

## Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden

17th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment / 19th & 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps

Killed in Action 14 November 1916 Aged 20

As the eye drifts across the endless names on the panels, the summer breeze blows through the cavernous arches where the names still reach higher and higher. The images cannot help but drive home the futility of war and the desperate sacrifice made by so many men. In all there are 72,337 names spread across the numerous panels set on every side of the supporting columns. It is heart wrenching enough to walk among the cemeteries of Picardy, which seem to appear at every turn in the road, but these are names of the missing. A stadium full at Cardiff or Wembley. Breath-taking numbers. How can so many be missing? But the answer is too dreadful to contemplate, the nature of war, the weapons the conditions, men swallowed up by the mud or quite literally blown out of existence.

It was late evening and the summer sun was still strong, shadows not quite long enough to cast the memorial in patterns across the lawns below. I was a solitary figure among the missing, where there are usually endless visitors. It was peaceful, and so rare to be able take in the idyllic surroundings without the respectful background hum and trying not to get in the way of visitors taking treasured photographs. The whole area is beautiful, rolling hills, pretty hamlets, larks singing above the dusty paths among the golden cornfields. And all in full colour. The black and white imagery in my head of trenches, craters, weary faces of soldiers staring at the camera among a desolate landscape, are completely at odds with the Somme landscape in front of me. It is quite impossible to imagine, to even begin to this of the dreadful events that took place here. It was the same at Auschwitz. A place you think will be in black and white when you get there. How can it be anything else? It has to be in monotone as that's how it was. Colour would just humanise it, or that's how the brain would react after decades of black and white imagery. But there the grass was green, the birds were singing, and from nowhere two hares raced across the beautifully mown grass and started boxing not ten yards away from the back of one of the still standing barrack blocks in Birkenau. A sight I had never seen in England, and I had to travel to that place to see it. Springtime. Life goes on. And so it was in Picardy, a place too beautiful for unspeakable horror. I was startled from my thoughts by the arrival of coach. Passengers began to disembark and I resented their intrusion. Mostly men, some in their thirties and forties, but several seniors, all clearly military and most sporting regimental blazers.

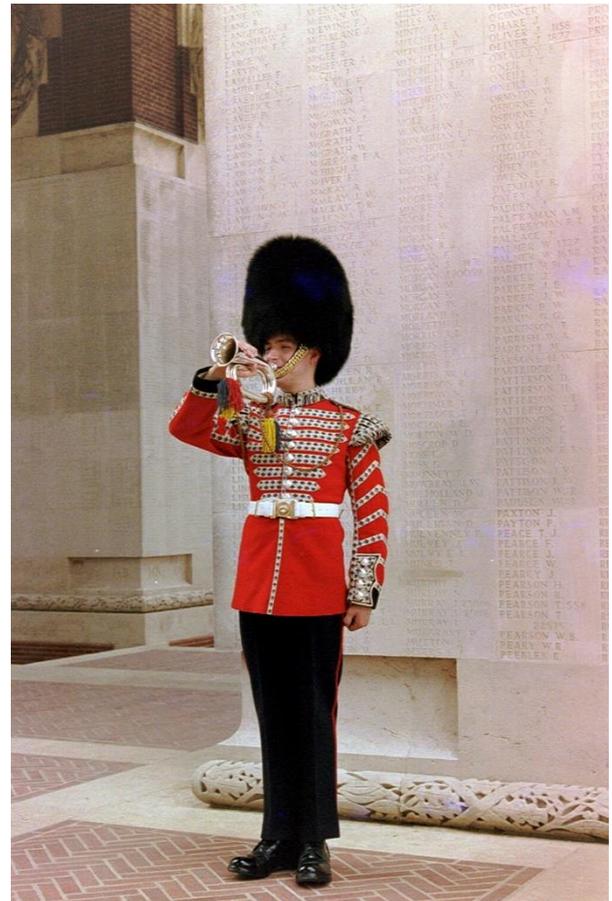
A few moments later, we were also joined by a small party of men from the First Honourable Artillery making a similar pilgrimage. They were accompanied by a bandsman in his red tunic and bearskin carrying a bugle (similar uniform to the Coldstream Guards to the lay observer). After they had spent some minutes walking below the arches and studying various names on the panels, an order was barked out and they quickly came to order at the top of the steps. The senior officer ran through procedure, before giving the order to begin the ceremony, which included words of remembrance, Binyon's verse, the laying of the wreath and a minute's silence. But it was their bugler playing the Last Post through those arches and beyond so movingly which will stay with me for eternity, and I was so grateful the coach party had intruded on my moment of rare solitude at Thiepval.

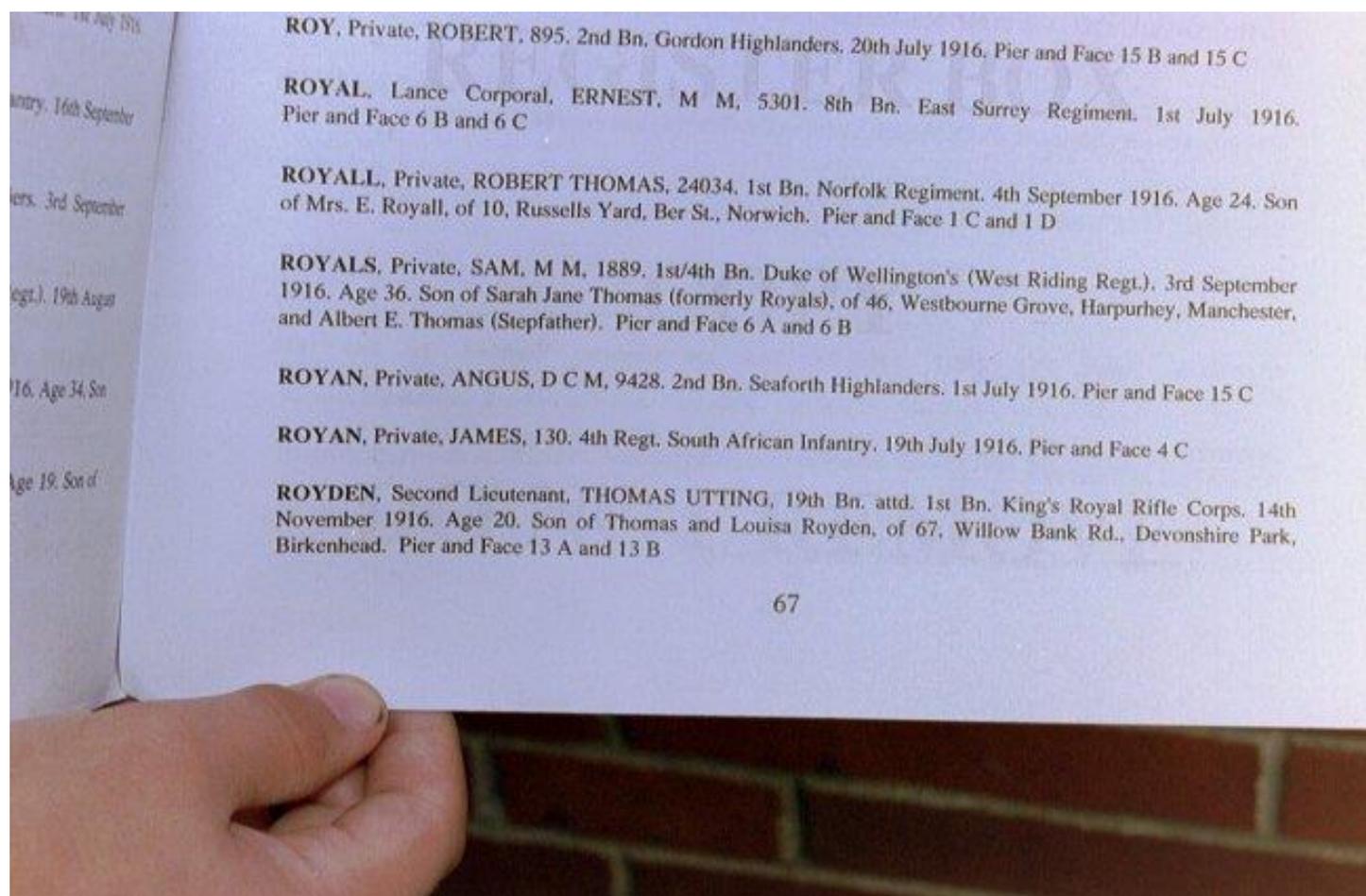
Overhearing some of their conversation, one or two accents sounded very familiar, and it turned out that some of the men were of The King's Liverpool Regiment, past and present. Such a strange

moment. I had been studying the panels of their missing, looking for one of their men in particular only minutes earlier. This is why I had come to the Thiepval Memorial, one of many visits I had made over the years. They were making an annual pilgrimage to visit the sites where the 21 battalions of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment took part in the battles of the Somme, Arras and Passchendaele, a period of approximately 15 months, during which the Regiment lost some 10,000 men. They had stopped here to lay a wreath below the 2,058 King's men looking down from the panels.

There was another reason for the visit, and that was to bring my two young sons to see the memorial. We also had a cousin **Thomas Utting Royden** on one of the panels. We had visited Vimy Ridge earlier that day, Beaumont Hamel, and the resting place of their great-great grandfather Bombardier Charles Royden in Bucquoy Road, so this was our final stop before heading south for our two-week holiday. Now that they knew how to find a name from the CWGC records, they both went on ahead to find the small door, behind which were the index books containing the name locations. By the time I arrived, they had already found the name they were after, and were searching the panels to see it for themselves.

But first, a little context.





## The Royden Family of Prenton and Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral

Thomas Utting Royden was born on 26 September 1896 in Birkenhead, Wirral, the son of Thomas Royden and Louisa Priscilla Utting. Thomas senior was the son of Joseph Royden a farmer of Prenton. They were part of the Royden family which had farmed the West Kirby/Caldy area since coming to the Wirral from Chester in the early 1720s. (The shipbuilding family of Frankby Hall and Hill Bark (Royden Park) are also part of this family).

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of	49 [Page 33]	
Tranmere	Birkenhead	Egerton	Birkenhead	Tranmere	Birkenhead		St Catherine		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Inhabited (U), or Building (B))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birth-day of (Males Females)	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
154	18 Prenton Lane 1		Sarah Myrke	Head	W.	56	Farmer & Contractor	Wentworth, Buckleby	
			John	Son	Unm	31	Master & driver	Chester, Tranmere	
			George	Son	Unm	25	Cartier	Do. Do.	
			Thomas	Son	Unm	22	Do.	Do. Do.	
			Elizabeth	Daughter	Unm	16	No occupation	Do. Do.	
			Abraham Pike	Servant	Unm	13	General Servant	Lancashire, Liverpool	
155	54 Do 1		Joseph Royden	Head	Mar	56	Farmer 25 1/2 acres Employed	Warr, Cheshire, Caldley	
			Sarah	Wife	Mar	48		Chester, Tranmere	
			Emma	Daughter	Unm	20	at Home	Do. Do.	
			Thomas	Son	Unm	17	Clerk	Do. Do.	
			Joseph	Son	Unm	15	at Home	Do. Do.	
			George	Son	Unm	12	Scholar	Do. Do.	
			John C.	Son	Unm	10	Do.	Do. Do.	
			Edith C.	Daughter	Unm	7	Do.	Do. Do.	
			Jessie Royden	Daughter	Unm	13	Do.	Do. Do.	

54 Prenton Lane - Census of 1851



Location of Prenton



**Farms in Prenton Lane c1895**



**Modern view of Lower Farm**



**Modern view of Prenton Hall Farm  
No. 54 was likely at the end of the lane on the right – replaced by modern housing.**

[PAGE 139]

18 95 MARRIAGE solemnized at the PARISH CHURCH, in the Parish of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of F.
	27	Thomas Royden	32	Bachelor	Wine Merchant	Gradwell St.	Joseph Royden	Gentleman
277	November 1895	Louisa Priscilla Utting	19	Spinster	Widow	S. Anne's Hill Aulfield	John Utting	Doctor of Medicine

MARRIED in the PARISH CHURCH, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by License

THIS MARRIAGE WAS SOLEMNIZED BETWEEN US, } Thomas Royden } IN THE PRESENCE OF US, } John Utting } Geo. Simble

I certify the above is a true copy, taken from the Register of Marriages in the Parish Church of ST. PETER, in LIVERPOOL, this Twenty Seventh day of September in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Five

By me, J. Stewart, Rector.

When Thomas senior left home to be married at St. Peter's, Church Street, Liverpool on 27 Nov 1895, he was already working as a manager of a wine merchant's office. Louise Priscilla, born in 1876, in Castleton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, thirteen years his junior, was a boarder with her sister Mary at Kensington House School, a private girl's school in three large houses in Nos. 59-63 Bidston Road, on the corner with Howbeck Road, Oxton Birkenhead. This accommodated boarders in addition to day pupils, and finally closed in 1937. It is likely that Thomas met his young wife during her latter years there, given her family home was on the other side of the Mersey and the school was not far from his home.

Maria Course, of Hinton, Hereford.  
**ROYDEN—UTTING**—Nov. 27, at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter's, by the Rev. W. R. Duncan, Thomas, son of Joseph Royden, Esq., of Prenton, Cheshire, to Louisa Priscilla, daughter of Dr. John Utting, of St. Anne's Hill, Anfield. No cards. 28uo29



Kensington House. Birkenhead.



Kensington House.

(Little Ones' Games.)

*Dear Fritz,  
This is the P. C. that I have been promising you for such a long time. The room where the roof is getting mended is the*

20877 Photo Tourists Association



Kensington House.

(Hall and Staircase.)



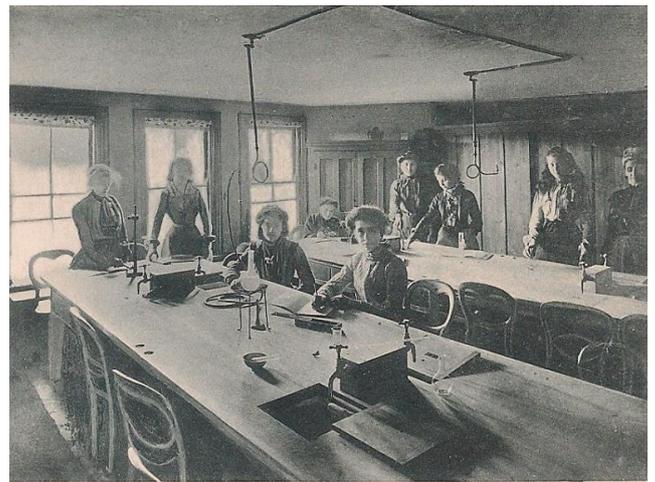
Kensington House.

(Studio.)



Kensington House.

(Dining Room.)



Kensington House.

(Laboratory.)



The couple moved into a flat in 65A Willowbank Road in Tranmere. One can't help feeling that this is not what John Utting had in mind for his daughter, the marriage of his daughter, straight out of a private school for young ladies, to a man thirteen years her senior, but, he was there to give his daughter away and sign the marriage certificate.

Young Thomas Utting was born the following year on 26 September 1896, and baptised on 29 November 1896 in St. Catherine's, Tranmere. He was followed by another son, John Sarratt, in 1900, and a daughter Phyllis ('Masie') in 1902, and by 1911 they had moved in to the larger house next door at No.67. Like their mother, both Thomas Utting and John were packed off to boarding school, this time much further afield - Lucton School, Lucton Kingsland, Herefordshire. Although Thomas senior was a manager, the family were not affluent, yet they could afford school fees and a maid. It is likely they received considerable support from Louise's father, John Utting.



**Above: 65/67 Willowbank Road, Tranmere (ringed)**



Above left: 65/67 Willowbank Road, Tranmere  
 Above right: Lucton School, Herefordshire

Administrative County <u>Birkenhead C.B.</u> The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the <span style="float: right;">Page 29</span>																	
Civil Parish of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <u>TRANMERE</u>		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District of <u>CGERTON</u>		Rural District of <u>CGERTON</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Birkenhead</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of Rooms (excluding Cellars, Basements, &c.)	Building	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
183	66 <sup>A</sup> 40 40 1					Thomas Royden Louisa Royden	Head Wife		37 24	Wife Merchants (Manager Worker)			40 Denby Castle town				
	65 Willowbank Rd					John S Royden Eleanor Westcott Bertrude Graham	Son Sewt Sewt		18 30 18	Hospital Nurse General Sewt (Sergeant)			Cheshire Ireland Denby Castle town				

**1901 Census:** Willowbank Road – Thomas and Louisa Royden with son John Sarratt. No sign of four-year-old Thomas Utting – why? He was discovered at a house in the centre of Birkenhead as a ‘visitor’ – being cared for by friends. (?) Another look at other residents in 65A Willowbank shows two servants, who could surely cope with the children themselves, but one was a nurse, was there illness in the house? Louisa would soon also give birth to a daughter Maisy (Phyllis), but she had yet to be conceived.

Administrative County <u>Birkenhead C.B.</u> The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the <span style="float: right;">Page 1</span>																	
Civil Parish of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <u>TRANMERE</u>		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District of <u>CGERTON (Part 2)</u>		Rural District of <u>CGERTON</u>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <u>Birkenhead</u>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Birkenhead</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of Rooms (excluding Cellars, Basements, &c.)	Building	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
1	65A Atherton Street	1				Thomas Paterson Margaret Paterson John Paterson Margaret Paterson Mary Paterson David Paterson George - do - George - do - Thomas Utting Roperden	Head Wife Son Daughter Daughter Son Sewt Sewt Visitor		61 55 27 24 24 20 18 15 4	Home brewer & Packer Nurse (Hospital) Sewt Sewt Wife (Merchant) Wife (Merchant) Wife (Merchant) Wife (Merchant)	Employer Worker Worker Worker Worker Worker Worker	at home	Scotland Bever Cheshire, Birkenhead do do do do do				

# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

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

Number of Schedules 238  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

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.	
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who  (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or  (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.  No one else must be included. (For order of entering names, see Examples on back of Schedule.)	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.  Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—  Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7).  Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one"					Personal Occupation.  The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.  If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.  (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)				(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.  (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.  (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.  (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."  NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalized British subject" giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb." (2) "Totally Blind." (3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.	
			Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	Whether Employer, Workman, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry (1) "Employer" (that is, employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is, working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is, neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).					
1 Thomas Royden	Head	44	-	Married	15	5	None	None	Home Merchant 949	Employer	No.	Sharnon, Bedford	British	-	
2 Louisa Royden	Wife	34	-	-	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	Castleton, Derbyshire	do	-	
3 Elton John Royden	Son	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sharnon, Bedford	do	-	
4 Elizabeth May Royden	Daughter	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do	do	-	
5 Emma Newman	Boarder	32	-	Married	4	None	None	None	010	-	-	do	do	-	
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that— (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns. (2) I have counted the names and families in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary corrections I have compared all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.		
Males	Females	Totals
9	1	10

Initials of Enumerator: HTD

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

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

9

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

Signature: Thomas Royden  
 Post Address: Hilson Works, Drorntham, Beds, Bedford

## Thomas Utting Royden was away at Lucton School at the time and appears on their census

However, this was a troubled marriage, and cumulated in a divorce case in 1914. Before 1914 divorce was rare; it was considered a scandal, and confined by expense to the rich who could afford it. In the first decade of the 20th century, there was just one divorce for every 450 marriages. Under the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act, the grounds for divorce remained basically as they had been before 1857, the man had to prove adultery by the woman, or the woman had to prove her husband's adultery and (until July 1923) also his cruelty, incest or rape. The name of the person with whom adultery had been committed had to appear as co-respondent in the petition, damages might be claimed against him (a possibility abolished in 1970) and he might be ordered to pay the costs. It was a route taken invariably by the truly desperate. Every decree of divorce, nullity or separation was in the first instance a decree *nisi* (the grounds having been proved) which was to take effect unless some cause or reason otherwise was shown. The decree was not usually made absolute until the expiration of six calendar months.

As it did in other areas of social policy, WWI led to reforms of divorce law that put men and women on a more equal footing. The Matrimonial Causes Act 1923, introduced as a Private Member's Bill, enabled either partner to petition for divorce on the basis of their spouse's adultery (previously, only the man had been able to do this).

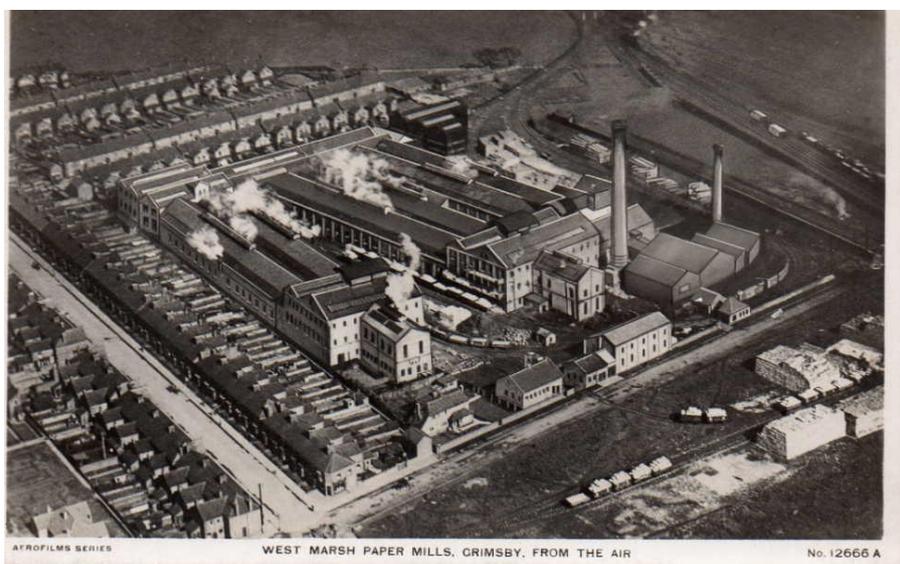
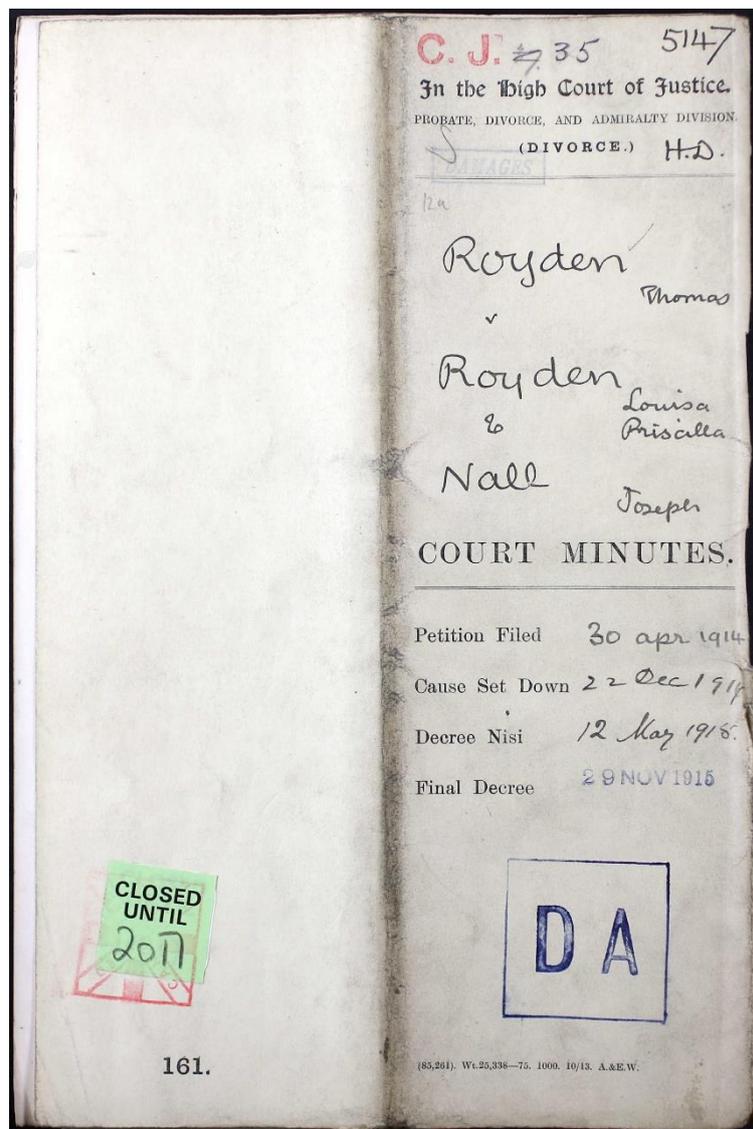
Under the one-hundred-year rule, the divorce papers for Thomas and Louise were released into the public domain in 2017. It was deeply acrimonious as only it could be given the constraints imposed by the law. As expected, Thomas was the petitioner, and named alongside his wife was one Joseph Nall as co-respondent. Thomas accused his wife of adultery; of numerous trysts in rented houses and a week in a hotel in Leominster (no doubt under the pretext of visiting her sons at school in nearby Lucton); while she responded with details of his alleged violence and cruelty throughout their marriage. Further disclosures are unnecessary here, suffice to say the court found in Thomas' favour, he was awarded custody of the children, and Nall received a court order lodged on 31 May 1915, to

pay damages to Thomas to the tune of £750 – a staggering sum, the equivalent of almost £80,000 today.

The divorce was made absolute on 29 Nov 1915, by which time Thomas Utting was in France. His brother John had been removed from Lucton in 1912 and enrolled in the local school. It is likely that support from Louise's father had been withdrawn once the case had commenced. In 1919, Louise Royden married again. Not to Joseph Nall, who seems to have deserted Louise once he was named in the petition and had the stinging order of damages made against him. It is little wonder he removed himself from the scene. Her new husband was Arthur Frankish, and she declared herself a widow on the marriage certificate. The stigma was already apparent. Arthur was in the Merchant Navy and seems to have spent little time at home. Maybe they met while he was in port in Liverpool, but their home

was now in 11 Denton Street, an end terrace in Beverley, North Yorkshire (pictured). Louise married for a third time in 1933, to William Cran who worked at Dixons

Paper Mill on the West Marsh, Grimsby, as a pulp machine operator. They set up home nearby in 30 Freshney Street, within the artisan terraces of dockside Grimsby. Louise Cran passed away in Grimsby on 8 October 1942.



**Grimsby Buildings Dixons Paper Mill in the 1950s, West Marsh, Grimsby**

Her former husband Thomas Royden senior, meanwhile, remained unmarried in the family home where he died alone in 1938. He was not without friends however. 1910 he joined the Anfield Bicycle Club, formed in Anfield in 1879, which possibly became known to him on visits to his father-in-law's residence nearby. It was a highly respected club and riders helped shape

competitive long-distance cycling and time-trialling. The club produced the prolific record breaker George Pilkington Mills, who won the first Bordeaux - Paris race in 1891. His exploits helped inspire the Tour de France. In 1933, Thomas Royden was featured in the local press,

### THE VETERAN CYCLIST

Here is a stout, old fellow-my-lad – Thomas Royden of Devonshire Park, Birkenhead, rode on “his beloved” pedal bicycle 102 miles on his seventieth birthday in twelve hours. He managed his feat on “good English beer, bread and cheese”. The day was wet and stormy. Mr Royden rode 62in. gear and fixed wheel.’

*Liverpool Echo, 20 October 1933.*

**THE VETERAN CYCLIST**



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Thomas Royden.

And again, on his passing on 31 July 1938,

**VETERAN CYCLIST'S DEATH**



Mr. Thomas Royden, of Willowbank Road, Birkenhead, who has died at the age of 74 years, was one of the oldest long-distance cyclists. “Tommy,” as he was affectionately called by fellow-members of the Anfield Bicycle Club, of which he had been a member for many years, was a familiar figure on Cheshire roads, and might be seen any Saturday night wending his way home on his bicycle with a couple of friends nearly as old as himself, after a day’s ride of sixty or seventy miles. He was proud of his ability to ride long distances, and on his seventieth birthday rode 102 miles within twelve hours.

Mr. T. Royden.

### VETERAN CYCLIST'S DEATH

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*Liverpool Echo, 4 August 1938*

On his death, the Anfield Bicycle Club paid tribute to him in their Annual Report for 1939,

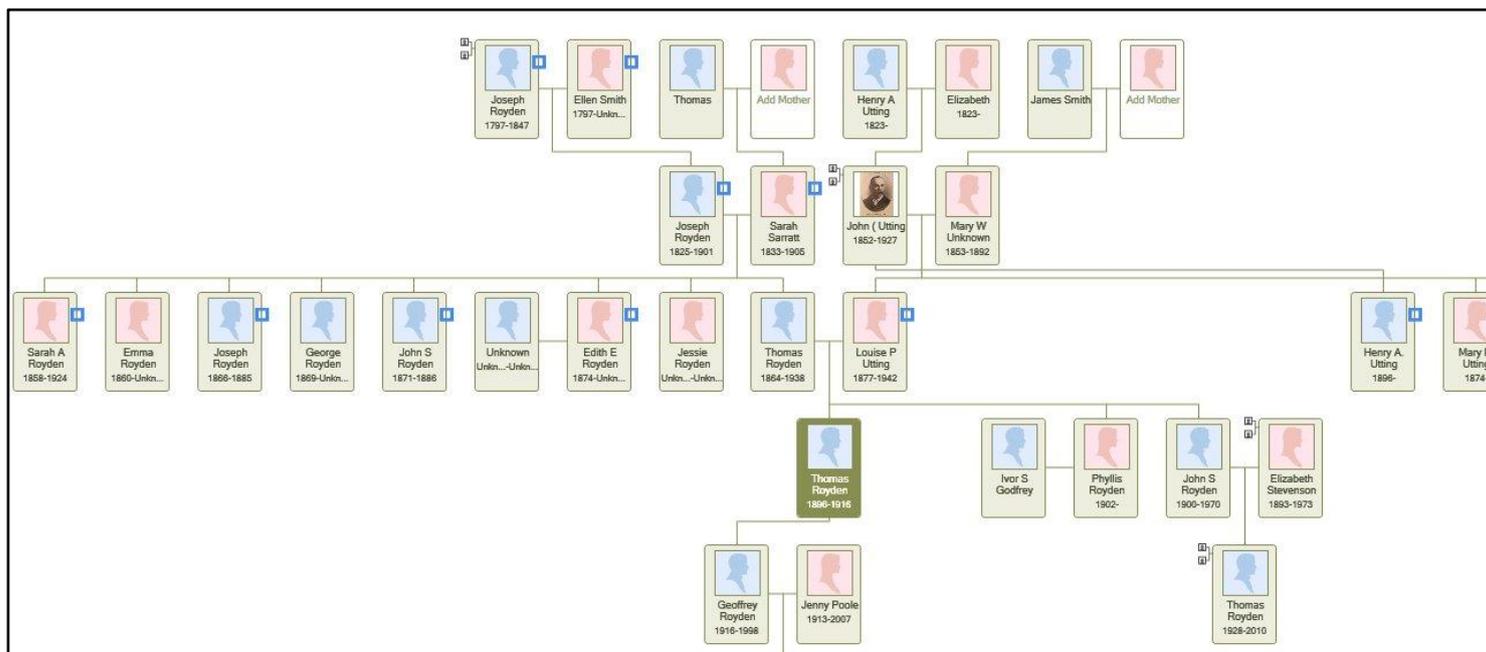
‘Mr T. Royden joined the Club in 1910, served on the Committee in 1912, 1913, and 1915, and was elected a Life Member in 1936. He was possessed with the real Anfield Spirit, always cheerful and ready to help in any way; one of the most regular attenders, winning the Attendance Prize on ten occasions.’

## The Utting Family

Thomas' wife, **Louise Priscilla Utting** was the daughter of John Utting and Mary Wallace Smith. John Utting was a surgeon who moved to Liverpool later that year. A native of Norfolk, shortly afterwards to take up a post at local hospital. Educated at King Edward VI School, Norwich, and at Guy's Hospital London, he qualified as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1874. For three years he travelled around the world, and in 1877 settled in Liverpool. Their home was St Anne's Hill, Anfield Road, directly opposite the new football ground, home to Everton F.C. He speedily built up an extensive practice. Public affairs attracted to him and he was elected councillor for Kirkdale Ward for Liverpool Council in 1899. He did much for the Port Sanitary and Hospitals Committee progressing to the wider sphere of public health, as chairman of the Liverpool University School of Hygiene. John Utting was created an Alderman for Granby Ward in 1913 and unanimously elected Mayor of Liverpool in 1917. Already a Major in R.A.M.C. Territorial Forces, at the start of the First World War, Utting was attached to the First Western Military Hospital. In 1917 the War Office released him from duty, so that could become the first khaki Lord Mayor of Liverpool.



In February 1927 he was laid low with influenza, followed by pneumonia. Pleurisy set in and he died at St Anne's Hill on the 27th.



The following illustration is taken from his entry in *Liverpool and Birkenhead Contemporary Biographies* by W.T. Pike published in 1911 and highlights many of his achievements by that time (five lines from the bottom, Fuyakerly should read Fazakerley).



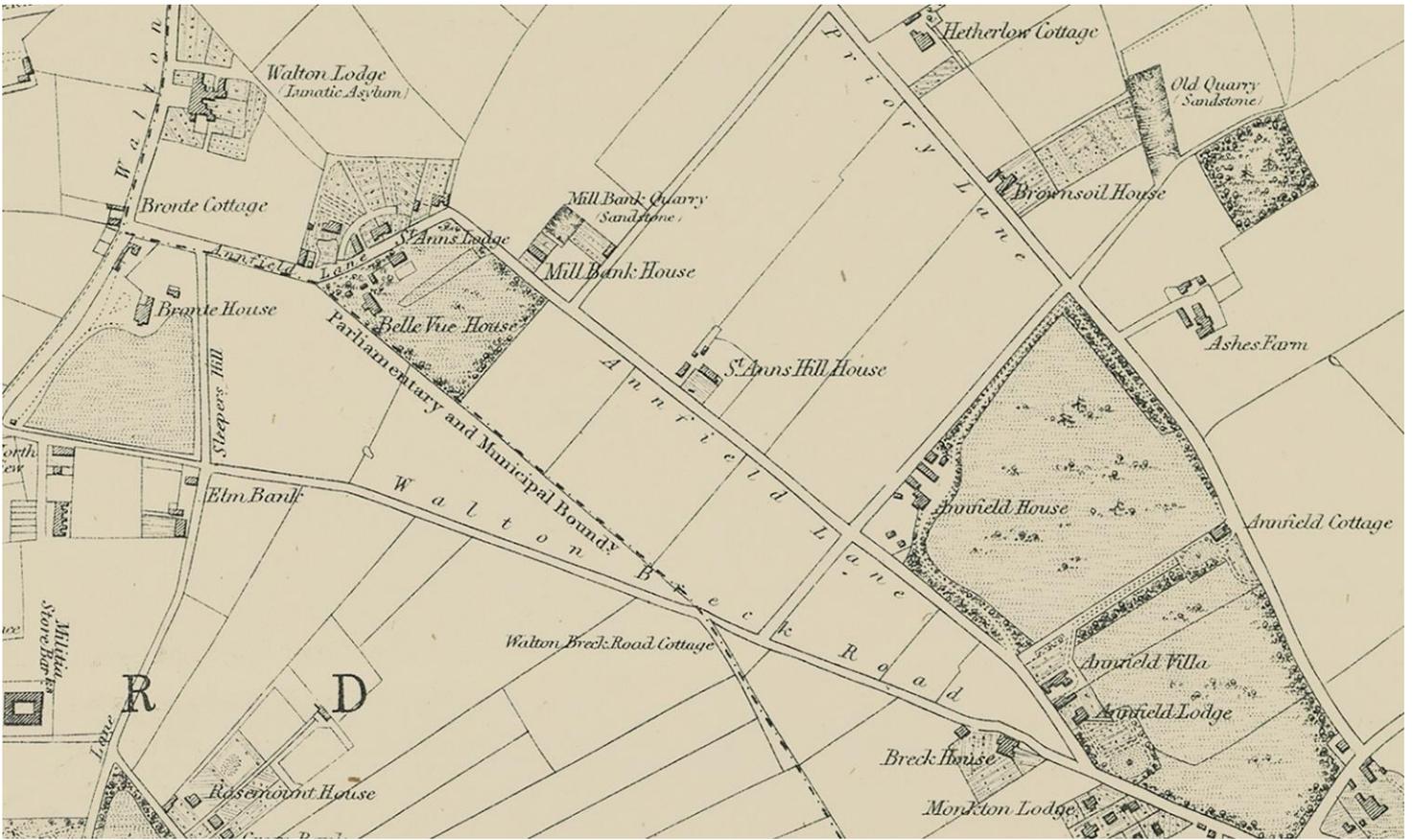
Major J. Utting, J.P.

**Utting.**—MAJOR JOHN UTTING, J.P., St. Ann's Hill, Anfield, Liverpool; son of H. A. Utting, of Ashwelthorpe, Norfolk; born at Ashwelthorpe, July 10th, 1852; educated at King Edward VI. School, Norwich, and Guy's Hospital (Prizeman there 1872-73); M.R.C.S.Eng., and L.R.C.P., 1874. Surgeon; Justice of the Peace for Liverpool; member of City Council, 1899; Chairman of the Hospital's Committee, and Port Sanitary Authority; President of School of Hygiene; member of Court of University; member of the Council of Liverpool College; Major Royal Army Medical Corps, Territorial Forces; Surgeon to the Direct United States Cable Company, 1874-75; to the expedition of ss. "Faraday" during the sounding of the Atlantic and laying of the first direct United States cable; has been largely associated with sanitary science, in which connection he has written many papers, etc.; took a deep personal

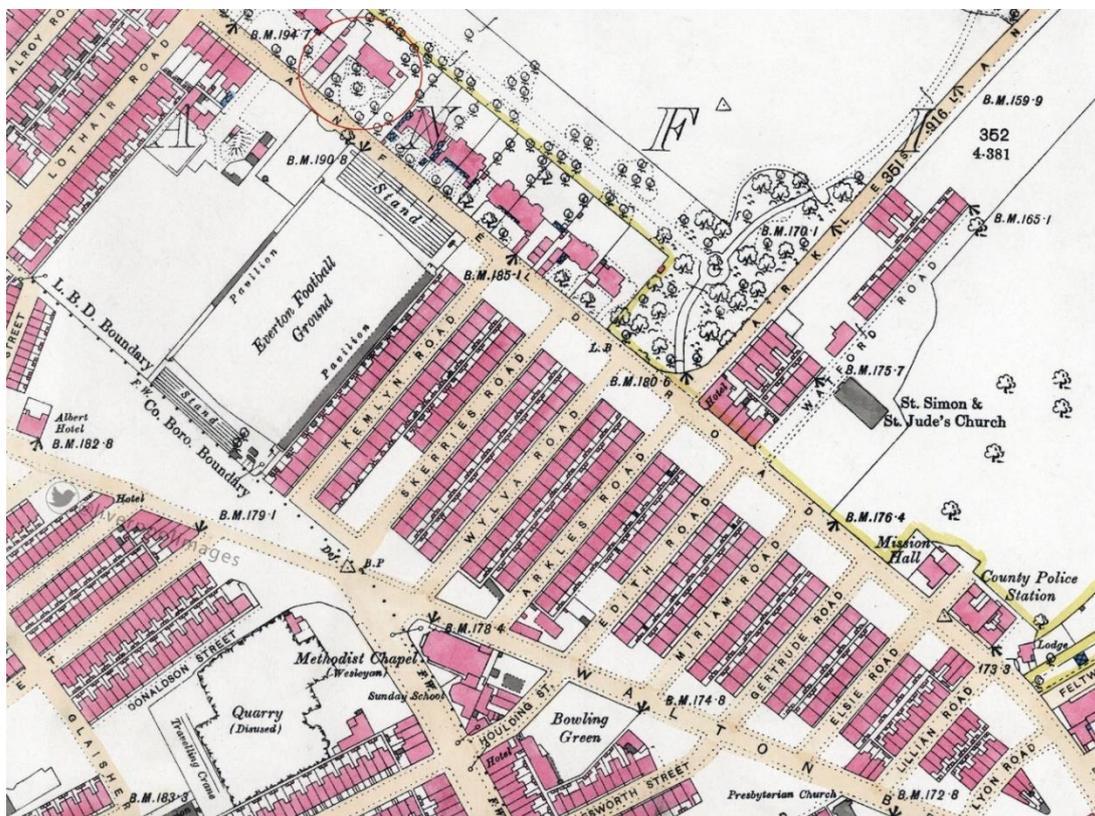
interest in the building and equipment of the Fuyakerly Hospital; his strenuous work on behalf of port sanitation was recognised in his being appointed President of the Conference of Port Sanitation Authorities at the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 1908. Married, firstly, in 1874, Mary Wallace, daughter of Dr. James Smith, of London; secondly, in 1893, Gertrude, daughter of Thomas Jones, of Liverpool. Clubs: University, and Conservative.

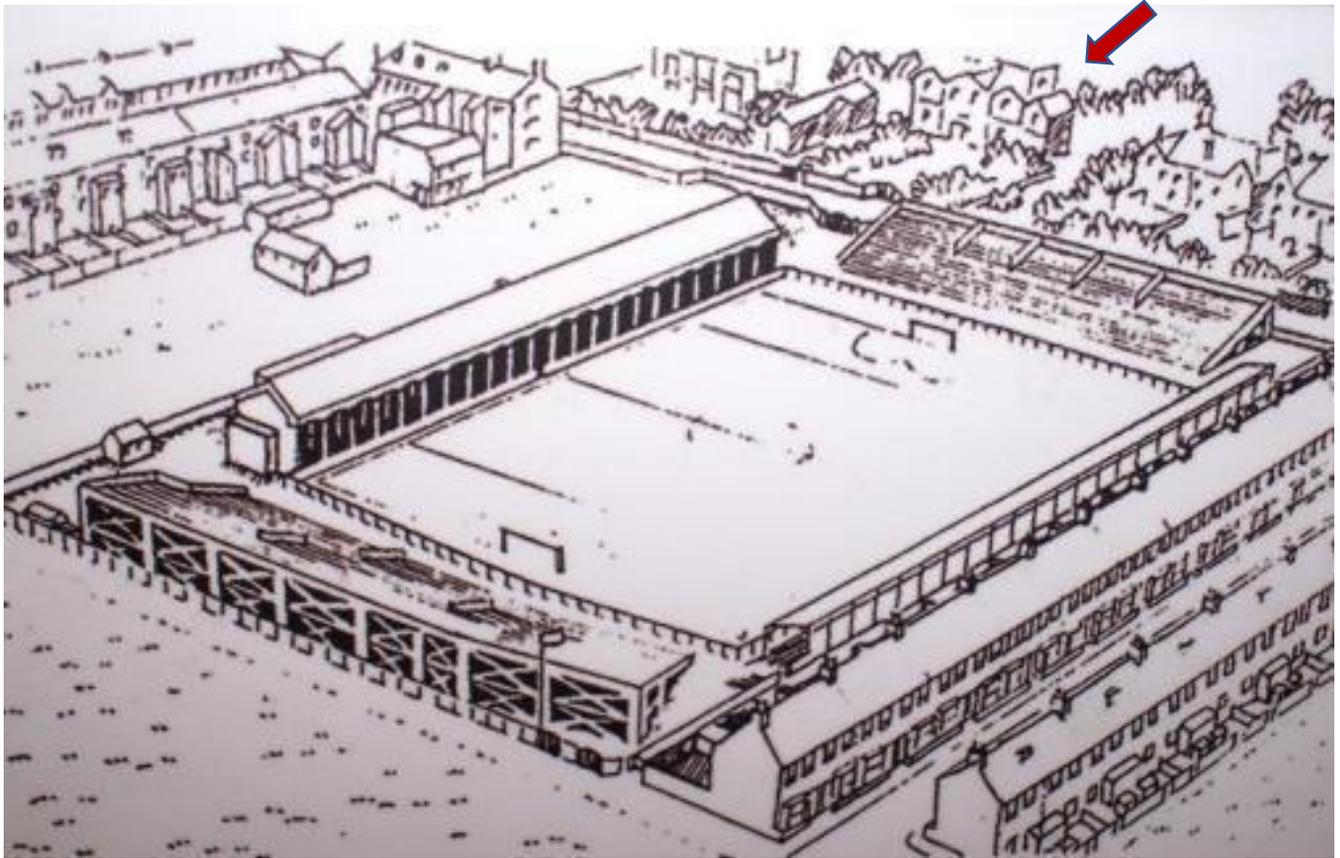


**Fazakerley Military Hospital, Liverpool. '1st Western Military Hospital'**  
in 1914 for treatment of injured soldiers. Hospital built 1903 in grounds of Harbreck Estate



**St Anne's Hill House (centre) on Annfield Road (1870s). The home of Everton FC would be built in the field owned by John Orrell directly across the road. Until then, matches were played behind the house on Stanley Park. In 1884, Everton FC member John Houlding secured the land from his friend Orrell for a small rent. The first match at the ground was held on 28 September 1884, when Everton beat Earlestown 5-0. Attempts to purchase the land from Orrell in 1892 escalated into the now infamous dispute between Houlding and the Everton FC committee over how the club was run. The subsequent division led to Everton's move across the park to found a new ground at Goodison Park. St. Anne's Hill House is circled at the top of the map.**

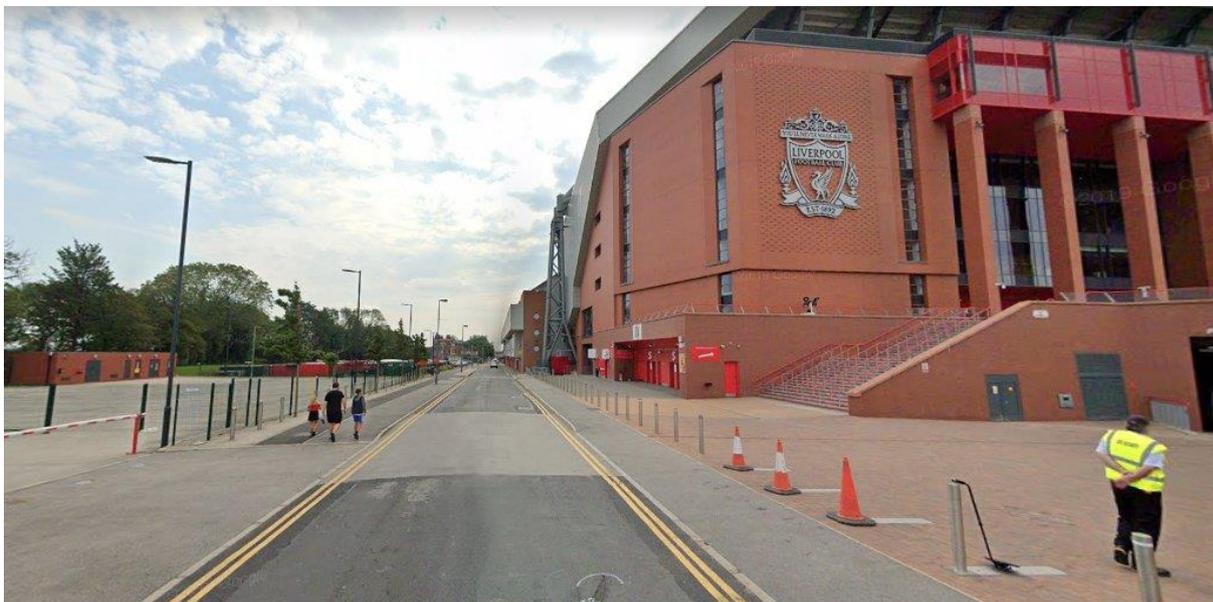






**Anfield Road in the 1870s, before the construction of the Everton F.C. ground in 1884. St. Anne's Hill is on the left.**

**The same scene today. The house has been demolished; fan zone facilities occupy the site on the left.**





DECORATIONS CONFERRED BY  
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE  
HELLENES.  
ORDER OF GEORGE I.  
*Commander.*  
Lieutenant-Colonel John Ritchie, ex-Lord  
Mayor of Liverpool.  
Major John Utting, ex-Lord Mayor of Liver-  
pool.

#numb. 32941 4407



SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
**The London Gazette**  
Of FRIDAY, the 30th of MAY, 1924.

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**Published by Authority.**

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TUESDAY, 3 JUNE, 1924.

<p><b>CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.</b> St. James's Palace, S.W. 1, 3rd June, 1924.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Privy Councillor.</i></p> <p>The KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, to declare that the undermentioned shall be sworn of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council:— Thomas Power O'Connor, Esq., M.A., M.P. For political services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Baronets.</i></p> <p>The KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, to signify his intention of conferring Baronetcies of the United Kingdom on the following:— Alexander Grant, Esq. For public services. Chairman of the firm of McVitie and Price. Sir Humphrey Davy Rolleston, K.C.B., M.A., M.D., D.C.L., LL.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Knights.</i></p> <p>The KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, to signify his intention of conferring the honour of Knighthood on the following:— Gerald Bellhouse, Esq., C.B.E., Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office.</p>	<p>David Young Cameron, Esq., R.A., LL.D. In recognition of his contributions to Art. Richard Davies, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., Deputy Alderman and Chief Commoner, Corporation of London. William Galloway, Esq., D.Sc. For public services. Benjamin Hawkins, Esq., Solicitor to the Board of Customs and Excise. Fred Hiam, Esq. For public services. George Anthony King, Esq., M.A., Chief Master, Supreme Court Taxing Office. Charles Mendl, Esq. For services to His Majesty's Embassy, Paris. Harold George Parlett, Esq., C.M.G., Japanese Counsellor of His Majesty's Embassy, Tokio. The Right Honourable William Lowrie Sleigh, J.P., D.L., Lord Provost of Edinburgh. Alderman John Utting, J.P., D.L., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Chairman of Finance Committee, Liverpool Corporation. Lord Mayor of Liverpool, 1917-18. Ralph Lewis Wedgwood, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., General Manager, L and N.E. Railway. Arthur Smith Woodward, Esq., LL.D., F.R.S., lately Keeper of Geology in the British Museum.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDIA.</p> <p>Provash Chandra Mitter, Esq., C.I.E., Vakil, High Court, Calcutta, Bengal, late Minister, Government of Bengal. Mr. Justice Victor Murray Coutts Trotter, Chief Justice, High Court, Madras.</p>
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**THE LONDON GAZETTE**  
30 May 1924

The official announcement of John Utting's knighthood.

The Liverpool Echo ran a tribute to Sir John, whom they described as ‘a man of eminence and courtesy, and with his passing there goes from public life of Liverpool one of its most acute and able-minded personalities.’



During his first year as mayor, he organised the raising of £80,000 for the Liverpool Red Cross Fund, freeing a city hospital from debt for the first time in its history. He planned the Million Shilling Fund for the relief of Liverpool prisoners of war in Germany, and keeping a keen eye on the various charities of the city which tended, owing to the stress of special war claims in other directions, to suffer financially.

As a special appreciation of his services, the City Council departed from the customary token of a portrait at his close of office, and presented the retiring mayor and his wife with pieces of silver plate. The commercial community gave him a sword of honour, and later the Portuguese invested him with the Royal Order of Merit of the Portuguese Red Cross for his work for the latter body.

#### **A FINE FINANCE CHIEF**

But it was not until 1919 that Sir John entered upon the civic activity by which he will be best remembered. In that year he became chairman of the Finance Committee of the City Council, and revealed his talent as a skilled economist and a shrewd administrator of public funds.

All Corporation estimates were drastically revised, the interests of the ratepayers were made the first consideration in the city budgets, and the Council was advised to decline to sanction any payments during the financial year which had not been in the original estimates.

#### **SOUND INVESTMENTS**

Sir John Utting had pronounced views on the matter of public loans, and under his regime, the rare Corporation of Liverpool loans came to be regarded as one of the soundest financial investments in the kingdom. Last month a rumour was widely circulated in the money columns of the Press that a new £2 million issue was under consideration, but Sir John gave an instant denial stating “We don’t go in for big capital issues on future events”.

In 1924, on his seventy-second birthday, Dr Utting’s zeal in public affairs received recognition in the birthday honours, and he became Sir John Utting. He has a permanent memorial in Liverpool in Utting Avenue, one of those magnificent boulevards on the outskirts of the city which have few equals in Europe.

His eminence never spoiled him. He was always accessible; always knew his own mind; and if he had anything to say or any opinion to express, would do so with a readiness and simplicity which was always a pleasure to pressmen in particular.

Sir John married twice, and had two sons and one daughter.

Lady Utting belongs to Liverpool, and is a sweet lady of quiet and retiring disposition, not taking any prominent role in public life.

#### **KINDLY KEEN AND GENEROUS**

At the City Court, Mr Stuart Deacon, the stipendiary magistrate, said Sir John had been a JP for nearly a quarter of a century, always exceedingly ready to do his work. One thing which distinguished him was his extraordinary kindness of heart, as all who came in contact with him realised.

Few men were better known among the poor, to who he gave freely of service and money, said Mr S. Skelton.

Mr E. Haigh also added his tribute; and Mr Howard Roberts, for the police and Corporation officials, said Sir John was highly revered by the officials, and his loss would be felt throughout the municipal service.

#### **A GREAT CITIZEN**

Dr Utting’s death was referred to at a meeting of the Liverpool Burials Committee this morning, and a resolution of sympathy with Lady Utting was passed in silence.

The chairman (Alderman Hartley Wilson, remarked that the death of Sir John Utting was a severe loss to the city, and councillor J.M. Griffith recalled that forty-six years ago, he consulted Sir John professionally, he formed the opinion, which had never altered, that he was one of nature’s gentlemen.



MRS. UTTING.

Councillors Urding, T.A Murphy, and Charles Wilson added their tributes, and agreed that the city had lost a great citizen, and that all who knew him had lost a kind, wise, and loyal friend.

*Liverpool Echo 17 February 1927*

Professor Sir John Utting was the first Professor of Anaesthetics at Liverpool University, Liverpool's chief medical officer and was also Liverpool Football Club's first club doctor. Both Utting Avenue, and Utting Avenue East, were named in recognition of his work.

Henry Alphege Utting, the son of Sir John Utting's second marriage to Gertrude Jones, was born on 29 November 1895 in Liverpool. Educated at Liverpool College, he went up to Peterhouse, Cambridge in October 1914, but war intervened and he served at the Front as a Captain and Adjutant in the Royal Field Artillery. He resumed his studies in 1919 and matriculated with a Maths degree in 1923, and later worked for Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd in Cunard Building, Liverpool.

Like his grandfather before him, John Utting jnr also had a distinguished medical career in the city and too was a professor. On his passing in 1998, his colleague R.S. Jones penned the following obituary;

### **Past Presidents Professor John Utting**

Professor John Utting was born in Liverpool into a long-established family. His grandfather was an Alderman and a Lord Mayor of the City and is still remembered in that "Utting Avenue" was named after him. John grew up in Liverpool and was educated at Liverpool College. From there, he went to Peterhouse College, Cambridge to study pre-clinical medicine and somewhat unusually returned to Liverpool for his clinical medical studies. After house jobs he started anaesthesia in Wigan and then joined the Liverpool course and rotation. In the early 1960's he spent a year as a lecturer in the University Department of Anaesthesia and together with Prof John Robinson and Ian Pimblett, worked on acid-base balance and, in particular, on hyperventilation. He returned to the rotation at Alder Hey and Broadgreen. He was then appointed as a part-time senior lecturer with consultant status which resulted in further acid base studies with Dr Fadl. In addition, there was research on the assessment of neuromuscular blockade with Ali and Gray which led to highly rated publications. There was also the work on dreaming during anaesthesia with David Brice which was also highly regarded. During this time, he had total responsibility for the undergraduate teaching of anaesthesia which was and still remains a very important source of recruitment to the speciality.



In 1977, he was appointed to the newly established chair in anaesthesia. He immediately turned his attention to the development of research in the area of renal physiology/ pharmacology and recruited two lecturers, Jennifer Hunter and Iain Campbell. They each boosted research in the areas of muscle relaxation and nutrition in intensive care respectively.

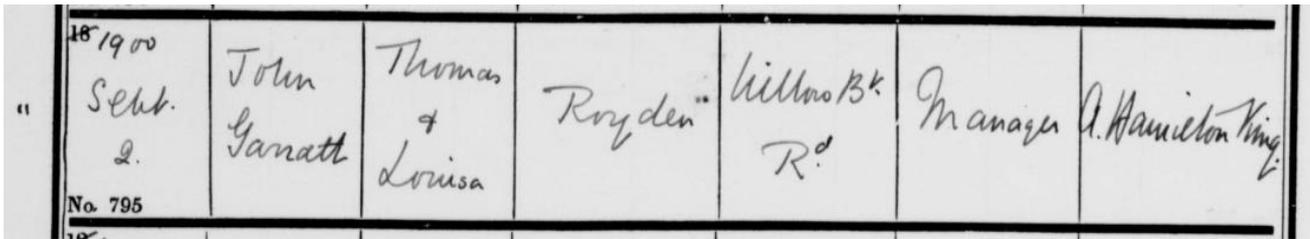
What of John Utting, the man? He was a very private person and one of the most self-effacing people I have known: a man of high intellect with considerable literary ability as demonstrated by his editorship of Gray, Nunn and Utting and its progression to two volumes. John tended to shy away from national committees and societies and preferred to be at home in Liverpool. He was the most generous of men both with his time and support but also with his money. A number of trainees, particularly from overseas and members of the non-academic staff were supported financially with only very few people, other than the recipient, being aware.

As far as support is concerned, there were a considerable number of people in the area whose careers would have been ended at a young age if it had not been for John's caring influence. He served the City of Liverpool for many years as a Magistrate. He was also active and influential within the University where he served as a Pro Vice-Chancellor and latterly held the prestigious post of Public Orator.

**R.S. Jones**

**Liverpool Society of Anaesthetists [www.lsoa.org.uk/whoutting.html](http://www.lsoa.org.uk/whoutting.html)**

# John Sarratt Royden



1900 Baptism of John Sarratt (misspelled) Royden, son of parents Thomas and Louisa

ADMISSION REGISTER.																					
Admission.				Date of Birth.		Parents Name.		Residence.		Occupation.		Previous School.		Whether withdrawn from.		Date of Notice.		Withdrawal No.		REMARKS.	
Consecutive Number	Previous Number	Year	Mo.	Day	Name.	Year	Mo.	Day	Parents Name.	Residence.	Occupation.	Previous School.	Whether withdrawn from.	Date of Notice.	Withdrawal No.	REMARKS.					
32		14	1	12	Swale Eric	02	4	16	Isaac	12 Moss Grove	Cashier	Hoodchurch Rd	70		54	C.M.					
33					Honey Geo. Leslie Nelson	00	10	21	George F.	79 Mount Rd.	Shipping Clerk	Blaydon H. G.	70		64	C.M.					
4					Shepherd George Henry	02	6	9	W. Tho.	31 Parkstone Rd	Govier	Hoodchurch Rd	70		81	C.M.					
5					Jones Samuel Eglew	02	7	20	Philip Henry	61 Raffles Rd.	Analyst	The Woodlands	70		5	M.					
6					John Gwynn Esmer	07	4	23					70		31	M.					
7					Royden John Sarratt	00	7	25	Thomas	69 Willow-Bank Rd.	Manager Wash and Dyeing Hereford		70		32	C.					

Thomas Utting Royden's younger brother, **John Sarratt Royden**, was born on 25 July 1900. Like Thomas, he was also sent to boarding school at Lucton in Herefordshire, but may have been unhappy there, as by 1912, when he was starting senior school, he had returned home and was admitted to Temple Road Council School in Birkenhead (later Prenton Secondary Modern School for Boys). More likely, the change in circumstances was probably brought on by the impending divorce of his parents, and the burden of fees no longer sustainable. As well as having to cope with the trauma of his parents split, this must have been quite a culture shock, moving from the cosseted environment of Lucton to the local council school. There he stayed until he began work as an apprentice farmer, in his mid-teens, probably with his uncle Samuel Royden on the family farm in Prenton. He enlisted on 18 March 1918 for the Royal Marines Artillery, aged just '17 years, 17 months, 7 days'. After training he joined the HMS *Malaya*, a Dreadnought Battleship and a vessel which had earned honours at the Battle of Jutland. John's service was now post war and now promoted to Gunner, he was on board during the visit to Cherbourg for Peace Celebrations in April 1919, and the following year carried Allied Disarmament Commission to inspect German ports. However, by May 1920, he became ill and was invalided out in June 1920, due to 'organic heart disease'. He was still only 20 years of age.

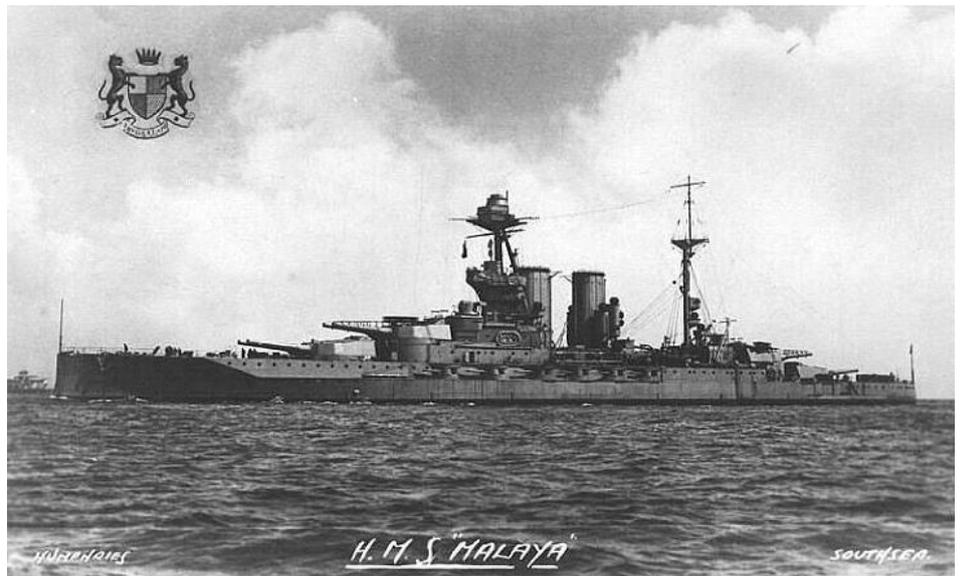
23. (Revised Dec., 1913.)

Name *Royden John Sarratt* Register No. *16237* Division *R.M.A.*

Where Enlisted ...		When re-engaged ...		DESCRIPTION OF PERSON.		Stature.		Color.		Marks, Wounds and Scars.	
When Enlisted ...	Date and place of Marriage ...	Foot.	Eye.	Complexion.	Eyes.	Hair.					
<i>Liverpool</i>	<i>4 March 1918</i>										
Age on Enlistment ...	Next of Kin and their address.	For Band Boys (On Enlistment as a Boy ...)		On Enlistment as Private ...		On Re-engagement ...		On Final Discharge from the Service ...			
<i>17 yrs 7 mos 7 days</i>	<i>Father - Thomas, of Lutterham</i>	And Buglers only (On Attaining the age of 18 ...)		<i>5</i>		<i>Fresh face Brown</i>					
Date of Birth ...		On Enlistment as Private ...		<i>5</i>		<i>Fresh face Brown</i>					
<i>25 July 1900</i>		On Re-engagement ...		<i>6</i>		<i>Fresh face Brown</i>					
Where Born ...		On Final Discharge from the Service ...		<i>6</i>		<i>Fresh face Brown</i>					
<i>Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead</i>	<i>Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead</i>										
Traffic ...											
<i>Jersey, Channel Islands</i>											
Religion ...											
<i>Church of England</i>											

Rank.	Co.	Name of Division or Ship.	No. on Ship's Books.	Date of		Cause of Discharge from Division or Ship.	Remarks.	Name of Commanding Officer.	SERVICES FORFEITED.				Classification for Conduct.	
				Entry.	Discharge.				TOWARDS ENGAGEMENT.	TOWARDS G. C. BADGES.	Class.	Date.		
<i>Private</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>R.M. Artillery</i>		<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>26 July 18</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
<i>Quartermaster</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>R.M. Artillery</i>		<i>25 July 18</i>	<i>25 Sep 18</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
		<i>Malaya</i>		<i>3 Sep 18</i>	<i>4 Nov 18</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
		<i>R.M. Artillery</i>		<i>5 Nov 18</i>	<i>31 Dec 18</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
				<i>14 Jan 19</i>	<i>6 Feb 19</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
				<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
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				<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
				<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>15 Feb 19</i>	<i>16 years 2 m.</i>	<i>fit</i>	<i>G. Campbell</i>	<i>Under age of 16</i>	<i>4 Feb 18</i>	<i>6 July 18</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>4 Feb 18.</i>
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**Some of the crew of HMS *Malaya* 1918-21**

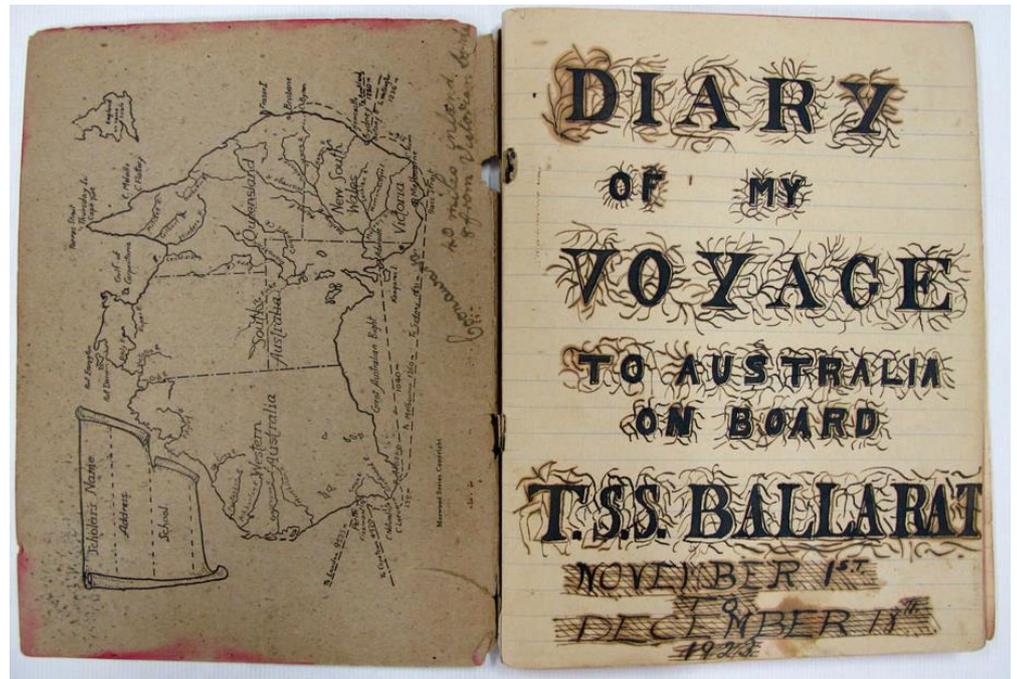


**HMS *Malaya* firing a 101-gun salute after peace terms are signed.**

**'Interesting Recreation' on HMS *Malaya*, 1919**



The diary of Bill Gladwell (a Barwell Boy)  
By John Gladwell,  
Migration Museum  
volunteer



[www.tracesmagazine.com.au/  
2013/06/the-barwell-boys-centenary-of-  
south-australias-british-farm-apprentices/](http://www.tracesmagazine.com.au/2013/06/the-barwell-boys-centenary-of-south-australias-british-farm-apprentices/)

B. & S. 18520

P.M. 21.

Nam of Ship S.S. "BALLARAT" Date of Departure 14/12/22 192

Steamship Line—P. & O. BRANCH SERVICE. Where Bound—AUSTRALIA.

(PAGE NO.19)  
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF **BRITISH** PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF LONDON.

(1) Contract Ticket Number.	(2) NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	(3) Last Address in the United Kingdom.	(4) CLASS (whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd).	(5) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.	(6) Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	(7) AGES OF PASSENGERS.								(8) Country of Last Permanent Residence.*					(9) Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.*
						Adults of 12 years and upwards.				Children between 1 and 12.				Infants.					
						Accom- panied by Husband or Wife.	Not Accom- panied by Husband or Wife.	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	British Possessions	
✓ 1221	Hart Andrew	136 St. Johns Street, Craighill, Dundee	3rd	MELBOURNE	Baker	28								1				AUSTRALIA	
✓ 1222	do Mrs. Isabella				Wife	25								1				do	
✓	do James								2					1				do	
✓	do Thomas									1m				1				do	
✓ 1223	Moore Henry	Simla House, Grosvenor Place, Exeter			Boot maker	18								1				do	
✓ 1224	White Leslie Philip	23 Clifford Rd. Bearwood, Smethwick				20								1				do	
✓ 1225	Machin Frank Woodward	28 Moorgate St. Nottingham				27								1				do	
✓ 1226	Doyle John	56 Constitution St. Dundee			Milkman	26							1					do	
✓ 1227	Fookes Lawrence Herbert	14 Langstone Rd. Milton, Portsmouth			Shipwright	22							1					do	
✓ 1228	Mackenzie Charles	Loch Dhu Farm, Nairn, Scotland			Blacksmith	28							1					do	
✓ 1229	Chalmers James	131 Rosebank St. Dundee			Platers Asst.	28							1					do	
✓ 1230	Wells William	11 Mona Rd. Erdington, Birmingham				25							1					do	
✓ 1231	Kenny Charles Joseph	6 Rue de Haies, Marcinelle.			Plasterer	25										1		do	
✓	do Mrs. Maria Julie	Charleroir, Belgium			Wife	30										1		do	
✓	do Marie Louisa								1							1		do	
✓ 1233	Royden John	Willow Bank, Willow Bank Rd. Birkenhead			Farming	23							1					do	
✓ 1234	Hyman Mrs. Adelaide	58 Vassall Rd. Brixton, S.W.			Housewife	25							1					do	

John Sarratt Royden, a farmer aged 23, travelling on the SS *Ballarat* to Australia on 14 December 1922 (recorded second from the bottom).

[Order on Summons]

In the High Court of Justice.

PROBATE, DIVORCE AND ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

(DIVORCE.)

ROYDEN against ROYDEN & HALL.

Counsel:  
UPON HEARING the Solicitor for the Petitioner and Respondent and reading the Affidavit of the Petitioner and the Joint Affidavit of the Petitioner and Charles Lewin Pennell and the Affidavit of the Respondent sworn respectively 2nd 18th and 12th February 1916

and by consent I DO ORDER, that the sum of £750 damages paid into Court herein be paid out to Messrs Rawle Johnston & Co the Petitioner's Solicitors and be disposed of as follows:-

- (a) £130 to be paid to the Petitioner personally for his own use
- (b) £620 to be paid to Walter Edwards of 55 Prenton Road East Higher Tranmere Cheshire Accountant and the Petitioner to invest £600 thereof in the purchase of Exchequer Bonds and the balance of £20 in the purchase of War Loan Stock and to hold the securities together with the income derived therefrom in trust for John Sarratt Royden and May Phyllis Royden (the two youngest children of the marriage) in equal shares until they or either of them shall attain the age of 21 years or in the event of either of them dying under that age then in trust for the survivor of them the said Trustees to be at liberty to apply any part of the £620 or the investments for the time being representing the same together with the income derived therefrom for the advancement or maintenance of the said John Sarratt Royden and May Phyllis Royden in such manner as the Trustees shall think fit.

I DO FURTHER ORDER that a sum of £100 be paid to the said Respondent  
Dated the                      day of                      191---

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Registrar.

It has been suggested that John Sarratt Royden was of one of the thousands of young British male migrants sent to South Australia after World War I as part of a scheme to replace the labour lost by the death of young men in the war. Known as *Barwell Boys*, they were apprenticed on farms throughout the state. More than 1440 boys, most in their mid to late teens, but up to the age of twenty-four, migrated to South Australia under a scheme instigated in 1922 by the Liberal Premier Sir Henry Barwell, as a means to gain young men for agricultural and pastoral work. Barwell specifically aimed to address the loss of 6,000 South Australian men who had been killed in the war. The general need was to bolster the population numbers in Australia, while being mindful of the 'White Australia' policy, which was also to the fore. Workers were required to assist both farmers and soldier settlers, who were to develop productive holdings. British support for the programme was prompted by the high level of unemployment at home, coupled with desire to reinforce ties and strength of the British Empire.

An Apprenticeship Agreement was signed by each boy, assigning him to a farmer for three years. Working and living conditions as well as wages were detailed. South Australian Department of Immigration Director Victor Ryan supervised the scheme, being responsible

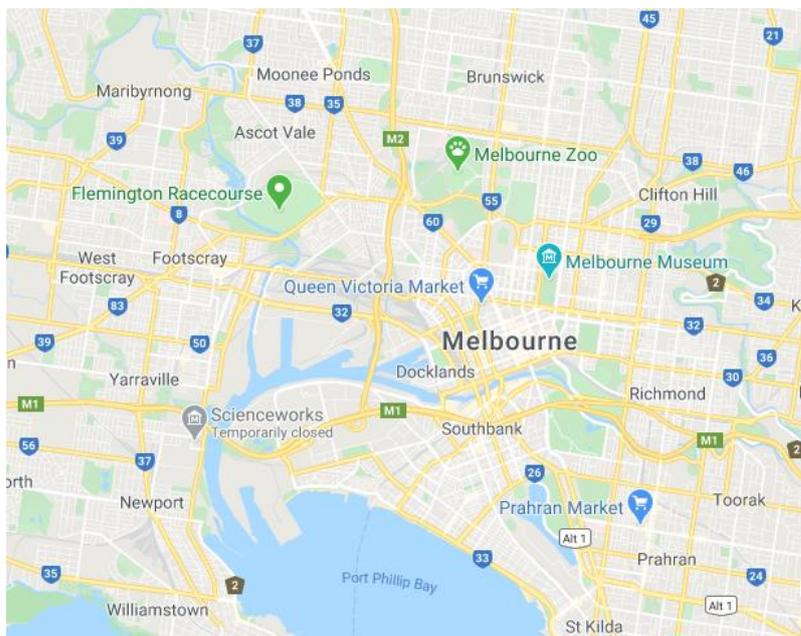
for the boys' reception, assigned employment, and welfare - he corresponded with the boys and their families.

The Australian Labour Party opposed the scheme, criticising it as a source for cheap labour, declaring that Australian boys should have been preferred, and expressing concern for the welfare and care of the young immigrants.

After arriving at Port Adelaide, *Barwell Boys* were accompanied to the former Destitute Asylum. They were assigned to farmers generally within 48 hours of arrival. For some the culture shock of the harsh environment in rural South Australia was distressing, and the promises of the scheme were not realised for both personal and work reasons. However, many did complete their apprenticeships and remained in the state. This immigration scheme ceased after 1924.

Whether John was part of this scheme has not been proven. If he wasn't, how could he afford the journey and to make his way in Australia before he was able to support himself? For the answer to this we must return to the terms of his parent's divorce settlement. Once the fee of damages set at £750 had been received by the court, on 21 February 1916 it was divided, by allocating £130 to

Thomas senior, and £600 split between his children John and Masie, in trust until they were twenty-one. A further £100 was allocated to Louise in respect of the upkeep of their eldest son Thomas Utting. Three hundred pounds was a considerable sum in 1922; even with depreciation following the war it was still worth around £20,000 today.



Although John had travelled out as a farmer, by 1924 he was in the police force, and had married Elizabeth Stevenson, setting up home in 1 Cadman Street, Brunswick, Melbourne.

John and Elizabeth had a son Thomas in 1928, who married Elizabeth ('Betty') Hodson, who in turn had two sons, Graham and Tony. Their descent chart is shown below.

**21 Aug 1970 - recorded in Brunswick West, Melbourne, Australia**

## **Police Hurt in Brawl: 10 Held**

**Melbourne, Saturday.**

Constable John Royden 52, of West Brunswick, was hit over the head and on the jaw with a bottle and another policeman was nearly strangled with his own tie during a brawl in Melbourne tonight.

Two screaming women and eight men were arrested and charged with being drunk and disorderly and behaving offensively.

Constable Royden was taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital. Stiches were put in cuts over both his eyes. Doctors think his jaw is broken. The brawl took place outside a hotel in Elizabeth Street.

### **QUESTIONED**

Tonight, a young man was being questioned about the attack on Constable Royden. During the brawl, a man got hold of a policeman's tie and twisted it until he almost choked. With his other hand the man bashed the constable. Police reinforcements were called by radio.

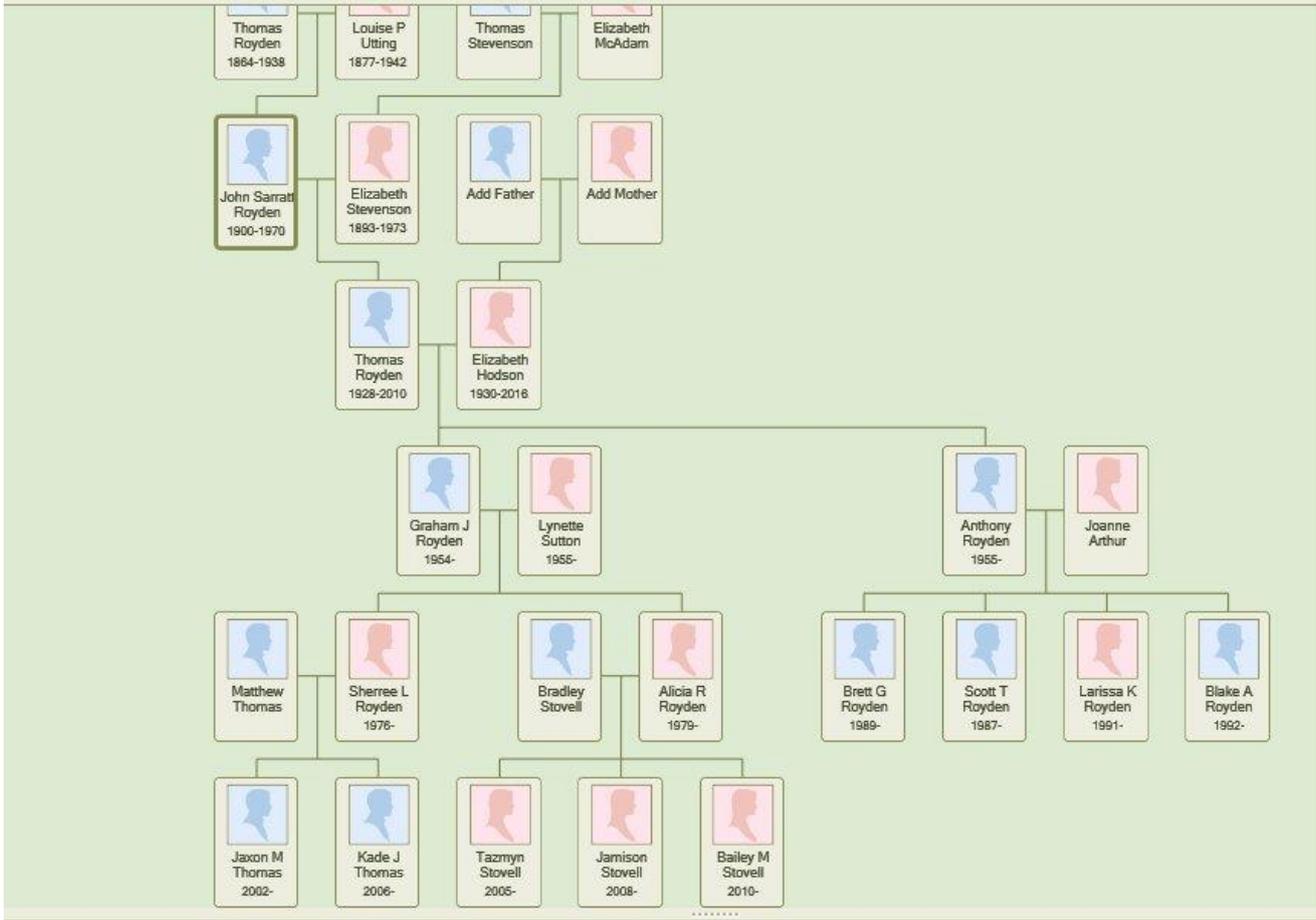
While they were being arrested the men and women shouted to a big crowd: "Recue us! Make them release us!"

The police say more than 30 men and women took part in the fight. About 100 people looked on. The fight began when a police patrol was called to investigate a report that a man had snatched a bundle of banknotes from the till in the bar.

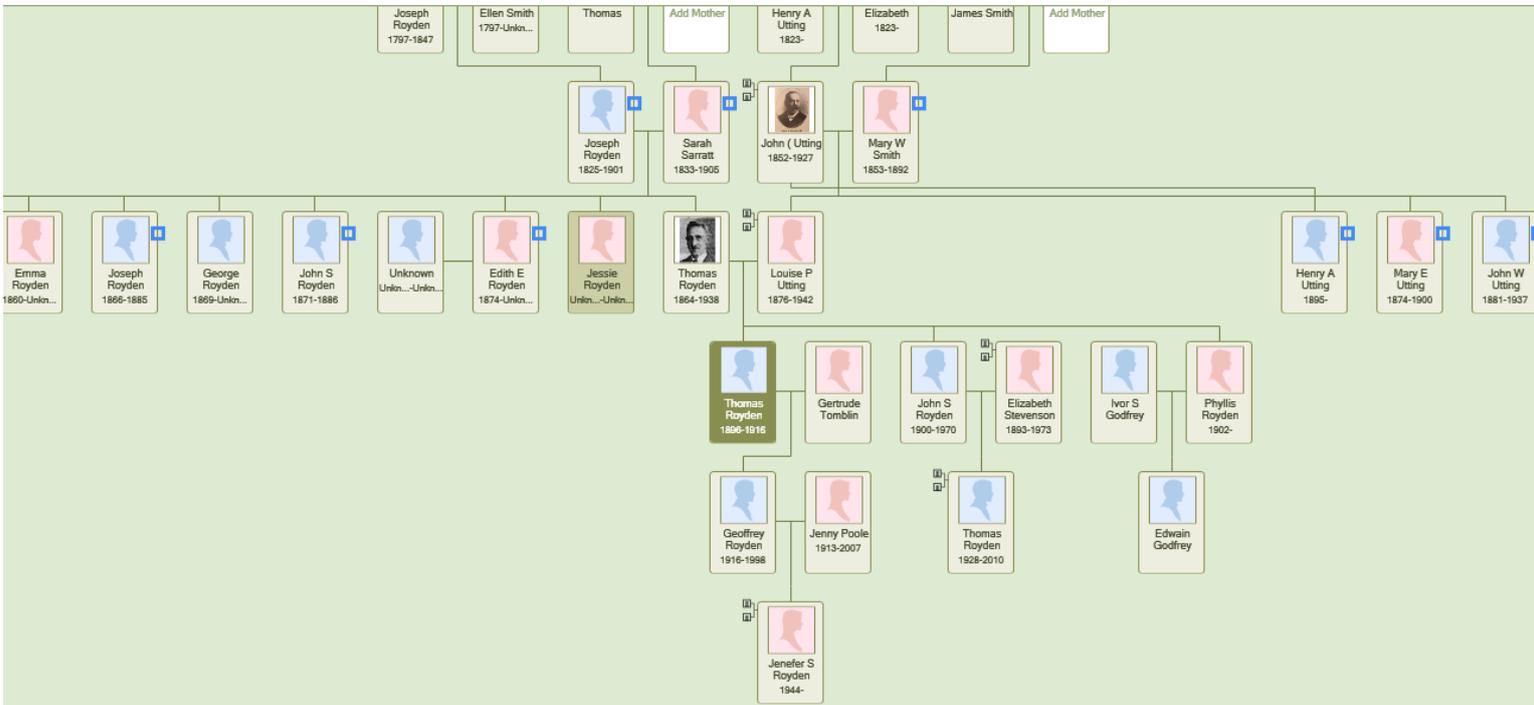
The thief disappeared. The patrol became involved with a rowdy element leaving the bar.

*Sydney Sunday Herald 21 Sep 1952*

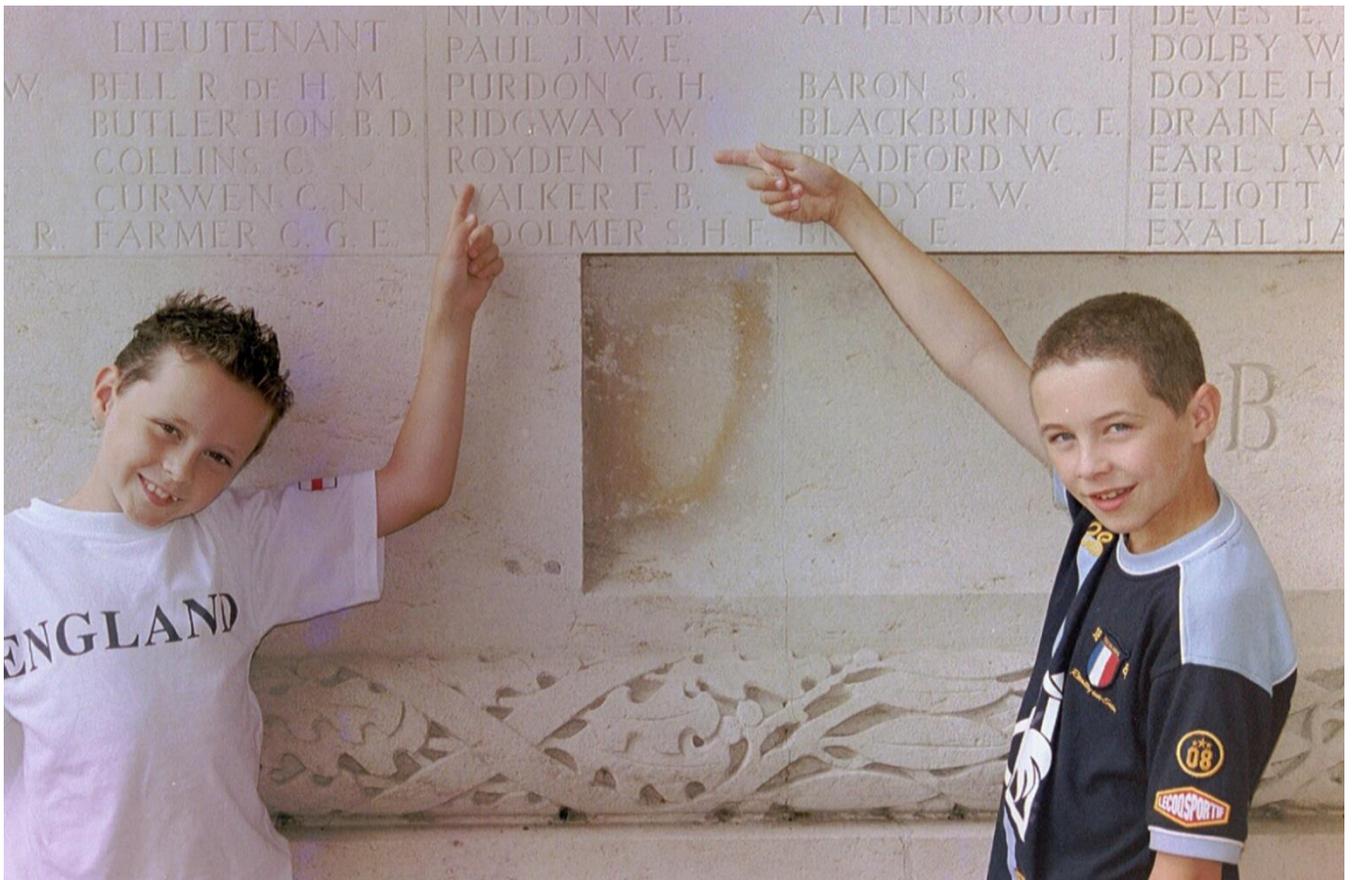
.....



The descent chart of John Sarratt Royden, following his move to Melbourne, Australia in 1922



Family of Thomas Utting Royden (1896-1916)



# Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden

17th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment / 19th & 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps

Standing below the towering Thiepval Memorial, I watched as my sons Lewis and Liam retrieved Thomas' name from the pages of the index volumes stored in a recess behind a small metal door set in the wall below the panels. Armed with the panel reference, they climbed the steps to carry out their search. Over 90% of the 72,337 names commemorated on the panel died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive, and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, it was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 31 July 1932. The dead of other Commonwealth countries who died on the Somme and have no known graves are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.



On the day war was declared in August 1914, Thomas had been working as a clerk in the office of a local cotton importer. He immediately heeded Lord Derby's call for volunteers in his new Pal's Battalion, and attested in Liverpool on 1 September 1914. Underage, he declared himself to be 19 years and 6 days old, although in reality he was still only seventeen, and still almost a month off his eighteenth birthday. He was issued his service number 17/15028 and posted to the 1st City Battalion, King's

Liverpool Regiment (later renamed the 17th (Service) Battalion). Dark haired and six-foot-tall, he cut a dashing figure in the queue of volunteers, and was able to pass off older than his years.

The 17ths were ordered to report to the old Watch Factory in Prescott for training. Eventually there would be enough men for four battalions, and training camps were also set at Hooton Park for the 18ths, Lord Derby's Knowsley Park for the 19ths, and Knotty Ash Tournament Hall for the 20ths, while Sefton Park would be used as the review ground.



The photo shows the first "Pal" recruit being sworn in at St. George's Hall to-day.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914

TO THE  
**YOUNG MEN OF LIVERPOOL.**

ADDITIONAL  
**RECRUITS**  
ARE URGENTLY WANTED.

Your Country has need of your Services. Be true Patriots and act in a manner worthy of your Country and City by taking up Arms in their defence.

**YOUNG MEN from 18 to 30**  
who are unmarried should at once respond to  
**LORD KITCHENER'S APPEAL.**

APPLY FOR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AT—  
**RECRUITING OFFICE, OLD HAYMARKET,  
LIVERPOOL.**

HERBERT R. BATHBONE,  
LORD MAYOR.

Town Hall, Liverpool.

AN EVENING EXPRESS, LIVERPOOL

**PALS' FIRST BATTALION**

Full Number Obtained in  
an Hour.

**STIRRING SCENES.**

Great Rally of Liverpool's  
Young Business Men.

**"NO UNDESIRABLES."**

Lord Derby's Address to the  
New Recruits.

**LIVERPOOL'S EIGHT THOUSAND.**

men had a rousing send off on leaving the Exchange to-day for drill at Sefton Park. The first detachment paraded for attestation at 8.30 a.m. to-morrow, and the second at 11.30. A number of recruits from Sefton Park at 5 p.m. to-morrow.

Wallasey's Contribution.

Lord Derby's appeal has also met with a gratifying response at Wallasey. It was estimated that those desiring to enlist should assemble at the Sefton Central Park, to-day, and this morning a large crowd of spectators lined the approach. A number of shops from Sefton Park entertained the company with patriotic songs, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed.

Upwards of 200 recruits entered the enclosure, including a body of musicians in overall, who appeared to have just left off work. Headed by the Navy League Band the men, who were supervised by Messrs. J. Boulton and Wilson, and Capt. Fry (British manager), marched to the Sefton Ferry, after undergoing a short drill in the park.

A call to the park was made by the presence here Alderman E. Peace (chairman of the War Committee), Alderman E. G. Hartman (treasurer of the Works Council), and Mr. F. Berry (chief constable).

As the ferry they were enthusiastically cheered, and the boat left the steps to the accompaniment of the lusty chorus, "It's a long way to Tipperary." Putting ferry parties and the recruits by vigorous blasts of the oars, and on arriving at the Landing-stage the men were marched up to St. George's Hall, where they received another enthusiastic reception. Recruits being in the majority, which was on in the borough, and any young man wishing to give his services, which are urgently needed, to his King and country, should apply to the office which has been opened in Church-street.

An Express representative, to-day, interviewed an officer, who is considered

**OUR HEROIC ARMY.**

Growing Eagerness  
Share Its Glory.

LIVERPOOL'S LEAD TO  
THE EMPIRE.

(Express Special.)

Our little army! There is not a Briton's heart that does not beat quicker at the thought of it. Before the war broke out the German Government told our statement that, if we fought, the utmost we could do would be to protect the northern coasts of France with our fleet. An army, they said, that we could not put into the field would be too small to matter. It would be swept aside.

What do they think of the men who fought to a standstill the cream of the German army? The Kaiser's picked men and sent them overwhelming numbers. But they did not overwhelm.

What does German officials think as it hears of us Guard Cavalry Division being "brought

**EAGER RUSH OF "PALS."**

FIRST BATTALION RAISED IN HALF AN HOUR.

**GREAT TRIUMPH,**

A SECOND CONTINGENT BEING FORMED.

Unparalleled enthusiasm is witnessed to-day in the recruitment at St. George's Hall of recruits for Lord Derby's famous service battalions of Liverpool businessmen. Hundreds of recruits were awaiting the opening of the hall doors before the hour had struck 8 a.m., and in half an hour the first 1,000 had been completed.

An increasing crowd of spectators assembled at the entrance, and cheering was heard from every balcony.

The morning's recruiting exhibition by

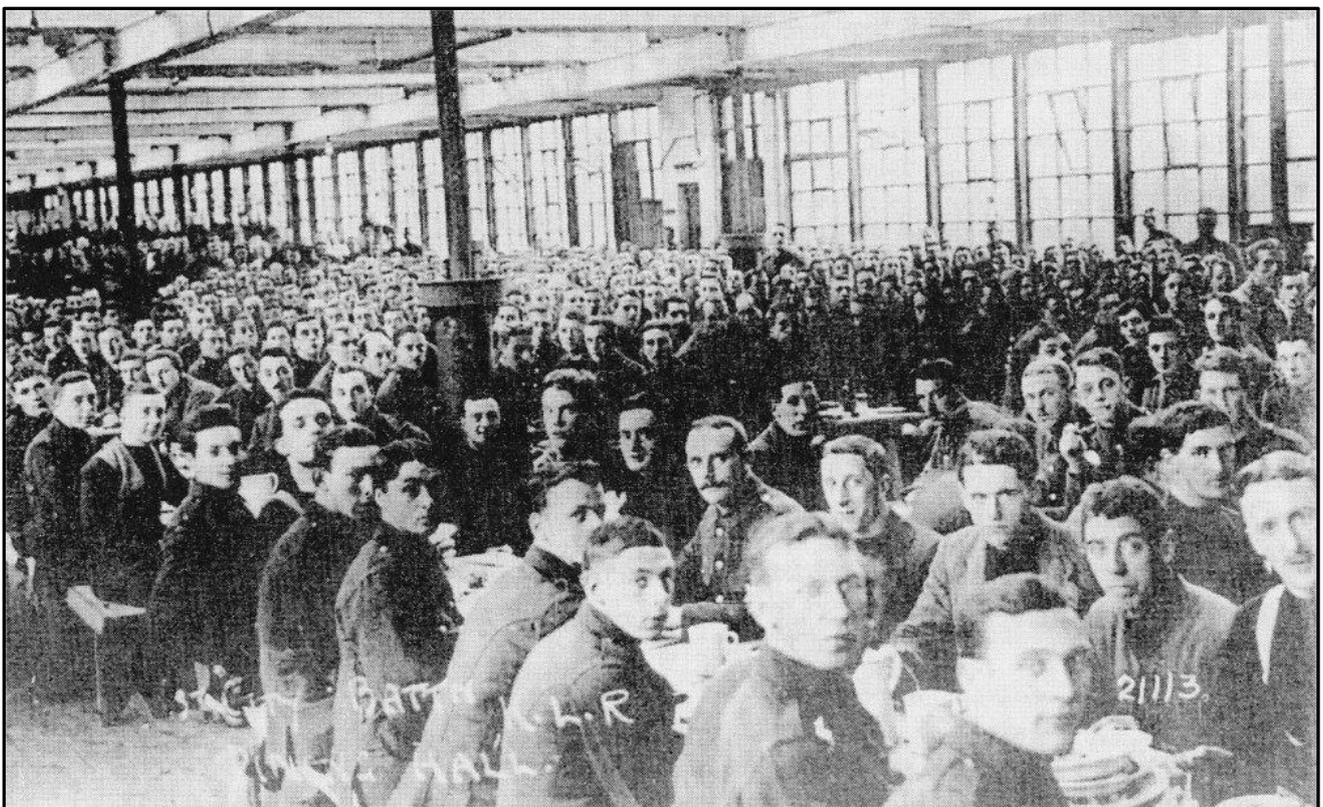


Recruits marching along Dale Street 31 August 1914 to enlist at St George's Hall





**1st City Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment (later the 17th Battalion)  
– 'Liverpool Pals' during training at the Prescott Watch Factory, Prescott**





1st City Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment (later the 17th Battalion)  
– 'Liverpool Pals' during training at the Prescot Watch Factory, Prescot



## **Belton Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire**

After several months basic training, the Pals left for Belton Park in Grantham, Lincolnshire, with all four battalions leaving Prescot Station on 30 April 1915. The camp at Belton Park came in to being shortly after the start of the war, when the owner of the house and estate, Earl Brownlow, offered the use of Belton Park to the War Office. A tented camp was begun in September 1914, but very soon afterwards purpose-built wooden huts were erected. The camp effectively became a small town. It had some 840 wooden huts of which 500 were barrack rooms giving it a capacity of about 12,000 men and additional accommodation for officers, although it has been estimated that capacity could have been up to 20,000. It had its own 670 bed military hospital, five church rooms, three YMCA huts for recreation, a post office, a cinema and its own railway line.

It was initially occupied by troops of the 11th (Northern) Division, then by the Manchester and Liverpool Pals of the 30th Division, later becoming the Machine Gun Corps Training Centre on 18 October 1915. The camp remained in place throughout the war and was eventually dismantled in 1920. The 30th Division moved on to Salisbury Plain for final training during the first week of September 1915, and by 7 November all four Pals battalions had left for France.

However, Thomas was not with them. He had been promoted to Lance Corporal on 24 June 1915, but by 30 July 1915 his war record reveals he was 'discharged for the purpose of re-enlistment in Inns of Court O.T.C.' (Officer Training Corps). Although the Pals trained their own officers, Thomas was not immediately assigned on his attestation, possibly because he was too young, as he certainly had the credentials for the officer class with his public school education and being the grandson of an important public figure in Liverpool local government. As the war progressed through 1915, losses of trained officers were high, and the War Office issued directives to increase recruitment from the rank and file as well as the general public. So, on 30 July, Thomas found himself on the train to Berkhamsted.



**17th Battalion, Liverpool Pals marching through Grantham**



Liverpool Pals, Belton Park 1915





**The Inns of Court Officers Training Corps (OTC)** was a Territorial Army unit based in Chancery Lane in London, near the headquarters of the Law Society of England and Wales, and adjacent to Lincoln's Inn. The corps was closely associated with the legal profession, and its cap badge combined the arms of the four Inns of Court.



The Inns of Court OTC expanded rapidly in August and September 1914, as thousands volunteered for military service following the outbreak of the First World War, and the corps quickly outgrew its peacetime premises in London. A training camp opened in tents on Berkhamsted Common, in the west of Hertfordshire in September 1914 and remained in operation until June 1919, hosting around 2,000 officer cadets. As part of their training, the men dug around 13 miles (21 km) of trenches across Berkhamsted Common, evidence of which remains visible 100 years later. Around 11,000 were commissioned and became officers in other units.



**Members of the Inns of Court OTC peeling potatoes at Berkhamsted, 1914.**

The Inns of Court OTC provided basic officer training at Berkhamsted before candidates went on to be commissioned. The cadets learnt drill, musketry, entrenching, bombing, map reading, field exercises and lectures on different aspects of leadership and command. *(Photo comes from a disbound photograph album compiled by Donald Michael Penrose, 2/9th Middlesex Regiment whilst training in England, 1914-1917).*

✠ ROYDEN, *Thomas Utting*

6/5/5268, 31/7/15, Sgt.; K.R. Rif. C., 23/4/16; 2/Lieut.  
Killed in action 14/11 '16.

**Thomas Utting Royden's record listed in 'The Inns of Court Officers Training Corps during The Great War', the official history by Lieutenant Colonel F.H.L. Errington, CB VD**

## 2nd Battalion, The King's Royal Rifles (99th Brigade / 2nd Division)

After receiving his Commission, Thomas was posted to his new unit, the 2nd Battalion, The King's Royal Rifles on 25 April 1916, which was in the throes of moving their training base in Banbury to their new camp on Wimbledon Common completed in May;

The shortage of officers for training purposes had now become a serious matter, those available being required to undergo courses of instruction as numerous as they were varied, whether the officers concerned derived any great benefit from these courses being quite another matter. However, other units in the Brigade were in quite the same circumstances, and after strong representations to the War Office, a draft of officers from Ireland was supplied, and for the period of one whole week the unit was in a position to say it had its full complement of officers, but on the following Saturday, 3rd July, 1916, no fewer than twenty-three officers were ordered overseas. At the time, this was not understood, but recent events proved that they were to have their share of the 'Big Push.' The officers chosen were:-

Capt. E. E. Heathcote (wounded).	2nd Lieut. J. L. R. Bull (home).
2nd Lieut. C. V. Erwood.	<b>2nd Lieut. T. U. Royden.</b> (killed).
2nd Lieut. A. A. Kidd (wounded).	2nd Lieut. A. E. M. A. Hawke (killed).
2nd Lieut. E. M. Hallett.	2nd Lieut. F. F. Michell
2nd Lieut. H. S. Waters.	2nd Lieut. D. Maschmeyer. (wounded).
2nd Lieut. W. J. Taylor (wounded).	2nd Lieut. F. Greenfield.
2nd Lieut. F. S. Hancocks (wounded).	2nd Lieut. J. Hay.
2nd Lieut. F. J. Bendle.	2nd Lieut. R. Cole.
2nd Lieut. J. Lee.	2nd Lieut. H. Garrard.
2nd Lieut. F. Hope.	2nd Lieut. M. Perry (wounded).
2nd Lieut. E. F. Peacocke (wounded).	2nd Lieut. W. L. Sanders (wounded).
2nd Lieut. R. C. Morrell (wounded).	



RECREATION ROOM, YMCA HUT, WIMBLEDON COMMON CAMP

merton



**The 1914 Defence of the Realm Act took 200 acres of Wimbledon Common to build a training camp for soldiers. From 20 September 1915 the public were excluded from the area. A memorial to the King's Royal Rifle Corps, who were camped there from April 1916 until the end of the war was erected on the site. (Photos Clive Gilbert 2013)**



MESNIL BOUCHE  
16.7.16.

The Battalion only rested here for a few hours and at 3.30 p.m. we paraded again and moved off in the following order to HERMIN:- H, Qrs., "B" "C" Band "D" and "A" Coys, with Lewis Gun Detachment and Transport in the rear. This is only a short march of five miles but it turned out to be a very unpleasant one as it poured with rain the whole time. The billets in the village were quite up to the average, although they were not at all clean when we took them over. 2nd Lieuts. J.L.R. Bull, C.V. Erwood, and T.U. Royden joined the Battalion yesterday as reinforcements. Capt. R.H.S. Stafford also returned to us from being attached to the 5th Bde.,

### 16 July 1916 Mesnil Bouche

The Battalion only rested here for a few hours and at 3.30pm we paraded again and moved off in the following order to HERMIN:- HQrs, 'B', 'C' Band, 'D' and 'A' Coys, with Lewis Gun Detachment and Transport in the rear. This is only a short march of five miles, but it turned out to be a very unpleasant one, as it poured down with rain the whole time. The billets in the village were quite up to the average, although they were not at all clean when we took them over.

**2nd Lieutenants** J N L Bull, C V Erwood, and **T U Royden** joined the Battalion yesterday as reinforcements. Capt. R.H.S. Stafford also returned to us from being attached to 5th Bde.

*War Diary, ibid, 16 July 1916*

More officers arrived over the next couple of days while at Hermin, but they were thought very young. Thomas was still only nineteen.

On 20 July, the Battalion moved out to be entrained at Dieval for a position just east of Amiens. The journey was arduous – after a two-hour march, and a break for lunch, there was a further seven miles before the rail link was reached. The diary records the journey, but also an insight into demands placed on men destined once more for the trenches. Thomas still had that experience to come, but even this must have been a shock to the system,

At 4.05pm the train moved off and we finally arrived at LONGURAU just east of Amiens at 10pm. It was a very long tedious journey as there was insufficient accommodation on the train, there were forty men in each truck, the remaining few had to travel in the open trucks with the wagons. We were met at LONGURAU by the Staff Captain, who informed us that we have a fourteen-mile march in front of us, but that he had procured 2 motor Lorries to carry the men's packs. We detrain, load the packs and move off at about 11.15pm. At 2am, we halt for an hour to give the men tea. At 3am, we move on and finally arrive at MORLANCOURT at 7am. This march of fourteen miles turning out to be every yard of 16. It was a severe test on the Men's feet after all this trench warfare, and they did it extraordinarily well, only two men having to do the last mile or two on the transport.

*War Diary, ibid, 21 July 1916*



A view of Hermin village on 30 March 1918; on the occasion of King George V inspecting 470th Field Company, Royal Engineers (59th Division) by the roadside. This unit had done splendid work in the Battle of Cambrai and in the recent fighting. © IWM (Q 316)

They had been on parade at 8am the previous day, and on the move for twenty-four hours. Even when they arrived, there were five other battalions in the village and billets were limited. Exhausted, the men found what space and shelter they could, and tried to get some rest. The village was close to the Ancre river, and a few miles directly south of Albert. They were now close to the Somme Frontline.

The following day, Adjutants were despatched to the reserve trenches at Mametz, to reconnoitre where they would soon move up and occupy. The whole countryside was now a mass of troops, cavalry and infantry, with heavy artillery firing from positions in the centre of these regiments. Every conceivable implement of war, engineers' stores, equipment, clothing, and unexploded shells, was still lying all over the area which had witnessed the opening weeks of the Battle of the Somme.

### **22 July Morlancourt**

At 10am, the Battalion paraded as strong as possible: at 10.30am, the Battalion was formed up and General Kellett spoke a few words to the Officers, NCO's and Men about the coming attack which we are to take part in. The Colonel then explained how he wished the Battalion to attack and what is to be done before, during and after the attack. The Battalion then practiced the attack over three imaginary lines of trenches.

*War Diary, ibid, 22 July 1916*

Later, at 10pm that night, orders were received to be ready to move out the following day, with precise orders to follow. They were greeted by a terrific bombardment, and by 5.30am orders were received to move out at 10am, into reserve trenches and bivouacs in the open, 2000 yards south west of Fricourt. Further meetings that day revealed they would relieve 8th Brigade in the front line, from Longueval village to Waterlot Farm, including the southern portion of Delville Wood. The bombardment was now increasing by both sides as preparations were made. They were to be thrown into the thick of the action in what is known today as the Battle of Delville Wood. South African forces had already been decimated, a sacrifice remembered by the national memorials now occupying the site. For the rest of July and August, both sides would fight for control of the wood and village, but struggle to maintain the tempo of operations. Wet weather reduced visibility, and made the movement of troops and supplies much more difficult; ammunition shortages and high casualties reduced both sides to piecemeal attacks and piecemeal defence on narrow fronts, except for a small number of bigger and wider-front attacks. Most attacks were defeated by defensive fire power and the effects of the inclement weather, which frequently turned the battlefield into a slough of mud.

On 24 July, orders were changed to occupy the trenches in Delville Wood, and the Battalion began to move up behind the lines. The approach was treacherous, and quite understated in the diary,

### **25 July 1916**

The road from BERNAFAY WOOD to LONGUEVAL where our Headquarters are to be is extremely 'unhealthy' and is just about as unpleasant a walk as one could find anywhere. The Germans of course know all this country to an inch, and realise that we must use it, consequently they 'strafe' it continuously. We had a few casualties going up it, including 4 missing believed to be killed, which was nothing compared to the Regiment we are relieving who had 50. The worst bit of this line is about a mile long, and the whole of this portion of the road and each side of it has been ploughed up by shellfire: and dead who ought, if it had been possible, to have been buried days before.

*War Diary, ibid, 24 July 1916*

### **25 July 1916 - Delville Wood and Longueval**

At 8am, the Colonel and I go round the line; there are dead lying all over the ground in and out of the wood, some of them have been dead so long, that it will not be at all a nice job burying them. Our portion of the line and that to the right and left of us is extremely complicated; the part that the Battalion holds face North, East, South and West. Our own guns do as much damage as those of the enemy, we are not in touch with any of the batteries either by telephone or visual signalling. Five Germans surrendered to us this morning and several

more either wanted to, or until shot, were going to try one of their foul tricks. In the evening we take over part of the Gordon's line in DELVILLE WOOD.

*War Diary, ibid, 25 July 1916*

The Battalion, together with the 23rd Royal Fusiliers on the left is to attack on 27 July, the object being to 'attack Delville Wood and to hold it at all costs, establishing a line on N, N.E., S.E. faces of the wood, 150 yards from the edge, also establish and consolidate a line on Princes St.'

Fighting was intense throughout the day, with costs to both sides, and also necessitated support from the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (the 'Football Pals' battalion) into the evening to ensure the position was held during the night;

### **The Capture of Delville Wood - 27-29 July 1916**

At 11 am. on the morning of July 26th, General Kellett saw all the Commanding Officers at a Conference, and informed us that the Battalion would attack Delville Wood to-morrow with the 23rd Royal Fusiliers operating on our left.

At 7am on July 27th, B and D Companies, advancing under our barrage, captured 'Princes Street' with little loss, and proceeded to consolidate it. We found the trench full of dead and wounded Germans, and amongst the debris were two damaged machine guns. Meanwhile, C and A Companies had moved up in support, and a Company of the Royal Berkshire Regiment had formed a defensive flank on the right. C and A Companies then passed through B and D, and, protected by a barrage, occupied the 'red' line and likewise consolidated it. Our heavies at this period were shooting short, so urgent messages were sent to the Artillery liaison Officer to have this remedied.

At 9am, Captain Stafford reported that the losses in B Company were heavy and that the Germans were evidently preparing a counter-attack. An hour later, this developed into a heavy bomb attack, and an urgent appeal for more bombs was promptly met.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Denison DSO**, now describes the fight as follows:-

Owing to the Company forming the defensive flank not having thrown its right flank out far enough to the edge. of the wood and connecting with B Company, the Germans were able to creep in behind Princes Street line. They gained seventy yards, but were driven back forty yards, chiefly owing to the gallantry of Sergeant Woodward. This bomb attack decimated B Company, and D Company also suffered heavily. Captain Howell was wounded about 9am, but continued to carry on his duties, acting with great gallantry. It was greatly due to his efforts that the Germans' counter-attack was driven off with tremendous loss.

**11am.** At the same time, C and A Companies were heavily attacked from N. and N.E. Fighting took place at fifteen yards range with bombs and rifle fire. The Germans suffered very heavily. Both Lieut. Collins and Captain Slater were wounded.

**11.20am.** I tried to send up SOS rockets, but only two went off properly, the rest had got damp. Fighting went on incessantly, chiefly sniping from shell holes, the Germans trying all the time to creep in on my flank between the various lines.

**11.35am.** 99th Brigade received my message saying objective had been reached.

**1 to 2.30pm.** B and D Companies were heavily attacked from right flank. More bombs arrived, and some bombers under Lt-Corporal Bell, of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers, behaved with great gallantry, and drove back the Germans. The German method of bomb attack was to bomb up the new trench with snipers on each flank.

**2.45pm.** The enemy put a very heavy barrage on old British front line; South Street, the Dressing Station, Longueval Village, and Longueval Alley, traversing the road between Angle Trench and South Street, with a machine gun from the direction of trenches N. of Waterlot Farm. This barrage was kept up till dark, making reinforcing very difficult.

22nd Royal Fusiliers now arrived, some were used as carrying parties for bombs and ammunition. The remainder I ordered to assist in defending my right flank on the E. face, with right on left bomb post towards Princes Street. Owing to the difficulty of providing guides for various parties, the 22nd did not take up the position I intended them to.

**About 5.15 pm.** two Companies 17th Royal Fusiliers and the 17th Middlesex arrived, having suffered heavily coming up.

**6pm.** It was reported to me that my centre post on SE. flank had been knocked out by shell fire. The Germans attacked, and were driven back.

Two Platoons 17th Royal Fusiliers reinforced posts with two Lewis guns. I then sent one Company 17th Royal Fusiliers to reinforce, and eventually relieved my C Company. I then arranged where the Companies of the 17th Middlesex should go to relieve my Companies, and, if necessary, to try and reinforce before night. This was difficult owing to the heavy sniping going on, and also to the fact that they would be very exposed to view.

A, B, and D Companies went up gradually by Companies to Princes Street, arriving about 8pm and took up defensive flanks on the right and left.

**9.20pm.** One Company 17th Middlesex arrived to relieve A Company, and immediately started consolidating. Later on, my B and D Companies were definitely relieved, and Princes Street taken over by the two Companies 17th Middlesex.

**10.30pm.** Two Platoons 17th Middlesex reinforced my C Company.

**6.30am 26 July** Thirty more men from the 17th Middlesex arrived, and C Company was relieved. B and D Companies 1st K.R.R. held left post and trench running into it, with one Company 22nd Fusiliers immediately on their left, the 17th Middlesex going up to my strong posts.

A report came to me just before dark, time unknown, that both my left and centre posts had been captured, and that the Germans were massing to attack, the officer in left post (2nd Lieut. Turner) having been killed. This I reported to Colonel Fenwick, 17th Middlesex, as it made my position very insecure, and, if information was correct, extremely critical. I eventually decided to use the Company of the 22nd Fusiliers to form a defensive flank behind the two posts and to dig themselves in. As I was waiting for General Kellett to come up at 11pm, I was unable to go round until about two hours afterwards. On arriving, I saw Captain Gell, 22nd Royal Fusiliers, who informed me that it was a false alarm, and that the posts were all intact and strongly held, and he had not formed the defensive flank. I verified his statement from the Sergeant-Major of D Company, who was next to the strong post, and then reported to Colonel Fenwick that the situation was extremely satisfactory.

During the night stretcher bearers recovered a great many wounded, and the Germans continued to shell the wood and Longueval all through the night.

**29 July.** In the early morning, I withdrew my Battalion to Montauban Alley. I received the greatest assistance from 2nd Lieut. Malcolm Mackinnon HLI, 5th Brigade, who worked unceasingly by supplying me with his own bombs, SAA, and men and bombers to carry up bombs and SAA to the firing line. It was greatly owing to this that I was able to repel some of the bomb attacks. He also obtained leave from his Colonel in case of extreme emergency to assist me with two Platoons and later with one Company; but these I never required as other reinforcements arrived.

The 17th Royal Fusiliers and the 17th Middlesex gave me every assistance possible, and their men worked wonderfully well in consolidating. Major Buckley, 17th Royal Fusiliers, was extremely useful, and gave valuable help.

Casualties, fourteen officers killed and wounded:-

Captain and Adjutant A. H. Brocklehurst, died of wounds.

Captain R. H. Slater, wounded and missing.

Lieut. C. Collins, died of wounds.

Captain E. L. Howell, killed.

2nd Lieut. C. R. S. Turner, 3rd Dorsets, killed (attached).

2nd Lieut. A. Y. Bailey, killed.

2nd Lieut. J. W. E. Paul, missing.

2nd Lieut. H. E. Gill, 3rd Dorsets, wounded (attached).

2nd Lieut. W. J. Taylor, wounded.

2nd Lieut. J. E. M. Skinner, wounded

2nd Lieut. C. F. Witt, wounded.

Lieut. the Hon. F. S. Trench, wounded.

2nd Lieut. T. I. Stevenson, wounded.

2nd Lieut. N. H. Noble, wounded.

308 N.C.O.'s and men.

After being relieved, the Battalion filed out of the Delville Wood independently, and we were all back in support trenches in front of Montauban Village by 5am.

Soon after 1pm we got the order to move back about one and three-quarter miles into Reserve in Breslau trench, the old German front line trench. The Battalion paraded at 3pm and got back without any trouble.

That morning we heard that Archie Brocklehurst had died of wounds; a very heavy blow to the 1st Battalion, and one which will be deeply felt by all Riflemen. Breslau Trench proved very uncomfortable, only two or three dug-outs, and practically no protection against shell fire.

During the day we received congratulatory messages on the capture of Delville Wood from the C-in-C., G.O.C. 4th Army [General Haig], G.O.C. 13th Corps, G.O.C. 2nd Division, and G.O.C. 99th I.B.

***KRRC Regimental History War Diary extracts:***  
**2 Division 99, Infantry Brigade,**  
**King's Royal Rifle Corps, 1st Battalion**  
**(WO95/1371/2/1), 27-29 July 1916**  
**[Daily reports written by Lieutenant Colonel E.B. Denison DSO,**  
**Officer Commanding 1st Battalion KRRC]**

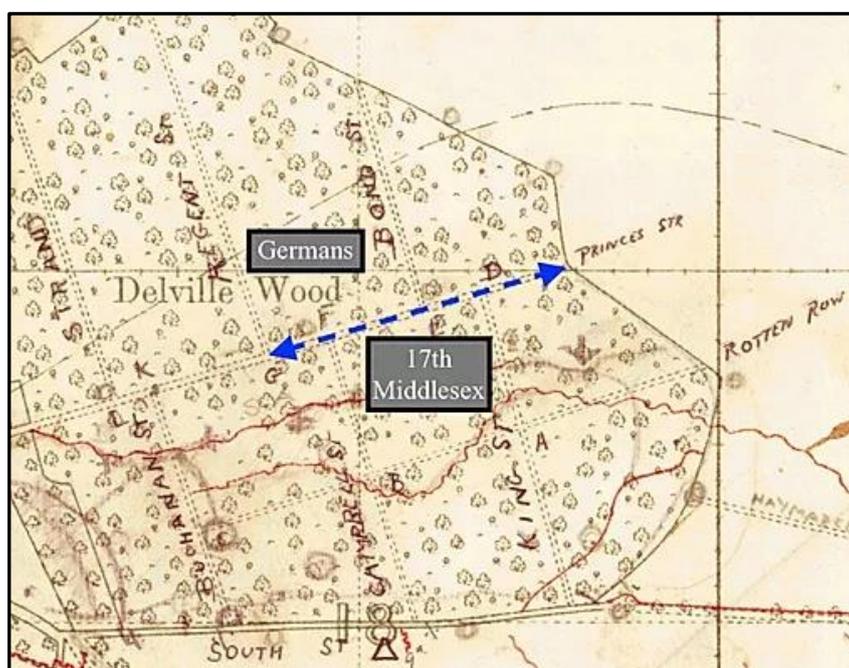
Thomas had come through his first terrifying experience of the trenches unscathed, but the action was at great cost to his battalion, losing a third of its men. One of those was Sergeant Albert Gill;

**Sergeant Albert Gill VC** a thirty-six-year-old postal worker and serjeant in the 1st Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps, was awarded the VC during the action of the 27th. The enemy made a very strong counterattack on the right flank of the battalion and rushed the bombing post after killing all the company bombers. Sergeant Gill rallied the remnants of his platoon, none of whom were skilled bombers, and reorganised his defences. Soon afterwards the enemy nearly surrounded his men and started sniping at about 20 yards range. Although it was almost certain death, Sergeant Gill stood boldly up in order to direct the fire of his men. He was killed almost at once, but his gallant action held up the enemy advance.

*Albert Gill's grave at Delville Wood Cemetery*

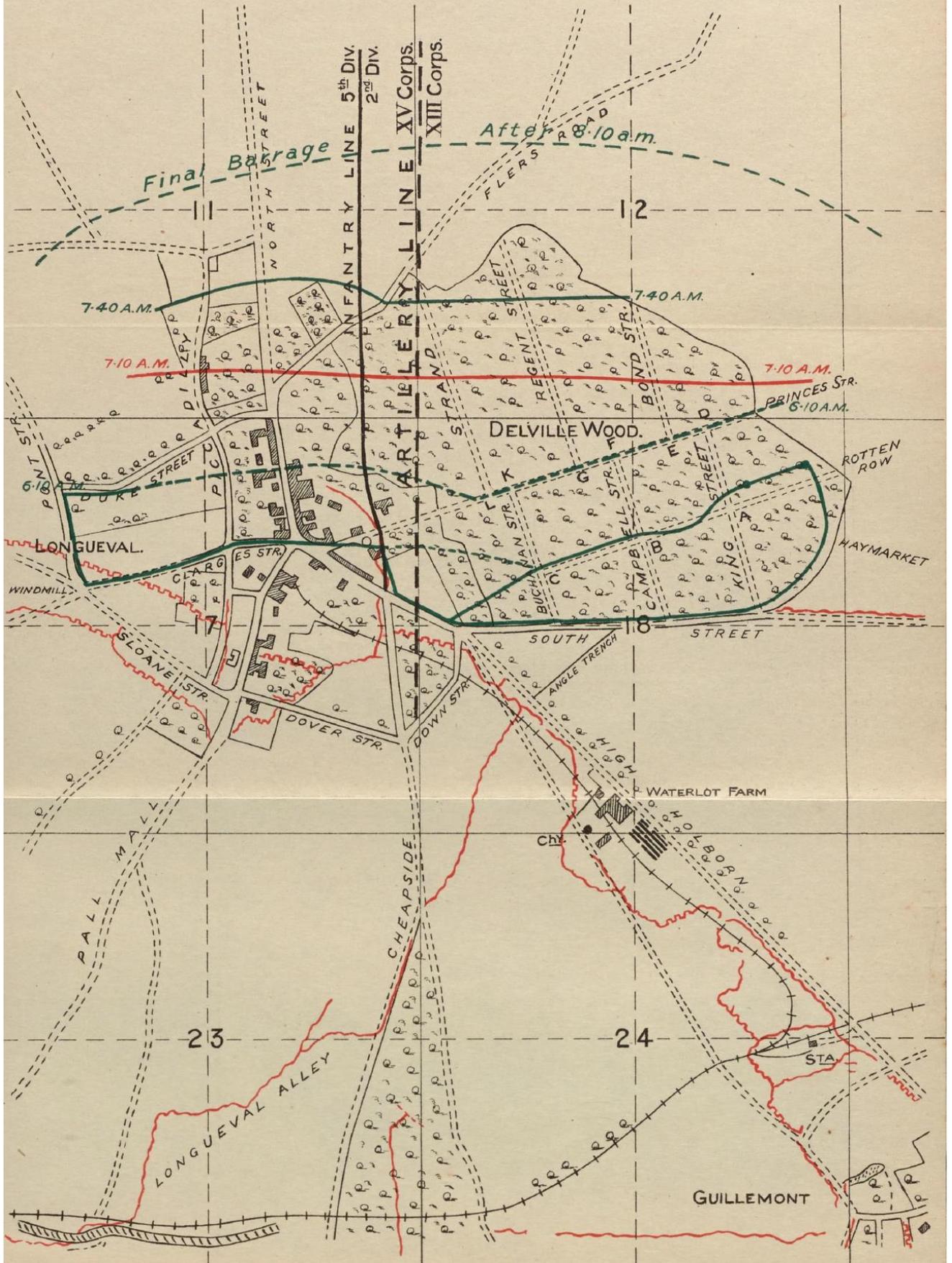


*The 17th Middlesex marker shows the Princes Street area taken by the 1st Battalion KRRC earlier that day.*



# DELVILLE WOOD MAP

XIII CORPS.  
23-7-16.



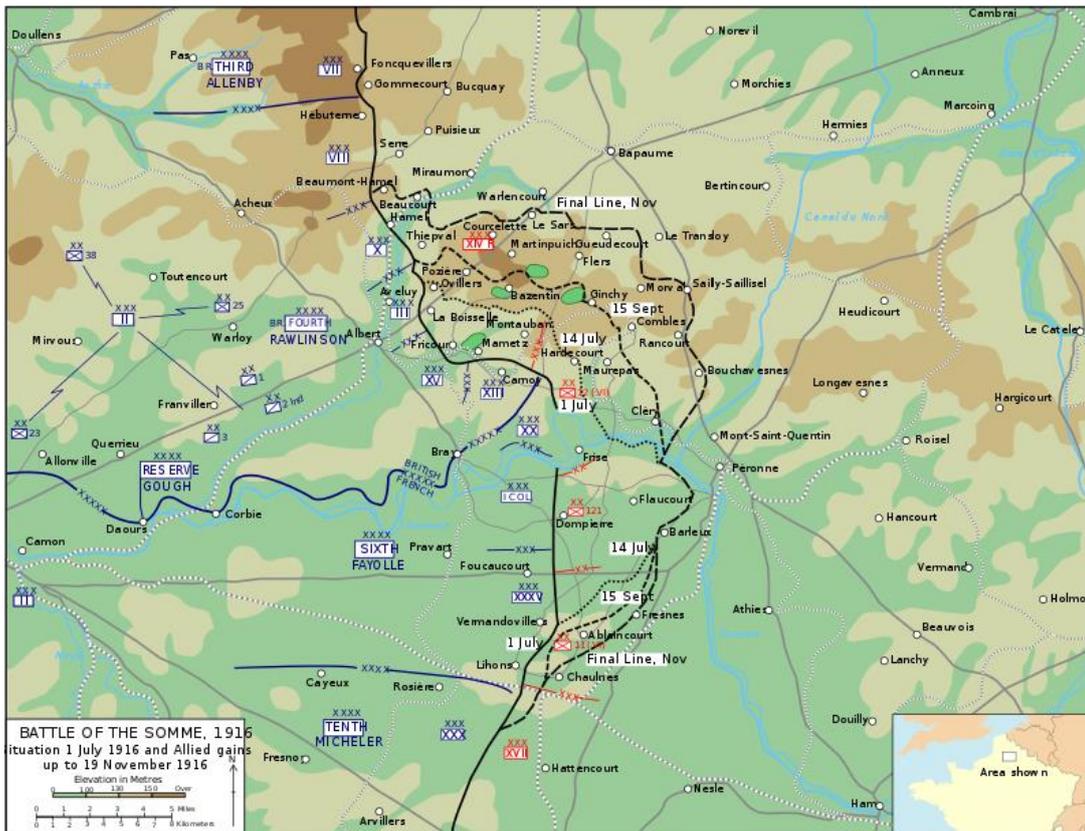
Map. Y.I.

Scale 1:10,000

HARPER & SON L<sup>td</sup>. LITHO. WINCHESTER

## The Battle of the Somme 1916

Delville Wood is in the centre near Montauban (not marked)



The scenes faced by the 1st Battalion KRRC after several weeks fighting in Delville Wood July 1916



**Delville Wood Today**  
(*photographs by the author*)



**The stone marker on the former site of Princes Street**  
(roughly the position of the KRRC including Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden)

Delville Wood is well preserved with the remains of trenches, a museum and a monument to the South African Brigade at the Delville Wood South African National Memorial.



**Avenue looking towards the South African Memorial**

## The South Africa (Delville Wood) National Memorial, Longueval



Over the next few days, the Battalion took turns to relieve the front-line troops, followed by spells in reserve, the only casualties coming from sporadic bouts of shelling. By 11 August, the 1st Battalion had been pulled out to Mericourt, where they had 'very comfortable' billets for the first time since 13 July. There then followed a number of days being on the move, interspersed with training and brief periods of rest.

MERICOURT.  
12.8.16  
Coys. training under O.C.Coys. - Bayonet fighting and physical training, section and platoon drill. Bathing parade in the afternoon. In the afternoon advance orders were received to prepare to entrain at 5.a.m. for HANGEST. Casualties nil.

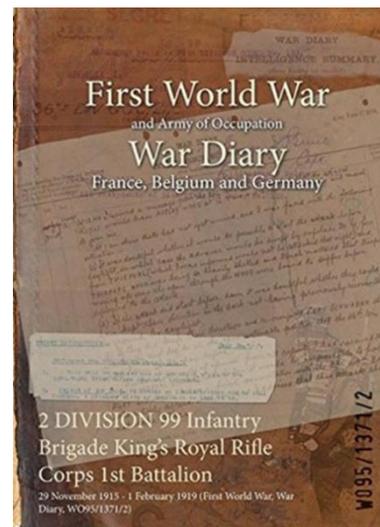
### 15 September 1916 - Hebuterne Southern Sector

J.R3. a.7.6.  
15-9-16  
Bright day. Cold after very cold night. A little Coy. training, fatigues being still heavy. During the day news came through of the successful employment of our new "Engines of War" - the "Tanks", and each successive message of advantages gained was received with great excitement. Everybody very happy over the new development. Casualties for the day nil.

## 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps – Movements July-November 1916

As can be seen from this summary, gleaned from the war diaries, the next action of significance which the 1st Battalion would take part in was the Battle of Ancre:

23rd July : Fricourt area.  
24th July : In line Southern part of Delville Wood.  
27th July : Attack in Delville Wood.  
28th July : Montauban Alley.  
29th July : Montauban.  
3rd August : Delville Wood.  
5th August : Montauban.  
8th August : Bronfay Farm.  
Late August - Early October : Tours in line in Hebuterne sector.  
7th October : Maily-Maillet.  
17th October : Maily-Maillet.  
18th October : In front line in front of Serre.  
22nd October : Bertrancourt.  
2nd November : Front line - the Redan Ridge.  
6th November : Maily-Maillet.  
12th November : Bertrancourt.  
13th November : In reserve near Colincamps during the attack of the Division on the *Redan Ridge*.  
14th November : Attack of *New Munich Trench* and *Munich Trench*.  
15th November : Leave Avenue / Waggon Road.  
17th November : Maily-Maillet.



**2 Division 99 Infantry  
Brigade King's Royal Rifle  
Corps 1st Battalion: 29  
November 1915 - 1  
February 1919 (First World  
War, War Diary, TNA  
Wo95/1371/2)**

## The Battle of the Ancre, 13 – 18 November 1916

Since the beginning of the Somme battles in July, Commonwealth and French armies had made limited gains north and south of the river. After the initial, massive assault, which had been defended at high cost to both sides, the battles of early autumn, in comparison, were of a lesser scale. Allied action began to rely on constant attrition to wear down the enemy and its reserves, especial while the Germans were in their hastily constructed positions. Any measure of success was also going to be dictated to by the weather, and as the series of assaults ran through towards November, wet weather was making conditions treacherous. With winter advancing, time was running out to gain significant tactical advantage before the end of 1916.

By mid-October, conditions for the 1st Battalion KRRC had become increasingly uncomfortable and the War Diary brings home the constant battle to remain warm and dry, while taking turns of front-line duty, support fatigues from the rear, and hours of training. Constantly on the move from billet to front line, to different billets in the rear, conditions were becoming increasingly poor and downright unbearable. The plans for the important push before the winter were constantly delayed or cancelled, to the frustration of all. Torrential rain and mist were obscuring the battlefields, making living conditions extremely trying for soldiers. Such conditions also affected reconnoitre by aircraft and hampered the scope and accuracy of artillery.

The Battle of the Ancre was the final significant British attack on the Somme in 1916. Pushing the line forward would remove a vulnerable salient, and move the British Forces on to higher ground, giving them a tactical advantage. This was some of the worst weather in decades, and combined with the artillery bombardment, it turned the already marshy valley around the River Ancre into a

quagmire of mud, wire and bodies. Into this hell marched the 1st Battalion KRRC. They were also the last hours of young Thomas.

#### **11 November 1916 – Acheux Wood**

Move postponed to 9.55am and afterwards temporarily cancelled. The Battalion is to 'stand by'. At 11.15am, orders to move as soon as possible were received. Battalion moved at 12 noon to ACHEUX WOOD, which is the most uncomfortable place we have been in for some time. A conference of Commanding Officers was held at Brigade HQ at 3.30pm which Major S.H. Ferrand MC attended. In the afternoon, a Scotch Mist enveloped everything, making the camp a most miserable place. Mud everywhere and accommodation huts very bad. The date of the operations, so long talked of, is now fixed for 13th Nov. The plan has, however, been much curtailed.

#### **12 November 1916 – Acheux Wood/Bertrancourt**

The Battalion moved to BERTRANCOURT, preparatory to going into the Assembly Trenches for the Attack tomorrow. Casualties [today] – Nil

#### **13 November 1916 – Acheux Wood/Cheeron Avenue**

At 1.30am, just as the Battalion was preparing to move, an explosion occurred in one of the huts occupied by 'A' Company. It was not easy in the hurry of moving to find out exactly what actually happened, but apparently a bomb got close to a lighted brazier and the heat exploded it. Seven men were wounded. At 1.45am, the Battalion formed up ready to move and at 2.45am started for CHEEROH AVENUE which was the first battle position allotted to the Battalion.

Numerous different plans of attack were received during the day. The narrative of event is attached.\* Casualties for the day – 11 Ordinary Ranks wounded, 1 O.R. killed.

#### **14 November 1916 – Trenches north of Beaumont Hamel**

The Battalion attacked MUNICH TRENCH at 6am. The detailed account is attached.\*\*

During the attack Lieutenant The Honorary F.S. Trench was badly wounded in the chest and arm by a shell and died of wounds a day or two later.

**2nd Lieutenants T.U. Royden and A.F. Lowndes were killed, whilst both standing up directing the fire of the men.**

The latter met his death in a most unfortunate manner, falling face downwards into a shell hole half full of water after being hit. His orderly tried hard to rescue him, but was himself hit and had not the strength left to pull poor Lowndes out of the water and consequently he was drowned. Lieutenant J.H.T. Liddell was also badly hit in the legs and arms.

Casualties for the day – Officers:- 2 killed, three wounded

Other ranks:- 17 killed, 109 wounded (1 remaining at duty) and 12 missing.

#### **15 November 1916 – Sunken Road**

Battalion in SUNKEN ROAD – Headquarters in German Front Line opposite NORTH STREET TRENCH.

Casualties – 2 Ordinary Ranks wounded.

*War Diary, ibid, 11-15 November 1916*

**\*/\*\* Both of these detailed accounts, giving almost minute by minute progress, are to be found in Appendix II and III respectively at the end of this article.**

**However, this a much shorter summary;**

#### **Operations on November 14th 1916**

The situation appeared to be that the 5th Brigade and the right Company of the right Battalion of the 6th Brigade had reached their objective, known as the 'Green Line,' but that the remainder of the 6th Brigade and the 3rd Division on their left had been unsuccessful and were back in their original trenches.

The 3rd Division were then ordered to reform and attack Serre in conjunction with the proposed attack of the two Battalions of the 99th Brigade, but on the representations of General Daly these operations were cancelled. It was then decided that a defensive flank must be

formed immediately by a Battalion of the 99th Infantry Brigade in order to protect the left of the forward position now held by the Division.

The defensive flank was to face north, and the Brigade then received orders that two Battalions of the 99th Brigade were to form up behind the 5th Brigade and pass through them for the attack of Munich Trench.

The 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment and our 1st Battalion were detailed to carry out this operation on the morning of November 14th.

At 1am the Companies commenced to move in accordance with orders. Some delay occurred in the 6th Avenue owing to other troops being in the trench, and it was 5.55 am. before all the assaulting waves were in position for the attack. Battalion Headquarters left Ellis Square and was established in White City at 3.15am.

At 6 am our artillery barrage commenced, and the waves advanced to the attack. It was quite dark and subsequently misty. Even at 7.30am. it was only possible to see for a very short distance. None of the officers or N.C.O.'s had ever seen the objective or the ground over which the attack was being delivered. Added to these difficulties the barrage on our right flank was 100 yards in advance of that on our left.

It was, therefore, not surprising that the attack lost direction. It first moved in a south-easterly direction and afterwards on a north-easterly bearing, and at 6.30am two simultaneous attacks were delivered, each from the south, one on Leave Avenue and the other on New Trench, both of which were captured.

**[It is likely that this is the stage or just after, at which Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden lost his life]**

The party of four officers and eighty other ranks, which captured Leave Avenue and proceeded to consolidate it, were under the impression that they had captured Munich Trench. When the error was discovered a bombing attack on that trench was organized. This did not succeed, as our barrage still continued to rest on Leave Avenue and Munich Trench, being especially severe at the junction of these trenches, and the party was also heavily sniped.

Being impossible to get into touch with other troops on the north and south, the party withdrew to the Sunken Road, taking with them two officers and sixty-two other ranks as prisoners.

The party which attacked New Trench did not fare much better, being also under the delusion that when New Trench was captured they were in Munich Trench. On the mist rising it was apparent that they were in an impossible position, being heavily enfiladed and out of touch with other parties. They also withdrew without any further casualties behind the Sunken Road.

The Battalion then proceeded to consolidate the position, and on being relieved at 3 p.m. on the 17th left the trenches for Maily-Maillet Wood East.

The failure to accomplish the capture of the objective was due to loss of direction caused by the following:-

- (a) Zero hour was fixed too early for the time of year, thus preventing the taking of compass bearings.
- (b) No opportunity of viewing the ground in daylight was given to platoon and section leaders.
- (c) Guides to the 'Green Line' were not provided.
- (d) Our barrage was very erratic, and instead of lifting from the objective remained on it.

### **December 1916 COULONVILLERS**

After passing through various rest billets we reached Coulonvillers at the end of the month.

The Battalion remained the whole of this month at Coulonvillers and carried out winter training. Various Brigade Sports were held in which we maintained our reputation.

A most regrettable bombing accident occurred on the 20th in which Captain N. F. Drummond was killed and eight other ranks wounded.

The British front line had moved forward during the Battle of the Ancre, and some high ground was gained, Beaumont-Hamel was finally captured, but Serre in the northern sector of the Battle once

again proved an objective too far and north from there, the British line was pretty much the same as it had been on 1 July. Considerable casualties were sustained before the battle was called off.

This happened just days later on 18 November, which is looked upon as the official date of the end of The Battle of the Somme. The fight had raged for 141 days with casualties on both sides totalling more than one million men.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			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.			(Evase heading not required.)
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
			Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Numerous different plans of attack were received during the day. The narrative of events is attached. Casualties for the day - 11 O.R. Wounded 1 O.R. Killed.</p> <p>The Battalion attacked MUNICH TRENCH at 8 a.m. The detailed account is attached. During the attack Lieut. The Hon. F.S. Trench was badly wounded in the chest and arm by a shell and died of wounds a day or two later. 2nd Lieuts. T.U. Royden and A.F. Lowndes were killed, both whilst standing up directing the fire of the men. The latter met his death in a most unfortunate manner, falling face downwards into a shell hole half full of water after being hit. His orderly tried hard to rescue him, but was himself hit and had not the strength left to pull poor Lowndes out of the water, and consequently he was drowned. Lieut. J.B.T. Liddell was also badly hit in the legs and arms.</p> <p>Casualties for the day - Officers:- 2 killed, 3 wounded. Other Ranks:- 17 killed, 109 wounded (1 remaining at duty), and 12 missing.</p> <p>Battalion in SUNKEN ROAD H.Qrs. in German Front Line opposite NORTH STREET TRENCH. Casualties - 2 O.R. wounded</p>
			<p>2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. &amp; A. Forms/C.2118/12.</p>

1st Battalion Royal Rifle Corps War Diary for the 14 November attack recording the death of Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden (expanded below)

The Battalion attacked MUNICH TRENCH at 8 a.m. The detailed account is attached.

During the attack Lieut. The Hon. F.S. Trench was badly wounded in the chest and arm by a shell and died of wounds a day or two later. 2nd Lieuts. T.U. Royden and A.F. Lowndes were killed, both whilst standing up directing the fire of the men. The latter met his death in a most unfortunate manner, falling face downwards into a shell hole half full of water after being hit. His orderly tried hard to rescue him, but was himself hit and had not the strength left to pull poor Lowndes out of the water, and consequently he was drowned. Lieut. J.B.T. Liddell was also badly hit in the legs and arms.

Casualties for the day - Officers:- 2 killed, 3 wounded. Other Ranks:- 17 killed, 109 wounded (1 remaining at duty), and 12 missing.

LIST OF OFFICERS

Who have served in the 1st Battalion from May, 1915, to October, 1916.

\* Denotes re-joining. † Denotes Commissioned from ranks.  
 ‡ Denotes night of 15th-16th May, 1915. § Denotes embarked with Battalion.

Rank and Name	Date of Joining	Date of Leaving	Remarks
Capt. The Hon. J. N. Bigge	7/15	†15/16.5.15	Wounded and Missing.
Major G. C. Shakerley, D.S.O.	15/11/14	†15/16.5.15	Killed.
" G. A. Armytage	†8/1/15	4/5/16	To Command 74th Bde.
Capt. W. A. C. Saunders		†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" Knox (core) -		†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" A. S. Bonham-Carter		7/9/15	To 5th Inf. Bde. as
" F. G. Willan, D.S.O. -			Brigade Major.
Temp. Capt. E. A. Pauly	28/11/14	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
Lieut. D. G. Wigan	21/12/14	21/6/15	Sick.
" J. S. Alston	*4/12/12	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" W. H. Grenvill - Grey		†15/16.5.15	Killed.
2nd Lieut. R. A. Bannon	†12/3/15	16/5/15	Wounded.
" R. H. Slater	26/12/14		
" C. E. W. Birkett	18/10/14	8/12/15	Sick whilst on leave to
"			England.
" G. A. Fisher	16/1/15	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" L. E. Hall	17/3/15	28/9/15	Wounded.
" J. S. H. James	17/3/15	†15/16.5.15	Killed.
" L. F. Taylor	17/3/15	14/5/15	Wounded.
" C. E. Hardy	17/3/15	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" K. J. B. Addy	17/3/15	3/10/15	Killed.
" A. E. Dent	21/3/15	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
" C. M. Cassidy	29/4/15	†15 16.5.15	Wounded. Died of
			Wounds, 17/5/15.
Lieut. and Qmr. A. Harman	17/12/14	25/6/15	Wounded. Died of
			wounds 26/6/15.
Capt. W. A. Miller, R.A.M.C. -	19/5/15	28/9/15	Medical Officer.
Major R. G. Jeff, D.S.O. -	26/5/15		To Command 73rd Bde.
2nd Lieut. N. F. Drummond	26/5/15	26/9/15	Wounded.
" R. J. J. Bevan	26/5/15	26/9/15	Wounded (shock).
" B. H. Sumner	26/5/15	26/9/15	Wounded.
" J. E. M. Skinner	†18/7/16	27/7/16	Wounded.
"	26/5/15	26/7/15	Wounded.
" G. J. Dewhurst	26/5/15	25/6/16	Invalided home.
" W. C. Smith	31/5/15	28/9/16	Wounded.
" M. T. Sampson	28/5/15		
" R. O. Meyrick	31/5/15	13/10/16	To England for Senior
" R. S. H. Stafford			Officers' Course.
" E. M. Allfrey	31/5/15	4/4/16	To 99th Bde. as Staff
" G. T. J. Bevan	5/6/15	11/6/15	Captain.
			Wounded.

Rank and Name	Date of Joining	Date of Leaving	Remarks
2nd Lieut. F. D. E. Cayley	25/6/15	29/9/15	Killed.
" J. W. E. Paul	22/6/15	27/7/16	Killed.
" J. B. Heaton	6/7/15	20/12/15	Wounded.
" E. H. Bental	10/7/15	3/10/15	Killed.
Capt. S. H. Ferrand	21/7/15		
2nd Lieut. T. H. Belchamber	23/7/15	12/9/15	To Base for duty.
"		28/9/16	Invalided home.
" S. A. S. Goodwin	24/7/15	28/7/16	To T.M. Battery.
" E. H. Langwell	24/7/15	25/5/16	Wounded (shock).
" V. N. E. Howard	30/7/15	14/1/16	Wounded.
" Vincent			
Lieut. and Qmr. W. Beck	6/8/15	19/8/16	Invalidated.
Lieut. A. E. Marshall	8/10/15		
2nd Lieut. H. C. Pearson	8/10/15	4/1/16	To 6th Bde. M.G. Coy.
" T. N. F. Wilson	9/10/15		
Capt. T. G. Dalby	27/10/15	14/11/15	To Command 11th R.
			Berks Regt.
2nd Lieut. D. H. Buckland	19/10/15	30/8/16	Invalided home.
" M. W. Peters	19/10/15	28/5/16	Wounded.
" A. B. Bernard	2/11/15	15/2/16	To England for train-
			ing.
" F. J. Chambers	18/11/15		
Lieut. H. B. Phillips	24/11/15	27/1/16	Invalided home.
	*20/11/16		
2nd Lieut. (temp. Capt.)	12/12/14	†15/16.5.15	Wounded.
A. E. Messer	*24/11/15	22/1/16	Wounded. Died of
			wounds 17/2/16.
2nd Lieut. (temp. Capt.)	24/11/15	27/7/16	Killed.
E. L. Howell			
2nd Lieut. G. F. Anderson	24/11/15	29/6/16	To Home Establish-
" C. G. B. Eddowes	24/11/15	29/6/16	ment.
" W. Dunkels	24/11/15	25/6/16	Wounded.
Major H. A. Vernon	3/12/15	30/1/16	To Command 23rd R.
			Fusiliers.
2nd Lieut. L. W. J. Baugh	14/3/16	23/6/16	Wounded (3rd Dorsets
			Regt.).
" A. Y. Bailey	18/4/16	27/7/16	Killed.
" C. Witt	8/5/16	27/7/16	Wounded.
" C. Collins	†1/10/14	2/11/14	Wounded.
"	*16/5/16	27/7/16	Wounded. Died of
			wounds 28/7/16.
" P. Llewelyn	6/6/16	18/6/16	To 2nd Battalion.
Davies			
" Hon. F. S. Trench	18/6/16	23/6/16	Wounded.
"	*31/10/16	14/11/16	Wounded. Died of
			wounds 16/11/16.
" W. J. Taylor	14/7/16	26/7/16	Wounded.
" C. V. Erwood	15/7/16		
" J. L. R. Bull	15/7/16	13/10/16	Invalided home.
" T. U. Royden	15/7/16	14/11/16	Killed.

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Pages from the official regimental history of the Royal Rifle Corps during the First World War  
 Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden is recorded bottom right

Corrigenda and Addenda. xi

CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA.

On page 98 of the War Records of the 2nd Battalion, Rifleman G. Peachment won his Victoria Cross in September, 1915, and not in 1916 as stated; see Volume for 1915, page 232.

There is a slight error in facts in the narrative of the 10th Battalion on page 197, line 11, which should read as follows:—  
 "The raid commander delayed firing his rockets to report 'all in,' being uncertain that all his men had returned to the trench."

On page 110, to the list of those other ranks who gained the D.C.M. should be added the name of No. Y1376 Lance-Corporal T. Swires, for distinguished service rendered at the Second Battle of Ypres when acting as linesman and runner.

Rank and Name	Nature and date of Casualty	Place of Casualty
2nd Lieut. L. W. J. Baugh, 3rd Dorsets,	Wounded 23/6/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. A. J. Cawthorne	Wounded 23/6/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. W. Dunkels	Wounded 24/6/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. P. H. Franks	Wounded 28/5/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. H. E. Gill, 3rd Dorsets, att.	Wounded 26/7/16	- Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. V. N. E. H. Vincent	Wounded 14/1/16	- Givenchy.
2nd Lieut. A. A. Kidd	Wounded 26/9/16	- Hebuterne.
Temp. Lieut. and Temp. Capt. E. H. Langwell	Wounded (shell shock) 25/5/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. G. M. Oakeshott	Wounded 14/11/16	- Beaumont Hamel.
2nd Lieut. M. W. Peters	Wounded 24/5/16	- Vimy.
2nd Lieut. J. E. M. Skinner	Wounded 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. W. J. Taylor	Wounded 26/7/16	- Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. C. R. S. Turner, 3rd Dorsets, att.	Killed 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. L. P. Walsh	Wounded 15/4/16	- Bouvigny.
2nd Lieut. C. Witt	Wounded 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.

NUMERICAL LIST OF CASUALTIES.

Killed	-	-	-	-	154
Wounded	-	-	-	-	655
Died of Wounds	-	-	-	-	35
Missing	-	-	-	-	*70

\* No Prisoners of War recorded.  
 Includes 51 officially accepted as Dead.

The following Officers should be added to the List of those that served in the 1st Battalion during 1916:—  
 Capt. and Adj. A. H. Brocklehurst.  
 2nd Lieut. The Hon. G. C. Rowley.  
 " C. H. S. Akers.  
 " W. A. D. Eley.  
 " N. G. Farquhar, m.c.  
 " R. B. Hamilton.  
 " R. W. B. Levett.

The following names should be added to the Roll of Honour for the 1st Battalion, 1916.

MILITARY MEDAL.	
R/7787 Rfn. Francetti, G.	5736 Rfn. Woodhead.
2717 Sergt. Savage, J.	

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.	
4736 Pioneer-Sergt. Cosier, J.	2049 Sergt. O'Leary, C.

1st BATTALION OFFICER CASUALTIES, 1916.			
Rank and Name	Nature and date of Casualty	Place of Casualty	
Capt. and Adj. A. H. Brocklehurst	Wounded 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.	
2nd Lieut. A. Y. Bailey	Killed 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.	
Lieut. C. Collins	Wounded 27/7/16	- Delville Wood.	
Temp. Capt. N. F. Drummond	Accidentally killed 20/12/16	-	Coulouvillers.
2nd Lieut. G. R. Griffiths	Wounded 14/9/16	-	Hebuterne.
Died 15/9/16			
2nd Lieut. (Temp. Capt.) E. L. Howell	Killed 27/7/16	-	Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. R. de W. Harvey, 3rd Dorsets, att.	Wounded 24/5/16	-	Vimy.
Died 7/6/16			
	Buried in St. Sear Cemetery, Rouen.		
Lieut. J. H. T. Liddell	Wounded 14/11/16	-	Beaumont Hamel.
Died 17/1/16			
2nd Lieut. R. F. Lowndes	Killed 14/11/16	-	Beaumont Hamel.
2nd Lieut. A. E. Messer	Wounded 22/1/16	-	Festubert.
Died 17/2/16			
2nd Lieut. N. H. Noble	Wounded 27/7/16	-	Delville Wood.
Died 15/8/16			
2nd Lieut. J. W. E. Paul	Killed 27/7/16	-	Delville Wood.
2nd Lieut. T. U. Royden	Killed 14/11/16	-	Beaumont Hamel.
Lieut. (temp. Capt.) R. H. Slater, m.c.	Wounded and missing 27/7/16. Officially accepted as having died on or since 27/7/16	-	Delville Wood.
Lieut. Hon. F. S. Trench	Wounded 23/6/16	-	Re-joined Rn. 25/6/16
	Wounded 27/7/16	-	Delville Wood
	Invalided 30/7/16	-	
	Re-joined Rn. 31/10/16	-	
	Wounded 14/1/16	-	
	Died 16/11/16	-	Beaumont Hamel.

**Artillery  
bombardment of  
German trenches at  
Beaumont Hamel**



**The Remains of Beaumont Hamel**





**The squalor of the Somme battlefield by November 1916**



***Over the Top* - (36th Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, near the Ancre River) by James P. Beadle. An action from the adjacent side of the Ancre valley, but a similar image none the less.**

### **Aftermath**

An estimated 3.5 million men took part in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. By its end, well over one million had become casualties. Precise figures are almost impossible to calculate. The British official history concluded that the forces of the British Empire had suffered some 420,000 killed, wounded or missing, although the total was almost certainly higher. The French Army sustained more than 204,000 casualties. German records documented a total of nearly 430,000 killed, wounded or missing, but other estimates suggest a far greater number.

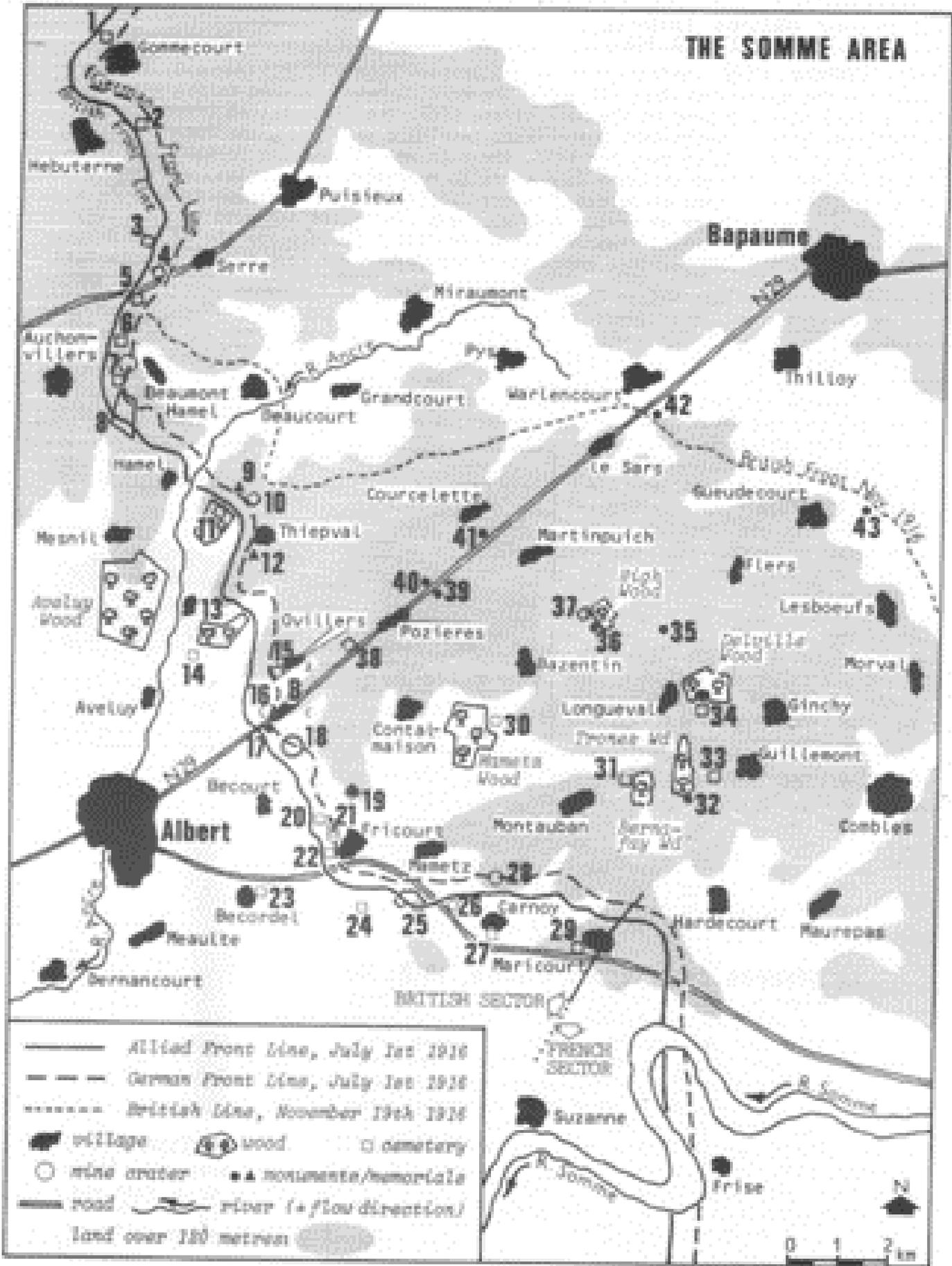
The battle had significant military, political, industrial and domestic consequences for all the countries involved. Many men returned home with physical or psychological wounds that never healed. Even those who survived unscathed would carry their experiences for the rest of their lives.

**Young Thomas Utting Royden was one of those not returning home. He wasn't even recovered from the battlefield, being lost in the sea of mud and carnage of no man's land. Instead of a grave, he is one of the thousands lost on the Somme and remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.**





# THE SOMME AREA



## LIEUTENANT T. H. ROYDEN.

Official intimation has been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Royden, of Birkenhead, that their son, Lieut. Thomas Hugh Royden, has been killed in France. He is the grandson of Alderman Dr. Utting. Educated at Hereford Grammar School, he was only twenty years of age, and at the outbreak of war he joined the "Pals." After being in training for some time he went to the O.T.C., at Birkhamstead, and received a commission with the King's Royal Rifles. He was at the front from June of last year.

At yesterday's meeting of the Finance Committee of the Liverpool Corporation, of which Dr. Utting is a member, Alderman Cohen, who presided, made a sympathetic reference to the loss sustained by Dr. Utting and his family.

## LIEUTENANT T.H. ROYDEN

Official intimation has been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Royden, of Birkenhead, that their son, Lieut. Thomas Hugh [sic] Royden, has been killed in France. He is the grandson of Alderman Dr Utting. Educated at Hereford Grammar School, he was only twenty years of age, and at the outbreak of war he joined the 'Pals'. After being in training for some time he went to the O.T.C. at Berkhamsted, and received a commission with the King's Royal Rifles. He was at the front from June of last year. At yesterday's meeting of the Finance Committee of the Liverpool Corporal, of which Dr Utting is a member, Alderman Cohen, who presided, made a sympathetic reference to the loss sustained by Dr Utting and his family.

*Liverpool Post and Mercury, 25 November 1916*

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

120 OFFICERS AND 1,394 MEN.

The following losses are shown in last night's casualty list:—

Officers: Killed, 41; died of wounds, 2; wounded, 45; missing, believed killed, 10; missing, 24—total, 120.

Rank and File: Killed, 183; missing, now reported killed, 39; died of wounds, 83; died, 16; wounded, 797; missing, 268; prisoners, 8—total, 1,394.

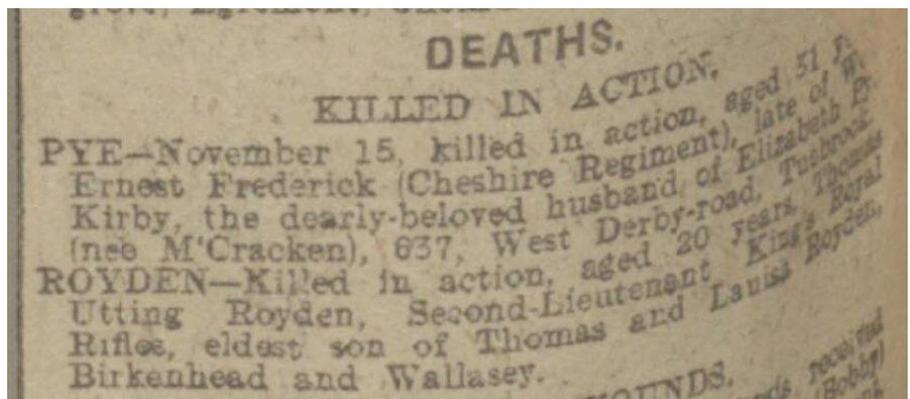
Three naval officers are reported wounded.

## OFFICERS.

The following casualties are reported under various dates:—

### KILLED.

Andrews, Sec.-Lt. R. F., Loyal North Lancashire Regt.  
Barnes, Sec.-Lt. W. D., Royal Fusiliers.  
Bennett, Sec.-Lt. H. P., Loyal North Lancashire Regt.  
Chow, Capt. G. D. N. Staffs., attd. Loyal N. Lancs.  
Colgate, Sec.-Lt. R. E., Gloucestershire Regt.  
Couper, Lt. J. R., Loyal North Lancashire Regt.  
Dobbie, Sec.-Lt. H. W., Royal Berkshire Regt.  
Dwyer, Lt. C. H., Worcestershire Regt.  
Dyson, Capt. H. A., The Buffs (East Kent Regt.).  
East, Sec.-Lt. W. F. E., East Lancashire Regt.  
Edwards, Sec.-Lt. H. W. H., Gloucestershire Regt.  
Fisher, Sec.-Lt. H., East Lancashire Regt.  
Gott, Sec.-Lt. A. E., Royal Warwickshire Regt.  
Gray, Sec.-Lt. D. W., Machine Gun Corps.  
Grubb, Sec.-Lt. J. J. W., Bedfordshire Regt.  
Hatch, Sec.-Lt. H. B. W., Machine Gun Corps.  
Hunt, Sec.-Lt. J., East Lancashire Regt.  
James, Capt. G. C., North Staffordshire Regt.  
James, Sec.-Lt. S. F., Gloucestershire Regt.  
Jude, Lt. L. G., Loyal North Lancashire Regt.  
Lush, Sec.-Lt. C. W., Royal Warwickshire Regt.  
Le Messurier, Sec.-Lt. C. C., Bedfordshire Regt.  
Lowndes, Sec.-Lt. B. F., King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
McCallum, Sec.-Lt. M. C., Cameronians (Scot. Rifles), attd. Highland LI.  
McEwan, Sec.-Lt. G. E., Bedfordshire Regt.  
Maitland, Sec.-Lt. W. E., Middx. Regt., attd. T.M.B.  
Melrose, Sec.-Lt. T. N., Northumberland Fusiliers.  
Minnaar, Sec.-Lt. C. W. R., East Lancashire Regt.  
Morkel, Sec.-Lt. D. J. C., East Lancashire Regt.  
Munro, Sec.-Lt. F. R., Highland LI.  
Needham, Capt. A. C., East Lancashire Regt.  
Nutting, Sec.-Lt. E. R., Royal Warwickshire Regt.  
O'Daly, Sec.-Lt. D. R. D., Northumberland Fusiliers.  
Rome, Sec.-Lt. J., Highland LI.  
Royden, Sec.-Lt. T. U., King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Silver, Sec.-Lt. K., Gloucestershire Regt.  
Stock, Lt. J. M. T., East Lancashire Regt.  
Underhill, Lt. R., Middlesex Regt.  
Whimster, Sec.-Lt. T. F., Royal Engineers.  
Wood, Sec.-Lt. J. A. V., Royal Berkshire Regt.



Thomas' family placed the above notice in the *Liverpool Echo* on 25 November 1916: "Killed in action, aged 20 years, Thomas Utting Royden, Second Lieutenant King's Royal Rifles, eldest son of Thomas and Louisa Royden, Birkenhead and Wallasey."

(Left): Official notice of losses, published across the Press on 25 November 1916.

Probate (*below*) was granted to his mother Louisa, (who he had been living with since 1912 during his parent's protracted divorce) at 20 Blenheim Road, Egremont, Wirral. Effects £38 12s 1d (today worth around £3,000).

**ROYDEN** Thomas Utting of 20 Blenheim-road Egremont **Cheshire** second-lieutenant in the 19th King's Royal Rifles died 14 November 1916 at Beaumont Hamel France Probate **Chester** 21 May to Louisa Priscilla Royden single woman. Effects £38 12s. 1d.

(To be rendered in duplicate.)  
K.R.R.C. REGIMENT OR CORPS. 192  
of 19 .

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Corps and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. No. therein: the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless omitted for insignificance, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which he is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasp awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
Regt. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Dispatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
		2 LIEUT CAMPBELL	W.R.C.			EF 1/3587	AWARD BY 1/23	3.7.22	
		2 LIEUT FOLKES	W.R.C. R.A. 30.12.17			AW 1/2229	AWARD BY 1/23	3.7.22	
		2 LIEUT PENBERTON	L. R.A. 25.9.15			AW 1/1577	AWARD BY 1/23	3.7.22	
		2 LIEUT ROYDEN	T.U. R.A. 14.4.16			AW 1/1860	AWARD BY 1/23	3.7.22	

(Above) Medal roll for the King's Royal Rifle Regiment, and Pension record (below)

W7408. R240/9/16-3 Bks. - Wt. & Sons, Ltd. 644

Record No.	Registry No.	NAME AND RANK	Regt. or Corps	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS				
					Account	Effects 1916-1917		Effects 1917-1918	
22286	131408/2	Royden 2 Lt. J.M.	K.R.R.C.	14-11-16 In action	Box Co. 12/12. Transfer 509 24/1/17 R.P. London 3/17	3	11	2	
						40	10	=	
							2	7	

12

WAR GRATUITY  
2/19/18  
R.A. 1/23  
8.10.19  
9/14.20



Lot 6  
**Victory Medal named to 2nd Lieutenant T.U. Royden.**  
**Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden, killed in**

Estimate **50 - 60 GBP**

Ⓞ Catalogue Timed

Bidding ends: 14 Nov

Location: Maldon, Essex

**In November 2018, his Victory Medal was put up for auction, but this was distressingly unknown to the author and family at the time, as it would have been fitting to see its return.**

DIV 3A 15-1-84. NO r/s of Res.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl No.
ROYDEN	17/L'pool. R.	L/ep. 17/15028	
	K.R.R.C.	2/Lieut. x.	
Thomas Utting			

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
WAR. VICTORY -x.	off/95	192	} NW/263/d/3/7/22 NW/7/18/00. died 14.11.16. (Kmi A)
BRITISH	"	"	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	(1)		
Date of entry therein	8.7.16.		
13.3.22			NW/4/18100

K. 1380

Medal card for Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden, front and reverse.

Correspondence

Mother - Mrs. Royden,  
 Address 98, Walker Gate,  
 Beverley,  
 Yorks.

(1475) Wt. W2789/HP8112 1,000m 1221 J.F.W. E 2281.



The British and Victory service medals, awarded posthumously to Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden, which were likely to have been sent to his mother in Beverley by 1918/9, where she would shortly marry for a second time, to Arthur Frankish.

In Memory of  
Second Lieutenant

# Thomas Utting Royden

19th Bn. attd. 1st Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 14 November 1916 Age 20

Son of Thomas and Louisa Royden, of 67, Willow Bank Rd., Devonshire Park, Birkenhead.

Remembered with Honour  
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## **Memorials to Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden**

**19th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment / 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps**

### **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing**

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.





# Birkenhead WW1 War Memorial



O'REILLY, J.	QUINN, I.	ROGERS, W.
O'REILLY, P.	QUINN, J. P.	ROSS, J. C.
O'REILLY, T. E.	QUINN, T. 15%	ROURKE, J.
ORMSBY, J. E.	QUINN, T. 5%	ROUTLEDGE, J.
ORMSBY, W.	RADLEY, V.	ROWE, W. J.
OSBORNE, A.	RAE, T. K. H.	ROWLANDS, O.
OSTLE, J. D.	RAFFERTY, J.	ROWLANDS, W.
OVER, R.	RANDLES, A.	ROYDEN, T. U.
OWENS, A. O.	RASCHEN, J. G.	RUDD, W. E.
OWENS, H.	RATCLIFFE, E.	RUFFLER, R.
OWENS, J.	RATCLIFF—	RULE, S.
OWENS, R.	GAYLARD CCA	RUNDLE, J. R.
OWENS, S. N.	RATCLIFF—	RUSSELL, C. H.
PALMER, T.	GAYLARD E.R	RYAN, R.
PANTLIN, E. G.	READER, E.	RYLANCE, J. E.
PARKER, C.	READER, I.	RYLANDS, T. H.
PARKHILL, D.	REDHEAD, G.	SALAUN, P. E.
PARRY, C.	RFECE, W.	SALL, W.
PARRY, E.	REID, I. 27%	SAMUELS, T.
PARRY, H.	REID, J. 7%	SANDS, H.
PARRY, R. E.	REID, W.	SATCHWELL, T.
PARRY, W. T.	RENSHAW, J. W.	SAUNDERS, H.
PARSONS, E.	REYNOLDS, E.	SAUNDERS, J. D.
PARSONS, G.	REYNOLDS, W.	SAUNDERS, J. T.
PATERSON, R. D.	REYNOLDS, W. B.	SAYLE, J.
PATERSON, T. S.	RHODES, E.	SAYMAN, W. E.
PEARCE, T.	RHODES, H.	SCARRATT, J. H.
PEARSON, T. W.	RICE, F. R.	SCHOLES, A.
PEERS, A.	RICE, M.	SCHULTZ, G. E.
PEERS, D.	RICE, O.	SCOTT, G. E.
PEEVER, G.	RICHARDS, J. H.	SCOTT, J. B.
PELL, R.	RICHARDS, S.	SCOTT, J. W.
PEMBROKE, A. E.	RICHARDSON, C.	SCRUGHAM, T.
PENDERGHEST, T.	RIDGWAY, H. E.	SCULLION, J.
PENNEY, F. W. T.	RIELLY, J.	SEAGRAVE, T.
PENNEY, T.	RIMMER, C.	SEFTON, H. J.
PERKINS, A.	RIMMER, G. H.	SELBY, T.
PERRY, T. E.	RIMMER, N.	SERJEANT, C. J. H.
PETERS, R. J.	ROBBINS, J.	SEVERN, A. E.
PETERS, W. T.	ROBERTS, A. Y.	SEWARD, R.
PETTITT, W.	ROBERTS, D. S.	SHARKEY, J.
PHENNA, E.	ROBERTS, E.	SHARP, D.
PHILLIPS, A.	ROBERTS, E. A.	SHAW, A.
PHILLIPS, H. T.	ROBERTS, F.	SHAW, T. B.
PHILLIPS, I.	ROBERTS, G.	SHAW, V. C.

(Photos: Kitchener's Bugle, Great War Forum)

## Lucton School WW1 War Memorial



# Liverpool Cotton Association WW1 War Memorial



## Oxton Cricket Club Roll of Honour (Oxton, Wirral) (pictured right)



## Hereford Cathedral Centenary Commemorations

During the centenary commemorations of Armistice Day, on Friday 9 November 2018, Thomas' name was read aloud, with 500 others, in Hereford Cathedral. (Lucton School is near to Hereford).

## The Cheshire Roll of Honour

<https://www.cheshireroll.co.uk/soldier/?i=6009/Second-Lieutenant-thomas-utting-royden>

## Liverpool Pals The King's Liverpool Regiment Roll of Honour

<https://www.liverpoolpals.com/soldier/?i=2885/2nd%20Lieut-thomas-utting-royden>

## Thomas Utting Royden - Relationship with Dora Tomblin

The story of Thomas does not end with his sad passing on the Somme battlefield. Nor does the heart-breaking story of this family end either. From 31 July 1915 to 30 April 1916, Thomas was based at Berkhamsted Camp in Hertfordshire, while he underwent Officer training until he received his commission. At some time during his stay, he met a local girl, Dora Tomblin. She was the daughter of railway clerk William Tomblin, who worked at the nearby station. Theirs was a large family of twelve brothers and sisters, and their home in the centre of Berkhamsted at 55 Charles Street, a modest terrace.



Dora was born in Boxmoor in 1888, where her father had moved to from Watford, followed by another move as a railway worker to Northampton, before becoming more settled in Berkhamsted in 1900.



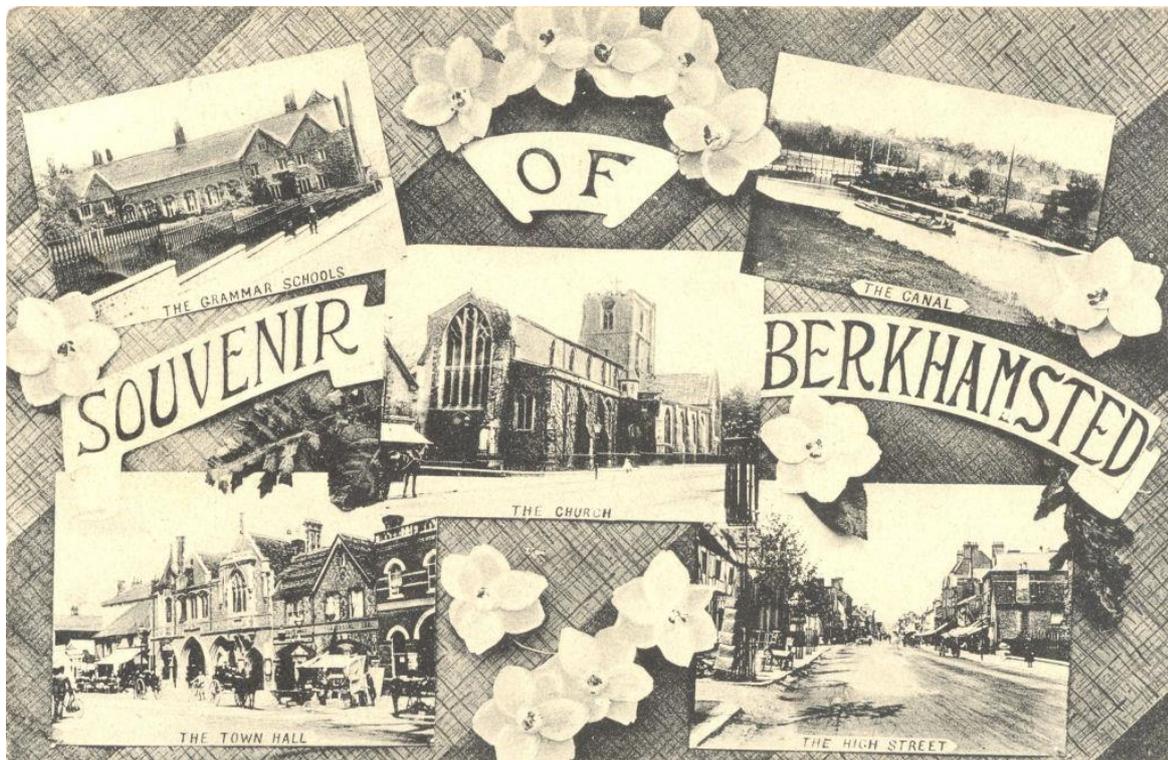
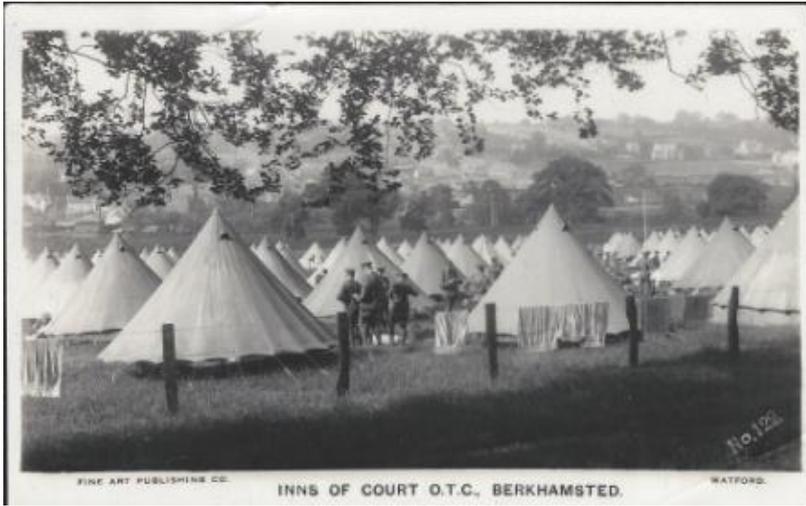
Berkhamsted was a small market town of 7,500, but little more than a large village in 1916, lying on the A41 between Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead.

On 28 September 1914, troops from the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps (nick-named The Devil's Own), arrived to set up their camp to train before heading for the battlefields of northern France.

Twelve thousand troops passed through here during the course of the war, and the impact on the town and its population must have been considerable.

They lived in a tented camp near the station, paraded on what is now called Kitchener's Field and trained on Berkhamsted and Northchurch commons, and in the surrounding countryside. Several months were spent in intensive training, building skills and character, before being commissioned into other regiments. For many of these young men like Thomas, Berkhamsted was their last 'home' before facing the horrors of the Western Front. By 1918, nearly half of all trainees had become casualties of the war, with 2,200 killed.







William Tomblin's place of work at the local station is circled, as is his home (bottom left)

## THE TOMBLIN FAMILY



While just fourteen in 1911, Dora Tomblin had left home, and was staying with her twenty-five-year-old sister Florence, at her home in Byrom Street, Northampton. Florence’s husband of just a few months was professional footballer Fred Whittaker, a winger recently signed by Northampton from Burnley Football Club, where he had made a name for himself at his home town club, scoring 20 goals in sixty appearances, before his transfer to Northampton in 1909 and his meeting up with Florence. It is likely that Dora’s stay was temporary, as at the time of the census on 2 April 1911 when she was recorded as living there, Florence was due to give birth, and no doubt sister Dora was there to help out. Young William Whittaker was born just two weeks later on the 18th. The Whittaker family were on the move again the following year, when Fred signed for Exeter City, where he made 68 appearances, scoring 17 goals, before he signed up for service in the First World War.



Despite playing for a side in the lower leagues, he is notable for his role during Exeter City's famous tour of South America in 1914, Whittaker played in every game scoring five goals, but the game of most significance was that played against Brazil – the first time the Brazilian national side had taken to the field, which was celebrated with great ceremony in a centenary rematch between Exeter V Brazil in 2004.





EXETER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

Previous page – Brazil v Exeter 1914 and above, the Exeter side that day. Fred Whittaker is standing to the immediate left of the goalkeeper



EXETER CITY A.F.C. 1912-13

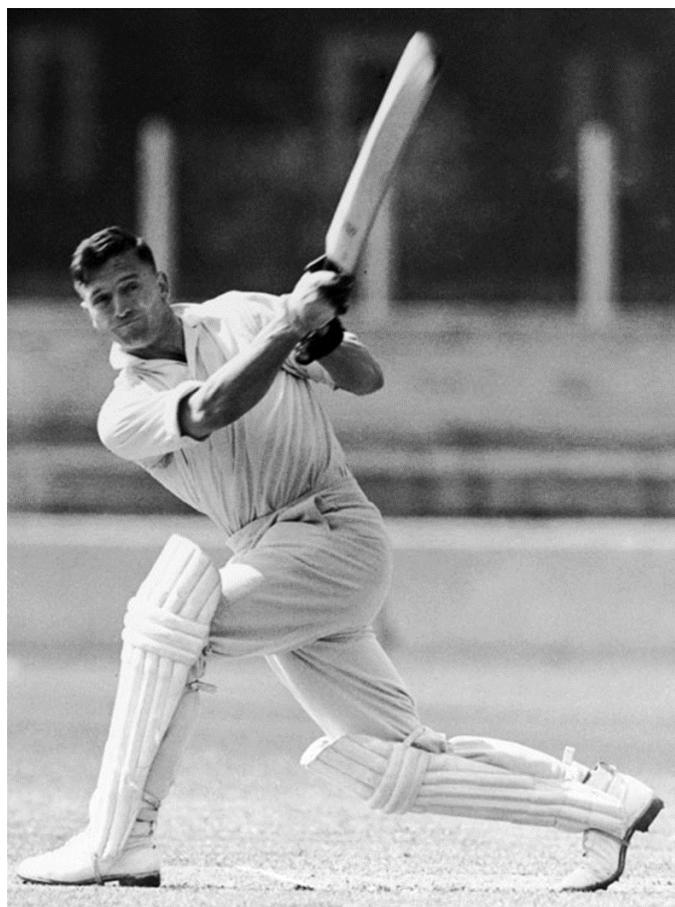
J. Chapman, E. Morris, R. Pym, C. Brooksbank, C. Pratt  
 Pengelly, Mr W. Norman, Mr S. Thomas, Mr H. Kendall, E. Lewis, G. Hurst, Mr M. M. Gahcy, R. Nevin, E. Crompton, Mr F. Partridge, Mr G. Middlewick, H. Greenaway, Mr F. Hill  
 F. Whittaker, A. Rutter, S. Bassett, J. Rigby, Mr A. Chadwick, J. Lagon, F. Nullineux, B. Ives, J. Garside  
 H. Lockett, T. Cooper, E. Clarke, M. Golightly, G. Clay, J. Fort  
 (Chairman) (Manager) (Groundsman)

Exeter City A.F.C. 1912-1913 Fred Whittaker is the first player on the left in the seated row. Photo Credit: The Grecian Archive, Exeter University, Exeter City Football Club and Exeter City Supporters Trust. <http://grecianarchive.exeter.ac.uk/items/show/223>

Fred Whittaker is sitting down, far left

## Private F/786 Fred Whittaker, 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment

In fact, the game against Brazil was Fred's last in an Exeter shirt. As the team arrived home, war was looming, the league would eventually disband and the team was broken up, as many of the squad signed up for war service. Fred and his family returned to London, where he attested for the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment – more commonly known as the Footballer's Battalion. The family took a house in 2A Inverton Road, Camberwell, in Southwark, (pictured, far right house), while Fred also signed wartime terms with local club Millwall FC, where he occasionally turned out, when he was able to, during time at home.



Sadly, although Fred survived the horror of the Somme, including the Battle of Delville Wood, the marriage did not, and some point around 1930, Fred left the family home in Camberwell, and moved back to Devon to Teignmouth, to start life afresh, no doubt in surroundings where he was happy during his time with Exeter. Living alone in a cottage in East Brook Street, he found work locally as a painter and decorator, and as a cellar man in the Railway Hotel. During his twilight years he lived in a care home in Seaton where he passed away on Christmas Eve 1960.\*

(\*For this last record on his final days, I am indebted to the work of Dave Cockram, *The Devon Family Historian* (February 2016) no.157 pp.42-44 as my own searches for his post war whereabouts had proved fruitless.)

His wife and family meanwhile, stayed in Camberwell and were recorded as still being in the same Inverton Road house in 1939.

Two of Fred and Florence's sons were also successful sportsmen. Bill Whittaker played amateur football to a high standard, eventually representing England in a 5-2 victory against Wales in 1939, while Geoffrey Whittaker was a professional cricketer who played first class county cricket for Surrey, before retiring to become a

coach on Jersey. In 129 first-class matches as a righthanded batsman he scored 4,988 runs, with a highest score of 185 not out among eight centuries.

**Geoffrey Thomas Royden-Tomblin** (son of Thomas Utting Royden / Dora Tomblin)

It is likely that Dora Tomblin spent much time living with her sister, especially as Florence's husband would have periods away due to his profession. But in 1915 she was in Berkhamsted, and there she met her tall, dark, handsome officer, Tom Royden. One wonder's if she ever took Thomas to meet Florence and Fred. How long their relationship lasted, if at all, is unknown. Thomas was undergoing his officer training there from the end of July 1915, until April 1916, but by the time he was posted with the KRRC to France, Dora was already around eight months pregnant with his child. At this stage, she was probably 'in confinement' with Florence in her south London home, well away from the wagging tongues in her small community at home, as the birth of her son on 3 June 1916, was registered in Bromley, not far from Southwark, and was recorded as Geoffrey Thomas Royden Tomblin, - as far as Dora was concerned there was no doubting his parentage. Did she also name

him after Florence's son too as a family name? It isn't certain if Thomas was even aware Dora was

I am willing to allow sixpence of my pay daily to my wife

F.W. 12/3/16

16947 W 9669-1073 5000 1214 T. & W. Ltd. 27  
Gen. No. 2225

Army Form B. 203.

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(For the Duration of the War.)

**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 788 Name Fred Whittaker Corps Middlesex Regiment

Football Batt.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Fred Whittaker
2. What is your full Address? ... 2. 22 Merton Road, Peckham Ry.
3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. Yes
4. What is your Age? ... 4. 27 Years 8 Months.
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Prof. Footballer
6. Are you Married? ... 6. Yes
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... 7. No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8. Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9. Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. Yes Name H. J. Jones Corps R. Staff
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? ... 11. Yes

For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, Fred Whittaker, 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 made.

Fred Whittaker SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT  
Richard ... Signature of Witness.

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**

I, Fred Whittaker, swear by Almighty God, 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 the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**

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 and applied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Sevenoaks, Kent on this 16 day of February 1915. B. Owen Palmer Cpl. R.O. Signature of the Justice.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear attached therewith. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the Middlesex Regiment authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original.

B. Owen Palmer Approving Officer.  
... Signature of the Recruit.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
<u>WHITTAKER</u> <u>Fred</u>	<u>MIDDLESEX R</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>F/786</u>
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
<u>VICTORY</u>	<u>E/11028/2</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>Demob.</u>
<u>BRITISH</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>do</u>	
<u>15 STAR</u>	<u>E/11301/78</u>		
Theatre of War first served in <u>(1) France</u>			
Date of entry therein <u>17-11-15</u>			

expecting. Fred Whittaker was now away in France with the Footballer's battalion, having landed in France on 17 November 1915 and in an extraordinary twist of fate, Fred was part of the 17th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment that came up in support right alongside Thomas' KRRC battalion in heat of the Battle of Delville Wood recounted earlier.

While home on leave following the Delville Wood experience, Fred and Florence had all four of their children baptised together on 10 August 1916 in the local Camberwell church of St Silas, (William b.1911, Robert b.1912,

John b.1914, Geoffrey b.1916. A daughter Florence would follow in 1921). Fred had experienced the precariousness of life on the Somme battlefields and knew he could not be sure if he would return again to care for his family. On his attestation form, a note was scribbled and signed at the top 'I am willing to allow sixpence of my pay daily to my wife'.

What happened next is rather clouded by the family wanting to avoid any hint of scandal, but whenever questions were asked about the infant's mother or father, they were told by family that his father had died in the war, and his mother had tragically succumbed to illness in the weeks following the birth, leaving young Geoffrey as a 'war orphan'. In later years, this 'illness' had morphed into 'Spanish Flu' which clearly could not



be the case, as even recent studies put the outbreak in the UK at no earlier than that at the army barracks in Aldershot in March 1917.

Geoffry (now with a dropped 'e' and known as Tom) always told family in later life that he was a 'war orphan,' and that he had been passed among his aunts – there were nine of them, due to his mother having died of influenza just weeks later.

**[This is also the account, within a series of typed family notes, given to the author by Tom's daughter Sally.]**

Said Sally (Royden) Hearn,

Dad was brought up by numerous aunts – possibly 7 – of the Tomblin family and eventually adopted by one, Dora Charrington, his mother having died of the Great European flu of the time, when he was 6 weeks old – a very sad story. Of course, there was little money to feed an extra mouth and he was passed around and 'shared' by his aunts. He did tell me that at nine years old he was taken to see 'the old man at Birkenhead,' but he didn't talk much about his childhood. When I completed my B.Ed. I interviewed him for a history assignment and thus managed, under the pretext of study, to winkle small snippets of information from him!! An interesting, but sad youth.

Young Tom was cared for by his aunts until Dora Tomblin met and married James Charrington, of Gillingham, Kent in 1922, and moved to 4 The Ride in Brentford, London (pictured), which is when Tom was 'adopted'. It is conceivable that this was done so her new husband would be adopting a 'war orphan' rather than a child that his new wife had had out of wedlock with a young army officer, something he may never have been aware of.



'The old man at Birkenhead' was undoubtedly Thomas Royden senior, father of Thomas Utting Royden, and young Geoffry's grandfather. Thomas Snr was still in the same family home, but whether young Tom got to visit his grandmother, by then living with her second husband in Beverley, is unknown.

Varco Jas. Sydney, farmer, Tre- bathevy. Par 270	
White Chas. Herbt. farmer, South Torrey	
<b>GOLANT.</b>	
<b>PRIVATE RESIDENTS.</b>	
(For TN's see general list of Private Residents at end of book.)	
Curtis Mrs. G. A. T., Pen Eglos	
Hawkins William Benjamin Seller, Tanhay	
Osborne Col. Rev. Henry Percy	
D.S.O., P.S.C. (vicar), Vicarage	
Poole Lady, Torrey	

<b>COMMERCIAL.</b>	
Charrington Dora (Mrs.), shopkpr	
Geake Arth. Evelyn, shopkpr. & post office. Fowey 46	
Geake Teresa (Mrs.), tea gardens & boarding house	
Golant Reading Room (Edgar Clift, sec)	
New Inn (Jn. Edwin Janion)	
Rundle Edwin, carpenter	
Spry Wm. market gardener	
Tucker Jsph. cattle dr. Tanhay	

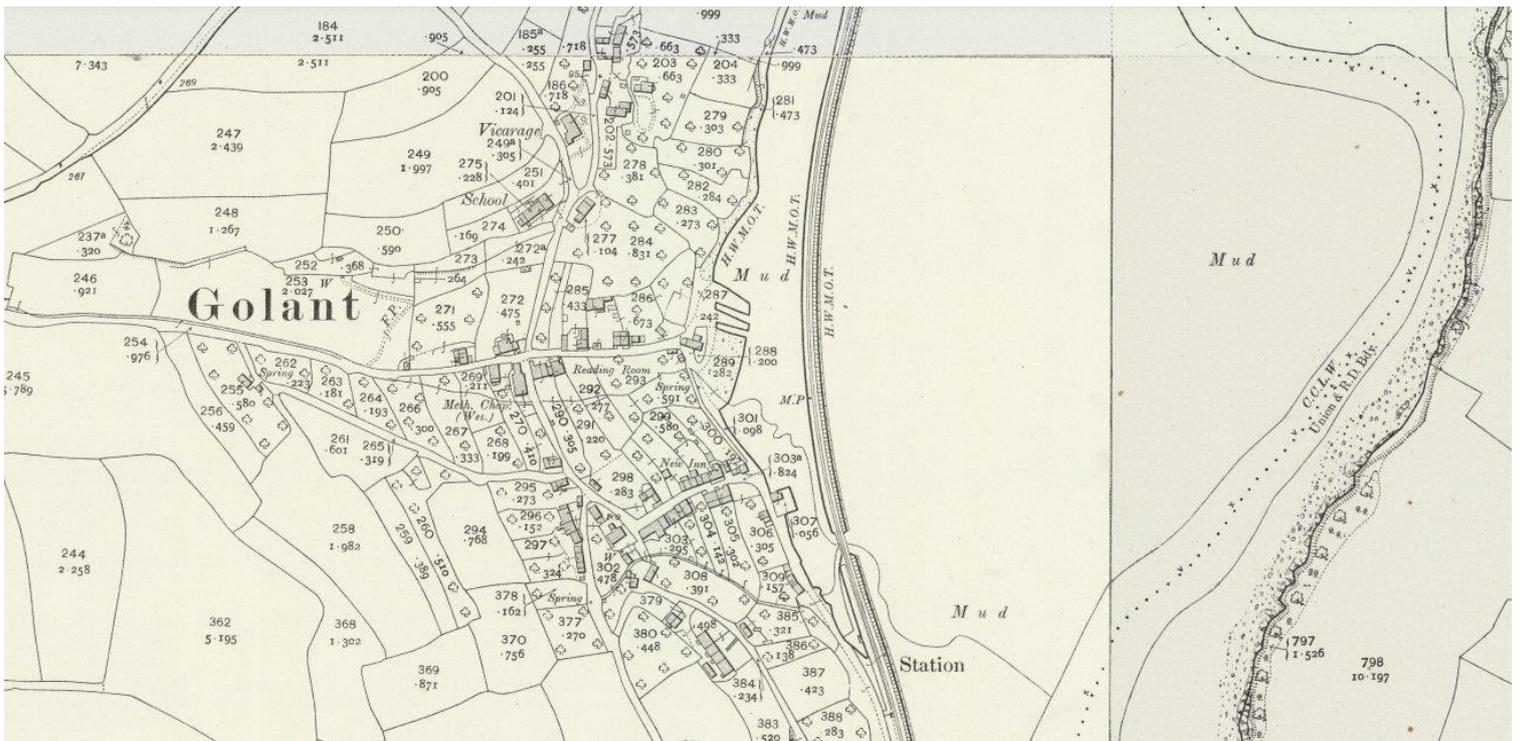
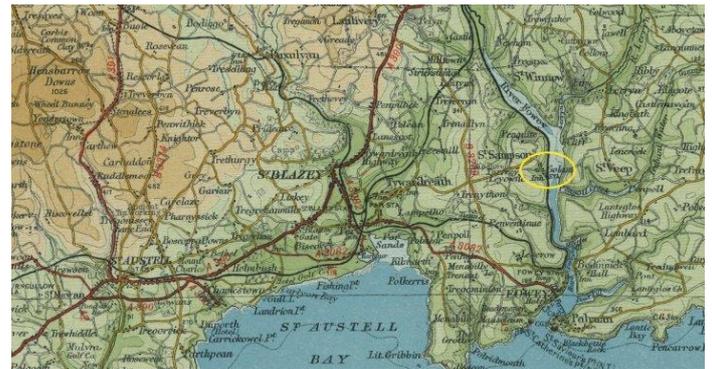
In 1937 at the age of twenty-one, Tom moved with Dora to Golant in Cornwall, where she ran a grocery and general provisions shop, while he reared pigs, made cider, worked as a fisherman, hired out boats and drove a taxi. Their surroundings couldn't have been more different to the busy streets of Brentford. Golant is a beautiful Cornish hamlet, nestling on a steep hillside on the shore of the Fowey estuary.

However, this new life was quickly interrupted by the outbreak of war, and Tom, now twenty-three, signed up for the transport section of the Royal Army Service Corps, and was posted to France, but was soon amongst those evacuated at Dunkirk in 1940. In 1941 he married school teacher Jenny Poole, and their daughter Jenefer Sally was born in 1944. Tom soon moved through the ranks in the army, spending time as a Second Lieutenant – like his father Thomas – although in the 79th Armoured Division on amphibious tank training. Promoted again, to Captain, he served in West Africa and India before being demobbed aged thirty in 1946, after developing Raynaud's disease while in Burma. The family moved to Newquay, where Tom worked as a catering manager for the local council, before working for several dairies as a sales representative. He retired due to ill health in 1973 aged fifty-seven.



***The family home in Newquay, Cornwall***

# GOLANT, CORNWALL





**Tom Royden at home in Newquay c.1960**

**Tom Royden went to his grave in 1999, still not knowing the truth of his parentage and still believing he was a war orphan. It was only due to recent research that it was shown that none of the Tomblin sisters had died during the First World War, and in fact, all had lived well past the Second World War.**

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **Jenefer Sally Royden Hearn (Daughter of Geoffrey Thomas Royden)**

Sally (Royden) Hearn spoke of her childhood many years later, and reflected on how Dora had kept up the family pretence all her life.

Dora was my Auntie all my life, never my grandmother. I never spent time with her. We did visit from time to time, and I loved their home in Golant on the high-tide mark. And below ground level inside! The old Tiddlywinks Inn. Across the road was the apple orchard for making scrumpy, and Dad raised pigs for pocket money. He drove the only vehicle in the area so when Daphne du Maurier had a party at Menabilly House [on the Gribben peninsula about 5 miles south west of Golant] Dad was called on to do deliveries. He met mum. He was very handsomely 'a la Clark Gable' and Mum was very smart too! They were a fine couple. In fact, when Clark Gable was filming '*Never Let Me Go*' in Cornwall in 1953, he used Dad's office as his base, and, as to be expected, Dad brought him home for dinner!



He was a very complex character. Even when I returned to Newquay aged 23 after living in London, I had to be home by 10.30pm. He stood under the clock waiting! Fifteen minutes off my next exit for every minute I was late. He told all the pubs to ring him if I crossed the threshold! Told my long-standing boyfriend of the time that I was a ward of court and to stay away!

Eventually, Sally did get her much sought-after independence,

I went to Cyprus as a teacher with RAF. After several months, all staff were invited as usual to the Australian UN Contingent welcoming party, barbecue and dance. This very tall and handsome officer strode across the carpark and asked me to dance. Thankfully I had gone to ballroom dancing lessons in school days! We never stopped dancing!

Pat (Hearn) returned to Australia at the end of his tour of duty spending several weeks with his elderly widowed mother in Somerset on the way. He had not seen her since the war in the Merchant Navy. I eventually reunited with him fourteen months later, after my contract was completed in Melbourne, and we married on 27 October 1972. I left teaching once I had my family.

Pat Hearn, born on 25 May 1927 in Brackley, Northamptonshire, had been a police officer since 1948, and was serving in Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper from May 1969 to May 1970. During his forty-year career he rose to the rank of Police Superintendent, and was also awarded the National Medal in 1986, before his retirement the following year.



Their children were born in the 1970s, Leigh, Jenefer, and Royden, who carries on the family name, albeit a Christian name.

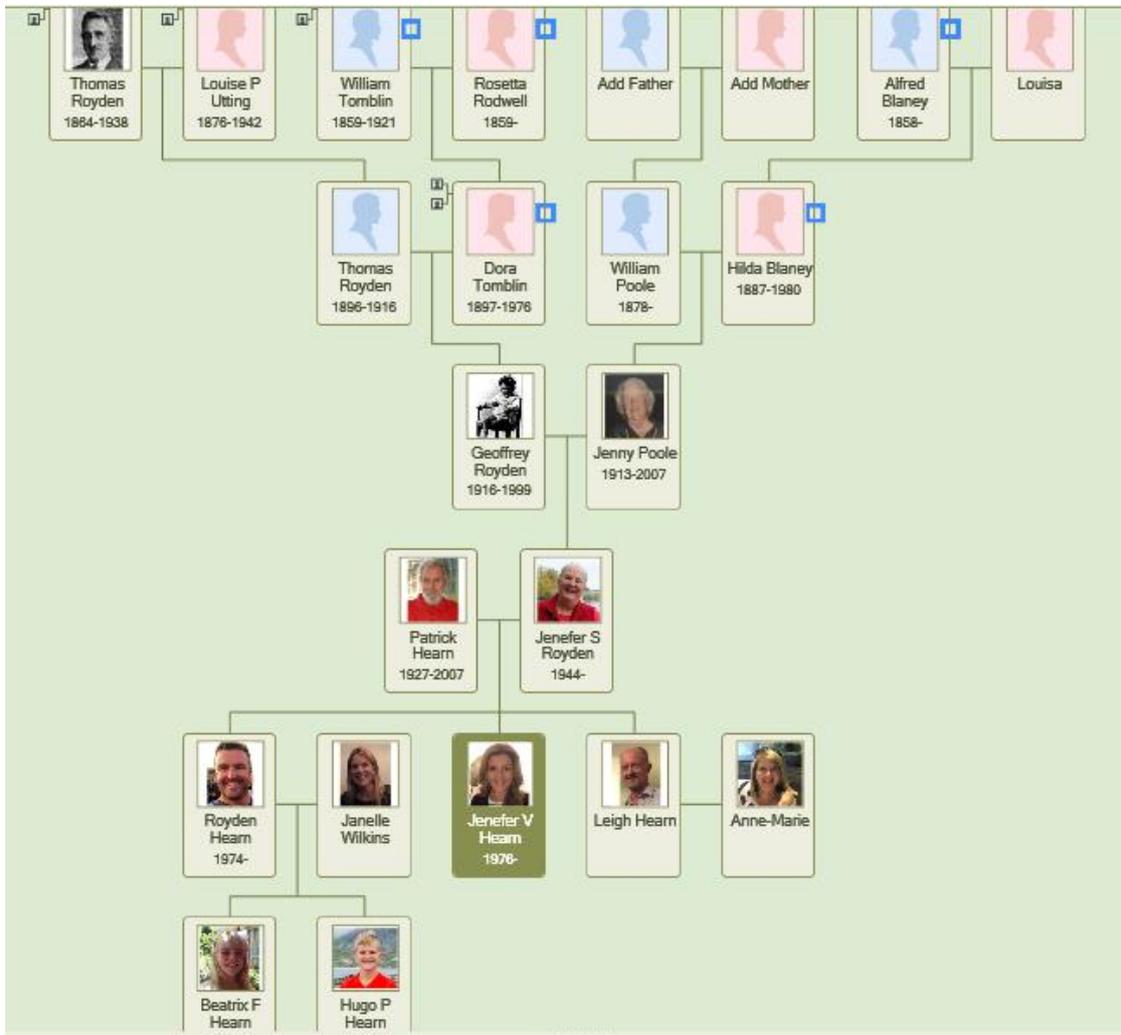
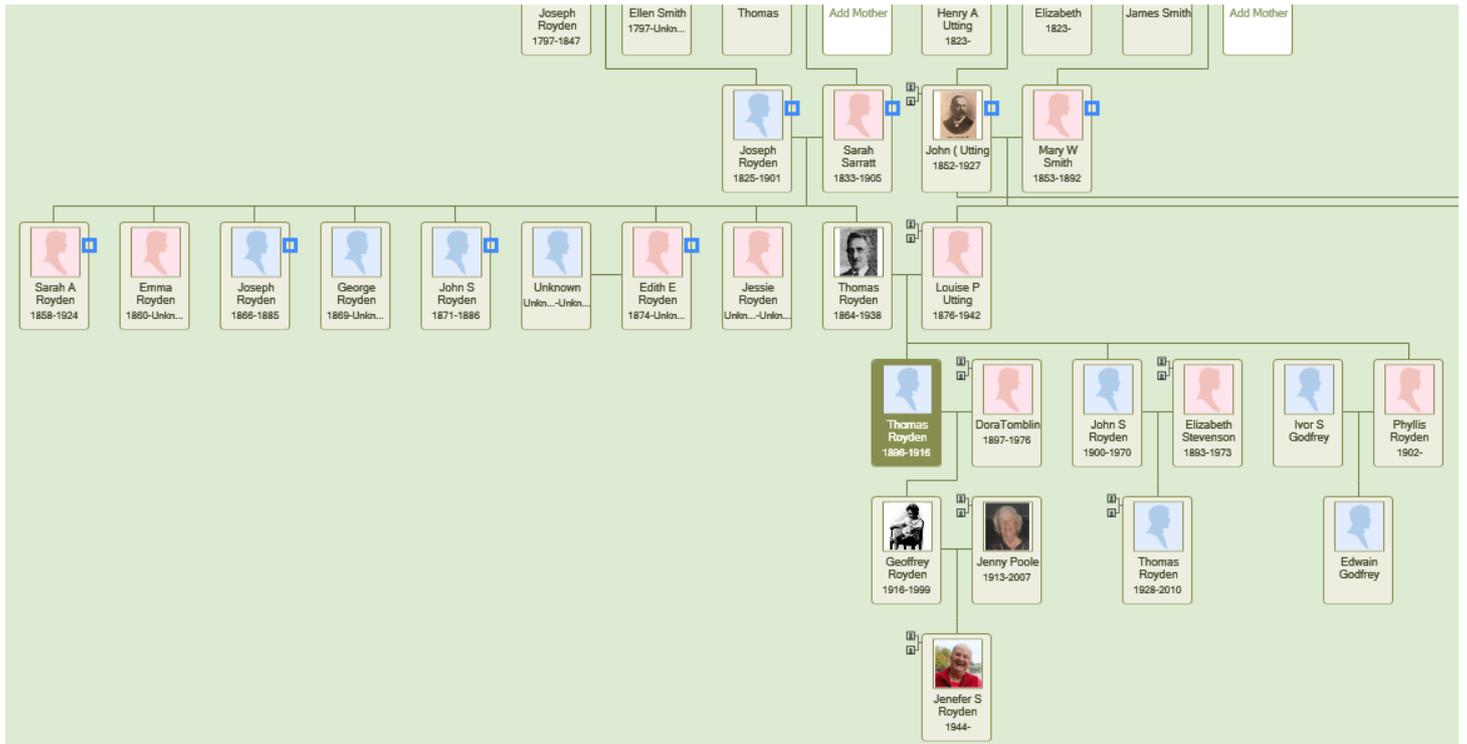


**The Hearn family home in Doncaster, Melbourne**

After Aunt Dora died in 1978, and it was clear that Sally was not returning the UK, her parents decided to emigrate in 1984 to be close to their daughter and her family. However, Tom's health began to fail and he passed away on 23 September 1999.

When both her mother (right), and husband Pat died in 2007, and with her children grown and gone, Sally decided to travel to Europe in 2009 to visit old friends and family, while also hoping to discover some of her own heritage. After a trip to France where she revisited Thiépval, Sally came north west, where she stayed with the author, who took her to see some of the places in Chester, and Wirral that featured in her father's past.







**At home with the Hearn family of Melbourne, Australia**





**(left):** The former home of Thomas Royden snr (father of Thomas Utting Royden) Willowbank Road, Prenton, Wirral.

**(Below):** Sally looking out over the Mersey towards Liverpool. A few steps down from the Egremont home (20 Blenheim Road), where Louisa (Utting) Royden lived briefly following her separation and divorce from Thomas Royden.

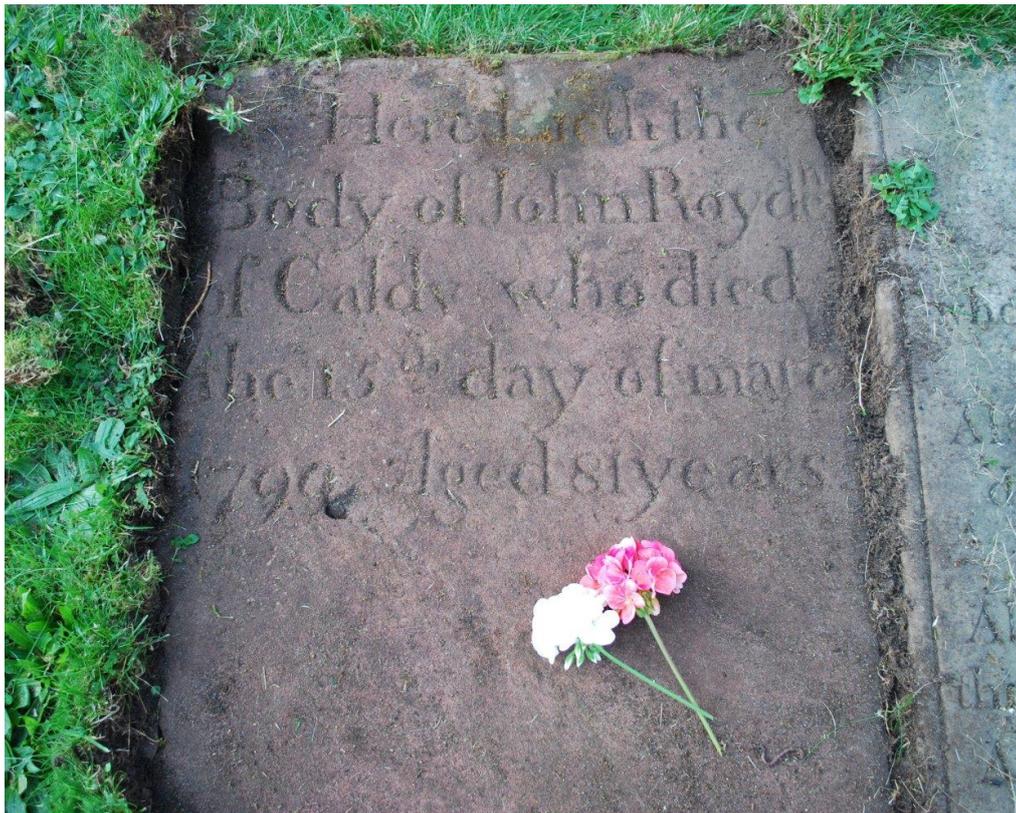




**(Above): St John's Church and Abbey, Chester**

Thomas Royden's earliest known ancestor, Alexander Royden (b. approx 1660) attended this church with his family, his children were baptised there, and he is buried there.

**(Below): The earliest surviving gravestone of the Royden line – John Royden of Caldly died 1799. Buried in St. Bridgets, West Kirby**





### **A return to where we began**

**Sally Royden Hearn revisiting the Thiepval Memorial,  
a place she had first visited as a teenager with her father, to pay respects to her grandfather,**

### **Second Lieutenant Thomas Utting Royden**

**17th Battalion, The King's Liverpool Regiment  
1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps**

***Lest we Forget***

# APPENDIX I

## SECOND LIEUTENANT THOMAS UTTING ROYDEN - WAR RECORD

(S 58 57) 116,000 8/14 H W V

Forms  
H. 2065



Army Form B. 2065.

### SHORT SERVICE.

(Three years with the Colours.)

#### ATTESTATION OF

No. 17/15028 Name Thomas Utting Royden Corps K. L. C. B.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What is your name? .....  | 1. <u>Thomas Utting Royden</u> .....                                |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? .....   | 2. In the Parish of <u>Richberhead</u> in or near the Town of ..... |
| 3. Are you a British Subject? .....  | 3. <u>Yes</u> .....   |
| 4. What is your Age? .....   | 4. <u>19</u> Years <u>6</u> Months <u>days</u> .....                |
| 5. What is your Trade or Calling? .....  | 5. <u>General (Student)</u> .....                                   |
| 6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state where? ..... | 6. <u>No</u> .....  |
- You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? if so, where? to whom? for what period? and, when did, or will, the period of your Apprenticeship expire? .....  | 7. <u>No</u> .....   |
| 8. Are you Married? .....   | 8. <u>No</u> .....   |
| 9. Have you ever been sentenced to 'imprisonment by the Civil Power? .....  | 9. <u>No</u> .....   |
| 10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? if so to what unit and Corps? .....   | 10. <u>No</u> .....  |
| 11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? if so, state which unit, and cause of discharge ..... | 11. <u>No</u> .....  |
| 12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? .....  | 12. <u>Yes</u> .....   |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? if so, on what grounds? .....   | 13. <u>No</u> .....  |
| 14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? .....  | 14. <u>Yes</u> .....   |
| 15. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? .....   | 15. <u>Yes</u> .....   |
| 16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? .....  | 16. <u>Yes</u> Name <u>Adj. Jones</u> Corps <u>K. L. C. B.</u> ..... |
| 17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? .....   | 17. <u>Yes</u> .....   |

For a term of three years, unless War lasts longer than three years, in which case you will be retained until the War is over. If employed with Hospitals, depôts of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, Thomas Utting Royden 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 made.

Thomas Utting Royden SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Edward Woods Signature of Witness.

#### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Utting Royden swear by Almighty God, 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 the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

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 Liverpool on this 1 day of Sept 1914.

Signature of the Justice H. W. Wilson

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it, and the alteration under Section 5 (6), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B. 2065a.

\* If on, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former Service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed on the (Date) re-enlisted in the (Regiment).

To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.  
 Army Form B. 178A to be used for Special Reserve recruits  
 and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

### MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Royden Christian Name Thomas Utting

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace ... Parish Birkenhead County Cheshire

Examined ... { on 13<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1914  
 at L. pool

Declared Age ... 19 6 days

Trade or Occupation ... Coler K.

Height ... 5 feet, 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.

Weight ... 158 lbs.

Chest Measurement { Birth when fully expanded. 36<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches.  
Range of Expansion. 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches.

Physical Development and Pulse rate { Good.  
 Right. | 2. Left.

Vaccination Marks { Arm |  
 Number |

When Vaccinated ...

Vision ... { R.E.—V = 6.6.  
 L.E.—V = 6.6.

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease { (a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection { (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by ... (Signature) J. D. Staint  
 (Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... { at Liverpool  
 on 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1914.

Corps.	Regtl. No.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> (SERVICE) BATT. THE LIVERPOOL REGT.</b>	<u>14/15028.</u>

Became non-effective by ... Discharge for purpose of re-enlistment in Inns of Court O.T.C.  
 on 30 day of July 1915.  
 (Signature) B. V. ... (Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
 LIEUT. COL.  
17<sup>th</sup> (SERVICE) BATT. THE LIVERPOOL REGIMT.



## MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Service at Home and Abroad.

COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS	N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service in the different stations of the same country. England, Scotland and Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home." For mode of computing Service Abroad, see King's Regulations.
<i>Home</i>	<i>1. 4. 187</i>	<i>30. 7. 18</i>	—	<i>333.</i>	

<p>2. Army School and other certificates of education ...</p> <p>3. Passed classes of Instruction† <small>This includes any authorised class of instruction, e.g., in swimming, chiropody, &amp;c.</small></p> <p>4. Campaigns (including Medals and decorations)</p> <p>5. Wounded ...</p> <p>6. Effects of Wounds</p> <p>7. Special instances of gallant conduct and mentions in public despatches ...</p> <p>8. Annuities ...</p> <p>9. Injuries in or by the Service ...</p> <p>10. Name and Address of next of kin ...</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Father. Thomas Hayden 69 Willowbank Road. Birkbehead.</p>	<p>Initials of Officer making the entry</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">H.W.W</p>
---	--	--

11. Particulars as to Marriage	(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow, (b) place and date of marriage, (c) name of officiating Minister or Registrar, and (d) names of two witnesses.				Date of being † placed on Married Roll	Initials of Officer
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)		

12. Particulars as to Children	Christian Names	Date and Place of birth	Date and Place of Baptism, and Name of officiating Minister

† To be ruled through (a) in the case of a soldier, married without leave whilst serving with the colours, who desires the entry to be made; (b) when a soldier is married whilst in the Reserve.



**Table III.—Boards ; Courts of Inquiry, Vaccination, Inoculations, etc., Examinations for Field or Foreign Service, Extension, Re-engagement, or Prolongation of Service; Issue of Surgical Appliances; Particulars of Dental Treatment, etc.**

Date.	Brief details, and signature.
Nov 15/14 25 NOV 1914 9 FEB 1915	(1) INOCULATED ) INOCULATED ) (2) INOCULATED.  <i>P. H. Baker</i>  <i>P. H. Baker</i>

**Table IV.—Service Table.**

Station or Troopship.	Date of arrival or embarkation.	Date of departure or disembarkation.	Station or Troopship.	Date of arrival or embarkation.	Date of departure or disembarkation.
<i>Bellon Camp</i> <i>Quem Chau</i>	<i>27.4.15</i>				

## APPENDIX II

### 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps – War Diary

#### The Battle of Ancre – 13/14 November 1916

REPORT ON OPERATIONS ON 14th, NOVEMBER, by,  
1st Battalion King's Royal Rifles.

On the 13th November, in accordance with orders received, the Battalion moved from BERTRANCOURT to proceed to the Assembly trenches. The Column started at 2.5.a.m. At 4.55.a.m. its head arrived at the junction of ELLIS SQUARE and CHERROH AVENUE, and at 5.40.a.m. the whole Battalion was assembled in its first Battle position in CHERROH AVENUE. At ZERO (5.45.a.m.) the Battalion moved into the trenches allotted to it viz., TAUPIN, ELLIS SQUARE EAST and ELLIS SQUARE CENTRAL, (both the latter NORTH of ROMAN ROAD). Headquarters were established in ELLIS SQUARE CENTRAL with the H.Qrs. of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers. Further orders were there awaited.

At 10.25.a.m. the Commanding Officer was summoned to Brigade Headquarters where the situation was explained to him. It appeared that the 5th BDE. and the Right Coy. of the Right Battalion of the 6th BDE. had reached their objective (the GREEN LINE) but that the remainder of the 6th BDE. and the 3rd Division, on their left, had been unsuccessful and were back in their original trenches. Consequently it would probably be necessary for the 1st Royal Berks Regt., supported by our Battalion, to pass through the 6th BDE. and attack that portion of the GREEN LINE allotted to the 2nd Division which had not yet been captured. The Battalion was therefore ordered to be ready for an immediate move. The Commanding Officer and the Adjutant then proceeded with the Brigadier and the Brigade Major to the Headquarters of the 6th Inf. BDE. in VALLADE TRENCH to discuss arrangements. It there transpired that the 3rd Division had been ordered to re-form and to move forward again to the attack of SERRE in conjunction with the proposed attack of the 2 Battalions of the 99th INF. BDE., and further that General Daly had informed the 2nd Division that another frontal attack on these positions

would be fruitless on account of :-

1. Heavy Machine Gun fire from SBROS,
2. Strength of Enemy wire,
3. The impossibility of arranging a satisfactory barrage in view of the fact that some portions of the Left Battalion of his BDE., was still in front of our lines and that its position was unknown.

General Daly advised that it was better to enlarge the gap already made by the 5th Bde. in the enemy trenches rather than risk with a frontal attack another rebuff on the Left Section of the Division's front.

After telephonic communication with the Division this plan was adopted and General Kellett decided that, owing to the present disposition of the BDE. in the trenches, the attack should be carried out by the 22nd Royal Fusiliers <sup>supported</sup> and by a composite Battalion, under Lieut. Col. H.A.Vernon, D.S.O., consisting of 2 Companies of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers and 2 Coys. of the 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. (Two Coys. of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers had already reinforced the 5th Bde.).

The attack was ordered to be carried out as soon as possible. and Lieut. Col. H.A.Vernon, D.S.O. was summoned to join the conference at the Headquarters of the 22nd Royal Fusiliers, WHITE CITY.

Preliminary plans for the attack were discussed and the conference adjourned to the 5th INF. BDE. Headquarters, also at the WHITE CITY, to make final arrangements. There they were informed that this attack was cancelled as it was necessary for a defensive flank to be made formed immediately by a Battalion of the 99th INF. BDE. in order to protect the left of the forward position now held by the Division. The defensive flank was to face NORTH and the BDE. ordered the 22nd Royal Fusiliers to carry out this operation.

Simultaneously orders were received that 2 Battalions of the 99th BDE. were to form up behind the 5th BDE. and pass through them to the attack.

and capture of MUNICH TRENCH The attack was to be carried out as soon as possible. The BDE. decided that this attack should be carried out by the 1st Bn. R. Berks. Regt. and the 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. On the suggestion of Commanding Officers the BDE. represented to the Division that the lateness of the hour (3.p.m.), and the present disposition in the trenches of the battalions concerned, made it desirable that the attack should be postponed to the following morning. This suggestion was accepted.

The conference then dispersed.

At about 7.p.m. the Commanding Officer attended BDE. Headquarters to discuss plans for the attack.

Operation Orders were issued by the 99th BDE. at 10.p.m. Under these orders, the BDE. (less the 22nd Royal Fusiliers) were to pass through the 5th BDE. on the GREEN LINE and capture and consolidate MUNICH TRENCH from Q.6.a.6.0. to K.36.c.2.5. and to form a defensive flank facing NORTH from this latter point along the Communication Trench running from MUNICH TRENCH to SERRE TRENCH at K.35.d.5.8.

The attack was to be carried out by the 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. (on the right) and the 1st Bn. Royal Berks Regt. (on the left), with the 23rd Royal Fusiliers in support, 2 Coys. of the last named supporting the 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. and 2 Coys. the 1st Bn. Royal Berks Regt.

The 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. and the 1/R. Berks. were to be formed up on the GREEN LINE in readiness for the attack at ZERO minus 1 hour. The objective was MUNICH TRENCH from Q.6.a.5.0. to the trench junction on WAGON ROAD at K.36.c.2.6. The dividing line between the Battalions in the attack was a line drawn from Q.5.a.8.0. to Q.6.a.3.9. (inclusive to 1st Bn. K.R.R.C.)

A defensive flank was to be formed by the 1st Bn. Royal Berks Regt. along the Communication Trench parallel to and NORTH of LAGRE from K.36.c.2.6. to the Green line at K.35.d.4.9.

The orders issued to Coy. Commanders by the O.C. 1st Bn. K.R.R.C. were as follows:-

Coy. would move at 1.a.m. from their assembly trenches in TAUPIN and ELLIS SQUARE in the order "C", "A", "D", 1 Sub-section of the M.G.C. "B" and the H.Q. Lewis Guns, along ROMAN ROAD to 6th AVENUE down the Old British Line. The right of "C" Coy. was to rest on NORTH STREET and the left of "A" Coy. on 6th AVENUE. These two Coys. were to move forward to the GREEN LINE and as soon as they were clear of the Old British Line their positions there were to be taken by "D" and "B" Coys. The M.G.C. Sub-section was to be with the rear wave of "D" Coy., and the H.Qrs. Lewis Guns, under 2nd Lieut. R.F. Lewndes, were to be with the rear wave of "B" Coy. The attack formation was to be 4 waves, each of 2 half Coys. All were to be in position behind the GREEN LINE at <sup>minus 1 hour</sup> ZERO, the left flank to direct. Battalion Headquarters were to be in WHITE CITY.

At 1.a.m. Coys. commenced to move in accordance with orders. Some delay occurred in 6th AVENUE owing to other troops being in the trench and it was 5.55.a.m. before all the assaulting waves were in position for the attack. The leading wave was about 200 yds. in front of the GREEN LINE. (This position was taken up in order to conform with the position taken up by the left Battalion of the BDE.). In the meantime Battalion Headquarters left ELLIS SQUARE at 2.15.a.m. and was established in WHITE CITY at 3.15.a.m.

at 6.a.m. our Artillery Barrage commenced and the waves advanced to the attack. It was dark and subsequently misty; even at 7.30.a.m. it was only possible to see for a distance of about 150 - 200 yds.

None of the Officers or N.C.O's., had ever seen the objective or the ground over which the attack was being made and added to these difficulties the Artillery barrage on our right flank was 100 yards in advance of that on our left. It is therefore not surprising that the attack lost direction. It first moved in a South Easterly direction and afterwards in a North Easterly direction and at about 6.30.a.m. two simultaneous attacks were delivered, one on LEAVE AVENUE and the other on NEW TRENCH, both of which were captured. These attacks are described below.

(i) Attack on LEAVE AVENUE - 4 Officers and 80 N.C.O's., and men attacked this trench from the South at 6.30.a.m. captured it, and proceeded with its consolidation under the impression that they were in MUNICH TRENCH. Bombing posts were established on the Eastern and Western flanks, the Eastern post being about 80 yds. short of the junction LEAVE AVENUE with MUNICH TRENCH. When it was discovered that the trench was not MUNICH TRENCH a bombing attack on that trench was at once organised. This attack did not succeed because

(a) Our Artillery barrage continued to rest on MUNICH TRENCH and LEAVE AVENUE, being especially severe at the junction of the two trenches.

(b) The party was heavily sniped from MUNICH TRENCH.

For these reasons and also because it was not possible to get into touch with other troops on either the North or South a withdrawal was made to the SUNKEN ROAD. This was completed at 1.30.p.m.

In this attack 62 prisoners, including 2 Officers, were taken.

(ii) Attack on NEW TRENCH - This trench was attacked from the South (apparently by two independent parties. One party made its way to about 30 yds. from the junction of NEW TRENCH and MUNICH TRENCH. The other party, when they discovered that they were not in their objective, decided to make an attempt on MUNICH TRENCH, and the

None of the Officers or N.C.O's., had ever seen the objective or the ground over which the attack was being made and added to these difficulties the Artillery barrage on our right flank was 100 yards in advance of that on our left. It is therefore not surprising that the attack lost direction. It first moved in a South Easterly direction and afterwards in a North Easterly direction and at about 6.30.a.m. two simultaneous attacks were delivered, one on LEAVE AVENUE and the other on NEW TRENCH, both of which were captured. These attacks are described below.

(i) Attack on LEAVE AVENUE - 4 Officers and 80 N.C.O's., and men attacked this trench from the South at 6.30.a.m. captured it, and proceeded with its consolidation under the impression that they were in MUNICH TRENCH. Bombing posts were established on the Eastern and Western flanks, the Eastern post being about 80 yds. short of the junction <sup>of</sup> LEAVE AVENUE with MUNICH TRENCH. When it was discovered that the trench was not MUNICH TRENCH a bombing attack on that trench was at once organised. This attack did not succeed because

(a) Our Artillery barrage continued to rest on MUNICH TRENCH and LEAVE AVENUE, being especially severe at the junction of the two trenches.

(b) The party was heavily sniped from MUNICH TRENCH.

For these reasons and also because it was not possible to get into touch with other troops on either the North or South a withdrawal was made to the SUNKEN ROAD. This was completed at 1.30.p.m.

In this attack 62 prisoners, including 2 Officers, were taken.

(ii) Attack on NEW TRENCH - This trench was attacked from the South (apparently by two independent parties. One party made its way to about 50 yds. from the junction of NEW TRENCH and MUNICH TRENCH. The other party, when they discovered that they were not in their objective, decided to make an attempt on MUNICH TRENCH, and the

40 men were lined out in shell holes South of NEW TRENCH about 150 yds. from and facing MUNICH TRENCH. As our barrage was still on that trench the attack was abandoned and preparations for digging in were made. As soon as the mist lifted it was apparent that the party was in an impossible position, as the party was in direct enfilade fire from the enemy and was not in touch with troops on either flank. It was therefore decided to withdraw and the withdrawal began between 9 and 9.30 a.m. down NEW TRENCH under fire from our own Artillery.

The other party already in NEW TRENCH was withdrawn at the same time. The withdrawal was effected without a single casualty. Both parties were then reformed behind the SUNKEN ROAD and after consultation with the Officer Commanding the 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers a position was taken up in the SUNKEN ROAD. At 1.30 p.m. the party from LEAVE AVENUE joined this detachment.

The Battalion then proceeded to consolidate the position: a good deep trench was dug. Two Coys. of the 23rd Bn. Royal Fusiliers were entrenched immediately in rear of the Battalion and at 3 p.m. the 6th Bn. Bedford's Regt. and 11th Bn. Royal Warwick's Regt. arrived and remained in the SUNKEN ROAD.

The position taken up viz., from Q.5.d.4.8. to about Q.5.a.6.5., was held until orders were received for the Battalion to withdraw to the Old British Line and occupy the line STIRLING TRENCH, GREEN STREET, VALLADE. This was effected at about 3 a.m. on the 16th.

on 17th  
At 3 p.m. the Battalion in accordance with orders left the trenches for MAILLY MAILLET WOOD East.

APPENDIX "A" shewing the times of various events is attached.

Observations on the Attack.

The failure to accomplish the capture of the objective was due to loss of direction caused by the following:-

(i) ZERO hour was fixed at too early an hour, especially considering that at this time of the year morning mists are very prevalent.

Consequently the taking of compass bearings on fixed objects in front was impossible.

(ii) An opportunity of viewing the ground and the objective in daylight had not been accorded to Officers and N.C.O's.,

(iii) Guides to the GREEN LINE were not provided and it was therefore not possible to take full advantage of the time given to get into position.

(iv) Our barrage was very erratic, being 100 yds. further forward on our right flank than on our left.

(v) The Barrage instead of lifting 150 yds. to the rear of the objective remained on it and some guns were firing short of the objective.

I am strongly of opinion that before any attack is carried out the ground should be viewed in daylight by Officers and N.C.O's., and I also suggest that attacks at this time of the year are more likely to prove successful if postponed to 8.a.m. or 9.a.m.

20/11/16

JH Farrand Major  
Cudg. 1/KRRR

## APPENDIX III

### 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps – War Diary

#### The Battle of Ancre – 14 November 1916

##### APPENDIX "A".

- 1.a.m. Coys. moved from trenches in following order:-  
"C" and "A" Coys. from TAUPIN North of Roman Road, "D" and "B"  
Coys. from Taupin and Ellis Square via Roman Road, 6th Avenue  
along Front Line.
- 2.15.a.m. Headquarters moved to White City from Ellis Square.
- 3.15.a.m. Headquarters established in White City.
- 5.55.a.m. Assaulting waves were all in position behind Green Line.
- 6.a.m. Barrage commenced.
- 6.30.a.m. Barrage seemed to slacken appreciably.
- 7.a.m. Barrage almost ceased.
- 7.35.a.m. Reported by wounded man that Battalion was in Munich Trench.  
This was confirmed by an Officer of the Royal Berkshire Regt.  
the Officer Commanding 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers who transmitted  
the information to us. ( This information proved inaccurate.
- 8.25.a.m. Message received (timed 7 a.m. ) from O.C. "C" Coy. that he  
had reached a traversed Communication Trench. Owing to  
thick mist he had no idea where he was. No one on his flanks.  
Was hanging on but expected to have to withdraw.
- 8.27.a.m. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers reported that the Battalion was still  
in Munich Trench. (inaccurate).
- 8.55.a.m. Phone message from 5th Bde. read that 1st Bn. Royal Berks,  
holding Munich Trench have taken 60 prisoners.
- 9.40.a.m. O.C. 2nd Bn. M.L.I. reported that he hears that Yellow Line  
has been captured. Numbers of Besch Prisoners between Green  
and Yellow Lines look as if they wish to surrender. At least  
1 and possibly 2 Coys. of 22nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers in right  
Sector, South of Crater Line, standing by for further orders.

10.30.a.m. Lewis Gun Sergeant reported personally that part of the Battalion was in New Trench and endeavouring to force their way into Munich Trench.

11.25.a.m. Report received that 99th Bde. are leaving Munich Trench on account of shell fire from our own artillery. Prisoners coming with them.

11.50.a.m. Wounded man reported that we were being shelled by Besch in Leave Alley where some of 51st Division were with us.

12 noon. Report from Bde. that 200 of my Battalion are in Sunken Road from Point Q.5.b.5.0. Northwards.

12.5.p.m. Capt. N.F.Drummond reported at Battalion Headquarters giving situation as follows:- 118 men of the Battalion in Sunken Road and 2 Coy. of 23rd Royal Fusiliers entrenched immediately in rear. Battalion suffered considerably from our own barrage. He also stated that Capt. T.N.F.Wilson and men with him had not been seen and that Battalion having lost direction had attacked New Trench thinking it was Munich Trench.

12.30.p.m. Advanced Battalion Headquarters established in German Lines.

12.35.p.m. Orders for attack by 6th Bn. Bedfords and 11th Bn. Warwicks arrived at White City.

1.45.p.m. Headquarters moved from White City to German Front Line reaching there at 2.55.p.m.

2.30.p.m. While crossing "No Man's Land" received message from Capt. T.N.F.Wilson (timed 1.5.p.m.) stating that he had collected 70 men and joined rest of Battalion in Wagen Road. Also that he had captured 2 Officers and 60 men.

5.5.p.m. Company Commanders attended Battalion Headquarters and explained situation which was roughly that the attack came to time. Barrage on right 100 yds. in front of Barrage on left

during the advance. The advance went in a South Easterly direction crossing Sunken Road and Leave Alley. It then turned in a North Easterly direction on realising that direction had been lost and New Trench was attacked and captured ~~xxxx~~ instead of Munich Trench. Leave Trench Captured by 1 Coy. and held from Q.6.c.4.5. to about Q.6.c.9.7. Two Coys. of a Battalion of 51st Division were in Leave Trench West of us. The 6th ~~Edms~~ Bn. Bedford Regt. and 11th Bn. Royal Warwicks had entered Sunken Road at about 3.p.m.

20/4/16

S. H. Leonard Major  
Cundji/KRRC

**Researched and written**

**by**

**Mike Royden**

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