

Leonard Sandham Knott
Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Cemetery

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

5173, 20th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 28 November 1917 Age 22
Son of William Frederick and Elizabeth Knott, of 250, Audenshaw Rd., Audenshaw,
Manchester.

20th (Service) Battalion (3rd Public Schools)

Formed at Epsom on 11 September 1914 by the Public Schools and University Men's Force.

26 June 1915: came under command of 98th Brigade, 33rd Division.

Landed in France in November 1915.

27 November 1915: transferred to 19th Brigade, 33rd Division.

16 February 1918: disbanded in France.



There is no memorial to 33rd Division. This memorial plaque, hidden in undergrowth on the southern edge of High Wood (Somme) is to the 20th Royal Fusiliers.

Historical Information from the Tyne Cot Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

OOSTNIEUWKERKE GERMAN CEMETERY, in the village of Oostnieuwkerke, containing the graves of two soldiers from the United Kingdom.

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

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

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

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

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

There are now 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,369 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. There are 4 German burials, 3 being unidentified.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

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

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

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.

From his Obit in the Reporter

A letter from the chaplain E Mannering states that from enquiries made of his Sergeant Major he was engaged in attending to a wounded man when he was struck by a shell and killed instantaneously. He added you will certainly be relieved to thin that his end was instantaneous and painless and it will add to your pride of him to remember that he was carrying out his duty of mercy as a stretcher bearer when he himself was hit. Later on I will tell you as nearly as possible as to where it was that he fell.

Another letter says that: "Lance Corporal Knott was one of the few of our UPS men remaining with the company and we feel his loss heavily. He was one of the best stretcher bearers fearless and self forgetting to a degree and showed a splendid example to us all. I shall remember him as one of my communications guild who used to attend our little voluntary services that we held in addition to the ordinary parade services. Now that he has joined the increasing band of those who have given their all for their country. I like to think that it is well with him where he is and that his spirit is with us still and that he has left behind the memory of a fine and mainly example.

He was 22 years of age and joined in September 1914. Educated at Ashton Secondary School and was preparing for a career as a miner's engineer. A good athlete, musician and pianist. He was twice wounded and laid up in hospital but made a good recovery