

Heddon on the Wall War Memorial

1914-1918

1939-1945



Research by Colin Cresswell (2025)

2nd Lieutenant Robert Armatage
Formally 10406 Private 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
21st Tyneside Scottish Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
1892- 6/6/1917



2nd-Lt. R. Armatage,
N.F., Heddou,
Killed in Action.

Robert was born in 1892 at Heddou on the Wall, the son of Blacksmith George Armatage b c1853-1913, and wife Annabella b1864-1932 nee Gibbons The family lived in the Houghton Close House area in the Common Houses in 1901.

By 1911, Robert was living at Quarry House along with his parents and siblings: Annie b1885-1932, George Gibbons b1888 -1956, Jane b1897-1932, Eleanor b1899-1968, and Isabella b1901-1973. Robert is shown as a 19-year old Postman, although it is known at the age of 12 he won a scholarship to Rutherford College in Newcastle upon Tyne, having taught at Lemington school. He was teaching at Walbottle school when he enlisted.

Enlisting as a Private soldier (10406) in the 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers at the outbreak of war, he arrived in France with his regiment on the 15th of July 1915. Seeing action at Ypres and the Somme, he reached the rank of Sergeant.

Robert was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant with effect from the 1st of March 1917. He appeared in a London Gazette Supplement dated 29th of March, and joined his regiment a few days later. He died of wounds on the 6th of June 1917, and is buried at the Aubergine Communal Cemetery Extension. His grave is inscribed: NOW THE LABOURER'S TASK IS O'ER NOW THE BATTLE DAY IS PAST. His death is also recorded on the family gravestone in Heddou Churchyard.

Roll of Honour.

ARMATAGE.—Died of wounds, on June 6th. aged 25 years, Second-Lieutenant Robert Armatage, N.F., dearly beloved son of Annabella and the late George Armatage, of Quarry House, Houghton, Wylam. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 1st in St. Andrew's Church, Heddou-on-the-Wall, at 3 p.m.

Newcastle Journal 30/6/1917

IN MEMORIAM.

Armatage.—In ever loving remembrance of my dear son, 2nd Lieut. Robert Armatage, who was wounded June 5, and died June 6, 1917. "The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away."

Evening Chronicle 6/6/1918 In Memoriam

Armatage Family Gravestone

In loving remembrance of Edward son of George and Annabella Armatage who died at Houghton Nov 15th 1886 aged 9 months. Also of John son of the above who died at Houghton Quarry House March 18th 1906 aged 5 years & 8 months. Also of Norman son of the above who died at Houghton Quarry House May 15th 1906 aged 9 months. Suffer little children to come unto me. Also of the above George Armatage who died at Quarry House Houghton March 25th 1913 aged 60 years. Also of Robert son of the above who died of wounds on June 6th 1917 aged 25 years interred in Aubigny Cemetery France. Also of Annabella Armatage wife of the above George Armatage who died Feb 16th 1932 aged 67 years. Also of Annie Armatage elder daughter of the above George and Annabella Armatage who died Feb 21st 1932 aged 47 years.[Back] Also of Jane daughter of the aforesaid George and Annabella Armatage died Nov 30th 1932 aged 35 years. Also of George Gibbons Armatage son of the aforesaid died Dec 29th 1956 aged 69 years. Also Jean Armatage beloved wife of the above died Feb 15th 1963 aged 72 years. Isabel sister of the above George Armatage died Oct 17th 1973 aged 72 years.

SECOND-LIEUT. R. ARMATAGE DIES OF WOUNDS.

Mrs Armatage, Quarry House, Houghton, Wylam, has received a telegram from the War Office announcing that her son, Second-Lieut. R. Armatage, Northumberland Fusiliers, died of wounds on June 6th.

Hexham Courant 1917

SECOND-LIEUT. ROBT. ARMATAGE.

The death in France of Second-Lieut. Robt. Armatage removes from the village of Heddon and district a promising young man of popularity and loved by all. The youngest son of Mrs Armatage and the late Mr Geo. Armatage, Quarry House, Houghton, deceased had before him a career, which, by his studious bent, was full of promise. He began his education at the village school of Heddon, and at the age of 12 years had won a scholarship entitling him to the advantage of a four years' training at Rutherford College. Making full use of this course, he left to follow the teaching profession, and held a position at Lemington, and up to the time of joining the Army was at Walbottle Schools, and in this capacity had endeared himself to officials and scholars alike for his painstaking, kind, and patient manner. As a member of St. Andrew's Church choir, he will be greatly missed, and probably no one will feel his loss more than the Vicar. The clarion call for defenders of the

British flag had scarcely echoed its thrills of duty when Robert, on the last day of August, 1914, responded with that characteristic spirit of patriotism which for all time will enrich the pages of British history. Deceased began his military training at Newcastle, Borut, and Winchester. It was from the last-named place he left for France with the N.F., on July 15th, 1915. He had but borne ten months of warfare when he was wounded and taken to hospital, not, however, without having displayed such skill as to merit a recommendation for a commission. After leaving hospital he entered the Cadet Corps at Bristol, from where he left with a second-lieutenancy, and figured with the N.F. again in France. He was with that brave soul, Capt. Joicey, previous to his having entered the Valley of Death, little thinking, poor lad, that he, too, was so soon to follow. So on June 6th he was wounded and entered into his eternal rest the following day. His Chaplain writes the mother stating that his remains were laid to rest among brother officers in a cemetery in Artois, and with the full rites of his beloved Anglican Church. Deceased was in his 25th year. A memorial service will be held in honour of his dear name on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock in St. Andrew's Church, to be conducted by the Vicar.

Hexham Courant 1917

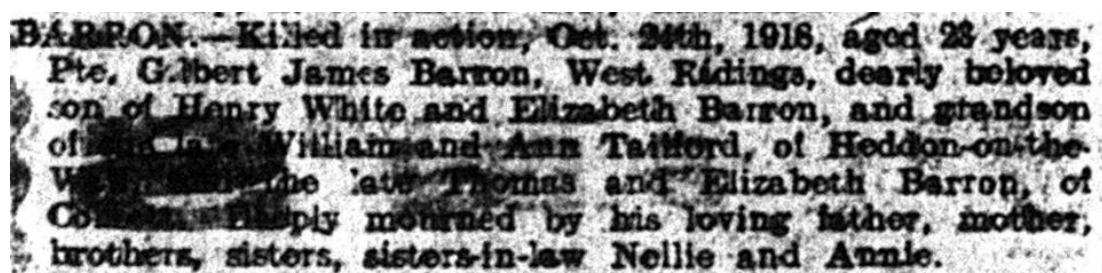
35470 Private Gilbert James Barron
2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington West Riding Regiment
1895 - 24/10/1918

Gilbert was born in 1895 at Heddon on the Wall, son of Henry White Barron (1862-1940) a coal miner, and his wife Elizabeth (1871-1952 nee Tailford).

By 1911, the family were living at Blue Row, Heddon on the Wall, although they later moved to 13 The Square in the village. Gilbert was employed as a Pony Driver at the local colliery. He came from a big family of 11 siblings: Mary Elizabeth Ann b1899, Wilfrid George b1901-1980, Gladys Evelyn b 1903 -1983, Robert Davison b1905 -1960, Ralph Tailford b1907-2002, Arthur Septimus b1911-1975, Joseph Embleton b1911-1983, Sidney C born 1913-1978, as well as two children born before the couple got married: Thomas B Tailford b1891, and William G Tailford b1893.

Gilbert was attested on the 17th of January 1916 at Newburn on Tyne originally as Private 75955 in the West Yorkshire Regiment, and was mobilised on the 29th of April 1918.

He was transferred on the 3rd of September 1918 to The Second Battalion Duke of Wellington West Riding Regiment, transferred as Private 35470. He was killed in action on the 24th of October 1918. Gilbert is buried at the Verchain British Cemetery, Verchain, Maugre, France, a small cemetery of 110 graves. His Headstones bears the inscription: THY WILL BE DONE O LORD



BARRON.—Killed in action, Oct. 24th, 1918, aged 23 years, Pte. Gilbert James Barron, West Ridings, dearly beloved son of Henry White and Elizabeth Barron, and grandson of William and Ann Tailford, of Heddon-on-the-Wall, the late Thomas and Elizabeth Barron, of Colton. Deeply mourned by his loving father, mother, brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law Nellie and Annie.

Evening Chronicle 14/11/18

Barron Family Gravestone

In memory of my dear husband Henry White Barron died Sept 14th 1940 aged 77 years. Also Elizabeth beloved wife of the above died Feb 8th 1952 aged 80 years. Gilbert J. Barron killed in action Oct 24th 1918 aged 23 years.

750695 Driver William Ernest Eddy
B Battery 315 Brigade
Royal Field Artillery
1890 – 8/4/1918



William was born in 1890, registered at Newburn, the son of William Eddy b1856 -1921, and Annie Marie b1857-1927 nee Henderson.

Having previously lived in Throckley and Chopwell, the 1911 Census finds the family living at The Square, Heddon on the Wall, where William now 21 was a hewer in a local Colliery. He was living with parents, and siblings: Nelson b1886-1955, and Ruth b 1893.

In 1911, William married Eliza Mary Brown 1889-1959, whose family also lived in The Square, Heddon. A daughter Ethel was born in 1913 -1941.

William enlisted in The Royal Field Artillery at Newcastle upon Tyne. It is not known when he enlisted or embarked for France He was admitted to The Second General Hospital Le Havre on the 26th of March where he died of wounds: gangrene to lung and gunshot wounds to chest, on the 8th of April 1918.

He is buried at the STE MARIE Cemetery, Le Harve. His wife had the headstone inscribed with the words: UNTIL THE DAY BREAK & THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY

Eddy.—In loving remembrance of my dear husband, Driver Wm. Ernest Eddy, Heddon-on-the-Wall, died of wounds in France Apr. 8, 1918, aged 28 years. Deeply mourned by his wife and daughter Ethel.

Eddy.—In loving memory of Dr. W. Ernest Eddy, 570,695, R.F.A., died of wounds received in action April 8th, 1918. Ever remembered by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Joe; also three nephews and his dear father and mother. Thy will be done

Evening Chronicle 8/4/1919 In Memoriam

10412 Private George Jameson Gibson
24/27th Battalion Tyneside Irish Northumberland Fusiliers
1888 – 23/10/1917



Lce.-Cpl. G. J. Gibson,
Heddon-on-the-Wall,
Killed in Action.

George was born in Heddon on the Wall in 1888, the son of James Gibson 1849-1906, a Joiner /Cartwright, and his Scottish-born wife Jane Nee Donaldson 1853.

The 1901 Census show the family living at The Post Office, Heddon on the Wall with George now 13 working as a Brickyard Labourer, and living with siblings: John b1875, James b1882, Wilhelmina b1886 -1967, Ellen 1891, and Frederick Rupprecht 1897-1971.

At the time of the 1911 Census, George was employed as a hewer at Heddon Colliery and was a boarder at Church House, Heddon on the Wall, home of the Malthouse Family.

George enlisted at Newburn in 1914 initially in the 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers along with his friends, Robert Armatage, Albert Wolland, Joe Hawkins, and Kenneth Mc Kenzie. He arrived in France 15th of July 1915. He was later returned to England with weight loss and exhaustion in July 1916, and spent time recovering at Edinburgh Hospital, returning to France in March 1917, He was subsequently transferred to the 24th/27th Tyneside Irish Battalion who had amalgamated in August 1917. George was Killed in Action on the 23rd of October 1917. He is Remembered with Honour On The Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

Gibson.—In loving memory of Lce.-Corpl. George Jameson Gibson, N.F. killed in action Oct. 23, 1917. Ever remembered by his loving fiancée, Cissie Gibson.—In loving memory of Pte. George J. Gibson, of Heddon-on-the-Wall, who fell in action, Oct. 22nd, 1917. Deeply mourned by his mother, brothers and sisters. Gibson.—In loving memory of my dear brother George J. Gibson, Heddon-on-the-Wall, who was killed in action Oct. 22, 1917. Ever remembered by his sister Ina and brother-in-law R. Dickinson.

Evening Chronicle 22/10/1918 In Memoriam

LANCE-CORPL. G. J. GIBSON KILLED.

Another to join the host of British comrades in their eternal rest is Lance-Corpl. George Jameson Gibson, son of Mrs Gibson, Blue Row, Heddon-on-the-Wall, and brother of Corpl. Fred Gibson, Military Medallist, now in hospital in France suffering from shell-shock. George was one of the many patriots who responded to the call to swell the numbers of that ever memorable Kitchener's Army, and so in Sept., 1914, along with Bob. Armitage, Albert Wooland (both of whom have been killed), Kenneth McKenzie, and Joe Hawkins, he donned the khaki, and with fearless determination and courage played the part of a true British soldier, leaving behind him a faithful record of the sacrifice of self in order to maintain the honour and glory of the British flag. Since his first going out to France, in July, 1915, he had passed through many battalions and endured much, but he ever remembered with gratitude his first entering the trenches, when the kindly hand of Lieut. Wm. Amos, of Corbridge (then sergeant) helped him through the ordeals of that most trying experience. During that grim and fearful July push he acted as a stretcher-bearer, when for days he laboured without food, which so reduced his bodily vigour and weight that he was sent to a hospital in Edinburgh to recuperate. Here he remained until March of this year, and in his 30th year fell in action, October 22nd, from the effects of a bullet. He was born at Heddon-on-the-Wall, and worked at the Heddon Colliery.

Hexham Courant 1917

R28335 Rifleman Thomas Gibson
9th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps
1886 - 9/4/1917

Thomas was born in the Callerton Fell area, and was baptised at Ponteland Church on the 6th of June 1886, the son of Thomas Gibson b1850 -1927, and wife Jane nee Armstrong b1854 -1925. By the 1911 Census they were a farming family at Heddon Birks Farm, East Heddon. Thomas was the eldest son at 24, and had siblings: Robert b 1890-1940, Ann b1892-1979, Joseph b1894-1935, and Agnes Jane b1897-1989.

On the 31st of July 1915 at Ponteland Church, Thomas married Susan Winter 1888-1981, and moved to Birney Hill, Ponteland.

Thomas enlisted in the 9th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps at Ponteland. It is not known when he enlisted or when he arrived in France. He was Killed in Action at the start of the Arras Offensive. His body was never recovered, and he is Remembered with Honour at The Arras Memorial, France.

Roll of Honour.

GIBSON - Killed in action, on April 9th. 1917, aged 30 years. Rifleman Thomas Gibson, King's Royal Rifles, beloved husband of Susan Gibson, of Birney Hill, Ponteland, and eldest son of Thomas and Jane Gibson, of East Heddon, late of Heddon Birks, Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Newcastle Journal 26/4/1917

Gibson Family Gravestone

In loving memory of Jane beloved wife of Thomas Gibson who died at East Heddon November 27th 1925 aged 71 years. The above Thomas Gibson died at East Heddon Oct 31st 1927 aged 77 years. Also Isabella daughter of the above who died at Heddon Birks October 1st 1892 aged 4 years. Also Thomas son of the above killed in action Arras France April 9th 1917 aged 30 years. Also Robert son of the above died April 3rd 1974 aged 84 years.

Major James Leadbitter Knott DSO
Formally 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
10th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment
Prince of Wales Own
2/12/1882 1/7/1916



Jim was born on the 2nd of December 1882 at Frank Place, North Shields, the son of Sir James Knott 1855-1834 First Baronet, and Lady Margaret nee Garbutt 1855-1929 of Close House Wylam. His father was a Shipping Magnet of Newcastle, owning the Prince Line. He was also MP for Sunderland in 1910.

Jim was educated at Eton College. Leaving in 1900, he travelled extensively, mainly in the USA as part of his training to see how his father's business interests were run. He was said to have inherited a great commercial ability, and also had aspirations to enter politics, becoming the prospective Unionist candidate for the Hyde Division in Cheshire, just prior to hostilities.

Along with his brother Basil, he applied for a commission in the 9th Battalion of Northumberland Fusiliers, and travelled to France with the regiment in 1915. He later transferred to the 10th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

In March of 1916, the Hyde Division wrote to Major Knott, enquiring if he would be prepared to return to England and contest the parliamentary seat which had become vacant. He replied that "Party politics were of little significance at that time and that his duty was in France". He was awarded the DSO in the Birthday Honours List on 3rd of June.

On the morning of July 1st 1916 as the Battle of the Somme opened, Major Knott was second in command of the 10th West Yorkshires, and was with his men in their jumping-off positions facing the German lines in the heavily fortified village of Fricourt. At 7-28am, three mines were detonated at a position known as the Tambour, and at 7-30am Major Knott and the battalion advanced in lines passing quickly over the German front line but as the smoke cleared found themselves caught between the enemy's front, and second positions, as the German defenders emerged from their dugouts and opened murderous machine gun fire on the West Yorkshires advance parties and their support which was following up. The casualties sustained by the battalion were the highest in the British army for a single day throughout the war, totalling over 700. Among them Major Knott was killed in action leading his men forward. When that fateful day was over, James Leadbitter Knott

was buried close to where he fell in Fricourt New Military Cemetery along with his commanding officer, Lt Col Dickson, and many of his men.

His Father wanted his body and that of his brother Basil returned to England, but despite using all his influences the authorities refused, but agreed to the brothers being buried next to each other The bodies were exhumed and buried at The Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. Both graves bear the inscription: DEVOTED IN LIFE IN DEATH NOT DIVIDED

THIRD SON LOST IN THE WAR.

Major J. L. Knott Killed in Action.

Mr. James Knott, of Close House, Wylam, received information yesterday, that his son, Major James Leadbitter Knott, D.S.O., of the West Yorks, had been killed in action.

Major Knott, who was born in 1882, was formerly attached to one of the battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers, and only a short time ago was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He was educated at Eton. On leaving college he proceeded on an extensive tour of foreign travel for the purpose of fitting him for a commercial career. He resided for some time in New York, where he managed the affairs of the Prince Line, which has one of the largest fleets of trading steamers in England, and which was created by his father. Subsequently he entered the head office of the Prince Line in Newcastle, and became one of the directors as well as deputy managing director. Besides his interests in the Prince Line Major Knott was closely associated with many other large commercial undertakings on Tyne-side and elsewhere, including a large coal exporting company. In politics he was a Unionist and convinced tariff reformer. He strongly opposed Home Rule and the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales. He unsuccessfully contested the North-West Durham Division in the Unionist interests in 1911 against Judge Atherley Jones, when he polled 5,227 votes, a larger number of Unionist votes than had ever been previously recorded in the division. He made such a favourable impression during his first political contest that Major Knott was marked out as a coming politician in the northern counties. He was a fluent speaker and a very able politician, and did most effective propaganda work on behalf of the principles of tariff reform, which had in him one of the most intelligent supporters in this district. Although many constituencies were anxious for the services of Major Knott, and several offers were received by him including Newcastle and Sunderland, he decided to become the prospective candidate for the Hyde Division of Cheshire. Major Knott also evinced a keen interest in many of the charitable organisations of the north. He was also an enthusiastic sportsman, and excelled in rowing and shooting. Only as recently as Saturday last the announcement was made that Major Knott had been appointed to the magisterial bench of the city of Newcastle.

The news of Major Knott's death will be received in Newcastle and district with very great regret, his amiable personality having endeared him to the wide circle of friends he had made in the course of his short though varied and useful life.

Major Knott is the third son that Mr. James Knott has lost at the war, and much sympathy is felt with him locally.

Newcastle Daily Chronicle 6/7/1916

Sympathy from the King and Queen.

Mr James Knott, of Close House Wylam, whose son Major James Leadbitter Knott, D.S.O., of the West Yorks, was recently killed in action, has received the following telegram from the King and Queen:—

“ Buckingham Palace.

“ To James Knott Esq., Close House,
Wylam, Northumberland.

“ The King and Queen are deeply grieved to hear that you have lost yet another son in the service of his country. Their Majesties offer you their heartfelt sympathy in your fresh sorrow.”

Sunderland Daily Echo 13/7/1916

Captain Henry Basil Knott
9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
5/2/1891- 7/9/1915



Basil was born on the 5th of February 1891 at Manor House, Newcastle. He was the son of Sir James Knott 1855-1834, First Baronet, and Lady Margaret nee Garbutt 1855-1929 of Close House, Wylam. His father was a Shipping Magnet in Newcastle owning the Prince Line. He was also MP for Sunderland in 1910.

Basil was educated at Eton College leaving in 1910 to be a director at his father's company. At the outbreak of war, Basil volunteered, and was commissioned in September 1914 into the 9th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He went into training with his brother James at Bovington, Dorset. He was promoted to Captain, and left for Boulogne, France on Thursday 15th July 1915 on the SS Invicta. Basil was sent to northern France to complete his training before crossing the border to begin tours of duty in the front line.

Henry was in action at the Bois Carré, Vierstraat, and was mortally wounded in the head by a rifle bullet and was taken to No 10 Casualty Clearing Station at 'Remy Sidings' where he died the next day, 7th of February, and was buried in a nearby cemetery.

His Father wanted his body and that of his brother Jim returned to England but despite using all his influences the authorities refused but agreed to the brothers being buried next to each other. The bodies were exhumed and buried at The Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. Both graves bear the inscription: DEVOTED IN LIFE IN DEATH NOT DIVIDED

CAPTAIN BASIL KNOTT DIES FROM WOUNDS.

Mr James Knott, of the Prince Line, and of Close House, Wylam, has received news of the death of his youngest son, Captain H. Basil Knott, 9th Northumberland Fusiliers. Captain Knott left England about two months ago with his regiment, and on Tuesday last his brother, Captain J. Leadbitter Knott, sent a telegraph message to the effect that Captain Basil Knott had been seriously wounded in action. This was followed yesterday by the news from Captain Leadbitter Knott that his brother, who was about 23 years of age, had died.

The deceased officer was, previous to the war, a regular attender on the Newcastle Commercial Exchange, Quayside, where he was held in very high esteem, and where the news of his death was received with the deepest sorrow and regret. Not only as a member of a family so long and honourably connected with Newcastle, but also because of his own personal qualities, Captain Basil Knott enjoyed much popularity. His father and his elder brother (Captain James Leadbitter Knott) are almost as well known through their political work as they are in commercial circles. To them and other members of the family the sympathy of all classes of the community will go out at this time of their bereavement.

Newcastle Journal 15/09/1915

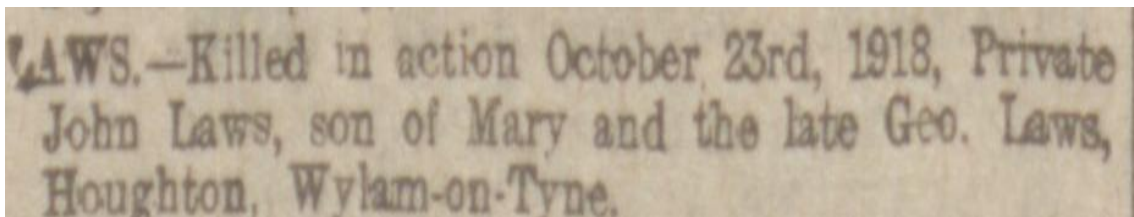


9832 Private John Laws
1st/5th Battalion Gloucester Regiment
Formally 43440 Northumberland Fusiliers
1884- 23/10/1918

John was born in 1884, son of farmer George b1855-1913, and wife Mary b1854 nee Liddell, in the Haughton Moor, Close House area. His known siblings were William C 1877, George N 1879-1971, Hannah 1880, John 1885, Nellie 1887, and Robert 1887.

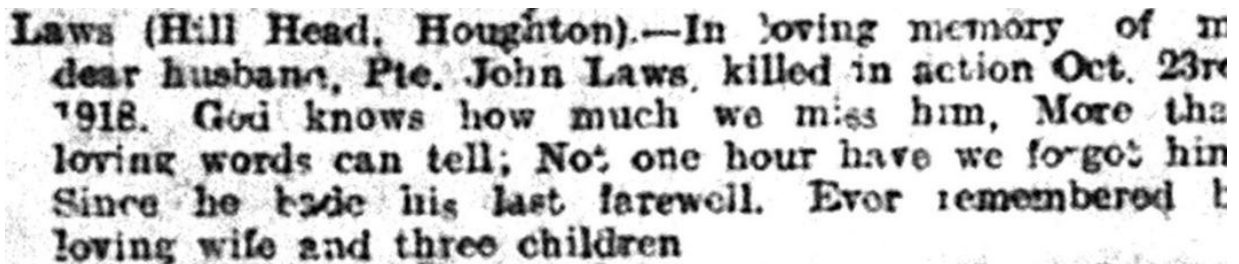
In 1911, John married Georgina Isabella Dunn 1889-1969 of Heddon on the Wall. They had three children: Elsie b1910, Veda b1916-2005. In 1911, John emigrated to Port Albert Saskatchewan, his wife and daughter followed, and George William was born there in 1913-1994 the family returned to the UK, and Veda was born in 1916.

John enlisted in 1914 at Newcastle upon Tyne originally in the Northumberland Fusiliers but in 1916 was transferred to 1st/5th Gloucestershire Regiment. John was killed in action on the 23rd of October 1918, his body was never recovered He is Remember with Honour at the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France.



LAWS.—Killed in action October 23rd, 1918, Private John Laws, son of Mary and the late Geo. Laws, Houghton, Wylam-on-Tyne.

Newcastle Journal 27/11/1918



Laws (Hill Head, Houghton).—In loving memory of my dear husband, Pte. John Laws, killed in action Oct. 23rd 1918. God knows how much we miss him, More than loving words can tell; Not one hour have we forgot him Since he bade his last farewell. Ever remembered by loving wife and three children

Evening Chronicle 23/10/1919

232265 Driver Henry Murray
D Battery 108th Brigade
Royal Field Artillery
1898-26/08/1918



Henry was born in 1898 Heworth, Gateshead, the son of Joiner, Joseph Murray b1869-1945, and wife Alice b 1872-1941 nee Reed. By the 1911 Census, the family were living at The Winships Buildings, Heddon on the Wall where Henry lived with his parents and brother, Joseph b1896 -1971, both boys being at school. An older sister Alice b1893 was working the Bookless family as a Nursemaid in Jesmond.

He enlisted in the Royal Artillery at Newcastle upon Tyne. It is not known when he enlisted and when he embarked for France.

He was Killed in Action on the 26th of August 1918 aged 20 He is buried at The Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, France.

Murray.—In loving memo.y of our dea. son, Driver Harry Murray, R.F.A., who fell in action Aug. 26. 1918., aged 20 years. Deeply mourned ind sadly missed by his father, mother, sister, brother, and brother-in-law, Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Evening Chronicle 26/8/1919 In Memoriam

4/2071 Private Thomas O Neal
1/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
1882 -26/4/1915



Thomas was born in Blaney Row, Heddon on the Wall, son of Irish Coal Miner John b 1858, and Mary Jane O Neil nee b1858.

On the 1911 Census, Thomas was living near to Blaney Row at 6 Moore Court, with his parents and youngest sister, Lily Ann b1886. He was 29 years old and worked as a Deputy in a local coal mine. His elder siblings Alice 1880-1929, and John 1884 had married and had left home.

Thomas enlisted in 1914 at Prudhoe in 1st/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. His Regiment arrived in France on the 20th of April 1915. He was killed in action just 6 days later on the 26th of April during The Battle of St Julien Ypres. His body was never recovered, and he is Remembered with Honour Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium.

O'NEILL.—Killed in action, April 26th, aged 33 years,
Thomas O'Neill, 4th Northumberland Fusiliers, beloved
son of John and the late Mary O'Neill, 1, Moore Court,
Heddon-on-the-Wall. R.I.P.

Evening Chronicle 11/5/1915

2136 Corporal William Alfred Henry Scarlett
1/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
18/8/1888-15/2/1916

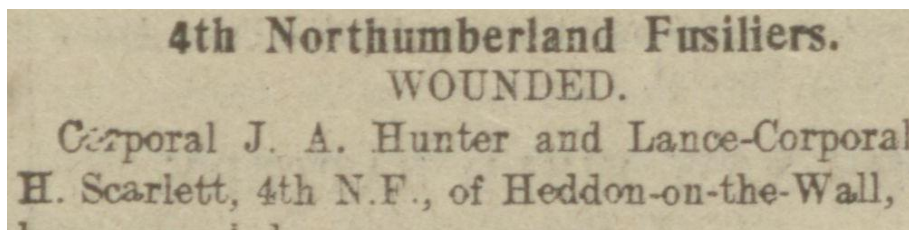


William was born on the 18th of August 1888 in Sialkot, India, now a city in modern day Pakistan, and was baptised on the 22nd of November at the Holy Trinity Church, Sialkot. He was the son of William Henry Ernest Scarlett b1862 -1932, and Eliza Elizabeth nee Inwood b1864-1932.

It is not known when the family left India, but by 1891 the family were living at Felton near Alnwick. On the 1911 Census they were living at East Heddon since at least 1901, where Williams father was a horse trainer, and William, now aged 22, is listed as a Farm Servant, although later that year, he found employment as a Porter at Newburn Station.

William's siblings were Elizabeth b1886 -1957, Mabel b1890-1980, Cecilia b1893-1959, Alice b1895-1962, and Robert b1897-1964.

William enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers at Prudhoe in 1914, his address being 5 Clayton Terrace, Heddon on the Wall, and embarked in France on the 20th of April 1915. He was promoted to Corporal but wounded in May 1915. He returned to his unit and was killed in action on the 15th of February 1916 by a gunshot wound to the head He us buried at LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, BELGIUM. His grave bears the inscription: **THY WILL BE DONE O LORD**
A memorial service was held at St Andrews Heddon on the Wall in March 1916



Newcastle Journal 28/5/1915

Scarlett Family Gravestone

In loving memory William Henry Scarlett who died 13th March 1932 aged 71 years. Also Eliza his wife who died 9th July 1932 aged 68 years. William Henry their son died of wounds at Poperinghe 15th Feb 1916 aged 26 years. Also Celia Constance daughter of the above died 4th May 1959 aged 66 years. Thy will be done.

Lieutenant Ralph Eustace Smith
Royal Air Force
Formally Northumberland Fusiliers
Northumberland Hussars
Royal Flying Corp
1889-1918



It is believed Ralph is named on the Heddon War Memorial as he had connections with local land owners, The Clayton Family.

Ralph Eustace Smith was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne on the 28th of August 1889. He was the son of Eustace Smith and Ellen Gertrude (Nee Hawks). His grandfather was Thomas Eustace Smith, a Shipping Magnet, and a Liberal Member of Parliament for Tynemouth and North Shields from 1868 to 1885.

The family of Shipyard Owners were famous for their Steel Wire Rope Business and the building of Steam Trawlers and Herring Drifters under the Smith Dock Company where they owned the largest docks in both North and South Shields. The family had homes in London. Gosforth House in Newcastle upon Tyne. and The Manor House at Wharleton. near Morpeth.

The 1891 Census shows Ralph living at 9 Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, with his parents and brother Philip E born 1888. Further brothers were born: Gerard in 1894, and Thomas E born in 1901, and are showing on the 1901 Census when the family were living Longbenton, Tynemouth. On the 1901 Census, Ralph aged 11 is a pupil at Remenham Preparatory School near Wokingham, Berkshire. He attended Marlborough College, and later became a director, of T & W Smith Ltd and the Smith Dock Company Ltd.

On the 28th of April 1914, he married Florence Muriel Joicey (sister of Clive M Joicey) at St Cuthbert's Church, Greenhead. They had two children: Edward Eustace born 1915-1979, and Veronica Anne 1917-2005 who married Michael A Pybus in 1944.

On the outbreak of war he received a commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers but was transferred to the Northumberland Hussars where he served in France.

In 1917 he was attached to the Royal Flying Corp where he flew as an observer with 101 Squadron based at Famechon, France flying night bombing missions with FE2B aircraft. On the night of 17th of April, his aircraft, a FE2B number A6408, crashed in action around 23.50hrs near Dommartin killing Ralph E Smith, and injuring the pilot, Capt J A Middleton. He is buried at Longueau British Cemetery, France.

CWGC records have him as a Captain, died on the 18th of April 1918.

Son of Eustace Smith and Gertrude Hawks, his wife; husband of Florence Muriel Smith (nee Joicey), of Blenkinsopp Hall, Haltwhistle, Northumberland. His grave is inscribed: HE SOUGHT FOR VALOUR AND FOUND THE GLORY OF GOD

His name appears on the WW1 Memorial Tablet in St Cuthberts Church but not on the actual War Memorial in Greenhead.

Second-Lieut. Ralph Eustace Smith.

News has been received that Lieut. Ralph Eustace Smith, has been killed in action. Mr Ralph Eustace Smith was the 2nd son of the late Mr Eustace Smith, of Benton House, and the grandson of the late Mr Thomas Eustace Smith of Gosforth Park, for many years M.P. for the borough of Tynemouth. Mr Ralph Smith joined the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Second-Lieut. on the outbreak of the war, and was later transferred to the Northumberland Hussars, with whom he served for some time. Last autumn he joined the Royal Flying Corps and up to the time of his death he was acting as an observer in a light bombing machine, having been specially mentioned for his good work. The deceased officer was a director of Thomas and William Smith, Ltd., and Smith's Dock Co., Ltd.

Shields Daily News 23/4/1918

LIEUTENANT RALPH EUSTACE SMITH, R.A.F. whose death in action is just announced, was the second son of the late Eustace Smith, of Benton House, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, and a grandson of the late Thomas Eustace Smith, of Gosforth Park, for many years M.P. for North Shields and Tyne-mouth. He joined a battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers as second lieutenant on the outbreak of war, and was later transferred to the Northumberland Hussars, with whom he served for some time in France. Last autumn he joined the R.F.C., and up to the time of his death had been acting as an observer in a night bombing machine, having been specially mentioned for his good work. Lieutenant Smith was a director of Thomas and William Smith (Limited), of Newcastle, and of Smith's Dock Company (Limited), of North and South Shields and Middlesbrough. He married a daughter of Mr. Edward Joicey, of Blenkinsopp, and leaves a widow and two children.

MR. C. ROBINSON, CHESHIRE, ALBIVERN, formerly of
 Habbury, Staffs.—aged 31.

SMITH.—Killed in action, on the 19th April, 1918.
 LIUT. RALPH EUSTACE SMITH, Yeomanry, attached
 R.A.F., second son of the late Eustace Smith, Esq., of
 Benton House, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and of Mrs. Eustace
 Smith, of The Manor House, Whalton, Northumberland.

STOCKLEY.—Killed in action, on the 26th April,
 1918. PHILIP LLOYD STOCKLEY, Hertford College.

235253 Lance Sergeant John Robert Watson

Formally 4/2725

1/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

1889 – 26/10/1917



In 1881, John was in Ovingham, the son of Thomas Watson b1857-1942, an agricultural Labourer, and his wife Elizabeth b1859-1943 nee Angus. The family lived at Rudchester for many years where sisters Annie D b1883, and Margaret b 1885 were born. By the 1911 census, John was a shepherd for The Rev R Burdon of Home Farm, and living at Heddon Steads with his parents, his sister having left home.

John enlisted in 1914 at Hexham in the 1/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and during his service was promoted to Lance Sergeant. He died on the 26th of October 1917 during action in the Arras Sector; his body was never recovered. He is Remembered with Honour on The Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. A memorial service was held for John at Heddon Church.

WATSON.—Reported missing abroad on October 26th, 1917, now officially reported as killed on that date, in his 29th year, Lance-Sergt. John Watson (No. 235253, N.F.), only son of Thomas and Elizabeth Watson, of Heddon Dairies, Wylam-on-Tyne. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his father, mother, sisters Annie and Margaret, and brothers-in-law, and nieces. A memorial service will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Heddon-on-the-Wall, at 3 o'clock on Sunday, 18th of August. All friends and neighbours kindly invited to attend.

Mr and Mrs Thomas Watson, of Heddon Home Dairy Farm, Wylam, have received official news that their only son, Corporal John Watson, Northumberland Fusiliers, has been missing since Oct. 26th. Corpl. Watson enlisted 2½ years ago, and received his training at Hexham, Redcar, and Catterick, and crossed over to France at the early part of this year. Prior to enlisting, Corporal Watson was employed as shepherd by the Rev. R. Burdon, on the Home Farm, where his father has been steward for some years. Corporal Watson was a keen sportsman, and was well-known on the local football fields, and had many friends in the district.

Newcastle Journal 13/8/1918

6140 Private Harold William Whitton
2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers
1894 -10/3/1915



Mr. H. W. Whitten.

Harold was born in 1894 the birth being registered in Bootle Cumberland, the son of Elizabeth Jane Mckie Whitton.

The 1901 Census shows Harold as a 6 years old scholar living with his Grandparents, Abraham and Jane, at Mill Hill, Whithorn, Wigtonshire, Scotland. Little else is known regarding his early life. In June 1913, he was employed by North East Railways as a Porter at Heddon on the Wall Station, and joined The National Union of Railwaymen on the 14th of November 1913.

He enlisted in The Royal Scots Fusiliers at Whithorn, and embarked at Zeebrugge, Belgium on the 6th of October 1914. He was wounded in the right arm during The First Battle of Ypres, and was treated at Number 3 Casualty Clearing Station near Poperinghe, Belgium on the 29th of October 1914, and was later transferred in sick convoy 30 October 1914. He was brought to Newcastle for treatment and records show he was pronounced fit 24th of November and rejoined his regiment. He was Killed in Action at The Battle of Neuve Chappelle on the 10th of March 1915. He is Remembered with Honour at The LE TOURET MEMORIAL FRANCE.

10407 Private Albert Wolland
9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
1893 – 29/2/1916



Albert was born in Heddon on the Wall, his birth being registered during the first quarter of 1893. He was the eldest son of son of Welsh Miner. Henry b1874 -1961, and Isabella nee Allan b 1873-1962. By the census of 1911, Albert was an Apprentice Fitter in a Local colliery and the family lived in Mushroom Row, Heddon on the Wall. Albert had siblings: Mary Jennett b1894-1973, Henry b1896-1992, Henriette b1899-1901, Thomas b1901-1934, Annie b1903-1989, Isabella b1905-1980, and Richard William b 1908-1939.

Albert enlisted in 1914 at Newburn in the 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers arriving in France on the 15th of July 1915. He was killed in action on the 29th of February 1916. He is buried in the Spoilbank Cemetery Belgium. His parents had his gravestone inscribed: A SILENT THOUGHT A SECRET TEAR KEEPS HIS MEMORY EVER DEAR.

A memorial service was held at St Andrews Church Heddon on the Wall on the 12th of March 1916.

WOLLAND.--Killed in action in France, 29th February, aged 23, Pte. Albert Wolland, 9th Northumberland Fusiliers, the beloved son of Henry and Isabella Wolland, Heddon-on-the-Wall. Memorial service will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Sunday, March 12th, at 3 p.m. Dearly loved and deeply mourned by his uncle and aunt and cousins, The Blucher, Walbottle.

Evening Chronicle 11/3/1916

S/15990 Private John Wright
8/10th Battalion Gordon Highlanders
1897 - 28/3/1918

Known as Jack, he was born in 1897 at Heddon on the Wall. It is not clear who his parents were as John was raised by his Grandparents: John Wright b1844-1922, and Mary Ann nee Hawkins b1851. In 1901 his grandfather was the Postmaster, and John lived within a large family of his Grandparents, five Uncles, and five Aunts, the youngest being Hannah just 4 years older than John. By the 1911 Census, John lived at The Post Office, Heddon on the Wall. His grandfather is shown as a Coal Weighman for The Throckley Coal Company. Although his aunts, Margaret and Hannah are listed as Post Office employees, Hannah went on to be a GPO Telephonist in Newcastle upon Tyne. John was a 13 year old schoolboy.

John enlisted in Newcastle upon Tyne in the 8/10 Battalion of The Gordon Highlanders; it is not known when he enlisted or embarked for France.

John was killed in action on the 28th of March 1918 during the spring attack of the Germans. He is the youngest man from Heddon on the Wall to die in World War 1 at 20 years old.

He is Remembered with Honour at The Arras Memorial, France. A memorial service was held for John on the 5th of May 1918 at St Andrews Church Heddon on the Wall.

WRIGHT.—A memorial service will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Heddon-on-the-Wal' on Sunday, May 5th, at 3 p.m., in memory of the late Pte. Jack Wright, Gordon Highlanders, killed in action, March 28th. Friends kindly invited.

Evening Chronicle 1/5/1918

78264 Flying Officer William Clifford Hall
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
1 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit
14/1/1911- 4/4/1941



William was born in Chester Le Street County Durham, son of Willian Nicholson Hall b1879- 1960, and wife Barbara b1883 - 1969 Nee Clifford.

His father who worked for Younger's Brewery was called up at the outbreak of war and served in The 6th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers as a stretcher bearer. Having been wounded on several occasions, he was taken Prisoner of War and was not released till the end of the war. Due to kidney disease contracted during his time as a PoW he moved his family to Heddon on the Wall to establish a Plant Nursery, still going today.

William was the eldest child with siblings: Margarita 1912- 1945, Thomas 1915, Edna Mary 1919- 1993, and Morton Stanley 1924 -2015. The family lived at The Steads, Heddon.

After School William worked in the family business. He was involved in the Boys Brigade. He travelled in Europe and in 1938 joined The RAF Volunteer Reserve. He was called up on the First of September 1939. After training, he was commissioned and posted to No. 1 AONS (Air Observer Navigation School) at Prestwick in October 1939.

His next posting was to 4 Bombing & Gunnery School, West Freugh, Scotland on 23rd January 1940.

William was posted to 248 Squadron at North Coates on 1st April 1940. The squadron, inaugurated in 1939 in Fighter Command, was transferred to Coastal Command in February 1940, re-equipping with the Blenheim IVf. In May 1940, it rejoined Fighter Command at Dyce. The squadron was used to provide fighter patrols over the east coast of Scotland before returning to Coastal Command in June. The squadron spent a short period of time flying reconnaissance missions over the Norwegian coast before moving to Shetland in July 1940.

Hall was detached to No. 1 (C) OTU Silloth on 30th May for further training Flying Avro Ansons.

He rejoined 248 on 25th June 1940 and was still serving with the squadron on 3rd November 1940.

Flying out of RAF Benson, Oxfordshire in a Blenheim Mk 4 aircraft, tail number V5376, he was hit by German flak over Vlissingen, and shot down by two Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighters.

He crashed at Breskens, near Middelburg, Holland. The Blenheim was finally shot down at 12:27

hrs by Oblt H Bennemann of Stab I./JG 52 in an Me109 14 April 1941. all crew members were

killed. William is buried at the FLUSHING (VLISSINGEN) NORTHERN CEMETERY

HOLLAND. His grave bears the inscription: WE ARE LAID ASLEEP IN BODY AND BECOME A LIVING SOUL

916849 Gunner Ronald Charles Sinclair

124 Field Regiment

Royal Artillery

1921 – 29/6/1942

Ronald was born in Elswick Newcastle upon Tyne, son of Charles a drapery assistant at Newcastle Co-op, and his wife Phylis. Little else is known about Ronald's life although by 1939 his father is now a Drapery Branch Manager living at Denewell, Heddon on the Wall.

Ronald's Military Documents give his domicile as Heddon on the Wall.

Ronald joined the Royal Artillery, although it is not known when. His medical cards indicates September 1939.

124 Field Regiment was a territorial unit based in Newcastle upon Tyne. It was based in the UK until April 1941, after which it served in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq, and Syria, returning to North Africa in February 1942 until June 1943.

Ronald was killed in action on the 29th of June 1942 and is Remembered with Honour at The El Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

Roll of Honour

NORTON. 18, Gibson St., suddenly, 26th, aged 21 years. Henry, the dearly beloved son of Thomas and Mary Jane Norton. Interment All Saints' Cemetery, Wednesday, leaving 2.30. All friends and neighbours kindly invited to meet at Cemetery, 3.0. R.I.P.

SINCLAIR. Ronald, Heddon on the Wall. Killed in action Middle East, June 29, 1942. R.F.A.

Newcastle Journal 29/6/1943

3319895 Private John Turner Burns
6th Battalion Highland Light Infantry
City of Glasgow Regiment
11/2/1917-18/4/1945

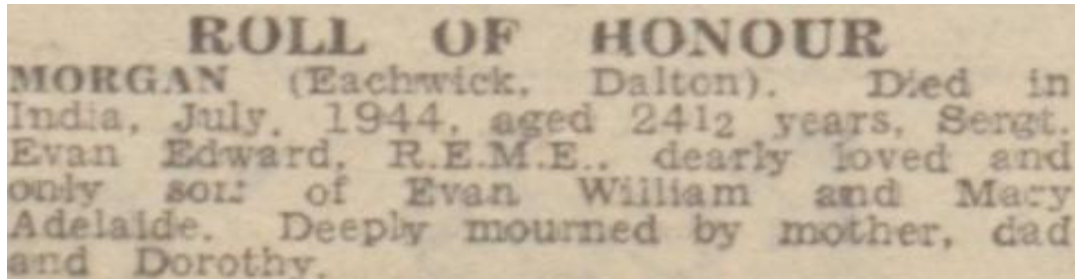
John was born in Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne in 1917, son of William Burns b1891, and Annie b1885. He had a sister called Phillys, also born in Benwell in 1918. By the 1921 census, the family were living with John's grandparents at Heddon Laws, East Heddon. By the census of 1939 John was 22 year old, Railway Porter living at The Town House, Bays Leap View, near Heddon on the Wall with his parents, his sister now working away from home.

It is not known when he joined the Highland Light Infantry. The 6th Battalion landed at Normandy in September 1944, fought through France, Belgium, and Holland, and was involved in heavy fighting for the capture of the City of Bremen where John was Killed in Action on the 18th of April 1945, He is buried at the BECKLINGEN WAR CEMETERY, Soltau, Germany.

7628751 Sergeant Evan Edward Morgan
Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
16/1/1920-25/7/1944

Evan was born in 1920 in Dalton, near Ponteland, son of Evan William, and his wife Mary Adelaide. His father was a Chauffeur/Mechanic to R M Sutton of Eachwick Hall. He had a sister, Dorothy, born in 1916. The pre war census of 1939 shows Evan living with his parents at Eachwick Cottages, Evan being a 19 year old, Master Engineer.

It is not known when Evan joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, but his was posted to the far east and reached the rank of sergeant. He died in India on the 25th of July 1944 and is buried at The Delhi War Cemetery. His head-stone bears the inscription: AT REST



Newcastle Journal 9/8/1944

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
Sub-Lieutenant David C Barrett
HMS Cromarty
12/2/1920 -23/10/1943



David was born in Seaton Burn, Northumberland in 1920, Son of Consultant Mining Engineer, Rollo Samuel Barrett b1883–1963, and his wife Freda Ethel Louisa b1889- nee Wilson.

David siblings were April Freda Claire b1930, Eve Georgina May 1922, John Rollo b1918 -2009, Nicholas Ancotts Samuel b1927-1998, and Lindsay Ancotts 1916-1925.

He attended Sherborne School in Dorset 1933-38, and was studying Law at Cambridge University when war broke out. The 1939 Census shows him as a student, living at his parent's house, Heddon Hall.

David was a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve. He served aboard HMS Cromarty, Bangor Class Minesweeper, built at Blyth in 1941. Operating out of Malta, it was mined and sunk in the Straits of Bonifacio, between Corsica and Sardina, on 23 October 1943.

David was one of the 25 Officers and ratings who died during this action.

He is Remembered with Honour at the Plymouth Naval Memorial.



Evening Chronicle 9/11/1943

4273740 Sergeant Maurice Jewitt
Reconnaissance Corps RAC
3RD (8th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers
1921-10/4/1946

Maurice was born in early 1921 in Newburn, son of Thomas Jewitt b1883-1957 who was born in Blayney Row, Heddon on the Wall, and his wife Edith b1890-1947 nee Armstrong.

At the time of Maurice's birth the family were living at 2 Union Street, Lemington, Northumberland where he was the youngest of four children, his siblings being Gladys b1909, Herbert b1911-1960, and Reginald b1918-1989. Maurice does not appear on the pre-war census of 1939, but his parents are living in Fairfield, Heddon on the Wall.

Little is known about his military career. He was a member of the 8th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. The 3rd (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) Reconnaissance Regiment was formed mainly from men of the 8th. The 3rd Recce Regiment was stationed at Langholm, Dumfriesshire at the beginning of 1944, before embarking for Normandy in June 1944. They fought in the Invasion of Normandy, and throughout the campaign in North-West Europe. Having reached the rank of Sergeant, Maurice was accidentally killed in Germany on the 10th of April 1946. He is buried at The Hamburg Cemetery.