

## Private 1613 Harold Moody



Home at Lingdale N Yorks. Born 1896 Eston North Yorks and enlisted at Skelton in Cleveland, N Yorks. Harold Died of wounds, presumably received on the 24th. He is buried at Longuenesse Military [Hospital] Cemetery, St Omer.hbj



**1/4TH BATTALION  
Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own  
YORKSHIRE REGIMENT**

Harold was born in the late summer of 1985 in an iron stone mining village of Eston in the Cleveland hills North Yorkshire. In the 1911 national census At the age of 15 Harold was working in the Mine at Lingdale as a Pony leader.

In 1914 Harold enlisted into the local territorial regiment at the local recruiting station at Skelton North yorkshire. Into Company G. Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

The 1 regiment was to be a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian division

**TO THE YPRES SALIENT.**

<http://4thyorkshires.com/007Bn1915.html>

16 APRIL. The first part of the year was spent in training in the Newcastle area and on this day the order was received for the whole of the Northumbrian Division to proceed to the Continent.

17 APRIL. The Battalion left Newcastle at 9 am bound for Folkestone. Around midnight they were taken across the Channel to Boulogne.

(The 4th Btn **had** arrived in France on the 18th April 1915 and expected the usual period of training and familiarisation with Trench warfare. Instead they found themselves in the path of a German offensive A circumstance that was to repeat throughout the War)

The Battalion were transported by French Railways from Boulogne to Cassel and by bus to Poperinghe

18 APRIL. After arriving at Boulogne about 2 am, they spent a very cold night camped on nearby hills.

Leaving Boulogne at 10 pm, they marched to Desveen, from where the French Railways took them to Cassel. (The Battalion were transported by French Railways from Boulogne to Cassel and by bus to Poperinghe)

19 APRIL. After arriving at Cassel at 5 in the morning, they marched to Godwaersvelde, where they were billeted in surrounding farm buildings.

21 APRIL. An order came at night to detail 400 men to proceed by bus to an unknown destination, but this was later cancelled.

22 APRIL. The Northumbrian Division had been expecting a period of further

training and familiarisation with the situation, which was the usual procedure for new arrivals.

<http://www.4thbnnf.com/wordpress/sectors-battles/ypres-salient/battle-st-julien/>

## Friday, 23rd April 1915 (St Georges Day)

During the early hours of the morning a hastily assembled force of part battalions known as Geddes detachment advanced and succeeded in linking the Canadian position, south of **Kitcheners Wood**, with the Yser Canal. The French planned to counterattack over the ground lost the previous afternoon. At a meeting in **Cassell** <sup>6</sup> between the French **General Foch** and **Sir John French**, **Sir John** agreed to co-operate in the attempt. On returning to his HQ at **Hazebrouck**, **Sir John** decided to increase the strength of the 2nd Army (GOC - **General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien**) by placing the three infantry Bdes of the Northumbrian Divn at its disposal.

At **5.30am** Northumbrian Divn HQ received orders from General HQ for two Infantry Bdes to be held in readiness to move. At **6.30am** Northumberland Bde HQ received orders from Divn HQ, instructing them to concentrate the Bde around the town of **Winnezeele**. These orders were issued to the four Bns at **6.45am**.

The 4th Bn cleaned their billets before assembling at **7.30am**, just outside the village on the road east to **Winnezeele** <sup>7</sup>. They marched off under the impression that they were moving a little closer to the front line and to a fresh billeting area, but it was at **9.05am** that the Northumbrian Divn was placed at the disposal of the 2nd Army (now under the command of **Gen. Sir H. Plumer**). At **10.20am** the Bde was brought to a halt on the outskirts of Winnezeele, the officers assuming this was so that the colonel and interpreter could inspect and allocate billets to the Bn, but a rumour soon spread that there had been developments at the front, necessitating a change to the programme. In actual fact, all four infantry Bns had been halted alongside Bde HQs, where they were to spend an uncomfortable three hours exposed to a cold wind awaiting orders. Meanwhile, the York and Durham, and Durham Light Infantry Bdes had been attached to the 28th Divn and were moving towards the front line.

Orders for the Northumberland Bde arrived at Divn HQ in **Steenvoorde** from HQ 2nd Army at **11.45am**. They stated that the Bde, accompanied by a RE Field Company and supply section train, were to march from **Winnezeele** via **Doglandt**, **Watou** <sup>8</sup> and **Poperinghe** <sup>9</sup> and occupy the third line defences astride the **Poperinghe-Ypres** road near the town of **Brandhoek**. Bns received these orders from Bde HQ at **12.30pm**, at which time cases of maps were opened by the roadside and distributed among the officers and NCO's. The Bde marched off shortly after **1pm**, the 5th Bn leading the way, closely followed by the 6th, 7th and 4th Bns, 2nd Field Coy RE, 1st Northumberland Field Ambulance, No2 Coy ASC Train. This was a tough march for the fusiliers, over fourteen and a half miles of dry and dusty roads through flat farming country, laden down with heavy packs and equipment and lacking sustenance from a good meal. The troops crossed the Franco-Belgian frontier that afternoon, reaching the GHQ Line trenches astride the **Ypres-Poperinghe** road by **5.30pm**. The Bns took up position, with the

4th and 7th to the north and the 5th and 6th to the south side of the road. Bde HQ was established at a farmhouse three miles east of **Poperinghe**. Three platoons from each Coy occupied the trenches, while the fourth was positioned in a wood a short distance to the rear.

*"We were apparently about five or six miles in rear of firing line. Muttering of guns has developed into a pretty considerable noise".*

*"It was not very easy to see our position in the dark, but we were not very long before we were in our places for the night".*

*"We started on what proved to be a frightfully long march. We spent the night in the trenches, there was a good way behind the firing line. We could hear the guns very close, and also could see **Ypres** on fire".*

*"At **4.15pm** an attack took place between **Kitcheners Wood** and the canal. It certainly had the effect of stopping the enemy's advance in this quarter, but the price paid had been very heavy, and actually no ground was gained that could not have been secured, probably without casualties, by a simple advance after dark, to which the openness of the country lent itself".*

Meanwhile, at **4pm** the Durham Light Infantry Bde was ordered to move to **Poperinghe** and **Vlamertinghe** and at **8pm** were placed at the disposal of V Corps.

The heavy losses incurred during the 23rd led to the York and Durham Bde receiving orders late that night to move to **Brielen Bridge** on the Yser Canal, to the north of **Ypres**. They were to be attached to, and support if required, the 13th Bde (5th Divn).

## **Saturday, 24th April 1915**

The York and Durhams assembled at 1am and marched towards the canal. Soon after dawn a German bombardment caused the first Northumbrian Divn casualties of the war, when a few shells burst amongst the York and Durhams sheltering on the canal banks. The bombardment preceded a German gas attack and infantry assault, which at 3.30am, was made against a sector north east of St Julien, held by the 8th and 15th Bns (Canadian 1st Divn). This time the Canadian troops were prepared for the gas, as each man had been supplied with cotton wads to soak in water and place over their mouth and nose. Nevertheless, despite stiff resistance from the Canadians, by 6.30am their line was breached. Two York and Durham Bns were ordered forward from the canal bank at 7.40am to man the GHQ line and support the Canadians. By 9am the Canadians were forced to withdraw to Locality 'C', where eventually they were surrounded and either killed or taken prisoner. By 3pm the Germans occupied the village of St Julien.

The Northumberland Bde was left to rest for most of the day, although subject to continual harassment from German spotter planes and artillery. Some of the men were set to work, in the woods to the rear of the trenches, building camouflaged shelters from waterproof sheets and blankets in an effort to avoid the spotter planes and the weather. At 3.45pm the Northumberland Bde received orders to march via Ypres to the village of Potijze to form a V Corps reserve.

*"We fully expected that we should be left in the reserve trenches for some days, as up till now all the troops that have come out have been put into*

*billets some way in the rear of the front line, while first the officers, and then the NCOs and men are sent up to the trenches in small parties, or by platoons, to familiarise them with the conditions, previous to the battalion going up as a unit”.*

At 6pm the Bde formed up on the road and marched towards Ypres, passing streams of wounded men and Red Cross cars heading in the opposite direction. Rumours were rife in the ranks as to the reason for the advance, most numerous were that the allies had made a successful attack and broken the German lines through which they were to advance. Heavy rain began to fall and the Bde received its baptism of fire on entering Ypres around 11pm. Many of the buildings were on fire and the streets were strewn with corpses because the town was now under continual artillery bombardment.

*“By keeping in close to the houses along the edges of the streets and square, and by doubling past places where the houses had been knocked down, we made pretty good progress without suffering any casualties. When we reached the further side of the square, however, were hung up, and had to halt for about twenty minutes exactly opposite the Cathedral and Cloth Hall”*

It would seem that the hold up, which may have been as long as an hour, was due to the Bde in front losing its way. During that halt fifteen men from the 7th Bn were hit, twenty-four horses and mules belonging to the 4th Bn's Transport Section were killed and several wagons were smashed. The personal steeds of Colonel Foster and Captain Cruddas were amongst the casualties and one of the wagons happened to be the Head Quarters section mess cart, which was flung sky high complete with the plates, cutlery and other such comforts. Meanwhile, General E.A.H Alderson (GOC - 1st Canadian Divn) had issued Operation Order 10 at 8pm, ordering a strong counterattack to be made the following morning, in the general direction of Fortuin, St Julien and Kitcheners Wood. The aim was to drive the enemy back as far north as possible, thus securing the left flank of the 28th Divn. The counterattack was to be made by the 10th Bde, York/Durham Bde and two Bns from the 13th Bde under the command of Brigadier Hull (GOC 10th Bde). The Northumberland Bde and Durham Light Infantry Bde were destined to form a Corps reserve at Potijze, that could be called upon to support the attack if necessary. Everyone was extremely relieved when the order to march finally came. Marching at quick pace, the Bn reached the village of Potijze. Still under shellfire, they turned into a large field to the right of the road and were ordered to lie down in small groups of about six men so that the risk of suffering heavy losses was minimized.

27<sup>th</sup> April 1915

1613 Pte Moody Harold. Home at Lingdale N Yorks. Born Eston Yorks and enlisted at Skelton in Cleveland, N Yorks. Died of wounds, presumably received on the 24th. This could be linked to him having worked with ponies in the mines it would make sense that he was with the transport section and would tie in with the mules being hit on the 24th .he could have been injured here?

However I have found this regarding his commanding office happening on the 25th

<http://ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/pdf-files/bob%20coulson/officers-died-ww1.pdf>

Lt Leonard Percy I'Anson – 4th Battalion.

He crossed from Folkestone to Boulogne with the battalion on April 18th 1915 and they were immediately thrust into action in the Ypres Salient.

On April 24th the battalion were on the canal bank outside Ypres and from there moved to Potijze. The plan of attack was to push across the open ground between Fortuin and St Julien to force the Germans back into the village. The battalion suffered many casualties crossing this fire swept ground and Lt Leonard Percy Ianson was killed in this action on April 25th 1915 aged 37, having been in Belgium for just one week. His body lost he is remembered today on the Yorkshire panels of the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

It depends on the timing of evacuation to the clearing hospitals

After being injured Harold was transported to the number 9 clearing hospital at St omar.

Extract from memoirs of a nurse regarding number 9 clearing station Harold died in on the 27<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/33.html>

**27.04.15**

St. Omer

Left at 9.30am for GHQ arrived 11.30. Went to office found Miss G. M. Smith and Miss Knowles, Sisters in Charge of 3 and 5 Casualty Clearing Stations in DDGMS office to report they had all been shelled out of Poperinghe at midnight and after getting all the patients away by train. They had all 20 of them come to St. Omer where they were put up at 10 Stationary. It was decided they should go to Hazebrouck to release 10 nurses who had been sent from Etaples the day before. Went on to Hazebrouck where I visited 10 Casualty Clearing Station and London CCS, both overwhelmingly busy. Everyone doing tremendous work, patients streaming in while others were going, stretcher cases in ambulances, sitting up cases in motor ambulance – all quiet and orderly. Many deaths – in the marque 24 were lying decently laid out with a corporal as sentry. Went in a bell tent next – 8 more, while in wards many there were dying, all very dreadful, but everyone very calm and plucky and hopeful. The names, regiments and particulars of all were being taken to inform their friends. Postcards were being sent to relations of those wounded and when being transferred a note is pinned onto each coat giving all particulars possible.

Returned to GHQ. Arranged to keep 3 nurses always waiting at 10 Stationary for emergency ready packed. Went to 10 Stationary, there and at 9 Casualty Clearing Station very busy too. Patients suffering from asphyxiating gases being nursed in the open. All very blue and very chesty. Some had succumbed and some appeared to be slowly improving. Returned to Abbeville 8pm.

## Places of interest



*The impressive memorial to the Northumbrian Division, situated in the hamlet of Wieltje in the Ypres salient. The Division went into action here so soon after it had arrived from England, and had a hard fight here during the battle of April 1915. The memorial is close to Oxford Road cemetery*

## **LONGUENESSE (ST. OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY**

<https://www.ww1cemeteries.com/longuenesse-st-omer-souvenir-cemetery.html>



Private 1613 Harold moody is laid to rest alongside his comrades at the Longuenesse Military [Hospital] Cemetery St Omar.

No	name	rank	serv no	regiment	dod	age	plot
235	<a href="#">MOODY, H</a>	Private	1613	¼ Yorkshire	27/04/1915	Unknown	I. A. 93.

