

Dyson Whitfield



Rank: Rifleman

Killed in Action: 10th October 1916 (France)

18th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Summary

Dyson Whitfield's family home was Gosling Hall Farm, Upper Hopton where he lived with his parents William and Mary Hannah.

His ocupation was as a Motor Driver's Assistant.

Dyson joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 19th August 1915. He was killed in action in October 1916 (age 22) whilst serving on the Western Front (Somme) with the King's Royal Rifle Corp.

Dyson is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial in France.



Dyson Whitfield

Family details

Date of Birth 26th May 1894

Date of Baptism 6th February 1895

Church Baptised Christ the King, Battyeford

Father William

Father's occupation Canal Boatman & Pleasure Resort

Proprietor.

(When William moved to Gosling Hall

he became a Farmer)

Mother Mary Hannah

Siblings Annie, Gladys, Eunice, Gertie,

Leonora, Lister

Parents residence Colne Bridge near Bradley (1911)

Later Gosling Hall Farm

Soldiers residence Above

Soldiers Occupation Motor driver's assistant

Married No

Spouse

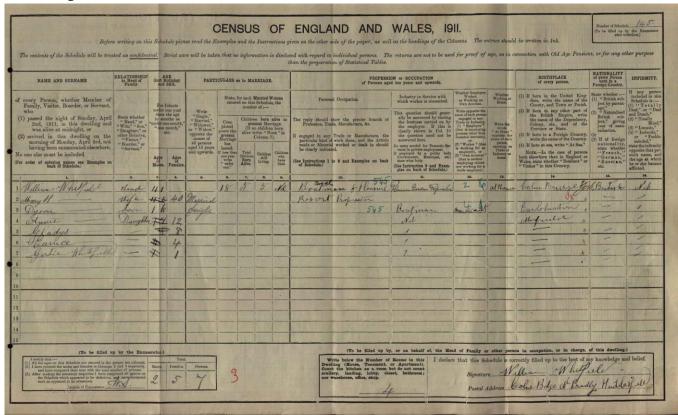
Children

Burial / Memorial Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Age at death 22



Dyson Whitfield



Whitfield family Census 1911

Dyson's brother Lister and sister Leonora were born after the 1911 census. Lister was born Oct to Dec 1912 and Leonora born Oct to Dec 1916.

On the 1st February 1919 Annie Whitfield (19) married Clifford Windsor (23) at St John's Church Upper Hopton.

Dyson was born Earlsheaton lived in Mirfield. At his Attestation he gave his address as Wheatley Terrace, Colne Bridge, Bradley, Nr Huddersfield. His trade was shown as a motor drivers assistant. Dyson's plaque and scroll were delivered to his father William Whitfield at Gosling Hall, Hopton, Mirfield. His personal belongings were also delivered to Gosling Farm March 1917.

Dyson's mother Mary Hannah died 3rd July 1947 age 76 and his father William died 1st October 1952 age 82.



Dyson Whitfield

Advert from the Batley News 12 June 1915

Spring Grove Pleasure Gardens, Bradley, Near Huddersfield

(Ten minutes' walk from Bradley Car Terminus,
Pear Tree Inn, Battyeford),

NOW OPEN DAILY.

Children's Paradise Holiday Camp.

Swing Boats, Aerial Flight, Shooting Range, Houp La, Donkey Rides, and Other Attractions.

BOY SCOUTS, SCHOOLS and PICNIC PARTIES SPECIALLY CATERED FOR.

Teas and Refreshments at Moderate Prices.

DANCING SALOON.

Classes Every Saturday 7-30 p.m.

Dyson's father's Personal Occupation in the 1911 census is given as a "Canal Boatman & Pleasure Resort Proprietor" and the associated Industry or Service as "Pleasure Gardens Proprietor".

The above advert probably shows William Dyson's business before moving with his family to Gosling Farm, Upper Hopton and becoming a farmer.



Dyson Whitfield

Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment August 1915

Deployment April 1916

Rank Rifleman

Medals British War Medal

Victory Medal

Regiment number C/6919

Regiment 18th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Regimental Badge



Killed in Action 10th October 1916

(France)

Cemetery or Memorial Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Age at death 22



Dyson Whitfield

Dewsbury Reporter Saturday 11th November 1916

"ALWAYS CHEERFUL AND WILLING,"

MIRFIELD SOLDIER KILLED WHILST SIGNALLING.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield, of Gosling Hall Farm, Hopton, Mirfield, have been notified of



Mirfield (killed).

deepest sympathy in your loss."

the death in action of their son, Pte. Dyson Whitfield, who joined the King's Royal Rifles in August, 1915, and had been serving in France since April. Pte. Whitfield, who was 22 years of age, attended the Battveford Primitive Methodist Church, and was a very popular and much respected young man. A letter has been received from Lieut. Russell, in which he says :- " I regret to inform you of the death of your son, Pte. D. Whitfield, E.R.R. Dyson, who was killed

on October 7th by a shell whilst signalling. His mates as well as myself feel it very much as he was always cheerful and willing to help, and we shall miss him very much. You have our

Page 6 of 20

Dyson Whitfield

18th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps

3 May1916 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

During 1916

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of the Transloy Ridges.

During 1917

The Battle of Messines, The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of the Menin Road, Operations on the Flanders coast

Nov 1917 Moved to Italy to strengthen the Italian resistance.

Mar 1918 Returned to France and once again engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

During 1918

The Battle of St Quentin, The Battle of Bapaume, The Battle of Arras, The Battles of the Lys, The Advance in Flanders, The Battle of Ypres, The Battle of Courtrai, The action of Ooteghem.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in Belgium, Nukerke south of Audenarde.

As Dyson was killed in action on the 10th October 1916 it is likely that it was in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette or The Battle of the Transloy Ridges on the Somme.



Dyson Whitfield

5 (V) (3) 12/14 T. 8	SHORT S	EBVICE	Army Form	В. 2
	(For the Duration		٥.	
\cup	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
No. 6/6919 Name Dy	Son whilf	FION OF	8th Kings Royal	2 1
Quest	tions to be put to the	Recruit before enl	istment	
1. What is your Name?		1 Dyson	, whitfield	,
2. What is your full Address	ı?	2 Wheater	y servace Colne &	7.0
3. Are you a British Subject	?	. 3 Jes	, iv suadersp	
4. What is your Age? .		. + 21 Ye	rs3 Months	
5. What is your Trade or Ca	alling?	5. mol	or Drivers assis	char
Are you Married? Have you ever served in any branch military, if so,* state particulars?	of His Majesty's Forces, naval or	6	01.	
military, if so,* state particulars? 7A. Have you truly stated the whole, if	f any, of your previous service?	7	W	
8. Are you willing to be vac-	cinated or re-vaccinated?	. 8		·····
9. Are you willing to be enli		1	Jes K. So	
 Did you receive a Notice, meaning, and who gave it to you? 	and do you understand its	10. Jes.	Corps Recrus	len
11. Are you willing to serve us should so long require your serve	pon the following condition	ıs provided His Maje		
		ill by discharged with	all 11. Js.	
For the duration of the War, convenient speed, If employed w may be retained after the termin retention shall in no case exceed st	ith Hospitals, depots of Mounted nation of hostilities until your se	Units, and as Clerks, etc., rvices can be spared, but s	you you)	
Ø	J. Will			
made by me to the above questions a	are true, and that I am willing to	do sole o fulfil the engagements	muly declare that the above as made.	aswer
	Lyson Ilki	Hield	SIGNATURE OF REC	RUIT
	S. S. S.		Signature of Witness,	
CX OATE	H TO BE PAKEN BY REC	RUIT ON ATTESTAT		
	or haffeld sty King George the Fifth, His I is Heirs and Successors in Person	swear b	y Almighty God, that I will be fa that I will, as in duty bound, ho	mestly
	CATE OF MAGISTRATE			
be made to be punished as provided i	as cautioned by me that if he m in the Army Act.		any of the above questions he	would
The above questions were then I have taken care that he undo	n read to the Recruit in my pres erstands each question, and that	his answer to each quest	tion has been shily entered as re	eplied
to, and the said Recruit has made and on this $\frac{1}{2}$ day of	d signed the declaration and take	en the oath before me at_	Halifar	(o
on this day of	Signature of the	191 5. # 1	of Mordinal 2	inte
		Account the comment	icer, at freste A	1 24
1 certify that this Attestation of	† Certificate of Appr of the above-named Recruit is con	rect, and properly filled u	p, and that the required forms	mpea
to have been complied with. I accor	rdingly approve, and appoint hin y, Army Form B. 203 (or other	to the T & n Kin	12 / 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	
	(-	orty for the enlisti	- Allen	igina
	0	D 77 D D 66	_O.C.	
Date Cugus 20 191	18th 8	S. B. K.R.R. CO	RPS TONE	



Dyson Whitfield

Army Casualty Form reporting Dyson's death

***	Casualty Form Regiment or Corps	-Active Service.	Army Form B. 103.
Property of the second second second	C/6919. Rank Rhu F. 15 Terms of Service (a) Sof	Name Dysme W	0
Date of promoti to present ran Extended	on Date of appointment to lance rank	Numer roll	of N.C.Os.
Date From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as	Place Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
4.10.6 ac.B.	Killed in Action	In the Field 10-10-16	k'd 25 16
	A Angelow	- 02	
			Hon
	gradien		6. II. G. 3rd Echelon.
10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1			



Dyson Whitfield

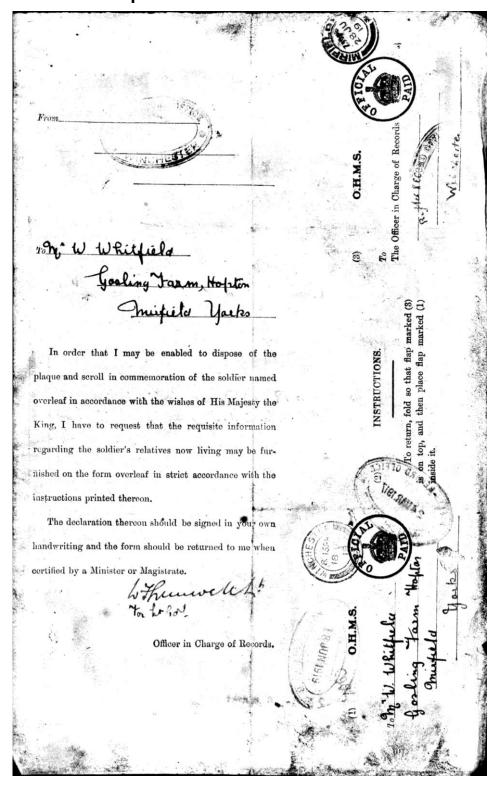
War Office - Personal Effects form.

.The Officer in charg	e of Rifle Records,
	Ninchester.
Any further communication on subject should be addressed to:—	this WAR OFFICE,
The Secretary,	PARK BUILDINGS,
War Office; Park Buildings,	St. James's Park,
St. James's Park London, S	107
and the following number quoted.	2/st. harch . 1917
E. 299950/1	Accounts 4.)
	Will you please note that any articles of personal property no
in yo	ur possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the lat
ho	Chara Rivate Dyson Whitfield
18	Charge Rivate Dyson Whitfield H. Battalion Kings Royal Refleto
zhoul	d be despatched to:
Bhour	hr. be do hit field
ORD OFFICE	Tosling Farm
160 M	Toklow
1011	
La Miles	B' NOI Vante
24000	mirfeld forks
State of the state	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in you
2 Minichte posse	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your
2 Adding to posse of to	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your ession or that may hereafter reach you should be disposed:—
2 Addition of to	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your
Posse of to	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your ession or that may hereafter reach you should be disposed.
Posse of to	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your ession or that may hereafter reach you should be disposed:—
posse of to	Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your ession or that may hereafter reach you should be disposed.



Dyson Whitfield

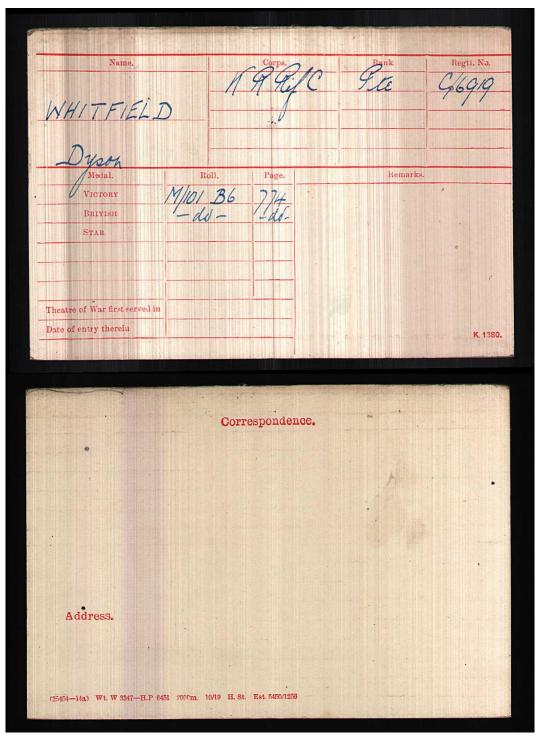
Form sent with the Plaque and Scroll





Dyson Whitfield

Dyson's Medal card



Dyson's Medals



Dyson Whitfield



British War Medal



Victory Medal

Thiepval memorial

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.



Dyson Whitfield



Dyson Whitfield

Rifleman

C/6919, 18th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 10 October 1916

Remembered with Honour Thiepval Memorial





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Dyson Whitfield



Dyson's name inscribed on the Thiepval memorial (photo taken by Philip Tolson 2014).







Dyson Whitfield

Dyson family grave St John's Churchyard, Upper Hopton





Dyson Whitfield

Dyson family grave St John's Churchyard, Upper Hopton





Dyson Whitfield

Humorous notes by Dyson's sister Eunice reminiscing about Upper Hopton school and Gosling Hall (Eunice was 12 years younger than Dyson)

UPPER HOPTON SCHOOL. 1915-1920
MRY MES SMITH WERE HEAD TEACHERS.
BUT AS THEY LIVED ON THE PRENTISES WE
GIRLS 14A) JOBS TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE
MONDAY HELP WITH THE WASHING.
TUESDAY THE MIENDING IF IT WAS A SHEET
4 OF US SAT AROUND 19 DESK.
ONE DAY BIZING RATTHER TORN I PAST A
REMARK - I THOUGHT IT WAS MORE HOLY
THIAN GODLY RESULT HEAD MASTELS OFFICE.
NEXT DAY I HAD TO SEE TO THE DINNIER
SO THOUGHT I WOULD GET MY OWN BACK.
SALT INSTIEAD OF SUGAR WENT INTO THE
RICE PUDDING. ANOTHER TRIP TO THE SMALL
Roots.
I REMEMBIEL BIERSY JARBY WHIEN SHIE
PASSED AWAY. WE HAD ALL TO STAND IN THE
PLAY GROUND WHILE THEY PASSED.
WE HAD HAD OUR OBJERS NO LAUSHING IETE
BUT EUNICE HAD TO OPEN HER MOUTH.
So WHEN WE GOT BACK INTO SCHOOL



Dyson Whitfield

Humorous notes by Dyson's sister Eunice reminiscing about Upper Hopton school and Gosling Hall (Eunice was 12 years younger than Dyson)

2
EUNICE WHITFIELD. LOUIS ENGLAND.
MARION KILBURN AND MORE A WHORE LOT
MORE HAD TO LIFT UP THEIR FROCK MAND
ONE STROKE OF THE CANE, I THINK HE
USED TO LIKE SEEING NAUY KNICKERS.
BUT THEY WERE LOVEING BEORLE, THEY HAD
THREE SONS ALL TEACHIERS
I ADMIT I WAS ALWAYS UP TO TRICKS
LIKE WHEN I WAS TAKEING MILK TO
HOFTON, SPILT SOME, ASKED MIS LEDGARD FUR
17 DRINK OF WATIER. PUT IT IN THE MILK CAN.
GOT STOPPED BY THE CUSTOM MAN.
FATTHER GOT FINED 796D. WETHER HE
KNEW of NOT HE NEUER SAID. ONLY 1717 POSIT
SISTER PRAYED MIE UP BECAUSE WE HAD GOT
out NAME IN THE REPORTER.
BUT THOSE WELL HAPPY DAYS. TELL YOU
ABOUT ROLLING OVIER ON THE HURSE & CART
WHEN I HAVE TIME.
•



Dyson Whitfield

Humorous notes by Dyson's sister Eunice reminiscing about Upper Hopton school and Gosling Hall (Eunice was 12 years younger than Dyson)

BUTTOM OF HOPTON THE RAILWAY AND IMIRETELD, THE LAST FIELD WAS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF HOPTON HALL LANE, THERE WERE FOUR COTTAGES, FATHER SCINT HIS LAST DAYS IN THE FIRST OF THE COTTAGES WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FLOO THE LAST FIELD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
I'TIRFIELD, THE LAST FIELD WAS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF HOSTON HALL LANE, THERE WERE FOUR COTTAGES, FATHER SCINT HIS LAST DAYS IN THE FIRST OF THE COTTAGES WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FLOOT WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
SIDE OF HOSTON HALL LANE, THERE WERE FOUR COTTAGES, FATHER SCINT HIS LAST DAYS IN THE FIRST OF THE COTTAGES WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FLOOT THE LAST FIELD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
FOUR COTTAGES, FATHER SPINT HIS LAST DAYS IN THE FIRST OF THE COTTAGES WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FLOO THE LAST FIELD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE. ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
DAYS IN THE FIRST OF THE COTTAGES WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FROO WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE. ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FLOOD THE LAST FIELD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE. ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
WE BOUGHT FOR FLOO WHEN HE DIED IT WAS SOLD FOR FROD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE. ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
THE LAST FIELD WAS BEHIND THE COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE. ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
COTTAGES AND MADE HAY. IT WAS ON A SLOPE ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
ONE YEAR I WAS ON TOP OF THE
HAY CART WHEN GINGER THE HORSE DECIDED
TO Ship. AND WE ALL WHENT ROLLING DOWN
THE FIELD
OF COURSE FATHER BLAMED ME, AND
THE HORSE GOT UP FASTER THAN ME
I HAD SOME GOOD TIMES AND BAD. LOSIEING MY
BROTHER IN THE WAR. UPS AND DOWNS ON THE FARM.
BUT IT NEVER SPOILT GOSLING HALL BEING A LOWELY
HOIGH AND A LOVELY HOUSE WHICH IT STILL IS.
Einie Clerch