

ERNEST BROWN – Private 19394, 8th Green Howards, 28th Sep 1917, Age 19

Ernest Brown was the Grandson of Robert and Sarah Brown who he was living with, in Darlington, at the time of the 1901 Census, aged 3 (10 Low Boyne Street) ⁽¹⁾ and also at the time of the 1911 Census, aged 13 (9 Boyne Street) ⁽²⁾. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find out who Ernest’s parents were or what happened to them.

Ernest served as a Private (#19394) with the 8th Battalion, Alexandra Princess of Wales’s Own (Yorkshire Regiment) - the Green Howards ⁽³⁾. This battalion was part of the “New Armies” draft, and was raised in Richmond on 22 September 1914 and in October was attached to 69th Brigade, 23rd Division. The battalion moved to Frensham and in February 1915 went on to Folkestone and Maidstone in Kent. It landed in France at Boulogne on 26 August 1915. They saw action on the Western Front, including the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the Battle of Messines Ridge in June 1917 and the Third Battle of Ypres later that year. Third Ypres contained many smaller battles (parts of which were also called “Passchendaele”) and lasted from July to November of 1917.

One such battle was that of Polygon Wood which took place between 26th September and 3rd October 1917 and involved the 69th Brigade in which the 8th Yorkshires served at the time. Given the location of Ernest’s grave, it’s likely he fell during this battle. He was killed in action on 28th September 1917. Like Sid Best, he was just 19.



Figure 1 - Infantry Attack on Polygon Wood by Fred Leist (1919)

Campaign :—		1914-15		(A) Where decoration was earned.		
				(B) Present situation.		
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)		
(A) BROWN	4th Yorks. R. Ck	Pvt	19394	IMPEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(B) Ernest	—	—	—	VICTORY	01/10/17	969
				BRITISH	do	do
				15 STAR	01/186	517
Action taken			Dead			
THEATRE OF WAR		(1) France				
QUALIFYING DATE		21.8.15				
(6.34.46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608						[OVER.]

Figure 2 - Ernest Brown's Medal Roll Index Card

Ernest Brown is buried in Belgium at the [NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY](#) grave reference XXXV. B. 25. ⁽⁴⁾



Figure 3 - Irish Farm Cemetery

Sources:

- (1) 1901 Census
- (2) 1911 Census (RG14PN29523 RG78PN1715 RD543 SD2 ED20 SN412)
- (3) UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 – 1919
- (4) Commonwealth War Graves Commission
http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty_details.aspx?casualty=452061