

# **The Middlesbrough**

## **Roll of Honour of the Great War**

### **Supplementary Names, - "J"**

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Jackson, John Snowdon.**

North Ormesby born John Snowdon Jackson served in the Merchant Navy as Assistant Cook aboard the Liverpool registered SS Polandia. He perished aged 18 on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1917 when in passage from Birkenhead to Cherbourg the Polandia was sunk by submarine, the exact location not known. John Jackson was the son of Mrs Minnie Jackson of 5 Maria Street in North Ormesby and is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

**Jackson, John Robert.**

**James, Henry.**

Royal Navy man Henry James was a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the Lord Clive class monitor HMS Prince Eugene. He died ashore one week after the end of the war on November 18<sup>th</sup> 1918 and today lies in Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery at Gosport in Hampshire.

**Jaques, William.**

William Jaques enlisted in Middlesbrough for his war service with the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Jaques was killed in actions between Martinpuich and High Wood during the Somme offensive on September 17<sup>th</sup> 1916 at the age of 33.

The son of William and Elizabeth Jaques of 28 Long Street in Topcliffe near Thirsk he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme.

**Jefferson, William Edward.**

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Edward Jefferson was a member of the Teesside Pioneers, the 12<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Wounded in action and taken as a prisoner of war, Lance Corporal Jefferson died of his wounds in enemy hands on July 26<sup>th</sup> 1918 aged 34.

His grave can be visited today in Tourcoing, Pont-Neuville Communal Cemetery ten miles to the north east of the city of Lille.

**Jenkins, Walter.**

Walter A Jenkins was born in Abergavenny in Wales and before the war worked as a boiler minder.

He served in the Merchant Navy as a Fireman aboard the Stockton registered SS Claudia and died aged 43 on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1916 when the Claudia struck a mine eight and a half miles south east of Lowestoft.

Remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, his wife Mrs Jenkins lived at 22 Sutherland Street in Middlesbrough.

**Johnson, Robert Henry.**

North Ormesby born Robert Henry Johnson enlisted in Middlesbrough to serve with the 138<sup>th</sup> Company of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Private Johnson died in the Middle East on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1918 aged 22 and is buried in Jerusalem War Cemetery situated two miles north of the city close to the Mount of Olives.

He was the son of George and Alice Johnson of 44 Esk Street in North Ormesby.

**Johnson, Tom James.**

Tom James Johnson was Middlesbrough born enlisting in the town with the Yorkshire Regiment and then transferring to the 115<sup>th</sup> Company of the Machine Gun Corps.

Wounded in action during the Battle of the Somme, Private Johnson died of his wounds aged 19 on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1916 and having no known grave is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

He was the son of George and Lydia Johnson of 16 Esk Street in North Ormesby.

**Johnson, Wilfred Roland.**

Born and living in Middlesbrough, Wilfred Roland Johnson enlisted in Woolwich in London as a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Private Johnson was killed in fighting at Hooze to the east of Ypres on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1915 aged 20 and with no known grave is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Wilfred Johnson was the son of John Cook Johnson and Elizabeth Johnson of 5 Enfield Street in Middlesbrough.

**Jones, Ernest.**

Ernest Jones was born in Middlesbrough where he enlisted joining with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Private Jones was killed in fighting at the Battle of Estaires on April 10<sup>th</sup> 1918 and with no known final resting place is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the south of Ypres on the road to Armentieres.