

Jesmond Presbyterian Church in the Great War

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Preface

This has been written to mark the centenary of the first battle of the Somme in 1916 at which, over the period of the few days before and after 1st July, the church lost 7 men killed in action plus several others wounded. Over the war as a whole, 24 were lost out of the 106 who served. This high rate of attrition resulted from many serving as officers who led from the front and were 'picked off' by snipers. We are fortunate to have a Roll of Honour naming all those who served, although it appears to have a number of inconsistencies which I have tried to explain. There are three women who served as nurses in military hospitals of whom I know, one in France, one in Malta and one in Nottingham. Many others in the church were involved indirectly in providing 'comforts' to the serving men, feeding and entertaining those billeted in church premises, visiting the injured in the 1st Northern General Hospital at Armstrong College nearby and, of course, the friends and families of the serving men and women fretting for their safety. My greatest sadness as a result of doing this is that I have only been able to identify one family today which is in direct descent from those who served. If any reader can point me in the direction of descendants or has information on any of the men or women mentioned here or any other details that will help me make a more complete and accurate record of the events in Jesmond over those tragic years I would greatly appreciate them. I can be contacted by post at 39 Clayton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4RQ, or robert.shiel@ncl.ac.uk or at 0191 2813417.

Introduction

When the war broke on the community the initial reaction in the church was an excess of handwringing, largely centred around whether it was a 'just war'. This was resolved fairly quickly, largely it seems as a result of events in Belgium, and was replaced by three main forms of activity related to the war. Firstly, the ladies of the church became closely involved in raising money and making comforts for the forces; secondly the church's premises, in particular the hall, were used to accommodate soldiers, and the 4th battalion of Tyneside Scottish became associated with the church; and finally over 100 members, or the children of members, joined the forces or became associated with them as a result of their occupations, in particular merchant seamen. As the work for the ladies in providing food for servicemen housed in the hall, and for clothing and other support for servicemen here and abroad increased, and the community was asked to provide more financially, both the number of young active men in the congregation and the income they provided, decreased (MM January 1915); the men who joined up were usually paid less when in the forces than in their professions here. Money below is all quoted in the LSD currency of the time – pounds, shillings (5p) and pence (0.42p): £1 in WWI prices is equivalent to approximately £100 in 2015.

Comfort for our soldiers

After some initial questioning about where things should be done locally or left to the authorities', the conclusion was reached that there was 'not only room but urgent need for our work. It is clear that under the extraordinary circumstances of demand and wastage, the War Office cannot either efficiently equip all our soldiers or maintain them in comfortable garments (MM Sept14).' In fact consciences were further eased by the opportunity to employ seamstresses and dressmakers who had been put out of work by the emergency, and to employ them making shirts. Money had been raised to buy material and this was being cut out on Wednesdays, and the material could either be taken home to sew up or others employed to make up the shirts. In the week previous to the Magazine being issued, 80 shirts had been cut out and 60 of these had been made up by unemployed seamstresses. A letter is quoted from the commander of the 5th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (NF) thanking the ladies profusely for the garments received and telling of how his officers has sent out a

circular letter to their friends and families recounting ‘how much my men are in need of shirts, &c. A great number [of the men] are making great sacrifices in the time of National emergency, and as they are recruited from a class who are at any time none too well off, you will readily understand that the underclothing they possess is not of the warmest and best quality.’ By the next month (October 23) 213 shirts and 132 pairs of socks plus sundry other items had been sent to:

5th Battalion NF at Gosforth Park

8th Battalion NF at Belton Park, Grantham

National Reservists – guarding shipyards etc. on the Tyne

Recruits at the [Fenham] Barracks

British Red Cross Society

Mine-sweeping trawlers

Wounded and sick soldiers at the Armstrong College Hospital [later 1st Northern General Hospital]

Military Hospital at the Gosforth Cripples’ Home

The shirts were still being made up by unemployed sempstresses and dressmakers and though nothing is said of how they were paid, £47 had been raised to buy flannel and wool, of which £45 had been spent and more cash was being sought, there was even a weekly subscription system in place (MM November 1914). By the end of the year (MM January 1915) 389 shirts and vests, 224 pairs of socks 104 pairs of mittens and 56 other items had been made and in addition to the £67 collected another £30 was promised, and the effect of all this was considered to be having a beneficial effect on the congregation as well as on those who received the help. As the war progressed there is less mention of making clothes, presumably as the forces’ own supplies improved, but the provision of parcels for the 75 serving men from Liverpool Street Mission continued (MM May 1916). This was in a poor area of Newcastle just south of St Thomas’ Crescent and opening at one end onto Percy St. next to the Percy Arms. The recipients were clearly delighted that they were being remembered by the people in the ‘old country’ and the Young Ladies of the church continued collecting so as to send comforts to the soldiers. The Young Ladies’ Work Party had their Annual Sale for Liverpool Street Mission on April 4th 1916 (MM April 1916) at which they had a Soldiers’ Comforts stall. ‘The soldier seems to be able to get through a marvellous number of socks in a comparatively short time, and these socks are made and to be sold that they may be sent to the 5th Northumberlands, whose officers have been asking us for such gifts.’



Liverpool St. Mission c.1912
Newcastle Libraries 230242

In addition to making clothes, the church hall was used from time to time to accommodate soldiers, and the first group were 48 Northumberland Fusiliers reservists who were lodging in the hall from 15-19 September 1914 and being provided with breakfast and supper [dinner]. The bedding had been provided by the congregation, and ‘ladies of the committees’ fed the men at 9am and 8 pm. There was a concert in the evening to which the men contributed songs and recitations. ‘The conduct of the men was excellent. Many were long service men, some having gone through the South African campaign [The Boer War 1898-1902] and altogether they were a fine set.’ The men were clearly appreciative of the provisions and this was made abundantly clear the next month when a letter was received from an NCO ‘In the opening of your church hall to shelter men who have responded to their country’s call, you are, I believe, showing a real Christian spirit and such deserves to prosper ... I would have written sooner, but we have been staying in a cattle pen since we came here, and have only now got into a decent cabin on the river bank (MM November14).’ ‘Owing to a new Army order our hall is not at present

occupied' (MM October 1914) but by December (MM January 1915) there were 120 men from the Royal Garrison Artillery billeted in the hall. The church members were still involved with these men and even the minister David Fyffe was turning up. There were clearly some surprises for these helpers and the experience of all was widened. On Monday evenings there was a concert whose programme was organised, 4 members of the congregation drawing on musical items and to this the soldiers added their own contributions. The minister noted 'Only one thing in the young soldier baffles me: he has a penchant for singing about someone else who runs off with his best girl' (MM January 1915). He admits being defeated by the psychology of this. On these nights refreshments were also provided and 'devotees of "My Lady Nicotine" are abundantly supplied with the "fragrant weed"'. The ladies of the church also provided an 'ample supply of Christmas puddings' on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. These men remained in the hall until mid April when a final concert was held. In addition to the music there were speeches and the minister expressed 'our gratification at the behaviour of the men' (one might read into this the words 'relief at the behaviour'), and Major Stubbs replied on behalf of the Battery and 'offered his own thanks and that of the men for the kindness of the members of Jesmond Church ...' (MM May 1915). There had been a great deal of changeover of men during the winter but nevertheless this must have been a memorable evening for 'it was the homecoming to every one of us of the feeling of war in our midst. It is curious that when we were told in the meeting that a Zeppelin was hovering over our heads, we had no sense of fright.' As the war progressed it appears that the need for the hall for accommodation decreased for there is less or no mention of it. This Zeppelin had in fact been on a fire bomb mission over Wallsend on 14 April (TWMS).

The first of the 'New Army' were present in the church in October 1914 when the first four pews were filled by soldiers and officers of the 'Presbyterian' contingent of the Newcastle (Commercial) Battalion at the Harvest Thanksgiving (MM November 14). This was followed by a National Day of Intercession on 3 January 1915 in which Jesmond took part, and on this occasion 250 men plus officers of the Tyneside Scottish Brigade were present in the church (MM February 1915). By the next year (MM January 1916) there were 250 from the Volunteer Training Corps parading with their officers in the church on 5 December 1915. This group were the Great War's version of the Home Guard and in the classic 'Dad's Army' model were past military age or unable to serve in the forces for other reasons but had 'voluntarily taken upon themselves ... to defend our hearths and homes in case of an invasion.'

The old church premises at Carloliol Street which had recently been a store were reopened and used as a rendezvous for soldiers and sailors by the YMCA. They also had erected a tent in the training headquarters of the Newcastle Commercial Battalion training camp at Alnwick and a recruit to that regiment from the church described it as a 'boon and blessing' (MM January 1915). By this point the same source states that the YMCA had opened 600 centres throughout the country.

The congregation's generosity extended outside their usual and Forces-related giving to having raised £38 4s 0d for the Belgian Relief Fund (MM November 14) and £46 4s 8d towards the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund (MM January 1915).

Rev G Winter Wilson (MM April 1915) was operating as the Free Churches Chaplain at both the Infirmary (RVI) and at Armstrong College Hospital (1st Northern General Hospital). He writes noting that Jesmond provided the Free Church Council annually with £3 3s. and it is noted that "there are quite a large number of people at the Free Church Council and can see nothing good in either its ways or its work." He goes on to tell how he had been able to provide a list of 'Nonconformist soldiers admitted to the hospital' and that this had been very helpful to the Ministers visiting the College. He notes that 'by a visit to the sick and wounded soldiers the grim truth is forced upon us that "life and death struggle between the mightiest nations of the earth" is being waged.' In addition to visiting the hospital, a library of 200 volumes had been created for the men and through the YMCA he had been supplied 8000 sheets of stationery and envelopes for them to write letters. Further help to hospitals

and the men in them came from the Harvest Thanksgiving in 1915 when the produce and money collected were split between 1st Northern General Hospital [Armstrong College], Royal [Victoria] Infirmary and the Northumberland War Hospital for wounded soldiers (MM November 1915). There were 17 VAD Hospitals in Northumberland and on a proximity base the most likely one was the 11th which was in 6 Kensington Terrace within the modern campus of Newcastle University (http://www.donmouth.co.uk/local_history/VAD/VAD_hospitals.html). Financial help also came from the collection of £43 5s 5d for the Hospital Sunday Fund (MM December 1915).

A more official form of chaplain came with the leave of absence being granted to Rev R Flint of Benwell church ‘in order that he might accept a commission as chaplain to the new 63rd Northumbrian Division.’ (MM April 1916).

At the end of the year a decision taken earlier came into effect and the Minister wrote in the Monthly Magazine (December 1915) to all the soldiers and sailors from the church, who were all to be sent the Monthly Magazine from then forward ; he was to be their ‘chaplain’. Thereafter the Monthly Magazines contained a column written by the Minister and which contained a mixture of exhortations, news from the church and news of men home on leave or recovering from wounds or sickness (MM May 1916). There was a remarkable, for the time, turn of humorous comments in the section written for the soldiers and sailors, for in February 1916 (MM March 1916) the minister writes in reply to numerous letters from the front describing the large population of rats in the trenches. ‘A good lady to whom I mentioned this asked me to tell you what to do with those “insects”. She said that if you would take turpentine (she did not say how you were to get it), and rub it on the bodies of the rats (she did not say how you were to catch them), and then these rats would go and rub their neighbours (she did not say anything about the morality of that proceeding) and these neighbours would all die.’

During July and August 1916 the minister, David Fyffe, was in France at a location not far behind the front during the Battle of the Somme. Although safe from the guns he experienced the rats, ants and mosquitos that plagued the men in the trenches. He saw in the sky above the aerial fights “like a game of battledore and shuttlecock played by the angels for their amusement around the sun.” His role during this time was with the YMCA who provided rest and recuperation for troops rotated back from the front as part of a continuing cycle. He noted the high state the men were in on their return and how they returned to normality helped by the range of activities provided. His own activities obviously included holding services. The men selected the hymns; he notes how they entered into the singing of Kipling’s ‘lest we forget’. He felt that the YMCA provided very good value to the war effort and that their current appeal for £50000 was for money that would be well spent in supporting the soldiers (MM October 1916).

Members who served in the forces, nursing and in the Merchant Navy.

The men and women of the church were quick to respond to the call to arms in 1914. Those in the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets were by force of events on the front line from the outset due to the activity of enemy U-boats, surface raiders and minelayers. In the October Monthly Magazine the list was published of those who had joined the army. It is not clear when this magazine was printed but it must have been after 27 September. By this date 18 had enlisted of whom 5, identified in bold, would not survive:

Anderson, Thomas Tait, 92 Ancrum St., Spital Tongues.	
Bell, George B. Tankerville Tce.	13 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Berlin, Edward, 49 Osborne Ave.	5 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Conn, W H. 6 Gallalaw Tce, Gosforth	6 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Dickson, Alex. 76 Fern Ave.	RE
Foster, Aln Lily Ave.	Liverpool Scottish
Graham, Percy G. 3 Roseberry Cres.	16 th Northumberland Fusiliers

McChlery, W. 1 Bellegrove West	8 th Northumberland Fusiliers
McIntosh, W. Tarlair, Moorside	Tyneside Scottish
Noble, W. West Denton Hall	6 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Pritchard, R. 42 Queen's Road	Tyneside Irish
Simon, W. G. 8 Victoria Cres.	16 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Simon, T. S. 8 Victoria Cres.	9 th Shropshire Light Infantry
Stephens, C. A. 15 Tankerville Tce.	Royal Naval Division
Stephens, Lindsay Nelson 15 Tankerville Tce.	9 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Watt, John 37 Sunbury Ave.	16 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Wotherspoon, Archibald 13 Tosson Tce.	

A supplementary list was published (MM May 1915) by which time 45 men had enlisted from the church. The members who had enlisted since the end of September were:

Anderson, David D. 25 Claremont Rd	Northern Cyclists Btn
Andrews, David jun. 33 Osborne Rd	
Balfour, David R. West Ave. Gosforth	
Ballantine, James 28 Ellison Pl.	DLI
Black, Ashton 22 Park Ave. Whitley Bay	16 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Black, John 22 Park Ave. Whitley Bay	Middlesex Regiment
Brooks, Norman 45 Highbury	19 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Brown, Cruickshank 28 Ellison Pl.	16 th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers
Crawford, Thomas 10 Haldane Tce.	RE (Tyne Electric)
Edgar, J. H. 3 Devonshire Pl.	9 th DLI
Feggetter, W. S. 9 Dilston Tce. Gosforth	Transport Service
Girling, H. A. 60 Highbury	The Royal Scots
Girling, W. S. 60 Highbury	The Royal Scots
Graham, Leslie 33 Osborne Rd.	ASC Northumberland Division
Hall, Percy G. 4 Burdon Tce.	Tyneside Scottish
Herries, William 20 Highbury	3 rd Tyneside Scottish
Hutchison, F. G. 74 Osborne Rd.	5 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Maller, H. C. 15 Osborne Rd.	8 th Btn Canadian Contingent
Marshall, J. W. 53 Larkspur Tce.	RFA Ferol
Mitchell, William 49 Fairfield Rd.	
Muir, L. 11 Queen's Tce.	RAMC
Petrie, W. A. 13 Tosson Tce.	
Pittendreigh, James 165 Osborne Rd.	RNR
Pittendreigh, John 165 Osborne Rd.	RNR
Ramsay, Bruce 131 Osborne Rd.	6 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Riddle, J. H. 149 Osborne Rd.	RAMC
Towers, G. E. London	6 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Young, Fred D. 3 Osborne Villas	RGA

The church also ran a mission in Liverpool Street and from here too 'men have joined the colours in considerable numbers and many farewells have been said. Naturally this has added to Miss Robson's responsibilities, but she reports that never has the Mission been so helpful to those resident in the district as now' (MM January 1915). By the end of March (MM April 1915) over 100 men associated with the Mission had volunteered and some had been killed; unfortunately there are as yet no details of who they were.

By October (MM November 1915) another 13 men had enlisted, though not all the lists available agree on the spelling or even the names.

Ballantyne, J. A.	DLI
Dick, Martin F.	King Edwards Horse
Dryburgh, William E.	
Johnstone, J. Tyrer	RAMC
McLean, Harold	French Red Cross Society
Lawrence, W. G.	RN
Price, Harold	Tyneside Irish
Pritchard, D. B.	Cumberland Battery RFA
Roberts, Alan	RE Northumbrian
Watson, Thomas	Tyne Electrical Engineers
Wilson, Robert A.	
Young, Gordon	6 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Young, David	London Rifle Brigade

Though the men above were in training for a world that would be very different from Jesmond, life, as they say, had to go on and Lieutenant Alan Roberts married Constance the fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs Herries, whose son was serving in the Tyneside Scottish , on 27th December 1915 (MM January 1916).

The minister by March 1916 (MM April 1916) had a concern on his mind as, from the volunteering of the first years of war, the call up was now in operation and ‘One or two married men in the Congregation will almost immediately be called up as their class is next in order. What the War Office is going to do with the married men is a very thorny problem, but everyone can see how heavy their responsibilities are.’ As far as I can ascertain, to the War Office a soldier was a soldier!

It was May 1916 (MM June 1916) when the next list of men and women serving in the forces was published and this one had expanded substantially, by 15, and had lost a few through death on the battlefield.

Carlile, Thomas A.	
Dickson, James A.	Queen’s Westminster Rifles
Dickson, Robert A. M.	
Feggetter, John H.	15 th Northumberland Fusiliers
Fife, Frank G.	
Graham, J. Leslie	ASC
Graham, Sidney	Royal Garrison Artillery
Low, Ernest	ASC
Mason, John H.	RAMC
Lawrence, W.G.	RN
Pritchard, R.	Tyneside Irish
Pritchard, W.A.	
Rutherford, George L.	Royal Garrison Artillery
Scott, T. D.	Royal Fusiliers
Young, Thomas D.	

The first fatality from the Jesmond congregation was to be in April 1915 when Lt. William Noble was killed at the Battle of St Julien. He was to be the first of many. That same month the Synod of the Presbyterian Church had been greeted by ‘The disasters at the front during the previous week [which] had brought home to our city and district with startling vividness the frightful hideousness of war.

Many local homes were sorrowing for their dead or wounded, and in some there was the agony of suspense. Members who came from a distance learned that they had come to a sadly stricken city and scarcely had the Synod assembled when it became known that the Rev. Alexander Ramsay, our esteemed Minister at Highgate, had lost his son on the battlefield (MM June 1915).’ The Synod were referring to the Battle of St Julien, part of the second Battle of Ypres. ‘ [On the 25th April] the York and Durham Brigade units of the Northumberland Division counter-attacked [to recapture St Julien], failed to secure their objectives but established a new line closer to the village. On 26 April the Northumberland Brigade attacked again and gained a foothold in the village but were forced back with the loss of more than 1,940 casualties (Wiki). It was in this battle that gas was used for the first time against Empire troops but it is not clear if the Northumbrians were gassed. During these events Lt. Noble was killed and his family were to find out later the grim truth that his body had not been recovered and he had no known grave. This was often to be the situation when an attack was unsuccessful and the dead and injured lay in No Man’s Land or on enemy territory.

Occasional deaths are reported for the next year but in the September Monthly Magazine (1916) there are five deaths, all from the battle of the Somme; and this list is itself not complete for both of the Tytler brothers are missing. This must have been one of the worst months in the church’s history, though it was mirrored up and down the country in ‘Pals’ battalions where an even larger proportion of the people came from a few streets. Jesmond suffered greatly in this case because, of those from the church, a high proportion were officers, and snipers were ordered to “pick them off”. In this case four of the five killed were officers. Also the Tyneside Scottish had been allocated the village of La Boisselle for their attack and, despite the presence of two vast mines to destroy the German forward positions, the four battalions were slaughtered and all their senior officers, including all four battalion commanders, were killed (TS).

Details of those who served

Below is an alphabetic list of all those know to have served in the Great War and who were associated with the Church based generally on the names used in RoH, ranks are given where certain. Mostly they were members or the children of members who may have been considered too young to join but not to serve! Some, as a result, never had the chance to join. In addition, there are a number who do not appear in the Communicants’ Roll (CR) and have been identified by reference in the Monthly Magazine. Again, some of these may, perforce, have not had the chance to join but may have attended. The information, particularly on those who were killed comes from Jesmond Presbyterian Church 1914-18, and others from the Roll of Honour in the same volume plus those mentioned in the MM. This information has been supplemented by the CR, though this volume is parsimonious with Christian names and addresses. There are naturally errors and inconsistencies between these sources. To them have been added details from the 1911 census which additionally gives household details of families and ages but suffers from handwriting legibility. There are also military records though these are very scanty due to a major fire during the Second World War. Very few of the attestations made when men joined have survived and the majority of the details are of awards of medals, which also confirm the man’s name, rank and number as well as his unit. One of the greatest difficulties is that there are many men with similar or identical names and unless the unit in which they served is known it is impossible to identify them securely. A few other sources have been used occasionally and are detailed in the text. Special attention is drawn to the three women who served as nurses in the VAD and the man who was a Red Cross ambulance driver in France.

Mary F. Allan was appointed as Matron of the Military First Aid Hospital at Arnot Hill Nottingham in March 1915 (MM April 1915). Mary would appear to have been a nurse before the outbreak of war to have reached this position at such an early date. She is not shown on the Roll of Honour probably because she served in Britain. This omission is somewhat surprising.

Thomas Tait Anderson of 92 Ancrum St., Spital Tongues is on RoH as J. Anderson.

W. D. Anderson (probably David Dunbar) of 25 Claremont Rd served in Northern Cyclists Battalion and appears on the medal roll as 69401 in the Worcestershire Regiment and had before the war lived at home with his parents. He was 14 in 1911. Married Ann Lilian marshal with whom he had 4 children. This information and photo provided by his grandson Marc Wigham.



David Andrew Junior of 33 Osborne Road. Neither his father David nor he were at their home for the census though David senior, according to the church roll, died in 1918. Mary D. Andrew of the same address on the CR shown is not on the census return either! There is a Surgeon Lieutenant shown in 1948 in Royal Navy lists with this name and if he were at sea this would explain his absence from the census. Numerous people with the name David Andrew served and cannot be distinguished.

David R. Balfour of West Avenue Gosforth. Is this David Ross Balfour of Ravensbourne Gosforth? A David Ross Balfour was gazetted on 28 January 1915 (LG) as 2nd Lt in the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers. Someone with an identical name served in the RE (IWM) and another in the RFC (airhistory.org.uk).

Corporal **James Ballantyne**, the son of Mr and Mrs James Ballantyne of 94 Manor House Road was a draper in Newcastle. He enlisted in the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Commercial Battalion 16/393) and went overseas in November 1915. He was based opposite Thiepval village in January in 1916 and was involved in rescuing a number of men who had been buried following a bombardment by a trench mortar nicknamed 'the oil drum' (16th NF). His unit was involved in the attack on Thiepval on 1st July 1916 and he was seen returning to the Dressing Station suffering from wounds but was not seen again. He was reported as 'missing in action'. He was 22 (JPC).

N. Ballantyne This may be Thomas Norman Ballantyne of 28 Osborne Road who in 1911 was a 20 year old chartered accountant's articled clerk and lived with his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth. He is not on the CR. There is no record of his name in military records.

Lieutenant **James Ian Ballantyne** of 28 Ellison Pl. was a solicitor in Newcastle, having been educated at Dame Allan's School. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Ballantyne. He entered the army in December 1914 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He went overseas in March 1917 and was transferred to the 20th DLI which battalion he joined on the 26th with a group of other officers. He was wounded in the head in action at Messines though there is no record in the War Diary. The battalion attacked near the St Eloi mine and took all its objectives with relatively light casualties, 3 officers and 102 other ranks. They remained in the front line until 12 June and then were at Mont des Cats in the first half of July but subsequently returned to the front line and took part in the opening day of the battle of Passchendaele. The battalion was positioned by the Klein Zillebeke road about 2 km south east of Ypres and suffered heavy casualties, many due to snipers, losing 9 officers and 244 other ranks. He was posted as missing presumed killed on 1 August 1917 and left a widow, Ruth at 74 Hazeldene Terrace, Middlesborough; he was 28 at the time of the death. His cousin was Corporal James Ballantyne (JPC) see above. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

W. F. Barr is on the CR but has no address and is not on the 1911 census and leaves Jesmond in 1921.

George B. Bell of Tankerville Tce. Shown also as Tankerville House and later at Woodbine Terrace. Served in the 13th Northumberland Fusiliers. Marian W. Bell lived at the same addresses.

Edward Berlin lived with his mother Isabella and siblings at 49 Osborne Avenue where he was a marine engineering student. He was brought home from the front in April 1916 to help in munitions work here (MM May 1916). This may be Private Edward Heatley Berlin who served in the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers (5/2399) went to France on 20 April 1915 and was awarded the 1914/15 Star as well as the War and Victory medals.

Second Lieutenant **James Ashton Black** was the son of Mr and Mrs James Black of 22 Park Avenue, Whitley Bay. He was educated at Newcastle Modern School and at the outbreak of the war was a clerk in a Shipbroker and Coal Exporter's office on the Quayside. He enlisted in August 1914 with the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Commercial battalion) as a private. He went to France in November 1915 and took part in the battle of the Somme commencing 1st July 1916; he was slightly injured in the course of this fighting. He was subsequently gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant and posted to the 3rd DLI but attached to the 2nd DLI with which battalion he took part in two engagements the latter being on 21st March 1918 on which date he was reported missing in the Cambrai district. After his death his commanding officer wrote home recommending his bravery and absolute reliability. There were conflicting rumours concerning the events around his disappearance and death. (This appears to have been at the outbreak of the Kaiserschlacht) (JPC). His brother applied for his medals, the 1914/15 star and war and victory medals, retrospectively.

Thomas Porteous Black whose father had died in Aberdeen in 1914 had attended the church while his parents, who were members, were living in Newcastle. His father was traffic superintendent of the Caledonian Railway in the city before being transferred to Aberdeen. Thomas attended Darlington Grammar School and graduated BA with honours from Durham University in 1898 and after a visit to the East including the Dardanelles he returned and graduated MA and BSc from Durham. He carried out research and was awarded a PhD from Strasbourg University in 1905. His thesis appears to have been published that year. A facsimile is available from Amazon (Kessinger 2010).



In 1907 he became an assistant in physics at University College, Nottingham and he became Registrar in 1911 (CWGC). He volunteered at the outbreak of war and joined the 9th Battalion Sherwood Foresters and rose to the rank of captain. He went with them to Gallipoli and was killed there between 7th and 11th August 1915 (MM October 1915) though the CWGC has it as 9th; he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. He was 37.

Sergeant **Norman Brooks** of 45 Highbury joined the 19th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers (19/607) and was entitled to the war and victory medals.

Cruickshank Brown of 28 Ellison Place joined the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers. This is probably William Cruickshank Brown who served as first private and then corporal as 16/441 in the said regiment and was awarded the 1914/15 star war and victory medals. He was wounded at Thiepval on 1st July serving in No 7 platoon, his officer was

killed (16th NF).

Hugh Brown Junior lived at 24 Gowan Terrace with his parents, brother and sister. He was 30 and a salesman and clerk, presumably to his father and elder brother who were cabinet makers.

Lieutenant **Thomas Alexander Carlile** 21 Woodbine Avenue is crossed off the 1911 census by his father. He could only be some 12 or 13 years unless he is a brother rather than son. He served with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers at first but then with the 2/7 Rajputs and finally with the 1st Machine Gun Regiment and lived after the war at Moorside, Ryton. He was in France in March 1917.

Stuart Carr lived with his brother Ralph at Thornleigh, Clayton Road in an extensive household. He was still in Jesmond until 1929. He was an engineer's agent working in ship repairing.

J. B. Chater is shown in the church roll as John B. Chaytor of 4 Ingham Road.

R. W. Clark lived at 33 Lesbury Road.

Chief-Engineer **George Cockburn** was the son of the later Mr and Mrs Cockburn, who were founder members of the church. He was educated at Dame Allan's School and Rutherford College and at the outbreak of the war was Chief Engineer on a merchant vessel. At the time of his death he was chief Engineer of H M Transport Willintonia. He was drowned on 25th August when his ship was sunk by U-boat UC-27 in the Mediterranean 13 miles off Maratimo while carrying coal to the fleet. The captain reported that he lost his life attempting to save some of his shipmates. The Admiralty issued a Certificate testifying to his zeal and devotion to duty. He was specially mentioned in the London Gazette on 15th February 1919. He was 40 years old at the date of his death and is also commemorated on the Tower Hill memorial in London.

Private **William H. Conn** of 6 Gallalaw Terrace, Gosforth who joined the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers (6/2404) was on leave for a few days from France in January 1916 (MM February 1916). He had arrived in France on 20 April 1915 and so was awarded the 1914/15 star as well as the war and victory medals. He was promoted to corporal.

Thomas William Crawford is shown on the medal roll as a Lance Corporal (1455) and "was home from the front in April 1916" (MM May 1916), but then is commissioned on 1 June 1916 as a lieutenant and this is reported in October (MM November 1916). He was still in Jesmond in 1933. He lived initially at 10 Haldane Terrace and from 1937 at 38 Reid Park Road. He died on Boxing Day 1967.

Martin F. Dick was in King Edward's Horse and this could be Major, Acting Lieutenant Colonel, Martin Forster Dick who was awarded the 1914/15 star (disembarked in France 21 April 1915), war and victory medals. He was mentioned in dispatches 1 January 1916 (LG page 15).

Alexander Gillespie Dickson of 76 Fern Ave. was an electrical engineer and joined the Royal Engineers. He may be corporal Alexander G. Dickson (1112) awarded war and victory medals. His brothers J. M. and J. W. and sister E. G. are shown below.

Edith Grace Dickson was born in Newcastle in March 1887 and lived thereafter at 76 Fern Avenue Jesmond for the rest of her life, initially with her parents, James Murray and Agnes, and her brothers John Walter, James Murray, who also served and are shown below, and Alexander Gillespie (Census 1891, Census 1911). They had a live-in servant in 1891 but apparently not in 1911. Her father was a commercial traveller in the drapery trade who was born in Scotland but her mother was born in Newcastle. She has no occupation on the 1911 census. Edith served in the 24th General Hospital at Etaples near Boulogne (MM November 1915) from 19 October 1915 to 19 May 1917 as a nurse in the VAD of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and as a result was entitled to the 1914/5 Star and the War and Victory medals (WWISM). In October 1916 she was expected home

(MM November 1916). She continued to live in Jesmond in the same house after the War and is buried in St Andrew's Cemetery in Jesmond in 1971.

James Murray Dickson enlisted with the Queen's Westminster Rifles (London Regiment) (5101 and later 552155) and served from 23 June 1916 until 3 February 1919 and was still in Jesmond in the 1930s. He was a draper's assistant. He was awarded the war and victory medals.

John Walter Dickson of 54 Cavendish Place was still in Jesmond in the 1940s. He was a warehouseman.

Robert A. M. Dickson moved to Hexham in 1922.

William Ernest Dryburgh There is only one William E. Dryburgh on the army list and he joins the Army Cyclist corps as private (10508) and moves to the Labour Corps as a sergeant (276924). He was entitled to the 1914/15 star, war and victory medals and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal when in the 736th Area Employment Company of the Labour Corps for 'devotion'. He may have lived as a boarder in 28 Ellison Place on what is probably now the site of the University of Northumbria and was an apprentice draper.

James Robert Dunnett of 20 Devonshire Place who joined the Northumberland Fusiliers and "had been in Armstrong College (1st Northern General Hospital) but is now better and spending some days in a Convalescent Home" (MM November 1916). He was awarded the war and victory medals and emigrated to New Zealand in 1921. J.R. Dunnett is shown on the medal roll as 2nd Lt. but no battalion is given.

J. G. Dunnett this may be Private John George Dunnett (43890) who was in the Northumberland Fusiliers Labour Corps.

Lieutenant **John Hammond Edgar** of 3 Devonshire Place was born in Belfast and graduated with high honours at Campbell College and Queen's College in that city and also at the University of London. He graduated BA MA LLB and in the course of his career won many prizes and a valuable scholarship. He was called to the Irish bar in 1904 and in the following year to the English Bar. He joined the North East circuit and settled at Newcastle regularly attending the church. He was initiated into 1427 Percy Lodge, Masonic Hall, Maple street aged 33 and proceeded to be Passed and Raised. Shortly after the outbreak of war he joined the army and was gazetted as lieutenant on 13 November 1914 and posted to the 9th DLI. He went overseas in May 1915 as part of the 50th (Northumbrian) Division and was in heavy action within days of arriving in France. He was slightly wounded in a bomb explosion and was gassed on another occasion (JPC). He died of wounds received in action on 25 February 1916 within a few hours of returning to France from leave, being wounded in the head by shrapnel and was buried in Railway Dugouts Burial Ground near Villebeke. He had a literary turn of mind and had been much involved in literary societies and other church activities (MM March 1916). He is pictured in the Gateshead, Durham, England War Honours Scrapbook 1914-20 where he is J D Edgar. He was awarded the 1914/15 star, war and victory medals. An appreciation of him was printed by the Pen and Palette Club (Gateshead Scrapbook).

Lieutenant **John Halifax Feggetter** was the son of Mr and Mrs William Feggetter of 9 Dilston Terrace and his father was a member of the Session at the church. He himself was a teacher and treasurer of the church Sunday School. Born in 1895 he was educated at Rutherford College matriculating from there in second place on the list and entered Armstrong College in 1914 where he proceeded to the Honours Schools for English and Latin in 1915 and had before him a University career of great promise. After the outbreak of war he entered Durham University OTC and was gazetted as Second Lieutenant in the 15th Northumberland Fusiliers in January 1916 (MM February 1916) and later transferred to the 13th battalion Northumberland Fusiliers with which battalion he

went to France in June 1916. He was involved in the fighting at the battle of the Somme and was injured in the shoulder at Mametz Wood on 13th of July and invalided home where he was treated at the 4th London General Hospital and 'has now so far recovered that he is stationed at Hornsea, and is employed on light duty' (MM November 1916). He returned to his battalion in December 1916 as Signalling Officer. In April 1917 his work was so excellent and his courage and gallantry so inspiring particularly at the capture of Croissilles that he was recommended for the Military Cross which he later received. "For conspicuous good service between the period March 21st – September 21st 1917 especially for gallantry and devotion to duty on April 2nd near Croissilles, when by his skill and fearlessness he established telephonic communication between the front line and Battalion Headquarters within a few minutes of the capture of an important objective. At some point in his service he was sent out by his CO into No-Man's-Land at night to look for injured and brought in a large number of men. On 4th October 1917 at the battle of Broodseinde he fell a few hundred yards north west of the hamlet of Reutel and somewhere about a thousand yards east of Polygon Wood, Flanders." (The Northerner XVII April 1918) He was at the time Intelligence Officer of his battalion and he and his Colonel were killed. The battle was won by the Allies but at great cost to the Battalion. He was buried where he fell but the precise location is unknown. A brother officer wrote home 'it is a glorious end to a magnificent life, and in the sight of God life is not measured by length, but by worth.' He is commemorated at Tyne Cot cemetery and his family place an inscription to him on the family headstone in St Andrew's cemetery, Gosforth. There are also in addition to Jesmond, memorials to him in Gosforth, Rutherford College and Newcastle University (Armstrong College) where he is also on the Roll of Honour. In Jesmond URC there is a clerestory window of Abraham and Isaac with the inscription "In memory of John Feggetter M.C., who died at Passchendaele."

James Young Feggetter was born about 1900 and lived with the large clan of Feggetters at 9 Dilston Terrace Gosforth but there is no record of his service. He died in May 1972 (MM).

Captain **William Young Feggetter** served in the Merchant Navy and was awarded the medals for this service in the Great War. His steamer was sunk by submarine and he was rescued and moved to another ship (Morpeth Herald 4 August 1916). He was still on the Navy List as an assessor for formal investigations into shipping casualties in 1948.

Frank G. Fife is not shown on the RoH but is included in those serving in the MM for 1916. He may have married Mary Weddel Johnstone (CR) and almost certainly Sub-lieutenant Fife of Tyneside Division Headquarters HMS Calliope. He remained on the Navy List until 1949.

Lieutenant **Al[la]n [M] Fo[r]ster** lived at Lily Avenue or, in 1911, at 9 Albemarle Avenue where he was a lodger and worked as a clerk in a coal exporter's office. He was born in 1890 in Liverpool and is said to have joined the Liverpool Scottish and was home on leave from the front in April 1916 (MM May 1916). His name appears to have many variants and he remained in the area until September 1919. He may be Allan Murray Forster who joined the King's Liverpool Regiment and as a private (3837) served in France from 1 November 1914 and claimed the 1914 star as well as the war and victory medals.

Richard Fortune is not a common name and the only likely candidate lived at 76 Falmouth Road Heaton in 1911. The CR gives neither him nor his wife an address and they left in 1923. The only Richard on the military record who fits reasonably is in the Royal Naval Reserve (Tyne) Z/10676.

Lieutenant **H Angus Girling** of 60 Highbury attested with the West Yorkshire regiment but then moved to The Royal Scots and was awarded the war and victory medals.

W Graham Girling also of 60 Highbury joined the 21st London Regiment as a private but then moved to the Royal Scots where he was promoted to Lieutenant and the acting captain. He was also awarded the war and victory medals.

Albert Sidney Graham is the first of three brothers, with B. S. L. and P. G., who served. He lived at 45 Coniston Avenue West Jesmond and attested to join the Royal Garrison Artillery (2998) on 9 May 1916 having been called up. He was an insurance broker and had married Jean McGregor in 1913. He had surgery and was in October progressing successfully in a Convalescent Home in Newcastle (MM November 1916).

Benjamin Selby L. Graham was the youngest brother and was born in 1897. He 'has joined the Scottish Horse, is currently at Dunkeld' (MM February 1916) as trooper (152915) and was awarded the war and victory medals.

John Leslie Graham of 33 Osborne Road joined the Army Service Corps, Northumberland Division.

Captain **Percy George Graham** of 3 Roseberry Cres. joined the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers. He and his brothers had been major figures in the Boys Brigade at the church. He also taught in the Sunday school (at the Mission?). He was also a keen sportsman and for 7 years held the Newcastle Corporation Cup and was an international water polo player. His parents were Mr and Mrs J C Graham the former being the Session Clerk of the church. He attended Rutherford College and, after training, qualified as an architect. At the outbreak of war he entered the 16th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers as a private but his ability and bearing were such that he was singled out for a commission. He went overseas on 20th November 1915 and was frequently involved at the front line where he was wounded. He was home on leave with the interesting comment that he 'was looking so well'! (MM April 1916) but was killed by machine gun fire 'almost as soon as he got over the top' (16th NF) on the first day of the Somme, 1st July 1916 (MM September 1916) leading B Company of his battalion (JPC); he was 27. He is pictured with his brother officers in the Battalion History (16th NF).

J. D. Hall is not on the CR and cannot be found in the 1911 census or military records.

Second-lieutenant **Percy George Hall** who was the son of James R. and the late Margaret I. Hall of 44 Burdon Terrace was killed in action on 29th June 1916. He was the second son of James R. Hall to be killed; his father was the honorary secretary of Tyneside Scottish Brigade Committee 'and one who has done Herculean work in the raising of the local Battalions'. A former pupil of Royal Grammar School, Percy was only 23 (MM September 1916); on leaving school in 1909 he went on a voyage with the Cadet School ship Port Jackson to Australia. On returning to Britain he decided on a life at sea and served his apprenticeship on deep sea sailing ships on the 'Colonial and Pacific trades'. In August 1914 he was on a voyage to Australia and his vessel narrowly avoided destruction by a German commerce raider. He returned in early 1915 and took a commission in the 4th Battalion Tyneside Scottish. During training he was selected for a course at the Staff Collage at Camberley before proceeding with his battalion to France in January 1916 where he took part in trench raids and fighting in the early months of that year. Prior to the opening of the Battle of the Somme the Tyneside Scottish were at la Boisselle and it was realised that the enemy barbed wire entanglements in front of their lines had not been cut by the bombardment owing to the formation of the ground so on June 29th he went out with a support party protecting engineers tasked with the wire's destruction. Hall had volunteered for this along with 20 men of his platoon in spite of the German troops having been roused by an earlier large scale raid by the Tyneside Scottish. At midnight he was killed by a sniper while in No Man's Land; his sergeant took charge of the party and was awarded the DCM. He was buried near la Boisselle. His CO wrote noting that Hall's platoon had been selected to lead the Tyneside Scottish attack on 1st July as 'he knew that nothing but a rifle bullet would stop Lieut. Hall

and his men would follow him anywhere.' He is also commemorated on the Royal Grammar monument and Roll of Honour.

R. B. Hall is not on the CR or the 1911 census and cannot be identified on the military records.

Fred Herries was the younger brother of William, born in 1894 and after school at Allan's Endowed (Dame Allan's?) he followed his father into the stationer and bookseller's business before 1911 (C). He was a successful athlete winning many cups and medals. He joined the Border Regiment in 1916 as 2nd Lt. but was attached to the 10th Battalion DLI, joining them at St Omer with a group of other officers from the Border Regiment on 26th October 1917. He was with them at Passchendaele and was dangerously wounded by shellfire at Spree Farm by the Goudburg Spur on 18th Dec 1917 just north of the site of the destroyed village of Passchendaele. He died the following day at Poperinghe and was buried in Nine Elms Cemetery. He had only been in the trenches since the 9th December. His OC noted that he had on one occasion been involved in a single handed combat with three Germans and on another under the Red Cross he had entered the enemy trench to bring back a wounded British soldier. In addition to Jesmond he is remembered on the monument at Dame Allan's School.

Major **William Mills Herries** was the oldest son of Andrew Hogg Herries and Isabella Fortune Herries (nee Mills). Andrew was born and brought up in Langholm in Dumfriesshire, where his father had a grocery business with a bakery attached. Andrew moved to Jesmond in 1880 to set up a drapery business and married his wife Isabella in 1882. She was the daughter of a dealer in brass and was from Brandling Village (Dave Wright personal communication). They lived at 20 Highbury in 1911. The father was then a stationer with his own business and employed his three older daughters and his son Fred (see above). After leaving Dame Allan's School, William, however, was a bank clerk (C1911). They had a live-in servant in 1911. The father in 1901 is listed as a draper/stationer and living at 16 Highbury (C). At this time the sister and sister in law of the father lived with them and they appear to have also occupied 15 Highbury where two servants appear on the census. In 1891 (C) this extensive household lived at 46 Holly Avenue where they are joined by two further sisters while the two referred to earlier are described as dressmakers and the father as a dressmaker, draper and newsagent. It is a large and complex ménage. William joined the Northumberland Fusiliers and is listed as being in the 3rd Tyneside Scottish as a major, he was promoted in summer 1916 (MM September 1916), and was entitled to the War and Victory medals. In the attack to the south of La Boisselle he and his men were pinned down by intense German fire. He organised a machine gun (probably a Lewis gun) which produced effective fire against the enemy but progressively ran out of men and ammunition and there were no reinforcements reached him as his force had attacked through the remains of the 21st battalion. His men advanced through the enemy positions and got close to Contalmaison but were progressively pushed back by the enemy. He was one of the few officers to survive the day apparently uninjured. His account is quoted extensively in Stewart and Sheen (1999). He appears to have been based at the depot in Le Havre in 1917. He died in Horsham in West Sussex in June 1982.

Lieutenant **Frederick George Hutchison** of 74 Osborne Road joined the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers and was awarded the war and victory medals. The CR suggests he was at 131 Osborne Road and moved to Tynemouth in 1931.

John Tyrer Johnson not on RoH but believed to have served in the RAMC No 21345 as private and entitled to War and Victory medals. He succeeded his parents at 16 Gowan Terrace but was not there in 1911. There was someone of the same name born 1878 who studied medicine at Armstrong College (Durham University Calendar 1896) and who appears to have been commissioned into the RAMC in 1900 and risen to Colonel 1922. Were there two generations?

Lawrence, W. G. Said to be in the Royal Navy (MM) is not on the RoH and cannot be found in the CR, 1911 Census or military records.

Driver **Ernest George Lowe** from the Army Service Corps (T4/088960) was congratulated on his marriage on April 26th at Edmundbyers church to Annie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Rowland of Riding Mill (MM May 1916). He was attached to the Horse Transport Section (MM February 1916). Jane Wilkie Lowe of 35 Holly Avenue was the mother of Ernest and William Lowe but it is not entirely certain if these are the two men detailed here and below. Both Mr and Mrs Lowe were members and Mrs Lowe survived until 1980 at Jesmond. Ernest is probably (T4/88960) and awarded the war and victory medals.

Signalman **William Robert Lowe** of the RNVR was killed on 24th February 1917 when a mine destroyed HMS Thalia (yacht Verona) in the North Sea. He was the son of the late Mr John Wardlaw and Mrs Lowe and was educated at Allan's Endowed School and in civilian life was a fully qualified chartered Accountant. He entered HM service on 1st March 1916 being enrolled in the Tyneside Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He trained as a signalman (TynesideZ/9579) and joined the Thalia in December 1916. He was 31. He is commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial. His age at death agrees with that of William Lowe of 35 Holly Avenue from the 1911 census.

William A. Lyons of 29 Cavendish Road joined the church in October 1917 and left in March 1930.

H. Macdonald is not on the CR nor is he in the 1911 census and he cannot be identified in the military records.

Private **H. C. Maller** of 15 Osborne Rd. served with the 8th Battalion Canadian Contingent (21951) between 2 April 1915 and 23 January 1918 and received the war and victory medals and 1914/15 star.

J. A. [W?] Marshall of 53 Larkspur Terrace served on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary oiler *Ferol*. This ship was a 1000 ton oil tanker built for the Royal Navy in Devonport in 1914 and served throughout the war refuelling warships as far north as Scapa Flow. She was fitted with early Swedish diesel engines which gave immense trouble. She was sold after the war and was sunk by air attack off Ireland in December 1940 (<http://www.historicalrfa.org/rfa-ferol-ship-information>)

Roy Maudy Marshall 53 Larkspur terrace the son of Ralph and Hannah. It has not been possible to identify the unit in which he served.

John H. Mason served in the RAMC but it has not been possible to distinguish him from many other with similar names.

William Eaton McCherry of 1 Bellegrove West, who was born about 1895 was an accountant apprentice and joined the 8th Northumberland Fusiliers and later served in the 2nd both as 12184 and was entitled to the war and victory medals. He lived at 8 Bellegrove Terrace after the war and moved to Gosforth in 1940.

George Harold McLean was a driver with the British Committee of the French Red Cross Society between September 1915 and November 1918 and was awarded the war and victory medals. He lived at Rannoch Lodge, Lindisfarne Road and was a printer and stationer.

John Sutton McLean was the elder brother of George Harold and was also a stationer and printer and lived with him and their sister at Rannoch Lodge where their parents were incapacitated and there were two live-in nurses as well as three servants. He lived in Jesmond until 1975. A John Sutton McLean served in the Royal Flying Corps (6699690 IWM).

Captain **Menzies** was promoted to the rank of Major in January 1916 (MM February 1916). Not shown on RoH nor can he be found on the census or military records. The only Menzies on the CR is Dr Menzies of no given address who died in 1921 and his wife left the area in 1922.

Lieutenant **William McIntosh** died of wounds on 6th July 1916 in hospital in Rouen, the only son of Mrs McIntosh of Tarlair, Fenham; his late father had been an active member of the Session at the Church. He attended Newcastle Grammar School and Woodhouse Grove School. Although only 28 he had a successful career as head chartering clerk with R. J. Sutherland & Co. of Newcastle. He was a keen golfer and tennis player. He had enlisted in September 1914 as a private in the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers (Commercial battalion) but was gazetted as a second Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Tyneside Scottish with which battalion he went abroad in January 1916. After seeing action in various parts of the fighting line the Tyneside Scottish he was ordered to take position in the front line opposite La Boiselle and to lead the army in that part of the Allied line in the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. Lieutenant McIntosh was seriously wounded leading his platoon in the attack and he was transferred to hospital in Rouen where he is buried.

George Edward S. Middlemass. What follows is somewhat speculative. Catherine M. Middlemass appears on the CR in 1916 and George in October 1918. It has not been possible to identify the unit in which George served. There is no record of a Middlemass with either name in Jesmond in 1911 but in the census there is a 16 year old Catherine Macdonald Middlemass with a 13 year brother George S. Middlemass living in Workington. It is suggested that Catherine moved to Jesmond and that after enlisting George followed her. After the war he remained in Jesmond until 1922 and Catherine was here until 1927.

William Mitchell in 1911 was a clothing salesman of 49 Fairfield Road and was born in Banff Scotland. It has not been possible to identify the unit he served in.

L. Muir of 11 Queen's Terrace served in the RAMC. He may have earlier served in the Lincolnshire regiment and was entitled to the 1914/15 star, war and victory medals. This may be Lorenz Carnegie Muir of the same address who also travelled back to Britain in 1932 from Mozambique on the Dunbar Castle.

William Black Noble was the only son of Mr and Mrs W. J. Noble of West Denton Hall Northumberland. He had been educated at Newcastle Preparatory School and Charterhouse where he gained a senior scholarship. He became a partner of Cairns, Noble & Co. and a director in the Cairn Line of Steamships; he was a Fellow of the Institute of Ship Brokers. He joined the 6th Territorial Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (Quayside Company) on 5 March 1908 and volunteered for active service at the outbreak of war. He went as a lieutenant to France on 20 April 1915. His unit went straight into action with the 50th (Northumbrian) Division at St Julien north of Ypres where he was killed on 26th while seeking a refuge for his men. The family first received notice that he was missing in action and then a telegram confirming his death. He was buried near Wieltje road and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres. Sir John French the C-in-C praised the actions of the Northumbrians outside St Julien (MM June 1915). It was not to be recaptured from the Germans until the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in 1917.

Robert Johnstone Owen was the son of David Griffith Owen and Sophia Jane Owen of 23 West Avenue Gosforth and was born about 1900. It has not been possible to distinguish him from the many other R. J. Owens who served in the Great War but he was back in Jesmond in 1917 and moved away from the area in 1921.

Jane Ethel Park was born in Aughton, Lancashire in 1889 and lived with her parents John and Elizabeth in Westfield, 328 Heaton Road, Heaton, Newcastle in 1911. They had a live-in servant (C).

Subsequently they removed to 3 Northumberland Gardens (CR). Her father was a commercial traveller in drugs born in Rathen, Aberdeenshire and her mother was from Liverpool. Ethel is shown as not being employed at the age of 22 in 1911 (C) but served as a VAD in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in Malta between 16 October 1915 and 15 November 1916 and as such was entitled to the War medal (WWISM). Malta must not have been considered part of the war zone for otherwise she would have been entitled to the 1914/15 star and Victory medals. Jane's mother seems to have died in January 1922 and her father in April 1930, at which time they all were still at Northumberland Gardens. Jane moved to Regent Square in London in November 1930 (CR) and at that time does not seem to have been married.

Captain George Simpson Pattullo MC was born in Glasgow in 1889 where his father was an oil merchant. His father is not present on the census return for 1891 or 1901 but they were still in Glasgow in 1901 and he may have worked in the coal trade later that decade but in 1910 George made his debut for Barcelona FC and scored 41 goals in 20 matches; he was described as 'the club's most influential British import of all time.' He remained an amateur player and refused to sign for city rivals Espanyol. He returned to Britain before the start of the Great War, his family perhaps having moved to Jesmond earlier, and enlisted with the 11th Pioneer Battalion Durham Light Infantry and went to France with them on 20th July 1915, entitling him to the award of the 1914/15 Star. He rose through the ranks to Sergeant. At the end of July 1917 he transferred to the 21st and from there on the 22 February 1918 to the 23rd battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (4th Battalion Tyneside Scottish) where he acted as assistant to the Brigade Staff Captain. He was commissioned perhaps on 11 August 1916 when he may have been transferred to the 21st TS? He rose to acting Captain on 24th September 1917 and gave up this rank when moving to the 23rd Battalion. He was gazetted for the Military Cross on 3rd June 1918 and this may be a King's Birthday Honour Award. After the war he returned to 32 Sanderson Road Jesmond where he lived during the 1920s, but hampered by the effects of exposure to mustard gas, he never played senior football in Britain. Instead, on medical recommendations, he returned to Spain, and to Mallorca, in 1930 to manage briefly at Club Baleares, now known as Atletico Baleares. He also married on the island at the age of 46, but this union - to Margrethe Plenge, which produced no children - had broken up long before his death. He moved to London where he was living in 1947, and where he died in 1953, predeceasing his mother and possibly affected by alcohol as well as mustard gas.

W. A. Petrie lived at 13 Tosson Terrace with his brother, either Archibald or Alfred and sister Elizabeth B., but on the 1911 census they lived with their parents in the Saville temperance hotel in Newcastle! Their mother was the hotel keeper and their father a retired commercial traveller. W. A. Petrie of 13 Tosson Terrace is noted as having enlisted in the MM (May 1915) but it has not been possible to find a record of service for either brother.

James Pittendrigh was the fourth child of William and Elizabeth who were born respectively in Aberdeen and Peterhead. James himself was born in Newcastle in 1888 while his two elder brothers and sister were born in Aberdeen; his younger siblings were born in Newcastle. In 1891 the family lived in 214 Stanton Street, Arthurs Hill and his father was a printer's compositor. By 1901 they had moved to 271 Tamworth Road in Elswick and his father was a linotype operator. In 1911 the elder children with the exception of Elizabeth, who was a clerkess, had left home, including James, and the family had moved to 105 St George's Terrace in Jesmond. James had presumably gone to sea for on the 11 September 1911 he received his certificate of competency as First Mate of a Foreign-going Steamship from the Board of Trade and had passed his 'higher form of vision test'. He must have at about this time joined the Royal Naval Reserve for in September 1914 he appears as a Sub-Lt on the Navy List (p268). By November he is listed on the *Actaeon* (p516d) a torpedo school in a 4th rate 50 gun hulk the former *HMS Vernon* at Sheerness, and by April 1915 he is a Temporary Lt (p515l). In August he is on *Osiris II*, possibly a requisitioned trawler. He was on an armed trawler *HMS Restrivo*

and “Whilst on patrol ... in the Kos channel on October 25th 1917, fire was opened on him from the shore. At the same time a caique, flying the Italian flag, was seen between the trawler and the shore, dismasted and drifting towards the enemy coast. Though a strong southerly wind was blowing and the sea was rough Lieut. Pittendrigh chased the caique, took her in tow, and brought her to safety. The enemy maintained a hot fire from a 4-inch gun, to which the trawler, owing to her inferior armament, was unable to make an effective reply” (LG, MM). For this action he was awarded, in February 1918, the Distinguished Service Cross (p2154c). He moves to the Cruiser HMS Theseus on 1 August 1918. He reappears in the Navy list as a Temporary Lt with seniority from 30 October 1939 in the Navy list for 1941 (p515) and remains a temporary Lt until his commission is terminated on medical grounds on 25 September 1945 (RN removal lists p3459). He sadly dies in Durham in December of the same year. He does not seem to have married.

John Pittendrigh, the younger brother of James, was born 1890 in Aberdeen but attended West Jesmond primary school and is commemorated on their memorial. He also entered the Royal Naval Reserve from the Merchant Navy where he was an officer (JPC). At the outbreak of war he was studying for his Master’s certificate and volunteered for the navy and after passing tests in gunnery served on *HMS Sarnia*, a former passenger ferry converted to an armed boarding ship serving in the Dardanelles. He was Beach Officer at the evacuation from Suvla Bay. Subsequently he served as Lieutenant on *HMS Drake*, a heavily armed armoured cruiser from May 1916 to April 1917 during which time she sailed to the West Indies to search, unsuccessfully, for the disguised commerce raider SMS Möwe, and in August of that year was appointed as Senior Gunnery Lieutenant on *HMS Hussar*, a Dryad-class torpedo gunboat converted in 1914 to a minesweeper but retaining her 4.7” gun and 3 torpedo tubes. While serving on *HMS Hussar* there was an outbreak of Spanish flu and he died on 28 October 1918 and was buried in Staglieno Cemetery in Genoa Italy. His parents by this time had moved to 165 Osborne Road in Jesmond.

William Pittendrigh was the eldest son, born in Old Machar in Aberdeen in 1881 and shown on the church Roll of Honour, but he had left home by 1911; in 1901 (C) he is shown living at home as a 19 year old solicitor’s clerk. He sailed to Quebec from Liverpool in 1921 on the *Metagama* where he is described as an ‘agent’. As he is accompanied by his wife and four young children it would appear that he was emigrating. None of the three sons above appears to have been members of Jesmond Presbyterian Church (CR) though Norah and Elizabeth were until 1921 and 1922 respectively.

Alexander Pittendrigh although 31 at the outbreak of war is not shown on the Roll of Honour. He had left home by 1901, though his elder brother William had not, and in 1911 he was married to Florence Henry who was 3 years older and they had a one year old child. At this time he is described as an angle grinder living at 40 Glenthorn Road in Jesmond and may have been in a reserved occupation. He died in September 1924 suggesting that his health may not have been good. Intriguingly, H. Pittendrigh is shown (CR) to be at the Glenthorn address with his wife and to have moved to Whitley Bay in 1916!

Captain Harold Price ‘who was killed in France on or about June 23 shortly before the “Great Offensive” movement of the Allied Armies was a fine soldier and capable leader. He was a brave, manly, loyal Canadian volunteer – the son of an English father (W. S. Price of Vancouver) and Swedish mother - one of the best of sons and brothers and a most simple and lovable friend and comrade. Wherever he was stationed he made warm friends and nowhere more than in Newcastle where he spent nearly a year as adjutant of the 26th Northumberland Fusiliers [the 3rd Tyneside Irish] and where he always returned when on leave.’ Born in Moodyville, BC on 20th July 1890 in early life he was training in an engineering workshop but in his teens became a land surveyor and took a leading part in “prospecting” expeditions. He is also reputed to have attended the ‘local branch’ of McGill University. At the outbreak of war he was in Toronto, Ontario, far away from his home in Vancouver, British Columbia. Without returning home he came to England and enlisted in London in

September 1914, after being rejected in Liverpool as he had in Canada on account of an injury to his right hand by a machinery accident during his apprenticeship – he lost a finger. This however did not prevent his being a good shot and an excellent horseman. After three or four months' training he was offered a commission and the adjutancy of the 26th Northumberland Fusiliers by Colonel Hussey-Walsh, and in a year and half had risen from second-lieutenant to be temporary captain, and one of the best and most loved and popular officers in the Army. Absolutely fearless, energetic and enterprising, it was his delight to take charge of the most daring raids on the enemy trenches; and his friends learned, only a few days before his life was given for England and the British Empire, that he had been awarded the Military Cross “for conspicuous gallantry” he carried a successful trench raid and delayed his return until all his men were safe; he was also mentioned in dispatches on two occasions. On the night of the 25th/26th June 1916 he had been out with some of his men attacking a point in the German lines near la Boisselle and on his return with his men found one was missing; he returned to the enemy lines to search for his comrade and was killed by a shell.’ www.russiansinthecef.ca/29thbattalion/surveyors.shtml He is commemorated in Harold Price Creek in British Columbia (British Columbia Place Names, 3rd ed. Askrigg and Askrigg).

David B. Pritchard joined the Cumberland Battery RFA. He may have been discharged sick on 13 September 1916 having served with the 4th East Lancashire Brigade since 16 April 1915. He may have been driver 1126.

Henry R. Pritchard. There are two people of the same name on the medals' list and so far there is insufficient information to tell which is which.

Captain **Ralph Broomfield Pritchard** was a highly decorated officer in the 4th Tyneside Irish (27th Northumberland Fusiliers). The son of church members Mr and Mrs Henry P. Pritchard of 42 Queen's Road, Jesmond he was educated at the Royal Grammar School and subsequently on the staff of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Insurance Committee. On the outbreak of war he enlisted immediately as a private in the 1st Commercial Battalion (16th Northumberland Fusiliers) and after training with them for some months was promoted to second Lieutenant and gazetted into the Tyneside Irish in May 1915, rising to Lieutenant in October of that year. He went with his battalion to France in early 1916 and was promoted to captain a month later. He took part in assorted minor engagements, chiefly trench attacks, until the opening of the Battle of the Somme where he was injured on 1st July 1916. On recovering he was posted to the 12th/13th Northumberland Fusiliers attached to the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment and was mentioned in dispatches for ‘fine work at the end of 1916 and early 1917 which enabled his battalion through the work of the Advance Guard, of which he was in charge, to achieve certain objectives’. He was awarded the Military Cross and subsequently the Distinguished Service Order. He was promoted acting major in October 1917 which rank he however relinquished when his battalion was dismembered in April 1918. In fighting on 16th April 1918 he was badly wounded and died 10 days later at the age of 25 and was buried at Mendinghem British Cemetery, Proven. His name was posthumously mentioned in dispatches again on 27th December 1918. The hospital he was in is one of an ironically named group in North France and Flanders where the local ‘inghem’ place name endings were corrupted into joking titles such as Mendinghem, Bandagehem, Curinghem etc. It is the only one which remains in use on the map as a cemetery name and is in a beautiful position among crops just west of Poperinghe. D.S.O. is confirmed in the London Gazette on 16 September 1918. ‘T./Capt. Ralph Broomfield Pritchard, M.C., North'd. Fus.’ ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the battalion was ordered to fill a gap in the front line, this officer, in charge of the advanced guard, acted with such dash that it was mainly through his fine work that the battalion was able to do so. Later, he again advanced and occupied the old line, getting into touch with the flanks, and capturing three men of an enemy patrol. He held the line for the next four days under heavy fire, and finally was severely wounded when leading his company in a counter-attack as it gained its first objective.’

M.C. London Gazette 4 June 1917. 'T./Capt. Ralph Broomfield Pritchard, North'd. Fus.'

M.I.D. London Gazette 4 January 1917; 27 December 1918.

Ralph Broomfield Pritchard was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A Clerk by occupation, he attested for the Newcastle Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers on 9 September 1914, aged 21 years. He was discharged to a commission in the 27th (Service) Battalion 94th Tyneside Irish Northumberland Fusiliers in May



1915, being promoted to Lieutenant in November 1915 and to Captain in February 1916. The battalion formed part of the 34th Division which moved to France in January 1916 and remained there for the duration of the war. For his services in 1916/1917, Pritchard was mentioned in Haig's despatches of 12 November 1916 and in June 1917 was awarded the Military Cross. In April 1918, Pritchard, then a Captain with the 14th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, was attached to the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. The battalion formed part of the 62nd Brigade of the 21st Division. During the Second Battle of Kemmel (7th phase of the Battle of the Lys) he led his men with great flair and effect but after several days continual action, was severely wounded. Captain Pritchard died of his wounds at No. 64 Casualty Clearing Station on 26 April 1918. For his gallantry and devotion to duty he was for a second time mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. His medals were sold in 2010 for £2700.

Second Lieutenant **William Alwyn Pritchard** was the younger brother of Captain R B Pritchard DSO MC and died on the same day. He was also educated at Royal Grammar School and joined the staff Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society in 1911 on leaving school. He enlisted in January 1916 as a private in the 3rd Northumberland Fusiliers. He took part in the battle of the Somme but it is not clear in which unit as the 3rd NF was a training unit which never left Britain. However, he was wounded with shrapnel in the right shoulder in July 1916 and sent to hospital in Birmingham where he was visited by the local managers of Norwich Union. He returned overseas in December 1916 after recovering and was commissioned in November 1917 and posted to the 3rd DLI but attached to the Wiltshire Regiment. He was heavily involved in the fighting on Mount Kemmel in March and April 1918 and after the German counter-attack on 26th April was reported missing only a fortnight after taking up his commission, his death in action was confirmed in 1919 when prisoners from his battalion were repatriated. <http://www.aviva.com/about-us/heritage/world-war-one/roll-of-honour/?name=pritchard> Both he and his brother Ralph attended the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle and are commemorated on the monument and Roll of Honour.

[Norman] **Bruce Ramsay** who had been living at 131 Osborne Road served in France from 20 April 1915, and who was then a Lieutenant, had gone there with the 6th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and was recovering from wounds at home in December 1915 (MM January 1916) and in the next

month was recovering in Brighton. He appears to have risen to captain and been awarded the 1914/15 star as well as the war and victory medals.

Private **John Henry Riddell** who at 18 described himself as a 'chemist' joined the RAMC 1st Northern General Hospital [ie in Armstrong College] on 19th November 1914 and was 'busy with his work somewhere in the Mediterranean' (MM February 1916). He was home in October 1916 for 'a few days for a well-deserved rest' (MM November 1916). He rose to the rank of acting sergeant and was awarded the war and victory medals. His family lived at 149 Osborne Road.

Lieutenant **David Alan Roberts** who had been a boarder at 41 Forsyth Road and was a quantity surveyor, married Constance the fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs Herries, whose son was serving in the Tyneside Scottish , on 27th December 1915 (MM January 1916) and lived at 44 Harley Terrace, Gosforth.

Second Lieutenant **Hugh Price Rose** was the only child of Mr and Mrs Alexander Morrison Rose of 31 Grosvenor Place; Mr Rose being a member of the church Session. A local Boy Scout, he is commemorated by them. He was educated at Sherborne School in Dorset, where he is commemorated on the Roll of Honour and, with the intention of ultimately going to Oxford University, he passed 'Responsions' and the entrance examination for Oriel College but owing to the War he entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in January 1916 passing out in August of the same year. He entered HM Services as Second Lieutenant in the 2nd battalion Seaforth Highlanders on 14 August 1916 and two months later joined the fighting forces in France. He took part in the Battle of Arras on 11th April 1917 and was killed that day. He, together with three companies of this battalion, were to attack the Roeux chemical works from Fampoux, but in traversing open ground the force was met with deadly machine gun fire resulting in heavy casualties, every officer being a casualty. His remains are buried at Brown's Copse Cemetery, Fampoux. Rev E. S. Woods, chaplain of the Royal Military College, wrote to his parents 'He if anyone deserved the name of 'Christian Gentleman' using each word in the fullest sense and he had a great influence for good in his company.'

George Lewins Rutherford who before the war was a draper's assistant living at 25 Holly Avenue served in the Royal Garrison Artillery. This may be a person of identical name who served as 2 Lt Royal Flying Corps (WO399/113488 The National Archives). He was Gazetted on 23 September 1917.

Hubert Rutherford of 25 Holly Avenue may be the son of Clarissa Rutherford who lived with him in Morpeth in 1911 and she seems to have run Rutherford's drapers. There is no evidence of Hubert on military records. There is only one military record for Hubert in the 2nd/4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire light infantry where he is a private (34161). Ambiguously he is also shown as George though this may have been a convenience.

T. D. Scott joined the 29th Reserve Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (MM February 1916). He was wounded in summer 1916 but by October was 'better and looking very fit' (MM November 1916).

Corporal **William George Simon** of 8 Victoria Crescent as the son of the late G. H. Simon, solicitor, and Mrs Simon. He was educated at home in Mold, North Wales and at Mold County School and at the outbreak of the war was engaged as an Insurance Clerk in Newcastle. He entered the 1st Commercial Battalion (16th Northumberland Fusiliers 16/941) at the end of August 1914. With his battalion he went overseas in October 1915 remaining in the battle area and taking part in various fighting. He was involved with the opening of the Somme Offensive on 1st July 1916 and had been reported missing since the advance began and 'was now presumed dead' (MM September 1916). He was associated with the church through his uncle Mr D. G. Owen who was one of the managers of the Church. He is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial.

Lieutenant **T. S. [A] Simon**, brother of W. G., joined the 9th Shropshire Light Infantry and was wounded for the third time in summer 1916 but was 'progressing favourably' (MM September 1916). He was awarded the 1914/15 star and the war and victory medals. Is this Trevor Simon who died in 1921?

William Smart of the Motor Transport Section was believed to be off to Mesopotamia (MM November 1916). He lived at 23 Nixon St. and left the area in 1926.

A. J. Smith is on the CR but is inscrutably A. Smith J. in the main entry. This was made about 1917 and there is no one who identifies with either in the 1911 census. He lived at Tankerville House and appears to have been in the area until 1945. It is not possible to identify him on military records.

George James Stead lived at 21 Cavendish Road and returned to Jesmond after the war and was still here into the 1930s. In 1911 he was at 164 Shortridge Terrace and was only 14 years old.

Cecil Arthur Stephens of 15 Tankerville Terrace was home in March 1916 from a 'very long spell of service in Gallipoli and on garrison duty in one of the Greek Islands. He also looks well and seems to flourish on hard military duty' (MM April 1916). He served in the Royal Marines Division engineers having trained as an 'apprentice test assistant' in Electrical Engineering and died in late 1975. A company sergeant-major Cecil Arthur Stephens of the HQ signals Co Royal Naval Division Engineers was promoted 2nd Lieutenant on 17th August 1916.

Corporal **Lindsay N. Stephens** was the son of Mr and Mrs Richard Stephens, members of the church. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School and was engaged in shipping when the war broke out. He enlisted immediately in the 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers finally going to France in June 1915. After seeing a good deal of service in the front line he was out [in No-Man's Land] on 6th May 1916 putting out wire in front of the trenches near Armentieres where he was shot and killed instantaneously by machine gun fire at the age of 21. He is buried in Bon Jean cemetery in Armentieres. His Captain wrote 'I had hopes that he might have got his commission any day now, and no one deserved to get it more than he. He did extraordinarily well when in the trenches. No one worked harder than him for the welfare of the battalion. His was a splendid disposition and a fine character.' (MM June 1916). He is commemorated also on the monument and Roll at the Royal Grammar.

George Eric Towers was a Londoner who joined the 5th London Rifles on 14th September 1914 as a private (1039) but was quickly promoted to Acting Sergeant on 15th June 1915. He was gazetted 2nd Lt. on 22nd October 1915 and transferred to the 6th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He joined them in October 1915 at Ypres and took part in the battles around High Wood as part of the greater Battle of the Somme. On 15th September 1916 he was in the area around the villages of Flers and Courcellette where he saw tanks in use for the first time while he was en route to a first aid post having been injured. A bullet had seriously damaged his lower jaw and he 'had a bad time and is still suffering' (MM November 1916) and as a result he was not able to return to active service. He suffered from gangrene and was fortunate to survive. As he had worked as an average adjuster in the shipping industry before the war he was transferred to the Ministry of Shipping for the remainder of the war. He received the Silver War Badge (for men discharged due to wounds or sickness), the War and Victory Medals and the Territorial Force Medal. At some point while he was injured he was promoted to lieutenant. He moved to Jesmond after the war and married Ruth L Young, the sister of Gordon Lindsay Young (see below) in 1922. His son Alan is one of the few remaining relatives of those who served.

George H. Turnbull of 76 Fairfield Road formerly of the Post Office was in the Royal Garrison Artillery (MM November 1916). There is only one record of a George H. Turnbull in the RGA and he is gunner 113403 and was awarded the war and victory medals.

Lieutenant the Rev. **James Hall Tytler** the son of James Millar Tytler of Newtonmore, Invernesshire, was a Church of Scotland minister who had joined his uncle J. R. Hall in Jesmond in the hope of becoming a chaplain with one of the Northumbrian regiments but had become frustrated with the War Office's lack of action and accepted a commission in the Durham Light Infantry. He had first taken a course of training with Durham University OTC and from there was gazetted to the 9th Battalion DLI. He was educated at Kingussie Grammar School and matriculated at Edinburgh University and graduated too, as the Kingussie parish church memorial shows him as MA. He was appointed officiating clergyman of the 4th Tyneside Scottish during its training at Gosforth. He attended the church with his uncle when he was in Jesmond. 'He loathed war, as he told me himself, he much disliked the army and military ways, but he was so convinced of our duty in this war that he suppressed his personal inclinations and offered himself for services with the combatant forces', wrote the minister in the monthly magazine (October 1916). He was killed at High Wood on the Somme battlefield on the 15th September 1916 while taking part in the first large scale battle using tanks; he was 27. He is buried in Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt.

Lieutenant **William Boyd Tytler** was the brother of J. H. Tytler and, like his elder brother, attended Kingussie Grammar School. He intended to become a teacher, and at the outbreak of war was a student at Moray House Training College, Edinburgh. He entered the 6th Royal Scots (Training College Unit) in 1912 as a private and at the end of 1914 applied for and was granted a commission (14 December 1914 LG) in the 4th Battalion Tyneside Scottish; he subsequently rose to the rank of lieutenant. He went overseas with the Tyneside Scottish in early 1916 and after taking part in trench fighting was engaged with his battalion at La Boisselle on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. From information subsequently received it appears that although suffering from repeated wounds he was the only officer of his battalion (the others being killed or out of action) to reach the German 3rd trench line, continuing to hold the position and cheering the survivors of his men although himself dying. One of his men attempted to carry him back but was unable and his place of burial is unknown; he was 22. He is commemorated on Thiepval memorial. There is also reference to him in the National Archive (WO 399/17234). Both brothers are commemorated in Kingussie parish church.

Sergeant **John Watt**, born about 1891, lived at 37 Sunbury Ave. and was an insurance clerk. He served in the 16th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers (16/809) and his 1914/15 star award states that he was commissioned. He arrived in France on 22 November 1915.

Lieutenant **Robert Alexander Wilson** was the son of Mr Robert Alexander Wilson of 1 Lambton Road, one of the church elders, and his late wife, and at the date of his death was 37. He was educated at Dr Ehrlich's school, Newcastle and also at Trinity College, Harrogate. At the outbreak of war he was the representative of an Edinburgh firm in New Zealand, in 1907 he applied for the publican's licence of the Fitzroy Hotel to the court in Auckland (The New Zealand Herald 23 March) but returned home immediately to enlist in the London Scottish as a private in April 1915 (4643). He went overseas with his battalion in June 1916 and was injured in the trenches on 23rd August and was invalided home. There now appears a discrepancy between the records of the National Archives and CWGC and the Roll of Honour. The RoH has him in the 15th battalion of DLI while the others say he was in the 19th. In the War Diaries of these two battalions there is no mention of his death on or about 2nd May 1917, although all the sources agree on the date of death. I will note first the RoH version and then the other sources. While in Britain, wounded, he was gazetted as a second Lieutenant in the 15th Battalion DLI on 31 December 1915 and after joining that battalion took part with them in the Battle of Arras in April 1917. He advanced to the rank of lieutenant and on 2nd May 1917 was engaged in fighting at the Hindenberg line near Arras being killed on that date at la Fontaine. This may be

Fontaine les Croisilles near Bullecourt, where his remains were buried but their position is now unknown and he is, somewhat surprisingly, commemorated on the relatively distant Thiepval Memorial rather than the much closer Arras Memorial. He was awarded the war and victory medals. The other sources have him in the 19th battalion DLI and still a second Lieutenant at the time of his death. The 19th battalions was not at the Hindenburg (Siegfried) line near Arras in early May 1917 it was at Fresnoy le Petit between Peronne and St Quentin. It was not in the Arras sector during the months of April or May. It seems surprising that the RoH, which was composed locally by Mr Hall, a fellow elder of RA Wilson senior, who survived until 1933, should record so completely wrong information for the 19th battalion but which is correct for the 15th battalion! It has not been so far possible to resolve this issue and any suggestions as to how it may be clarified would be appreciated. A general search of the CWGC list of those killed somewhat surprisingly comes up with two entries for 2nd Lt Robert Alexander Wilson but both say he was in the 19th and is commemorated on the same place at Thiepval. It may be that there were two identical names in the two battalions which have become confused.

J. B. Wood. There is only a James P. Wood on the CR and he and his family do not appear on it until March 1918. There is no-one who can be identified on the census or military records with either variant.

Ordinary Seaman **Robert Phillips Wood** was the son of Mrs Eleanor Wood, a member of the church, and was educated at Felton, Northumberland, where he was born, and in civil life was a gardener. He entered HM Service in the Royal Navy on 27th April 1917 as a stoker, first class, and was lost with HMS Lovaine (actually Louvain) on 20th January 1918. The Louvain, an armed boarding steamer of the British Navy, formerly the ferryboat Dresden, arrived in Malta on January 15, 1918 from Taranto, Italy, and left a short while after for Mudros, Greece. Sadly, the Louvain never made it, as it sank with a crew of about 224 men after being torpedoed by the German submarine UC22, a coastal minelayer type, in the eastern Mediterranean. There were only 16 survivors (Wikipedia). He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Archibald Wotherspoon of 13 Tosson Terrace or 28 Fenham Road was a member of the church from 1918 to 1928 but does not appear on the 1911 census. There are many people of this name in the forces.

Second Lieutenant **David Lindsay Young** of 9 Osborne Avenue was the son of Mr and Mrs Lindsay S. Young, members of the church, Mr Young being an Elder. He was educated at Mill Hill School and became an accountant; before the war he was a teacher in the church Sunday School. He was gazetted as a second lieutenant in the 4th Northumberland Fusiliers on 23rd June 1915 and joined that battalion in France on 5th November 1916. He took part in engagements at Arras, Wancourt and Passchendaele. He was killed before dawn on 26th October 1917 but the Battalion War Diary does not record his death. The action was unsuccessful and casualties, 8 officers named and 256 other ranks. The action took place in an attack on enemy positions in Houthulst Forest north of Poelcapelle against enemy pill boxes (concrete fortifications) and was adversely affected by heavy rain and the ubiquitous mud; he was 24. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the memorial at Tyne Cot Cemetery. His brother, Gordon Lindsay, is described below.

Lieutenant **Frederic Dobell Young** of 3 Osborne Villas was a son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Jamieson Young, members of the church, his father being a member of the Session. He was a cousin of Gordon and David Lindsay Young. He was educated at Mill Hill School and followed the occupation of a coal exporter. He volunteered on 15th March 1915 and was posted as a lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery and was attached to the Tynemouth Anti-Aircraft battery. This was based at North Shields, Seaton Delaval and Blyth where it covered the strategic ports, shipyards, infrastructure and mines. He however went going overseas, possibly with 44th anti-aircraft battery on 24th July 1917. He died of

wounds on 1st August 1917 at Elverdinghe Ypres and he is buried in Canada Farm Cemetery. He was 31.

Gordon Lindsay Young of 9 Osborne Avenue was a cadet in the Durham University OTC who was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant on 22nd August 1915 (LG) and served in the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers. He was wounded in summer 1916 but was 'better and home on leave' (MM November 1916). His professional life was spent in the shipping industry and he was a church elder for 48 years and session clerk for 25 as well as being superintendent of the Sunday School. He sang in the church choir for an astonishing 76 years. (MM Nov/Dec 1978). He moved from 19 Queen's Road to 41 Mitchell Avenue where he lived until his death in 1978.

Thomas Dobell Young This is probably the elder brother of Frederick Dobell Young (above). He, like his father, was a linen warehouseman. He was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, Northumbrian Brigade on 21 November 1915 (LG) and transferred to the Army Service Corps at the same rank on 16 July 1917 (LG). He lived at 3 Osborne Villas in the 1940s and died on 7th June 1948.

After the Armistice

As the war drew to a close several of the battalions of the Tyneside Scottish and Irish were disbanded and the men transferred to other units, though the 4th battalion Tyneside Scottish was retained until the end of the war. One presumes there was considerable rejoicing on news of the Armistice, though I have no direct details for the church and its members and followers. The survivors presumably drifted back home as they were 'demobbed' and returned to the lives and studies they had suspended on enlistment. All over Britain, efforts began to commemorate those who had served or died and to support those who had returned, often suffering from mental or physical trauma. The Haig Fund was established with its annual poppy events to raise money to support those who had served, The British Legion was formed with a similar purpose but to include the families and those who had served with ongoing activities in their community. At the church, money was raised to create a permanent bronze war memorial, and Walter Gilbert of Birmingham was commissioned as the designer (H. H. Martyn & Co. was the bronze founder). Gilbert created a beautiful memorial centred around Christ's death on the Cross, with angels, St Michael and St George in support and, with, to their left and right, a seaman, a nurse, a soldier and a mother with child to represent the whole community of those who had been involved. This is a stunning piece of work and is listed. He designed and executed many war memorials and other commissions including the gates of Buckingham Palace (Wiki). The memorial was dedicated on 3rd July 1921 at a special service. In 1924 a parchment volume was also placed in the church giving biographic details of all those killed and a list of those who served as the Roll of Honour, and a volume was also published containing the same information, photographs, order of service and relevant descriptions. Separately, the King's Colour was presented to the 4th Battalion Tyneside Scottish by Major General Uniacke on 2nd May 1919 and this act was followed by the disbanding of the battalion. The Colour, together with those of the 18th and 25th (2nd Tyneside Irish) battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers were returned to Newcastle on 21st June and, after speeches, were piped through the City by the Tyneside Scottish Brigade band. On 28th June the Colour of the 4th Tyneside Scottish was ceremonially laid to rest in the church and has hung there for the last century. During this time it has deteriorated due to dirt and the angle at which it was suspended; it is now being restored for the second time. Annual reunions for former servicemen and their families, as well as services of remembrance, were held and arrangements were made to enable families whose loved ones were buried in France and Belgium to visit them. The services of remembrance continue but the reunions ceased when the numbers attending declined due to age and infirmity. In 1939, history repeated itself and a second world conflict erupted. As one act of continuity with the previous conflict the Tyneside Scottish were re-established and solicitor James R. Hall, who had been the secretary of the committee which raised the Tyneside Scottish Brigade in the previous conflict, and

whose son had been killed in its ranks, was made Honorary Colonel of the reformed battalion and is commemorated with a plaque in the church.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Jan Harding for doing the original research which got me started and from which this grew, also Sheila More who provided me with useful information and numerous suggestions and together with Alan Towers gave details on some of the family relationships. Also to Alison Shiel who located the Monthly Magazines and the Roll of Communicants, without which I would have had great difficulty in discovering much about those who survived. Also the numerous other writers who have over the last century recorded the information on Battalions, especially the Tyneside Scottish and the 16th Northumberland Fusiliers, which has helped me greatly. It is a shame that the military records in general are so incomplete and that the scale of the war was so vast that ensuring that the correct person is being referred to is so difficult.

Sources

Armstrong, C. *Newcastle upon Tyne in the Great War*. Pen and Sword.

16th NF Cooke, C. H. 1923 *Historical Records of the 16th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers*

CR Communicant Roll Jesmond Presbyterian Church 1915-1998

C or Cxxxx Census and date

CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WWISM World War I service medals

JPC Hall, J. R. (ed.) 1924 *Jesmond Presbyterian Church 1914-1918*.

LG London Gazette

MM Jesmond Presbyterian Church Monthly Magazine and its various successors

RoH Roll of Honour – in JPC

Stewart, G. & Sheen, J. 1999 *Tyneside Scottish*. Pen and Sword Books, Barnsley.

Wiki Wikipedia

Abbreviations

Generally abbreviations are explained on their first occurrence, but to save hunting for them the main ones, other than those listed in Sources, are listed below:

ASC Army Service Corps

Btn Battalion

DLI Durham Light Infantry

NF Northumberland Fusiliers

RAMC Royal Army Medical Corps

RE Royal Engineers

RGA Royal Garrison Artillery

RN Royal Navy

RNR Royal Naval reserve

TS Tyneside Scottish

VAD Voluntary Aid Detachment

YMCA Young Men's Christian Association

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