

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

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Herbert Arter,	67th Western Scots, Canadian Regt.	age 22
William Herbert Fake,	17th Royal Fusiliers	age 19
Ernest Gagen,	9th Norfolk Regt.	
Alfred Thomas Norman,	21st Manchester Regt.	age 34
John Edward Osborne,	9th Norfolk Regt.	age 22
Bertie William Porter,	1 / 5th Norfolk Regt.	
Ralph Walter Porter, M.M.	50th Canadian Infantry Bn	age 23
Ezra Seaman,	1st Hertfordshire Regt.	age 28
Stanley Steel,	1st Norfolk Regt.	age 21
Bertram Stringer,	12th Highland Light Infantry	

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THIS MEMORIAL
WAS ERECTED
BY THE PARISHIONERS OF HARPLEY
IN MEMORY OF
THE GALLANT MEN WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 -- 1918.

HERBERT ARTER.	67 TH WESTERN
SCOTS, CANADIAN REGT.	
WILLIAM HENRY FAKE.	17 TH

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

Herbert Arter, . d Aug 25, 1916 age 22

Born: April 1, 1894

Family: Son of George and Martha Arter, of Harpley, King's Lynn, Norfolk
One of 11 children, his younger brother died in WWII age 36

Commemorated on [Page 48](#) of the *First World War Book of Remembrance by Canadian Veterans Association*

Inscription: Canadian Pioneers

Service No: 102211

Buried: [Reninghelst New Military Cemetery](#) Arrondissement Ieper (Ypres),
West Flanders, Belgium plot II. A. 2



Herbert Arter with one of his sisters

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

Herbert Arter

67th "Western Scots" Pioneer Battalion
1st September 1916

George Arter,
Harpley,
Norfolk, England.

Dear Sir

I regret to very much to inform you that your son, Pte. H. Arter, No 102211, was killed in action, by a bullet in the head. He died instantly on being struck.

Your son was a good soldier & highly esteemed by his comrades. We all miss him very much. There is little that I can say to comfort you in your bereavement, but you have my sincere sympathy in your loss, & the conscious pride that your son fell in service, fighting for his King & Empire

Yours Sincerely
Lorne Ross

Lieut. Colonel
G. C., 67th "Western Scots" Pioneer Bn.

Letter from Lt Col Ross (Officer Commanding 67th Western Scots) on the death of Herbert Arter (held in Norfolk Records Office)

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Herbert Arter's commanding officer, Lieutenant J Falkner, wrote to his mother from Flanders on 28th August 1916:

“My dear Mrs Arter, It is indeed a painful duty for me to inform you that your son H Arter, was killed in action on the morning of August 25th. I was his Platoon Commander, and I assure you that your son was one of the best, and his loss is felt by all his chums and myself. Any duty he was called upon to do, he did quickly with a smile, and you can feel that your hero boy made the supreme sacrifice with his face to the foe. He is buried in Flanders in a pretty spot where many more brave heroes are sleeping their last sleep. As names of places cannot be mentioned, if you write to the Graves Registration Commission, B E F Army P O London you would be informed of the exact place of burial. Major Gordon, the Divisional Chaplain, I presume has written or will write you also. Your son's personal effects will in due time reach you. Sympathising with you, I am,

*Yours truly,
Lieut. J Falkner”.*

In Memoriam card from his siblings:



IN/ LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF / HERBERT ARTER / OF THE 67TH
CANADIAN WESTERN SCOTS / BORN AT HARPLEY 1ST OF APRIL 1894 /
KILLED IN ACTION IN FLANDERS / AUGUST 25TH 1916/ WHILST DOING
HIS DUTY FOR / KING AND EMPIRE / BEYOND THE SWELLING FLOODS /
WE MEET TO PART PART NO MORE / GODS WILL BE DONE

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

William Herbert Fake,

d Jun 8, 1918

age 19

Private, 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Born:

Family: Son of Clarke William and Adelaide Fake, of Rose Cottage, Harpley, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Buried: Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot III. B 2



IN/ LOVING MEMORY OF / WILLIAM HERBERT FAKE / WHO DIED OF
WOUNDS / RECEIVED IN ACTION IN FRANCE / ON JUNE 8TH 1918 /
AGED 19 YEARS / CHRIST WILL DRAW THE BROKEN CHAIN / CLOSER
TILL WE MEET AGAIN

Ernest Albert Gagen,

d in service Sept 14, 1916

age 36

Private, 9th Norfolk Regt

Service No: 3/10130

Enlisted Norwich

Battle of the Somme

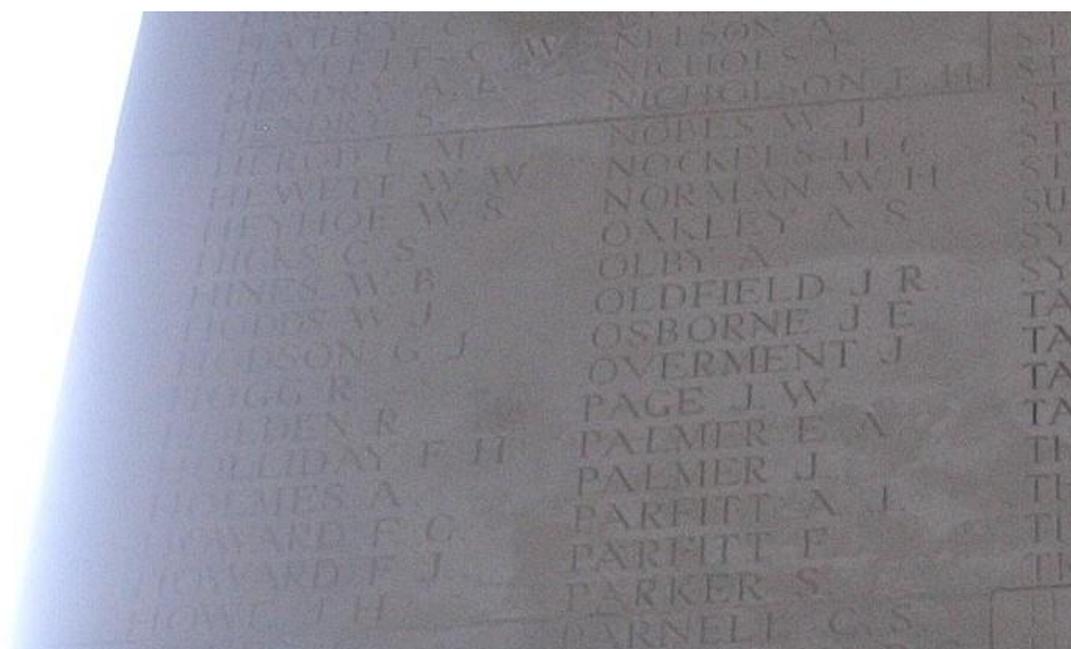
Buried: Wimereux Communal Cemetery

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

John Edward Osborne, d Sept 15, 1916 age 22
Inscription: Norfolk Regiment Service No: 15045
Killed in action 15th Sept 1916 – Battle of the Somme Attack of 'the Quadrilateral' (Ginchy)
Buried: Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval Departement de la Somme,
Picardie, France



Plot: Pier and Face 1 C and 1 D



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Bertie William Porter, d Apr 19, 1917 age 21
Service No: 240857 Served Norfolk Regt 1st/5th Bn Inscription: Norfolk Regiment
Family: Son of Robert and Harriett Porter, of Well Cottage, Harpley, King's Lynn.
Brother of Ralph who died six months earlier
Buried: Jerusalem Memorial, Jerusalem Plot Panels 12 to 15



Harpley Men who died in the First World War

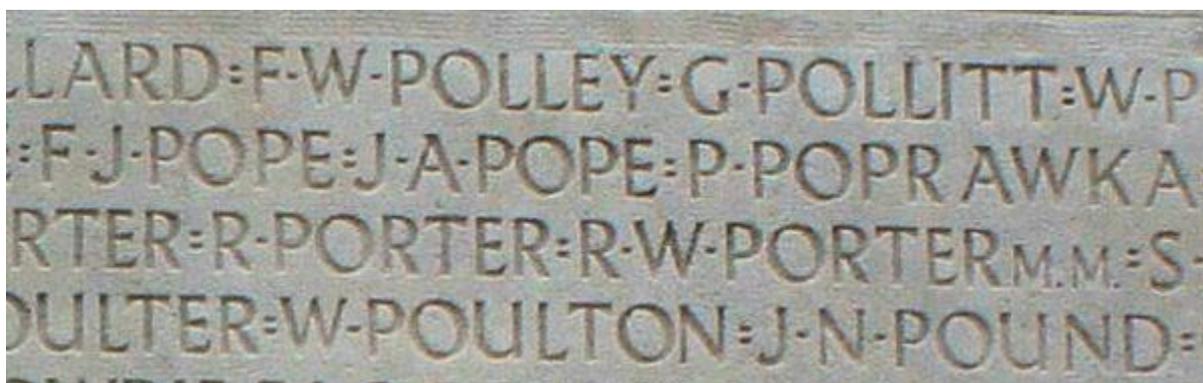
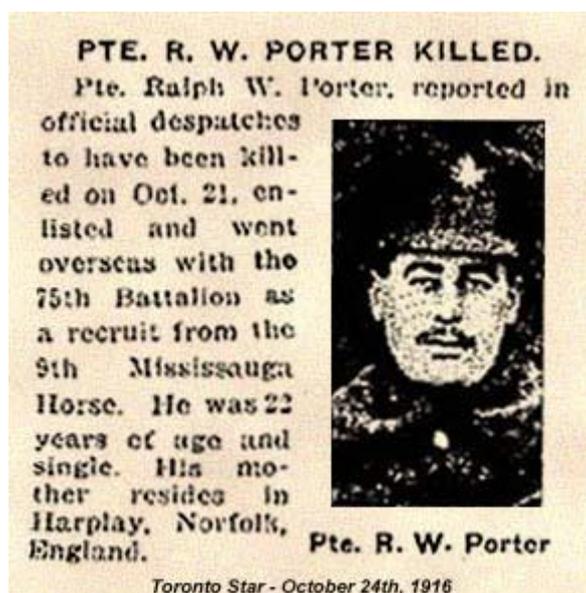
Ralph Walter Porter, M.M., d Oct 9, 1916 age 23
Private 50th Canadian Infantry Bn
Final resting place unknown (missing presumed dead)
Name listed on the Vimy memorial, Vimy, Nord-pas-de-Calais, France

Military Service:

Service Number: 139162 Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regt) 60th Bn

Born: April 9, 1893 Harpley, Norfolk,
Enlisted: July 30, 1915 Toronto, Ontario
Family: Son of Robert and Harriett Porter, of Well Cottages, Harpley, King's Lynn,
Norfolk, England; Brother of Bertie who died 6 months later

Commemorated on [Page 149](#) of the *First World War Book of Remembrance*. (Canadian Veterans)



Inscription – His name as it is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial. Over 11,000 fallen Canadians having no known place of burial in France, are honoured on this Memorial.

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Ralph Walter Porter, M.M Name listed on the Vimy memorial of Canadian dead



Grieving Mother and Grieving Father flank the steps at the rear of the memorial.



Grieving mother



Mother Canada looks out over the Lens-Douai Plain from Vimy Ridge

Sculptures of 22 figures are included on the memorial which was unveiled and dedicated on July 26th 1936

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TO / THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF / PTE RALPH
WALTER PORTER MM / THIRD SON OF / ROBERT & HARRIET PORTER /
OF THIS PARISH / 60TH BATT. CANADIAN INFANTRY / KILLED IN (??) /
IN FRANCE / OCTOBER 9TH 1916 / AGED 23 YEARS

Harpley Men who died in the First World War

Ezra Seaman,

d Sept 18, 1918

age 28

Private 1st Hertfordshire Regt

Buried: Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Nord Pas-de- Calais, France

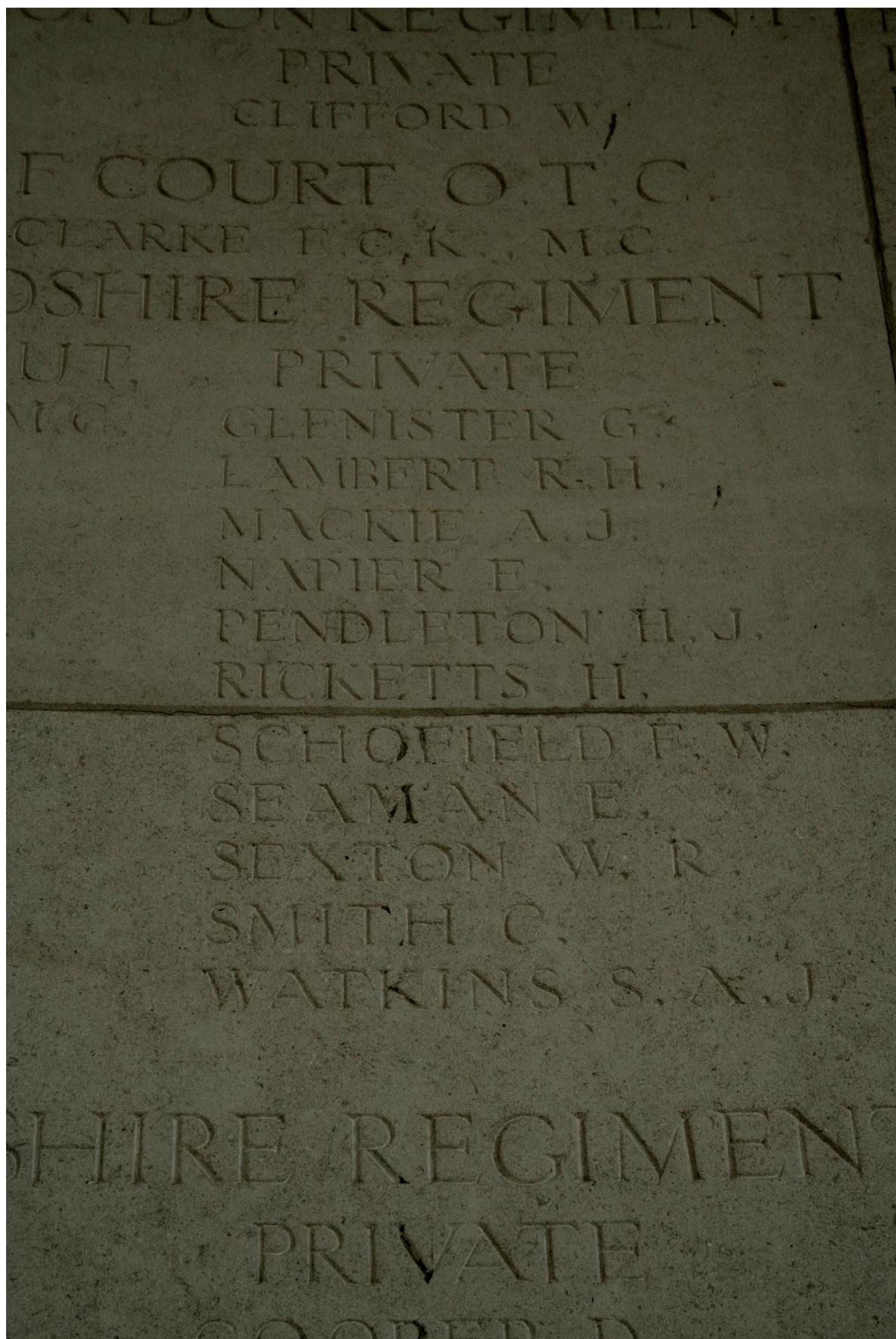
Final resting place unknown; Name listed on the Vis-en-Artois memorial, Panel 10

Family: Son of Jesse and Emmeline Seaman of 28 Back St., Harpley



Harpley Men who died in the First World War

Ezra Seaman - Name listed on the Vis-en-Artois memorial, Panel 10



Harpley Men who died in the First World War

Alfred Thomas Norman, d Oct 4, 1918 age 34
Killed in action in France
21st Manchester Regt

Shield shaped memorial in Church (Moved from Methodist Chapel on closure).

Inscription:

IN / LOVING MEMORY OF / ALFRED THOMAS NORMAN /
KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE / OCT. 4TH 1918, AGED 34 YEARS /
SWEET IS YOUR MEMORY DEAR ONE / AND WE THINK OF YOU
WITH PRIDE / YOU HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER BEFORE US /
BUT WE WILL MEET ON THE OTHER SIDE / ERECTED BY HIS WIFE /
FATHER & MOTHER / SISTERS & BROTHER

Stanley Steel, d Oct 9th, 1917 age 21
1st Norfolk Regt

Shield shaped memorial in Church

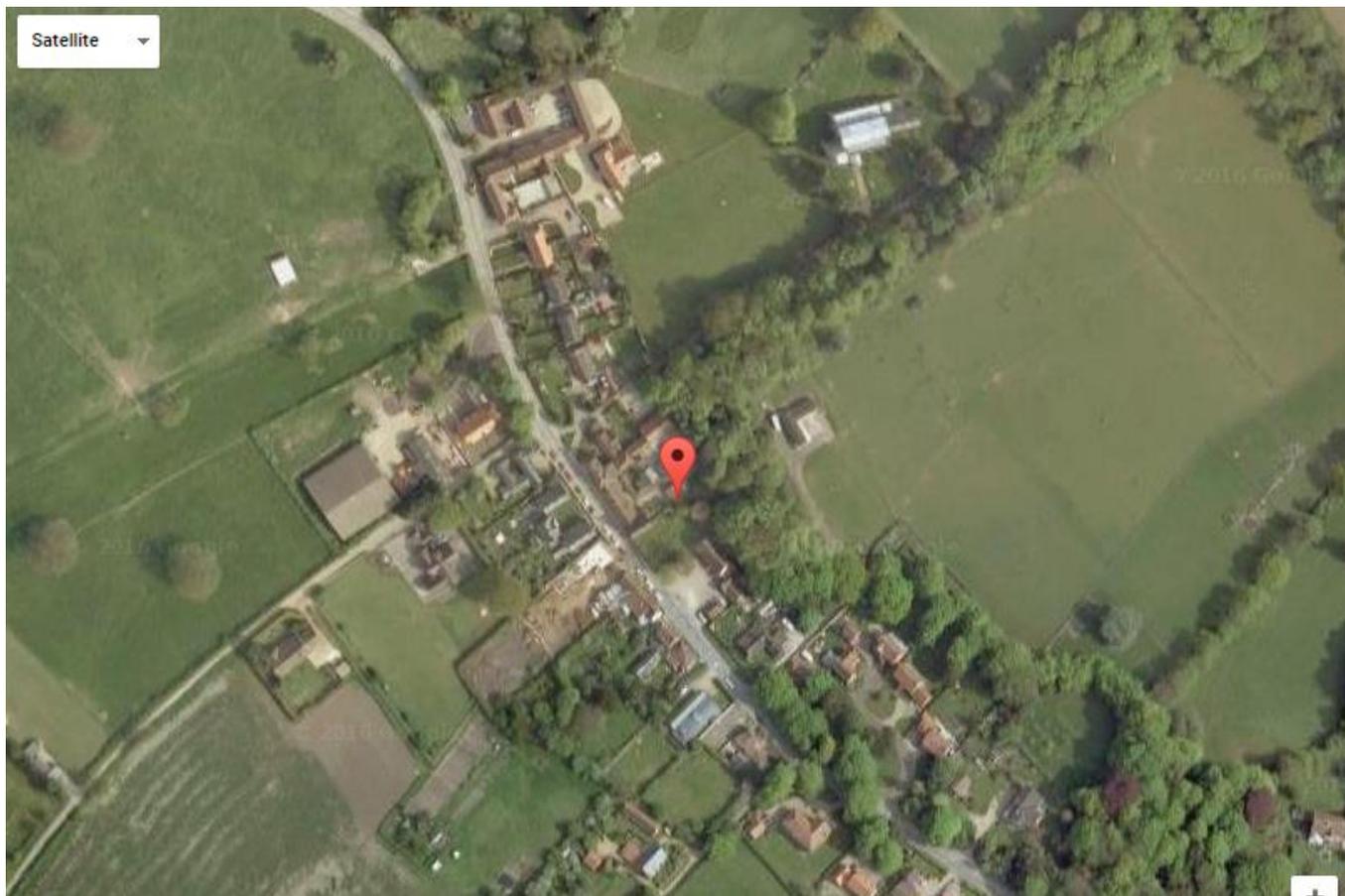
Inscription:

IN / LOVING MEMORY OF / STANLEY STEEL / WHO WAS KILLED
IN ACTION / WHILE FIGHTING FOR HIS COUNTRY / IN "FRANCE"
(sic) / ON OCT. 9TH 1917 / AGE 21 YEARS / "GONE BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN"

Bertram Stringer d Sept 29, 1918
Private 12th Highland Light Infantry
Service No: 38504

Buried: Zantvoorde British Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium
Plot I. G. 4

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Harpley before PO court completed

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Oliver John Horn., d Oct 16, 1915 age 23
Corporal, 3 Bn, The Grenadier Guards
Buried: Vermelles British Cemetery,
Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord –Pas-de-Calais, France Plot I. K. 31

Military Service:
Service Number: 15630 3 Bn, The Grenadier Guards

Born: , 1889, Hook Norton,
Enlisted: February, 1912
Family: Son of John and Diana Horn, of Hook Norton, Banbury,
Husband of Elizabeth Horn of 49, Sandown Rd., Rugby

Plaque in St Peter's Church, Hook Norton



OLIVER JOHN HORN was serving as a Corporal in the 3rd Battalion, The Grenadier Guards when he was killed in action on 16th October 1915. He was aged 23 and is buried in Vermelles British Cemetery. He was the son of John and Diana Horn of Down End, Hook Norton and before enlisting had worked as an ironstone digger. He enlisted into the Grenadier Guards in February 1912 and at the outbreak of war they were stationed at Wellington Barracks in London. On 14th July 1915 he married Lizzie Coleman in St Andrew's Church in

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Fulham. Twelve days later the 3rd Battalion was mobilised for war and embarked for Le Havre on 26th July. As part of the 2nd Guards Division they were thrust into the Battle of Loos from 26th September 1915. On 15th October they marched through the village of Vermelles to take up position in front of the Hohenzollen Redoubt, a German Stronghold, digging a sap trench towards the 2nd Coldstream Guards holding the line. On 16th October they were met with heavy and accurate shelling and were unable to complete the sap and attack. Corporal Horn was one of 5 casualties of the shelling.



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Arthur James Duncombe

Rank: Serjeant Service No: 3854592 Date of Death: 18/01/1942 Age: 34

Regiment/Service: The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) 1st Bn.

Additional Information:

Son of Arthur and Lily Duncombe; husband of Beatrice Duncombe,
of Great Barr, Birmingham.



Circumstances of death unknown;
Buried in Saint Lawrence's churchyard