

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - "F"

Compiled by Robert Coulson (1952 – 2008)

The names below are found on the Supplementary Panels on the Middlesbrough War Memorial. The names were received for inclusion after the official unveiling of the Memorial, and are included on the 3 supplementary panels.

In the years 1914-1918 thousands of Middlesbrough men and women served their country in a time of hardship, stress and suffering both for the troops on the battlefronts and those left at home.

After the Armistice in November of 1918 handsome memorial tablets and plaques recalling the fallen were erected in the works, shops and churches of the Middlesbrough area.

At this time a committee was formed to consider the question of a war memorial for the town as a whole to remember the citizens who had laid down their lives. In the words of the committee,

“We recognise the splendid sacrifice made by our men and we desire that our children and our children’s’ children should hear the story and share in the inspiration which such sacrifice will always give”.

The response of the townspeople resulted in the fine cenotaph of Aberdeen granite and the wall of Portland stone containing the bronze panels with the names of the fallen that we see today at the entrance to Albert Park.

The memorial works were completed at a cost of approximately £17,000 and the people of the town attended in their thousands for the dedication and unveiling ceremony which took place on November 11th 1922.

This roll of honour contains close to 3500 names of the fallen who are remembered on the memorial and also those whose names were put forward by their families after the unveiling ceremony.

I felt it fitting that as the centenary of the onset of the Great War approaches I should try and add a little information on those remembered and the actions in which they laid down their lives.

I would just add that much as I regret it, details on some of these brave people is not available due to the passage of time but their names will still appear in the text as they do on the memorial panels.

Finally just a few points to consider,

It will be noticed that on some of the entries no Middlesbrough connection may be obvious, indeed the person appears to have come from well outside the area or even the country.

It must be remembered that it was the townspeople who put the names forward for inclusion and as an example a relation who stayed with the family in the town occasionally, could well appear after his family took the trouble to forward the name.

Middlesbrough was a thriving centre of industry at the time and a person may well have been employed in the town before hostilities and had their name included by workmates.

Serving under an alias is also quite common and although sometimes used to cover criminal activity, was normally just a person keen to serve but underage and using another identity.

Also a mother who had taken another man's name might have offspring who preferred to serve using their natural father's name.

Double entries for the same name also appear quite a few times, for example, Samuel Alder and S Alder.

I believe they are one and the same person named twice as a result of a large family with different branches putting the name forward twice.

The person will appear in the listing as named on the memorial with any variations in spelling and second names being included in the text.

It will be noticed that some entries begin "I believe this to be".

These are people who to the best of my judgement are those named but can not be 100% certain. They are included with the best intentions and if a mistake is made I make my apologies in advance.

Robert Henry Coulson died on 8 November 2008. His papers were donated to the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, and the work below comes from these papers.

Fawcett, Harold Robinson.

Harold Robinson Fawcett was born in Middlesbrough on May 16th 1897 and by the onset of war was living in Canada where he worked as a clerk in a grocery store. He enlisted on April 3rd 1916 in Winnipeg joining the 44th battalion of the Canadian Infantry, the New Brunswick Regiment.

Private Fawcett was killed just after the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 16th 1917 at the age of 19 and his grave today can be seen in Villers Station Cemetery situated to the west of Souchez.

Harold Fawcett lived at 866 Notre Dame Avenue in Winnipeg and was the son of Elizabeth Fawcett of 115 Harford Street in Middlesbrough.

Finkell, John B.

Middlesbrough born and living in the town, John Finkell enlisted in Thornaby into the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Wounded in actions at the Butte de Warlencourt during the Battle of the Somme, Private Finkell died of his wounds aged 20 on November 11th 1916.

His grave can be visited today in Warlencourt British Cemetery situated three miles south west of Bapaume on the road to Albert.

John Finkell was the son of John Brown Finkell of 40 Orwell Street in Middlesbrough.

Finnigan, John.

John Finnigan was Middlesbrough born enlisting in the town with the Yorkshire Regiment.

Serving with the Depot of the regiment, Lance Corporal Finnigan died at home on November 3rd 1918 aged 29 and today lies in North Ormesby's St Josephs Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Fleming, Joseph.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough into the Yorkshire Regiment, Joseph Fleming then transferred to the 2/5th battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Private Fleming was wounded at the Battle of Langemarck during the Passchendaele offensive and died of his injuries on September 3rd 1917.

He has no known final resting place being remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial on the Passchendaele Ridge in Belgium.

Floyd, William Henry Copeland.

William Henry Copeland Floyd was born in Berwick and enlisted in Middlesbrough to serve with the 82nd Field Company of the Royal Engineers.

Wounded in action, Sapper Floyd died of his injuries aged 27 on February 21st 1916 and is buried in Merville Communal Cemetery to the south east of Hazebrouck.

He was the son of William Henry Floyd of 10 Minge Lane, Upton on Severn in Worcestershire.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Foley, M.

Born and living in Middlesbrough, Matthew Foley enlisted into the West Yorkshire Regiment in the town before transferring to the 1/8th battalion of the Middlesex Regiment.

Aged 19, Private Foley was killed in fighting in the Feuchy sector close to Arras on May 1st 1918.

His grave can be seen today in Dainville British Cemetery on the western outskirts of Arras.

Fothergill, Matthew.

Robert Matthew Fothergill was Middlesbrough born and enlisted to serve with the Royal Field Artillery in the town.

Wounded in action and taken as a prisoner of war, Gunner Fothergill died in enemy hands on October 5th 1918 and was buried by the Germans in Hochheim Hill Cemetery at Worms, Rhineland-Pfalz in Germany.

Robert Fothergill was the husband of Mrs A Taylor, formerly Fothergill of 289 Newport Road in Middlesbrough.

Fowells, Ernest Briggs.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Ernest Briggs Fowells lived in Redcar and was a Joiner in civilian life.

A member of the 130th Field Company of the Royal Engineers, Sapper Fowells was killed in actions during the Somme offensive on August 29th 1916 aged 33.

His grave can be visited today on the Somme in Authuille Military Cemetery situated three miles north of Albert.

Fox, Phillip.

Phillip Fox was born in Middlesbrough where he enlisted to serve with the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Fox died of pneumonia at home aged 33 on July 21st 1917 and is buried in St Josephs Roman Catholic Cemetery in North Ormesby.

The son of Thomas and Margaret Fox he was the husband of Mrs Elizabeth Fox of 4 Hardman Street in Middlesbrough.

Frost, Thomas.

Born in Burton on Trent, Thomas Frost lived in Stockton and enlisted in Middlesbrough as a member of the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Frost was killed in actions at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 12th 1915 and having no known grave is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial four and a half miles north east of Bethune.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Fryett, David.

David Fryett was North Ormesby born and served in the Merchant Navy as an Able Seaman aboard the Middlesbrough registered SS Sixty Six.

He perished on June 29th 1918 aged 27 when the Sixty Six was torpedoed three miles east of Scarborough, his name remembered today on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

David Fryett was the son of Elizabeth and the late Henry Fryett and the husband of Elizabeth Fryett, nee Harrison of 66 Brompton Street in Middlesbrough.