



Henry Bernard Gordon

Lieutenant

7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action

7 July 1916

Henry was born in London on 8 March 1894. He attended Dunstable Grammar School before working as a Clerk at the London Stock Exchange.

Henry gained a commission as 2nd Lieutenant with 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment in October 1915 and was promoted to Lieutenant on 15 January 1916, Gazetted 10 May 1916. That year, as a unit of the 36th Brigade, 12th Division Henry's Battalion was involved in the Battle of Loos and the Actions of the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

The first months of 1916 were quiet until the Battalion moved up to Hencourt and Millencourt on 1 July, in reserve to the British infantry attack that had begun earlier that morning and on 6 July orders were received for the Battalion to relieve the 37th Brigade in the trenches facing Ovillers with a plan to attack the following morning.

The plan was to attack company by company in a "leapfrogging" movement for 400 yards across No Man's Land which was a tangle of shell holes and then penetrate 1,200 yards into the German trench system.

At 6:45am on 7 July the British artillery began a bombardment causing the Germans to retaliate with their own, causing around 350 casualties before zero hour.

The officer leading the attack described it thus: *"We started promptly at 8:30 with very heavy machine gun and artillery fire coming in from the north. Ten men fell immediately. On approaching the German front line we dropped into two enormous shell holes and I reorganised for a further rush into the front line. Before we got off Lieutenant Gordon and three other men were killed"*

By the time the Division was withdrawn to the area on Contay on 9 July, official deaths recorded that day for the 7th Royal Sussex were 120, of which 91, including Lieutenant Henry Gordon have un-identified graves.

Final resting place unknown

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial

Picardie

France



Robert Buchanan Wilkes Gosse

2nd Lieutenant

7th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment attached to 1st/6th Warwickshire Regiment

Died of wounds

1 April 1917

Aged 27

Robert Buchanan Wilkes Gosse was born at High Street, Eccleshall, Staffordshire in 1889, the second son of Dr. Hope Wilkes Gosse a Physician and Surgeon and Mary Gosse (nee Hall).

In 1901 he was attending Yarlett Hall, a boarding school in Staffordshire. He then went on to Dunstable Grammar School. In 1911 he was back living with his parents in Eccleshall and working as a bank clerk.

He joined the 5th South Staffordshire Regiment and after landing in France on 3 March 1915 he served six months as a sergeant before obtaining a commission in the Cheshire Regiment. He was attached to the 1/6 Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and went to the front with them in September 1916.

Following Robert's death his Commanding Officer wrote to his father: *"... In the absence of his Captain, he was in command of his company, had reached his objective, carried out all his orders, and was getting his men settled in their position when a shell exploded quite close to him and injured him fatally. Your son died as he lived, doing his duty. He was an indefatigable worker and displayed under all circumstances singular devotion to duty. He never spared himself and has done consistently good work, especially on 4 February when the Prussian Guard raided our trenches. Your son was a thoroughly reliable, efficient, and loyal subordinate, and as such I appreciated him accordingly."*

Remembered with Honour

Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension

Picardie

France



Eric Arthur Grace

Private

24th Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's)

Died of illness

31 January 1917

Aged 22

Eric Arthur, son of Arthur Grace, a Baker and Confectioner and Annie Davis Grace (nee Partridge) was born at 20 Park Street, Luton on 23 July 1894. After leaving Dunstable Grammar School in 1908 he became an Engineer's Apprentice with a motor car manufacturer.

He enlisted at St Albans on 3 September 1914 as Private 720657 with the 24th Battalion, London Regiment and embarked to Le Havre on 16 March 1915.

Eric's Battalion was part of the 142nd Brigade, 47th Division which for the next two years was "in the thick of it".

They engaged in many major battles. In 1915 The Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May), The Battle of Festubert (15-25 May), The Battle of Loos (25 September - 1 October) and The Hohenzollern Redoubt (13-19 October).

The action continued unabated throughout 1916. They fought off the German attack at Vimy Ridge (21 May) and they were involved in many actions during the first Battle of The Somme that began on 1 July. The Battle of Flers-Courcelette in which the Division captured High Wood, the Battle of the Transloy Ridges where they captured Eaucourt l'Abbaye and the attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt.

Although Eric wasn't involved in every one of the battles, he was still in the front line or in reserve and the conditions for the troops in the trenches in the Winter of 1916/17 were appalling. Many men died of illness and disease due to the wet and cold and lack of sanitation, including Eric who died of bronchial pneumonia.

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Poperinge
Belgium



Reginald Cumberland Green M C

Lieutenant
1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.
Died of wounds
18 May 1916
Aged 31

Reginald was born at The Larches, Luton in 1884, the son of John William Green, a Brewer and Justice of the Peace for Bedfordshire and Mary Ann Green (nee Cumberland).

He was educated at Dunstable Grammar School and Bedford School.

After studying Law, Reginald enlisted with 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment and arrived in France with the battalion in October 1915 where they were positioned close to Bray-sur-Somme remaining in or around the area throughout the Winter.

Although there was no real defensive or offensive action at this time the line was a very uncomfortable and dangerous place to be, even when in reserve. Heavy rain turned the trenches into mud baths and the German Artillery and snipers were active.

At 3am on 18 May 1916 Reginald was inspecting one of the battalion's own mines when he was shot by a sniper. He died before medical aid could reach him.

Remembered with Honour

Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery

Arras
France



Richard Charley Gutteridge

Lieutenant

6th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, attached 15th Battalion

Killed in Action

28 May 1918

Aged 25

Richard, born 1 December 1892 at 2 Priory Road, Dunstable, was the son of Richard William Gutteridge, a Straw Hat Manufacturer's Warehouseman and Annie Mary Beatrice Gutteridge (Nee Carver). He attended Dunstable Grammar School where he excelled in Maths, Experimental Science and Scripture.

Early in 1918 he married Dorothy Alice Thorne at Colchester, Essex.

It's not known when Richard enlisted or was sent to France. However, he was promoted to Lieutenant on 1 June 1916.

The 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry was heavily involved in the Battle of the Aisne on 27/28 May 1918. The Battalion War Diary describes the action:

"A message was received to the effect that a prisoner had stated that after a three-hours' bombardment the enemy was going to attack at 4am. The necessary precautions were taken, however and promptly at 1am the barrage came down.

It was such as had never been experienced by the Battalion before. The enemy flooded the whole area to a depth of about 3,000 yards with high explosive, shrapnel, and gas shells. At 4.50am a message was received stating that the enemy had attacked in force and had overwhelmed the forward posts. An enemy tank was also reported to be tearing up the wire.

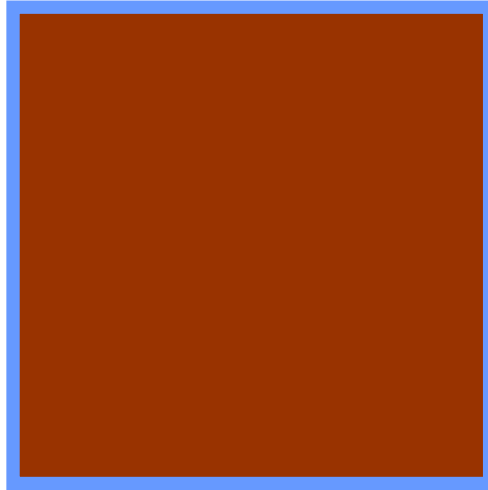
The enemy was advancing rapidly and the Battalion was still under the barrage and the smoke made matters very difficult. Enemy machine guns were now firing from the rear, and it was realised that apart from about half-a-dozen orderlies who formed the remains of the Headquarters personnel, the Battalion had been practically annihilated."

Remembered with Honour

Hermonville Military Cemetery

Champagne-Ardenne

France



Gerald Hermann Hahn M M

Drummer

9th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment

Gerald was born 14 August 1897 at 94 Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead, London the only son of Hermann Hahn, a Wholesale Furrier and Gertrude Lucy Hahn (nee Fox). He attended the Habdashers' School but after his father died in 1904, Gertrude married Frederick Scroggs, a Dunstable based Hay and Straw Dealer living at 33 High Street South, Dunstable. Gerald attended the Grammar School for a short period in 1908 before enrolling as a boarder at St Mary's College, Harlow.

Gerald enlisted as Drummer 18/737 with the West Yorkshire Regiment on 11 April 1915 entering the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Theatre on 6 October that year. The regiment saw action in Turkey before moving to Egypt on Suez guarding duties and shortly after moved again, landing in France, at Marseilles, on 1 July 1916.

His Battalion went into action soon after being involved in the capture of the Wundt-Werk, then followed The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, where he won his MM, as Gazetted on 11 November 1916 and The Battle of Thiepval.



Kenneth Healing

2nd Lieutenant

6th Battalion, Notts and Derby Regiment, The Sherwood Foresters

Killed in Action

27 April 1917

Aged 23

Kenneth was born on 15 December 1893 at Turnpike Road, Kensworth. He was the son of John Healing, a retired Tea Planter and Emmeline Healing (nee Reynolds).

Educated at Dunstable Grammar School from 1903 to 1908, Kenneth subsequently gained employment with the London and County Bank at Leighton Buzzard.

He enlisted with the Royal Bucks Hussars as Private 1585 before being gazetted to a commission in the Sherwood Foresters in the autumn of 1915. He was stationed at Watford for a considerable time and was eventually posted to France, arriving on 26 February 1917, just prior to the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

The 6th Battalion were in the line around Loos when Kenneth was shot by a sniper. He lived for half an hour, but never regained consciousness.

The family received the following expression of sympathy from the King: *"Buckingham Palace, 17 May 1917. The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow."*

Remembered with Honour

Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery

Picardie
France



Edward Elers Delavel Henderson V C

Lieutenant Colonel

7th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment
attached 9th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died of wounds

25 January 1917

Aged 38

Edward was born at Simla, India on 2 October 1878, the son of Philip Durham Henderson, Maj Gen, Indian Army and Rosannah Augusta Henderson (nee Cherry). In 1891 was living with his Mother in Fulham.

He attended Dunstable Grammar School and in 1910 married Madeline Fish in London.

On 10 April 1900 Edward was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant into the 5th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment and in July that year was seconded for service with the West African Frontier Force. He was promoted to Lieutenant in June 1902.

He served in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia as a Major in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment before becoming Acting Lieutenant Colonel in the North Staffordshire Regiment on 6 July 1916.

The London Gazette, dated 8 June 1917, records the following:-

"For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and personal example when in command of his battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson brought his battalion up to our two front-line trenches, which were under intense fire, and his battalion had suffered heavy casualties when the enemy made a heavy counter-attack and succeeded in penetrating our line in several places, the situation becoming critical. Although shot through the arm, Lieutenant Colonel Henderson jumped on to the parapet and advanced alone some distance in front of his battalion, cheering them on under the most intense fire over 500 yards of open ground.

Again wounded, he nevertheless continued to lead his men on in the most gallant manner, finally capturing the position by a bayonet charge. He was again twice wounded and died when he was eventually brought in."

Remembered with Honour

Amara War Cemetery

Al `Amarah, Maysan
Iraq



William Hesseltine

2nd Lieutenant
9th Battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)
Killed in Action
21 August 1916
Aged 34

William was born at 6 Alma Terrace, South Kensington in October 1881, the son of Frederick Beaumont Hesseltine, a Stockbroker and Sarah Ann Hesseltine (nee Isaac).

He was educated at a London private school and Dunstable Grammar School.

William enlisted with the Imperial Yeomanry on 13 March 1901 and saw action in the Boer War.

After the war ended William came back to England but returned to South Africa in 1910 to work in the gold mining industry.

When war was declared in 1914 he joined the local Mgadi Defence Force and saw action in British East Africa at the fight for Ignito Hill. He went on to see service with the East African Mounted Rifles before being granted leave to return to England where he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant with the 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade. He embarked for France, landing at Boulogne.

William's regiment was part of the 42nd Brigade in the 14th (Light) Division and on 30 July 1915 they were involved in the Action of Hooge, in which the Division had the misfortune to be the first to be attacked by flamethrower. William was wounded in this action and returned to England for a short spell to recover.

He returned to France and almost immediately saw action in the Second Attack on Bellewaarde on 25 September 1915.

A period of relative quiet followed until the Battle of Delville Wood that began on 14 July 1916.

William's regiment went into action on 11 August and following a long period of fighting the Division finally overcame German resistance and took the wood. Unfortunately William was killed on 21 August, a few days before the battle ended.

Remembered with Honour

Delville Wood Cemetery

Longueval
France



Arthur William Hopkins

Private

1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company

Killed in Action

14 November 1916

Aged 23

Arthur was born in 1892 at 13 Park Street, Luton, the son of Arthur Hopkins, a Draper and Ethel Selina Hopkins (nee White) who died giving birth to Arthur.

He enlisted as Private 5078 with the 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company who transferred to the 190th Brigade in 63rd (Royal Naval) Division on 19 July 1916 before embarking for France.

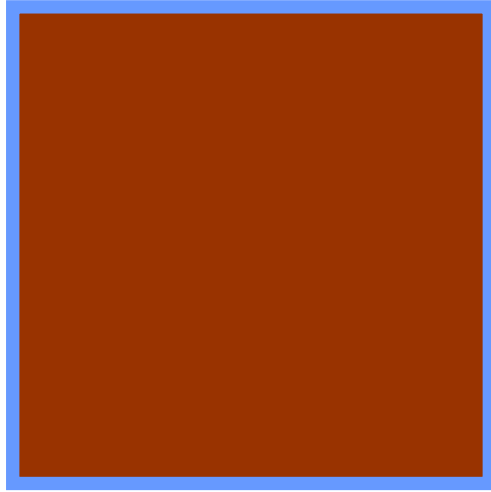
The Battle of the Ancre took place 13-18 November 1916 and was the final large British attack of the first Battle of the Somme, before the winter weather forced a pause in British attacks until the new year.

The 190th Brigade came into the battle on 14 November to link with the troops near the objective and entered Beaucourt, taking 500 prisoners. Beaucourt Trench was captured on the left and troops began to bomb down it towards Leave Avenue but no troops of the 51st Division were found. Two tanks were sent forward to help mop up German troops holding out in the front line, one was bogged down but the other helped take "The Strongpoint" where 400 Germans surrendered. Dugouts towards Station Road yielded another 200 prisoners. At 1:00 p.m. German troops were seen massing near Baillescourt Farm and dispersed by artillery; the captured ground was consolidated overnight. Arthur was killed in this action.

Remembered with Honour

London Cemetery and Extension

Longueval
France



C Jones



Vernon Jepson

Private
20th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers
Died
15 April 1918
Aged 32

Vernon was born at on 26 April 1884 at 16 Carlton Terrace, Heaton Road, Heaton Norris, Lancashire, the only son of James Jepson, an Architect and Land Surveyor and Margaret Ann Jepson (nee Wight). In 1901 he was boarding at Dunstable Grammar School and in 1911 was back in Lancashire living with his parents and working as an Assistant Surveyor for the Manchester Corporation.

Verson enlisted as Private 5133 with the Royal Fusiliers and landed in France on 14 November 1915. Vernon's Battalion were involved in much of the heavy fighting throughout 1916 and 1917 and in early 1918 the Germans launched their massive spring offensive.

"9 April 1918, the German Army launched the second phase of its spring offensive, driving the British back many miles over the following days. Vernon's unit arrived on the 10th, immediately deploying to support troops holding positions at Estaires but were forced to withdraw a few hours later.

11 April they were engaged in brisk fighting with the advancing Germans which held up the attack for several hours. At about 2am on the 12th, a further withdrawal was made to a new position some two miles to the rear. The Fusiliers were heavily attacked at 9am and fell back to Bleu where they stayed until 4pm. The rest of the day was spent in a series of further retreats. The next day they again came under heavy attack, but they held off the enemy by the use of their light Lewis machine guns. By nightfall, both flanks were exposed and the Germans were starting to work their way round to the rear leaving no option but a further retreat and the Battalion was relieved from the fighting during the night and moved to camp at Borre having suffered 339 casualties - dead, wounded or missing."

Vernon's Medal Index Card includes a note *"Suicide 15-4-18, entails no forfeiture"*. One can only imagine the stress that caused Vernon to take his own life.

Remembered with Honour

Ebbingham Military Cemetery

Nord-Pas-de-Calais
France



Frederick Aston Key

Bombardier
Active Citizen Force Artillery
Died of wounds
26 September 1914
Aged 30

Frederick was born in 1884 at 30 Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, the son of Augustus Cooper Key, a Physician and Henrietta Sarah Key (nee Preston).

He enlisted as Bombardier 3031 with the Active Citizen Force Artillery in North-East South Africa and whilst serving in the Field Ambulance Unit was involved in the Battle of Sandfontein that took place and opened on 26 September 1914 when a South African patrol went to collect water.

The Germans attacked with four machine-gun units, ten artillery units, and 1,700 riflemen inflicting heavy losses on the South African troops before they made an organized and successful retreat to a defensive perimeter around the nearby Kopje mountain.

Unfortunately, as the telephone line to Ramans Drift had been cut, they were unable to call for reinforcements.

The German guns moved forward to within 1,200 yards of the northern face of Mount Kopje and a short time later the South Africans hoisted a white flag to end the engagement. Frederick died of wounds sustained in this battle.

Remembered with Honour

Warmbad Cemetery
Namibia



Ralph Deards King

Private

1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company

Killed in Action

27 October 1916

Aged 20

Ralf was born in 1896 at 65 St George's Road, Pimlico, London, son of Charles Trinder King, a Police Sergeant and Mary Ann Deards King (nee Elson). In 1911 the King family were living at 50 High Street South, Dunstable where Ralph attended the Grammar School.

He enlisted as Private 4082 with the 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company who transferred to the 190th Brigade in 63rd (Royal Naval) Division on 19 July 1916 before embarking for France.

The 63rd Division wasn't involved in the first Somme conflict proper until the Battle of The Ancre that began on 13 November 1916. Unfortunately Ralf was killed in the sporadic hostile activity of the Front two weeks before.

Remembered with Honour

Knightsbridge Cemetery

Mesnil-Martinsart

France



Walter Forster Knight

Lieutenant

16th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Killed in Action

27 February 1917

Aged 28

Walter was born in Islington in 1888, the son of William Forster Knight, a Warehouseman and Emma Sarah Knight (Nee Wright). He attended Dunstable Grammar School and in 1911 was an undergraduate at Cambridge University.

When he married Emily Bertha Filmer in October 1915 he was a 2nd Lieutenant serving in the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Attached to the 16th Battalion they arrived in France in March 1916 and took part in some of the phases of the Battle of the Somme.

On 21 February 1917 the 16th Battalion went into the trenches in the Hebuterne sector with the 18th Battalion alongside them. There was much uncertainty as to what the enemy were up to and various patrols were sent out during the following few days and encountered sporadic resistance.

On the evening of 26th February Walter's Battalion received orders to launch an attack on Rossignol Wood at 6:30am the following morning.

As soon as the attack began they were met by heavy machine gun fire and suffered many casualties. An eye witness reported: "*We took cover as soon as the machine guns opened fire, it was impossible to move. I could see 7 or 8 men lying on the ground, killed or wounded and I lay in the same position until about 4pm.*"

An officer's report gives the same story: "*I saw a number of men laying in the open, wounded and unable to get back, it was impossible to get near them and any who attempted to reach cover were sniped on.*"

The 16th Battalion suffered 222 casualties that day. Two officers, one being Walter were killed along with 74 other ranks, 85 were wounded and 61 were missing presumed killed.

Remembered with Honour

Owl Trench Cemetery

Hebuterne

France



John Edward Langridge

Private

1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company

Killed in Action

17 April 1917

Aged 26

John, or 'Jack' as his family called him was born on 9 January 1891 at Crawley Villas, High Street South, Dunstable, the only son of Arthur Edward Langridge a Bill Discounter and Annie Langridge (nee Miller).

John attended Dunstable Grammar School in 1907 and by the time of the 1911 Census, was an "articled pupil to an Auctioneer."

He spent 4 years as a Territorial with the Bedfordshire Yeomanry before enlisting as Private 3494 with the Honourable Artillery Company on 12 May 1915 where he took up home duties until posted to France on 15 July 1916.

John saw action along with his fellow "Old Dunstabolians" in the 1st Battalion, HAC.

The Battle of Arras was a major offensive lasting from 9 April to 16 May 1917 when German trenches to the east of Arras were attacked.

The battle unfolded in ten distinct phases, two of which were the first and second Battles of The Scarpe and it was in the period of relative quiet before the second battle that John lost his life.

Final resting place unknown

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial

Nord-Pas-de-Calais

France



John Scurr Leese

Private

1st/6th Battalion, Manchester Regiment

Killed in Action

7 August 1915

Aged 26

John was born on 20 February 1889 at 3 Lancaster Road, Birkdale, the son Spencer Leese, an Artist and Mary Ellen Leese (nee Hudson).

From 1901 to 1906 he attended Dunstable Grammar School and then spent two years at the City and Guilds Technical College, Finsbury studying Mechanical Engineering, qualifying on 13 March 1908.

John enlisted as Private 2193 with the 1st/6th Battalion, Manchester Regiment and on 6 May 1915 his regiment, part of the 42nd East Lancashire Division, landed at Gallipoli. More 14,224 men of the Division landed at Cape Helles.

The Division was involved in three notable attempts to break out of the Helles bridgehead to capture the dominating heights around the village of Krithia. These attacks took place on 6-8 May (in which only the Lancashire Fusiliers Brigade of the Division took part), 4 June and 6-13 August. The last of these is known officially as the Battle of Krithia Vineyard, which gives some impression of the relatively small areas being so violently contested. It was undertaken not only to try to capture ground but to divert Turk attention from a large British landing further up the coast at Suvla Bay; an enterprise which failed and ultimately led to the decision to evacuate the hopeless position on Gallipoli.

By mid August 1915 when John was killed, the East Lancashire Division, through battle casualties and sickness, was down to little more than one third of its normal establishment. The Division, along with all other units in the Helles bridgehead, made a successful withdrawal from Gallipoli by 8 January 1916.

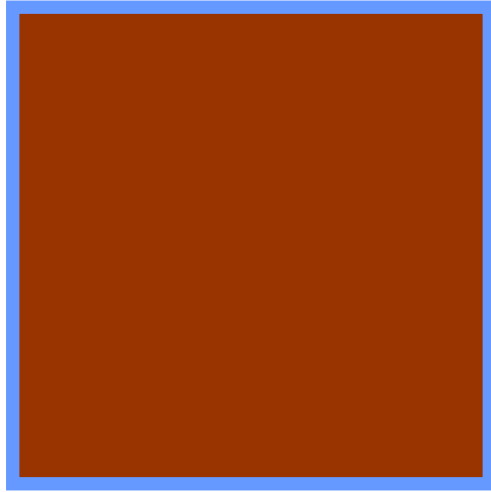
Final resting place unknown

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial

Gallipoli

Turkey



A Lewis



Alan Ross Lockhart

Lieutenant

13th Battalion, Manchester Regiment.

Died

7 December 1917

Aged 33

Alan was born on 8 October 1884 at 3-4 High Street South, Dunstable, one of 12 children of Charles Lockhart, a Draper and Outfitter, and Sarah Sophia Lockhart (nee Paddon).

Alan won a scholarship to Dunstable Grammar School at the age of 10 and later went on to Kings College and subsequently became a 'Kindergarten Teacher' before joining the Civil Service as a Port Clerk for Customs and Excise in London and Sunderland.

Alan received a commission and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant to The Manchester Regiment who embarked to Egypt on 13 January 1916 and on to Salonika, where Alan served from 15 February to 7 December 1917 as Intelligence Officer and Assistant Adjutant, taking part in various operations against the Bulgars around Lake Doiran and at Machukovo.

He died at Salonika 7 December 1917 of Enteric (Typhoid) contracted while on active service.

Major Scott, Commanding Officer, 13th Battalion Manchester Regiment, wrote: "*He is greatly missed by all. He was cheerful, interesting, and a most promising officer.*" Similarly, Major Smylie commented "*He was one of the mainstays of the Battalion.*"

Remembered with Honour

Mikra British Cemetery

Kalamaria

Greece



Charles William Reginald Looker

Trooper

1st Bedfordshire Yeomanry attached 9th Cavalry Brigade

Killed in Action

1 February 1916

Aged 22

Charles, known as Reginald was born in 1894 at Church Street, Buckden, Huntingdonshire, the son of William Looker, a Flour Miller and Annie Looker (nee Markham).

He attended Dunstable Grammar School and after, worked in his father's flour milling business. He then went to work with Mr. Ben Whiting, of Willen, Newport Pagnell to learn farming.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted as Trooper 1236 in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry with his brother Richard, under the command of Colonel W. Selby Lowndes, Master of the Whaddon Hounds.

The Bedfordshire Yeomanry was absorbed into the 9th Cavalry Brigade in the 1st Cavalry Division and took part in most of the major actions where cavalry was used as a mounted mobile force, and also many others where the troops were dismounted and effectively served as infantry. Charles arrived in France on 10 June 1915 and there followed a period where no major battles took place, just small actions and skirmishes.

It was during one of these small actions that Charles' brother had a terrible shock when, not receiving a response from a comrade who he had seen disappear through a gap, went to the spot and found Charles lying dead, having been shot through the head.

Remembered with Honour

Vermelles British Cemetery

Nord-Pas-de-Calais

France



Oliver Thomas Millard

Lance Corporal
Bedfordshire Yeomanry attached 9th Cavalry Brigade
Died of wounds
12 August 1918
Aged 25

Oliver was born in 1892 at Home Farm, Milton Bryan, Bedfordshire, the son of William Whinnett Millard, a Farmer and Elizabeth Millard (nee Holmes). He was educated at Dunstable Grammar School after which he worked on his father's farm at Milton Bryan.

He enlisted as Trooper 30451 with the Bedfordshire Yeomanry at Dunstable on 14 September 1914 and with the 9th Cavalry Brigade, served in France from 10 June 1915 until his death from wounds suffered during The Battle of Amiens which lasted five days and proved to be the most decisive battle on the Western Front.

From the War Diaries: "At 04.20 on August 8th 1918, the attack began. Troops from Canada, Australia and Britain advanced under a creeping barrage from 700 artillery guns that advanced 100 metres every three minutes. Heavy tanks were used to attack well-defended German positions while smaller tanks – 'Whippets' – were used to probe the German defences. As the Allies advanced, 600 aircraft from the RAF attacked German positions dropping phosphorous bombs. With the enemy falling back, British cavalry moved forward to exploit the breach. Cavalry had suffered very badly in the bogged down conditions of trench warfare but in this attack they took much land, though suffering heavy casualties."

By the conclusion of the first phase Allied losses numbered 22,200 killed wounded and missing. German losses were an astounding 74,000 killed, wounded, and captured.

Remembered with Honour

Crouy British Cemetery
Crouy-Saint-Pierre
France



Edward Reginald Preston Muddock

Private

15th Battalion, Canadian Infantry Central Ontario Regiment

Killed in Action

4 September 1916

Aged 30

Edward was born in Geneva, Switzerland on 11 September 1886, the son of James Edward Preston Muddock, Journalist and Author and Eleanor Muddock (nee Rudd).

He was educated at Dunstable Grammar School and Gower Street College.

Edward enlisted with the 15th Battalion Canadian Regiment on 16 June 1915 and trained at Calgary before returning to England in November 1915 prior to going to the Western Front.

The Battalion War Diary for 4 September 1916, the day Edward died reads, "*Day passed with the normal amount of shelling, at 1am moved to the front line and relieved the 16th Battalion. Relief completed at 3:30am, 28 casualties. Enemy shelling steady during the night.*"

Remembered with Honour

Courcelette British Cemetery

Picardie
France