

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - "K"

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.

Keating, James Blencowe.

Middlesbrough born and enlisting in the town, James Blencowe Keating originally served with the Yorkshire Regiment before transferring to the 1st Gun Carrier Company of the Tank Corps.

Private Keating was killed in action aged 19 on September 27th 1918 and today lies in Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery situated three miles south west of the Cambrai to Bapaume road in the village of Flesquieres.

He was the son of James M Keating and Ida E Keating of 13 The Pleasance, Putney in London.

Keegan, Thomas.

Thomas Keegan was born in Dublin on August 31st 1875 and before the war served in the Royal Navy and with the West Yorkshire Regiment.

In Canada at the onset of war he enlisted on September 17th 1914 with the 8th battalion of the Canadian infantry, the Manitoba Regiment and served under the surname of Kelly.

Private Keegan/Kelly died in a Montreal hospital on January 2nd 1916 aged 40 and is buried in Montreal Notre Dame Des Nieges Cemetery.

He was the son of Mrs Catherine Keegan of 23 Commercial Street in Middlesbrough but on his enlistment papers listed his sister Mrs McGarrity of Middlesbrough as his next of kin.

Kelly, Alphonsus.

Born in Middlesbrough, Alphonsus Kelly was in New Zealand at the start of the war and enlisted into the 2nd battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

Rifleman Kelly was killed at the Battle of Le Transloy during the Somme offensive on October 1st 1916 at the age of 19.

He has no known grave and his name appears on the New Zealand Memorial in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery to the west of Longueval on the Somme.

Kelly, John Joseph.

John Joseph Kelly was Middlesbrough born and working as a labourer in New Zealand when the war started.

A member of the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps, Private Kelly was killed in actions during the Operations on the Ancre on March 12th 1917 at the age of 23.

His grave can be visited today in the Berkshire Cemetery Extension situated seven miles south of Ypres and close to Ploegsteert Wood.

John Kelly was the son of Mr Bernard Kelly of 56 Severs Street in Middlesbrough.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Keenan, J.

Middlesbrough born John Keenan enlisted to serve with the 1st battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment in the town.

Killed in action at the 1918 Battle of Cambrai at the age of 20 on October 8th 1918, Private Keenan lies in Naves Communal Cemetery Extension situated three miles north east of Cambrai in the small village of Naves.

He was the son of Martin and Mary Keenan of 47 Gauntlet Street in Middlesbrough.

Kerrigan, M.

Michael Kerrigan was born in Manchester and enlisted in the city to be a member of the 2nd battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Private Kerrigan was killed in action at the Battle of St Julien on May 5th 1915 and with no known final resting place is remembered today on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres in Belgium.

Kerrigan, Stephen.

Kilcran, Theodore.

Theodore Kilcran was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in his hometown for service with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Lance Corporal Kilcran was killed in fighting at the Nieuwe Kruiseecke crossroads to the east of Ypres on October 30th 1914 at the age of 20.

His grave can be seen today in Perth Cemetery, China Wall situated two miles to the east of Ypres town centre.

King, Peter.

Born in Haverton Hill and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Peter King did his war service with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private King was wounded in actions close to the village of Contalmaison during the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds on July 12th 1916.

He is buried in the town of Abbeville's Communal Cemetery to the south of Boulogne.

Kinlin, Richard.

Richard Kinlin was born in Middlesbrough and appears as a sixteen year old on the 1901 census.

The memorial roll has him serving with the Grenadier Guards but I can find no trace of him on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission listings.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Kirby, John Reed.

Born and living in Middlesbrough, John Reed Kirby enlisted in the town with the 8th battalion of the City of London Regiment, the Post Office Rifles.

Rifleman Kirby was killed in an attack on Snag Trench in front of the Butte De Warlencourt on October 7th 1916 aged 25 during the Somme offensive.

Lying close to where he fell his grave is in Warlencourt British Cemetery situated three miles south west of Bapaume on the Somme.

Kirkman, William Robert.

On the listings as Robert William Kirkman, he was born in Middlesbrough and a member of the 1/6th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Private Kirkman was killed in fighting at the Battle of Estaires on April 11th 1918 and with no known grave is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial south of Ypres on the road to Armentieres.

Knaggs, C F.

Born in East Cleveland, Charles Frederick Knaggs did war service with the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Knaggs died at home on the final day to qualify for war grave status August 31st 1921 aged 39.

He was the husband of Mrs Alice M W Knaggs of 5 Lamport Street, Newport Road in Middlesbrough and is buried in Linthorpe Cemetery.

Knott, George.

George Knott was born in the St Pauls area of Middlesbrough and enlisted in York into the 1st battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Knott was wounded in trenches along the Chemin Des Dames Ridge above Troyon and died of his injuries aged 30 on September 25th 1914.

His grave can be visited today in Braine Communal Cemetery ten miles east of Soissons in the small town of Braine.

George Knott was the son of Cornelius and Emily Knott and the husband of Jane Knott of 13 Railway Street, Shotton Colliery in Co Durham.