

Frederick Vernon Knott

Remembered with Honour

Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue

In Memory of

Lieutenant

19th Div. Cyclist Bn., Army Cyclist Corps who died on 21 March 1916 Age 22

Son of William Frederick and Elizabeth Knott, of 250, Audenshaw Rd.,
Audenshaw, Manchester.

A graduate of Manchester University, M.Sc.

the Army Cyclist Corps was classified as Mounted Troops of the 19th Western Division:

Divisional Mounted Troops

C Sqn, the Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry

joined 26 June 1915, left 21 April 1916

19th Divisional Cyclist Company, Army Cyclist Corps

Formed 19 November 1914 left 21 April 1916

All I have been able to ascertain is that the Cyclist Corps were mostly used as messengers along the front.

Pont-du-Hem is a hamlet situated on the main road from La Bassee to Estaires. Follow the D947 from La Bassee to Estaires for 10 kms and the cemetery lies on the left hand side of the road, 5 kms short of Estaires.

Historical Information

Pont-du-Hem was in German hands from mid-April to mid-September 1918. The Cemetery was begun, in an apple-orchard, in July 1915, and used until April 1918, by fighting units and Field Ambulances; these original burials are in Plots I, II and III, and Rows A and B of Plot IV. In April and May 1918, German burials were made in Plots III and IV. After the Armistice, 426 German graves were removed to other cemeteries; the Portuguese graves of 1917-1918 were removed to the Portuguese cemetery of Richebourg-L'Avoue; and British graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from smaller burial grounds, including:-

BEAUCAMPS COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, a cemetery of 1,800 graves: 104 U.K., A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F., 1914-18.

BOUSBECQUE COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (2,300 Germans): 21 U.K., 2 A.I.F., 1917-18.

COMINES COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (2,400 Germans): 21 U.K., 1 Canadian, 1 A.I.F., 1 N.Z.E.F., 1915-17.

DEVASIER FARM GERMAN CEMETERY, WAMBRECHIES, on road to Quesnoy-sur-Deule (1,500 Germans): 19 U.K., 1916-18.

EDWARD ROAD CEMETERY No.3 (WINDY CORNER), RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE: 12 U.K., 1914-15.

ENNEQUIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, LOOS (near Lille): 977 Germans, 9 U.K., 2 A.I.F., 1917-18.

ESTAIRES CONVENT CEMETERIES No.1 and No.2, made by the Germans, on the North side of town: 4 U.K., 1918.

FERME DELOUX-BOQUET, NOUVEAUMONDE, La GORGUE: 17 U.K., 1 A.I.F., 1915-16.

FESTUBERT NORTH CEMETERY, on North-West side of village: 20 U.K. and 5 Canadian, 1915-16.

HALLUIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (2,216 Germans): 36 U.K., 3 Canadian, 1 N.Z.E.F., 1917-18.

INDIAN VILLAGE GRAVEYARDS No.1 and No.2, RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE and FESTUBERT, North of Rue de Cailloux: 39 U.K. and 1 Canadian, May-Sept., 1915.

LA CORDONNERIE FARM CEMETERY, North of FROMELLES: 58 of the 2nd R.W.F., Oct.-Nov. 1914.

LACOUTURE CHURCHYARD: 1 R.F.A., Oct. 1914.

LA FOSSE GERMAN CEMETERY, in a chateau garden South of LESTREM: 6 U.K., 1918.

LAVENTIE NORTH GERMAN CEMETERY, near the railway station.

LE TROU-BAYARD GERMAN CEMETERY, ESTAIRES: 36 U.K. (mainly 50th Div.) and 2 A.F.C., April-Nov. 1918.

LOCON CHURCHYARD: 1 U.K., Nov. 1914.

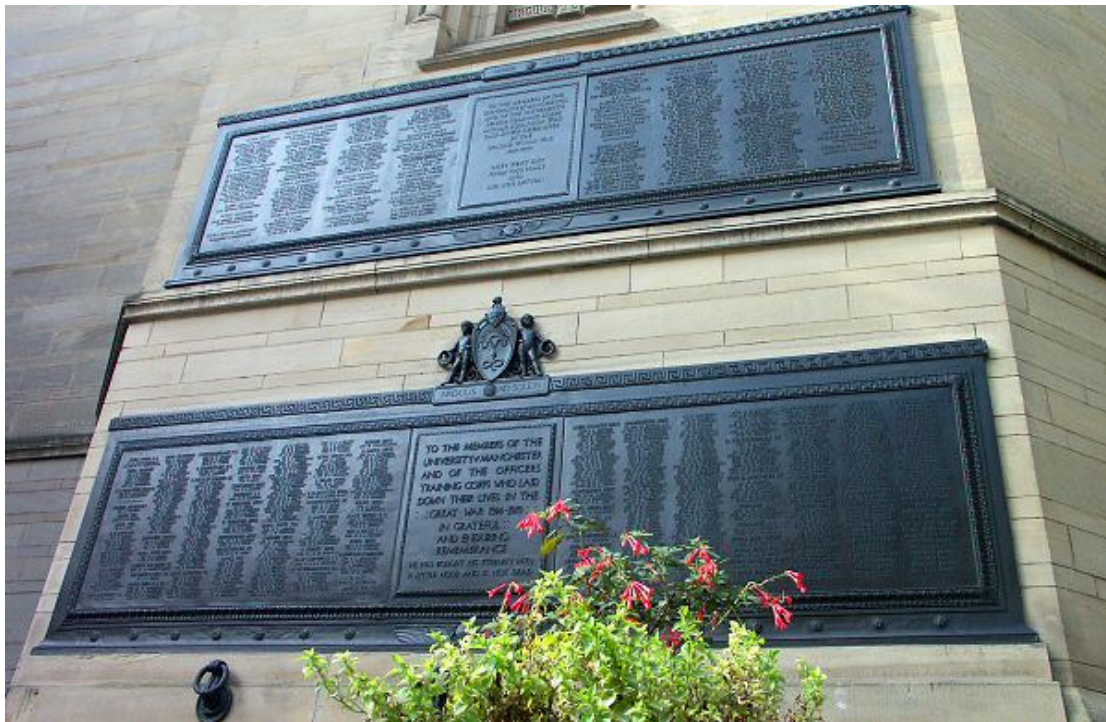
RUE MASSELOT GERMAN CEMETERY (made round the British Cemetery, and called by the Germans WANGERIE): 8 U.K. and 1 Italian, 1918.

VERLINGHEM GERMAN CEMETERY, on South-West outskirts of village (1,152 Germans): 14 U.K. and 1 A.I.F., 1916-17.

VIEILLE-CHAPELLE CHURCHYARD: 14 U.K., 1914-15.

There are now over 1,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to nine soldiers from the United Kingdom believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 44 soldiers from the United Kingdom, two from Canada, two from Australia and one of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, buried in this or other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire, and of five Indian soldiers whose bodies were cremated. There are 107 German burials and 1 American.

The cemetery covers an area of 6,433 square metres.



Manchester University Memorial in the quadrangle of John Owen's Building on Oxford Road.

He is also listed on the Audenshaw War Memorial with his brother Leonard Sandham Knott.

Background:

In 1911 he is living with his siblings at 232 Manchester Road Audenshaw

Gladys aged 20 a school teacher
Frederick Vernon 17 a Student
Leonard Sandham 15
Muriel Gwendoline 11
Winifred Annie 9
Harold William Clifford aged 7

In 1901 the family are still at 232 Audenshaw Road living with their parents William and Elizabeth, both his parents are Certified Teachers. His father came from Torre, Torquay, Devon and his mother from Warrington.

By 1911 their parents have gone back to Torquay visit William's father John, aged 70, a retired schoolmaster and his new wife Mary Jane aged 52. They had only been married for a couple of years. At 6 St Albans Terrace Torquay.

Obit from the Reporter:



Most of this article was unreadable.

Apparently his death was instantaneous – he was killed by a shell which exploded right next to him. He took up his commission in September 1914 and sailed for France in July 1915.

He was educated at Audenshaw School, and Ashton Secondary School where his father had been headmaster for a number of years. He then gained a Hobson Scholarship to Manchester University where he graduated with an Msc.

Obit was written by G Alan Morris Lt 19th Division Cycle Corps.

Gay Oliver 29 October 2013