

**Lancelot Proctor**  
Remembered with Honour  
**Vermelles British Cemetery**

In Memory of  
Private

**S/12448, 9th Bn., Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) who died on 07 July 1916 Age 28  
Husband of Nancy Ann Hawkyard (formerly Proctor), of 44, Camp St., Ashton-Under-Lyne.**

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 - soldier details

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

Name: Lancelot PROCTOR

Memorial Scroll [?](#)

Rank: PRIVATE

[Purchase scroll](#)

Initials: L

Birthplace: Hyde, Cheshire



Residence:

Enlisted: Ashton-Under-Lyne

Regiment, Corps etc.: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Battalion etc.: [9th \(Service\) Battalion.](#)

Number: S/12448

Date died: 7 July 1916

How died: Killed in action

Theatre of war: France & Flanders

Supplementary Notes:

Soldiers Died in the Great War database © Naval and Military Press Ltd 2010

Vermelles British Cemetery

Locality:  
Pas de  
Calais  
Identified  
Casualties:  
1936

### Location Information

Vermelles is a village 10 kilometres north-west of Lens. From Lens take the N43, towards Bethune, to its junction with the D75 in Mazingarbe. Turn right at this junction and continue for approximately 900 metres when Vermelles British Cemetery will be found on the left hand side of the road.

#### Visiting Information

Wheelchair access is possible to this cemetery. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.

#### Historical Information

Vermelles was in German hands from the middle of October 1914 to the beginning of December 1914, when it was recaptured by the French. The cemetery was begun in August 1915 (though a few graves are slightly earlier), and during the Battle of Loos, when the Chateau was used as a dressing station, Plot I was completed. It was laid out and fenced by the Pioneers of the 1st Gloucesters, and known for a long time as "Gloucester Graveyard". The remaining Plots were made by the Divisions (from the Dismounted Cavalry Division

onwards) holding the line 1.6 kilometres East of the cemetery until April 1917, and they incorporated a few isolated French graves of October 1914. From April 1917, to the Armistice, the cemetery was closed; but after the Armistice some graves were re-grouped and others were brought in (to Plots II, IV and VI) from the battlefields to the East.

There are now over 2134 First World War casualties commemorated in this cemetery. Of these, 198 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to six soldiers from the United Kingdom, known to be buried among them. This cemetery also contains the graves of 11 casualties of other nationalities.

This cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

9th Bn., Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

9th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Perth on 13 September 1914 as part of K2 and came under command of 44th Brigade in 15th (Scottish) Division.

Moved to Aldershot, Liss, Chisleton, and Tidworth by May 1915.

Landed at Boulogne on 8 July 1915.

7 February 1918: transferred to 46th Brigade in same Division.

19 May 1916: reduced to cadre strength.

21 May 1918: transferred to 118th Brigade in 39th Division.

17 June 1918: transferred to 16th (Irish) Division. Recrossed to England.

19 June 1918: reconstituted, absorbing the 15th Bn.

2 July 1918 : transferred to 47th Brigade in same Division.

Landed at Boulogne on 28 July 1918.

The 15th (Scottish) Division in 1914-1918

The history of 15th (Scottish) Division

This Division was established by the Scottish Command in September 1914, as part of the Army Orders authorising Kitchener's Second New Army, K2. Early days were somewhat chaotic, the new volunteers having very few trained officers and NCOs to command them, no organised billets or equipment. The Division was inspected by HM King George V on 26 September 1914 - the first occasion on which the Division paraded as a formed unit, and with the exception of the Staff, plain clothes were worn. By 22 January 1915 the Division was in uniform for an inspection by Kitchener. By the early summer of 1915, the Division was considered to be ready for France and embarkation orders were received on 3 July 1915.

7-13 July 1915: landed in France. The Division served with distinction on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, taking part in most of the significant actions and winning regard by the enemy as one of the most formidable in the British army.

1916

In spring 1916, the Division was involved in German gas attacks near Hulluch (27-29 April 1916) and in the defence of the Kink position (11 May 1916). These are among the engagements officially known as the Actions of Spring 1916.

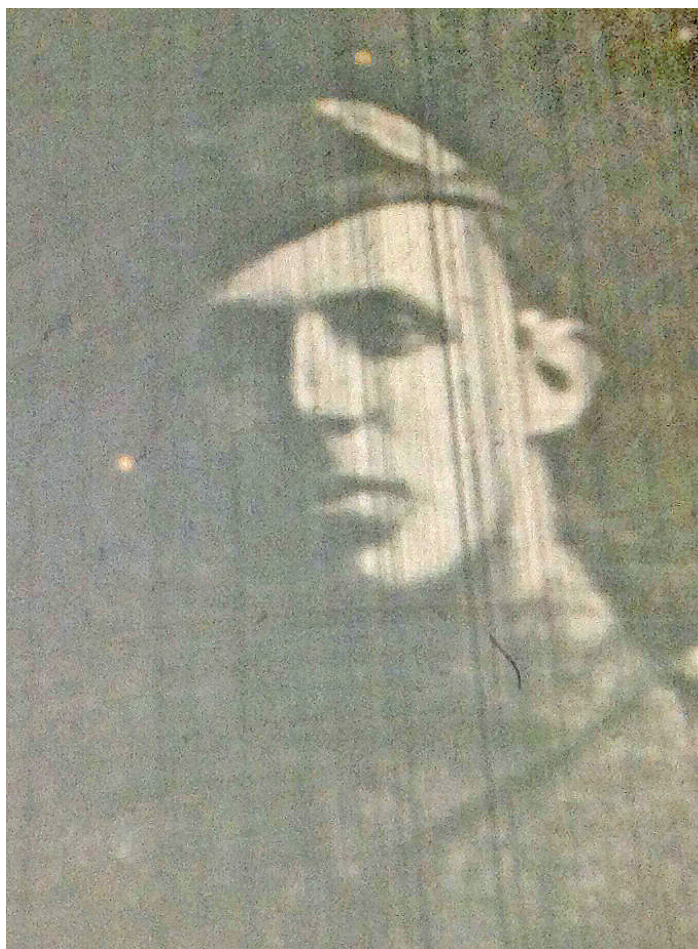
The Battle of Pozieres\*

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette\* in which the Division captured Martinpuich

The Battle of Le Transloy\* in which the Division took part in attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt

The battles marked \* are phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

## Background:



### From his Obit in the Reporter:

He was the manager of Messrs Buckley, Bakers of Ashton-under-Lyne. He died when an aerial dart entered the shelter where he was sitting and a piece of metal entered his brain.

Lancelot Proctor married Nancy Ann Hawkins in 1911 at Ashton-under-Lyne Stamford Street Methodist Church (APD2/3/42) under his full name George Baron Theodore Lancelot Proctor. They had a daughter born the following year Mary Jessie (AST/175/46)  
In 1911 he is living with his parents at 8 Market Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. His father Robert AP (52) was born at Killingworth in Northumberland and he was a coach painter and decorator working for the Oldham and Ashton Tramway Company at Denton. His mother Jessie B (52) was born at Kirkheaton, West Yorks. And she was running a drapers shop. They had been married for 26 years and had had three children one of whom had died. Lancelot (23) was a Managing Clerk at a Bakery Establishment (he was born at Hyde). His younger sister M A Evangeline J Proctor (20) was an elementary School Teacher at Droylsden Council School, she was born at Hobart, Tasmania. They have an adopted daughter, C J Isabella Earnshaw (28) was a draper born at Kirkheaton. They have a friend staying with them, Sarah A Greenwood (aged 67) who is a cook working at the Bethesda home in Manchester, she was born in Saddleworth.

It would be very interesting to discover why the family were in Hobart, Tasmania for the birth of their daughter and if their adopted daughter was related to Lancelot's mother, In 1901 the family are of the same make up, but they are living at 10 Cavendish Street, Ashton-u-Lyne.

Gay Oliver 1 November 2013