

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - “N”

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.

Nelson, Alexander.

Alexander Nelson was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town joining the 9th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nelson was killed in fighting south east of Le Cateau during the Battle of the Selle on October 10th 1918 aged 19.

His grave can be visited today in Quietiste Military Cemetery situated half way between Le Cateau and Busigny.

Alexander Nelson was the son of Jane Ann and the late Alexander Nelson of "Ventnor" Thornfield Road in Middlesbrough.

Nelson, M.

Born in Colkirk near Fakenham in Norfolk, Herbert Malcolm Nelson lived in Middlesbrough working as a french polisher before hostilities.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough he first served with the London Regiment and then transferred to the 11th battalion of the Rifle Brigade.

Lance Corporal Nelson was killed in action aged 33 on November 20th 1917 in fighting in the area of Bourlon Wood during the Battle of Cambrai.

The son of the late Robert Thomas Nelson and Mary Nelson his name is remembered today on the Cambrai Memorial at Louverval situated eight miles east of Bapaume on the road to Cambrai.

Nelson, Walter.

Walter Nelson was born in Middlesbrough on March 17th 1876 and first went to sea in the Merchant Navy as a steward at the age of 18.

By the Great War he was Master of the SS Saima and died aged 42 along with fifteen of his crew when the Saima was torpedoed and sunk ten miles west of Trevose Head off the Cornish coast.

Walter Nelson is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial to merchant seamen in Trinity Square in London.

Nelson, Thomas Hawkswell.

Middlesbrough born Thomas Hawkswell Nelson enlisted in the town and did war service with the 500th Field Company of the Royal Engineers.

Serving during the campaign in Salonika, Driver Nelson died during the influenza epidemic on September 26th 1918 at the age of 30.

His grave today lies in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery situated eight miles north of Thessaloniki in Greece.

Thomas Nelson was the husband of Ann Isabel Dunn, formerly Nelson who lived at the Alexandra Vaults in Saltburn.

Newbould, James.

James Newbould was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town into the 22nd battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Private Newbould was killed in action aged just 18 on May 27th 1918 during the Battle of the Aisne and with no known grave is remembered on the Soissons Memorial close to the river Aisne and one mile north of Soissons town centre. James Newbould was the son of Tom and Isabella Bamlett Newbould of 241 Newport Road in Middlesbrough.

Newbold, William.

Newcastle born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Newbold was a member of the 8th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Sergeant Newbold received wounds in actions close to Mazingarbe and died of his injuries on April 20th 1918.

His grave today lies in Philosophe British Cemetery at Mazingarbe to the south east of Bethune.

Nichols, Isaac Henry.

Isaac Henry Nichols was born in Middlesbrough and worked as a grocers assistant before enlisting in the town to serve with the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nichols was killed in fighting in the Hindenburg Support Line close to Bayencourt on July 19th 1917 aged 32 as the Arras offensive drew to a close.

His grave can be visited today in Rookery British Cemetery at Heninel, six miles to the south east of Arras.

Nugent, George.

Born at Bellshill in Lanarkshire, George Nugent enlisted in Middlesbrough to do war service with the 12th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Corporal Nugent was killed in fighting at Mametz Wood during the Battle of the Somme on July 14th 1916 at the age of 21.

The son of Peter and Mary Nugent of 19 Essex Street in Middlesbrough he has no known grave and is remembered on the Somme on the Thiepval Memorial.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Nunn, Frederick Wright.

Frederick Wright Nunn was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in Linlithgow in Scotland as a member of the 1st battalion Scots Guards.

Guardsman Nunn and the battalion were holding a farm near Gheluvelt Wood to the east of Ypres when attacked by the Prussian Guards.

Frederick Nunn was killed in this action on November 11th 1914 at the age of 23 and having no known grave is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres in Belgium.

He was the son of Mr James Wright Nunn and Mrs Jane Dixon Nunn of Sunnyside Road, Camelon in Falkirk.