

No.33674 Private William Raymond, 'C' Company, 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment
the Green Howards

William Benner Raymond

Born 2 July 1898 in Tralee.

Parents

Father: George Raymond (Born 1860), Newspaper Editor (The Kerry Post)

Mother: Mary Jane Raymond (Born 1867)

Residence: Ballymullen, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Enlisted into the Army Service Corps at Tralee 7 Nov 1916 aged 18

He served initially in the Army Service Corps

226247 Private William Benner Raymond, Army Service Corps (Motor Transport)

Posted to the Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport Reserve Depot) at Grove Park,
Lewisham Nov 1916

He was compulsorily transferred from Army Service Corps to the 6th Training Reserve
Battalion at Rugeley 27 March 1917

This Battalion was known as the 53rd (Young Soldier) Battalion. Up to 27 Oct 1917, this
was the 6th Young Soldier Battalion and had no regimental affiliation. Before that it had
been 13th (Reserve) Battalion of this regiment (West Yorkshire Regiment). A basic
recruit training unit based at Rugeley Camp on Cannock Chase, it was part of 2nd
Reserve Brigade.

He was transferred to the 9th Training Reserve Battalion 18 April 1917

This was formerly The South Staffordshire Regiment 11th (Reserve) Battalion. It had
moved from Harrogate on to Rugeley Camp (Cannock Chase) in October 1915. On 1
Sept 1916 it was converted into 9th Training Reserve Battalion of 2nd Reserve Brigade.

His new regimental No.33939 Private William Benner Raymond, 9th Training Reserve
Battalion

9th Training Reserve Battalion was based at Rugeley Camp, Cannock Chase, Yorkshire as
part of the 2nd Training Reserve Brigade

March/April/May 1917 He would have been involved in Training Drill, Physical
Training, Bayonet Training, and General Discipline.

He was transferred to the British Expeditionary Force in France 16 June 1917

Embarked on a transport ship at Folkestone 16 June 1917

Disembarked at Boulogne 17 June 1917

In the build up to the Third Ypres he was posted with a draft of men to the British Expeditionary Force 33rd Infantry Base Depot at Etaples, Havre, France, where further training was completed 17 June 1917

He was transferred to the front to join the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, The Green Howards, 59th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Division, at its billets in 'Steenvoorde' and was posted to 'C' Company, 5 July 1917.

New regimental No.33674 Private William Benner Raymond, part of 'C' Company

According to the Regimentals Rolls he had two distinct periods of service with the Yorkshire Regiment. The absence may be due to wounds or because of sickness. Since no leave was given at this time. It would have been with the 70th Field Ambulance if not too serious.

While he was with the 9th Battalion it took part in 2 Battles of the '3rd Ypres' as part of the 2nd Army (Commanded by Plumer)

Battalion had 2 men wounded 6 July 1917

The Battalion marched to the 'Micmac' Camp, and 'C' Company was sent to the Hedge Street Tunnels in relief of 10th Northumberland Fusilier's in the frontline trenches 11-12 July 1917

Battalion had 4 men wounded 15 July 1917

Battalion had 8 men wounded 18 July 1917

Battalion had 1 man wounded 19 July 1917

Battalion had 3 men wounded 20 July 1917

The Battalion left the frontline for 'Micmac Camp' the move was hampered by hostile artillery fire causing a few casualties (6 killed, 1 wounded, 2 missing) 23 July 1917

Training was conducted in the Tilques area which was hampered by bad weather 27 July 1917

Training in 'open warfare' in the Tilques area 1-9 Aug 1917

The Battalion moved to Mouille for training in 'musketry and open warfare' 9 Aug 1917

The Battalion moved to Dallington camp 24 Aug 1917

The Battalion moved to Dickebusch 25 Aug 1917

Advance party sent to 'Inverness Copse' and 'Glencorse Wood' in preparation for an attack. 3 men were wounded during a carrying party 27 Aug 1917

The Battalion moved to the Lederzeele area 1-3 Sept 1917

The Battalion took part in Special training for the taking of enemy strong points in preparation for the next assault 4 to 12 Sept 1917

Battalion had 1 man wounded 16 Sept 1917

Battalion had 1 man wounded 18 Sept 1917

The men were issued with Battle Stores 18-19 Sept 1917

'C' company dug in at 'Sanctuary Wood' 19 Sept 1917

They were heavily shelled with high explosive and gas shells, 'C' & 'D' Company suffered 16 casualties (6 killed and 10 wounded) during the night.

The Battalion moved into its attack positions at 2am 20 Sept 1917

The Battalion advanced into Inverness Copse at 5:40am in the dark and mist combined with smoke across shell pitted ground littered with broken trees and barbed wire. They took cover in the shell holes. They were attacked by scattered remnants of Germans from their rear using grenades. At least 30 Germans killed in the Copse during the night. An assault was made on dugouts within the German frontline involving hand to hand fighting. Consolidated the capture positions and held off a counterattack. The Battalion lost 19 men killed, 139 wounded and 27 missing in action during this action. 4 officers killed and 6 wounded.

Battalion had 5 men killed, 21 wounded and 1 missing 21 Sept 1917

Battalion had 2 men killed and 18 wounded 22 Sept 1917

Battalion had 3 men killed and 5 wounded 23 Sept 1917

'C' company was relieved by the 2/5th Battalion Worcester Regiment and moved back to a Camp area near 'Dickebush' during the night 24-25 Sept

Battalion had 3 men killed and 1 wounded 24 Sept 1917

The Battle of the 'Menin Road', 20 - 25 September 1917

The Battle of 'Polygon Wood', 26 September - 3 October 1917

Reorganization of Battalion 26 Sept 1917

Battalion had 1 man killed, 1 wounded and 1 missing 27 Sept 1917

Battalion had 4 men wounded and 1 missing 28 Sept 1917

The Battalion moved up into the Front line with 7 men wounded 30 Sept 1917

The Battalion took over from the 8th Yorkshire Battalion in the frontline with 'C' company on the left flank. 'C' company came under a very heavy enemy barrage and the Battalion lost communications with 'C' company as a result. Private William Benner Raymond was killed on 1st Oct 1917 aged 19

Extract from the 9th Yorkshire Battalion Regimental War Diary for 1 Oct 1917

LOCATION TRENCHES: 1 Oct. 1917

The Battalion plus one Company 10th Duke of Wellington's, took over from 8th Yorkshire Battalion as follows:

"A" Company in support by CARLISLE FARM –

"D" Company J15.d.50.45 to REUTEL BEEK J15.d.60.85 –

"B" Company REUTEL BEEK to JUT FARM J16.c.10.20 –

"D" Company Duke of Wellingtons JUT FARM J16.c.10.20 to J16.a.50.50 –

"C" Company remained in same position. Very heavy barrage put up by the enemy from 4:30 am.

"C" Company on our left attacked; heavy casualties feared. Communications between HQ and Company's very difficult.

Later 1 Officer and 10 men were reported missing from "C" Company on 5 Oct 1917
In the end 1 Officer and 14 men were reported killed in action

Listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial, with no known grave.

In Memory of Private William Raymond 33674, 9th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment
who died age 20 on 01 October 1917 Son of George Raymond of Ballymullen, Tralee,
Co. Kerry, and the late M. J. Raymond.

Remembered with honour Tyne Cot Memorial

HIS MEDAL ENTITLEMENT CARD

Awarded Victory Medal and British War Medal

Name:	Corps.	Rank	Regtl No.
Raymond	9th T.R.B.		33939
William	York R	Pte	33674
Roll: 0/1/101 B15	Page:1326	Remarks:	Dead

British Victory Medal issued 24 April 1921

British War Medal issued 5 May 1921