



## Richard Albert Bayley (Bailey)

Richard Albert Bayley was born in Corby in 1886. He was baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1886. His father was Thomas Aston Bayley, his mother Mary Ann Bayley (nee Smith). Thomas and Mary were married on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1867 in Brigstock. Thomas Bayley's occupation was horse breaker.

Richard had a brother Harry William Bayley who was baptised on the same day.

By 1911 Richard Bayley was working as a stableman at Lullebrooke Manor, Cookham, Berkshire.

He was living in The Cottage at Lullebrooke Manor with William Beldam (Coachman), his wife Emily Beldam, William Hall (second coachman) and Herbert Gough (stableman).

Lullebrooke Manor was owned by the Burrows family but was being rented out to Colonel Francis Ricardo (retired military officer). It is cited that Colonel Ricardo was the inspiration for the character of Toad in *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

Records show that Richard Bayley married Mary Jane Brown in 1915 in Maidenhead.

### Military Service

Richard Albert Bayley enlisted in Maidenhead. He was residing at Hanwell, Middlesex at the time.

He was initially in the Army Service Corps (55984). Rank given as Driver.

He was then transferred to 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Territorial Force of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (28634).

The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were formed in Preston in October 1914. The battalion was in the 170<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 57<sup>th</sup> Division. The battalion was mobilised and landed in Le Havre on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1917. The battalion served on the Western Front for the duration of the War.

Private Richard Albert Bayley was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917. The battalion was involved in hostilities around Poelcapelle.

Private Bayley is buried at the Poelcapelle British Cemetery.



Poelcapelle (now Poelkapelle) was taken by the Germans from the French on 20 October 1914, entered by the 11th Division on 4 October 1917, evacuated by Commonwealth forces in April 1918, and retaken by the Belgians on 28 September 1918.

Poelcapelle British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and the following smaller cemeteries: -

Houthust Forest New Military Cemetery, Langemarck, near the south side of the Forest, on the road from Poelcapelle to Houthulst. Here were buried a number of French soldiers, as well as 21 soldiers and two airmen from the United Kingdom, who fell in the winter of 1917-18.

Keerselaere French Cemetery, Langemarck, about 800 metres West of the hamlet of Keerselaere, in which 29 French soldiers, five Canadian and two from the United Kingdom were buried in 1915, apparently by the enemy.

Pilckem Road German Cemetery, Langemarck, on the southwest side of the bridge over the Hannebeek, in which 13 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Canada were buried by the enemy in 1914-17.

Poelcapelle Communal Cemetery, in which one soldier from the United Kingdom was buried in 1915.

Poelcapelle German Cemetery No.2, nearly 1.6 Kms South-East of the village, which contained the graves of 96 soldiers from the United Kingdom and Canada who fell in 1914-15.

St. Jean Churchyard, in which 44 soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in 1915, but which was completely destroyed in later fighting.

Staden French Military Cemetery, made by the 169th Infantry Regiment and containing the graves of 80 French soldiers and one R.A.F. Officer.

Vijfwegen German Cemetery No.1, close to the railway halt, in which three soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried by the enemy. The great majority of the graves date from the last five months of 1917, and in particular October, but certain plots (IA, VIA, VIIA, LI and LXI) contain many graves of 1914 and 1915.

There are now 7,479 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Poelcappelle British Cemetery. 6,230 of the burials are



unidentified but special memorials commemorate 8 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Other special memorials commemorate 24 servicemen buried by the Germans in other burial grounds in the area whose graves could not be located. There is also 1 burial of the Second World War within the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

Among those buried in the cemetery is Private John Condon of the Royal Irish Regiment, who at 14 is thought to be the youngest battle casualty of the First World War commemorated by the Commission.

#### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

***Lest We Forget***

**Richard Albert Bayley**  
of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

d.26<sup>th</sup> October 1917

Lullebrooke Manor where Richard Bailey worked was sold to the John Lewis Partnership in 1927 and is now used as a holiday centre for the Partnership's staff.

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