

The Men of our three villages who fell during the Battle of the Somme

July 1st to 18th November 1916

1st July - WALTER ALLARD, aged 21, 'D' Company, 8th Norfolk Battalion, fell on the first day of the battle. The battalion had assembled north of Carnoy for an attack near Montauban. 'C' and 'D' Companies had taken three enemy trenches by 8.40am but with many casualties. Three further trenches were taken before the Battalion was withdrawn with total casualties of 385 men.

3rd July - ALFRED FOX, aged 20, 9th Norfolk Battalion, fell on the 3rd of July according to a letter from his brother Percy, but on the 1st of July according to British Army Service Records which show him serving with the 8th Battalion.

4th July - JOHN NEWSTEAD, aged 20, 8th Norfolk Regiment. Died in hospital at Abbeville having presumably been wounded in the Battalions first big battle at Montauban.

5th July - FREDERICK LONDON, aged 33, 8th Battalion, Border Regiment. The Battalion occupied the front line at south of Theipval on the 2nd July and attacked at 6am on the 3rd suffering 444 casualties having gained 180 yards of the German line but then being forced to withdraw.

7th August - JOHN DUNTON, aged 31, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. The Battalion had suffered 115 casualties during an unsuccessful attack on Munster Alley trench on the 23rd of July. They spent the next three weeks advancing towards High Wood where they took part in the attacks on the 16th of August.

11th August - GEORGE HUNT, aged 18, 1st /5th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. The Battalion moved into the front line on the 2nd of July in the Theipval sector. In supporting positions until their attack on the Schwarben Redoubt on the 3rd of September in which they suffered severe casualties (350 out of 450 men).

11th August - FREDERICK JOLLY, aged 24, 15th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The Battalion had suffered heavy losses (143 men) in an attack on the High Wood area on the 22nd of July and suffered further heavy losses in the attack on Falfemont Farm on the 3rd of September (231 men).

12th August - RICHARD ALLARD, aged 23, 'D' Company, 7th Norfolk Battalion. At this time the Battalion had moved forward to support positions at the Ovillers sector. On this day they were in the front line and attacked Skyline Trench at 10.30pm.

18th August - ALFRED TOOLEY, aged 35, 10th Norfolk Regiment. He died on the 18th of August in hospital in England. The 10th Battalion was formed in 1914 and was subsequently turned into a reserve and training battalion to produce drafts of men for the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions. Pte Tooley may have been involved in the 7th Battalion attack on Skyline Trench on the 12th of August in the Ovillers Sector. His grave can be found at St Peters Church, Neatishead.

16th September - DEREK BROWN, aged 23, 1st/7th Middlesex Regiment. The Battalion had been part of a major attack at Bouleaux Wood on that day which cost 300 casualties (125 killed) out of 500 men involved. On the next day the Battalion moved Falfemont Farm on the front line. It is recorded that the enemy occupied the same trench, separated by a tank that had fallen into the trench on the 15th.

24th September - WILLIAM EASTON, aged 26, 2/6th Cyclist, 1st Norfolk Battalion. The Battalion had been involved in the attacks on Delville Wood (27th August) and Leuze Wood (3rd September) suffering many casualties and receiving large drafts of men as replacements from other regiments. Their next action was an attack on Morval on the 25th September from their position near Wedge Wood.

23rd October - CHARLES YAXLEY, aged 18, 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment. The regiment fought on the first day losing 436 men. After spells in reserve and the front line they took part in the attack on the area between Lesboefs and Gueudecourt on the 23rd of October – suffering further casualties.