

IN MEMORY OF THE SOULS
 OF
 THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH
 WHO FELL IN WORLD WAR I
 1914 -1918



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Compiled by Hannah Jones and Kate Jones with additional information provided by Ron Limb, Patricia Heath and Margaret Gallagher.

With extracts from The Pontefract & Castleford Express and other sources.

Many of you will be aware that in St Joseph's church we have a substantial war memorial to those who died in the First and Second World Wars.

As we approach the 100 year remembrance of WWI, we're reminded of the grim price that was paid by men from our own streets.

This booklet tells us a little more about the men listed on the memorial.

Some of these men may have family still alive in the parish; many will not. It is our collective responsibility as Catholics not only to *remember* but also ***to pray*** for their immortal souls.

We must forget neither them nor the unfailing mercy of Almighty God.

***Fr Simon Lodge
Parish Priest
November 2018***

In Memory of
Company Serjeant Major

Matthew James Aithwaite

5963, "B" Coy. 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 21 September 1916 Age 35

Son of Thomas and Annie Aithwaite, of Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorks.; husband of Margaret Mary Laughton (formerly Aithwaite), of 10, Elm Terrace, Pontefract.

Remembered with Honour
Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Company Serjeant Major Matthew Aithwaite, 5963, "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment.

Died on 21 September 1916, aged 35.

Matthew is buried at Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, and the inscription on his headstone reads: "ON WHOSE SOUL SWEET JESUS HAVE MERCY FROM WIFE & CHILDREN."

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Private John Ashton, 2901, 5th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

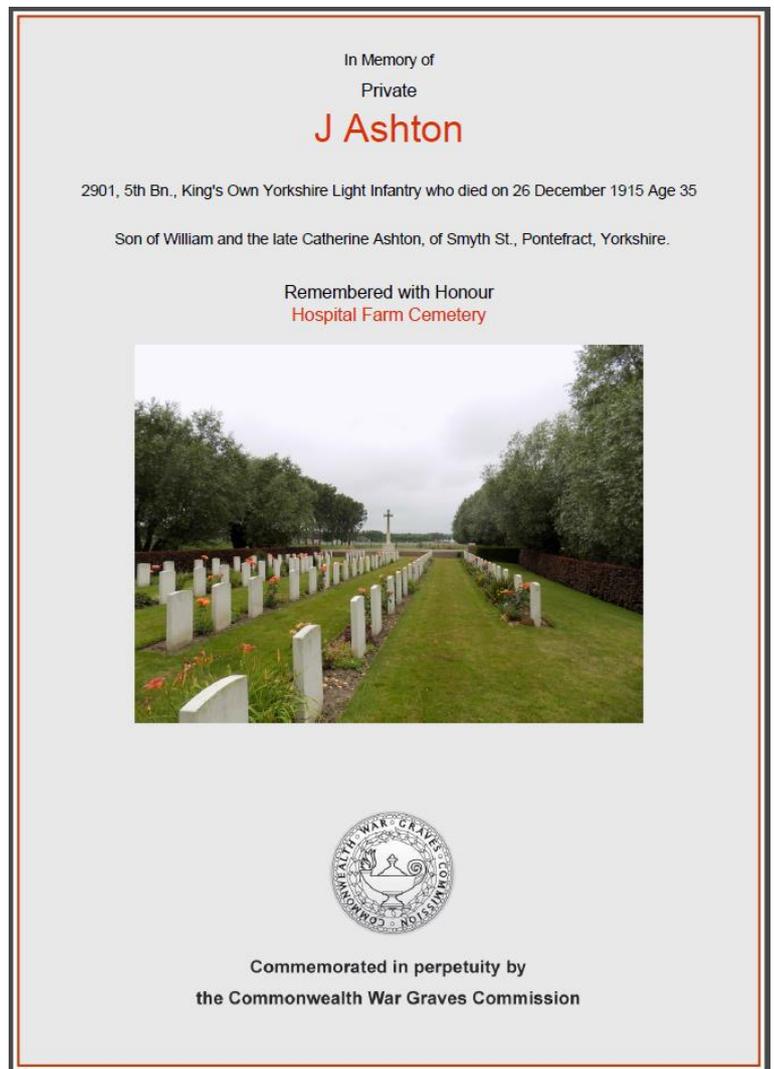
Died on 26 December 1915, aged 35.

John is buried at Hospital Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (January 1916):
'News has been received by Mr. Wm. Ashton, Queen-street, Pontefract, that his youngest son, Pvte. Jno. Ashton (34), of the First 5th K.O.Y.L.I., has been killed in Belgium. The news was sent by Father F. Woodcock, attached to the 3rd W.R. Field Ambulance, who wrote: "It is my sad task to tell you that your son John, of the 5th K.O.Y.L.I., was brought in here to-day very seriously wounded (letter undated). I gave him the last Sacraments. In spite of every effort made by three doctors he died to-day, the 26th September [?

December] at 6.45 p.m. His death is, for him, a happy release, to the reward he has earned from God by doing his duty so bravely and so well. Had he lived he would have been a cripple for life. I hope you will be brave enough to say, 'God's will be done,' and may God comfort you and all at home in your terrible sorrow.'" —Pvte. Ashton was a miner. He was amongst the first who joined the Second 5th K.O.Y.L.I., raised by Colonel Shaw; and after training he was drafted to the First 5th (Territorials). He had been at the Front several months and had taken part in a good deal of fighting. He corresponded regularly with relatives and friends at home, and was a most uncomplaining, cheery writer, who evidently realised his duty and meant to do it. Letters written by him in December have been received by his friends.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



In Memory of

Private

Walter Clewarth

21887, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 05 December 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Walter Clewarth, 21887, 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers
Died in action on 5 December 1916, aged 20.

Born in Pontefract in 1896, Walter was the son of Robert and Ellen Clewarth, and had three brothers and four sisters.

At the time of the 1911 census, the family were living in Featherstone and Walter (aged 14) was working as a screener.

He is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of

Private

W Clewarth

22368, 13th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 15 January 1916

Remembered with Honour

Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Wilfred Clewarth, 22368, 13th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

Died in action on 15 January 1916.

Born in Swinton, Lancashire in 1894, Wilfred was the son of Robert and Ellen, and the elder brother of Walter Clewarth.

At the time of the 1911 census, Wilfred and Walter were living in Featherstone with their parents, two brothers and four sisters. Wilfred (aged 17) was working as a pony driver.

Wilfred is buried at Cite Monjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, Nord, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of
Corporal

H Cresswell

12718, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 18 October 1917

Remembered with Honour
Dozinghem Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Corporal Harry Cresswell, 12718, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 18 October 1917.

Harry was born in Middlesbrough in 1884, but by 1901 the family had moved down to Tanshelf.

His parents were George James Cresswell and Mary A R Gilligan, both of whom died and are buried in Pontefract. Harry also had five brothers and a sister.

In 1904, Harry married Elizabeth Ann Rookledge, who was born and bred in Pontefract. They had three children: Doris, Mary Lilly and John Henry.

Harry was a coal miner and he and his family later moved to the Rotherham area, where he enlisted in the York and Lancaster Regiment.

He died in 1917 from wounds sustained during action and is buried at the Dozinghem Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Elizabeth Ann re-married a few years later and is buried in the Hemsworth area, and both Mary Lilly and John Henry lived in the Ackworth/Hemsworth area.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Serjeant Cyrus Joseph Davies, 11162, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on the 16th September 1916, aged 26.

Cyrus is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (November 1916):

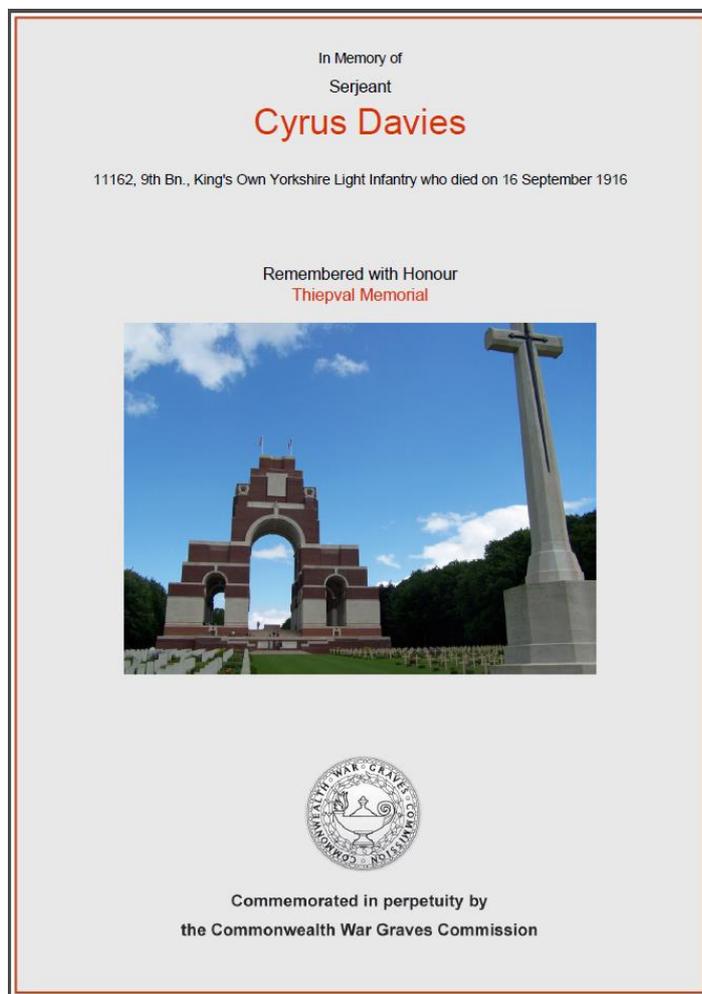
‘Amongst those of Pontefract’s sons who have recently “Gone West”—as their comrades affectionately term their translation from the earth plane to the next stage of their existence—is this brave soldier of the K.O.Y.L.I. who was 26, was born at Pontefract Barracks, and was the son of a sergeant resident there at that time. Of Gebhard’s Yard, in the old borough, the deceased belonged to the Regulars, enlisting in 1907, and going with the 1st Battalion to China, where he remained six years, winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class education certificates, and taking duty as assistant schoolmaster during 4 ½ years.

It will interest many to recall that he married (in October 1914) Miss Ellen Hughes, third daughter of Mrs and the late Mr. Martin Hughes, Pontefract. Besides the widow he leaves two children.

The sergeant was three times in France, and he has a brother, Pte. Harold Davies (23), fighting in that country with the R.M. Battn., and an elder brother, Richd. Davies (29), is in America.

Very sympathetic letters have been received by the sergeant’s widow. His officer writes: “His death (in the trenches) was sudden. He died like the good soldier he was. I cannot say how sorry we all feel at his loss. It will help you in your sorrow to know that he died doing his duty. Accept my deepest sympathy.” Pte. Frank Green says—“Thank God, he never suffered any pain. Please accept the deepest sympathy of all of us.” Dating from camp, Stafford, Sgt. J. Wrigglesworth writes—“I served with him all the time I was in France. Have lost the best of pals. I trust he and they are at perfect peace. They fought for life and liberty for their dear ones. What better death can a man die? God’s mercy on you and your children in your irreparable loss.”

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



Regulars, enlisting in 1907, and going with the 1st Battalion to China, where he remained six years, winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class education certificates, and taking duty as assistant schoolmaster during 4 ½ years.

Private Thomas Duker, 52464, 2nd Bn., Middlesex Regiment, who died on 28 November 1917, aged 19.

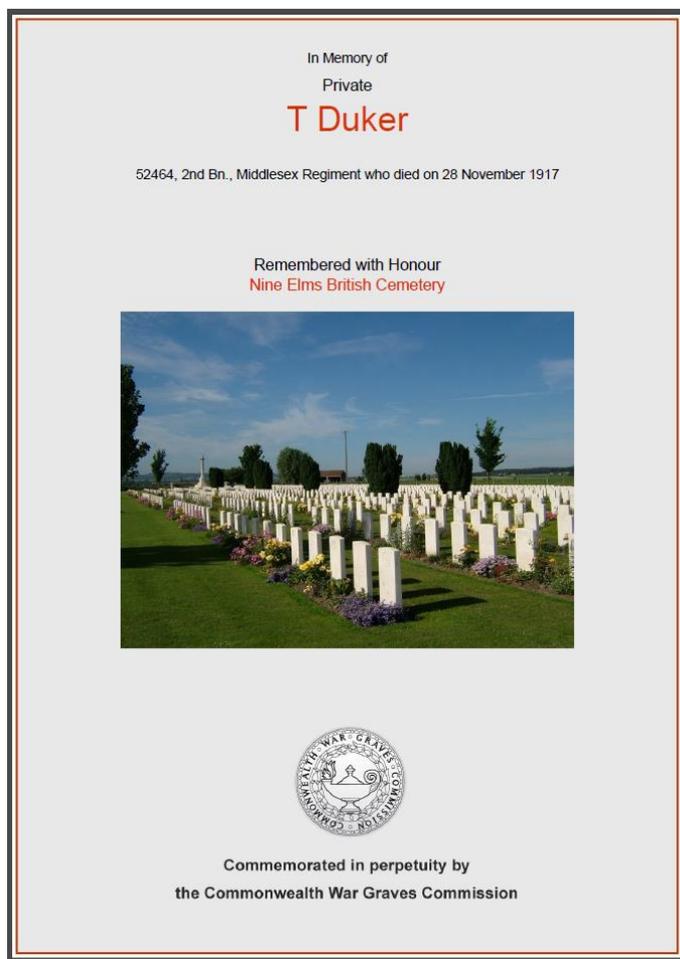
Thomas is buried at Nine Elms British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1917): ‘Not a few readers in the Old Church district, Pontefract, will remember Thos. Duker, who until April last year was in the employ of Messrs. Robson and Co. LTD., maltsters, and has now, at the early age of 19 years, joined the throng of brave lads who did their duty by the old country and also made the supreme sacrifice. The deceased soldier went to France in July last, and was soon afterwards wounded. Now, wounded again, he has passed away in France – on November 28th. A letter from a nursing sister tells how that everything was done for the dear lad that could be done, and that when he could not write himself he

asked the Sister to do so, sending his love to his mother. “His grave will be marked with a cross,” and his name and that of his regiment put thereon. From the chaplain there is a sympathetic letter stating that the poor lad lived only a few hours after being wounded, and the writer had “laid the remains to rest in our military cemetery.” He commends the mother to “the care of the Lord Jesus.”’

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1917): ‘DUKER—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Thos. Duker, of Old Church, Pontefract, who died of wounds in France, Nov. 28th, 1917, aged 19 years.

We little thought, dear son and brother,
When we had said good-bye,
That we parted then for ever,
And you were about to die.
The grief we feel words cannot tell,
For we could not be with you
To bid you a last farewell.
You nobly answered duty’s call,
Your life you gave for one and all.
The unknown grave is the bitterest blow,
None but aching hearts can know.
—From Father, Mother, Sisters, and Brothers.’

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



In Memory of
Private

Maurice Dunlavy

11293, "A" Coy. 1st Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 04 October 1915 Age 33

Son of Anthony and Margaret Dunlavy.

Remembered with Honour
Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Maurice Dunlavy, 11293, "A" Coy. 1st Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 4 October 1915, aged 33.

Maurice was the son of Anthony and Margaret Dunlavy.

He is commemorated at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of
Gunner

Frederick Earley

165336, "A" Bty. 84th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 09 May 1918 Age 31

Son of George William and Mary Earley, of 226, Waterloo St., Hull; husband of Mary Hannah Earley, of 4, Driver's Terrace, Wakefield Rd., Pontefract, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Hull (Hedon Road) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Gunner Frederick Earley, 165336, "A" Bty. 84th Bde., Royal Field Artillery, who died on 9 May 1918, aged 31.

Frederick was the son of George William and Mary Earley, of 226, Waterloo St., Hull, and the husband of Mary Hannah Earley, of 4, Driver's Terrace, Wakefield Rd., Pontefract, Yorks.

He is buried at Hull (Hedon Road) Cemetery and the inscription on his headstone reads: "ETERNAL REST GIVE UNTO HIM O LORD, LOVING WIFE MARY & SON FRED".

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of
Greaser

Thomas England

S.S. "Drina" (Belfast), Mercantile Marine who died on 01 March 1917 Age 58

Son of Mary England and the late George England; husband of the late Eliza England. Born at Pontefract.

Remembered with Honour
Tower Hill Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Greaser Thomas England, S.S. "Drina" (Belfast), Mercantile Marine, who died on 1 March 1917, aged 58.

Born in Pontefract, Thomas was the son of Mary England and the late George England, and the husband of the late Eliza England.

Thomas drowned as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine.

He is commemorated at Tower Hill Memorial, London.

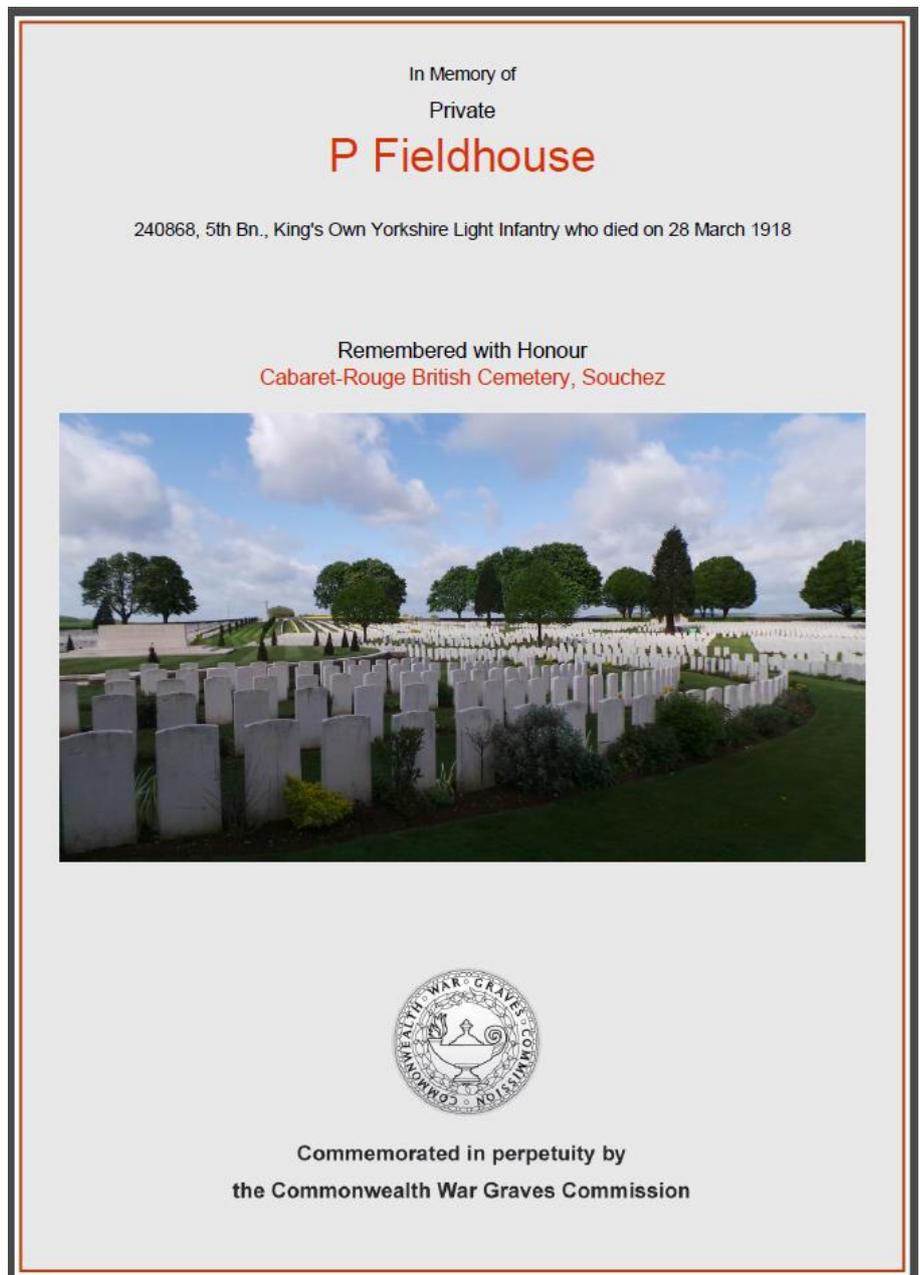
Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Private Peter Fieldhouse,
240868, 5th Bn., King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry, who
died on 28 March 1918,
aged 20.

Peter is buried at Cabaret-
Rouge British Cemetery,
Souchez, Pas de Calais,
France.

Extract from the Pontefract
and Castleford Express (May
1918): 'The parents of this
young soldier (Mr and Mrs
Geo. Fieldhouse, of
Newgate, Pontefract) have
received the sad intelligence
that he was killed in action
on March 28th, 1918. He
was their elder son, a good
lad, and much respected by
his acquaintances. Before
joining the K.O.Y.L.I. in
October of 1914—and he
was most anxious to serve—
he worked at "The Prince" in
the lamp-room. He went to France in 1916, and had been actively serving since, being
wounded on one occasion, though not seriously. The deceased was only 20. In a letter to
his parents, his sergeant says that Peter was very well liked, and was a good soldier, always
ready to do anything asked of him.'

***Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest
in peace. Amen.***



Private Patrick Finn, 11480, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 20 September 1915, aged 16.

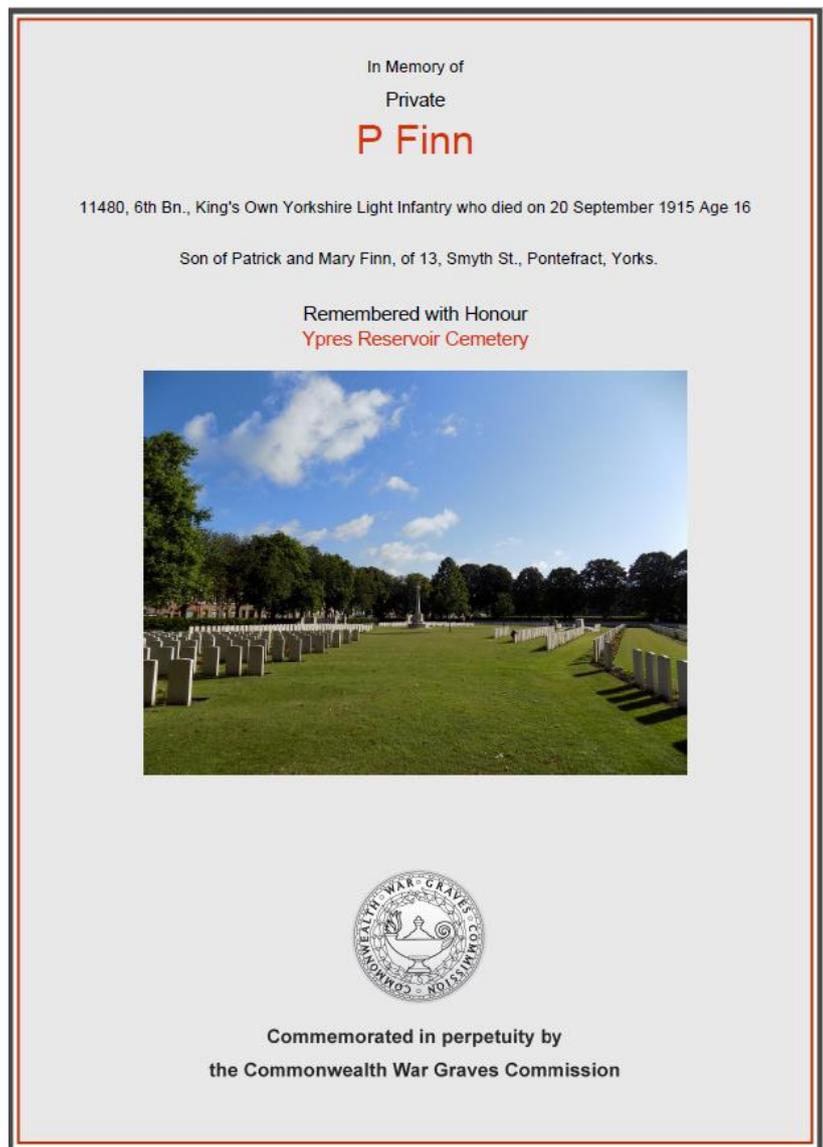
Patrick was the son of Patrick and Mary Finn, of 13, Smyth St., Pontefract, Yorks. He is buried at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and the inscription on his headstone reads: "GOD REST HIS SOUL".

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (October 1915): 'At the meeting of the Pontefract Board of Guardians on Saturday a letter from Miss Smith, late Matron of the Cottage Homes, Pontefract, was read by the Clerk (Mr. Amies). She spoke of the death of "one of our old boys", Patrick Finn, who was killed in action. She said the last letter she received from him was dated September the seventh. His old mother would be heart-broken. "She lives in a yard leading out of Ropergate."

Accompanying Miss Smith's letter was a letter from Corpl. W. Brookes. This stated that Private Patrick Finn belonged to his platoon. The parcel from Miss Smith had been received, and in accordance with deceased's wish he (the corporal) had served it to his comrades. "Finn was a good soldier and did his duty bravely. We shall all miss him very much. I saw him buried. He received a decent grave just behind the firing-line. He was well liked by all his comrades, and was a pleasant boy. I miss him very much myself."

The youth, who, Father Ford stated, was only 16, was at the Home from September 30th, 1911, until the year 1913, and was discharged at his own request. He left the Home to go to an uncle, and must have enlisted afterwards.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



In Memory of
Sapper

T Finn

190583, 277th Railway Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 03 July 1917 Age 31

Son of Patrick and Mary Finn, of 13, Smyth St., Pontefract.

Remembered with Honour
Mendinghem Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Sapper Thomas Finn, 190583, 277th Railway Coy., Royal Engineers, who died on 3 July 1917, aged 31.

Thomas was the son of Patrick and Mary Finn, of 13, Smyth St., Pontefract, and the older brother of Private Patrick Finn.

He is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of

Corporal

Peter Flynn

13482, 11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 07 October 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Corporal Peter Flynn, 13482, 11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), died on 7 October 1916.

Peter was the son of Michael Flynn, a bricklayer who was born in Ireland but moved to Pontefract at the age of two, and Mary Ann Ryan, who was born and bred in Pontefract. Michael and Mary married in Pontefract in 1875, and lived in Leeds and Ferrybridge before returning to Pontefract.

Peter was born in Leeds in 1889 and had seven siblings. At the time of the 1911 census, he was a private at the Pontefract Army Base.

It is believed that he died on Thiepval Hill during the Battle of the Somme, and he is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of

Private

William Fraine

3485, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 06 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private William Frain, 3485, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 6 July 1916.

William was the fourth child of Thomas Frain and Ann Jordan, who married in Pontefract in 1886.

He was born in 1895 and had four brothers and five sisters. The family lived at 8 Smyth Street (off Ropergate) in Pontefract.

William was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme. He is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, where his name is listed as William Fraine.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of

Driver

George France

32516, 460th Bty. 15th Bde., Royal Horse Artillery who died on 26 October 1917 Age 19

Son of Tom and Sarah Jane France, of 11, Wordsworth Yard, Beastfair, Pontefract.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Driver George France, 32516, 460th Bty. 15th Bde., Royal Horse Artillery, who died on 26 October 1917, aged 19.

George was the son of Tom France and Sarah Jane Jordan, who married in Pontefract in 1890.

He was born in 1897 and was the younger brother of Gunner Thomas Stanley France, who died in South Africa. The family lived at 11, Wordsworth Yard, Beastfair, Pontefract. Including Thomas Stanley, George had three brothers and a sister. At the time of the 1911 census, he was employed as an errand boy.

George died from wounds sustained during battle near Ypres. He is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Memory of

Gunner

T S France

70103, 79th Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 29 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Cape Town (Plumstead) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Gunner Thomas Stanley France, 70103, 79th Bty., Royal Field Artillery, who died on 29 July 1917.

Thomas was the son of Tom France and Sarah Jane Jordan, who married in Pontefract in 1890.

He was born in 1891 and had a twin brother, Charles Henry. The twins also had a sister and two other brothers, one of whom was Driver George France. The family lived in 11 Wordsworth Yard, Beastfair, Pontefract.

At the time of the 1911 census, Thomas was employed as a coal miner.

Thomas was among a small number of military personnel who were sent to assist the South African forces during the war. He died of Tuberculosis in the Military Hospital in Wynberg, Cape Town, South Africa. He is buried in Cape Town (Plumstead) Cemetery.

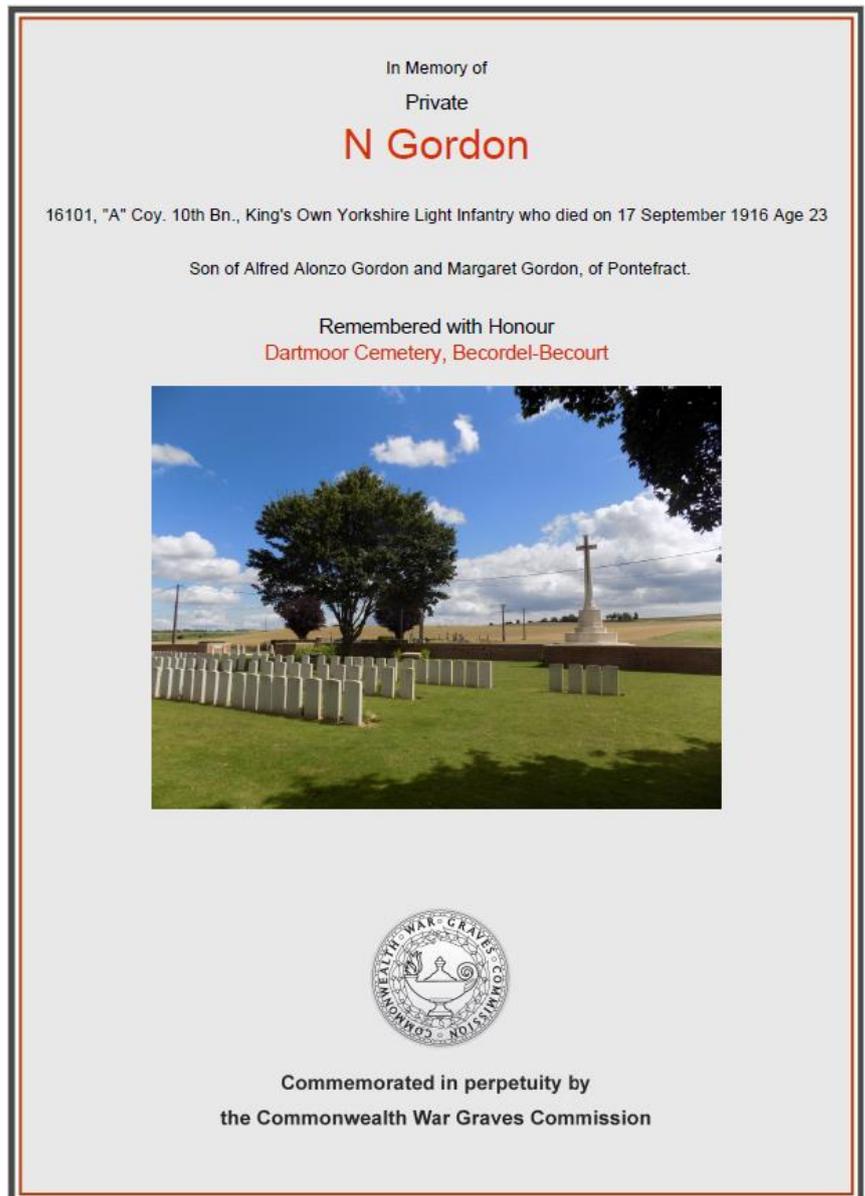
Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Private Norman Gordon, 16101, "A" Coy., 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 17 September 1916, aged 23.

Norman was the son of Alfred Alonzo Gordon and Margaret Gordon, of Pontefract. He is buried at Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France and the inscription on his headstone reads: "MAY HE REST IN PEACE AMEN".

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (October 1916): 'Pvte. Norman (or "Norrie" as he was familiarly called) Gordon, of the K.O.Y.L.I., is amongst the latest notified of those local lads who have given their all for their fellows. He was in his 22nd year only, and before enlisting was a miner at Featherstone Main Colliery, and lived with Mr. and Mrs. Cooney, at 15, Anderson-street, Tanshelf, was, indeed, brought up by them—being a nephew of Mrs. Cooney. The deceased soldier joined with the first, in August of 1914, and had been at the Front 13 months when, on the 17th September, he succumbed in France to wounds sustained in action. The sad intelligence of his death reached the relatives this week only.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



In Memory of

Private

William Holroyd

241136, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 June 1917 Age 22

Son of George and Catharine Holroyd, of 19, Denwell Terrace, Pontefract, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private William Holroyd, 241136, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 13 June 1917, aged 22.

William was the son of George and Catharine Holroyd, of 19, Denwell Terrace, Pontefract. He is buried at Estaires Communal Cemetery, Nord, France and the inscription on his headstone reads: "R.I.P. AMEN".

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Private Fred Jackson, 1856,
1st/5th Bn., King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry, who
died on 3 June 1915, aged 21.

Fred was the son of William
and Elizabeth Jackson, of St.
Bernard's Avenue, Pontefract.

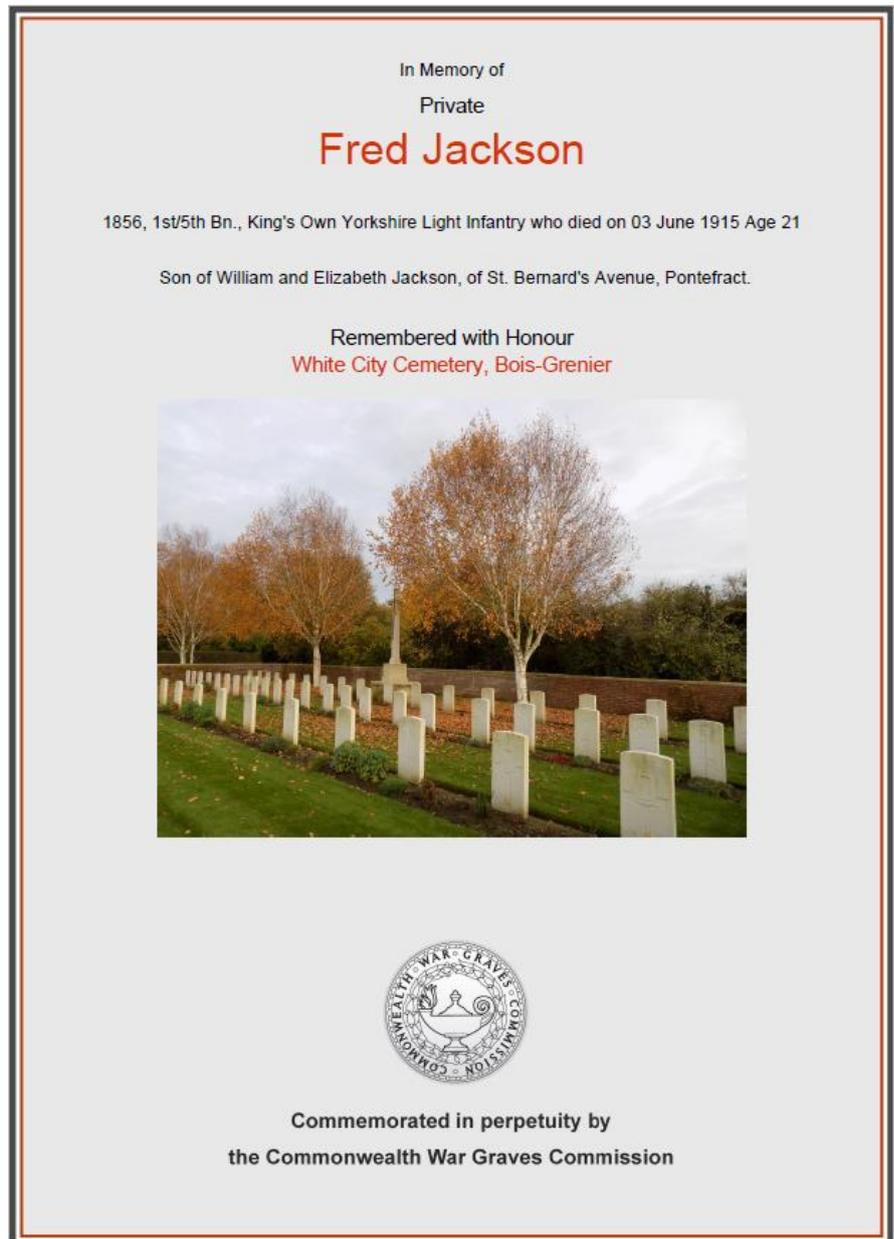
He is buried at White City
Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, Nord,
France and the inscription on
his headstone reads: "IN THIS
GRAVE SO FAR AWAY LIES A
DEAR SON, TREASURED IN
LIFE, NEVER FORGOTTEN".

Extract from the Pontefract
and Castleford Express (June
1915): 'Another Pontefract
family have been plunged in
grief by the death of one of
their members at the Front.
On Monday morning Mrs. Eliz.
Jackson, of St. Bernard
Avenue, received a letter from
Capt. J. W. Walker, of the First
5th K.O.Y.L.I., intimating that
her youngest son, Pvte. Fred Jackson, had met his death at the hands of the enemy.

The letter, dated June 3rd, reads: "It is with deepest regret that I write to inform you of the death of your son, Pvte. Jackson. He was shot by a German sniper whilst working in the trenches, and was killed instantly. He was fine soldier, and always did his duty thoroughly, and we shall all feel his loss. Please accept my sincere sympathies, and remember that he died doing his duty."

The deceased was in his 22nd year only. He was in the employ of Messrs. Burton and Son, painters, etc., and had many friends in the town, particularly amongst members of the Roman Catholic Church, of which he was a member. Jackson was at one time a member of the Pontefract Young Men's Institute and occasionally assisted the Institute football club. He was also a member of Pontefract St. Joseph's Football Club.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



Private John Kimmedy,
47383, 7th Bn., King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry, who
died on 30 November 1917,
aged 19. John is
commemorated at Cambrai
Memorial, Louverval, Nord,
France.

Extract from the Pontefract
and Castleford Express
(December 1917): 'ANOTHER
PONTEFRACT LAD has met a
soldier's death, namely, Pte.
Jno. Kimmedy, K.O.Y.L.I.,
eldest son of Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Kimmedy, of Denwell
Terrace. Prior to enlistment,
last June, the deceased was
employed at the Prince of
Wales Colliery. Only just 19,
he went to France at the
beginning of November, and
had been out there but one
month. The sad news was
conveyed to Mr. and Mrs.
Kimmedy by Sergt. Millet, an
old friend of Pte. Kimmedy,
with whom he went to
school. "We buried him in a

soldier's grave," writes the sergeant. He was, he adds, a good lad the few days he was with them. The news, coming, so suddenly, has proved a great shock to the lad's parents—who had sent him a parcel for Christmas just before receiving the sad tidings. We are sure that at this time, when the grim shadow of War hangs heavily over the festivity of Christmastide, great sympathy will be extended to all such bereaved ones.'

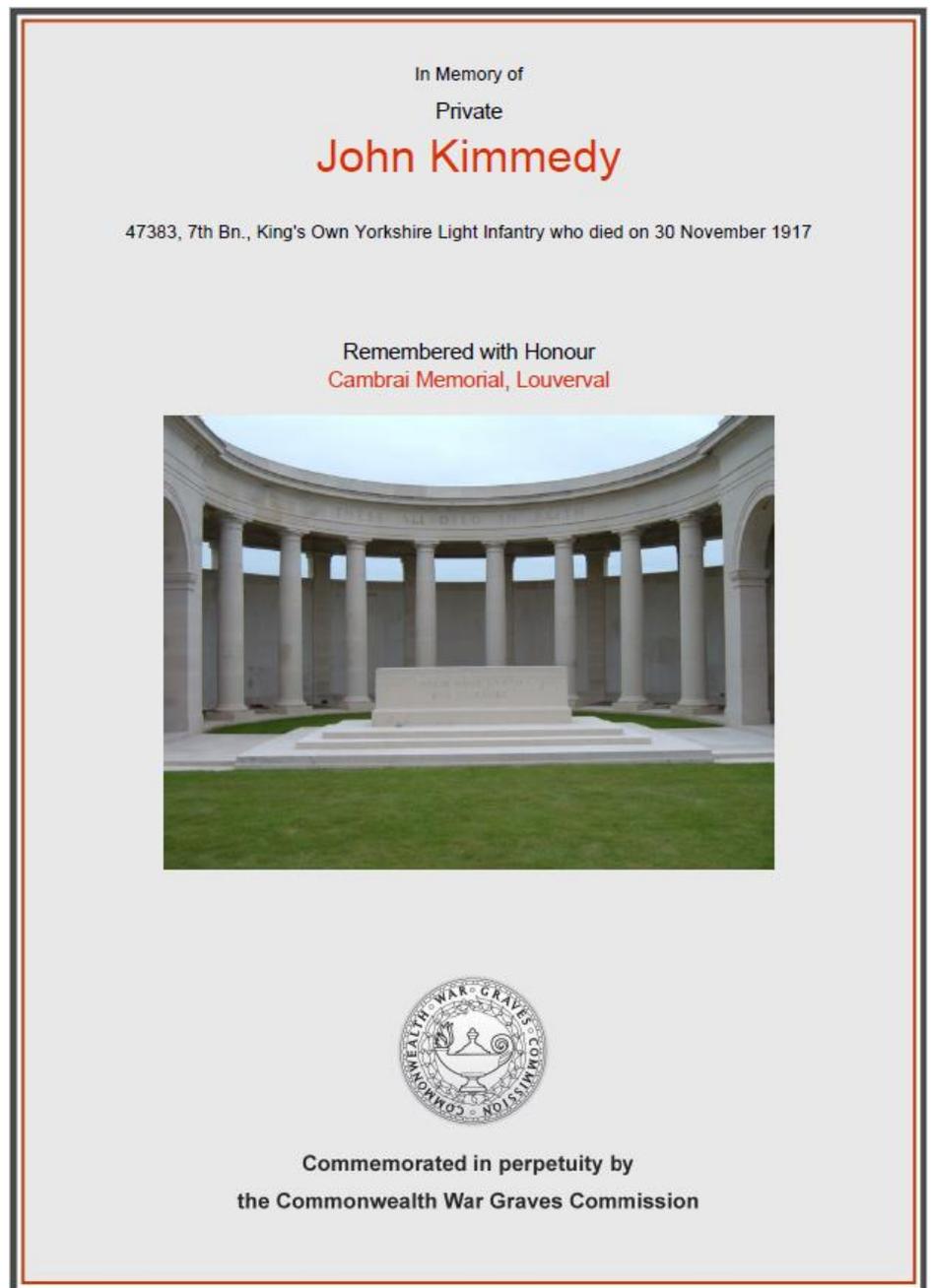
Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1917):

'KIMMEDY — In loving memory of our dear brother, Pvlte. Jack Kimmedy, killed in action at Cambrai, Nov. 29th 1917—"R.I.P."

A light is from our household gone,
A voice we loved is stilled.

— Annie and Fred.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



Private Joseph Henry Lush, 9096, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 20 April 1918, aged 38.

Joseph was the son of Joseph Lush and Sarah Ellen Bradshaw, who married in 1878. He was born in August 1879 in the Army Barracks in Pontefract and had a brother and five sisters.

A career soldier, Joseph served in South Africa from 1899. In 1908, he married Rose Ellen Durkin in Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa. They had two sons and a daughter, but sadly she died in infancy. By the time of the 1911 census, Joseph and his family had returned to the Army Barracks in Pontefract.

Joseph died in action during a battle on the Somme and he is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. In 1920, Rose Ellen and her two sons emigrated to Australia. She died in 1960.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

In Memory of
Private
Joseph Henry Lush

9096, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 April 1918

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of

Private

Andrew James Mahon

21831, 1st Garrison Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 11 July 1918 Age 38

Son of the late John and Margaret Ann Mahon, of 9, Hamilton Terrace, Willington, Derby; husband of Harriet Louisa Mahon, of Cattle Laithe, Knottingley, Yorks. Served in the South African War.

Remembered with Honour

Rawalpindi War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Andrew James Mahon, 21831, 1st Garrison Bn., Yorkshire Regiment, who died on 11 July 1918, aged 38.

Andrew was the son of the late John and Margaret Ann Mahon, of 9, Hamilton Terrace, Willington, Derby, and the husband of Harriet Louisa Mahon, of Cattle Laithe, Knottingley. He had also served in the South African War.

Andrew is buried at Rawalpindi War Cemetery, Pakistan.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Lance Corporal Joseph McNeil, 14915, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), who died on 4 September 1918, aged 29. Joseph was the son of Dominic and Anne McNeil. He is commemorated at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (November 1918):

'This gallant Pontefract man, who was in his 30th year, belonged to the West Yorkshires, and joined up as early in the War as September, 1914, is amongst those heroic fellows who have seen much fighting and have sealed the "contract" with their country in their blood. The deceased N.C.O. formerly worked at the Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract. When the call came he obeyed, and the family, to the younger of whom he was as a father, missed him greatly. Until recently his mother and sisters and brothers, expecting him home on leave, hoped for the best when his welcome letters ceased, and did not quite give him up until they learnt from a friend that he had attended the interment, and from the War Office that their brother was no more.

"One of the best sons and brothers" at home, he was held in great esteem as a soldier, and those who fought with him at Ypres and in many other places during the past three and a quarter years, will miss him almost as much as his own kindred. He "passed forward" on September, 4th, 1918. The father, Mr. Dominic McNeil, who has another son discharged, John, as also the family, have the sympathy of many friends, including that of the members of the Catholic Church, and of Cra. [?] Amery, in whose ambulance corps he was a student before August 4th, 1914. All honour to one more of Pontefract's brave sons.'

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1918):

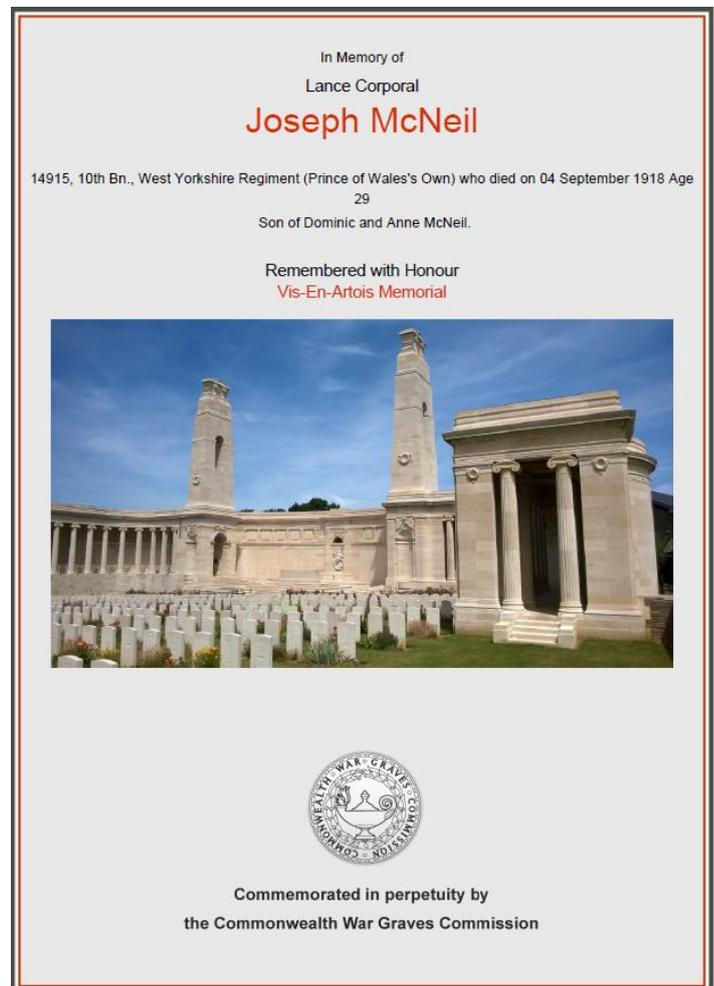
'McNEIL—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal Jos. ("Joe") McNeil, 13th West Yorks., Back Northgate, Pontefract, killed in action September 4th, 1918, aged 29 years.

One of the best.

Grant him, O Lord, eternal rest.

—From sorrowing Father, Brothers, and Sisters, and Mary and Children, and Frank (in France).'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



Lance Corporal John Charles Metcalfe, 9677, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 27 July 1915, aged 19.

John was the son of Mr. George and Mrs. E. Metcalfe, of 16, Cleaves Row, Pontefract.

He is buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France, and the inscription on his headstone reads: "O LORD, MAY HE REST IN PEACE AMEN, FROM LOVING PARENTS, BROTHER AND SISTERS".

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (August 1915): 'News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, of Driver's Terrace, Pontefract, that their elder son, Lance-Corpl. Jno. Chas. Metcalfe, of

the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, died on the 27th July from wounds received in action. The deceased had been nearly five years in the Army, and three months ago, whilst at Sunderland, he volunteered for the Front, and went out. He was in his 20th year only. His father is a soldier, having served many years in the same regiment.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

John Charles Metcalfe

9677, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 27 July 1915 Age 19

Son of Mr. George and Mrs. E. Metcalfe, of 16, Cleaves Row, Pontefract, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of

Private

Harry Moran

15027, 1st Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 08 May 1915

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Harry Moran, 15027, 1st Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 8 May 1915.

Harry was the son of William Moran and Mary Degnan, who married in Pontefract in 1860. Born in 1876, Harry had five brothers and two sisters, and lived with his family in Horsefair for many years.

Harry was killed in action at Ypres and is commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Private Joseph Morran, 7776, 3rd Bn., Coldstream Guards, who died on 24 September 1914.

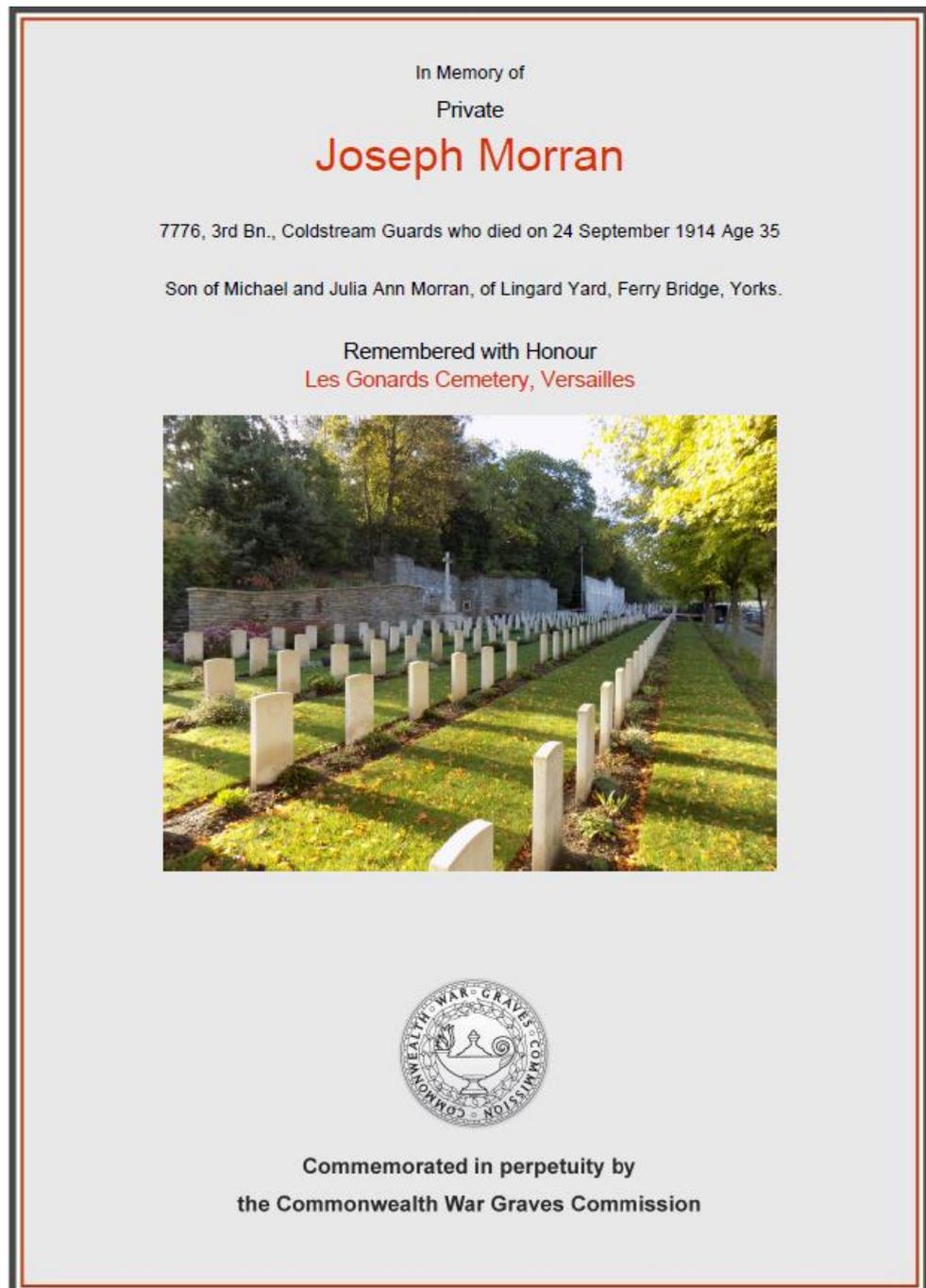
Joseph was the son of Michael Morran and Julianne Tierney. He was born in Charlston, Yorkshire in May 1888, and had two brothers and a sister. The family later moved to Chatburn Avenue, Tanshelf, Pontefract.

Joseph enlisted in the military in 1908. In 1914, on the outbreak of the First World War, he went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He fought at Mons, Marne and Aisne. He was severely wounded during the Battle of the Aisne in September 1914 and died in Versailles

Hospital, from his wounds. Joseph is buried in Les Gonards Cemetery, Versailles, France.

When searching for information on Joseph, various discrepancies were found. It seems that Joseph's surname is misspelt on our memorial plaque as Moran, and Joseph was 26 when he died, not 35 as stated on his commemorative certificate.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



When searching for information on Joseph, various discrepancies were found. It seems that Joseph's surname is misspelt on our memorial plaque as Moran, and Joseph was 26 when he died, not 35 as stated on his commemorative certificate.

Private Thomas Mulligan, 9501, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 1 July 1916, aged 25.

Thomas was the son of Michael and Ellen Mulligan, of Pontefract. He also served with the 1st Bn. at Singapore.

The 8th Bn. landed in France on 28 August 1915. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the battalion went into action with 25 officers, a medical officer and 659 rank and file. The M.O. brought out the surviving 110 men. Thomas was one of the men who lost his life on this day. He is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (November 1916): 'Of ... Signaller Thomas Mulligan (single) ... a man who had a nine years' service record

(K.O.Y.L.I.) in the Regulars, and had served in China, Africa, and Singapore, the end has to be recorded. The deceased went to France soon after the outbreak of war, and was wounded, in consequence of which he came home. At the end of about a twelvemonth, in April last, he returned to the Front, in France, and there, with many more brave fellows, he was struck down in the great fight of July 1st. Until quite recently, however, his death was simply supposed; now it is officially notified. A comrade of the deceased, Signaller Dobson, who is in hospital, writes ... "A shell burst by his side as he was going for the German lines. Thank God, he did not suffer; his end was too swift He was such a good chap, and always willing to oblige anybody We came out here together, and were chums in England. I shall never forget how he tried to buck the younger chaps up before the attack He was in his glory because we had such splendid artillery to back us up Our losses were nothing to the Germans, and we got through them in the finish. All the signallers ask me to give you their sympathy, and to tell you how well he was liked by us all."

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

In Memory of
Private
Thomas Mulligan

9501, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 25

Son of Michael and Ellen Mulligan, of Pontefract, Yorks. Also served with 1st Bn. at Singapore.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Murray

17431, 9th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 22 August 1915

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Thomas Murray, 17431, 9th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), who died on 22 August 1915.

Thomas was born in 1884 in Pontefract to Elizabeth Murray. His grandparents, Patrick Murray and Mary Flynn, both came to Pontefract from Ireland and were married in Pontefract in 1857.

At the time of the 1901 census, Thomas and his mother were living in Whitwood, near Castleford.

Thomas died during the Gallipoli campaign and he is commemorated at Helles Memorial, Turkey.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

In Memory of

Private

Henry O'Hara

12789, 1st Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 29 September 1915

Remembered with Honour

Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Henry O'Hara, 12789, 1st Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 29 September 1915.

He is commemorated at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1915):

'Mrs. Henry O'Hara, of Cross-street, Pontefract, has been officially notified that her husband, Pvte. Hy. O'Hara, of the First Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment, has fallen in action. Some two months ago Mrs. O'Hara was informed that her husband was missing. The deceased was a native of Ireland. He had lived in Pontefract many years, however, and worked at Featherstone Main Colliery for some time. He enlisted in Sept., 1914, and went to the Front in February. His wife heard from him a few days only before he was reported missing.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Serjeant Alfred George William O'Leary, 12837, 6th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 9 August 1915, aged 32.

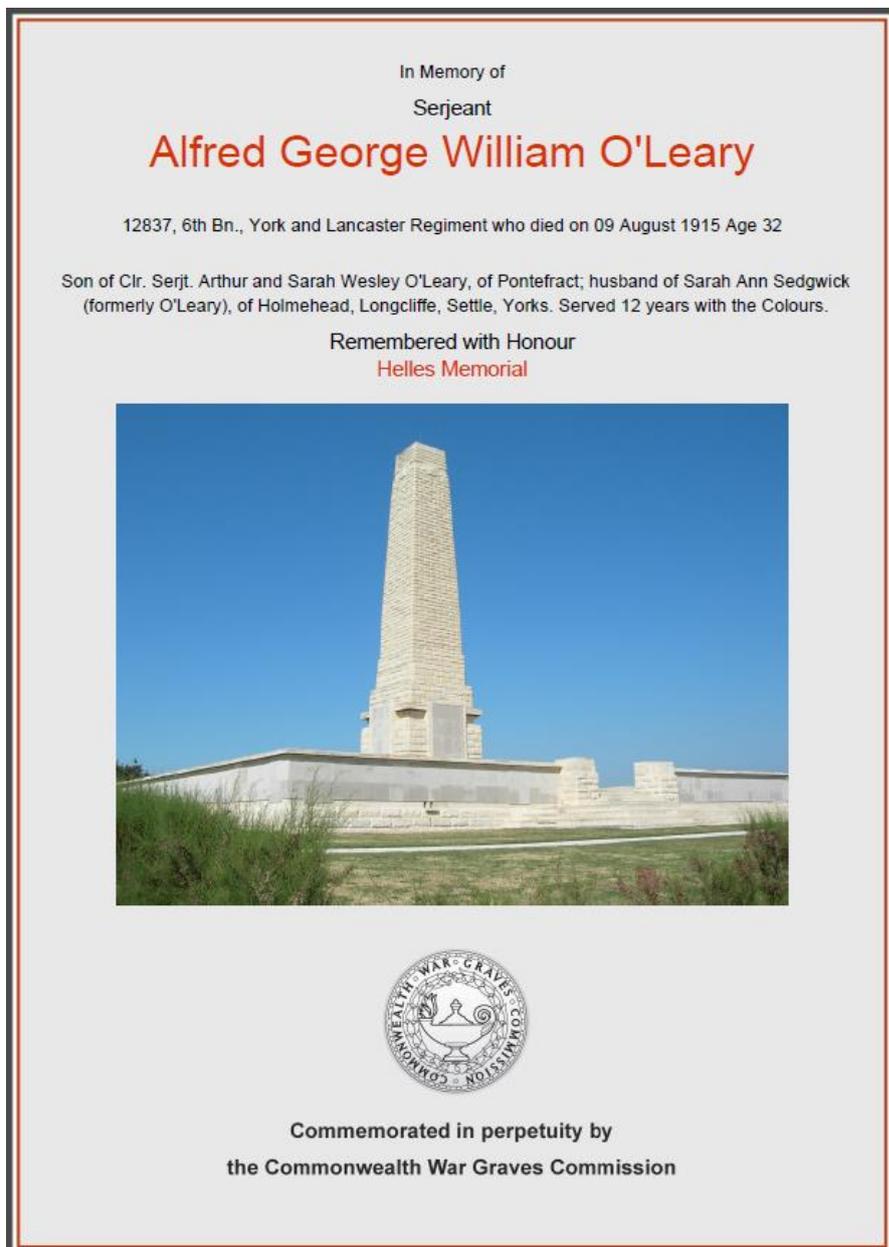
Alfred was the son of Clr. Serjt. Arthur and Sarah Wesley O'Leary, of Pontefract, and the husband of Sarah Ann Sedgwick (formerly O'Leary), of Holmehead, Longcliffe, Settle.

He served 12 years with the Colours. Alfred is commemorated at Helles Memorial, Turkey.

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (September 1915): 'Amongst the Pontefract men who have given their lives for the great cause is Sgt. Alfred O'Leary, of the 6th Battalion K.O.Y.L.I., who has been killed in action in the Dardanelles. An official intimation of the sad event has been sent to his wife, who with her four children live at North Avenue, Halfpenny

Lane, and O'Leary's brother, who is also in the Dardanelles, has sent news to relatives of the death and burial. O'Leary came of a fine fighting stock, his father being Color-Sgt. Arthur O'Leary of the 2nd Battalion York and Lancaster. He died at Pontefract Barracks, and his two sons, Alfred (the deceased) and Francis, were sent by the military authorities to be educated at the Duke of York School, London. From here they went into the Army, and for 12 years the deceased served in his father's old battalion, and when he retired was a drum-corporal. When War was declared he was working at the Featherstone Main Colliery. He was called up as a National Reservist, and went out to the Dardanelles in July. His brother Francis (who in more peaceful times is a postman in Wakefield) is a drum major in the deceased's battalion, and he was present when Alfred was fatally wounded. A melancholy coincidence is that on the same day as this happened another brother, Private Harry O'Leary (whose wife lives in Wakefield), of the 2nd Battalion York and Lancaster, in France, died from wounds.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



In Memory of

Private

Harry Frederick O'Leary

8297, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 11 August 1915 Age 28

Son of Arthur and Sarah O'Leary; husband of Elsie O'Leary, of 10, Radnor Rd., Portmore Park, Weybridge, Surrey. Born Pontefract, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Harry Frederick O'Leary, 8297, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment, who died on 11 August 1915, aged 28.

Harry was born in Pontefract to Clr. Serjt. Arthur and Sarah Wesley O'Leary. He was the husband of Elsie O'Leary, of 10, Radnor Rd., Portmore Park, Weybridge, Surrey.

Harry's brother Francis, who worked as a postman in Wakefield, served in the 8th Bn. York and Lancaster and was present when their brother Alfred was killed in action in the Dardanelles. Alfred died just two days before Harry.

Harry is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and the inscription on his headstone reads: "REST IN PEACE".

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



In Memory of
Private
Galla Rice

281706, 7th Bn., Highland Light Infantry who died on 28 August 1918 Age 28
Son of Joseph and Nellie Rice, of 9, Holroyd's Yard, Meadow Lane, Leeds.

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Galla Rice, 281706, 7th Bn., Highland Light Infantry, who died on 28 August 1918, aged 28.

Galla, born Carmine Olympio Risi in London in 1890, was the son of Guiseppe and Nicolina Risi (née Tomasso), who were known as Joseph and Nellie Rice. Guiseppe, an ice cream vendor, and Nicolina were married in 1884 at St. Patrick's Church, York Road, Leeds.

Galla enlisted in the army in Pontefract. It is believed that he would have enlisted in a local regiment and was later transferred to the Highland Light Infantry. He is commemorated at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

By 1919, Guiseppe and Nicolina were living on Horsefair, Pontefract. Including Galla and his brother James, Guiseppe and Nicolina had nine sons and four daughters. Many of their descendants have visited Galla's memorial.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



Private James Rice, 21453, 1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers, who died on 27 July 1915.

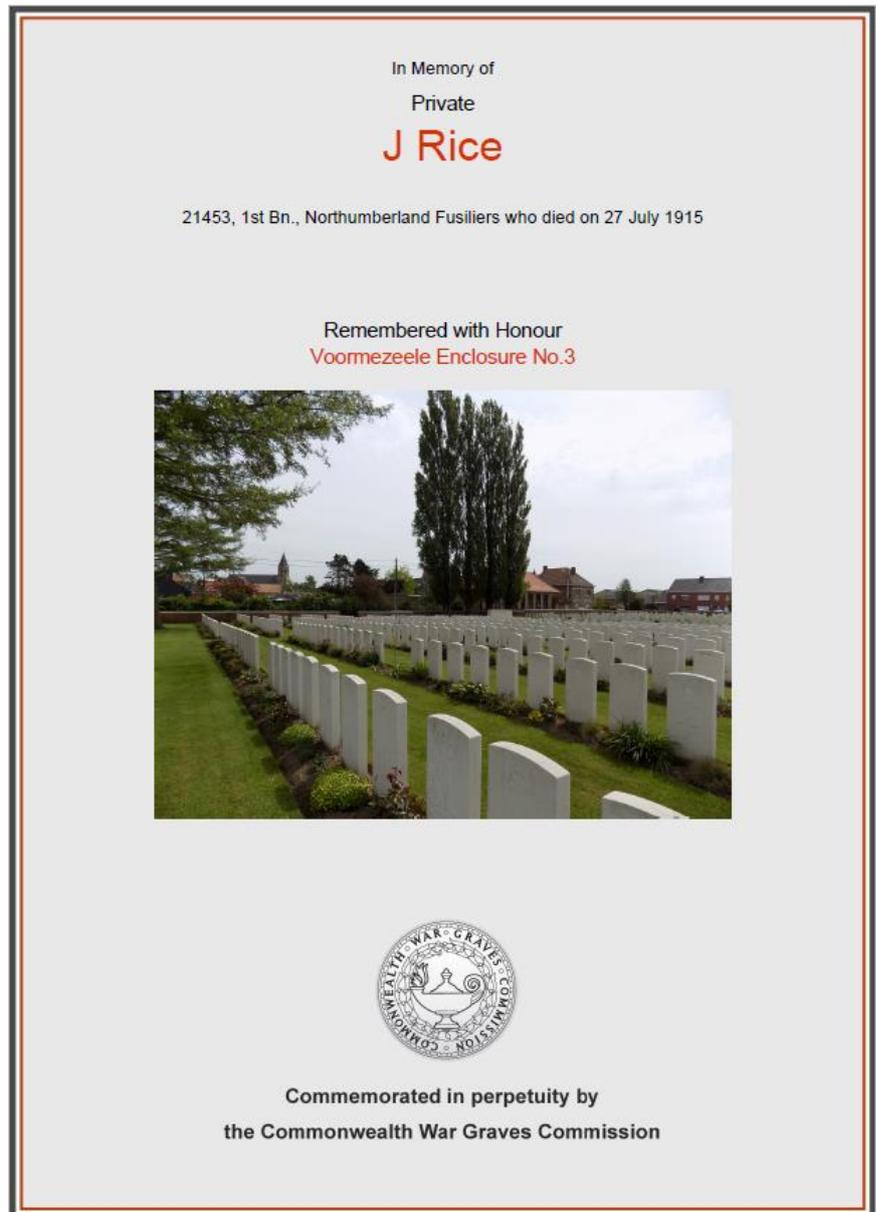
James, born Eugenio Risi in Hull in 1896, was the son of Guiseppe and Nicolina Risi (née Tomasso), who were known as Joseph and Nellie Rice.

Guiseppe, an ice cream vendor, and Nicolina were married in 1884 at St. Patrick's Church, York Road, Leeds.

James enlisted in the army in York. He originally enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment and was later transferred to the Northumberland Fusiliers. James died in Flanders Fields and he is buried at Voormezeele Enclosure No.3, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

By 1919, Guiseppe and Nicolina were living on Horsefair, Pontefract. Including James and his brother Galla, they had nine sons and four daughters. Many of their descendants have visited James' grave.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



In Memory of

Private

John Ryan

2657, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 06 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private John Ryan, 2657, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 6 July 1916.

John was the son of John Ryan and Mary Boyce, who were married in Castleford in 1889. He was born in Chasetown, Staffordshire in late 1891, but by 1901 the family were living in Albion Place, Castleford. John had a brother and three sisters, all of whom were born in the Castleford area.

By the time of the 1911 census, the family had moved to Horsefair, Pontefract and John was working as a miner.

John died during the Battle of the Somme and he is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

In Memory of

Private

P Ryder

28865, 7th Bn., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who died on 12 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Patrick Ryder, 28865, 7th Bn., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who died on 12 July 1916.

Patrick is buried at Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France.

His next of kin was listed as Mrs. E. Wakefield, 6, Park Street, Halfpenny Lane, Pontefract.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Serjeant Patrick Smith,
1839, King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry,
who died on 28 June
1915, aged 43.

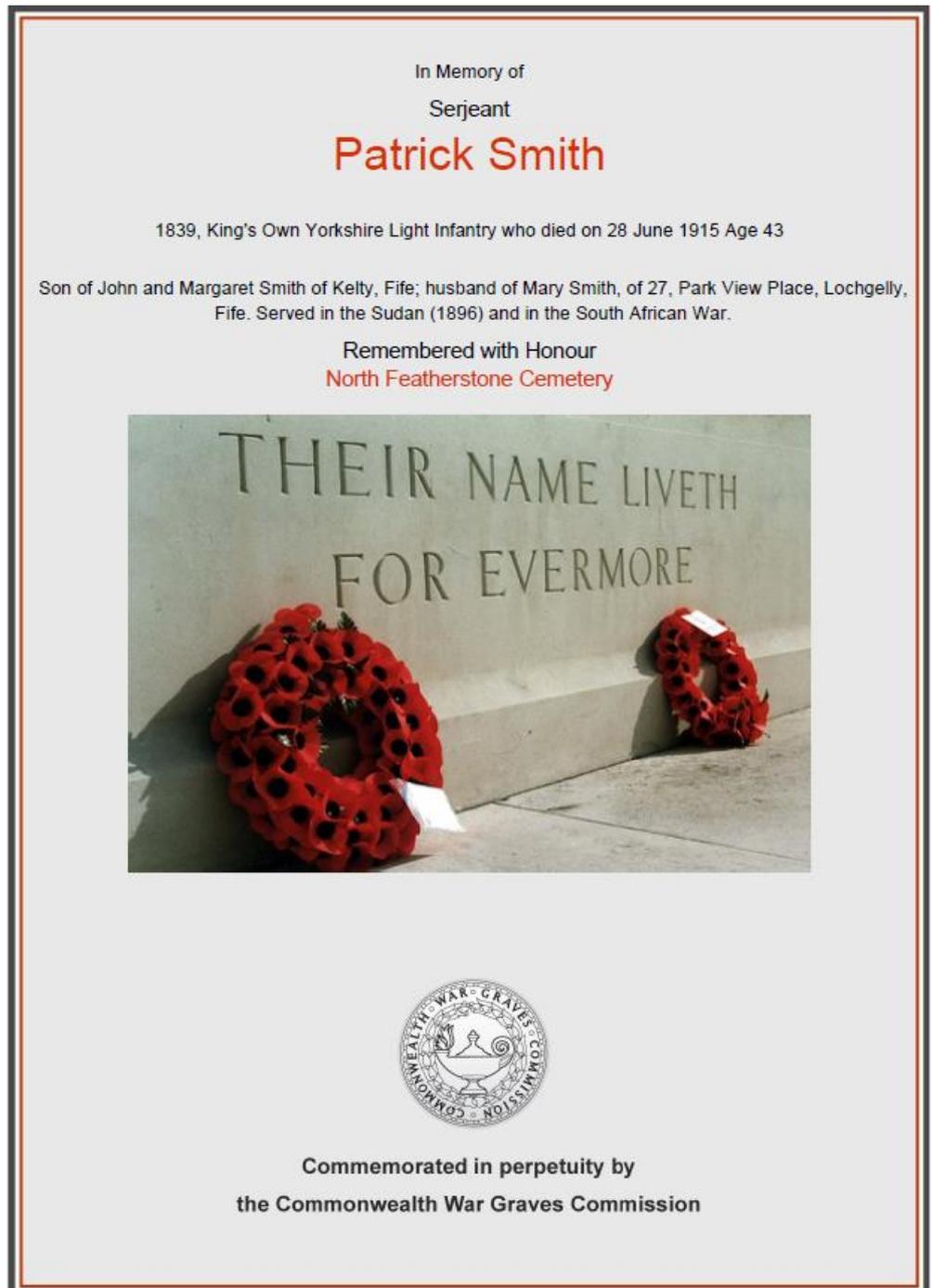
Patrick was born on 8
June 1872 in West
Calder, Scotland to John
Smith and Margaret
McKuskie of Kelty, Fife.
He had six brothers and
three sisters. He was
married to Mary Smith,
of 27, Park View Place,
Lochgelly, Fife.

Patrick was a coal miner
before joining the
Queen's Own Cameron
Highlanders in
September 1891. He
served in the Sudan in
1896 and in the South
African War, and he left
the Highlanders in
1906.

It is recorded that
Patrick re-enlisted in
Featherstone in the
King's Own Yorkshire
Light Infantry, 1st/5th Battalion. He was injured during the First World War and was
brought back to the Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, where he died of his wounds.

Patrick is buried at North Featherstone Cemetery and the inscription on his headstone
reads: "O SACRED HEART OF JESUS HAVE MERCY ON HIM, R.I.P."

***Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest
in peace. Amen***



Private John Stephens,
12857, 12th Bn, King's
Own Yorkshire Light
Infantry, who died on 17
November 1918, aged 29.

John was the eldest son of
Sarah and the late Thomas
Stephens, of Pontefract.

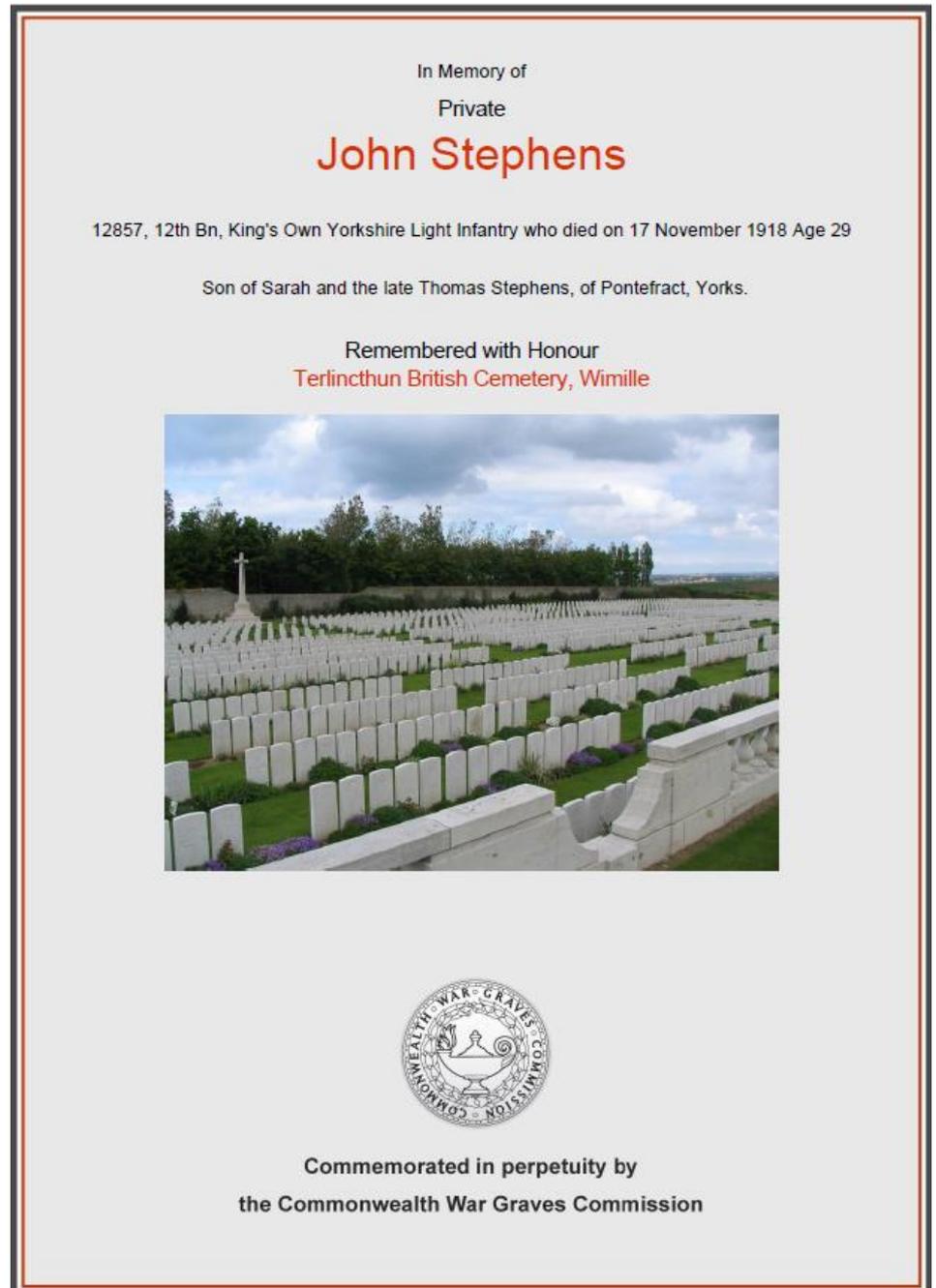
He is buried at Terlincthun
British Cemetery, Wimille,
Pas de Calais, France and
the inscription on his
headstone reads: "MAY HE
REST IN PEACE, A POOR
WIDOW'S SON".

Extract from the
Pontefract and Castleford
Express (November 1918):
'This Pontefract soldier, a
miner at Featherstone
Main Colliery until
September, 1914, when he
joined Col. Shaw's
Battalion of the K.O.Y.L.I.,
was also known and
esteemed by members of
St. Joseph's Club,
Pontefract. He was in his

30th year, and was the eldest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Thomas Stephens, of Love Lane Terrace, Tanshelf. He was first sent to Egypt, and then to France, and was there wounded at Cambrai, in November last year. He was wounded a second time in March this year, and came to England for recovery, returning to the post of duty in June last. Recently the brave fellow was attacked with influenza, and succumbed thereto on November 10th—like quite a number of good men, paying the price when victory and peace were in sight.'

Extract from the Pontefract and Castleford Express (December 1918):
'STEPHENS—In loving memory of Private Jno. Stephens, eldest son of Sarah and the late Thomas Stephens, of Love Lane Terrace, Pontefract, died in hospital in Boulogne, Nov. 17th, 1918, aged 29 years.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen



In Memory of

Private

Michael Wynn

15080, 9th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 August 1916 Age 38

Son of James and Ann Wynn, of Post Office Yard, Pontefract, Yorks. Served in the South African Campaign.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Michael Wynn, 15080, 9th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), who died on 3 August 1916, aged 38.

Michael was the son of James and Ann Wynn, of Post Office Yard, Pontefract. Prior to the war, he served in the South African Campaign.

Michael died in the Battle of the Somme and he is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

Private George Yeam, 1911,
1st/5th Bn., King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry,
who died on 1 July 1916,
aged 21.

George was the son of Sgt.
William and Mrs. Yeam, of
Post Office Yard, Market
Place, Pontefract.

George died on the first day
of the Battle of the Somme
and he is commemorated at
Thiepval Memorial, Somme,
France.

Extract from the Pontefract
and Castleford Express (July
1916):

'Mrs. Yeam ... has received
from two sources news that
her son George, a private in
the 1st 5th K.O.Y.L.I., has
been killed. Mr. Jos.

Jackson, of Southgate, first
brought the sad news,
which had been sent to him
by his son. Then on Tuesday
Sgt. T. Griffin, writing his

mother, said as to Yeam's death: "I saw it done. A shell burst over us before we went into action." Yeam, who was 21, and was a pony-driver at Featherstone Main Colliery, was a member of the Pontefract Territorials. His father is Sergt. Wm. Yeam, of the 2nd 5th K.O.Y.L.I., and his only other brother is Pvte. Thos. Wm. Yeam, of the 1st 5th K.O.Y.L.I. Mrs. Yeam is working on munitions, as is also one of her daughters.'

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

