



## **FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

### *Remembering the Men of Farndon*

#### **Private 24821 Albert INCE**

**7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)  
Formerly 945, Welsh Horse Yeomanry  
Killed in Action 12 October 1917 Aged 31**

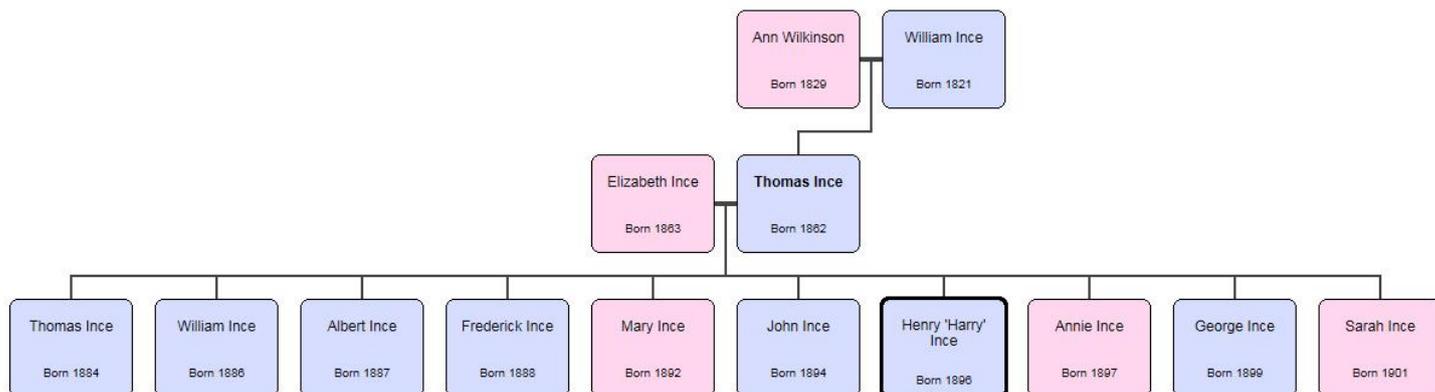
Private Albert Ince was the son of Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Ince, of Barton Rd., Farndon, Chester. His father was a stonemason as was his grandfather before him. He was the brother of Henry Ince, who served with the Cheshire Regiment in Greece and died in October 1918. Both brothers are recorded on the Farndon Memorial.

Albert Ince was born in 1887 in Farndon, the third of seven brothers. On leaving school, like most of his brothers, he worked as an agricultural labourer on a local farm.

His passion was music and he played in the Farndon Brass Band, a company that still exists today and frequently plays at functions in the village.

The photograph shows Albert in his bandsman uniform in the History of the Farndon Band.





Brief ancestry tree of the Ince family of Farndon



The Band outside  
The Raven.  
Thought to date  
from 1912.

Standing, from left: Charlie Bate, Jim Carr, Arthur Tapp, Jim Walker, Herbert Lewis, Edwin Phillips, Jack Smith, Tom Bate, Jim Chaloner, Bill Smith (junior), Bill Jones, Tom Woolley, Roland Ince, Sam Rowlands, Joe Walker.  
Sitting, from left: Bert Ince, Tom Millington, Jim Green, a Boys Brigade drummer (from Liverpool), Joe Walker.

Administrative County of <u>Cheshire</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 16			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of <u>Harnden</u>		of _____		of _____		of _____		of <u>Harnden</u>		of <u>Garvin Union</u>		of <u>Eddisbury</u>		of <u>Harnden</u>	
Coln. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In- built or rebuilt (1)	Value of the house (2)	Number of persons occupying it (3)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot				
98	Barlow Road	1	1	4	William Powell Head	Head	Married	46	Farmer	Cheshire Harnden					
					Elizabeth W. Do Wife	Wife	Married	46		Do Harnden					
					Thomas W. Do Son	Son	Single	17		Do Harnden					
					Margaret Do Serv	Serv	Single	17		Do Harnden					
99	"	1	1	4	William Harrell Head	Head	Married	67	Farmer & Glazier	Do Harnden					
					Elizabeth Do Wife	Wife	Married	34		Do Harnden					
					Henry Do Son	Son	Single	22		Do Harnden					
100	Hill, Mount	1	1	4	Thomas Jones Head	Head	Married	29	Gardener Domestic	Cheshire Harnden					
					Margaret Do Wife	Wife	Married	26		Cheshire Harnden					
					Elizabeth Do Son	Son	Single	6	Scholar	Cheshire Chorley					
					Frances A. Do Son	Son	Single	13		Cheshire Harnden					
					Henry James Do Son	Son	Single	13		Cheshire Harnden					
101	"	1	1	4	William Holmes Head	Head	Married	31	Butcher	Devonshire Holt					
					Frances Do Wife	Wife	Married	28		Do Common Wood					
					Henry Do Son	Son	Single	16		Cheshire Harnden					
					Elizabeth Do Son	Son	Single	8		Do Harnden					
					William Parry Do Son	Son	Single	7		Do Harnden					
102	4 Masons Arms	1	1	4	Henry Jones Head	Head	Married	17	General servant Domestic	Wiltshire Foydroy					
					Ralph Fowler Head	Head	Married	30	Publican & Beerhouse	Cheshire Holt					
					Maria Do Wife	Wife	Married	28		Do Harnden					
					Ralph S. Do Son	Son	Single	12	Scholar	Do Harnden					
					Maria Do Son	Son	Single	10		Do Harnden					
					Gertrude A. Do Son	Son	Single	7		Do Harnden					
					Mary Do Son	Son	Single	6		Do Harnden					
103	"	1	1	4	John Walker Head	Head	Married	46	General servant Domestic	Wiltshire Holt					
					Sarah Walker Wife	Wife	Married	43		Cheshire Harnden					
					Joseph Do Son	Son	Single	11	Scholar	Cheshire Harnden					
					Henry Do Son	Son	Single	9		Do Harnden					
104	"	1	1	4	Thomas Ince Head	Head	Married	39	Chamberlain	Do Harnden					
					Elizabeth Do Wife	Wife	Married	38		Do Harnden					
					Thomas Do Son	Son	Single	11	Scholar	Cheshire Harnden					
9	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	7	2	2	Total of Males and Females...										

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the headings as are inappropriate.

Census 1891 (above and continued below)

Administrative County of <u>Cheshire</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 17			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of <u>Harnden</u>		of _____		of _____		of _____		of <u>Harnden</u>		of <u>Garvin Union</u>		of <u>Eddisbury</u>		of <u>Harnden</u>	
Coln. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In- built or rebuilt (1)	Value of the house (2)	Number of persons occupying it (3)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot				
					William Ince Son	Son	Single	16	Scholar	Cheshire Harnden					
					Albert Ince Son	Son	Single	14		Do Harnden					
					Frederick Do Son	Son	Single	12		Do Harnden					
105	Barlow Road	1	1	4	John Lloyd Pemberton Head	Head	Married	33	Baker	Derbyshire Holt					
					Alice Do Wife	Wife	Married	24		Derbyshire Holt					
					Sarah Do Son	Son	Single	17		Cheshire Harnden					
					Thomas L. Do Son	Son	Single	15		Cheshire Harnden					
					Emma Do Son	Son	Single	14		Do Harnden					
					John Do Son	Son	Single	13		Do Harnden					
					Ann Do Son	Son	Single	12		Do Harnden					
106	"	1	1	4	Joseph Lewis Head	Head	Married	31	Wheelerwright	Cheshire Overton					
					Elizabeth Do Wife	Wife	Married	25		Derbyshire Overton					
					Joseph Do Son	Son	Single	9		Cheshire Harnden					
					Emma Do Son	Son	Single	7		Do Harnden					
					Matthew Lewis Boarder	Boarder	Single	22		Derbyshire Overton					
107	"	1	1	3	Margaret Tomlinson Head	Head	Single	57	Laundress	Cheshire Harnden					
108	"	1	1	3	Joseph Moss Head	Head	Married	63	Retired Letter Carrier	Do Stockport					
					Jane Do Wife	Wife	Married	30		Do Harnden					
					Samuel Do Son	Son	Single	16	General Labourer	Derbyshire Holt					
109	Line o Cottages	1	1	4	Elizabeth Parker Head	Head	Single	57	Living on her own means	Cheshire Harnden					
					Jane Woodley Serv	Serv	Single	74	General servant Domestic	Derbyshire Holt					
110	Hollgate House	1	1	4	William Thomas Head	Head	Married	46	Cattle Dealer	Cheshire Coxcote Harnden					
					Leah Do Wife	Wife	Married	46		Do Holt					
					Henry Do Son	Son	Single	14	Scholar	Derbyshire Holt					
					Robert Do Son	Son	Single	10		Do Harnden					
111	Hardley Villa	1	1	4	Thomas Powell Head	Head	Married	40	Farmer	Cheshire Harnden					
					Amelia Do Wife	Wife	Married	38		Do Harnden					
112	St. Andrew's Lane	1	1	4	Llewellyn Davis Head	Head	Married	31	Shepherd	Derbyshire Tideswell					
113	"	1	1	4	Elizabeth Do Wife	Wife	Married	31		Derbyshire Tideswell					
					Llewellyn Do Son	Son	Single	8		Derbyshire Tideswell					
9	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	8	1	5	Total of Males and Females...										

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the headings as are inappropriate.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 22				
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet				
of <u>Farnham</u>		of <u>Farnham</u>		of		of		of <u>Farnham</u>		of <u>Edisbury</u>		of <u>Farnham</u>				
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of HOUSES	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	In charge of	Number of Houses	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own Account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
113	Melkum Lane	1			Charles Ball	Head	Un	54	Cartwright	Employer	at home	Shuteham Farnham				
					Emma Ball	Wife	Un	48	Cartwright	Employer	at home	" Aldford				
					Edward Ball	son	S	21	Cartwright	Worker		" Farnham				
					William Ball	son	S	18	Cartwright	Worker		" "				
					Emily Ball	Daughter	S	14	Cartwright	Worker		" "				
					Jamie Ball	son	S	13	Cartwright	Worker	at home	" "				
					Charles Ball	son	S	12	Cartwright	Worker		" "				
					Thomas Ball	son	S	10	Cartwright	Worker		" "				
					George Ball	son	S	7	Cartwright	Worker		" "				
114	St	1			Edi Pugh	Head	Un	34	Farmer	Employer	at home	Shuteham Farnham				
					Catherine Pugh	Wife	Un	32	Farmer	Employer	at home	Shuteham Farnham				
					John Pugh	son	S	4	Farmer	Employer	at home	Shuteham Farnham				
					Mary Eliza Pugh	Daughter	S	2	Farmer	Employer	at home	" "				
					Lillian Mary Pugh	Daughter	S	2 1/2	Farmer	Employer	at home	" "				
115	Barton Road	1		3	Thomas Ince	Head	Un	39	Shopkeeper	Worker	at home	Shuteham Farnham				
					Elizabeth Ince	Wife	Un	38	Shopkeeper	Worker	at home	" "				
					Albert Ince	son	S	14	at school			" "				
					Mary Ince	Daughter	S	9	"			" "				
					John Ince	son	S	7	"			" "				
					Harvey Ince	son	S	6	"			" "				
					Annies E Ince	Daughter	S	4	"			" "				
					George Ince	son	S	2	"			" "				
					Sarah Ince	Daughter	S	1	"			" "				
116		1		14	John Lewis	Head	Un	24	Wholesale	Employer	at home	Salop, Shuteham, Gumb				
					Mary Edith Lewis	Wife	Un	21	Wholesale	Employer	at home	Shuteham				
					Edith Jessie Lewis	Daughter	S	2	Wholesale	Employer	at home	" Farnham				
					Leonora Lewis	Daughter	S	2 1/2	Wholesale	Employer	at home	" "				
					William Bowker	Child		1 1/2	Wholesale	Employer	at home	" "				
4 1/2	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	4 1/2		2 1/2	Total of Males and of Females..			16 1/2	13 1/2							

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

### 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.

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 Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.							
1 Thomas Ince	Head	49	Married				Builder	733	Building Trade	Worker	Shuteham Farnham	Cheshire	
2 Elizabeth Ince	Wife	48	Married 27 11 9 2								Holt	Shuteham	455
3 William Ince	Son	25	Single				Labourer	140	Labourer	On Farm	Shuteham	Farnham	Cheshire
4 Albert Ince	Do	24	Single				Labourer	140	Labourer	On Farm	Shuteham	Farnham	Cheshire
5 Harvey Ince	Do	15	Single				Labourer	140	Labourer	On Farm	Shuteham	Farnham	Cheshire
6 George Ince	Do	12	Single				School	390	School		Shuteham	Farnham	Cheshire
7 Sarah Ince	Daughter	10	Single				School		School		Shuteham	Farnham	Cheshire

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

I certify that—  
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.  
 (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.  
 (3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Total: Males 5, Females 2, Persons 7

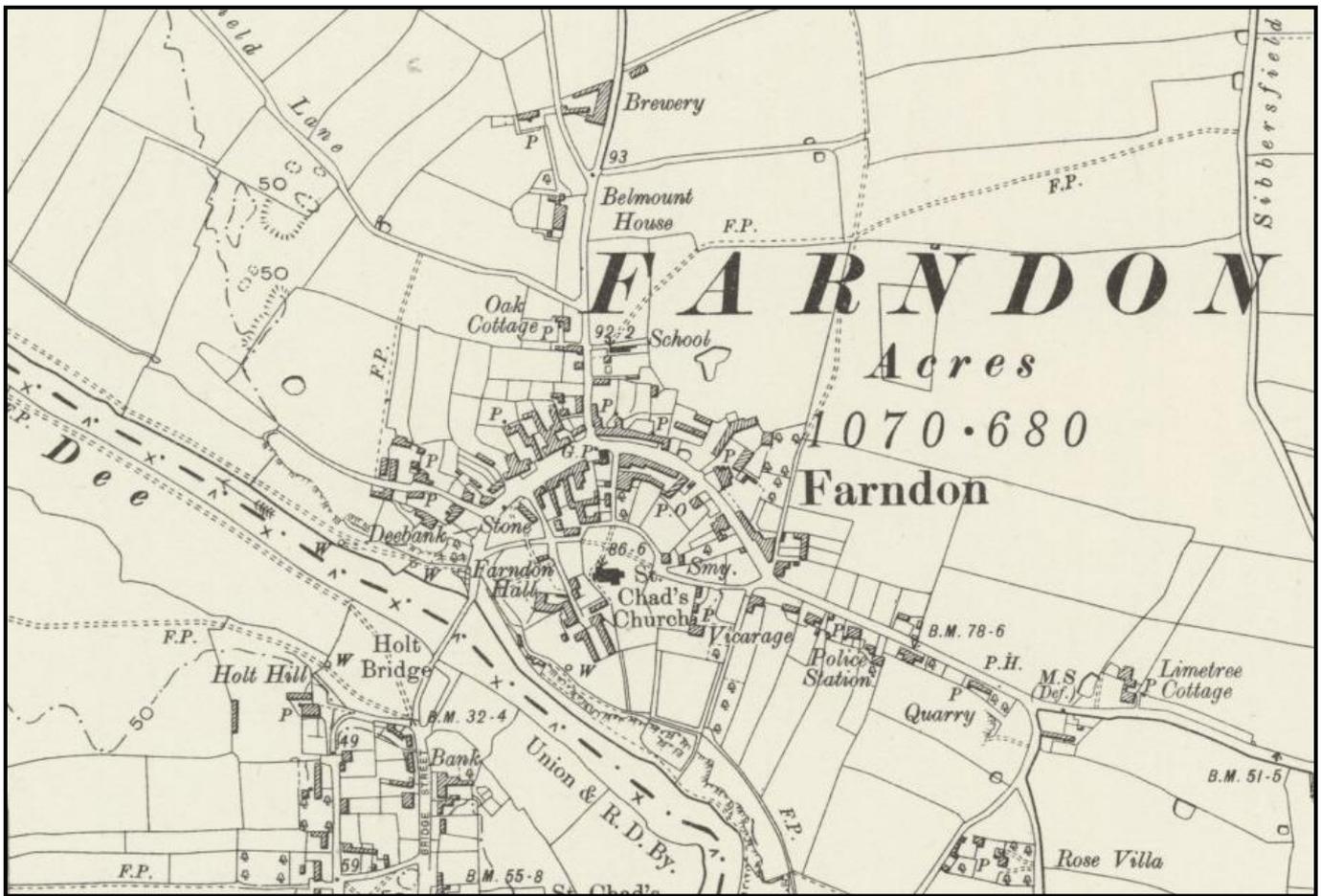
(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

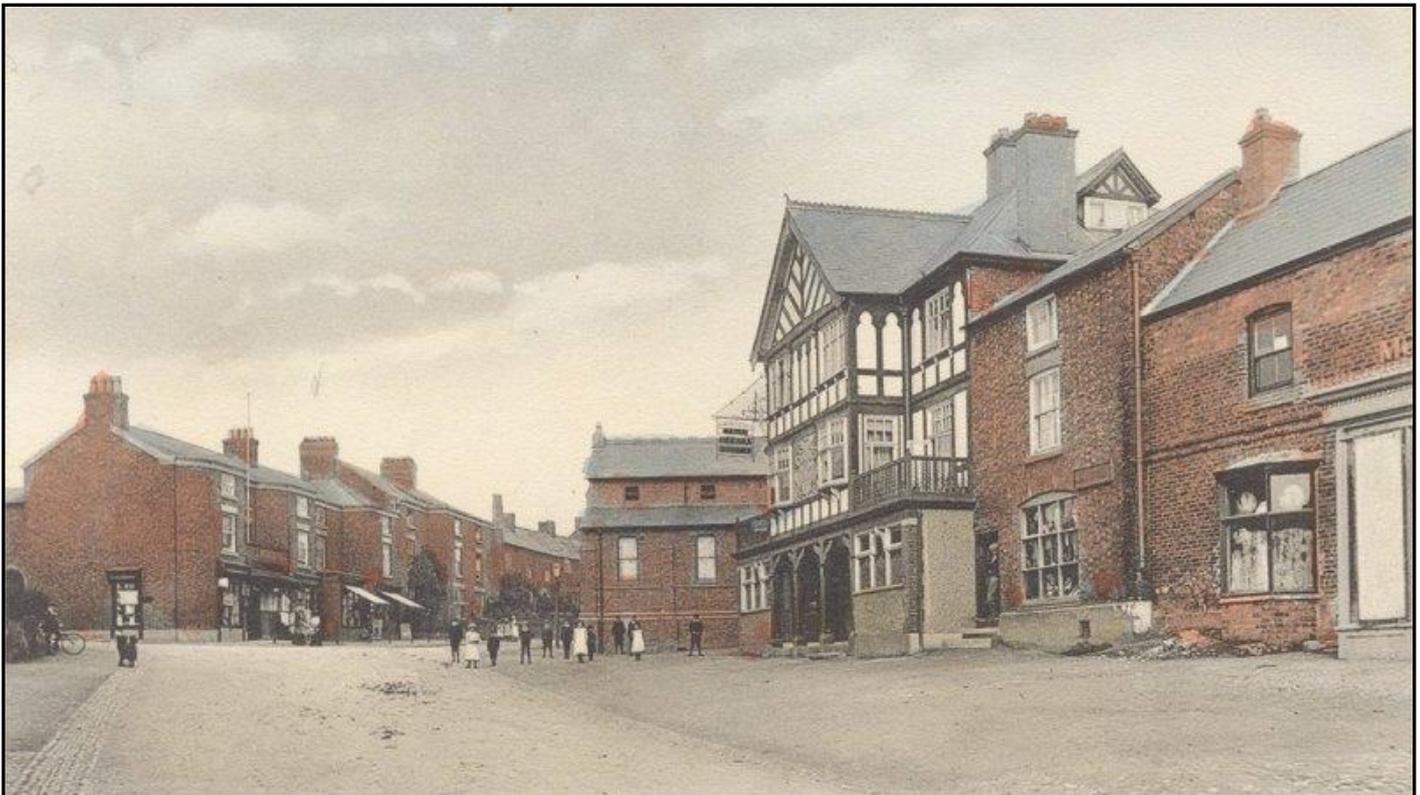
I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Thomas Ince  
 Postal Address: Barton rd Farnham Cheshire

### Census 1911



**Above:** Farndon c.1895. Barton Road runs past the Police Station and Limetree Cottage  
**Below:** Farndon High Street (which runs from Barton Road in an arc to the bridge)



**High Street, Farndon c.1905**



Barton Road, Farndon c.1895, near the Ince



Agricultural labourers in the Farndon/Holt area



## The Coming of War

Albert was an early volunteer and travelled to Chester, where he was sent to Newtown to enlist in a newly created Regiment. He was posted to the Welsh Horse (Lancers) Yeomanry, due to his expertise with horses through working on a farm. The regiment did not exist before the Great War and it was formed in August 1914 as part of the Territorial Force of the British Army under the administration of the Glamorgan Territorial Force Association. It was raised throughout Wales under the auspices of Captain Owen Vaughan, and command was given to Hugh Edwardes, 6th Baron Kensington, as Lieutenant-Colonel. The headquarters of the Welsh Horse were initially in Cardiff, but they were subsequently moved to Newtown, and transferred to the Montgomeryshire Territorial Force Association, which is why Albert had to travel there to sign up. The battalions were split in August and September 1914 into 1st Line (liable for overseas service) and 2nd Line (home service for those unable or unwilling to serve overseas) units. Later, a 3rd Line was formed to act as a reserve, providing trained replacements for the 1st and 2nd Line regiments.



After initial training in Glamorgan and Montgomeryshire, in early 1915 they moved to Diss in Norfolk primarily on home defence duties. The 1/1st Battalion, The Welsh Horse (Lancers) Yeomanry, served as part of the Eastern Mounted Brigade (with the Norfolk and Suffolk Yeomanries) and later in the South Eastern Mounted Brigade (with the Sussex, West Kent, and Royal East Kent Yeomanries). After this service in East Anglia on anti-invasion duties, they were dismounted in 1915 and sent to take part in the Gallipoli Campaign. After withdrawal to Egypt, it was amalgamated with the 1/1st Montgomeryshire Yeomanry as the 25th (Montgomery and Welsh Horse Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers and served as such throughout the rest of the war. It took part in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign in 1917 and 1918, before being transferred to the Western Front where it remained until the end of the war.

The 2/1st Welsh Horse Yeomanry (the 2nd Line regiment) was formed in 1914 at Newtown. In July 1915 it became part of the 2/1st South Wales Mounted Brigade as a fourth regiment in the Doncaster area. In September 1915 it moved with the brigade to the Yoxford area where it joined the 1st Mounted Division. In 1916 the regiment was absorbed into the 2/1st Montgomeryshire Yeomanry. Lord Kenyon KCVO TD was the Commanding Officer.

The 3/1st Welsh Horse Yeomanry (the 3rd Line regiment) was formed in 1915 and in the summer was affiliated to a Reserve Cavalry Regiment in Ireland. In the summer of 1916 it was dismounted and attached to the 3rd Line Groups of the Welsh Division at Oswestry as its 1st Line was serving as infantry. The regiment was disbanded in early 1917 with personnel transferring to the 2/1st Montgomeryshire Yeomanry or to the 4th (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Oswestry.

Albert Ince's number was 945, but that is all that is known, as his war record has not survived, therefore it is impossible to know which battalion he was attached to, although it is most likely to have been the 3/1st. Unlike most of the battalion he was transferred to the 7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) probably in late 1916/early 1917. The Second and Third Line regiments never left the United Kingdom before being disbanded in 1916 and early 1917, respectively. The 1st Line was disbanded in 1919.

## 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment



The 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment had been raised at Maidstone on the 5 September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army and joined 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division. After initial training near home, they moved to Colchester in April 1915, and then to Salisbury Plain in May for final training. They proceeded to France on the 27 July 1915, landing at Le Havre, with the Division concentrating near Flesselles. In 1916, they were in action on the first dreadful day on the Somme and in The Battle of Albert (capturing their objectives near Montauban), The Battle of Bazentin Ridge including the capture of Trones Wood, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights (playing a part in the capture of the Schwaben Redoubt and Regina Trench), and The Battle of the Ancre.

In 1917 they took part in the Operations on the Ancre, including Miraumont and the capture of Irles. They fought during The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line and in The Third Battle of the Scarpe before moving to Belgium. There in Flanders they were in action in The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of Langemarck and The First and Second Battle of Passchendaele.



**7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment**  
Training camp, possibly at Hereford

## The First and Second Battle of Passchendaele

It is impossible to know exactly when Albert joined the regiment on the Western Front, and which battle was his first. However, it was in the horror of Passchendaele, part of the Third Battle of Ypres, that Albert lost his life on 12 October. The role played by the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion at the start of the battle and later at Poelcapelle, where Albert was killed in action, was described in great detail by C.T. Atkinson in his history of the Regiment published in 1924,

At the start of Third Ypres on 31 July 1917, the 7th Battalion, although within the battle area, was not actively engaged, but when they were moved up to the front line trenches on the night of 3-4 August, they found themselves just East of Stirling Castle with its left at Clapham Junction. They had a wet and uncomfortable four days in the line. The trenches were in shocking condition, the rain was heavy and continuous and many wounded were lying out in No Man's Land, whom the battalion endeavoured to bring in. But the enemy were inactive, even his guns did little, and though the battalion's patrols were enterprising and had several encounters with the enemy these resulted in few casualties but yielded several prisoners. Relieved on the night of the 7th/8th the battalion was in reserve on August 10th when the Division attacked Glencorse Wood and Inverness Copse and had desperate fighting, losing heavily and gaining but little ground. The only men of the battalion to be employed were some "runners" attached to the 55th Brigade Headquarters who did good service, notably L/Cpl. Ursell, whose gallantry and devotion earned him a M.M. [Atkinson map 1 below].

On 11 August the 7th went back to Abeele and entrained for , where the Division, which had lost heavily, was to remain for nearly six weeks, training for another effort when its ranks should have been replenished. During this period over 20 officers joined or re-joined the 7th, and in the middle of September a draft of 126 men arrived, though even then the battalion was much under strength.

Most unfavourable conditions, therefore, faced the Eighteenth Division when early in October it returned to the Salient to continue the attack, and to add to the handicaps the Brigade was called upon to attack at 24 hours' notice at a point quite different from that which it had expected to assault. The Division had been training to attack the main Passchendaele ridge and had carried out several tactical exercises over a model of the ground till all ranks were familiar with their tasks. Actually it had to attack Poelcapelle and, on the night of 10/11 October, the 53rd Brigade moved up to the front to relieve the Eleventh Division at that point. That division had attacked Poelcapelle on 8 October, and after losing heavily had captured part of the village, but the Northern end of it along the Staden road had remained in German hands.

The relief, which pouring rain, mud that surpassed all previous experience, and intense darkness, rendered exceptionally slow and difficult, had barely been completed before the time fixed for the attack of 12 October. The 7th R.W.K. were on the left of the 55th Brigade, next to the Fourth Division, with the Buffs on their other flank. The plan of attack involved the withdrawal of the companies holding the front line, A and D, to an assembly position some way further back, as the front line ran diagonally to the objectives. Detachments were left along the front line, with orders to rejoin their companies as these came along as the second wave of the attack. But the withdrawal lengthened the distance to be covered, a disadvantage the more serious because of the mud which retarded progress—it was so bad that in places men stuck fast and, being unable to move, were killed where they stood. Even the lightly equipped could hardly move in such a slough; for men encumbered with equipment, weapons and ammunition it was doubly difficult. Thus, though the enemy's barrage was not very effective, the battalion lost quite heavily from rifle and machine-gun fire before it cleared its own front line.

B Company, on the right, made fair progress at first and accounted for many enemy. Before long, however, they were held up by machine-gun fire from their right flank and from the



**Dreadful conditions around Poelcapelle 1917**



**Gun battery near Langemarck 12 Oct 1917 – the date of Albert's death**

Brewery, a strong point just East of the Staden road. All the officers became casualties, but Sergt. Tebbitt took command and carried on till, about 6.30 a.m., D reinforced the survivors of B. But even then the opposition was too strong to allow of much progress; casualties were heavy, and 2nd Lieut. Duffield, the only officer left with the two companies, reorganized them in a chain of posts just beyond the original line, and despite heavy fire maintained his ground successfully.

On the other flank C had found the barrage somewhat erratic, indeed several German machine-guns had escaped it and gave a great deal of trouble. The platoon on the flank, however, got on splendidly. When a machine-gun in a strong point threatened to hold it up, Pte. Ives rushed forward with a Lewis gun, and despite heavy fire knocked the machine-gun out, enabling the platoon to get on. Sergeant Hamblin, who had taken command on the fall of his officer, 2nd Lieut. Michell, led the platoon with so much determination and ability that it reached a strong point only just short of the battalion's objective and well ahead of the rest of the attack. **[marked as A on Atkinson map 2 below, B marks limit of platoon's advance].**

This point it rushed successfully, capturing two officers and 50 men with a couple of machine-guns. From here the party, reduced by casualties to 16 men, became mixed up with the Household Battalion of the Fourth Division with whom they pushed on ahead.

The rest of C were less fortunate. A strong point at the Northern end of the village brought them to a standstill, and though A came up to reinforce it was unable to carry the advance any further, nor could the 8th Suffolks of the 53rd Brigade achieve any more when they, too, pushed forward on the left. Finally, therefore, these two companies dug in a little in front of the line held before the attack. Touch was established with Lieut. Duffield's party and eventually some 120 men were collected and organised, a defensive flank formed on the right and the position consolidated, despite much trouble from snipers. Sergt. Coleman helped greatly in this work, he went up and down the line under heavy fire, encouraging the men and directing their efforts. Sergts. Coombs and Firmer were also well to the fore, but despite the gallantry and determination which the 7th had displayed it had achieved but little to compensate for very heavy losses. The weakness of the barrage\*, and the great difficulties of getting forward over a water-logged stretch of mud, meant there had been no time to reconnoitre – all factors which were mainly responsible for the failure to accomplish more, but the battalion hung on all through the next day (13 October) and maintained its ground until that evening it was relieved by the 8th Suffolks. **[\* This was largely due to mud, owing to which many of the guns which should have provided it had stuck fast, and never got into action].**

But its cup was not yet full. When boarding lorries next day to withdraw to the back area, it had the misfortune to be attacked by German aeroplanes, an experience which was becoming unpleasantly frequent, and suffered nearly 40 casualties in addition to those already incurred. These had been serious enough, just half the 600 men who had gone "over the top" were on the casualty list, along with 14 officers, of whom Captain Lewin, Lieut. H. T. Gregory, 2nd Lieuts. Allen, Coles and Michell were killed or died of wounds, Captains Anstruther and F. H. F. Smith being among the wounded. To these the bombing attack added Lieut. Gladwell killed. Captain Heaton, died of wounds, and Captain Hogg and 2nd Lieut. Day wounded. It was a sadly shattered remnant that was left of a battalion which had come up to the front in fine condition and fighting trim.

from **C T Atkinson**, *The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment - 1914 to 1919* (1924)

The mud that slowed up the assault and dragged man after man down, also claimed Albert. He was never found, and is one of the missing in the killings fields of Passchendaele. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing. At home in Farndon, the Ince family must have dreaded the knock on the door should it be bringing the worst possible news from the Front. The following year his sixth son Harry was killed in Salonika in Greece on 1 October 1918 aged only twenty-three, and he lost his wife Elizabeth shortly afterwards at the age of Fifty-five. It had been an appalling year.



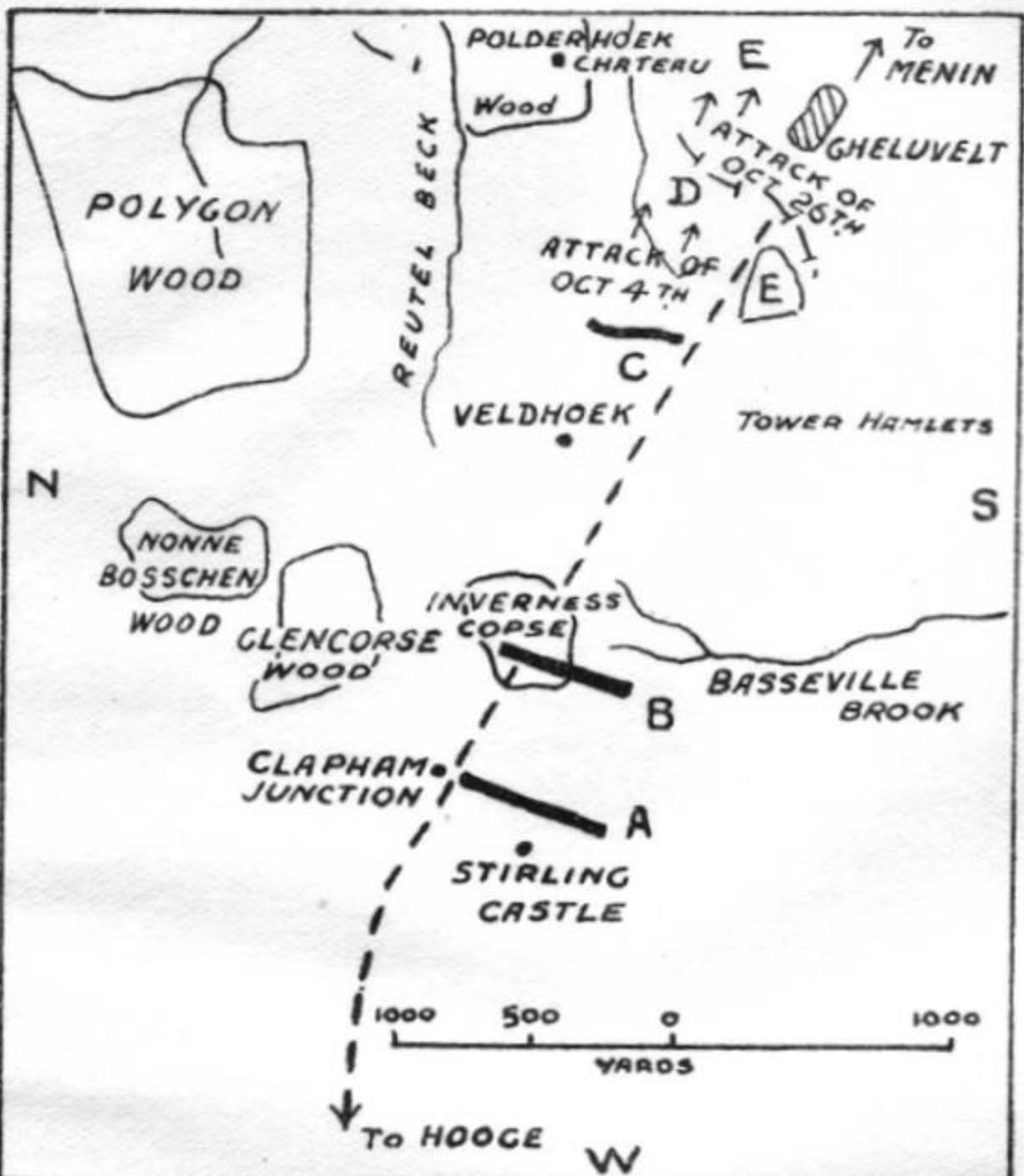
*Photo: Imperial War Museum.*

#### UNFINISHED SYMPHONY

It is a symphony of death that here lies incomplete ; the curiously-shaped iron stakes were to have been the framework of a German pill-box, whose rain of machine-gun bullets was destined, however, never to shower forth. The location of this attractive landscape is Waterloo Farm, near Broodseinde : an area which figured in the fifth stage of "Third Ypres," the Battle of Broodseinde-Poelcapelle, 4th-9th October, 1917. This photograph vividly illustrates the physical conditions prevailing.

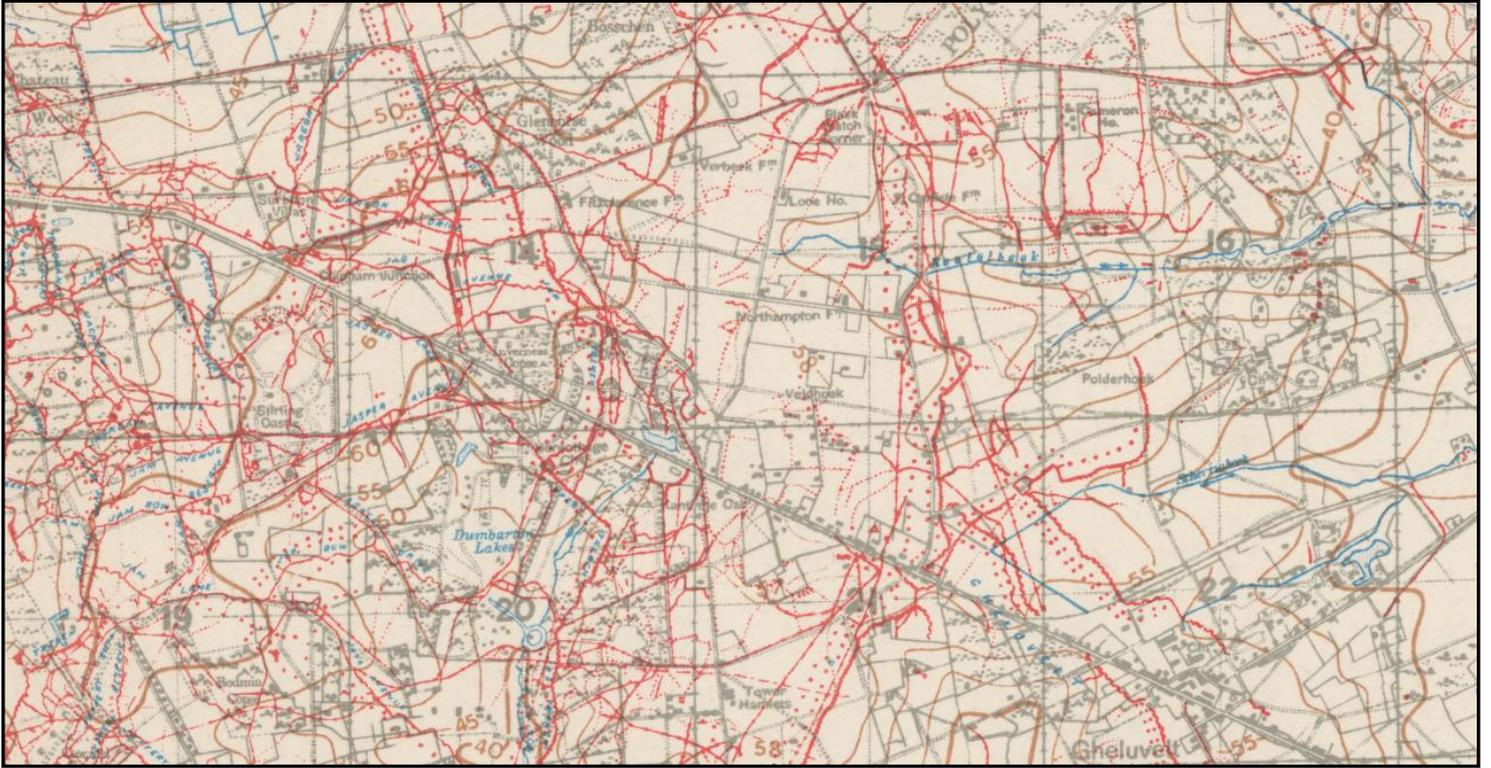


*The aftermath:*  
Poelcapelle from the air, 27 October 1917, clearly showing the pock-marked landscape resulting from the effects of thousands of shells.

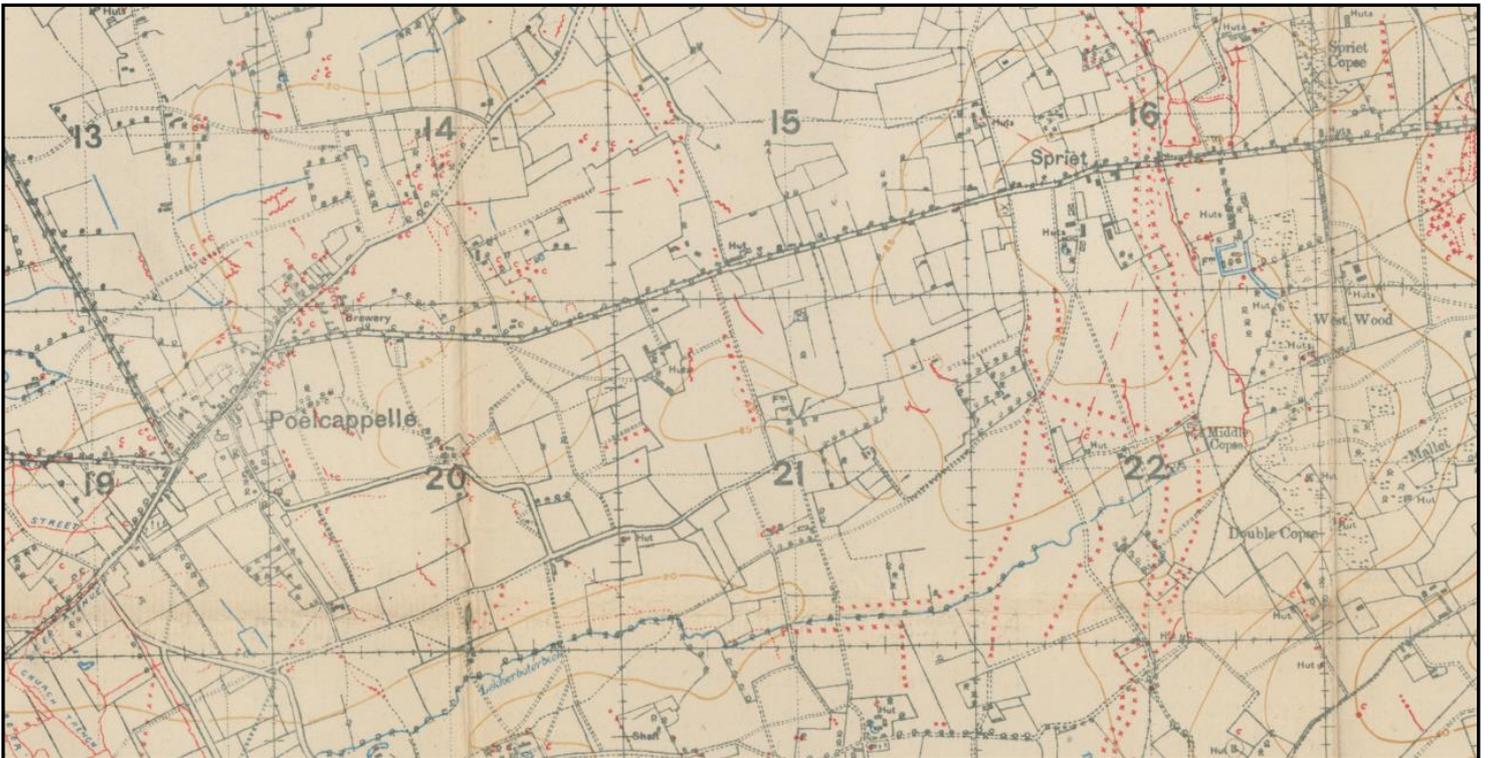


**OPERATIONS OF 1<sup>ST</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> R.W.K  
DURING THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES**

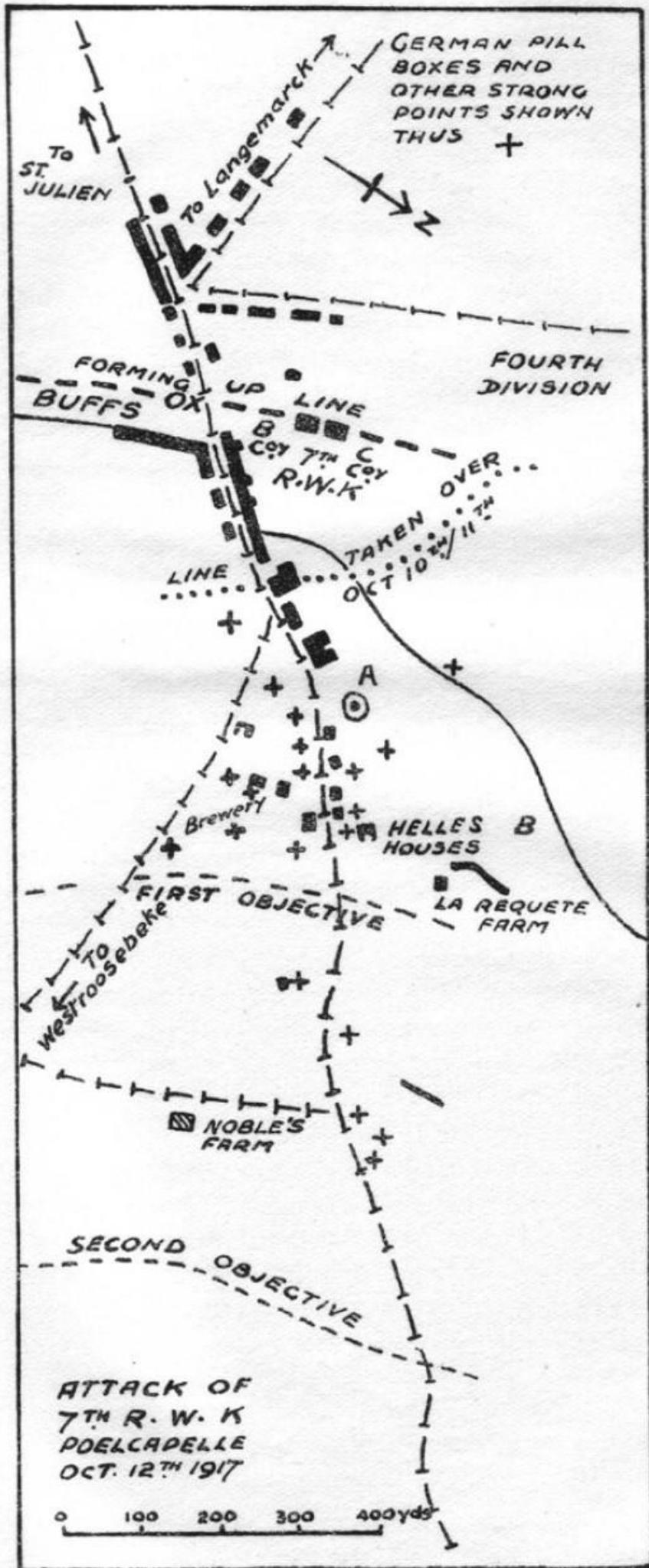
- A. position of 7<sup>th</sup> R.W.K Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 1917
- B. " " 8<sup>th</sup> " Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 1917
- C. " taken over by 1<sup>st</sup> R.W.K Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917
- D. " captured by 1<sup>st</sup> R.W.K Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 1917
- E. GHELUVELT WOOD



**Third Battle of Ypres - 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment**  
(This is the actual trench map represented by Atkinson Map 1)

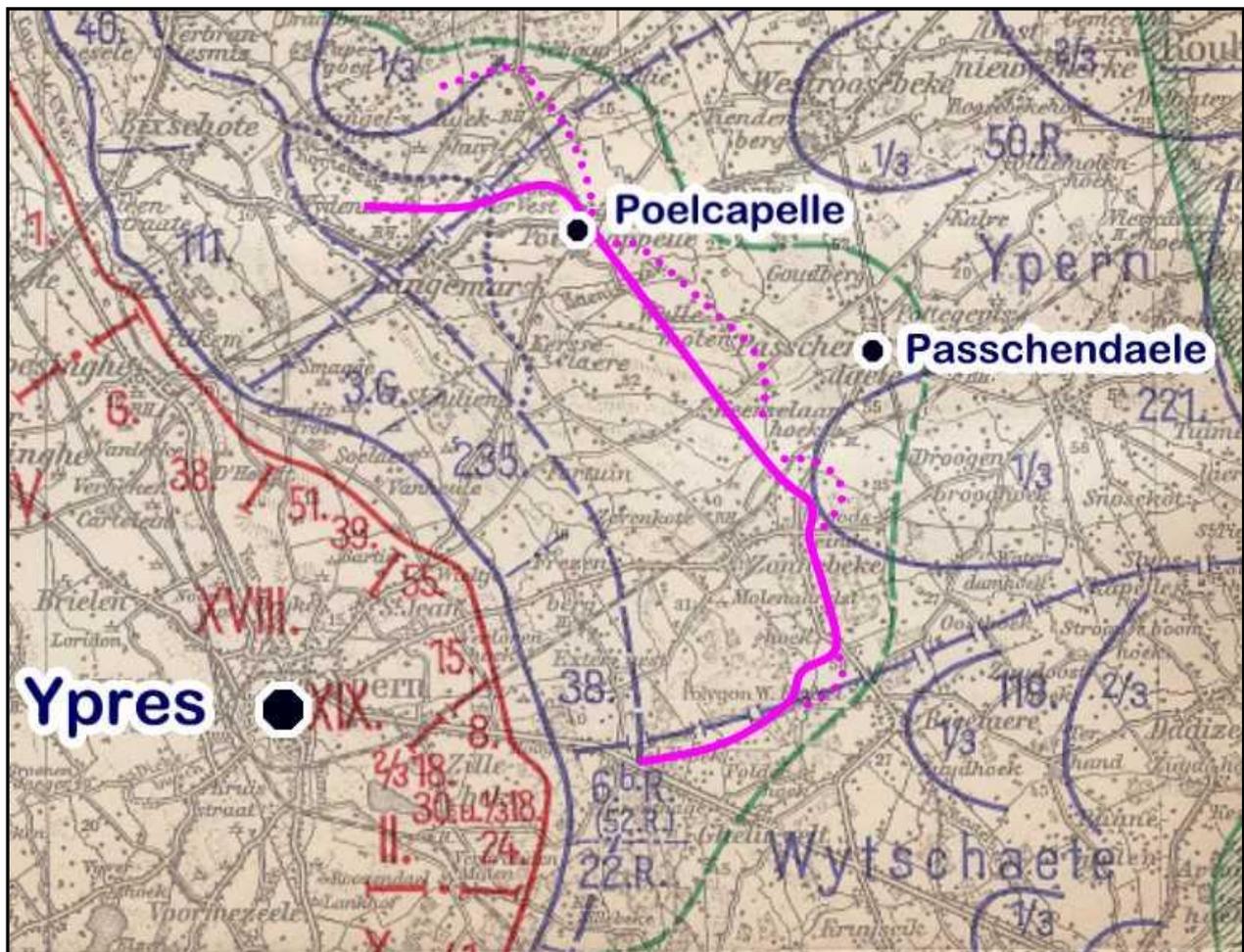
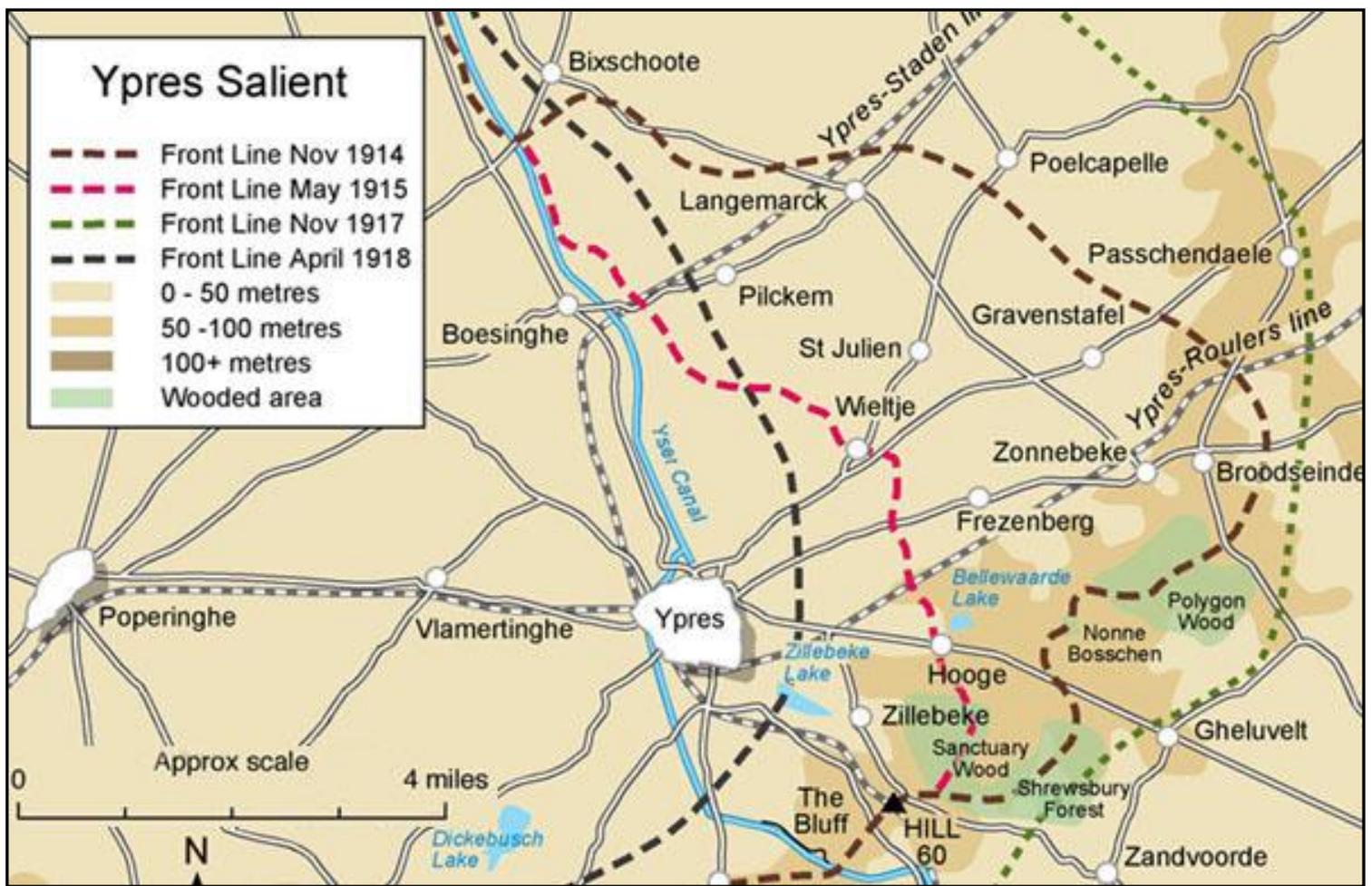


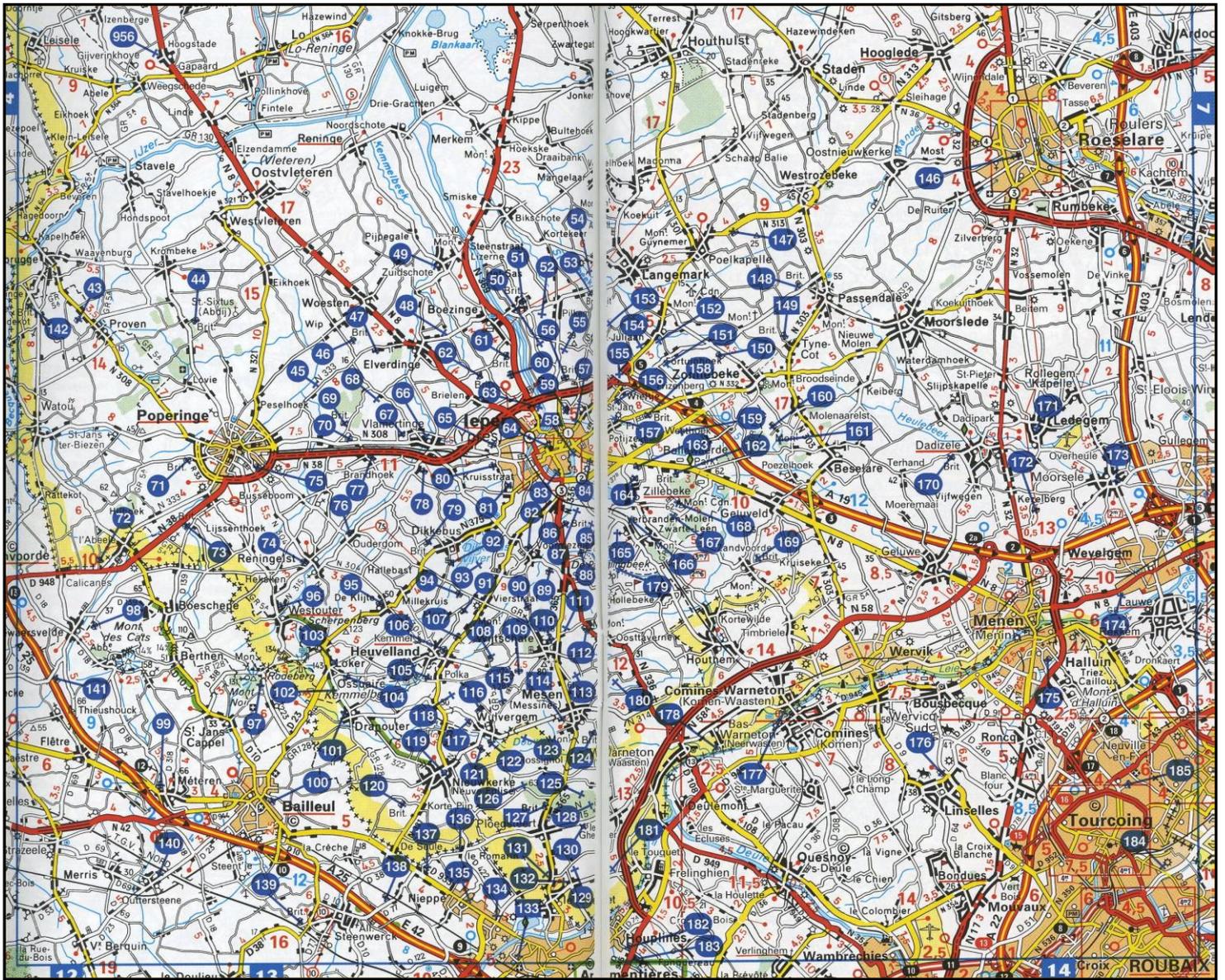
**Third Battle of Ypres - 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment**  
(This is the actual trench map represented by Atkinson Map 2, although that map needs to be rotated approx 90 degrees left to match this map)



**Third Battle of Ypres - 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment (Atkinson Map 2)**

It was in this action that Private Albert Ince lost his life.





**Above:** Modern guide map of WW1 cemeteries and memorials surrounding Ypres and the Salient, Belgium, produced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Tyne Cot is to the top right numbered 149.

**Below:** Royal West Kent Regiment Cenotaph, Maidstone, Kent



Royal West Kent Cenotaph, Maidstone. Y&C.900.

## **TYNE COT CEMETERY AND THE MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING**

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is located 9 kilometres north east of Ieper town centre, on the Tynecotstraat, a road leading from the Zonnebeekseweg. The names of those from United Kingdom units are inscribed on Panels arranged by Regiment under their respective Ranks.

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient, which stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.

The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates those of all Commonwealth nations, who died in the Salient (except New Zealand). In the case of United Kingdom casualties it covers those who died before 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). Those United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. Other New Zealand casualties are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.

The Tyne Cot Memorial now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Joseph Armitage and F.V. Blundstone, was unveiled by Sir Gilbert Dyett on 20 June 1927. It is on one of these panels that Albert Ince is recorded.

The memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of the Tyne Cot Cemetery, which was established around a captured German blockhouse or pill-box used as an advanced dressing station. The original battlefield cemetery of 343 graves was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, and from a few small burial grounds. It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

There are now 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery, 8,369 of these are unidentified.

.



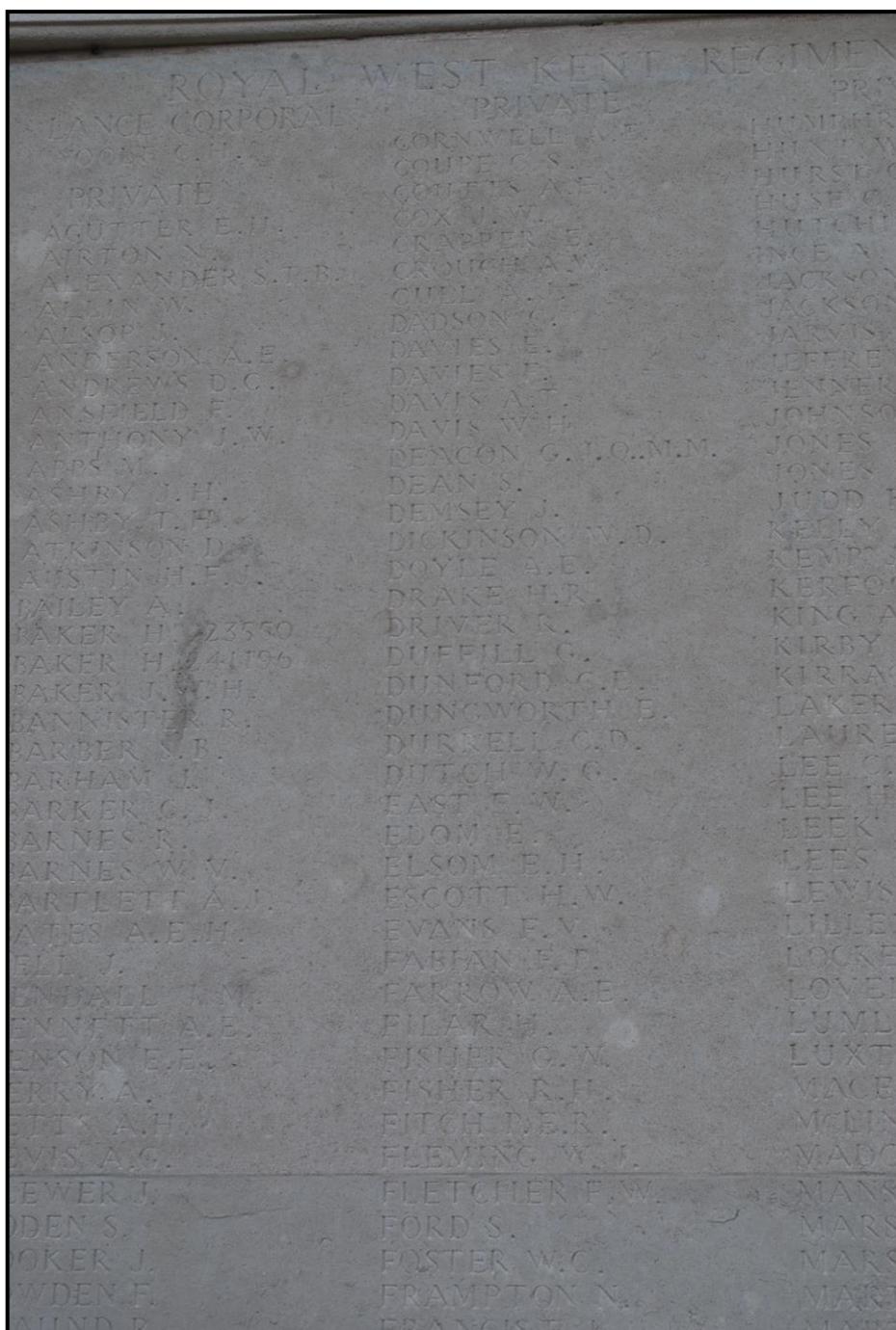
**Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Memorial Wall to the Missing**

The enormity of Tyne Cot Cemetery is only really grasped when viewed from the air. The memorial panel walls (shown curving around the perimeter in the top photograph) are at the bottom of the photograph below.



**Tyne Cot Memorial Panels -  
Queen's Own  
(Royal West Kent Regiment)**

Albert Ince is recorded on the right column, 6th from the top.





THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT.

Form W. 50

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

To be filled in by  
Officer in Charge of  
Records.

The late 36551 Pte H. Ince deceased

**STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.**

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship		NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...		None	
Children of the Soldier and dates of their birth ...		None	
Father of the Soldier ...		Thomas. Ince	Barton Rd. Lardon
Mother of the Soldier ...		None	
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ...	Thomas. Ince 36	Common Wood Holt
		William. Ince 35	Barton Rd. Lardon
	Half blood ...	John. Ince 26	<del>Barton Rd. Lardon</del> High Street
		George. Ince 21	Coddington N. Handley
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ...	Mary. Ince 28	High Town. Wrotham
		Annie. Ince 23	Barton Rd. Lardon
	Half blood ...		

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...	None	
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

**DECLARATION.**

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.

Signature of the Declarant.

Relationship to the Soldier Nephew Thomas Ince  
Address in full Barton Road, Lardon, Chester.

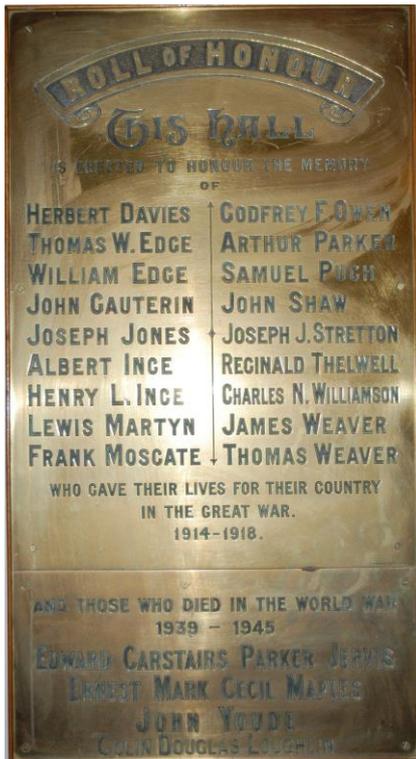
I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by Thomas Ince and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated The 2nd day of March 1920.

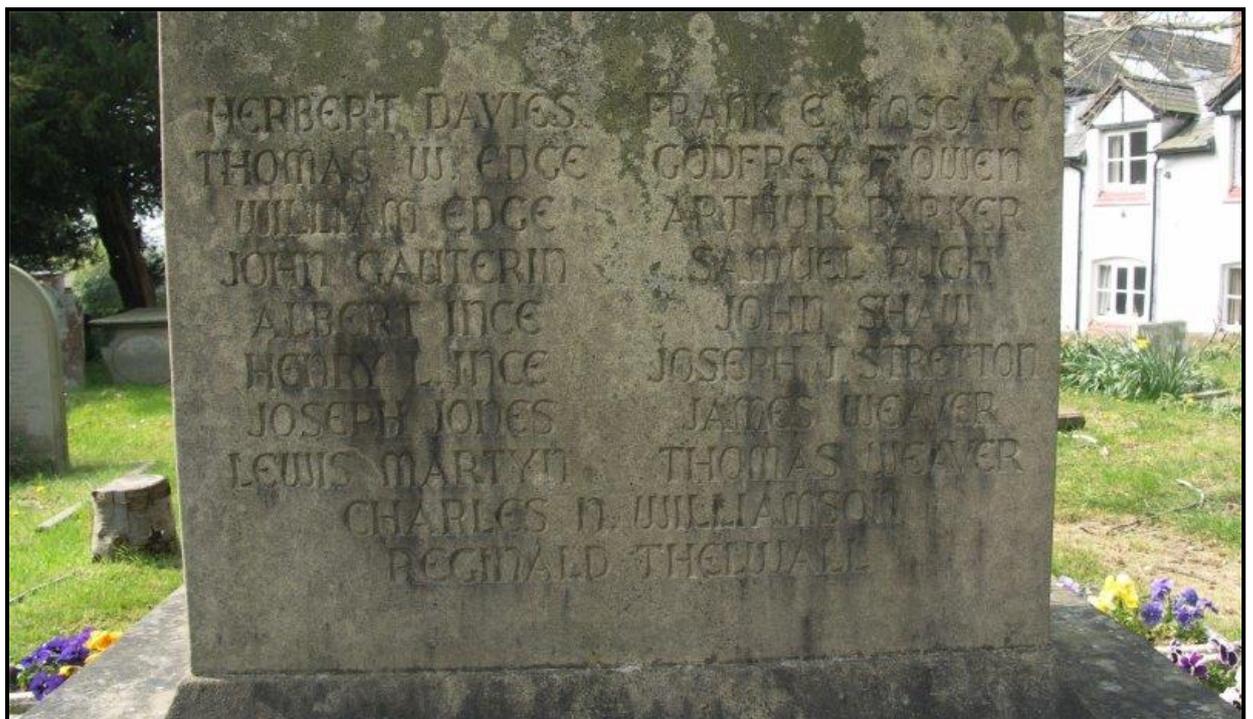
Signature of Minister or Magistrate: Alfred D. Bayley. Qualification: Congregational Minister  
Address: The Old Rectory, Lardon, Chester.

1917. W. 1233/GP1814. 1000/020(5). 2/19. G.O., F.24.

Albert Ince's surviving relatives from his brother Henry's Service Record.



**Farndon War Memorial**  
*Left: the memorial plaque located in the entrance hall in the adjacent Memorial Hall (top left).*



No. of List in which advertised	Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorized	Amount Authorized	No. of List in which advertised		
						Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£					s.	d.
	609276	474903	Clark George	1/1st Bn Rifles	3.11.16 Helms 1.18							to Bal	to s. 1.				
					Surv since Nest Death 4/6/18 Pus 947								24/10/19 Med. Anns	9			
					WAR GRATUITY. 1910 Transfer 20/10/14 Regd Paper 10/10/16 Serial No. 145038	9											
	609277	526541	Levelly James	1/1st Bn Rifles	9.10.17 Helms 1.18	3	2		3	2	m.o. 2.18	25.2.18	Pro: Sub Legation Hannah	3	2		
					Surv Nest The 26067								6/1/19 Pro: S/leg Hannah	3			
					WAR GRATUITY. Effects 19 Transfer Regd Paper Serial No	3											
					A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 8.4.19												
	609278	44069	Downing Frederick Charles	7/1st Bn Rifles	12.10.19 Helms 1.18	7	12	11	1	12	11	m.o. 2.18	9.2.18	Pro: Gladys	1	12	11
					Surv Nest The 12376								10/1/19 Med Gladys	6	10		
					WAR GRATUITY. 1910 Transfer 10/10/14 Regd Paper 2/20/16 Serial No. 9462	6	10										
					A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 8.4.19												
	609279	450613	Giffiths Edward	7/1st Bn Rifles	4.10.17 Helms 1.18	3	1	3	3	1	3	m.o. 6.18	27.6.18	Pro: Susan Christie	3	1	3
					Surv Nest The 20238								14/1/19 Leg Susan Christie	5	10		
					WAR GRATUITY. 1910 Transfer 6/24/14 Regd Paper 2/20/16 Serial No. 28104	5	10										
					A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 8.4.19												
	609280	440972	Ince Albert	7/1st Bn Rifles	12.10.19 Helms 1.18	11	5	11	11	5	11	m.o. 3.18	19.3.18	Pro: Thomas	11	5	11
					Surv Nest of Legd The 24824								14/1/19 Pro: Thomas	12	10		
					WAR GRATUITY. 1910 Transfer 5/20/14 Regd Paper 2/20/16 Serial No. 7801	12	10										
					A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 8.4.19												

Above: Register of Soldiers' Effects, showing gratuity paid to Albert's next of kin, his father Thomas.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
INCE		P. W. Kent	Pte.	9/24821
Robert.				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	9SE/2/103B121029.			
BRITISH	— do —			
SPAN				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

**Above:** Medal Card – Albert incorrectly recorded as Robert, plus no mention of his former regiment, the Welsh Horse Yeomanry.  
**Below:** Service Medals (Victory Medal, and British Medal) Memorial Plaque and Scrolls



In Memory of

Private

# Albert Ince

G/24821, 7th Bn., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) who died on 12 October 1917 Age 31

Son of Thomas Ince, of Barton Rd., Farndon, Chester.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**Researched and written**

**by**

**Mike Royden**

**[www.roydenhistory.co.uk](http://www.roydenhistory.co.uk)**