



## John T Henry (Harry) Waters

John Waters (commonly known as Harry) was born at Kirby Hall in 1895. His father was Thomas Waters (originally from Oasby, Lincolnshire) his mother was Mary Ann Waters (nee Garfield) from Water Newton.

### Family History

In the 1901 Census, the family was living at Kirby Hall. Thomas Waters was a shepherd. Thomas & Mary have 7 children, Harry was the only son. Also living with the family was a boarder, William Licquorish, an agricultural labourer from Cottingham.

By 1911, Harry Waters was working as an agricultural labourer. The family were still resident at Kirby Hall.

Some time after 1911, the family relocated to Rutland and were resident at Tickencote Lodge.

### Military History

According to the information available, Harry enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1915 and served as a Private (17024) in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. At some stage he transferred to the 1st Battalion.

Harry's medal card indicates that he arrived in France in November 1915.

According to other sources, Harry was wounded twice and suffered from "frost bitten feet". It is clear he was involved in heavy fighting throughout his time at the Front.

It is recorded that Private Harry Waters was killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. He was 22 years of age.

Private Waters is buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery and remembered on the Gretton War Memorial.

The Northampton Mercury of 28<sup>th</sup> December 1917 recorded Harry's death:-

*Waters, Pte. Harry (22), only son of Mr. and Mrs. Waters, of Ingthorpe; killed during a bombardment of the British lines on November 10; had served in the Northants for three years; employed by Mr. W.J.W.Dudley, farmer, Gretton.*



'Tyne Cot' or 'Tyne Cottage' was the name given by the Northumberland Fusiliers to a barn which stood near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road. The barn, which had become the centre of five or six German blockhouses, or pill-boxes, was captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917, in the advance on Passchendaele.

One of these pill-boxes was unusually large and was used as an advanced dressing station after its capture. From 6 October to the end of March 1918, 343 graves were made, on two sides of it, by the 50th (Northumbrian) and 33rd Divisions, and by two Canadian units. The cemetery was in German hands again from 13 April to 28 September, when it was finally recaptured, with Passchendaele, by the Belgian Army.

TYNE COT CEMETERY was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, and from a few small burial grounds, including the following:

IBERIAN SOUTH CEMETERY and IBERIAN TRENCH CEMETERY, LANGEMARCK, 1,200 metres North of Frezenberg, close to a farm called by the Army "Iberian". These contained the graves of 30 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in August-September, 1917, and March, 1918.

KINK CORNER CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, on the road to Frezenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom, nine from Canada and nine from Australia, who fell in September-November, 1917. □

LEVI COTTAGE CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, near the road to Langemarck, containing the graves of ten soldiers from the United Kingdom, eight from Canada and three from Australia, who fell in September-November, 1917.

OOSTNIEUWKERKE GERMAN CEMETERY, in the village of Oostnieuwkerke, containing the graves of two soldiers from the United Kingdom.

PRAET-BOSCH GERMAN CEMETERY, VLADSLOO, in the forest on the road from Kortewilde to Leke. Here were buried six officers of the R.F.C. and R.A.F. who fell in 1917-18.

STADEN GERMAN CEMETERY, on the South-East side of the road to Stadenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom and ten from Canada who fell in 1915-1917.



WATERLOO FARM CEMETERY, PASSCHENDAELE, 650 metres North-East of □'s Gravenstafel, containing the graves of ten soldiers from Canada, seven from the United Kingdom and two from New Zealand, who fell in 1917-18.

ZONNEBEKE BRITISH CEMETERY No.2, on the road between Zonnebeke and Broodseinde, in which the Germans buried 18 men of the 2nd Buffs and 20 of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers who fell in April, 1915.

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

There are now 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,369 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. There are 4 German burials, 3 being unidentified. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

The TYNE COT MEMORIAL forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16 August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory. The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by F V Blundstone.

### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Gretton Local History Society

Rutland Remembers 2014-2018



***Lest We Forget***

**Harry Waters**  
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 copy

