

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard



Rank: Corporal

Killed in Action: 23rd July  
1918 (France & Flanders)



2nd/5th Battalion Duke of  
Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

### Summary

Lionel Appleyard's family home was 29 Clough Terrace, previously he lived at Park Farm with his parents George and Charlotte Appleyard.

His occupation was as a Coal Miner (Trammer).

Lionel was killed in action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1918 (age 25) whilst serving on the Western Front with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

Lionel was originally in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which was merged with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion in January, 1915, and was killed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Marne (Battle Honour Tardenois) advancing towards Bligny, eventually taken by the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 28/29 July 1918.

Lionel was the only soldier in the village of Upper Hopton to receive the Military Medal for gallantry under fire.

Lionel is remembered at the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Another Upper Hopton lad is also remembered at the Soissons Memorial, he is Robert Lewis Oates (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Tank Corps) and he was killed on the same day as Lionel.

Lionel's brother in law was killed age 19, in May 1918 and is also commemorated at the Soissons Memorial.

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Family details

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Date of Birth       | 9th September 1892  |
| Date of Baptism     | 16th October 1892   |
| Church Baptised     | St John's, Upper Hopton   |
| Father              | George<br>(Died 11th August 1914)                                 |
| Father's occupation | Farmer (1911)   |
| Mother              | Charlotte (nee Winter)  |
| Siblings            | Maria, Mark, John Henry, Clark, Olive,<br>George, Sydney Winter   |
| Parents residence   | 29 Clough Terrace, Upper Hopton<br>(1911 census states Park farm) |
| Soldiers residence  | Above   |
| Soldiers Occupation | Coal miner - Trammer (1911)                                       |
| Married             | No  |
| Spouse              |   |
| Children            |   |
| Burial / Memorial   | Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France                                  |
| Age at death        | 25  |

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Lionel's mother and father

Lionel's father George was born in Darrington near Pontefract in 1849 and his father (Joseph) was a shoemaker. Records show that George was living at Handbank, Upper Hopton in 1871 as a boarder with a farmer called John Whitehead who had married his sister Elizabeth in 1865. George's occupation was as a sawyer (employed sawing timber). George's brother William also moved to Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton. In 1882 George married Charlotte Winter.

In 1884 records show that George lived at Woodcock Hall as a farm labourer. His sister Elizabeth and brother in law John Whitehead were running Woodcock Hall farm (22 acres).

In 1901 George moved to Park Farm, Upper Hopton as a tenant farmer. At the age of 16, Lionel's mother was a kitchen maid for Sir Henry Edwards Bart, High Sherriff of Yorkshire (Sir Henry had been an MP in the House of Commons and was made a Baronet in 1866) and at the age of 22 just before she married George, she was a servant for a retired Woollen Manufacturer (Joseph Newsome) in Batley.



Lionel's mother Charlotte (b.1855, d.1933) and father George (b.1849, d.1914) at Park Farm.

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Lionel in uniform



### Lionel's brother George & sister-in-law

Lionel's brother George married a Clara Moorhouse (age 17) from Dam Head Farm in Lepton on the 25th June 1918 and had a daughter Rose Muriel. Clara's brother (Ernest Brummit) was killed age 19 in May 1918 in France & Flanders and is commemorated at the same Soissons Memorial as Lionel. (Ernest and Clara were born at Houses Hill, Kirkheaton).

### Attestation of Lionel's brother

George was attested on the 18th February 1916 (age 19) but for some reason was not enlisted until the 22nd April 1918 (it may be because he was a miner). Following training George put in a provisional Battalion and eventually joined the Coldstream Guards in France on the 14th November 1918 (his troop ship docked in Bolougne in France on the 7th November 1918). His regimental number was 24663.

See below George's Attestation, Enlistment and Service Record documents.

It is a mystery why George joined the Coldstream Guards as it was unusual for young men from the Mirfield area to join this regiment.



# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### George Appleyard's Attestation document

Y-EM 496409 B SHOT SERVICE. (For the Duration of the War, and in the Army Reserve)

12713  
63/23  
No 21463 Name George Appleyard Corps Coldstream Guards

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

- What is your Name? George Appleyard
- What is your full Address? 10. Hopton Hall Lane Upper Hopton  
West Riding Area.
- Are you a British Subject? Yes
- What is your Age? 30.3.1916 Years 36.11 Months 3
- What is your Trade or Calling? Coal Miner
- Are you Married? No
- Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? No
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
- Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? Yes
- Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? Yes Name George W. Jennings Corps Coldstream
- Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?  
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, George W. Appleyard do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

George Appleyard SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
George W. Jennings SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, George Appleyard swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Huddersfield on this 18 day of Feb, 1916.

Signature of the Justice L. Haugh Capt

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that no required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the Coldstream Guards.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date APR 23 1916 19  
Place HALIFAX

POSTING OFFICER. R. Holmes APPROVING OFFICER.

FOR THE WEST RIDING RECEPTION DEPT.

\* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz.-(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### George Appleyard's Enlistment document

**DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.**  
(To correspond with Entries on the Medical History Sheet.)  
Applicable to all ranks.

Name George Appleyard  
Apparent age 21 years 2 months Height 5 feet 7 1/2 inches.  
Chest Measurement { Girth when fully expanded 39 inches.  
Range of expansion 2 1/2 inches.  
Distinctive marks \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion by b.

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.**

Name and Address of next-of-kin Charlotte Appleyard Upper Hopton Hall Lane  
Upper Hopton Relationship Sister  
Wife: Dorothy Ann Particulars as to Marriage. Sept 10 in Dunningfield  
(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow. (b) Place and date of marriage.  
(c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry.  
John Moorhouse John Moorhouse Sept 10. 1918 as above } as above  
(Spinster)

**Particulars as to Children.**

| Christian Names.   | Date and Place of Birth.         |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Rose Muriel</u> | <u>21. 5. 18</u> <u>Newsbury</u> |

**MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.**

1. Highest rank attained

1. Passed classes of Instruction †  
† This includes any authorised class of instruction, e.g., in swimming, chiropody, &c.

2. Campaigns ... (including Actions)

3. Wounded ...

4. Special instances of gallant conduct and mentions in public despatches

5. Medals, decorations and annuities ...

6. Injuries in or by the service ...

Home 22/18 to 4/18. B.E.F. 8/18 to 8/19.  
Home 8/19

| Name of Medal | Clasps |
|---------------|--------|
|               |        |
|               |        |
|               |        |
|               |        |

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### George Appleyard's Service Record

Army Form B. 103. 25/2

Regimental Number 24643

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Rank *Pte* Regiment or Corps *Goldstream Guards*

Surname *Appleyard* Christian Name *George*

Religion *Methodist* Age on Enlistment *21* years *120 days* months

Enlisted (a) *18-5-16* Terms of Service (ii) *8 of 10* Service reckons from (a) *22-4-18*

Date of promotion to present rank *22-4-18* Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended *3* Re-engaged *18th* Qualification (b) *capt*

Occupation *miner* (b) *capt* Signature of Officer

| Report         |                                      | Place of Casualty | Date of Casualty   | Remarks<br>Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| Date           | From whom received                   |                   |                    |   |
| <i>17-6-18</i> | <i>Embarked</i>                      |                   |                    |   |
|                | <i>Disembarked</i>                   |                   |                    |   |
|                | <i>Pooled to Provisional B. Batt</i> | <i>Wundoo</i>     | <i>7.8.18</i>      | <i>As per 254?</i>  |
|                | <i>Embarked Folkestone</i>           |                   | <i>7/11/18</i>     |   |
|                | <i>Posted to 3rd Battalion</i>       |                   |                    |   |
|                | <i>Disembarked Boulogne</i>          |                   | <i>7/11/18</i>     |   |
|                | <i>JOINED BASE DEPOT</i>             |                   | <i>11 NOV 1918</i> |   |
|                | <i>JOINED BATTALION</i>              |                   | <i>14 NOV 1918</i> |   |
|                | <i>Co Eng. (Miner)</i>               | <i>Ripon</i>      | <i>8.1.19</i>      | <i>39</i>   |
|                |                                      | <i>G. T. Long</i> |                    | <i>Captain, for</i>   |
|                |                                      |                   |                    | <i>Officer i/c N°1 Inf. Section</i>   |
|                |                                      |                   |                    | <i>G. H. Q. 3rd Echelon</i>   |

*Wife, Dambard Farm - Lepton - Huddersfield*

(1) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.  
(2) Signaller, Shooing Smith, &c.

W. 8638-312733 2000m 9.17 (85611) C. P. & S., Ltd., Form B. 103 E/1907. P.T.O.



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



### Lionel Appleyard

Lionel's brother's (John Henry) marriage to Sarah Ann at Upper Hopton Church on the 3rd September 1912.



John Henry and Sarah Ann in the centre of the picture with Lionel's parent's George and Charlotte to their left.





# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### Appleyard family 1911 Census

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Number of Schedule **28**  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after completion)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

| NAME AND SURNAME          | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family | AGE (Date Birth and Sex) | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards | Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account | Whether Working at Home | BIRTHPLACE of every person | NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country | INFERMITY |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1 George Appleyard        | Head                           | 62                       | Married 29                 | Farmer   | 100   | Worker                  | Whomston, Yorks            |   |           |
| 2 Charlotte Appleyard     | Wife                           | 55                       | Married 29                 |  |   | Worker                  | Hayton, Yorks              |   |           |
| 3 Clara Appleyard         | Son                            | 22                       | Single                     | Coal Miner (Hewer)   | 150   | Worker                  | Misfield, Yorks            |   |           |
| 4 Lionel Appleyard        | Son                            | 18                       | Single                     | Hammer Coal  | 150   | Worker                  | Misfield, Yorks            |   |           |
| 5 Alice Appleyard         | Daughter                       | 15                       | Single                     | Weaver (Blouse)  | 854   | Worker                  | Misfield, Yorks            |   |           |
| 6 George Appleyard        | Son                            | 14                       |                            | Hammer Coal  | 150   | Worker                  | Misfield, Yorks            |   |           |
| 7 Sydney Walter Appleyard | Son                            | 12                       |                            | School   | 290   |                         | Misfield, Yorks            |   |           |

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—  
(1) All the persons on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.  
(2) I have entered the names and houses in Columns 5 and 6 separately, and have entered their ages in the third column of persons.  
(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator **CS**      Total: Males 5, Females 2, Persons 7

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, or workroom, etc., etc.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature **George Appleyard**  
Postal Address **Park Farm Upper Hopton Hall Lane, Misfield.**

## 1901 Census showing George and Charlotte at Park Farm

Administrative County **Yorkshire**      The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Civil Parish **Misfield (Part)**      Ecclesiastical Parish **Upper Hopton**      County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District **Misfield**      Ward or Municipal Borough or Urban District **Upper Hopton**      Rural District **Upper Hopton**      Parliamentary Borough or Division **Upper Hopton**      Town or Village or Hamlet **Upper Hopton**

| ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE | HOUSES | NAME and SURNAME of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | AGE last Birthday | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION | Employer, Worker, or Own Account | WHERE BORN      | (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 Park Farm                                | 1      | George Appleyard                | Head                       | 51                | Farmer                   | Own Account                      | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Charlotte Appleyard             | Wife                       | 46                |                          |                                  | Hayton, Yorks   |  |
|  |        | John Louis Peacock              | Son                        | 20                | Coal Miner (Hewer)       | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Martha Appleyard                | Son                        | 15                | Coal Miner (Hewer)       | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Mark Appleyard                  | Son                        | 14                | Coal Miner (Hewer)       | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Sydney Walter Appleyard         | Son                        | 12                | School                   |                                  | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Clara Appleyard                 | Son                        | 22                | Coal Miner (Hewer)       | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Lionel Appleyard                | Son                        | 18                | Coal Miner (Hewer)       | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |
|  |        | Alice Appleyard                 | Daughter                   | 15                | Weaver (Blouse)          | Worker                           | Whomston, Yorks |  |

Total of Males and of Females 12, 9

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### Some of Lionel's siblings



Clarke



John Henry



Olive with her husband Leonard



Lionel with his sister Maria



George



George's wife Clara



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard



George Appleyard 1896-1958  
Clara Moorhouse 1900 -1959



*Aunt Maria  
Dads Sister.*

Maria Appleyard 1884-1959  
Married Reuben Wortley 1875-1944



Olive Appleyard



Olive & Maira Appleyard



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

**29 Clough Terrace**, Upper Hopton the home of Lionel Appleyard his previous address was Park farm, Upper Hopton




## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Military Details

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Attestation / Enlistment | No record  |
| Deployment               | No record  |
| Rank                     | Corporal   |
| Medals                   | 1914-1915 Star<br>British War Medal<br>Victory Medal<br>Military Medal               |
| Regiment number          | 204703 Cpl & 3485 Pvt  |
| Regiment                 | 2nd/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's<br>(West Riding Regiment)                     |
| Regimental Badge         |  |
| Killed in Action         | 23rd July 1918 (France & Flanders)   |
| Cemetery or Memorial     | Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France   |
| Age at death             | 25   |

Reg. No. 3485 (later 204703) PRIVATE LIONEL APPLEYARD  
5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S (WEST RIDING REGIMENT)  
186 INFANTRY BRIGADE, 62<sup>nd</sup> (WEST RIDING) DIVISION  
K.I.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> BATTLE OF THE MARNE - BATTLE OF TARDENOIS - BATTLE OF BLIGNY.

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### Lionel's last Battle

Lionel was originally in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which was merged with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion in January 1915, and was killed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Marne (Battle of Tardenois) advancing towards Bligny, eventually taken by the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 28/29 July 1918. The 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) and 62<sup>nd</sup> (West Riding) Divisions, 22 Corps, were attached to Gen Berthelot's French 5<sup>th</sup> Army at the time, for a gruelling ten day period.

### 2/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

#### Territorial Force - Actions throughout 1917 and 1918

**Jan 1917** mobilised for war and landed in France and engaged in various actions on the Western front including;

The Operations on the Ancre, The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive), The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive), The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras), The actions on the Hindenburg Line, The Cambrai Operations.

**30 Jan 1918** The 2/5th absorbed by the 1/5th and the 2/6th disbanded in France; The Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of the Tardenois (part of the Battles of the Marne 1918), The Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line, The Battle of Havrincourt, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The capture of Solesmes, The Battle of the Sambre.

**11 Nov 1918** Ended the war east of Maubeuge, France.

### July to early September 1918 - The Allied Counter Attack

As soon as the German forces ran out of steam, the Franco-American forces counter attacked and recovered the German gains along the Marne.

To the north, Haigh launched an Anglo-French attack from the 8th August 1918 which throughout the remainder of the month drove the Germans from their newly won territory, so the by early September they were back to the Hindenburg line.



# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### The Battle of Soissons - Commanders / Leaders

#### Allies - Ferdinand Foch / Germany - Erich Ludendorff

The **Battle of Soissons** (also known as the **Battle of the Soissonnais and of the Ourcq** (French: *Bataille du Soissonnais et de L'Ourcq*) was a battle during World War I, waged from 18 to 22 July 1918, between the French (with American and British assistance) and German armies.

Ferdinand Foch, the Allied Supreme Commander, launched the offensive on 18 July; 24 French divisions and 2 British and 2 U.S. divisions under French command, supported by approximately 478 tanks, sought to eliminate the salient that was aimed at Paris.

The Allies suffered 107,000 casualties (95,000 French and 12,000 American), while the Germans suffered 168,000 casualties.

The battle ended with the French recapturing most of the ground lost to the German Spring Offensive in May 1918.

Adolf Hitler, the future Fuhrer of Nazi Germany, earned and was awarded the Iron Cross First Class at Soissons on August 4th 1918.



**Battle of Tardenois. Troops of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment (62<sup>nd</sup> Division) advancing through the Bois du Petit Champ 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1918 (dead German soldier on the ground).**

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

### The Aisne-Marne Offensive

The Aisne-Marne Offensive was the second phase of the Second Battle of the Marne (15 July-6 August) and marked a major turning point in the fighting on the Western Front in 1918. The first phase of the battle had been the German Champagne-Marne Offensive, which had begun on 15 July with attacks east and west of Reims. The attacks east of the city had met with little success, but the attack to the west, by the German Seventh Army under General Max von Boehn, had advanced four miles, creating a beachhead on the southern side of the Marne. At its greatest extent the German salient reached from Soissons in the north west, to Château Thierry at its south west corner and then east along the Marne.

One positive result of the earlier German successes had been the appointment of Ferdinand Foch as overall Commander in Chief of the Allies on the Western Front. Even before the German offensive on the Marne he had been planning a massive counterattack in the area. This was to involve four French armies attacking all around the salient created during the Third Battle of the Aisne. The main attack was to come from the west and would be launched by the French Tenth Army (General Charles Mangin) with the Sixth in support to his south (General Jean Degoutte). Further around the line the Fifth (General Henri Berthelot) and Ninth (General M. A. H. de Mitry) would launch supporting attacks on the southern flank of the German salient.

This would be an Allied attack, with British and Italian Divisions involved. It would also be a major American battle. The American 1st and 2nd Divisions were with the Tenth Army, while the Sixth and Ninth Armies each contained three American Divisions. These were massive formations, each containing 28,000 men, making them twice the size of their British, French or German equivalents. The attack would be supported by 350 Allied tanks.

The main attack was launched on 18 July by Mangin, with fourteen divisions from the Tenth and Sixth armies. All around the line the Allies advanced between two and five miles. That night the Germans were forced to retreat back across the Marne. The rapid Allied advance threatened German communications within the salient and even offered the chance of trapping the German troops around Château Thierry. Faced with this massive Allied counter-attack Ludendorff ordered his troops to pull out of the salient to form a new defensive line along the line of the Aisne and Velse rivers. The new line began to take shape on 3 August, the day after Soissons had been liberated. On 6 August the Americans probed the new line and were repulsed, ending the offensive.

The Aisne-Marne offensive marked a key turning point in the fighting of 1918. It ended the series of German victories that had begun on the Somme in March 1918 and opened the way for the great Allied offensive that would start at Amiens on 8 August. Ludendorff's great gamble to end the war before the full strength of the American army could be deployed had failed.



# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village

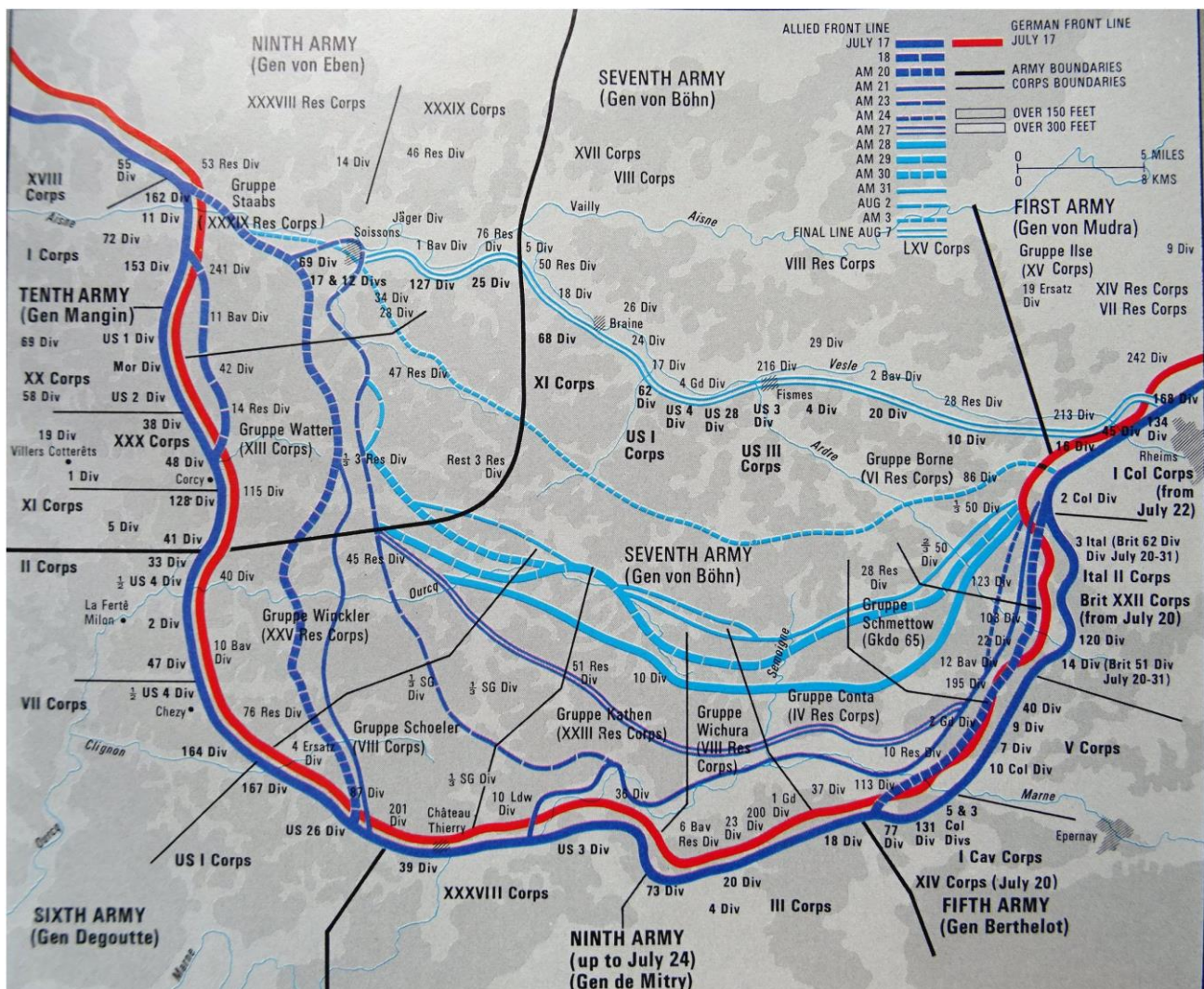
# Lionel Appleyard

The map attached shows where the troops were in general terms along that huge battlefront at Soissons. This Battle was the beginning of the end, the Battle of the Somme being the end of the beginning.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> BATTLE OF THE MARNE - BATTLE OF TARDENOIS - BATTLE OF BLIGNY.

**(5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S (WEST RIDING REGIMENT))**

### 186 INFANTRY BRIGADE, 62<sup>nd</sup> (WEST RIDING) DIVISION)





# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

**Aisne-Marne, 18<sup>th</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August 1918**

Second Battle of the Marne and Battle of Soissons (1918)

American and French involvement

- Several days before the Germans launched their abortive Champagne-Marne drive, the French high command had made plans for a general converging offensive against the Marne salient. Petain issued orders on 12 July for the attack to begin on the 18th, with five French armies – the Tenth, Sixth, Ninth, Fifth, and Fourth, placed around the salient from left to right – taking part. Spearheading the attack were the five divisions of the French XX Corps (Tenth Army), including the American 1st and 2nd Divisions. Early on 18 July the two American divisions and a French Moroccan division, jumping off behind a heavy barrage, launched the main blow at the northwest base of the salient near Soissons. Enemy frontline troops, taken by surprise, initially gave ground, although resistance stiffened after an Allied penetration of some three miles (5 km). Before the 1st and 2d Divisions were relieved (on 19 and 22 July respectively) they had advanced 6 to 7 miles (11 km), made Soissons untenable for the enemy, and captured 6,500 prisoners at a cost of over 10,000 American casualties.
- Meanwhile, the other French armies in the offensive also made important gains, and the German commander ordered a general retreat from the Marne salient. The French Sixth Army, on the right of the Tenth, advanced steadily from the southwest, reaching the Vesle River on 3 August. By 28 July this army included the American 3d, 4th, 28th, and 42d Divisions. The 4th and 42d Divisions were under control of the I Corps, the first American corps headquarters to participate in combat. On 4 August the American III Corps headquarters entered combat, taking control of the 28th and 32d Divisions (the latter had relieved the 3d Division in the line on 29 July). By 5 August the entire Sixth Army front was held by the two American corps. East of the Sixth Army the French Ninth and Fifth Armies also advanced into the salient. The Germans retired across the Aisne and Vesle Rivers, resolutely defending each strong point as they went.
- By 6 August the Aisne-Marne Offensive was over. The threat to Paris was ended by wiping out the Marne salient. The initiative now had definitely passed to the Allies, ending any possibility that Ludendorff could carry out his planned offensive in Flanders. Moreover, the success of the offensive revealed the advantages of Allied unity of command and the fighting qualities of American units. The eight A.E.F. divisions (1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32d, 42d) in the action had spearheaded much of the advance, demonstrating offensive capabilities that helped to inspire new confidence in the war-weary Allied armies. About 270,000 Americans took part in the battle.

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

**Bligny** is a commune of the Marne department in north eastern France.



World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Lionel Appleyard

Lionel's Medal Card

|                                |                |            |          |       |            |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------|-------|------------|
| Name.                          |                | Corps.     |          | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
| APPLEYARD *                    |                | W. Rid. R. |          | Pt    | 3485       |
| Lionel                         |                | — " —      |          | bpl.  | 204703.    |
| Medal.                         | Roll.          | Page.      | Remarks. |       |            |
| VICTORY                        | * 0/2/101 B18. | 2598.      | 204703   |       |            |
| BRITISH                        | do — do        |            |          |       |            |
| 15 STAR                        | 0/2/3132       | 541        |          |       |            |
| Theatre of War first served in |                | (1)        |          |       |            |
| Date of entry therein          |                | 14-4-15    |          |       |            |
| K 1330.                        |                |            |          |       |            |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Correspondence.  |  |
| Address.   |  |
| (25451-14a) Wt. W 3347—H.P. 6451 200cm. 10/19 H. St Est. 5450/1256 |  |



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Lionel's medals



**Military Medal**

Awarded for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire



**1914 - 1915 Star**



**British War Medal**



**Victory Medal**

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

Lionel's scroll which was sent to his next of kin with his medals.



**H**E whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

204703, CPL., Lionel APPLEYARD

2/5th Battalion.

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Killed in action, France & Flanders, 23/07/18

Enlisted: Huddersfield, Residence: Mirfield, Yorks

M.M.

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

(Note that Lionel's address below should read Clough Terrace).

In Memory of

Corporal

**Lionel Appleyard**

M M

204703, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 23 July 1918 Age 25

Son of George and Charlotte Appleyard, of 29, Slough Terrace, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Soissons Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



### Lionel Appleyard



### Soissons Memorial

The Soissons Memorial is a World War I memorial located in the town of Soissons, in the Aisne département of France. The memorial lists 3,887 names of British soldiers with no known grave who were killed in the area from May to August 1918 during the Spring Offensive. The battles fought by those commemorated here include the Third Battle of the Aisne and the Second Battle of the Marne. When the French Armies held and drove back the enemy from the Aisne and the Marne between May and July 1918 the 8th, 15th, 19th, 21st, 25th, 34th, 50th, 51st and 62nd divisions of the British Armies served in the line with them and shared the common sacrifice. Here are recorded the names of 3,987 officers and men of those divisions to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death.

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

### Historical Information

The original British Expeditionary Force crossed the Aisne in August 1914 a few kilometres west of Soissons, and re-crossed it in September a few kilometres east. For the next three and a half years, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. At the end of April 1918, five divisions of Commonwealth forces (IX Corps) were posted to the French 6th Army in this sector to rest and refit following the German offensives on the Somme and Lys. Here, at the end of May, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. Having suffered 15,000 fatal casualties, IX Corps was withdrawn from this front in early July, but was replaced by XXII Corps, who took part in the Allied counter attack that had driven back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground.

The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Lionel Appleyard

Extract from Upper Hopton Parish Magazine August 1916  
(it mentions Lionel being wounded).

Mr. Joseph Wheatley, on the death from wounds of Major Arthur Nevin Wheatley. Before this is in your hands we shall have paid honour to his memory and commended him to the care and love of God at a Memorial Service, on Sunday, July 30th, at 3-30 p.m. "I feel sure there are many who would wish for such an opportunity as this will afford to show their gratitude for what Major Wheatley was, and had done for their boys at the Front. As the Mother of one of them said to me, "there was not one of them but would have given his life for Major Wheatley," and as we know, "greater love hath no man than this."

We are glad to see Captain Willie Marriott and are all so sorry he has lost an eye in the cause. His cheeriness, however, illustrates the remarkable good spirits which prevail at the Front.

It is good to hear that Lionel Appleyard and Alfred Sykes, who were wounded, are doing well. You will be sorry to know that Second Lieutenant George Hebblethwaite, reported missing, has not been heard of. He had only recently been sent to join a new Battalion of his regiment.



World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Lionel Appleyard

Appleyard family grave St John's Churchyard Upper Hopton

