


**FORMER NEWTON GAMEKEEPER KILLED  
LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT BLEZARD**

Several weeks have elapsed since we announced that Lance Corporal Robert Blezard 19<sup>th</sup> Yorkshire, whose home was at Newton had been unofficially reported killed. This report unfortunately was founded on fact the date of his death being October 4<sup>th</sup>. The parents, however, have been consoled by receipt of several letters from deceased's officers testifying to his bravery and soldierly qualities. Lance Corporal Blezard was of a very quiet disposition but he had a healthy man's fondness for sports which he indulged in at every opportunity. It did not surprise his friends therefore, when, before the war was many weeks old, he volunteered for service and had borne himself bravely and well in many hard fought battles in France.

Some idea of the severity of the fighting in which he took part may be gained when it is stated that at the Battle of Loos, he and a comrade were the only members of the section to come through. He also took part in the Somme fighting. In civil life Lance Corporal Blezard was a gamekeeper on the Browsholme estate. He was 27 years of age and will be greatly missed in the district.

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14190 Lance Corporal Robert Blezard  
Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment)



Lance Corporal R. Blezard of the 10<sup>th</sup> Yorkshire Regiment, whose home was at Newton has been officially reported killed in action on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Twenty seven years of age, he was formerly a gamekeeper on the Browsholme Estate and enlisted three years ago.

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Robert Blezard



Robert joined up in the first week of war from his job as gamekeeper at Newton Hall. Gamekeepers were encouraged to enlist because of their tracking and shooting skills and general fitness. Robert trained at Richmond, Yorkshire and Berkhamsted, Herts before going to France on 9 September 1915. On the 25<sup>th</sup> he was involved in the Battle of Loos in which all his company was wiped out by machine guns except himself and one other as sat in the photograph with him. He then saw action on the first day of the Somme at Fricourt, one of the only successes of the day. Saw action at Arras and Passchendaele at the third battle of Ypres. He was killed on 4 October 1917 by shellfire along with his friend in the photograph and they are buried alongside each other at Oxford Road Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium.

Information from Paul Walmsley