

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - “W”

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.

Waland, Geo T.

George Thomas Waland was born in Middlesbrough and a labourer in the steelworks before enlisting in the town into the 10th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Waland was killed in actions in the Dickebusche-Zillebeke area on November 6th 1917 at the age of 33.

Remembered today on the Tyne Cot Memorial on the Passchendaele Ridge he was the son of Thomas Rose Waland and the late Harriet Waland of 80 Telford Street in North Ormesby.

Walker, James.

Merchant Navy man James Walker was Middlesbrough born and served as a Fireman and Trimmer on the SS Rhineland.

He lost his life at the age of 21 on November 11th 1915 when the Rhineland struck a mine six and a half miles south east of Southwold off the coast of Suffolk.

His name appears on the Tower Hill Memorial in Trinity Square in London.

Walker, T H.

Thomas Henry Walker was born in Millom in Cumbria and enlisted in Barrow with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Serving with the 75th Field Ambulance, Private Walker was killed in action on August 21st 1916 during the Somme offensive.

His grave can be visited today in Aveluy Wood Cemetery on the eastern side of the Albert to Hamel road on the Somme.

Wales, Thomas Stephenson.

Born in Hull, Thomas Stephen Wales enlisted in Middlesbrough for service with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Lance Corporal Wales was killed in action aged 19 on June 15th 1915 during the Battle of Givenchy and with no known grave is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial on the Bethune to Armentieres road.

He was the son of William Thomas Wales and Jessie Wales of 7 De La Pole Avenue, Balfour Street in Hull.

Walley, Leonard.

Leonard Walley was Middlesbrough born enlisting in the town into the 1st battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Walley was killed in actions leading up to the Battle of Epehy on September 10th 1918 at the age of 19.

His grave today lies in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery situated eight miles to the south west of Cambrai.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Ward, Arthur Platten.

Whitby born Arthur Platten Ward did his war service with the 55th Remount Section of the Royal Army Service Corps.

Private Ward died at home aged 28 on December 2nd 1918 and today lies in North Ormesby Cemetery.

Ward, Joseph William.

Double entry, see Joseph Ward in the main listing.

Watson, Richard.

Born in York, Richard Watson enlisted in Middlesbrough with the Northumberland Fusiliers before transferring to "F" Special Company of the Royal Engineers.

Sergeant Watson was killed in action on June 10th 1918 and is buried in Loos British Cemetery on the north side of the road from Lens to Bethune.

Watson, John Robert.

I believe this to be Private J Watson of the Yorkshire Regiment who died at home aged 31 on October 21st 1919 and today lies in Linthorpe Cemetery.

He was the husband of Mrs A Watson of 52 Croft Street in Middlesbrough.

Watt, John.

Liverpool born John Watt enlisted in Middlesbrough as a member of the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Watt was killed on the first day of the Somme offensive, July 1st 1916 aged 24 as the battalion advanced on the village of Montauban.

The son of the late John and Elizabeth Watt of Liverpool he lies in Dantzig Alley British Cemetery in the village of Mametz five miles east of Albert.

Weatherill, H.

Henry Weatherall was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted into the 15th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry in the town.

Private Weatherall was killed during the German Spring Offensive on March 31st 1918 and having no known grave is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial on the Albert to Bapaume road.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Webster, Christopher.

Born in Darlington, Christopher Webster enlisted in Richmond and served with the 18th Queen Marys' Own Royal Hussars.

Private Webster was killed in actions at the Battle of Bellewaarde on May 24th 1915 at the age of 27.

The son of Bartholomew and Mary Jane Webster of 11 Hymer Street in North Ormesby he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Weightman, John Thomas.

John Thomas Weightman enlisted in Middlesbrough joining the 1/5th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Private Weightman died of wounds at home aged 35 on April 7th 1917 and today lies in Linthorpe Cemetery.

He was the son of Robert and Mary Elizabeth Weightman of Middlesbrough.

Welsh, C.

I believe this to be David Welsh who was born in South Bank where he enlisted with the 10th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Welsh was killed in actions close to Black Watch Corner during the Passchendaele offensive on October 6th 1917 at the age of 19.

His grave can be visited today in Buttes New British Cemetery at Polygon Wood, one mile to the south of Zonnebeke.

Whitfield, Harold Carver.

Harold Carver Whitfield was born in Thirkleby near Thirsk and enlisted into the 6th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment in Middlesbrough.

Lance Corporal Whitfield was killed in a 3-30pm attack on the hill Ismail Oglu Tepe during the Gallipoli campaign on August 21st 1915 at the age of 27.

The husband of Frances Lavinia Whitfield of 19 Wilson Street in Thornaby he is remembered on the Helles Memorial at the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula.

White, William Edward.

Whitby born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Edward White joined the 1/5th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Private White was killed in actions during the Battle of the Aisne at the age of 38 on May 27th 1918.

The son of George and Annie White of 8 Lincoln Street in Middlesbrough his name appears on the Soissons Memorial sixty miles north east of Paris in the town of Soissons.

Whitchurch, Arthur.

Arthur Whitchurch lived in North Ormesby and enlisted in Shepherds Bush in London into the 22nd battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

Private Whitchurch was killed during the Actions of Miraumont on February 17th 1917 and having no known grave is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the north east of Albert on the Somme.

Wilkinson, James.

Enlisting in Durham, James Wilkinson did war service with the 26th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Private Wilkinson died at home aged 20 on June 23rd 1915 and is buried in Linthorpe Cemetery.

He was the son of Mrs Margaret Jane Wilkinson of 20 Disraeli Street in Middlesbrough.

Wilemore, Reginald.

Reginald Wildmore was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town with the Notts and Derbys Regiment, the Sherwood Foresters before transferring to the 28th Company of the Labour Corps.

Private Wildmore was killed in action on July 11th 1917 and today lies in Grevillers British Cemetery two miles to the west of Bapaume.

Wilson, Thomas William.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Thomas William Wilson was a member of the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Wilson was killed in an early morning attack on the village of Henin on April 2nd 1917.

His grave can be visited today in Henin Crucifix Cemetery at Henin-sur-Cojeul five miles to the south east of Arras.

Wood, John Henry.

Worton, Harry.

Double entry, see William Henry Worton in the main listing.