

East Brent War Memorial
Information notes
by John Flavin.



**Comer George Inman- New Zealand Canterbury Mounted Rifles – Trooper –
killed in action 28 August 1915 memorial name Hill 60 (New Zealand)
memorial – Turkey – embarkation date 14 February 1915**



**TPR. G. I. COMER,
Canterbury M.R.,
Missing.**

The History of the Regiment recorded the following action for the 26-28th August and the attack on Hill 60 "The Regiment returned to the trenches at Hill 60 on the 26th. The attack with which it was hoped to complete the operations on Hill 60 was timed to commence at 5 p.m. on the 27th. Right on time the men jumped from the trenches. It seemed no distance to go, probably sixty yards, but every yard of ground was swept by enemy shrapnel and high explosives. Casualties were fearful, but the line reached the first trench and disappeared into it. It seemed minutes, but was probably some seconds only, before they reappeared. A short rush and they were over the second trench and into the third on the top of the hill. But mortal man could go no further. In each trench there had remained many Turks in spite of the heavy bombardment from the Anzac guns. These were now killed and their bodies, together with those who had been slain by the bombardment, literally filled the trenches.



C.M.R. getting ready for the Second Assault on Hill 60 August 27th.

The Canterbury Mounted Rifles getting ready for the Second Assault on Hill 60 on August 27th

On the right the Australians had failed to get into the enemy trench, and on the left the troops could not hold what they had gained in their first rush. Could the mounted rifles themselves hold on, bombed from all sides, with units mixed up, and practically all officers killed or wounded? Yet there was no thought of going back. All night the incessant bomb duel continued; for the first time in the history of Anzac our force was well supplied with bombs, and it is reported that five thousand three hundred were used on this hill during this night.

Early in the evening the Regiment had been much heartened by the arrival of the remnants of the 9th L.H. Regiment from the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. These men, old friends of the Regiment, were used to reinforce each flank.

By daylight the enemy had expended his strength, and his attacks throughout the day were not so violent. But shelling from the higher ground of the Abdul Rahman Bair went on unmercifully. Communication trenches had been dug during the night by the Connaught Rangers and the dead and wounded were removed. Of the one hundred and nineteen officers and men of the Canterbury Regiment who started the evening before there now remained eighteen men. The other regiments of the brigade were in no better plight. Heavy as the losses were, the Turks suffered more. In the first trench captured their dead lay two and three deep.

It was now decided, as there were no more troops with which to carry the whole hill, that the line passing over the summit of the hill should be consolidated and held. To make this practicable it was evident that the trench along the western side, so gallantly taken by the Connaughts during the first attack on August 21st, but which had been lost by them, and which had since been taken and lost by the 18th Battalion 5th Australian Infantry Brigade, must be captured and held. So during the night of August 29th, one hundred and eighty of the brave 10th L.H. Regiment came into the trenches and by a masterly surprise attack completed the capture of this difficult trench. The position on the hill was now secure, and

on the 29th the Regiment, with the other remnants of the Mounted Rifle Brigade, was relieved. Major Hurst, who was in command of the Regiment on the 27th, and who so gallantly led the first line, had been evacuated wounded, and the following day the Adjutant, Captain Blair, also went, having suffered a complete loss of voice owing to the bursting of a high explosive shell close to him. The only officer remaining with the Regiment at this time was Captain Gibbs, who had just returned from hospital. So ended eight continuous days and nights of the hardest and most exhausting fighting the Mounted Brigade was engaged in during the whole war.

Throughout those strenuous nights and days every officer and man on the strength of the Regiment had given of his best, and of the sixteen officers and two hundred and eighty other ranks who broke through the Turkish line on the night of August 6th there remained but one officer and thirty-nine other ranks.

**Crees Bertram Frederick Sapper Royal Engineers 17th Field Coy aged 30
date of death 30 April 1915**

Son of Frederick and Emily Crees of East Brent Somerset, husband of Winifred Crees, of Cholwell Temple Cloud Bristol. Panel 9 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial further research required

**Harrison Albert Private service number 5655 died 9th May 1915 – Aged 35
Gloucestershire Regiment 2nd Battalion panel 22 and 34 Ypres Menin Gate**

Further research required

**Ham Sidney William Sapper Wessex Engineers died 2 10 1915 Aged 18–
Killed in Action France Flanders – from records he was killed by a mine.
Buried in the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension**



Yet another name has to be added to the list of East Brent heroes who have ungrudgingly given their all and nobly laid down their lives for King & Country, in the person of Sapper Sidney William Ham, 2nd Field Co Wessex Engineers. The young hero was the youngest son on Mr and Mrs Jeffery Ham who are thoroughly well known and respected throughout the South Marsh, was well within his teens when he responded with commendable pluck and courage to the call of his country, in fact he was just seventeen and was serving his apprenticeship with Mr Feaver Waterloo Street in this town, when he decided to throw in his lot with the local Company of the Wessex Engineers. He proceeded to France shortly before Christmas and since this time numerous letters home have been of a particularly cheery nature. Whilst in Weston young Ham by reason of his open hearted nature and sterling qualities gained for himself a wide circle of friends. The sad news of his demise was conveyed in a letter from Major Fry, commanding the 2nd Battalion

Dear Mrs Ham- I sincerely regret to have to inform you that your son was killed on October 2nd. He died as an Englishman should doing his duty to the last. It is hard to convey ones sympathy in such a loss but I do give you my deepest sympathy and pray that God above may grant you and all dear to him hHis comfort and strength to bear your trials. Your son is buried with other comrades killed on the same day and the whole company paraded to show their respect and sympathy to one who was always ready and willing and fearless

**Dinwiddy Leonard Arthur, Coldstream Guards, aged 20, date of death 8th-
October 1915, awards DCM – Memorial Loos Memorial**

East Brent DCM Hero Killed –Mercury report 1915

The sad news has been received by Mr John Dinwiddy, carpenter of East Brent, that his brother, Sgt Leonard Dinwiddy, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards was killed in action in France on October 16. Sgt Dinwiddy had seen considerable service, and was undoubtedly a brave and dutiful soldier, as the following official paragraph will show "Distinguished Conduct Award is officially announced that 11631 Sgt L A Dinwiddy "2nd battalion Coldstream Guards for conspicuous gallantry on 25th April and 29th at Givenchy in assisting to rescue officers and men from a deep mine full of poisonous gas. The courage and devotion to duty displayed were very pronounced the risk of death through asphyxiation being very great. Mr Dinwiddy had another brother in the Coldstream Guards killed in France on August 29th and a nephew killed in the Dardanelles on August 6th. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr Dinwiddy, wife and family in their great sorrow

Leonard Arthur Dinwiddy was born in Thornbury, Devon in 1894, the son of Thomas and Annie Dinwiddy. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined the 3rd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. He died 8 October 1915 aged 20 and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. A few months earlier he had been awarded the DCM - his citation in the London Gazette for 3 June 1915 reads as follows:

"For conspicuous gallantry on 25th and 26th April 1915, at Givenchy, in assisting to rescue Officers and men from a deep mine full of poison gas. The courage and devotion to duty displayed were very pronounced, the risk of death through asphyxiation being very great."

From the *Western Times*
December 1915:

"The Great Western Railway Magazine for December (1915) contains the following information of local interest:

The reported casualties to Great Western men now number 1,039 viz., 344 men killed or died from wounds or other causes, 642 wounded, sick or prisoners of war and 53 missing.

Among those who are reported to have lost their lives is L. A. Dinwiddy, porter at the Passenger depot, Exeter (St. Thomas)



The **Battle of Loos** was one of the major British offensives mounted on the Western Front in 1915 during World War 1. It marked the first time the British used poison gas during the war, and is also famous for the fact that it witnessed the first large-scale use of 'new' or Kitcheners Army units. The battle opened on 25 September, the British were able to break through the weaker German defences and capture the town of Loos, mainly due to numerical superiority. However, the inevitable supply and communications problems, combined with the late arrival of reserves, meant that the breakthrough could not be exploited. A further complication for many British soldiers was the failure of their artillery to cut the German wire in many places in advance of the attack. Advancing over open fields in range of German machine guns and artillery, British losses were devastating. When the battle resumed the following day, the Germans were prepared and repulsed attempts to continue the advance. The fighting subsided on 28 September with the British having retreated to their starting positions. Their attacks had cost over 20,000 casualties, and the Germans made several attempts to recapture lost ground. This was accomplished on 3 October. On 8 October the Germans attempted to recapture much of the lost ground by launching a major offensive along the entire line, but abandoned the effort by nightfall due to heavy losses. This marked the official end of hostilities, although in an attempt to strike before the winter rain set in, the British attempted a final offensive on 13 October, which failed due to a lack of hand grenades. General Haig thought it might be possible to launch another attack on 7 November but the combination of heavy rain and accurate German shelling during the second half of October finally persuaded him to abandon the attempt and casualties were estimated to be around 75,000 troops

**Ham Frederick Charles Monmouthshire Regiment 2nd Battalion Private,
service number 1735, date of death 1st July 1916 –buried Auchonvillers
Military Cemetery.**

The role of the Monmouthshire Regiment was primarily to act as pioneers, to build and maintain the trenches; a critical and dangerous role often carried out in darkness and close to enemy positions, a summary of their records recorded by Capt Brett is produced below. At the battle of the Somme Private Ham would have prepared the launch trenches digging during the night to enable the attack points to be as close to the German trenches. The regiment was then split up to augment the attack Regiments, and during the opening assault Private Ham was killed, one of an estimated Allied soldiers 19,000 killed, 36,000 wounded and 2000 missing, on the first day of the infamous battle of which the commander Haig wrote in his diary the next day, "*...the total casualties are estimated at over 40,000 to date. This cannot be considered severe in view of the numbers engaged, and the length of front attacked*"

Capt Brett wrote- In the 'New Armies' a Pioneer Battalion had been added to each Division before the end of 1914, and so useful had these battalions proved that it had now been decided to provide all the Regular and Territorial Divisions with one of them. Battalions which, like the Monmouthshires, had established great reputations for their prowess as diggers and contained many highly skilled men among the miners in their ranks were natural selections for conversion into Pioneers, and though the 2nd Monmouths were left as ordinary infantry until the end of 1915, early in 1916 they were withdrawn from the 4th Division and after a spell of duty on the lines of communication, in April they were sent to join the 29th Division as its Pioneers.

For the rest of the War, the Monmouthshire battalions were nearly always up in the front line, never in the limelight, rarely enjoying a rest even when their Division was 'out', for if they were not 'lent' to some other Division in the line, there was quite as much work to be done in 'back areas' as up in the front line, and Pioneers were constantly at work.

General de Lisle, in his introduction to Captain Brett's 'History of the 2nd Monmouthshire' has said of the 2nd Battalion: 'Many of the best achievements of the 29th Division in France and Belgium were indirectly due to the work of the battalion'. In consolidating and rendering tenable captured positions much depended on the promptitude with which the Pioneers could get across to the help of the attacking battalions and get to work. Such occasions often gave them a chance of laying aside pick and shovel and taking for a time to rifle and bayonet, and showing how Pioneers could fight; still it was even more in the less exciting but quite as strenuous times of preparation, in digging assembly and communication trenches, in providing in advance for the Forwarding of ammunition and supplies, in mining and sapping before the attack, that the Pioneers could do much to ensure success.

The records of the 46th and 29th Divisions leave no question as to the value of the services of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Monmouthshire Regiment. At the Hohenzollern Redoubt in October 1915, at Gommecourt on 1st July 1916, round Lens in the spring and early summer of 1917, and, above all, in the celebrated storming of the Hindenburg Line in September 1918, the 46th Division earned a

great reputation, and its Pioneer Battalion was far from the least efficient or successful of its units.

Gamlen William H Private Gloucestershire Regiment 1st / 6th Battalion date of death 23 07 1916 – aged 39

Son of William and S A Gamlen, of Chapel Farm East Brent Somerset. Cemetery Thiepval memorial Pier and face 5 A and 5 B

Puddy John – Price Albert's Somerset Light Infantry 1st Battalion service number 17373 – killed in action 8 August 1916

Mercury War Column 2 September 1916 Private John Puddy

The deceased prior to the outbreak of war had been in the employment of Mr W Salvidge, East Brent and was a lad of more than ordinary promise as well as intelligent and kindness. It was perhaps these facts which enable him to realise more readily the magnitude of the task his country had undertaken in making her stand for Right and Liberty. That he also readily realised his duty which devolved on every eligible man to play his part in the struggle was demonstrated in the most practical manner for after weighing up all of the chances he took the most manly and patriotic of courses and joined up. After completing his training he proceeded to France in July of last year and has served with the Somersets since that time. All are proud of the splendid work the Somersets have performed and residents throughout the South Marsh are even more proud to know that one of their number has played no small part in adding to the glorious traditions of the Regiment and the country which has been purchased at such a price in the present Armageddon.

In his last letter home this humble soldier hero observes that he has not been able to write lately and then follows the reason for he says

” I suppose you know we have been in action for the last few days we made them cry for mercy and some of them were glad to put up their hands. I have never seen anything like it before. Our General went over with us but unfortunately he was killed. He had a bullet through his arm but still he went on, and then he was shot in the stomach and this proved fatal... I am learning to fire the Lewis Gun”.

This letter was characteristic of the young soldier for never through the countless dangers he had passed had he in writing home sought to attach any credit to his bravery himself or desires to enlarge on the miseries and nerve racking experiences which formed part and parcel of the daily life of being in action. In this fact he was actuated by a desire to spare his folk at home any unnecessary anxiety and anxiousness for he was an affectionate lad and had an unusual regard for his home, he was a deservedly esteemed by his employer and agriculturists in the neighbourhood as he was by his more intimate associates and the sympathy of all classes is extended to the young soldier's parent in their loss

History of Somerset Light Infantry writes

At the close of a second tour supporting the Canal Bank, just as the Battalion was being relieved by the Rifle Brigade, the enemy, at about 1030pm on 8th August 1916, made a violent gas attack, accompanied by heavy shelling. Dense clouds of the noxious fumes floated over the trenches and, although the Somerset men only had three casualties from shell fire, 12 officers and 161 other ranks became casualties from gas poisoning. Of these six officers and 27 other ranks died. The gas a mixture of chlorine, phosgene and prussic acid gas was very insidious and clung to the ground and the mens clothes, so that if a man slept in his equipment the invariably developed gas poisoning.

Emery Edward John Dorsetshire Regiment 2nd Battalion date of death 17 09 1916 aged 36

Son of George Emery; husband of Florence Mabel Hastings (formerly Emery), of 6, South Petty Staff Lines, Poona, India. Born at Rooksbridge, Axbridge, Somerset

Baghdad North Gate War Cemetery

The regiment served in France and Flanders, Gallipoli and the Middle East, building up to a strength of 10 battalions as the war progressed. The initial two battalions were as far apart as Belfast and Poona. The second battalion, who were stationed in Poona were placed in the 6th Indian Division commanded by Lieut-General Sir Arthur Barrett. The three infantry brigades were made up of Indian troops with one British battalion in each. The 2nd Dorsets were in the Poona Brigade commanded by Brigadier-General Walter Delamain.

Mesopotamia

The Indian Division was sent to Mesopotamia to protect the oil pipeline that supplied the Royal Navy. The main threat came from the Turkish army of the Ottoman Empire who had declared themselves allied to Germany. The Poona Brigade was in Bahrain so they were the first to arrive on 7th November 1914 at Fort Fao at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab. The fort was taken without loss of life.

Sahil

The Brigade sailed up river and camped at Sanijeh to await the rest of the Division who were travelling from Bombay. The Turks attacked the camp on the 9th and there were other battles on the 11th and 15th. When the Bombay brigades arrived the Division was ordered to Sahain on 17th November to face the 4,500 strong Turkish army advancing from Basra. Sahain was deserted so they moved on to Sahil. The Turks were entrenched in a date grove with a flat plain before them. The artillery and gun-boats barraged their position before the infantry advanced, with considerable difficulty across the boggy and featureless plain. The Dorsets were at the forefront of the advance and sustained 130 casualties. The battle lasted 3 hours but ended with the retreat of the enemy.

Kut el Amara

The British and Indian force under General Townshend moved North towards Baghdad but had to contend with the Turks entrenched near Kut el Amara on the river Tigris. On the 27th September 1915 the 2nd Dorsets and 117th Mahrattas under General Delamain marched through the night and made a successful frontal attack on trenches placed between two marshes. Following this they were exhausted and thirsty but had to fight off a counter-attack. They were keen to reach the river but were faced with a fresh Turkish force of 5 battalions. The exhausted troops charged at the enemy column with bayonets fixed and routed them with a single violent effort. The final result was disappointing as the troops were too tired to pursue the Turks who withdrew northwards in good order.

Ctesiphon

Just south of Baghdad, Ctesiphon is the site of a palace built by the Persian Emperor Chosroes. This ancient site was chosen by the Turks to dig elaborate trenches and gun emplacements to fortify their 4 divisions against the single Allied 6th Division of 25,000 men. The battle took place on the 22nd November 1915 and resulted in the withdrawal of the Turks. The British hung on to the position until the 24th but due to the heavy losses incurred, were forced to retreat after a counter-attack by the enemy.

The Division fell back to the town of Kut after retreating from Ctesiphon. The British Empire forces arrived at Kut around 3 December 1915. They had suffered significant losses and were down to around 11,000 soldiers (plus cavalry). General Townshend chose to stay and hold the position at Kut instead of continuing the march downriver towards [Basra](#). Kut offered a good defensive position because it was contained within a long loop of the river. The problem was how to get supplies, since Kut was a long way from Basra, and led to a prolonged siege by the Turkish Army resulting in the British attempting to negotiate their exit from the battlefield

General Townshend arranged a ceasefire on the 26th and, after failed negotiations, he simply surrendered on 29 April 1916 after a siege of 147 days. Around 13,000 Allied soldiers survived to be made prisoners. 70% of the British and 50% of the Indian troops died of disease or at the hands of the Ottoman guards during captivity. Townshend himself was taken to the island of Halki on the Sea of Marmara, to sit out the war in luxury.

(research note it is not clear if Sgt Emery died as a result of his injuries caused by combat or the very high disease rate caused by the conditions and heat – further research required)

**Popham Frederick – Prince Albert’s Somerset Light Infantry, 7th Battalion
service number 20593 killed in action France & Flanders 1 October 1916 –**

The History of the Somerset Light Infantry records the following action for the 7th Battalion for the 1st October 1916 – “on the 1st October the 61st Brigade. Which had taken over the front line trenches SE of Gueudecourt, was ordered, in view of future operations to push forward strong patrols ... so far as the 7th Somersets were concerned, this operation was of a difficult nature, for it meant the battalion would have to cross the valley which separated the opposing trenches and dig in on the dead ground right under the enemies nose. The advance began at 3.15pm under heavy artillery fire and, despite the difficult nature of the operation, was completed successfully. The battalions gained and dug in on, a line varying 200 yards on the right to 50 yards on the left. The brigade diary states that the casualties were not heavy, but the Somersets lost at least one gallant officer and several brave men killed, who could ill be spared, besides many others wounded.

**Studley William Henry Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery 11th Unit
Lance Cpl service number 368 – date of death 29 January 1917.son of Mark
and Ann Studley of East Brent Buried Trois Arbes Cemetery SteenWerck**

The end of an East Brent Hero – Mercury report

Referring to the death of Private William Henry Studley, serving with a trench mortar company attached to an Australian Regiment. France wounded on January 27th and expiring from his injuries two days later the vicar of East Brent writes the following in the East Brent magazine- one more name has to be added to the lengthening list of East Brent men who have made the great sacrifice. W H Studley eldest son of Mr. and Mrs Mark Studley went to work in Australia in 1911. after 4 ½ years work in the bush and farming , he came back in response to his countries call as a member of the Imperial Force reaching here just in time to see his father before he died at the end of July 1916. After a few months training he went to France in November last. He was a good son, a steady, hard working man and a brave soldier. He was married during his last time and great sympathy is felt for his young widow and also his widowed mother. The following extract from letters from comrades speak for themselves, I cannot speak too highly of him he was most considerate and manly in all things and a great loss to us all. It is hard to understand why such a fine type of manhood should be called upon to make the sacrifice when so many others could be spared; he was most prepared to meet his maker than most of us



Troops of the Australian Mortar Regiment – location unknown

Pople Charles - Private – Worcestershire Regiment – 4th Battalion – number 40544 – killed in Action 23rd April 1917 – France & Flanders

East Brent Soldier Missing – Mercury Report

We greatly regret to hear that Pte Charles Pople Worcester Regiment of East Brent reported as missing from April 23rd which was the date of his last letter received by his wife. The Vicar Rev A P Wickham as received from the OC Battalion the following inquiry made by him. I regret to have to inform you that Pte C Pople has been missing since 23/04/17 after attack made by his company in the German trenches. I may point out that these is, of course, the chance that he may be a prisoner of war, in which case you will be informed in due course.

Overview of Battle of Arras

The Battle of Arras was a British offensive From 9 April to 16 May 1917, British, Canadian, New Zealand , Newfoundland, and Australian troops attacked German Trenches near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. On 23 April, the British launched an assault east from Wancourt towards Vis en Artois. Elements of the 30th and the 50th Divisions made initial gains, and were in fact able to secure the village of Guemappe, but could advance no further east and suffered heavy losses. Farther north, German forces counterattacked in an attempt to recapture lost ground, but troops from the allies were able to hold the village until reinforcements from the 29th Division arrived. British commanders determined not to push forward in the face of stiff German resistance, and the attack was called off the following day on 24 April.



Estimated casualties and losses on both sides 290,000 personnel

Alfred GRANT Gunner 620300, 2nd/1st (Somerset), Royal Horse Artillery
"B" Bty. 223rd Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died age 25 on 03
December 1917

Husband of Martha Mabel Grant, of 205, Manchester Rd., Walkden, Manchester.
Remembered with honour ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY
EXTENSION Gunner Alfred GRANT was born in Rooksbridge in 1892. He
enlisted at Taunton into the Somerset Div of the Royal Field Artillery. He
fought at Flanders and died in France. At the time of his death his wife
Martha was living in Manchester

Private Grant Oxford & Bucks LI his widow has now received a highly
sympathetic letter from the officer commanding the dead heroes Company in the
course of which the writer states "Your husband suffered no pain he was killed
instantaneously and was buried where he lay. I deeply sympathise with you and
your great loss. It was a great loss to his Company and although I did not know
him personally he was a great soldier



**Durston J Canadian Infantry British Columbia Regiment 7th Battalion
Private Service number 442054 died 22 June 1917 Aged 31 years,**

Son of Charles and Lydia Durston, of Hawker Cottages, Bristol Rd., Bridgwater, and Somerset, England. Born at Rooksbridge, Somerset, buried Arras Cemetery Roclinourt – further research required

**Popham Ralph Royal Horse Artillery Royal Field Artillery Territorial Force –
Gunner Service Number 4 January 1918 – Died of Wounds 4 January 1918**

Further research required

- [Thank you for getting in touch.](#)

[Yes, I have researched 2/1st Somerset RHA and am finishing off a book that should come out this year.](#)

[The Essex article was an appeal for local information as the first line \(1/1st\) were based there until 1916. I did get a scanned postcard or two from that which was great. The 2/1st was renamed "B" Battery, 318th Brigade just before going overseas with 63rd Divisional Artillery \(July 2, 1916\). It was reorganised on July 18, 1916 and became "B" Battery, 223rd Brigade. I have photographed the War Diary for the whole period they were in action but it is rather sparse regarding casualties and names. Ralph Popham is down in SDGW as Died of Wounds on January 4, 1918 and one can only guess when he obtained his fatal wounds. As the Wagon Lines were at EQUANCOURT during this time he was not evacuated far. Lt. Edward Henry Burgh of B/223 also died of wounds on January 4, 1918 and was buried at RUYAULCOURT, about 2 miles away. You get the impression that they both lived only a matter of hours after being wounded. The action in this area started with an enemy attack on WELSH RIDGE, near LA VACQUERIE, at 6:45 am on December 30, 1917.](#)

- [I can also update you on the information I had given that was reproduced in your posting.](#)

[The 2/1st left Woodbury Common, Exeter, in late September 1915 so Ralph would not have gone there. At some point he would have left Taunton depot for Colchester. They then left Colchester](#)

and moved to No.15 Camp, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on December 18, 1915 and remained there for six months. I would love a picture of Ralph to add to my book if permission can be obtained for such.

The little village of Rooksbridge has been much saddened by the news of Gunner Ralph Popham RFA who died in France from wounds received in action. All who new him loved him for his kindly actions, his brightness and smiles, which suggested to all that he was all that he hoped to be. The brave boy volunteered for service in October 1916, then aged only eithteen. After training he was sent somewhere in France where he did his yeoman service and has now made the great sacrifice for home and country. He will be sorely missed everywhere especially the Baptist Sunday school where he was a scholar and teacher from childhood to the time of his joining the Colours he was also a (unknown word) and took an active part in the band of Hope

Deep sympathy is felt for his father Mr T Popham and sisters and two brothers both of whon are in the Army. The Popham had the sad news conveyed to him by the following letter

Dear Sir, it is with much regret I have to inform you that your son No B20296 Gunner R Popham has died of wounds received in action. In your son we have lost a gallant soldier and comrade who was admired and liked by everyone. His loss is a severe blow to the battery and we beg to convey our deepest sympathy to you in your loss

I beg to remain your sincerely

E W G Bennetts

Second Lieut RFA

It is much to have had a good and brave son, it is more to have given him to the greatest causes the world has ever seen

John Derrick Captain Yorkshire Regiment 6th Battalion 27 08 1917 aged 27 years at Passchendaele

Son of the Rev. J. G. and Edith Derrick, of 2, Royal Crescent, Cheltenham. Enlisted in Public Schools University Bn. Royal Fusiliers in 1914. Gazetted 2nd Lt. Dec., 1914. Served in Egypt Jan.-July, 1916; France and Flanders July, 1916-Aug. 1917. Promoted Capt. July, 1917 – Tyne Cot Memorial



From 31st July 1917 till well into September was a period of tremendous anxiety.... The fighting on the Western Front became more serious than any the German army had yet experienced.... and the costly August battles imposed a great strain on the Western troops. Our wastage had been so high as to cause grave misgivings, and exceeded all our expectations (General Ludendorff, German Army - memoirs)

Contested losses and casualties both sides 500,000+

Taylor Lois William Gunner Royal Artillery80 (Scottish Horse Medium Regt)
death 30th February 1944 – Anzio – Italy –

Son of Louis William Taylor, and of Annie Taylor, of East Brent, Somerset. –
further research required