

John Lambert



John Lambert was born at Bolton, Westmorland and was the only son of William and Mary Lambert, White Farm, Bolton. He served as a Private (service number 202899) with the 8th Battalion, Border Regiment. He was killed in action during the Battle of Estaines in France 10th April 1918 aged 27 and is remembered with honour at the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium located 12.5 kilometres south of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. The memorial commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave.

John had a sister Isabella.

Extract from local newspaper of the time.

The Toll of War

We record with regret the death in action of Private John Lambert, only son of Mr and Mrs Lambert, of White Farm, Bolton. No details are to hand beyond the bare War Office announcement.

Before the war he assisted his parents on the holding, which they owned, and also helped other farmers in the district. He was an acceptable local preacher attached to the United Methodist Church, conscientiously taking duty twice every Sunday. As a Sunday school and Band of Hope worker, he was a great power for good and in fact he was one of the most useful men in Bolton village. He was widely esteemed for his quiet Christian life and upright dealings.

Extract from 8th Battalion Border Regiment War Diary, April 1918

9th April 1917. Dull – slight mist. Enemy attacked about 5.30 am after heavy bombardment. A Coy practically cut off. B, C, and D Coys returned to reserve line which was soon enveloped and about midday Battalion withdrew with other troops to a North and South Line West of Le Bizet. A further withdrawal to the road Clef de la Belgique-Oosthove was necessitated during the afternoon, and late at night the right flank was swung back to the line Coutre Rue Oosthove- Doudou. Two companies 9th Cheshire's being on our right at Courte Rue, and 2 Companies 9th Cheshire's on our left at Oosthove."

Relatives:

None traced to date

In Memory of

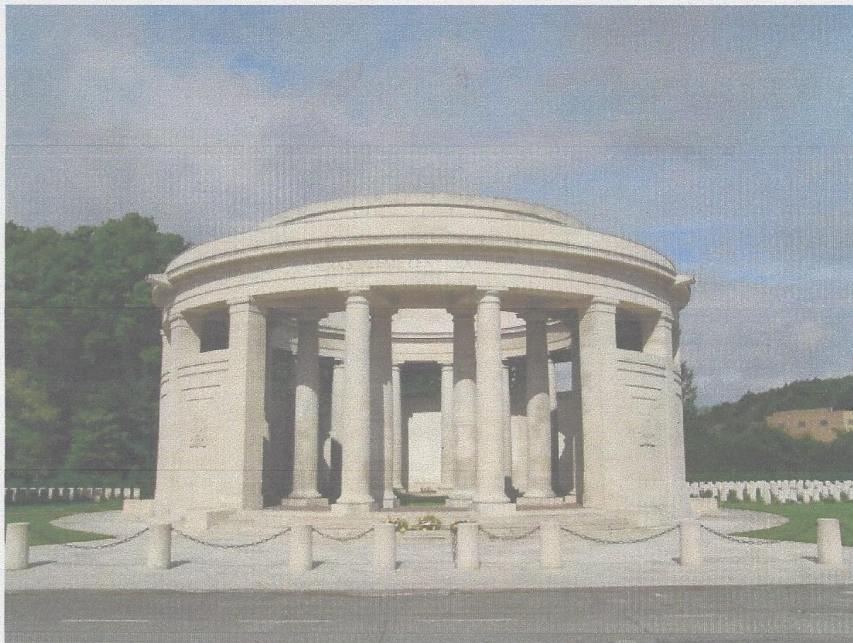
Private

John Lambert

202899, 8th Bn., Border Regiment who died on 10 April 1918

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Location Information

Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery is located 12.5 Kms south of Ieper town centre, on a road leading from the Rijselseweg N365, which connects Ieper to Wijtschate, Mesen, Ploegsteert and on to Armentieres.

From Ieper town centre the Rijselsestraat runs from the market square, through the Lille Gate (Rijselpoort) and directly over the crossroads with the Ieper ring road. The road name then changes to the Rijselseweg.

2 Kms after Mesen lies the left hand turning onto Rue St.Yvon. Immediately after passing Prowse Point Military Cemetery lies a right hand turning onto a small road track (unsuitable for vehicles). 1.2 Kms after this junction lies the cemetery, along the track leading into the wood.

Visiting Information

This cemetery is located in the wood at Ploegsteert and access is only possible via a track in the woods to which motor vehicles are not allowed - a post is in position preventing vehicle access. If disabled visitors cannot get to this cemetery without being driven by car, they should contact our office in Ieper well in advance of their visit - Telephone (057) 22 36 36, so that arrangements can be made with our local staff to open up the track.

Historical Information

Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery was made by the enclosure of a number of small regimental cemeteries.

Plot II was originally the SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY CEMETERY, made by the 1st Battalion in December 1914. The 32 graves it contains, as well as ten in Plot I, are from that battalion.

Plot IV, the BUCKS CEMETERY, was made by the 1st/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, in April 1915. 11 of the 20 graves it contains are from that battalion.

Plot III contains 16 graves of the 1/5th Gloucesters, made between April and May 1915, and in Plots III and I there are 12 graves of the 8th Loyal North Lancs from October to December 1915. However, these plots were known as CANADIAN CEMETERY, STRAND, from the 28 Canadian graves of June to October 1915 in Plot III, and from the trench running nearby.

The cemetery as a whole was used sparingly in 1916, and again by the New Zealand Division in July and August 1917. It was in German hands between 10 April and 29 September 1918.

Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery contains 164 First World War burials.

The cemetery was designed by W H Cowlshaw.

8th Battalion War Diary, April 1918

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS
[? WAERSVELOE] KORTEPYP CAMP	1st		Advance Coy D coy arrived 1.30am & remainder of Bn 5am & embussed for KORTEPYP CAMP - New draft of 170 19 year old boys. Excellent appearance & smart of parade. CAPT J.DAWSON rejoined.
ROMARIN CAMP	2nd		Move to ROMARIN CAMP - 2nd S. Lancs in line - 8 Border support, 11 Cheshire reserves. D coy under Capt DAWSON (Lancashire Support Farm) [co????e - communique?] attaching coy under tactical orders of 2/S Lancs - C coy CAPT BENTLEY A & B coys. ROMARINCAMP with Bn HQrs - Excellent weather.
	3rd		Cleaning up & baths - unsettled.
	4th		Unsettled - cleaning up & inspections - C & D coys withdrawn from support line - preparatory to moving up next day. OC Coys reconnoitred front line. The Bn relieved 3rd Worcestors & 11th Lanc Fusiliers - Bn sector Lys River on right to C4b7.8 on left - C Coy (Capt Bentley) left subsector D coy (Capt Dawson) right subsector.
[T?OUQUET] SECTOR	5th		B coy- support - Grande Rabeque - A coy - Reserve - Le Bizet - Bn HQrs - [Desquieres?] Farm - Relief began 7.30pm & finished 10pm except 3 posts D coy 3am - night wet.
	6th		Fine. Co visited OC's front line coys C & D - Day quiet. Patrols out at night.
	7th		Battn in the line. A little TM activity. Persistent fire by enemy MG all night from FRELINGHEIN.
	8th		do. MG fired from FRELINGHEIN all night. Patrol located strong enemy working party at West end of FRELINGHEIN BRIDGE, they were wiring the Bridge Head. 2nd Sth Lancs on our left relieved by XI Cheshire. A Coy (2nd Lt Allan) moved up from LE BIZET to FRANDE RABEQUE - B Coy side slipping to the right in the RESERVE LINE. Enemy TMs in WARNETON sector heavily bombarded during the afternoon.
	9th		Dull & cloudy. Heavy bombardment on our right - several miles away. Reported GERMAN attack from ARMENTIERES to LA BASSEE. Our sector heavily shelled in afternoon - with Gas, HE & shrapnel. A coy (Lt Allan) relieved C coy (Capt Bentley) in left front. B coy (Capt COXON) relieved D Coy (Capt Dawson) in right front.
	10th		Dull - slight mist - Enemy attacked about 5.30am after heavy bombardment. A Coy practically cut off. B, C & D Coys returned to Reserve line which was soon enveloped & about midday Battalion withdrew with other troops to a NORTH and South line West of LE BIZET. A further withdrawal to the ROAD Clef de la BELGIQUE-OOSTHOVE was necessitated during the afternoon, and late at night the right flank was swungback to the line COUTRE RUE OOSTHOVE-DOUDOU - Two companies 9th Cheshires being on our right at COURTE RUE, and 2 companies 9th Cheshires on our left at OOSTHOVE.
OOSTHOVE	11th		Enemy attacked early morning but was driven off by rifle & LG fire. Position bombarded fairly heavily. About midday a withdrawal on the left necessitated falling back on TRENCH LINE about LE ROSSIGNOL which was held till night. LT STRONG & party of 40 OR captured a MG & restored a temporary gap in the line about BRUNE GAYE in the afternoon. Orders to evacuate NIEPPE SALIENT being received, the Battalion withdrew to CONNAUGHT ROAD at dusk - where it dug in, in support to 75th Inf Bde Group.
CONNAUGHT & KORTEPYP	12th		Day was fine. Beyond little shelling & sniping nothing of great importance occurred during the morning. About 2pm a general retirement was observed on

		our right – which necessitated a further withdrawal to KORTEPYP – where the line was reorganised.
	13th	Very heavy mist in morning. The night had passed quietly. About 6am 6th SWB were seen to be retiring along the NEUVE EGLISE Road & soon after under cover of mist & the heavy bombardment enemy attacked in great strength & forced us back to the line NEUVE EGLISE – TROIS ROIS CABT where elements of 75th Bde Group & the 9th HLI had already dug in. Here a stand was made. Capt COXON ^[1] & LT BOTT ^[2] were both killed making a counterattack on the enemy's flank during the morning. Meantime a position was being prepared from CRUCIFIX CORNER along the ridge in a NORTH EASTERLY direction.
	14th	Morning quiet except for heavy shelling of back areas. About midday enemy began dribbling small parties forward & soon evidence of massing was observed in the valley along the NEUVE EGLISE-DRANOUTRE ROAD about TBC Central. Our barrage & MG fire nipped the attack in the bud. Orders for Bde relief received about 9.30pm.
KOUDOKOT MONT des CATS	15th	Battalion relieved in line by 71st Bde about 2.30 am & marched to KOUDOKOT where it joined the rest of the Brigade. At 2pm the Brigade marched via BERTHEN to MONT DES CATS which was reached about 7pm.
LA LEVRETTE	16th	About 10.45pm Battalion marched via BOESCHEPE to LA LEVRETTE in support to 33rd & 34th Divisions. Bde formed into a composite Battalion under Lt-Col J.B. ALLSOPP. Capt BENTLEY & Lt DUGGAN remained with Battalion. Lt-Col BIRT returned to rear Brigade HQ.
	17th	Still at LALEVRETTE - Shelled rather heavily during the day.
MONT DES CATS	18th	Early morning the Battalion returned to hutments at MONT DES CATS. Major STEWART rejoined Battalion temporarily during the evening. Draft of young boys mostly.
	19th	Snow fell - very cold. Shell burst in C Coys hut killing 5 & wounding 26 OR. ^[3]
	20th	Cold. Cleaning up & refitting. Enemy shelled vicinity fairly heavily. Classes for specialist. Firing on range behind MONASTRY. Inlying piquet established as a safeguard against surprise.
VOXURIE - POPERINGHE	21st	Brigade marched to HIRST CAMP near VOXVRIE-POPERINGHE. Fine.
	22nd	Fine. Classes continued. 18 officers joined Battalion in afternoon & draft of 63 OR.
	23rd	Lewis Gun classes continued. 2nd Lt Mackie joined the Bn and was posted to A Co.
	24th	Specialist classes continued. Lt M. TURNBULL ^[4] joined the Bn. He was posted to D Co and appointed Bn signalling officer.
	25th	The Bn was employed in digging trench line. At 10am orders were issued from Bde warning the Bn to stand by ready to move. Coys were recalled from digging and preparations were made for an immediate move. At 2.30pm the Brigade moved to HOUGRAAF CABARET where the division were ordered to concentrate. At 11pm the DIVISION received orders to counterattack in the vicinity of KEMMEL. The 7th Brigade on the right and the 74th Brigade on the left were ordered to move forward in conjunction with the 39th French Division. The 75th Bde were in close support. The Battalion moved forward and took up a position in the right of the LA CLYTTE-RENINGHELST road about 600 yards E of RENINGHELST at 2AM.
RENINGHELST	26th	

		flank. The remainder of the day was fairly quiet.
IN LINE	27th	During the afternoon the Bn. moved forward and relieved the 10th Cheshires (7th Brigade). In the evening the Bn moved into the front line and relieved the 8th Loyal North Lancs and 3rd Worcesters. Patrols were sent out during the night. Small parties of the enemy were encountered and dispersed.
	28th	Intermittent hostile shelling throughout the day. Otherwise quiet. Lt F.W. DARVELL ^[5] took out patrol during the day and patrolled the whole of the right front. During the night patrols were again sent out and a little wiring was done.
	29th	At 3am the enemy opened a bombardment of Gas shells which at 5am developed into a heavy HE barrage. The SOS was seen going up on the left of the line. At 6.15am the two front coys reported the enemy were massing on the right front and appeared to be attempting to attack down the LA CLYTTE-KEMMIL road. Owing to our artillery MG and rifle fire the attack did not develop. About this time the two front Coys were subjected to heavy MG and rifle fire from the right front. At 10am LT-COL CWH BIRT, DSO, was wounded in the left arm by a shell. Capt A.J. BENTLEY A/Adjt took over command of the Bn. Up to 11am considerable enemy movement was observed on the right front. MG and rifle fire was opened on them and heavy casualties inflicted. Owing to heavy hostile shelling throughout the morning communication with the rear was difficult. At 5.15pm the enemy opened a heavy barrage on our front and support which continued until 6.15 when the enemy again appeared to be attempting to attack along the LA CLYTTE-KEMMIL road. This attack was again broken up by our artillery MG and rifle fire. The remainder of the day was without incident. The following officers were wounded during the morning. CAPT C.W. McLENNAN, Gassed went down to ADS and returned to the Bn. 2 Lts. J.W. ROGERS (B coy) J. GIBSON (B Coy) J.T.R. VAREL (B Coy) J.H. MACKIE (A Coy) on the night of the 29/30 the Bn was relieved by the 2nd Bn South Lancs. On relief the Bn moved back to a position on the LA CLYTTE-RENINGHELST road 800 yds west of LA CLYTTE. There Major H.G. FRASER joined the Bn and assumed command.
LA CLYTTE	30th	<p>The day was fairly quiet. At 6pm the vicinity of Bn HQ was heavily shelled for about an hour.</p> <p><u>HONOURS and awards during the month</u></p> <p>MILITARY MEDAL for Conspicuous gallantry during the retreat on the SOMME</p> <p>32272 Cpl J.S. SEWELL</p> <p>12235 Cpl J.W. BURKIN^[6]</p> <p>9844 Cpl P. CARR</p> <p>24645 L/C J. LEE</p> <p>11884 Sjt J. MACDONALD</p> <p>21036 Cpl H. WISE</p> <p>27434 Pte H. SINGLETON</p> <p>5622 Pte H. FERGUSON</p> <p>18388 Pte. R. LAWRENCE</p> <p>13589 Pte. J. VARIETY</p> <p>16233 L/C B. DUCKWORTH</p> <p>30198 Pte. G. PORTER</p> <p>15597 L/C G. JOHNSTON</p> <p>14509 Pte. J.KELLY</p> <p>15091 Sjt M. CRAYSTON</p>