

**Private**

**ROBERT STANLEY NORTH**

**22424, 6<sup>TH</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry**

**Killed in Action 22 August 1916**

**Aged 25**

**Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial**

Robert Stanley North was born on September 2 1891, the oldest surviving son of Levi Robert and Anna (or Hannah) Rebecca North. The North family had been small farmers and farm workers at the eastern edge of Buckland St Mary in Dommett for many years. Anna was a widow with a young son when she married Robert, 9 years her senior, in 1887. The North family still live today in the same area, at Lane Farm.

Stanley went to school in Buckland St Mary from 1898, leaving in September 1905, when he was 14. By 1911 he was working as a farm labourer, and living at Howleigh, Pitminster, boarding at the home of George Bussell, an elderly farm labourer. When he enlisted in Taunton his address was still given as Pitminster.

No Service Records survive for Stanley, so one has to surmise his army career, based mainly on the War Diaries for his battalion, the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. The North family still has a handful of mementoes of him, one of which is a small unidentified press cutting listing the latest names of those who had been killed; following Stanley's name is that of Harry Yard, whose regimental number is one short of Stanley's, suggesting that they enlisted together. Harry was a cousin, and was killed 2 days after Stanley. No Service Records survive for Harry either.

As young unmarried men they would have been obliged to enlist during 1916, when full conscription was introduced, but we do not know whether they may have enlisted earlier, in 1915. Judging by what some of their contemporaries did, I suspect that an enlistment together may mean 1915; Harry Painter and Walter Pring for example enlisted together in May 1915. If so, they didn't get abroad till 1916, neither qualifying for the 1914-1915 Star for those who had served abroad before the end of the year.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was one of the First New Army of 6 Divisions, or K1 (raised at the urging of Lord Kitchener). They left Aldershot on May 21 1915, as part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 14<sup>th</sup> Light Division, and by May 31 were digging trenches west of Ypres. When they came out of the line on June 19, the War Diary records that 'The Battalions who were our instructors were full of praise of the bearing and behaviour of the Kitcheners who they saw for the first time.' The Battalion was in and out of the line during June and July, often under heavy fire, with a particularly bad spell at Hooge at the end of July counter-attacking and attacking; a 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Corporal, F.W.Loxton, wrote at the time: 'The whole hollow...was covered with dead bodies of K.R.R.s and R.B.s, killed in the original retreat and subsequent counter-attacks on retreat, and the stench was awful and the outlook appalling.'

During September and October the 6<sup>th</sup> were involved in subsidiary actions of the Battle of Loos, but at considerable cost: 3 officers killed, 4 wounded; 26 other ranks killed and 107 wounded. The War Diary pays tribute to the stretcher bearers: 'The outstanding part was the conduct of the stretcher-bearers, who worked magnificently, especially on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> [of September].' At the end of



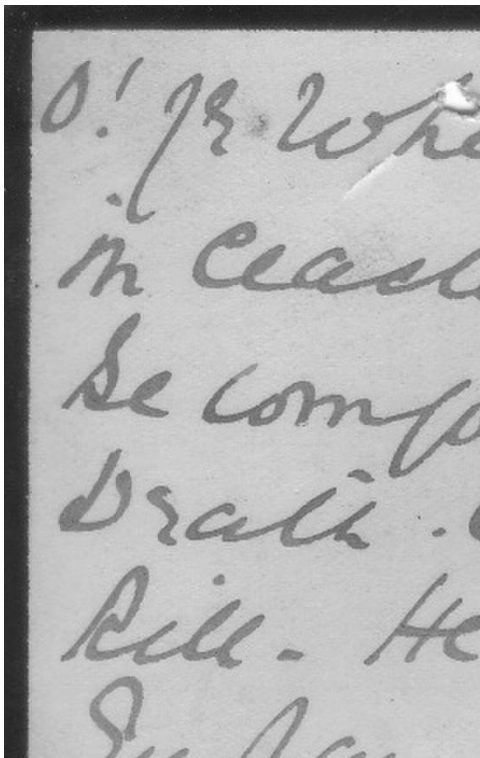
October the Battalion went into Reserve in the Poperinghe area, in 'heavy and continuous rain', with no preparations made for proper paths in the camp; 'The whole arrangement a triumph of misconception and lack of forethought' the War Diary bitterly records – and much more to the same effect.

The Battalion was again in and out of the trenches over the winter, in the now usual wet and miserable conditions. In February they moved further south, to the Arras area, a relatively quiet sector. Over the next few months trench activity increased. They were not involved in the early days of the July 1 Somme attack; their War Diary observes on June 30: 'Bombardment still continues with intensity down south.', but in their area things were extraordinarily quiet.

Before the end of July the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion were heading south, by route march and train. On August 12 they took over front line trenches in Delville Wood – 'Devil's Wood' – by this time shelled from leafy summer beauty into a place of horror: 'a truly terrible place over which to fight. ...this new line was surely the most noisome spot it was possible to be in. The stench from the decaying dead was awful, gas fumes hung about the shell holes and clung to the undergrowth, weird and ghostly in the semi-darkness were the gaunt long arms of the torn and blasted trees.' *The Somerset Light Infantry 1914-1919 - Everard Wyrall.*

By August 15 they were relieved, but still provided a working party of 250 to dig all night. Orders were for a new attack by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The attacking Battalions were in their assembly positions by 3am amid heavy preliminary shelling from the British, some of which fell short. Zero hour was 2.45pm. After intense fighting the attack was largely successful, but the inevitable counter attacks followed through the rest of the day into the night while the Somersets, and fellow Battalions, under heavy shelling, worked to consolidate their position. They were finally relieved by 4.15am by the 9<sup>th</sup> Rifle Brigade; 'The men, on arrival in rest billets, were absolutely beat' the War Diary tells us. They paid a heavy price: 5 officers killed, 7 wounded, 48 other ranks killed and 220 wounded and missing.

They were in rest billets till August 23; when the 43<sup>rd</sup> Brigade paraded on that day the 6<sup>th</sup> were complimented particularly by the Brigadier for their fine behaviour in Delville Wood.



Stanley is recorded as killed on August 22; in fact by that time they were out of the line, with no casualties. I believe that on some occasions these dates are merely a best guess, especially when the body is never found; Stanley is recorded only on the Thiepval Memorial, along with the other 72,000 dead of the Somme who have no known grave.

This anguished cry is written on the back of a Memorial card, most probably by his mother:

'O! ye who mourn in endless pain, be comforted. Death cannot kill. He died for England. Lives his name emblazoned on the scroll of fame!'

*Our grateful thanks to the North family for photos & information.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		From		To	
Con. St. Nicholas									
No. of House	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	Whether Married
66	Wellam	John Hummelt	Head	Mar	74	Ag. lab. pauper	St. Luke's, Bristol		
67		John Hummelt	Head	Mar	36	Ag. Lab	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Charlotte V.	Wife	Mar	34		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		George V.	Son	u	12		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	8		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Charles V.	Son	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
68		Ann Slide	Head	Mar	74	pauper	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		George V.	Head	Mar	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Wife	Mar	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
69	Wellam	Robert Newberry	Head	Mar	60	Ag. lab.	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann Newberry	Wife	Mar	34		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Robert Newberry	Son	u	12		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann Newberry	Daughter	u	8		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth V.	Daughter	u	4		St. Luke's, Bristol		
Total of Persons...		22							

1851 CENSUS ROBERT NORTH

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	
Buckland Mary								Buckland Mary	
No. of House	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	Whether Married
14		Robert Carter	Head	Mar	64	Agri. lab.	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann Carter	Wife	Mar	35		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Samuel Carter	Son	Mar	25	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth Carter	Daughter	Mar	25	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
15		Thomas North	Head	Mar	46	Farmer of horses	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann North	Wife	Mar	47	Farmer's wife	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		John R. North	Son	Mar	11	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth North	Daughter	Mar	8		St. Luke's, Bristol		
16	Clammitt Lane	John Pyle	Head	Mar	44	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann Pyle	Wife	Mar	39		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		John D. Pyle	Son	Mar	15	Farmer's Daughter	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth Pyle	Daughter	Mar	32	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		James Pyle	Son	Mar	13	Farmer's Daughter	St. Luke's, Bristol		
17		James Cartwright	Head	Mar	55	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Ann Cartwright	Wife	Mar	44		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth Cartwright	Daughter	Mar	36		St. Luke's, Bristol		
		John Cartwright	Son	Mar	15	Ag. lab.	St. Luke's, Bristol		
18		William North	Head	Mar	34	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
		Elizabeth North	Wife	Mar	25	Labourer	St. Luke's, Bristol		
Total of Houses...		10							
Total of Males and Females...		10							

1861 CENSUS ROBERT NORTH

Page 6] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether
		No. of Houses in the Schedule				as to Marriages			1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
23	Elverston	1	Mary North	Head	W	36	Landholder	St. George's, Middlesex	
			John North	Son	W	21	Ag. Lab.	Buckland & Wey	
			David North	Do	W	18	Do	Do	
24	Old Mill	1	David Hayward	Head	W	22	Ag. Lab.	Yarmouth, Norfolk	
			Mary Hayward	Wife	W	24	Housekeeper	Buckland & Wey	
25	White Farm	1	John Nelson	Head	W	41	Farmer	Yarmouth, Norfolk	
			John Nelson	Son	W	33	Do	Buckland & Wey	
			Mary Nelson	Wife	W	30	Do	Do	
			Robert Nelson	Son	W	9	Labourer	Do	
			Mary Nelson	Daughter	W	6	Do	Do	
			Robert Nelson	Son	W	5.6	Do	Do	
			Elizabeth Nelson	Daughter	W	4.6	Do	Do	
26	Lower Farm	1	John Baker	Head	W	46	Farmer	Chipping, Somerset	
			Mary Baker	Wife	W	32	Do	Buckland & Wey	
			John Baker	Son	W	9	Scholar	Buckland & Wey	
			Edmund Baker	Son	W	7	Do	Do	
			Mary Baker	Daughter	W	5	Do	Do	
			Charles Baker	Son	W	3	Do	Do	
			Mary Baker	Daughter	W	1	Do	Do	
27	Belting House	1	Samuel Biddell	Head	W	40	Farmer	Northampton	
			Mary Biddell	Wife	W	36	Do	Do	
			John Biddell	Son	W	14	Ag. Lab.	Buckland & Wey	
			Emily Biddell	Daughter	W	14	Do	Do	
			Lucy Biddell	Daughter	W	13	Do	Do	
			Robert Biddell	Son	W	11	Scholar	Do	
			Mary Biddell	Daughter	W	10	Do	Do	
			Total of Houses			5			
			Total of Males and Females			10			

\* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

## 1871 CENSUS ROBERT NORTH /1881 CENSUS ROBERT NORTH - BELOW

Page 3] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether
		No. of Houses in the Schedule				as to Marriages			1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
			Elizabeth A. Padua	Head	W	26	Ag. Lab.	Somerset, Bridgwater	
			John A. do	Son	W	3	Do	do	
			Mary A. do	Wife	W	1	Do	do	
10	Little Farm	1	William Harding	Head	W	41	Ag. Lab.	Buckland & Wey	
			Emily do	Wife	W	34	Do	do	
			Charles do	Son	W	14	Ag. Lab.	do	
			Effie do	Daughter	W	14	Do	do	
			Matilda do	Son	W	5	Do	do	
			Frank do	Son	W	1	Do	do	
11	Little Farm	1	David North	Head	W	27	Farmer	Somerset, Buckland & Wey	
			Emma do	Wife	W	27	Do	do	
			Mary do	Daughter	W	8	Do	do	
			Agnes do	Daughter	W	4	Do	do	
			George S. do	Son	W	2	Do	do	
			William do	Son	W	1	Do	do	
12	Little Farm	1	William do	Head	W	68	Ag. Lab.	Buckland & Wey	
			Mary do	Wife	W	64	Do	do	
13	Somerset Farm	1	John Perham	Head	W	67	Ag. Lab.	do	
			Mary do	Wife	W	67	Do	do	
			William do	Son	W	34	Do	do	
			Samuel I. do	Son	W	36	Do	do	
			Total of Houses			4			
			Total of Males and Females			12			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet A.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference:-					
RG 11/2385					

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Administrative County of Leicestershire The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Parish of Chard Page 2

Civil Parish of Leicestershire Municipal Borough of Leicestershire Municipal Ward of Leicestershire Urban Sanitary District of Leicestershire Rural Sanitary District of Leicestershire Parliamentary Borough or Division of Leicestershire Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Leicestershire

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the Schedule	Number of Houses in the Schedule	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	SEX	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Where BORN	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married
6	Common	1		Samuel Vickery	Head	M	78	Labourer	X	Common									
				Mary Vickery	Wife	F	78			Common									
7	Silver Street	1		William Vickery	Head	M	63	Labourer	X	Common									
				John Vickery	Wife	F	63			Common									
				John Vickery	Wife	F	63			Common									
8	Common	1		Robert North	Head	M	72	Labourer	X	Common									
				William North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				Robert North	Wife	F	72			Common									
9	Silver Street	1		Robert North	Head	M	72	Labourer	X	Common									
				William North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				Robert North	Wife	F	72			Common									
10	9c	1		William North	Head	M	72	Labourer	X	Common									
				Caroline North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				Robert North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				William North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				Robert North	Wife	F	72			Common									
11		1		Thomas North	Head	M	72	Labourer	X	Common									
				William North	Wife	F	72			Common									
				Robert North	Wife	F	72			Common									
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Administrative County Leicester The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough of Leicester Page 2

Civil Parish St. Andrew's Ecclesiastical Parish St. Andrew's County Borough Municipal Borough Urban Sanitary District Leicester Rural District Leicester Parliamentary Borough or Division Leicester Town or Village or Hamlet Leicester

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Tenanted)	HOUSES (Unoccupied)	HOUSES (Partially occupied)	HOUSES (Partially unoccupied)	HOUSES (Partially tenanted)	HOUSES (Partially unoccupied)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded		
8	1						Henry J. Warren	Head	33		Employer		Leicester			
9	1						John Warren	Wife	34				Leicester			
10	1						Elizabeth Warren	Daughter	10				Leicester			
11	1						Alfred W.D. Warren	Son	7				Leicester			
12	1						Arthur J. Warren	Daughter	5				Leicester			
13	1						Frederick J. Warren	Daughter	3				Leicester			
14	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
15	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
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79	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
80	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
81	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
82	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
83	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
84	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
85	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
86	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
87	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
88	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
89	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
90	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
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96	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
97	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
98	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
99	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			
100	1						Charles W. Warren	Daughter	1				Leicester			

Total of Males and of Females... 12 17

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## 1901 CENSUS STANLEY NORTH

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

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

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Where Born	NATIONALITY	INFLUENCY
Robert North	Head	62	Married 29 8 7 1	General Labourer	380	Worship	Dommett, Leicestershire
Anna North	Wife	52	" 20 8 7 1		390		Dommett
Lily North	Daughter	12		School			
Bert North	Son	00					

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

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

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

Signature: Robert North

Post Office Address: Dommett, Leicestershire

## 1911 CENSUS ROBERT NORTH

[illegible]

1911 CENSUS STANLEY NORTH

**BELOW – THE COURIER OCTOBER 29 1902 – STANLEY’S ENTRY AT BSM PLOUGHING MATCH**

# BUCKLAND ST. MARY.

## PLOUGHING MATCH AND DINNER.

The annual ploughing matches, hedging competitions, &c., promoted by the local Agricultural Association, were held on Thursday. The entries were satisfactory so far as the ploughing and the roots and flower classes were concerned, but no competitors came forward for the prizes offered for thatching and mow-making. This was a cause of regret. The ploughing took place in a field known as Twelve Acres, lent by Mr. J. Sparks, and situated on the verge of the parish. A capital piece of clover ley was selected for the men and a piece of stubble for the boys. The land was in good order, and the work done excellent.

The hedging, too, was of a high order of merit. All the competitors did good work. The roots were large, but the quality was not so good as it might have been. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the show of flowers and vegetables, which was held in the School-room. Competition here was very keen, and the judge had great difficulty in making his award.

The umpires were Messrs. N. Pomeroy (Stockland), H. Matthews (Yarcombe), and T. Wilce (Whitestaunton), for the ploughing, hedging, and roots; and Mr. Baker (Cricklepath, Whitestaunton), for the flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Their awards were as follows:—

**Ploughing.**—1st, £2, Samuel Buttle (in the employ of Mr. Apin); 2nd, 50s, Henry Coles (Mr. Knight); 3rd, £1, S. Doble. **Roots.**—1st, £2, Mark Travis (Mr. Sparks); 2nd, 50s, C. Spiller (Mr. Madock); 3rd, £1, Charles Titcher (Mr. Graham, Coler); 4th, 10s, J. Coles (Mr. Knight). **Boys.**—1st, £1, Harry Apin (Weatherhays); 2nd, 15s, Tom Titcher (Mr. Doble); 3rd, 7s 6d, Fred Greedy (Little Hill Farm); 4th, William Dyer (Mr. Knight). **Neatest turn-out (men).**—Prizes given by Mr. Potter (Taunton), Mr. Summers (Combe St. Nicholas), Mr. Trutt (Buckland), and Mr. Watte (Buckland)—1st, Henry Coles; 2nd, Charles Titcher; 3rd, Samuel Buttle; 4th, Mark Travis. **Boys' neatest turn-out.**—1st, Harry Apin; 2nd, William Dyer; 3rd, Tom Titcher. **Best bye prize** given by Mr. Hart, Churchland—Samuel Buttle.

**Hedging.**—1st, £1, Richard Hooper (Mr. S. Dommott); 2nd, 15s, John French (Mr. Graham); 3rd, 10s, Edward Denning; 4th, 7s 6d, Walter Prince (Mr. Graham); 5th, 5s, A. Knight; 6th, 2s 6d, Robert Yarde. A Knight took the prize, 2s 6d, for the best made-up fuel.

**Flowers.**—1st, £1, Mr. J. Wyatt; 2nd, 10s, Mr. Knight; 3rd, 5s, Mr. Dymond; 4th, 2s, Mr. S. Doble.

**Flowers.**—Window plants—1st, Mrs. Hutchings; 2nd, Mrs. Crandon; 3rd, Lucy Board. **Specimen plant.**—1st, A. Board; 2nd, Lucy Board; 3rd, Edward Denning. **Bouquet of flowers.**—1st, Lucy Board; 2nd, Mrs. John Dilling; 3rd, Elsie North. **Bouquet of garden flowers.**—1st, school children under 10 years of age—1st, Edith Johnson; 2nd, Martin Hoar; 3rd, Willie Crandon; 4th, Alice Knight; 5th, Frank Weddell.

**Bouquet of garden flowers.**—1st, school children over 10 and under 14 years of age—1st, Eva Barker; 2nd, Arthur Collins; 3rd, Rosalie Apin; 4th, Alan Johnson; 5th, Richard Shire. **Bouquet of wild flowers and berries.**—1st, school children under 10 years of age—1st, Willie Crandon; 2nd, Winnie Fort; 3rd, Arthur Ostler; 4th, Rosie Crandon; 5th, Lydia Graham. **Bouquet of wild flowers and berries.**—1st, school children over 10 and under 14 years of age—1st, Stanley North; 2nd, May Collins; 3rd, Alice Maddock; 4th, Emma Knight; 5th, Tom Graham.

**Fruit.**—Dessert apples—1st, Isaac Baker; 2nd, Robert North; 3rd, Edward Denning. **Cooking apples.**—1st, Northcote North; 2nd, Henry Coles; 3rd, Edward Denning.

**Vegetables.**—Collection of vegetables—1st, E. Denning; 2nd, A. Board; 3rd, John Clode. **Round potatoes.**—1st, H. Hooper; 2nd, Madock; 3rd, William Foster. **Kidney potatoes.**—1st, John Dilling; 2nd, R. North; 3rd, E. Denning. **Paranips.**—1st, H. Hooper; 2nd, E. Denning; 3rd, A. Board. **Carrots.**—1st, H. Hooper; 2nd and 3rd, R. North. **Spring sown onions.**—1st, H. Hooper; 2nd, A. Board; 3rd, W. Fowler. **Vegetable marrow.**—1st, R. North; 2nd, R. Yarde; 3rd, N. North. **Cabbages.**—1st, A. Board; 2nd, G. Hutchings; 3rd, W. Fowler. **Savoy cabbages.**—1st, E. Denning; 2nd, R. North; 3rd, J. Clode. **Carrots.**—1st, E. Denning; 2nd, Madock; 3rd, R. North. **Cooked potatoes.**—1st, H. Hooper; 2nd, Madock; 3rd, Crandon.

### THE DINNER.

The dinner was held in the evening at the Lamb and Flag Inn. Mr. A. Trutt placed a first-class menu on the table. Mr. H. H. Shepherd, of Ilminster, president of the Association, was in the chair, and he was supported by the Rev. H. Lance (vicar), Captain J. R. Paull (Ilminster), Mr. W. R. J. Greenlade (Taunton), and Mr. H. E. Small (Chard). Amongst the company, which numbered about 70, were Messrs. F. Kitchen and A. Billett, of Taunton, representing Messrs. Hanbury & Cotching; Messrs. J. Wyatt, H. Matthews (Yarcombe), N. Pomeroy (Stockland), T. Wilce (Whitestaunton), J. Dimond, Martin, Loosemoor, Shire, Clarke, Wm. Stone, S. Doble, F. Apin, J. Knight, Dyer, Apin, &c.

After the loyal toasts had been honoured the CHAEMAN proposed "The Bishop and Clergy, and Ministers of all Denominations." He made reference to the good work being accomplished by the Vicar, Mr. Lance. (Applause.) The toast also embraced ministers of other denominations. Though there might be differences amongst the denominations, Mr. Shepherd said, everyone was working for the welfare of the people, and the Church.

The Rev. H. LANCE, in response, said that he was sorry that his curates were not there to respond to the toast, as they were the real workers, seeing he couldn't do so much in the parish now. The clergy were very glad to get their efforts appreciated by the laity, they were encouraged by the value placed on their work by the laity. He thanked them, therefore, for their kind words of appreciation.

Mr. GREENSLADE gave "The Imperial Forces." After referring to the splendid work of our Army and Volunteers in South Africa, he said he did not think a single penny should go to the Boer Generals, who had fought against them and tried to kill as many Englishmen as they could, before our Reservists and their wives, and all the soldiers injured or affected by the war, had been provided for. (Applause.)

Colonel LANGWORTHY, replying, said a soldier never felt prouder to reply to the toast than he did at that time. The country had fought well and nobly, and now the sword was sheathed in honour. (Applause.)

Captain PAULL also responded. He said that when Volunteers were called for on the outbreak of the war they gave in their names at once. If England was again threatened—if our country was invaded—he believed the Volunteers would come forward to a man. They had proved themselves in the war, they had shown their worth, they had fought with the Regulars.

Mr. SHEPHERD proposed "Success to the Association." He said sometimes of that description were bound to do a considerable amount of good. They promoted a spirit of healthy rivalry amongst all concerned. The competitors all tried to do their best not merely because of the money prize, but because of the friendly competition it engendered. Then another good feature about the Association was

13		Names.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
NORTH		Stanley.	Som L.I	Pte	22424
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.		
VICTORY	6/2/12	13/1602			
BURIAL	Do	Do			
STAR					
Theatre of War first served in					
Date of entry therein					

K. 1390

MEDAL ROLL INDEX CARD

C. H., Plymouth. SOMERSET L.I. — Wright 9387  
 Sgt. G. J., Bath: Holt 17651 H. H. F., Peckham;  
 Nelmes 9908 T. H., Bristol: North 22424 S., Buck-  
 land St. Mary: Osment 10937 J. J., Portishead;  
 Smeed 19134 T. W., Bow, E.: Tavenor 22561 G.  
 W., Tintinhull: Yard 22423 H., Tappin. LEICESTER  
 FER.—Adcock 15204 J. L., Station-under-Bardon;  
 Maycock 11433 T., Leicester: Mountford 10622 H.  
 Walsall. R. WELSH FER.—Davies 22115

STANLEY NORTH &amp; HARRY YARD DEATH NOTICE



CARD WRITTEN – PROBABLY - BY ANNA NORTH



STANLEY

NORTH'S

VICTORY

MEDAL

—

4

VIEWS





# The Somme

## 6th BATTALION, SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

1916.

August.

### VILLARS HOPITAL.

Appendix.

Sheet  
Lens 11.

- 1st 6 A.M. Bn. marched to new billets in PROUVILLE distance about 8 miles, owing to starting early in the morning & avoiding the heat of the day nobody fell out. Operation Orders attached.
- 10 A.M. Arrived in billets; the soldiers rested for the rest of the day.

1.

### PROUVILLE.

- 2nd 7 A.M. Route march about 9 miles to get the men fit. Orders have been received that the men must be made as fit as possible in 4 days, as we shall probably go in the snow xxx at Albert xx shortly. Coy. parades the rest of the day.
- 3rd Coy. parades all day.
- 4th Bn. route march & lecture by O.C. coys.
- 5th Coy. parades. The weather is getting much cooler. Operation Order.

2. 2A.

- 6th 9.30 AM. Church Parade for everybody. Our transport moved off down south to an unknown destination, leaving the bnn. with nothing except what could be carried on ones back. Operation Orders Enclosed.
- 3.15 The bnn. marched to Candas where it entrained in a tactical train that is personal only. The train started 2 hours late at 8.30. After many stoppages & wayside halts we detrained at Mericourt, & marched five miles where we camped on the top of a hill overlooking Albert, about 1 think 5-6 miles from the firing line. Guns were all round us the amazing thing is that so many men & horses & ammunition were so near the firing line absolutely in the open.

### ALBERT.

- 7th 7.30 Arrived in camp. During the day the firing was not so heavy as it generally is at Ypres however during the night the firing was heavy and continuous until after dawn. Operation Orders.

3.

1916

August.

8th.

The German aeroplane or sausage is nearly non-existent, the British & French having complete mastery of the air, most of the day & night our sausages are up. How long we shall be here before going into the line is unknown. Drill & bayonet fighting under coy. arrangements. Bathing in the afternoon. Most of the men are in bivouacs there being only 8 tents per coy.

- 9th 5 A.M. The Colonel & 4 coy. commanders went up to Delville Wood to look round, we will probably take over on the morning of the 12/13. The trenches hardly exist. Parades under O.C. coys.
- 10th 5 A.M. 2 more officers went up the line, this being the quietest time of the day. Rain started about this time, the men being out in the open are rather wet. Parades under O.C. coys. Night operations in the evening.
- 11th Batta. resting before going into the trenches next morning.

ALBERT S.9.C. - MONTAUDAN S.27.-  
DELVILLE WOOD.

- 12th 6 A.M. Batta. moved from camp Transport went off 1/4 of an hour before.
- 9 A.M. Batta. relieved the Duke of Wellington Regt. & the Manchester Regt. & remained there all day. tools were distributed bombs, rifle grenades & water. The Men were given two days rations before going in. There were masses of troops & guns in the open just behind the lines.
- 4 P.M. The Batta. relieved the Lancashire Fusiliers in the line relief was complete about 9 p.m. The front line trenches are fairly continuous but the position of the German trenches is not definitely known. Although there was continuous but fairly light shelling we had no casualties during the relief. The Germans are about 150 yards inside the wood. The smell is distinctly bad but a great improvement has been made during the last few days, there are still many bodies about mostly English not yet buried.
- 1 A.M. During the night two separate German parties were surprised one an officers patrol of which

1916August

12 (Contd.)

3 were killed 2 wounded 1 captured  
& later 3 captured one killed.

DELVILLE WOOD.

13th

Casualties up to 12 noon are  
Lt. Fuge killed Lt. Malet wounded  
6 O.R. casualties. It was  
discovered from the prisoners  
that this battn. was relieving  
& that they had passed over  
their front line by mistake &  
were surprised by our men.  
Rest of the day fairly quiet  
although our guns kept pounding  
away the Germans did not reply.  
There was no shortage of water  
as it is brought up by carts to  
the dump.

14th

A deserter came into us last  
night, he was very young & had  
destroyed all his papers before  
coming over.

Intermittent shelling although  
the xxx night, it is always  
much heavier during the night  
than day.

A deserter came into us last  
night, he was very young & had  
destroyed all his papers before  
coming over.

Intermittent shelling although  
the night, it is always much  
heavier during the night than  
day.

8 A.M. Seven German aeroplanes flew  
very low over the lines there  
being no opposition on our part.  
12. Casualties for the last 24 hours,  
2/Lt. Knapp wounded, 4 O.R. Killed  
6 O.R. wounded.

5 A.M. Heavy shelling on ~~XXXXXX~~ German  
barrage line across Trones Wood  
& by Batt. R.Q.

11-2. Our patrols were out in the wood  
finding out the dispositions  
of the enemy.

2 A.M. The Germans made a small attack  
against one of our right posts  
but were repulsed with loss.

MONTAUBAN.

13th 6 A.M. We were relieved in the line by  
the D.C.L.I. & returned to  
support trenches just in front  
of Montauban ALLEY.  
Casualties 2 O.R. killed  
12 wounded.

10 P.M. A working party of 250 was sent  
up to Delville Wood to dig all  
the night.

4.

1918.  
August.

Appendix.

16th 10 p.m. Casualties 3 O.R. wounded.  
A working party of 250 was again sent up to Delville Wood.

1 10 p.m. The Germans sent over Lachramatory shells into Longueval Alley & B coy. had to put on goggles.

DELVILLE WOOD. S.18.b. 57 C.S.W.-  
AK S.18.b.9.6. to S.18.A.6-3 to  
S.18.d.75-4.

18th 2 AM. Battn. moved from Montauban & took up their position in new trenches just dug in the S.E. corner of the wood marked in ink on map.

6 AM. Where in position, the bombardment started with all calibre of guns, the ~~xxxx~~ fire was directed against the German trenches marked in blue on the accompanying map. Our heavy guns were firing short nearly all the morning repeatedly hitting our trenches & causing casualties our men in the end became more afraid of our guns than the German. The heavy gunners have no idea what the front trenches are like, they never send up forward observation ~~xx~~ officers & when the message goes back that our guns are firing short, they won't believe it. Up to the time of attacking our casualties were 15 O.R. from our guns & none from German. During the preliminary bombardment the Germans did not reply on our trenches, ~~xxx~~ mostly to their not knowing where our trenches were situated. Two intense bombardments with every gun firing rapid took place at 8.45 & 12.10.

Zero time was 2.45.

2.45. At this hour the bombardment came ~~xx~~ intense ~~xx~~ & our men went over the parapet & came right under the barrage of our guns & about 25 yards from the German trenches.

2.50 The ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ barrage lifted & we occupied our first objective, & then continued on to our second & final objective in BEER Trench which was reached at 2.55 the barrage then lifting to some considerable distance away.

2.55 C. coy reached their objective Hop ALLEY, D. Coy. from junction of Hop ALLEY & Beer Trench to Pilsen Line & A Coy. to the right as far as S.18.d.7.5 - 4.0 ~~xxxx~~

Many German prisoners were captured, they were in a very demoralized condition & surrendered without ever putting up a fight, the battn. captured about 200 although we were not credited with this amount owing to not sending them back under our escort. ~~x~~

1916

August.

18th (Contd.)

Four machine guns were captured two of which were used by us to help consolidate the line.

On arrival everybody started consolidating as hard as possible, B Coy. commencing a communication trench from our jumping off line to our new line.

The German guns commenced a barrage after we went over but failed to get on to our own new lines until nearly an hour and a half afterwards. Every man on going into the line had two days rations, 3 sandbags & 2 bombs, the sandbags were of great use in consolidating also the bombs for making blocks & reserve stores. Our Lewis Guns & Snipers were sent out about 25 yards in front of the line & held it against surprise while all the men were occupied in making our new line strong.

In places it had been badly knocked about but in others the trench was in excellent condition.

At 8 p.m. the Germans were seen to be massing by Hop Alley our Lewis & Vickers guns opened on them & ~~xxxx~~ took them on the flank, no S.O.S. rockets could be found owing to only 3 having been taken over, the wires were down so the message was sent by hand to the D.C.L.I. H.Q. & was sent on from there the Artillery opened about 8.30. The Germans made no counter

8.30 pm.

attack but this was probably prevented by our fire, as it seemed likely ~~xx~~ that a counter attack would be made about this time.

The Germans had now the range of our trenches & we were suffering heavy casualties from this account. Consolidation continued all the night, also fresh stores of S.A.A. bombs & water had to be brought to the front line.

About this time it was reported that the D.C.L.I. on our left had lost their trenches through a German counter attack, ~~xx~~ it was subsequently confirmed that they had fallen back to their original front line, ~~xxxxxx~~ & left our flank rather in the air, we sent up a party of B coy. to consolidate & make a bomb post & block, this was done.

60 men of B coy. were also sent to reinforce C coy.

5.

Appendix.

6.

ry

Stanley North recorded as killed August 22,  
a fanciful date. Must have been before  
August 20.

1916  
August

Appendix.

18th (Contd.)

A coy. of the 10 D.C.I. was also asked for & received, as we then had no reserve & nobody available to carry up stores etc., these were not used at all in the front line.

19th

Hostile shelling continued most the day, & two officers we had left behind were sent up to replace casualties.

4.30 pm.

The D.C.I. asked us if we could get the artillery on as they thought that the Germans were massing for counter attack. We therefore spread out our aeroplane letter O which indicates barrage wanted this was quickly seen & the aeroplane hastened off to give the information to the guns who started shelling about 3 minutes after. The officers of the 9th R.B. came to look round & make arrangements for taking over. Owing to the very heavy hostile barrage the relief ~~XXXX~~ did not arrive till 12.30 A.M. this however was greatly in our favour as we had no casualties when coming out.

4.15

Relief complete.

#### FRICOURT.

The men on arrival in rest billets were absolutely beat, the authorities had wisely kept them in until the last possible moment & then taken them out. Our casualties were rather heavy we lost Capt. E.D. Pain, Lt. B.M. Denton, 2/Lt. W.E. Berridge, 2/Lt. DAVY & 2/Lt. A.C. Pullen killed. Capt. Manson, 2/Lts. Odams, Rogers, Butcher, Dawson, Gough, Rowden. O. Ranks killed 48 O. Ranks wounded & missing 220. Owing to the close proximity of the enemy & the likelihood of a counter attack all operation orders had to be destroyed.

20th

Battn. rested & slept all day.

21st

Parades under O.C. coys. The Brigadier had a parade & congratulated the men on their fine performance in Delville Wood.

22nd

~~Bathing~~ Parades under O.C. coys.

23rd

Bathing for all coys. at Vivier Mill between 9.30 to 12 & 2 to 3 p.m.

		7.
		<u>Appendix.</u>
<u>1916</u>		
<u>August</u>		
24th	10 A.M.	Information received that the 42 & 41 Bde. were going to attack, our Brigade would remain in reserve everybody to be in camp & remain there from 5.30 onwards, the Battn. to be ready to move at half an hours notice.
25th	12.5AM.	42 Bde. failed to gain their objective with one battn. but did so with the other two.
	10.30 AM.	All objectives gained in Delville Wood. Orders received that we had to be at the Pommiers Redoubt at midnight, where we would meet guides of the 9 K.R.R.
26th		Occupied a reserve trench about 300 yards in front of Bernesfay Wood. Relief complete 3.45 A.M. A carrying party for rations to the Yorkshires & Durhams on the left & right respectively of Delville Wood was required. Casualties 1 O.R. killed.
27th	6 p.m.	Durhams occupied a trench on the right of Delville Wood very heavy shelling of the wood afterwards, 1 coy. was sent up to reinforce the Durhams, the K.O.Y.L.I. also called for a coy. to go & work for them, but owing to bad guides the party did no work after arrival in the wood. Casualties 1 Officer killed, 2/Lt. Munden. 3 O.Rs. Killed, 3 O.Rs. wounded.
		<u>DELVILLE WOOD - S.23.c.O.5.to S.23.c.9.5.</u>
28th		39 O.Rs. reinforcements arrived for duty.
12 mid-night.		One platoon of B Coy. got detached during the night and wandered about the Wood but eventually discovered their coy. in the early hours of the morning.
8 p.m.		Durhams were relieved in the line so our one coy. was returned to us arriving back about 2 A.M. A carrying party had to be sent to Delville Wood of 100 men with R.E. Stores on the way back they got caught in the German barrage the R.E. officer leading was killed & consequently the party got very disorganised owing to our officer being behind. Casualties being 18 O.R. wounded 4 O.R. killed. xx The trench which was newly dug had not been seen by the Germans and consequently was
		Sheet 57C S.W.3.



**DELVILLE WOOD AFTER THE BATTLE**



**SERIES OF PICTURES OF THIEPVAL MEMORIAL TAKEN BY SARAH BADDELEY IN 2017**



## Thiepval Memorial & Anglo-French Cemetery



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

### The Battles of the Somme 1916

In late 1915, the military leaders of the Entente discussed a co-ordinated strategy for the following year. With combined attacks on all fronts, they aimed to wear down the Central Powers, preventing the German and Austro-Hungarian armies from sustaining their military efforts. In early February, British and French commanders agreed to a joint offensive around the River Somme, where their lines met.

Only a few days later, the German Army launched its own offensive at Verdun. It would be one of the fiercest battles of the war, lasting until the end of the year. Although the German attack had stalled by the summer, far fewer French divisions were available to fight on the Somme, and the forces of the British Empire would take the leading role.

On 24 June 1916, Allied artillery began a week-long bombardment of the German defences, firing more than 1.5 million shells. Yet the length and depth of the target area, along with manufacturing defects in British shells, meant that many well-constructed German dugouts remained intact and sheltered the defenders. In the early hours of 1 July, soldiers moved into forward trenches, or advanced out into no-man's land, preparing for 'zero-hour' at 7.30am. As the bombardment lifted, the first wave of assault troops – some 55,000 infantrymen – attacked along a 40-kilometre front, with another 100,000 waiting in support. British forces made good progress in the south alongside the French, between Mametz and Montauban, but in the north –



John Murdoch Brooks © Imperial War Museum Q 18 17

at Gommecourt, Serre, Beaumont-Hamel, Thiepval, Ovillers and La Boisselle – they suffered terrible losses for little gain.

Over the following weeks, British and Empire forces continued the offensive to the south of the Albert-Bapaume road. In mid-July they stormed the German second line of defences along Bazentin Ridge, and heavy fighting began at High Wood and Delville Wood.

Later that month, the high ground at Pozieres was captured. Attacks and counter-attacks by both sides continued throughout August, and the villages of Gulleuville and Ginchy were secured in early September. On 15 September, the British Army launched its largest attack since 1 July, between Courcellette and Fiers. Later that month, the villages around Morval were captured, and Thiepval was taken.

In October, deteriorating weather transformed the battlefields into a muddy and waterlogged morass, but fighting continued for the Thiepval Ridge, the Battle de Wancourt, and the heights overlooking the River Ancre. In November, amid freezing sleet and snow, the British Army made progress north of the Ancre, before the offensive was halted on 18 November.

Men fought here from every part of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and from across the British Empire, including units from Australia, Canada, India, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies.

The battles of the Somme had significant military, political, industrial and domestic consequences for all the countries involved. Every village, copse, farmhouse and rise was fiercely contested, and both sides committed huge quantities of manpower and munitions to the struggle. An estimated 3.5 million men fought on all sides, and over 1 million were wounded or killed. Precise figures are impossible to calculate. Official figures for British Empire casualties numbered some 420,000 wounded, missing or killed.

Heavy batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery in action during the Somme offensive, August 1916

Obelisk in the Royal Garrison Artillery or other pendant Obelisk in the Somme, July 1916

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commission is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of none, are found around the globe in some 150 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) or contact us at [enquiries@cwgc.org](mailto:enquiries@cwgc.org)

For more information about this location and some of those commemorated here, scan the QR code (right)



# The Missing of the Somme



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

At the Armistice of November 1918, the Somme battlefields were a wasteland of mud, shattered trees and rusting wire. The final resting places of many thousands of British and Empire servicemen were unknown. Their bodies were never recovered; their graves were unrecorded, lost or destroyed by battle, or their remains could not be identified and lie buried beneath a headstone bearing Kipling's haunting inscription: 'Known Unto God'. They are the missing.

The Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission was created to commemorate all those who died while serving with forces of the British Empire in the First World War: both those buried in cemeteries and those with no known grave. The Thiepval Memorial is dedicated to the Missing of the Somme. It is the largest CWGC Memorial to the Missing in the world.

Commemorated here are more than 72,000 men of British and South African units who died on these battlefields between July 1915 and March 1918 and who have no known grave. Other Empire forces commemorate their Somme missing elsewhere: Australia at Villers-Bretonneux, Canada at Vimy, India at Neuve-Chapelle, Newfoundland at Beaumont-Hamel, and New Zealand at Longueval.

## The Thiepval Memorial

The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, one of the Commission's principal architects, who designed several other



John Harwood Records © Imperial War Museum © 2014

memorials, cemeteries, and cemetery features – including the Stone of Remembrance found in thousands of CWGC sites around the world. Construction at Thiepval began in 1928, with foundations dug to a depth of 30 feet, uncovering wartime tunnels and unexploded ordnance. Panels of Portland stone were inscribed with the names of the missing. Each man is

grouped by regiment and rank, then listed by surname. Above them are laurel wreaths naming significant places on the Somme battlefields of 1915 to March 1918.

Since the completion of the memorial in 1932, the panels have been amended to add names or remove those whose remains have been

identified. The stone steps leading from the rear of the memorial to the cemetery were built in the 1940s, when there were also other amendments to the walls around the memorial. In the 1950s, and again in the 1970s, significant re-facing and then replacement of the brickwork was required as a result of erosion. In 2015, a major conservation project began in advance of the centenary commemorations of the Battle of the Somme in July 2018.

## An Anglo-French Offensive

The Thiepval Memorial is also the battle monument for the Anglo-French offensive on the Somme in 1916, marking the efforts of all the Allied servicemen who served in it. High on the memorial's façade is inscribed, in French, 'To the French and British Armies, from the grateful British Empire'.

In the shadow of the memorial is **Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery**. It is the final resting place of 300 French and 300 British Empire soldiers, brought here from across the region. Upon the cross which faces them is the inscription: 'That the world may remember the common sacrifice of two and a half million dead, here have been laid side by side soldiers of France and of the British Empire in eternal comradeship.'

An army chaplain conducts a battlefield burial service near Guillemont, Somme, September 1916.

Un curé militaire effectuant une cérémonie d'inhumation près de Guillemont dans la Somme, septembre 1916.

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ORY W.	MATTHEWS W	SWEE
21280	MATTHEWS W H	SWIE
TEAD J.	MAXIN R	SYMN
ES W.	MAY C	SYMC
ES W. J.	MILLER O	TAGG
FORD H.	MILLS G T	TAKL
ER A. J.	MINERS R E	TAPP
RFIELD H.	MOORE E. J.	TAVE
S S	MORLEY E	TAYL
J	MORRIS A F	TETT
E H	MOSELEY W	THA
R	MOSS E L	THOM
V	NELMES T H	THOM
CK W G	NEWTON J	THOM
F W	NOAKES G G	THOM
V W	NOBLE H. W.	TILE
A	NORMAN R	TILL
R	NORTH S	TOW
G W H	NORTHCOTT L	TOZ
S	NOYES J C	WE
E W	NUTLAND E	LIEU
G G D	NUTTYCOMBE E	KENT
J	OATEN E G	
I	O'BRIEN H	
A. A.	ODELL A	MAF
LL S. S	ORMEROD C	M
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