



VISITING *the* FALLEN

ARRAS

SOUTH



PETER HUGHES

Visiting the Fallen: Arras South

Visiting the Fallen: Arras South

Peter Hughes



Pen & Sword
MILITARY

First published in Great Britain in 2015 by

PEN & SWORD MILITARY

An imprint of

Pen & Sword Books Ltd

47 Church Street

Barnsley

South Yorkshire

S70 2AS

Copyright © Peter Hughes, 2015

ISBN 978-1-47382-558-1

The right of Peter Hughes to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from the Publisher in writing.

Typeset by Concept, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 5JL.

Printed and bound in England by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY.

Pen & Sword Books Ltd incorporates the imprints of Pen & Sword Archaeology, Atlas, Aviation, Battleground, Discovery, Family History, History, Maritime, Military, Naval, Politics, Railways, Select, Social History, Transport, True Crime, and Claymore Press, Frontline Books, Leo Cooper, Praetorian Press, Remember When, Seaforth Publishing and Wharncliffe.

For a complete list of Pen & Sword titles please contact

PEN & SWORD BOOKS LIMITED

47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS, England

E-mail: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk

Website: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

Dedication

To my father, Jack, who often accompanied me to France and Belgium, and my mother, Mary, who sadly never saw the start of this project – with love and gratitude.

Contents

List of Plates	viii
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	xi
1. Two Male Models – A Highland Tune for the Major – A Dip in the Canche	1
2. Captain Murray’s Pluck – A Man who knew all about Tanks – My Family and other Eagles	22
3. Goings on at Monchy – A Chapel and a Windmill – Port for the Duke’s Table	49
4. A Father and Son meet for the Last Time – ‘Awly Magawly’ and some Cavalrymen – We also fell on 1 July 1916	76
5. Rooks, Cuckoos and <i>Calvaires</i> – Fighting a lost Cause – A Childbirth ends in Tragedy	109
6. Dinner with Sassoon – A Middle Name of Murray – Last Confessions in a Barn	130
7. A Mill and a Crucifix – From the Scarpe to the Piave – A Gallant Cheesemaker	166
8. ‘A Gallant English Officer’ – Sewing Machines and a Portuguese Count – A Mysterious Death in the Woods	189
9. Two Deaths in a Dublin Park – The Mammoth of Morchies – A Swiss Imbroglio	228
10. An Unusual Revelation on Good Friday – Early Days with Fabian Ware – Two Trees, a Sunken Road and a Railway Cutting	265
11. A Mystery off the Cornish Coast – Coffee and Small Comforts – Orchids and Orchards	291
Bibliography	239
Index of Cemeteries	333

List of Plates

Funeral of Major Roderick Ogle Bell-Irving DSO MC, 16th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, near Cagnicourt.

The Battle of Arras near Hénin-sur-Cojeul. A small battlefield cemetery can be seen in the middle of the photograph with a shell bursting a little way beyond it near the road.

A soldier's grave near Bullecourt marked with a simple wooden cross.

Photograph taken from the high ground south of Noreuil on 14 May 1917.

After the war every effort was made to locate lost graves. Here a Grave Registration Unit is uncovering remains.

Another team begins the unpleasant, but necessary task of recovering the body of a fallen soldier after the war.

Photograph showing the bodies of soldiers arriving at a military cemetery for re-burial.

A carpenter making wooden crosses.

Windmill British Cemetery on the Arras–Cambrai Road with the remains of Monchy-le-Preux barely visible in the distance to the left of the Cross of Sacrifice.

The Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery at Arras.

Floral tributes for a fallen soldier.

A mason's yard containing some of the many headstones required to replace each wooden cross.

Today, headstones are cut by computer-programmed machines. Here, the inscription is being done by hand.

A vehicle used by a team from the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Bodies are still being discovered on the battlefields. In 2009 a farmer found the remains of soldiers originally buried in May 1917 after the Second Battle of Bullecourt.

HAC Cemetery, Écoust-Saint-Mein, on 23 April 2013.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the following people for their help during various stages of this work.

To Ian Small at the CWGC office in Maidenhead, who had to contend with my frequent requests for photographic material despite having to prepare for the 70th anniversaries of D-Day and Arnhem, as well as the start of the 1914–1918 centenary commemorations. With each request, Ian trawled the CWGC archives, producing whatever was available and was never less than helpful.

To Parveen Sodhi at the Imperial War Museum, London, for her courtesy and help regarding the licensing of several of the photographs used to illustrate these books.

To the team at Pen & Sword Books, but especially to Design Manager, Roni Wilkinson, for his support and guidance in the months prior to my submission of the work and for his help in procuring some of the photographs used to illustrate it. Also to Matt Jones who oversaw the production, to Jon Wilkinson who did an amazing job designing the book's cover, and to my editor, Irene Moore, for her guidance and encouragement throughout the final stages.

To Ronelda Peters, part of the team at the Canadian National Memorial, Vimy, for her help regarding matters pertaining to the memorial itself. To Nelly Poignonnec, Communication and Public Relations Officer at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Beaurains, France, for putting aside the time to answer all my questions regarding the work of the Commission and for introducing me to many of the staff and craftsmen at Beaurains who somehow manage to cope with the extraordinary demands placed on the organization from around the world. To Isabelle Pilarowski at the Office de Tourisme, Arras, who shares my own desire to raise the profile of Arras and its battlefields as a key destination on the Western Front – we may yet succeed.

To Barrie Duncan, Assistant Museums Officer, Leisure & Culture, South Lanarkshire Council, who was ever ready to delve into long-forgotten editions of *The Covenanter* and provide information from all corners of the regimental archive. Similarly, thanks go to Sandy Leishman at the Highland Fusiliers HQ, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, who was extremely helpful on matters relating to the Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the Great War. He and Barrie were not the only keepers of regimental archives who gave up their time to answer questions, but both were especially helpful.

To the staff at the reading rooms of the British Library, the National Archives at Kew, the Guildhall Library in the City, and the Imperial War Museum, London, for their courtesy and service during the research phase of this project. To author David Kent-Lemon, for his kind advice and support as I took my first steps towards having the work published and who was responsible for introducing me to Pen & Sword.

For many entirely different reasons, I should also like to extend recognition and thanks to the following: Hugh Harvey, friend and colleague for many years, who helped iron out some of the last remaining pieces of research required to complete this book. He has toured the Western Front with me since 1993, as have the following: Dave Beck, Jim Wilcox, Sam Oliver, Alan Oliver, Andy Cook, Douglas Mackenzie, Gareth Berry, not forgetting Dennis Harvey and Frank Wilcox, whose company we dearly miss.

To Garry Reilly, Phil Hughes, Iain Petrie, Darren Bone, and countless other ex-colleagues from Camden who have been particularly supportive since I retired in July 2010, and who, throughout the four years it took to complete this project, provided encouragement along the way. A special mention goes to Danielle Louise Mackinnon, another friend and former colleague from Camden, who always believed in my ability to write and who encouraged me to do so, as did Jane Chiarello and Simon Turner. To all those other wonderful friends, whose kind invitations to lunch, etc. I sometimes had to decline and who never once complained.

Finally, to Peter Gilhooley, who first introduced me to the Western Front Association in 1981. I made my first trip to the battlefields of France and Belgium with Peter in September that year and continued to tour with him for many years after that. His extensive knowledge and infectious enthusiasm fuelled my early interest in the Great War, an interest that has ultimately led to my writing these three books. If it were it not for that initial spark, I might never have been inspired to write them.

This work is also dedicated to the memory of Dave Pilling, who one night went out beyond the wire never to return.

Peter Hughes

Introduction

Like Ypres, Arras was briefly occupied by the Germans in the very early days of the war, but the French soon drove them out. For the remainder of 1914 and throughout 1915, French soldiers held a line just east of the town. In March 1916 the sector was handed over to the British who extended their line southwards from La Bassée. Thereafter, Arras remained in British hands. It was only in the final two months of the war, when the fighting drifted eastwards away from the town, that Arras could finally breathe a sigh of relief. It never quite suffered the destruction that Ypres did, though it was frequently subjected to heavy shelling and in many places its streets and buildings were very badly damaged. It was a town battered and bruised, but essentially still intact. Like Ypres, it had always been a front line town, and for two and a half years it served as 'home' to countless British and Commonwealth soldiers. Both towns shared, and still share, a great deal in common.

Today Arras receives far fewer visitors to its battlefields than either Ypres or the Somme. I would venture even further and say that, in comparison with the other two, it has been seriously neglected, the one notable exception being the Memorial Park at Vimy Ridge. Here, the tunnels, shell holes, craters, concrete trench reconstructions, and the crowning magnificence that is the Canadian National Memorial, provide sufficient visual stimulus to attract large visitor numbers. Sadly, for many, this is where their visit to the Arras battlefield begins and ends. I sincerely hope that the three books in this series help to change all that.

Prior to the publication of *Cheerful Sacrifice* by Jonathan Nicholls in 1990 it was difficult to find any account of the series of military operations fought between April and May 1917, known collectively as the Battle of Arras. More recently, and assisted by Jeremy Banning and the Imperial War Museum, Peter Barton produced another fine publication, one of a series of books based on panoramas, 'then' and 'now', in many ways similar in style to the ones written by John Giles in his *Then and Now* series, where original photographs were juxtaposed with their modern day equivalents. For several years, before either of these titles appeared, *Prelude to Victory* by Brigadier General Edward Louis Spears was on my bookshelf, along with the indispensable first volume of the Official History for 1917 but, sadly, that was about it; Arras was truly neglected as a subject.

As for accounts of the 1918 fighting around Arras, these were, and still are, virtually non-existent; similarly with 1916. Leaving aside Norm Christie's short history, *The Canadians at Arras, August–September 1918*, which forms part of his *For King and Empire* series, the only published sources, and not always readily to hand, were individual unit histories, the five volumes of the Official History for 1918, together with a handful of Canadian memoirs. With all this in mind, I would like to think that my three books on Arras manage to fill in some of the gaps regarding this neglected part

of the Western Front, notwithstanding my slightly unusual approach to the subject. Hopefully, they will complement what little already exists, at least from a British and Commonwealth perspective, and I really hope that people find them a useful addition. Incidentally, any of the above-mentioned works are well worth reading before considering a visit to Arras and its battlefields.

However, unlike these other books, my trilogy is not an account of any particular battle that took place around Arras, nor is it a chronological narrative of any of the events that took place there; there is no conventional storyline. So, what exactly is it then?

Perhaps the best way is to describe it as a kind of *Who's Who*, though, strictly speaking, that should read: 'Who was Who', since all the 'protagonists' are dead, buried now in one of the many CWGC cemeteries that dot the landscape in and around Arras, or else commemorated nearby on one of the four memorials to the missing. The books are principally concerned with the men who fought and fell around Arras, including, in many cases, the circumstances in which they died; they are, I suppose, simply an expression of remembrance.

The 'stage' for this pageant of remembrance is the better part of the map that forms the end paper at the beginning of *Military Operations, France & Belgium, 1917, Volume One*. It stretches from Aix-Noulette and Liévin in the north to Morchies and Lagnicourt in the south; from Dury and Éterpigny in the east to Barly and Saulty in the west. Though it was conceived, researched, and originally written as a single project lasting four years, in one continuous 'flow of the pen', as it were, the work is now divided into three parts: *Arras – North*, *Arras – South*, and *Arras – The Memorials*.

The work is not really a guidebook in any conventional sense of the term. Although I have given a brief indication as to where each cemetery is located, I have deliberately steered away from the idea of anything approaching what might be referred to as an itinerary, though the cemeteries within each chapter are all grouped by reasonable proximity to each other. I would much prefer to let the visitor decide which cemeteries to visit and the order in which to visit them.

In the first two books I have tried to outline briefly the nature of each cemetery in terms of size, character, and composition, before taking the visitor through the various plots and rows of graves, halting at many of the headstones where I then talk about the individuals buried there. Similarly, the volume covering the memorials highlights many of the individuals commemorated at each of the four sites. The books only become 'guidebooks' once the visitor is inside the cemetery itself or standing in front of the memorial.

In an age of satellite navigation and the internet, reaching any of the cemeteries or memorials should be an easy enough task. The list of CWGC cemeteries and memorials can now be downloaded onto a satellite navigation system and the organization's website now includes the GPS co-ordinates for each site. For anyone not relying on modern technology, I would suggest the 1:100,000 maps produced by the *Institut Géographique National* (IGN). Unfortunately, two of these maps are required: No. 101: Lille – Bologne-sur-Mer, and No. 103: Amiens – Arras. Investing in both will also come in very handy when visiting other parts of the Western Front. Personally, I would be inclined to run with both systems whenever possible. The 'Michelin'

1:200,000 series, with the CWGC cemeteries and memorials overlaid and indexed, provide a useful pointer, but again two maps, 51 and 52, are required, and the scale is just a little too small for my liking.

With regard to maps, I know that many people will wonder why I have not included any within the body of my work. This would have been difficult to achieve with any clarity, not least because the actions described are extremely diverse, both in terms of timeline and location. I had to consult well over two hundred maps during the course of my research. To condense all the topographical information into a handful of maps would have been virtually impossible, as well as potentially confusing. My own IGN maps, the Blue 1:25,000 series, are entirely overwritten in pencil, showing redoubts, trenches, etc. Such detail and scale is essential when walking and describing the battlefields, but perhaps less important in a work whose subject happens to be mainly people. For the really committed visitor, the 1:25,000 series are the ones to go for, though several of them will be required on account of the larger scale.

Each of my three books has been written with the curious reader in mind. At times the detail may amount to more than the average visitor requires, but I would much rather leave it to the reader to decide which bits are relevant and which are not. Every headstone and every name on a memorial represents a unique human life, and therefore a unique story. Not all of these stories can be told, but many can, and that is really what these books are about. Although none of the three books provides a chronological narrative to the fighting, I do think that, collectively, they serve to illustrate quite well many aspects of life and indeed death, on the Western Front. That, at least, was the intention when I wrote them, and partly the inspiration behind them.

When I mentioned earlier that the books were a kind of *Who's Who*, they may, at times, also bear a slight resemblance to the popular BBC television series *QI*. The reason for that is that my own curiosity often has a tendency to take me off at a tangent. Whenever something struck me as 'Quite Interesting' I found it very hard to leave it out; after all, a good story is a good story. This confession should suffice to explain away the inclusion of a mammoth, a magician, and 'Mr Ramshaw', a golden eagle, as well as one or two passing references to decent dramas. (I was once fortunate enough to spend several years on the London tasting panel of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society – a tough assignment, I know, but someone had to do it.) Hopefully, and occasionally, the reader will find time to smile.

On a more personal note, I have been visiting the battlefields of the Western Front for over thirty years and have been a member of the Western Front Association since 1981. From the very first visit I have always carried a notebook with me. Anything of interest ends up in the notebook; sometimes a note regarding an individual soldier, or maybe a particular group of headstones; sometimes recurring dates, or perhaps the predominance of a particular regiment in a cemetery; in fact, just about anything unusual or interesting that might be worth pursuing once back home in England with time to research. Very often curiosity pays off, sometimes spectacularly. This has always been my way when visiting the cemeteries and memorials on the Western Front and, at least in part, this is how these three books came to be written. I hope they encourage people to delve a little deeper and to be even more curious when next visiting the battlefields.

Finally, the original title for this work was *Withered Leaves on the Plains of France*. The words are taken from four lines of a poem by Edward Richard Buxton Shanks. While he and others from the Artists' Rifles were drilling in London's Russell Square, in the heart of Bloomsbury, he noticed the autumn leaves swirling on the ground, conscious of the fact that they would soon begin to moulder before turning to mud, and eventually dust. Within that image he saw a clear reflection of his own mortality and that of his comrades, soon to leave for France and the trenches.

During my former working life I came to know Russell Square very well. Its lawns, flower beds, and the same trees that once stirred Shanks's imagination, formed a pleasant and familiar backdrop; not a place of quiet, but still a place where one could think. Over a period of time, seated outside the café there, I first conceived the idea of writing this work, though only as a single book, never imagining it would emerge as a three volume text. It was there too that I decided to use Shanks's metaphor in the title of the book. For the next four years, as the work took shape, it existed only under its original title until it was eventually changed to *Visiting the Fallen* at the suggestion of my publisher. So much for good intentions and poetic licence! However, let me say at this point that I very quickly warmed to the new title, liking it not least for its simplicity and direct appeal. I still, however, think of the 'Fallen', referred to in the title, as all those 'Withered Leaves'. A hundred years on, it remains a powerful and compelling image.

Arras South

This second volume covers Arras itself, as well as the CWGC cemeteries that lie south of the town, almost as far as Bapaume. The cemeteries that sit within the Arras battlefield of 1917 are likely to be familiar to many, but some just to the east of Monchy-le-Preux, or those behind Arras itself, receive relatively few visitors, which is exactly why they are included here. It might be argued that the cemeteries closest to Bapaume could have been left out. However, all of them can be reached easily from Arras and there seemed no reason to omit them simply because they were closer to Bapaume than Arras.

The German Offensive that swept across the old Somme battlefields, and indeed south of the River Somme during the latter part of March and the first week of April 1918, also raged briefly opposite Arras and the area south of the town. The villages here receive far less attention than those between Péronne and Saint-Quentin, and yet were no less important as the British line south of Arras came under pressure. The same villages south of Arras also featured heavily during the British advances in late August 1918, as did those east of the town that lay in the path of the Canadians during the early part of September. Scant attention has been given to these parts of the battlefield, but I hope that this volume goes some way towards correcting that imbalance.

The countryside and villages that lie south-west and south-east of Arras are a delight to visit. This part of the Western Front certainly deserves greater recognition. If this volume encourages more visitors to explore this part of northern France, then so much the better, and the time spent researching and writing it will have been worthwhile. Go there with confidence, and above all, appreciate the wealth of small cemeteries that this area has to offer.

Chapter One

Two Male Models – A Highland Tune for the Major – A Dip in the Canche

Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras

Private Leonard Albert BYWATER, 16th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was 19 years old when he was killed by a sniper's bullet on 3 April 1916 (Plot I.A.12). Although he was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire, the family lived in the Aston district of Birmingham. Leonard's elder brother, Private Arthur Harold BYWATER, served in the same battalion and was also killed by a sniper a few months later on 16 June (Plot I.D.52). Not only did they share a similar fate, but both are now buried here in Plot I just a short distance from each other.

Company Serjeant Major Frederick John CROSSLEY DCM, 1st Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was killed in action on 9 April 1916, aged 41. His DCM, gazetted on 17 December 1914, was awarded for conspicuous and gallant service over a period of ten days in the trenches at Neuve Chapelle. (Plot I.A.24)

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Norrington PACKARD DSO, 46 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was 46 years old when he was killed in action on 12 April 1916. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in July 1890 and was mentioned in despatches in October 1914. In February the following year he received his DSO in connection with operations in the field. (Plot I.A.41)

Private Ernest Henry ALLEN, 1st East Surrey Regiment, died of wounds on 21 April 1916 (Plot I.A.48). His brother, Private Edward Allen, was killed in action a few months later, on 1 July 1916 near Redan Ridge on the Somme, serving with the 1st Somerset Light Infantry. He is buried at Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Thomas CANTAN CMG, 1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was killed in action on 16 April 1916, aged 47. The *London Gazette* dated 17 May 1892 shows his promotion from colour sergeant with the King's Royal Rifle Corps to second lieutenant with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He served with the regiment in the South African War and the *London Gazette* of 20 July 1900 refers not only to his promotion to captain, but also notes that he had been recovered as a prisoner of war. In December that year he was seconded to the South African Constabulary, but by 1908 he was again serving with his regiment. This career soldier was promoted to temporary lieutenant colonel in October 1915. His CMG was awarded soon after that, as there is a reference to it in the *London Gazette* in December. (Plot I.A.49)

Second Lieutenant Alex John REID DCM, 1st East Surrey Regiment, was killed in action on 26 April 1916. He had won his DCM a year earlier at Hill 60, near Ypres,

while serving as a company serjeant major with the battalion and the award was gazetted on 3 June 1915. The citation refers to conspicuous gallantry and valuable service performed by him on 20 April 1915 when he went out of his trench across the open and brought up ammunition and reinforcements on three separate occasions. The fighting there was extremely fierce and the ground that he had to cross was constantly swept by severe machine-gun and shell fire. (Plot I.B.11)

Major Richard Archibald JONES, 15th Royal Warwickshire, the son of a clergyman from Wandsworth, London, was killed just after midnight on 21 May 1916 by a rifle grenade as he was supervising work to consolidate a mine crater that had been blown by the Germans on 19 May. JONES had been the principal of Birmingham University College and had commanded the university OTC there. He held a Master's degree and was 34 years old when he died. (Plot I.B.46)

Killed with him was Lance Corporal William HUNDY (Plot I.B.47) whose body was recovered by his brother, Hubert, a stretcher-bearer. Three other wounded men were also brought in. A glance at William's army number – 15/1 – shows that he was the first man to enlist with the 15th Battalion in Birmingham.

Private Sidney CLINCH had served with the 8th Royal Fusiliers before being posted to the 5th Entrenching Battalion. He died of wounds on 2 June 1916, aged 17. He is one of several soldiers buried here who fell aged 17. (Plot I.C.15)

Private Charles Douglas WORDINGHAM, 1st Norfolk Regiment, was killed in action on 4 June 1916, aged 21, almost certainly a casualty of the same bombardment that obliterated trenches of the 15th Royal Warwickshire Regiment that day (Plot I.C.17). His brother, Private James Reginald John Wordingham, also fell during the war whilst serving with the 9th Essex Regiment, aged 24. He died of wounds on 23 March 1918 and is buried at Merville Communal Cemetery Extension.

Lance Corporal Leslie Frank BROMWICH, 15th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed in action on 4 June 1916, aged 19 (Plot I.C.62). His brother, Private Edgar John BROMWICH, served in the same battalion and was killed on the same day, aged 26 (Plot I.D.14). Their parents had two other sons who served during the war. The cemetery register states that the brothers are buried near to one another, and initially it might seem odd that they are not buried next to one another. The most likely explanation lies in the fact that Edgar was originally reported as missing in action. His body was not immediately found, although it was recovered soon after. His burial would probably have taken place a short while after his brother's interment.

On 4 June the Germans heavily shelled the trenches held by the battalion before firing three mines. Two of these were poorly aligned and were detonated adjacent to, but not directly beneath our trenches. The third one, however, exploded directly under the section held by 'C' Company and caused several casualties. The Germans then followed this up by sending across a large raiding party, which in places penetrated as far back as the British support lines before it was finally driven back.

Lieutenant John Onslow MADDOCKS, 15th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed in action on 4 June 1916, aged 19. He was the son of Sir Henry Maddocks, Conservative MP for Nuneaton. (Plot I.D.29)

Captain Archibald Henry TATLOW, 15th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed in action on 4 June 1916, aged 31, during the same incident in which the Bromwich brothers died. (Plot I.D.36)

Second Lieutenant Edgar George Butlin MILLSON, 4th Bedfordshire Regiment, attached 1st Battalion, was killed in action on 18 June 1916 when he was shot dead by a sniper. He was a railway engineer working in Colombia when the war broke out and returned to England in order to enlist. His father was a specialist medical psychologist and was awarded the OBE for services in that field. (Plot I.D.54)

Serjeant Frank Cyril RICHARDSON, 8th King's Royal Rifle Corps, was killed in action on 2 July 1916 (Plot I.E.26). He and Serjeant Alfred Whitfield Harrison STONE MM (Plot I.E.29) were originally reported missing in action after the Germans had detonated a mine beneath the battalion's trenches late on the night of 1 July 1916. The mine was accompanied by a heavy barrage, and although a few Germans succeeded in entering one of the battalion's trenches close to the newly-formed crater, they were repulsed by bombers under Second Lieutenant Cooke who managed to occupy the front lip of the crater, which was then quickly consolidated.

Private John RICHARDSON, 16th Cheshire Regiment, was killed in action on 21 October 1916 (Plot I.H.3). The information in the CWGC register suggests that both he and Frank Cyril RICHARDSON were related, probably cousins. Both men came from Calverton, Nottinghamshire.

Company Serjeant Major John BEECH, 'B' Company, 15th Cheshire Regiment, was killed in action on 4 October 1916, aged 42. The 15th Cheshire Regiment was a Bantam battalion which, along with the 16th Battalion, went to France at the beginning of 1916. Both battalions served with the 35th (Bantam) Division. (Plot I.G.29)

Captain Arthur Beadon COLTHURST, 14th Gloucestershire Regiment, was killed in action on 25 October 1916 (Plot I.H.14). His third son, Flying Officer John Buller COLTHURST, served as a bomb aimer with 115 Squadron, Royal Air Force, during the Second World War and was killed in action on 24 February 1944 during a bombing raid over Schweinfurt. His Lancaster bomber was shot down, almost certainly by enemy flak, resulting in the loss of the entire crew. His body was never recovered and he is now commemorated on the Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede. The target of the raid had been the ball-bearing works producing this vital component for the German armaments industry.

Captain James Percival HODGKINSON, 15th Sherwood Foresters, was killed in action on 2 November 1916, aged 24. He is referred to in the battalion history, *The Blast of War*, published in 1986, but there is no account of his death, which strikes me as an unusual omission. (Plot I.H.31)

Captain John TILLEY, 7th Norfolk Regiment, was killed in action on 28 November 1916, aged 21. Though a relatively quiet period for the battalion, it was required to provide working parties, including wiring parties, during the latter part of November. The battalion war diary notes that Captain TILLEY was fatally wounded while inspecting the wire under the cover of mist. The sergeant with him was also wounded.

The party that went out to rescue them presumed that they had been hit by stray bullets, but the rescue party was also fired on, suggesting that a sniper could have been responsible for his death rather than random or routine fire. (Plot IJ.30)

Private John MITCHELL, Private George CUTHBERT and Private Thomas JACKSON, all of whom served with the 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, died on 6 January 1917. They were part of a platoon preparing to carry out a raid on German positions opposite them with a party from the 8th Black Watch. The raid was due to begin at 3.08pm, but at 1.00pm an accident occurred as the men of the 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were being briefed by one of their sergeants inside a cellar. A Mills bomb exploded in their midst, presumably after the pin had come loose. Two men were killed instantly and fourteen others wounded. The raiding party was quickly brought back up to strength using men from another platoon and at 2.00pm the party of two officers, nine NCOs and seventy-seven men filed up the trench known as Imperial Street and into final positions for the raid.

The raid itself lasted only twenty minutes and the unusual timing appears to have taken the Germans by surprise. Stokes bombs were used to destroy dug-outs, which in some cases lifted the roofs off. Estimates put the German dead at around a hundred, while casualties for the 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders amounted to one man killed and one other man wounded. The wounded man was carried in by Second Lieutenant Robertson.

MITCHELL, CUTHBERT and JACKSON are buried together (Plot II.B.11, 12 and 13). Nearby are the graves of Lance Corporal David CRAIG and Private William KINLOCK (Plot II.B.24 and 25). It is possible that these two men either died of wounds as a result of the incident in the cellar, or that one of them was the wounded man rescued by Second Lieutenant Robertson. Both men died of wounds on 9 January 1917.

The Reverend Edward Francis DUNCAN MC, Chaplain 4th Class, was killed in action on 11 March 1917, aged 32, while going to the assistance of a man wounded by a shell. He won his MC in similar circumstances after going to help an officer who had been wounded during a raid, an act which he carried out even though he himself had been wounded. He was attached to 103 Brigade, 34th Division. His MC was gazetted on 27 November 1916. (Plot II.F.8)

Lieutenant Thomas William JONES MD Ch.B. D.Ph, Royal Army Medical Corps, was killed in action on 11 March 1917, aged 31, while attached to the 27th Northumberland Fusiliers (4th Tyneside Irish). (Plot II.F.9)

Major Royston Swire GRIFFITHS, 123rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, is shown in *Officers Died in the Great War* as having died on 17 March 1917, aged 31. He enlisted in 1914 with the Royal Marines, but soon switched to the Royal Marine Engineers. He was commissioned in January 1915 and then served in France with the above battery from the end of July 1916 until his death. Unfortunately he became ill and developed a blood clot that killed him. (Plot II.H.3)

Bombardier Ernest George HUMPHRIES, 260th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, was killed in action on 22 March 1917, aged 29. The CWGC register notes

that he had been headmaster of Englishcombe School, Bath, before the outbreak of war. (Plot II.J.18)

Second Lieutenant Edward Rodney Hasluck GRANTHAM, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers, died of wounds on 31 March 1917, aged 20. He was educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Cambridge (Plot II.M.22). His elder brother, Second Lieutenant Richard Aubray Fuge Grantham, was killed in action a few weeks earlier on 4 March serving with the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment. He is buried at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand. Like his brother, Richard was educated at Rugby School, but went on to study at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The family lived in Hampstead, London.

Private Arthur Andrew PLANK, 'C' Company, 1st South African Regiment, was wounded at Delville Wood on 18 July 1916. He was killed in action on 5 April 1917 in the run up to the opening of the Arras offensive (Plot II.O.23). Next to him is Private N.M. MAGENNIS of the same regiment. He was killed in action the previous day. (Plot II.O.22)

Company Quartermaster Serjeant Thomas S. KING, 24th Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Irish), aged 45, was killed in action on 7 April 1917. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* shows his death occurring the following day. (Plot II.P.2)

Among the sixty soldiers of the South African Brigade buried here are three who were killed in action on Christmas Day 1916. All three are from the 2nd Battalion, South African Regiment: Private Leslie Frederick DORE (Plot III.A.9), Second Lieutenant M.F. BURLEY (Plot III.A.11), and Private John Jacob BELLARDI (Plot III.A.13).

Buried among them are two other casualties from that day: Gunner Henry Stone ELLIOT, 123rd Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, shown in *Soldiers Died in the Great War* as having died on active service (Plot III.A.10), and Corporal John BRODIE, 6th King's Own Scottish Borderers, shown as being killed in action (Plot III.A.12).

Second Lieutenant Harold DAWS, 10th Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action on 26 December 1916. The CWGC register informs us that he returned from Brazil in 1914 in order to enlist and that he originally served with the Artists' Rifles OTC. (Plot III.A.14)

Private Murray Stewart LE MARE, 3rd South African Regiment, was another veteran of the fighting at Delville Wood; he was wounded there on 16 July 1916. He was killed in action on 12 January the following year (Plot III.B.7). A little way along the same row is Private Arthur Douglas GRANT, 4th South African Regiment, who was also wounded at Delville Wood. He was killed in action a few days later on 18 January 1917. (Plot III.B.21)

Major John Stanley SHARP, 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment, was killed in action on 17 March 1917, aged 34. He was educated at Wellington College, then Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He was a very good sportsman and was awarded colours for rugby, cricket and hockey while at university. In 1914 he joined one of the Public Schools Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers and was then commissioned in the 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment. He went to France with his new battalion in May 1915.

On 17 March 1917 he led around 200 of his battalion in a raid on German trenches just south of Blangy. The raid was of short duration, lasting just twenty-five minutes. Most of the casualties, thirty-six in total, occurred as the party was returning to its own trenches when it was caught by retaliatory German shell fire. Eight other ranks were killed in the action and Major SHARP was one of two officer casualties. The other officer was Second Lieutenant Basil Hamilton Abdy Fellowes. He died of wounds five days later, aged 19, at a casualty clearing station at Avesnes-le-Comte and was buried there in the Communal Cemetery Extension. SHARP's body was recovered easily owing to the fact that he fell just yards from reaching the comparative safety of the British trenches. He was mentioned in despatches in May that year in recognition of his leadership. (Plot III.G.31)

Major James Robert WALKER MC, 'B' Battery, 62 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 20 March 1917, aged 40. He had previously served for twenty years with 'C' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. His MC was gazetted on 17 January 1917, but it appears to be without a citation. (Plot III.H.30)

Private James O'NEILL, 9th Cameronians, was killed in action on 22 March 1917, aged 22 (Plot III.J.15). His younger brother, Patrick O'Neill, fell in action on 3 May that year whilst serving as a lance corporal with the Household Battalion, aged 20. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. The family came from Motherwell.

Serjeant Thomas DOYLE, 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was 44 years old when he was killed in action on 3 April 1917. He had spent nearly half of his life as a soldier, having served in the army for twenty-one years. (Plot III.M.29)

Captain Thomas Hesketh ROSS MC, 4th Battalion, South African Regiment, was one of only four officers from that battalion to emerge from Delville Wood unhurt. His gallantry and leadership during those desperate few days in July 1916 earned him the MC. He was subsequently wounded by a bullet to the head during a raid on the night of 18/19 October 1916 near the Butte de Warlencourt. The raid, led by ROSS himself, comprised a force of 200 men, including bombers, signallers and Lewis gunners. ROSS was wounded when the Germans launched a counter-attack on Snag Trench around 5.00am using flame-throwers and bombs. They drove him and his men back to their original positions with heavy casualties, along with a party under Captain Langdale. Sadly, ROSS was killed the following year at Arras on 3 April 1917, though there is some dispute as to whether he was killed by a sniper or by shrapnel.

In 1903 he joined the Transvaal Scottish and was commissioned the following year. In 1906 he served with the Transvaal Scottish Volunteer Company during the Zulu Rebellion and later went on to command the Transvaal Scottish in South-West Africa. This unit was to become 'B' Company, 4th Battalion, South African Regiment, and he had the privilege of taking it to war in 1914. ROSS was immortalized when his face and figure were used as the model for the statue on the memorial to the 4th Battalion, South African Regiment (South African Scottish) that now stands in Joubert Park, Johannesburg. (Plot III.M.30)

Private Gavin ALLAN, 9th Cameronians, was killed in action on 6 April 1917. He came from Hamilton in Scotland, which was a key recruiting area for that regiment and is now the home of the regimental archive and museum. He joined the militia at the age of 18 and then carried on his part-time soldiering with the Territorials after their formation. The part of Lanarkshire where he lived was a coal mining area and in civilian life he had worked locally as a miner. He was wounded at Neuve Chapelle in 1915 and again on the Somme the following year. At the age of 33, when he was killed in action, he was already an experienced soldier. (Plot III.O.21)

Captain Arthur Scott BUCKTON, 100th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, died of wounds on 9 April 1917. He was born in Plaistow, east London, where he began his education. He was a bright pupil and won an exhibition. Through that scholarship he became an engineer, working firstly for the Port of London Authority, then in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1914, just before the outbreak of war, he was working there as a land surveyor. He returned home to enlist and joined the University of London OTC before receiving his commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery in January 1915. (Plot III.P.7)

Second Lieutenant Gordon Reid MORTON MC, 7th Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action on 9 April 1917. His MC was gazetted posthumously on 11 May 1917 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while in command of a raiding party in which he led his men in a most gallant manner, destroying an enemy machine gun, and then carrying a wounded man back to our lines. (Plot III.P.11)

Second Lieutenant Robert Woodburn Barnard SEMPLE MC, 7th Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action on 9 April 1917, aged 24. His MC was gazetted on 11 May 1917 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The citation states that he was the first man to enter the enemy lines and that throughout the whole operation he set a fine example to the two platoons under his charge, leading a bombing party and inflicting many casualties on the enemy. (Plot III.P.31)

Company Quartermaster Serjeant Henry James BRACEY MM, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action on 11 April 1917 (Plot IV.A.23). *Soldiers Died in the Great War* shows the award of the MM and the *Médaille Militaire* (France) against his name. BRACEY's MM was gazetted, along with numerous others, on 13 October 1916 and was awarded for bravery in the field. The award of the *Médaille Militaire* was gazetted on 1 May 1917. At the time of writing this book, the record held by the CWGC contained no reference to his MM, though I have since notified the Commission so that the register entry can be amended in due course.

Captain Joseph Leslie DENT DSO MC, 2nd South Staffordshire Regiment, who was killed in action on 11 April 1917, aged 28, had served overseas since 1914. His DSO was gazetted on 1 December 1914 and was awarded for actions on 7 October when he carried out a daring scouting patrol at night, locating an enemy trench and subsequently rushing it with two sections, driving off the occupants. His MC was gazetted on 5 June 1916 in the King's Birthday Honours List. (Plot IV.A.28)

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Edward TREVOR, Northamptonshire Regiment, attached 9th Essex Regiment, was killed in action on 11 April 1917, aged 32. He was

the son of Surgeon Major Sir Francis Wollaston Trevor KCSI CB, who had served with the 60th Rifles in the Nile Campaign 1884–85 and in the South African campaign between 1901 and 1902. (Plot IV.A.29)

Captain William Grant Spruell STUART MC, 7th Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action during the fighting to capture Guémappe on 23 April 1917. His MC was gazetted on 1 January 1917 in the New Year's Honours List. (Plot IV.C.15)

Second Lieutenant George LAMBERT, 7th Cameron Highlanders, who came from Fenwick, Ayrshire, was killed in action on 23 April 1917, aged 25, serving in 'D' Company. He was the son of a clergyman and had a younger brother, Second Lieutenant William Fairlie Lambert, who served with the 9th Cameronians and who died of wounds in March 1916, aged 20. William was wounded when a German patrol carried out a trench raid near Armentières. He was taken prisoner and appears to have died soon afterwards, and so was buried behind German lines. Surprisingly, he is now buried on the Somme in London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, which is a very long way from where he died. George, however, was killed in action near Guémappe. He was an outstanding pupil at Kilmarnock Academy and went on to Glasgow University where he gained an Honours degree in Classics. He had intended to follow his father into the Church, but when the war broke out he opted to postpone those plans and chose to enlist. (Plot IV.C.17)

The Reverend Charles Wand MITCHELL, Chaplain 4th Class, was attached to the 8th East Yorkshire Regiment when he was mortally wounded on 3 May 1917, aged 28. He had studied in Canada, where he was born, and then went on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, passing his Theological Tripos in 1903 and his Oriental Languages Tripos the following year, reading Hebrew and Aramaic. He became Master of Hebrew at Merchant Taylors' School in London, where he taught until the outbreak of war, having already completed his Master's degree two years earlier. On 3 May 1917 he went out under heavy shell fire to attend to wounded men after his battalion had been involved supporting an attack by the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers. The attack broke down and the survivors were forced to occupy a series of shell holes, which were later consolidated as a line of outposts. (Plot IV.E.28)

In the next row is Second Lieutenant Wilfred PRICE, 8th East Yorkshire Regiment, who also died of his wounds in the same attack, aged 21 (Plot IV.F.27).

Two more officers from his battalion who were killed in the attack, Second Lieutenant Francis McIntyre and Second Lieutenant Joseph Morton Bibby, are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, whilst another, Second Lieutenant Arthur Johnson Cox, is buried considerably further away in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery.

A relatively rare headstone can be seen in this cemetery belonging to a member of the Army Veterinary Corps. Captain Harry Leonard ANTHONY was serving with the 1/1st Lancashire Mobile Section, Army Veterinary Corps, when he was killed in action, aged 40. Only seventeen officers of the Army Veterinary Corps were killed in action or died of wounds across all theatres of war between 1914 and 1918, although others did die in service from other causes. He was killed on 2 May 1917 and had served in the South African campaign after graduating in 1901. (Plot IV.E.30)

Major Maurice Edward COXHEAD, 9th Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action on 3 May 1917, aged 27. A keen cricketer, he had played for Oxford University and Middlesex before the war. (Plot IV.G.14)

Major John Campbell FISHER, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, died of wounds on 6 May 1917. He had been mentioned in despatches. (Plot IV.G.22)

Captain Walter MACFADYEN, 3rd Royal Scots, attached 2nd Battalion, was killed in action on 7 May 1917, aged 24. He was an only son. He was mentioned in despatches and had been a member of Leeds University OTC. (Plot IV.G.24)

Serjeant Alfred William HOWITT DCM, 7th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, died of wounds on 7 June 1917, aged 49. His DCM was gazetted on 30 June 1915 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty between December 1914 and March 1915 whilst in charge of an ambulance wagon. The citation records that on more than one occasion he volunteered for exceptionally dangerous duty and that during an action at Neuve Chapelle in October 1914 he was able to retrieve two wagons after troops had withdrawn from their positions. The award was won while he was serving as a private. (Plot IV.H.15)

Major Vernon Ommaney DOLPHIN, 17 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 8 June 1917, aged 31. He attended the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, before receiving his commission in the Royal Field Artillery in 1906. In the years that followed he served in South Africa and in India. His death came when he was returning to his battery after assisting in the removal of a casualty. A shell burst close to him and he was killed by one of the fragments. (Plot IV.H.18)

Captain Thomas Hall WAUGH MC, 22nd Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Scottish), was killed in action on 6 June 1917. His MC was gazetted on 1 January 1917 in the New Year's Honours List. (Plot IV.H.20)

On 4 July 1917 two soldiers from the 12th (Eastern) Division were executed and now lie here in adjacent graves. Around the beginning of March 1916 it was acknowledged that Private Robert Gillis PATTISON, aged 23, was suffering from shell shock while holding the line at Loos near the Hohenzollern Craters. On 6 March the enemy detonated a mine nearby, which was accompanied by a heavy bombardment. Several days later the Germans fired yet another mine and also made several trench raids in between these two incidents. Such events caused acute anxiety among even the very best soldiers. Private PATTISON was unable to stand the strain and deserted. Although it was recognized that his nerves were badly shaken, he was sentenced to a lengthy period of Field Punishment No. 1.

He was able to survive another year of trench warfare before his nerves broke down again, this time while his battalion, the 7th Royal Sussex Regiment, was at Arras and involved in the advance on the opening day of the battle. However, on 3 May he made representations to the battalion's medical officer who promptly returned him to his platoon. PATTISON's response was to go missing and he was arrested the following day in Arras. (Plot IV.J.16)

Private John Edward BARNES, 7th Royal Sussex Regiment, aged 24, went to France in late September 1915. He was already serving a suspended sentence of penal

servitude for desertion when he again went missing on 10 June 1917. The subsequent court martial could see no reason for clemency and he was shot by firing squad a few weeks later. (Plot IV.J.17)

Captain Herbert Haydon WILSON DSO, Royal Horse Guards, was killed in action on 11 April 1917, aged 42. He had previously served in the South African campaign and was twice mentioned in despatches in 1901. He was the youngest son of Sir Samuel Wilson of Victoria, Australia, a successful farmer, miner and businessman who emigrated from Ireland to Australia. His DSO was gazetted on 23 April 1901 and was awarded for gallantry in defence of posts during a Boer attack at Lichtenburg. (Plot V.A.1)

His eldest brother, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Chesney Wilson MVO, was killed in action on 6 November 1914 when commanding the Royal Horse Guards. He was mentioned in despatches and is buried in the churchyard at Zillebeke, just outside Ypres. His headstone bears the occasionally quoted epitaph: *'Life is a city of crooked streets; death is the market place where all men meet.'*

Another brother, Lieutenant Wilfred Campbell Wilson, died of wounds during the South African campaign whilst serving with the 5th Imperial Yeomanry. A third brother, Clarence, was badly wounded during the same campaign while attached to the 8th Hussars.

Lieutenant Charles Humphrey NEWTON-DEAKIN, 3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, was killed in action on 11 April 1917. Between 8.30 and 9.30am on the morning of 11 April, 'B' and 'C' Squadrons, 3rd Dragoon Guards, came under heavy shell and machine-gun fire from Guémappe while occupying ground between the southern edge of Monchy-le-Preux and the windmill just west of La Bergère on the Arras-Cambrai road. It was here that the regiment suffered several casualties including NEWTON-DEAKIN. (Plot V.A.2)

Major Alexander WOOD, 3rd Royal Sussex Regiment, died of wounds on 12 April 1917, aged 37. He is also remembered on the Roll of Honour at Hampton Court Palace where his parents resided. His father was the late Major General Edward Wood CB. (Plot V.A.4)

Second Lieutenant Harry Asher HAYWORTH, 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was killed in action on 25 April 1917, aged 21, three weeks before his brother, Second Lieutenant Frederick Hayworth. His brother's body was never found and he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial within sight of Harry's grave. Frederick served with the 7th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, but was attached to the 1/14th Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish), at the time of his death on 12 May 1917. Harry had studied at Glasgow University. (Plot V.A.12)

The 8th Royal Scots was the pioneer battalion attached to the 51st (Highland) Division. Lieutenant William Ernest WALLACE, aged 38, and Second Lieutenant James Melville MONCUR, aged 24, were members of the battalion's 'D' Company. On 17 April 1917 they were with a working party as it was making its way up the Point du Jour Ridge to carry out road repair work when the group was caught by shell fire in

the open. One of the shells killed both officers. They were uncle and nephew; fittingly, they now rest here, side by side. (Plots V.A.20 & 21)

Captain David ROBERTS MC, 7th Lincolnshire Regiment, died of wounds on 23 April 1917, aged 35. His MC was gazetted on 30 March 1916 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry during operations after the commanders of his own company and those of the next company had become casualties. He then took command of both units for twenty-four hours under heavy shell fire and consolidated the newly won position, fearlessly moving about and setting a fine example. (Plot V.B.1)

Captain David ANDERSON MC, 7th Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action on 23 April 1917, aged 30. His MC was gazetted on 23 October 1917 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry in action. When two of his gun teams had been knocked out and two further guns buried, he personally dug a gun into position and opened fire in support of an attack. The citation states that the accuracy of his fire contributed much towards the success of the operation. (Plot V.C.14)

At the start of Plot V, Row E, are six graves belonging to the 3rd Battalion, British West Indies Regiment. Private T.A. BROWN, Private H. COVER, Private Robert Samuel WILLIAMS, Private S.A. HENRY, Private Ernest POTTINGER and Private L.A. CLAYTON were all killed in action on 10 May 1917. The 3rd Battalion served on the Western Front from 1916 until 1919. (Plots V.E.3 to 8)

Second Lieutenant Iain Donald Forrest MacLENNAN, 1st Gordon Highlanders, was killed in action on 12 May 1917, aged 19 (Plot V.E.19). His father, Major John MacLennan DCM, also served with the 1st Gordon Highlanders during the war, but died at Aberdeen Girls' School, which was then in use as a military hospital, on 9 August 1916, aged 51. He is buried in Aberdeen (Springbank) Cemetery.

Major MacLennan had been invalided home after he was injured in France. He was thrown from his horse when it was frightened by shell fire. He was sent home to Aberdeen where the family lived, but unfortunately succumbed to his injuries. His DCM was won while serving as regimental serjeant major with the 1st Gordon Highlanders in the South African War. The award was gazetted on 27 September 1901. After his death, his cousin, Pipe-Major George MacLennan, wrote a piece of music in his memory entitled, 'Major John MacLennan'. At the time of writing this book the CWGC record did not show the award of his DCM, though I have since notified the Commission with a view to having the entry amended.

Second Lieutenant Benjamin STRACHAN, 12 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was killed in action on 18 May 1917, aged 28 (Plot V.F.4). Buried next to him is his observer, Lieutenant Arthur Gordon MACKAY, a Canadian attached to the Royal Flying Corps, who was also killed when their BE2e was shot down (Plot V.F.3). The casualty report for their squadron states that they did not appear to notice their attacker until it was too late, although MACKAY did return fire. The wings of their machine crumpled as they folded back and upwards, giving neither of them any chance of escaping as they plunged to the ground. Their death marked the fifteenth victory for German ace and holder of the *Pour le Mérite*, Leutnant Karl Allmenröder, who went on to score a further fifteen kills before his death on 27 June 1917.

Serjeant John Robert HANDYSIDE DCM, 'C' Battery, 70 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 19 May 1917. His DCM was won as a bombardier with 'D' Battery, 71 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry between 26 September and 14 October 1915, during which time his battery was constantly under very heavy shell fire and out in the open. He frequently volunteered to mend telephone lines under heavy fire, thereby successfully maintaining communications. He had also come to notice for coolness and bravery on 25 September 1915, again near Loos, where he repeatedly volunteered to repair wires under very heavy fire, even though he was suffering from the effects of gas fumes. His unit was part of the 15th Divisional Artillery. His award was gazetted on 29 November 1915. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* makes no reference to his DCM. (Plot V.F.13)

Captain William Maurice (Pat) ARMSTRONG MC, 10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars, was killed in action on 23 May 1917, aged 27, when he was shot by a sniper. He had been part of the 29th Division's Staff since the early days in Gallipoli. On 19 May 1917 his friend, Second Lieutenant Frank Stanlie Layard, 1st Border Regiment, took part in an attack east of Monchy-le-Preux, but was then reported to be among the missing. He was believed to have been hit somewhere between Cigar Copse and the Bois des Aubépines when his company came under heavy machine-gun fire. ARMSTRONG went out on subsequent nights to look for Layard, but was killed while doing so. Second Lieutenant Layard's body was found and he is buried in Dury Crucifix Cemetery. ARMSTRONG, whose family came from Tipperary, Ireland, had previously been mentioned in despatches. At the time of his death he was serving as brigade major of 86 Brigade, 29th Division. His MC was gazetted on 4 February 1916 and was won while serving as a lieutenant. I can find no citation for it. (Plot V.F.18)

Lieutenant Harold LEIGHTON MC, 88th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, died of wounds on 26 May 1917. His MC was gazetted on 11 December 1916 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry during an action in which he had handled his machine guns with marked courage and skill, moving them forward with the assaulting troops. By doing so, the citation concludes, he contributed greatly towards successfully holding the captured trench. (Plot V.F.21)

Major Albert Ernest BARTON, 6th Dorsetshire Regiment, was mortally wounded by a shell on 24 May 1917 while inspecting trenches and temporarily in charge of his depleted battalion owing to the heavy fighting of the previous six weeks. As a result, 'A' and 'D' companies, and 'B' and 'C', had been formed into composite units 'Y' and 'Z' respectively. By this time many of the units that had been continuously engaged at Arras were described as being tired, depleted, and not fit for purpose, according to *Military Operations, France and Belgium, 1917, Part I*. The battalion's adjutant, Lieutenant A.H. Mitchell, was wounded by the same shrapnel burst. In his absence, and pending the return of Lieutenant Colonel Moulton-Barrett in August that year, Major James, 7th Lincolnshire Regiment, took charge of the battalion. BARTON was recommended for decorations on four occasions and was mentioned in despatches. His brother served in Mesopotamia during the war. (Plot V.F.23)

Conductor Daniel MURRAY DCM, Army Ordnance Corps, formerly York & Lancaster Regiment, was killed in action on 12 June 1917, aged 36. His DCM was

gazetted as part of the King's Birthday Honours List on 5 June 1916 while he was serving with the Army Ordnance Corps. It was awarded for services in the field. (Plot V.H.2)

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred John SANSOM, 7th Royal Sussex Regiment, is shown as serving with the 5th Battalion, but was commanding the 7th Battalion when he was killed in action on 5 July 1917, aged 50. (Plot V.J.1)

Buried next to him is Captain Gilbert NAGLE MC, 7th Royal Sussex Regiment, who at the time of his death was adjutant of the battalion. His MC was gazetted on 17 April 1916 and was awarded while he was serving as a second lieutenant with the 7th Battalion. The citation notes that on 3 and 4 March 1916 he showed conspicuous courage. Despite being wounded, he continued to command his men, inspiring them with confidence and carrying out a skilful defence of some newly captured craters at the Hohenzollern Redoubt and repelling two enemy attacks. (Plot V.J.2)

Both men had stepped outside their dug-out in order to observe the effect of a 'Chinese' bombardment on Devil's Trench, near Monchy-le-Preux, and to note any lights sent up by the Germans by way of response. However, both were killed by a German shell that landed next to them.

Ironically SANSOM was probably unaware that a letter from GHQ had been received that day at Corps HQ directing him to return home. The reason for his removal from active service was almost certainly that revealed in a letter to his wife in which he informed her that:

'I refuse to kow-tow to higher authority, or keep from expressing opinions on those who give orders which I consider cost, unnecessarily, the lives of men. But though I know my criticisms make me unpopular with higher authority, I again don't care a damn if they have the least influence in making people thoughtful for others, and I believe I have succeeded in one or two instances. What is the value of a DSO given to a gentleman sitting in an office in safety, compared to the thought that one may have saved the lives of men under one's command?'

In August 1914 NAGLE had been a subaltern in the battalion and had since served with it continuously, initially as a platoon commander, then as a company commander, before being appointed adjutant. His career as a soldier first ran into difficulties while he was billeted with two fellow officers in Folkestone where they were at the mercy of the two elderly maiden ladies who owned the house. The men were forced to smoke clandestinely up the dining room chimney and were obliged to settle for hot milk, presumably as a substitute for something a little stronger. They left after the first day and found a more liberal-minded doctor with whom to stay. After his experience with hot milk, NAGLE's palate was again tested when billeted near Le Touquet. On this occasion he sent back a cup of 'Bovril' on the grounds that it didn't taste quite like the 'Bovril' he knew. The next day the probable cause was detected; a decomposed horse was found at the bottom of the well from which the water had been drawn to make the drink.

Captain Harold Gerard Hans HAMILTON, 7th Border Regiment, was killed in action on 27 July 1917, aged 23. The regimental history notes that he was fatally

wounded at a time when the battalion was heavily depleted of officers, but it does not comment further on the manner of his death. (Plot V.J.7)

Captain Alexander Reid PRENTICE MC, 12th Cameronians, attached 10th Battalion, was killed in action on 9 November 1917, aged 22. The regimental history shows his date of death as 5 November and notes that he was previously wounded in October 1916. His MC was gazetted on 30 May 1917 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in command of a raiding party, which he led in a most gallant manner, gaining his objective. Later he assisted in bringing in several of the wounded. (Plot VI.A.19)

Captain Arthur Yalden Graham THOMSON MC and Bar, Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action on 30 November 1917, aged 29. His MC was gazetted on 4 June 1917 in the King's Birthday Honours List; the bar, which was gazetted on 27 August 1917, was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The citation states that he was tireless in arranging the preliminaries of an attack and getting the troops into position for it. Once the objective was gained, he wasted no time in going round the new front line under heavy shell fire before bringing back a valuable report regarding the latest situation.

His grandfather, Surgeon Major Thomson, had been a physician to both Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Arthur's father, Brigadier General Andrew Graham Thomson CB CMG, Royal Engineers, was the base commandant of Étaples at the time of the famous mutiny there in September 1917. He and several other officers were purportedly driven to a bridge over the River Canche where, according to the story, they were off-loaded into the water, much to the amusement of hundreds of onlookers. The incident was portrayed in the controversial BBC drama, *The Monocled Mutineer*, though the accuracy with which events were depicted in the series was the subject of much debate when it was screened. (Plot VI.A.28)

Captain Joseph WILSON MC, 6th Cameron Highlanders, was killed in action on 30 November 1917, aged 30. His MC, won as a second lieutenant, was awarded for conspicuous gallantry at Hill 70 on 26 September 1915 after he had collected and rallied stragglers. He had then led them through the troops of another division as they were retiring and had remained with the group throughout the night in a very advanced position in a show of great leadership. The award was gazetted on 23 November 1915. (Plot VI.A.29)

Private Frank BALL, 10th Cameronians, a Londoner who had enlisted in Glasgow, died of wounds following an accident while placing detonators in bombs at Tilloy Camp. Nine other men from 'C' Company were wounded in the explosion. A court of enquiry was later held, but found nobody culpable, concluding that the accident had probably occurred as a result of rust. (Plot VI.B.9)

Lance Corporal Frank HURST MM, 8th Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on 19 March 1918, aged 27 (Plot VI.B.15). His younger brother, Arthur Hurst, was killed a few months later on 21 August 1918, aged 20, while serving as a rifleman with the 1/15th Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own Civil Service Rifles). He is buried at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension.

Captain John BALFOUR MC, 2nd Scots Guards, was killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged 23. His MC was gazetted on 4 June 1917 in the King's Birthday Honours List (Plot VI.B.19). His brother, Captain Robert Frederick Balfour, served with the 1st Scots Guards and was killed in action on 28 October 1914, aged 31. He is buried at Sanctuary Wood Cemetery.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) George MASKELL, 10th Cameronians, was killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged 38. He came from Balham, south London, and had also served in the South African campaign (Plot VI.B.29). His brother, Albert Maskell, was killed in action at Loos on 30 September 1915 serving as a lance corporal with the 9th Devonshire Regiment. His body was never found and he is now commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Serjeant John VEITCH DCM, 'A' Battery, 71 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 23 March 1918, aged 22. His DCM was won while serving as a bombardier with 'C' Battery and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry between 26 September and 14 October 1915. During that time his battery was in the open and constantly under very heavy fire. On 8 October, during an enemy attack when it was of the utmost importance that communications should be maintained, he voluntarily went out into the open on four or five occasions and repaired the telephone wires. The citation concludes that he had invariably set a fine example of devotion to duty and always showed a total disregard of danger. The award was gazetted on 29 November 1915. (Plot VI.C.15)

Serjeant Donald McARTHUR DCM, 8th Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on 24 March 1918. His DCM was won as a private with the 2nd Battalion and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry when the remainder of his machine-gun team had been put out of action by heavy enemy fire. He kept his gun going and, by his bravery and resource, did much to save the situation when the line began to withdraw. The award was gazetted on 11 March 1916. (Plot VI.C.23)

Major Richard Guy PURCELL MC, 31st Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, died of wounds at No. 47 Field Ambulance on 28 March 1918. I have been unable to find any reference to his MC in any of the Gazettes, though *Officers Died in the Great War* does acknowledge the award. He is referred to in Gazettes on 18 August 1917, but there is no mention of the MC. He was gazetted as a second lieutenant on 17 January 1908. His father attained the rank of colonel in the Royal Engineers. (Plot VI.D.31)

Gunners Malcolm and William McISAAC were killed in action while serving as part of the 149th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, on 11 April 1918. The brothers came from Falkirk in Scotland. Malcolm was 20 years old when he died and William was 26. (Plot VI.E.21 and 22)

Second Lieutenant Edward Clive GARTON, 5th Rifle Brigade, was 19 years old when he died of wounds on 2 September 1918 (Plot VI.F.17). His brother, Captain Herbert Westlake Garton, is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He also served in the Rifle Brigade and was killed in action with the 9th Battalion on 15 September 1916, aged 24.

Driver Harold E. HOLLAND MM and Bar, 'D' Battery, 70 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 2 September 1918 (Plot VI.F.45). He is one of two men buried here with a bar to their MM. The other was also a member of the Royal Field Artillery and is buried in Plot VII. He is Corporal Daniel John GUILMARTIN MM and Bar, 86th Battery, 32 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, who died of wounds on 31 August 1918. (Plot VII.E.52)

Captain Nelson Gordon JOHNSTONE MC, 9th Black Watch, was killed in action on 30 December 1917, aged 30, whilst attached to 44th Trench Mortar Battery. He originally served in France with the 1st Sherwood Foresters before obtaining a commission in the 11th Black Watch in late 1915. Whilst undergoing officer training with his new battalion, he and four fellow officers had a minor brush with the military authorities when their celebrations got out of hand fuelled by drink. Once back in France he was wounded in the hand, but the subsequent infection spread and manifested itself in the form of a rectal abscess. He was invalided back to England, but returned to France early in 1917. His death occurred in the trenches during a trench mortar demonstration. A subsequent court of inquiry concluded that a 3-inch round had been faulty and had exploded in the barrel killing JOHNSTON, who was standing next to the mortar.

His file at the National Archives makes reference to his MC, but does not show the date on which it was gazetted or why it was awarded. The award is also acknowledged in *Officers Died in the Great War*, but I can find no reference to the award in any of the Gazettes. However, the MC does appear after his name in the *London Gazette* dated 22 December 1917, although there is no prior mention of it or when it was awarded. (Plot VII.A.20)

Captain Dan Horace GEORGESON, 8th Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on 9 March 1918, aged 24, and was twice mentioned in despatches. The official war artist, Sir David Muirhead Bone, made a full-length portrait of GEORGESON, who at the time was serving as a lieutenant. The portrait was entitled 'A Highland Officer'. Bone made many sketches depicting life on the Western Front, including villages, battlefields, churches and other military scenes, as well as sketches of factories at home, the Royal Navy and other war-related subjects. (Plot VII.A.33)

Corporal John DONNELLY DCM, 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, was mortally wounded on 21 March 1918. He was inside a house some miles behind the lines when a shell struck the building. He was severely wounded in the head by fragments and died a few hours later. His DCM was gazetted on 11 December 1916 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry in action near Le Transloy. The citation records that he was buried along with his machine gun, and that after being dug out, he worked unceasingly under heavy fire to rescue his gun. Later he rescued five men who had also been buried. Two days later, on 12 October, he again risked his life by going out under heavy fire and bringing in a wounded officer. (Plot VII.B.12)

Major Francis GRAHAM DSO MC, 71 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 28 March 1918, aged 23. He was educated at Harrow, followed by the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and was then gazetted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1913. He was the grandson of General Sir Robert M. Stewart GCB. He went to

France with the original BEF and took part in the Retreat from Mons, the Battle of the Marne, the Battle of the Aisne, and also fought at the First Battle of Ypres with the 1st Divisional Artillery. The following year he saw action at Festubert, Richebourg and at the Battle of Loos.

His DSO was awarded for gallantry during the First Battle of Ypres while serving as a second lieutenant with the 51st Battery, Royal Field Artillery. After all the available officers from the South Lancashire Regiment were either killed or wounded, he took command of the men and succeeded in holding part of our trenches until relief arrived and the enemy was driven back. By doing so, seizing the initiative and acting very much as an infantry officer, he saved the situation in that part of the line. He was also mentioned in despatches in February 1915.

His MC was gazetted in November 1916 while he was a temporary captain and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry in action, commanding his battery with great skill. On one occasion he and another officer established an observation post in a shell hole on the edge of a village and remained there all day under very heavy fire. The citation concludes by stating that his coolness and gallantry were remarkable. In 1917 he saw action in all the main engagements. (Plot VII.C.1)

Lieutenant Aubrey Causton STRACHAN MC and Bar, 'C' Battery, 70 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 28 March 1918, aged 23. His MC was gazetted on 27 September 1917 and its citation appeared on 10 January 1918. It was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in an advanced position with his battery. He commanded his section for five hours under heavy fire and in pouring rain. During that time he personally removed those killed and wounded and, by his own example of gallantry and coolness, kept his men in action at a very critical time. The bar to his MC was gazetted on 8 July 1918 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in bringing his section into action under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, skilfully assisting in the capture of a village, and doing most valuable work throughout the operations. His father, Edward Aubrey Strachan, served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as a lieutenant colonel. (Plot VII.C.7)

Gunner Kenneth MacRAE, 110th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, was killed in action on 3 April 1918. The family lived at Beauly, near Inverness. He was one of four brothers to be killed during the war. (Plot VII.D.2)

The first to lose his life was Private Alexander Duncan MacRae, who served with the 29th Battalion, Canadian Infantry. He was killed on 7 April 1916, aged 26, and is now buried at Bedford House Cemetery, Enclosure No. 2, in Belgium. On 15 September the same year, tragedy struck again when John, a sergeant with the 27th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, was killed in action near Courcellette at the age of 28. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge. A few weeks before the Armistice, on 25 October 1918, Private Archibald MacRae was killed in action whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, during an attack on Turkish positions. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial.

Company Serjeant Major Robert DOUGLAS, 'D' Company, 9th Black Watch, died of wounds on 6 May 1918, aged 34. His death occurred during his battalion's last tour of duty in the front line before it amalgamated with the 4/5th Battalion on 16 May.

The regimental history notes that of the original members of the 9th Battalion, only one officer and eighty-three other ranks were still serving with it by May 1918. (Plot VII.D.4)

Second Lieutenant Thomas Henry MAWBY, 4th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), was killed in action on 24 June 1918, aged 28 (Plot VII.D.14). His younger brother, John Lane Mawby, served as a private with the 1/4th Leicestershire Regiment and was killed in action, aged 20, on 13 October 1915. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Captain Douglas Marsden EWART MC, 7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, was killed in action on 26 August 1918. His MC was gazetted on 30 July 1917 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, displaying great courage and determination in consolidating his position under heavy fire and setting a fine example to his men. (Plot VII.D.22)

Corporal Frederick HICKMAN MM, Canadian Corps Military Police, is one of just thirteen from that regiment who lost their lives during the Great War and one of only six buried on the Western Front. He was killed in action on 27 August 1918 while attached to the HQ of the 3rd Canadian Division. He was born in Elston, Nottinghamshire, but moved to Canada in 1908 where he took up farming. He enlisted in January 1916. (Plot VII.D.24)

Captain Harold Talbot VIZARD MC and 2 Bars, 'A' Battery, 121st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 1 September 1918, aged 22. His MC was gazetted on 17 April 1916 and was awarded for conspicuous courage and devotion to duty when a gun pit containing sixty shells caught fire. Despite being under heavy shell fire, he took immediate steps to have the ammunition removed and remained in the pit until the fire had been extinguished.

The bar to it was gazetted on 27 November 1916 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry after he reorganized a party of men and then led them forward in a bombing attack, displaying great courage at a critical time. The second bar was gazetted on 26 September 1917. Its citation appeared on 9 January 1918 and was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving as liaison officer with an infantry battalion. After hearing cries for help coming from a derelict tank, he accompanied the medical officer through a heavy barrage and machine-gun fire. Finding a badly wounded Highlander, they dressed his wounds and carried him back to a place of safety through a hail of shell and machine-gun fire. The citation concludes that there could be no praise too great for this splendid act of fearlessness and devotion. (Plot VII.E.55)

Major William Broder McTAGGART DSO, 3 Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, was killed in action on 2 September 1918, aged 25. He was in an observation post at Dury directing the fire of his battery when he was hit by machine-gun fire, killing him instantly. His body was brought back to Arras for burial. His DSO was awarded for distinguished service in the field in the New Year's Honours List on 1 January 1918. He was wounded on four previous occasions. (Plot VII.F.1)

Lieutenant George Thomas LYE, 85th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, joined the battalion in early October 1915 and was another Canadian officer who graduated through the ranks. He was promoted to corporal while serving on the Somme in August 1916 and in June the following year was promoted to sergeant. In December 1917 he became a company sergeant major and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant on 6 June 1918. At this stage of the war he would have been one of the most experienced men in the battalion and a real asset to his unit. Sadly, he was not to see the war through; he was killed in action on 25 September, aged 23. (Plot VII.F.51)

Lieutenant Harold POTTER, 7th East Surrey Regiment, was killed in action on 9 April 1917 during his battalion's advance to its first objective, the Black Line. Three fellow officers also fell around the same time. Like POTTER, all three were from the regiment's 3rd Battalion, but were attached to the 7th Battalion. (Plot VII.G.19)

Captain Thomas Arthur NELSON, Lothians and Border Horse, attached Machine Gun Corps, was killed by a shell on the morning of 9 April 1917, aged 40. He rejoined his yeomanry regiment on the outbreak of war and eventually went with it to France at the end of 1915, attached to the 25th Division. In 1916 he spent some time as a staff officer before becoming an observation officer with the 50th (Northumbrian) Division, which at the time was near Kemmel. In November that year, he carried out the same role with V Corps during the fighting on the Somme around Beaucourt. He then returned briefly to his regiment, but soon afterwards was granted a period of leave.

During his time at home he visited a friend in London, the author John Buchan. He had been thinking of joining the Royal Flying Corps, but complained to Buchan that he was now too old to become a pilot. He was adamant that he wanted a change of circumstances, and it was Buchan who suggested that he should consider joining the Tank Corps rather than the Royal Flying Corps. Accordingly, in March 1917, NELSON took up a position as an intelligence officer at Tank Corps HQ, serving under another of Buchan's friends, Captain Frederick Elliot Hotblack. The two men were talking together on the morning of 9 April when a shell exploded close to them. Captain Hotblack was wounded, but NELSON was killed and, although he was buried nearby, his body was removed to this cemetery after the war.

NELSON and Buchan had first met at Oxford where they revived the Caledonian Club, Nelson becoming its president and Buchan its secretary, and the two men had remained firm friends ever since. NELSON had also played international rugby for Scotland. (Plot VII.G.26)

Captain Harry Cunvin HORSFORD, 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment, died of wounds on 8 April 1917, aged 29, the day before the Battle of Arras began. *Officers Died in the Great War* shows his middle name as 'Curwin'. His brother, Algernon, served with the Middlesex Regiment during the war. (Plot VII.G.42)

On 21 March 1917 Lieutenant James FLEMING MC, 11th Royal Scots, was killed in action while carrying out what the regimental history refers to as '*a reconnaissance in force*'. The German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line south of Arras had raised the question as to whether the enemy might also be preparing to vacate their lines nearer to Arras itself. With the British offensive just three weeks away, intelligence as to the enemy's intentions was urgently needed. The reconnaissance took place at 3.30pm

but unfortunately the assembled raiders were spotted by a German aeroplane. The Germans responded quickly by putting down a trench mortar barrage on our front line trenches, whilst at the same time their machine-gun positions also began to open up. Despite all this, the 11th Royal Scots dashed across no man's land and entered the German trenches as planned. A brief but desperate fight took place as the Germans defended their position using bombs. The Royal Scots replied with their rifles and, firing from the German parapets, they soon got the better of the defenders, forcing them back to their second line of trenches.

This episode not only confirmed that the Germans were there in numbers, it also gave a clear indication that they had no intention of withdrawing and were prepared to defend their positions. The engagement was broken off shortly after the enemy had been driven back and the return across no man's land was uneventful as the Germans licked their wounds.

Casualties from the raid came to five officers, one of whom was Lieutenant FLEMING, and seventy-five other ranks. FLEMING had distinguished himself the previous year on the Somme. His MC, gazetted on 27 July 1916, was awarded for conspicuous gallantry after twice patrolling through a difficult wood that was quite unfamiliar to him, but which was occupied by the enemy who knew it thoroughly (Plot II.K.1).

Of the five officer casualties, three died of wounds the following day. All three are commemorated on the Arras Memorial; they are Captain James William Brown, Second Lieutenant John George Sandilands and Second Lieutenant Herbert Charles Lunn.

The raid provoked further hostility when the Germans raided trenches held by the 11th Royal Scots at 5.00am the following morning, capturing three men who were holding a Lewis gun post. Ever determined to have the last word, the 11th Battalion retaliated the next night. Lieutenant Bertram Cash Matthews and two other men left their trenches and entered the German front line where they killed four of the enemy's garrison, one of whom was not silenced cleanly and managed to cry out.

Matthews and his two companions were attacked before they could make good their escape. Only one man returned safely and he was unable to confirm what had happened to Matthews, though he knew that his other colleague had been killed. Once it became light, sentries reported what was believed to be a body lying out in no man's land. Lieutenant Colonel Croft, the battalion's commanding officer, ordered a party to go out after dusk to investigate. However, Second Lieutenant Storey, whether unaware of the reference to 'dusk' or gallantly ignoring the fact, went out in broad daylight and reached the supposed body, only to find that it was a piece of sacking. During the advance on 9 April, Matthews's body was found and he is now buried in Bailleul West Cemetery, Saint-Laurent-Blangy.

On the far side of the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, away from the entrance, is a small plot containing German graves and, a little further along, there are three separate plots containing nine native soldiers of the Indian Army. The men are buried separately according to their religion. There is one Sikh, Sowar Arjun SINGH, 'B' Squadron, King Edward's Own Cavalry, who was killed in action on 4 August 1916 (Sikh Row).

The three Hindus, who died during the early months of 1919, were attached to ammunition columns of British divisions (Hindu Row 1 to 3), as were two of the five Moslems, a driver and a gunner, who died just after the Armistice. The remaining three Moslems include a sowar from the 17th Indian Cavalry who died in August 1916; a man belonging to the Supply and Transport Corps who died in December 1917; and a man from the Central Depot, Royal Horse and Field Artillery, who died just after the Armistice. The rank of these last two men is shown as 'follower'. (Mohammadan Row 1 to 5)

The cemetery also contains eight identified casualties of the Second World War and these can be found in Plot VIII, which is situated at the far end of the cemetery where the Cross of Sacrifice stands. For all practical purposes this is more or less an extension of Plot VI. Among them are four airmen of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, three of whom are from 107 Squadron. Sergeant (wireless operator and air gunner) John Joseph BUTLER, Sergeant (navigator) Patrick John WHELTON and Flight Sergeant (pilot) Clifford Ewart TURL were all killed in action on 16 August 1943 when their Boston aircraft came down during a low-level raid on the steel works at Denain. (Plot 8, Row A. Graves 22, 23 and 24)

A fourth member of the Royal Air Force buried here is Aircraftman 2nd Class Alfred Thomas BLAGDON, who died on 16 September 1944 (Plot 8, Row A. Grave 28).

Lieutenant Francis George SIMPSON MM, 4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, died on 7 September 1944, aged 34. The war diary for his unit that day contains a note stating that his body was found a week later after he had drowned. The unit had passed through Arras, Lens, and Lille, but was then halted at Menin where the Germans had blown up a bridge, thereby forcing it to alter its route. Unfortunately the diary gives no further information regarding the manner of his death. His MM, however, was gazetted on 15 October 1942 and was won while serving as a bombardier with the 2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, during the campaign in Egypt and Libya. (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 26)

Next to him are Private William TATE, who served in the Army Catering Corps, and Sergeant Donald WIGLEY-JONES, Corps of Military Police; both men died in September 1944. (Plot 8, Row A. Graves 27 and 29)

The CWGC register points out that no details are known regarding the eighth burial from the Second World War.

Finally, the special memorial referred to in the CWGC register is one of three over by the south wall. It commemorates Colonel Thomas Jonathan Jackson CHRISTIAN Junior of 361st Fighter Group, USAAF, who was killed in action on 12 August 1944. His P-51 Mustang aircraft was lost during a bombing mission on the marshalling yards at Arras and his body was never found. An explosion was seen in the centre of the railway yard and the two pilots with him that day were able to confirm that it was not caused by any of their bombs. It was therefore presumed that the explosion they witnessed was CHRISTIAN's aircraft when it came down, very likely as a result of ground fire. Colonel CHRISTIAN was a very experienced flyer. He was awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in 1942 following operations at Guadalcanal and the Distinguished Service Cross in connection with operations in Europe.