

ROBERT SIMPSON – Private 204077, 10th Green Howards, 26th Oct 1917, Age 38

Robert Simpson was born in Brompton-on-Swale in 1879, the son of James and Jane Simpson. His Father was 67 and his Mother was 47 when he was born and this being James 2nd marriage he had a number of older half-siblings.

Civil Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town or Village or Hamlet of		Urban Sanitary District of		Rural Sanitary District of		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of	
Brompton-on-Swale						Richmond		Brompton				Richmond		Bastby	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If				
		Inhabited or (A)	Uninhabited or (B)				Males	Females			(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Imbecile or Idiot	(4) Lunatic	
29	Cottage	1		James Simpson	Head	Mar	70		ag-labourer	Yorkshire - Bolton					
				Jane Simpson	Wife	Mar	50			do - Brompton					
				Mary A. Scott	Daug		16		Scholar	do - do -					
				James W. Scott	Son		10		do - do -	do - do -					
				Jane G. Scott	Daug		8		do - do -	do - do -					
				Robert Simpson	Son		3			do - do -					
30	do	1		William Hutchins	Head	Mar	39		General Labourer	do - Brompton					
31	Farm House	1		Robert Leyfield	Head	Mar	47		Farmer of 100 acres	do - do					
				Mary - do -	Wife	Mar	33			do - do					
				Charles - do -	Son	Mar	14		Not employed on the farm	do - do					

1881 Brompton-on-Swale Census - Robert Simpson Aged 3

By 1911, he is still living in Brompton on Swale on Richmond Road with his half-brother James (who also seems to be going by the name Simpson now) and his half-sister Mary Scott, where he is given as a General Labourer ^[2].

Robert enlisted in Northallerton and while he may have enlisted with another battalion, he was serving with the 10th (Service) Battalion of the Green Howards, when he was killed.



10th Battalion Green howards (1915, Aylesbury Camp) (ww1-yorkshires.org.uk)

In 1917 the 10th Battalion saw action on the Hindenburg Line, in the Arras Offensive and the Third Battle of Ypres. The following extract, from H.C. Wylly's "the Green Howards on the Great War", may

cover the circumstances of Robert's death.

"This camp was left again on the 1st October and, marching to Dernancourt, the train was there taken for Marles-les-Mines, and arriving here on the 10th, the division marched to Fouquereuil and took over trenches in the Hairpin Crater sector in front of Vermelles and north of Loos from the 23rd Division, the 10th Green Howards being in reserve in Curly Crescent.

The trenches in this sector were bad and this probably accounts in some measure for the heavy loss experienced on the 22nd by "B" Company when occupying the Northern Crater of the Quarry Sector and Hohenzollern Redoubt, when three men were killed and eleven wounded by minenwerfers. A few days later several more casualties were occasioned by the enemy's so-called 'rum-jars'."

(As an aside, Major Stewart Walter Loudoun-Shand of the 10th Green Howards, won a posthumous VC on 1st July 1916. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewart_Walter_Loudoun-Shand)

Robert has no known grave and is commemorated on the TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Panel 52-54 & 162A.



Figure 36 - Tyne Cot Memorial

Sources:

- (1) 1881 Census (RG11; Piece: 4881; Folio: 19; Page: 7)
- (2) 1911 Census (RG14PN29476 RG78PN1711 RD542 SD2 ED2 SN5)
- (3) 10th Green Howards photograph
<http://www.ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/html-files/photos-groups.htm#10thbn1915>
- (4) Minenwerfer - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minenwerfer>
- (5) Tyne Cot Memorial
<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/85900/>
- (6) Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/3064926/>