

August 1916

## The Battle of the Somme July -November 1916



**LANOE-CP. W.I. PATTERSON**  
**(BIGRIGG), BORDER REG.,**  
**KILLED IN ACTION.**

(Photograph by the Romney Studio, 30,  
King Street, Whitehaven.)

We regret to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Patterson, of Bigrigg, have received official notification from the War Office and also from their son (Pvt. Jos. M. Patterson) of the death of their third son, Lance-Corpl. William Isaac Patterson. It appears that he was killed in action on the 7th of August, and on the 15th the following touching letter was sent home by his brother from the battlefield:

"Dear Father and Mother.—It is indeed sad, sad news which will be broken to you to-day. Our dear lad has gone to Heaven, and the blow is the hardest that I have ever had to bear. It is God's will, and we must look on it as such. Thank God that poor Isaac had a painless death. He was killed by a splinter of shell which killed him instantly; so that although the parting is painful to us we must be thankful that he had no pain. I was in his company just an hour before it happened, and although the battle was raging fiercely he was as cheerful as could be. We laid him to rest along with two other brave lads, and three little crosses now mark the graves of these true British soldiers. We are fighting for England and all we hold dear, so we must be prepared to give of our best and dearest.

"The blow will be a severe one for you, but you must remember that he has just gone before us into a land where everything is peace and happiness, and where the horror of this life is forgotten.

"Mr. Belchamber, the signalling officer, has been very good to me. He is going to write to you. He has had five more of his men killed since Isaac. Keep your hearts up dears, and remember that Isaac has gone to join a better army. I will write more with fuller particulars when I get out of the trenches.—I remain, your loving son,

JOSEPH W. PATTERSON."

\* William Isaac Patterson is buried at  
Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France

**The Whitehaven News devotes more and more space to news from the Somme as every town and village locally feels the effect of the losses**

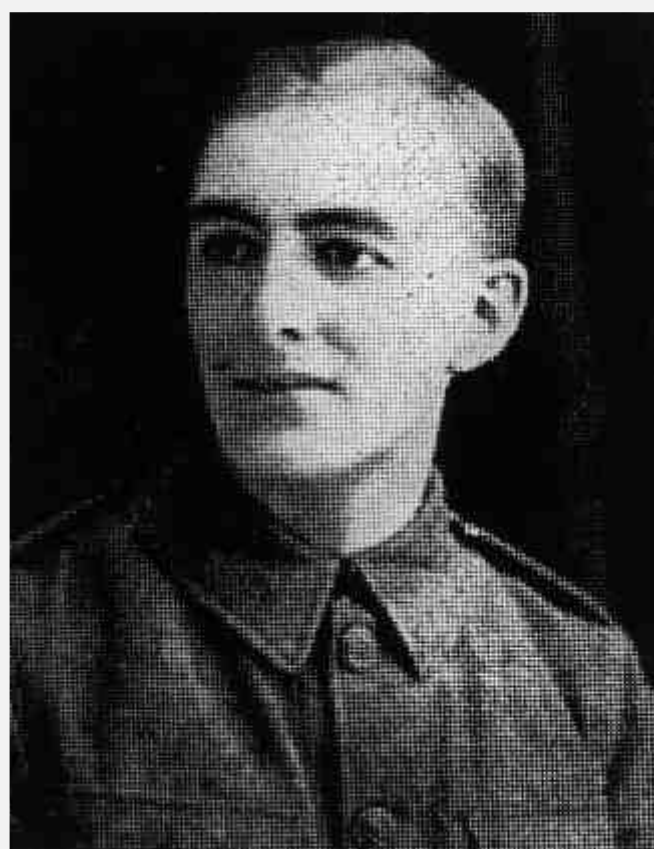




**LANCE-CORPL. H. PEARSON  
(OF CLEATOR MOOR),  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

Information has been received at Cleator Moor of the death in action this year of Lance-Corpl. Henry Pearson, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Pearson, of 53, Jacktrees Road. Mr. Pearson is a well-known Co-operator, having filled the office of President of the Cleator Moor Co-operative Society. He is at present one of the members of the Whitehaven Board of Guardians, representing Cleator North Ward. His son, Lance-Corpl. Pearson, joined the Border Regiment in the early days of the war in August, 1914, being one of the first men on the Moor to enlist. He was sent to the Dardanelles in May, 1915, and was wounded on the 21st of August, 1915, and was six months in hospital. Having recovered he was again sent into the firing line, and was killed on the 1st of July, in the big advance already reported. Lance-Corpl. Pearson was a fine specimen of a soldier, being of well-proportioned physique, and his death has aroused sincere regret, not only for himself and his newly-married wife, but for his parents and members of the family. He had been married four months, his wife being a Bristol lady. Prior to enlistment, Lance-Corpl. Pearson, who was 27 years of age, was employed by the Moresby Colliery Company. Two other sons of Mr. Pearson are at present with the Colours.

\* Both Harry Pearson and Bart Tyson have no known grave and are remembered at the Thiepval Memorial, France, the memorial to the missing of the Somme



**RIFLEMAN B. J. TYSON  
A WASDALE HEAD NATIVE.  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

The sad news was received on Saturday morning, of the death of Rifleman B. J. Tyson (Bart), in his 24th year, killed in action in France, on August 8th. He was the elder son of Mrs. Tyson and the late Mr. Daniel Tyson, for many years proprietors of the Wastwater Hotel, Wasdale Head, and grandson of the late Mr. James Simpson and of Mrs. Simpson, "Raylands," The Green, Millom. Previous to enlisting he was for some time with Messrs. Kellitt and Sons, grocers, of Wavertree, Liverpool, where he was highly respected. He was a member of the Dovedale P.S.A., Mossley Hill, Liverpool, and had made many friends.

31 August 1916

3 August 1916





**Pvt. J. WEDGWOOD  
(OF EGREMONT),  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

Private John Wedgwood has been killed in France. Pte. Wedgwood (who was a native of Ellenborough) joined the "Pals" Battalion in September, 1914, being attached to the Regiment as a stretcher-bearer. He was educated at Maryport, and served his apprenticeship as a pupil teacher at Dearham. After his probation he went to Goldsmiths' College, London. After leaving college he acted a supply teacher for Cumberland, and it was while in this capacity he came to Bockwell Schools, about four years ago. He was subsequently appointed assistant master. He had a class for gardening, and was assiduous in his efforts to instruct the lads in this branch of knowledge.

10 August 1916

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**MARYPORT OFFICER  
DROWNED IN PERSIAN GULF.**

Information has reached Mr. and Mrs. Hardingham, Senhouse Street, Maryport, that their third son, Mr. W. F. Hardingham, third officer of the s.s. Jeddah, has been drowned at Basra at the head of the Persian Gulf, the port for supplying the M.E.F. The information has been cabled from Bombay to the owners of the ship, but no details are to hand yet. Deceased had had a most adventurous career. He joined the Royal Navy as a boy, and after serving some years was invalided home from Australia. He then entered the Mercantile Marine, and served on both the P. and O. and the White Star Lines. He had also held several appointments in India, and was at one time in charge of a gang of natives, bridge-building. It is four years since deceased was in Maryport, and during the whole of that time he spent in the East. Deceased, who was unmarried, was 33 years of age.

17 August 1916



**2ND LIEUT. N. SIMON  
(HARRINGTON),  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

It is with very deep regret we have to record that Second-Lieut. Norman Simon, third son of the late Hodgson Simon, 1, Lime Road, Harrington, has been killed in action. The melancholy news was conveyed to Mrs. Simon on Friday week by wire from the War Office, and was later conveyed by letter from the Adjutant.

3 August 1916





**SERGT. J. E. ROBINSON  
(CLEATOR MOOR),  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

Sergt. J. E. Robinson was the son of the late Mr. William Robinson, of Scaletlands, Frizington, and Mrs. Robinson, of Trough-ton House, Cleator Moor. He was 24 years of age, and at the outbreak of the war was a student at the Bristol University. He was a keen Rugby player, having gained his colours at Bristol, also having played on more than one occasion for Whitehaven. A friend from the front writes:—"I feel it my duty to write a few lines to you concerning Jack. I am very sorry to have to tell you that he was very seriously wounded during the recent fighting on July 21st, and although he underwent an operation it was of no avail, and he died the following day. He was my biggest chum, and when they were out of the trenches he used to come round to see me every night. I was talking to a man in his platoon, and was told that he was a real hero, and I fully believe it, as personally I found him a real 'white' man, and straight in everything he did. I hardly know how I shall manage without dear old Jack." Another soldier writes:—"Believe me, the country and the community have lost a fine chap in Jack, one they ill afford to lose."

17 August 1916

\*Fred Mossop was awarded the DCM, but was killed in action in December 1917.

\*J E Robinson is buried in the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery extension, France

**PVT. JOSEPH MILLICAN  
(OF CLEATOR MOOR),  
DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED  
IN ACTION, JULY 1, 1916.**

It is with regret that we announce the death of Private Joseph Millican, who was shot in the breast while engaged in the battle of the Somme on July 1st, 1916. Pvt. Millican enlisted in the 7th Border Regiment, on December 7th, 1914. He received his training in the South of England, and has been in France for over twelve months. He was well liked and respected by all who knew him, and when writing home he was always in the "pink." Pvt. Millican took a great interest in footballing and played for the Celtics of Cleator Moor. Previous to his joining the Army he worked in the Furnace Yard, Cleator Moor. Much sympathy is felt for the unfortunate young man as he has not been home for a period of 17 months, and who always, along with his friends and relatives, looked forward for a few days' leave. He died a hero and gave his life for his King and country.

3 August 1916



**CORPL. FRED MOSSOP,  
A NATIVE OF PARTON,  
RECOMMENDED FOR D.C.M.**

10 August 1916





**SERGT. M. H. MOSSOP**  
(SEASCALE),  
**WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT,**  
**MISSING—INFORMATION**  
**WANTED.**

24 August 1916

\* Matthew Hudson Mossop was killed on 1 July 1916 and is buried at the Serre Road Cemetery No 1, France

### **A FRIZINGTONIAN'S EXPERIENCES IN BRITISH ADVANCE.**

Mrs. Simpson, Wilson Terrace, Frizington, whose son, William, is serving with the South African Contingent, has received a letter, in which he says:—"For eighteen days we were fighting every minute. Our division had the honour given to them to break through the German lines, which we did, and held the most particular part of the line for five days and nights. Our casualties were heavy, but the Huns lost a lot more than we did. Their dug-outs were about 40 feet under the earth, and are very substantial. The only way to get at them was by our artillery shell after shell of gigantic size and burying them alive. No one at home can realise the awfulness of this war unless they have been through it. The British and French have fought wonderfully, capturing places in two hours which they thought would take a long time to do. I can honestly say the end is in sight."

24 August 1916



### **Pvt. JAMES CHISAM** (OF WHITEHAVEN), **KILLED WHILE GETTING** **HIS HAT.**

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Chisam, of 3, Hamilton Place, Queen Street, Whitehaven, have had word this week of the death of their son, Private James Chisam, of the local Territorial Force. Young Chisam, who was employed at William Pit, did well at St. James's C. of E. School, and showed much promise. He had been in the 5th Borders for two years, and had been on active service twelve months last February. The bombing officer, Second-Lieut. Allan G. Condi, has written the parents as follows:—

"28th July, 1916.

"Dear Mrs. Chisam,—I am very sorry to have to write and tell you that your son James was killed by a shell yesterday afternoon. He was going into a dug-out to get his hat when a German shell hit it, and killed him and two of his chums.

10 August 1916

### **MUNCASTER SOLDIERS.**

Private T. Nicholson, the popular secretary of the Eskdale and Ennerdale Foxhounds, has been wounded in action with shrapnel. He is in hospital in England, and progressing favourably.

Lance-Corpl. Harry Preston is home on leave, and is recovering from a bullet wound in the arm.

Private Robert Noble has been twice badly wounded. He is in hospital and slowly recovering.

Private Arthur Birkett is at home, having got his discharge. He still feels the effects of the strenuous Gallipoli campaign.

Second-Lieutenant T. Dargavel has been wounded in action.

3 August 1916





**PRIVATE JOHN SEEDS  
(BORDER REGIMENT),  
WOUNDED IN RIGHT ARM.**

PRIVATE JOHN SEEDS wounded in the right arm in the big push in France on July 14th, last, aged 19 years.

24 August 1916

These articles are taken from the *Whitehaven News*, held on microfilm at Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre, and indexed by volunteers.

The issues covering the time of the Great War have been indexed by a group of volunteers in an eighteen-month long project undertaken to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war, and to act as a lasting memorial to all whose lives were touched by the events.

**WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER ON  
THE FIGHT.**

Mrs. N. Hall, Gions, Whitehaven, has received a letter from her son in hospital, wounded in France, who says: "Here they do everything they can for you. It is a fine big place and is full of wounded that have been in the big push. You get everything clean every day and a good bed, with plenty to eat. So that's not so bad, is it? It is a bit different than being out in the trenches with any old place to lay in. . . . My eye is getting a lot better now, but my nose is sore. I will tell you which way I got it. We were all waiting in our trenches to go over to the Huns, and at half-past seven in the morning we went over. Fritz was sending shells over to us, and his machine guns were playing on our trenches, but as soon as we got the word we were over the top with a shout. . . . It was something brutal to see our poor lads go down dead and wounded with their shells and bullets; but we went on, and I got as far as the Germans' third line, when I thought something heavy had hit me in the face, and then I felt. There was a chap near me and put a bandage on me, but I had to stay where I was in the trench until somebody would come and get me out. But there was nobody came, so I went back over, myself, as I was glad to get away. Something told me to go, and it is lucky I went, as four or five Germans came where I had been, with some bombs. They took some of our soldiers prisoners, with one of our captains."

In a later letter from a hospital in England he writes: "Getting on fine. . . but I may say I was very lucky as there were only three of us got as far as the German lines out of my platoon, so that was not bad. It was something terrible to see the poor fellows falling down alongside of me, dead and wounded. . . . The German lines were all taken by us and were all full of dead and wounded. But there were more gave themselves up as prisoners. It was a sixty miles' attack, right along the front. I don't know if any of the other lads from Whitehaven were killed or wounded, as we were all mixed up. But before we went over the top I did see Peter Toner and the rest of them, and we were all happy. I hope there is nothing gone wrong with Peter, as we were the best of pals. I think I will be back for good, and I hope I am. . . . I have been wounded in the face with a bullet. It went through my left temple, and out at the left eye. I had to be operated on with the eye to get the bullet out, and they did it, but I think I have lost my eye. I am very thankful that I did not get any more. It was murder to face the bullets and shells which they sent over to us."

10 August 1916





**SERGT. A. OVERINGTON  
(OF GOSFORTH),  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

We regret to note the death of Sergt. Albert Overington, of the Border Regiment, who was killed on July 5th. Sergt. Overington came to Gosforth with Mr. J. B. Wrigley, of Steelfield Hall, as his chauffeur, and while at Gosforth he won for himself many friends. He joined the Whitehaven "Pals" on the 7th of September, 1914, and was killed on the above date, aged 27 years. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Overington, of Godalming, Surrey.

3 & 10 August 1916

**A FORMER WHITE-  
HAVEN MAN DIES OF  
WOUNDS.**

Information has been received by Mrs. Pearson, of Plumblands Lane, Whitehaven, of the death from wounds of her nephew, Private J. B. Tolson, Northumberland Fusiliers, at the age of 29 years, who at the time of his enlistment resided at Path Head, Blaydon. For many years deceased lived with his parents at Kells, where he himself worked at Croft Pit, and where his father was one of the pit deputies. Deceased, who belongs to the well-known family of Tolsons, of Distington, leaves a widow and two children.

3 August 1916



**DISPATCH RIDER  
W. J. HUTCHINSON,  
TRUMPET TERRACE.**

(Photograph by W. J. Postlethwaite, Wath Brow, Cleator.)

WILLIAM JOHN HUTCHINSON, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, of 43, Trumpet Terrace, Cleator Moor, joined H.M. Forces over a year ago—June 7, 1915. Before that he had been on the Royal Mail motor vans. He joined the Army Service Corps, and was attached to a motor transport column. Finally he became a dispatch rider. Unfortunately, he has met with a nasty accident by which he has been laid up in hospital. He is now recovering, and he writes to the Rev. Caesar Caine:—

"I had a cut above the right eye, and my hands were badly cut. The worst thing is that my ankles are damaged in some way. I am not able to stand, but I am assured here that I shall be able to walk all right soon."

His parents have received a letter from his officer speaking of his services in high terms of praise. The work of a dispatch rider is full of hazard of every kind, and the best wishes of numerous friends follow Pte. Hutchinson for a speedy recovery, and a safe return. His age is now 20.

24 August 1916

- \* William John Hutchinson recovered from his injuries, but was killed on 19 October 1918, and is buried at Montigny Communal Cemetery
- \* Albert Overington is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial, France





**PVT FRED LACE**  
(MIDDLETON PLACE, BOOTLE).

24 August 1916

- \* Fred Lace survived the Somme, but was seriously injured in early 1918
- \* James Allen Webb has no known grave and is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial, France, the memorial to the missing of the Somme



**PVT. J. A. WEBB**  
(WHITEHAVEN),  
**KING'S LIVERPOOL,**  
**KILLED IN ACTION.**

31 August 1916

**PVT. T. P. JACKSON**  
(OF EGREMONT),  
**KILLED IN ACTION.**

News has been received that Thomas Bowes Jackson, son of the late John Jackson and Mrs. Jackson, formerly of Ambleside, but later of the Red Lion Inn, Egremont, has been killed in action. Private Jackson, 17822, who was in his 19th year, was formerly a platelayer on the Biggitz and Pallaflat Branch Railway, and was only discharged from a convalescent camp in France on the 15th June, having been suffering from shrapnel wounds. He enlisted in November, 1914, in the 10th Border Regiment, being subsequently transferred to the 7th Border.

10 August 1916

**CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER**  
**DROWNED IN THE PERSIAN**  
**GULF.**

Private John Kirkby, of the Seaforth Highlanders, is officially reported as having been accidentally drowned in the Persian Gulf on July 11th last. The deceased soldier was well known and highly esteemed in Colne, and was formerly a painter, in the employ of Mr. H. R. Taylor, of C. Skipton Road, Colne. He was a cousin of Mrs. Taylor, and had resided with her for several years past. He enlisted in October, 1915, and left England for Mesopotamia about two months ago, his death taking place during the voyage. He was 27 years of age, and formerly lived with his parents (now dead) at Cleator Moor. His only brother, Pvt. Richard Kirkby, of the Border Regiment, who was 23 years of age, died at the Dardanelles last year.

17 August 1916