

Second Lieutenant L. Richmond DSO

The highest honour bestowed on a local Ellesmere Port man was the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) conferred up Second Lieutenant Leonard Richmond. He was also awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre with palm (the second highest level of the ward). Leonard was born in Norley in the Delamere Forest area of Cheshire. His father was a Yorkshire man, who moved to Liverpool, met and married his wife, before finding work as a groom/coltbreaker in rural Cheshire. As this employment was unlikely to support his growing family, he moved into a dockside terrace in Lime Street, Ellesmere Port in 1896 where worked as a railway platelayer. His eldest son Leonard began work as a storekeeper for the Shropshire Union Canal Company on the adjacent docks, before moving to the offices of the nearby cement works. He had ideas to train as an accountant before the war interrupted his career. He initially signed on as a Private for the Kings Liverpool Regiment, before being posted to the 12th Battalion Cheshire Regiment as an intelligence officer after taking a commission, being promoted to Second Lieutenant.

DSO for ELLESMERE PORT SOLDIER

Temporary Second Lieutenant Leonard Richmond of the 12th Battalion Cheshire Regiment has been awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. As Battalion intelligence officer, he carried out many difficult and valuable reconnaissance's before the attack on 'P' Ridge. He was given the work of taping out the assembly position for the leading

battalion, a difficult task, which he accomplished with such skill that the assembly of the Brigade proceeded in perfect order.

Later when the attack had developed and the battalion suffered heavy losses, he took command of a company which had lost all its officers, rallied them under intense machine gun and trench mortar fire and led them forward with the greatest determination. When the remnants of the brigade had withdrawn, he remained for almost two hours under intense fire with his Commanding Officer, who had been mortally wounded, and when he died brought back all maps and papers which might have been of use to the enemy. He did good work in reorganising the battalion and displayed a magnificent spirit and contempt of danger throughout. Before enlisting, Sec. Lieut. Richmond was a member of the Ship Canal Portland Cement Company's staff.

Birkenhead Advertiser and Wallasey Guardian, 4 January 1919

Within a few week news reached home that he had received a further honour when he was awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre with palm for services in the Balkans.

ELLESMERE PORT OFFICER GAINS FURTHER HONOUR

Lieutenant Len Richmond has been awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre with palm for services in the Balkans. Recently, it will be remembered the gallant officer earned the D.S.O. for exceptional services. The lieutenant hopes soon to be home on leave. He has several times been on the point of coming home, but has received other instructions which have prevented his coming. His return has been further delayed owing to his having to be decorated with the French honour. On demobilisation, Lieutenant Richmond intends to enter the accountants office of the Cement Works, which he left on joining the Army.

Birkenhead Advertiser and Wallasey Guardian, 26 Feb 1919



A letter home from a wounded soldier reveals more about the Balkan experience and a little more of Lieutenant Richmond,

ELLESMERE PORT SOLDIER IN THE BALKANS

Lance Corporal Walter Henstock, a brother of Mrs McLeod, 9 Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port has sent her the following interesting letter, which we feel sure will be read with interest by his many friends in Ellesmere Port:- 'Just a line to let you know I am still one of the lucky ones left again. My regiment lost quite a lot on the 18th, the Colonel and the doctor also being killed. I shall never forget how we shifted the Bulgars from these hills, and he drove us back the first time. We did not expect to find him there. You have heard talk of 'Hell let loose', well it was one of those mornings. I had to come back on a message and I saw our dead and wounded lying there and everywhere I went. It was, "Chum, give us a drink" and you could see men crawling among the dead to take their water bottles. Len Richmond (Lieut. Richmond, formerly employed at the Cement Works) is in the battalion, and he is one of the best I have seen in a fight. He is an officer and we both went to school together. I got a slight dose of gas and am in hospital. I left the battalion in Bulgaria, and we have heard that peace is signed today. The Bulgars had pigs and fowl, and each man had a garden behind his front line, and he had made some fine dug outs, but we put them to a severe test and then they were safe'

Extract from a letter sent by Lance Corporal Walter Henstock, to his sister, Mrs McLeod, of 9 Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port.

(Before the war, Lance-Corporal Henstock worked as a quarter-master for the Hault Line of ships. He enlisted on the outbreak of war, and was wounded in France, being later sent to the Balkan Front. He had two brothers serving in the Air Service and the Navy and another, Frank, was killed at the Dardanelles, and recorded on Ellesmere Port War Memorial).

After demobilisation in March 1919, Lieutenant Len Richmond DSO CdeG, returned to Ellesmere Port and his employment in the cement works. He continued to live in the area, moving to Childer Thornton, South Wirral in the 1930s. He died in 1967 aged seventy-seven.



Documents

Administrative County of <u>Chester</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 25					
Civil Parish of <u>Norley</u>		Municipal Borough of <u>Norley</u>		Municipal Ward of <u>Norley</u>		Urban Sanitary District of <u>Norley</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Norley</u>		Rural Sanitary District of <u>Runcorn</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>Loddisley</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of <u>Norley</u>			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Uninhabited	Partly inhabited	Number of Houses	Number of Rooms	Number of Windows	Number of Fireplaces	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Employed	Not Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Imbecile or idiot
152	Cave Lane			1				Thomas Newhall	Head	M	70	Farmer			X	Cheshire, Crowton	
								Harriet	Wife	M	68					Do. Do.	
								Samuel	Son		44	Labourer on Farm				Do. Do.	
								Arthur	Son		44	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Ada	Daughter		78	Scholar				Do. Do.	
								Henry	Son		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Isaac	Son		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Isaac	Daughter		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Catharine	Daughter		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
153	Do Do			1				Samuel Christian	Head	M	70	Quaker			X	Do. Do.	
								Sarah Ann	Wife	M	68					Do. Do.	
								Ann	Daughter	M	20	Assistant in Shop		X		Do. Do.	
								William	Son		78	Do.		X		Do. Do.	
								Emma	Daughter		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Frances	Daughter		78	Scholar				Do. Do.	
								Henry	Son		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Elizabeth	Daughter		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
								Albert	Son		78	Do.				Do. Do.	
154	Church Hill			1				George Richmond	Head	M	78	Colt & Speaker in Room			X	Wiltshire, Marlinton	
								Ann	Wife	M	78					Wiltshire, Marlinton	
								Isaac	Son		78					Cheshire, Norley	
155	Sparsley Lane			1				Sarah Dalton	Head	M	78					Do. Do.	
								Elizabeth	Daughter	M	78					Do. Do.	
								George Dalton	Son	M	78	Labourer in Farm				Do. Do.	
								William	Son	M	78	Labourer in Farm				Do. Do.	
								Mary Elizabeth	Daughter	M	78	Housemaid Domestic				Do. Do.	
Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...		4		2				Total of Males and Females...		13	2						

Census 1891

Administrative County of <u>Chester</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 6						
Civil Parish of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		County Borough of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		Ward of Municipal Borough of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		Rural District of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Whitley (Part)</u>						
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Uninhabited	Partly inhabited	Number of Houses	Number of Rooms	Number of Windows	Number of Fireplaces	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Employed	Not Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Imbecile or idiot	
21	Home St No 1	X						Elizabeth Williams	Servant	M	15					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Alfred	Son	M	11					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Thomas	Son	M	6					Do. Do.	X	
								John	Son	M	8					Do. Do.	X	
22			3	1				William J. Ashworth	Head	M	35	Farmer				Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Frank	Wife	M	35					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								John J.	Son	M	11					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								William H.	Son	M	8					Do. Do.	X	
								Thomas	Son	M	5					Do. Do.	X	
								Isaac	Son	M	2					Do. Do.	X	
								Elizabeth	Son	M	1					Do. Do.	X	
								Sarah Ann	Wife	M	78					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								John R. White	Boarder	M	23	General Labourer				Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Isaac	Son	M	23					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
24			7	1				Benjamin Peers	Head	M	36	Labourer in Farm				Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Charlotte	Wife	M	31					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								George	Son	M	7					Do. Do.	X	
								Elizabeth	Son	M	5					Do. Do.	X	
								William	Son	M	3					Do. Do.	X	
								Ruth	Son	M	1					Do. Do.	X	
25			9	1				Henry H. Jones	Head	M	51	Boot Maker	Worker			Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Alice	Wife	M	32					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Thomas	Son	M	6					Do. Do.	X	
26			11	1				John Hodgson	Head	M	28	Father Labourer in Farm	Worker			Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Isaac	Son	M	4					Do. Do.	X	
27			13	1				George Richmond	Head	M	39	Platfayer Railway	Worker			Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Ann	Wife	M	32					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Leonard	Son	M	11					Wiltshire, Marlinton	X	
								Isaac	Son	M	9					Do. Do.	X	
								William	Son	M	7					Do. Do.	X	
								Isaac	Son	M	6					Do. Do.	X	
Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...		5		1				Total of Males and of Females...		16	14							

Census 1901

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

Number of Schedule 10
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after selection.)

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE last Birthday and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards.					BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
			Single.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.	Other.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.			
1. <u>George Richmond</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>49</u>					<u>General Labourer</u>	<u>Completed in Mrs W. W. W.</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Yorkshire, West Riding</u>	<u>English</u>				
2. <u>Annie</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>				<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
3. <u>Leonard</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>21</u>					<u>Ship Repairer</u>	<u>686 Gray's Inn Road, London</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
4. <u>Arthur</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>17</u>					<u>General Labourer</u>	<u>For Works, London</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
5. <u>April</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>16</u>								<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
6. <u>Ben</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>14</u>								<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
7. <u>Annie</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>10</u>								<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				
8. <u>Thomas James Higgins</u>	<u>Nephew</u>	<u>5</u>								<u>London, Middlesex</u>	<u>English</u>				

<p>(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)</p> <p>I certify that—</p> <p>(1) All the names in this Schedule are inserted in the proper sex column.</p> <p>(2) I have treated the names and houses in Column 3 and 4 separately, and have separated them out with the total number of persons.</p> <p>(3) After making the necessary corrections, I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appear to be defective and have corrected such as appeared to be necessary.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature <u>George Richmond</u> Date <u>1911</u></p>	<p>(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)</p> <p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature <u>George Richmond</u> Postal Address <u>10, Dorset Street, Tottenham, Lond.</u></p>
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Census 1911

ELLESMERE PORT SOLDIER IN THE BALKANS.

Lance-Corpl. Walter Heustock, a brother of Mrs. McLeod, 9, Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port, has sent her the following interesting letter, which, we feel sure, will be read with interest by his many friends in Ellesmere Port:—"Just a line to let you know I am still one of the lucky ones left again. My regiment lost quite a lot on the 18th, the Colonel and doctor also being killed. I shall never forget how we shifted the Bulgars from these hills, and he drove us back the first time. We did not expect to find him there. You have heard talk of 'Hell let loose,' well, it was one of those mornings. I had to come back on a message, and I saw our dead and wounded lying there and everywhere I went. It was, 'Cum, give us a drink,' and you could see men crawling among the dead to take their water bottles. Len Richmond (Lieut. Richmond, formerly employed at the Cement Works) is in the battalion, and he is one of the best I have seen on a fight. He is an officer, and we both went to school together. I got a slight dose of gas and am in hospital. I left the battalion in Bulgaria, and we have heard that peace is signed to-day. The Bulgars had pigs and fowl, and each man had a garden behind his front line, and he had made some fine digouts, but we put them to a severe test and then they were safe." Before the war Lance-Corporal Heustock was on the Hault Line of ships, and reached the rank of quartermaster. He enlisted on the outbreak of war, and was wounded in France, being later sent to the Balkan front. He has two brothers serving in the Air Service and the Navy, and another was killed at the Dardanelles.

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
RICHMOND	L. pool. R.	Pte	25717
Leonard.	Chesh. : Rgt	Lt A/9mm	
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	Ches. R. OFF 164	108	R&E Roll H/E/102 ^{B13} /1379 Comm. due IX. X/3146d/19.2.21 auth EF/3/2246 taken on charge CRD H 74 d. 26/8/20 27/3/246
BRITISH	— do —	— do —	
15 STAR	H/2/5 B	993	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	4/11/15		
Emblem	W. X/3146d/19.2.21 auth EF/3/2246 Mw/4/4935/Emb: in L 4/3/2246 x 1380.		

Medal Card Front

Medal Card Reverse:

110
110
110

Ext from BW & D In roll **Correspondence.** 2/2/102^{B13} Page 1849, 28720.
 £ 79 26.7.20
 apps for medals from Lt-L Richmond. 19.8.19
 no 2 Recs Preston return for disposal 1914-15 Star inscribed
 no 25414 Pte L. Richmond 26/4/20. (Comm'd)

From Dept of
 Lucerne
 Pooltown Rd
 Whitby

Address. 8 Evington Avenue
 Ellesmere Port
 Cheshire

(25454-14a) Wt. W 3347-H.P 6451 2000m. 10/19 H. St. Est. 5450/1258

... was employed at the Mersey Ironworks.

D.S.O. FOR ELLESMERE PORT OFFICER.
Temp. Sec. Lt. W. Richmond, 12th Battn.,
Cheshire Regiment, has been awarded the
D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion
to duty. As Battalion intelligence officer, he
carried out many difficult and valuable recon-
noissances before the attack on the "F" Ridge.
He was given the work of taping out the as-
sembly position for the leading battalion, a
difficult task, which he accomplished with such
skill that the assembly of the Brigade proceeded
in perfect order. Later when the attack had
developed and the battalion suffered heavy
losses, he took command of a company which had
lost all its officers, rallied them under intense
machine gun and trench mortar fire and led
them forward with the greatest determination.
When the remnants of the brigade had with-
drawn, he remained for over two hours under
intense fire with his Commanding Officer, who
had been mortally wounded, and when he died
brought back all maps and papers which might
have been of use to the enemy. He did good
work in reorganising the battalion and displayed
a magnificent spirit and contempt of danger
throughout. Before enlisting, Sec. Lieut.
Richmond was a member of the Ship Canal
Portland Cement Co.'s Staff.

News report - DSO

WON THE D.S.O.

ELLESMERE PORT OFFICER'S BRAVERY.

Temporary Second Lieut. L. Richmond, 12th Battalion Cheshire Regiment, has been awarded the D.S.O. for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. As Battalion Intelligence Officer he carried out many difficult and valuable reconnaissances before the attack on the 'P' Ridge. He was given the task of taping out the assembly position for the leading battalion, a difficult task, which he accomplished with such skill that the assembly of the Brigade proceeded in perfect order. Later, when the attack had developed and the Battalion suffered heavy losses he took command of a company which had lost all its officers, rallied them under intense machine gun and trench mortar fire, and led them forward with the greatest determination. When the remnants of the Brigade had withdrawn he remained for over two hours under intense fire with his Commanding Officer, who had been mortally wounded, and when he died brought back all maps and papers which might be of use to the enemy. He did good work in reorganising the battalion, and displayed a magnificent spirit and contempt of danger throughout."

Lieut Richmond, D.S.O., is an Ellesmere Port man, who formerly worked at the Cement Works.
