



FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

The Thelwall Brothers:

Lance Corporal 628227 Reginald THELWALL

47th Battalion Canadian Infantry
 Formerly 68th Regiment, Earl Grey's Own Rifles
 Killed in Action 1 May 1917 Aged 30
 Remembered with Honour
 on Vimy Ridge Memorial

Private 1904 Robert THELWALL

2nd Squadron, 2nd Battalion Imperial Yeomanry
 21st Company 2nd Regiment Imperial Yeomanry
 Served in the Boer War 1900-1901
 Survived

and their first cousins in New Zealand

Driver 11/2241 William Guild THELWALL

13th Battalion, New Zealand Field Artillery
formerly
 B Squad, 9th Reinforcements, Wellington Mounted Rifles,
 New Zealand Expeditionary Force
 Survived the War

Private 10/3406 Robert Cecil THELWALL

B Company, 8th Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion
 Discharged in June 1916 due to foot wound
 Survived the War

William Thelwall M.R.C.S., L.S.A (1839-1900) Village Surgeon

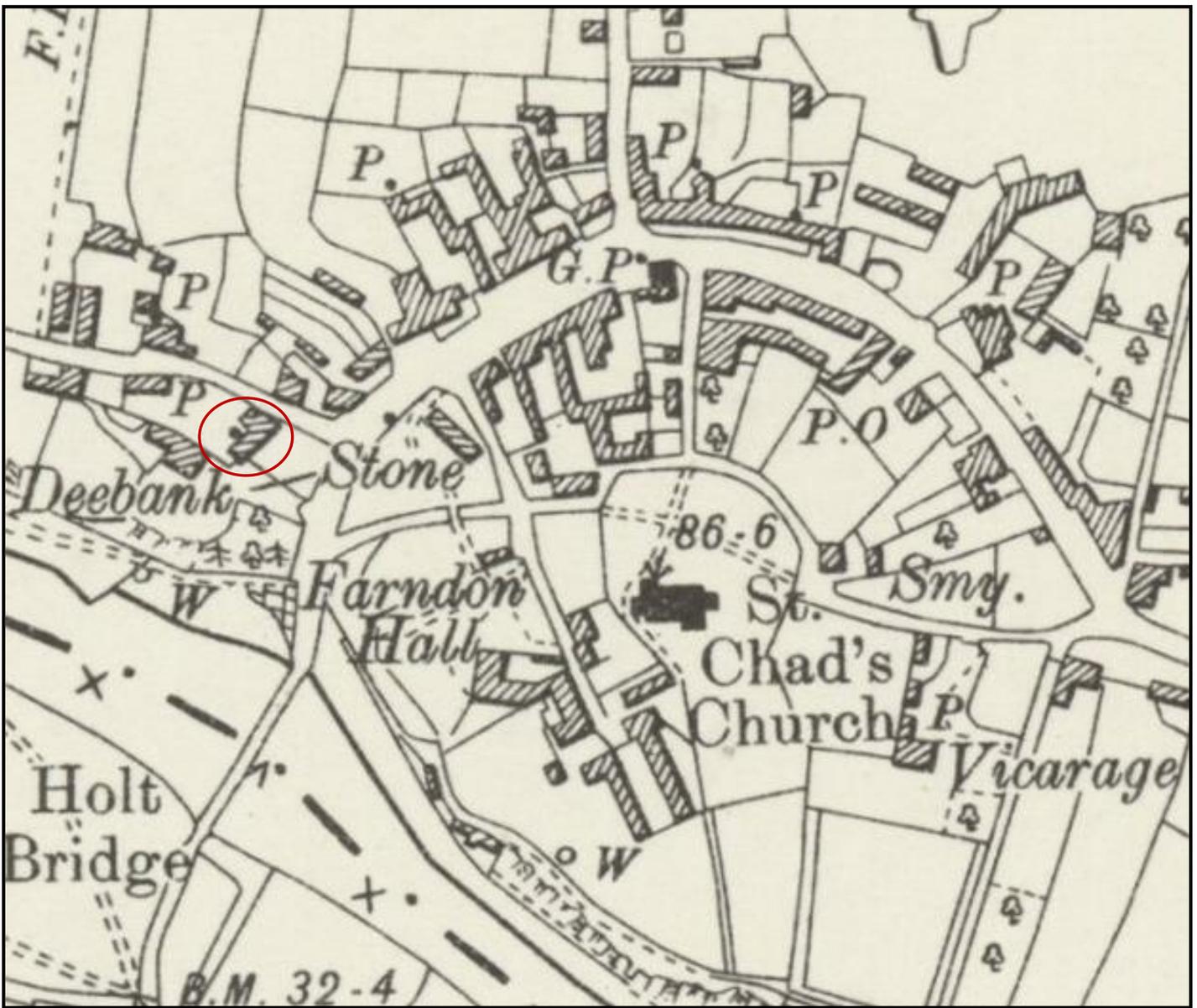
The Thelwall family were known to all in the village for at least four generations, not least because father and son, both called William Thelwall, were the village surgeons, and next to the vicar in the nineteenth century, were regarded as the most respected men in Farndon. Reginald Thelwall was the son of William junior, but his grandfather was born in Harthill in 1808 on the Broxton hills, about five miles to the east. He met Mary Miller from Farndon who he married and settled with in the village, working as the surgeon and raising a family. They moved into a large house near the bridge, hence called Bridge House, where William and Mary had two sons, William junior born in 1840 and Robert in 1845.



HOUSES	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
		Male	Female		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.	
1	William Thelwall	30		Surgeon		92	
	Mary Do		35			92	
	William Do	1				92	
	Eliztha Parsons	20		J. S.		92	+
	Catherine Rogers	16		Do		92	+
	John Brink	20		M. S.		92	+
	William Do	34		Do		92	+

Tithe Map 1835 Farndon
Showing house and garden plot 72 on the left near the river, the residence of surgeon William Thelwall senior and his family, including William Thelwall junior – also shown on the census of 1841 (left) and 1851 (below).

83	William Thelwall	Head	43	Surgeon	Cheshire Harthill
	Mary Thelwall	Wife	44		Cheshire Farndon
	William Thelwall	Son	11		Cheshire Farndon
	Robert Thelwall	Son	6		Cheshire Farndon
	Mary Evans	Serv ^t	18		Denbyholm Holt
	William Edwards	Serv ^t	18		Do Holt



Farndon c. 1895

Showing the Thelwall residence.

(Below) Modern satellite image. The house is now demolished and the site part of the Dee Banks grounds





Above: River Lane, Farndon. The former site of Bridge House, the Thelwall residence on the left.
Below: From almost the opposite view in 1905, looking towards Church Lane in 1905



Eldest son William was sent off to boarding school, then to medical college, to follow in his father's footsteps and become a qualified surgeon. Like his father, he became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and later a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries. (The term 'apothecary' traditionally described a person who dispensed medicines and who would now be called a chemist or a druggist). He also specialised in obstetrics, and was elected as a fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London in 1860 [although, this is unclear – it may have been his father who was still practicing in the village]. Once he had qualified, he returned home to Farndon, and began to practice as the village doctor alongside his father, gradually taking over as William senior approached his retirement.

William senior passed away at home in 1876. In the village, William junior was now running the practice, and in 1872 he married Clara Burman, the daughter of Insull Burnham, a brewer's agent born in Tanworth-in-Arden, who later moved to 76 Temple Street, West Bromwich. In 1857, he brought his wife and young family to live in Farndon and they moved into Holly Bank, an impressive 17th century house on the corner of Church Lane and Barton Road (which would later become the doctor's house after the death of William Thelwall).

He had invested his money wisely, as by 1871 he was living on income derived from 'interest on property'. Although by 1870, they had turned their home into the 'Holly Bank School for Young Ladies'. In 1871 there were eight girls aged between eight and fourteen boarding in the school. Two were local children; Mary Holland, born in Farndon; and Mary Brown, born in Churton. There were also a few day pupils. The school was run by Insull's wife Caroline, who was assisted by her unmarried four daughters, Mary, Annie, Ellen and Clara, who specialised in music. However, Clara was about to move out as she married William Thelwall the following year. The school continued into the 1880s, and Clara was still able to walk up the High Street, the short distance from her new home, to teach music at Holly Bank when she could. Although, in reality, family life at home was becoming more demanding, as she was now bringing up her own children; Annie was born in 1873, followed by Mary in 1875, William (1876), Robert (1878), Nellie (1880), Bessie (1882), Gertrude (1883) and Reginald (1885).

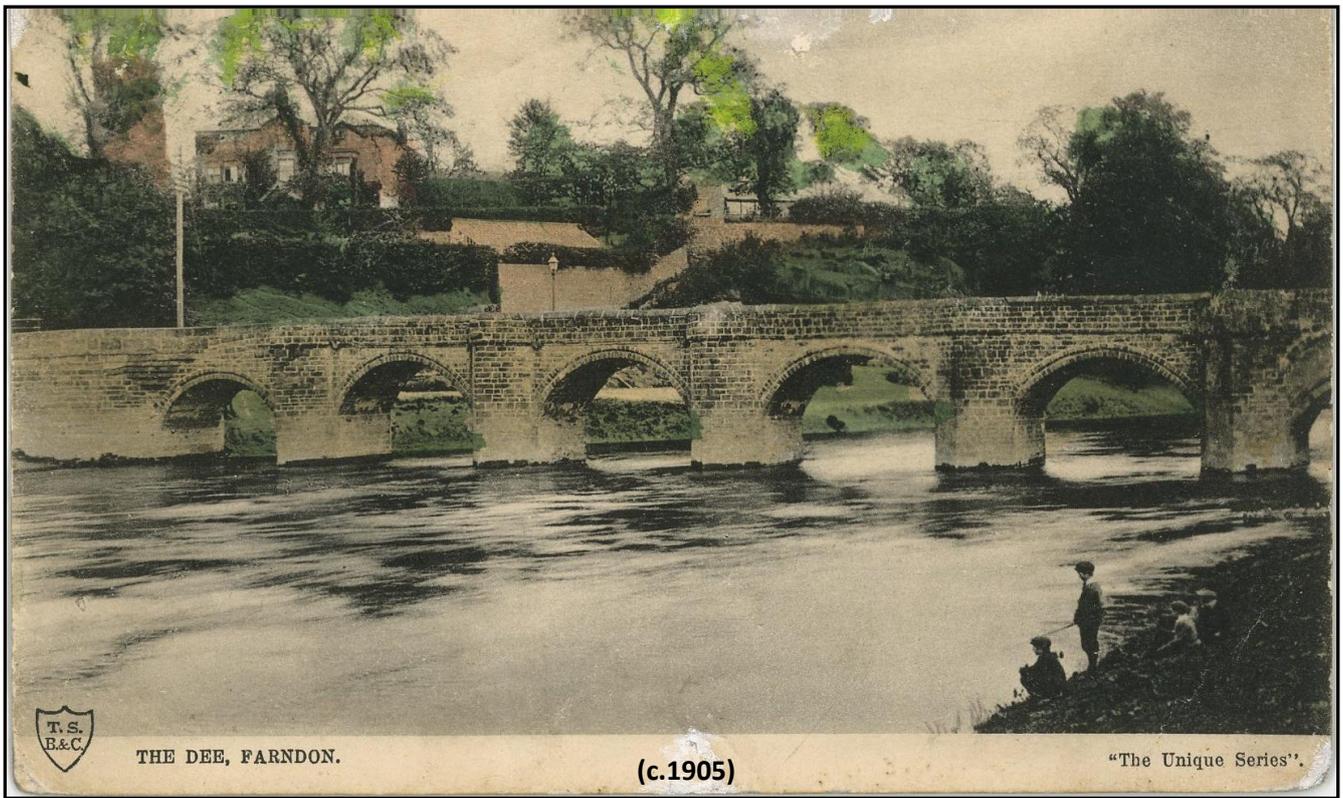
However after the birth of her youngest son, Clara became ill, and despite the greatest efforts of husband William, she passed away on 7 February 1887. She was only thirty-five. Clara was laid to rest in Farndon Churchyard, where her son William had been buried in 1881 aged five.

In 1888, William Thelwall became a local hero when he was involved in a very sad incident concerning one of his friends in the village, William Youd, the village stone quarrier and mason, who had become quite ill and was suffering from severe depression. For eight months he had been under the care, both of the surgeon, and the rector Lewis Owen. Sadly, the weight he was carrying became too much for him, and on 28 August 1888 he leapt into the River Dee from the bridge linking Farndon and Holt. It was said to have been the wettest day for nine years, and at a time of the year when the water levels are normally at their lowest, on that day it was in full flood. The local press reported what happened, and the sad conclusion,

FARNDON NEWS

DETERMINED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND NARROW ESCAPE OF A DOCTOR

Considerable consternation was caused in Farndon and Holt and the surrounding neighbourhood on Tuesday, by the circulation of the news that a man named William Youd, a native of Farndon, had made a desperate attempt to commit suicide and that a gentleman who had gallantly rescued the unfortunate monomaniac had a narrow escape from drowning. Youd, it appears, had been very strange in his manner since Sunday night, and on Tuesday several people had noticed him walking about close to the bank of the river on the Farndon



side from about six o'clock. At about half-past eleven he was seen to walk along a small coign [A favourable position for observation or action] leading into the river and jumped off into deep water. A woman who was hard by, raised an alarm and attracted the attention of Dr. Thelwall, who, with commendable courage, rushed down to the spot and jumped into the water. Here he had a violent struggle with the would-be suicide, who made frantic efforts to free himself. At length the doctor contrived to drag him *'nolens volens* to the river bank.

By this time, a small crowd had congregated, and they dragged Youd out of the water. It was now apparent that the doctor was quickly becoming exhausted and in danger of being himself drowned, but none of the men could reach him. Indeed, so perilous was his position becoming, that he was in the act of falling backwards into the water, when Mr. George Browne, of Farndon Academy, jumped into the water and succeeded in bringing him to the bank. In the meantime, Youd continued to struggle so violently that it became necessary to secure his arms and legs with ropes, and it took no less than eight men to take him home. On Wednesday morning, he was taken before the Magistrates at Broxton, and committed for trial at the Knutsford Assizes.

Llangollen Advertiser, 7 Sep 1888

[NB. Regarding the law in England, suicide (and attempted suicide) was perceived as an immoral, criminal offence against God and also against the Crown. It first became illegal in the 13th century. Until 1822, in fact, the possessions of somebody who committed suicide could even be forfeited to the Crown, and until 1882, persons could only be buried at night and away from church bounds and without a headstone or marker. In other words, they were denied a Christian burial - and instead carried to a crossroads in the dead of night and dumped in a pit, a wooden stake hammered through the body pinning it in place. There were no clergy or mourners, and no prayers were offered. Ssuicide ceased to be a criminal offence with the passing of the Suicide Act 1961;]

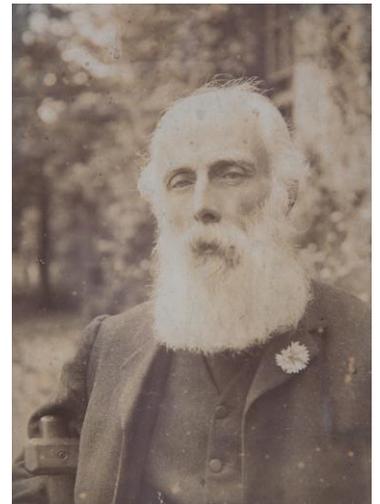
However, to the great sorrow of his friends and family, and their immense frustration that this was allowed to happen despite their best efforts, the awful news was received,

The man named W. Youde. who some weeks ago attempted suicide in the river Dee, and was taken before the magistrates at Broxton, who committed him to Knutsford prison to await his trial, has died in prison.

Llangollen Advertiser, 28 Sep 1888

How he died was not revealed, but it was likely that in the absence of the modern concept of 'suicide watch' he succeeded where he failed in his previous attempt. William Youd was brought home, and in a distinct break with repugnant tradition, he was brought to Farndon Church arriving in the evening and buried in the churchyard the following morning at 10am. In St Chad's burial register, under entry number 15, the Rector, Lewis Owen wrote,

Very well-known man - after long illness brain touched - threw himself into river when in flood - rescued by W. Thelwall surgeon (who received Humane Society's medal) - Sent to Knutsford gaol where he died - His body brought by road to Farndon and lay in the Church all night guarded by the Rector who had been his friend in life. He was a clever stonemason by trade.

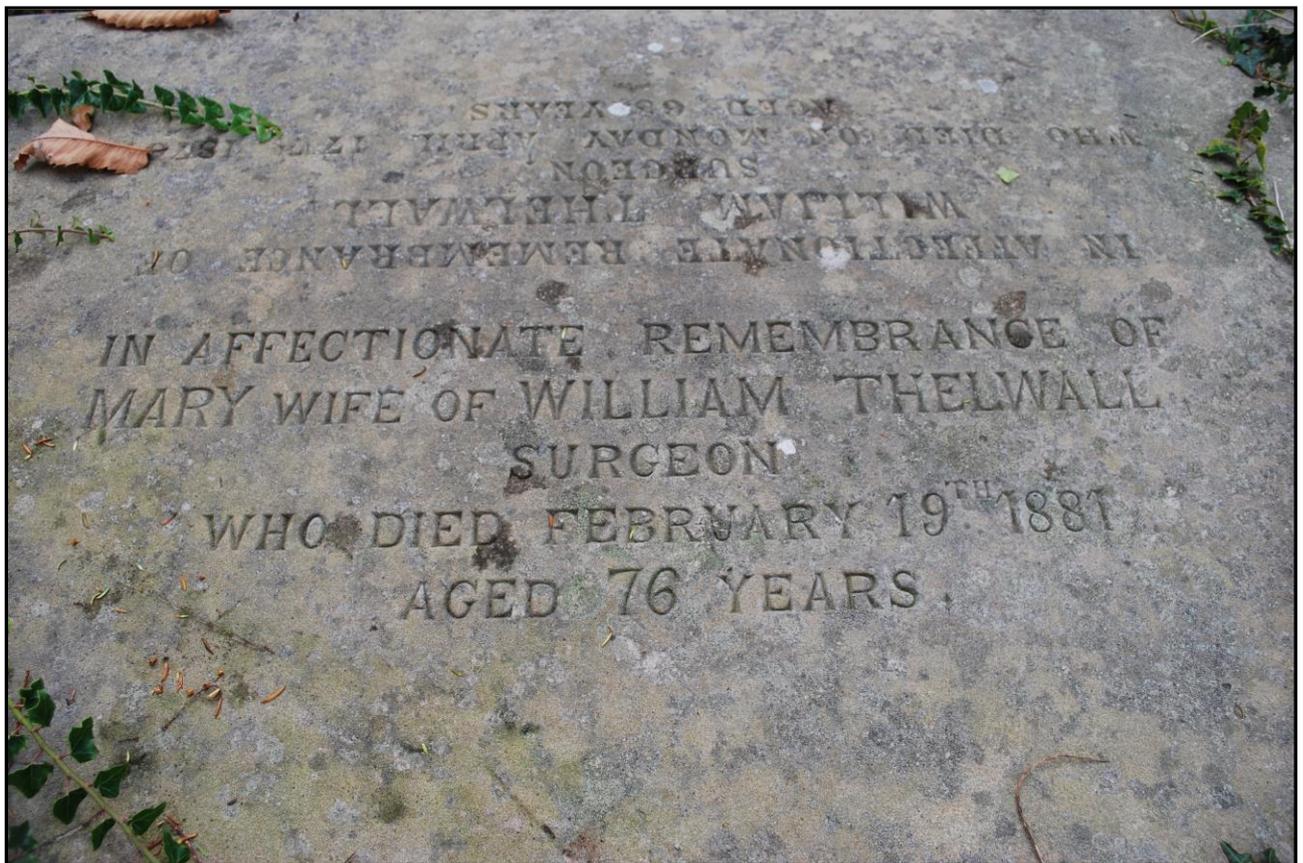


Rector Owen (pictured right) was clearly distressed by the tragic events and no doubt regretted that he couldn't have done more for his friend.

Dr William Thelwell was presented with £33.00 in acknowledgement of his bravery, and he was also presented with a Royal Humane Society bronze medal at Chester, although this must have been a very hollow experience for him, coupled with the fact that he was going through his own grief for his wife.

His mother-in-law Caroline was also going through a difficult time, as well as losing her daughter, she was now a widow, Insull having died in 1884. Consequently, she moved into her son-in-law's home as housekeeper – William still had his practice to run, as well as bring up his seven children. However, this was all to be short lived. Caroline Burnham died in 1898, and William two years later. He had moved in with his daughter Bessie in her cottage just across the bridge in Holt, as he was in poor health in his last two years, and while his death at the age of sixty was not a shock, it certainly had reverberations in the village,





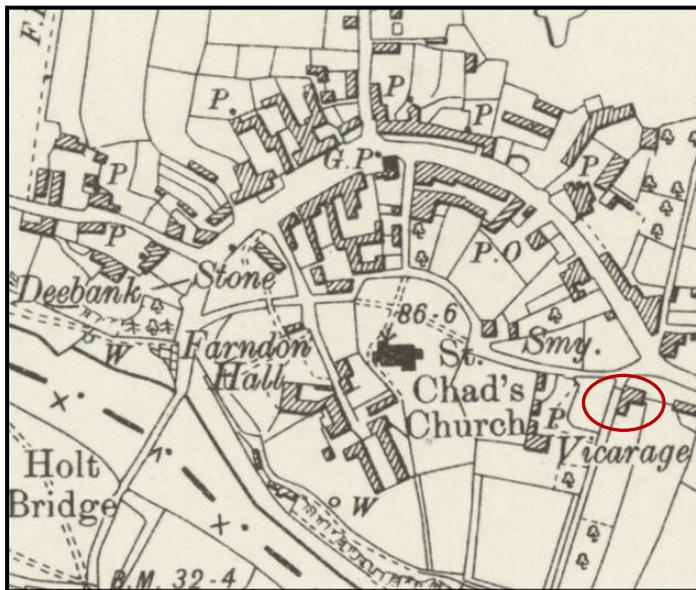
The graves of William Thelwall senior, and his wife Mary, St Chad's Churchyard, Farndon

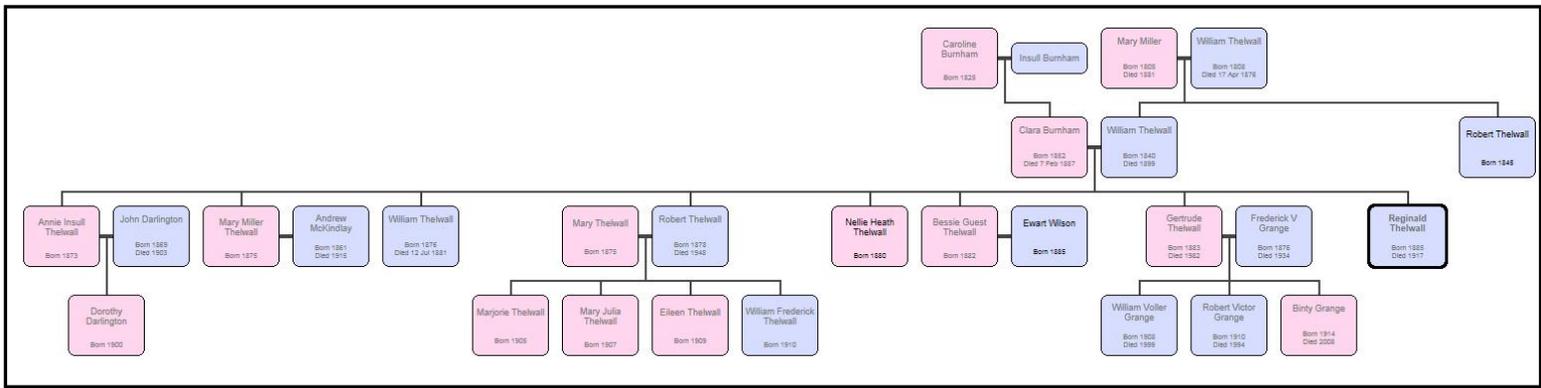




105	Holly Bank 1	Insull Burman	Head	Mar	60	Home duties from Insull	Worcester
		Caroline	Do	Wife	46		
		Mary	Do	Daughter	25	Teacher	Worcester
		Ann	Do	Daughter	22		
	School for Young Ladies	Clara C. Burman	Do	Music	19	Teacher of Music	West Bromwich
		Ellen	Do	Do	17	Do	
		Edwin	Do	Son	15	Scholar	Do
		Mary Short	Do	Visitor	65	Assistant	Do
		Esther Anderson	Do	Do	14	Scholar	Worcester
		Emma Perry	Do	Do	14	Do	Worcester
		Mary Smith	Do	Do	11	Do	Whitley
		Mary Lane	Do	Do	11	Do	Hatfield
		Mary Brown	Do	Do	9	Do	Spurton
		James Perry	Do	Do	10	Do	Hatfield
		Mary Billington	Do	Do	8	Do	Worcester
		Mary C. Hill	Do	Do	8	Do	Worcester
106	Shop	James Sturley	Serv	Man	26	Domestic Serv	Stilton

(Top left) Insull Burman. (Top Right) Holly Bank. (Centre) Census of 1871 showing the house in use as the School for Young Ladies and Clara (soon to be William Thelwall's wife and Reginald's mother) as a music teacher. (Below left) Site of the house (c.1895). (Below right) Holly Bank later became the village doctors residence, today replaced by Farndon Health Centre to the right.





(Above) Brief family tree showing the family of William Thelwall

Census records of Bridge House

(Below, top to bottom)

1861: Absent are William, now at college, and Robert, working on a local farm

1871: William, now aged 31, has returned to work with his father as village doctor

1881: William senior has now passed away and William junior and wife Clara are raising their family

1891: Clara has passed away and William is now a widower. Her mother has moved in as housekeeper.

106	1	William Thelwall	head	Mar	53	Surgeon	St. Asaph
		Mary	wife	Mar	50	do	St. Asaph
		Thomas	son	Mar	30	Ag. Lab.	Denbighshire
		Mary	daughter	Mar	21	House maid	Cheshire

106	1	William Thelwall	head	Mar	53	Surgeon	St. Asaph
		Mary	wife	Mar	50	do	St. Asaph
		William	son	Mar	31	General Pract.	St. Asaph
		John Baker	serv	Mar	43	General Pract.	Cardiff
		Edward	serv	Mar	21	Domestic	Denbighshire

3	Bridge Road	1	William Thelwall	head	Mar	41	Doctor	St. Asaph
			Clara	wife	Mar	29	do	St. Asaph
			Ann	daughter	Mar	4	Scholar	Denbighshire
			Mary	daughter	Mar	2	do	do
			William	son	Mar	5	do	Denbighshire
3	Bridge Road		Robert Thelwall	son	Mar	3	Scholar	Denbighshire
			Mellie	daughter	Mar	1	do	St. Asaph
			Edwin G. Buman	visitor	Mar	25	Cashier	Taffon West Bromwich
			Rebecca Fisher	serv	Mar	19	Servant	St. Asaph
			Stannab	serv	Mar	48	do	St. Asaph

Col. 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 Inhabited (U.S. or Building (H.))	Number of rooms occupied (U.S. or Building (H.))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot					
5	Bridge House	1		William Thelwall	Head	Mar	51	Surgeon M.B.C.S.A.	Cheshire						
				Annie Insull	Wife	M	48	Scholar	Denbighshire						
				Mary Miller	Daughter	M	18	do	do						
				Nellie Heath	Daughter	M	14	do	Cheshire						
				Bessie Guest	Daughter	M	9	do	do						
				Gertrude	Daughter	M	8	do	do						
				Reginald	Son	M	5	do	do						
				Caroline Berman	Mother in Law	Wid	66	House Keeper	Worcester						
				Mary Helena Baker	serv	M	14	General Servant	Denbighshire						

FARNDON.

DEATH OF DR. THELWALL.—We regret to state that the death of Dr Thelwall took place at his residence at Holt on Saturday week. He had been ailing for some time, but had continued his duties up to a fortnight of his death. It may be said that he spent the whole of his life of sixty years in Farnon and the neighbourhood, and was known by everybody. For at least 36 years he had been a medical practitioner in the village, and was doctor to all the friendly societies in the district. Deceased was buried on Tuesday in Farnon Churchyard by the side of his wife, who died in 1887. His remains were carried to Farnon Church by twelve bearers, and followed by representatives of most of the families in Holt and Farnon. Members of the various friendly societies also attended. The Rev. L. E. Owen conducted the service. The doctor's eldest son, Mr. Robert Thelwall, is serving with the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa, so that his younger brother, Master Reginald, accompanied by Messrs. John Darlington and Andrew McKindley (sons-in-law), Mr. Guest Burman (brother-in-law, Manchester) and Mr. Edward Newton (Manchester), was the chief mourner. The immediate neighbourhood was represented by Mr. George Parker, senr., Mr. G. Parker, junr., Mr. Salmon, Mr. Harding, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Parry, the Rev. Jenkyn Jones, Dr. Beard, Dr. Evans, Dr. Brierley, Mr. L'Amie, Mr. Grange, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Davies, Mr. Gauterin. Wreaths were sent by the following relatives and friends: "Tim, Bob and Mac," Mr. Jos. Salmon and family, Mr. George Parker, junr., and family, Mr. F. V. Grange (Oak House), Mr. Gilbert Parry (Farnon Hall), Mrs. Caroline Capper (Holt), Mrs. Mary Jones, Mr. G. P. Harding (Belmont), Mr. W. K. Jackson (Sibbersfield), Aldford Oddfellows Society, "Clara and Mark," Mr. and Mrs. J. Bate, Mrs. Cheshire (Crewe-by-Farnon), Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Beard, "A Few Old Friends at Eaton," Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Thomas (of Aldford), Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, (Farnon), and many others.



T.S.
B.&C.

PARISH CHURCH, FARDON.

The Unique Series.

St, Chad's, Farndon 1905



**The grave of Insull Burman
(Reginald Thelwall's grandfather and father
of Clara)**

William Thelwall's children were already beginning to make their own way in the world, his daughters either married or finding positions in service, while young Reginald was working on his uncle's farm in Aldersey - His sister who had married farmer John Darlington had taken him in after her father's passing and the sale of the family home. Their brother Robert Thelwall meanwhile, was now otherwise engaged abroad.

AUCTION SALES.

SALE OF FARNDON PROPERTY.

On Saturday, Mr. J. J. Cunah offered for sale at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, the detached residence, together with the garden and two pasture fields containing in the whole 11a. 2r. 18p., situate at Farndon, in the occupation of Dr. Thelwall. After some brisk competition the property was knocked down to Mr. Albert Lowe for £1,350. Messrs. Royle and Reynolds acted as solicitors to the vendor.

Administrative County of Cheshire The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Caldecott Urban Sanitary District of Caldecott Town or Village or Hamlet of Caldecott Rural Sanitary District of Harwin Union Parliamentary Borough or Division of Adairsbury Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Shocklach Page 33

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		
Caldecott			Caldecott	Caldecott	Harwin Union	Adairsbury	Shocklach		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, Ac., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In-cluded (1) or (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birth-day	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) If Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
199	Caldecott Hall	1	Mark Darlington	Head	M	52	Farmer	Cheshire Willington	
			Mary J. D.	Wife	M	48		Cheshire Shocklach	
			Matthew D.	son	S	24	Farmer	Cheshire Caldecott	
			Mark D.	son	S	21	working on Farming	Do Do	
			Alice D.	daughter	S	19	Farmer's daughter	Do Do	
			Mary D.	daughter	S	18	Do	Do Do	
			John D.	son	S	16	working on Farming	Do Do	
			Thomas D.	son	S	14	School	Do Do	
			Charlotte D.	daughter	S	10	Do	Do Do	
			Stephen D.	son	S	8	Do	Do Do	
			Jessie D.	daughter	S	6	Do	Do Do	
			Robert Thelwall	Visitor	S	44	Do	Cheshire Holt	

(Above) Census 1891 - Robert working on Darlington's farm at Caldecott Hall, near Farndon.
 (Below) 1911 - On his return from South Africa, Robert married and ran his own farm in Shocklach, the village of his wife Mary, where they brought up their family.

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—	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted, (if less than one year write "under one")	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.			
Robert Thelwall	Head	34	Married	7	4	4	Farmer	100	Employer	Northampton
Mary Thelwall	Wife	37	Married	7	4	4				Cheshire Shocklach
Margaret Thelwall	Daughter	6					School			Do Shocklach
Edna Thelwall	Daughter	4								Do Shocklach
Robert Thelwall	Daughter	2								Do Shocklach
William Edward Thelwall	Son	21	Single				Household (Domestic)	100	Worker	Northampton
Jessie Harris	Servant	23	Single				Washing (Domestic)		Worker	Northampton
Edward Jones	Servant	24	Single				Household (Domestic)		Worker	Cheshire Chester
Alfred Frost	Servant	16	Single				Household (Domestic)		Worker	Do Shocklach

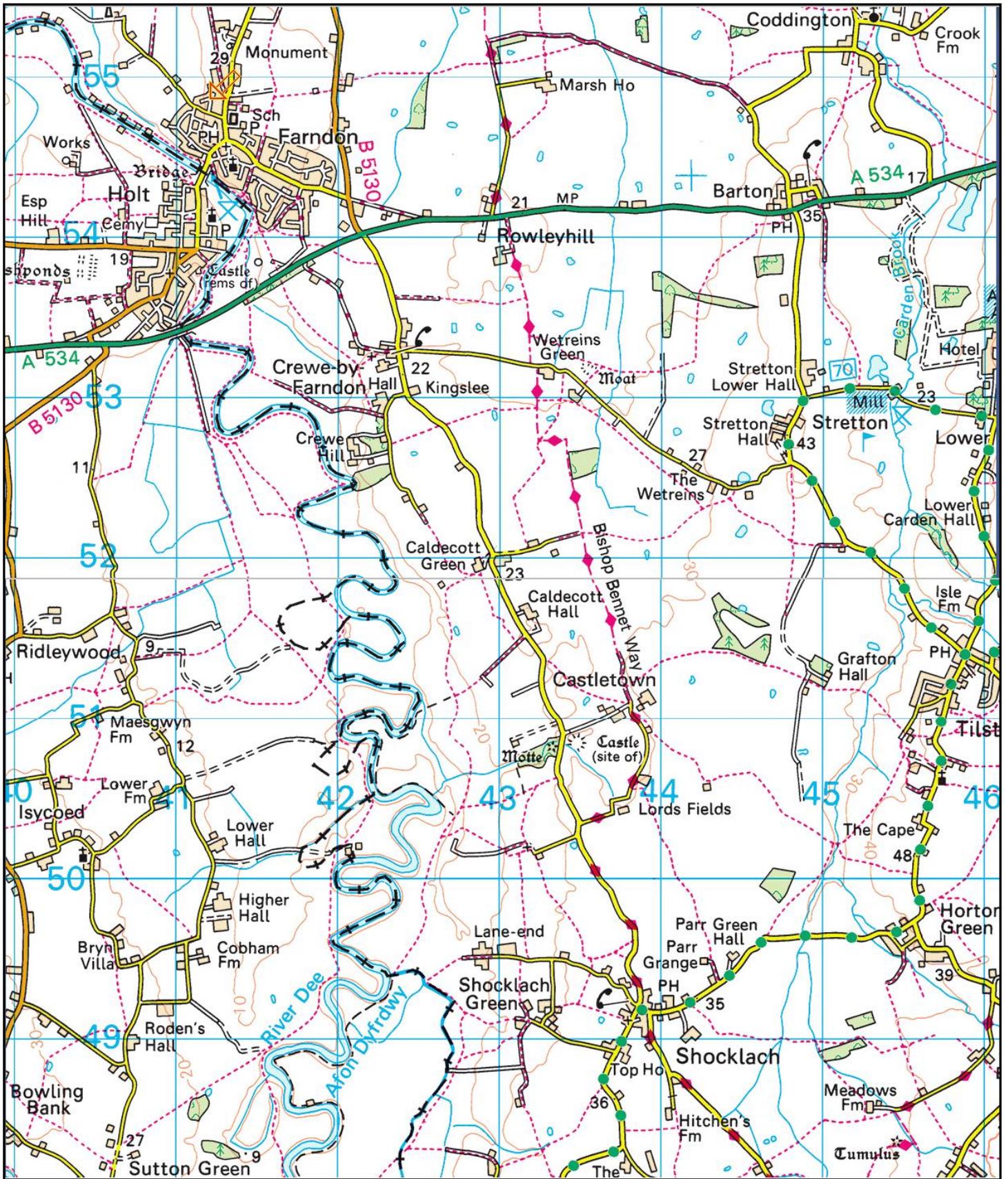
(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Total	
Males	Females
4	6
10	

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

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

Signature: Robert Thelwall
 Postal Address: Box 35, Shocklach, Northampton



Modern map of Farndon and surrounding area
Showing Caldecott Hall Farm and Parr Green Farm, Shocklach

Robert Thelwell

On 11 October 1899, Great Britain was again at war with South Africa in the Second Boer War. It was fought between Britain and the two Afrikaner (Boer) republics: Transvaal and Orange Free State. Although it was the largest and most costly war in which the British engaged between the Napoleonic Wars and World War I, it was fought between wholly unequal protagonists. The total British and Commonwealth military strength in South Africa reached nearly 500,000 men, whereas the Boers could muster no more than about 88,000. But the British were fighting in a hostile country over difficult terrain, with long lines of communications, while the Boers, mainly on the defensive, were able to use modern rifle fire to good effect, at a time when attacking forces had no means of overcoming it.

The war began following a Boer ultimatum directed against the reinforcement of the British garrison in South Africa. The crisis was caused by the refusal of the Transvaal, under President Paul Kruger, to grant political rights to the primarily English population of the mining areas of the Witwatersrand, and the aggressive attitudes of Alfred Milner (the British high commissioner) and Joseph Chamberlain (the British Colonial Secretary). Although, an underlying cause of the war was the presence in the Transvaal of the largest gold-mining complex in the world, beyond direct British control.

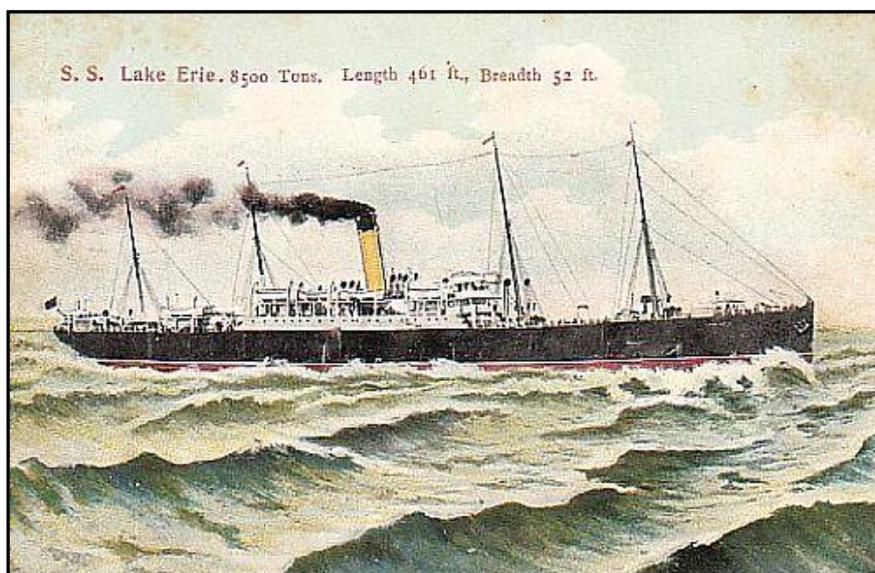
At least five Farndon men initially enlisted, plus Thomas Gerrard of Clutton; Gilbert and Robert Parry (two sons of the churchwarden); Robert Thelwall, son of Doctor Thelwall; and Robert Arthur Owen, son of the Rector, now aged twenty.

SEND OFF AT FARNDON

Farndon, small village though it be, is contributing five men to the Imperial Yeomanry Force. They include two sons of Mr. Gilbert Parry, and one each of Dr. Thelwall, and the vicar (the Rev. L. E. Owen). They left for Chester yesterday (Friday), and had an enthusiastic send-off. All the villagers turned out and cheered them, and a brass band accompanied them a considerable distance playing suitable airs.

Cheshire Observer, 1 February 1900

They sailed for South Africa from Liverpool on the *s.s. Lake Erie* on 31 January 1900 - in fact, for this Elder Dempster vessel, the passage to Capetown as a troopship was her maiden voyage and she continued in this role until the end of the war. In April of the same year, Rowland Ince from the village also left for the same destination. George Edge also enlisted.



S.S. Lake Erie
The Liverpool transport ship requisitioned to carry troops to South Africa

Robert Owen was posted as a Trooper in The Imperial Yeomanry, which was a British volunteer cavalry regiment that mainly saw action during this war (as it was disbanded in 1908 before the First World War). Officially created on 24 December 1899, the regiment was based on members of standing Yeomanry regiments, but also contained a large contingent of middle or upper class English volunteers. In Ireland, 120 men were recruited in February 1900. The Royal Warrant asked standing Yeomanry regiments to provide service companies of approximately 115 men each. Although there were strict requirements, many volunteers were accepted with substandard horsemanship or marksmanship; however, they had significant time to train while awaiting transport.

Robert Owen wrote home in April to the local squire, Harry Barnston, which he forwarded to the local press in Chester,

MORE NEWS FROM THE YEOMANRY

Mr. Harry Barnston, of Crewe Hill, Farndon, has received an interesting letter from an officer of the Cheshire Yeomanry, dated Upington Gordonia, British Bechuanaland, April 20th. In the course of his communication the writer says "Poor Robert Owen! We were all - men and officers - intensely sorry to part with him at Karee Kloof; he had been ill, and was not fit to march, so Lord Arthur (Grosvenor/Westminster) left him in charge of ten men who were garrisoning the place. Beaumont, his section officer, said he could least afford to part with him of the whole of his section, and everybody said he was a good fellow.".....

The two Parrys and Thelwall, are among the few who are as sound now as when they left England, for nearly all have been down with some disease or other, and they are getting on splendidly. How I wish you were here to see what absolute brutes our Cape Colony subject farmers are; they are 95 per cent. Dutch, and hate Britain like poison. In the last 150 miles we have come we have met but two Englishmen. They tell of brutal treatment at the hands of the Dutch, of how Boers from the Transvaal and Free State have for years come into the Colony at intervals and made raids. There used to be English here, but, robbed and raided, they have appealed to the Government in vain, and, disgusted, with the way Britain has treated the Colony, they have left it. The few English farmers we have met out here, every single one, tell the same tale of Transvaal raids, of the brutality of the Dutchmen, and the extraordinary inactivity and short-sightedness of the British Government. They say the Cape Government is a pure farce. English settlers out here admire Sir A. Milner, and say he and Joe Chamberlain are the heroes of the hour. Hundreds of our own colonists are under arms now and trying to kill and have killed British soldiers, and yet they come and lay down their arms and are given back their farms with a slap on the back and a promise to be a good boy by order of Government."

Englishmen here say this is suicidal and are all rabid with anger. I wish you were here to convey to England on your eloquent tongue the state of things in the Colony. This is a glorious spot, and our quarters standing above the banks of the river, rival Margate and Ramsgate; there is bathing in water (80 per cent. of mud), one boat, fishing ad lib.

The major says he is going to give us a fish dinner to-night, and has prepared a fly from chicken feathers, but we don't countermand the rest of dinner all the same. Billiards, too, are another of our occupations between trench digging. Yesterday, the championship of the company was solved with a precious side of bacon to the winner. On Monday we played the Australians at cricket, but were defeated by 27 runs, our adversaries being more accustomed to sand and cocoanut matting than we from grassy Cheshire.

Chester Courant, 30 May 1900

In June of 1901, the men from the village who had sailed away to fight in the Boer War in 1900 returned safely, and after a special reception at the Town Hall in Chester, a service of thanksgiving was held at St Chad's, led by the Reverend Owen, whose son had also come through safely, and was attended by 450 people.

HOMECOMING OF THE YEOMANRY WARM WELCOME AT FARDON

After the grand reception of the 21st and 22nd Companies of the Cheshire Yeomanry at Chester, inclusive of the splendid banquet given to them in the Town Hall, the six gentlemen who belonged to Fardon had even a warmer welcome from the inhabitants of their own village. The names of the men who have served in South Africa are Lance-Corporal R. A. Owen, Privates Gilbert and Robert Parry, Robert Thelwall, George Edge, 77th, and Roland Ince, 38th Company of Lancashire Yeomanry (who had been wounded and was a prisoner of war). They drove in a waggonette and pair, and were escorted by a squad of the Eaton Troop, mounted and in full uniform.

At Churton, the troops were met by the Fardon Brass Band, the Shepherds' Club in gala attire, and a host of friends and relations. Here the horses were taken out and ropes attached to the carriage. When the procession reached the village the enthusiasm was tremendous such handshaking and congratulations, such cheers and shouts, such smiles and good humour have never been witnessed before. Each soldier was driven, or rather taken, in the carriage to his home, when more speeches and more cheers followed. The village was decorated with flags and mottoes, and the inhabitants vied with one another to welcome their gallant friends. At eight p.m. the Rector held a thanksgiving service in the church, which was attended by over 400 people. Appropriate hymns and psalms were sung and suitable thanksgiving prayers said, but no sermon or address. A strong committee had been formed, and a large sum of money collected to make a memorial present to each of the men who have served in the war, and also to have a grand entertainment and presentation.

Cheshire Observer, 22 June 1901

THE FARDON YEOMEN INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS LORD ARTHUR GROSVENOR'S PRAISE

Fardon, not content with the warm welcome she gave her gallant Yeomen on their return from the war last week, on Wednesday evening further testified her appreciation of their services by presenting five of them with silver demi-hunter watches, and the sixth with a handsome cup. The names of the young fellows who were thus honoured are Lance-Corporal R. A. Owen, Privates Gilbert and Robert Parry, Robert Thelwall (21st Company), George Edge (77th Company), and Roland Ince (38th Company of Imperial Yeomanry). The arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by a committee, consisting of the following, which found the residents in the district most anxious to subscribe to the fund:

Mr. George Parker (Marsh House), the Revs. L. E. Owen and L. M. Davies, Mr. Harry Barnston, Mr. Gilbert Parry, Dr. Parker, Messrs. W. Jackson, McKindlay, George Harding, Thos. Jones (Rose Villa), George Parker jun., Joseph Salmon, Frank Bellis, Edwin Bellis, John Bellis (Churton), Thomas Powdrell, J. Fleet, J. Jones, George Ince, F. Grange, W. Harrison, Meredith (hon. treasurer), and Pennington (hon. secretary).

Shortly after six o'clock on Wednesday evening, the Yeomen assembled at the Rectory, accompanied by Private Sinclair, another member of the 21st Company, and, escorted by the Fardon Band, they marched through the village, where suitable mottoes and bunting were displayed, to a field, where tea was served in a marquee. Mr. George Parker presided, and the company included Major Lord Arthur Grosvenor, Lady Lettice Grosvenor, Mr. Glynn, Mrs.

Owen, Mrs. Norris Roberts and Miss Roberts, Mrs. Mills, most of the members of the committee, and practically the whole village. The Yeomen, wearing their khaki, sat at a table at the end of the tent. The toast of "The King" having been loyally pledged on the call of the Chairman Mr. McKindlay proposed "The Health of the Returned Members of the 21st, 38th and 77th Companies of the Imperial Yeomanry." He remarked that they went out when things were at their blackest for the British cause in South Africa, and they left home, kindred, and all who were dear to them, to help their country in its direst need. For that he said all honour to them. (*Cheers.*) They who were at home had followed each move in South Africa with the greatest anxiety, and had anxiously looked forward to the letters from their loved ones so far away. The Yeomanry had endured the hardships of the campaign and had cheerfully taken the rough with the smooth as if to the manner born, having proved themselves men in the highest acceptance of the word. (*Cheers.*) That parish meeting was held to welcome them safe and sound back after their many vicissitudes. (*Hear, hear.*) He hoped they would be spared for many years to come bear their blushing honours thick upon them. (*Cheers.*)

Lord Arthur Grosvenor, whose name was coupled with the toast, in responding, feared he could not say much about the war, because he came home earlier than he intended to, and he was sure the gentlemen in the khaki uniform could tell them a great deal more than he could*. The three companies to which the returned Yeomen belonged had, he was convinced all done their duty nobly and well (*Cheers.*) The whole time he was out in South Africa they went through a great many hardships, and he never heard a single grumble at all, the harder they had to work the more they liked it, the harder it came on to rain, the more they liked it, except at certain times. (*Laughter.*) On one occasion it rained for two nights and a day, and they were rather uncomfortable. They could not light a fire as they had no fuel and their supper was one little sardine and a ration biscuit, which was a very good thing but it took a good deal of gnawing. The next day they had to start on patrol duty, galloping on the side of a mountain. Describing the inconvenience caused by the sand, he said after rain it was just like the sand on the beach at Bournemouth or Blackpool, and the horses sometimes sank without any warning into the sand, the men and the horses turning over amid great laughter. He thought it was very lucky they were not attacked that night, because the sand had got into their rifles. They had very little sickness. At first they suffered from acute thirst, and drank buckets of coffee, which was not bad, although it might have been better (*laughter*) and the water was similar only a little worse. When they had gone a little way they got acclimatised, and did not want to touch a drop of drink. On the march to Kaaree Kloof they left some of the men of the 21st Company behind, they having been taken slightly ill. One of them was Mr. Robert Owen, and it was a piece of luck for him that he was taken ill, because he had not to go into prison with them for seven months at Upington. He (Mr. Owen) went off on his own hook and fought all the battles. (*Laughter and cheers.*) The two Misters Parry came along the whole way with them, and he was glad they did, for they were the most splendid and useful set of brothers one could possibly meet anywhere. (*Cheers.*) Describing the steps they took to fortify Upington by digging trenches, etc., he said the work was most arduous, but the men went about it in the most cheerful way possible. Lord Roberts said the Yeomanry behaved like heroes when they were fighting, and when they were not fighting they behaved like gentlemen - (*cheers*)- and he (Lord Arthur) could vouch that was so with regard to one company, for they behaved like the most perfect gentlemen one could possibly meet, and did everything they were told to do without flinching. (*Renewed cheers.*) One night they had the alarm that there was a Boer patrol outside the town, but there had been some mistake in the signalling. The Yeomanry prepared to receive them, and were rather disgusted that they did not come. It was a feather in their cap that the rebellion on the west side was put down with only one fight.

There was no excitement at Upington after the battle of Kheis, where the enemy were defeated, the British losing three officers. Major Orr-Ewing was killed, Captain Jones was wounded, and the doctor to the regiment was shot through the leg. Alluding to the care bestowed by the men on their horses, he said they became absolutely devoted to them. At De Aar he parted with the company and went into hospital at Deelfontein, thinking he should be

back in two days, but it was not to be so, and he came home. He thought the Cheshire Companies had done very well under Captain Rennie and Captain Daniels. (*Hear, hear.*) They trekked after De Wet, and he believed nearly caught him. Once they trekked 500 miles and lost only five horses. Colonel Thorneycroft, one of the smartest officers out there, whom they were with, gave them great praise. (*Cheers.*) In conclusion, he thanked them very much on behalf of the men who were there.

The Rev. L. E. Owen asked them to show their appreciation of the ladies and gentlemen who had come there as visitors. He had a letter in his hand from Lady Grosvenor, in which she regretted that she was unable to be there, but they had the pleasure of entertaining her daughter, Lady Lettice Grosvenor. (*Cheers.*) He should like to express regret at the absence of their young squire (Lieut. Barnston), who was not able to be present because he was entertaining some friends in London. Mr. Barnston was very sorry indeed that he was not able to be with them. He should like to mention that Mr. Barnston had done an enormous amount of work since the Yeomanry went out, and had done a great deal to form the drafts which had gone out to fill the places of the men who had come home.

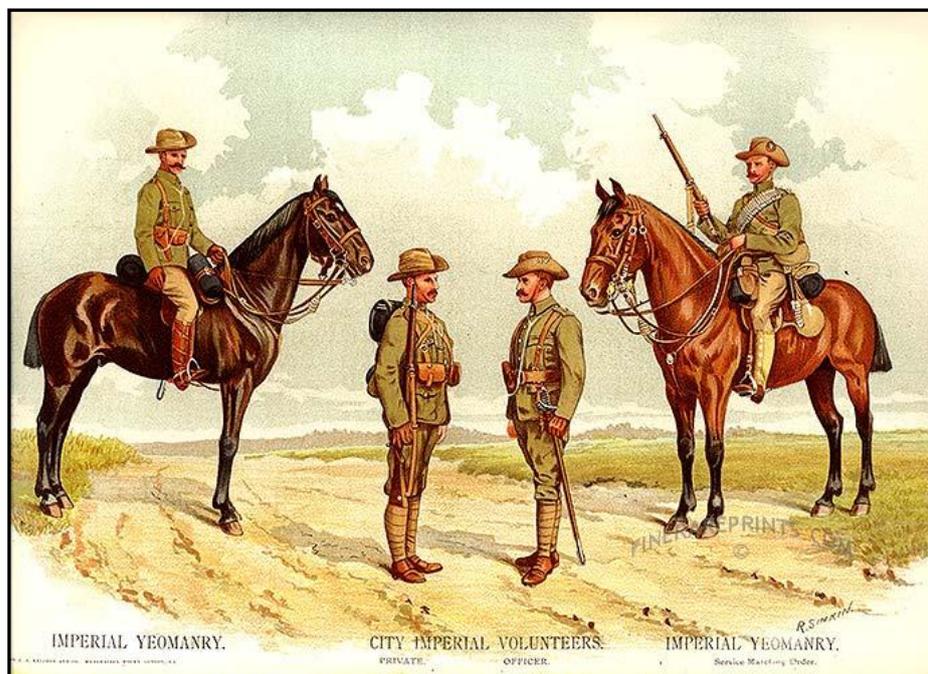
The Rev. Morris Jones responded. On the proposition of the Rev. L. M. Davies, seconded by Canon Royds, the health of the chairman was cordially pledged. Lady Lettice Grosvenor then gracefully made the presentations to the Yeomen, who were loudly cheered.

Private Gilbert Parry returned thanks on behalf of his comrades and himself for the handsome presents, which he assured them they would value all their lives. He also thanked them for the very hearty-reception they gave them on their return home. He did not think any Yeomen had had a better reception than that accorded them when they came back to the old village. (*Cheers.*) Some relics brought back by Lord Arthur from South Africa were afterwards inspected, and the remainder of the evening was given up to dancing.

Chester Courant, 3 July 1901



[*Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster, GCVO, DSO (1879–1953) was a British landowner, one of the wealthiest men in the world, and resided at Eaton Hall on the west bank of the Dee between Farndon and Chester. As a young boy he had been tutored by Reverend Owen. Lord Grosvenor had taken a commission with the Royal Horse Guards and was in South Africa serving in the Second Boer War, when in December 1899 he succeeded his grandfather (the 1st Duke). After a brief visit back home, he returned in February 1900 to serve with the Imperial Yeomanry, as an ADC to Lord Roberts and Lord Milner. He resigned his commission in December 1901, and was appointed Captain of the Cheshire (Earl of Chester's) Imperial Yeomanry the following month. Pictured left during the Boer War.]



SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1910

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- (1) Sth African Republic (Transvaal), annexed by British 1904
- (2) Annexed 1885, absorbed into Cape Colony 1895
- (3) Swaziland, British Protectorate from 1907 to 1967
- (4) Griqualand West, absorbed into Cape Colony 1880
- (5) Orange Free State 1854-1901, Brit Orange River Colony 1901-10
- (6) Zululand, annexed by British 1881, absorbed by Natal 1907
- (7) Basutoland, British Protectorate from 1884

- (8) Natal, annexed by British 1843, Crown Colony 1856-1910
- Towns under siege – Mafeking, Oct 1899 to May 1900
- ✕ Boer victories – Kimberley, Oct 1899 to Feb 1900
- ✕ British victories – Ladysmith, Nov 1899 to Feb 1900
- ➡ Boer troop movement or major offensive
- ➡ British troop movement or major offensive
- Stormberg Dec 10, 1899
- Approx date of engagement

21st Squadron
2nd Bn Imperial Yeomanry Regiment or Corps.

ROLL of Individuals entitled to the South Africa Medal and Clasp, under the Army Order granting the Medal, issued on 1st April, 1901.

To be left blank	Regimental Number	Rank	NAME	WHETHER ENTITLED TO CLASP														Remarks								
				Belmont	Molloy River	Fransburg	Drieffontein	Wepenaar	Schamberg	Diamond Hill	Bofort	Witberg	Defense of Kimberley	Relief of Kimberley	Defense of Mafeking	Relief of Mafeking	Cape Colony		Orange Free State	Transvaal	Bloubaan	Talana	Bushbuck	Tugela Heights	Defense of Ladysmith	Relief of Ladysmith
	1887	Private	Parkes	AW																						Invalided to England
	1890		Pritchard	AW																						do
	1892		Selby	AW																						Joined Cape Police 30.8.00
	1893		Stanhope	AW																						do
	1895		Simons	AW																						Joined Cape Police 30.8.00
	1896		Stubbs	E																						Invalided to England
	1897		Shore	L.S.																						do
	1898		Stclair	A																						do
	1900		Sturton	W																						Returned to England
	1901		Shorten	A																						do
	1902		Tattersall	J.O.																						Joined Cape Police 30.8.00
	1903		Taylor	C																						do
	1904		Thelwall	R																						do
	1915		Thorp	AW																						do
	1852		Thomas	A																						Joined Cape Police 30.8.00
	1906		Unsworth	E																						do
	1908		Wogent	J																						Invalided to England
	1909		Webb	AW																						do
	1911		Woodfine	W																						do
	1797		Walley	AW																						do

I certify that the Individuals named in this Roll were actually present at the operations for which the Medal and Clasp are claimed as above detailed.

Place _____ Date _____

Signature and Rank of Officer personally cognizant of the Claimants' services.

Medal Rolls
showing Robert Thelwall listed for the Queen's South African War Medal and clasps for the Cape Colony and Orange Free State campaigns

TO BE RENDERED IN TRIPLICATE.

R.I. St. Company II Regiment or Corps. Imperial Yeomanry.

ROLL of Individuals entitled to the Queen's South Africa Medal and Clasp, under the Army Order No. 233 issued on 1st October, 1902, or to additional Clasp to the Queen's South Africa Medal under that Army Order.

(This form of Medal Roll is supplementary to, and is not to supersede, that used for claims under Army Order 94 of 1901.)

To be left blank	Regimental Number	Rank	NAME	Whether application has already been made for Queen's South Africa Medal, under Army Order 94 of 1901	If application for the Queen's South Africa Medal already made, on what Roll name was submitted	Whether entitled to Colony Clasp not already applied for on Roll quoted in previous column			Whether entitled to date Clasp		Whether also entitled to the King's South Africa Medal	Any other Corps in which served in South Africa		REMARKS (including causes of men becoming non-effective, forfeitures, &c.)
						Cape Colony	Orange Free State	Transvaal	South Africa, 1901	South Africa, 1902		Unit	Reg. No.	
	1879	Plt.	Pickering	R.	Yes	1878-89, 1891-92				Yes				
	1888	"	Pickering	AW	"	"				Yes				
	1880	"	Picker	D.	"	"				Yes				
	1881	"	Parry	B.B.	"	"				Yes				
	1882	"	Parry	E.	"	"				Yes				
	1885	"	Parkes	AW	"	"				Yes				
	1887	"	Parkes	A.J.	"	"				Yes				
	1890	"	Pritchard	J.B.	"	"				Yes				
	1903	"	Payne	W	"	"				Yes				
	1843	"	Roberts	E.	"	"				Yes				
	1891	Sgt	Robinson	AW	"	"				Yes				
	1894	"	Stavacre	J.A.	"	"				Yes				
	1893	Plt.	Stanhope	R.W.	"	"				Yes				
	1896	"	Stubbs	E	"	"				Yes				
	1897	"	Shore	L.S.	"	"				Yes				
	1898	"	Stclair	A	"	"				Yes				
	1902	"	Tattersall	J.O.	"	"				Yes				
	1903	"	Taylor	C	"	"				Yes				
	1904	"	Thelwall	R	"	"				Yes				
	1842	"	Trotter	G	"	"				Yes				
	1906	"	Unsworth	E	"	"				Yes				

[Every form submitted to be separately signed. Any forms locally printed to be exactly similar as regards ink, size, and quality of paper.]

I certify that the Individuals named in this Roll are actually entitled to the Clasp, or the Medal and Clasp, as claimed above.

Place 68 Victoria Street Date 26 10 03

Signature and Rank of Officer personally cognizant of the Claimants' services.



Queen's South Africa Medal

With two clasps – Orange Free State and Cape Colony where Robert Thelwall served

After the war, Robert Thelwell returned to the quiet village life in Farndon then married his wife Mary, who was from Shocklach, near Malpas. They settled in her village and ran a farm in Parr Green, where they brought up a son and three daughters. In later years Robert ran the farm at Middle Sonting, south of Wrexham (below), where he passed away in 1948.



Reginald Thelwall

Young Reginald must have grown up with stories about the world well beyond quiet village life in Farndon, and would no doubt have been brought up with an instinct to make the most of opportunities laid before him. His Uncle Robert was a pioneer settler in New Zealand, his brother Robert fought in the Boer War, while the vicar's son Robert Owen also fought with him, only to leave for Burma when the other village lads were settling back to life in Farndon.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the											Page 87.		
Civil Parish of Aldersey		Ecclesiastical Parish of Coddington		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District of		Rural District of Jarvin		Parliamentary Borough or Division of Coddington, Cheshire		Towns or Village or Hamlet of Aldersey			
Col. 1	2	HOUSES			Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Inhabited	Occupied by			Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	18	19	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
223	Main Road	1			Ann Darlington	Head	wid	71			Home	Employer		Berby, Sudbury	1
					John de	Son	M	20			Home	Worker		Cheshire, Aldersey	
					Annie de	Daughter in law	M	28			Home	Worker		Leas, Ribblesdale	1
					Dorothy de	Grand-daughter		10 mo			Home			Cheshire, Aldersey	
					Reginald Thelwall	Visitor		16			Home			de Farndon	
					Margaret Price	Serv	F	25			General Servant, Domestic			Flint, Penk	1
					Alice Price	Serv.	F	16			General Servant, Domestic			Derbyshire, Holt	1
					Elizabeth Barnes	Serv	M	46			Shepherd	Worker		Cheshire, Farndon	
					William Phillips	Serv	M	16			Ordinary Farm Labourer	Worker		de Aldersey	
224	Lodge	1			William Oakley	Head	M	70			Home	Butler		Salop, Preece	1
					Mary de	Wife	M	62			Home			de Shrewsbury	1

Census 1901

Reginald Thelwall is working on Darlington's Farm in Aldersey, taken in by his older sister Annie, who had married John Darlington. Aldersey is shown to the top right on the modern map below, and Farndon to the bottom left.



By 1904, Reginald seems to have made the decision to try his luck in Canada. A new government administration began to favour a strong immigration policy, especially those from Britain, and declared that Canada had to reinforce its British heritage if it was to become one of the world's great civilizations, while at the same time his new Act denied access to numerous categories of 'undesirable aliens'. British emigrants signed up in their droves. As a farmer and teamsman he was an ideal candidate, and on 1 June 1904 he boarded the *Lake Champlain* at the Pier Head in Liverpool bound for Montreal, on what appears to have been a one way ticket, hoping to travel on and settle in Winnipeg.

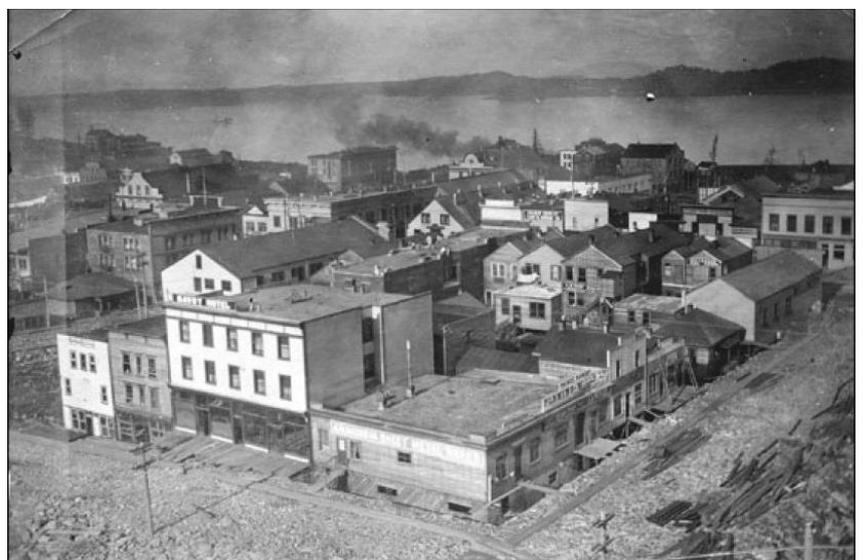
INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSERS.—Each passenger should be given a card indicating the number of sheet and line on sheet his name is to be found on.

No. of Passengers.	Number of Railway Order.	Amount of Cash. To be filled in by Immigration Agent at Port of Landing.	NAME OF PASSENGER.	Age of Adults.	Age of Children under 14 years of age.		Able to read and write.	Married or Single.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	Nation or Country of Birth.	Counties in British Isles from which Passengers came.	Births at Sea.	Deaths at Sea.	Place of ultimate destination of Passengers excepting "Tourists and returned Canadians," who are to be so described.
					Boys.	Girls.								
1			Henry Griffen	21			Yes	Yes	Farmer	England	Gloucesters			London
2			William Corner	22							Yorkshire			Winnipeg
3			Joseph Larkman	35					porter		Lancashire			Toronto
4			Emilio		30				wife		Warwick			
5			William Phipps	25					Sailor		Gloucesters			Winnipeg
6			Henry Hayward	25					Farmer		Middlesex			
7			Sophocles Jovindis	31					Traveller	Greece	Lancashire			
8			James Nicol	31					Boilermaker	Scotland	Dumfriesshire			Pasadena
9			James Robson	31					Shipyard	England	Lancashire			Winnipeg
10			Joseph	28					Labourer					
11			Alexander McMill	29					Teacher	Scotland	Aberdeen			
12			Rose Meason	23					servant	England	Leicesters			Oakville
13			Sarah J. Gould	58					wife		Yorkshire			Pasadena
14			Sarah	20					seamstress					
15			William	17					Farmer		Northampton			
16			Isaac Hutton	32							Northampton			Winnipeg
17			Reginald Hulwell	19							Yorkshire			
18			John Cumming	19					black	Scotland	Aberdeen			
19			Emily Jones	36					wife	England	Middlesex			Winnipeg
20			Ernest		2	2	no	no	child					
21			Doris		3									
22			Ellen Slater	36			Yes	Yes	wife		Yorkshire			Lloydminster
23			John		9		no	no	child					
24			Ellen		11									
25			Herbert		7									
26			James		2									
27			Margaret Ryan	50			Yes	Yes	wife		Lancs			Hamilton
28			John Grant	32						Scotland	Aberdeen			Winnipeg
29			Susan		9		no	no	child					
30			James		7									
31			George		7									
32			Eleanor Lebowitz	57			Yes	Yes	wife	England	Derby			Montreal
33			James Donald	24					Farmer	Scotland	Aberdeen			Leath
34			James Anderson	24										
35			George Champion	30					Miner	England	Devon			Winnipeg
36			Ethel		29				wife	Canada				Rtly Canadian
37			Jessie Bowen	25					servant	England	Middlesex			Toronto
38			George Klumpert	27					Farmer	Germany				Winnipeg
39			Mary Hobbs	38					wife	Scotland	Aberdeen			Montreal
40			Jessie	18					girl					
41			Dorothy		2		no	no	child					
42			Neil		3									
43			Sarah Shaw	46			Yes	Yes	wife	England	Yorkshire			Winnipeg
44			Charles		10				child					
45			George Johnson	21					Farmer		Lancs			Elgin Mills



He eventually moved to Prince Rupert on the west coast in British Columbia just under 500 miles north of Vancouver, at a stage when it was just beginning to attract settlers, and he must have felt that he was like his Uncle Robert, when he had been at the same age as a pioneer settler in New Zealand.

Prince Rupert is situated on Kaien Island on the north side of the mouth of Skeena River, linked by a short bridge to the mainland. Today the city is located along the island's north-western shore, fronting on Prince Rupert Harbour. The expanding town was incorporated on 10 March 1910 and named after Prince Rupert of the Rhine, who was first Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. The main attractions to incomers were the fishing industry, particularly salmon and halibut, and forestry. Nevertheless, Reginald was still playing to his strengths, and working as a teamsman on a local farm.



Downtown, 1910



A Question of Identity

When the war came, Reginald travelled 850 miles to Vernon, where he signed up on 3 September 1915 (a little further than the 6 miles he would have had to travel to Chester to sign on if he was still at home) However, his attestation papers record him as **Robert**, rather than Reginald. Why? Was there something about his own identity that would cause him a problem? He also knocked two years off his age, stating his date of birth as 10 April 1887, whereas he had been born on that date and baptised in St.Chad's, Farndon, on 24 June – but two years earlier in 1885. Age was surely not an issue on enlistment – he was thirty, so not a borderline case at either end of the scale. His reasons must remain a mystery.

There is no question of there being another 'Robert Thelwall'. On his enlistment he states as his next-of-kin his sister Bessie Grange (nee Thelwall) of Crewe (that is, Crewe-by-Farndon). As this is clearly the correct family, he cannot be Robert. After his service in the Boer War, Robert did not fight in the First World War and was married and running a farm. He never went to Canada. Therefore, this is Reginald without question. At no stage in the subsequent war records was his real first name used – a matter which has caused a significant problem trying to research his movements and real identity.

His own family prevailed of course – at the end of the war he was recorded correctly on the village memorial – his family and friends still lived in the village and all clearly knew who he was, and of his war service for the Canadian Army. All Canadian records remain incorrect and show him as Robert, as does the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database – as his memorial certificate bears witness at the end of this biography.

Private 628227 Reginald Thelwall was posted to the 47th Battalion (British Columbia) CEF, an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, (originally authorised on 7 November 1914), although the record shows he had previous military experience and was formerly in the 68th Regiment, Earl Grey's Own Rifles (although his attestation paper says he had no previous experience).

The Earl Grey's were said to have been started by a John Beatty (*right*). He arrived in Prince Rupert in 1908 beginning his freight business with a wheel barrow, and brought in the first horse team for the cartage business – the kind of man Reginald Thelwall may have worked for running his teams of horses. Beatty organised the first militia company, known as the 'Muskeg Scouts' which evolved into the 'Earl Grey Rifles' in 1909, which he also helped to organise. ['muskeg' is the western Canadian term for grassy bog, which the pioneers were busy reclaiming in Prince Rupert]. They were commissioned and authorised on 1 May 1910. On 2 November 1914 they were redesignated '68th Regiment (Earl Grey's Own Rifles)' and placed under the command of Lt. Col. Cyrus W. Peck (they were sometimes referred to unofficially as the '68th Prince Rupert Light Infantry). Exactly when Reginald joined them is unknown, nor is he recorded on the 1911 national census, nor any Thelwall for that matter. Nevertheless, in September 1915 he was now with the 47th Battalion in Vernon camp for an intense period of training and preparation.



The 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion had been organised in February 1915 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel W.N. Winsby, under authorization published in General Order 86 of 1 July 1915. The battalion was mobilised in New Westminster and recruited there and in Vancouver and Victoria. Three drafts comprising 5 officers and 250 other ranks, 4 officers and 244 other ranks, and 5 officers and 249 other ranks had already been sent to England on 17-24 June, and 1 October 1915. It is likely that Reginald joined the battalion when they embarked at Montreal on 13 November 1915 aboard the *Missinabie*, arriving in on 22 November 1915. Its strength was 36 officers and 1115 other ranks.

Duplicate

a

ATTESTATION PAPER

No. 29057

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Folio. 628227

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Shelwell, Robert
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Cheshire Eng.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Wm. G. Gange (Bister)
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Brewer Eng.
5. What is the date of your birth? Apr. 10. 1887
6. What is your trade or calling? Teamster
7. Are you married? no
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? 68th Regt.
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? no
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? yes

R. Shelwell (Signature of Man.)
H. Hooper (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Robert Shelwell, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date Sept - 2 1915
R. Shelwell (Signature of Recruit.)
H. Hooper (Signature of Witness.)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Robert Shelwell, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date Sept - 2 1915
R. Shelwell (Signature of Recruit.)
H. Hooper (Signature of Witness.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Barnon this 3 day of Sept 1915

[Signature] (Signature of Justice.)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

[Signature] (Approving Officer.)

DESCRIPTION OF Shelwall Robert ON ENLISTMENT.

Apparent Age 28 years 4 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height 5 ft. 8 ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 38 ins.
 Range of expansion 2 1/4 ins.

scar on back of Right Hand

Complexion Fair

Eyes Greyish Brown

Hair Light Brown

Religious Denominations { Church of England Yes
 Presbyterian
 Methodist
 Baptist or Congregationalist
 Other Protestants
(Denomination to be stated.)
 Roman Catholic
 Jewish

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him* fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date Sept 2 1915

Place Germany W. B. [Signature] Medical Officer.

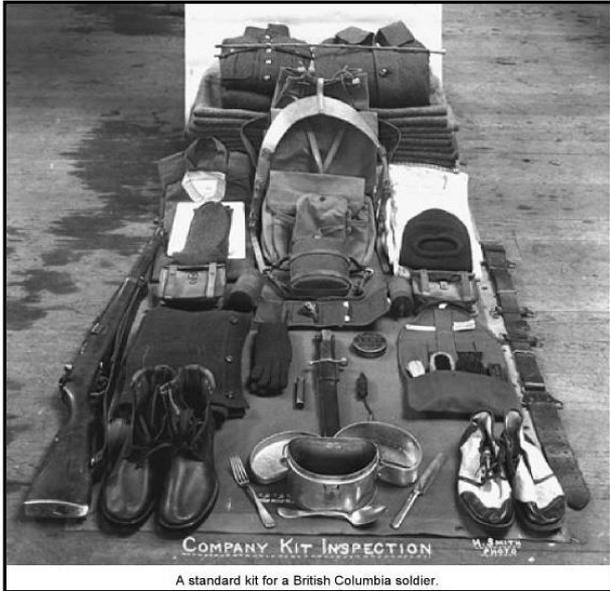
*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT

Robert Shelwall having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

Date Sept 2nd 1915 J. Harris [Signature] (Signature of Officer.)



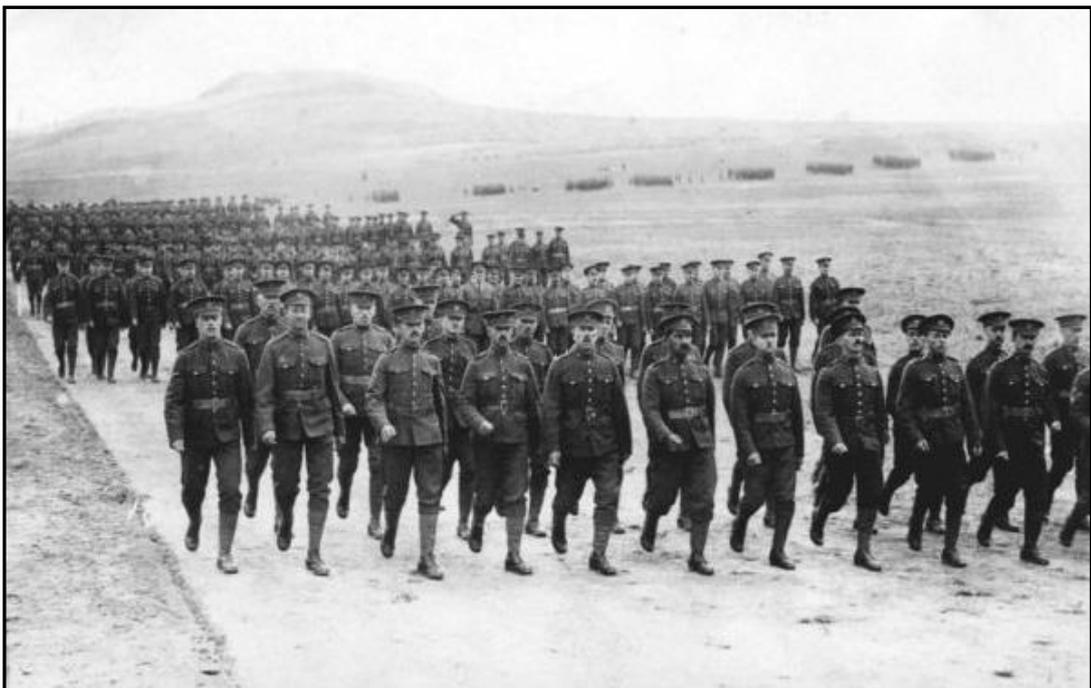
A standard kit for a British Columbia soldier.



Troops transfer a mountain of gear from Kamloops to training camp at Vernon.



Men gathered for drills in Hastings Park in Vancouver.





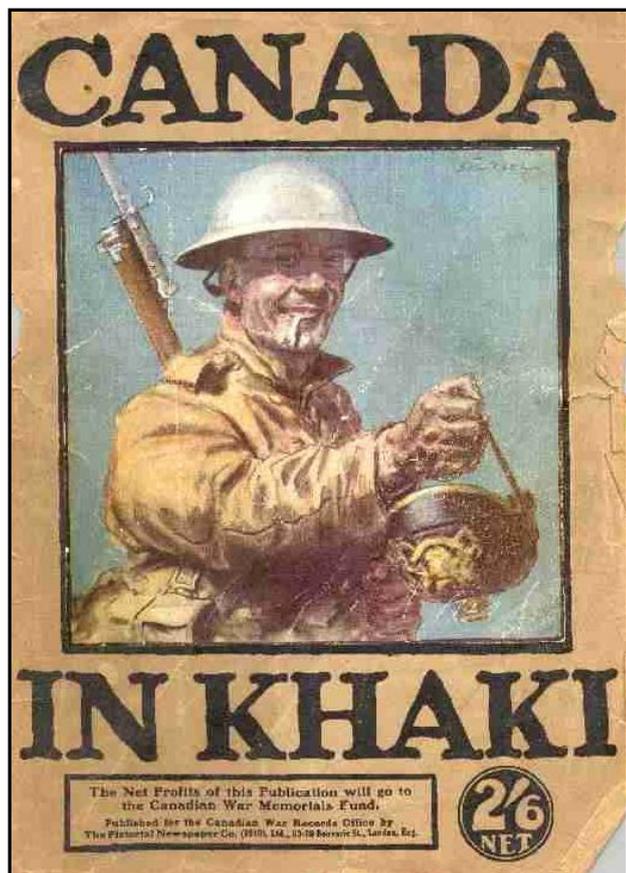
LANGEMARCKE
ST. JULIEN
FESTUBERT
GIVENCHY

New names in
Canadian history.

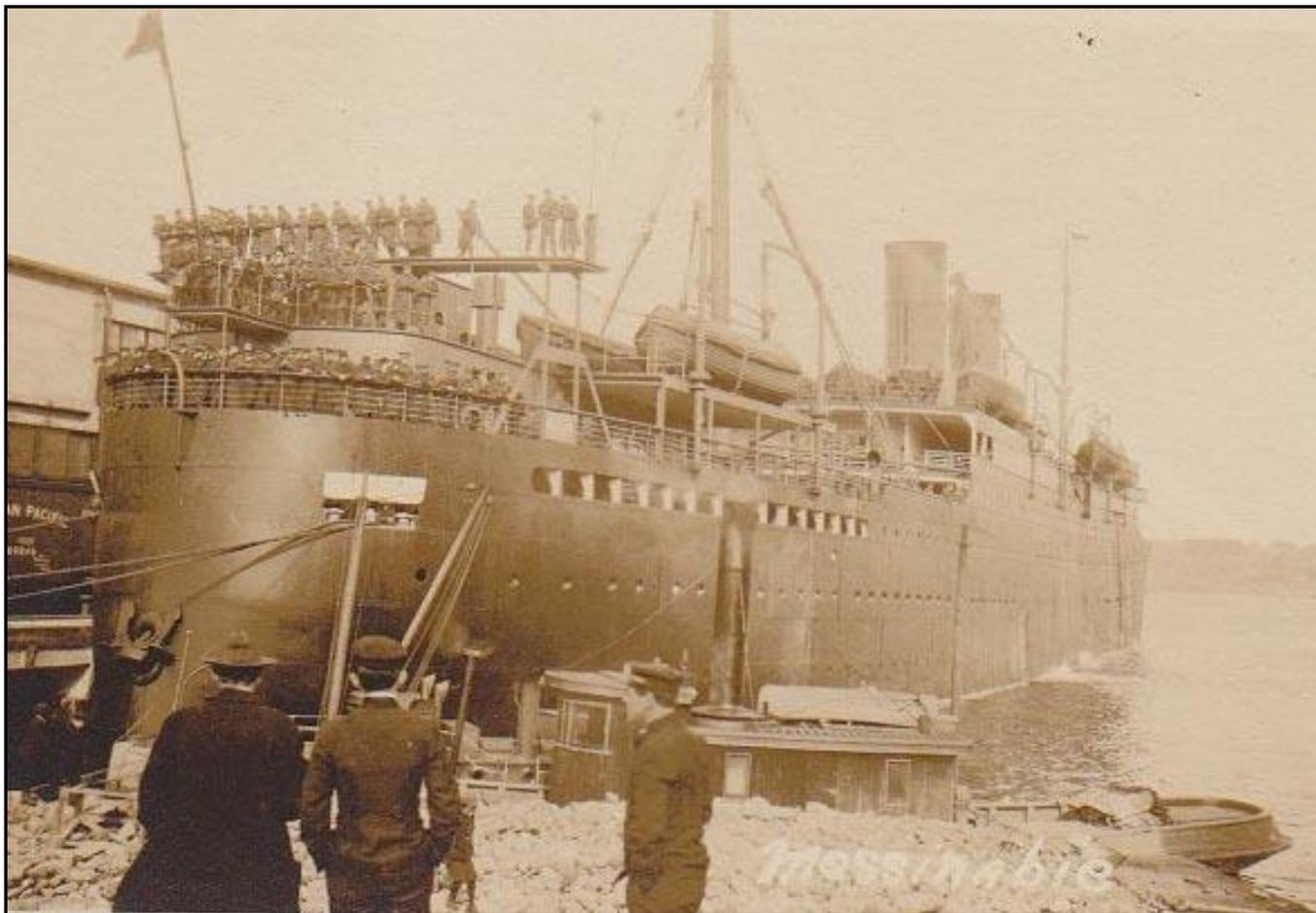
More are coming –
Will you be there?

ENLIST!

C.J. Patterson



A platoon of the 47th Battalion



(Above) The S.S. *Missanabie* was owned by the Canadian Pacific Line, sailing from Canada to Liverpool throughout the war. She was torpedoed on the 9th September 1918 by the German submarine U87 while 50 miles from Cobh, Ireland, with the loss of 45 lives.
 (Below) Extract from the 47th Battalion War Diary covering the arrival in France

WAR DIARY		Army Form C. 2118.	
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			
(Erase heading not required.)			
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
BRANSHOTT CAMP	14/9/16	6.30 AM	1st half Battalion leaves for LIPHOOK. LT. COL. WINSBY in command
		9.30	2nd half Battalion leaves for LIPHOOK. MAJ. COOTE in command.
LIPHOOK STN.		8.15	1st half Battalion arrives & entrains. Train leaves 9.45 AM.
		11.30	2nd half Battalion arrives & entrains. Train leaves 12.30 PM.
SOUTHAMPTON	14/9/16	11.45	1st half Battalion arrives
		1.45 PM	2nd half Battalion arrives.
		5 PM	D. Coy & Transport sail on S.S. INVENTA. MAJ. ROBERTSON in command
		8.30	Battalion sails on S.S. MARGUERITE. LT. COL. WINSBY in command.
HAVRE	14/9/16	11.30 AM	Battalion arrives & disembarks
		7.30	D. Coy & Transport arrives & disembarks
		7.30	Battalion leaves for Rest camp
		1 PM	B. Coy & Transport leave for rest camp. MAJ. ROBERTSON in command
No. 1 REST CAMP HAVRE	14/9/16	10 AM	Battalion arrives
		2.45 PM	B. Coy & Transport arrives.

Weather: Fine

Weather: Fine

CAPT. M. GEMENS attached to 19th Brigade French Motor Battery.

2449 Wt. W14957/3690 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/22.



47th (B.C.) BATTALION

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

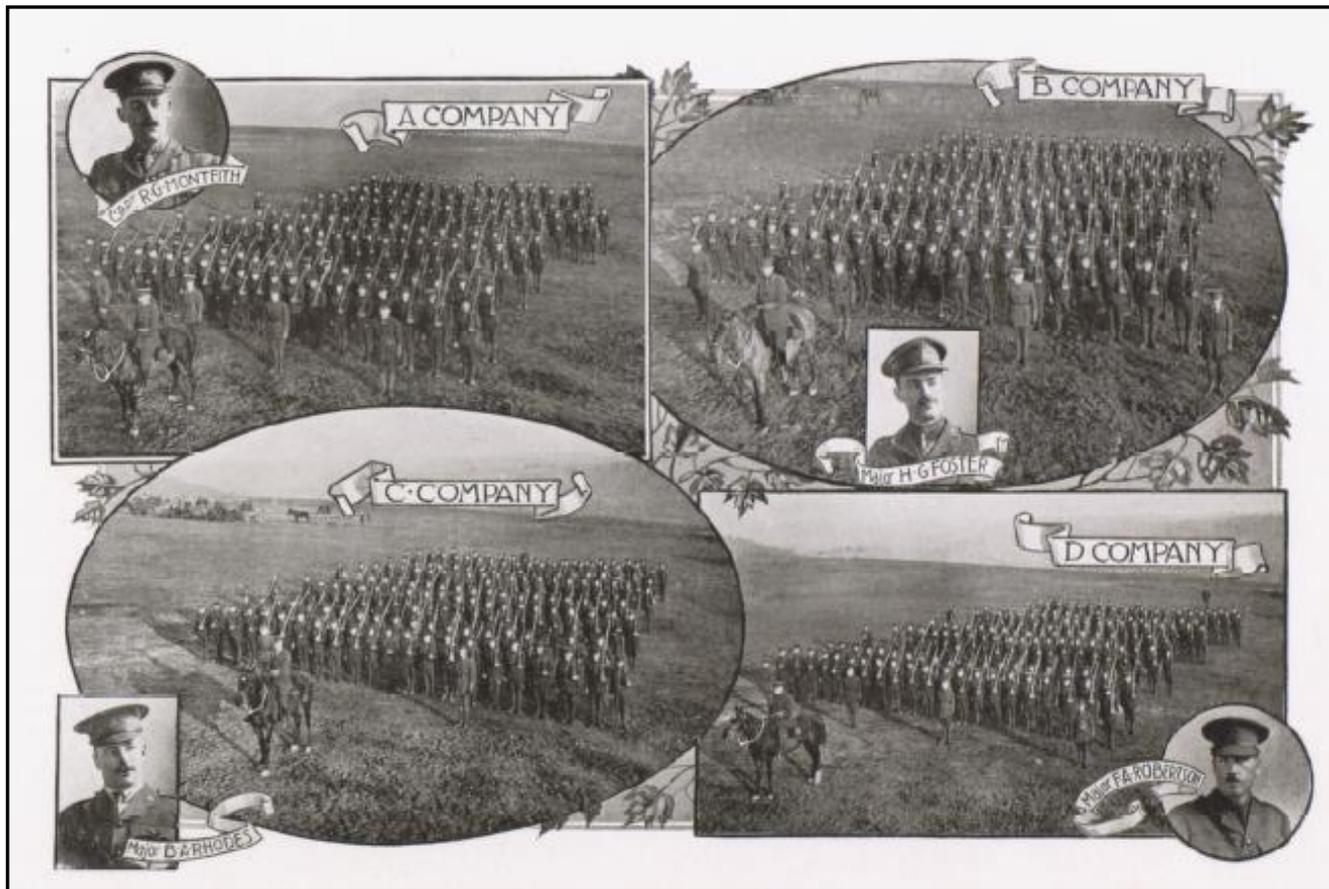
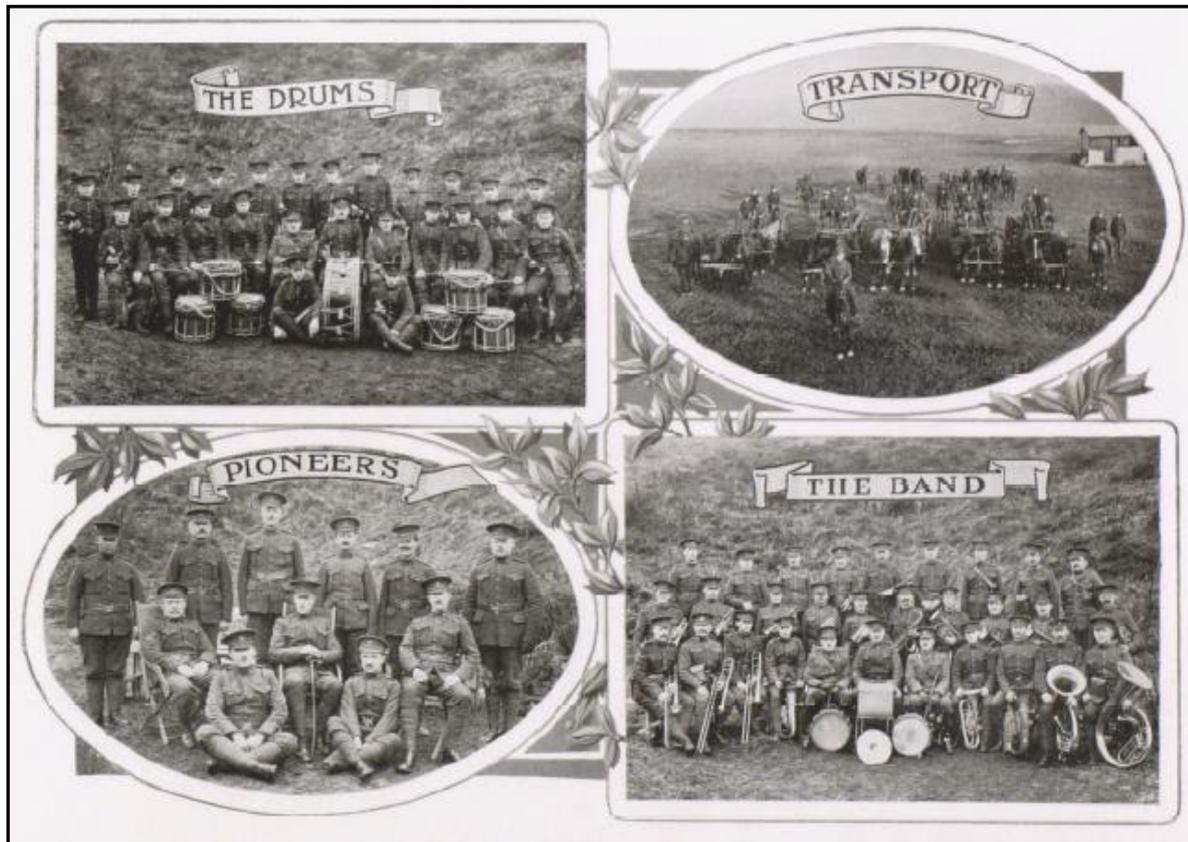
The 47th Battalion published their own souvenir brochure which included a photograph of every unit, covering 50 pages. A brief selection is shown here.





THE BATTALION ON PARADE.





After further months of training, they disembarked in France on 11 August 1916, where the 47th fought as part of the 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division in France and Flanders.

Despite having numerical superiority in 1915, the Allies had not been able to achieve a decisive result on the battlefield, so by the end of the year it was agreed that the opening up of simultaneous offensives on the Western, Eastern and Italian fronts would be the key to victory. The original intention in mid 1916 was to be a French and British offensive on the Somme, but the Germans attacked first at Verdun and the Somme became a desperate bid to relieve pressure from the hard-pressed French.

Nevertheless, by mid-October, three Canadian Divisions had participated in the offensive, but they were now being withdrawn. The Canadians had taken part in a number of operations beginning in mid-September pushing slowly forward in the area of Courcellette, advancing north towards Regina Trench. Two major attacks in October were unsuccessful, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions, having suffered heavily in the fighting, were relieved.

As the offensive on the Somme still continued, the 4th Canadian Division entered the battle just as the other divisions were leaving the stage. On 10 October, they went into the line and continued the operations aimed at capturing Regina Trench as part of the 2nd British Corps. The artillery of the other three Canadian divisions also remained on the Somme under command of the 2nd British Corps.



Canadians on sentry duty in a front-line trench. France, Sept. 1916.

As for the 47th Battalion, as part of the 4th Division, they entered the fray in September 1916 and would later be awarded battle honours fighting on the Somme, Ancre Heights and Ancre Valley, then Arras in early 1917. But firstly their initial actions began on 16/17 September, and consisted of raiding assaults - in which Reginald Thelwall was involved;

War Diary extract – 47th Infantry Canadian Battalion

Sunday 17 September 1916 Trenches – fine

On the night of 16/17 September 1916 a successful operation consisting two raids on the enemy's trenches was carried out by the 47th Battalion with the object of capturing prisoners, gaining identification and helping operations in the south; the raiding parties each consisting of one officer and twenty-five other ranks simultaneously assaulted two different points of the enemy's trenches at 12.20am on the 17th instant.

Raid 'B' party led by Lieut. C.J.Keller accounted for at least nine Germans killed and captured ten prisoners. Raid 'C' party led by Lieut. J.A.MacDonald captured no prisoners owing to the precipitate flight of the Germans in the sector of the trench entered by that party, but at least 8 Germans were bombed or bayoneted. The raiding parties after occupying the enemy trench for 15 minutes, withdrew at 12.35am and returned to the points in their front line from which they had started out.

The raiding parties were assisted by an intense artillery bombardment which commenced at 12.15am and continued for five minutes on the front of the sector, box barrages were then formed round the points attacked for fifteen minutes followed by a repetition of the preliminary bombardment of the front line for three minutes.

Raid B Party

Lt. Keller in Command
Sgt. de Graves J H
L/C Crawford R L
Cpl Alexander R
L/C McPhee C T
Pte. Grant R
Pte. Langston W
Pte. Abiss T W
Pte. Booth F
Pte. Loftus J J
Pte. Ramsey S M

Raid C Party

Lt. MacDonald in command
Sgt. Carswell J
Sgt. Irving J
Cpl. Mills J O
L/C Irvine J R
Pte. Thelwall R
Pte. Moody E
Pte. Aps L
Pte. Sweeney E J
Pte. Landsborough W H
Pte. Jacobsen J

However, the first major action for the battalion, the full attack on Regina Trench, did not take place until November of 1916 - which resulted in one officer and thirty-nine other ranks being killed in action; fourteen other ranks missing and seven officers and 110 other ranks wounded. Two officers and several other ranks later died of wounds.



The distinguishing patch of the 47th Battalion (British Columbia), CEF.

Copy No II. 2)

47th Battalion Canadians

Operation Order no. 6 by
Lieut Col. W.N. Winsley

Reference - map Wytcham 10,000.

Time - at 12.00 clock on the
night of Sept 16/17. 1916
a minor operation will
be carried out by the
47th Battalion Canadians

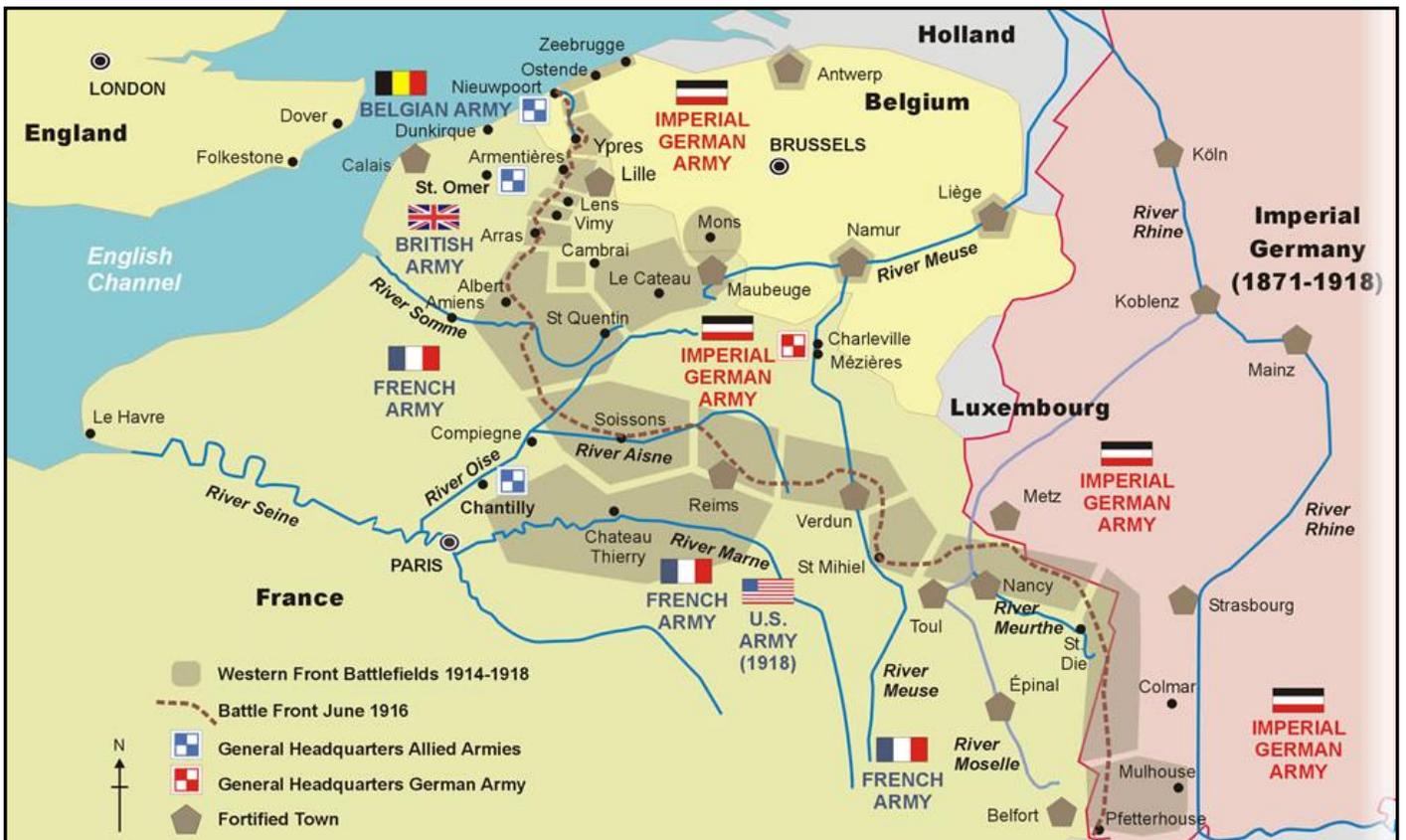
Object of
operation To capture prisoners,
gain identification and
to help operations in the
South. Zno 12-13

-4-

Bay.	Bombs.
Lt. Garswell, J. " Irving, J. Sgt. Mills, J.O. Pte. Shelwell, R. Moody, E. Aps, H. Sweeney, E.G. Zandborough, Jacobsen, J. Sgt. H. Atkinson, J. Kuller, G. Brenntah, C. Maykut, W.	Lt. Irvine, J.R. Cte. Lonate, R.A. Cummer, W. Pitman, E.E. Atken, O.H.P. Conrad Halding, E. Heathorn, W. Dixon, G. Groves, B. Hawthorne, W.

Particular
Objective "Raid B" Party
will proceed south as
far as Strong Point at
O.T.C. 48 which will be
destroyed, gun bottom
charges and phosphorous

Above: The initial battle orders, written on notepaper and attached to the war diary



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2148.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	11	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES	1916 Sept 17		<p>On the night of 16/17th September 1916 a successful operation consisting of two raids on the enemy's trenches was carried out by the 47th Battalion with the object of capturing prisoners, gaining identification and helping operations in the South; the raiding parties each consisted of one officer and twenty five other ranks simultaneously assaulted two different points of the enemy's trenches at 11.20 AM on the 17th inst.</p> <p>Raid B party led by Lieut. C. J. Heller accounted for at least nine Germans killed, and captured ten prisoners.</p> <p>Raid C party led by Lieut. J. A. MacDonald captured no prisoners owing to the precipitate flight of the Germans in the sector of the trench entered by that party but at least 8 Germans were bombed or bayoneted.</p> <p>The raiding parties, after occupying the enemy trench for 15 minutes, withdrew at 12.35 AM & returned to the points in their front line from which they had started out.</p> <p>The raiding parties were assisted by an intense artillery bombardment which commenced at 12.15 AM & continued for five minutes on the front of the sector, box barrages were then formed round the points attacked for fifteen minutes followed by a repetition of the preliminary bombardment on front line for three minutes.</p>		

2449 W. W. 14957/Map 770,000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Form C. 2118/12.

The actual events of what happened on 17 September, now written up in the War Diary of the 47th Battalion. Below: The following page. note Reginald Thelwall listed as part of the raid. (Centre column, sixth name down)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

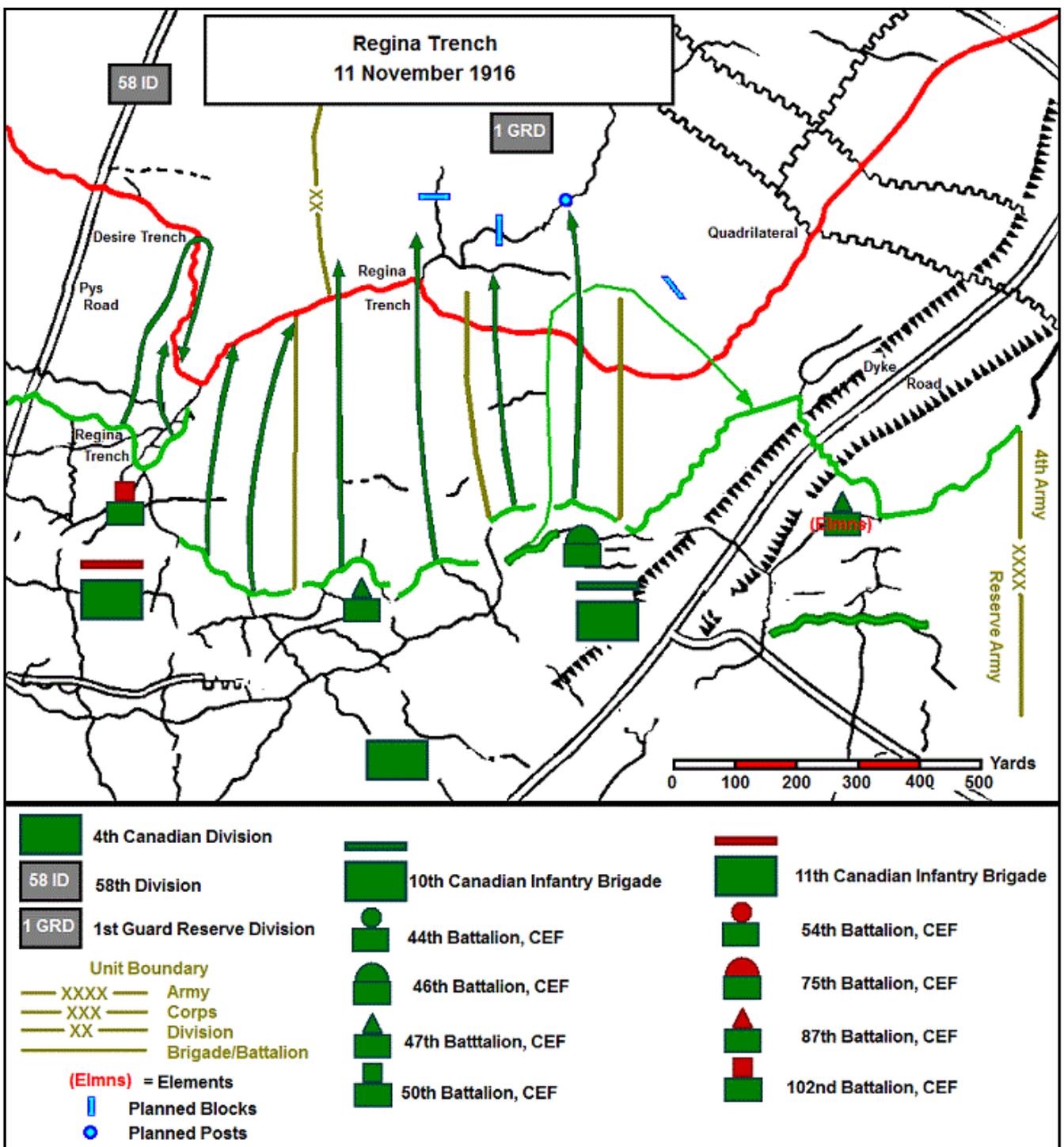
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	12	Remarks and references to Appendices		
	1916 Sept 17		<p><u>Raid B party:</u></p> <p>Lieut. Heller in command.</p> <p>Sgt. Graves J. H.</p> <p>S/Lt. Crawford R. F.</p> <p>Cpl. Alexander R.</p> <p>S/Lt. McPhoe C. T.</p> <p>Pvt. Grant R.</p> <p>Langston W.</p> <p>Abbott J. W.</p> <p>Booth J.</p> <p>Lopham J. J.</p> <p>Ramsay S. M.</p> <p>M. P. Nelson W.</p> <p>Maitland J.</p> <p>Boutallier J. M.</p> <p>Parvut J. W.</p> <p>Londale S. A.</p> <p>Smalley J. M.</p> <p>Martin A.</p> <p>Box J.</p> <p>Spicer A.</p> <p>Thompson J.</p> <p>Campbell R. A.</p> <p>Jones J. M.</p> <p>Spurling J.</p> <p>Boyle J. J.</p> <p>Spencer J.</p>	<p><u>Raid C party:</u></p> <p>Lieut. MacDonald in command.</p> <p>Sgt. Carwell J.</p> <p>Irwin J.</p> <p>S/Lt. Miller J. P.</p> <p>Irwin J. P.</p> <p>Holivald R.</p> <p>Moody S.</p> <p>Ops. L.</p> <p>Quaeney S. J.</p> <p>Langdon W.</p> <p>Jacobsen J.</p> <p>Box H.</p> <p>Stinson J.</p> <p>Hilly J.</p> <p>Baronian C.</p> <p>Makut. W.</p> <p>Grate. R.</p> <p>Grimmer W.</p> <p>Pitman S. C.</p> <p>Ston. C. St. P.</p> <p>Conrad.</p> <p>Halling E.</p> <p>Heathorn W.</p> <p>Faxon A.</p> <p>Groves P. W.</p> <p>Heathorn W.</p>	<p><u>Casualties:</u></p> <p><u>Raid B party:</u></p> <p>S/Lt. Booth 62936 missing</p> <p>Pte Ramsay S. M. 629058 wounded</p> <p>Martin A. 629121 "</p> <p>Boyle J. J. 629146 "</p> <p>Boutallier J. M. 629392 "</p> <p>Abbott J. W. 629010 "</p> <p>Lieut. Heller - "</p> <p><u>Raid C party:</u></p> <p>S/Lt. Irwin J. 628096 killed</p> <p>Pte Langdon W. 629157 wounded</p> <p>Jacobsen J. 464210 "</p> <p>Groves P. W. 464074 "</p> <p>Box H. H. 464297 "</p>		

2449 W. W. 14957/Map 770,000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Form C. 2118/12.

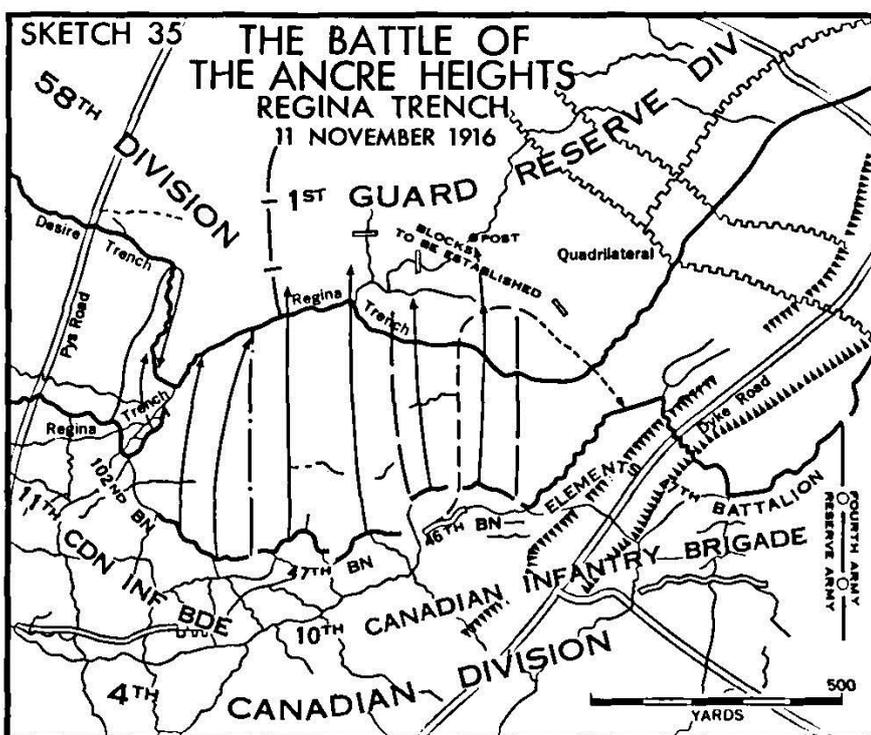
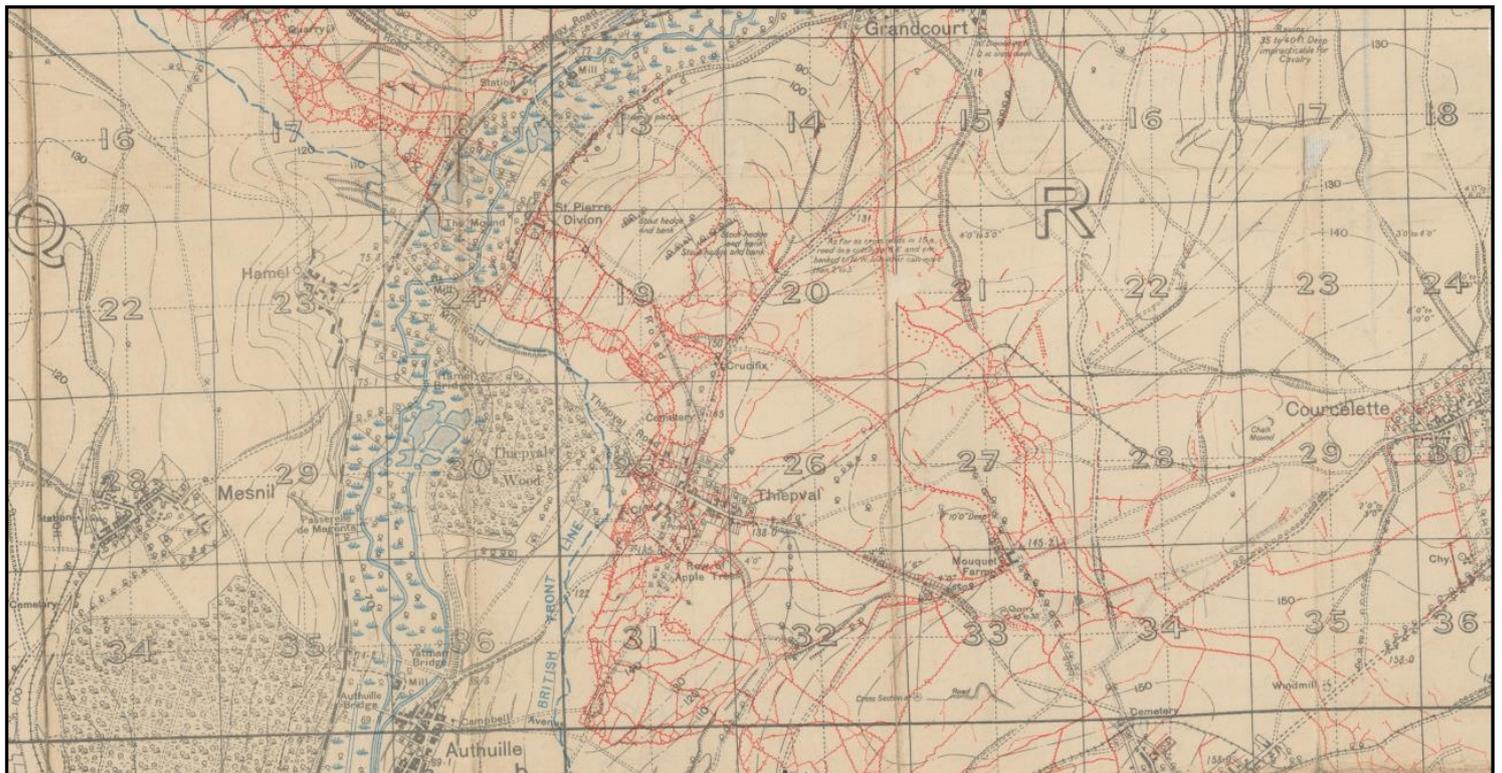


Regina Trench (Staufen Riegel) was a German trench dug along the north-facing slope of a ridge running from north-west of the village of Le Sars, south-westwards to Stuff Redoubt (Staufenfeste), close to the German fortifications at Thiepval on the Somme battlefield. It was the longest such trench on the German front during the First World War. Attacked several times by the Canadians during the Battle of the Ancre Heights, the 2nd Canadian Brigade briefly controlled a section of the trench on 1 October but was repulsed by counter-attacks of the German Marine Brigade (equivalent to an army division), which had been brought from the Belgian coast. An attack on 8 October, by the 1st Canadian Division and the 3rd Canadian Division on Regina Trench also failed.

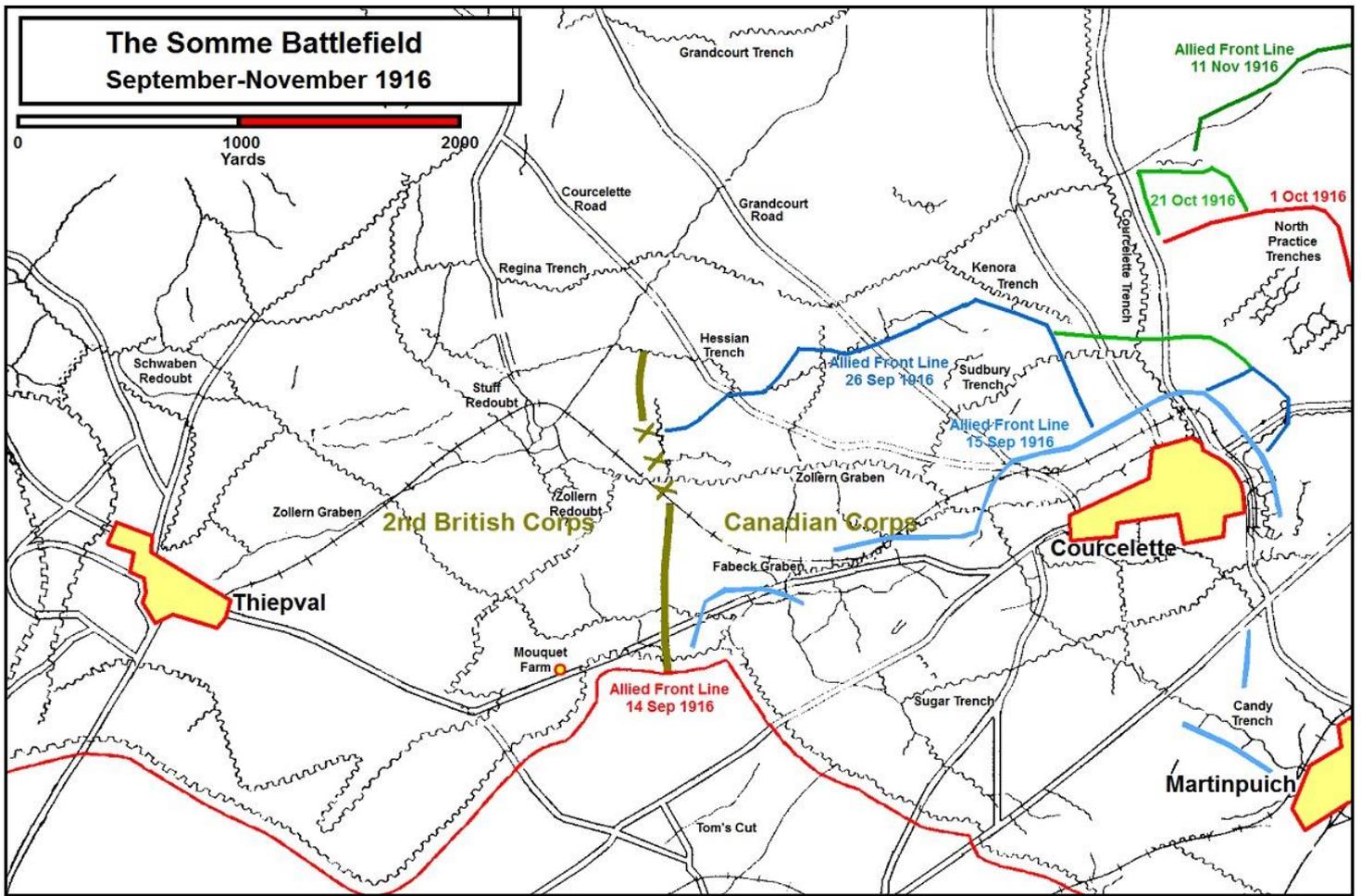
On 21 October, the 4th Canadian Division attacked the western portion of Regina Trench, as the 18th Division, 25th Division and the 39th Division of II Corps, attacked the part further west (known as Stuff Trench to the British). The Canadians met little opposition and gained the objective, as the II Corps divisions captured Stuff Trench in thirty minutes, giving the British control of the Thiepval Ridge. Three counter-attacks were repulsed by the Canadians, and by 22 October, more than a

thousand Germans had been taken prisoner. The east end of the trench was captured by the 4th Canadian Division during the night of 10/11 November.

This section to the east of the Courcelette–Pys road, was attacked by the 46th (South Saskatchewan) and 47th (British Columbia) battalions of the 10th Canadian Brigade, with a company of the 102nd Battalion of the 11th Canadian Brigade on the right flank. The Canadians crept close to the German line before the barrage began; after eight minutes the barrage suddenly lifted, the Canadians rushed the trench and surprised the German garrison. Advanced posts were pushed forward in the centre and in trenches leading north-east, towards the line between Le Sars and Pys. The Canadians took 87 prisoners, mainly from Infantry Regiment 107 of the 58th Division, with some troops from Guard Reserve Regiment 2 of the 1st Guard Reserve Division, and four machine-guns, for a loss of around 200 casualties. Several German counter-attacks were later beaten back and defeated.



Above: Trench map of the Ancre Heights , German lines in red.
Same area covered by the sketch right



Canadians trying to move a supply truck, Ancre Heights November 1916

War Diary extract – 47th Infantry Canadian Battalion

10 November 1916: Raid on Regina Trench

Friday 10 November 1916: Albert; fine.

1am. Battalion, Lt-Col Winsby in command, leaves billets in Albert for Brigade Reserve arriving 3pm. Major Coote, second in command, Major Rhodes 'C' Company, Major O'Donahue 'B' Coy; Lt Doncaster acting adjutant and 50% details remain in Albert

7pm. Battalion leaves Brigade Reserve to occupy trenches for the purpose of carrying out a minor operation.

Midnight 10/11 November (moonlight followed by heavy mist)

47th Battalion, Lt. Col. Winsby in command, takes part in attack on Regina Trench. 'A' Company (Frank) under Major R.G. Monteith forming the right of the Battalion position and 'D' Company under Major F.A. Robertson forming the left of Battalion position constitute the attacking party; while B Company Captain D.B. Martyn in command, holding 'a' and 'a1' and B trenches, and C Company Captain Baker in command holding Hawkins Trench behind 'B' Company acted in support.

The attack which was made at 12 midnight, was completely successful, the objective being captured and held in spite of heavy enemy barrage and machine gun fire; a considerable number of prisoners and two machine guns were captured. The Battalion, which attacked on a 300 yard frontage, had the 46th Battalion on its right flank, and the 102nd Battalion formed its left flank.

Regina Trench – Casualties – Killed in Action:

Lieutenant J.A. MacDonald, M.C. Lieutenant E.A. Porter (died of wounds); Lieutenant J.G. Hay (died of wounds)

(What followed was a comprehensive list of all regimental numbers of casualties and the missing.)

Back home the events were reported after a letter from one of the officers was published in a local paper,

GALLANTRY OF MEN OF 47TH BATTALION:

Capt. F. Richardson Summarises Achievements of Lieut. Col. Winsby's Unit

Considerable information regarding Vancouverites who are serving in France and respecting British Columbia soldiers in general is contained in a letter which has been received from Capt. F. Richardson of the 47th Battalion, Lieut. Col. W.N. Winsby commanding, by local friends. The captain who is a musketry instructor in England, says in part;

'The 47th started out to make their objective in the big push (*Battle of the Somme*) and lost very few men. What is more they got there. You would be surprised at the number of MC's DSO's and DCM's distributed. They went over the top the last time and lost between 100 and 200, but they made good, believe me. You remember Jack McDonald, the High School teacher – say, if you ever saw a brave man he is the one. He and Keller (Vancouver) alone took a bunch of prisoners. Keller got the MC and Jack also, as well as another decoration. I suppose you know by this time that Jack was killed.

Vancouver Times, 23 December 1916

WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.)				Army Form C. 2118.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.				
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	Nov. 10	7 PM	Battalion leaves Brigade Reserve to occupy trenches for the purpose of carrying out a minor operation.	
Franches	night of 10-11 Nov.		<p>47th Battalion Lt Col Smith in command took part in attack on Regina Trench. A Company under Major R. G. McIntosh forming the right of Battalion position, and D company under Maj: J. A. Robertson forming left of Battalion position, constituted the attacking party, while B Company, Capt. B. B. Martyn in command holding "a" "a 1" and B trenches and C Coy. Capt. Baker in command holding Hawthorn Trench behind B. company acted in support.</p> <p>The attack which was made at 12 midnight was completely successful, the objectives being captured and held in spite of heavy enemy barrage and machine gun fire; a considerable number of prisoners and few machine guns were captured.</p> <p>The Battalion which attacked on a 300 yard frontage, had the 41st Battalion on its right flank, and the 102nd Battalion formed the left flank:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regina Trench.</u> <u>Casualties</u> <u>Killed in action</u></p> <p>Lieut. J. A. MacDonald. M.C. Lieut. S. A. Parke (Wound) Lieut. J. G. Hay (Wound)</p> <p>628553 629494 628034 628113 629559 628257 464332 180682</p> <p>628233 628249 628702 628245 128131 219564 628367 464108.</p>	<p>Monty's followed by Heavy mort</p>
T.134. Wt. W708-776. 50000. 4/15. Gr J. C. & B.				

The distinguishing patch of the 47th Battalion (British Columbia), CEF.

When the Canadian Corps was relieved at the end of November 1916, its casualties during the Battle of the Somme were 24,029 men, roughly 24 percent of the force.

In late November 1916, the 4th Division began to move north towards the Souchez valley north of Arras, where they were in billets in Bruay until 20 December, when they were then moved into trenches in the most northern Canadian sector close to 'the pimple' (hill 119) below Vimy Ridge. They spent Christmas week there before moving back into billets behind the lines to the west of Ablain St Nazaire in the village of Estree Cauchy. This pattern would continue over the next few months, seven days in the front line, following by seven days respite behind the lines for rest, training and work details.

As the war moved into 1917, it was to be the aim of the Allied forces, which contained both Canadian and British divisions, to attack and take the Vimy heights, a ridgeway overlooking the town of Lens and the surrounding landscape for miles around. Strategically important, it was thought impregnable by the German forces entrenched on its summit.

The offensive was to take place in early April, with an expectancy that it may drag on as long as the Somme the previous year. To break down German morale and to wear down defences, a series of raids were planned before the main assault. On the night of 28 February/ 1 March 1917, 4th Division were involved in such a raid, when four battalions of 1,700 troops attacked Hill 145 (so numbered on military maps), the high point where the Vimy Memorial now stands. The Germans were alerted due a failed gas attack and fought off the assailants. Where Canadians did break through, they were easily rebuffed by the support trenches, and the survivors quickly beat a trail back to the safety of their own lines, where most had reached by 6.25am.

Raids continued by other battalions through March, but the concentration of efforts was in the preparation of the infrastructure behind the front lines, as pioneer battalions, including the 48th Canadians, began to construct roads, tunnels and a railway to bring up men, ordnance and supplies in readiness for the April offensive. They even received visits and inspections from Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of British forces, and the Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden.

On a couple of occasions the 47th were involved in raiding parties, which resulted in a number of casualties. On 2 April, they were back in billets in Coupigny, recovering after a raiding assault on 31st March. After a much needed rest, they began training for the major assault on Vimy Ridge, but before that there was still time for some respite and the battalion spent time practicing their events for the forthcoming Sports Day. On 6 April the 47th Battalion marched to Chateau de la Haie, a substantial house near Souchez not far from their billets, directly west of Ablain St Nazaire.

In fact, Chateau-de-la-Haie was one of several properties owned by the French actress Sarah Bernhardt. Because of its proximity to the front lines, Madame Bernhardt had turned the property over to the military for use as a camp and training ground. This is how it looked to one of the Canadians,

In the surrounding trees were groups of Nissen huts. These were constructed of galvanised iron sheets erected in a semi-circle from the ground overhead. They had board floors, and usually had a stove in the centre. We slept on blankets on the floor about 40 to a hut. These huts at the Chateau were arranged in groups, the groups being called Niagara, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver camps.

John Becker, 75th Battalion

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		Army Form C. 2118. (9)		
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.		(Erase heading not required.)		
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE	1917			
" "	Feb.			
" "	6th.		#790305 seriously wounded by sniper opposite IRISH CRATER Wilson Street (left subsector)	H.
" "	8th.		Special working party supplied.	
" "	6th.		Enemy snipers very active during night - otherwise quiet.	
" "	"	8-12	"Stand to"	
" "	"	10-11	Enemy trench mortars active - Retaliation by "heavies" and 18 pounders effective.	
" "	"	"	#790788 KILLED by sniper and #629462 & 629102 WOUNDED by snipers.	
" "	"	"	Initial preparations made for a raid in the immediate future - 100 O.R. & 4 Officers. x	
" "	"	"	Volunteers called for - Splendid response - 100 picked men selected.	
" "	"	"	"Stand to"	
" "	"	8-00	Alarm and "Stand to" for 10 minutes - came from our right - false alarm.	H.
" "	7th.		Still hard frost - Very little work can be done on trenches - sand bags can only be filled from inside of dug-outs and mines. #790958 shot through lobe of ear by sniper.	
" "	"		Night of 6th./7th. very quiet.	
" "	"	5 p.m.	Bugle calls heard in enemy lines - Wind EAST	
" "	"	10-10	Slight enemy bombardment - No retaliation necessary. #791099 KILLED IN ACTION.	H.
" "	8th.		Bitterly cold wind from North East - Hard frost	

FORM. W. 2706-176. 500000. 4/18. 56 J.C. & S.

47th Battalion War Diary extract 8 February 1917



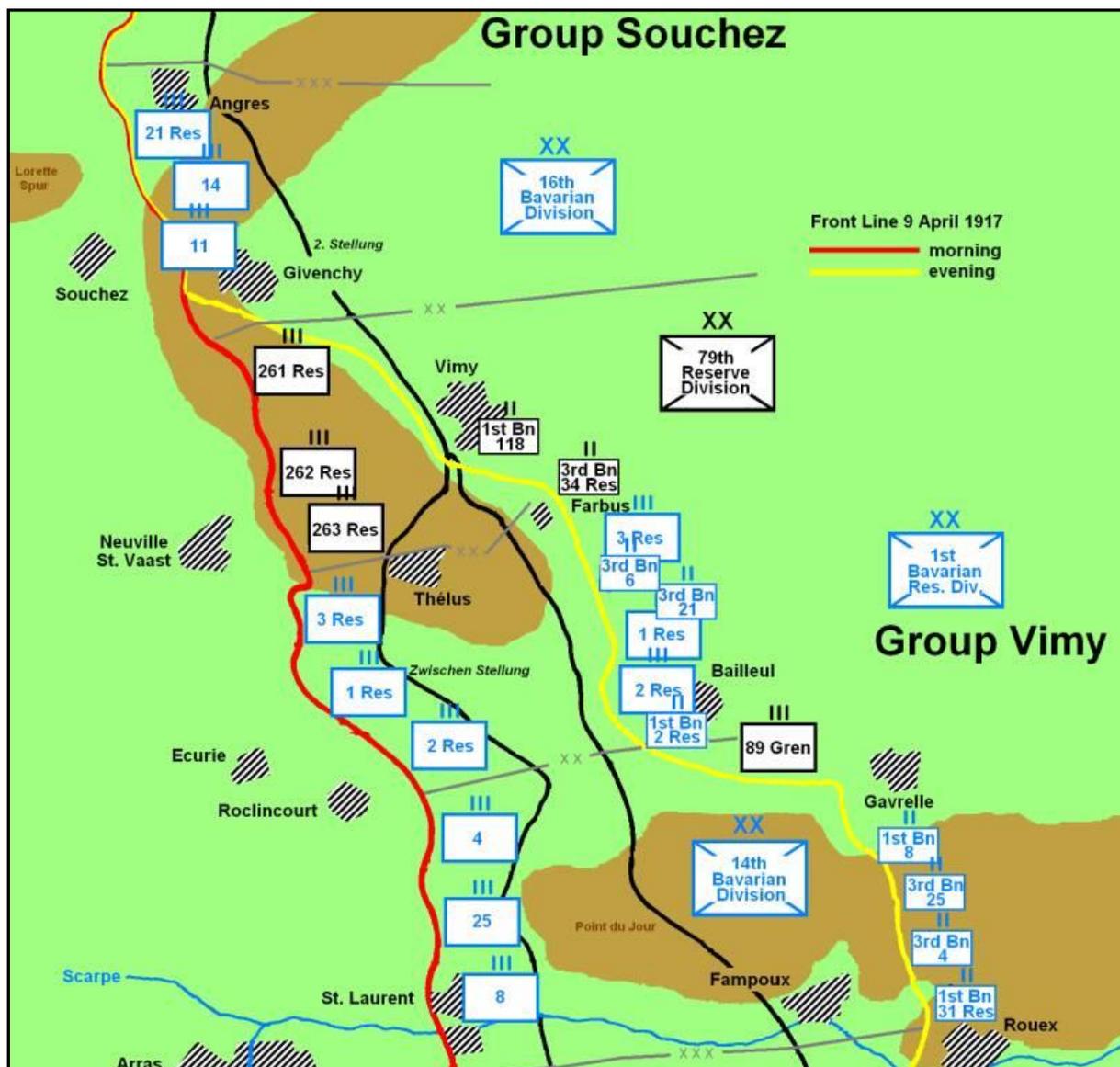
Chateau-de-la-Haie



Firstly, there was time for presentations of honours & awards for the bravery shown in their time in the Front Line. This was followed by the Sports Day Competitions in which 47th battalion, according to the Diary, 'made a creditable show'. This, of course, was part of keeping up morale in light of what the men would be going through in only a matter of a few hours time, and later that day they returned to Coupigny to make their final preparations. On the 8th, the 47th Battalion with a strength of 638 men all ranks, moved into reserve trenches at Bois au Berthonvale at 6pm.

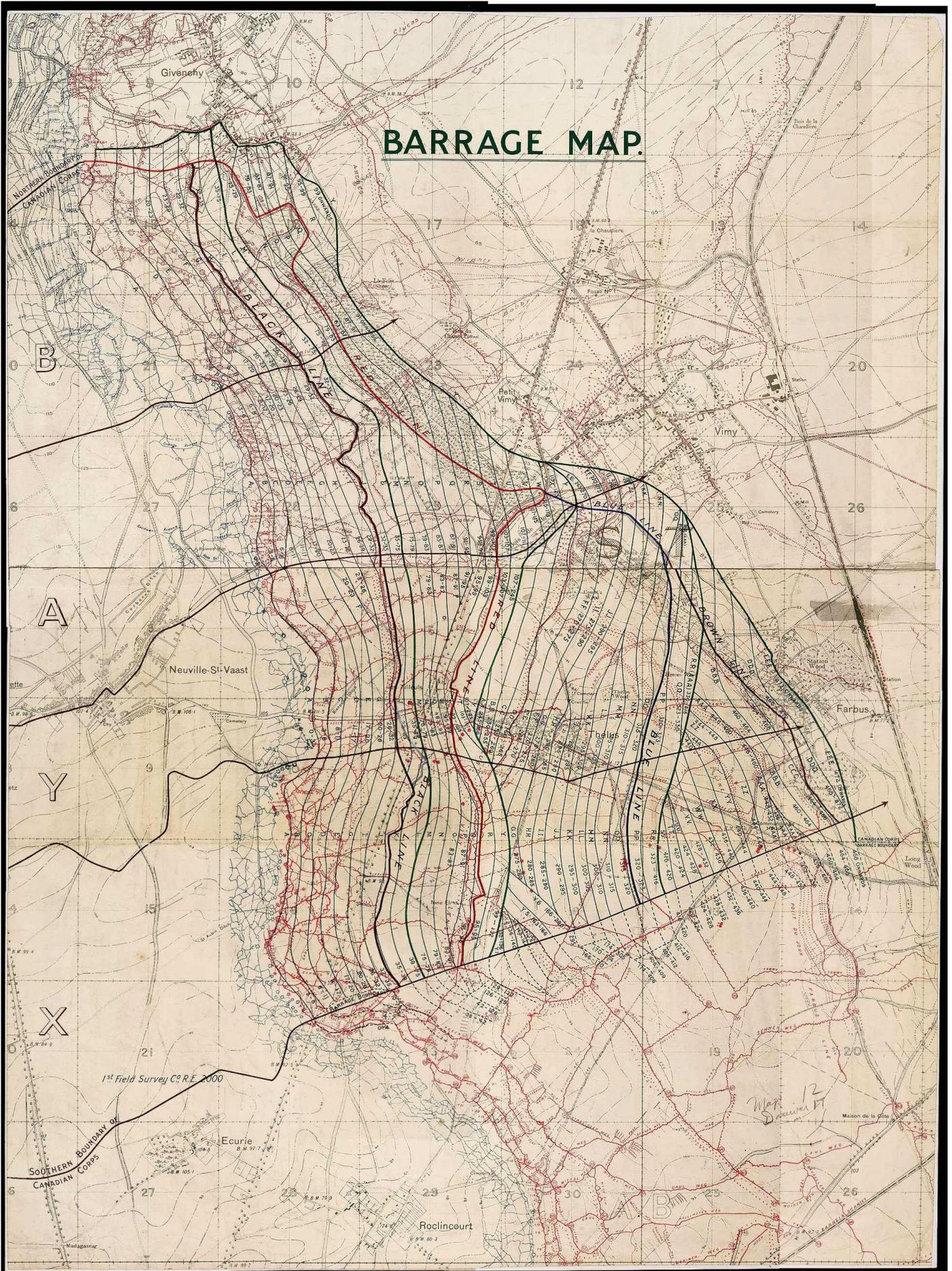
At 5.30am the following morning an intense barrage opened up on enemy lines on Vimy Ridge, a campaign that had already lasted three weeks working up to this moment. This was immediately followed by an infantry attack, and at dawn on this Easter Monday morning in 1917, the Canadian assault, comprising their four divisions, began following a well-devised creeping barrage. Within thirty minutes the Canadian 1st Division, under Arthur Currie, had succeeded in capturing German front line positions in spite of a snowstorm; within a further half hour the second line had similarly passed into Canadian hands.

By 12 April, the entire ridge was wholly under Allied control, including Hill 145, and the operation was judged a spectacular success. In fact, it was single most successful Allied advance on the Western Front to that date, and the ridge remained in Allied hands for the remainder of the war. However, costs were very high, 10,602 Canadians were wounded during the attack, and 3,598 killed. The opposing German force suffered even more heavily with an estimated 20,000 casualties.





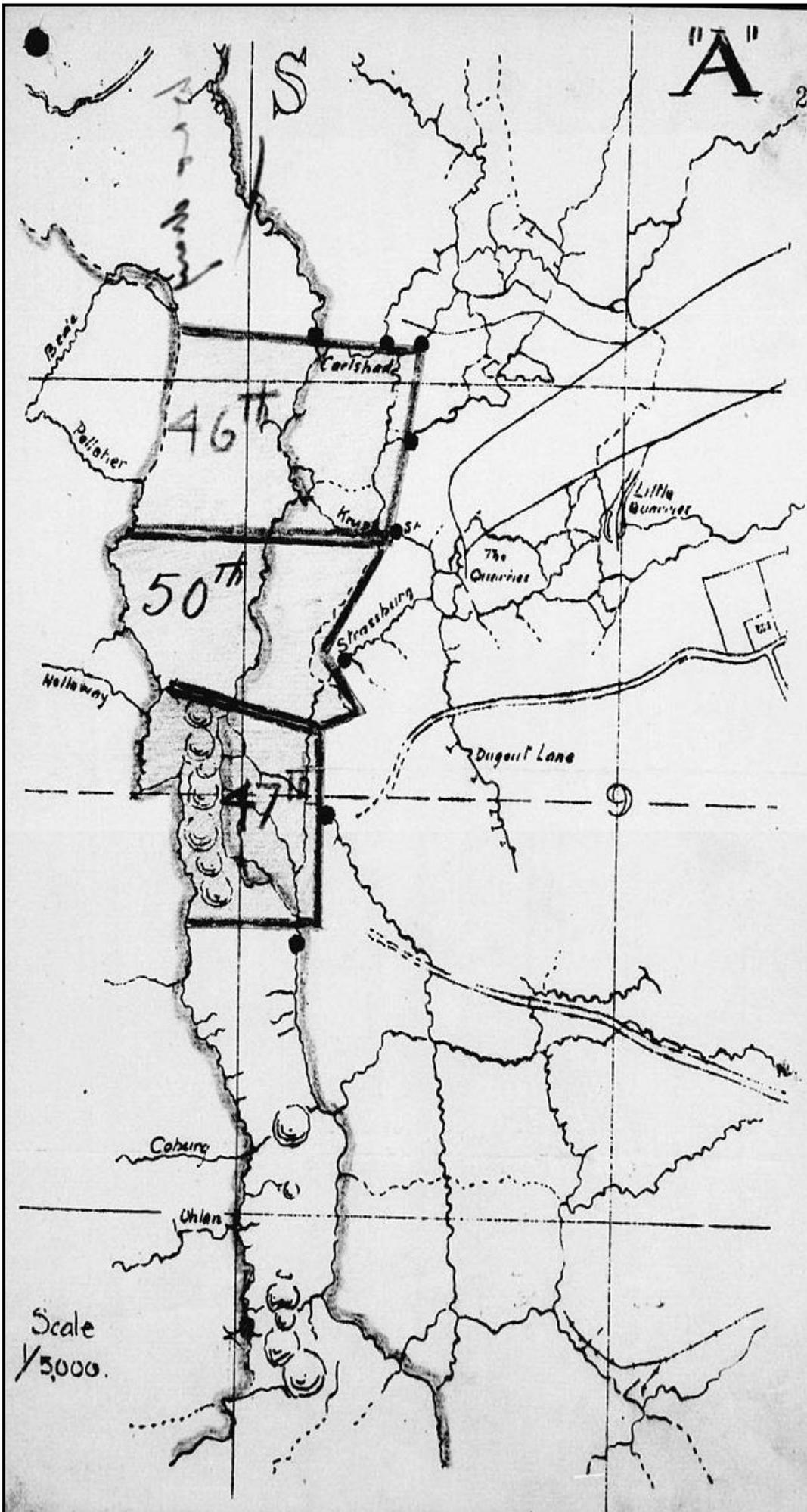
Canadians going over the top, and on the battlefield on Vimy Ridge, April 1917



BARRAGE MAP.

Barrage map, Vimy Ridge, April 1917.

47th Battalion were occupying the trenches at the top left in the area marled 'B'



Sketch map of the Canadian battalion positions, Vimy Ridge – attached to the 47th Battalion War Diary

4

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	6	Remarks and references to Appendices
Compagny	6 th		Continued Showing - weather fair - Programme attacked		
do	7 th		Training continues. - weather fair - Temp line party formed under LT. D.B. CLARKSON.		
do	8 th		Battalion strength 638 all Ranks - moves from Compagny Huts at 6 P.M. and arrives at Bois de BERTHONVALE x 29655 coming into reserve for and under command 11 th C. I. BRIGADE		
do	9 th		at 5.30 AM intense artillery barrage opens on enemy lines on VIMY RIDGE & on enemy lines to South followed by infantry attack - 11 th C.I. Bde order up two Coys 4 th to support lines - C.I. Coy take up positions in Music Hall line between WORTLEY & BOYEAN. - 11 th C.I. Bde order one Coy to front. - C Coy Major PHOENIX.		

T2134. Wt. W708-778. 60000. 4/15. Mr J. C. & B.

47th Battalion War Diary extract 9-10 April 1917

5

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	7	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES	9 th		Continued. 4 Officers 144 Other Ranks report to O.C. 5 th CAVALIER. TUNNEL and take up following position from junction of BATTER & BLACK to BEGGAR & BLACK. 52-103505 to 52-103530. - D Coy returns to BERTHONVALE WOOD. - LT FRWELLS & LT ELLAUNDY report from Cadet School - LTs. RAYNE & FC CLARK join unit Casualties 128 210, 129 030, 414 501, 129 545, 204 474, 128 231, 219 334, 200 005. - appendix 5 - Report of Adj. 55 th to 4 th Attached appendix 6. - 4 th Can. Div. order to move two Coys to MUSIC HALL. - 6 th appendix order C Coy to move. - appendix 1 B. order D Coy to move.		
TRENCHES	10 th		55 th Batta less 2 Coys (250 all Ranks) come under command O.C. 4 th . - 11 th C.I. Bde orders balance of Batta. A B. D Coys & 2 Coys 55 th Bn. to support lines - take up position in Music Hall between WORTLEY and CENTRAL		

2133. Wt. W2544/2454 200000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form C 2118.

War Diary extract – 47th Infantry Canadian Battalion

9 April – 10 April 1917: Brigade Reserve, Bois de Berthonvale

Monday 9 April 1917 Bois de Berthonvale: At 5.30 am intense artillery barrage opened up on enemy lines on Vimy Ridge and enemy lines to south followed by infantry attack.

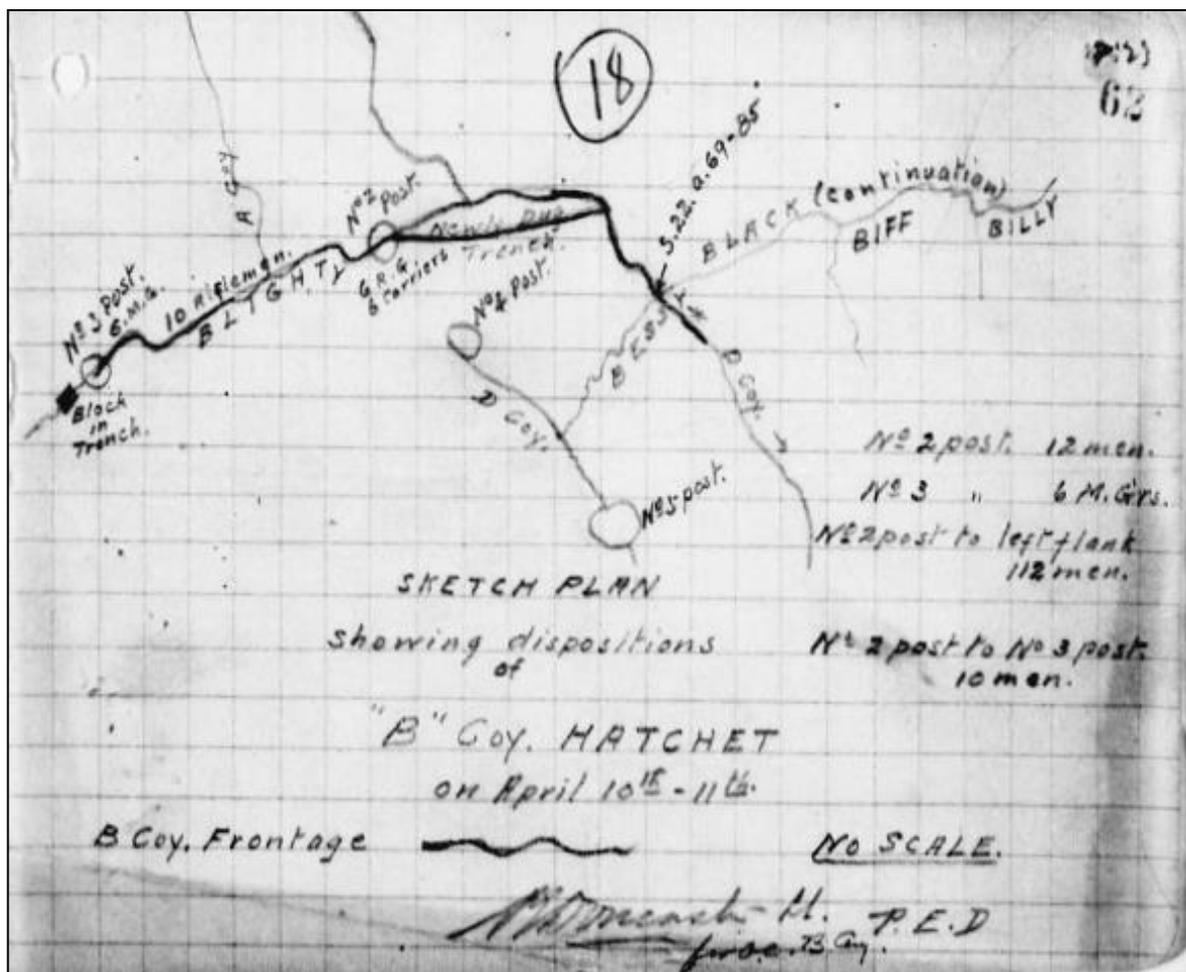
11th C.I. Brigade order up two Company's 47th to support lines – 'C' and 'D' Company's take up positions in Music Hall line between Wortley and Boyean. [names of the trench lines]

Over the next few days the battle to drive then enemy off Vimy and capture the Ridge continued. On 12 April and into the 13th, the 47ths were attacking Pimple Hill in a blizzard. Conditions were horrendous, but it was reported in the dairy that night,

13 April 1917

Splendid day – snow nearly all gone – state of ground on ridge very bad – several enemy observation balloons up - our aircraft very active – intermittent shelling of Ridge by enemy's heavies – Royal Warwicks commenced relief at 1.30pm

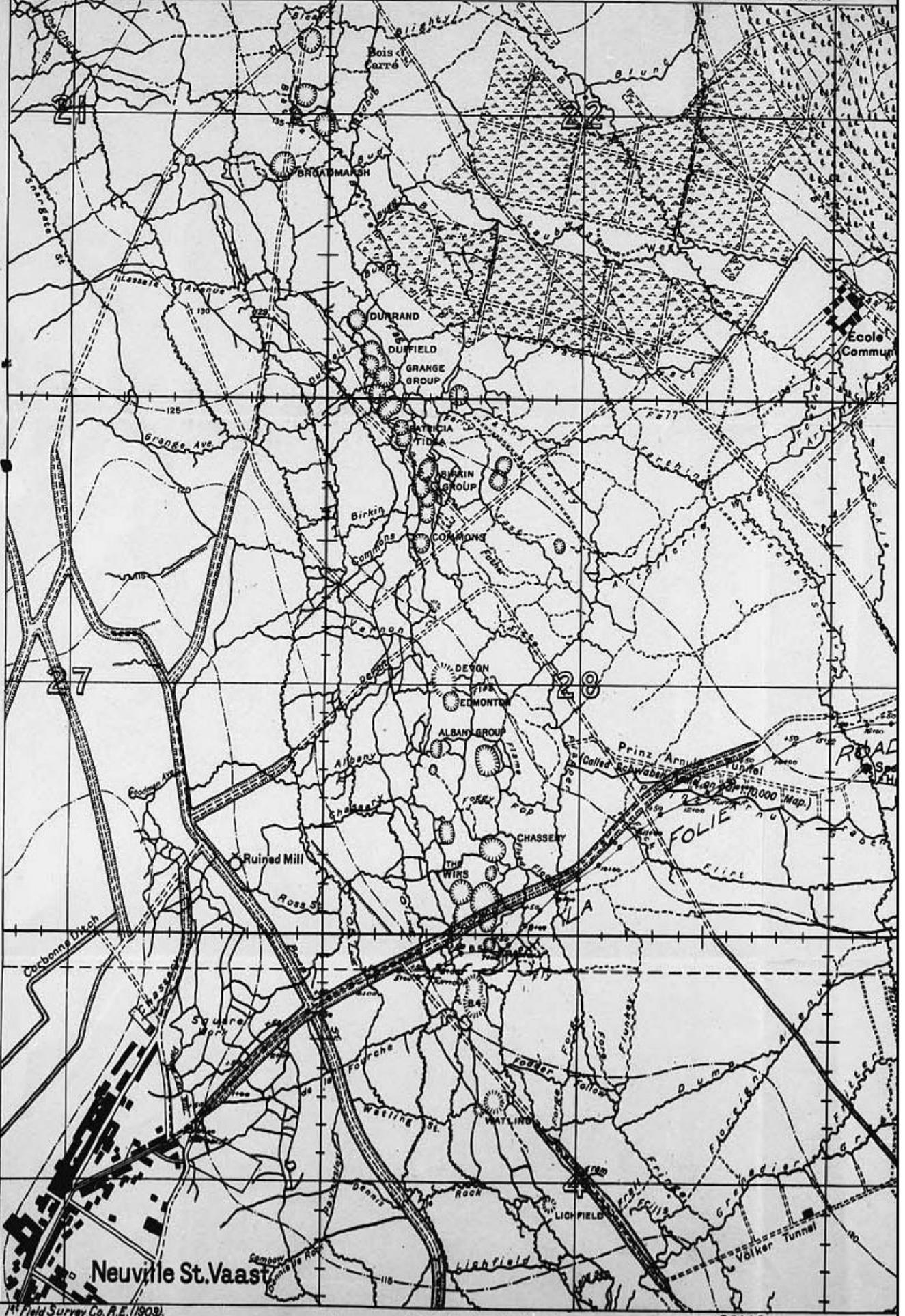
Casualties were again listed with every regimental number of the soldiers and totalled 98 wounded, 34 killed in action, while three men hadn't returned to the trenches, and were recorded as missing, presumed killed in action. The entry for the 13 April – a 'splendid day' – leads the reader to think this a comment on the success of the whole operation, which now has such a place of significance in Canadian military history, until you realise he is referring to the weather.



Sketch map of the Canadian battalion positions, Vimy Ridge – attached to the 47th Battalion War Diary

SCALE 1:5,000

LA FOLIE FARM

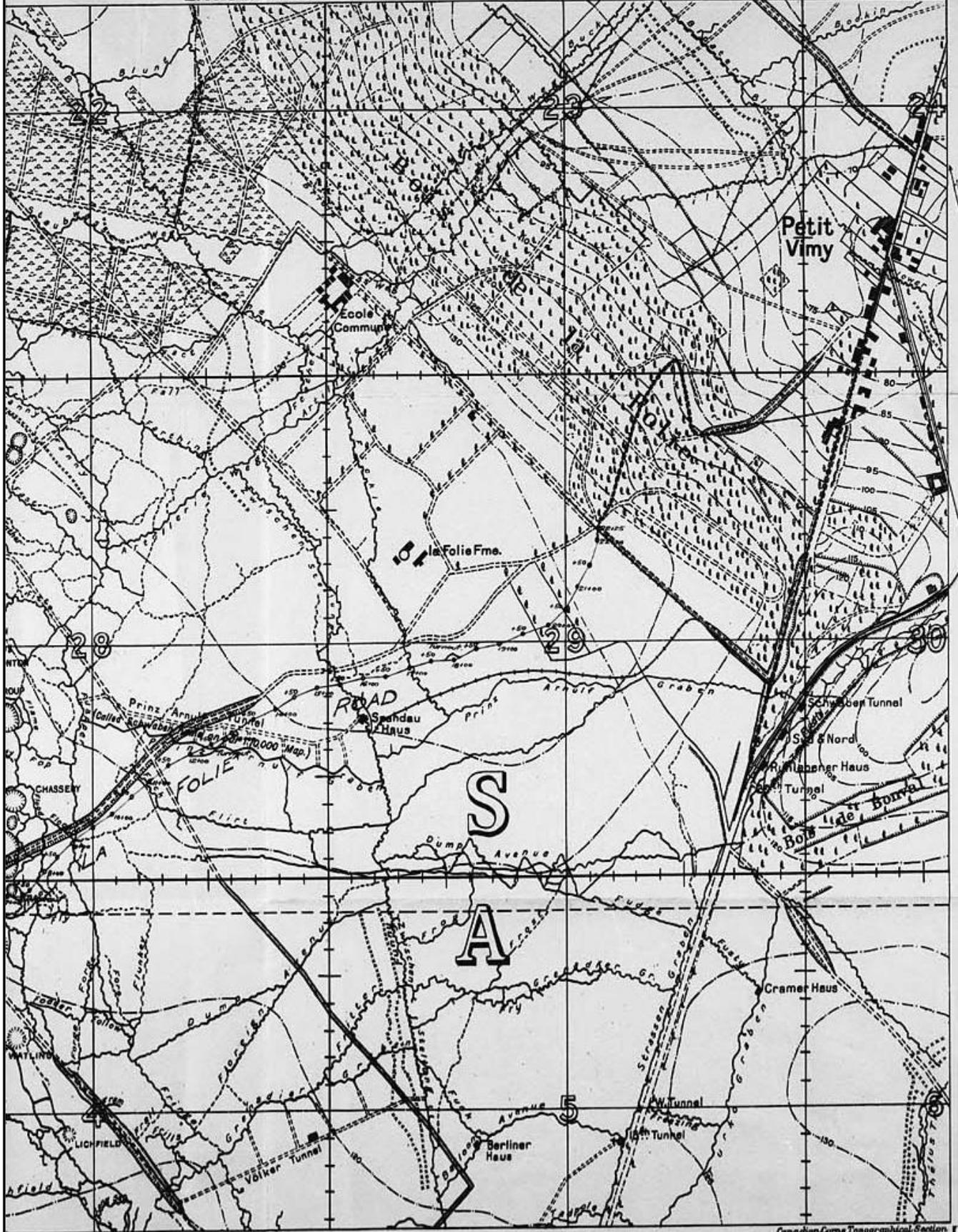


Neuville St. Vaast

Field Survey Co. P.E. (1903).

0 50 100 150 200 SCALE 200

LA FOLIE FARM



Canadian Corps Topographical Section

Trench map of the Canadian battalion positions, Vimy Ridge – attached to the 47th Battalion War Diary



Looking across the Souchez Valley towards Vimy Ridge and site of 47th Battalion positions



47th Battalion positions ran parallel and immediately to the right of the A26, top left
Hill 145 was to the bottom right, now the site of the Vimy Memorial.
Shell damaged land can be seen in front of the memorial



The following telegram has been received from Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada:-

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"To Lieut. Genl. Sir Julian Byng.

My colleagues and I send warmest congratulations on the splendid success achieved yesterday by the Canadians. With deepest interest and praise I read this morning the stirring story of their advance and learn that they have captured and occupied the strongly fortified positions which I saw on my recent visit to France. I hope you will convey to the forces under your command the intense appreciation of the Canadian people whose pride in the record of their forces will be greatly intensified by this new and glorious achievement.

Borden. "

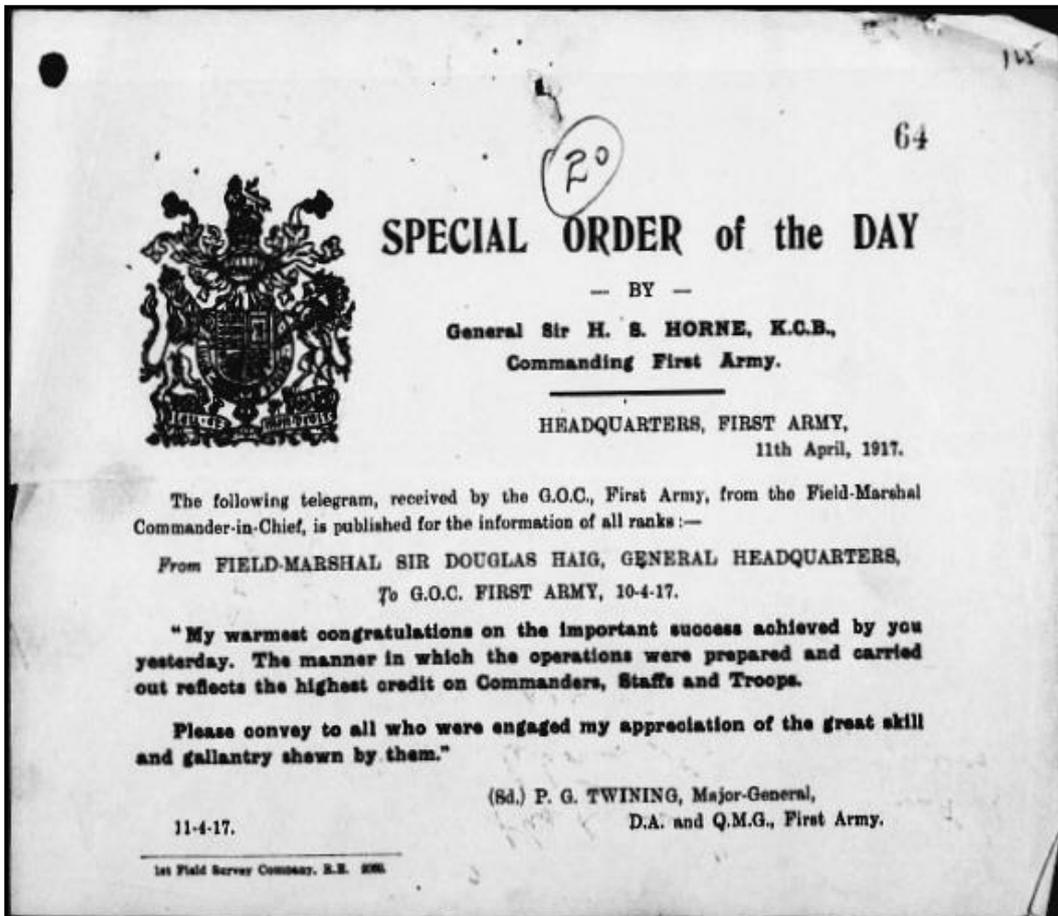
The following reply has been despatched:-

"To Sir Robert Borden.

Your inspiring message will be conveyed at once to all ranks of the Canadian Corps. Their pride in the achievement will be augmented by the knowledge that Canadian people glory in the result. On their behalf I thank you and your colleagues for the appreciative terms in which you have extolled their splendid gallantry.

Byng. "

Communications received from the Canadian Prime Minister, and the Allied Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig with respect to the successful assault and capture of Vimy Ridge. Both documents attached were to the 47th Battalion War Diary



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SPECIAL ORDER of the DAY

— BY —

General Sir H. S. HORNE, K.C.B.,
Commanding First Army.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ARMY,
11th April, 1917.

The following telegram, received by the G.O.C., First Army, from the Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief, is published for the information of all ranks:—

From FIELD-MARSHAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
To G.O.C. FIRST ARMY, 10-4-17.

"My warmest congratulations on the important success achieved by you yesterday. The manner in which the operations were prepared and carried out reflects the highest credit on Commanders, Staffs and Troops.

Please convey to all who were engaged my appreciation of the great skill and gallantry shown by them."

(Sd.) P. G. TWINING, Major-General,
D.A. and Q.M.G., First Army.

11-4-17.

By 14 April, the 47ths had been relieved, and they wound their way through the trench lines back down the valley to their allotted billets in St Lawrence Camp, although to their dismay when they got there, they found the camp in a dreadful muddy state, mainly due to German shelling to prevent construction of road through the Souchez valley. Work details began to clean the place up, before time for relaxation, then the usual routine over the next few days of parades, inspections, training, baseball and football.

On 21 April, the 44th, 46th and 47th Battalion were ordered to form up ready for inspection by Major General Watson,

War Diary extract – 47th Infantry Canadian Battalion

21 April – St Lawrence Camp

A.M. Dress: 'Battle Order' - on parade 25 officers, 308 other ranks.

47th Battalion made splendid showing. General Watson complimented officers and spoke very highly of work done by men in recent operations.

P.M. Specialists carry on training – Companies practice in close order drill – working party of 200 other ranks under Lt Charleson rejoins unit – transport lines moved to Bounigny huts.

22 April 1917

A.M. Transport lines moves to Gilay and Ervins – weather fine – 1 officer and 49 other ranks go salvaging the 'Pimple' area – usual routines.

P.M. Divine Service – football match 47th & 72nd - score 1-0 in favour of 47th Bn – Orders issued to stand in readiness to move a half hour notice from 6am 23rd – composite brigade to be formed if necessary composed of 46th, 47th, 10th Machine Gun Company, & 10th TMB.

On 25 April they were spared the Front Line, but were ordered up in reserve in Blue Bull tunnel (a 466m subway running up to front line trenches to enable soldiers to move into place under cover. There were at least fourteen main line subways running with associated warrens of linking tunnels running up to the front line between Souchez and Vimy. Part of the 1228m Grange tunnel is open to the public in the Vimy Ridge Memorial Park).

The situation had quietened enough for them to spend the whole day on the 29th salvaging and in working parties, but this was followed with a Brigade order for the 47ths to relieve the 44ths in the Front Line – and to be in place by 2am on 1 May. It was to be Reginald Thelwall's swan song. By 5am they were greeted by a half hour heavy barrage from the Allied guns.

[I have a personal link here as my great-grandfather, Bombardier Charles Royden of the Royal Field Artillery, may well have been on those guns, as his Brigade was attached to the Canadians on Vimy Ridge].

War Diary extract – 47th Infantry Canadian Battalion

Tuesday 1 May 1917:

Letter received from Brigade stating that feint barrage would take place at 4.20am 1st instant and 4.25am 2nd instant in anticipation of next Corps operation taking place at dawn.

4am heavy enemy bombardment lasting about half an hour. Our feint barrage opens at 4.20am lasting about 15 minutes. The night was clear and moonlight, wind mild NW. General situation – normal – enemy artillery active on wood on our left rear HE and overhead HE – our MG very active – enemy below normal. Work – 110 men on work party in Front Line and 1st Support trenches. Situation remains fairly quiet throughout the day.

8pm Lieutenants MacGowan and Bailey left front line, crossed block in Clucas and passed our outposts approximately 250 yards with intention of ascertaining if enemy had block with listening post in advance of his front line. They reached wire obstacle placed in trench about 15 yards in front of enemy front line. Enemy evidently had no post between this obstacle and front line but voices could be heard in trench behind wire. These two officers returned to our lines before dark. Sentence promulgated in the case of Pte. Longstaffe, found guilty of absence 4pm April 7th to 8pm April 8th and sentenced to one year Hard Labour. Military Crosses awarded to Lt. O.R. Matthews and Lt. J.Scott and Military Medal to Corpl.G.C. Scott.

Casualties:

790407 wounded

628227 and 790031 killed in action [628227 was Reginald's regimental number]

Wednesday 2 May 1917:

Trenches – very fine. Night fairly quiet up to 4am when heavy enemy bombardment opens. Our creeping barrage opens as notified and by 5am everything is quiet.

Adjutant conducted burial services of 628227 LCpl. Thelwall and 790031 Pt. Haynes just before dawn.

Patrols searched during the night for advanced posts. None were located. Work – 209 men employed wiring M36-C.75 and digging saps M36.c.7.8 – M36.c.7.7 – M36.c.8.3.-M36.b.1.0 – S.6.b.4.7 – S.6.b.5.6 and in deepening and widening support communication trenches. Morning and afternoon fairly quiet. Weather very fine and observation good. Aerial activity great – our planes more in evidence than enemies. Instructions received from Brigade detailing the operation to commence at 3.45am 3rd instant – issued to all concerned in order that the situation may be coped with in the event of a Hun retirement on our front.

12 midnight – Lieut. R.G. Smith reported to BHQ after patrolling in front of enemy wire. He found enemy wire very open and saw many Germans working. Expressed opinion that embankment was enemy stronghold (approx map location) M36.b.6.2 Summary of days artillery activity – artillery bombard La Coulotte road left and right 6 to 7pm. Enemy's HE's (8") at the rate of 1 every 5 minutes along road between Petit Vimy and Vimy 9.05 to 9.20pm.

Barrage on right flank – our heavies active on left flank from 9.50 to 10.30pm.

Casualties – 791187 killed in action. Lt. F.D. Campbell wounded. 629602 wounded.

[The recording of a burial service in the War Diary is rare, let alone the inclusion of names rather than numbers.]

How the two men died that day is unknown. The 47th Battalion's war diary gives no further insight into the circumstances – they may have been victims of the early morning shelling, or sniper fire later that day. Today, Lance Corporal Reginald Thelwall's name is among those recorded on the Vimy Ridge Memorial to the Missing. This may be surprising, as according to the War Diary, he certainly wasn't missing, and he was given a decent burial. However, in later action, the area may have been shelled and destroyed, or his marker removed. In the post-war laying-out of new cemeteries, his body was probably recovered and buried with a headstone marking an 'unknown' soldier. The War Diary records that he was not alone as a casualty that day – another soldier of the 47th Battalion was also killed in action at the same time and buried alongside Reginald; 790031 Private J.A. Hayne. In fact, Private Hayne (a fisherman from in Steveston, a small community south of Vancouver and married to an English girl from Norwich) was later recovered and given a burial in La Chaudiere Military Cemetery (just outside Vimy, on the road to Lens). As they cleared the Vimy battlefield, many were moved into this cemetery including over 300 men who could not be identified. There is a very good chance, given that Arthur Hayne was buried there, that Reginald lies there too, as an unknown soldier. One such grave lies in the next but one plot to Private Hayne.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Original.</u> <u>Confidential</u></p> <p><u>47th Canadian Inf Battalion</u></p> <p><u>war diary for the month of May 1917.</u></p>	

2351 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form/C. 2118.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

3. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trunches	15/7		<p>Continued.</p> <p>Officers returned to our lines before dark. - Sentence promulgated in the case of Pte Longstaffe found guilty of absence, 4 P.M. April 7th to 8 P.M. April 8th and sentenced to one year M.L.</p> <p>Military Crosses awarded to Lt O R MATTHEWS. & Lt J Scott. & Military Medal to Cpl G C SCOTT. 1st</p> <p>Casualties 490404 wounded, 628227, 490031 Killed in Action</p>	JH
do	25/7		<p>Night fairly quiet up to 4 A.M. when heavy enemy bombardment opens (O.C.'s report attached) - our creeping barrage opens as notified and by 5 A.M. everything is quiet. - Adjutant conducted burial services of 628227 Lt Col Thelwall & 490031 Pte Haynes, just before dawn. - Patrols searched during the night for advanced posts, none were located.</p>	A. S. G. 8 attached BPM

2351 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form/C. 2118.

47th Battalion War Diary extract 1-2 May 1917 noting the death and burial of Lance Corporal Reginald Thelwall

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches	15/17		<p>Continued</p> <p>Wind - Mild NW - General Situation - normal - Enemy Artillery active on woods on our left rear HE + overleaf HE. - our MGs - very active - Enemy below normal - Work - 110 Men on work party in front line and 1st Support trenches</p> <p>Situation remains fairly quiet throughout the day - 8 PM Hunt Macgowan & Bailey left front line, crossed block in Lucas, and passed our outposts approximately 250 yards, with intention of ascertaining if enemy had block with listening post in advance of his front line. They reached wire obstacle placed in trench about 15 yds. in front of enemy front line wire. - Enemy evidently had no post between this obstacle and front line but voices could be heard in trench behind wire. These two.</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>DM</i></p>

2351 Wt. W2516/454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form C. 2118.

Monday Night List

INFANTRY

Killed in Action

Lieut. W. C. S. Holland, England.
 Lieut. E. H. Coombe, England.
 Lieut. R. P. Cattell, England.
 472879, H. Camp, Swift Current, Sask.
 887424, J. Apps, Preceville, Sask.
 204298, T. Jeffery, Colonsay, Sask.
 204510, W. R. Baten, Warsaw, Ont.
 602842, A. Freeman, England.
 760132, L. Lee, England.
 487389, C. B. Wilson, Scotland.
 487376, W. B. Hodgson, Toronto.
 628227, R. Thelwall, England.
 790031, J. A. Hayne, Steveston, B.C.
 791187, H. Braddick, England.
 808878, M. Pahnutev, Russia.
 707017, W. Stevenson, 2832 Walter St., Oak Bay, Victoria.
 706456, G. H. Ablett, 1279 Centre Road, Victoria.
 838022, H. W. Boyce, Owen Sound, Ont.
 885244, J. R. Sedore, Roblin, Ont.
 835931, E. Lowry, Elezvie, Ont.
 201868, J. H. Nelson, Ireland.

His death was included on the 'Monday Night List' of local casualties in the *Winnipeg Times* 15 May 1917



Pte	Taylor, Robert. 859577	-43* Bn.	Pte	Terentief, Samuel	2-1* Bn.
Pte	Taylor, Robert. 859601	-43* Bn.	Pte	Ternan, Erwin Thomas	-47* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Robert Douglas	50* Bn.	Pte	Terrault, Julius Daniel	2-4* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Robert Leslie.	73* Bn.	Pte.	Terreau, Arme.	2-4* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Roy Eric.	29* Bn.	Spr.	Terreault, Charles	7* C. R. T.
Lieut.	Taylor, Rupert Warren.	87* Bn.	Pte.	Terrell, Reginald.	38* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Samuel William	15* Bn.	Pte.	Terris, Gardner.	R. C. R.
Pte.	Taylor, Sydney John.	2* Bn.	Pte.	Territt, Patrick	26* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Vernie Le Roy.	2* Bn.	Cpl.	Terry, Albert E.	7* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Walter.	7-4* Bn.	Pte.	Terry, Albert Edward	-46* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Walter.	26* Bn.	Pte.	Terry, Sidney Charles	18* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Walter James	58* Bn.	Capt.	Terry, Sydney Dorsey	102* Bn.
Sgt.	Taylor, Walter John.	75* Bn.	Pte.	Teskey, James Edward	50* Bn.
L. Cpl.	Taylor, Wilford James	-47* Bn.	Pte.	Teli, Feo.	7* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Wilfrid.	29* Bn.	Pte.	Tetreault, Flavien	22* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, Wilfrid Stanley.	-46* Bn.	Pte.	Tetroe, Frank	-43* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William.	W. C. F.	Lieut.	Tell, Arthur Hopkins.	5* Res. Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William. 700950	-43* Bn.	Pte.	Tetterson, Ross James	-42* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William. (859-411)	-43* Bn.	Sgt.	Thacker, George William	102* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William.	26* Bn.	Pte.	Thain, William	-43* Bn.
L. Cpl.	Taylor, William.	-46* Bn.	Pte.	Thamer, George Henry	58* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William Alfred	78* Bn.	Pte.	Thaw, James Alexander N.	1* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William Edward P. P. C. I. I.		Pte.	Thayer, Alexander Bernard	72* Bn.
L. Cpl.	Taylor, William Ethelbert	5-4* Bn.	Pte.	Theaker, Thomas	31* Bn.
Sgt.	Taylor, William Falkner	-46* Bn.	L. Cpl.	Thelwall, Robert	-47* Bn.
Pte.	Taylor, William Henry	-46* Bn.	Pte.	Theriacult, James Alexander	
Pte.	Taylor, William John.	P. P. C. I. I.			
Pte.	Taylor, William LaVerne	2* C. M. R.			
Pte.	Taylor, William Lawson.	-44* Bn.	Pte.	Theriacult, Joseph F.	-42* Bn.
Pte.	Teal, John Stanley	58* Bn.	Pte.	Therrien, Joseph A.	22* Bn.
Pte.	Teal, William Henry	-4* C. M. R.	Pte.	Thibideau, Michael	87* Bn.
Pte.	Teale, Arthur.	-46* Bn.	Pte.	Thickett, Albert.	1* C. M. R.
Cpl.	Teape, George Frederick	31* Bn.	Pte.	Thickens, Robert William	78* Bn.
Pte.	Teare, David	1* Bn.	Sgt.	Thipthorp, Frederick Charles	29* Bn.
Cpl.	Teare, Frank	50* Bn.			
Spr.	Teasdale, William.	6* C. R. T.	Cpl.	Thiselton, Francis John Dillon	
Pte.	Tebb, William Albert.	8* Bn.			
Lieut.	Teed, Hugh Mariner.	2* Bn.	Pte.	Thistlethwaite, Robert.	73* Bn.
Pte.	Teel, Francis Delbert.	31* Bn.	Pte.	Thivierge, David	2-4* Bn.
Pte.	Teel, Norman Archibald	31* Bn.	Pte.	Thom, Alexander Watson	22* Bn.
Pte.	Teeples, Irvine Gilbert.	73* Bn.	Pte.	Thom, George	18* Bn.
Pte.	Telfer, James.	15* Bn.	Sgt.	Thom, James	1* Can. Coy.
Cpl.	Telfer, John.	-47* Bn.	Pte.	Thom, Robert.	-47* Bn.
L. Cpl.	Telfer, William Stewart	P. P. C. I. I.	L. Cpl.	Thom, Robert	102* Bn.
Pte.	Telford, Harry	87* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Albert.	28* Bn.
Sgt.	Telford, Nathan, M. M. 14* M. G. Coy.		Pte.	Thomas, Clarence Seymour	
Pte.	Telford, William	29* Bn.			
Pte.	Tell, Leonhart Henry	58* Bn.			
Pte.	Temple, James.	31* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, David	1 Pld. Amb.
Gnr.	Temple, Robert Hope. 8* A. Bde. C.F.A.		Pte.	Thomas, David	31* Bn.
Pte.	Templeman, Thomas Marlin.	27* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, David Elerey.	-43* Bn.
			Lieut.	Thomas, David Elyan.	50* Bn.
Pte.	Templeman, Thomas Melville.	27* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Frank Edward	8* Bn.
			Gnr.	Thomas, Frank Edward	1* C. M. R.
Pte.	Templeton, Arthur.	1* I. ab Bn.			
Pte.	Templeton, Ernest C.	P. P. C. I. I.	Pte.	Thomas, Frederick	25* Bn.
Pte.	Templeton, William	5* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Frederick	-47* Bn.
Pte.	Tencom, Emilio	85* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, George Edwin	-46* Bn.
Pte.	Teneycke, Franklin Leshe.	-49* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Harold Joseph.	102* Bn.
Pte.	Tenisco, Moses	107* Par. Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Herbert.	85* Bn.
Pte.	Tennant, George	123* Par. Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Herbert.	-1* Bn.
Pte.	Tennant, George Harvey.	-49* Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, Hugh Roy	7* Bn.
Pte.	Tennant, Harry	27* Bn.	L. Cpl.	Thomas, James David.	F. G. H.
Pte.	Tennyson, Ernest	11* Res. Bn.	Pte.	Thomas, James William	7* Reqt.
			Pte.	Thomas, John.	107* Par. Bn.

When the Canadian National Book of Remembrance was created, Reginald was recorded incorrectly as Lance Corporal Robert Thelwall, still based on his signing-on record.

Vimy Memorial



Opening of the Vimy Ridge Memorial



Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Vimy Memorial, which overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge, about eight kilometres northeast of Arras on the N17 towards Lens. It stands at the top of Hill 145, surrounded by land given to the Canadian government and preserved in its battle-scarred condition. The twin pillars of Adriatic marble symbolise the two nations that go to make up the Canadian nation - the British and the French. The wall behind the memorial carries the names of 11,285 Canadian dead whose bodies were never found. Some 620,000 Canadians served in WWI and 66,655 died. Of those, about 20,000 have no known grave.

At the base of the memorial, these words appear in French and in English:

**TO THE VALOUR OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN IN THE GREAT WAR
AND IN MEMORY OF THEIR SIXTY THOUSAND DEAD
THIS MONUMENT IS RAISED BY THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.**

A plaque at the entrance to the memorial states that the land for the battlefield park, 91.18 hectares in extent, was 'the free gift in perpetuity of the French nation to the people of Canada'. Construction of the massive work began in 1925, and 11 years later, on July 26, 1936, the monument was unveiled by King Edward VIII. The park surrounding the Vimy Memorial was created by horticultural experts. Canadian trees and shrubs were planted in great masses to resemble the woods and forests of Canada. Wooded parklands surround the grassy slopes of the approaches around the Vimy Memorial. Trenches and tunnels have been restored and preserved and the visitor can picture the magnitude of the task that faced the Canadian Corps on that distant dawn when history was made. On 3 April 2003, the Government of Canada designated 9 April of each year as a national day of remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.











These mark the front lines prior to the attack and although artificially preserved in concrete, they do follow the correct lines. They provide a vivid example of how narrow No Man's Land could be in certain parts of the Western Front. Just behind the Canadian front line is the entrance to the Grange Subway, one of the tunnel systems built to get the attacking Canadian troops into the front line area safe from enemy shellfire.



Looking towards the German Front Line from the Allied trenches



German Front Line, with the Allied Front Line behind the lip of the crater





Grange Tunnel

– note the shell that has penetrated the surface and is being supported by a block of wood



Vimy Ridge Memorial Site
– satellite image of the complex with trench systems to the right



Vimy Ridge Memorial Site
– satellite image of the ridge and Memorial (bottom left)

La Chaudiere Military Cemetery

La Chaudiere Military Cemetery was made at the foot of the ridge, on the north-eastern side, next to a house which had contained a camouflaged German gun position. It remained very small until the summer of 1919, when graves were brought in from many other small cemeteries and isolated sites (some of these from the 1916 fighting) on or near the ridge. At this time, the cemetery was known as Vimy Canadian Cemetery No.1.

There are now 908 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 314 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to a number of casualties known to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate men whose graves in some of the concentrated cemeteries had been destroyed in subsequent fighting. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.





**Private 790031 Hayne
47th Battalion Canadian Infantry**

Private Hayne was killed in action the same time as Reginald and they were originally buried side by side.

Could this be Reginald Thelwall's grave (left), only the next-but-one plot from Private Hayne?



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Canadian Virtual War Memorial

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In memory of
Lance Corporal
Robert Thelwall
May 1, 1917

Military Service:	Additional Information:
Service Number: 628227	Born: April 10, 1887
Age: 30	Son of Dr. Thelwall, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
Force: Army	Commemorated on Page 337 of the First World War Book of Remembrance.
Unit: Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment)	Request a copy of this page.
Division: 47th Bn.	

Burial Information:
Cemetery: [VIMY MEMORIAL](#) : Pas de Calais, France



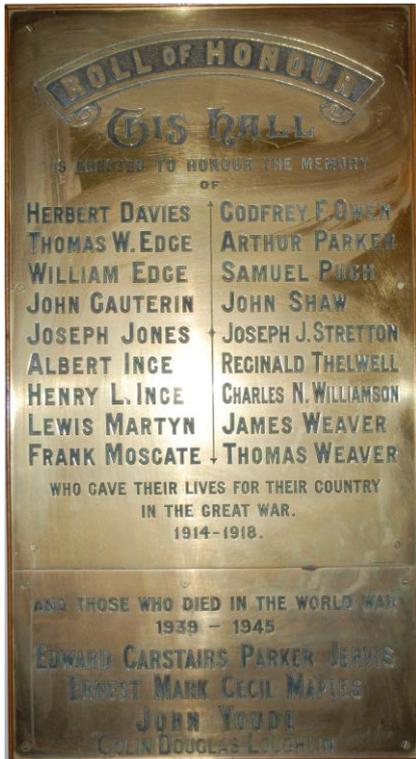
In Prince Rupert, British Colombia, Canada, a cenotaph was erected in a memorial park in 1929, located in front of the courthouse.

Service Medals (1915 Star, Victory Medal, and British Medal) Memorial Plaque and Scrolls



For Canadians, Vimy Ridge had a great impact on the national psyche. This was more than a spectacular victory, as it was the first time Canadian forces had gone in together side by side on the battlefield – in effect a national fighting force which unified the nation’s sense of consciousness and identity.

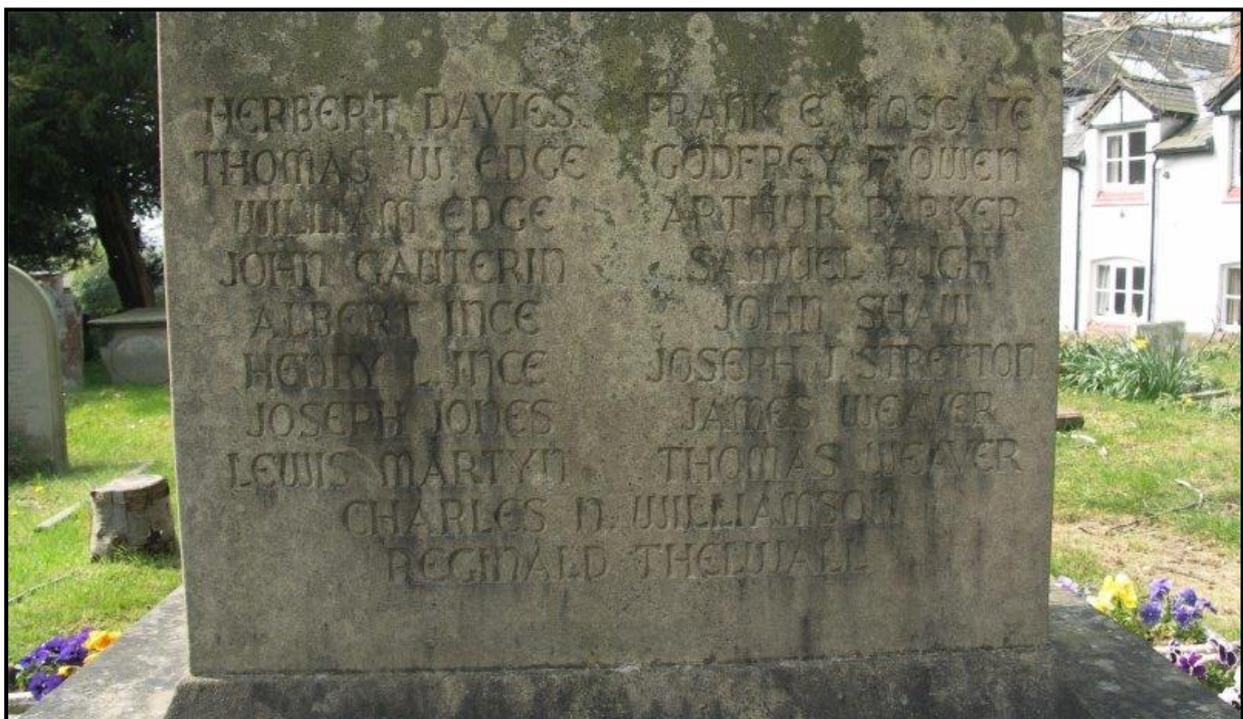
[After the war, the battalion returned to England on 28 April 1919, returned home on the *Empress of Britain* 28 May 1919, disembarked in Canada on 4 June 1919, was demobilised on 6 June 1919, and was disbanded by General Order 149 of 15 September 1920].



Farndon War Memorial

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

Unlike in Canada and on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database, at his home in Farndon, he was correctly recorded on the village war memorial and on the plaque in the Memorial Hall as Lance Corporal **Reginald** Thelwall.



In Memory of
Lance Corporal
Robert Thelwall

628227, 47th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 01 May 1917 Age 30

Son of Dr. Thelwall, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Remembered with Honour
Vimy Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission database,
still has Reginald incorrectly recorded as Robert Thelwall.

The New Zealand Connection

Sergeant Major Robert Thelwall

(1840-1932)

Served in Te Kooti's War /East Cape Maori Wars

(1860s-1892)

Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles
Hawkes Bay Mounted Troops
East Coast Hussars

(Brother of William Thelwall, Surgeon, and Uncle to Robert and Reginald)

and his sons

Driver 11/2241 William Guild THELWALL

13th Battalion, New Zealand Field Artillery

formerly

B Squad, 9th Reinforcements, Wellington Mounted Rifles,
New Zealand Expeditionary Force

Survived the War

Private 10/3406 Robert Cecil THELWALL

B Company, 8th Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion

Discharged in June 1916 due to foot wound

Survived the War

(first cousins of Robert and Reginald, in New Zealand)

Robert Thelwall (1840-1932) Brother of William Thelwall, Surgeon, and Uncle to Robert and Reginald

During research to check Reginald Thelwall's enlistment papers for the First World War (as he had registered as Robert – covered in his biography), his Uncle Robert's movements were also looked into which revealed surprising developments.

Born in 1845, when Robert reached his mid-teens his father William wanted to make sure he was able to make his way in the world when it time to leave home. His older brother was already at college, training to follow his father as a surgeon, but Robert showed no inclination for such a career, so the obvious route open to him was farming. Instead of being taken in as an agricultural labourer by a local farmer like the other lads in the village, William paid for his son to be given an 'education' with local farmers with a good reputation.

However, while still in his late teens, his head was turned by the visit to the family home by a relative Sam Powdrell, who was home on a visit from New Zealand. He had emigrated a couple of years earlier to join his brothers John and Joseph who were already there. John wrote dozens of letters home to his family describing in great detail his experiences and struggles in trying to get established – travelling across the country on foot, forging relationships with local Maoris and purchasing land from them, clearing land to farm and building his own home. There were tribal wars to contend with as factions tried to drive out the colonists. Yet he was convinced this was a better life, and free from the yoke of the landed aristocracy and church crushing them with their demands for high rent and tithes. Here he was master of his own land and constantly encouraged his family to join him out there – and to bring whatever they could, including machinery and ploughs! The letters make fascinating reading and these Farndon men – including a number from the Parker family who were already out there – were pioneers in the purest sense. They were building their communities from scratch.

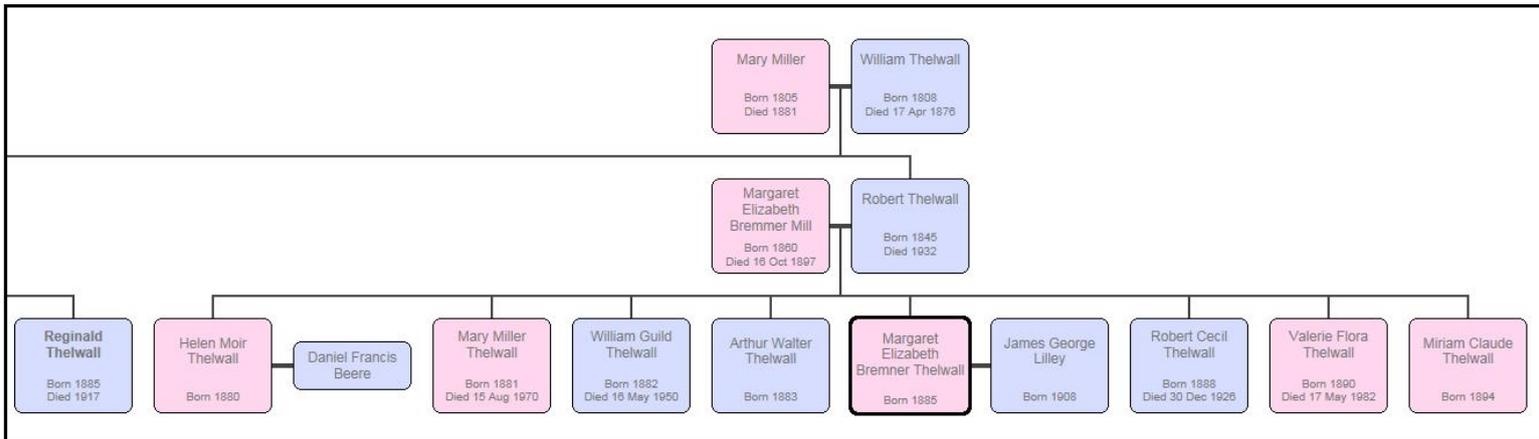
[There is much more to this and it has now been extensively researched. This is just a brief insight as it is beyond the scope and criteria of this Thelwall article. A more detailed account about the pioneering Powdrells, Parkers and Thelwalls (all related) will appear on the Farndon Parish History website in the future]

Robert was certainly impressed by Sam and his tales of a new life in a new world where he could be his own master and joined him on his return journey. Robert never set foot in the UK again.

He eventually settled in an area previously known as Tūranga, that today has grown into the town of Gisborne, located at the north end of Poverty Bay. The nearby white cliff headland of Young Nick's Head was the first part of New Zealand sighted by the crew of Captain James Cook's ship Endeavour, and was named for the crew member who first saw it. A memorial to Cook stands on the foreshore, marking the point where he first stepped ashore in New Zealand on 8 October 1769. The first trading station was setup there in 1831 on behalf of a Sydney firm, but the founding of the town is attributed to G. E. Read, who settled on the Kaiti (east) side of the river that divides the town in 1852, but later built stores on the west bank. Over the next 30 years other traders and missionaries also came. The government began to buy up land in 1868 and 300 hectares of land were laid out for a town site. Rapid development came towards the end of the century on the back of a thriving pastoral hinterland. Two freezing works and many other industries were established. Robert Thelwall and the



Parkers played a role in this from the 1860s and in 1886 a local chief, Raharuhi Rukupo contracted Henry Parker and Robert Thelwall to establish a sheep farm on the area now known as Longbush - an area which is today managed as an eco-sanctuary.



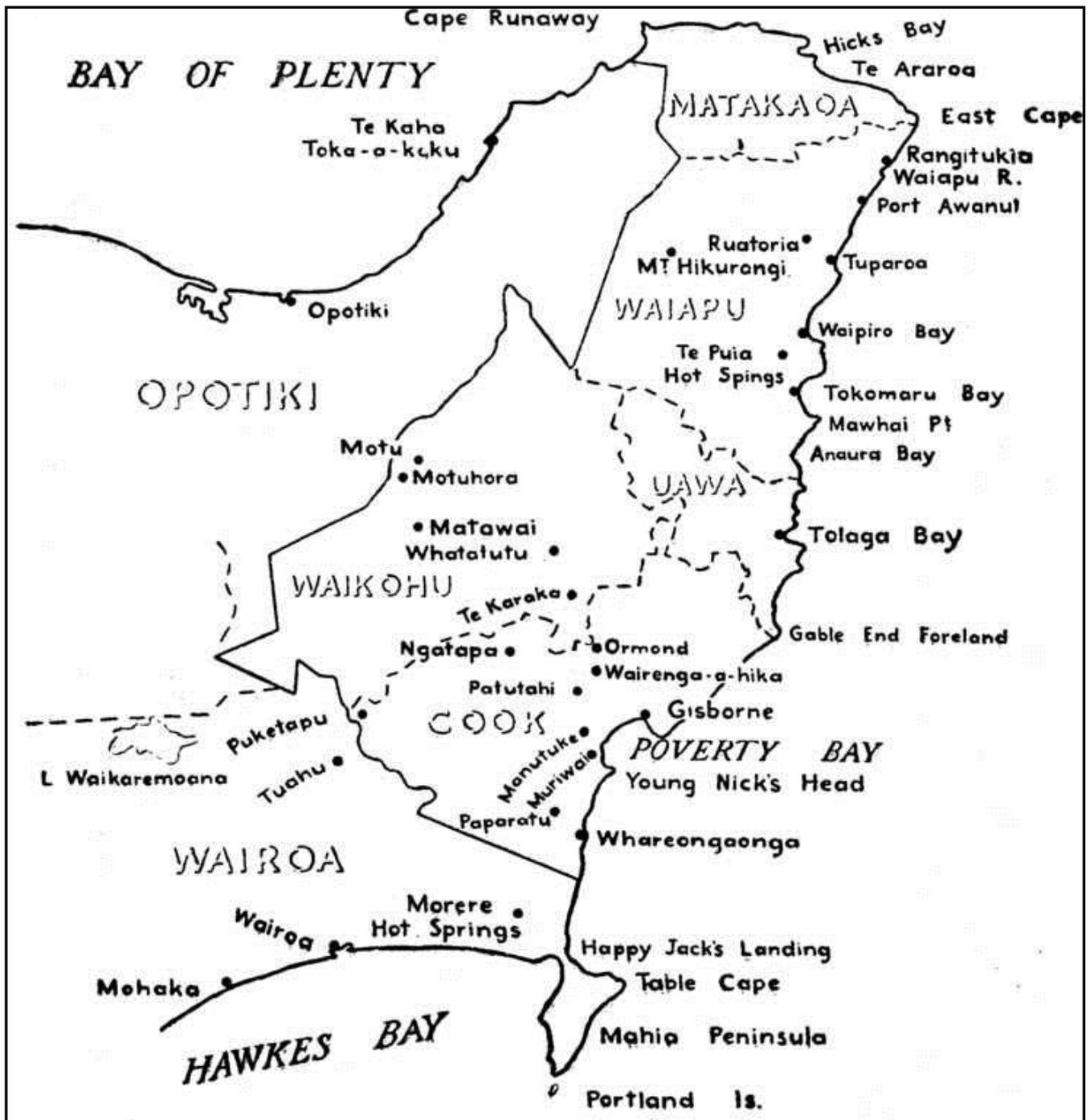
Page 18] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Parish of Barrow

No. of House	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and-Dumb
		Inhabited (L.) or Building (B.)	Empty				Males	Females			
				Wm. Lightfoot	Head	Free	46		Schooler	Barrow, Cheshire	
				John Lightfoot	Wife	Free	44		Wife	Barrow	
				John Lightfoot	Son	Free	14		Ploughman	St. John's, Chester	
				Elizabeth Lightfoot	Servant	Free	60		Dairy maid	Widport Co. North	
82		1		Mary Lightfoot	Wife	Free	41		Wife and Dresser, Police	Chester	
				Mary Lightfoot	Servant	Free	20		Wife of B. House of Lord	Barrow	
				Edward Lightfoot	Son	Free	18		James Son	Barrow	
				Mrs. Woodson	Niece	Widow	60		Widow	Widow	
				Mrs. Woodson	Servant	Free	41		Dairy maid	Blensall	
				Mrs. Woodson	Servant	Free	12		House maid	Barrow	
				Thomas Woodson	Servant	Free	16		Carter	Warrington	
				Thomas Lightfoot	Servant	Free	12		Cook	Barrow	
83		1		Benjamin Lightfoot	Head	Free	35		Whiplash	Barrow	
				Thomas Lightfoot	Son	Free	14		Widow	Barrow	
84		1		Robert Lightfoot	Head	Free	16		Widow	Barrow	
				Emma Lightfoot	Wife	Widow	45		Wife	Warrington, Cheshire	
				John Lightfoot	Son	Free	14		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				Charles Lightfoot	Son	Free	11		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				John Lightfoot	Son	Free	4		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				Mary Lightfoot	Wife	Widow	4		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				Robert Thelwall	Servant	Free	16		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				Margaret Thelwall	Servant	Free	17		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
				Margaret Thelwall	Servant	Free	17		Widow	Warrington, Cheshire	
Total of Houses...		3		Total of Males and Females...		44		11			

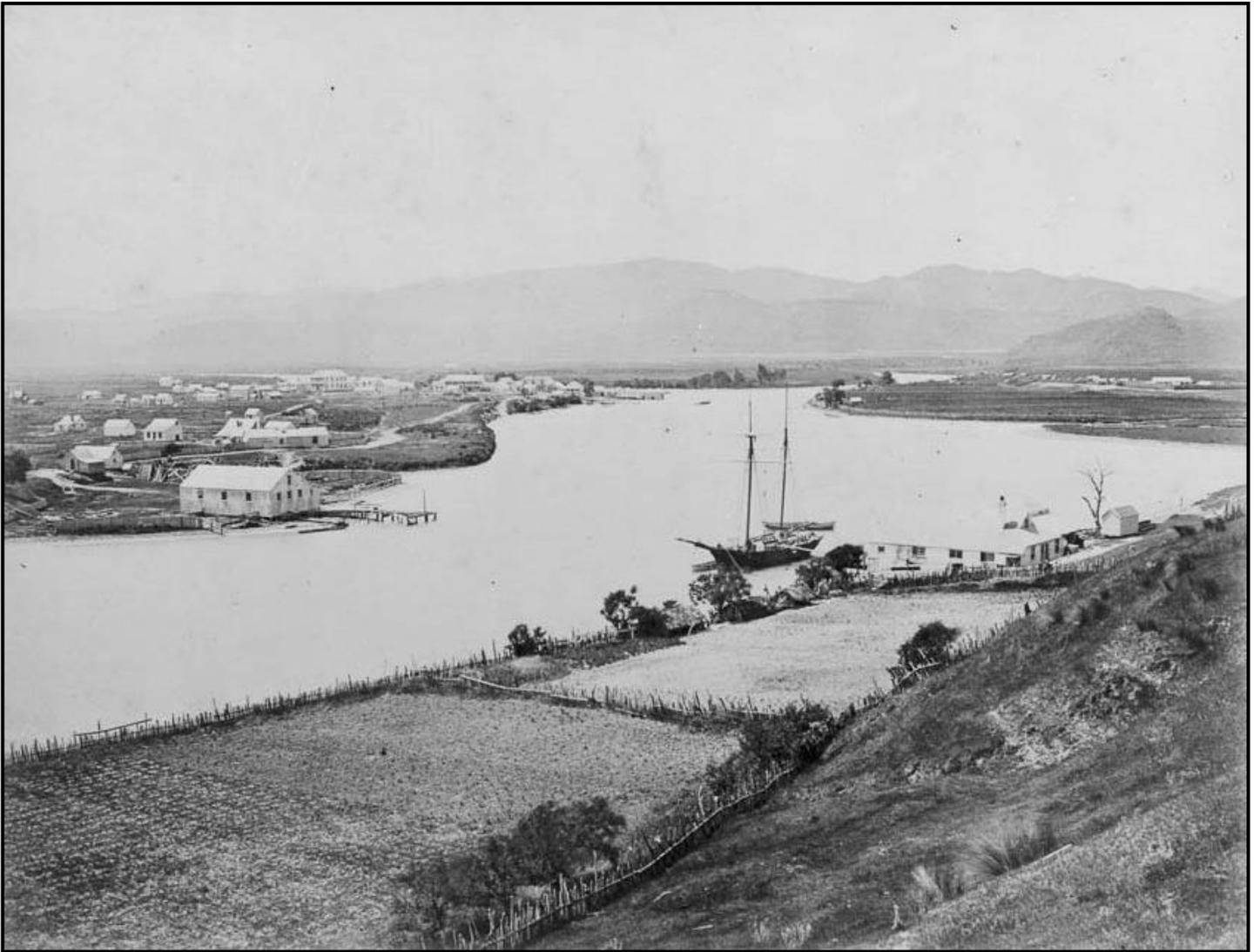
1861 Census

The last time Robert Thelwall would be recorded on a UK census before emigrating to New Zealand. Here, he is recorded (third from bottom) working as a 16 year old on the farm of Robert Lightfoot in Great Barrow, about three miles east of Chester. Robert Lightfoot's wife may have been known to the Thelwalls as she was born in Farndon.

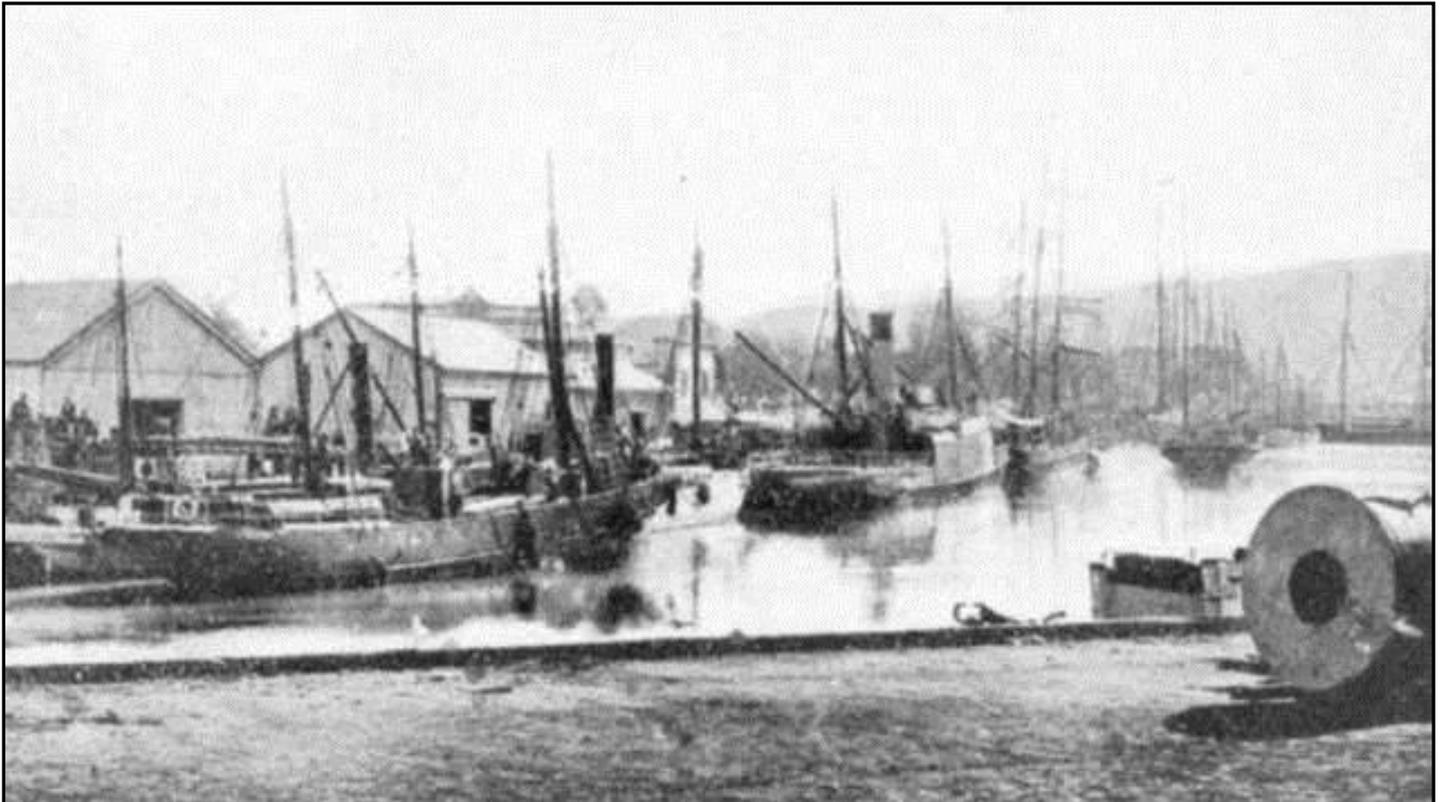




Robert Thelwall and Samuel Powdrell originally headed for land near Napier, as their relatives – the Parkers from Farndon, and Sam's brothers Joseph and John Dutton Powdrell, were already there. Robert and Sam helped them build a bridge over the river between Napier and Hastings, before striking out for land of their own – Parker land – in what later became Gisborne.



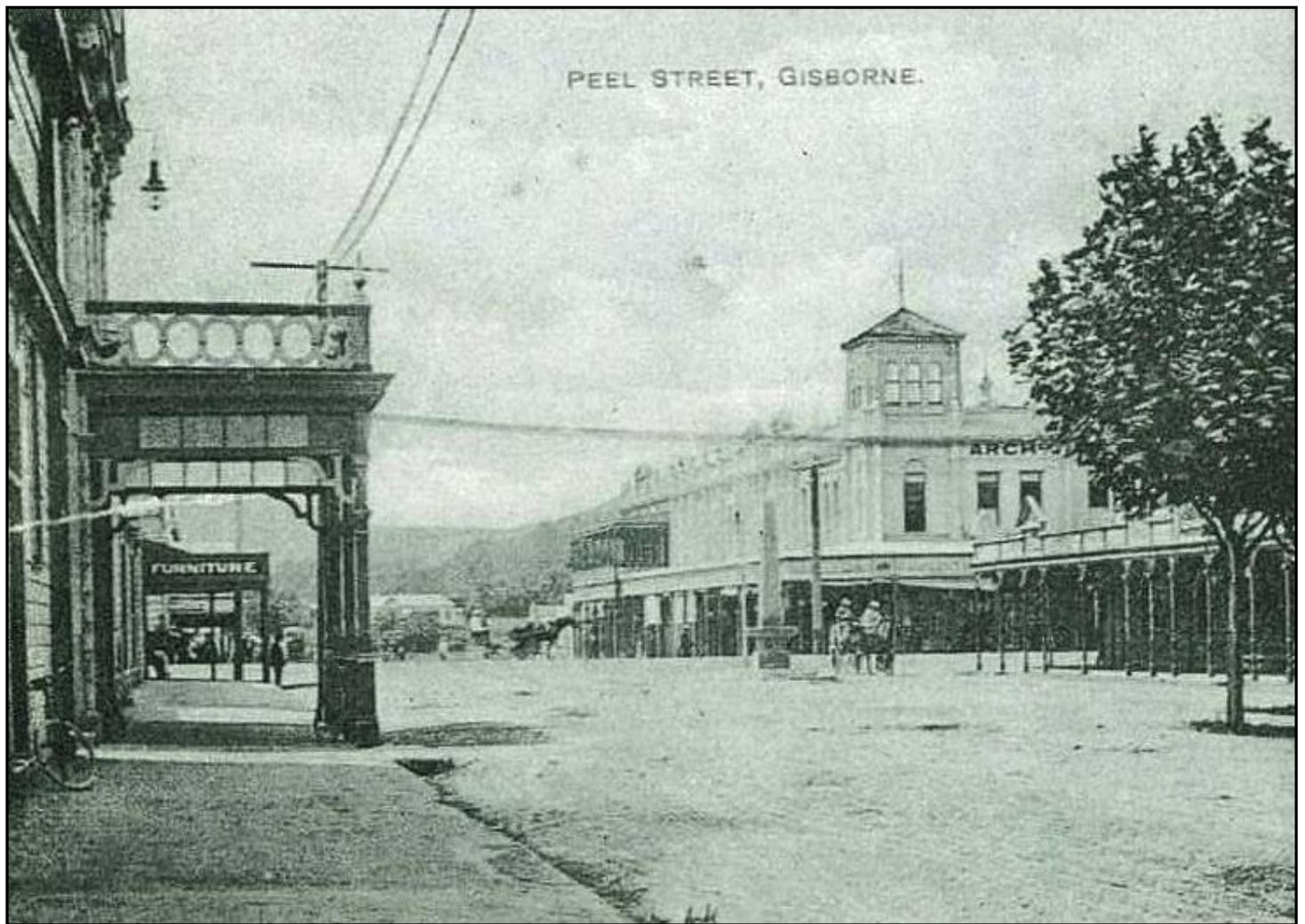
Gisborne as an early trading outpost in the nineteenth century





Gisborne today. The eastern end of Aberdeen Road is arrowed.






 SHIPPING AND FAMILY
 BUTCHERY,
 PEEL-STREET, GISBORNE.
 (Late Thelwall & Co.'s premises.)

JOHN CLARK,
BEGBS to intimate that having purchased
 the Business of MESSRS THELWALL
 AND STAPLES, he will continue to supply
 Families, Hotels, and others from the above
 Business Premises, and hopes by continuing
 to supply his Customers with the best article
 procurable, to merit and receive a con-
 tinuance of their favors.

 FAMILIES WAITED ON FOR ORDERS

 SHIPPING SUPPLIED.

JOHN CLARK. 294



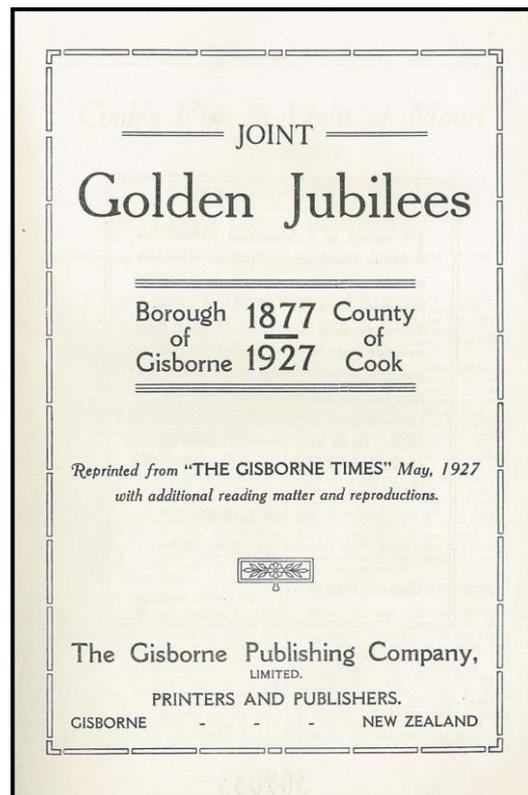
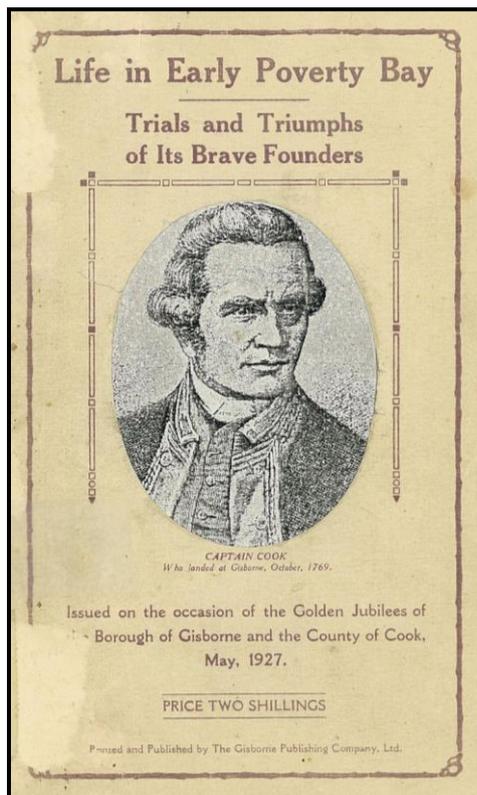
During a very serious outbreak of fire in the Albion Hotel block on 7 March, 1887, the steam pump was taken to the riverbank near the site of the rotunda. This fire, which started in the Albion Stables, also destroyed the new Albion Hotel and the premises of M. G. Nasmith (jeweller), R. Thelwall (butcher), N.Z. Loan and Mercantile Co. Ltd., and W. Good (jeweller). - *Gisborne Times*

Robert Thelwall's premises were in Peel Street.



Above: Taruheru River. The Thelwall residence was on land near the bank on the left.
Below: Aberdeen Road, Gisborne

In 1927, a volume was put together detailing the founding of the town and interviewed many of its older inhabitants – one of the oldest by then being Robert Thelwall. This is the chapter written about him and his experiences,



**Gisborne in the Sixties
Exciting Experiences of Early Days
Mr. Robert Thelwall's Reminiscences**

The oldest pioneer of Gisborne, living in the oldest house built on blocks in Gisborne. Such is the record claimed by Mr. Robert Thelwall, who, despite his eighty-seven odd years, is still hale and hearty and as active as the average “youngster” of half a century. He trundles the wheelbarrow with the best of workers, looks after the cows, digs the ground, cultivates a maize patch, and carries out the general work on a farm. Now and again during the week he comes up town and puts in the afternoon at the bowling green, where even now he is one of the best exponents of the game in the Bay. On Saturday, he takes a whole day off, and is usually noticed in the town between 10 and 11 o'clock. The afternoon sees him on the Gisborne Bowling Club's green, and he goes home to tea. After the meal, Mr. Thelwall sets off again for town and puts in the night at the pictures, for he is an inveterate “movie fan.” It is nearly eleven o'clock before he again reaches home, but on Sunday morning he is up again bright and early, and carries out the farm work necessary for the day. Still, at times he thinks of the old friends of boyhood days, when life was one long dream of happiness and of excitement, of the continuous watch against the treacherous Hauhaus and the midnight marches against Te Kooti, of the days in the township of Turanga when money was scattered like water, of the revelry at night. Nearly all his old comrades, alas, are now amongst the number,

*That from his Vintage rolling Time has pressed
Have drunk their cup a round or two before
And one by one crept silently to rest.*

As but natural, such thoughts come to the veteran, but a smile soon creeps over his features as he recalls the fun of the early days. “They were good days, too,” said Mr Thelwall, “much

better than the present times. We had to work hard and we got little money, but there was a different feeling abroad then. Friends then were true friends, who would stick to one through thick and thin. Nowadays with all these laws and unions things are different." The march of civilisation has not impressed Mr. Thelwall.

Boyhood in Cheshire

Mr Thelwall was born in Farndon, Cheshire, in 1840, and at the age of sixteen was apprenticed to a farmer at Borrass Hall, on Lord Kenyon's estate, Mr Thelwall, senior., having to pay £100 per annum for the privilege. At the conclusion of three years he was transferred also at £100 a year, for three years, at what was considered the best farm in Cheshire, Hatton Hall, owned by Mr Salmon. During this time, rinderpest broke out in Cheshire, and hundreds of cattle were destroyed. Things did not look too promising for farming, and Mr Thelwall, senior., was considering his son's future when a cousin named Sam Powdrell, whose relatives still reside in Wairoa, visited England from New Zealand, and, as usual in those times, poured forth glowing accounts of the new country into the ears of Robert Thelwall. Sam Powdrell was home on a holiday, and when he left some months later, Robert Thelwall naturally went with him, the two leaving by the sailing ship *England* towards the end of 1865.

Arrival in New Zealand

After a voyage of nearly 130 days the ship arrived at Auckland, where the two, who were bound for Napier, transferred to the steamer *Phoebe*. The little vessel struck a gale on her way down and could not call in at the Hawke's Bay port, and anchor was not cast until well into Wellington harbour. After a few days there, the weather eased, and the *Phoebe* left for Napier, arriving early in January, 1866.

Commencing Work in the New Land

On arrival at Napier, young Thelwall received an enthusiastic welcome from his cousins, the Parker family, father and mother of Mr. W. Parker, now of Mangapapa, who was, of course, then but a very small boy. After the rejoicings at the reunion were over, Mr. Thelwall commenced work with Messrs. C. Smale and W. Parker, erecting a bridge over the river between Napier and Hastings.

[Other members of the Parker family of Farndon also went out to New Zealand. Arthur Parker served in the First World War and is also on the Farndon War Memorial. Refer to his biography for further detail on his settlement in New Zealand with his brothers.]

Legacy Leads to Land in Poverty Bay

While at work on the bridge, Mr. Thelwall received word of a legacy of £1000, and decided to purchase an interest in the Parker family's run at Turanga (now Gisbourne). Early in 1866, therefore, Mr William Parker and Robert Thelwall set out for their new home. The party left Napier in the schooner *Ringleader*, and were taken right up to the corner of their property, their landing place being the point, the junction of the rivers, near the Wm. Pettie bridge. Then for the first time Mr. Thelwall saw the property in which he had secured an interest. It comprised over 24,000 acres, roughly all the land between the Taruheru and the Waimata rivers, and extending some twelve of fifteen miles up the Taruheru. All the land now known as the suburb of Whataupoko was included in the block, which extended back almost as far as the Waimata settlement. It was a Native lease, for 21 years, and was considered first-class land, being all scrub, fern and swamp.

Stocking the Run

A few weeks previously, Mr. W. W. Smith had brought up from Napier some flock ewes to stock the run. They were landed at the Point, and driven along the river-side up to a point between the present freezing works and Makaraka, where it was decided to erect the homestead. In those days the Taruheru was a wide, deep river, with a shingly beach on each side. These beaches were a favourite place with the Maoris, for the layer of sand hid literally millions of large and luscious pipis. Schooners from Sydney came right up to Makaraka, sailing

all the way. They lay sometimes at anchor for weeks, waiting a cargo of wool and wheat, for the district grew much wheat on those days.

A little later the Parker family came up from Napier, and it was decided, instead of building a homestead, to lease a big house on the town side of the river belonging to Mr E. Espie's father. The building was on the bank of the river, not far from the Roseland gardens, and close to where the Roseland Hotel now stands. The property, as stated previously, was on the other side of the river, but access to the homestead was gained by means of a rope stretched on which settlers seated in a canoe pulled themselves across. At that time there were only some twenty or thirty white people in Turanga, the majority of the people living out on the flats at Makaraka, the Resident Magistrate (Capt. R. Biggs) living at Matawhero.

Te Kooti's Return

Meanwhile the colony, and more especially Poverty Bay, was thrown into a state of excitement by the news that Te Kooti, who had been deported to the Chathams in 1865, after the Waerenga-a-hika fight, had seized the schooner *Rifleman* and with a band of Hauhaus had landed at Whareongaonga. That was on July 10, 1868. The Europeans at Turanga and on the flats did not know of the arrival until two days later, and Captain Biggs called out the Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles under Captain Westrupp, Mr. Thelwall being amongst the number. The volunteers camped at the head of the Arai, and the first clash occurred on July 20, at Papatatu, on a field of snow. That was the opening shot in a campaign which lasted for many years, cost many lives, and involved an expenditure of thousands of pounds.

Colonials Ambushed

This first fight was a test of Te Kooti's strategy, for he sent a body of Natives behind the colonials, who were thus caught in an ambush—Te Kooti being on a ridge above and other Hauhaus below. The fight resulted in the loss of ten colonials and friendly Maoris, six more being wounded. The rebels lost three killed. Many of the friendly Natives quickly retreated before the Hauhaus attack, and the Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles, about thirty in number, gave themselves up for lost when Henare Kakapango, who was in charge of the friendly Maoris, came to their rescue. Kakapango was one of the best and most experienced pighunters in New Zealand and knew the bush backward. Realising the seriousness of the position, he headed the retreating party, who were to a large extent hampered by the wounded. For his bravery, Kakapango was later presented with a sword, accompanied by a gift of £100.

Officious Colonel and Free and Easy Colonials

At the head of the Arai the dispirited Europeans met Colonel Whitmore, the well-known ex-Imperial Army officer, who had already had much experience in Maori warfare. The retreating colonials and Colonel Whitmore's small force, which had come up from Napier, met in the Arai valley.

The Colonel asked full particulars and they were supplied him by Captain Westrupp.

"Ah!" he said, "you men must come back again with me."

"Who the h— are you?" asked one of the volunteers, one Dodd, who was afterwards killed in the Massacre.

"I'm Colonel Whitmore," was the reply.

"Well you can go to h—!" said Dodd. "We're all going home; we've had enough."

The Colonel said: "Martial law has been proclaimed, and I order you to turn back."

"We all laughed," said Mr. Thelwall, "or at least we smiled, as well as one could" smile at such a time. We surrounded him and told him we didn't care what he said. We had had quite enough, at any rate, for a start, and we were off home. We knew nothing of martial law being proclaimed. His abrupt official manner didn't appeal to us and we left him speechless. We told him, however we might come back next day if we felt like it. After a good wash and a good feed we felt better. Later we had a meeting and decided to turn up on the following day, and we all joined Whitmore's forces.

The troops followed Te Kooti up the Ruatikuri river, where the Hauhaus attacked, killing six British and friendly Maoris and wounding five, and Whitmore's force came back. Te Kooti moved on to Puketapu in the Urewera Country, where he rested for the winter, and Whitmore's force was disbanded.

Joy in the Homestead

For a little time matters appeared peaceful in Poverty Bay and the Parker family and Mr. Thelwall put in strenuous work clearing the bush on their property. On November 8, 1868, there was generally joy in the homestead for the first shearing had just been completed. The flock at that time totalled over 2000, and the young settlers could see themselves on the high road to prosperity. There was still uneasiness over Te Kooti's return, and the settlers on the flats commenced the construction of a large redoubt, which was nearing completion. The idea was that every evening the settlers and their families should sleep in the redoubt, returning to their homes in the daytime. Sunday, November 9, was a day of rest, in which the chief topic was the good fortune which had attended the farming venture in Poverty Bay. Wool was bringing ninepence a pound, and the clip was a good one. It was a merry party at the homestead that evening. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Parker and their two children (Mr. W. Parker, of Mangapapa, and Mr. F. Parker, who later was manager of the Bank of New South Wales in Gisborne), Mr. Thelwall and Mr. C. Smale, there were also two European shearers, Dan Munn and Beb Parkhouse. The household retired early, little anticipating the horrors which the next day would bring forth.

“Black Monday” in Poverty Bay

Between 3 and 4 a.m. on Monday, November 10, a rifle shot broke the silence. The cause was only too apparent and a thrill of horror ran through all present. It was the opening scene in the Poverty Bay Massacre. Messrs. Smale, Thelwall, Parkhouse and Munns were still members of the Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles, and as Mr. and Mrs. Parker and the children in their night attire rushed into the scrub near the house, the others ran for their rifles. Munns seized a horse standing near and rode full tear down the road towards the other settlers. He met two Natives who appeared almost panic stricken and said Te Kooti had returned and intended to kill all the settlers. Munns turned his horse, and galloped madly back. The news all had feared was only too true. The Natives, however, who had given Munns the news were Hauhaus, and as soon as he was a few yards away they fired on him and wounded him in the back. Munns, however, rode full tear into the manuka and eventually reached the stockhouse at Turanga. The almost hysterical party from the homestead, hidden in the manuka two chains away, counted a party of twenty-eight Hauhaus outside the door of the homestead, which they entered. They saw signs of hurried flight and thought the inmates had been warned some time previously and had escaped. The Hauhaus, intent on more victims, wasted no time and rode away. After some little time the party in the manuka went back in the house and dressed themselves, secured a few valuables, crossed the river, and fled through the scrub on Whataupoko down to the blockhouse at Gisborne. Shortly after their departure the Hauhaus returned, looted the place, and set the homestead and woolshed on fire.

On Active Service Once More

Soon after reaching the redoubt Mr. Thelwall fell a victim to typhoid fever, and as there was no doctor at Turanga was sent to Napier, but a few months later returned and rejoined his old troop. Meanwhile Te Kooti, with his mana increased as the result of his victories over the pakehas, moved down from the Urewera into Poverty Bay again, and established himself at Ngatapa, the first fight taking place on December 5, when six Europeans and friendlies were killed, the rebels losing ten men. Then on January 1, 1869, commenced the siege of Ngatapa when, with the help of 200 Ngatiporous under Ropata Wahawaha and Kotene Porourangi, and 170 Wairoa Natives under Lieut. Preece, the Ngatapa pa was besieged for three days and three nights until the Hauhaus abandoned their mountain hold, losing over 130 dead. Te Kooti retreated to the Te Wera forest, with his mana largely decreased, and his followers but few.

The Poverty Bay men returned to Turanga, and lived in the blockhouse, guarding the township. This was in 1869. In 1872 Te Kooti escaped into the King Country, where he spent eleven years. He was pardoned in 1883, but was not allowed to return to Poverty Bay.

Final Expedition Against Te Kooti

In 1889, however, he decided to defy the Government, went to Auckland, and in spite of warnings, travelled to the Bay of Plenty with a large number of followers, intending to revisit Turanga or Gisborne, as it was then known. A meeting was held at Makaraka school and a force of over 100 left Gisborne to prevent his reappearance in this district. The force was commanded by Colonel Porter, with Major Winter next in command, and Major Ropata in charge of the Ngati-Porous. Mr. Thelwall held the rank of sergeant-major in the advance guard. The force marched to Opotiki. Here it was ascertained that Te Kooti with a following of 150 men, women and children was at Ohua. The Hauhaus were surrounded but Te Kooti was missing. Later he came near and found himself in a net of Ngatiporous and the advance guard. He was arrested and later sent to the Supreme Court at Auckland and sentenced to remain in a prescribed area on the shore of Ohiwa harbour, where he died in 1893. Uncertainty as to the exact location of the body exists, however, to the present day.

Gisborne in the Seventies

After his return from active service early in the seventies, Mr. Thelwall secured 250 acres at Patutahi, at a Native lease of 5/- an acre, the term being for 21 years. Mr. William Smith went into partnership with him and occupied the land while Mr. Thelwall worked as overseer for Johnson Bros., and Westrupp at Wharekia station, near Muriwai. After a few years the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Thelwall took to shearing at Te Arai, working for Mr. Woodbine Johnson. Then he resolved to commence butchering, with his slaughterhouse at Makaraka and the shop in Gisborne. His first purchase was 100 fat wethers. The Gisborne shop was at the end of Captain Read's wharf, which ran out into the river at a point where the Band Rotunda now stands. Then, at the present corner of Gladstone Road and Read's Quay was Mr Thelwall's butchery,

Cheap Meat

In the seventies, when Mr. Thelwall was the town butcher, there was only one price for meat. 4d per lb, roasts of beef and legs of mutton all being retailed with no advance for the better cuts. After a time Mr. Thelwall put in a sausage machine, the first in the Bay. The engine was purchased in Sydney for £100. Later Mr. Thelwall increased the power of the engine and crushed oats and maize for the hotels and stablekeepers. Sausages were sold at sixpence per pound.

*Mr. Robert Thelwall's Reminiscences from
Life in Early Poverty Bay – Trials and Triumphs of its Brave Founders
– Issued on the occasion of the Golden Jubilees of
Borough of Gisborne and the County of Cook, (May 1927) p.86*

Regarding his military service in Te Kooti's War (as part of the East Cape Maori Wars) Trooper Robert Thelwall (later Sergeant-Major) was awarded the marksman's badge, and in 1887 the New Zealand War Medal. He served in the Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles and Hawkes Bay Mounted Troops, and the East Coast Hussars.



The East Coast Hussars were formed in 1887 and among their number was Sergeant Major Robert Thelwall. He regularly competed for the regimental marksman trophy instituted in 1888 and he won it four times over the next five years, the final time being in 1892 when the East Coast Hussars were disbanded. Engraved discs were added to the

ornate trophy belt each time it was won. The belt remained in the possession of Robert's eldest daughter Helen (nee Thelwall) Beere's descendants until they moved away and donated it in 2008 to the Tairāwhiti Museum in Gisborne, as they felt it should 'come home'.

After the wars the subsequent land confiscations had a lasting impact on the social and economic development of the affected tribes. The legacy of the New Zealand Wars continues, but these days the battles are mostly fought in courtrooms and around the negotiation table. A 2013 Waitangi Tribunal report said the action of Crown forces on the East Coast from 1865 to 1869—the East Coast Wars and the start of Te Kooti's War—resulted in the deaths of proportionately more Māori than in any other district during the New Zealand wars. It condemned the "illegal imprisonment" on the Chatham Islands of a quarter of the East Coast region's adult male population, and said the loss in war of an estimated 43 percent of the male population, many through acts of "lawless brutality", was a stain on New Zealand's history and character.



The New Zealand Medal was instituted in 1869. While it is British, the medal can be described as New Zealand's first indigenous campaign medal. It was awarded for service in the New Zealand Wars of 1845-47 and 1860-66. The Medal was awarded to members of the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and to colonial volunteers.



In 1879, Robert Thelwall married Margaret Elizabeth Bremner Mill, whose family had come from Scotland, and had eight children. Sadly his wife died on 16 October 1898, but lived in their home in Aberdeen Road, Gisborne, until he passed away in 1932 aged ninety-three.

During the First World War his sons **William Guild Thelwall** and **Robert Cecil Thelwall** (first cousins of Robert and Reginald) served in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

William Guild Thelwall

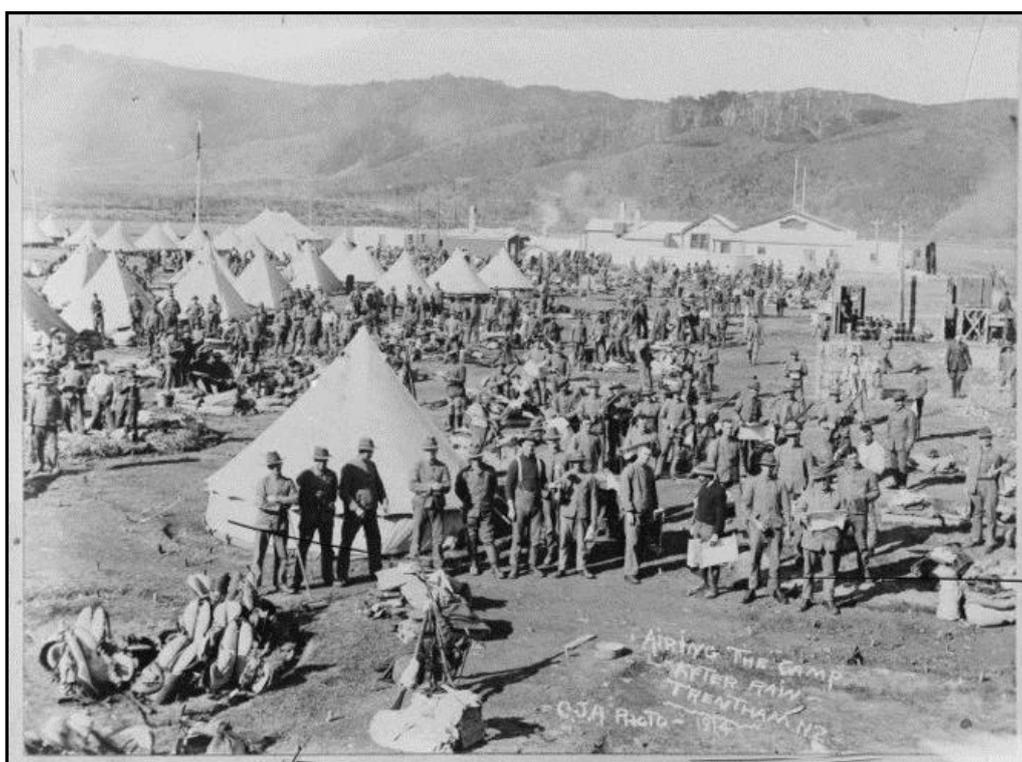
William, eldest son of Robert Thelwall, born on 20 May 1882, was working as a carpenter on a sheep farm in Waipare, at the time the war started. He travelled down to Trentham Military Camp at Upper Hutt, just north of Wellington, where he enlisted, aged 32, on 19 October 1915 and was posted as Private 11/2241 Thelwall, into B Squad, 9th Reinforcements, Wellington Mounted Rifles, New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

On 14 January 1916, the troop ship *Dalmore* left Wellington for the Mediterranean. By the 28 February 1916 he was in Suez, Egypt, but not for long as on 4 March 1916 he was transferred to the 9th Battery, New Zealand Field Artillery, with the rank of Gunner, and embarked for France at Alexandria on 7 April. Arriving there on 11 May, he was immediately transferred to the 13th Battery and promoted to the rank of Driver. He served with the artillery on the Somme and on the Ypres Salient for the next three years until his discharge.

On 31 July 1917 he was given two weeks leave in the U.K. – probably the first time he had been in his father's homeland. Did he have time to visit family in Farndon?

In 1918 he began having trouble with his vision, and he was sent to 'rest camp' on 8 June 1918. This did not solve the problem, and he was hospitalised at No.1 General Base Hospital, Abbeyville, on 22 June, where his 'defective vision' was diagnosed as conjunctivitis. This may have been caused by the effects of gas, although he was not severely affected, as he was back to recuperate at the military base in Etaples on 5 July, before rejoining the 3rd Brigade in the field on the 15th. He eventually rejoined the 13th Battery on 24 August, but it was not for long, as he was back in the UK on leave from 11-29 September. After the final push and the Armistice, Driver William Thelwall was posted to the UK on January 1919, and on 23 March he was actually in Liverpool, where he was joining the vessel *Northumberland* for the journey home, at last, to New Zealand.

He was finally discharged on 7 June 1919, when he returned to the family home once more in Aberdeen Road, Gisborne. He returned to his trade still living in Aberdeen Road where he passed away aged 68 on 18 May 1950, and laid to rest with his mother and siblings in Taruheru Cemetery, Gisborne.



Trentham Military Camp
at Upper Hutt

Extracts from the War Record of

Driver 11/2241 William Guild THELWALL

13th Battalion, New Zealand Field Artillery

formerly

**B Squad, 9th Reinforcements, Wellington Mounted Rifles,
New Zealand Expeditionary Force**

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION OF

No. 11/2241 Name: Thelwall William Guild Regiment or Unit: B Squad 9th ANZ

Questions to be put to the recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name? ... 1. Thelwall William Guild
2. Where were you born? ... 2. Siborne
3. Are you a British subject? ... 3. Yes
4. What is the date of your birth? ... 4. 20.5.1882
5. What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Carpenter
6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom? ... 6. No.
7. What was the address at which you last resided? ... 7. of F. J. Williams Waipare
8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent? ... 8. Yes.
9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer? ... 9. F. J. Williams Cheppinua Waipare
10. Are you married? ... 10. No
11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where? ... 11. No
12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps? ... 12. No
13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge. ... 13. No.
14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service? ... 14. Yes
15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where? ... 15. No
16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? ... 16. No.
17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 17. Yes
18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disband it? ... 18. Yes

Note.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, William Guild Thelwall, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit: William G Thelwall
 Signature of Witness: Walter Edie

Oath to be taken by recruit on attestation.

I, William Guild Thelwall, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Trentham, N.Z., on this 19th day of October, 1915

Signature of Attesting Officer: G. Y. Carey Lieut.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and initial the alteration.

2

Description of Thelwall, William G. on Enlistment

Apparent age: 32 years — months.
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: 5 feet 5 inches.

Weight: 10 · 0 lb.

Chest-measurement: { Minimum, 33 inches.
 Maximum, 36 inches.

Complexion: Medium

Colour of eyes: Blue

Colour of hair: Brown

Religious profession: English

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Medical Examination.

Sight: Right eye, Normal

" Left eye, do

Hearing: Right ear, do

" Left ear, do

Colour-vision: Normal

Are his limbs well formed? yes

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? yes

Is his chest well formed? yes

Is his heart normal? yes

Are his lungs normal? yes

What is the condition of the teeth? Good

Is he free from hernia? yes

Is he free from varicocele? yes

Is he free from varicose veins? yes

Is he free from hæmorrhoids? yes

Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin-disease? yes

Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? yes

Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? yes

Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? No

Remarks.

Next of kin:
Father

Robert Thelwall
Aberdeen R^d
Sublime

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Oct 6, 1915

Charles F. Lewis, Medical Officer.
Capt.

Reinforcement: 9th Dalmore
Authority to Headquarters: 20.10.19

HISTORY SHEET.

SEE FILE E.F. Form No. 3A.

Unit: N.Z.F.F.	Rank: Pte	Surname: Thewall	Christian Name: Wm. Guild	No.: 11/2241
Occupation: Carpenter	Religion: English	Last New Zealand address: c/o F.S. Williams Waipare		
Last employer: F.S. Williams				
Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): Robert Thewall Aberdeen Rd Gisborne Father				

29 MAY 1950

DIED SINCE DISCHARGE

No. 11/2241 Rank: Pte
 Name: William Guild Thewall
 Address: Aberdeen Rd Gisborne

Periods of Service.	Theatres of Operation.
In New Zealand: 117 days	Australasian
Overseas: 8 years 117 days	Egyptian 1916
Total service: 8 years 234 days	Egyptian E.F. 1916
Date commenced duty: 17.10.15	Balkan
Date finally discharged: 7.6.19	Western European } 1916-1917-1918
	Asiatic

Decorations: MEDAL ACTION
 The foregoing particulars are correct.
 Signature: [Signature]
 N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Date finally discharged: 7.6.19

Decorations: MEDAL ACTION

The foregoing particulars are correct.
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL
 VICTORY MEDAL
 Signature: W.G. Thewall
 N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Wounds
 Sick
 Killed in action
 Died of wounds/sickness
 Missing
 Prisoner
 Injuries in or by the Service

Discharge: Provisional: (Date) Intended address: Aberdeen Rd Gisborne
 Final: 7th June 1919 (Date)

Pension: [Signature]

B.R. 125 RECEIVED 20-6-19

* Strike out words not required.

CASUALTY FORM—ACTIVE SERVICE.

[Army Form B. 103.]

Regiment or Corps: B. Sqdn 9 Linc's W. B. 13/3
 Regimental No. 112241 Rank: Sgt. Dm. Name: Shelwall William Guild
 Enlisted: 17/10/15. Terms of Service: duration of war Service reckons from: 17/10/15
 Date of promotion to present rank: 17/10/15. Date of appointment to lance rank: _____ Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.s.: _____
 Extended: _____ Re-engaged: _____ Qualification †: _____

REPORT.		Record of Promotions, Reductions, Transfers, Casualties, &c., during Active Service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other Official Documents. The Authority to be quoted in Each Case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other Official Documents.
Date.	From whom received.				
		Posted to Pt. 329.	Kenham.	20/10/15.	
		Assigned to Dalmeida	Suez	28/2/16	
		Posted to No. 11st 9 Batt	Moasca	11/3/16.	Not B. 213
		Emb for France per	Alexandria	7/4/16	Emb. Roll
		Chermonax			
		Transf to 13 Bde	France	11.5.16	B. 213
		Ordered to U.K. on leave	Field	31.4.14	B. 213
		Retd from leave	do	12.5.17	B. 213
		With unit	"	19.2.18	NR Reg 14/12
		Detached to Rest Camp	"	8.6.18	B. 213 (28/236)
		Ret to Hq. from Rest Camp	"	22.6.18	" Sick.

* In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into section D, Army Reserve particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 † E.g., Signaller, Shoeing smith, &c., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET.

REPORT.		Casualties, &c., during Active Service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other Official Documents. The Authority to be quoted in Each Case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks to Form
Date.	From whom received.				
23/7/18	1st Lt. P.H.	Admitted	Abbeville	23.6.18	Defence version W334 W2485.
11.7.18	do	Discharged to Base Depot	"	11.7.18	Conjunction to W334 W2839.
5.7.18	Reg. 13 Bde	Attached to strength	Etaples	5.7.18	W496 W2795 (28/246)
15.7.18	do	M/O to 3rd Bde	do	15.7.18	W506 W3091.
20/7/18	3rd Bde	Joined Bn	Field	15/7/18	B. 213 (15/39) (31/271)
24/8/18	do	Trans to CR & A.	do.	23/8/18	B. 213 21/139
31.8.18	3 Bde	Posted to 13th Battery	do	31.8.18	" 37/312
11.9.18	do	Leave to U.K.	do	11.9.18	"
5.10.18	do	Rejoined from leave	do	29.9.18	"
28.3.19	4th Bde	Emb for 1st Bde	Liverpool	28.3.19	NR

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET.
 17/5/19

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. N.Z.F. 2

Rank *Driver* Name *Thelwall, William Guild* Unit *N.Z.F.A. No. 11/2241*

Age *17* M. or S. *S.* D. of Birth *20.5.82* Occupn. *Carpenter* Ht. *5-5* Wt. *10* - *Dlbs.*

Complexn. *Mod.* Eyes *Blue* Relgn. *to 6* Inocln. *6-11-15*

(Parker) R. Thelwall *Abenden Rd Gisborne*

PROMOTIONS, CASUALTIES, MOVEMENTS, etc.	DATE OF CASUALTY.	AUTHORITY AND DATE OF SAME.	INITIALS.
<i>With 13th Battery</i>	<i>21.2.18</i>	<i>825 14/2 27.2.18</i>	<i>JRS</i>
<i>adm. 1/3 a. G. Hosp. (Defect. vision)</i>	<i>23.6.18</i>	<i>R.R. 586. 26.6.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>to Base Depot ex 1/3 a. G. Hosp.</i>	<i>4.7.18</i>	<i>597. 12.7.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>Detached to Rest camp.</i>	<i>8.6.18</i>	<i>238 2.7.18/10.7.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>at H.Q. 1/3 a. G. Hosp.</i>	<i>5.7.18</i>	<i>" " 29/7.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>JOINED NO3 ENT BTN</i>	<i>15.7.18</i>	<i>26/7.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>Transf'd to 14th Bty</i>	<i>23.8.18</i>	<i>" 21.9.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>Posted to 13th Battery</i>	<i>24.8.18</i>	<i>238 27.11.18</i>	<i>686</i>
<i>Detached to U.K.</i>	<i>28.1.19</i>	<i>B213 1/2/19</i>	
<i>M/I. to A.P. Slings</i>	<i>7.2.19</i>	<i>N/R.</i>	

FOR N.Z.F.A. NORTHUMBERLAND.
28/3/19.

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET
Dec 1919

14 1.16 10.5.19. [B.R. Form No. 207A.]
No. 51451
24.1.1920

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE.

No. *11/2241* Rank *Driver* Unit: *8.3. Field Artillery.*
Name: *William Guild Thelwall*

is discharged on the termination of his period of engagement.

Service abroad: *3* years *114* ~~*120*~~ ~~*127*~~ days. *AMB*

DESCRIPTION OF SOLDIER ON ENLISTMENT.

Age: *33 5/12* years ✓ Height: *5 feet 5 inches*
Complexion: *Medium* Eyes: *Blue*
Hair: *Brown* Trade or occupation: *Carpenter* ✓

Discharge posted: *27.5.19 D.K.* Signature: *J.G.B.*
4th June, 1919. For Major-General,
Wellington, Commanding New Zealand Military Forces.

N.B.-(1) This certificate is issued without alteration or erasure of any kind.
(2) Any person finding this certificate is requested to forward it to Headquarters, N.Z. Military Forces, Wellington, N.Z.
(3) Should this certificate be lost or mislaid no duplicate of it can be obtained.

39 5 1919

194 ✓

No. 11/2241 Rank: Driver

Name: William David Shelwell

Address: Aberdeen Rd Gisborne

Periods of Service.	Theatres of Operation.
In New Zealand: _____ years <u>117</u> days.	Australasian _____
Overseas ... <u>3</u> years <u>117</u> days.	Egyptian <u>1916</u>
Total service ... <u>3</u> years <u>284</u> days.	Egyptian E.F. <u>1916</u>
Date commenced duty: <u>17.10.15</u>	Balkan _____
Date finally discharged: <u>7.6.19</u>	Western } <u>1916-1917-1918</u> European }
	Asiatic _____

Decorations: _____ ✓ MB

The foregoing particulars are correct.

BRITISH WAR MEDAL 25 AUG 1921

VICTORY MEDAL Signature: W D Shelwell

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

1,000 pads/8/20—12058] 13/ MB



**Service Medals
(Victory Medal, and British Medal)**

Robert Cecil Thelwall

Robert Cecil Thelwall was born in Gisborne on December 1888, and like his father, was working as a butcher when the war began. Like his brother, he also travelled to Trentham, but a couple of months earlier, where he enlisted aged 26 on 24 August 1915 as Private 10/3406 Thelwall, and was posted to B Company, 8th Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion. After a period of intense training at Trentham, he was shipped out to the Mediterranean, arriving at Suez on 20 December 1915.

However, throughout his time in Egypt, he was dogged by a laceration injury to his foot, causing him to be travelling backwards and forwards to hospital bases for treatment, including an operation which failed to cure the problem. Eventually on 5 May 1916, he was despatched home on the *Tahiti*, as no longer fit for service. He was given his final discharge on 7 July 1916, but was awarded the three British service medals including the 1915 Star. Robert returned to civilian life and continued to live at the family home in Aberdeen Road, but he may have succumbed to his injury as he died in 30 December 1926 aged only thirty six. He was buried in the family plot in Taruheru Cemetery, Gisborne.



PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS

[Official Photo

An advanced section of 4.5 in. Howitzers in action in an orchard near Le Quesnoy.

Extracts from the War Record of

Private 10/3406 Robert Cecil THELWALL

B Company, 8th Reinforcements, Wellington Infantry Battalion

Discharged in June 1916 due to foot wound



NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

ATTESTATION OF

No. 10/3406 Name: Robert Robert Thelwood Regiment or Unit: 2 Coy 8th

Questions to be put to the recruit before enlistment.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. What is your name? | 1. <u>Robert Robert Thelwood</u> |
| 2. Where were you born? | 2. <u>Sydney</u> |
| 3. Are you a British subject? | 3. <u>Yes</u> |
| 4. What is the date of your birth?... .. | 4. <u>17th Dec, 1888</u> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <u>Printer</u> |
| 6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom? | 6. <u>No</u> |
| 7. What was the address at which you last resided? ... | 7. <u>Sydney</u> |
| 8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent? | 8. <u>No</u> |
| 9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer? | 9. <u>1001 County Council Station</u> |
| 10. Are you married? | 10. <u>No</u> |
| 11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where? | 11. <u>No</u> |
| 12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps? | 12. <u>No</u> |
| 13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge. | 13. <u>No</u> |
| 14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service? | 14. <u>Yes</u> |
| 15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where? | 15. <u>No</u> |
| 16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? | 16. <u>No</u> |
| 17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated? ... | 17. <u>Yes</u> |
| 18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disband it? | 18. <u>Yes</u> |

NOTE.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, Robert Robert Thelwood, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit: Robert Robert Thelwood
 Signature of Witness: Robert Birch

Oath to be taken by recruit on attestation.

I, Robert Robert Thelwood, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer.

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at _____, N.Z., on this _____ day of _____, 191

Signature of Attesting Officer: W. K. Smith

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, the Attesting Officer should be requested to make it and initial the alteration.

Description of Shelwall Robert Cecil ² on Enlistment

Apparent age: 26 years 6 months.
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: 5 feet 6 1/2 inches.

Weight: 144 lb.

Chest-measurement: { Minimum, 33 1/2 inches.
 Maximum, 35 inches.

Complexion: Fair

Colour of eyes: Blue

Colour of hair: Black

Religious profession: Ch of Eng

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Old injury to right foot
~~nose~~
mole on R shoulder blade

Medical Examination.

Sight: Right eye, 6/6

Left eye, 6/6

Hearing: Right ear, Fair

Left ear, Fair

Colour-vision: Normal

Are his limbs well formed? yes

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? _____

Is his chest well formed? _____

Is his heart normal? yes

Are his lungs normal? yes

What is the condition of the teeth? Satisfactory

Is he free from hernia? yes

Is he free from varicocele? yes

Is he free from varicose veins? yes

Is he free from haemorrhoids? yes

Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin-disease? yes

Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? yes

Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? yes

Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? _____

Remarks.

Teeth to be attended to
nose operation 10 years ago
no fits

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

4 June, 1915
 25 JUN 1915

J. Williams, Medical Officer.
Capt N. J. M. C.

8th

HISTORICAL SHEET

Advice despatched to soldier: 25.9.50
Authority to Headquarters No 16.9.45

Unit: <i>B Coy 8th Rept</i>	Rank: <i>Pte</i>	Surname: <i>Thelwall Robert Cecil</i>	Service No: <i>1573406</i>
--------------------------------	---------------------	--	-------------------------------

Occupation: *Dutcher* Religion: *C of E* (Last New Zealand address: *Sisborne*)
 Last employer: *Coastal Council Gisborne 17.12.48*

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand):
Robert Thelwall (Father) Sisborne

Service: *Rec'd*
 No. *10/3406* Rank: *Pte*
 Name: *Robert Cecil Thelwall*
 Address: *671 Aberdeen Rd, Gisborne*

Periods of Service: *12 12 24*
 In New Zealand: *110* years *110* days.
 Overseas: *207* years *207* days.
 Total service: *317* years *317* days.
 Date commenced duty: *24.8.15*
 Date finally discharged: *5.7.16*

Theatres of Operation:
 Australasian
 Egyptian *1915-1916*
 Egyptian E.F. *1916*
 Balkan
 Western
 European
 Asiatic

Decorations: *4-15 Mar*
 The foregoing particulars are correct
 Signature: *[Signature]*
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL
 VICTORY MEDAL ...

Decorations: *4-15 Mar*
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL *21 SEP 1925*
 VICTORY MEDAL *21 SEP 1925*
 The foregoing particulars are correct.
 Signature: *[Signature]*
 N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Injuries in or by the Service: *Injured rt. foot. (old injury)*
 Discharge: Provisional: (Date) Intended address: *671 Aberdeen Rd Gisborne.*
 Final: *5/7/16* (Date)

Pension: ...

No charges
 Wounds
 Sick
 Killed in action
 Died of wound/sickness
 Missing
 Prisoner
 Injuries in or by the Service
 Discharge
 Pension
 Not awarded
 Proper Hon
 Medal Action Complete etc.

Medal Action Complete etc.
 MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE ETC.
 MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE ETC.

* Strike out words not required.

CASUALTY FORM—ACTIVE SERVICE.

Regiment or Corps: B. Coy. Infantry - 8th Rpts. 2nd Bn W.I.R. TD 9.B.
 Regimental No. 10/3406 Rank: Pvt. Name: Philwall, Robert Cecil
 Enlisted*: 23/8/15 Terms of Service*: duration of war Service reckons from*: 23/8/15
 Date of promotion to present rank: _____ Date of appointment to lance rank: _____ Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.s.: _____
 Extended: _____ Re-engaged: _____ Qualification †: _____

[10,000/10/15-15750]

REPORT.		Record of Promotions, Reductions, Transfers, Casualties, &c., during Active Service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other Official Documents. The Authority to be quoted in Each Case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other Official Documents.
Date.	From whom received.				
		Disembarked	Suez	20/12/15	
	4th N.Z. Dispensary 23/1/16	Sick to Hospital N.Z. General.	Abbasia	22/1/16	4th Dispensary
	13th N.Z. Coy 27/3/16	Discharged to Base Depot	Zeitoun	2/3/16	to 300th Reserve
14/4/16	6th N.Z. Coy	Sick to Hospital	Mansara	27/4/16	to 200th
	17th Amb 30/3/16	adm. N.Z. 2d Ambulance	Cairo	30/3/16	4th 760th } after effects of operation Hammer Joe
		trans to N.Z. Gen. Hosp.	Cairo	"	"
	N.Z. Coy 7/4/16	Discharged to Base Depot	Ghezirah	7/4/16	W3034 R5788
	50th Amb 5/5/16	Invalided to N.Z. re-embarked on "Tahiti" struck off strength of N.Z. E.F.	Suez	5/5/16	Laceration of rt foot old injury Emb roll

* In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into section D, Army Reserve particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered. [P.T.O.]
 † E.g., Signaller, Shoemaker, etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

92431—W6490/1535—2,000,000—J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.—Forms B. 103/1.

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps: Wellington Infantry
 Regimental No. 10/3406 Rank: Pte Name: Philwall, R. C.
 Enlisted (a) _____ Terms of Service (a) Period of war Service reckons from (a) _____
 Date of promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.s. }
 Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (i) _____

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
30.3.16	N.Z. N.3 2nd Amb Adm N.Z. N.3	2nd Amb	Moaascar	30.3.16	436 66104. Operation after Hammer Joe
30.3.16	50. Transf. 15 N.3 Genl Hosp	15 N.3 Genl Hosp	Cairo	30.3.16	do a36 66104
7.4.16	143rd Amb Dischd to Base Depot	Dischd to Base Depot	Ghezirah	7.4.16	W3034 R5788
19.4.16	E.L.C. Adm E.L.C.	E.L.C.	Zeitoun	20.4.16	W3034 R6428
5.5.16	50th Amb Invalided to N.3 embkd "Tahiti" struck off strength N.3 E.F.	Invalided to N.3 embkd "Tahiti" struck off strength N.3 E.F.	Suez	5.5.16	Laceration rt foot old injury EmbKtn Roll

Original will be forwarded from France

DEFENSE BASE
4 JUL 1916
RECORDS RECEIVED

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered. [P.T.O.]
 (b) e.g., Signaller, Shoemaker, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF A PROVISIONAL MEDICAL BOARD

Assembled on board the Troopship "Lahitō" at the
Port of Lunedin, by order of Adjutant
General, for the purpose of examining and recommending
treatment for—

No. 10/3406

Rank: Pte

Surname: Thelwall

Christian Name: Robert Cecil

Unit: 40th Coy

President: Lt. Col. R. Falcone

Members: Lt. Col. J. R. Purdy

Lt. Col. S. Hope Lewis

M. Watt

Gameness result of old injury to
right foot

1. The Board having assembled receive from the medical officer in charge
of the above soldier his report on the case, examine and attach same to
proceedings. 9 years ago

2. The Board recommends that the soldier:—

(a.) Be treated as an invalid—

(i.) In _____ Hospital.

(ii.) Under private arrangements at his own request, which is in
writing attached.

(b.) Be treated as a convalescent—

(i.) In _____ Convalescent Home.

(ii.) Attending as an out-patient of _____

Hospital whilst residing at—

(Address) _____

(c.) Does not require treatment, and should accordingly be permitted to
proceed on sick-leave pending assembly of Medical Board.

(Signatures)

Alex R Falcone

J. R. Purdy Members

S. Hope Lewis Lt. Col.

M. A. Watt

Date: 6/6/16

APPROVED.

Wellington,

Date: _____

Surgeon-General,
Director-General of Medical Services.

13. Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control?

4/5

Recommendation must never be made under more than one heading in 14, 15, 16, 17. Name of hospital, &c., to be filled in.

14. The Board recommends that the soldier receives further treatment—

- (a.) As an IN-PATIENT of HOSPITAL at
- (b.) As HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT at
- (c.) In CONVALESCENT HOME at
- (d.) Under PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS at OWN request at

Sick-leave. (a) and (b) will be answered only when sick-leave is granted, and only one must be answered in affirmative.

15. The Board recommends that the soldier be granted sick-leave for (period not to exceed twenty-eight days)...

- (a.) Is it the opinion of the Board that the soldier should rest quietly in his home in order to expedite his recovery?
- (b.) Is there any objection to the soldier, while on sick-leave, being given a pass to visit friends at

Returns to Duty.

16. The Board recommends that the soldier returns to duty at (name of camp)

NOTE.—All officers when fit for duty will report to Adjutant-General, Buckle Street, Wellington.

Discharge.

17. The Board recommends that the soldier be discharged from the Expeditionary Force.

NOTE.—Twenty-one days' leave will be granted by the Defence Department representative attending the Board if recommendation 16 or 17 is made.

4/5

Pension.

(Questions 18, 19, 20, and 21 will be answered only in case of discharge.)

18. Does the Board recommend that the soldier be considered for a pension?

4/5

Answer to 19 must be one of the following— (a.) Not lessened; (b.) "Quarter"; (c.) "Half"; (d.) "Three-quarters"; (e.) "Total incapacity."

19. In the opinion of the Board the soldier's capacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market is lessened at present by

1/4

Answer one of questions (a) and (b) only. Rule out what not required.

20. The Board is of the opinion that the disability will continue in the degree noted—

- (a.) Permanently
- (b.) For an estimated period of 3 months, when the scale of pension (if granted) should come up for revision

21. Does the Board consider the soldier requires the services of an attendant?

Questions (c), (b), (e) will not be answered unless an attendant is required.

- (a.) Permanently
- (b.) For an estimated period of (months)
- (c.) Reasons for this recommendation, and nature of attendant required

Place:

Port Chalmers

Date:

6/6/16

James Fitzpatrick, President.

Arthurine Hope, Members.

Approved.

Arthurine Hope, for Surgeon-General, Director-General of Medical Services.

Place: WELLINGTON.

Date:

CONFIDENTIAL.

This Board is assembled by the Officer Commanding District concerned, under instructions from the Director of Base Records, to which the Medical Officer in charge of the patient or hospital should communicate when he wishes the Board assembled. The Board should ordinarily consist of three members, but should they not be available two will be sufficient. The President should be an officer of the New Zealand Medical Corps, and the member or members also if possible. The President of the Board has the power to call in the advice of a specialist if it is required.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

Assembled at Port Chalmers, on the 6th June, 1916
by the order of the Director of Base Records, for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of—

No. 1013406 Rank: Pvt Name: Shelwell R. C.
Unit: W 1 B

President: Major Fitzgerald

Members: Capt. Ritchie

1. The Board, having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to examine the above-named soldier, and find that he has been suffering from:—

Disability.
Careful consideration to be paid to this.

(a.) Original disability

Lameness due to amputation of toe right foot

(b.) Was the original disability, in the opinion of the Board, due to causes existing prior to enlistment?

No Party during Egypt

(c.) Specific cause

Lameness right foot

(d.) Consequent disabilities

Progress.
Report fully.

2. Progress

No improvement

Medical Papers.

3. Copies of previous Medical Board reports have been submitted:—

Note out reports which have not been submitted.

(a.) Overseas. (b.) New Zealand Board (c.) ~~Army Board B-108~~ (d.) Report of medical officer of hospital where soldier has been undergoing treatment.

Negligence.

Answer "Yes" or "No" to each question.

4. Is it the opinion of the Board that the soldier—

(a.) Is suffering from disease contracted by his own actions?

No

(b.) Having previously been passed as fit for sick-leave now requires further treatment by reason of his own actions or neglect?

No

(c.) Is by neglect or his mode of life in any way impeding his recovery?

No

Active Service.

Answer should be "Permanently," or period of months or weeks.

5. Is the soldier fit for Active Service?

No

6. If not fit, how long is disability likely to be continued?

Permanent

Territorial Service.

7. Is the soldier fit for Territorial Service?

No

8. If not fit, how long is disability likely to be continued?

Permanent

Civil Employment.

Answer "Yes" or "No" to each question.

9. Is the soldier fit for Civil Employment?

No

10. If not fit, how long is disability likely to be continued?

Doubtful

11. Was the disability contracted in the service?

Yes

12. Was it caused by military duty?

Yes

5 Ref

W'n

Tahiti
6-6-16

[E.F. Form No. 19a.]

COPY OF FINAL DISCHARGE.

Certificate of discharge of No. 10/3406 Rank: Pte.
 Name: Robert Pearl Thelwall.
 Unit: W'n Infy Balm
 Born at Gisborne N.Z.
 Attested at Trentham on the 24th August 1915
 At the age of 26 8/12 years

He is discharged in consequence of being ^{physically} ~~medically~~ unfit for active service, although ~~fit for~~ fit for employment in ~~civil life~~.

Medals and decorations:

No medal issued at date of discharge.

Service abroad: year 207 days.
 Service at home: year 110 days.
 Total service: year 317 days.

Wellington.

Discharge posted:

Capt.

Date: 5th July, 1916
2 / 7 / 16 For Brig.-Genl.,
 Commanding New Zealand Military Forces.

[Signature]

DESCRIPTION ON FINAL DISCHARGE

Of No. 10/3406

Age: <u>27 7/12</u> years.	Marks or scars, whether on face or other parts of the body:	Intended place of residence:
Height: <u>5 ft. 6 1/2</u> in.		<u>N.Z.</u>
Complexion: <u>Fair</u>		
Eyes: <u>Blue</u>		
Hair: <u>Black</u>		
Trade: <u>Butcher.</u>		

Character: Good

Character-certificate prepared:

Character-certificate issued: (Date)
 By

[Signature]
13/1/16

Surname: *Thelwall* Christian names: *Robert Cecil* Rank on discharge: *Pte* Highest rank held: *Pte* Reg No: *103406* (B It - 220)

Address: *67 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne*

Casualty or reason for discharge: *longer physically fit* Country resident in: *N.Z.*

Legatee and Address:

Nominated next-of-kin, relationship, and address: *Robert Thelwall (Wife), Aberdeen Rd Gisborne*

Legal next-of-kin, relationship, and address:

Decorations: Medals for Gallantry.	Authority.	Service Medals.	Date Medal issued.	Service Chevrons.	Wound Stripes.
		<i>1914-15 Star B.W. Medal Victory</i>			
				<i>Red. 1 Blue.</i>	

Certificates of Service issued: *19 MAY 1920*

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.	
London Gazette.	Date.
No	

FILE.

**Service Medals
(1915 Star, Victory Medal, and British Medal)**



No. *103406* Rank: *Pte* Name: *Robert Cecil Thelwall* Address: *67 Aberdeen Rd, Gisborne*

Periods of Service:

New Zealand:	years	110	days
Overseas:	years	207	days
Total service:	years	317	days

Date commenced duty: *24.8.15*
Date finally discharged: *5.7.16*

Theatres of Operation:

Australasian	
Egyptian	<i>1915-1916</i>
Egyptian E.F.	<i>1916</i>
Balkan	
Western European	
Asiatic	

Decorations: **BRITISH WAR MEDAL** **VICTORY MEDAL**

The foregoing particulars are correct

Signature: *[Signature]*

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Best certificate & info posted 16/10/20

12.12.24

25 Nov 1920

MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE

BRITISH WAR MEDAL

VICTORY MEDAL

1,000 pads/8/20 12058



Robert Thelwall senior is also in this cemetery, as well as his wife Margaret, who is with her family plot below. (The online records have confused Robert with his son Robert Cecil and no photograph has been uploaded for Robert senior).



In loving memory of GEORGE G MILL;
 WILLIAM B MILL, died 25 March 1935 aged 78 years;
 HELEN M B MILL, died 2 April 1901 aged 81 years;
 ELIZA MILL, died 29 August 1939 aged 69 years;
 ROBERT C THELWALL, died 28 December 1926 aged 39 years;
 MARGARET E B THELWALL, died 16 October 1897 aged 37 years.
Peace perfect peace



The children of Robert and Margaret – Mary, Flora and William Guild, have been laid to rest in Taruheru





Great War Veteran

**11/2241 Driver
W.G.THELWALL
Field Artillery**

**Died 16-5-1950
N.Z.E.F.**



Gisborne War Memorial

The Farndon Connection

Today, Descendants of the three Farndon families, the **Parkers, Powdrell and Thelwalls**, still live in Gisborne and Hawk Bay area today. One man who didn't quite make it was Sam Powdrell. During the 1870s there came talk of a railway from Napier to the 40-mile bush, and Sam Powdrell, who was a surveyor, got the job of Engineer-in-Charge. South of Napier he named a little station '**Farndon**' after the village back home in Cheshire where his sweetheart still lived.

It was his dearest wish to return home to marry her, and take her back to New Zealand, but his plans went awry when he received a letter from her, in which she is said to have written, "I am quite willing to marry you, but I am not willing to go to New Zealand and be eaten by the Maoris for you or anyone else". A rather misplaced sentiment, but Sam did return to Farndon, and gave up his New Zealand dream for the woman he loved, marrying Matilda in 1882. They settled in Tilston, near Farndon, then a cottage in Chester Road in Churton Village, before moving into Ivy Cottage in Farndon village. When Samuel died in 1919, he and Matilda had been married for almost forty years. Matilda passed away six years later in 1925. They had no children.

Farndon N.Z. has now been absorbed into Clive and is no longer a distinct area, although there are several reminders, such as Farndon Park and Farndon Hall, both on Farndon Road, opposite to where the station once bore the original name.



Farndon Park



Farndon Park Hall



Satellite image of the Farndon area today. Farndon Park is in the centre, the hall is the small white building facing the road, centre left, on the edge of the park, and the railway that brought Sam Powdrell to the area and Farndon Station is on the left perimeter.



FARNDON HOUSE COTTAGE

[HOME](#) | [ACCOMMODATION](#) | [RATES](#) | [LOCATION](#) | [GALLERY](#) | [CONTACT](#)



Unwind in seclusion in the heart of Hawke's Bay

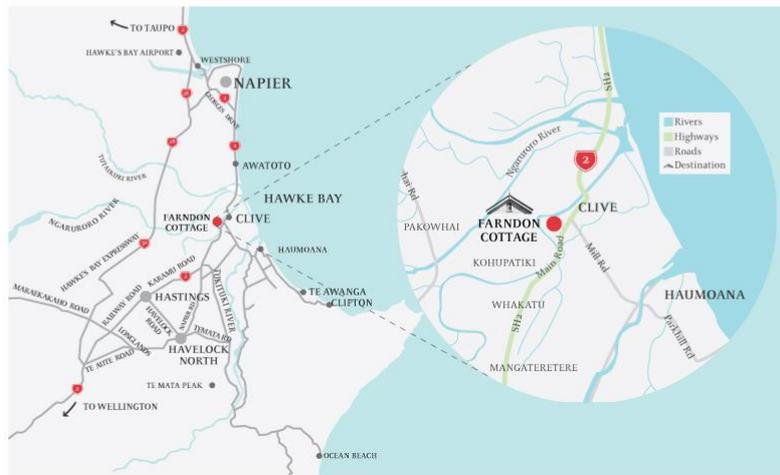
Farndon Cottage is centrally situated in Clive, between Napier, Hastings and Havelock North, and is ideally located for a visit to Hawkes Bay.



FARNDON HOUSE COTTAGE

[HOME](#) | [ACCOMMODATION](#) | [RATES](#) | [LOCATION](#) | [GALLERY](#) | [CONTACT](#)

LOCATION



**And, for Farndon UK visitors looking for somewhere to stay.....
where better than Farndon House Cottage, Farndon, N.Z.**

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk