

ELLESMERE PORT WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

49062 Private RAPHAEL KENZIE Kings Liverpool Regiment / 7th Battalion Norfolk Regiment Died 18 September 1918

Thousands of names were engraved onto memorials for those who were missing, while at home many still clung on to flickering hope that they would return. Maybe they were in a German hospital recovering from wounds, or wounded and taken in by a French family, or wandering around Belgium or France not realising the war was over. Of course, such hopes were tragically futile; given the horrific nature of the conflict they were either still lying buried beneath the battleground, or in a war grave unable to be identified, or their existence simply wiped out by the ferocity of the munitions. Nevertheless, at home newspapers frequently carried appeals for any known sightings or whereabouts, as the following example from Ellesmere Port reveals,

INFORMATION REQUIRED OF ELLESMERE PORT MAN

Private Raphael Kenzie, son of Mr and Mrs Kenzie 28 Kingsley Road Ellesmere Port, has been reported missing since September 18th, and his parents would be glad if any of our soldier readers in France can give any information concerning him. Private Kenzie joined the 'Liverpool Pals' and was later transferred to the 7th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, with whom he went to France as a machine-gunner. He was a staunch supporter of the local Congregational Church, and had been connected with it since its inception in the district. Aged 18, Private Kenzie was very popular with all who knew him.

Birkenhead & Cheshire Advertiser and Wallasey Guardian, 21 December 1918

By the last line of this notice, the journalist is already fearing the worst and is writing in the past tense. Raphael was born in West Bromwich in 1900, the son of a timber yard labourer. His brothers were working in the local iron foundry, but by 1911 he father was too, but had brought the family to live in Stanlow Cottages opposite the Knott Hotel in Whitby Road (pictured below). Like hundreds of fellow workers, they had migrated from the Wolverhampton and West Bromwich area to follow the move made by the Wolverhampton Iron and Steel Works. In 1911, Raphael was still at school, but he too would later join his father and his brothers in the iron works.



His actual military movements are unknown, but he is likely to have joined up in 1917 with one of the Liverpool Pals regiments, and was out in France by mid-1918 when these battalions were being

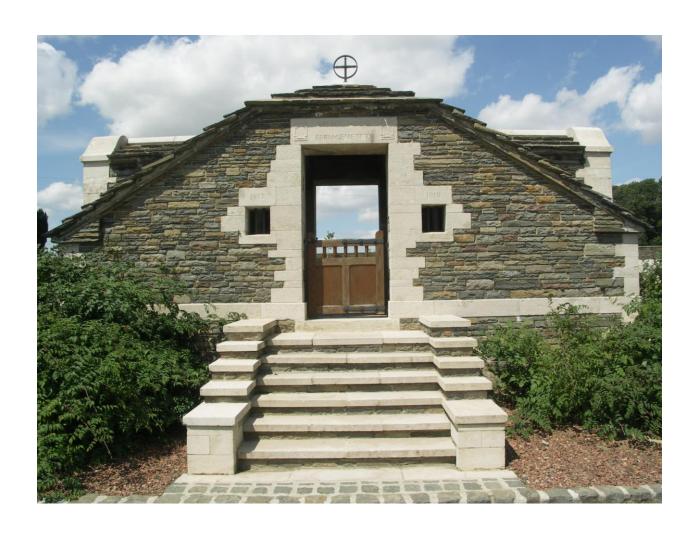
reduced in strength, with men being transferred into other regiments. Raphael was posted to the Norfolks, who had been in France since May 1915. In 1917 the 7th Battalion were in action at Arras in The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux and The Third Battle of the Scarpe. They remained in the Arras sector until the 30th October when they moved to Hesdin for the Cambrai offensive in which the Division suffered heavy losses. In March 1918 they moved by motor lorry from Busnes to Albert and were in action in The Battle of Bapaume and spent the spring engaged in heavy fighting a the enemy advanced across the old Somme battlefields. On the 1st July 1918, they attacked Bouzincourt, but were repelled by the enemy. They were relieved on the 10th and moved to the area south of Amiens. They were in action in The Battle of Amiens and were engaged in heavy fighting from the 22nd pushing the enemy back and capturing Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, Hardecourt and Faviere Wood within a week. In September they were in action in a successful attack on Nurlu and pursued the enemy back to Sorel Wood. They were in action during the battles of the Hindenburg Line, including The Battle of Epehy and The Battle of the St Quentin canal.

It is likely that it was in The Battle of Epehy that Raphael lost his life. Initially he was posted as missing in action, but Raphel's body was later found on the battlefield and he was buried at Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery in the village of Epehy. His grave was visited and photographed by the author in 2009.











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of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son,"	For Infan under one y state the s in months "under one me	ear Write Se "Single," an "Married," "Widower,	. Com-	Childre	Married V s Schedul er of :— en bern seent Mar so childre	alive to		show the prode, Manufac	on. orecise branch of turn, &c.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should gener- ally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Engloyer"	Whether Working at Horse.	(1) If born in the United King- dom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.	State whether: (1) "British subject by parent age." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalised."	and Damn,
(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names ase Examples on back of Schottle)	"Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	or etc.	etc. opposite the names of all percons aged 15 year and upward	present Marring has lasted.	present Marriage hand lasted. If she shan cone year Children with works works and lasted. It she shan cone year Children with horse works Born killen. Died.	If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the purchular kind of work dote, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. [See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back	the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Services (2) "Worker" (that years in private supforment.		words "At Home" epposite the pame of each pameon rarrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at eas, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Residunt" or "Visitor" in this Country.	(3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French,"	(4) "Imberile," or "Feeld minded," ty, therefore, or "Feeld minded," take the infirmit opposite that pe " son's name, ar the age at whis be or she becan				
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Census 1911

KENZIE Raphael albe	L'I N	pool R.	Rank.	Regtl. No. 95979 49062		
Medal. VICTORY BRITISH	Roll. K/1/102.B.10	Page. 1987	Remark	5.		
Theatre of War first served in Date of entry therein				K. 1380		

Medal Card

UK, Soldiers Died in	UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919 about Raphael Albert Kenzie									
Name:	Raphael Albert Kenzie									
Birth Place:	West Bromwich, Staffs									
Death Date:	18 Sep 1918									
Death Location:	France & Flanders									
Enlistment Location:	Birkenhead									
Rank:	Private									
Regiment:	Norfolk Regiment									
Battalion:	7th Battalion									
Number:	49062									
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action									
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre									

Researched and written by Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk