially designed for widows and mothers as a "memento of personal loss and sacrifice." Hugh's father was sent a bronze Memorial Plaque, a kind of memorial medallion.

Memorial Cross ↑

After the war, families could have a text put on the gravestone of their fallen relative. Flora chose a quote from a Gaelic song: "Thug thu barrachd ann am beus", which translates as "you displayed superiority in manners". The fragment comes from a lamentation, “Cumha na-h-Oighe”, “Lament for a Maiden”. Although the song is about the death of a young woman, it applies equally to the grieving process Flora was going through.



Imperial War Graves Commission.

No. of Contract.....dated.....

Name and Address of Firm.

Schedule "B" Page.....

Name of Cemetery. TYNE CO. CEM. B

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS
to be read in conjunction with
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS.
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the lay

Badge Design No. and Layout. (1)	Headstone No. (2)	Line 1. (3)	TEXT Line 2 (4)			
	78					
1202/1C	79	"THUG THU BARRACHD ~~BARRAOITH~~	ANN AM BEUS" (Mrs. F. MacInnes, 14 Whitefield Road, Ibrox, Scotland.)		7 -	24

Fragment 'Cumha na-h-Oighe' ↓

Bha thu ciùin; bha thu caomh;
Bha gach dùil ort an gaol.
B'i do bhathais mhalda, chaoin,
Mo ghràdh a dh'aom air tùs riut.
Thug thu barrachd ann am beus;
Bha thu maiseach thar nan ceud;
Bha do chruth gun mheang, gun bheud
Is trom mo ghleus 'gad ionndrainn.

You were gentle, you were kind;
Every element was in love with you.
It was your soft smooth brow,
That first enticed my love for you.
You displayed superiority in manners,
You were fairer than hundreds.
Your form was without fault or blemish;
Sad is my state, missing you.

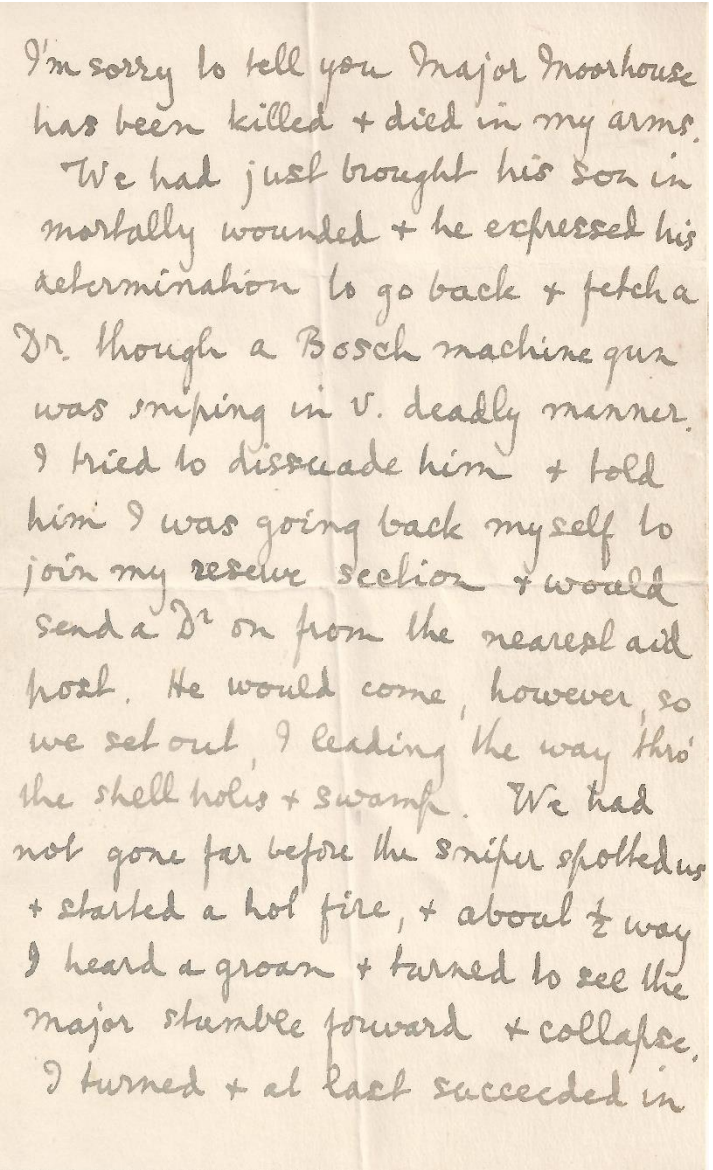
Harry
Moorhouse

Before Harry was deployed to Flanders in 1917, he was wounded twice, in August 1915 and in July 1916. Each time he returned to his unit and he was decorated several times for his commitment.

His son Ronald, meanwhile, rose to the rank of captain in his father's battalion. On the day Harry died, Ronald advanced with his company to their first target, south of the road between 's Graventafel and Mosselmarkt. Captain Ronald Moorhouse was fatally wounded. Later, Harry was shot by a sniper after leaving his headquarters to seek medical assistance for his son.

The deaths of Harry and Ronald hit the Moorhouse family hard. Their grief was intensified by the fact that neither body could be found or identified.

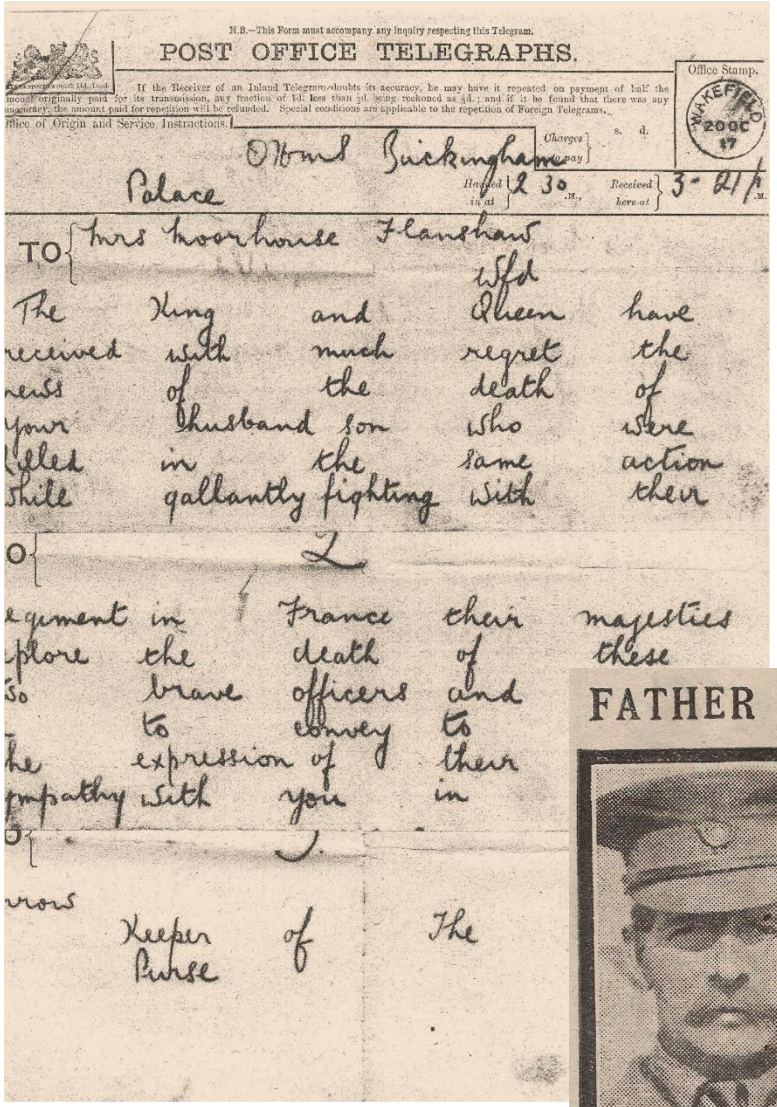
Shortly after the death of the Moorhouse father and son, an officer sent a letter to the family. He described how Harry had died in his arms. For Susanna, Harry's wife, who died in 1951, the letter was very important. It is the only document describing how her husband and son were killed.



I'm sorry to tell you Major Moorhouse
has been killed + died in my arms.
We had just brought his Son in
mortally wounded + he expressed his
determination to go back + fetch a
Dr. though a Bosch machine gun
was sniping in v. deadly manner.
I tried to dissuade him + told
him I was going back myself to
join my reserve section + would
send a Dr on from the nearest aid
post. He would come, however, so
we set out, I leading the way thro'
the shell holes + swamp. We had
not gone far before the sniper spotted us
+ started a hot fire, + about ½ way
I heard a groan + turned to see the
major stumble forward + collapse.
I turned + at last succeeded in

Letter from an unknown officer to the Moorhouse family ↑

← Susanna, Harry's wife



N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office Stamp. WAKEFIELD 20 OC 17

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than ½d. being reckoned as ½d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Charges s. d.

Received at 2 30 P.M. Received here at 3-21 P.M.

Ownd Buckingham Palace

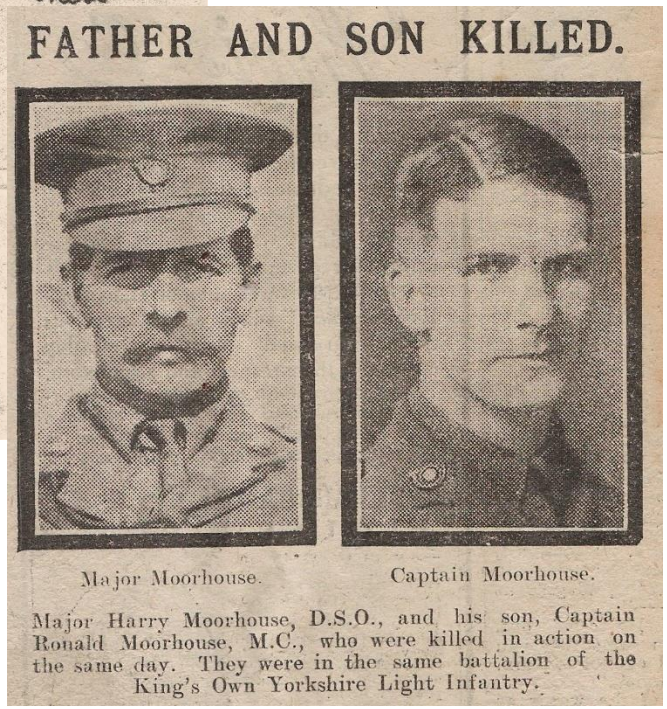
TO Mrs Moorhouse Flanshaw Wfd

The King and Queen have received with much regret the news of the death of your husband son who were killed in the same action while gallantly fighting with their

O Regiment in France their majesties deplore the death of so brave officers and to convey to the expression of their sympathy with you in

Yours Keeper of The Purse

Telegram from Buckingham Palace ↑



FATHER AND SON KILLED.

Major Moorhouse. Captain Moorhouse.

Major Harry Moorhouse, D.S.O., and his son, Captain Ronald Moorhouse, M.C., who were killed in action on the same day. They were in the same battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Obituary in The Daily Mirror, 18 October 1917 →

After Harry and Ronald died, Susannah received a telegram from Buckingham Palace. A death notice was posted in the newspaper and later that month, father and son Moorhouse were commemorated in a service at Wakefield Cathedral.

Harry Moorhouse's great-granddaughter Rebecca Lisle attended the centennial of the Battle of Passchendaele in 2017. She testified about her experiences: “The most moving part of the event was on Monday, when we were taken to the place where Harry and Ronald were killed. Today it is a beautiful stretch of farmland and the watercourse where so many men drowned is just a small stream. It is almost impossible to imagine what it was like a century ago and what happened there. What a terrible waste.”

Rebecca, Menin Gate, 2017 →→

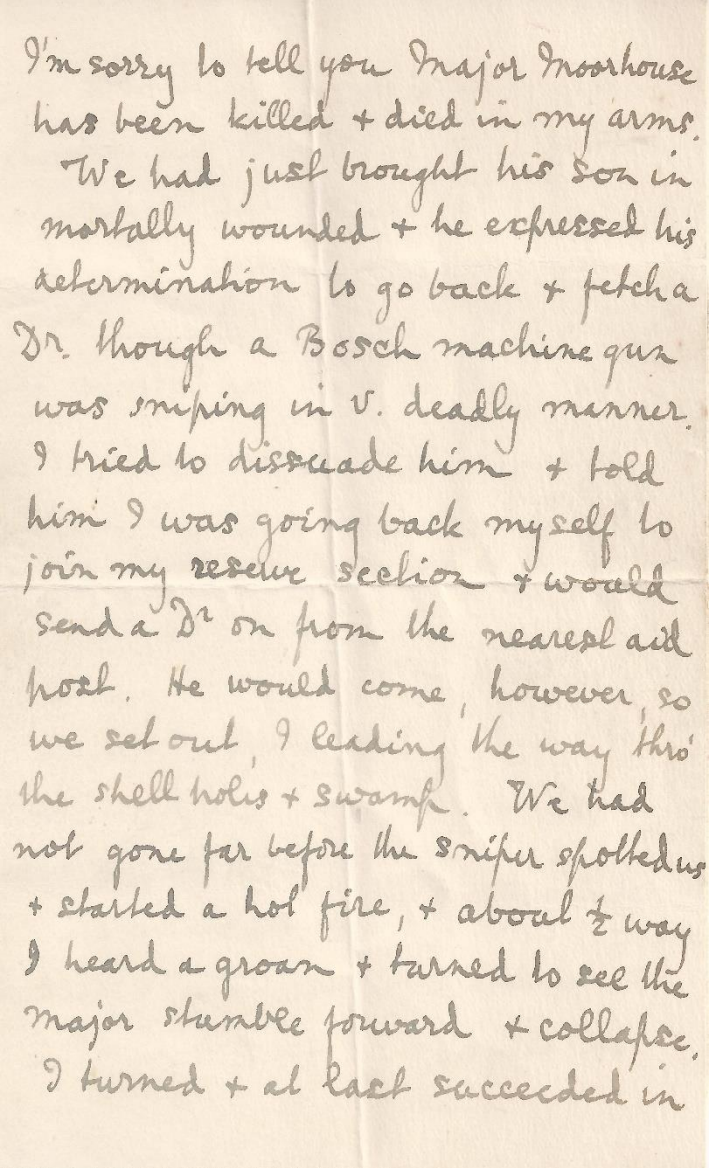
Ronald
Moorhouse

By 1917 Ronald had risen to the rank of captain in his father Harry's battalion. On the day he fell, Harry was leading the battalion to its starting positions. Ronald advanced with his company to the first objective, south of the road between 's Graventafel and Mosselmarkt. It was during this action that he was fatally wounded.

His father Harry was shot dead by a sniper a little later, after leaving his headquarters to seek medical attention for his son.

The deaths of Harry and Ronald hit the Moorhouse family hard. Their grief was intensified by the fact that neither body could be found or identified.

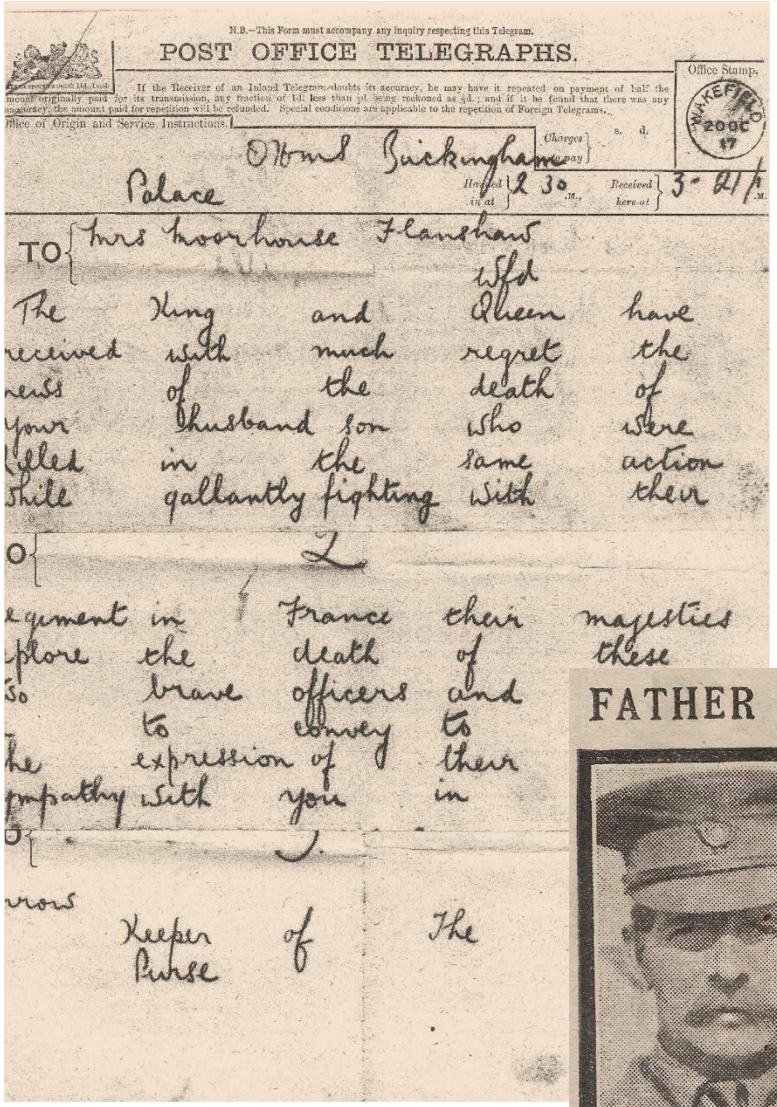
Shortly after the death of the Moorhouse father and son, an officer sent a letter to the family. He described how Harry had died in his arms. For Susanna, Harry's wife who died in 1951, the letter was very important. It is the only document describing how her husband and son were killed.



I'm sorry to tell you Major Moorhouse has been killed + died in my arms. We had just brought his Son in mortally wounded + he expressed his determination to go back + fetch a Dr. though a Bosch machine gun was sniping in v. deadly manner. I tried to dissuade him + told him I was going back myself to join my reserve section + would send a Dr on from the nearest aid post. He would come, however, so we set out, I leading the way thro' the shell holes + swamp. We had not gone far before the sniper spotted us + started a hot fire, + about ½ way I heard a groan + turned to see the major stumble forward + collapse. I turned + at last succeeded in

Letter from an unknown officer to the Moorhouse family ↑

← Susanna, Harry's wife



N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than ½d. being reckoned as ½d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Office Stamp. WAKEFIELD 20 OC 17

Charges s. d.

Received in at 2 30 P.M.

Received here at 3-21 P.M.

Ottmd Buckingham Palace

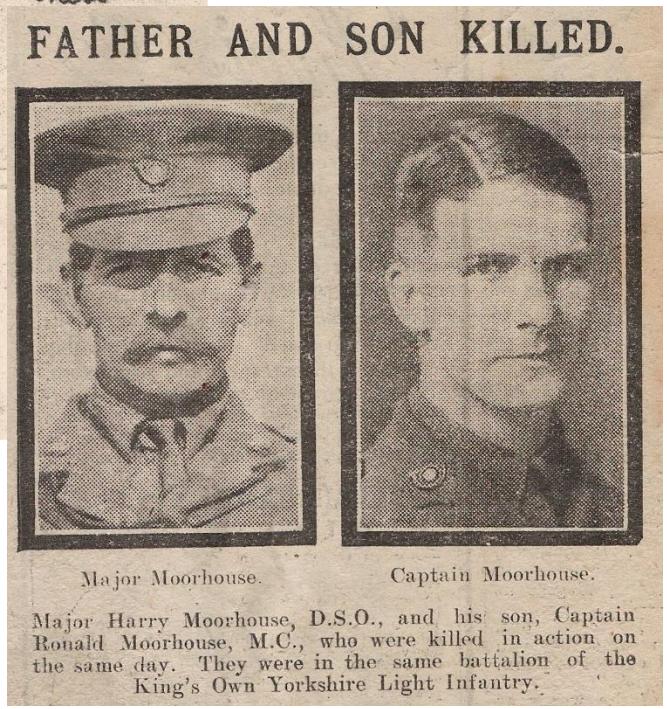
TO Mrs Moorhouse Flanshaw Wfd

The King and Queen have received with much regret the news of the death of your husband son who were killed in the same action while gallantly fighting with their

O Regiment in France their majesties deplore the death of so brave officers and to convey to the expression of their sympathy with you in

Yours Keeper of The Purse

Telegram from Buckingham Palace ↑



FATHER AND SON KILLED.

Major Moorhouse. Captain Moorhouse.

Major Harry Moorhouse, D.S.O., and his son, Captain Ronald Moorhouse, M.C., who were killed in action on the same day. They were in the same battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Obituary in The Daily Mirror, 18 October 1917 →

After Harry and Ronald died, Susannah received a telegram from Buckingham Palace. A death notice was posted in the newspaper and later that month, father and son Moorhouse were commemorated in a service at Wakefield Cathedral.

Harry Moorhouse's great-granddaughter Rebecca Lisle attended the centennial of the Battle of Passchendaele in 2017. She testified about her experiences: “The most moving part of the event was on Monday, when we were taken to the place where Harry and Ronald were killed. Today it is a beautiful stretch of farmland and the watercourse where so many men drowned is just a small stream. It is almost impossible to imagine what it was like a century ago and what happened there. What a terrible waste.”

Rebecca, Menin Gate, 2017 →→

Frederick George Nash

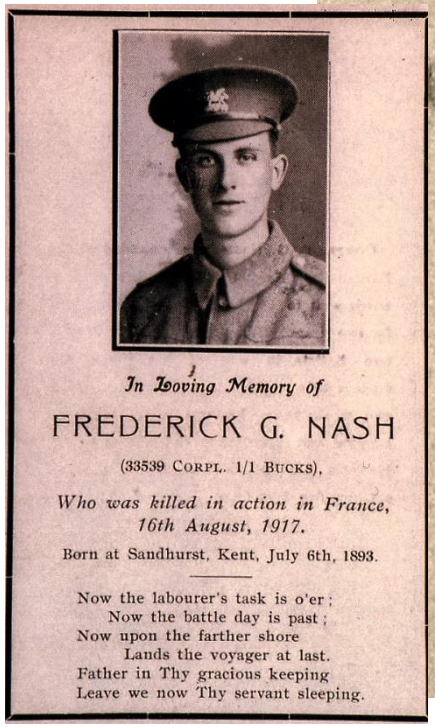
Shortly after Frederick's death, his parents received two letters informing them of the tragic news.

As a memento, an officer offered his mother Harriet a photo of the platoon Frederick led.

Frederick's family had a prayer card printed after his death, a practice quite unusual in the UK.

This may have to do with the fact that Frederick's body was never identified. After the war, families could have a text put on the gravestone of their fallen relative, but because Frederick had to be commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, that was not possible.

The prayer card includes a hymn: ‘Now the labourer’s task is o’er’.



In Loving Memory of

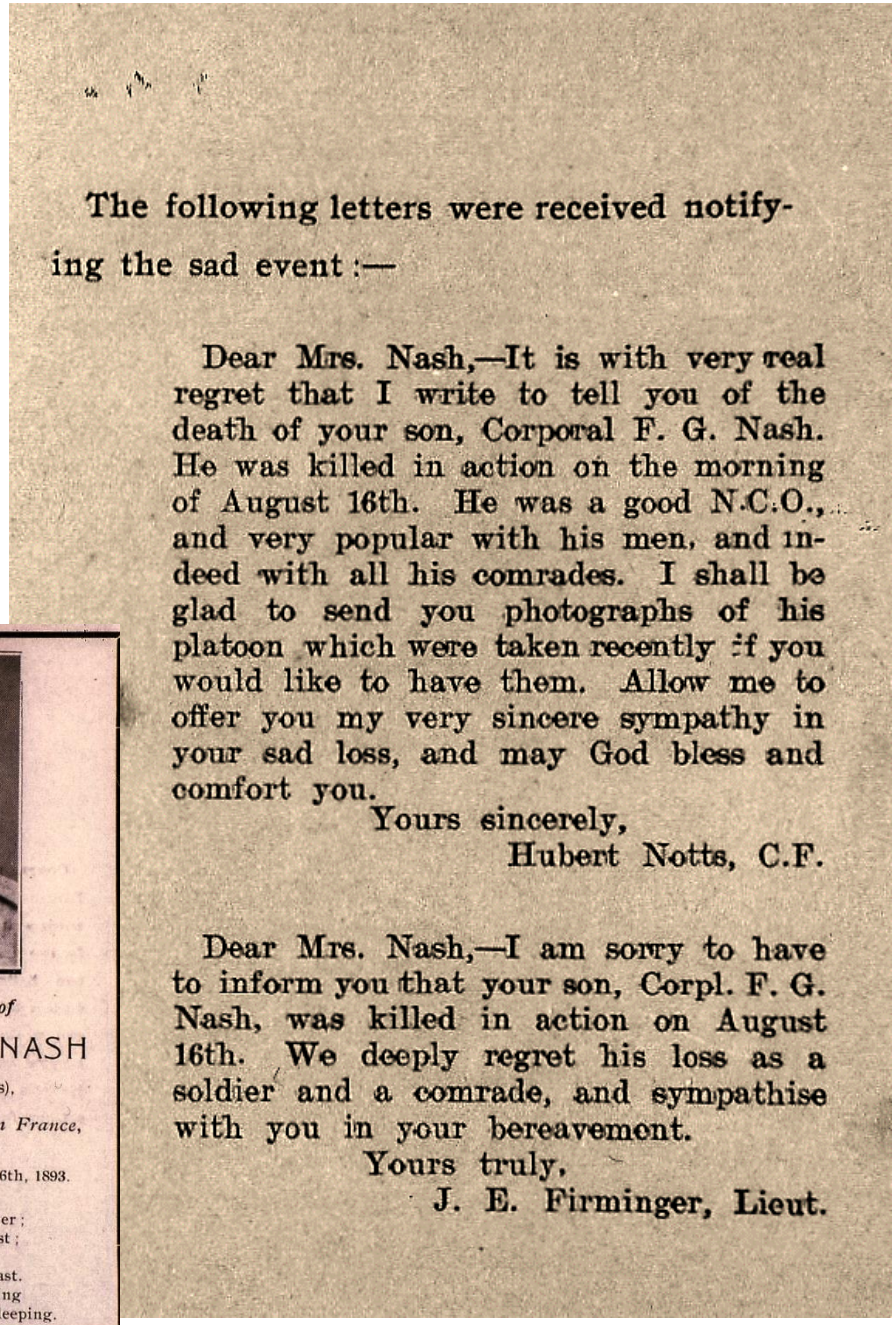
FREDERICK G. NASH

(33539 Corpl. 1/1 Bucks),

Who was killed in action in France, 16th August, 1917.

Born at Sandhurst, Kent, July 6th, 1893.

Now the labourer's task is o'er;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.



The following letters were received notifying the sad event :—

Dear Mrs. Nash,—It is with very real regret that I write to tell you of the death of your son, Corporal F. G. Nash. He was killed in action on the morning of August 16th. He was a good N.C.O., and very popular with his men, and indeed with all his comrades. I shall be glad to send you photographs of his platoon which were taken recently if you would like to have them. Allow me to offer you my very sincere sympathy in your sad loss, and may God bless and comfort you.

Yours sincerely,
Hubert Notts, C.F.

Dear Mrs. Nash,—I am sorry to have to inform you that your son, Corpl. F. G. Nash, was killed in action on August 16th. We deeply regret his loss as a soldier and a comrade, and sympathise with you in your bereavement.

Yours truly,
J. E. Firminger, Lieut.

In 1923 a monument was inaugurated in Sandhurst for the fallen of the village. As well as Frederick, the monument commemorates 33 other victims of the First World War. A memorial panel was also erected in the local Saint Nicholas Church.

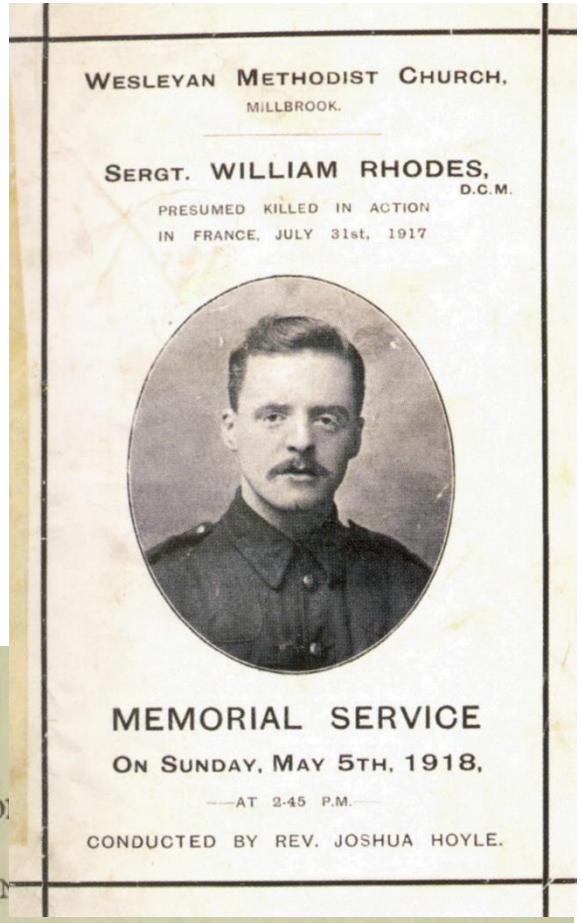
Sandhurst's war memorial is special because it was designed by architect Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, one of the chief architects of what became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He was the designer of 58 memorials in Britain and abroad, including the Whitehall Cenotaph, the United Kingdom's national war memorial in London.

Research workshop Passchendaele Archives – Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

William Rhodes

Shortly after William was killed, his wife Annie was informed of the tragic news. Annie had a prayer card printed for her husband, a practice quite uncommon in the UK.

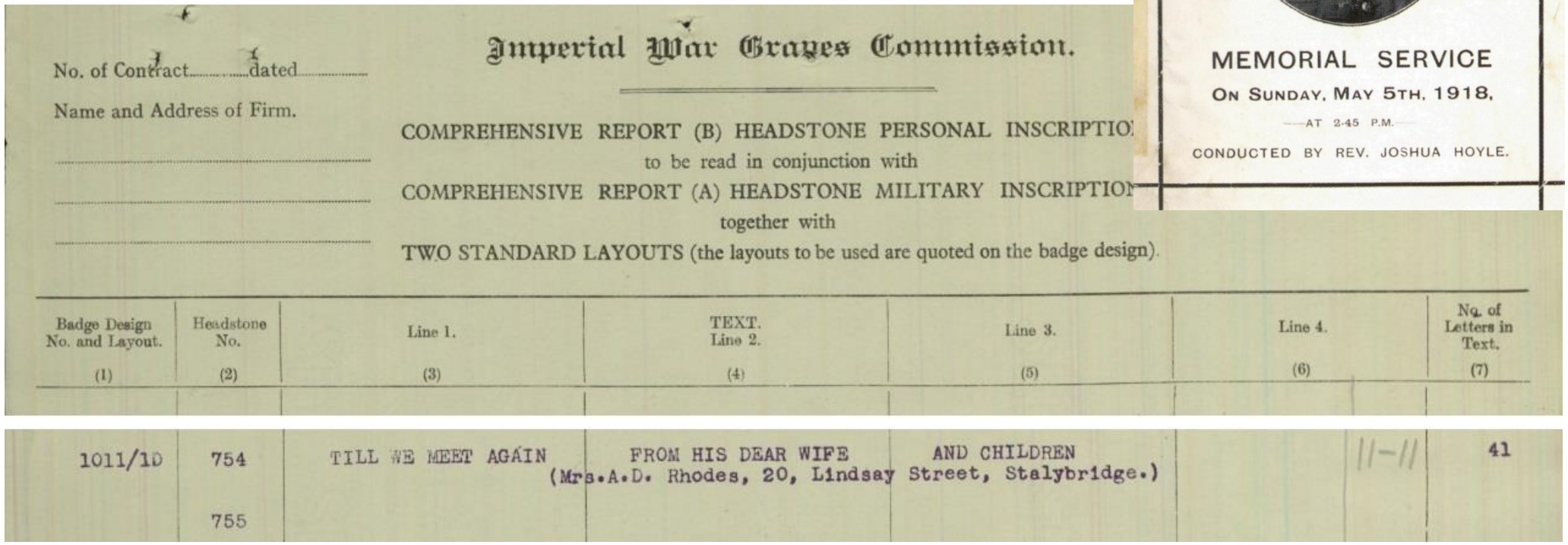
After the war, the family could have a text put on the gravestone of their fallen relative. Annie chose a short but powerful message.



WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH,
MILLBROOK.

SERGT. WILLIAM RHODES, D.C.M.
PRESUMED KILLED IN ACTION
IN FRANCE, JULY 31st, 1917

MEMORIAL SERVICE
ON SUNDAY, MAY 5TH, 1918,
AT 2·45 P.M.
CONDUCTED BY REV. JOSHUA HOYLE.



No. of Contract.....dated.....

Name and Address of Firm.

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIO
to be read in conjunction with
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIO
together with
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Badge Design No. and Layout. (1)	Headstone No. (2)	Line 1. (3)	TEXT. Line 2. (4)	Line 3. (5)	Line 4. (6)	No. of Letters in Text. (7)
1011/1D	754	TILL WE MEET AGAIN	FROM HIS DEAR WIFE (Mrs.A.D. Rhodes, 20, Lindsay	AND CHILDREN Street, Stalybridge.)	11-11	41
	755					

Irene Rhodes, probably early 1918 ↑

Irene Rhodes during excavation of a First World War archaeological site →

Annie probably saw her husband for the last time in early 1917, when he was on leave. On 18 September 1917, more than a month and a half after William died, their youngest daughter Irene was born.

In the early 2000s, Irene and her family visited her father's grave and the former battlefields near Ypres. She also visited archaeological excavations in the area. Irene, the daughter her father never knew, passed away in Manchester in 2007 at the age of 90.

Richard Léon
Verhaeghe

Shortly after Richard was killed, his wife Augusta was notified by telegram. In 1920, Augusta received a bronze Memorial Plaque and several medals in tribute to her fallen husband. In addition to her widow's pension, these were a small consolation for the loss of her husband.

Augusta, who never remarried, did not manage to visit Richard's grave, nor did her children. In 2017, granddaughter Roberta became the first Canadian blood relative to visit the grave of Richard Verhaeghe. On October 14 she participated in "Silent City Meets Living City", an event organized by the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, in which more than 7,000 people illuminated the graves of Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Later, on the centenary of Richard's death, a flower was placed on his grave and a wreath was laid under the Menin Gate, during the Last Post ceremony. On the same day, Roberta's friends in Canada put flowers on the graves of his wife, son and daughter.

Firmin Deplancke (left) en William Vangheluwe (right) ↑

Richard is the only Belgian-born soldier buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery. However, he is not the only man with a Belgian background to have died in the Battle of Passchendaele.

Firmin Deplancke was born in Gullegem in the province of West Flanders in 1892. He made the crossing to Canada in the early 20th century and returned to his native country as a Canadian soldier. Firmin was fatally wounded on 10 November 1917, north of Passchendaele. He was brought back as a mortally wounded soldier and eventually buried at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery.

William (Willem) Vangheluwe also died on 10 November 1917, south of Passchendaele. He came from Roeselare, a city about 10 kilometres northeast of the place where he fell. Today William is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Many men with a migrant background are buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery, like the Australian Henry de Voogd, the son of Dutch migrants. He was killed on 12 October 1917 while defending the front line at Broodseinde, just south of Tyne Cot.

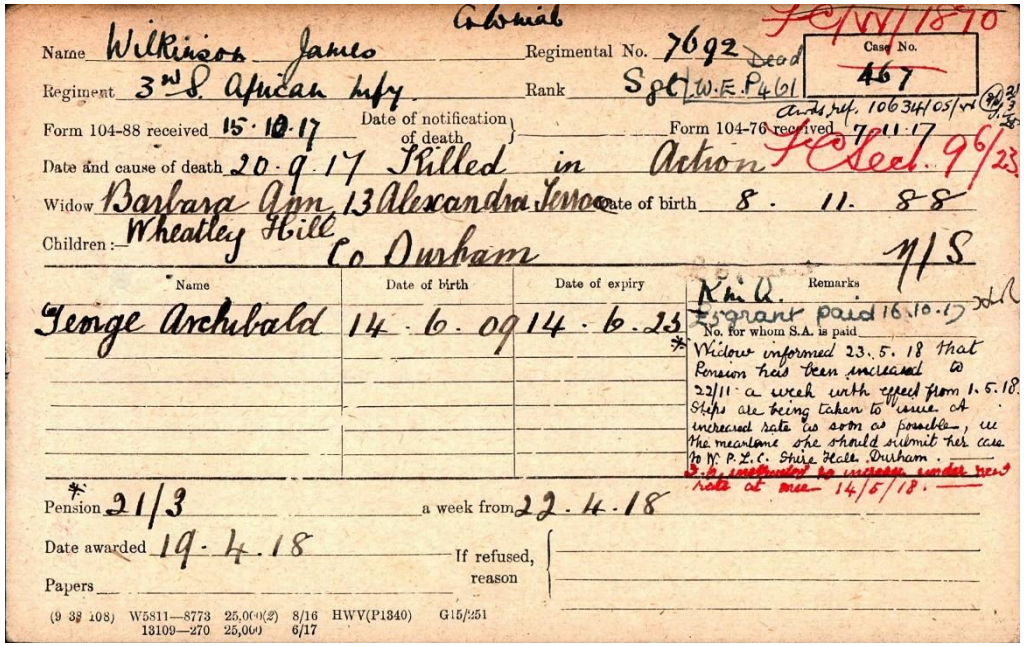
It also frequently happened that men with a German background served with the Allies. The Australian Phillip Schubert died on 12 or 13 October 1917, also in the vicinity of Tyne Cot Cemetery. His grandparents were Germans who had emigrated to Australia.

Henry de Voogd (left) and Phillip Schubert (right) →

James Wilkinson

Shortly after James was killed, his wife Barbara was notified. Both his wife and his son George would receive a pension for several years as the family of a fallen soldier.

After the war, the family could have a text put on the gravestone of their fallen relative. Barbara chose a short but powerful message.



Name Wilkinson James — Regimental No. 7692 — Case No. 467
Regiment 3rd S. African Infy — Rank Sgt. W.E.P.461
Form 104-88 received 15.10.17 — Date of notification of death — Form 104-76 received 7.11.17
Date and cause of death 20.9.17 Killed in Action
Widow Barbara Ann 13 Alexandra Terrace — Date of birth 8.11.88
Wheatley Hill Co Durham
Children:

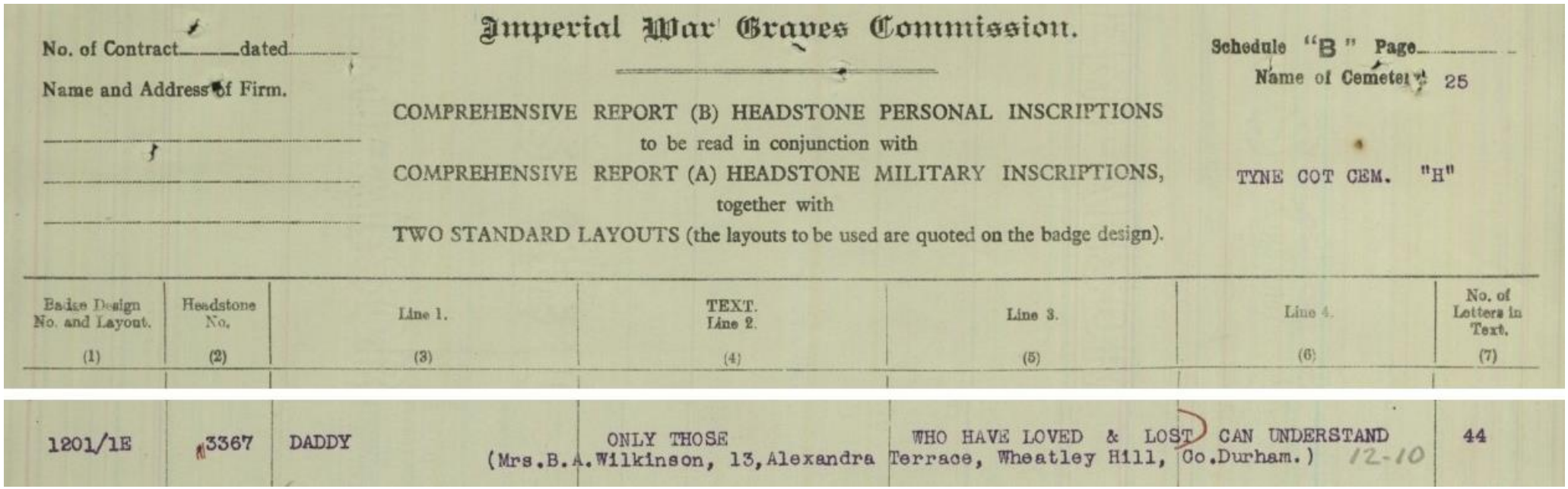
Name	Date of birth	Date of expiry
George Archibald	14.6.09	14.6.23

Remarks: Kin Q. Grant paid 16.10.17. No. for whom S.A. is paid. Widow informed 23.5.18 that Pension has been increased to 22/11 a week with effect from 1.5.18. Steps are being taken to issue at increased rate as soon as possible, in the meantime she should submit her case to W.P.L.C. Shire Hall, Durham. Is entitled to increase under new rate at once 14/5/18.

Pension 21/3 a week from 22.4.18
Date awarded 19.4.18 — If refused, reason
Papers

(9 38 108) W5811—8773 25,000(2) 8/16 HWV(P1340) G15/251
13109—270 25,000 6/17

Pension document for Barbara and George Wilkinson (National Archives) ↑



No. of Contract ____ dated ____
Name and Address of Firm.

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS
to be read in conjunction with
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together with
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Schedule "B" Page ____
Name of Cemetery 25
TYNE COT CEM. "H"

Badge Design No. and Layout. (1)	Headstone No. (2)	Line 1. (3)	TEXT. Line 2. (4)	Line 3. (5)	Line 4. (6)	No. of Letters in Text. (7)
1201/1E	3367	DADDY	ONLY THOSE	WHO HAVE LOVED & LOST	CAN UNDERSTAND	44
			(Mrs.B.A.Wilkinson, 13,Alexandra Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Co.Durham.) 12-10			

In 1935 a memorial cross was inaugurated in Wheatley Hill to honour the fallen from the village. Besides William, the monument commemorates 182 other victims of the First World War.

The Wheatley Hill war memorial was originally located in the Miners' Welfare Park, where miners and their families could relax on days off.

Because of vandalism, it was moved to the chapel of Wheatley Hill Cemetery in 2005.

The chapel that is next to the war memorial today houses the Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre, a local heritage organization.

After relocating the war memorial, the heritage centre decided to map all addresses in Wheatley Hill from where someone had left for the front during the First World War. The vast majority of the houses, nearly 400 addresses, could be associated with at least one soldier, often a person who was killed during the war.

Wheatley Hill 1914-1918 Interactive Map, detail (wheatley-hill.org.uk) →