

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Names “Y”

Compiled by Robert Coulson (1952 – 2008)

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.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

York, Alfred.

Young, Archie.

Archie Young, a labourer before the war was born in Derry in Ireland and before hostilities had emigrated to Australia.

He enlisted into the 1st Australian Tunneling Company of the Australian Imperial Force on November 2nd 1915 at Toowoomba in Queensland.

Sapper Young was wounded during the Passchendaele offensive and died of his injuries aged 23 on October 1st 1917.

His grave can be visited today in the Huts Cemetery at Dickebusch to the south west of Ypres in Belgium.

Archie Young was the son of Mr John Young of 39 Marsh Road in Middlesbrough.

Young, A J.

Born at Beeston near Nottingham and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Arthur Joseph Young was a member of the 15th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Corporal Young was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on September 26th 1915 and has no known grave his name being remembered on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery on the Lens to Bethune road.

Young, Albert.

Albert Young was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town for war service with the 11th battalion of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

Wounded in action, Rifleman Young passed through the casualty chain to England where he died of his wounds aged 21 on February 18th 1917.

Buried in Linthorpe Cemetery, Albert Young was the son of Ralph and Elizabeth Young of 14 Fife Street in Middlesbrough.

Young, David.

Middlesbrough born and enlisting in the town, David Young served with the 13th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Lance Corporal Young was killed in fighting close to Pozieres during the Battle of the Somme on July 20th 1916.

He has no known grave, his name remembered today on the Thiepval Memorial situated to the north east of the town of Albert on the Somme.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Young, G.

George Young did his war service with the Portsmouth Battalion of the Royal Naval Division.

Private Young was killed at the 2nd Battle of Krithia during the Gallipoli campaign on May 6th 1915 at the age of 19.

Remembered on the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli peninsula he was the son of Mary Elizabeth Young and the late George Young of 11 Briar Street in Middlesbrough.

Young, Frank.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough into the Yorkshire Regiment, Frank Young later transferred to the 10th battalion of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Private Young was killed in actions at Gird Trench during the Somme offensive between the 23rd and 25th of September 1916 at the age of 19.

His grave today lies in Dartmoor Cemetery on the Somme, one mile to the west of the village of Fricourt.

Frank Young was the son of Mrs Mary Jane Young and the late Mr S E Young of 17 Norcliffe Street in North Ormesby.

Youll, George.

George Youll was born and lived in Middlesbrough enlisting in the town with the Yorkshire Regiment and then transferring to the 2nd battalion of the Duke of Wellingtons West Riding Regiment.

Private Youll was killed during the 1918 Battle of the Scarpe at the age of 33 on August 30th 1918 his name remembered today on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial seven miles south east of Arras.

George Youll was the husband of Elizabeth Gibson, formerly Youll of 5 Hatherley Street in Middlesbrough.

Yule, William.

Private William Yule was a member of the 9th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

He died at home after the end of the war on June 27th 1919 at the age of 19 and is buried in Linthorpe Cemetery.

William Yule was the adopted son of Catherine Barbara Wright of 16 Bottomley Street in Middlesbrough, the mother of William Robert Wright listed earlier.