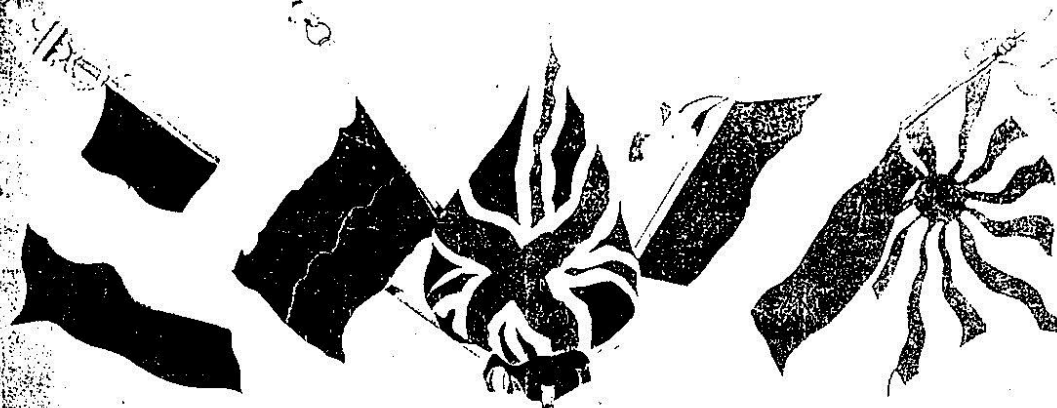


From North Shields to the Somme

The Story of James Austin Brown
and the Tyneside Scottish Brigade

In memory of
Frank Brown 1918 – 1999

By Alan Brown



**DON'T
IMAGINE
YOU
ARE NOT
WANTED**

EVERY MAN
between 19 and 38
years of age
is WANTED!
Ex-Soldiers up
to 45 years of age



**MEN CAN
ENLIST
IN THE
NEW
ARMY
FOR THE
DURATION
OF THE
WAR**

RATE OF PAY: Lowest Scale 7s. per week with Food, Clothing &c., in addition

1. Separation Allowance for Wives and Children of Married Men when separated from their Families (Inclusive of the allowance required from the Soldier's pay of a maximum of 6d. a day in the case of a private)

For a Wife without Children	12s. 6d. per week
For Wife with One Child	15s. 0d. per week
For Wife with Two Children	17s. 6d. per week
For Wife with Three Children	20s. 0d. per week
For Wife with Four Children	22s. 0d. per week

and so on, with an addition of 2s. for each additional child.
 Motherless children 3s. a week each, exclusive of allowance from Soldier's pay

2. Separation Allowance for Dependents of Unmarried Men.
 Provided the Soldier does his share, the Government will assist liberally in keeping up, within the limits of Separation Allowance for Families, any regular contribution made before enlistment by unmarried Soldiers or Widowers to other dependants such as mothers, fathers, sisters, etc.

**YOUR COUNTRY IS STILL CALLING.
FIGHTING MEN!
FALL IN!!**

Full Particulars can be obtained at any Recruiting Office or Post Office.

The Tyneside Scottish

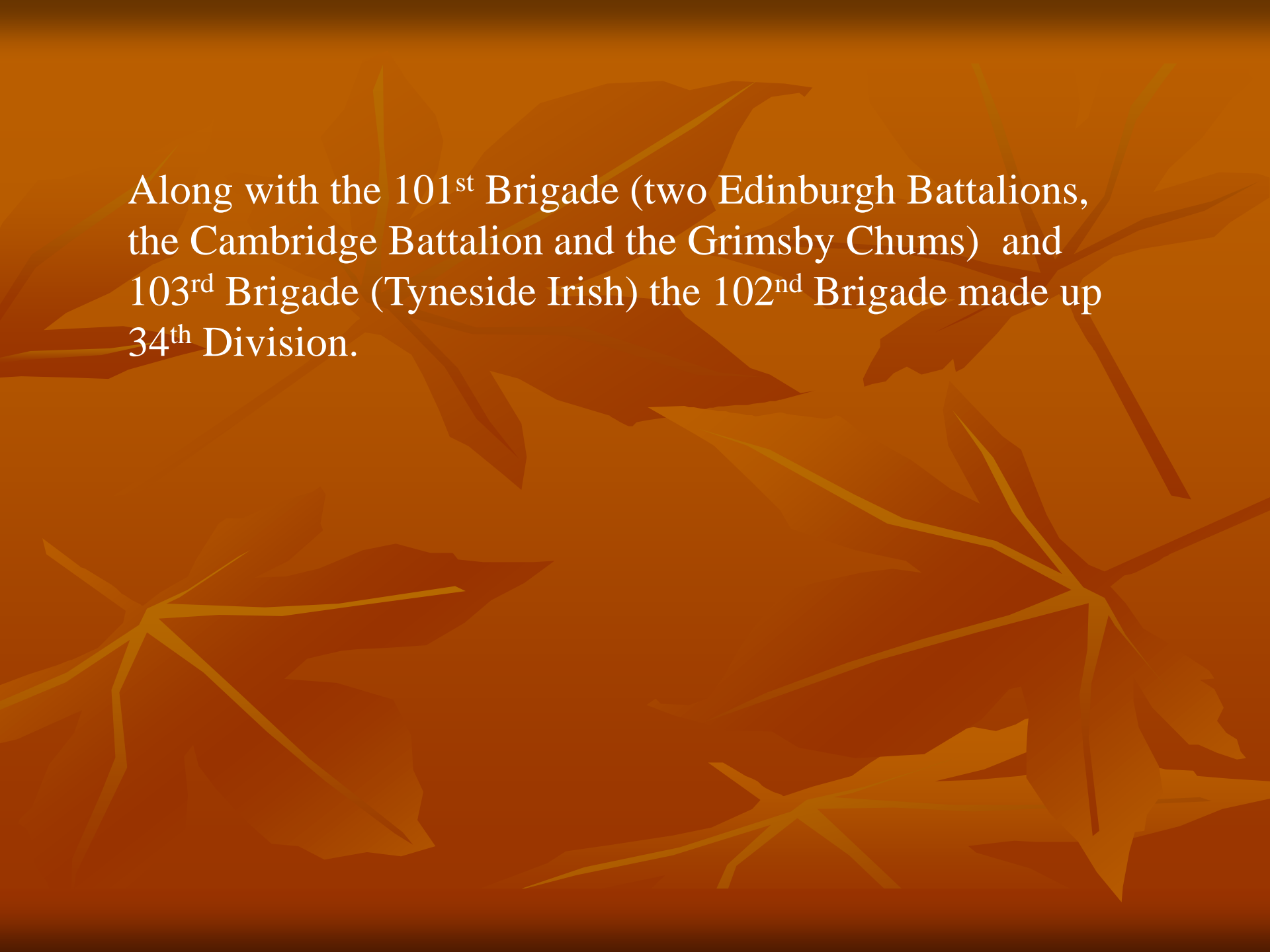
Recruiting began on Friday 16th October 1914. 20 days later 4000 men had volunteered. 4 Battalions were formed.

In December 1914 Brigadier-General Trevor Ternan was recalled from retirement to command the unit.

Training was mainly carried out at Alnwick.

In June 1915 the unit was designated the 102nd Brigade, 20th – 23rd Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers.

They were more usually known as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tyneside Scottish.



Along with the 101st Brigade (two Edinburgh Battalions, the Cambridge Battalion and the Grimsby Chums) and 103rd Brigade (Tyneside Irish) the 102nd Brigade made up 34th Division.





Recruits at shooting rifle practice

James Austin Brown

Enlisted on 21st July 1915.

Had a wife and 5 children.

Owned a thriving boot and shoe making business.

Was given the Regimental Number 22/1745.

Had previously tried to join the Army to serve in the Boer War when he was only 15.

ROLL OF COMPANY		ALLIANCE
Roll No.	NAME	Remarks
2011230	Co. Bell E	Given by
38666	St. Brown O	Given by
201502	St. Bell E	Given by
201002	Co. Brown H	Given by
11111	Co. Bell E	Given by
38139	St. Bell E	Given by
38416	St. Bell E	Given by
25411	Co. Bell E	Given by
201543	St. Bell E	Given by
201129	St. Bell E	Given by
201611	St. Bell E	Given by
221145	St. Brown H	Given by
221922	St. Bell E	Given by
11643	St. Brown H	Given by
22009	St. Bell E	Given by
38664	St. Brown H	Given by
221294	St. Bell E	Given by

Part of a Company list of 3rd TS – which Company?

The move to France

On 1st August 1915 the unit moved to Ludgershall on Salisbury Plain.

They moved to Longbridge Deverill on 26th September.

In January 1916 the unit was given embarkation leave, which nearly all the men spent at home.

The unit began the move to France on 10th January.

Initially the unit was encamped in locations around St Omer, which they had reached by train from Le Havre and Boulogne.

On 23rd January the Tyneside Scottish marched the 8 miles to Steenbecque.



Steenbeque - the Tyneside Scottish arrived here on 23rd January 1916



Eventually, on 1st February they moved up to an area behind the front line near Armentieres.

A · S · B · F

1920 - JULY 1916

1ST GERMAN · LINE · OF · TRENCHES

LOCATION · OF · THE · DELANGRE · FARM

MAY 15 — JULY 16

56.N 10.D 10.20

Front line routine

A unit would spend between 4 and 15 days in the forward trenches, sometimes within 50 yards of the enemy.

When relieved they moved to second-line trenches, perhaps 100-200 yards back.

At night they would often have to move forward to help repair the forward trenches.

After a few days here the unit would move to a rear area but were still likely to be within range of enemy artillery.

At night they would move supplies up to the forward trenches or repair roads and railways.

After a week or 10 days the cycle would be repeated.

After 1 or 2 months the whole unit would withdraw several miles, usually beyond shelling range.

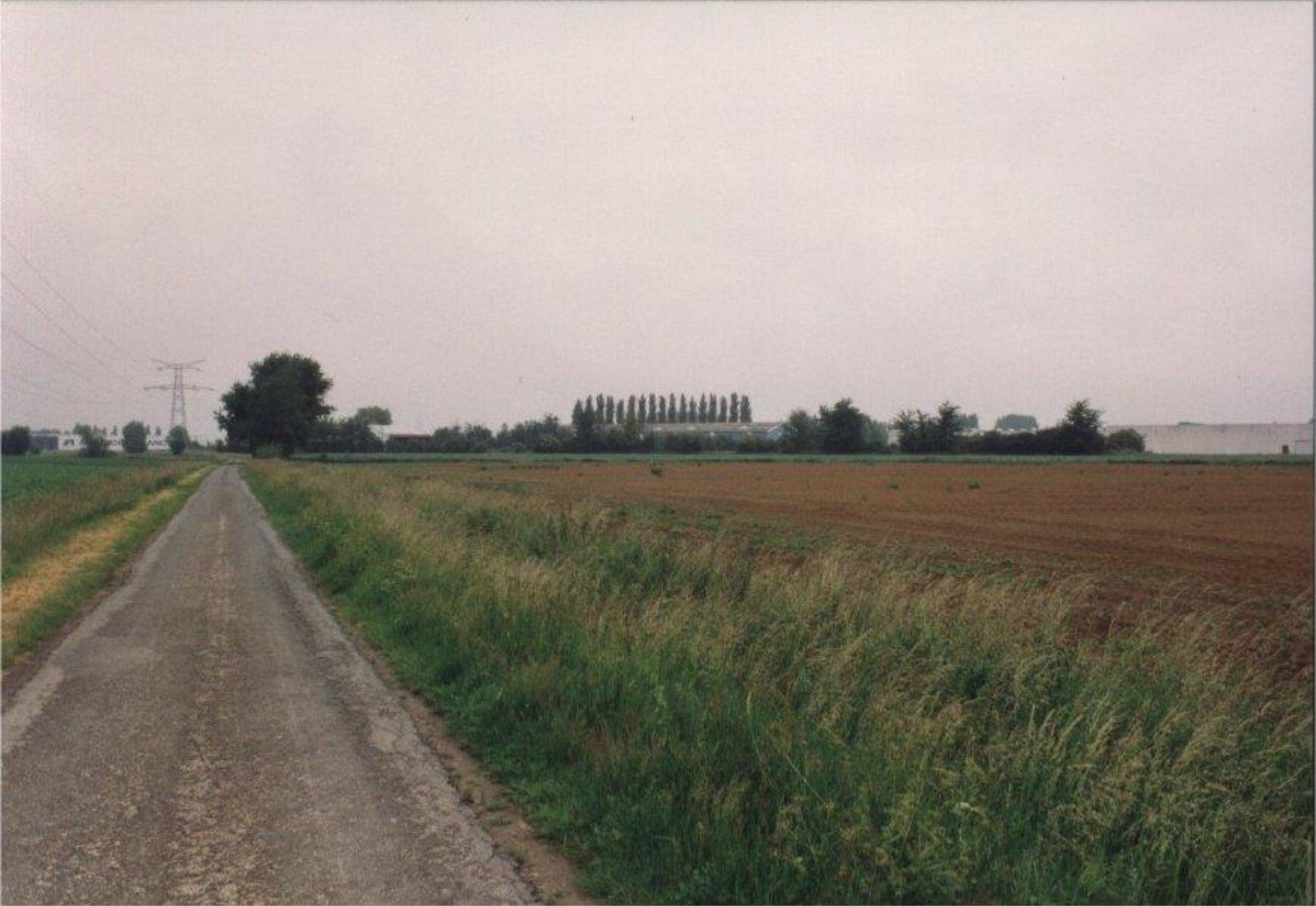
Whilst here they would rest, train and help with transport and repairs.

They often lived in barns etc. above ground and could move around freely.

After about a month it would be back to the front!

Occasionally the entire Division would withdraw into reserve, miles back from the front line, where they would train and rehearse attacks.

The Tynesiders lived this life in February and March 1916.



Rue du Bois, the Tyneside Scottish front line in March 1916



The headstone of
Private Delaney, the
first Tyneside
Scottish casualty

The Tynesiders were withdrawn from the front line on 7th April and began the march back to St Omer.

The march covered 47 miles and took 5 days, ending in the villages of Mentque and Nortleulinghem, just west of St Omer.

The men were allowed to rest for a day on 13th April.

And then began training in the land around the two villages, which closely resembled the Somme area.



Near Mentque, the Tyneside Scottish training area in April 1916

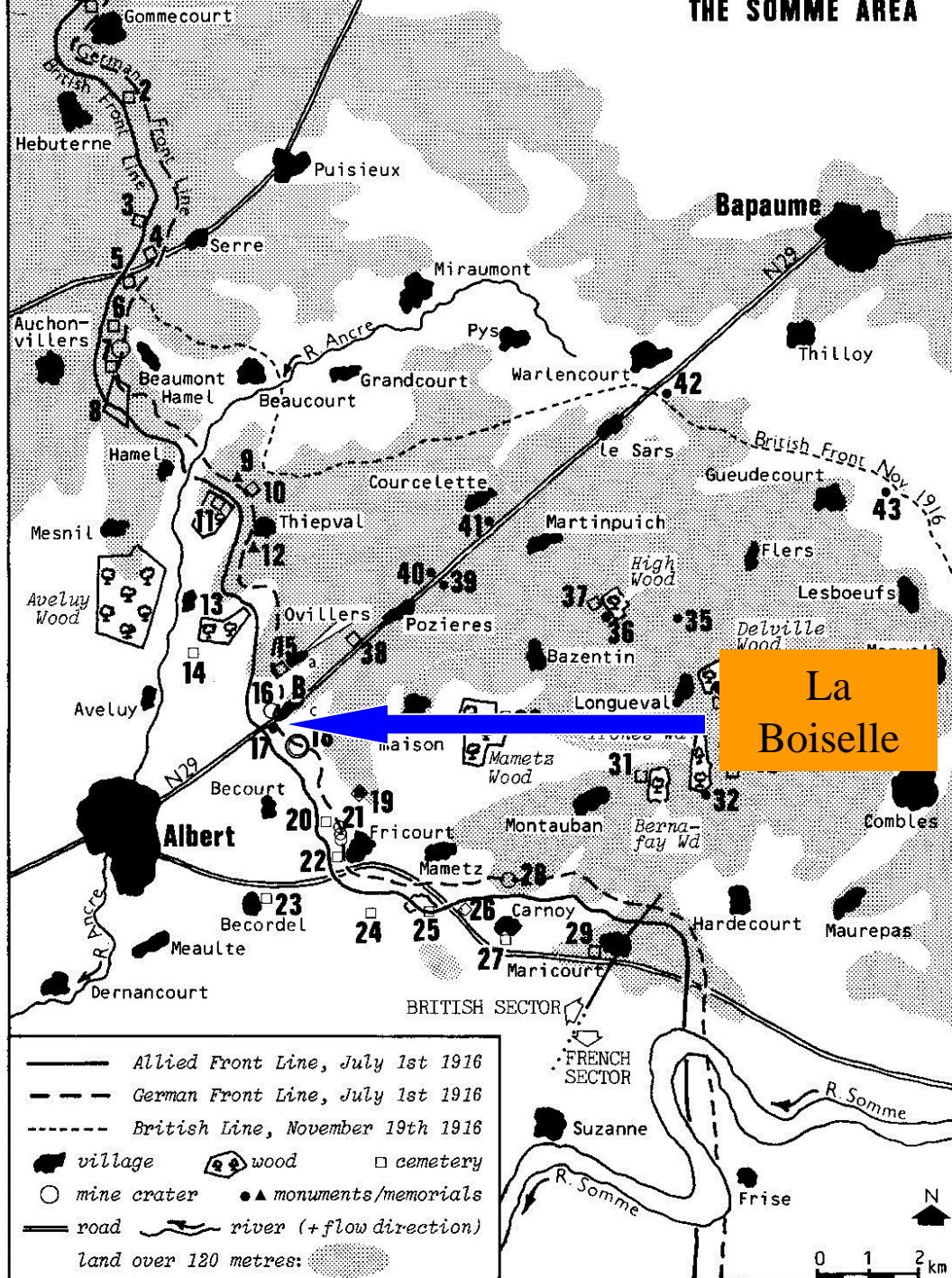
The move to the Somme area

On 6th May the Tyneside Scottish moved south by train to Amiens.

The Battalion arrived at Longeau on the 6th May 1916.

From Longeau they marched to Albert, arriving on the 11th May.







On 3rd June 1916 3rd Tyneside Scottish moved into the front line between Dernancourt and Becourt Chateau, immediately behind the British front line.



Several TS casualties are buried in the Becourt Wood Cemetery

The Battle of the Somme

The Battle opened on 1st July 1916.

At 7.28am two huge mines exploded under the German positions.

At 7.30am the men climbed out of their trenches and the advance began.

The shelling and the mines were supposed to have cut the wire and put the defenders out of action.

Unfortunately they had done neither, with tragic consequences.



A British gun crew on the
Somme – the artillery
bombardment lasted for 7
days before the actual battle

The background of the slide is a solid orange-brown color with a faint, stylized pattern of autumn leaves and branches. The leaves are in various shades of brown and orange, creating a textured, organic feel.

The men were ordered to advance at a walk.

They were strung out in a line across the battlefield.

Each man was carrying about 80lbs of equipment.

They were not supposed to stop for the wounded or seek cover.



Waiting for action

The barbed wire had not been cut, and men either became entangled in it...

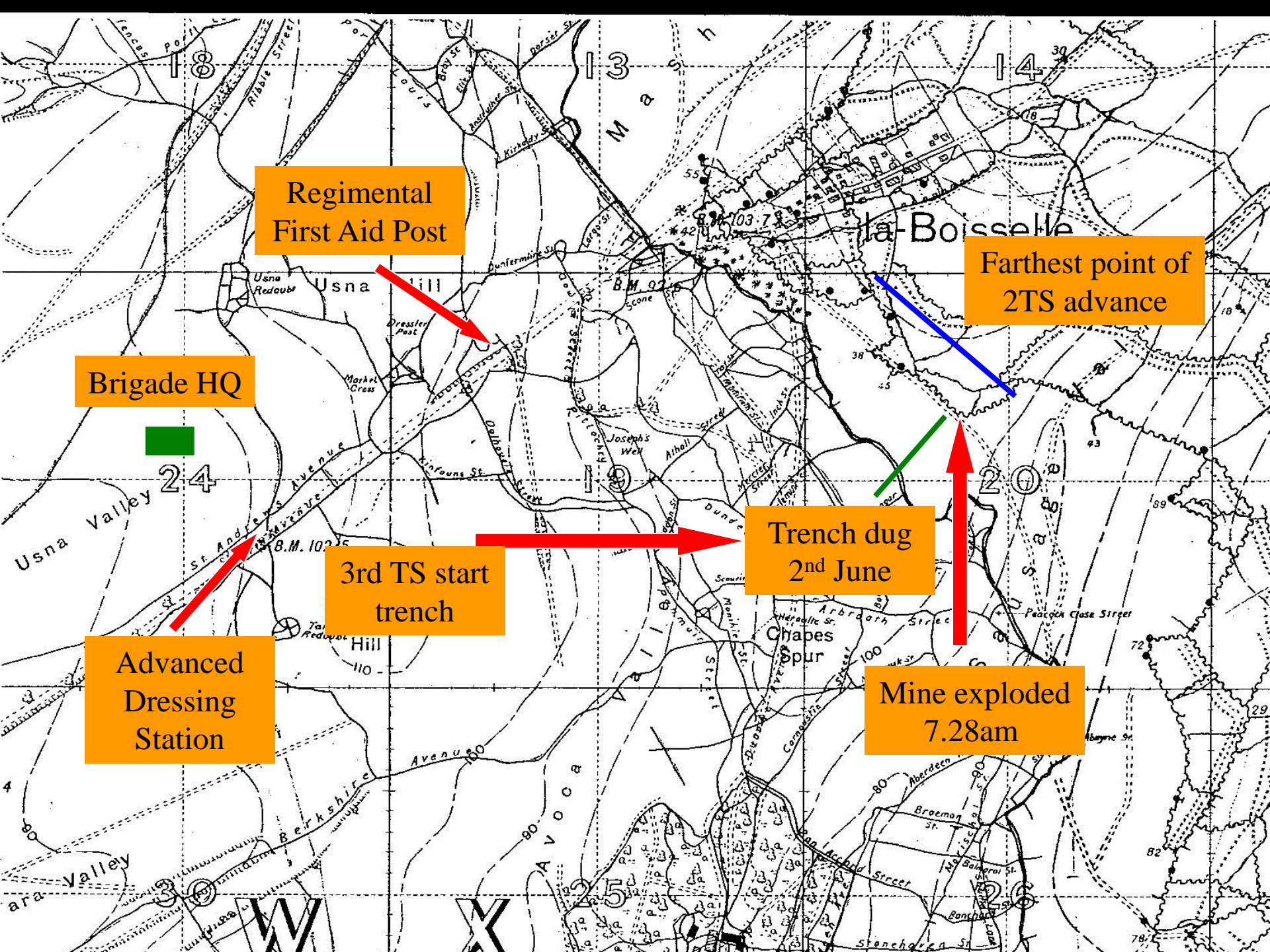
or channelled into the few gaps which had been made by the shelling.

The bombardment of the previous 7 days alerted the Germans, who hid in deep dugouts.

As soon as the mines exploded, they returned to their positions and began machine-gunning the advancing British.



The Tyneside Irish advanced on the north side of La Boisselle



Regimental
First Aid Post

Farthest point of
2TS advance

Brigade HQ

Trench dug
2nd June

3rd TS start
trench

Advanced
Dressing
Station

Mine exploded
7.28am





James Brown was wounded in the valley between the first and second lines
of British trenches.



Advance on up the slope towards the woods at the top.

The 4 advancing Tyneside Scottish Battalions all lost their commanding officers in no man's land.

Many men from the 3rd TS, starting from the second line of British trenches, never even reached the first line.

Some men did reach the German trenches but were pushed back and regrouped in the mine crater by 8am.

Of the 2000 men who left the trenches, only 7 officers and 200 men reached the crater.

Major Acklom was now the senior surviving officer and he took command.



'Lochnager Crater' – the farthest point reached by the remnants of the Tyneside Scottish

During the second day, units of 19th Division took the next line of German trenches.

The men in the crater received machine guns, mortars, ammunition, and food and water.

They also managed to bury the dead and evacuate some of the wounded.

By midnight on the second day they had been reduced to 2 officers and 155 men.

Finally at 10pm on the third day they were relieved and returned to their reserve position.

Tyneside Scottish casualties

Of the approximately 1000 soldiers in each Battalion:

1st TS lost 26 officers and 605 men killed or wounded.

2nd TS lost 21 officers and 457 men killed or wounded.

3rd TS lost 22 officers and 577 men killed or wounded.

4th TS lost 18 officers and 622 men killed or wounded.

On 5th July Lt Gen Sir W P Pulteney visited 34th Division and the Tyneside Scottish managed to parade 700 men.

What happened to Private Brown?

He was listed as 'missing presumed killed'. This was reported in the Newcastle Daily Journal of 14th August.

In fact, he had been wounded, but it was several days before he was found in no man's land.

The Newcastle Daily Journal of 31st August recorded the fact that he was no longer 'missing'.

The facts were also reported in the St George's Gazette but not until October and December 1916.



What happened to the wounded?

Stretcher bearers would bring wounded men in from the battlefield, often under fire themselves.

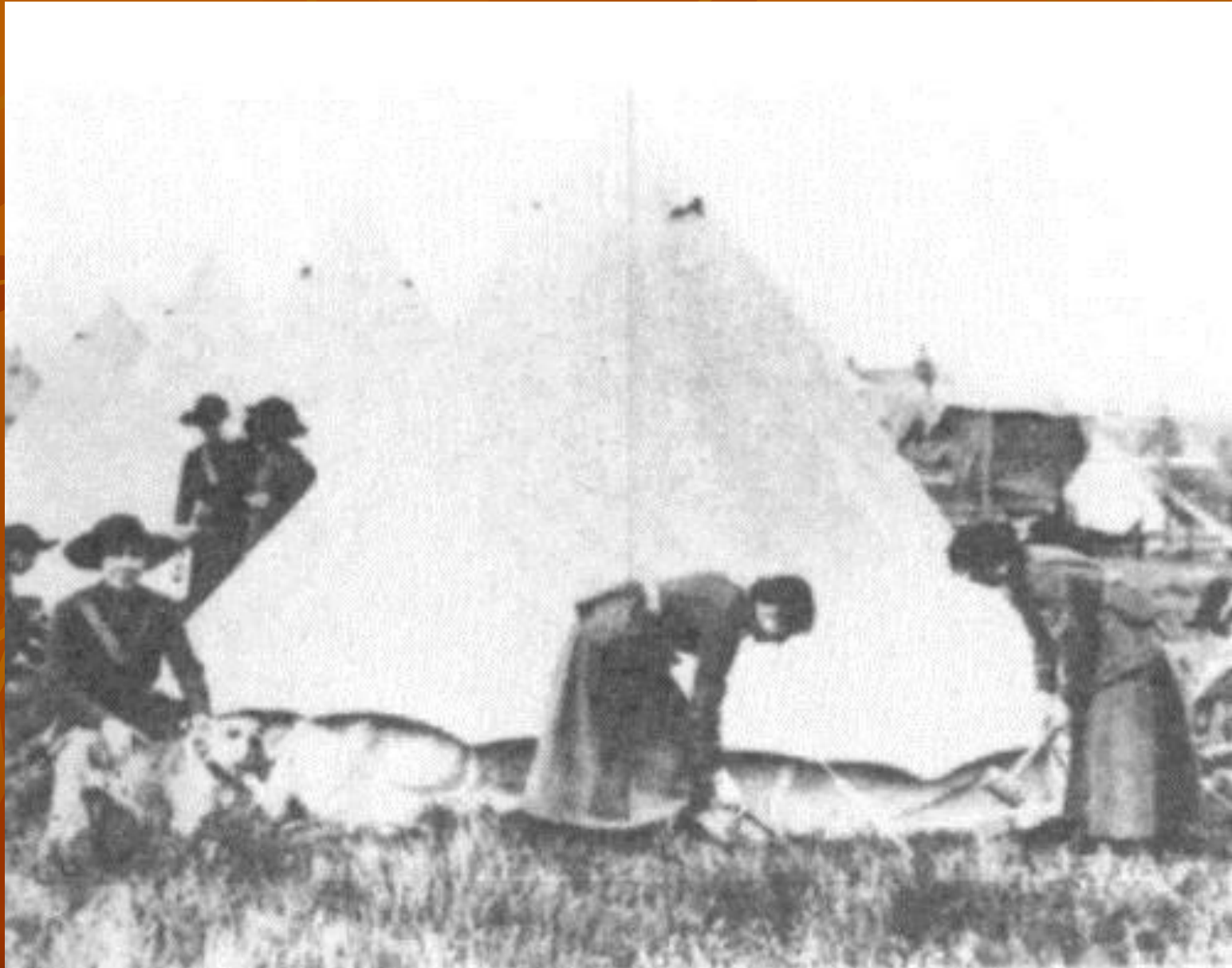


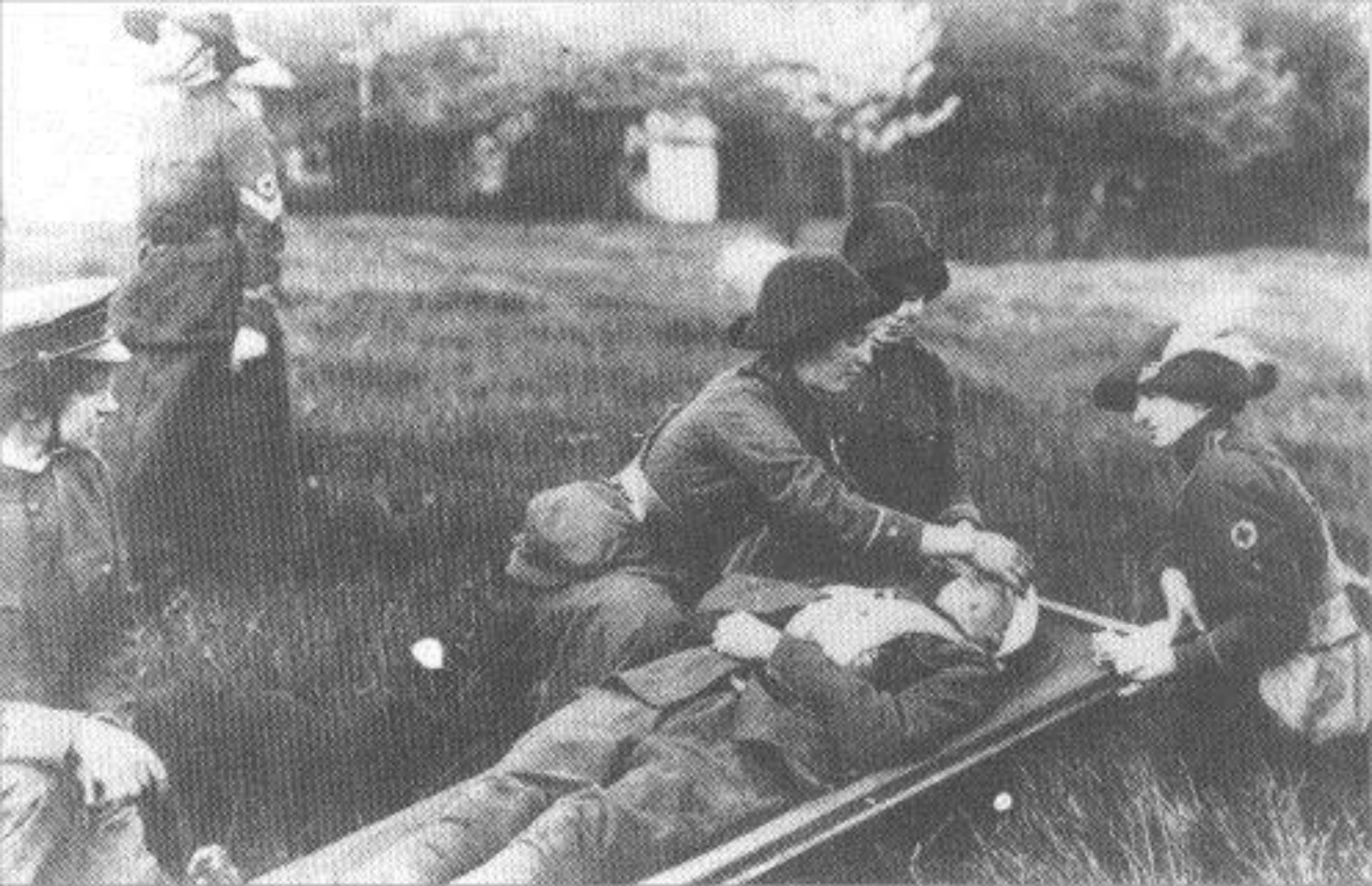
Tending wounded in a trench

The wounded would be taken to either the Regimental Aid Post, which was often only yards behind the front line...



...or a Field Hospital, farther back but still within range of the enemy guns.





A stretcher case comes in

'Walking Wounded' might be moved on foot to a Divisional Collecting Station.



More serious cases would then be evacuated to a Casualty Clearing Station, often under canvas.

To a permanent building, which may or may not have been a hospital before the War.

Or to a Base Hospital, usually a large purpose built hospital serving a wide area of the battlefield.

Men who could not be successfully treated here were sent back to the UK – they had received a 'Blighty One'.

Soldiers who made a full recovery were eventually returned to the front line.

Motor ambulances were used to move the wounded where necessary.





Another way of moving the wounded!



The Memorial Seat in 1992.

Aftermath

The Medal Rolls at Kew show that James Austin Brown was entitled to the War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He was also awarded the Silver War Badge, for men who had served but were invalided out of the Army.

This was to prevent such men being branded cowards if they were not obviously unfit for service.

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

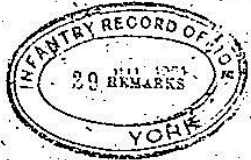
Roll "B"

Sheet No. N.F./14800.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and ~~the~~ British War Medal granted under Army Orders

301 and 285

of 1919.

Rank	NAME	Unit previously served with. Regt No. and Rank in same on entry into theatre of war	Theatres of war, in which served								Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	
			From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To			
Pte	WELSH JOEN	22nd Northd Fus 22/1708 Pte	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xvi)
Pte	BROWN JAMES AUSTIN	22nd Northd Fus 22/1745 Pte	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xvi)
Pte	MATTHEWSON WILLIAM	1/6th Northd Fus 6/2198 Pte	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xvi)
Sgt	BENNETT THOMAS	1st Northd Fus 2759 Sgt 1st Northd Fus 2759	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xix) Commission 1/V. X/10059 d/2/2/22 C.A.B./W.S.
Pte	HUGHES LEONARD	1/4th Northd Fus 4/3659 Pte	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xvi)
Pte	UNDERWOOD ALBERT EDWARD	1/5th Northd Fus 5/3833 Pte	X	✓									Dis. 392 (xvi)

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

York. 29th July 1921.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

W0 329/732 Xc/175793

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

6 5 4 3 2 1



On returning this form, care
 in that "A.G. 10,"
 ingde, 2, rect,
 Nominatory,
 the envelope. WI

28 JUN 1917
 No. 0.759 ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS
 WAR OFFICE

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.

ORIGINAL

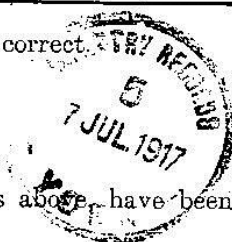


Rank	Name (in full)	Unit discharged from	No. of Badge and Certificate (To be completed at War Office)	Date of:—		Cause of Discharge (Wounds or Sickness and para. of K.R.)	Whether served Overseas (Yes or No)
				Enlistment	Discharge		
Pte.	Jesse. Bancroft. (George)	Depot.	207, 234	7.4.1915.	23.6.1917.	Wounds. Para 392(xvi)KR.	Yes
Pte.	(Alexander Sanderson.	Depot.	207, 235	9.12.1914.	22.6.1917.	Do. Do.	Yes
Pte.	Arthur Henderson.	Depot.	207, 236	7.6.1916.	29.6.1917.	Sickness. Do.	No.
Cpl.	William Brabban.	Depot.	207, 237	24.10.1914.	22.6.1917.	Do. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	Joseph Hedley. (Wilfred)	Depot.	207, 238	6.8.1915.	16.6.1917.	Wounds. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	(Thomas Parker.	Depot.	207, 239	8.4.1915.	17.6.1917.	Sickness. DO.	Yes.
Pte.	Percy Green.	Depot.	207, 240	7.9.1914.	19.6.1917.	Wounds. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	(Muir Mac.Aulay.	Depot.	207, 241	28.4.1915.	6.6.1917.	Do. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	Robert Thompson.	Depot.	207, 242	5.9.1914.	19.6.1917.	Do. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	Charles White.	Depot.	207, 243	31.10.1914.	16.6.1917.	Do. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	(James Austine Brown.	Depot.	207, 244	21.7.1915.	15.6.1917.	Sickness. Do.	Yes.
Pte.	Arthur Wildgust.	Depot.	207, 245	5.9.1914.	19.6.1917.	Wounds. Do.	Yes.

I certify that the particulars furnished hereon are correct.

York.

Date 27th. June.1917.



[Signature]
 i/c No.1. Section.
 For Colonel i/c Infantry Records, York.
 Signature and Rank of Officer certifying Claimants' service.

I certify that Badges and Certificates, numbered as above, have been issued to the individuals concerned.

Date 26th July 1917.



After returning to England, James Brown spent some time in hospital in Warminster.

He was discharged from the Army on 15th June 1917, due to 'sickness'. Doctors gave him 6 months to live.

He returned to North Shields and resumed running his boot and shoe making business.

He spent every winter in a hospital in Durham specialising in the treatment of breathing difficulties.

He would hide under a table every time there was a loud noise such as thunder.

Despite the doctor's predictions, James Austin Brown lived until 1945, dying on 2nd November.

This was just two weeks after his son Flintoff returned from the Far East, where he had been a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

