

Albert Aaron Steel



Nº242737  
6<sup>th</sup> & 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Lancashire Fusiliers

Albert Aaron Steel was born in first quarter of 1898 in Lower Brompton Lancashire to Albert Aaron and Ada and was their 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 children. He was named after his father Coachman/Groom.

In 1901 Albert is aged 3 living at 5 Grasmere Street Lower Broughton with a sister and his parents.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 18						
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet						
Broughton		Broughton and John the Baptist		Salford		Albert Park				Salford North Div								
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES				NAME and SURNAMES of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Working at Home	WHERE BORN	Remarks					
		Uninhabited	Partly Inhabited	Partly Vacant	Partly Occupied								(1) Dead and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic	(4) Idiote, Feeble-minded		
109	5 Grasmere St					Albert Aaron Steel	Head	77	32	Coachman to Co-operative Society	Worker	Derby, Chesterfield		X				
						Ada	Wife	77	33			Walsley, Sheffield		X				
						Albert Aaron	Son	3	3			Lower Broughton						
						Lillian Victoria	Daughter	10	10									

By 1911 Albert is aged 13 and at school. He is living with 3 siblings, his parents and 3 of his uncles on his mothers side in 8 rooms at 79 North Grecian Street. his father is a domestic coachman.

No.	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Married	Profession	Remarks	Where Born	Remarks
1	Albert Aaron Steel	Head	42	M	Married 14 5 1	Coachman Domestic	Widow	Walsley, Derby	210
2	Ada Steel	Wife	43	F	Married - 15 4 1			Walsley, Derby	038
3	Albert Aaron Steel	Son	13	M		School		Walsley, Derby	059
4	Lillian Victoria Steel	Daughter	10	F				Walsley, Derby	
5	George Steel	Son	2	M				Walsley, Derby	
6	Emily Barsh	Servant	45	F	Single			Walsley, Derby	210
7	Walter Barsh	Servant	39	M	Single	Shop assistant		Walsley, Derby	038
8	John Barsh	Servant	30	M	Widower	Hardware		Walsley, Derby	059

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments, except the kitchen as a room but do not count cellars, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, and washhouse, office, shop, etc.)

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

Signature: *Walter Barsh*  
 Postal Address: *79 North Grecian Street, Walsley, Derby*



Albert remained living in the same address through 1914 and 1915.

BOWRING STREET.			
5732	Steel Albert Aaron	.... 1 Bowring street	.... Dwelling house (successive) 1 Bowring street 79 Grecian street north

Little else is known of Alberts early years.

When war was declared on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 he was aged just 16 but like many would be called to serve.

No service record survives for Albert but his wartime experiences can be gained through other documents and the service records of men with service numbers close to his.

It is known that on enlisting Albert was given a service number 242737 and was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers. One record shows him in the 6<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers (LF).

Name <i>Steel, Albert Aaron</i>	Regimental No. <i>242737</i>	Name <i>Steel, Albert Aaron</i>	Regimental No. <i>242737</i>
Regiment or Ship <i>6<sup>th</sup> Lanc Fus</i>	Rank <i>Pte</i>		

William Bassett had the service number 242741 just 4 form Albert 242737. He was Attested in to service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1916 and mobilised on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916. He was posted to the 6<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion LF.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. <i>242741</i> Name <i>William George Henry Bassett</i>							
Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
General Service		Attested	<i>Private</i>	<i>2-6-16</i>			<i>J. Warner</i> <i>2nd Lt</i> <i>Embark. Off.</i>
General Service		To Army Reserve	"	<i>2-6-16</i>			
		Mobilized	"	<i>4-11-16</i>			
6 <sup>th</sup> LANC. FUSILIERS.		Posted	"	<i>4-11-16</i>	<i>16</i>		

It is almost certain that Albert was also Attested in to service in late May / early June 1916 and mobilised in to the 6<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion in early November 1916. The 6<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion was a home service battalion training recruits before transfer to service units overseas. Albert would have completed his initial training with them.

At some point Albert headed to France to join the British Expeditionary force. There is no record of when he left.

242741 Bassett left for France on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1917 on the Hired Transport Arundel disembarking on the same day and moving to no 23 Infantry Base Depot (IBD) at Etaples on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. There he was posted to the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion LF.

	Embarked ...	12.6.17.	H.T. "Arundel"
	Disembarked ...	12.6.17.	
13.6.17. 23rd I.B.D.	Joined from England and posted to 1/6th Bn. Lan. Fus.	Etaples.	13.6.17.
	Taken on strength of 1/7th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers, for Record Purposes.		13.6.17. C.1210. W/25.

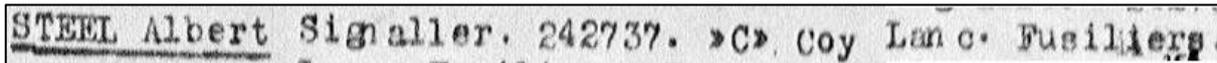
Albert may have followed a similar time line, traveling on the SS Arundel as part of a Draft to the Lancashire Fusilier's though once in France was posted from the Base Depot to the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion LF. Exactly when he joined them is not known. The 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF were part of the 125 Infantry Brigade 42<sup>nd</sup> Division

242737	Pte	STEEL	Albert	1/5th Lancs Fus
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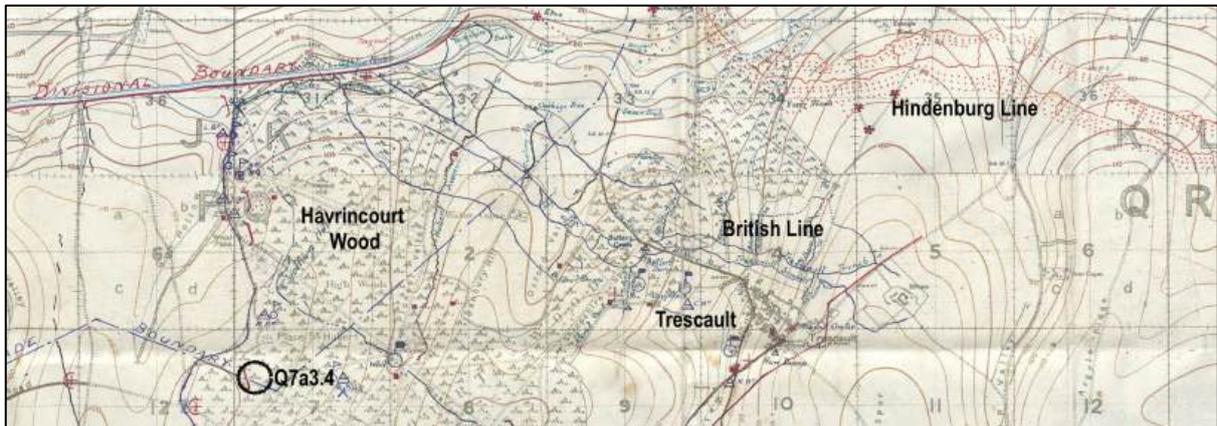
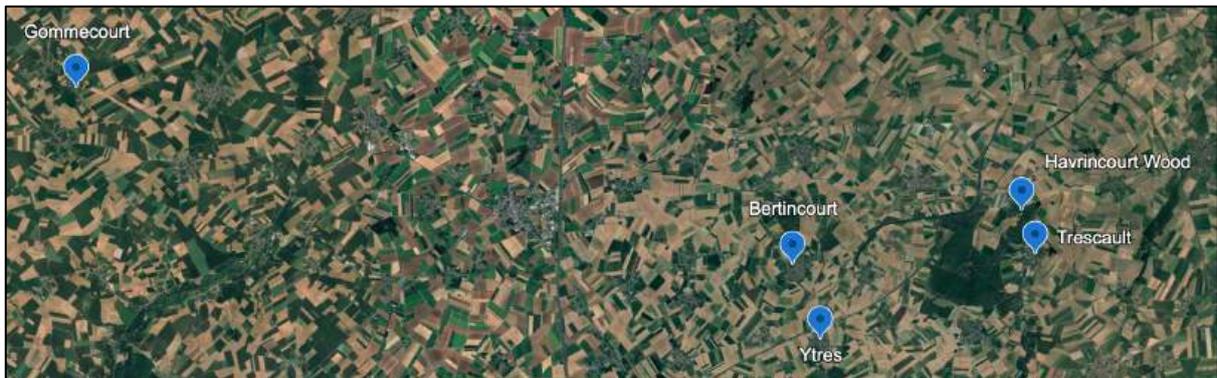


Documents show that at some point Albert became a Signaller and was part of C Company in the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF



Assuming Albert joined the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF around mid to late June 1917 when they were in the trenches at Trescault opposite the German Hindenburg Line, at rest at Ytres and then in reserve in Havrincourt Wood. If Albert had joined them in late June the trenches at Trescault may have been his first taste of the front lines.

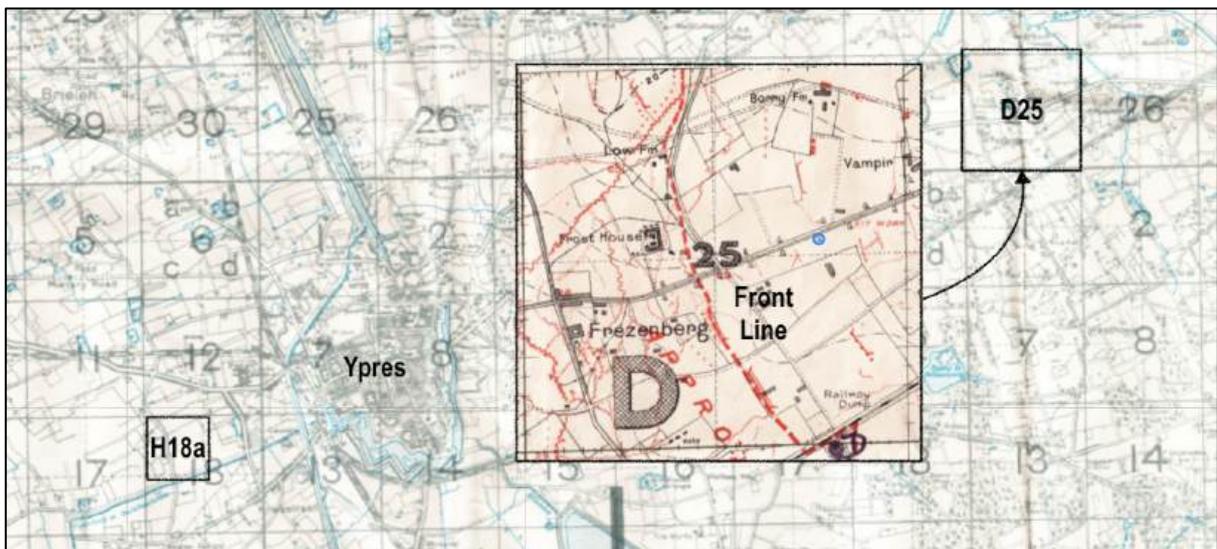
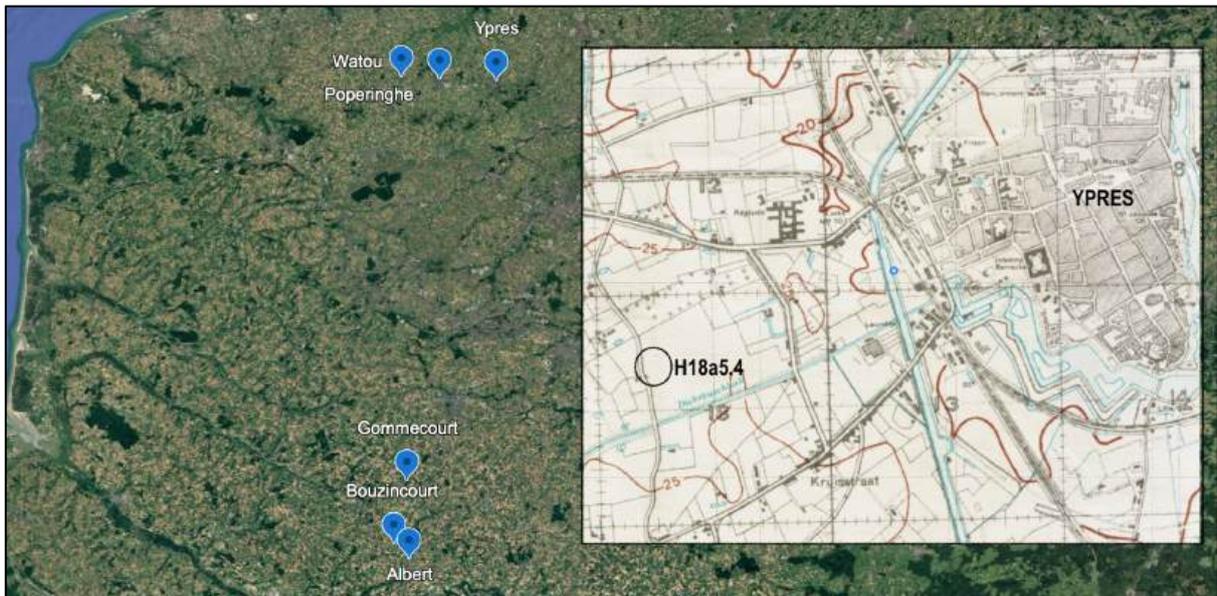
From the 1<sup>st</sup> July the battalion was in reserve at Q7a3.4 Havrincourt Wood providing working parties and manning the intermediate and secondary lines. on the 5<sup>th</sup> they moved to Bretincourt and on the 6<sup>th</sup> to Gommecourt where they spent the rest of the month training with sports in the afternoon's.



### British Front line at Trescault 1917



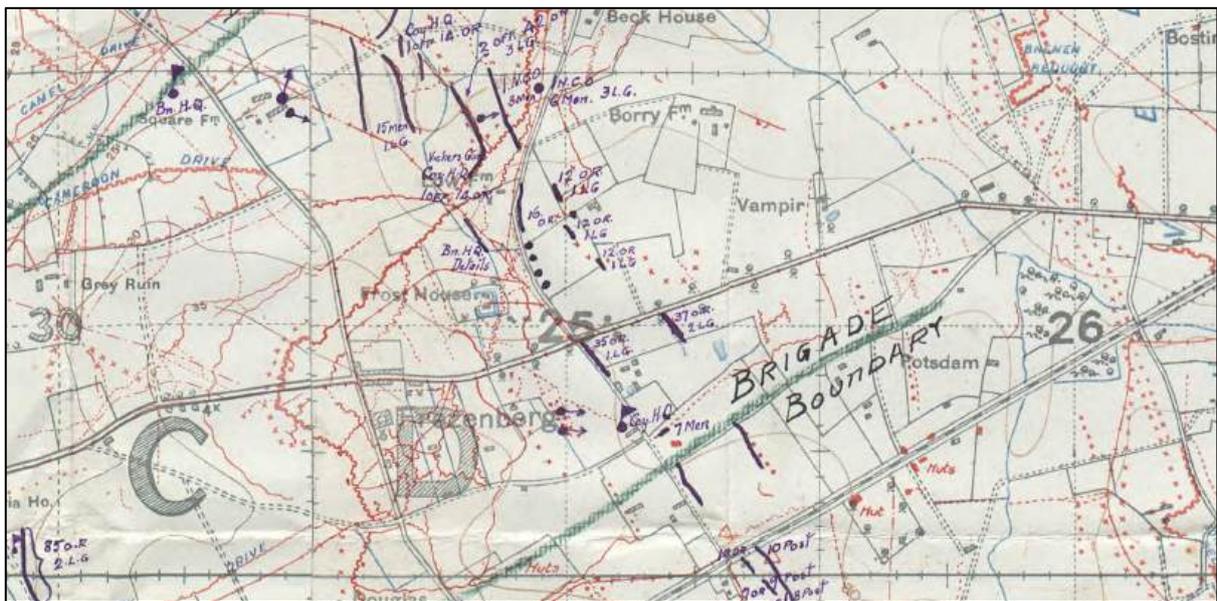
From the 1<sup>st</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 1917 the men remained at Gommecourt training. On the 20<sup>th</sup> they moved to Bouzincourt and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> entrained at Albert for billets in L7central near Watou where training continued until the 28<sup>th</sup>. They then moving by train via Poperinghe by train to H18a5.4 south west of Ypres. On the 31<sup>st</sup> they took over the front lines in D25 central. On the 31<sup>st</sup> they came under heavy shelling suffering 4 casualties.



On the 1st September the men were relieved in to support with D & C Companies to H16a south west of Ypres for special training in preparation for an attack. The battalion was heavily shelled during the relief with 2 killed.

Attack by C & D Companies on Borry Farm 6th September 1917 – line held after attack D25b25.20 to D25b15.30 through the 7th September.

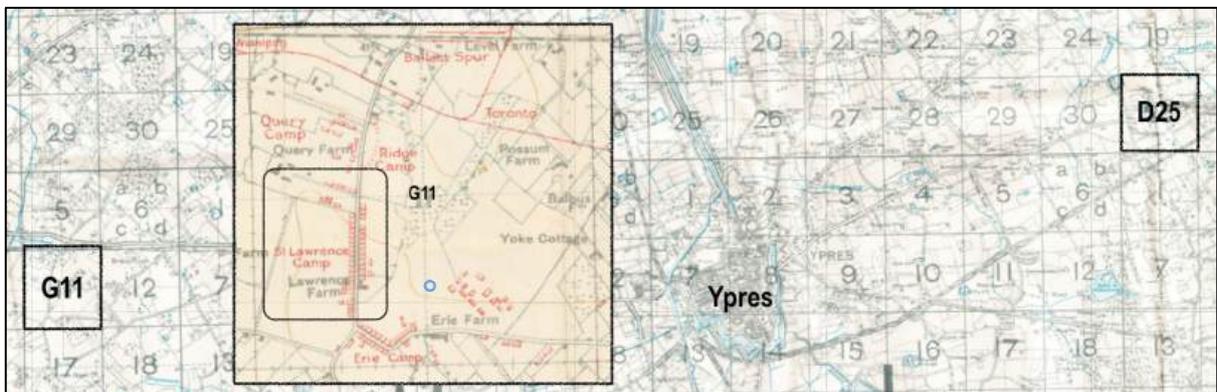
In outpost line - 3rd bank of BORRY FARM. C & D Coys move into assembly trench at midnight.  
 7.15 a.m. heavy bomb. of BORRY FARM. 7-30 am ZERO HOUR C. D Coys attack BORRY FARM behind Creeping barrage. 1/6<sup>TH</sup> LAN. FUS. attack BECK HOUSE and IBERIAN on left D 19 d. & B. respectively. 61<sup>ST</sup> DIV. attack HILL 35<sup>TH</sup> Dig. b. at same hour. Sharp fighting throughout day. Heavy Machine Gun fire met from VAMPIR and DOS. S of BORRY and attack held up after 150 yds. Heavy counter attacks at 10-45 a.m. 7-30 p.m. and 11-10 p.m. put up by our artillery fire. At 7.30 p.m. our left which was in the air had to retire to its original line. The right succeeded in holding the line D 25 b. 25.20 to D 25 b. 15.30. and this was consolidated, the left being brought back and joined to our original line.  
 In the attack we had heavy casualties from M.G. fire.



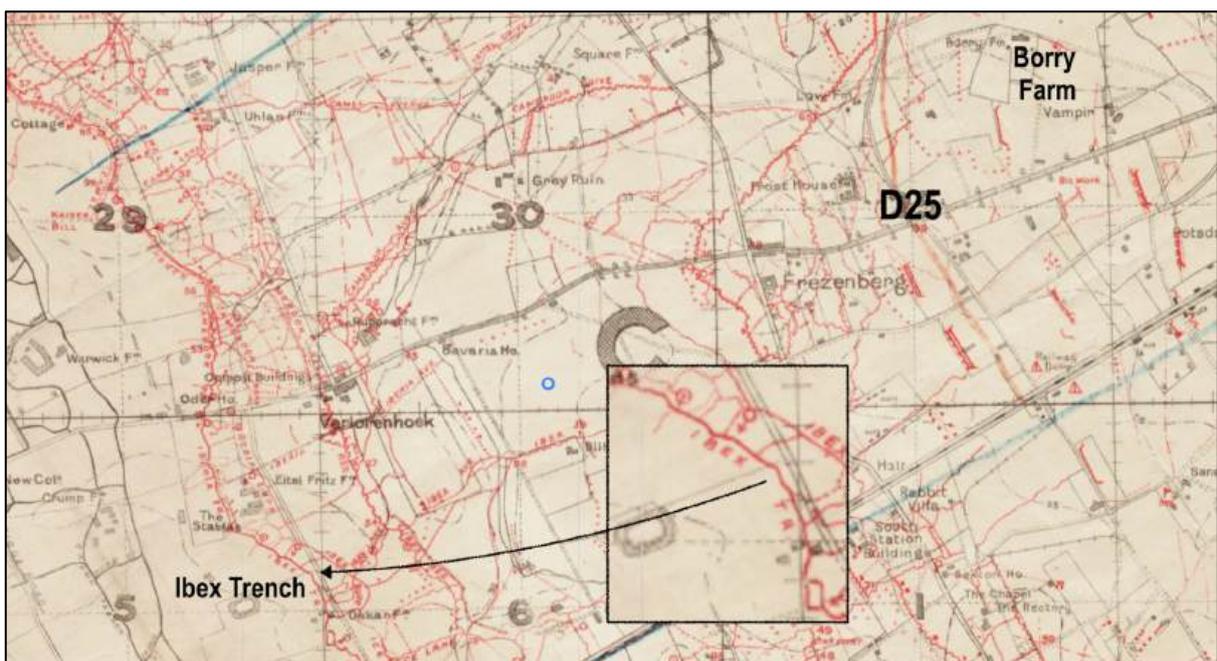
The shell pitted landscape in D25

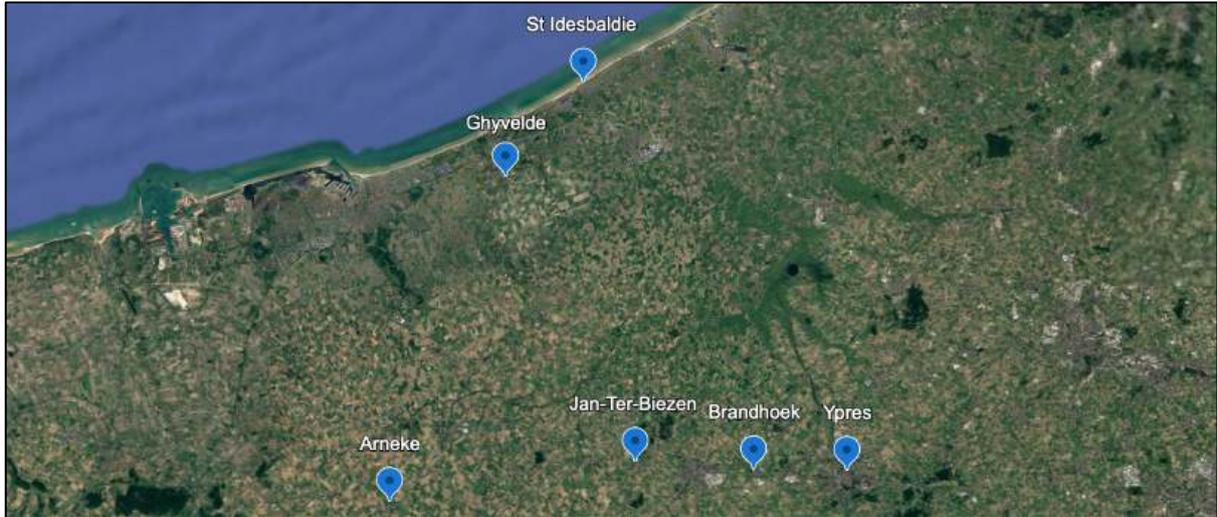


On the 7<sup>th</sup> September the men were relieved back to St Lawrence Camp G11c5.3

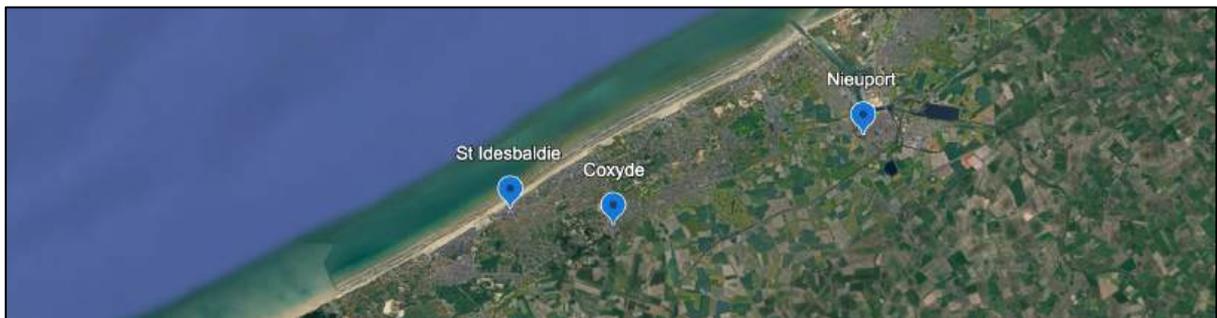


On the 14<sup>th</sup> September the men moved in to Support in the Ibex Support trench where they remained until the 17<sup>th</sup> being relieved to Brandhoek. on the 19<sup>th</sup> they moved to a camp at Jan-Ter-Biezen where they spent time cleaning equipment. On the 19<sup>th</sup> they moved to Arneke for training, the 24<sup>th</sup> to Ghyvelde and 25<sup>th</sup> to St Idesbaldie where training and rout marches took place alongside manning coastal defences.

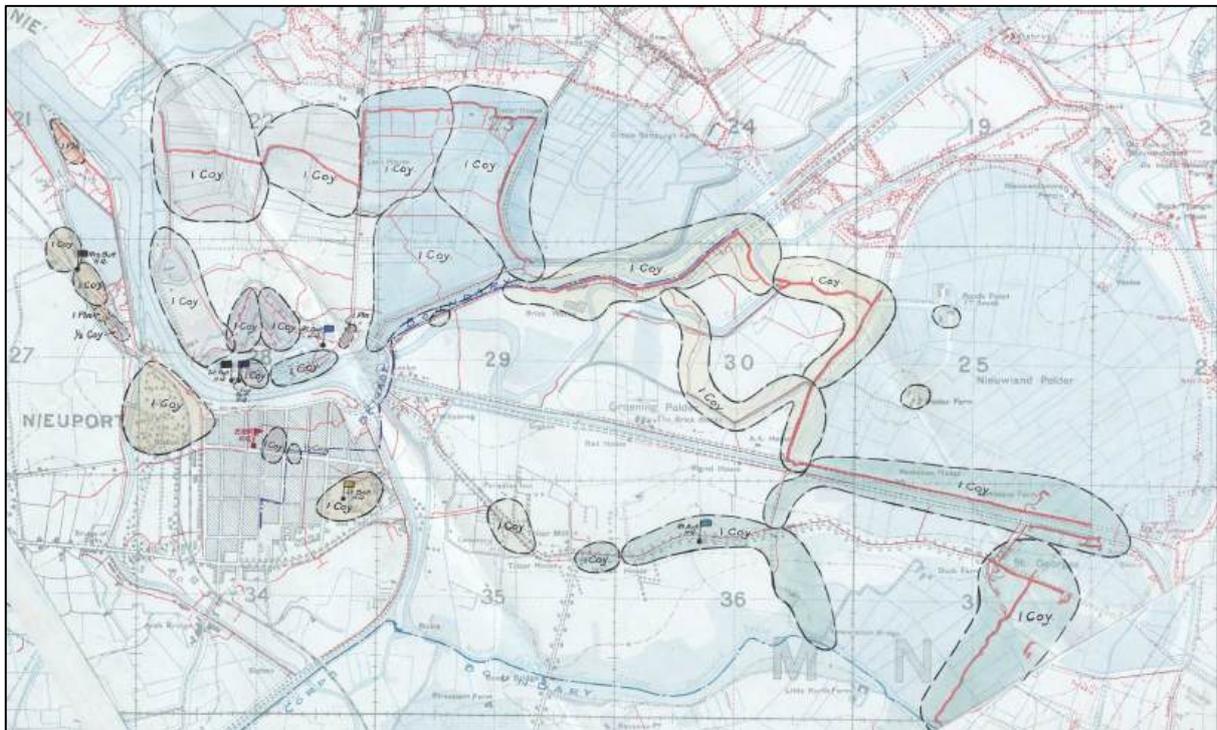




On the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1917 the battalion moved to Canada Camp at Coxyde and on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the front line trenches at Nieuport.



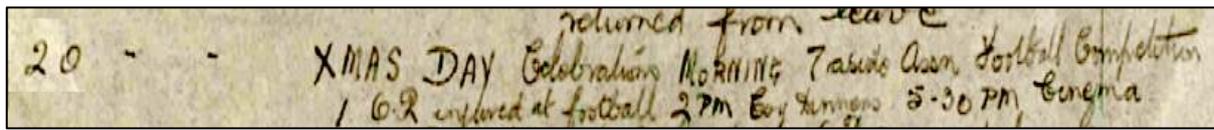
Nieuport trenches



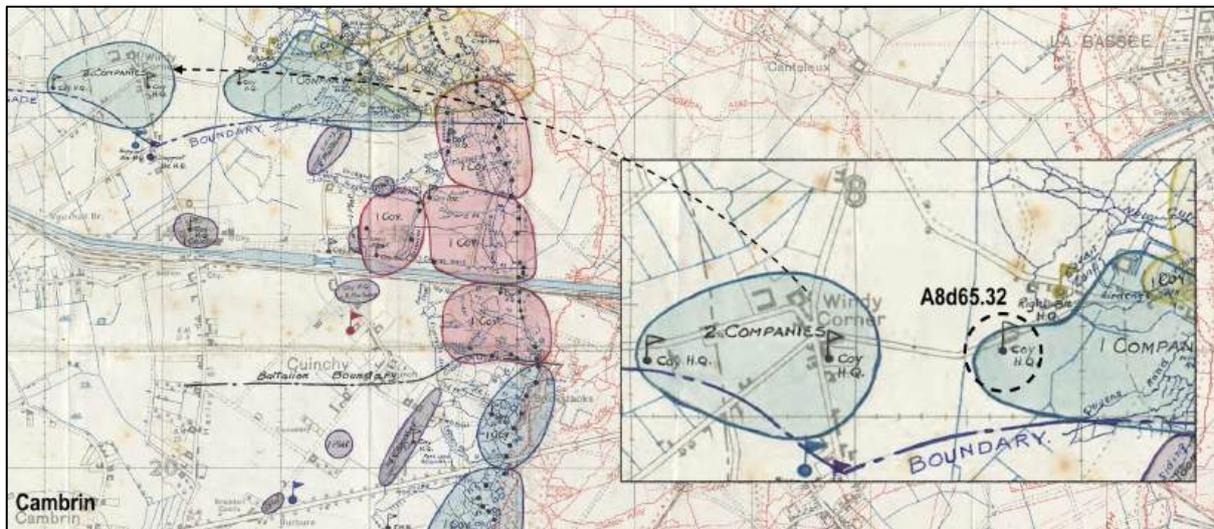
On the 9<sup>th</sup> October the men moved to Support in the 'Redan' and on the 13<sup>th</sup> back to the front line trenches. On the 17<sup>th</sup> they returned again to garrison the Redan and on the 20<sup>th</sup> back to Canada Camp at Coxyde.



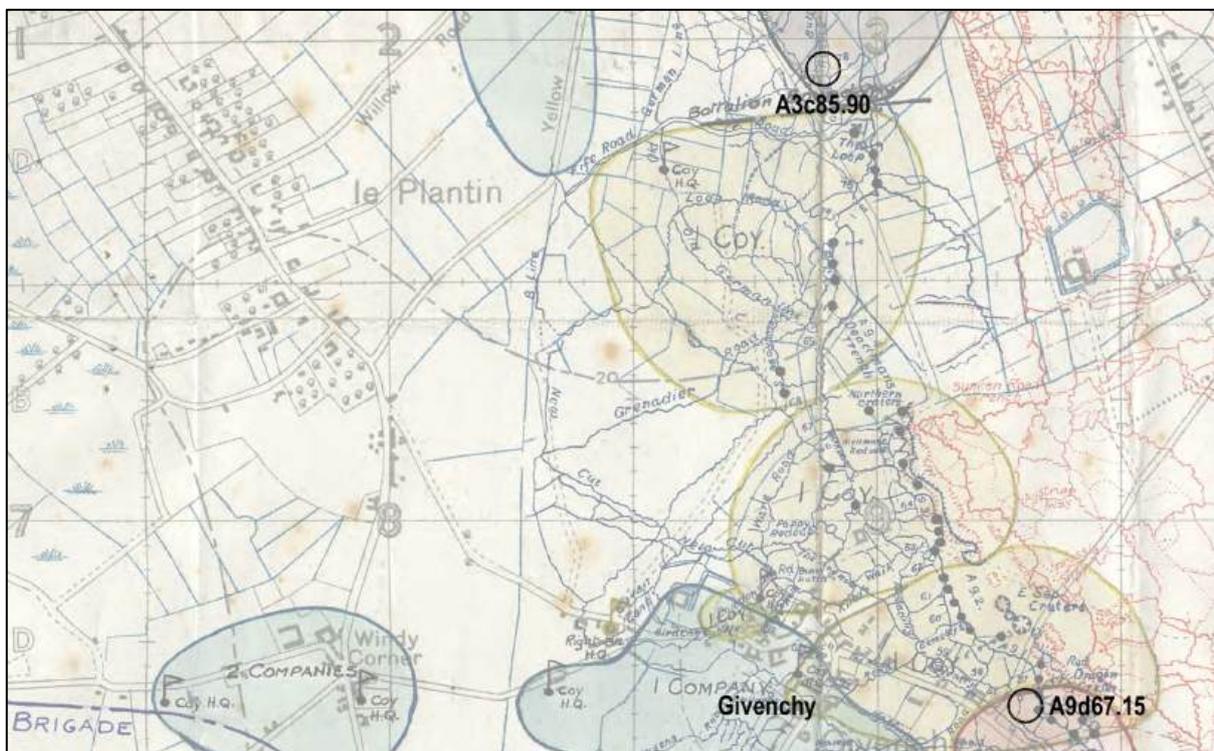
On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1917 at Beuvry the men celebrated Christmas Day with a 7 aside football competition and Cinema in the evening.



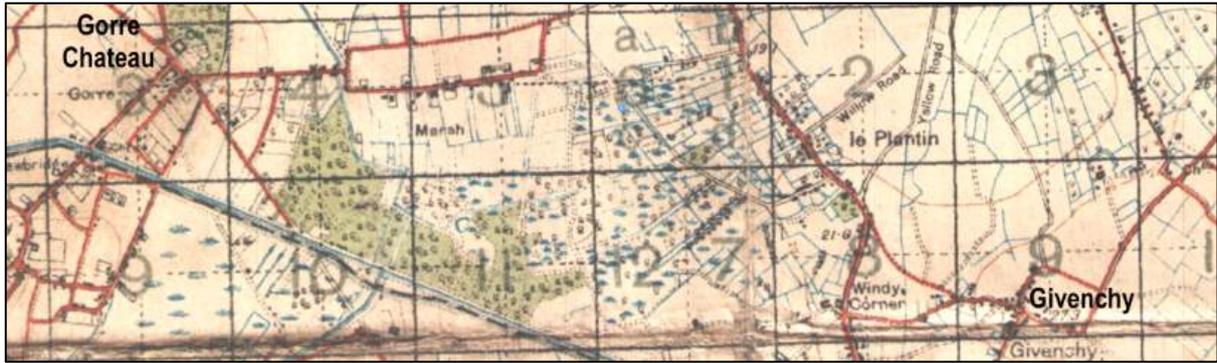
On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December the battalion moved into support, A & B Companies at Windy Corner, C Company (Albert) in the Keep & Heart Redoubt at A8d65.32 and D Company O.B.L. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve they were shelled and from Christmas Day to the 27<sup>th</sup> they provided working parties. Albert spent Christmas 1917 in the support lines at the Keep.



On the 28<sup>th</sup> and to the 31<sup>st</sup> the men were in the v front line trenches at Givenchy A9d67.15 to A3c85.90 (Yellow Company area) where they suffered. 3 wounded



Albert spent New Year 1917 in the front line where on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1918 they were heavily bombed gas shells. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> a thaw began that caused gas to 'hang around' the effects begin to be felt by many of the men. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January they were relieved to Gorre Chateau where from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> they provided working parties



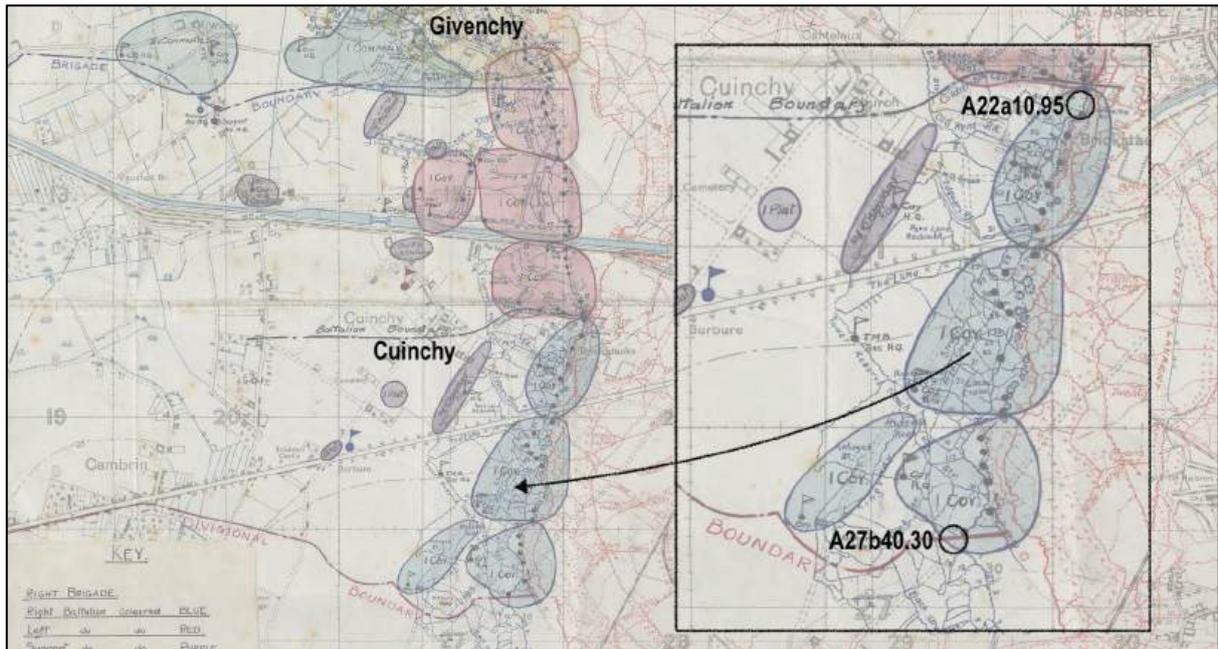
On the 9<sup>th</sup> January the men returned to the same front line trenches at Givenchy (A9d67.15 to A3c85.90) remaining there until the 17<sup>th</sup> improving trenches much damaged by heavy snow. (British line to the north of Givenchy occupied by 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF)



On the 17<sup>th</sup> January the men were relieved to the Hingette Area training and providing working parties to the royal engineers until the 28<sup>th</sup>



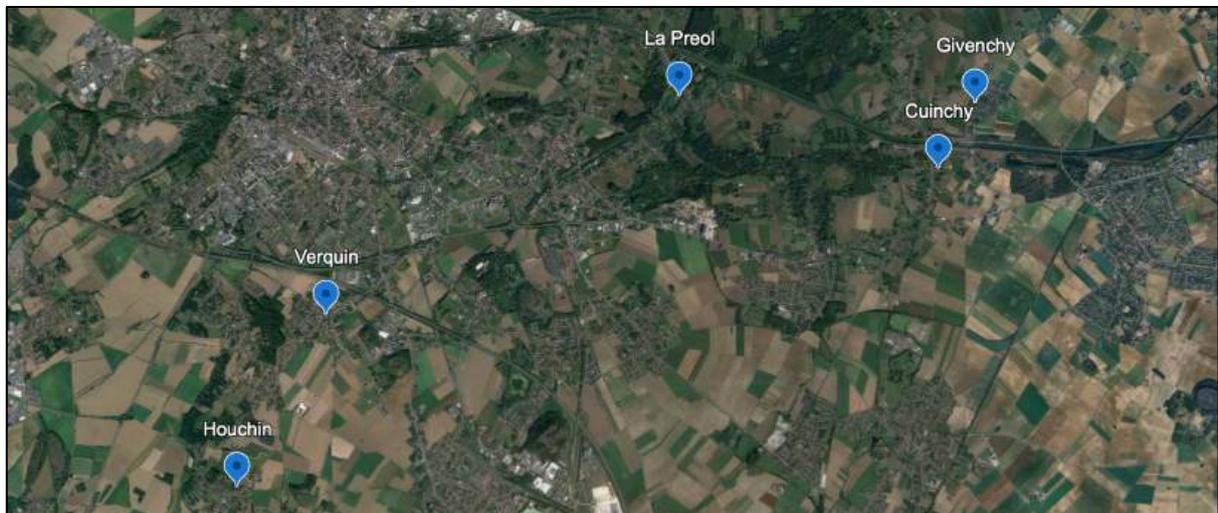
On the 29<sup>th</sup> January the men moved to the Cuinchy Sector in support again providing working parties to 427 Company Royal Engineers. On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1918 the men moved to the front line A27b40.30 to A22a10.95 – working on trenches



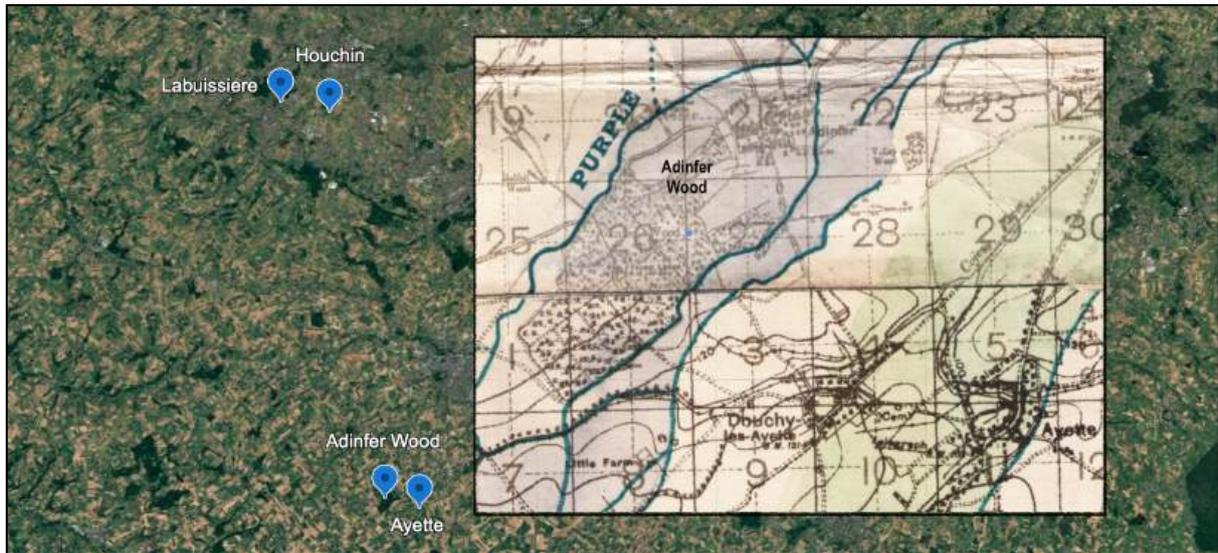
On the 8<sup>th</sup> the men were relieved to billets in Le Preol and from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> they undertook training and provided RE working parties.



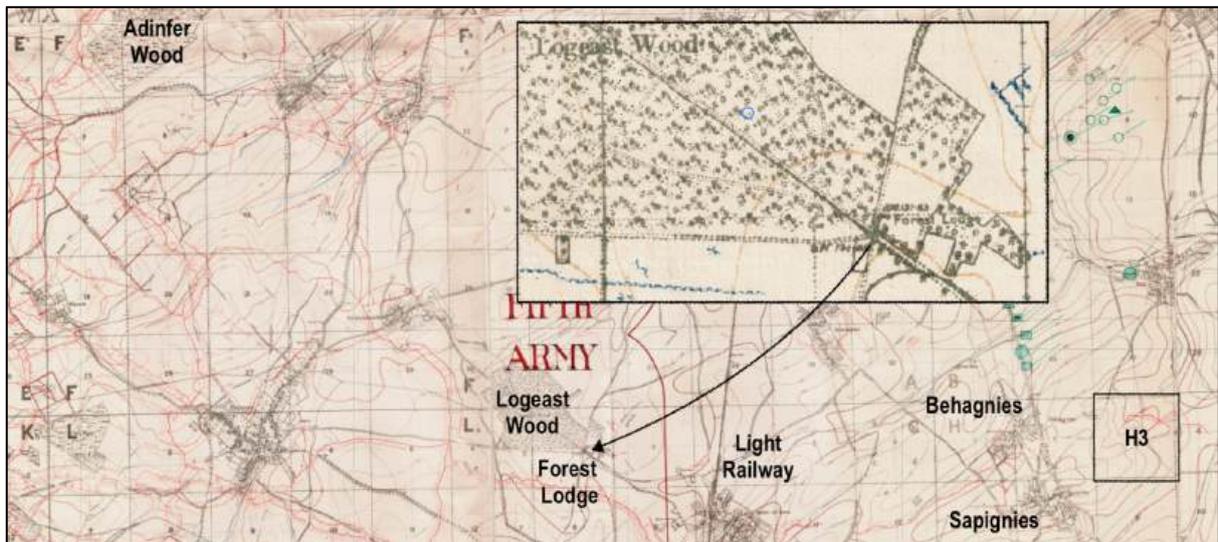
On the 14<sup>th</sup> they moved to rest at Houchin Camp and from there between the 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February they were training. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the men bathed and 24<sup>th</sup> provided a working party of 400 men for wiring and local defences works at Verquin.



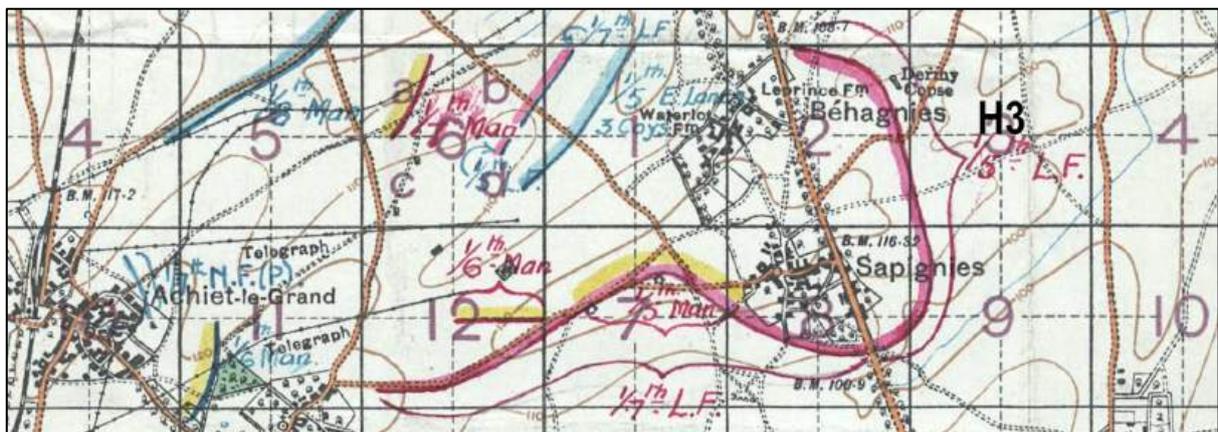
For a month, from the 25<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 was spent training at Houchin Camp. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 the men were stood too pending a move then the next day, the 23<sup>rd</sup> March they marched to Labuissiere and embussed to Adinfer Wood north west of Alette.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918 at 3pm the men moved forward from Adinfer wood to Logeast Wood and bivouacked until 8pm at Forest Lodge Cross Roads. They then Moved forward to the light railway and No11&12 Platoon C Company were sent forward to Behagnies and Sapignies to see if in possession of enemy. They were reported clear and positions were taken in front of the villages around H3 central.



The 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF at 6am on the 25<sup>th</sup> holding a line in front of the villages



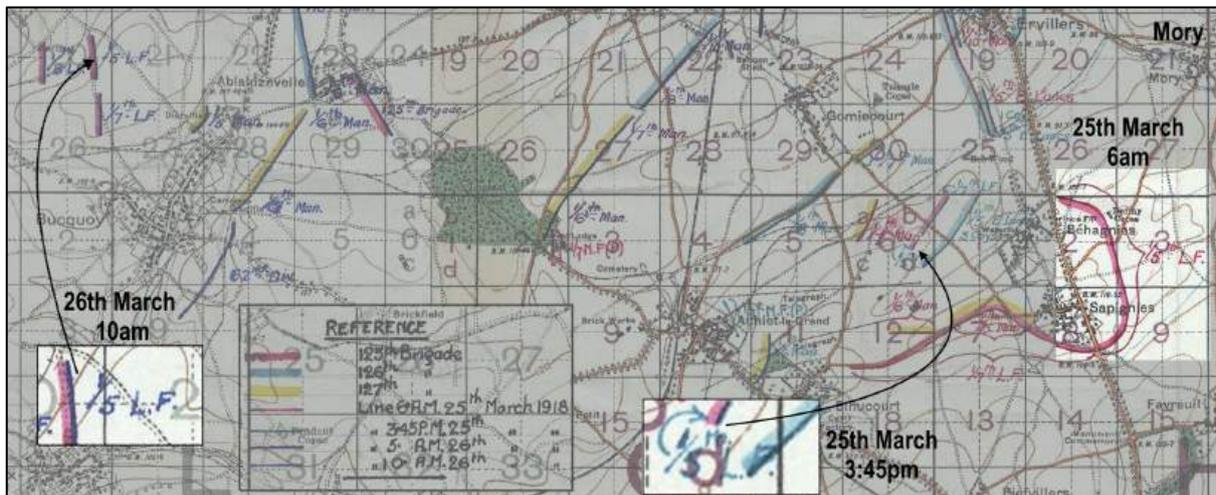
At 6am on the 25<sup>th</sup> a German attack began. At 8am the enemy were reported massing in-front of Mory to the north east of the villages. A heavy barrage of shells and gas was put up to mask the German attack replied to by British artillery. The German attack came on right flank of battalion where B Company was and by 11am the enemy had got around this flank and the companies left flank was also in danger. All available HQ men and 'stragglers' were sent forward to assist B Company but the party was broken up by heavy fire as soon as it was in the open in H3c.

At 1pm the battalion received an order to withdraw to Gomecourt Ridge in G6 & G12 but C Company (Albert) did not get the message as all means of communication failed (Albert was a signaller so may have been key in trying to maintain communication) with the Battalion. C Company was dug in and hung on till 3pm when both their flanks were turned and they came under heavy fire from Behagnies to their immediate rear which had been occupied by enemy. They managed to withdraw with only slight casualties and joined the rest of the battalion.

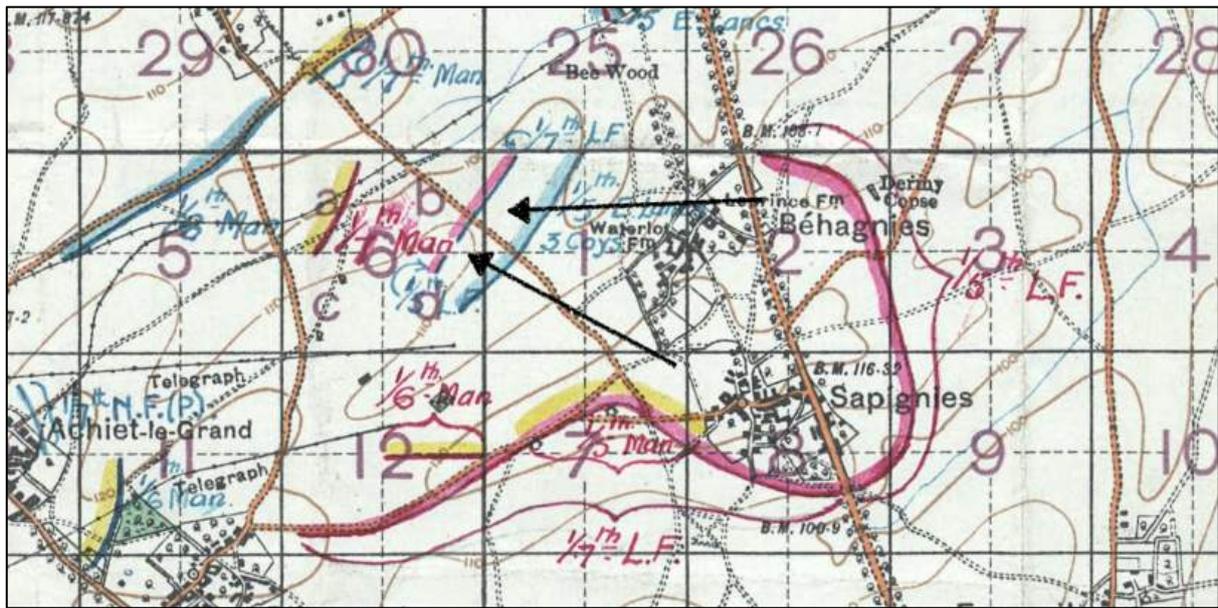
They Remained in this position until midnight when it was found the Battalion to the right had withdrawn leaving a gap of 800 yards. A strong post set up to cover the gap with a request for support denied. Approximate casualties for the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF on the 25<sup>th</sup> was 9 officers 236 men

about 6am the 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions on the left were attacked and the Battalion assisted in driving off the attack. About 9 am all Corps reports that the enemy were massing in front of MORY. A heavy barrage of shells and bombs mixed with gas was put up in front of the Battalion to screen his advance. Our Artillery opened fire. The attack came round the right flank of the Battalion. About 11 am Lt Col HOBERTON himself went round the lines and found that B Coy left flank was in danger. A subaltern of the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Lan. Div. was taking up and showing the direction of a proposed counter attack. Meanwhile a message arrived from Lt. B Coy. that the enemy was round his flank. Capt. Adj. S. E. Jenkins, M.C. gathered together all available men of headquarters and stragglers from other Regiments and led forward into path over the open on the right of the SAPIGNIES road running through H3.C. Capt. Jenkins was killed and his party broken up. Lieut. H.R. Waugh who was hit got back half an hour later after a counter attack by 1/6<sup>th</sup> Lan. Div. After this about 1pm news came that BIRYCOURT to the right rear was in the hands of the enemy. Lt. Col. HOBERTON then decided after getting into communication with Bde. to withdraw to the GOMECOURT RIDGE, G 6 & S.S. to G. 12. & S.S. A Coy had apparently been dug in. C Coy. which did not get the message to withdraw owing to all means of communication failing, held on until 3pm. when both flanks were found to be in the air and being heavily fired on from the village of BEHAGNIES in the immediate rear. The Coy succeeded in withdrawing with only slight casualties and rejoined the rest of the Battalion taking up a position on the left of the Battalion with the remains of other Divisions again on the left. and about a Company of MIDDLESEX REGT about 100 yds to the left front. After this everything was quiet until midnight when it was found that the troops of other Divisions on the left had withdrawn without warning the Battalion. leaving a gap of about 800 yds. a strong post was formed on the left flank. Lt. Col. HOBERTON asked a Commanding Officer of MIDDLESEX BATTN. to fill the gap. This was refused as the Div. to which he

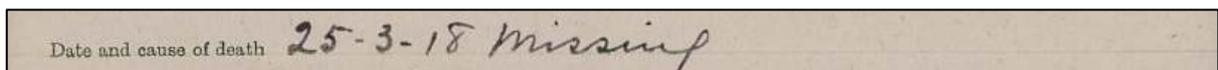
Positions of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF at 6am on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the position after withdrawal at 4:45 pm (and the position on the 26<sup>th</sup> after a further withdrawal in the early hours of the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1918).



Positions of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6am in-front of the villages and 3:45pm on Gomiecourt Ridge in G6.

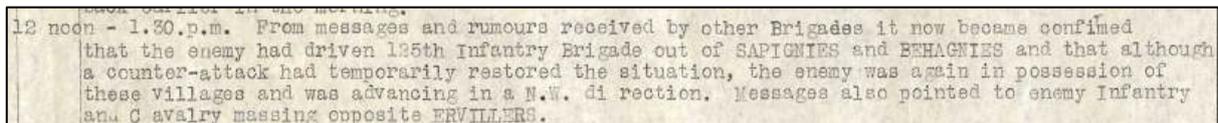


Arthur was one of the 236 Casualties sustained by the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918. He was 20 years old. He was reported Missing.



The exact time and place or circumstances that Albert became a casualty is not know, whether in the line or as a signaller trying to communicate with the rest of the battalion elsewhere in the field. Records suggest that he was wounded at some point on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

C Company failed to receive messages to withdraw at 1pm and held their positions having their flanks turned taking and fire from the occupied village of Behagnies behind them until 3pm when they finally managed to withdraw in sections. It is probable if wounded Albert would have been unable to withdraw with the remainder of C Company,



Almost certainly wounded and unable to withdraw with the rest of C Company Albert may have received immediate medical attention in the field from his fellow soldiers or have treated by German Medics as they over-ran the British positions (if he had not already succumbed to the wound(s). He may have been evacuated to German medical facilities for treatment. He may have been buried where he lie or close to where he fell once the fighting had passed or if evacuated may have been buried at or near a German medical facility, or on route.



Despite Albert still being classed as missing his mother revived a dependents pension of 7 shillings 6 pence a week from the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1919. The pension continued through 1923.

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.	
Name <i>Steel Albert Aaron</i>	Regimental No. <i>242737</i>
Regiment or Ship <i>6<sup>th</sup> Lane Fus.</i>	Rank <i>Pte</i>
Documents received from Paymaster: <i>21-12-18</i>	Date and cause of death: <i>25-3-18 Missing</i>
Dependant: <i>M<sup>r</sup> Ada Steel</i>	Address: <i>9 Plymouth Rd - L<sup>d</sup> Broughton - M/c</i>
Relationship: <i>Mother</i>	Pension: <i>Article 2(1)(a) 7/6 a week from 11.2.19.</i>
Date awarded: <i>2.1.19.</i>	If refused: <i>reason 0.2.19.</i>
Papers: <i>3/12/18</i>	

*Reg 5 on 4/9/23 DISK 113127*

*Steel M<sup>r</sup> Ada 3/D 25/1/19 1/12/23 242737 S.*

*Manchester 9 Plymouth Rd L<sup>d</sup> Broughton*

*No 242737 Pte Albert Aaron Steel 6<sup>th</sup> Lane Fus.*

S.B. 36 D.		Particulars of Man (Men)		Particulars of Claimant(s).	
W REGIONAL No.	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
OTHER ACTION	Regiment	Regiment	Address	Address	Relationship
Rank	Rank	Rank	Relationship	Relationship	Relationship
Date and Cause of Death	Date and Cause of Death	Date and Cause of Death	New Address	New Address	Age
While Serving	While Serving	While Serving			
After Discharge	After Discharge	After Discharge			

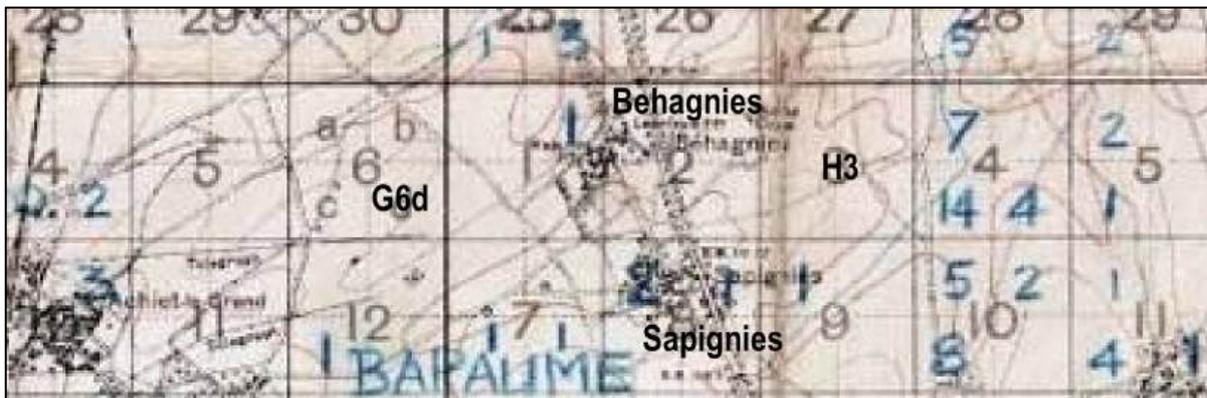
*3/D 25/1/19 1/12/23 242737 S.*

*24 SEP 1923 PA 22220 Pte 9A62 OK 11/11/22*

The list of Soldiers Effects noted Albert 'Death presumed' on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918. His mother received the balance of his account £13 19 shillings 1 pence on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1920 including a War Gratuity payment of £7 10 shillings.

Serial No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorized	Amount Authorized	No. of L <sup>ts</sup> in which authorized
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£				
932974	116981	Steel Albert Aaron	1/5 <sup>th</sup> LF Ranc. Fus. Pte. 242737	25-3-18 Death Presumed France	13	19	1				14-1-20	M <sup>r</sup> Ada	13 19 1	1
<i>Including War Grat: £7.10.0</i>														

Albert has no known grave. After the war he War Graves Commission was charged with the burial of those who fell. They produce Body Density Maps showing where burials in the field had been found. Their map show very few bodies found in the area of the fighting of the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1915, either near the initial position of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> LF around H3, in the villages or the position retired to near G6d

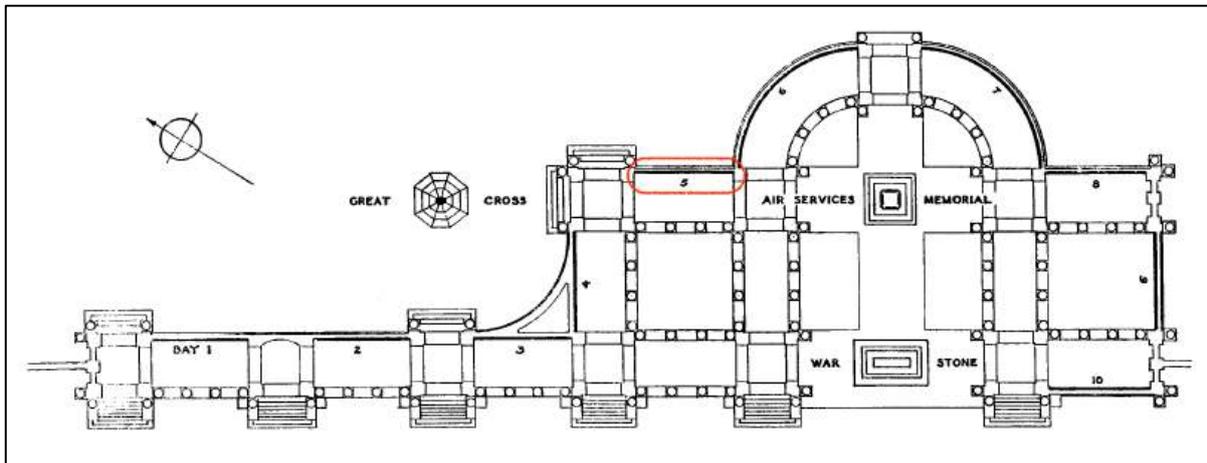


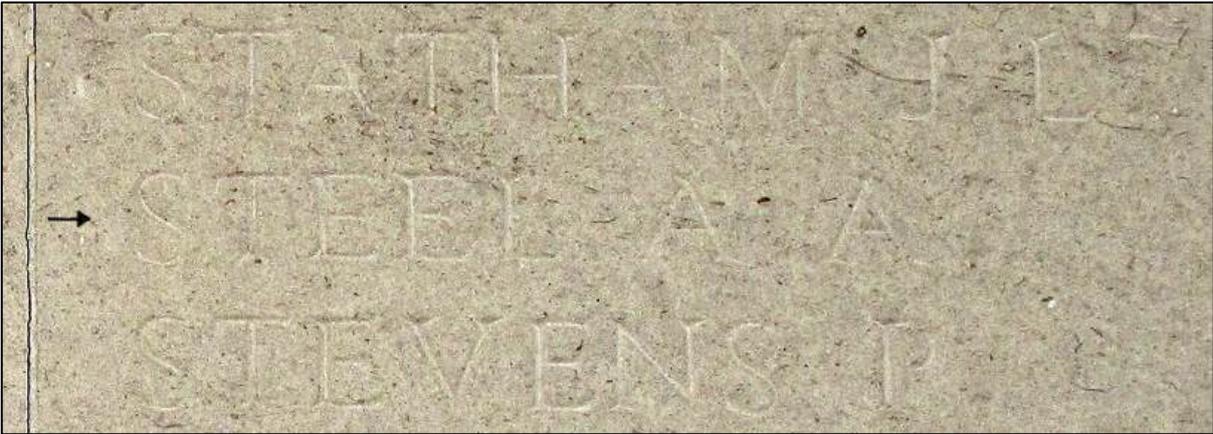
With no known burial Albert is remembered on the walls of the Arras Memorial, Bay 5, Course E, Stone 9.



ARRAS MEMORIAL.		
BAY No. 5 <i>148</i>	COURSE "E" <i>149</i>	STONE No. 9 <i>149</i>
Smith S.W.	Etheridge W.	Osmeron H.
Smith W.	Hedley D.M.	Carruthers C.
Sowerby H.	Levy H.	Carruthers T.
Spencer R.	Love S.	Chalmers W.
Stainton J.	Melkie G.	Christie J.R.
Statham J.L.	Nell W.	Clarkson A.
Steel A.A. ←	Niven J.	Cochran A.
Stevens P.	Orr R., M.M.	Cochran J.
Stewart R.	Prescott J.S.	Collins J.
Storey H.	Walls D.A.	Celquhoun J.
Stott G.		Colston J.
Stott H.	LCR SERJEANT	Compton H.

(Typed 5.11.1928).





For his war service Albert was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory Medals. His family would have received a Bronze Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
STEEL	Lanc. Fus.	PLt	242737
Albert A.			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	H/1/101 B.9	2013	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			

Theatre of War first served in	
Date of entry therein	

K. 150A.




HE whose soul commensurate  
 was rendered among those who  
 at the call of King and Country left all  
 that was dear to them, endured hardships,  
 met danger and finally passed out of  
 the sight of men by the path of duty  
 and self-sacrifice, giving up their own  
 lives that others might live in freedom.  
 Let those who come after realize  
 that his name be not forgotten.



In Memory Of  
Private

## ALBERT AARON STEEL

Service Number: 242737

1st/5th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 25 March 1918 Age 20

Son of Albert Aaron and Ada Steel, of 9, Plymouth St., Lower Broughton, Manchester.

Remembered with Honour  
ARRAS MEMORIAL  
Bay 5.



  
 COMMONWEALTH  
 WAR GRAVES  


COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
 WAR GRAVES COMMISSION