

The Middlesbrough

Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - “E”

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.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Earl, Frederick Harry.

Frederick Harry Earl was Middlesbrough born serving in the Merchant Navy as the 2nd Engineer on the SS Thornaby.

He lost his life aged 25 on February 28th 1916 when the Thornaby struck a mine two miles north east of the Shipwash Light off the coast of East Anglia.

Frederick Earl was the son of Elizabeth and the late Frederick Earl and the husband of

Blodwen Gwenlian Earl, nee Jones of 82 Kildare Street in Middlesbrough.

His name is remembered today on the Tower Hill Memorial in Trinity Square in London.

Edwards, David.

Born and enlisting in Denbigh in Wales, David Edwards was a member of the 4th battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Private Edwards was killed in fighting close to Beaucourt on the old Somme front on May 13th 1918.

His grave can be seen today in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery situated two miles to the north of Albert on the Somme.

Edwards, George.

George Edwards was born at Mattishall near Dereham in Norfolk and enlisted in Middlesbrough to join with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Edwards was killed in the trenches east of Givenchy on June 15th 1915 aged 29 during the Battle of Givenchy and with no known grave is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial four and a half miles north east of Bethune.

He was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Edwards of Jarrow and the husband of Mary Alice Edwards of 19 South View Terrace in North Ormesby.

Edwards, William Phillip.

Wrexham born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Phillip Edwards did his war service with the 145th Army Troops Company of the Royal Engineers.

Wounded in action during the Passchendaele offensive, Lance Corporal Edwards died of his wounds aged 39 on October 6th 1917 and today lies in Menin Road South Cemetery just to the east of Ypres in Belgium.

William Edwards was the husband of Mrs Ethel Edwards of 1 Collins Avenue in Norton.

Names on the Middlesbrough War Memorial

Evans, Arthur.

Arthur Evans enlisted in Middlesbrough and was a member of the 10th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Lance Corporal Evans was killed in fighting at Glencorse Wood during the Passchendaele offensive on October 4th 1917 at the age of 20.

The son of Mrs Martha Evans of 206 Cannon Street in Middlesbrough he is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery five and a half miles north east of Ypres.

Evans, John.

Born in Wolverhampton, John Evans enlisted in Middlesbrough joining the Teesside Pioneers, the 12th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Sergeant Evans was killed in action close to Strazeele during the Battle of the Lys on April 11th 1918 and today lies in Croix-du-Bac British Cemetery at Steenwerck to the south west of Armentieres.