

George William Loosley (1876 – 1917)

My dear darling
This letter written before going
into action although hoping for the
best, one never knows what is going
to happen in this hell out here
hence this little letter to you. If I
should not return to you, I am
going to ask you to be brave
and look after yourself and the
children, which I know you will
do. Kiss them for me and tell
them that in remembrance of
me, they must always be good
to you. If at any time I have ever
done anything that has caused
you pain forgive me although
perhaps at times I was seemingly
thoughtless. I have always loved
you and have never regretted the
first day I met you, my last thoughts
are of you and our children.

Your Ever Loving Husband
My best wishes for sweet - George
xxxxxx for the xxxxx to come xxxxx to Ella

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Early Life & Education

George William Loosley was born in October 1876 to George Thomas Patchin Loosley (a house decorator) and Clara, they lived at 143 Tavistock Crescent Kensington.

1881 Census

Page 22] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Civil Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of		
Kensington									
St. Luke & St. Vincent									
Chelsea									
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U), or Building (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	II (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lame
426	125 Southam St.	1	Marshall A. Poole	Boarder	U	29	Railway Servant	Stouffville - Broad	
427	do do		John Jeffery	Head	M	49	General Labourer	North - Richmond	
428	124 do do	1	James do	Son			do	do do	
			Charles James	Head	M	36	Railway Guard	Beckley - Abinger	
			Edith do	Daughter		1		do do	
429	do do		George T. P. Loosley	Head	M	30	Painter	Stouffville - Brighton	
			Clara do	Wife	M	23		Widdow - Westminster	
			George W. do	Son		14		do Kensington	

George was educated at St. Andrews School Southam Street North Kensington London and then at St Luke's School North Kensington



George Loosley (X) at St. Andrews School Southam Street North Kensington



Certificate of Merit presented to George Loosley 24th February 1887 aged 10.

Parents



Father : George Thomas Patchin Loosley
born 1850 died March 1917



Mother: Clara Sully
born 1858 died Feb 1917

Marriage

George married Lucy Ann Cooper of 75 Swinbrook Road Kensington on Tuesday 24th May 1904 at 3.30pm at the Kensington Register Office London.

Book No. 75 Page 45 Certificate of Marriage.

1904 Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of KENSINGTON, in the County of LONDON.

No.	WHEN MARRIED.	NAME AND SURNAME.	AGE.	CODITION.	RANK OR PROFESSION.	RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF MARRIAGE.	FATHER'S NAME AND SURNAME.	RANK OR PROFESSION OF FATHER.
90	24 th May 1904	George William Loosley	26 Years	Bachelor	Builder	143 Tavistock Crescent	George Thomas Petchin Loosley	House Decorator
		Lucy Ann Cooper	25 Years	Spinster		75 Swinbrook Road	William Cooper	House Decorator

Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Anglican Church before me
 This Marriage was solemnized between us. George William Loosley and the presence of us. George Thomas Petchin Loosley
 L. A. Cooper Philip Sibly
 I Certify the above to be a true Copy of the Entry in the Register Book of Marriages. And I further Certify that the said Register is lawfully in my custody.
 Witness my hand this 24th day of May 1904. Chas. W. B. Armet Registrar.



George William Loosley



Lucy Ann Cooper

Family

George & Lucy had three children:

Ernest Born 7th April 1904 Died 17th September 1988
 Connie Born 2nd September 1905 Died 6th June 2000
 Ella Born 26th November 1906 Died 29th January 1995

The 1911 census shows that George and his family lived in two rooms at 75 Swinbrook Road West Kensington London. Lucy's parents Stephen William & Jane Maria Cooper occupied another room at the same address. Later, possibly during WW1 the family moved in with George's parents, George Thomas & Clara Loosley who during 1911 lived at 2 Swinbrook Road before moving to 8 Raddington Road Kensington West London.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Entries: 299
 No. of Families: 10

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE Sex and State of Birth	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards		RESIDENCE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	DEFERMENT
				Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.			
George William Loosley	Head	34	Married	Builder	Labourer	London, W. Kensington, Brixton	British subject	
Lucy Ann Loosley	Wife	32	Married			London, Brixton, Deptford	British subject	
Ernest William Loosley	Son	6				London, W. Kensington	British subject	
Constance Mary Loosley	Daughter	5				London, W. Kensington	British subject	
Ella Rose Loosley	Daughter	4				London, W. Kensington	British subject	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge of this dwelling)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this dwelling (Garden, Outbuilding, or Apartment) which has been in a room let to an occupier, including lobby, closet, bathroom, or washroom, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *George William Loosley*
 Full Address: *75 Swinbrook Rd. W. Kensington*

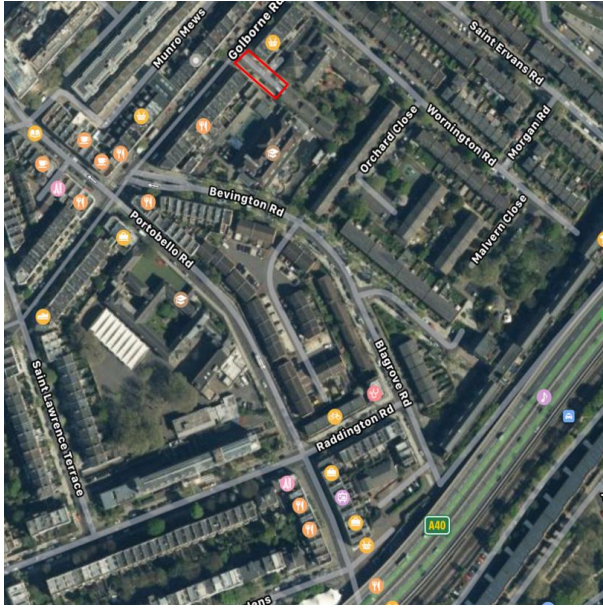


Ernest, Connie & Ella at 75 Swinbrook Road Kensington West

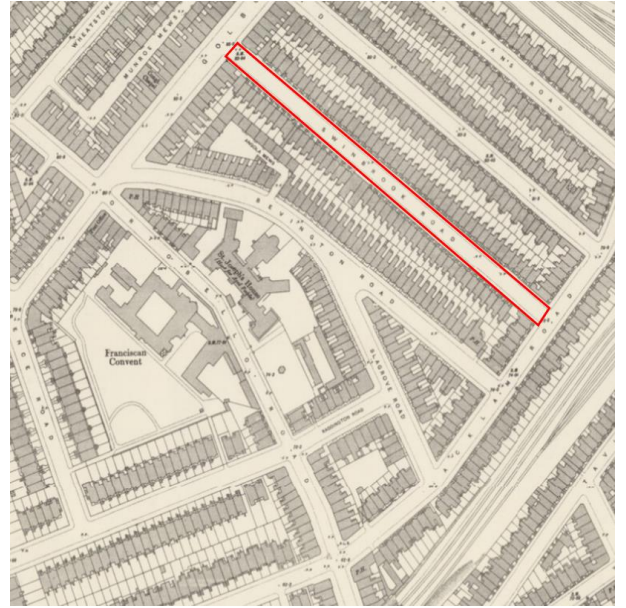


The sole original house remaining on Swinbrook Rd.

Swinbrook Road Kensington London – Now & Then



2017



1895

Not much is left of Swinbrook Road (highlighted above) compared to 1895.



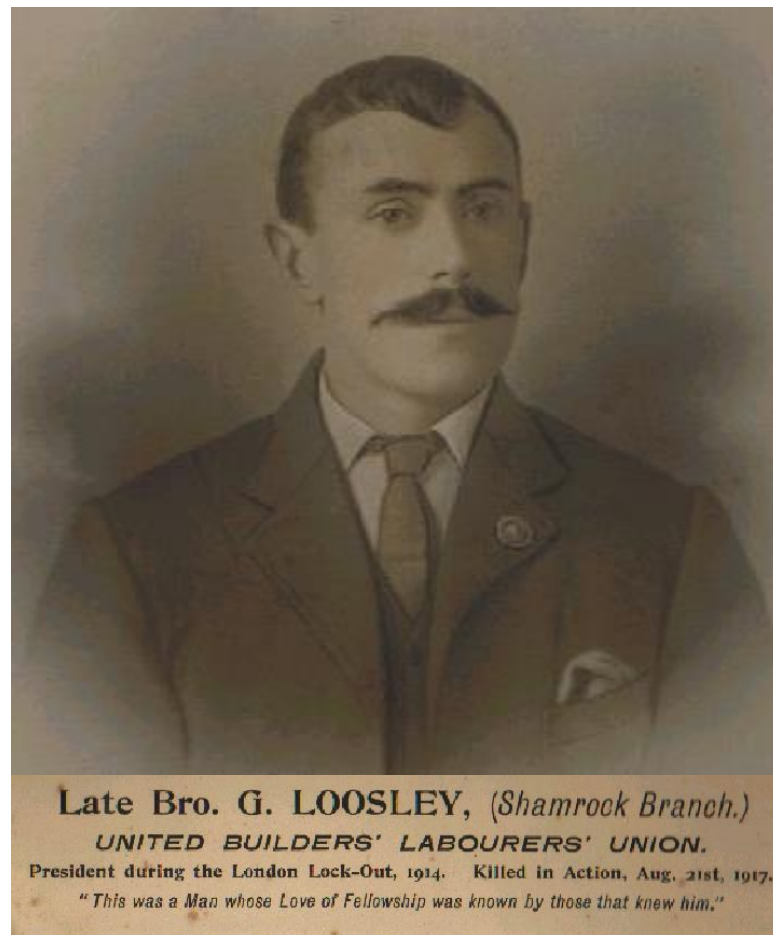
8 Raddington Road
Kensington West London, where the family lived
during WW1



Photo taken in 1916 of from left to right:
Connie aged 11
Ernest aged 12
Ella aged 10

Employment

George worked as a builder's labourer and was the President of the United Builders Labourers Union – Shamrock Branch (1914)



United Builders Labourers Union.

Lockout in London

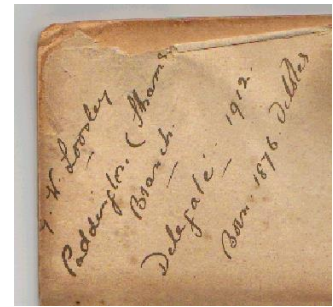
Published: 25 January 1914

A lockout in the London building trade commenced at noon today. The number of men leaving work is estimated to be 30,000 but the lockout is expected to affect 150,000 men.

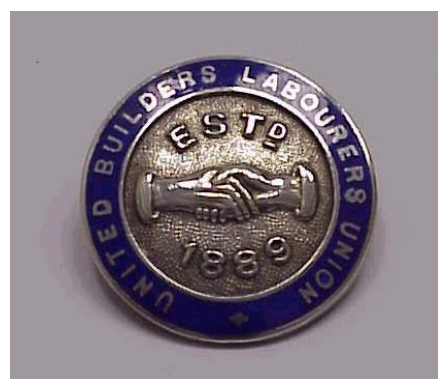
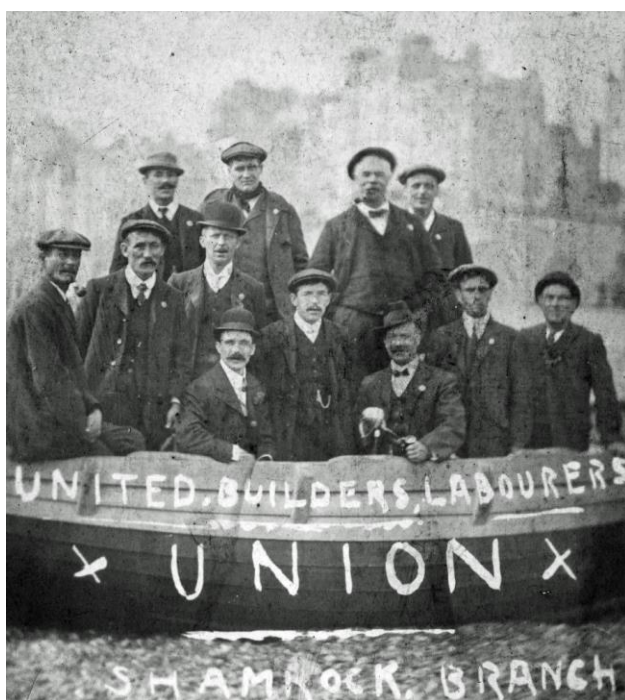
The men have agreed to present themselves formally for work on Monday but only those who sign the employers' terms will be allowed to work. The unions involved in the lockout include, carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, stonemasons and labourers. The root cause of the upheaval is an unwillingness to sign the master's agreements not to strike against the employment of non-unionists under a penalty of 20s. Both sides have assumed a firm and unyielding attitude and by tomorrow the entire building industry in London could be at a standstill.

Further friction is expected by the transport industry striking in sympathy by refusing to

handle material for the builders involved. The London coal porters strike is also continuing, causing disruption to many householders.



George Loosley (2nd row from back, 5th from left) Paddington Branch 1912



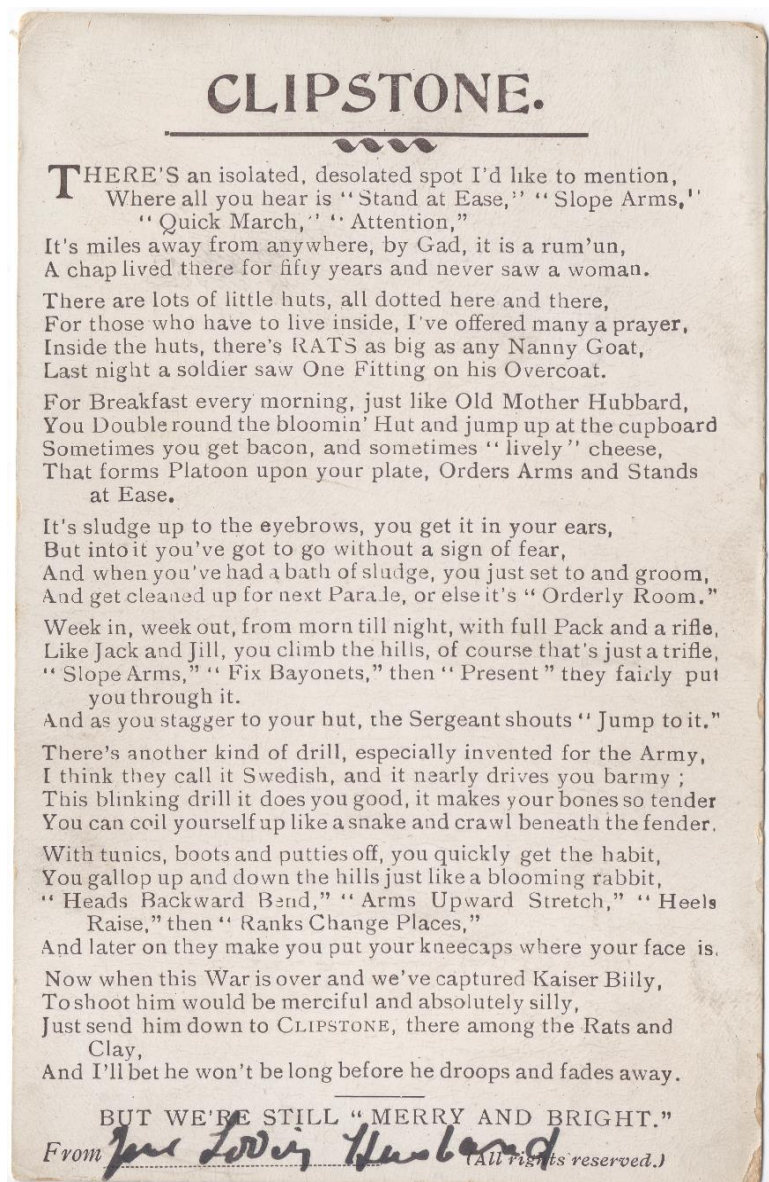
Badge of the United Builders Labourers Union. (this badge can be seen being worn by George in many of his pictures)

Conscription

Conscription began when the British government passed the Military Service Act in January 1916. The act specified that single men aged 18 to 40 years old were liable to be called up for military service unless they were widowed with children or ministers of a religion. In April 1917 conscription was extended to include married men and as a result George was conscripted for military service at some point in 1916 at the 40.

Training for War

Unfortunately, all the service records for soldiers who were killed in WW1 were irretrievably damaged or lost completely as a result of enemy bombing in 1940 during the Second World War, so very little is known regarding George's training for military service other than he trained at Bovington in Dorset and Cliptone Camp in Nottinghamshire.



Rifle Brigade

With the vast majority of soldier's records were lost due to bombing during WW2, it's therefore unknown when George enlisted. What is known however is that George was briefly with the Rifle Brigade before being trained as a machine gunner in readiness for the Machine Gun Corps.



G.W Loosley 2nd row, 3rd from left and below when attached to the Rifle Brigade.
His service number was S/28671



George Loosley's cap badge of the
Rifle Brigade





Bovingdon Camp Dorset
17th November 1916

Training camp of the Machine Gun Corps

Writing a Will

18

WILL.

In the event of my death, I give the whole of my property & effects to my wife

Mrs. L. G. Loosley
& Raddington Rd
N. Kensington
London. W

Signature G. Loosley
Rank and Regt. Private - M. G. C.
Date April 21st 1917 84611

INFORMAL WILL.

W.O. No.: E 445063/1 DOMICILE English
Record No. 334/574233 17
The enclosed document dated 24.4.17
Name George William Loosley and signed G Loosley
Regtl. No. 84611 and Rank Private
appears to have been written or executed by the person named in the margin while he was "in actual military service" within the meaning of the Wills Act, 1837, and has been recognised by the War Department as constituting a valid will.
Regt. 183rd Co Machine
Gun Corps
Died at France or Belgium
Date of Death 21.8.17
WAR OFFICE.
Date 3/2/17
for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

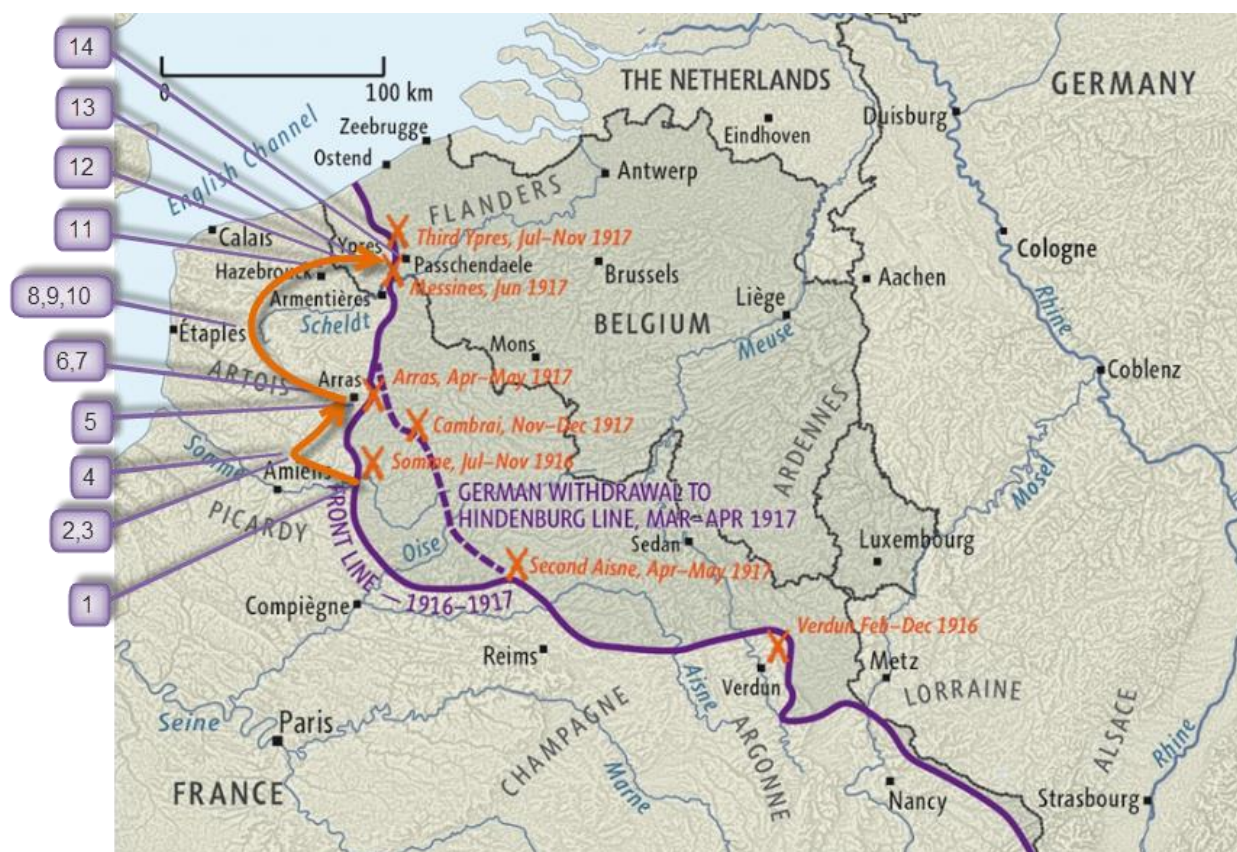
H. 1601905

Off to War

Now attached to the 183rd Machine Gun Corps George left England for France in April 1917 and travelled from Folkestone to Boulogne.

Movements of the 183rd Machine Gun Corps from May to August 1917

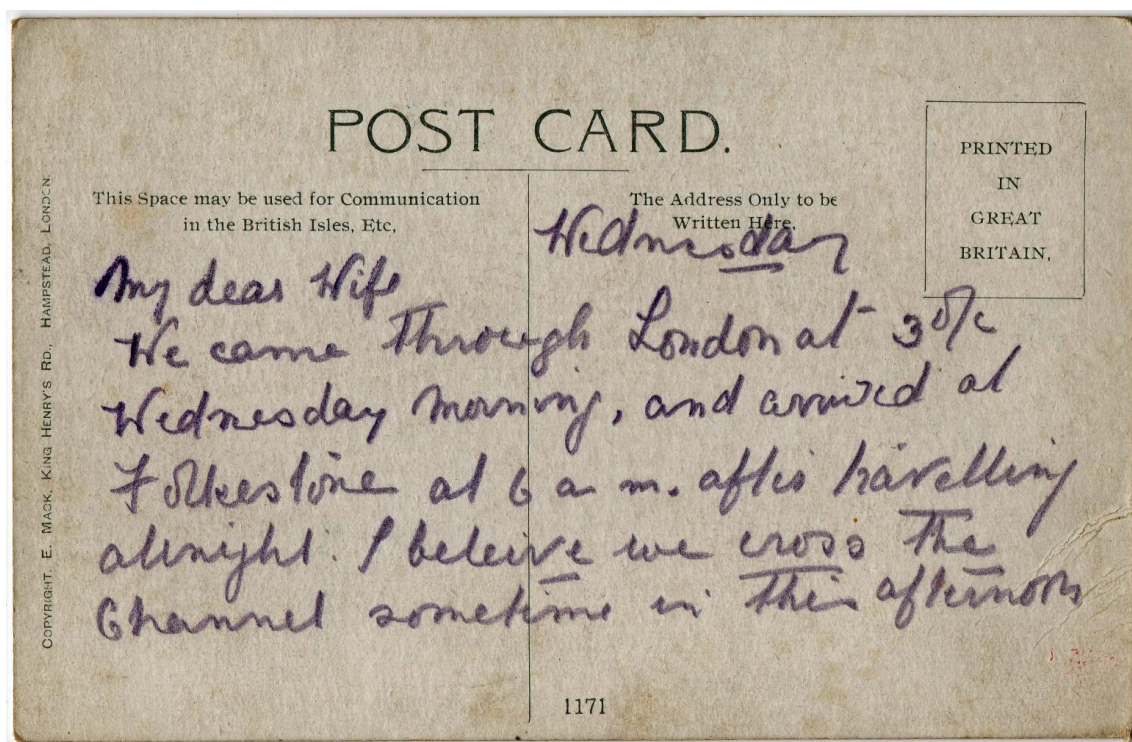
1. 17th May Germaine to Curchy
2. 18th May Curchy to Coisy
3. 21st May Coisy to Beauval
4. 23rd May Beauval to Grand Roulecourt
5. 24th May Grand Roulecourt to Dainville
6. 1st June Dainville to Tilloy
7. 10th June Tilloy to Simencourt
8. 22nd June Simencourt to Neulette
9. 24th July Neulette to Ecoivres
10. 25th July Ecoivres to Petit Houvin
11. 26th July Petit Houvin to Zeggars Cappel
12. 15th August Zeggars Cappel to Poperinghe
13. 16th August Poperinghe to Ypres (Goldfish Chateau)
14. 19th August Goldfish Chateau to Pommern Redoubt & Bank Farm



Letters and Postcards Sent Back Home from France & Belgium

Post card sent whilst travelling to France.

Written at Folkestone while waiting to cross the English Channel to Boulogne April 1917.



Possibly written around Dainville France

Private G. Loosley
183 Machine Gun Company
B.E.F
France

My Dear Wife

This letter which you will see by the envelope is supposed to be of a domestic nature only, so I suppose I must keep to that as far as possible. As you know it was at the eleventh hour, or the very last moment that it was decided that I should go to France with draft from Clipstone camp and I left on that night in April and came through London when most people were asleep, so near and yet so far from home, you can guess how the thoughts of home flashed through my mind during that time, of my passage across the English Channel, and my travels through France sometimes many miles by train, and motor lorry and sometimes many weary miles on the march in boiling hot weather, and my experiences, I must reserve until we meet. I need hardly tell you that the loss of my freedom, which I have always prized so much, was a blow for me but I have so far been able to pull through, and keep a clean sheet, by the thoughts of home, where I am hoping to be again someday, but while hoping for a speedy and safe return. I do not blind myself to the fact, it is possible to be unlucky, because I say that I do not think I am in any way gloomy or doubtful and I only want you to look forward for my homecoming be it soon or long but in this letter I ought to say first of all, if anything should happen, I want you to promise to be as brave as you have been up to know and then do as follows, watch is to be given to the boy when he is old enough, also what books I have when he can understand how to read them when of course that he will hold the same opinions that I have held, and still hold even stronger than formerly. I might say that any experience have strengthened my opinions, that wooden writing case which I think is mine would be for Connie, and for little Ella you would find something in remembrance as I forgot with the exception of those things I have mentioned, if there is anything more that I can actually say is mine anything more of course you are lord and master over. Now there is something else, someday our girls will be reaching womanhood, and although you perhaps do not know so much of the world as I you know sufficient to understand the many temptations that lie in the road of girl, so in my opinion it is necessary to put modesty to one side for the time being, and point out to them the dangers that lie in the road, I know you will always, while they are under your control bring them up as you were brought up, and I have every reason to believe that they will be a credit to you. I am just looking at their photo's god bless them how I wish we were having a cuddle in the old style. As for the boy, when he gets a bit older I think he will begin to know what things are, do not think the advice I am giving you is silly, it is quite necessary, and advice I shall give them if spared, by the way I think it is time something was done about the boys future, and if you can I should sound Mr Mac Kay getting him in the engineering line, there is no doubt that he will advise or assist you. Next year the fella will be fourteen, and I suppose fancying himself a bit of a man, and how the time will soon pass when he will be able to call himself one, and it is my desire to see him start life well. Now once again do not think that I am doubtful about coming back to you again, because I feel sure I shall, but accidents will happen

in this hell out here, where by the way there are other things to fight besides the Germans, there are rats and lice although I am not troubled with the rats in the place where I am at present, our first station in France was full of them, and at night it was just a bit of sport routing them out, I think they are more daring than the Germans, at least, it made me think so when climbed up my rifle which was hanging over my head, and eat my iron rations, while I was looking at him, these rations are given to us to eat if we get in a hot corner, and cannot get food brought up, so I had to get some more rations, as for lice, well, we have a daily shafe with our shirts off, it is a common sight out here to see tommy routing these things out which are worse than the rats, so you see it is not quite a picnic. In your letter of the 1st of July, I have been very lucky up to now to keep clear of the German bullets, but managed to get near enough one night to make things unpleasant. For mention of the new company I am in, may mean going into the firing line, well perhaps so, but that is likely to happen in any company here, and after all, I don't suppose they have been training me as a Machine Gunner for the fun of the thing. It is possible that I may get moved to another company, but one never knows what is going to happen out here, of course I know you cannot help worrying, that is natural, I suppose I also worry a bit, and a sound night sleep I have not had since I have been out here any how we all hope it will soon be over. I was not asking you to get my watch, what I meant was do not lose it. I know things are bad at home, and no doubt you have a job to make ends meet so in one way it is a good job I am not at home as it would mean another one to keep, and you are going to hit me, aren't you, what a threat I almost shiver at the thought of the terrible blow. I will just tell you off in French when I get home, and you won't no what I am saying, so there, and have you forgot what my voice is like, well when I get home I expect you will see a difference, but not for the worse I hope. I believe I have got thinner, and do not feel quite so well as I was when I first came out here but one must expect that. I suppose on the whole I am not wearing bad and so far as outside appearances are concerned I shall look much about the same I hope.

This place where I am now stationed, is a nice country place and I am writing this letter to you in the gardens of a beautiful French Chateau, where we are taking a rest, we are generally done by dinner time and have the rest of the day to ourselves, but I expect we shall have to make up for it, as it is rumoured that we are about to move, and have two or three weeks march in front of us I suppose, we are in for some fun, but do not worry, as this company is a lucky one, and has had very few casualties up to now. If we move I may not get your letters for a week or two but they will follow me on.

I have written two letters to Phil but they have not answered them, will you give them both my regards, also Mr Smith when you see them. Give my regards to your sister and her husband and tell Violet her charm is hanging round my neck for luck where old fritz will find it if he gets me before I do him. Now ducks once again do not worry no more than you can help and be brave I promise you I will keep my head down low and look after myself so much as I can, although a bit out of soughts at present I am quite cheerful, and not a bit nery. So let us both think only of meeting again, and I feel sure we shall, kiss the girls for me tell them I am all right, and tell Ernest to be a good boy.

I shall now conclude with my fondest love to you your affectionate Husband

Au Revoir George

Sunday June 10th (1917)

Private G. Loosley 84611
168 Machine Gun Company
6th Corps Depot
B.E.F France

Dear Miss Crompton

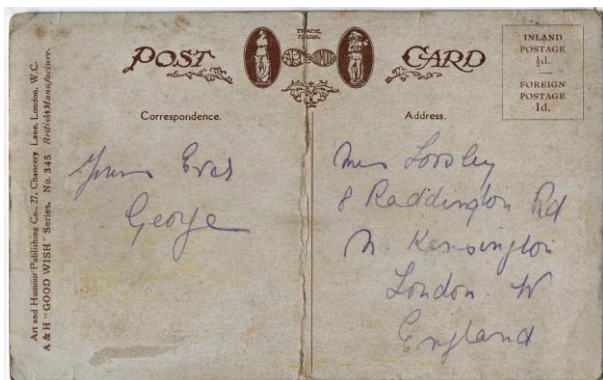
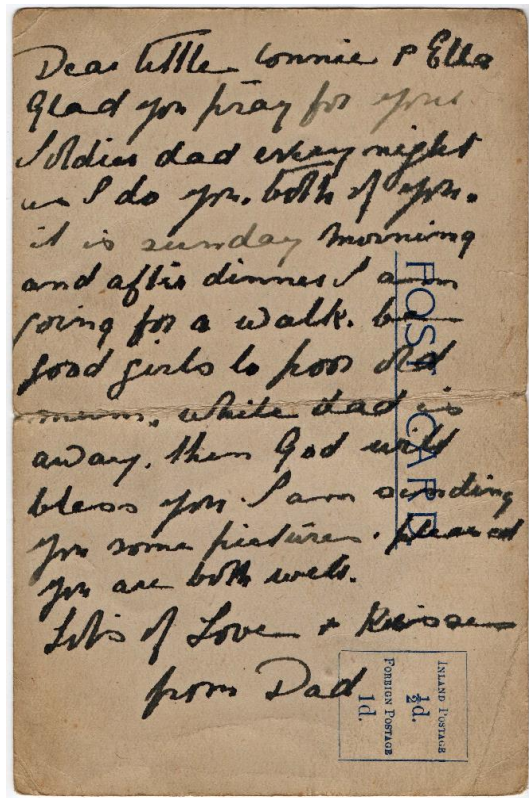
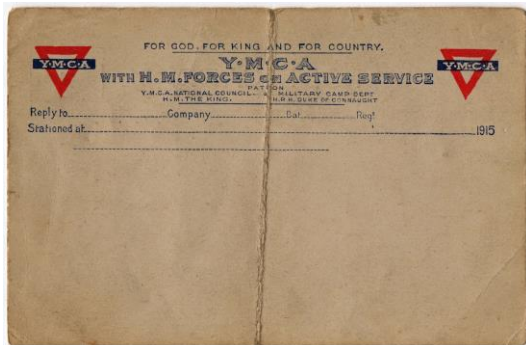
I received the chocolate you kindly sent me yesterday I thank you very much for the gift that I much enjoyed. It does seem to me so very long since I left home and yet the time seems to have passed along quickly I suppose I have seen so much since I have been here that it has helped time along. Anyhow what I have experienced so far has certainly provided food for reflection. I need hardly say how I long to be at home once more. I am pleased to hear from you that my wife keeps well, I was afraid that my leaving home would lead to a breakdown of her health, especially as she had so much trouble at the beginning of the year. I much appreciate your opinions of my wife who I need hardly say, has been the best of wives to me and I long to be at home with her again, so that we can go on our life's journey together again, without I hope any further interruptions. I am very pleased that my two daughters are getting on so well with swimming it is good for them. I am a great believer in physical exercise.

I would like to see my children grow up physically and mentally perfect but of course there are many things that prevent that in most families. I have heard my wife talk of you often and should be pleased to meet you some day, when this tragedy is over. I am in perfect health myself and at present quite safe but expect to be up to my neck in business shortly.

Again thank you for the present and good wishes

I am sincerely yours. G. Loosley

Postcards from France & Belgium



Going by the address and the way its written its likely that this card was sent to his mother.



Dear Ella
 I am pleased
 you are well, and
 getting on well at
 school, also that
 you are a good girl
 and doing all you
 can for Mum.
 Many Kisses
 From Dad

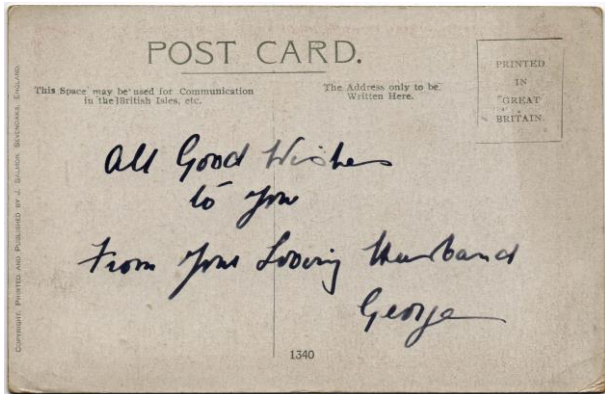
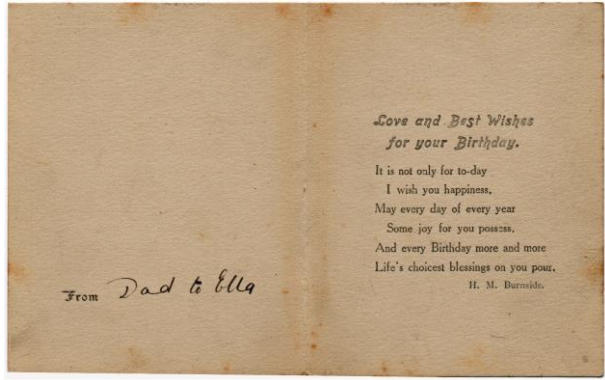
To Little Ella
 From Dad

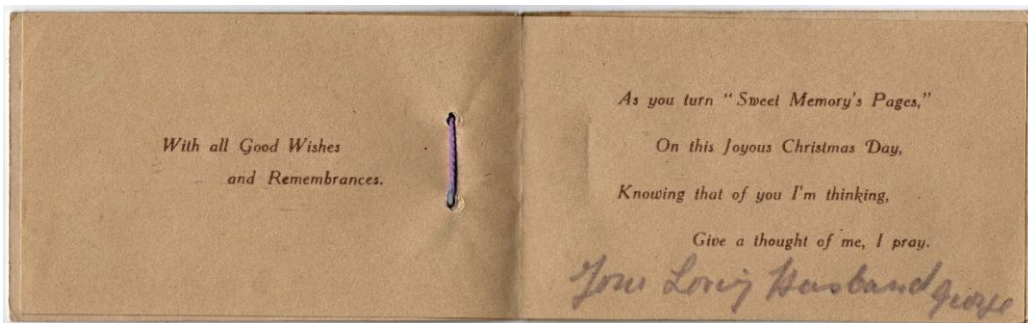
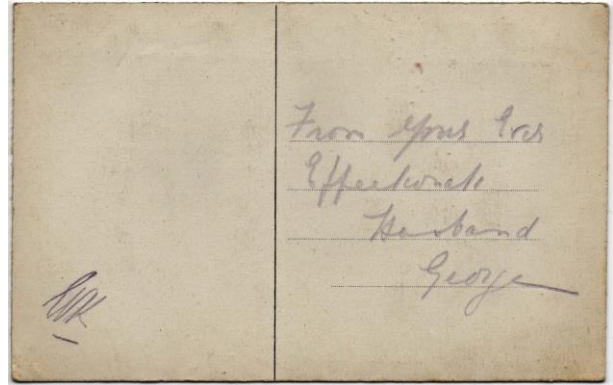


To Ella
 From
 Dad

With fondest
 Love

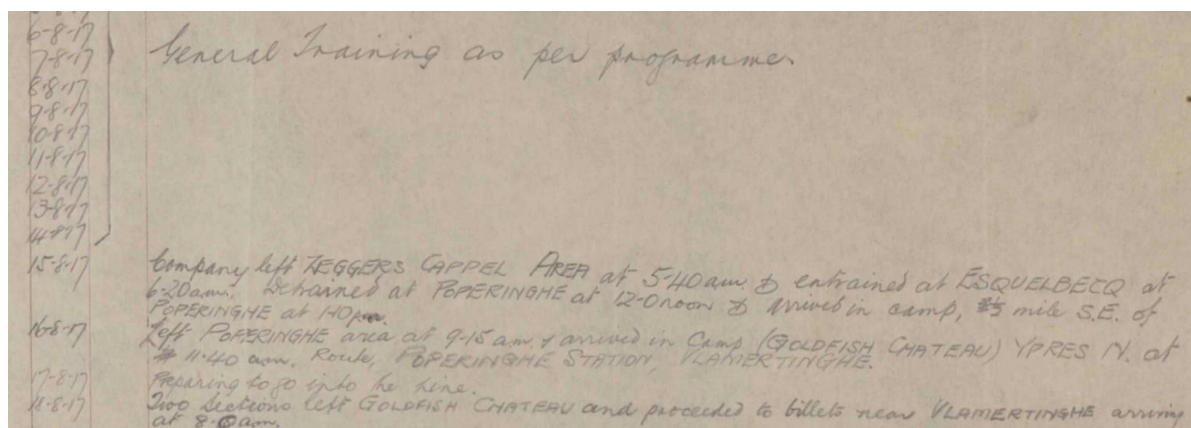
MR







Movements of the 183rd Machine Gun Corps 15 August - 17th August 1917



15th August 1917 - Company left Zeggars Cappel area at 5.40am & entrained at Esquelbecq at 6.20am. Detrained at Poperinghe at 12 noon & arrived in camp, 1/2 mile S.E of Poperinghe 1-10pm

16th August 1917 - Left Poperinghe area at 9-15am and arrived in camp (Goldfish Chateau) Ypres N. at 11.40am. Route Poperinghe Station, Vlamertinghe

17th August 1917 - Preparing to go into the line



Possibly written either at Poperinghe or Goldfish Chateau Ypres, Belgium.

My dear Wife

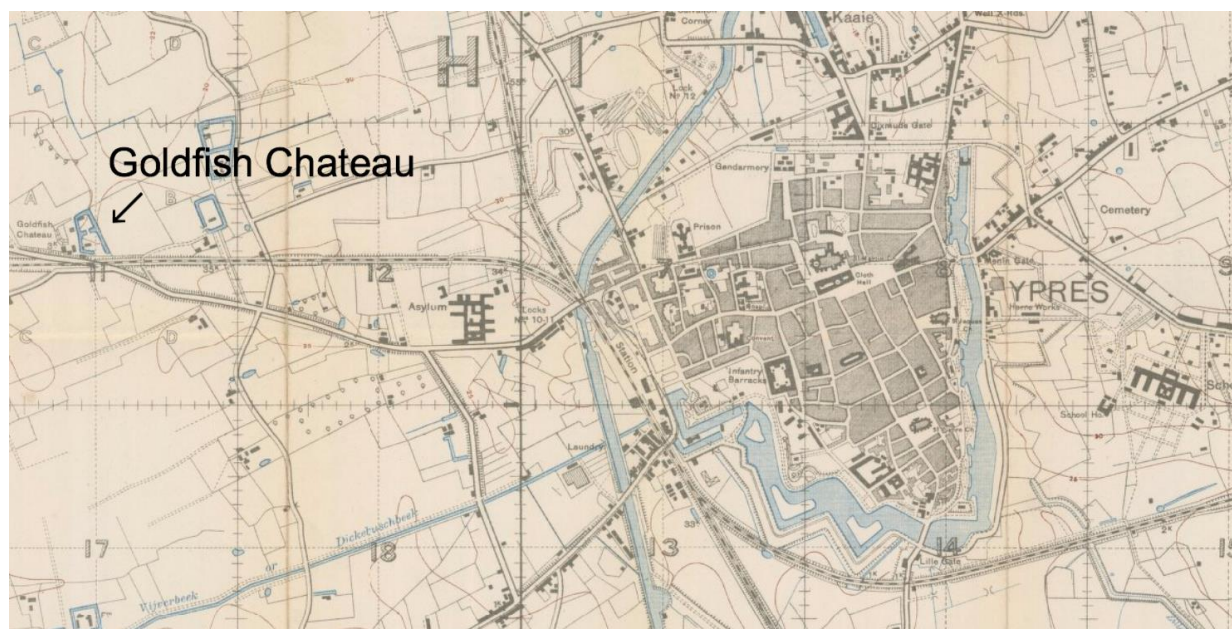
A Corporal in my company is coming to England on leave, and he will either post this letter in England or he may bring it to you he lives at Hampton near Hampton Court and is going to Kensington to see a friend, for most of our letters we have to be very careful what we write, as the letters are censored by our Officers, and they return them to us if they do not suit the wishes of their Lordships. Now I must tell you that life out here is a dog's life, and men are treated like a lot of sheep, one gets messed about so much at times that it makes our blood boil to have to put up with it. I have been lucky enough to keep out of the line so far but of course we never know when we may go in. I am on the left of Ypres and near the Belgium frontier at present. We are generally billeted in farmyards and the farms out here are dirty holes, and the French people I have met so far are far from being hospitable as one would expect nearly everybody out here is fed up with the war, and will be pleased when it is all over, especially myself and I would see that they did not have me again, as one is not treated like a man. You just have to grin and bear it. I was very well when I first landed in France. I landed at Boulogne, but do not think I am as strong as I was. I think the life out here has not done me much good although the food has not been so bad but we have to sleep in all sorts of places that are not fit for pigs for the first two months I slept out but it is getting too damp at night for that now, unless one is in the trenches then of course you are out all the time. The guns have been going out here like hell lately, but as I say I have been lucky enough to be out of range. I am hoping that something happens before the winter, as I do not fancy a winter here, it must be hellish. I have been to many billets while I have been in France, sometimes hours in the train sometimes in motor lorries, sometimes we have to march a good distance, loaded up like a horse we never know when we are going to shift, we get the order all at once, and travel as a rule by night as I told you in my letters I have a very bad cold, and would have gone sick, but would have had to march about 3 miles to see a doctor and carry a full pack with you, so I just put up with it but pleased to say I am getting all right again. Now my dear I have told you more perhaps than I should have done, but you have no need to worry, all the while I know things are well at home.

I will try my best to put up with things out here as well as I can. When I come home again to civil life I intend to enjoy my freedom to the full and you will have to nurse me up for a day or two, won't mind being my nurse will you I shall never want to leave home again after this we will just live together for one other.

In losing our parents it was a great blow to us but we shall be happy together again as I think we always have been especially if the children stop with us although I expect they may want to go someday, but I should like things to stop with you always, and now Ducks, we will trust for the best look after yourself the children and the home, and I will look after myself while I am out here, kiss the children for me, tell them Dad will not be long before he is home, what a meeting it will be. Out of the army as soon as I can, and the next army I join will be Salvation Army.

Now I must conclude with the fondest love to you and the children - George

Goldfish Chateau Ypres.



Goldfish Chateau was destroyed in 1920 along with an adjacent ammunition dump.

Probably written at Goldfish Chateau

Tuesday Aug 14 (1917)

Private G. Loosley
183 Machine Gun Company
B.E.F France

My Dear Wife

A few lines to let you know that up to now I am quite well and safe. The weather here is now much better than it has been and on the whole things are not too bad.

Time out here on one hand seems to pass quite quickly yet, again it seems ages since I left England and long ago since I took off my civilian cloths I expect it will seem strange to me when I put on those clothes again, as is it did when I put on my first suit of khaki. You know I shall not be sorry and to get back in my home again with you and the children will be one of the greatest joys of my life. I am looking forward to that time and I do not think it is that far away as some imagine anyway let us hope not, and in the meantime I will do my best to carry on I hope you are not worrying about me too much, as there is no need to, in two months' time I shall have reached my forty first birthday, and like Charley's Aunt I am still running. I hope we shall have many years yet to spend together, and I know they will be happy ones. I am pleased the children keep well, just cheer than up, I wonder what my first meeting of them will be like, I can guess, by the way do they still take swimming lessons and is Ernest getting on well at school, you must tell him he must pick up all the knowledge he can the little time he has left for schooling. Now I want you to send me out the two latest issues of the Herald the news agent will get them for you if he does not stock it also two pocket handkerchiefs, not white ones. That is all. The last letter I received from you is the one you wrote on the 5th of August, if you have written since they must have gone astray, are you still getting your money all right, as I have been asked about the allotment I make and who I make it to, also your name and address, as I am wondering if you have had any trouble in getting your money lately let me know, also has Wise settled up with you yet I am on the move again and expect to be in the line in a few days from now. But do not worry I shall be quite all right. Give my regards to your sister and her husband, also Mr & Mrs Harvey. I hope Connie had a good time with her aunt give my regards to aunt and Phil. Also to Mr Smith if you see him. I hope you are well pray for me as I will for you all, all will come right in the end.

This is all I have to say at present so shall conclude with fond love to you and the children.

Au Revoir Yours Ever George.

(no date)

I received the very welcome letter you wrote on Sunday 12th (*August*) and pleased to hear that the young man you refer to called upon you. Since sending my last letter to you I have moved again some considerable distance and am somewhere in XXXXXXXX (censored) and beginning to realise what war means, am expecting to go into the line any time now but I am not a bit nervy, and at present I am quite well. I have it in my mind that I shall see you all again soon, hope it will be the case. Pleased Connie had a good time at aunts, and no doubt my Lord will also enjoy himself I expect he would like to be out here, where he would see plenty to engage his attention. You need not send me any more writing material at present, as I have enough to last me for some time. Now my dear wife, this is likely the last letter you will receive from me before I go into the line, as I am right close to it now, and am waiting orders to move, as it may only be a question of a few hours. But I want you to be brave and cheer up, and whatever happens look after yourself and the children then you will be doing your bit. Kiss my little Connie and Ella for me, and tell Ernest it is my wish that he always to be a good lad to you as I believe he will be, give my regards to Kate and Phil, also to Mr & Mrs Harvey, your sister and George. Now again cheer up I am all right and quite ready and able to play my part like a man must now conclude with my fondest love to you and the children

Yours Ever George



Sunday Aug 19 (1917)

Private G. Loosley 84611
183 Machine Gun Company
B.E.F France

My Dear Wife

This is Sunday and a beautiful day although one does not know one day from the other out here, in fact sometimes I forget what day it is. Now first of all I am very neat the line and waiting for my turn to go in. Where I am one sees war in its very intensity whole villages and towns are blown down and in some places there is not a tree standing. The roads are crowded with marching troops, Large guns of all descriptions, Motor Lorries, and of course the usual red cross cars bringing down the wounded, besides the trains which are loaded, it is a sight to see or lads coming out of the line, many of them asleep on their horses and caked in mud they look rough but not so rough as some of the German prisoners that are continually being brought down, they look fed up and knocked up. Sleep is almost out of the question here, as the guns are continually banging away day and night, and fights in the air is the order of the day. The whole thing is highly exciting if it was not so horrible. Now although waiting my turn to do my bit, I am not a bit afraid, and believe I shall see you all again so do not worry as I shall not be in the line long as they soon relieve us, and out here our company has been very lucky, although things are hellish hot in this front, but as I say I believe I shall be all right, and will look after myself as well as I can but if anything should happen, I want you to be brave, and just carry on and look after yourself and our children. I am pleased my friend called upon you and that you gave him some tea he found us today and I felt much more contented when I heard from his lips that both you and are children are well he also gave me the box of Greys and writing material you sent. I am in good health at present having got rid of my cold which gave me a shaking up, pleased the children are well, very pleased that you have bought yourself a ring and hope it was a good one, it is what I should have bought you long ago, as you say it will be a meeting when we all meet again, as I hope we shall never part no more on this earth I know I shall want to stick to my home. I have seen as much of the world as I want to. So you saw Maggie I suppose she was surprised to hear that I was out here, is her husband still away. I do not mind you giving her my address she may write if she likes, in fact I am letting anybody write to me. Now my darling wife cheer up give my regards to your sister and George also Mr & Mrs Harvey I suppose the old neighbourhood looks just the same how I long to see it. I shall now conclude my letter with my fondest love to you and our children

Au Revoir until we meet

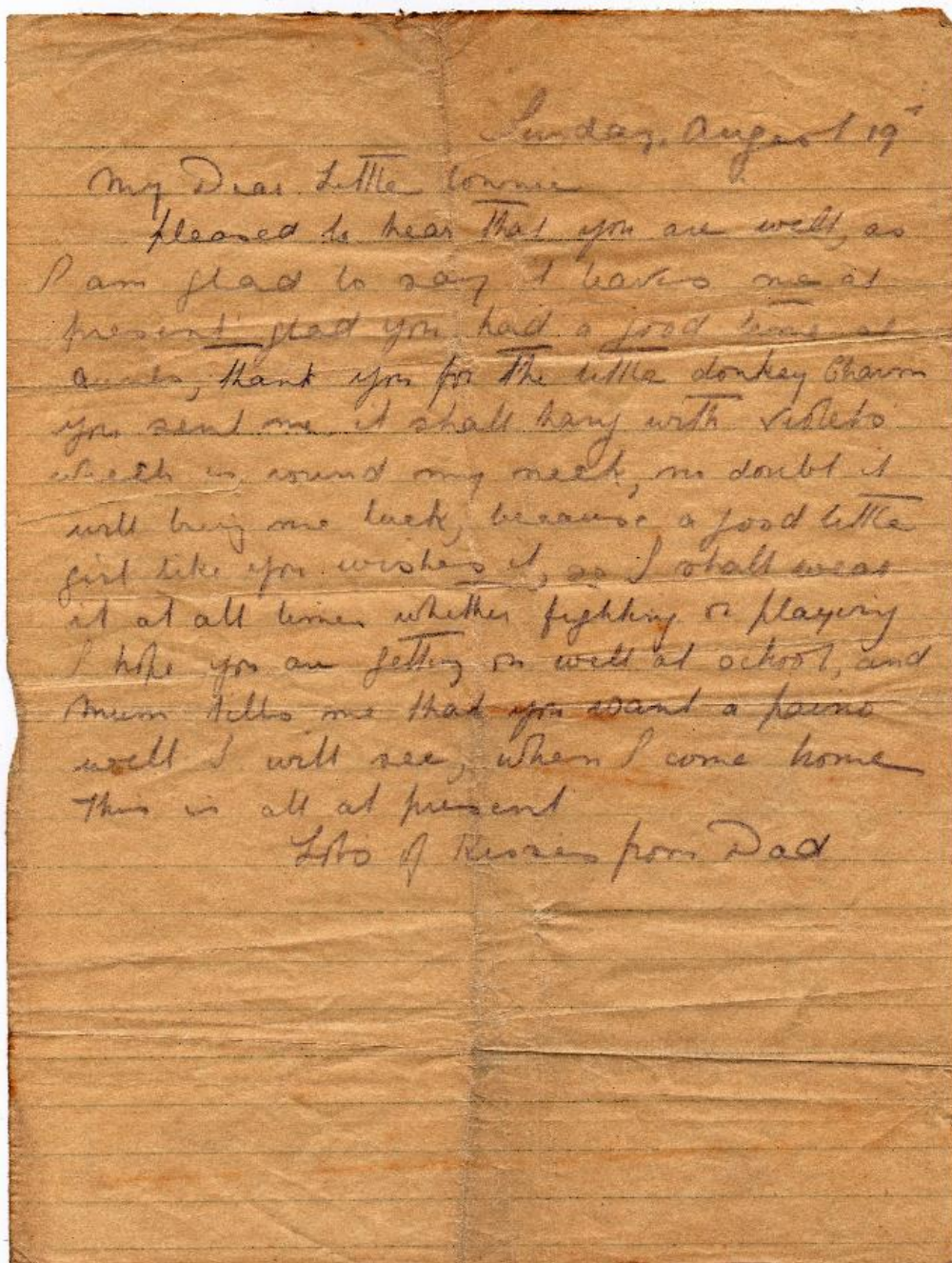
p.s (if I want anything I will let you know) George

Sunday August 19th (1917)

My dear little Connie

Pleased to hear that you are well, as I am glad to say it leaves me at present glad you had a good time at Aunts. Thank you for the little donkey charm you sent me I shall hang it with Violets which is round my neck no doubt it will bring me luck, because a good little girl like you wishes it, so I shall wear it all the time whether fighting or playing. I hope you are getting on well at school, and Mum tells me you want a piano well I will see when I come home. This all at present

Lots of kisses from Dad



Sunday, August 19th
My Dear Little Connie
Pleased to hear that you are well, as
I am glad to say it leaves me at
present glad you had a good time at
Aunts, thank you for the little donkey charm
you sent me I shall hang with violets
which is round my neck, no doubt it
will bring me luck, because a good little
girl like you wishes it, so I shall wear
it at all times whether fighting or playing
I hope you are getting on well at school, and
Mum tells me that you want a piano
well I will see, when I come home
This is all at present
Lots of kisses from Dad

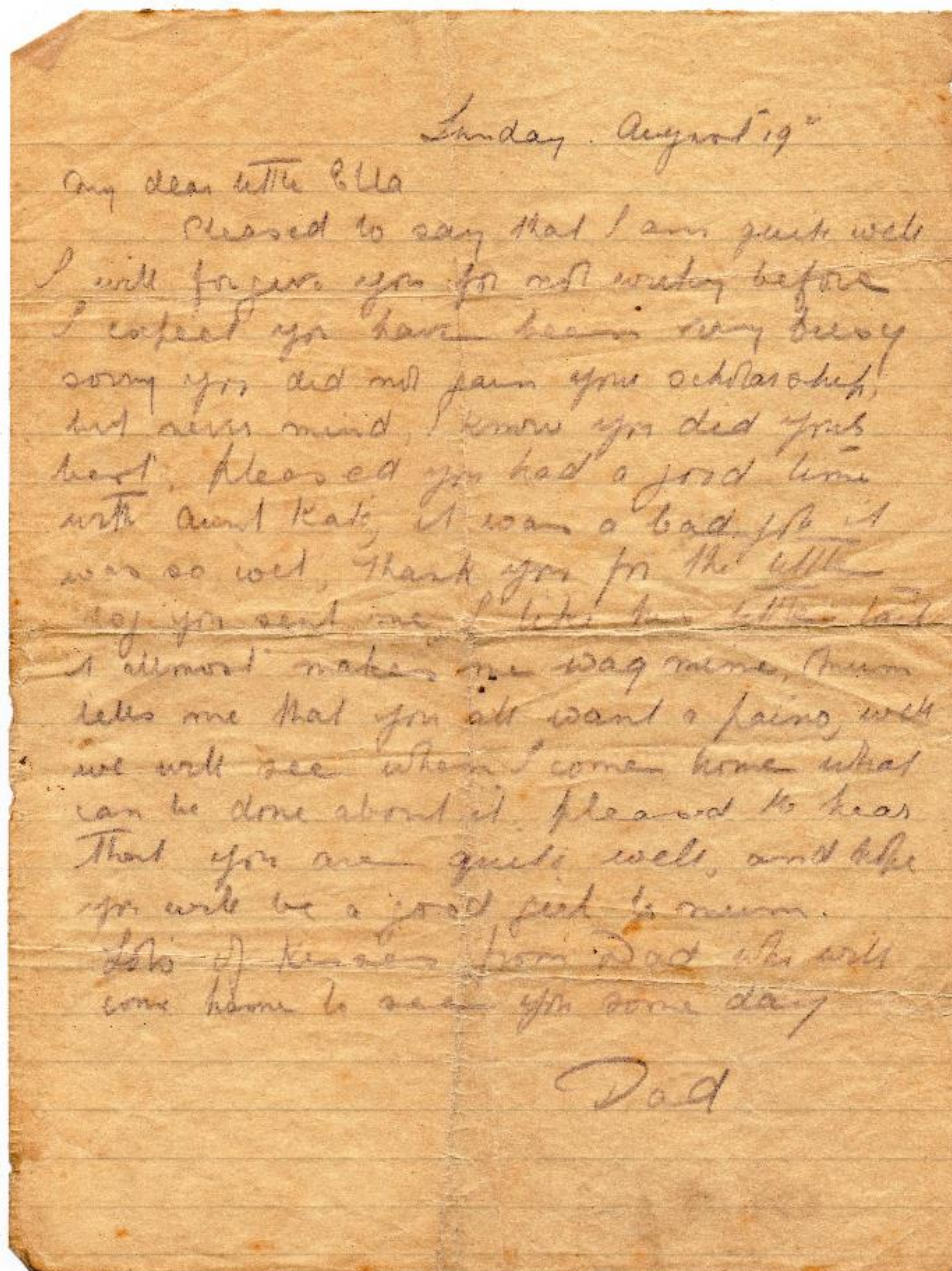
Sunday August 19th (1917)

My dear little Ella

Pleased to say that I am quite well. I will forgive you for not writing before expect you have been busy. Sorry you did not gain your scholarship but never mind I know you did your best. Pleased you had a nice time at Aunt Kate's, it was a bad job it was so wet. Thank you for the little dog you sent me, I like his little tail it almost makes me wag mine. Mum tells me that you all want a piano; well we see when I come home what can be done about it pleased to hear that you are quite well and hope you will be a good girl to mum.

Lots of kisses from Dad who will come home to see you some day

Dad



Sunday August 19th
My dear little Ella
Pleased to say that I am quite well
I will forgive you for not writing before
I expect you have been very busy
sorry you did not gain your scholarship,
but never mind, I know you did your
best. Pleased you had a good time
with Aunt Kate, it was a bad job it
was so wet, thank you for the little
dog you sent me, I like his little tail
it almost makes me wag mine. Mum
tells me that you all want a piano, well
we will see when I come home what
can be done about it. Pleased to hear
that you are quite well, and hope
you will be a good girl to mum.
Lots of kisses from Dad who will
come home to see you some day
Dad

Probably written at Pommern Redoubt on 20th August

My dear darling Wife

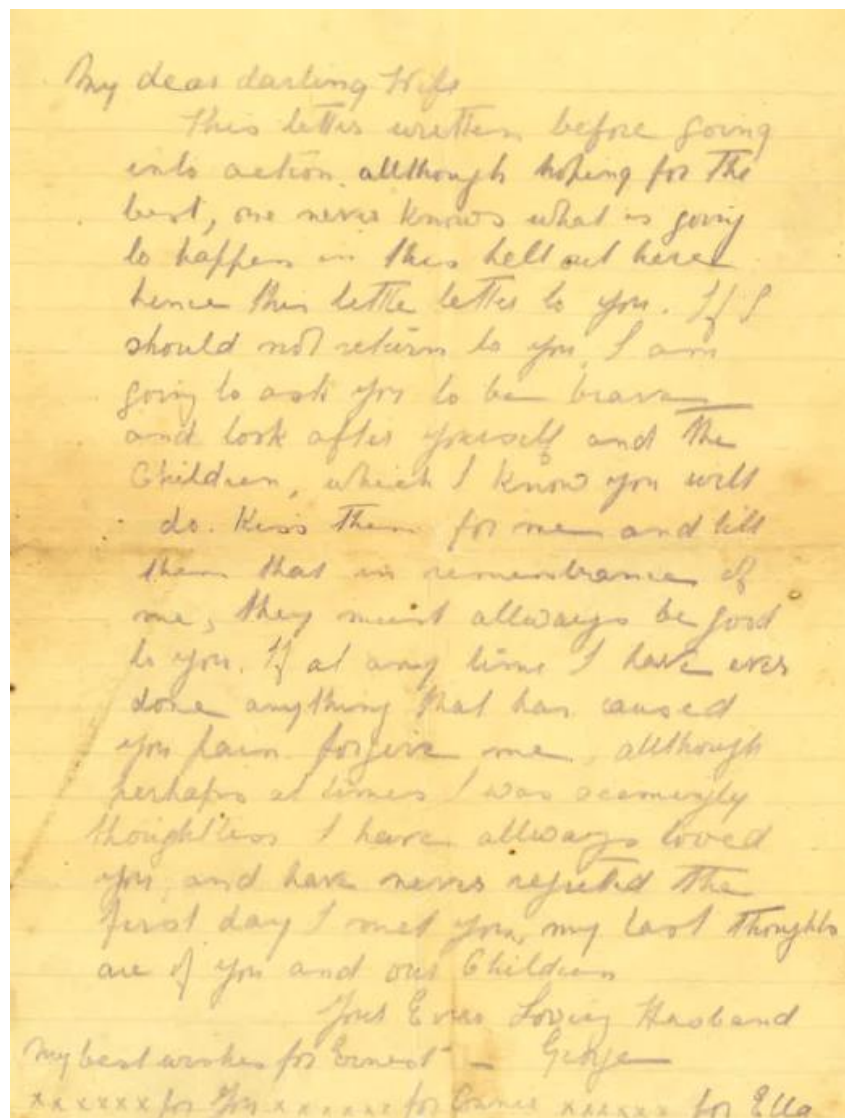
This letters written before going into action. Although hoping for the best, one never knows what is going to happen in this hell out here hence this little letter to you. If I should not return to you I am going to ask you to be brave and to look after the children, which I know you will do. Kiss them for me and tell them in remembrance of me, they must always be good to you. If at any time I have ever done anything that has caused you pain forgive me, although perhaps at times I was seemingly thoughtless I have always loved you and have never regretted the first day I met you, my last thoughts are of you and our children.

Your ever Loving Husband

my best wishes for Ernest

XXXXXX for you XXXXXX for Connie XXXXXX for Ella

George

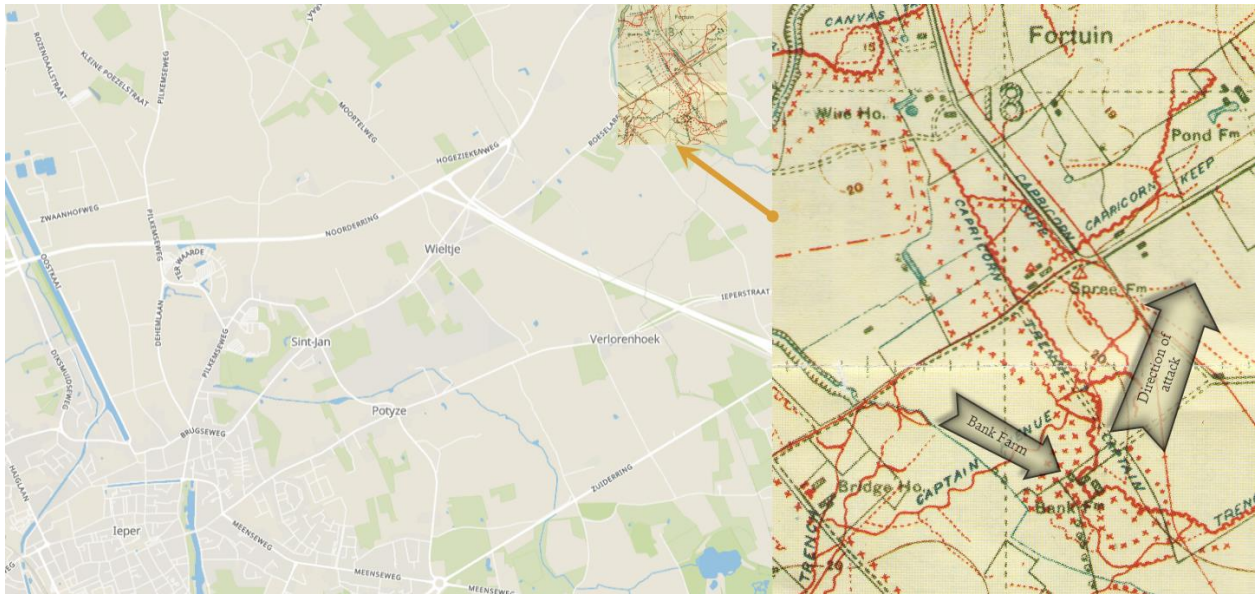


My dear darling Wife
This letter written before going
into action. although hoping for the
best, one never knows what is going
to happen in this hell out here
hence this little letter to you. If I
should not return to you, I am
going to ask you to be brave
and look after yourself and the
children, which I know you will
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you pain forgive me, although
perhaps at times I was seemingly
thoughtless I have always loved
you and have never regretted the
first day I met you, my last thoughts
are of you and our children
Your ever Loving Husband
My best wishes for Ernest - George
xxxxxx for you xxxxxx for Connie xxxxxx for Ella

Battle in the Region of Bank Farm 19th – 22nd August 1917

The 183rd Machine Gun Corps were attached to the 61st Division.

One of the objective of this phase of the battle was to take Pond Farm, as part of the 3rd Battle of Ypres or otherwise known as Passchendaele.



Location of Bank Farm and direction of attack shown on the trench map.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Brass heading not required.)

183rd M.G. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ZEGGERS CAPPEL AREA	1-8-17			HALLERDICK 5 th 100,000
	2-8-17			
	3-8-17			
	4-8-17			
	5-8-17			
	6-8-17			
	7-8-17		General training as per programme.	800
	8-8-17			
	9-8-17			
	10-8-17			
	11-8-17			
	12-8-17			
	13-8-17			
	14-8-17			
	15-8-17		Company left ZEGGERS CAPPEL AREA at 5:40 am & entrained at ESQUELDECO at 6:20 am. Detained at PAPERINGHE at 12:00 noon & arrived in camp, 2 1/2 miles S.E. of PAPERINGHE at 10 pm.	
	16-8-17		Left PAPERINGHE area at 9:15 am & arrived in Camp (GOLDFISH CHATEAU) YPRES N. at 11:40 am. Route, PAPERINGHE STATION, VLAERTINGHE.	
	17-8-17		Preparing to go into the line.	
	18-8-17		Two sections left GOLDFISH CHATEAU and proceeded to billets near VLAERTINGHE arriving at 8:00 am.	800
	19-8-17		at 4:00 am. The two sections left at GOLDFISH CHATEAU relieved 107 M.G. Coy in the line. Relief was effected without incident. 4 guns PAMERN REDOUBT. 4 guns BANK FARM	
WICLSE	20-8-17		Enemy shelled vicinity of BANK FARM 4 AM - 8 AM. 3 casualties. Enemy shell side section	FREZENBURG 10,000.

A 531 W. W. 4973/3687 750000 8/16 D.D. & L. Ltd. Forms C/1115/13

Excerpt from the War Diary of the 183rd Machine Gun Corps

19th August 1917 Enemy shelled vicinity of Bank Farm 4am – 8pm. 3 casualties enemy shell brigade section

The assumption is that George was part of was part of the section that left Goldfish Chateau to relieve 107 Machine Gun Corps in the line at Bank Farm on the 19th August 1917. According to the War Diary, Bank Farm was shelled between 4am to 8am on the morning of 20th August when it is believed George was killed during this barrage along with Harry Kirsh.

Written 30th August while resting at Vlamertinghe Belgium.

Dear Mrs Loosley

30-8-17

I am sorry indeed to have to convey to you, what you perhaps have already heard, the sad news of the death of your Husband. He was killed on Aug 20th while with me on a working party. Although he had never been in the line with me before he was a cheerful willing & intelligent soldier & I valued him very much indeed. He was killed along with his friend Pt. H. Kirsch and neither suffered any pain. As his officer allow me to express my deep sympathy with you and children in your great loss. Your husband died as a soldier doing his duty.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

Edger ?

183

B.E.F

30. 8. 17.

Dear Mrs Loosley

I am very sorry indeed
to have to convey to you, what you
perhaps have already heard, the sad
news of the death of your husband.
He was killed on Aug 20 while with
me on a working party.
Although he had never been in the line
with me before he was a cheerful, willing
& intelligent soldier & I valued him very
much indeed. He was killed along with
his friend Pt. H. Kirsch & neither suffered
any pain.
As his officer allow me to express my
deep sympathy with you & your children
in your great loss, your husband died as
a soldier doing his duty.

Believe me
Yours very sincerely
Edger ?

183
B.E.F.

Letters from Howard Myland

Written 1st September while resting at Vlamertinghe Belgium.

87211 H. Myland

183 Co. M.G.C
3 Section 1/9/17
Somewhere in (censored)

Dear Madam

I hope you will excuse my writing to you, but I just feel constrained to send you a few lines. I was a friend of your late husband practically all the time he was out here. We came on the same draft from Clipstone. I was with him as we moved from place to place in France and as a consequence of this association I came to respect him very highly. We had a talk together from time to time, and I soon discovered that his views about many things were very like mine. His favourite topic was the work he hoped to do for his fellow workers when the war was ended, and what steps would be best in order that his comrade's lives be made better and happier.

It was while working for his comrade's safety that he made his death, and of him it can be truly said that he gave his life to save others. He won the respect of all who knew him for his straightforward life and willingness to act a comrade's part, we could ill afford to lose a man of his character. I am writing this letter because I was so well known to him, and also because I was working only a few yards from him when the end came. If it is any satisfaction to you to know it I may say that his end was quite free from all pain, and when I reached his side he lay as if quite peacefully asleep, with no disfigurement at all, he might have been quietly resting. I know no words of mine can be of any help to you in your great trial, but I am led to hope that you will be comforted in some small measure, small indeed I know, in the thought that his work was not in vain.

When the war is over, if god spares me to return, I will come to London and see you if you would care for me to. My wife's address is at 2 Solby Road Basingstoke Hants, should you change your address & desire me to call please let my wife know your change of address.

Hoping that you may find some comfort in this sad hour, dark indeed as it is.

I remain

Yours truly

H. Myland

Written at Simencourt France

87211 H Myland
183 Co.
23/9/17

Dear Madam

I am very sorry not to have written sooner, but for various reasons I have not had an opportunity until now. I am sure George was all you say, and I found him a man who could be relied on to do his duty always, although no one wished to be home again more than he did. As you wish me to do so I will say how he met his end. A party of us had to go out one night to dig some trenches to put our guns in, and while he was engaged in his duty a shell pitched quite close to him and although he was not struck by it the concussion killed him. He did not suffer any pain being killed instantly. I was working only a few yards from him, and was the first to get to him after the shell burst, another man was working at the same spot, but we could not find him afterwards.

I am sure you have had a very trying year this year your husband told me of the bereavements you have had, it seems very hard to bear I am sure. I hope you and your children may be spared to grow up and be some help to you in the days to come.

I have got 3 tiny children, and I like to think of them as being company for my wife and a means whereby she has something to keep her mind engaged while I am away from home. I pray that god may help you in this terrible experience, and give you some comfort in this trying time. All that we can do is to trust the future to His care and providence. Hoping that the little that I am able to tell you may be of some help.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Howard Myland

Obituaries

UNITED BUILDERS' LABOURERS' UNION.

Affiliated to the Trades Union Congress, National Associated Building Trades Council, London
Building Industries Federation, Local Trades Councils, and Building Trades Committees.

Approved under the National Insurance Act, No. 279.

Registered General Office: 186. BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON, S.E.

General Secretary:
D. HAGGERTY.

Telephone: Hop 1172.

Solicitors:
Messrs. PATTINSON & BREWER.

Address 25 Gutterbet St Radclington W.2.

Branch Shamrock.

8/9 1917

Dear Mrs Loosley

I am instructed by the Shamrock Members to write you expressing our deepest sympathy to you in your sad loss of your dear devoted husband. And the above Society as a whole will mourn the loss of one of the Best Staunch & True Workers in the above Society. And shall always remember his name for the good work he done for the workers in general. R. S. P.

Yours faithfully

G. Wise
Branch Secretary
Shamrock Branch.

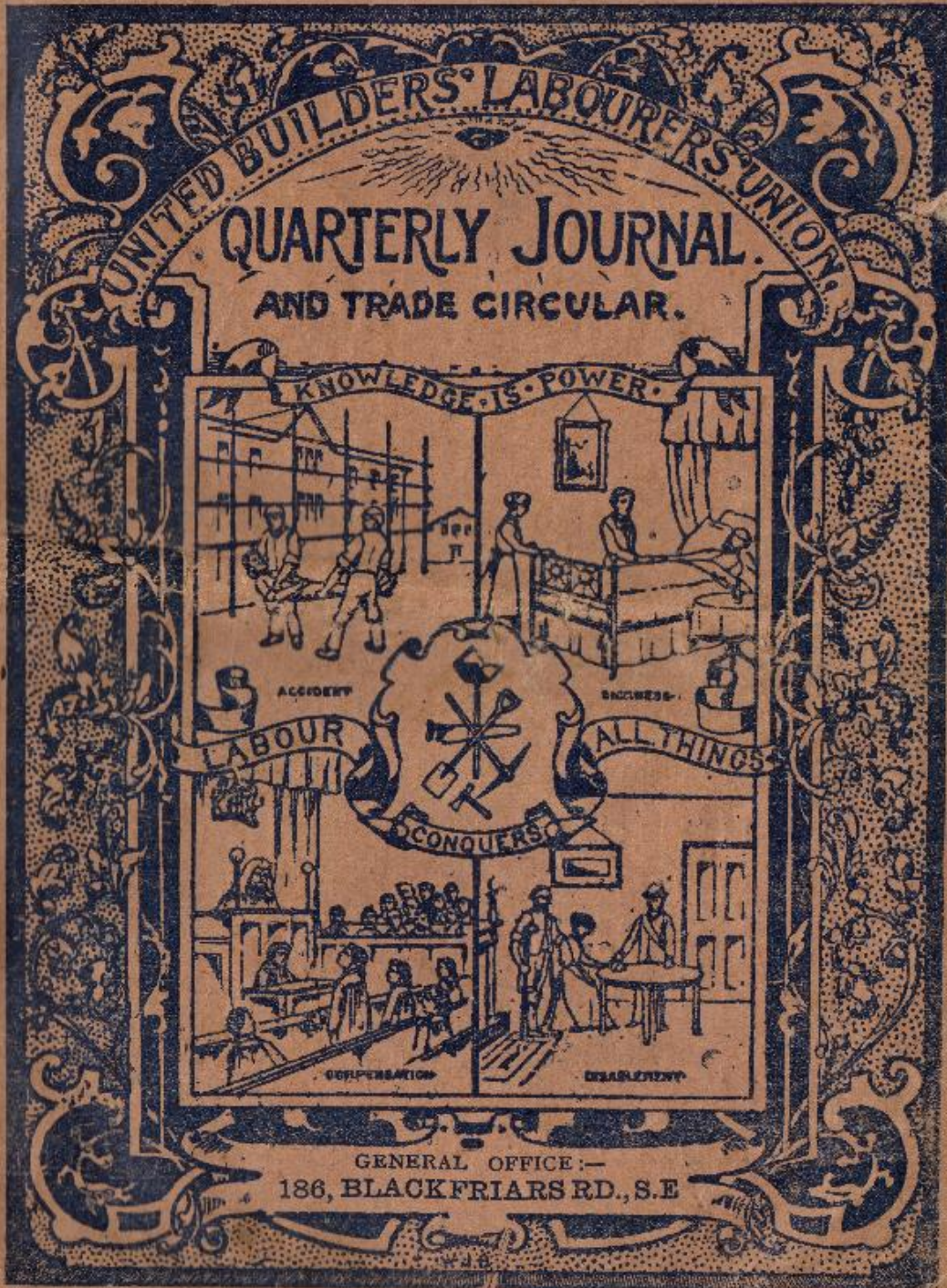
Gone - But - Not - Forgotten

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Vol. 8.

SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER, 1917.

No. 38.



GENERAL OFFICE :—
186, BLACKFRIARS RD., S.E

Printed for the Builders Labourers' Union, 186, Blackfriars Road, by the Twentieth Century Press (1912) Ltd.
T.U and 48 hours, 37a, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C. 1

GENERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES.**FELLOW MEMBERS,—**

In presenting to you our report for September and December quarters, 1917, we are glad to report that great progress has been made in the opening of new branches in many parts of the country, together with an increase in our membership, notwithstanding the continuance of this cursed war, to which there never seem any signs of an end. We trust that the day is not far distant when the workers of all countries will demand from their Governments that an early settlement shall be brought about, as we are fully of opinion that there has been enough bloodshed during this world-war.

We also regret to report that many of our comrades have fallen in action. Our deepest sympathies are herewith conveyed to the many widows and relatives who are left behind to mourn their loss. Since our last issue we deeply regret to report the sad loss of our comrade G. Loosley, the late President, who for many years took an active part in our Union, and particularly in the lock-out of 1914. In conjunction with myself, he attended the many conferences held during the 28 weeks we were involved. He never complained, however tired, and he was always ready whenever I called upon him, early or late. Although he is at rest, his name is always with us; no one can fill his place.

Letters to the front

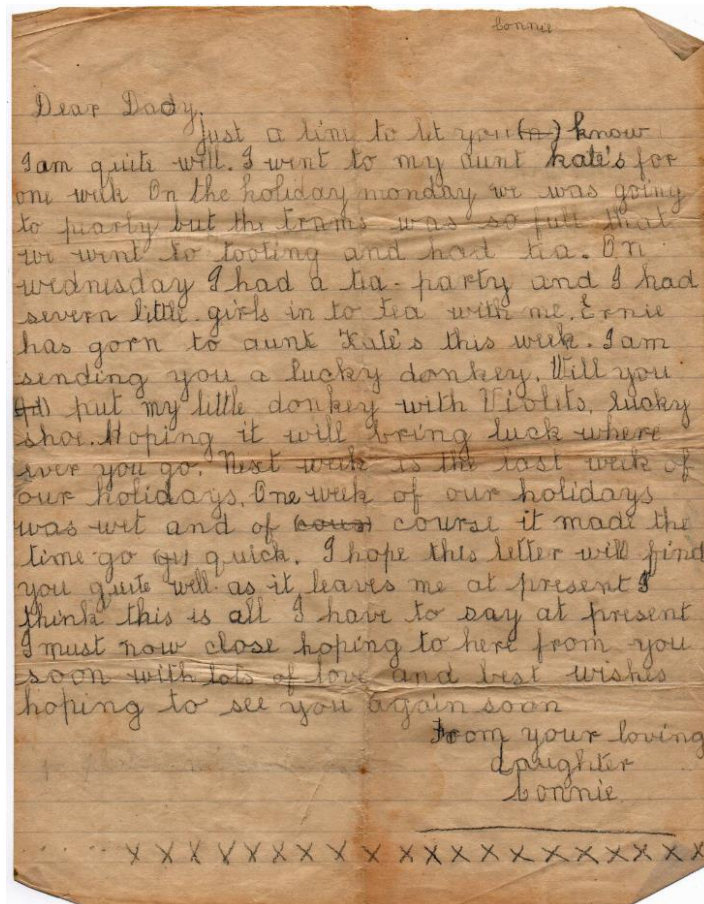
The assumption is that the following letters from Connie & Ella were never sent as new had arrived of George's death.

Dear Dady

Just a line to let you know I am quite well. I went to my aunt Kate's for one week on the holiday Monday we was going to Purley but the trains was so full that we went to Tooting and had Tea. On Wednesday I had a tea party and I had seven little girls in to tea with me. Ernie has gone to Aunt Kate's this week. I am sending you a lucky donkey. Will you put my little donkey with Violets lucky shoe. Hoping it will bring luck where ever you go. Next week is the last week of our holidays. One week of our holidays was wet and of course it made the time go quick. I hope this letter will find you quite well as it leaves me at present I must now close hoping to hear from you soon with lots of love and best wishes hoping to see you again soon.

From your loving
daughter
Connie

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



8 Raddington
North Kensington
W10

Dear Dady

I hope you are well. I am sorry I have not written to you for a long time. I forgot to tell you I have missed the scholarship examination in composition. Dear Dady went to aunt Kate's to stay for a week but it was so wet that aunt Kate could not take me out no-where but she took me to Brixton and to the pictures and let me have a party with 7 little girls in to tea with me and two big ones came after when I came home.

Bought a tea pot for Connie and aunt Kate bought Ernie a pocket book and Mummy two shells so I had a nice time. Thank you for the post card you sent me. Dear Dady Ernie can-not write to you because he is down aunt Kate's. Dear Dady you will find Tugs photo where he keeps wagging his tale I've sent him down to take care of you and bring you home safe.

From your
loving
Daughter
Ella
Good night and god
Bless you
Ella

8 Raddington
North Kensington
W10

Dear dady I hope you are well
I am sorry I have not written
to you for a long time. I forgot
to tell you I have missed the
scholarship examination in
composition. Dear Dady went to aunt
Kate's to stay for a week but
it was so wet that aunt Kate
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she took me to Brixton and to the
pictures and let me have a party
with 7 little girls in to tea
with me and two big ones came
after when I came home. I bought a tea
pot for Connie and aunt Kate
bought me a tea-pot and
I bought Ernie a pocket book
and mummy two shells so I
had a nice time, I thank you

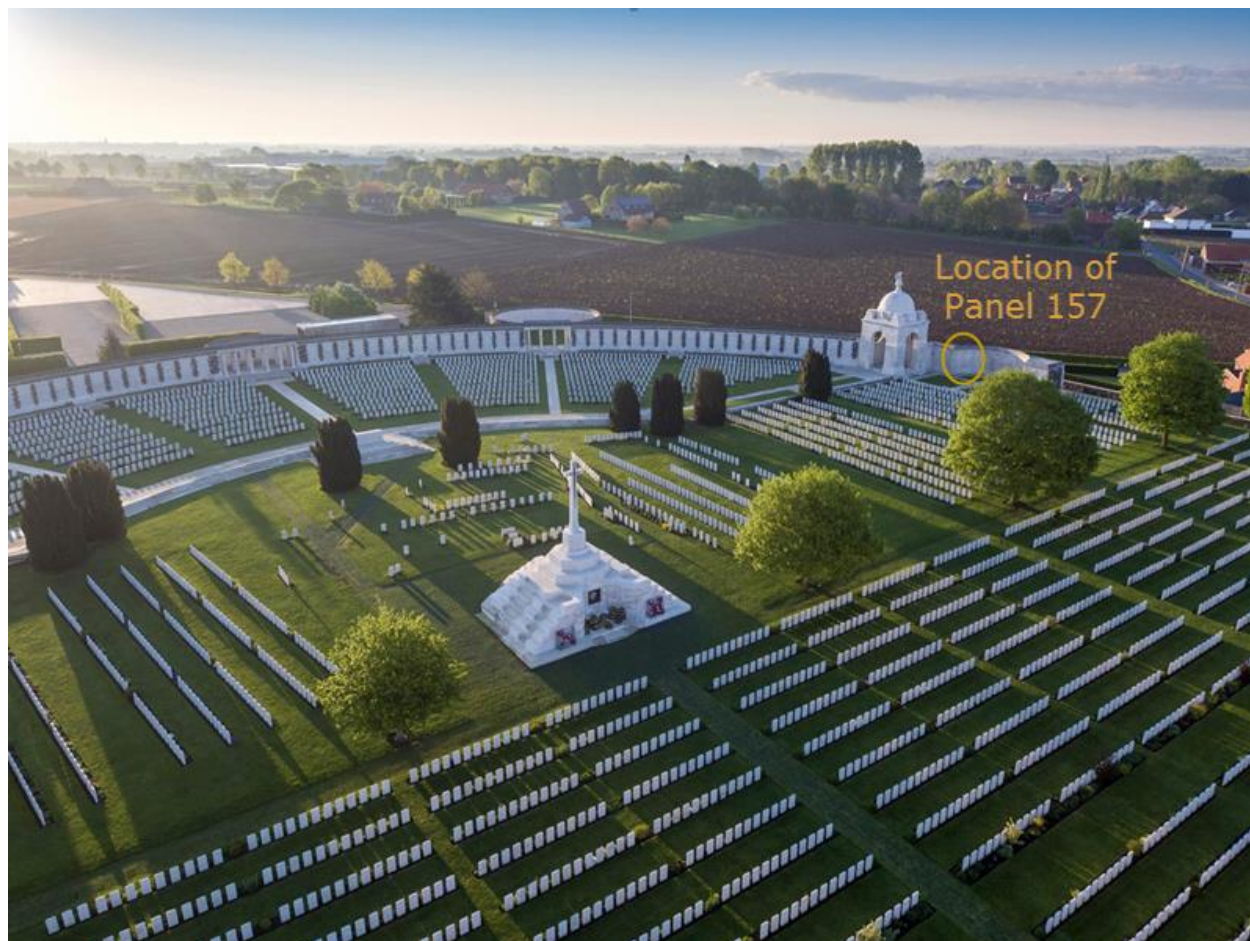
for the post card you sent
me Dear dady Ernie can-not
write to you because he is down
aunt Kate's. Dear dady you
will find Tugs photo where he
keeps wagging his tail I've sent
him down to take care of
you and bring you home
to me safe.

From your
loving
daughter
Ella
Good night and god
Bless you
Ella

Remembrance

George Loosley does not have a grave but is remembered on the wall at the Tyne Cot Cemetery (Panel 157 Tynecotstraat, 8980 Zonnebeke Belgium).

Tyne Cot Cemetery



G.W Loosley inscribed on Panel 157 at the Tyne Cot Cemetery.





Why does George not have a grave?

It is unusual to be in possession of both dog tags let alone one from a soldier who has died. The British Army requirement was to wear two official tags, both made of compressed fibre (more comfortable to wear in hot climates) and carrying identical details. These were again stamped a letter at a time. The two tags required stringing in a particular way. An eight-sided green tag with two holes was strung through one hole and hung around the neck. Through the second hole another much shorter cord was strung, which had a round red tag on it. This method allowed the red tag to be retrieved simply by cutting its short string, leaving the green tag still in place on the body. It meant that others subsequently finding a body with only a green tag would know that the death was already being reported. They could use the details on the green tag to prepare a grave marker.

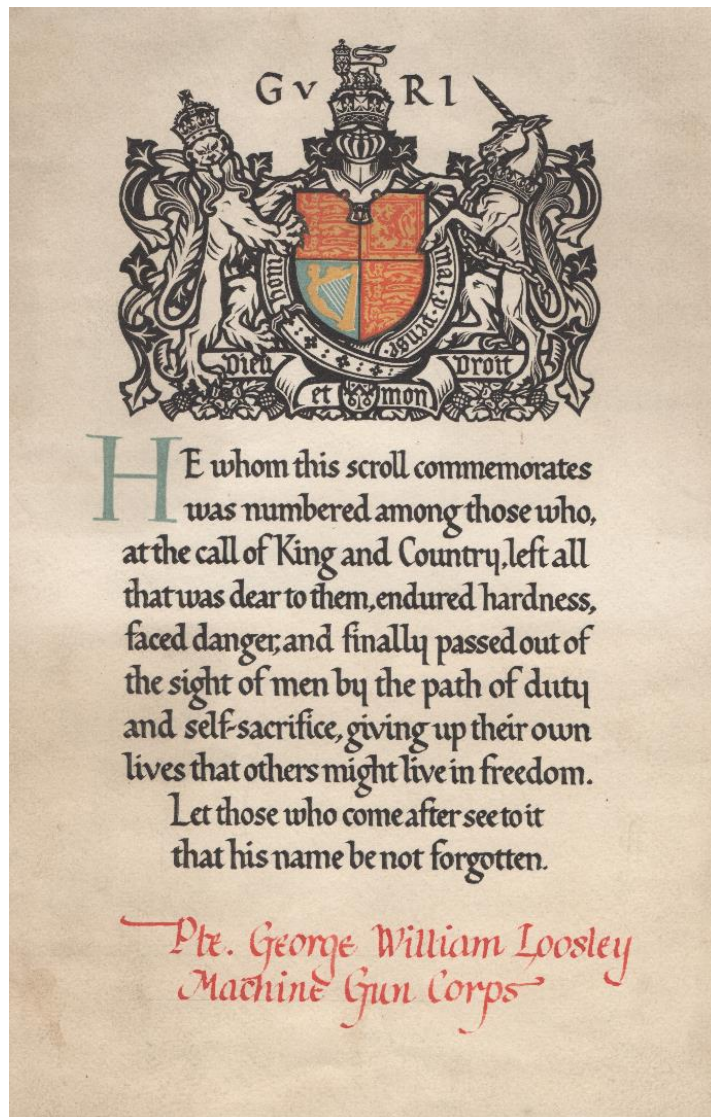


In the case of George Loosley both dog tags were removed possibly by Howard Myland when he attended the body as detailed in his letter (dated 1/9/1917). As both dog tags were removed identification would not have been possible when clearing the dead from the field at a later date, hence his name is on the wall at the Tyne Cot cemetery however if his body was recovered then he would have been buried with a headstone marked with the regiment and company details and inscribed 'A Soldier of The Great War' 'Only Known Unto God'.



Commemorative Scroll

In October 1917 it was announced in The Times newspaper that a commemorative scroll would be sent to the next of kin in addition to the bronze plaque. The scroll would be printed on high quality paper, size 11 x 7 inches (27cm x 17cm).



Campaign Medals of the Great War

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

Army Form W 5109
4634 B

MACHINE GUN CORPS. REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 2664307 of 1918

Regtl. No.	Rank	NAME	In separate Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. thereat; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless awarded for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations	REMARKS
						(a) Presented (b) Dispatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	
84600	Pte	SAVAGE James Robert	84600 M.G.C. Pte				
84609	Pte	SMITH George	84609 M.G.C. Pte				
84610	Pte	WHITING John Edward	84610 M.G.C. Pte				Killed in Action 21-3-18.
84611	Pte	LOOSLEY George William	84611 M.G.C. Pte				Class 2. (A.R.) 22-1-20. Killed in Action 21-8-71
84612	Pte	FULSTON William	84612 M.G.C. Pte				Died of Wounds 4-10-17.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
LOOSLEY George W.	M G C	Pte	84611

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	M G C / 01 B 54	4634	
BRITISH	do do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1880

British War Medal



The silver or bronze medal was awarded to officers and men of the British and Imperial Forces who either entered a theatre of war or entered service overseas between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918 inclusive.

The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

The Allied Victory Medal



It was decided that each of the allies should each issue their own bronze victory medal with a similar design, similar equivalent wording and identical ribbon.

The British medal was designed by W. McMillan. The front depicts a winged classical figure representing victory.

The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

Memorial Plaque

Members of the committee were selected from the House of Commons, the House of Lords and some government departments. The Chairman of the committee was Sir Reginald Brade, MBE, JP. He was the Secretary of the War Office at the time.

It was agreed that the memorial to be issued to the next of kin would be produced and paid for by the British Government in some form of metal plaque. It was agreed that it would take the form of a small bronze plaque. In August 1917 the committee set up a competition for anyone to enter who could put forward a suitable design for a bronze plaque to record the name of a fallen British or Dominion Forces serviceman or woman. The top few selected entries would be offered prizes of up to £500. The winner of the first prize would have their design cast in bronze and subsequently issued to the hundreds of thousands of families who had lost loved ones in the Navy and in the Army. At this time in 1917 the Royal Air Force had not yet been formed as a separate Service in the British military forces. From 1st April 1918 it would be formed as a separate Service.



Howard Myland (see pages 36 & 37)

Born.... Died 3rd January 1918

Howard Myland died 4 months later on the 3rd January 1918 along with four others whilst in billets at Marcelcave near Cerisy-Gailley France from 'coal gas poisoning' or better known now as carbon monoxide poisoning. The group were trying to keep warm in the Company Orderly Room using what is known as a brazier, a metal drum with holes in it, used outdoors as a container for burning coal or charcoal, either for cooking or for warmth. The brazier clearly was in an area with insufficient ventilation; all five are buried at Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, Somme, France.

3rd Five NCO's & men found dead & two NCO's seriously ill with coal gas poisoning from a brazier in Company Orderly room. Men buried on the 5th at CERISY GAILLY Franco British cemetery. Continued Company training. *ROF*

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

VOLUME JANUARY 1918.

153rd MACHINE GUN COY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCELCAVE Red Dunes AMIENS.	1 st		Coy in billets at MARCELCAVE. marched in previous afternoon. <i>ROF</i>	
	2 nd		Commenced training according to schedule. 2 OR proceeded to O.K. on range. <i>ROF</i>	APPENDIX I 4 II
	3 rd		Five NCO's & men found dead & two NCO's seriously ill with coal gas poisoning from a brazier in Company Orderly room. Men buried on the 5 th at CERISY GAILLY Franco British cemetery. Continued Company training. <i>ROF</i>	Training Programme
	4 th		Training according to programme. 2/LT MONTGOMERY proceeded to join M.B. anti aircraft & H.G. course at French Army Court of Enquiry held with <i>ROF</i>	

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Commune-CERISY GAILLY.

SECTION REPORT No. 2 SCHEDULE No. 8/c
3rd A S No E/6412

PLACE OF BURIAL CERISY GAILLY W.P.M.C.

All documents certified complete and correct

Land belongs to Map ref. 24.Q.2.d.5.3.

The following are buried here:— Cancels reports as stated on 1/c Major

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or Dispatched	Map Reference
PLOT 1 ROW "C" (cont.)						
R.A.M.C.	7170	RIDDLE	PTE E	30.12.17	All	35 20
D.O.L.I.	241838	GILBERT	" J	"	crosses	36 27
74 th LANCESHIRE	16983	LUKER SON	R	7.1.18	erected	37 20
153 rd M.G.C.	33283	JEFFERSON	CPL E	3.1.18	"	38 20
"	53195	JONES	PTE T	"	"	39 20
153 rd Coy. M.B.C.	9461	ROGERS	" R	3/1/18	"	40 20
"	33284	BARDWELL	" P	"	"	41 20
"	87211	ENGLAND	" H N	"	"	42 20
PLOT 1 ROW "D"						
15 th CHESHIRE	25289	ALCOCK	LTC H	26.2.17	"	4



Soldiers keeping warm around a brazier

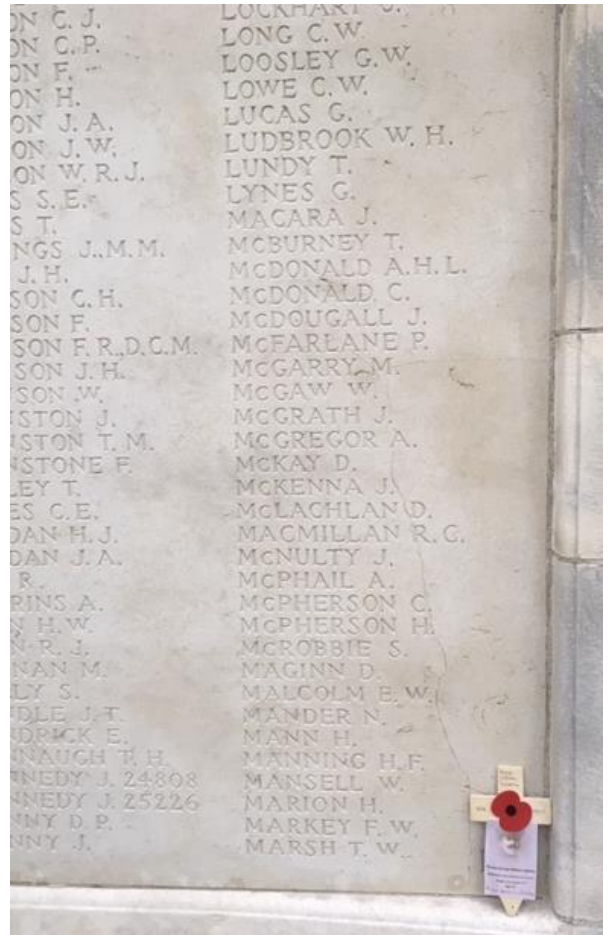


Howard Myland's grave at Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, Somme, France

Marking the Centenary of George Loosley Death

To mark the centenary of George's death I visited Ypres. The trip was planned around being at Bank Farm between 6am & 8am on 21st August, the period where it is believed George was killed, followed by visiting the Tyne Cot Cemetery.





Menin Gate



The 'Last Post' at the Menin Gate on the evening of 21st August 1917.



Bank Farm in 2017

Bank Farm is situated close to Fortuinhoek, 7km to the north-east of Ypres.
Co-ordinates (50.879648, 2.946263)



Notice the unexploded shell leaning against the post waiting for removal.

