

# FALLEN SONS OF GAINSBORO.'

LOCAL HEROES OF THE "BIG PUSH."

Gainsborough and  
the Somme

## Introduction The Living Memory Project

Foreword by Colin Kerr,  
Director External  
Relations,  
Commonwealth War  
Graves Commission

In 2016 our nation will  
remember the Battle of  
the Somme on its  
centenary. This summer,  
tens of thousands will  
visit the Commonwealth  
War Graves  
Commission cemeteries  
in France. One of the  
most devastating in  
history, the armies of the  
British and French  
Empires fought the  
German Empire over

141 days. A long and bloody struggle resulted in more than one million dead or wounded.

This summer, tens of thousands will visit the Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries in France. We will welcome them - in particular to those many sites which are visited rarely.

But there are war graves here in the British Isles which are overlooked. These are in the main, the graves of the men who were wounded on the Western Front and later died in hospitals in Britain along with those who fell ill while serving their country including many men and women who died in the influenza epidemic. Their headstones stand in the midst of the large civic cemeteries in the big cities across the British Isles. Sometimes in a group and sometimes scattered, these graves also lie in village churchyards up and down the country.

Living Memory is encouraging you to remember them.



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LIVING MEMORY

*Source: CWGC Living Memory Resource Pack'*

There are 300,000 Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) war graves and memorials here in the UK. Many lie in hidden corners of cemeteries and local communities are often unaware of their existence.

The practice of non-repatriation of the dead which was established during the First World War meant that Commonwealth servicemen and women who died on active service abroad, were buried abroad.

The majority of those buried in the United Kingdom are therefore the men and women who died at home in military hospitals. Others died in training accidents or air raids and some were killed in action in the air or at sea in coastal waters, with their bodies washed ashore.

Over 100,000 missing naval and air force casualties are also commemorated on the great memorials at Chatham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Tower Hill and Runnymede.

Source CWGC



Above—One of the 53 graves from World War One in Gainsborough General Cemetery:-

11682 Private Samuel Edward Ashton.

Private Ashton's service records have survived and they tell us the following:-

He enlisted the 1st Lincolns at the start of the war in September 1914 and went to France on 26.1.15.

On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1915 he was shot by a sniper and received a serious chest wound - "*Bullet entered right shoulder passing underneath scapula and emerging at ... left scapula after damaging inter-costal muscles & producing a hernia of the lung.*"

He was brought back to England and was discharged from hospital June 1915 to recover at home. He died from his wounds on 13th May 1917.

He is remembered on St. John the Divine Church Roll of Honour, Ashcroft Road.



Gainsborough News 25.5.17

**Private SAMUEL E. ASHTON**  
Lincolns

Private Samuel E. Ashton, the 35 year old son of Mrs. Ellen Ashton, of 15 Bridge Hill, was a married man with four children. He enlisted in September 1914 and went abroad in the following January. He was wounded in February, 1915, being shot by a sniper through the lung. He remained in hospital until 23rd June 1915 when he was discharged. Since his discharge he has been living at home. He died from his wounds on 13th May of this year and his funeral, on the 16th May, was conducted by the Rev. P.A. Clay, Vicar of St. John's Church. Before the war he was a fitter at Messrs. Rose Bros.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY  
OF THE MEN OF THIS CHURCH  
WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

SAMUEL ASHTON	DAVID J.H. ELLIS	ARTHUR NORTON
HUGH BARNARD	FRANK FISH	HARRY OGDEN M.M.
WILLIAM BRADFORD	PERCY FISH	STEPHEN PILCHER
FRED BREWIN	ARTHUR GLEW	HARRY REYNOLDS
HERBERT BROWN	JAMES P. GREEN	FRANK RICHARDS
ERNEST BULLOCK	GORDON HAMSHAW	WILL RICHARDS
ERNEST BUTTON	JAMES HARDING	WILL SARGENT
FRED CLARK	ALBERT WM. HILL	HERMANN SIDDY
PERCY CLAY	JAMES HODGKINSON	ERNEST SOWBY
HARRY COOK	THOMAS HODGKINSON	DUBLEY STOCK
LEONARD COOK	ERNEST HOE	GEORGE TAYLOR
TOM CORDON	HARRY JOHNSON	CHARLES TINDALL
FREDERICK H. CROSSBY	FRANK MARSHALL	ERIC H. TINKLER
HENRY DALTON	GEO. LEONARD MARSHALL	GEORGE WATERLOW
STANLEY DAWBER	THOMAS W. S. MOULD	ARTHUR WEATHERALL
JOHN GEORGE DRAPER	ARTHUR NICHOLSON	JOHN WHELPTON

Grant them O Lord, Eternal rest.

## The Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme started on the 1st July 1916 and continued until the 18th November 1916. A Franco-British offensive on the Somme was planned as the major Allied effort on the Western Front in 1916. However, the start of a desperate struggle between French and German forces at Verdun in February meant that the British Army assumed the main role in the Somme.

British troops were a mixture of pre-war regular soldiers and Territorials, with tens of thousands of volunteers. Many belonged to 'Pals' battalions, drawn from local communities, clubs and places of work, who had joined up together, trained together and were now to fight together.

On 1st July 1916, after a week-long artillery bombardment of German positions, the infantry assault began. The bombardment was supposed to have neutralised German machine guns for the British and Allied troops, but the well-fortified German army withstood the bombardment. Across large sections of the frontline, British and Commonwealth forces made little progress and suffered heavy losses. By the end of the first day alone, the British Army had suffered some 57,000 casualties - including more than 19,000 killed.

Operations continued for 141 days. Men from every part of Britain and across the British Empire fought as part of the British Army. Both sides committed millions of men and huge quantities of munitions to the struggle.

The Somme can be described as a series of hard-fought battles remembered for the courage and sacrifice of the battalions and regiments involved. In the timeline you will find some of the notable events as well as a handful of the many men who fought and died. We have selected people who are well known outside of the military but the real significance of the Somme was the loss of so many individuals, many of whom were volunteers.

When the offensive was halted in November, more than one million British Empire, French and German servicemen had been wounded, captured, or killed. The battle had significant military, political, industrial and domestic consequences for all the countries involved.

The generally accepted figure for casualties for the armies of the British Empire on the Somme is 420,000, killed, wounded and missing. The casualties that died can be commemorated or buried at any number of cemeteries in and around the Somme. There are some 150 specially constructed CWGC cemeteries with other burials at 250 communal burial sites in the Somme region.

*Source: CWGC Living Memory Resource Pack'*

### Gainsborough and the Somme.

In Gainsborough General Cemetery and North Warren Cemetery there are 60 War Graves from World War One and Two. There are also over 60 headstones with inscriptions which remember soldiers killed during the two wars who are buried/commemorated in Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries or Memorials in this country and abroad.

Inscriptions on family headstones which remember the Somme are:-

GEORGE ROBERT INGLE ... WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION & BURIED IN SHELTER WOOD AT THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

SERGT. MAJOR TOM BEAL 2<sup>ND</sup> LINCOLNS  
MISSING JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1916.

HERBERT SUTER ... WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE GREAT WAR, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1916 AGE 30 YEARS

PTE. J. STANILAND... DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN FRANCE SEPT 17<sup>TH</sup> 1916

AYSCOUGH—CHARLES EMBROUGH ... MISSING IN FRANCE OCT 23<sup>RD</sup> 1916 AGED 21 YEARS

WITTON KENWORTHY DALTON... MISSING IN FRANCE JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> 1916

ARTHUR PLATTS—CAPTAIN. 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTN. SUFFOLK REGT.  
KILLED IN ACTION DURING THE GREAT ADVANCE IN FRANCE JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 1916.



## OUR SOLDIER HEROES.

GN 8.9.16 and 15.9.16

### GAINSBOROUGH SOLDIER IN HOSPITAL

Corporal W.P. Jennings (12297) Machine Gun Corps, son of Mr. T Jennings, draper, Church Street, is in the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent. Corpl. Jennings was wounded by shrapnel in the leg on the 15th July, 1916. He enlisted in the Lincolns in July, 1915, but was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in February. He went to the front in April, 1916. Corpl. Jennings was 21 years old and worked with his father.



12297 Cpl. William Praed Jennings, Machine Gun Corps. Previously 18633 Lincolnshire Regiment. His Pension Records have survived and show that he lived at 87 Morton Terrace, enlisted in July 1915 when he was 20 and went to France on 25.4.16. He suffered a Gun shot wound in the right knee and returned to England on 23.7.16. He was discharged on 18.7.1917 as "No longer physically fit for war duty" and was awarded a Silver War Badge.



## WOUNDED IN THE "BIG PUSH."

GN 25.8.16

Private H.G. Banwell  
Lincolns

Private Harold G. Banwell (Lincolns) enlisted in the "Chums" in January, 1915, and went to France in July this year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Banwell, of 1, Darwin Street, and was a fitter at Messrs. Watson's Shipyard before the war. He was wounded in the "big-push" on July 1st-shot through the right shoulder. He is in hospital in Nottingham, doing well, but having temporarily lost the use of his arm is not yet able to write to his friends.



In the photograph on the left, Private Harold Banwell is on the front row, far right. He is

with a group of wounded soldiers in 1916. He never regained full use of his right arm. Photos courtesy of Patricia Short



**"I laid in a shell hole all day, then made a dash back which was successful..."**

GN 4.8.16

### GAINSBOROUGH

Among the local lads in the Lincolns who were wounded in action on July 1st is Private P. Black, son of Mr. F. Black, 56 Campbell Street. He is 23 years of age, and worked at Messrs. Marshalls before enlistment in May 1915. He went abroad in January this year. He was a machine gunner and received shrapnel wounds in the back and shoulder. He is now in hospital at Eastbourne and is progressing satisfactorily. He has a brother who went out with the Gainsborough Territorials, and was wounded seriously at Hohenzollern Redoubt. He has been in hospital ever since with a broken jaw, and is progressing only slowly we are sorry to hear.

Private F.S. Hawley, of the 10th Lincolns, is to be numbered amongst the Gainsbronians who were wounded at the commencement of the "Big Push" on the 1st July. Previous to enlisting in the "Chums" Battalion he was in the Council's service as a junior clerk in the Accountant's department. He was only 17 years of age, when without mentioning to anyone his intentions he enlisted on the 10th October 1914. Private Hawley is the younger of the two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Hawley, of 9 Trent Street. It is curious that on the day he was returning wounded to England his elder brother was crossing to France. Private Hawley has written the following letter to Mr. Kirk from the Fulham Military Hospital where he is now lying wounded:- "Just a line to let you know I'm not well this time. We went over to them at Albert on July 1st. I reached the Huns 2nd line, when I got a bullet through my right cheek, coming out through the left. I laid in a shell hole all day, then made a dash back which was successful. I've been a whole week getting across here. It's a rotten place to get hit, I can hardly talk and I can't eat or smoke. I've had nothing but milk since I was hit. The wound doesn't hurt a bit, it's some teeth or something knocked down my throat, it's just like a needle sticking in my throat and my tongue is a bit sore. I shan't be home for a few weeks yet I don't expect."

GN 25.8.16

### WOUNDED IN THE "BIG PUSH"

Private F.S. Hawley, of the 10th Lincolns, is to be numbered amongst the Gainsbronians who were wounded at the commencement of the "Big Push" on the 1st July. Previous to enlisting in the "Chums" Battalion he was in the Council's service as a junior clerk in the Accountant's department. He was only 17 years of age, when without mentioning to anyone his intention he enlisted on the 10th October, 1914. Private Hawley is the younger of the two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Hawley, of 9, Trent Street.



Fred Hawley recovering from his wounds in a Red Cross Hospital (front row far right). He had 3 operations during his life to remove bullet splinters, the last one was in the 1950s and the last 20 years of his life was pain free and healthy—he lived until 1973 – when he was 75 years old. Photos courtesy of Wade Malone—Private Hawley's great-great grandson.

# OUR SOLDIER HEROES.

*"...last seen with his Captain climbing into a German trench and calling the men to follow."*

GN 1.9.16

## GAINSBORO' Co.-SERGT.-MAJOR WOUNDED AND MISSING

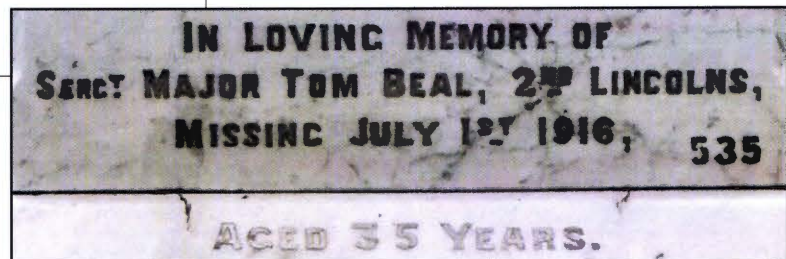
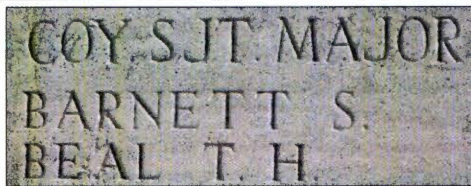
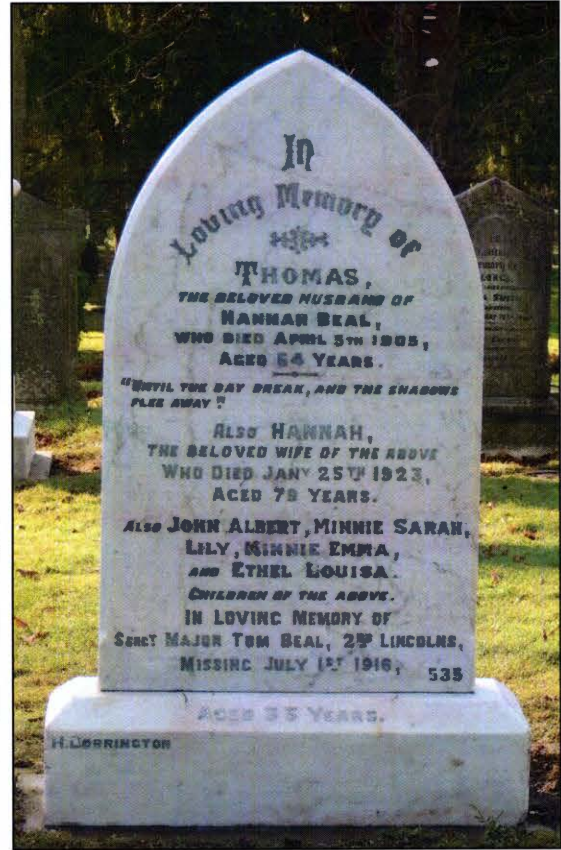
Co.-Sergt.-Major Tom Harry  
BEAL, Lincolnshire Regt.



Co.-Sergt.-Major Tom Harry Beal, of Gainsborough, is posted in the official list as wounded and missing. He joined the forces 17 years ago, and was stationed in Bermuda when war broke out. He served in the South African War. Any news of him will be gladly received by his mother who lives at 11 Bayard Street, Gainsborough, or his wife (he was married only 5 months ago), 28 Connaught Road, North End, Portsmouth. So far as can be ascertained, Co.-Sergt.-Major Beal was last seen with his Captain climbing into a German trench and calling the men to follow. He was 35 years of age.

GN 11.5.17

Co.-Sergt.-Major Tom Beal, whose photograph we produced some short time ago, with the information that he was missing, is now officially notified as killed in action. He joined the Lincolns about 17 years ago and was 35 years of age. He was the son of Mrs .T. Beal of 11 Bayard Street and was a married man, his wife's present address being 28 Connaught Road, Portsmouth.



## Company Sergeant Major Tom Harry Beal

"D" Company, 2nd Lincolns.  
Killed in action 1.7.16.  
Aged 35.

No known grave—he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme (above).

He is remembered on his parents' headstone in Gainsborough General Cemetery which has recently been restored by the Friends of Gainsborough Cemeteries & Chapel.



GN 3.11.16

Private JOSEPH STANILAND  
Lincolns



After being frost bitten in the Dardanelles, Private Joseph Staniland, of the Lincolns, was transferred to another front, where he was wounded in the head

by a German bomb. He was a married man with four children, whose ages range from two to six years and he lived in Britannia Cottages. Up to January 1915, he worked in Messrs Marshall's Moulding Shop as a labourer. The Chaplain to the forces writes to Private Staniland's sister at 7 Caskgate Street, informing her that her brother only lived a short time after being wounded and that he "died as a soldier, doing his duty and fighting in a great cause for right and freedom and God, against wrong and oppression and the devil.

# OUR SOLDIER HEROES



STANILAND J.

15066 Private Joseph Staniland  
6<sup>th</sup> Lincolns.  
Killed in action 19<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

He does not have a known grave and is named on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France—above.

A family headstone in Gainsborough General Cemetery which has an inscription remembering him has recently been restored by the Friends of Gainsborough Cemeteries and Chapel.

**ALSO OF P<sup>TE</sup> J. STANILAND,  
BELOVED SON OF THE ABOVE  
WHO DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED  
IN FRANCE, SEP<sup>R</sup> 17<sup>TH</sup> 1916,  
ACED 33 YEARS.**



The first day of the Battle of the Somme was 1st July 1916. By the end of the day over 57,000 British soldiers had been killed or wounded. Of these nearly 20,000 were killed.

This was the worst day in the history of the British army.

It was over two weeks after the start of the Battle before details began to appear in the Gainsborough News and it was many weeks before casualty lists began to appear.

**9389 Lance Corporal George Robert Ingle**

1<sup>st</sup> Lincolns.

Killed in action 3rd July 1916. Aged 36.

No known grave—commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing (right).

Named on the Gainsborough Constitutional Club Roll of Honour (this is now in Gainsborough and District Heritage Centre).

**CPL. G. R. INGLE.**

Son of Henry and Sarah Ann Ingle. He served under the name of Robert Barlow. His mother's maiden name was Barlow. It is not known why he enlisted under the name of Barlow rather than Ingle.

At the time of the 1891 census the family lived at "Packet Wharf, Lord Street." His father Henry was a "Steam Packet Porter." By the time of the 1911 census his parents were living at 3 Balfour Street and George Robert was working in Grimsby as a "Coal Heaver."

Very little about George Robert Ingle appeared in the "News," just his name on a Casualty List published on 8.8.16 and an "In Memoriam" notice published on 4.8.16 below:-

GN 4.8.16

Killed in action July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916. Lance-corporal George Robert (Bob), Lincolns, second son of Henry and the late S.A. Ingle, and dearly loved brother of E.A. Musgrave, aged 36.

"He nobly answered duty's call  
And gave his life for one and all."

**KILLED IN ACTION & BURIED IN SHELTER WOOD**



GN 8.8.16

IN  
LOVING MEMORY OF  
GEORGE ROBERT  
(BOB)  
SECOND SON OF  
HENRY & S.A. INGLE  
WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION  
& BURIED IN SHELTER WOOD  
AT THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME  
AGED 35 YEARS

**SATURDAY.**  
**KILLED.**  
**LINCOLNSHIRE.**  
BEMROSE, 9810 Actg.-corporal E. (Gainsborough.)  
LINDLEY, 18066 Pte. G. (Gringley-on-the-Hill.)  
MARSH, 1270 Pte. C. (Gainsborough.)  
TORRINGTON, 9812 Pte. J. W. (Gainsborough.)  
**WOUNDED.**  
BAMWELL, 1238 Pte. H. G. (Gainsboro'.)  
GODSON, 6944 E. (Gainsborough.)  
TURTLE, 1267 Pte. G. (Gainsborough.)  
**MONDAY.**  
**KILLED.**  
**LINCOLNSHIRE.**  
BARLOW, 9389 Lce.-corpl. R. (Gainsboro'.)  
**WOUNDED.**



**GAINSBRONIAN WOUNDED.**



Lance-Corpl. E. C. FREEBURY,  
Lincoln.

The wife of Lance-Corpl. E. C. Freebury (16409) Lincolns, who is living at 21, Charles Street, has learned that her husband was wounded in action on July 31st. Before enlisting in April, 1915, he was employed at Parkinson's Market, Silver Street. He is only 24 years of age, and his parents reside in Bridge Street. His home was in Malpas Avenue.

Gainsborough News 15.9.16

Lance Corporal Freebury's grave was accepted as a war grave in November 2015. He fought through the Battle of the Somme and was wounded in action a few weeks later. He was brought back to England and was eventually discharged from the army due to his injuries. He died from his wounds on 30th December 1918.



IN MEMORY OF  
ERNEST CHARLES  
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF  
FLORENCE FREEBURY  
WHO DIED DEC. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1918  
AGED 26 YEARS  
"HIS DUTY DONE"



Malpas Avenue

16409 ERNEST  
CHARLES  
FREEBURY

2nd Lincolnshire  
Regiment

Died on 30th  
December 1918,  
aged 26

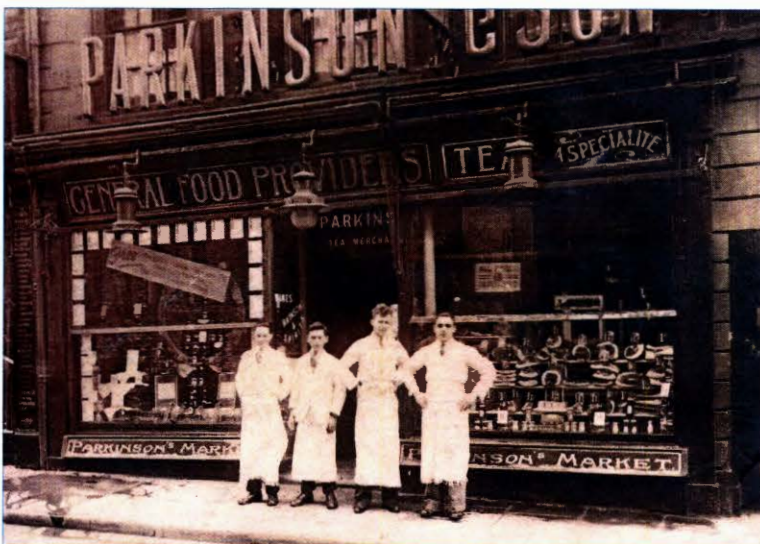


Photo courtesy of Paul Kemp

**Parkinson's  
Market . . .**

For High-Class  
**TEAS.**  
**GROCERIES,**  
**PROVISIONS.**

**WINES**  
and  
**SPIRITS**  
At POPULAR PRICES.

We guarantee every article we sell, and any goods not approved we willingly exchange or return the money.

Note the Address—

**33, Silver Street,**  
and North Marsh Road  
Post Office,  
**Gainsborough.**

**GAINSBOROUGH SOLDIER WOUNDED.**

Lance-Corpl. E. C. Freebury (16409) Lincoln, has been wounded in action on July 31st. He is a married man and lived in Malpas Avenue before the war, and his wife is now living with her parents at 21, Charles Street. Lance-Corpl. Freebury was employed by Mr. Parkinson, grocer, Silver Street, before enlisting.

"Gainsborough News" 8.9.16



Stuart Credland—relative of Lance Corporal Freebury.

Ernest Charles Freebury was brought up by his parents James and Hannah at 137 Bridge Street. He had three sisters and was a shop assistant in a grocer's shop before the war.

He married Florence M. Emmerson in early 1914 and they lived at 3 Malpas Avenue. Their son Charles Henry was born on 23.3.14.

He enlisted at Gainsborough on 17th April 1915 and went to France on 30th September 1915.

He survived the Battle of the Somme but was wounded on 31st July 1916 after they had moved from the Somme to the Loos area.

He had been hit by a rifle bullet and his left hand was badly damaged, his middle metacarpal was smashed. The middle finger was eventually removed on October 18th 1916.

His service records state:- *"The left middle finger, and distal half of metacarpal is gone. The grab of hand is very weak. He still has pain in hand, especially when he tries to extend it heavily. It is useless for military service."*



He was discharged on 17th August 1917 due to "wounds" and he was awarded a Silver War Badge. At the time of his discharge he was 24 years and 9 months old.

The cause of his discharge was given as:- *"G.S.W. Left Hand and Tuberculosis... Tuberculosis due to service in present war."*

When he died on 30th December 1918 in the John Coupland Hospital his death certificate stated that his cause of death was *"Tuberculosis of kidney."*



FOLIO,					
REGISTER OF BURIALS					
Year 1919					
No.	DATE	NAME	AGE	RANK OR PROFESSION	ABODE
9560.	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Ernest Charles Freebury	26	Grocer	4 Malpas Street

# OUR SOLDIER HEROES

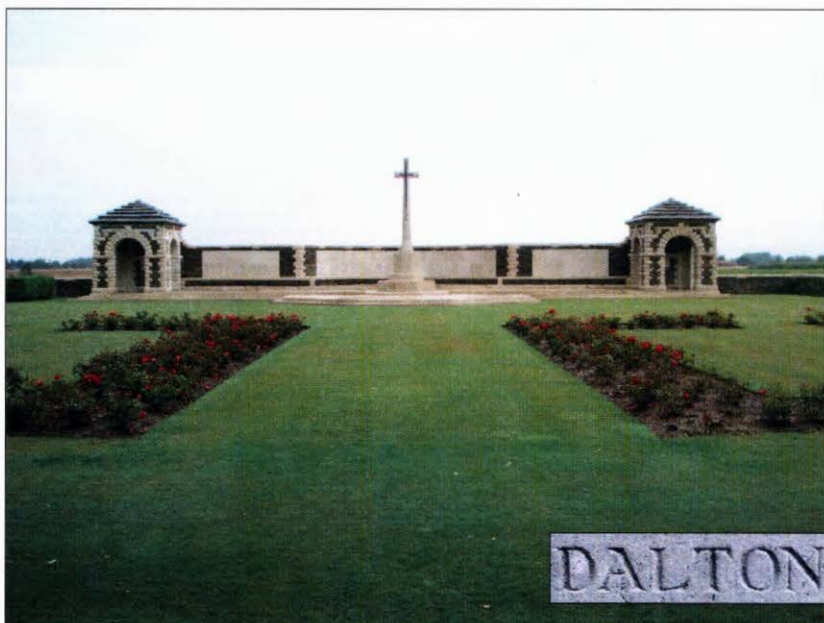
Two Gainsborough soldiers who were killed at Fromelles were Private Archie Fred Lidgett 59<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry, killed in action 19.7.16, aged 21, and Private Witton Kenworthy Dalton, 30th Australian Infantry, killed in action 20.7.16, aged 31. Both are named on the V.C. Corner Memorial, Fromelles.

Witton Kenworthy was the youngest son of Witton Dalton who was manager of the Gainsborough branch of the Sheffield Bank, Silver Street. They lived at "Willow Bank" in Morton (just opposite the church).

By 1911 Witton was a solicitor living in Sheffield and he later went to live in Australia and became a "station hand." There are no details about his death in the "News" but he is remembered on Queen Elizabeth Grammar School War Memorial and he is remembered on a family grave in North Warren Cemetery where his memorial plaque has recently been restored by the Friends of Gainsborough Cemeteries (below).

He is also remembered on the War Memorial at St. Andrew's Church, Sharrow, Sheffield, below (this is where his brother lived).

Dalton W. Kenworthy



V.C. Corner Cemetery was made after the Armistice. It contains the graves of over 400 Australian soldiers who died in the attack at Fromelles and whose bodies were found on the battlefield, but not a single body could be identified. It was, therefore, decided not to mark the individual graves, but to record on a memorial the names of all the Australian soldiers who were killed in the engagement and whose graves were not known. The memorial commemorates almost 1,300 Australian casualties.

(Source CWGC)

DALTON W. K.



## The Battle of Fromelles, 19th July 1916

In the early evening of 19 July 1916, near the village of Fromelles, in northern France, two infantry divisions newly arrived on the Western Front, the 5th Australian and British 61st (South Midland) attacked a 4,000 yard section of the German frontline centred on a notorious strongpoint called the "Sugar Loaf". Advancing over unfavourable ground, in clear view of resolute and expectant defenders, the attackers suffered terrible casualties in a matter of minutes. The action turned into a bloody catastrophe - the Australians had over 5,500 killed, wounded and missing; 61st Division reported over 1,500 killed, wounded and missing. No tactical advantages resulted from the action and it remains the worst day in Australian military history. (Source—Commonwealth War Graves Commission).

Two Gainsborough men who had emigrated to Australia before the war were killed in this attack. They had both joined the Australian Infantry when the war began.

## LOCAL HEROES OF THE "BIG PUSH."

"...poor little chap he will never see his poor daddy any more."

GN 28.7.16

News of the death in action of Private Herbert Suter was received on Sunday in a letter sent by Sergt. Abell of the South Staffs, who, before the war, was a police constable stationed at Gainsborough. Private Suter, before the war, was agent for the Wesleyan General Insurance Company. Leaving their employ, he worked for a short time at Messrs. Rose Brothers and leaving there was employed as drayman by Mr. August Marshall up to the time of enlistment in the "Chums" in November 1915. He went to France in February this year and was killed in action at the beginning of the present offensive. He leaves a widow and a son aged 2½ years, who is residing with Mrs. Jenkinson's parents at 71 Tower Street. Pte. Suter was well known in Wesleyan circles being a local preacher and he was also a well known member of the Rechabite Lodge. Sergt. Abell's letter to the

### WESLEYAN LOCAL PREACHER KILLED.



Private HERBERT SUTER,  
M.G.S. (Lincolns.)

widow is dated 10th July and says, "With much regret I inform you that your husband has been killed in action. We had to bury him this afternoon along with many more who have died for their King and dear ones at home. I enclose postcards from which I got to know your address and I thought it my duty to write. I must say how much the cards have reached my heart - poor little chap he will never see his poor daddy any more. With my deepest sympathy to you all in your great loss."

1581  
Private  
Herbert  
Suter

Machine  
Gun Section  
- 10th  
Lincolns  
"Grimsky  
Chums"

Killed in  
action  
1.7.16

Aged 30.

The location  
of his grave  
did not  
survive the  
war—he is  
named on  
the Thiepval  
Memorial,  
Somme  
(below).

He is also remem-  
bered on a family  
headstone in North  
Warren Cemetery  
which has recently  
been restored.



ALSO OF HERBERT  
SUTER SON-IN-LAW,  
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN  
THE GREAT WAR,  
JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1916  
AGED 30 YEARS



GN 4.8.16

### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my dear husband,  
Private Herbert Suter, killed in action  
1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, aged 30 years.

He nobly answered duty's call  
He gave his life for one and all,  
The unknown grave is the bitterest  
blow,  
None but an aching heart can know.  
From his sorrowing Wife and Sonny.

Mrs. Suter and Mr. and Mrs.  
Jenkinson and Family wish to thank  
all kind friends for their sympathy in  
their great bereavement; also their  
numerous letters.

Their son Herbert E. Suter was  
born in early 1914.

Gainsborough man Private Sidney Vickers was also in the 10th  
Lincolns and when he wrote home the following to his wife, he may  
possibly have been referring to Herbert Suter:- "I should think he is  
like a chap in our Section, a local Preacher before he join'd, but we  
have reformed him, and learn't him to swear, and he can beat us at  
it now..."

### IN MEMORIAM

One year has passed, our hearts  
still sore,  
As time goes on we miss him  
more,  
His loving smile, his welcome  
face.  
No one can fill dear daddy's  
place

From his loving Wife and  
Sonny.

"It's a long way to Tipperary,"

But not so far to go if you wish to order

**COALS**

FROM

**AUGUST MARSHALL, Limited**

Central Coal Wharf,  
52 BRIDGE ST.,  
GAINSBOROUGH,

BRANCH DEPÔTS:—

TRENT WHARF, MORTON, and  
KEXBY LANE, near GAINSBOROUGH.

N.B.—DAILY FIRE LIGHTERS, 4d. per doz.

TELEPHONE 37.

## LIEUT. PLATTS KILLED

ANOTHER GAINSBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL "OLD BOY."

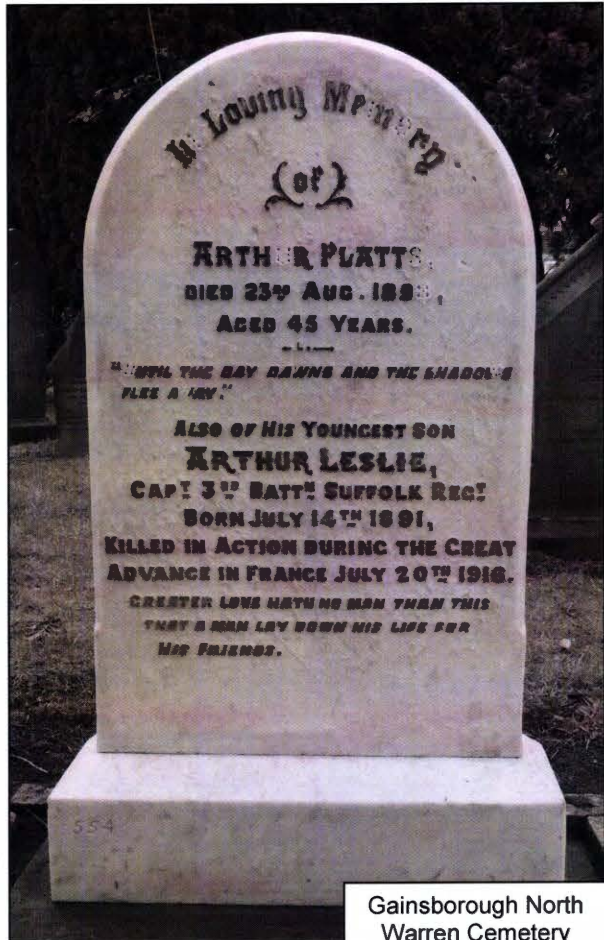


Lieut. A. L. PLATTS,  
Suffolks.

Lieut. (Acting Captain) A. Leslie Platts, of the Suffolk Regiment, was killed in action on July 21st. Lieut. Platts, who was 25 years of age, was the youngest son of the late Mr. Arthur Platts, of Gainsborough, and of Mrs. W. George Whiffen, the Clock House, Parkside, Wimbledon Common. He was educated at the Gainsborough Grammar School and Oundle School, Northamptonshire, and afterwards proceeded to Caius College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1913. In the first weeks of war Lieut. Platts was given his commission, and he received his second star

Captain Arthur Leslie Platts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk Regiment  
Killed in action 20th July 1916,  
Aged 25.  
114 2nd Suffolks died on 20.7.16.  
Named on the Thiepval Memorial  
to the Missing.

in June last year. As Acting-Captain Lieut. Platts was in command of his company. During one of the many advances made recently by the British he left his trench to assist a comrade who had fallen into a shell hole and was shot in the thigh. Another officer went out to assist him, and while sitting up to have his limb bandaged Lieut. Platts was shot in the head and killed. Miss Platts, a sister of the deceased, had a very unpleasant experience by falling into the hands of the Germans not long after the war began. She was in the enemy's country when war was declared but succeeded in reaching Holland. Securing a berth in the Batavia which was captured by a German destroyer shortly after she set sail for England, Miss Platts was, however, released and some days later returned home. Lieut. Platts went to France in January, 1915, and was at Ypres and Hooze. In the following October he was seconded for home service, but again joined his Regiment in April, 1916. Lieut. Platts was born in Gainsborough in 1891.



Gainsborough North  
Warren Cemetery



At the time of the 1901 census the Platts family lived at 12 Morton Terrace (above). Captain Platts' father died in 1898 and is buried in North Warren Cemetery. Arthur Leslie is remembered on his father's headstone.

In Loving Memory of  
ARTHUR PLATTS  
DIED 23<sup>RD</sup> AUG. 1898  
AGED 45 YEARS  
*"UNTIL THE DAY DAWNS AND THE SHADOW'S  
FLEE AWAY"*  
  
ALSO OF HIS YOUNGEST SON  
ARTHUR LESLIE  
CAP<sup>T</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> BATT<sup>N</sup> SUFFOLK REG<sup>T</sup>  
BORN JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> 1891  
KILLED IN ACTION DURING THE GREAT  
ADVANCE IN FRANCE JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 1916.  
*GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS.  
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR  
HIS FRIENDS*

*“ He had heard a wounded comrade who was lying in a shell hole cry for help, and he at once went to his assistance, but the Germans were already on the look out and wounded Platts in the thigh just as he got to his man. Another officer at once went to Platts’ assistance and reached the shell hole safely. Platts raised himself onto one shoulder to enable this officer to dress his wound and this gave the enemy another opportunity and Platts was hit in the head...”*



ARTHUR LESLIE PLATTS

Above—Arthur Leslie Platts.  
Photo courtesy of Avalon Eastman.

GN 18.8.16

## HOW LIEUT. A.L. PLATTS DIED

SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO HELP A  
WOUNDED MAN.

We are able this week to give further particulars regarding Lieut. (acting Captain) A. Leslie Platts, of the Suffolk Regiment, whose photo appeared in our last week’s issue, and who was killed in action on the 20th ult.

From January to October last year he was at Ypres and Hooze, and in the latter month he was seconded for home service, but returned to France in April last. With regard to his death Mr. W. George Whiffen has received the following letters from the front:-

Major G.C. Stubbs, Officer Commanding the Company wrote: “... His loss is a great one to us. He was always cheerful with a smile for everyone.”

Capt. E.D.C. Hune in his letter says: “I deeply regret to have to inform you that your stepson, Lieut. A.L. Platts was killed in action on Thursday last. The battalion was set a very difficult task that morning. Lieut. Platts was in charge of the Company. All had gone well with the Company, but owing to other companions being held up his one had to withdraw and dig in. As far as I can ascertain your stepson was killed in the following gallant manner. He had heard a wounded comrade who was lying in a shell hole cry for help, and he at once went to his assistance, but the Germans were already on the look out and wounded Platts in the thigh just as he got to his man. Another officer at once went to Platts’ assistance and reached the shell hole safely. Platts raised himself onto one shoulder to enable this officer to dress his wound and this gave the enemy another opportunity and Platts was hit in the head... I was slightly wounded by a piece of shrapnel on Wednesday afternoon and was not allowed to go into action in consequence. That is why Lieut. Platts was in command of my

Company. He has been invaluable to me during the short time I have known him. He also had command of the Company in June when I was attached to the staff... Please accept my deep sympathy in your great sorrow, and write at once if we can be of any further help to you.”

Second-Lieut. W.G. Steele, in his letter, tells how beloved Lieut. Platts was by his fellow officers, and popular he was with the men of his Company and goes on to say: “I was with him right through the attack until the time of his death. He exposed himself to see if he could do anything for a wounded man in a shell hole, when he was hit and fell backwards into the hole. He called for help. A Lance-corporal and myself immediately ran out to him. The Lance-corporal was killed as soon as he reached the hole. I started getting his (Platts’) equipment off... he was wounded in the thigh. He turned over to let me bandage him, but was hit again. He fell back without saying a word.”

The Rev. W.E. Bates, Church of England Chaplain to the Regiment, in the course of his communication, says: “.. Your son had been but a short time with the Regiment, yet during that time he endeared himself to all.... His sunny and cheerful disposition, joined to his perfect courtesy and frankness of manner could not fail to draw to him our affection, and his influence with the regiment was all for good. I feel sure that in spite of the bitterness of your sorrow you must find consolation in the knowledge that he died like a true Christian gentleman, fighting for his country, and the great cause of liberty and justice, giving as he did, the best that he had-his life-for the protection of others. He had earned for himself a place in our affection and a proud position in the roll of heroes who have thus died...”

## Thirty-four Gainsborough soldiers were killed on the first 3 days of the Somme.

ALVY Percy William	1276	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Engineers	29
BALL Harry	1307	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Cerisy-Gailly	01/07/16	Marshall's	18
BALLANCE Arthur	6577	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Newsom's	27
BEAL Tom Harry	8539	2nd Lincolns	C.S.M.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Soldier	33
BROADGATE Ernest T.	1359	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Draughtsman	23
BROCKLESBY William	16149	1st Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Marshall's	30
DONNELLY William	5488	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Labourer	35
FORRINGTON John W.	9812	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Newsom's	27
FRANKS Alexander Hugh	1964	12th York & Lancaster	Pte.	Railway Hollow	01/07/16	Barman	19
HARRISON Frank	16233	9th York & Lancaster	L/Cpl.	Lonsdale	01/07/16	Gardener	23
HOLMES Arthur Lambert	473	10th Lincolns	Cpl.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Marshall's	23
MARSH Cyril	1270	8th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Marshall's	27
MARSHALL John Francis	15278	2nd Lincs	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Groom	-
SOWBY Ernest Perrin	301389	1/5th London Reg.	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Draper.	32
STURMAN John William	8886	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Soldier	26
SUTER Herbert	1581	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Insurance	30
TOWNSEND Charles R.	725	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Machinist	-
WEATHERALL Arthur	18527	8th Lincolns	L/Cpl.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Edlington's	32
WHAITE Alfred	16950	9th York & Lancaster	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Ex-soldier	38
EMMENS Robert	19915	KOYLI	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Marshall's	23
BEMROSE Ernest	9810	2nd Lincs	Cpl.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Coal Merch't	20
BINGHAM Percy	1209	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Ovillers Cem	01/07/16	Farm worker	19
FORRINGTON John Wm.	9812	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	01/07/16	Newsom's	27
BRYAN Joseph Frederick	241322	1/5th Lincolns	Pte.	Gommecourt	02/07/16	Steelworks	29
LAYNES Francis	6936	2nd Lincs	Pte.	Millencourt	02/07/16	Shoemaker	30
WARWICK Fred	4273	1/5th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	02/07/16	Marshall's	25
BUTTON Thomas Charles	2587	1/5 KOYLI	L/Cpl.	Connaught	03/07/16	Labourer	30
COOPER William	15506	7th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	03/07/16	Marshall's	26
CROMPTON Wm. E.G.	15617	1st Lincolns	Pte.	Peake Wood	03/07/16	Marshall's	24
DONOVAN John	18128	1st Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	03/07/16	Marshall's ?	32
INGLE George Robert	9389	1st Lincolns	L/Cpl.	Thiepval	03/07/16	Coal Heaver	36
KIRTON Charles	12081	7th Lincoln's	Pte.	Heilly	03/07/16	Marshall's	23
KNOTT John Henry	14655	1st Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	03/07/16	?	18
LILLEY Leonard	19097	7th Lincoln's	Pte.	Thiepval	03/07/16	Roses	21
BIRLEY Frederic Douglas	449	10th Lincolns	L/Cpl.	Wimereux	06/07/16	Marshall's	29
BAXTER John James	16464	8th Lincolns	Pte.	St. Sever	07/07/16	Plasterer	34
SMITH Walter	5462	7th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	09/07/16	Soldier	38
HATCH Robert E	9769	2nd East Lancs	Pte.	Thiepval	10/07/16	Soldier	25
HARRISON Herbert	1252	49th R.F.A.	Bomb'r	Thiepval	11/07/16	Groom	24
FISH Albert Percy	14970	9th Leicester's	Pte.	Thiepval	14/07/16	Marshall's	31
WOOFFITT Thomas	1675	10th Lincolns	Pte.	Dartmoor	16/07/16	Newsoms	19
PETTY Alfred Hallam		5th Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt.	St. Souplet	17/07/16	Teacher	27
DALTON Witton Kenworthy	867	30th Australian Infantry	Pte.	VC Corner	20/07/16	Station hand	31
PLATTS Arthur Leslie		2nd Suffolks	Capt.	Thiepval	20/07/16	University	25

\* Brother

LEA  
MORTON  
MORTON  
MORTON

\* Brother

### LOCAL CASUALTIES.

Since our last issue the official lists have contained the following local casualties. All privates unless otherwise shown.

#### LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT.

KILLED.

KING 40501 A. (Gainsborough.)

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BROWN 40010 A. (Gainsborough.)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED  
WOUNDED, NOW REPORTED WOUNDED  
AND MISSING.

AYSCOUGH 25199 C. E. (Gainsborough.)



**C.E. AYSCOUGH.**

### 25199 Private Charles Embrough Ayscough

2<sup>nd</sup> Lincolns

Killed in action 23.10.16. Aged 21.

No known grave—named on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme (left).

He was an Engineer's Clerk before enlisting and lived at 34 Etherington Street with his parents Charles and Victoria. He had two sisters and a brother. Unfortunately we know very little about him—the only details that appeared about him in the "Gainsborough News" was his name on the Casualty list (above left) published in the "News" on 5.1.17.

He is named on the Gainsborough Constitutional Club War Memorial (left). He is also remembered on a family headstone in Gainsborough General Cemetery (right) which has recently been restored by the "Friends."



CHARLES EMBROUGH  
SON OF THE ABOVE  
MISSING IN FRANCE  
OCT 23<sup>RD</sup> 1916  
AGED 21 YEARS  
"PEACE, PERFECT PEACE"

MANSFIELD Arthur	31187	15th Sherwood F.	Pte.	La Neuville	23/07/16	Collier	36	
THOMPSON Frank D.C.M.	8823	1st Cheshires	Pte.	Thiepval	27/07/16	Soldier	26	
CRANE George	1457	14th Royal Warwicks	Pte.	Coudry	28/07/16	Co-Op	25	
HARRISON Walter	4761	18th Middlesex	Pte.	Flatiron Copse	08/08/16	-	-	
HEPTON Benjamin	9420	7th Lincoln's	L/Cpl.	Thiepval	08/08/16	Marshalls	22	
GLOVER Bertram	11932	1st Liverpool Regiment	Pte.	Tincourt	11/08/16	-	21	
NEALE Alfred Arnold	2781	5th Lincolns	Pte.	Warlincourt	18/08/16	R'y Porter	23	
TESH JOSEPH	22770	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Vermelles	21/08/16	Trent Works	25	MORTON
TUNE Albert William	4745	1/6 West Riding Reg.	Pte.	Lonsdale	29/08/16	Labourer	27	
TOWNEND Albert	2403	1/5th West Y. M.G.C.	Pte.	Puchevillers	01/09/16	Fowlers	38	
MACKENZIE Donald	22398	Queen's Own Cam'ron H.	L/Cpl.	Thiepval	03/09/16	Policeman		
MIDDLETON Reginald		West Yorks	2nd Lt.	Mill Road	03/09/16	Newsums	25	
SMITH Alonzo	2785	1/5th Lincolns	Pte.	Berles	04/09/16	Painter	23	
NEWBOLD Richard H.	2750	2nd London Reg.	Sgt.	Bronfay Farm	07/09/16	Student 1911	-	
BONNETT Charles George	2161	1/5th K.O.Y.L.I.	Pte.	Puchevillers	14/09/16	G.N.R.	19	
WRAY GEORGE HENRY	15936	6th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	14/09/16	Marshalls	-	MORTON
ADDISON Benjamin Joseph	14891	1st Coldstream Guards	Pte.	Lesboeufs	15/09/16	Co-Op	22	
TOMBLING John Francis	15897	2nd Coldstream Guards	Pte.	Lesboeufs	15/09/16	Marshalls	22	
AGAR William Amos	3010	5th Bn. Yorks	Pte.	Thiepval	16/09/16	Pitman	21	
BARLOW Charles	10900	2nd Coldstream Guards	L/Cpl.	Lesboeufs	16/09/16	Marshalls	18	
BULLIMORE Lance Luke	12235	1st Coldstream Guards	Sgt.	Grove Town	16/09/16	Marshalls	19	
DRAKES Percy William M.M.		4th Canadian M'td Rifles	Lieut.	Contay Cem.	16/09/16	Auctioneer	32	
BRADBURY NORMAN	12707	21st King's Royal Rifles	L. Cpl.	Lesboeufs	17/09/16	Teacher	25	MORTON
STANILAND Joseph	15066	6th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	19/09/16	Marshalls	33	
COLLINS Harry	35272	12th Northum'ld Fusiliers	Pte.	Heilly Station	21/09/16	Lincoln	32	
GREENFIELD John William	16355	6th Lincolns	Pte.	Aveluy Cem	22/09/16	Ex-soldier	40	
HARRISON Laurence Philip	18708	6th Yorkshire Regiment	Sgt.	Regina Trench	27/09/16	Head-teacher	28	
WILSON William Watts	5892	1/5th West Yorks	Pte.	Thiepval	28/09/16	Soldier		
FOWLER Ernest	18783	6th Lincolns	L/Cpl.	Puchevillers	29/09/16	Sandars	38	
NICHOLSON George Henry	9516	6th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	05/10/16	Iron Moulder	43	
EVANS Luke	8774	74th MGC	Pte.	Thiepval	07/10/16	Labourer	19	
WELBOURN Walter	4932	3rd London Regiment	Sgt.	Lesboeufs	08/10/16	Soldier	36	
BAYES William	30017	13th Yorks Reg.	Pte.	Philosophe	09/10/16	Carriage B'dr	?	
AYSCOUGH Cha's Embrough	25199	2nd Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval 1C	23/10/16	Clerk Engineers	21	
HOWLETT Harold Herbert	17673	2nd South Lancs.	Cpl.	Contay Cem.	23/10/16	Lock-keeper	27	
MOWFORTH Joseph William	21146	West Riding Regiment	Pte.	Quarry Cem.	23/10/16	Gardener	27	
COOPER John Charles M.M.	14904	7th Lincolns	Sgt.	Thiepval	03/11/16	Marshalls	32	
HAYLOCK Walter Reginald	15775	18th Lancashire Fusiliers	Sgt.	Faubourg d'A.	04/11/16	Apprentice	26	
HOLMES Len	40668	10th Essex	Pte.	Pozieres Brit.	12/11/16	Rotherham	36	
CUTTS William	16746	8th Lincolns	Pte.	Thiepval	15/11/16	British Oil & C.	34	
DODSON John William	27519	10th Royal Warwickshire	Pte.	Regina Trench	18/11/16	Labourer	27	
KEYWORTH Sydney Travis	21482	7th Lincoln's	Pte.	Etaples	18/11/16	Co-op	27	
PACEY HAROLD	35320	2nd KOYLI	Pte.	Thiepval	18/11/16	Cowman	24	MORTON

87 Gainsborough soldiers were killed during the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme.



### The first use of tanks

15th September 1916 saw the first use of tanks. In the first three days of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, the Allies advanced two kilometres. The villages of Flers, Courcelette and Martinpuich fell to the Allies.



**The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme**, bears the names of 72,255 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932.

(Source CWGC).

The Friends are very grateful to The Gainsborough Academy for printing these booklets.



*Gainsborough and  
District Heritage  
Association*



***“We will  
remember them...”***

**Gainsborough Royal  
British Legion**