

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Wentworth Mann



Rank: Private

**Killed in Action: 25th August
1918 (age 27)**

**2nd/4th Battalion Duke of
Wellington's (West Riding
Regiment)**



Summary

Wentworth Mann's family home was Woodrow (Nippin Row), Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton where he was raised by his parents Wallace and Sarah. He worked as a Twister in the cloth industry.

Wentworth served on the Western Front with the Duke of Wellington's, West Riding Regiment and was killed in action on the 25th August 1918 age 27 and is remembered at Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Wentworth was involved in the Allied Counter Attack which drove the Germans from their newly won territory back to the Hindenburg line. The offensive was later to be known as the "Second Battle of Bapaume".

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Wentworth Mann

Family details

Date of Birth	10th May 1892
Date of Baptism	23rd May 1892
Church Baptised	St John's, Upper Hopton
Father	Wallace b.1854 - d.1907
Father's occupation	Coal Miner (Hewer)
Mother	Sarah (nee Hepworth) b.1853-d.1932
Siblings	Law, Anne, Alice, Mary Ann, Hannah, John, Christopher, Evelyn
Parents residence	Woodrow (Nippin Row) Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton
Soldiers residence	
Soldiers Occupation	Twister Cloth Manufacturer (1911)
Married	
Spouse	
Children	
Burial / Memorial	Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
Age at death	27

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Wentworth Mann

Mann family 1911 census

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 25
(To be filled up by the Enumerator and returned.)

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 (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE						PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Completed years of present Marriage	Children born alive to present Marriage	Children born alive to former Marriage	Children living	Children who have died	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on their Account	Whether Working at Home			
1 Sarah Mann	Wife	59	Widow	37	9	4	5						Hopton, Yorks		
2 Mary Mann	Daughter	32	Single					Wearer cloth manufactory	Worker				Hopton, Yorks		
3 Christopher Mann	Son	27	Single					Coal Miner Hewer	Worker				Hopton, Yorks		
4 Wentworth Mann	Son	18	Single					Wearer Cloth Manufactory	Worker				Hopton, Yorks		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Total	Males	Females	Persons
4	2	2	4

(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 scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

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

Signature W. L. Mann of behalf of Mother

Postal Address 25 Sarah Mann Upper Hopton Huddersfield

Newspaper Article:

Wentworth Mann's brother Christopher & his death 7 Dec 1940

(Christopher Mann married Emma Dobson at Kirkheaton on 11th July 1914 and they had a daughter called Elsie born in 1916).

A well-known Upper Hopton resident Mr Christopher Mann (51) Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton, was struck by a pedal cycle while walking to work on Tuesday morning and died in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Son of Mr and Mrs Wallace Mann, he had lived in Hopton all his life. For the past 21 years he had worked at Huddersfield Electric power Station, latterly as a crane driver, and at one time was a mine worker. **He was a gunner during the last war in which one of his brothers was killed.** He was formerly on the committee at Upper Hopton WMC and had been associated with Upper Hopton Parish Church.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

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The cyclist was Mr Willie Webster aged 25 a metal turner living at Hollin Hall Upper Hopton. At an inquest on Thursday Mrs Mann said her husband walked to the bottom of Kirkheaton Moor to catch a bus to his work. He had good health, hearing and eyesight.

The accident was described by three weavers, who were walking with Mr Mann at the time. Mrs Gertie Turner, 61, Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton said she was walking along Heaton Moor Road down the hill about 7.05am with Mr Mann, Miss Sarah Kaye and Miss Flora Sheard. There was a footpath but it was a cinder path with ridges in it and they sometimes tripped up on stones from an old wall at the side. Miss Sheard was walking next to the path, Miss Kaye next, then herself and lastly Mr Mann.

The Coroner; Did you notice the white centre line? – Not particularly.

The Coroner; Do you know where deceased was? – He might have been near the white line, but he certainly was not over it. We were well to the side of the road.

Witness said it was a fine but very dark morning, and the hill was steep at the point. She heard Mr Mann shout “look out”. He seemed to make a movement towards the centre of the road. She then heard a thump and saw him fall. It all looked to be a “mix up”. Mr Mann was unconscious when she got to him. By the light of her torch she saw his face and neck were covered with blood, which was coming from his ear.

The cyclist and one of the ladies went for the ambulance.

At the cyclist’s request Coroner asked witness if she was certain Mr Mann was on the right side of the white line.

Mrs Turner said she was quite sure, although in moving to the left he probably stepped over the line.

Sarah Kaye, 18, Northgate, Upper Hopton, said she usually walked on the causeway, but on Tuesday morning they all seemed to “pull together”. They had to be very careful when they did walk on the path, because of the stones from the wall. They were about 100 yards past the Blacksmiths Arms, when she glanced sideways and saw a light on her left side. She did not hear Mr Mann call out. She then heard a bang and saw Chris lying down. He was about a foot over the white line. She could not see anything in the road, except by the light of a torch.

Flora Sheard, 43, Jackroyd Lane, upper Hopton, said she usually walked in the road.

The Coroner; it is much safer to walk on the footpath in the black-out, even if you are apt to stumble against a stone or a wall. It is better than getting knocked down by the traffic, you know.

Witness said she heard a bump and a shout and then half turned. She heard a cyclist crash in front of them. She went to him and he said he was all right.

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Luke Webster, 3 Crowther Road, Mirfield, said he drove deceased in the Mirfield Ambulance to Huddersfield Infirmary.

Constable C Q Harrison, Kirkheaton, said he visited the scene at 8.15am and found the cycle over a wall. The handle bars of the racing type, were slightly scraped underneath the curve of each side. It was a fixed gear machine and the single brake on the front wheel was efficient. The front lamp, worked by an electric battery, was in order. The road was 20 feet wide and the footpath about 4 feet.

Later in the morning he interviewed the cyclist, Willie Webster (25), metal turner, Hollin Hall, Upper Hopton, who said he had ridden a pedal cycle for 13 years. At 7am on Tuesday he left home to go to work. It was very dark and visibility was poor. He had his front and rear lamps switched on and was travelling at between 10 and 15 miles an hour. He was riding about a foot on the near side of the white line and about half way down the hill saw some people about two yards in front of him and in the centre of the road. He had no time to ring his bell, so he applied his brake immediately. He was unable to avoid a collision and struck one of the persons a glancing blow.

He fell on the right hand side of the road and when he recovered went back. A man was lying face downwards on the near side of the road, with his head about two feet from the grass banking. He was unconscious and there was blood on his face.

The Coroner; If this man had been lying with his feet two feet from the white line his head could not have been very near to the grass bank.

Webster said he wished to rectify the statement. He thought it possible Mr Mann might have been a little nearer the centre of the road, probably three feet or three and a half feet from the grass bank.

Dr Patrick Sweeney, house surgeon at the Infirmary, said Mr Mann never regained consciousness.

When admitted he was bleeding from both ears and had slight bruising of the nose. The cause of death was a laceration of the brain, following a fracture of the base of the skull.

The Coroner entered a verdict to the effect that death was due to an accident.

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Family Sadness

This family seemed to have more of their fair share of sadness. Wallace Mann and Sarah Hepworth were married in 1875 and went to live on Wood Row off Jackroyd Lane. Wallace was a Coal Miner but sometimes he worked as a Maltster's Labourer. Together they had 9 children, but Wallace died in 1907 leaving Sarah a widow and by the 1911 census five of their nine children had also died. Wentworth obviously died in the war and Christopher in the accident; so out of a family of nine only Mary and Hannah were eventually left. Here are the children;-

Law Mann born 11 July 1875 died 1905
Anne Mann born 4 Sep 1876 died 1876
Alice Mann born 19 Dec 1877 died 1878
Mary Mann born 16 Sep 1879 died 1924
Hannah Mann born 12 April 1884 (she married Benjamin Allen Dyson)
John Mann born 10 Oct 1886 died 1910
Christopher Mann born 25 Dec 1888 (died in the accident in 1940)
Wentworth Mann born 10th May 1892 (died 1918 in WW1)
Evelyn Mann born 14 Sep 1895 died 1896

Comment from Philip Rogan, a relation of Wentworth's about the suffering of the Mann family: "I am pleased to say that my grandma, Hannah Mann lived to be aged 90 and my mother, who died just over a year ago, had reached the grand age of 102. My mother was born in 1915 and often said that she could remember going to the railway station with her mother and Wentworth. I don't know the reason why Wentworth had been at home, but my mother could recall grandma being very upset and tearful when saying farewell to her brother. Apparently Wentworth told grandma that it was 'hell out there' and that he did not expect to return again to Mirfield. Sadly, an accurate prediction".

Connection between the Mann and the Dyson families:

There is a connection between the Mann and the Dyson families, which is as follows:

- Wentworth Mann b. 1893 had a sister Hannah b. 1884 she married Ben Allan Dyson b. 1879 they had 4 children.
- Ben Allen Dyson's brother Joe Charles Dyson is the father of Percy, George Harry, Emma, Clifford, Harold Dyson.

(Both Percy and George Harry Dyson were also on the Western Front and lost their lives in WW1, their brother Clifford survived).

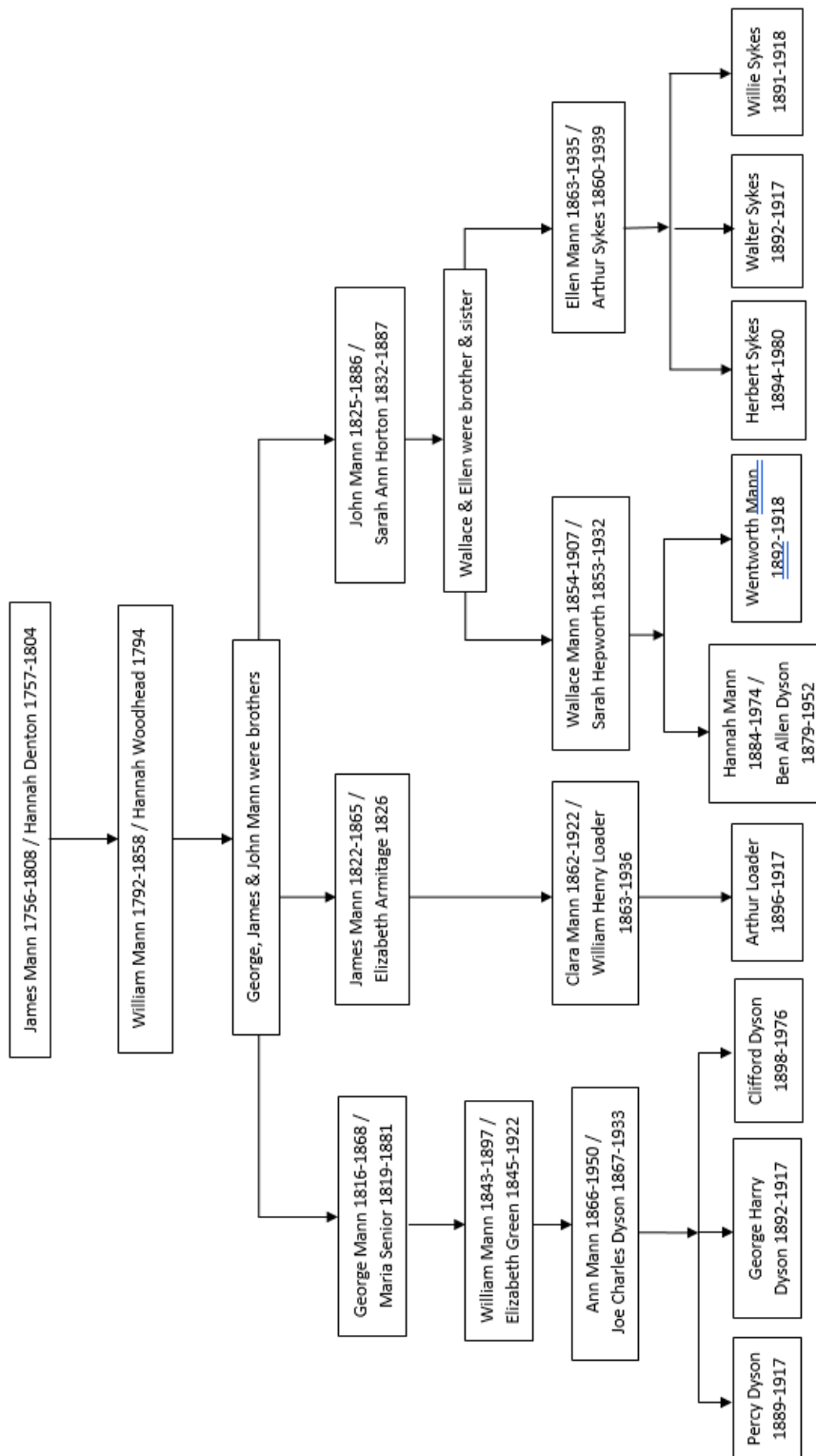
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See the family tree below showing the family links.

WW1 links between the families Loader, Mann, Dyson & Sykes



Arthur Loader, Wentworth Mann, Walter Sykes and Willie Sykes, Percy Dyson & George Harry Dyson all lost their lives in WW1. Herbert Sykes the brother of Walter & Willie was badly injured, Clifford Dyson also survived the war. Ben Allen Dyson and Joe Charles Dyson are brothers.

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Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment

Deployment

Rank Private

Medals British War Medal
Victory Medal

Regiment number 241705

Regiment 2nd/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Regimental Badge



Where killed France & Flanders

Cemetery or Memorial Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

Date of death Killed in action 25th August 1918

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2nd/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) -

Territorial Force - Formed at Halifax in September 1914 as a home service.

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

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 by early September they were back to the Hindenburg line. Based upon the date of Wentworth's death and the cemetery where he was buried it is probably this offensive where he lost his life The following war diaries give more detail.

(The 2/4th Duke of Wellington's regiment were taking part in what was to be known as the "Second Battle of Bapaume").

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The actions of Wentworth Mann's Battalion just before he died on the 25th August 1918, is described below in the official army war diaries.

Official Army WW1 War Diaries – Extract 1st August to 4th September 1918

62nd Division - 2/4th Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

1st August – ST. IMOGES – GERMAIN ROAD

The Bn. bivouacked in the RHEIMS forest.

The Battalion with the remainder of the 186th Inf. Bde. Moved into billets at CHOUILLY, marching past General BERTHELOT, Commander of the 5th French Army, enroute.

4th August – CHOUILLY

The Battalion moved by route march to ORLY and entrained for DOULLENS.

5th August

The Battalion detrained at DOULLENS and moved by route march into a tented camp near AUTHIE.

6th August

Received 10 officers and 257 other ranks as reinforcements.

13th August

Received 117 other ranks as reinforcements from the 2/5th West Yorkshire Reg't.

19th August

The Battalion moved by route march into billets at SOMBRIN on transfer to the VI Corps.

21st August

The Bn. moved by route march to FAMECHON into the IV Corps.

23rd August

The Bn. Moved by route march into billets at SAULTY into VI Corps.

24th August

The Battalion moved by route march to the ARRAS – DOULLENS R'd. and embussed for ADINTER wood, and moved from there by route march to a point EAST of AYETTE, from where it went into action.

See Appendices I & II.

Appendix 1

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

At about 10pm on the 23rd August 1918 the Battalion arrived at SAULTY by march from FAMECHON and went into billets there for the night.

At 2.30am on the 24th orders were received for the Battalion to move and the troops embussed at 9.00am on the DOULLENS – ARRAS road near SAULTY debussing at AYETTE at about 2.00pm. The Battalion went into bivouac on the Eastern edge of AYETTE and remained there until about 12 midnight when orders were received to move and take up the following positions before dawn 25th:-

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Two companies to hold the sunken road A.29.d.9.6 – G.5.a.6.5. (S.E. of GOMIECOURT).

Two Companies to be in support about A.29.a & B.

Battalion headquarters were located at A.28.c.9.8.

These positions were taken up and held in case of a German counter attack.

At about 9.30am "C" and "D" companies who were in the latter position were placed under orders of the O. C. 5th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

At about 4pm under verbal instructions received from Battalion Headquarters "A" company was sent to take part in an attack on Favreuil and acted as follows:-

An attack to assist in the clearance of FAVREUIL was carried out by a company of this Battalion at 6.30pm. The company detailed was "A" company and the following is a brief narrative of the action. The Company marched from G.5.c.3.10. to H.8.d.0.7 by platoons at 100 yards interval, coming under heavy shell fire between G.6.c and H.7.c but passed through with very few casualties.

At H.8.d.0.7. the company deployed and went forward so quickly assisted by two Battalions of the 37th Division that the Trench Mortars which accompanied were not brought into action. The Company advanced in two waves, two platoons in each wave, moving astride the Sunken Road H.8.d.45.75 to H.15.b.9.6. At this point the 111th Brigade arrived and attacked due east from the BAPAUME – ARRAS Road, i.e. across our line of attack. The two leading platoons came under machine gun fire from the Sunken Road as soon as they crossed the main road and pushed onto the steep bank H.9. central – H.15.a.0.8. A Lewis gun was sent forward by right platoon and put the German machine gun out of action, about 30 of the enemy coming down the Sunken Road and surrendering. After a little further fighting the high ground in H.9.d was reached, and two parties of the enemy surrendered, one of 50 and the other of 60. The Company had been mixed up with the 13th K.R.R. (Kings Royal Rifles) and placed itself under the orders of O.C. that unit, who gave instructions for the Company to protect his left flank while he went on. This was done with two platoons. The K.R.R penetrated the village of FAVREUIL and then worked northwards.

At about 3.30am 26th August, two of the platoons were sent back to re-join the Battalion (2/4th Duke of Wellington's Reg't) and the other two remained to clear the wood north of FAVREUIL and re-joined their Battalion at about 10.30am 26th August.

Estimated casualties for the whole operation is 35 other ranks. The prisoners were about 150 but the Company had not sufficient men to spare for escort duty and so left them behind to be disposed of by units of 37th Division, No New Zealanders were seen in this attack.

During the night of the 25th/26th Battalion Headquarters moved to Headquarters at G.6.b.9.7. and the Battalion again came under its own C.O. located as follows:- "A" and "B" Companies in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters and "C" Company in trenches on the S.E. edge of BEHAGNIES and "D" Company on the Eastern edge of SAPIGNIES.

On the 26th, 27th and 28th there was no alter action.

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On August 29th the Battalion relieved the 2/4th Hants who were holding a line in square B.29.d and H.6.a. orders being received to attack in the morning.

At 5.00am on August 30th the Battalion proceeded to attack the Southern half of the village of VAULX VRAUCOURT with a first objective on the railway on the western side of the village and a final objective on the high ground some 500 yards east of the village.

The attack was to be made in conjunction with the 185th Brigade on the left and one Company of the 5th Duke of Wellington's on the right.

The attack was supported by an effective creeping barrage and although it was met with some resistance it was soon overcome and the first objective gained by "A" and "B" Companies.

"C" and "D" Companies then moved forward to the second objective.

"C" Company whose frontage took in only a small part of the southern end of the village managed to press forward and seize their objective.

"A" Company then moved forward and consolidated in the road running N and S in I.1.d.

"D" Company had very severe fighting in the village and the progress was difficult and slow. The 185th Brigade in the northern half also found it difficult to make progress.

At this stage "B" Company came to the assistance of "D" Company and the two companies gradually fought their way to the eastern edge. Considerable difficulty was found in locating and silencing Machine Guns which were well concealed.

On reaching the edge of the village the attack was pushed forward but considerable machine gun fire was met on the top of the ridge 400 yards to the east of the village and in addition they were harassed by fire from behind by Machine Guns which were apparently in the vicinity of the cemetery and in the northern half of the village.

The left Companies eventually got held up 200 yards east of the village and consolidated on this line.

"B" Company was then withdrawn in support of "D" Company in road from I.1.b.9.5. to I.2.a.1.9. but realising that they were not in a good position to defend that line they were brought back to a trench in I.1.b. behind the village.

A counter attack was then made by the enemy who gained the northern end of the village. This necessitated adjusting the position of the Battalion front and a defensive flank was formed by swinging the left flank back and the new line ran I.8.a.7.5. – I.2.c.6.3.- I.1.b.8.2. – I.1.b.0.7. where it remained that night.

The following morning (Aug. 31st) the 185th Brigade attacked the village from the south with the assistance of four tanks.

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When the tanks passed through the part of the village held by this battalion and the mopping up parties of the 185th Brigade were at work "B" and "D" companies of the 2/4th Duke of Wellington's pivoted on their right flanks and moved through the village in an easterly direction mopping up as they passed through taking up their positions they had consolidated the previous day.

Shortly after establishing the position the 185th Brigade withdrew from the village necessitating our again forming a defensive flank. For this purpose "B" Company moved to a position I.2.a.8.8 – I.2.a.3.7.

A party of Devons who had fallen back through the village were thrown into position forming a line of posts I.1.b.9.2. – I.1.b.5.4. – I.1.b.2.9.- C.25.d.7.6.

This line connected with the nearest post of the 185th Brigade in C.25.a.9.1.

This line was held during the night.

On September 1st at 5.30am the 185th Brigade again attacked the village and with the aid of two Whippet Tanks advanced beyond the village.

"D" Company of this Battalion pushed forward and occupied the high ground on contour 110 on the east of the village, establishing liaison with the 8th West Yorks., and "B" Company took up a position immediately east of the village in support to "D" Company.

Fighting on our left continued into the afternoon and eventually the troops on my left were driven into the village and the liaison post was evacuated. The Company Commander of "D" seeing this withdrew his two left posts and called on "B" Coy. To protect his left flank. This was secured by placing three posts in the Sunken Road running from I.2.a.3.7 to I.2.a.1.9. which position was held during the night.

After much difficulty the 8th West Yorks. Were located and liaison was again established.

On the morning of Sept. 2nd the 187th Brigade attacked with the intention of securing objectives some distance in advance and north and east of the village.

The attack was launched and as soon as the front of the Battalion was covered "B" Company resumed their position in support to "D" Company.

The objectives of the 187th Brigade did not appear to have all been taken and the left flank of this Battalion appeared to be vulnerable.

Orders were received to advance the line so that all the high ground about 400yards east of the village should be denied to the enemy and at the same time extend the line on the left flank, and gain touch with the post of the 8th West Yorks. On the road about C.26.d.7.3.

By this time the 8th West Yorks had been withdrawn, and were assembling in the village for further operations, but, connection was established with a post of the 5th K.O.Y.L.I. at about C.26.d.4.5. and

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a strong liaison post was established at this point Additional posts were put out to connect up with "D" Coy and this was arranged by "C" Coy. partially side stepping to the left and taking over some of the ground occupied by "D" Company

This line was held until relieved by the King's Liverpool Regt about 2a.m. on Sept 4th when the battalion was withdrawn to the railway embankment S.E. of Gomiecourt.

The total casualties during the operations were 7 officers and 213 other ranks.

The number of prisoners secured by the battalion was 298. which number exceeded the total casualties of the battalion. The spirit and morals of the Battalion was good through the whole operation.

The following war material was captured

- *11 Heavy machine guns*
- *61 Light machine guns*
- *3 Heavy T.M'S*
- *20 Anti Tank rifles*
- *6 Field Telephones*
- *2 switch Boards*
- *2 bicycles*
- *in addition 25 light machine guns 11 Anti tank rifles returned to salvage*

During the battle the following medals were awarded:

- *The Military Cross 8*
- *The Distinguished Conduct Medal 5*
- *Bar to Military Medal 5*
- *The Military Medal 26*

A.P.Nelson

Lieut Col O.C.2/4th Bn Duke of Wellington's Regt

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In Memory of
Private

Wentworth Mann

241705, 2nd/4th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 25 August 1918 Age 27

Son of Wallace and Sarah Mann, of Wood Row, Jack Boyd Lane, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Gomicourt South Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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Historical Information - Gomiecourt South Cemetery

Gomiecourt village was captured by the 3rd Division on 23 August 1918 and the cemetery was made by the 62nd Division Burial Officer at the end of August 1918

Gomiecourt South Cemetery contains 206 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, ten of which are unidentified. 27 German burials form a separate plot on the south-west side.

Wentworth's Medals



British War Medal



Victory Medal

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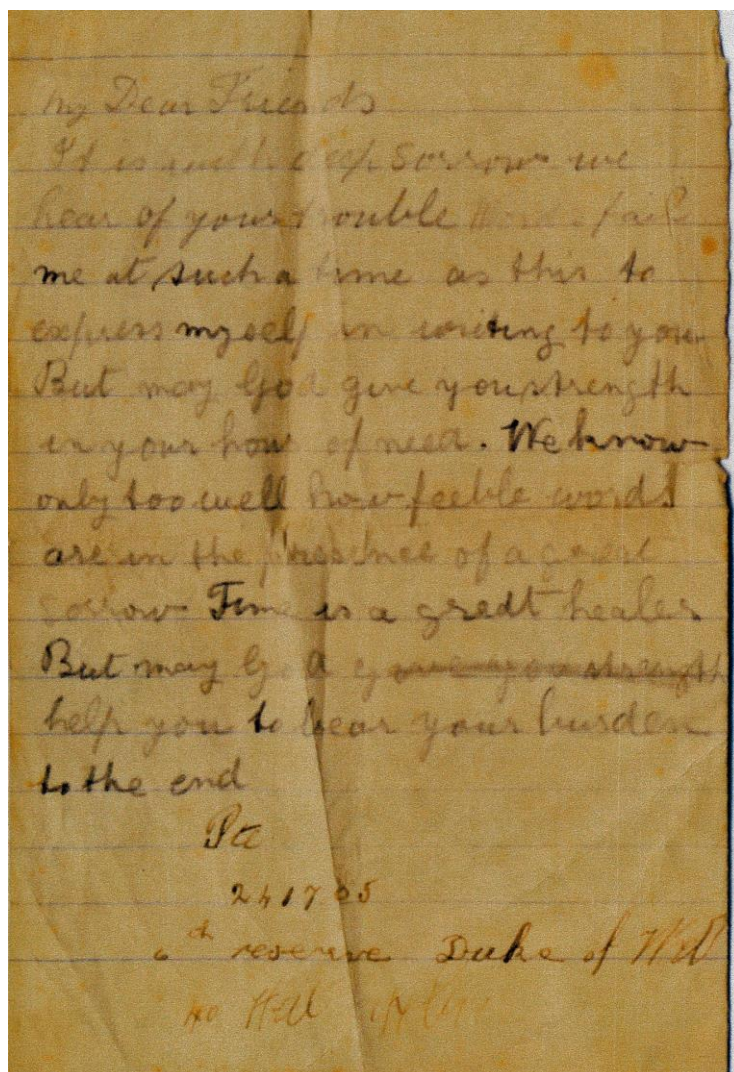


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Letter from Wentworth

It is believed that the letter below is from Wentworth to his family whilst he was at training camp.

When Wentworth wrote the letter, he would have been in training with the third line (Reserve) Battalion at Rugely Camp, near Cannock Chase, Staffs. Hence the reference to the 6th Reserve at the end of his letter. It appears to refer to the death of a mutual friend of the family, or family member, at the time. I would imagine that it was written just before he was sent overseas to join the 2/4th Battalion. It is possible that he may have been referring to his cousins Percy Dyson and George Harry Dyson were both killed on the Western Front on October 1917 and November 1917 respectively.



Transcription of letter:

My Dear Friends
It is with deep sorrow we
hear of your trouble. Words fail
me at such a time as this, to
express myself in writing to you.
But may God give you strength
In your hour of need. We know
only too well how feeble words
are in the presence of a great
sorrow. Time is a great healer
but may God give you strength
help you to bear your burden
to the end.

Pte

241705

6th reserve Duke of Well

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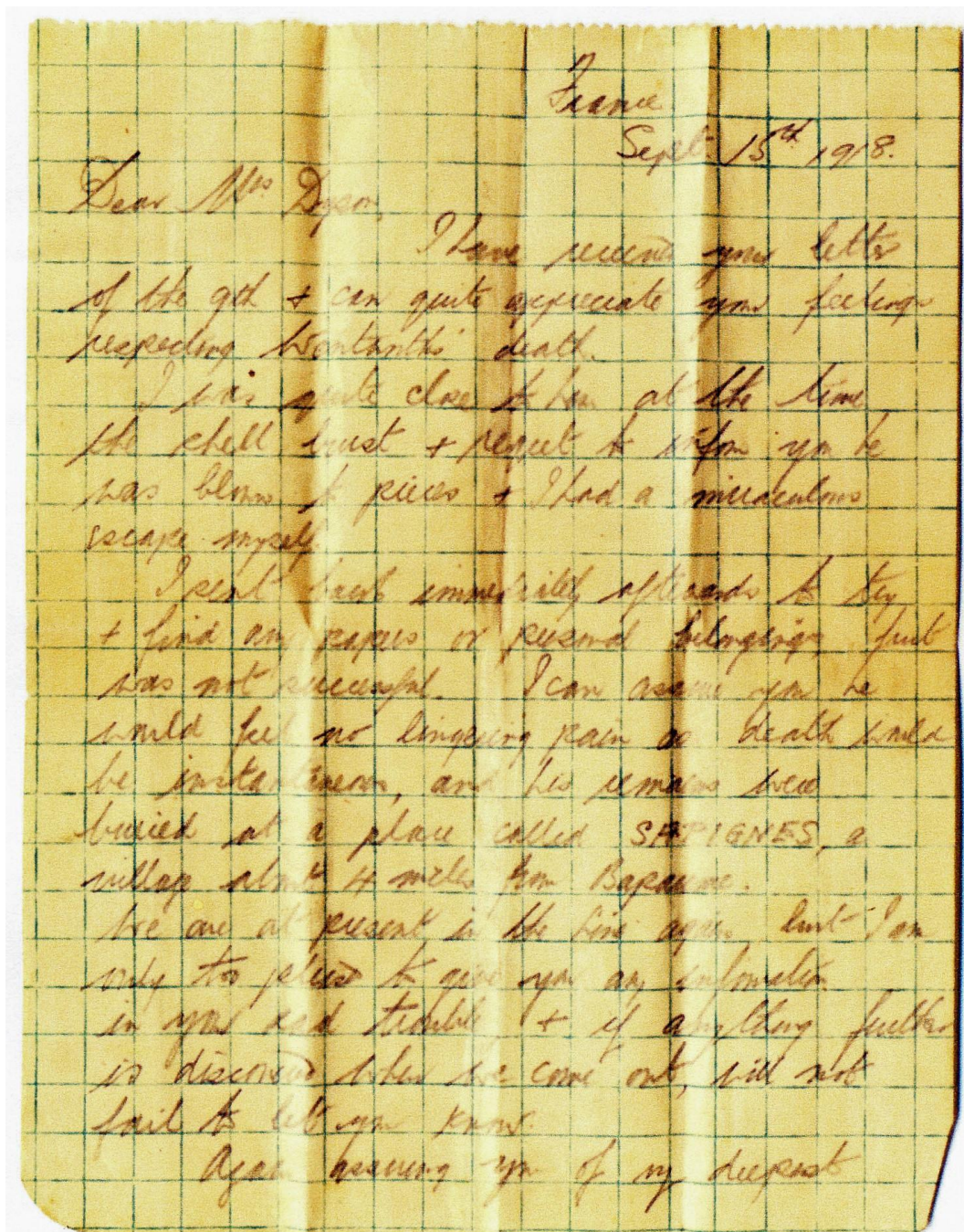
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Letter to Mrs Dyson from 2nd / Lieut. Sydney J. Reading

The letter is a response to Mrs Dyson's letter of the 9th September 1918 and gives information about how Wentworth was killed.

See transcription of the letter below.

Page 1 of letter



France
Sept. 15th 1918.

Dear Mrs Dyson,

I have received your letter of the 9th & can quite appreciate your feelings regarding Wentworth's death.

I was quite close to him at the time the shell burst & regret to inform you he was blown to pieces & I had a miraculous escape myself.

I spent about immediately afterwards to try & find any papers or personal belongings but was not successful. I can assure you he would feel no lingering pain as death would be instantaneous, and he remains well buried at a place called SAPIGNES, a village about 4 miles from Bapaume.

We are at present in the line again, but I am only too pleased to give you any information in your next tidings & if anything further is discovered when he comes out, will not fail to let you know.

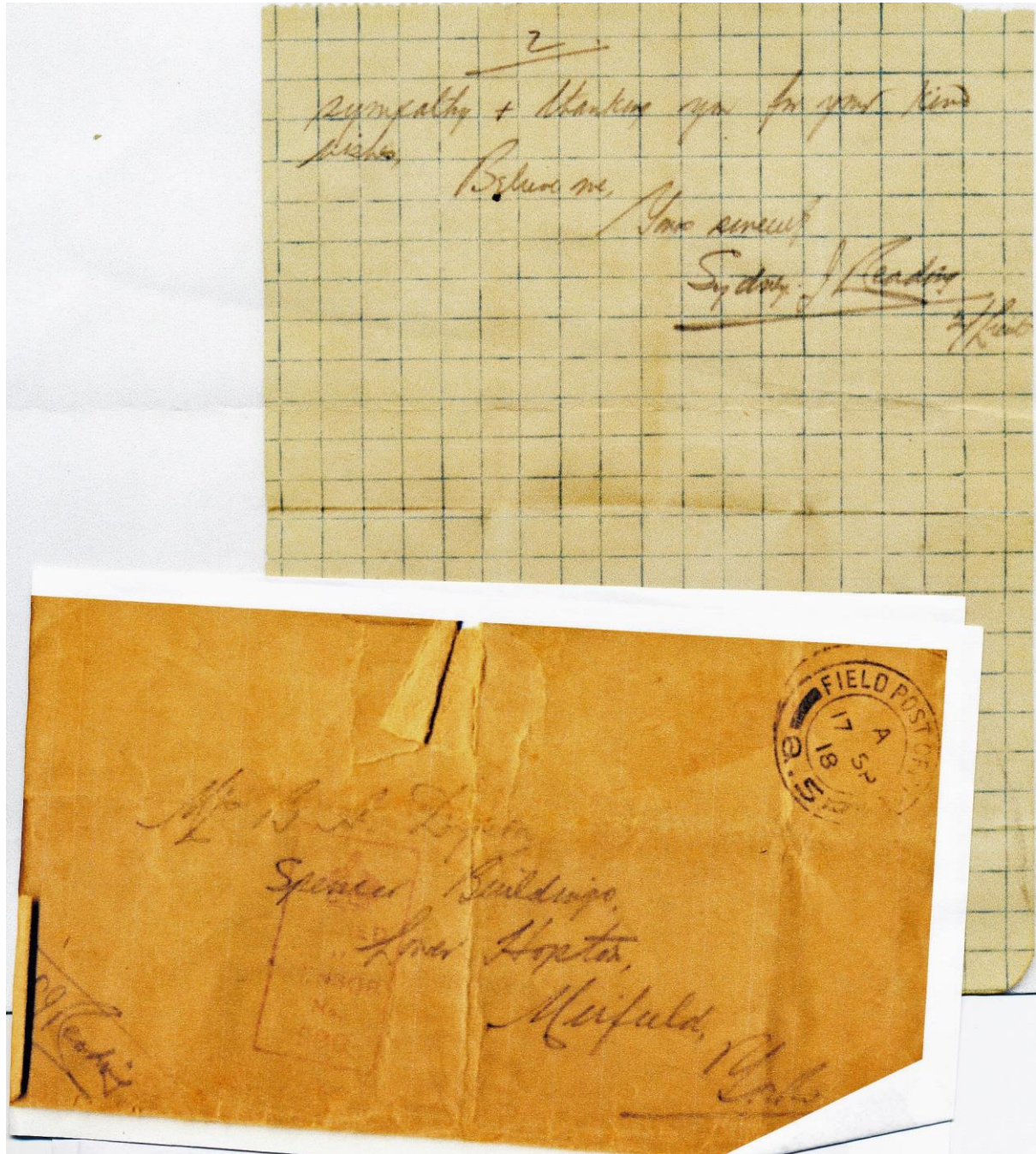
Again assuring you of my deepest

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Page 2 of letter with the envelope showing date of postage.



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Transcription of letter and envelope

The envelope is addressed to Mrs B. A. Dyson (Wentworth's sister). She was Hannah Mann, married to Ben Allen Dyson. The envelope is addressed to Mrs B. A. Dyson, in what is now considered to be the "old fashioned" method of using the husband's initials.

Spencer Buildings, Lower Hopton, Mirfield, Yorkshire

Postmark: Field Post Office, 17th September 1918

France

Sept. 15th 1918

Dear Mrs Dyson

I have received your letter of the 9th and can quite appreciate your feelings regarding Wentworth's death.

I was quite close to him at the time the shell burst and regret to inform you he was blown to pieces and I had a miraculous escape myself.

I sent back immediately afterwards to try and find any papers or personal belongings but was not successful. I can assure you he would feel no lingering pain as death would be instantaneous, and his remains were buried at a place called SAPIGNES, a village almost 4 miles from Bapaume.

We are at present in the line again but I am only too pleased to give you any information in your sad trouble and if any thing further is discovered when we come out, will not fail to let you know.

Again assuring you of my deepest sympathy and thanking you for your kind wishes.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely

Sydney J Reading

2nd / Lieut.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Wentworth Mann

Postcards from Wentworth to his sister Hannah Mann.



DON'T WORRY — I'm quite Comfortable at TANKERTON.

Wentworth was at a training camp near Whitstable on the North Kent coast.



GREETINGS TO THE DEAR ONES AT HOME

A GREETING
FOND &
LOVE TO ALL,
WHEREVER 'TIS MY LOT TO BE
MY THOUGHTS WILL ALWAYS TURN TO HOME,
THE DEAREST SPOT ON EARTH TO ME.
DON'T FAIL TO SEND ME ALL THE NEWS,
KEEP BRIGHT AND HAPPY, FIT AND WELL,
UNTIL GOOD FORTUNE BRINGS ME BACK,
THEN THERE'LL BE LOTS
TO HEAR AND TELL.

A S Anderson

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