

The Middlesbrough **Roll of Honour of the Great War** **Names “N”**

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

Nancarrow, John Vivian.

John Nancarrow was born in Middlesbrough on June 6th 1885 and was educated at the Leys School and Kings College Cambridge.

He was admitted to the bar in 1910 and practised as a solicitor in Middlesbrough where he was also secretary to the local Chamber of Commerce.

A pre-war territorial with the Yorkshire regiment, Captain Nancarrow arrived in Boulogne with the 4th battalion on April 18th 1915. Just one week later they were in action in the Ypres Salient with orders to hold the village of Fortuin and if possible push the Germans back into St Julien.

Captain John Vivian Nancarrow was killed in this action on April 25th 1915 aged 30.

A fellow officer wrote,

“He was seen cheering on his men and in the advance stopped to bind up the wound of a soldier and then moved on. After making several rushes towards the enemy positions he was shot and died almost instantly.”

His CO wrote,

“He behaved like a hero.”

Captain Nancarrow has no known grave and his name is remembered on the Yorkshire panels of the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium.

He was the son of George Bennett and Charlotte Alice Nancarrow of Ravenscroft, Grove Hill in Middlesbrough and at the time of his death, was engaged to be married to Miss Elsie Harkess of Stokesley.

Narey, James.

Born in York, James Narey worked as a bricklayers labourer before the onset of war.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough with the 5th Field Squadron of the Royal Engineers,

Sapper Narey died on November 11th 1917 at the age of 41.

His grave can be visited today in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension in the village of Dernancourt, two miles south of Albert on the Somme.

Naylor, John William.

Born in Lincoln, John Naylor lived in Middlesbrough and enlisted in Luton for service with the 4th battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

Private Naylor was killed in actions at the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13th 1915 aged just 19.

His body lost, his name is remembered on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery situated three miles north west of Lens.

John Naylor was the son of J and Eliza Naylor of 73 Leven Street in Middlesbrough.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Neale, W Harry.

Wilfred Harry Neale was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town into the 12th battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Corporal Neale was wounded in actions west of Trones Wood during the Somme offensive and died of his wounds aged 26 on September 6th 1916.

His grave today lies in Abbeville Communal Cemetery in the town of Abbeville on the main road from Paris to Boulogne.

Wilfred Neale was the eldest son of Joshua and Alice Neale of North Ormesby.

Neat, Frank.

Frank Neat was born in Middlesbrough but enlisted in London for war service with the 5th battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders.

Private Neat was killed in action on September 12th 1915 aged 22 during a trench mortar attack on the battalion's line close to La Boisselle.

His grave can be seen today in Becourt Military Cemetery situated on the south side of the road from Becourt to Albert on the Somme.

Neesham, Richard.

I believe this to be a double entry referring to Richard Kneeshaw listed earlier.

Nellis, William.

Born in Darlington and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Nellis served with the 8th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Private Nellis was wounded in actions at Hill 10 during the Gallipoli campaign and died of his wounds aged 26 on August 10th 1915.

With no known grave his name is remembered today on the Helles Memorial situated at the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula.

Nelmer, M.

Nelson, Frederick.

Frederick Nelson was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town to serve with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Corporal Nelson was wounded in actions against the Austrian line on the Asiago Plateau during the campaign in Italy.

He died of his wounds aged 27 on October 27th 1918 and today lies in Giavera British Cemetery in the Italian province of Treviso.

Frederick Nelson was the son of Joseph and Norah Nelson.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Nelson, Charles.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough, Charles Henry Nelson did his war service with the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nelson was wounded in actions close to Martinpuich during the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds on September 19th 1916.

His grave can be visited today in St Pierre Cemetery situated in the north eastern suburbs of the city of Amiens.

Charles Nelson was the son of Joseph Nelson of 73 Marsh Street in Middlesbrough.

Nelson, Robert.

I believe this to be Robert Nelson who was born in Barnard Castle, lived in Darlington and enlisted in Halifax with the 10th battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Wounded in action, Private Nelson died of his injuries on January 11th 1916 and today lies in Wimereux Communal Cemetery situated three miles north of Boulogne on the French channel coast.

Newbery, James.

James Newbery was born in Middlesbrough and on the 1901 census was working as a moulder.

Joining the Merchant Navy and serving aboard the SS Harlington, Fireman Newbery lost his life on December 9th 1916 aged 50 when the Harlington struck a mine and sank four miles south west of the Shipwash Light in the North Sea.

The husband of Mary Elizabeth Rochester, formerly Newbery of 12 West Lane in Middlesbrough his name is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial in Trinity Square in London.

Nesbit, Thomas.

Born in South Bank, Thomas Nesbit enlisted in Gateshead for service with the 1st battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Private Nesbit was killed in action aged 28 on October 27th 1914 in trenches facing the French village of Neuve Chapelle.

His body lost his name today can be seen on the Le Touret Memorial situated on the southern side of the Bethune to Armentieres road.

Thomas Nesbit was the son of Mr W and Mrs A Nesbit of 29 Langhorn Street, Heaton in Newcastle.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Newby, Charles.

Charles Newby was Middlesbrough born and before hostilities worked as a general labourer.

Private Newby was killed in action on July 11th 1916 aged 36 in an afternoon attack on the German held village of Contalmaison during the Somme offensive.

Sadly having no known grave his name can be seen today on the panels of the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme fighting.

Newsham, John Richard.

Nichols, James Alfred.

James Alfred Nichols was born and lived in Middlesbrough and was a schoolmaster at Southend School before the war.

Enlisting in Durham with the 8th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, Private Nichols was killed in action aged 35 on June 26th 1915 in trenches close to Lindenhoeck in Belgium.

The son of John and Betsy Nichols of Summerhill, Roman Road in Middlesbrough his name today can be seen on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Nichols, John James.

John James Nichols was born in Leeds and enlisted in the city with the West Yorkshire Regiment before transferring to the 9th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

The son of J and Louisa Nichols of Middlesbrough, Private Nichols died at home on November 20th 1918 aged just 19 and today lies in Linthorpe Cemetery.

Nichols, William Henry.

Born in Middlesbrough and enlisting in the town, William Nichols did his war service with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nichols was killed in action in a 5-30am attack on the village of Henin on April 2nd 1917 at the age of 21.

His body lost his name can be seen today on the Arras Memorial at the Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery in Arras.

William Nichols was the son of Samuel Henry Nichols of 2 Aske Road in Middlesbrough.

Nicholson, Charles Bain.

Charles Bain Nicholson was Middlesbrough born and served with the 8th battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Wounded during the 2nd Battle of Passchendaele, Private Nicholson died on October 27th 1917 at the age of 19.

His grave can be visited today in Longuenesse St Omer Souvenir Cemetery situated two miles from St Omer town centre.

Charles Nicholson was the twin son of Alexander and Catherine Nicholson of 11 Leven Street in Middlesbrough.

Nicholson, Horace William.

Double entry, I believe this to be William Nicholson listed below.

Nicholson, Jas Victor.

James Victor Nicholson was born in Edinburgh but lived in Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town with the Berkshire Yeomanry before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps.

Lance Corporal Nicholson was killed in action aged 29 on November 27th 1917 during an attack on the Turkish forces holding Jerusalem.

His grave today lies in Jerusalem War Cemetery situated three miles north of Jerusalem and close to the Mount of Olives.

Nicholson, John Rutherford.

Born and living in Middlesbrough, John Nicholson enlisted in the town to serve with the 2nd battalion of the Essex Regiment.

Private Nicholson was killed in action at the Battle of Poelcapelle on October 10th 1917 at the age of 19.

His grave lies close to where he fell in Poelcapelle British Cemetery situated six miles north east of Ypres on the road to Bruges.

Nicholson, William.

William Nicholson enlisted in Middlesbrough for war service with the 5th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Wounded in actions close to Mametz Wood during the Somme offensive, Private Nicholson died of his wounds on October 29th 1916.

His grave can be visited today in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, two miles to the south of Albert on the Somme.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Nicholson, William Bell.

Born in Middlesbrough, William Bell Nicholson enlisted in the town into the Yorkshire Regiment and then transferred to the 8th battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Private Nicholson was killed in action during the build up to the Passchendaele offensive on July 24th 1917 at the age of 23.

With no known grave his name appears on the panels of the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres in Belgium.

Nimmo, John.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, John Nimmo did his war service with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nimmo was killed in actions at the Battle of Festubert on May 14th 1915 and with no known grave is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial on the south side of the Bethune to Armentieres road.

Nimmo, Tom.

Tom Nimmo was born in the St Johns area of Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town into the 79th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery.

Gunner Nimmo was killed in action during the Passchendaele offensive on October 31st 1917 at the age of 23.

His grave can be seen today in Solferino Farm Cemetery close to the village of Brielen, north west of Ypres.

Tom Nimmo was the son of William J and Jane Nimmo of 45 Granville Road in Middlesbrough.

Nimmo, John Jos.

John Joseph Nimmo was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in Jarrow to serve with the 2nd battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

Distinguished Conduct Medal holder Private Nimmo was 23 years old when killed in action on December 28th 1915.

His grave today lies in Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery north east of Ypres town centre in the village of Potijze.

Nixon, Thomas Nathan.

Correct name Thomas Matthew Nixon was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in his hometown into the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Nixon was killed in action aged 30 on September 29th 1918 in fighting during the Battle of Epinoy and today lies in Sucrerie Cemetery in the village of Epinoy on the Douai to Cambrai road.

Thomas Nixon was the son of the late Thomas and Margaret Nixon of 29 Church Street in Middlesbrough and husband of the late Annie Nixon.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Noble, Jas A.

I believe this to be James Noble who was born in Darlington and enlisted in Richmond with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Private Noble was killed in action aged 33 on October 20th 1917 in fighting close to Sanctuary Wood during the Passchendaele offensive. The husband of Annie Margaret Noble of 5 Windsor Terrace in Whitby his name is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial on the slopes of the Passchendaele ridge.

Nolan, John.

John Nolan served with the 1st Garrison battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Private Nolan died at home of illness aged 48 on April 14th 1919 some five months after the armistice. His grave can be seen today in North Ormesby's St Josephs Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Noon, Alexander.

Born in North Ormesby and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Alexander Noon served with the 11th battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Private Noon was killed in actions at Kemmel in Belgium aged just 18 on April 27th 1918. Another with no known final resting place his name appears on the Soissons Memorial sixty miles north east of Paris in the town of Soissons.

Norlund, Richard.

Richard Norlund served with the Royal Navy aboard HMS Zealandia but I have been unable to find any details of him from the memorial rolls or census.

Norris, Frederick William.

Frederick Norris was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town into the 10th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Private Norris was killed in action aged 23 on October 23rd 1917 in the Dickebusch-Zillebeke sector during the Passchendaele offensive. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the north east of Ypres in Belgium.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Norwood, A.

I believe this to be Stockton born Archie Marwood who enlisted in Middlesbrough and served with the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Marwood was killed in actions close to Vierhoek during the Battle of the Lys on April 12th 1918 and having no known grave is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial on the road between Ypres and Armentieres.

Northend, Harry.

Norwood, Richard.

Richard Norwood was born at Newton-on-Trent and enlisted in Middlesbrough with the cavalry, Queen Marys Own 18th Hussars.

Private Norwood was killed in action at the Battle of Rosieres on March 27th 1918 and with no known grave is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial on the road between Albert and Bapaume.

Richard Norwood was the son of Joseph C and Mary Norwood.