

### ARTHUR ROBINSON – Sapper 160636, Royal Engineers, 13<sup>th</sup> May 1917, Age 23

Arthur Robinson was born in 1893 in Richmond, the son of Sidney and Frances Robinson. The 1901 Census shows the family at No 26, Newbiggin in Richmond. Arthur's Father is shown as a Shopkeeper.

28	26			Sidney Robinson	Head	M	47	Shopkeeper	General	11	11	Salford
				Frances Robt do	Wife	W	35					East
				Arthur do	Son	M	7					Catterick
				Elmie do	Daughter	F	5					York
				William Bruce	Servant	M	18	General	Sergeant	1	1	do
				Marjaret Giffen	Head	F	65	Retired	do	1	1	do

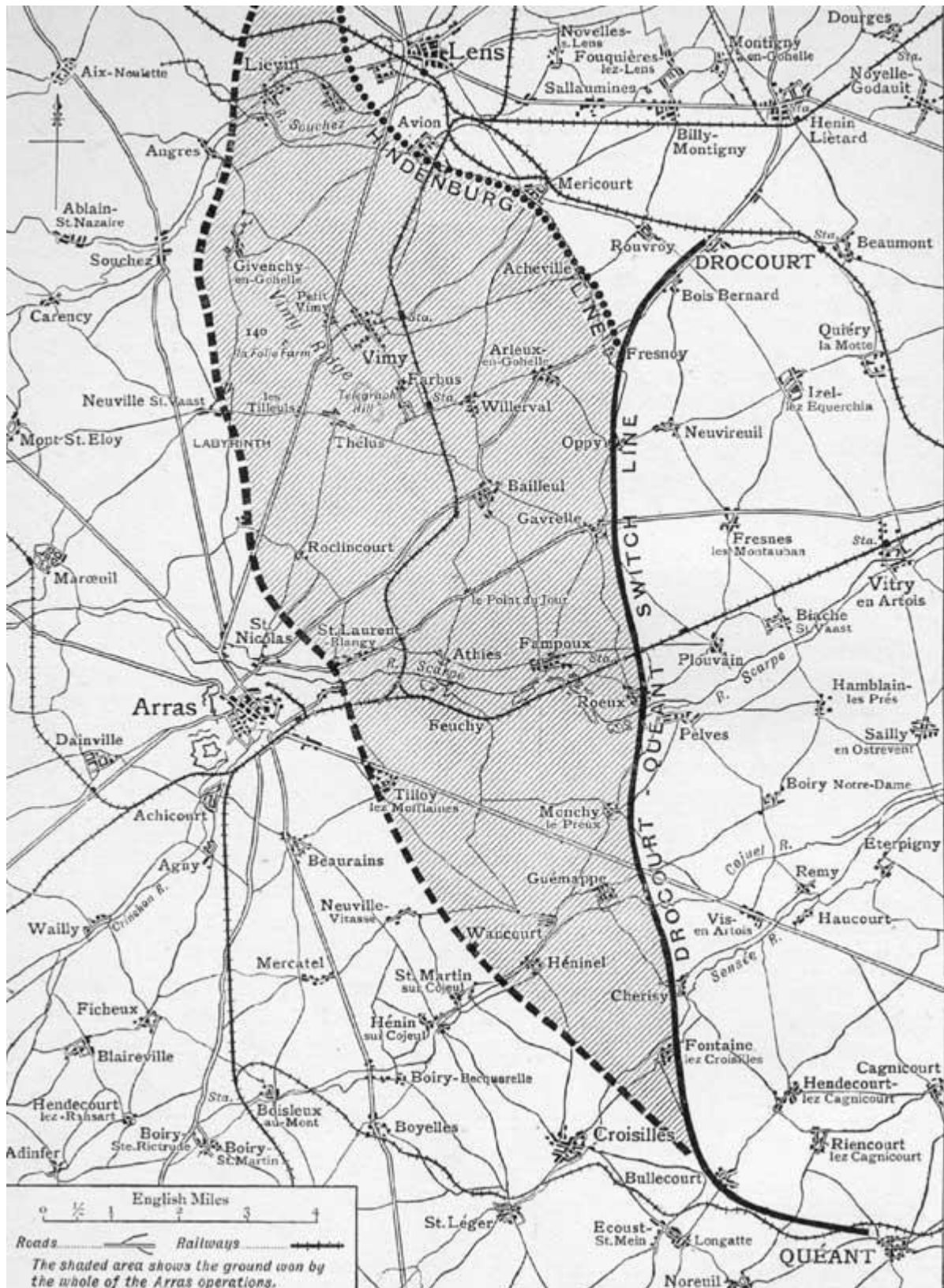
Newbiggin was (and still is) one of Richmond's most pleasant avenues, and the family would have been reasonably well off.



Newbiggin, Richmond

By 1911, Arthur was a 17 year old Draper's apprentice living at 30 Market Place, Richmond in the house of a Mr Henry Hague. Arthur enlisted in West Hartlepool, probably with the Royal Engineers and at the time his residence is given as Darlington and so far I've not found any record of a marriage for him.

The 89<sup>th</sup> Field Company were formed as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> (Light Division) in 1917 and were stationed around Scarpe up until 14<sup>th</sup> May 1917. The Division had arrived in France in May 1915 as part of Kitchener's first wave of "New Armies" – the so called K1 Divisions. They took part in what was known as the Arras Offensive (Apr-Jun 1917) which consisted of a number of separate battles, including the infamous Battle of Vimy Ridge (where the Canadians made a significant advance through what is generally viewed as combination or meticulous planning, tactical innovation and determination ... and suffered 10,000 dead and wounded). This was followed by numerous follow up Battles including the three "Battles of the Scarpe".



Arras Offensive 1917 showing ground gained

Arthur was serving as a Sapper (160636) with the 89<sup>th</sup> Field Company of the Royal Engineers when he died of wounds on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1917. However, until some further investigation throws some more light of Arthur's death it's difficult to establish how exactly he sustained the wounds that led to his death.

Arthur is buried at the ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY in the Pas de Calais, France (Grave Ref: XVIII. M. 18). The Etaples cemetery is over 60 miles to the West of Arras and was a centre for hospitals and wounded men (it's also the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens), so it seems Arthur was wounded and transferred there at some point.



Etaples Cemetery



Etaples Cemetery - 1919

Sources:

- (1) 1901 Census (RG13; Piece 4609; Folio 15; Page 21)
- (2) 1911 Census (RG14PN29463 RG78PN1710 RD542 SD1 ED1 SN213)
- (3) Etaples Cemetery  
<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/56500>
- (4) Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/505289/>
- (5) Arras Offensive [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Arras\\_\(1917\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Arras_(1917))