

Arthur Savage



Arthur Savage was born on 25th November 1895 at Bolton, Westmorland and was the son of Margaret Agnes Savage. Matthew Savage was his uncle. He enlisted in November 1914 and served as a Private (service number 16347) with the 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment. He was wounded in an attack on 1st July 1916 and returned to France in April 1917. He was killed in action in Flanders 6th October 1917 aged 21 and is remembered with honour at the Tyne Cot Memorial, one of four memorials which commemorate 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War of which 8,369 are unidentified.

Previous to enlisting Arthur worked for Mr Richardson, Whitber, Kings Meaburn.

Extract from Cumberland and Westmorland Herald of the time:

Private Arthur Savage, Border Regiment, also of Bolton who was killed in France on 6th October was the nephew of Matthew Savage. He enlisted in the Border Regiment in November 1914 and went to France a year later. He was wounded in the attack on 1st July 1916, and returned to France in April of this year. He was 21 years of age. The sad news of his death was conveyed to his mother in the following letter from a chaplain of the forces:

I am very sorry to write to you about your son, who was killed on the 6th, He laid down his life when the regiment carried all of its objectives and held them in the mud and cold exposed to shells and bullets.

Memorial service at Bolton

A solemn and impressive service was conducted on Sunday evening in the Parish Church, Bolton, in memory of Private Arthur Savage, Border Regiment, of that village, who fell in action in France on the 6th ult., and whose photo appears in this issue. There was a very full congregation, and the service was choral throughout. The introductory voluntary was "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), the organist being Mrs Carmichael. Special psalms sung were the 39th and 90th, and special lessons were taken from the "Wisdom of Solomon" (iii 1-7 and verses 15 and 160, and "Revelation" (vii from verse 9). The hymns which were selected for the occasion by the mourners were reverently sung by the large congregation. The Vicar (Rev TA Carmichael), in his address from the text I Maccabees iii 18, 19 "With Heaven it is all one, to save by many or by few: for victory in battle foundeth not in the multitude of a host; but strength is from heaven." Spoke on three scenes in the life and military service of Judas Maccabaeus, ne of the greatest soldiers in Holy Scripture. The Old Testament Apocrypha, he explained, contained much which the Church teaches us to regard as important "for example of life and instruction of manners." He referred feelingly to the young man who had fallen in action, and who, like Judas Maccabaeus of old, had died "manfully for our brethren's sake." He proffered the sympathy of himself and the congregation to the bereaved relatives of him who had made the great sacrifice, and whose immortal soul had gone to the spirit-world there to await the day of reward.

*"He died as few men get chance to die,
Fighting to save a worlds morality.
He died the noblest death a man may die,
Fighting for God, and right, and Liberty;
And such death is Immortality."*

The solemn service was concluded by the rendering of Handel's "Dead March" in "Saul" during which all the congregation remained standing after which they filed out of the church slowly and reverently.

Relatives:

Mrs E A Page (Nee Bell and born at White House, Bolton), Avalon, Gilberts End, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire

Mrs M J Williams, Crossfell View Barn, Langwathby, Penrith CA10 1LW

Rt Rev James Bell, Stone Croft, Bolton



SAVAGE.—Killed in action, on 6th Oct., Private Arthur Savage, Border Regiment, of Bolton, aged 21 years.

"There is no death! What seems so transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death."

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT BOLTON

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I am very sorry to write to you about your son, who was killed on the 6th. He laid down his life on an occasion when the regiment carried all its objectives and held them in the mud and cold, exposed to shells and bullets.

A memorial service will be held at Bolton Church to-morrow evening at 6-30.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,

Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,

They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

—Laurence Binyon.

In Memory of

Private

Arthur Savage

16347, 2nd Bn., Border Regiment who died on 06 October 1917 Age 21

Son of Mrs Agnes Savage, of Bolton, Penrith, Cumberland.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

'Tyne Cot' or 'Tyne Cottage' was the name given by the Northumberland Fusiliers to a barn which stood near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road. The barn, which had become the centre of five or six German blockhouses, or pill-boxes, was captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917, in the advance on Passchendaele.

One of these pill-boxes was unusually large and was used as an advanced dressing station after its capture. From 6 October to the end of March 1918, 343 graves were made, on two sides of it, by the 50th (Northumbrian) and 33rd Divisions, and by two Canadian units. The cemetery was in German hands again from 13 April to 28 September, when it was finally recaptured, with Passchendaele, by the Belgian Army.

TYNE COT CEMETERY was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, and from a few small burial grounds, including the following:

IBERIAN SOUTH CEMETERY and IBERIAN TRENCH CEMETERY, LANGEMARCK, 1,200 metres North of Frezenberg, close to a farm called by the Army "Iberian". These contained the graves of 30 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in August-September 1917, and March 1918.

KINK CORNER CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, on the road to Frezenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom, nine from Canada and nine from Australia, who fell in September-November 1917.

LEVI COTTAGE CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, near the road to Langemarck, containing the graves of ten soldiers from the United Kingdom, eight from Canada and three from Australia, who fell in September-November 1917.

OOSTNIEUWKERKE GERMAN CEMETERY, in the village of Oostnieuwkerke, containing the graves of 20 soldiers and 2 airmen from the United Kingdom and two soldiers from Canada who fell in 1915-1917.

PRAET-BOSCH GERMAN CEMETERY, VLADSLOO, in the forest on the road from Kortewilde to Leke. Here were buried six officers of the R.F.C. and R.A.F. who fell in 1917-18.

STADEN GERMAN CEMETERY, on the South-East side of the road to Stadenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom and ten from Canada who fell in 1915-1917.

WATERLOO FARM CEMETERY, PASSCHENDAELE, 650 metres North-East of 's Gravenstafel, containing the graves of ten soldiers from Canada, seven from the United Kingdom and two from New Zealand, who fell in 1917-18.

ZONNEBEKE BRITISH CEMETERY No.2, on the road between Zonnebeke and Broodseinde, in which the Germans buried 18 men of the 2nd Buffs and 20 of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers who fell in April 1915.

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery. There are now 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,373 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. There are also 4 German burials, 3 being unidentified.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker. The TYNE COT MEMORIAL forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16 August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by F V Blundstone

2nd Border Battalion War Diary October 1917

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS
			Reference Maps: Sheet 27 and 28.
	1/10/17		The Battalion marched from camp near RENINGHELST to camp near DICKEBUSCH arriving about 7.30pm
	2/10/17		The Battalion marched to dugouts on Western side of ZILLEBEKE LAKE.
	3/10/17		The Battalion remained at ZILLEBEKE LAKE till 10.30pm when it moved up to assemble for the attack. The role of the Battalion was to leapfrog the 8th Devon Regt on the RED LINE and to take the blue line from J.13.a.35.95. to J.6.c.2.6 and to mop up the ground between the RED and BLUE lines covered by the front companies. A and B were the attacking companies. C Coy "moppers up" and D Coy in reserve.
	4/10/17		<p>The tape was laid out in two lines parallel to the objectives and at 130 yards distant immediately behind the mound at J.10a7.8. By 3.0am the whole Battn was reported in position on the tape. The enemy who seemed to have had his suspicions aroused rained shells on to area behind the mound. It was therefore decided to close up behind the 8th Devon Regt which was formed up 200* in front [* meaning yards]. The Mound was directly in the line of advance and the ground on the far side was little better than a bog on the left side of which was barbed wire – The result was that the troops got much disorganised before the start of the attack.</p> <p>At zero 6.0am the Battn moved forward with the 2nd GORDONS and 22nd MANCHESTERS on the flanks. The intention was that having assumed normal formation, the Battn attacking the 2nd objective should stop 400* inside No Man's Land. The Battns however were completely mixed up and the whole line consisting of Gordons, Devons, Manchesters and Borders went forward to the first objectives as it was impossible to try and withdraw troops from the advancing line. Mopping up was undertaken automatically and the gaps left by the moppers up easily filled up. On arrival at the 1st objective the officers withdrew men of the Battn about 100 yds in rear and reorganised them into platoons. As soon as reorganised the line moved forward close to the barrage, the barrage was so accurate and the line so well defined that the men could go up to it quite comfortably, and the difficulty was not in keeping them up too it, but in keeping them back from getting into it.</p> <p>At 9.40am, the final objectives were reported taken and consolidation in progress. About 40 men under 2nd Lt. LITTLE had had to move to the left to get into trench with 2nd Gordons on the left. About 80 men under 2 Lieut ABRAMS had kept touch with B Coy on the left. A portion of B Coy had got on the right of A Company. A gap appeared between 2nd Lt. ARGLES Company and 2 Lt. ABRAMS company. This was filled by a platoon of D Company under 2nd Lt. J. HARDING.^[1] The frontage held by the Battalion at this time was the entire frontage allotted to the Brigade with the exception of 100* on the right which was held by the 22nd Manchester Regt. The line extended from J.5.b.25.30. to J.6.c.35.10. Consolidation in depth now seemed somewhat difficult owing to the extended frontage. The first step taken was for certain officers to take over certain portions of the line and to reorganise within their frontage.</p> <p>The line was practically held in four subsections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 2 Lieut. LITTLE on the left from J.5.b.25.30 on the left slope of the valley to J.5.b.25.05. (2) 2 Lieut. ABRAMS in touch with him on the left and extending to J.5.a.70.90. (some men of D Coy on the right of 2nd Lieut. ABRAMS Company were apparently absorbed into it). (3) There was a gap between 2 Lieut. ABRAM's right and (4) 2nd Lieut. ARGLES left at J.5.d.95.80.

		<p>Some men of D Company had also been absorbed into 2nd Lieut. ARGLES Company which held the BLUE LINE down to J.6.c.35.10. Each of these Officers collected men of various companies together preparatory to further organisation. Thus 2nd Lieut. ABRAMS collected the men of 22nd Manchester Regt and put out a post on his extreme right in order to get nearer in touch with 2 Lieut. ARGLES and to get the men nearer their own Battn. Next to him he had a part of D Company, then A Company and then B Company on the left. Touch was obtained between the Companies, but the gap between A Coy and C Coy still remained although each had put out post on its extreme flank. About 40 men of D Company were in the trenches in the neighbourhood of JAY COTTAGE.</p>
5/10/17		<p>During the night 4th/5th Oct the reorganisation continued and companies exchanged men getting A Coy all together and C Coy all together. A Coy extended slightly to the right and C Company slightly to the left in order to get nearer into touch but on the morning of the 5th there was still an appreciable gap. During the day some officers came up from Transport and were sent up to Coys. Captain D.A. DEMPSTER was ordered to collect men of B Coy from the various Coys and to fill the gap between A & C Coys. By this time the enemy had got his artillery on to the front line and snipers were also active. Communications with C Coy by day was almost impossible.</p> <p>During the night 5th/6th a post of B Coy was established between C and A Coys and touch was gained along the whole line. Reorganisation was much hampered by the frequent SOS barrages which had to be put down and which caused a great deal of retaliatory shelling by the enemy.</p> <p>During the night the Australian Brigade on the left had been ordered to relieve the 2nd Gordon Hdrs in the position of the line north of crossroads J5.d.10.95. but on the morning of the 6th inst it was found that two Coys of that Regiment had not been relieved nor had 2nd Lieut. LITTLE's platoons which were also North of the crossroads at J.5.d.10.95. A liaison officer was sent to the HQ of the Australian Battn with a request that the 2 remaining Coy of the 2nd Gordon Hdrs and 2nd Lieut. LITTLE's platoons should be relieved by them. This however they were unable to do, as they had not sufficient men.</p> <p>In the meantime the front held by the battalion had been divided into 4 subsections. On the left the portion held by 2nd Lieut. LITTLE known as "L" subsector, next on his right from J.5.b.41. to J.5.d.7.8. B subsector was held by 2nd Lieut. ABRAM with A Company. In the centre down from J.5.d.7.8. to J.6.c. 24. B subsector held by a small party of B Company under 2nd Lieut. HARRISON and 1 platoon of D Company under 2nd Lieut. PAYNTER.^[2] On the right from J.6.c.24 to J.6.c.40 "C" subsector was held by Captain D.B. DEMPSTER who had now been sent to C Company. D Company were in support in the trenches in the vicinity of JAY COTTAGE. The intention was to relieve 2nd Lieut. PAYNTER's party by 2nd Lieut. LITTLE's platoons as soon as the latter was relieved by the Australians. The platoon of D Company so released was to take up a position South of JAY TRENCH and East of the road joining JAY and JUDGE cottages.</p>
6/10/17		<p>By the evening of the 6th it had become clear that the two companies of 2nd Gordons and 2 Lieut. LITTLE were not going to be relieved by the Australians. Further a message from 20th Brigade showed that the relief of the two companies of the Gordons was imperative as they were to become counter attack Battalion. It was therefore decided that they must be relieved by 2 Lieut. HARRISON's party and the remainder of D Company. The term 2 coys of Gordon Highlanders was rather misleading, as when arrangements were made for their relief it was found that they</p>

		<p>had been so reduced in numbers that the relief was effected by 2nd Lieut. HARRISON with 12 men.</p> <p>Touch was gained with the Australian Battalion on the left and it was hoped that by extending 2 Lieut. LITTLE's sector to the left and asking the Australians to extend slightly to the right the line could possibly be consolidated. It was found however that the company of the Australian Battalion which was on the left of 2nd Lieut. HARRISON consisted only of 1 officer and 24 men. It was therefore arranged that each party should send patrols across from post to post during the night. Another platoon of D Coy had to be used to replace 2nd Lt. HARRISON's party on the left of "B" subsector. This relief was somewhat tardily completed owing to the fact that the officer who was sent to make the arrangements for the relief with the Company Commander of the right Company 2nd Gordon Highlanders was mortally wounded while making his arrangements [presumably 2nd Lt. HARDING] and afterwards a heavy barrage delayed it. Relief was completed at 6.45am.</p>
7/10/17		<p>On the night 7th/8th the Battalion was relieved by 20 Manchester Regt. The relief was again rather protracted, the Manchesters arriving with 3 companies instead of 2 and there was consequently slight delay in issuing new orders and obtaining guides. The relief was complete at 11.30pm but the report which was received from OC D Coy included the relief of both front line and support platoons. This was not realised and the relief of the two front line platoons was awaited until dawn when it was discovered that they had already been relieved.</p>
8/10/17		<p>After relief the Battn moved to dugouts on the Western side of ZILLEBEKE LAKE.</p>
9/10/17		<p>The 2nd Queens Regt relieved the Battn which marched to camp near DICKEBUSCH.</p>
10/10/17		<p>The Battn marched to CANORA camp in the WESTOUTRE area, arriving about 7.30pm.</p>
11/10/17 to 22/10/17		<p>The Battn remained in CANORA Camp and carried out training under Battalion arrangements.</p>
23/10/17		<p>The Battn marched to camp near VIERSTRART arriving about 4pm.</p>
24/10/17		<p>The Battn moved from camp at 4.0pm and proceeded via HEDGE ST and DUNBARTON LAKES to the front area South of the MENIN ROAD, relieving the 16th and 17th Sherwood Foresters on a line running from J.21.b.30.12 on the MENIN ROAD to J.21.c.9.7 opposite LEWIS HOUSE. C Coy occupied the front part of this line with D Coy in close support. A and B Coys occupied a line about 350 yds in rear. Battn Hdqrs were established among some pill boxes at J.21.a.5.1. Intermittent shelling of front posts with light shells occurred throughout the night, with heavy shelling of Bn HQ area from 10pm to 3am.</p>
25/10/17		<p>At 6.16am and 6.20am small parties of enemy were seen attempting to enter LEWIS HOUSE. Lewis Gun and rifle fire inflicted some casualties and the parties disappeared. The enemy were fairly quiet throughout the day. The absence of machine gun and rifle fire on our front was especially noticeable. The enemy shelled intermittently all areas around pill boxes, including Battn Hdqrs.</p>
26/10/17		<p>The Battn was ordered to attack and hold a line joining the points J.22.c.70.48 (in GHELUVELT village) and J.22.c.10.05 known as the RED LINE. The attack was part of an operation to be carried out by the 20th</p> <p>INFANTRY BRIGADE. The 8th DEVON Regt and the 2nd QUEENS were attacking simultaneously on the left and right respectively. After the objective had been captured the 2nd GORDON HDRS were to leapfrog and establish a blue line parallel to the RED LINE and about 500 yards forward in advance of it.</p>