



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

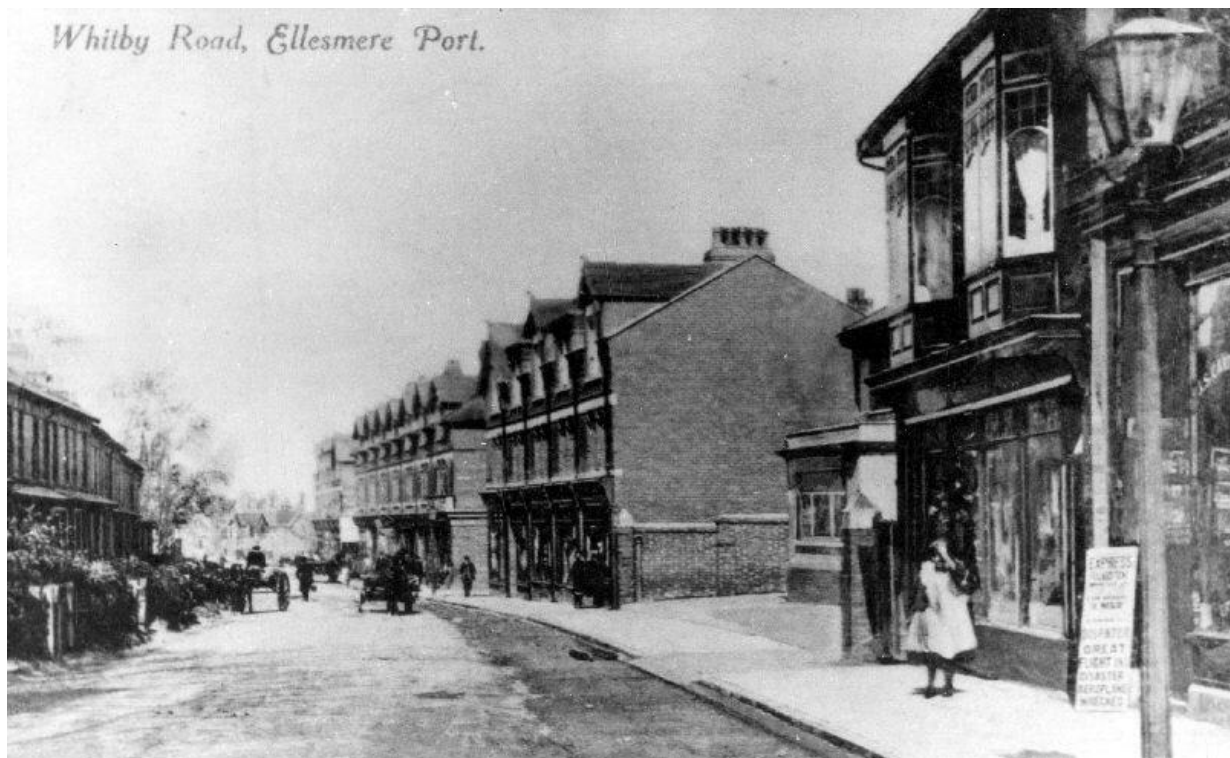
By the last line of this notice, the journalist is already fearing the worst and is writing in the past tense. Raphael was born in West Bromwich in 1900, the son of a timber yard labourer. His brothers were working in the local iron foundry, but by 1911 he father was too, but had brought the family to 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 as 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 Raphael'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.





49062 PRIVATE
R. KENZIE
NORFOLK REGIMENT
18TH SEPTEMBER 1918





NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

Eng.—Sheet C.

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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
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www.roydenhistory.co.uk