

## 115: Nathan Barnes

### Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Nathan Barnes

Rank: Lance Corporal

Battalion / Regiment: Northumberland Fusiliers 20th (Tyneside Scottish)

Service Number: 20/141 Date of Death: 1 July 1916 Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

Nathan Barnes was a son, possibly the fifth child, of coalminer George and Sarah Barnes and it is believed that Nathan was born in Ince, Wigan, in late 1876, although *Soldiers died in the Great War* record him as having been born in Neston. Certainly, his birth was registered at Hindley, a sub-district of Wigan & Leigh.

It is presumed that George came to the Wigan area, as a miner, and he married Sarah Foster at St Thomas, Wigan, on 1 January 1869. George, recorded as a miner, was 19 and living in Princess Street; his father, also George, was a deceased collier. Sarah, 18, was living at Vine Grove and her father was named as Adam Foster, labourer. Both George and Sarah signed the register with a cross.

In the 1871 census George (22, coalminer, born Belmont, Durham) and Sarah (22, born Wigan) were living at Westwood, Ince-in-Makerfield, a short distance to the south of Wigan. With them was their first child, Edward (1, born Wigan); he was born 11 August 1869 and baptised on 2 January 1870 at Christ Church, Ince. However, it seems that Edward died, aged 2, in July/September 1871 a short time after the birth of their second child, Cornelius.

George and Sarah continued to live in the Wigan district until after the birth of Nathan in late 1876 when they moved to Neston. At the time of the 1881 census the family was living on Colliery Row, renamed later as New Street:

<del>George Barnes</del>	<del>Head</del>	<del>Mar</del>	31		<del>coal miner</del>	<del>North of England</del>
<del>Sarah Barnes</del>	<del>Wife</del>	<del>Do</del>	30			<del>Wigan Lancashire</del>
<del>Cornelius</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>///</del>	9			<del>Wigan do</del>
<del>Peter</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>///</del>	8			<del>Wigan do</del>
<del>Darius</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>///</del>	6			<del>Ince do do</del>
<del>Nathan</del>	<del>son</del>	<del>///</del>	4			<del>Ince do do</del>
<del>Leah</del>	<del>daughter</del>	<del>///</del>	2			<del>Neston Cheshire</del>
<del>Edith Barnes</del>	<del>Daughter</del>	<del>///</del>	<del>7mo</del>			<del>Neston Cheshire</del>

1881 census – 1 Colliery Row, Little Neston

George Barnes	31	coal miner	born North of England
Sarah	30		born Wigan
Cornelius	9		born Wigan
Peter	8		born Wigan
Darius	6		born Ince
Nathan	4		born Ince
Leah	2		born Neston
Edith	7 months		born Neston

No records of the baptism of any of the children born in the Wigan area (other than Edward) or those born in Neston have been found.

It appears that, not long after the 1881 census, the family returned to the Lancashire Coalfield, firstly to the Ince area (where they had previously lived) and then a short distance east to Atherton, north of Leigh:

George Barnes	Head	M	45		do do	X	Sunderland Durham
Sarah do	Wife	M	42				Wigan
Cornelius do	Son	M	19		do do	X	Ince
Peter do	do	"	18		do do	X	Wigan
Darius do	Son	M	16		do do	X	Ince
Nathan do	do	"	14		do do	X	do
Leah do	Daughter	F	12		do do		Neston
Edith do	do	F	10		do do		do do
Rachel do	do	F	8		do do		Ince
Martha do	do	F	6		do do		Atherton
Ann do	do	F	4		do do		do do
George do	Son	M	1		do do		do do

1891 census (extract) – 42 Lilford Street, Atherton, Leigh, Lancashire

George Barnes	45	coalminer	born Sunderland, Durham
Sarah	42		born Wigan
Cornelius	19	coalminer	born Ince
Peter	18	coalminer	born Wigan
Darius	16	coalminer	born Ince
Nathan	14	coalminer	born Ince
Leah	12		born Neston
Edith	10		born Neston
Rachel	8		born Ince
Martha	6		born Atherton
Ann	4		born Atherton
George	1		born Atherton

George Barnes recorded his birthplace as Sunderland which, historically, was in County Durham.

Nathan Barnes (22, collier, of Peel Street, Farnworth) married Mary Meredith (23, dressmaker, of Darley Street) at St John the Evangelist Church, Farnworth with Kearsley, Bolton, on 25 January 1896. Mary's father, George, was also a miner and Mary's brother, also George, was a witness. Mary - who was registered as Polly - was born in Ruabon, near Wrexham, in late 1875. Farnworth is, approximately, 5 miles north-east of Atherton.



42 Lilford Street, Atherton, Leigh  
[Source: Google StreetView]

Nathan and Mary's first child, Norman Wilfred Barnes, was born in late 1896 when the family was living in the Atherton area, but they appear to have moved to the area of Blyth, Northumberland, when their second child, Edith, was born in late 1898.

Mary's parents, George and Ann Meredith, and their family had moved to Northumberland sometime after the 1891 census (when they were recorded, with eight children, living at Cefn Mawr to the south-west of Ruabon). With miners' wages probably higher in NE England than in North Wales, and with five members of the family occupied in mining, this was probably a financial move and it is quite possible that their move prompted Nathan and his family to move to that area. Certainly, at the time of the 1901 census both families were in NE England:

name	relation	sex	age	occupation	place of birth
George Meredith	Head	M	51	Miner, P. G. Slawes Park	St. Martins, Wals.
Ann Meredith	Wife	M	50	Domestic	Raubon
John Meredith	Son	M	24	Miner, Colliery	Raubon
George Meredith	Son	M	21	Miner, Coal	Raubon
Edith Meredith	Daughter	F	19		Raubon
Esyan Meredith	Daughter	F	16	Miner, Coal	Raubon
Marion Meredith	Son	M	14	Miner	Raubon
Frank Meredith	Son	M	12	Scholar	Raubon
Florence Meredith	girl	F	9	Scholar	Raubon
Nathan Barnes	son	M	23	Miner, Coal	Cheshire, Preston
Polly Barnes	Wife	M	24	Domestic	Raubon, Wales
Norman Barnes	Visitor	M	4	Infant	Lancs, Atherton
Edith Barnes	Visitor	F	2	Infant	Blyth, Northumbria
Tom Campbell	Visitor	M	30	Miner, Newer	Shelton

1901 census (extract) – Boat House Terrace, Cambois, Northumberland

Nathan Barnes	23	miner, coal	born Neston
Polly	24	domestic	born Ruabon
Norman	4		born Atherton, Lancs.
Edith	2		born Blyth, Northumbria

It appears that Nathan (incorrectly recorded as son) and his family were visiting Polly's (Mary) parents, miner George and Ann Meredith and their family in Cambois. Cambois is a village in south-east Northumberland situated on the north side of the estuary of the River Blyth between Blyth and Ashington on the North Sea coast. Between 1862 and 1968 it was a colliery town.

In 1901 George and Sarah Barnes (Nathan's parents), and those of their family who had not left home, were still living in Leigh, Lancashire. George was recorded as a dataller at a colliery - a day-wage man paid on a daily basis for casual maintenance and construction work, included the building and repairing of underground roadways. This type of employment had no job security. Three of the children, apparently including 11-year old George, were in local cotton mills each employed as a "cotton card room hand"; before cotton could be spun into a thread, it had to be combed, or 'carded' by a carding machine to align the fibres, a low-status, low-paid, job in the cotton mill.

George Barnes	Head	M	52	✓	dataller in coal mine	do	Belmont-Durham
Sarah do	Wife	M	52	✓	do	o	Wigan home
Martha do	Daughter	S	16	✓	cotton card room hand	do	Atherton do
Annie do	Daughter	S	14	✓	do do	do	do do
George do	Son	S	11	✓	do do	do	do do

1901 census (extract) – 31 John Street, Leigh, Lancashire

George Barnes	52	dataller in coal mine, underground	born Belmont, Durham
Sarah	52		born Wigan
Martha	16	cotton card room hand	born Atherton
Annie	14	cotton card room hand	born Atherton
George	11	cotton card room hand	born Atherton

By the time of the 1911 census Nathan Barnes and his family were living in a terraced house at East Hartford, Cramlington, a very small town about 10 miles north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne:

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Number of Schedule 269  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.*

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (Last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7)		Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected					
1 Nathan Barnes	Head	35	Married	15	6	5	7	Coal Miner (Hewer)	150	Worked	Cheshire-Neston	120
2 Polly Barnes	Wife	36	Married	15	6	5	7				North Wales-Ruabon	455
3 Norman Wilfred Barnes	Son	14						Shaft lad in coal mine	150	Worked	Lancs-Atherton	050
4 Edith Barnes	Daughter	12									Northumberland-Blyth	
5 Margaret Ann Barnes	Daughter	10									Northumberland-Sleekburn	
6 Florence May Barnes	Daughter	3									Northumberland-Hartford	
7 Nathaniel Barnes	Son	1									Northumberland-Hartford	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		Total	
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.	(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 respectively, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.	Males	Females
(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.		3	4
Initials of Enumerator			

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count outhouse, landing, lobby, cloak, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Nathan Barnes  
Postal Address: 10 Scott St Hartford Colliery

1911 census (condensed) – 10 Scott Street, Hartford Colliery, Cramlington, Northumberland

Nathan Barnes	35	coal miner (hewer)	born Neston
Polly	36		born Ruabon
Norman Wilfred	14	shaft lad in coal mine	born Atherton
Edith	12		born Blyth
Margaret Ann	10		born Sleekburn
Florence May	3		born Hartford
Nathaniel	1		born Hartford

Nathan and Polly had been married for 15 years and five of their six children had survived.

Sleekburn is an area about 3¼ miles north-west of Blyth.

The main pit at Hartford Colliery was named Scott – Scott Street presumably took this name.

As Nathan gives his address as 'Hartford Colliery' it is probable that he, and son Norman, were employed here. Hartford Colliery, Cramlington, employed 532 men below ground and had 14 surface workers in 1914.



Scott Street, East Hartford, Cramlington  
[Source: Google StreetView]

A third son, David (their last child), was born on 8 March 1912.

By 1911 George and Sarah Barnes had also moved north and were living at Coxhoe, a village in County Durham about 5 miles south of Belmont, George's birthplace. No doubt, as Nathan and the Meredith's had probably recognised some years previously, employment on the Northumberland and Durham coalfields was more secure - and probably more remunerative - than in Lancashire, North Wales and Cheshire:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	
1	George Barnes	Head	62	Married	42	11	9	2	Hewer	150	Coal mine	0	Durham			
2	Sarah Barnes	Wife	62	Married	42	11	9	2				0	Wigan	068	Lancashire	
3	George Barnes	son	21	Single					Miner	putter	160	0	Atherton	050		
4	Annie Barnes	daughter	24	Single					shop keeper	991		0	Atherton			
5	Cornelius Southern	grandson	9									0	Leigh			
6	George Lowe	boarder	36	Married	3				Miner	stoneman	160	0	Barnsley	018	Lancashire	
7	Edith Lowe	daughter	29	Married	3	1	1						Neston	Cheshire	1120	
8	Doris Lowe	daughter	2										Leigh	050		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)		
I certify that — (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column. (2) I have entered the ages and marriages in Columns 3 and 4 respectively, and have compared them with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have agreed such as appeared to be erroneous.			I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
Initials of Enumerator	Male	Female	Signature	Postal Address	
C. V.	4	4	George Barnes		
	Total				
	2				

1911 census (condensed) – 46 Long Row, Coxhoe, County Durham

George Barnes	62	hewer, coal mine	born Durham
Sarah	62		born Wigan
George	21	miner, putter	born Atherton
Annie	24	shop keeper	born Atherton
Cornelius Southern	9	grandson	born Leigh
George Lowe	36	boarder, miner, stoneman	born Barnsley
Edith Lowe	29	boarder	born Neston
Doris Lowe	2		born Leigh

George and Sarah had been married for 42 years and nine of their eleven children had survived.

In the census return George Barnes jnr is recorded as a 'putter' - the man who pushed the loaded mine waggons from the extraction and loading area to a horse road or mechanical haulage road.

Of George and Sarah's 11 children, ten are recorded in census returns. Their eldest child, Cornelius, married Elizabeth Hughes (born Barnsley) at Leigh Register Office, Lancashire, in late 1896 and in the 1901 census they were living at 117 Oxford Street, Leigh. Cornelius, 29, was then a collier/hewer and he and Elizabeth (28) had no children. Cornelius died the following year, in July / September 1902, when his age was

recorded as being 31. Elizabeth has not been traced in the 1911 census and it is possible that she had remarried.

Peter Barnes, George and Sarah's second child, married Ellen Croft at Leigh Register Office in early 1894 and in the 1901 census Peter, 28, was recorded as a coal miner / hewer living at 18 Alder Street, Atherton, Lancashire. In 1911, aged 38, Peter was still a coal miner / hewer but now living at 6 Unsworth Street, Westleigh. Peter and Ellen now had 5 children one of whom, Darius (13, newspaper seller's assistant, born Atherton), was named after Peter's younger brother.

Darius Barnes snr married Annie Roberts at St John the Baptist's Church, Atherton, Leigh, in late 1895 and in 1901, when Darius, 28, was a coal hewer, they were living at 12 Bowling Green Row, Atherton. Darius and Annie (25, born Wrexham) had two small children, Elizabeth Ann (4) and Emlyn (2), both of whom had been born in Atherton. However, it appears that Darius and Annie divorced at some time after as, in the 1911 census, Annie (36) was married to coal miner Thomas Tayler (38, born Bristol) and they were living in the coal mining village of Trehafod in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. Thomas and Annie had been married for two years and Elizabeth Ann and Emlyn Barnes are both recorded as step-children. No record of the marriage has been located but in 1911 Darius, recorded as *Dyas* Barnes, 38, coal miner / hewer, was boarding at 22 Jermyn Croft, Dodworth, near Barnsley in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Although Darius is recorded as being married in the 1911 census it is most probable that he was divorced at this time and that he married Ida Carroll in the Rotherham district in early 1929. It seems that Ida died in the Rotherham district in mid-1931 aged 62 and that Darius died, also in the Rotherham district, in late 1964 aged 90.

Leah Barnes, the eldest daughter of George and Sarah, married coal miner William M Frowen at Bolton Register Office in April / June 1896 and were recorded, with three young children, at 46 Lilford Street, Atherton, in 1901. William, who had been born in Gloucestershire, was then 24 and Leah was 22 - Leah would have been 17 when she married. In the 1901 census Leah's birthplace was recorded as Atherton, Lancashire, although she had been born in Neston in 1878. In the 1911 census William (still a coal miner / hewer), Leah (whose birthplace was recorded correctly as Neston) were living with their six children at 35 Crawshay Street, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd, Rhondda:

William Frowen	34	coal miner hewer	born Newland, Glos.
Leah	32		born Neston
George W.	13	coal miner hewer	born Atherton, Lancs.
Arthur	12		born Atherton, Lancs.
Ernest	10		born Atherton, Lancs.
Albert	7		born Atherton, Lancs.
Emily Alice	4		born Ynysybwl, Glam.
Edith I.	1		born Ynysybwl, Glam.

Emily married Albert A Trigg in the Pontypridd district in mid-1928.

Edith Barnes, a younger sister of Nathan, married John Southern at Leigh Register Office in late 1900 and a son, Cornelius Southern, was born in Leigh in late 1901. John Southern died, aged 25, in Leigh in mid-1904 and, in mid-1908, Edith married George Joseph Lowe at the Primitive Methodist Church, Leigh Road, Leigh. A daughter, Doris Lowe, was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1909; her mother's name was recorded as Barnes and the address was Culcheth, a small village south of Leigh. At the time of the 1911 census the family, including Cornelius Southern, were boarding with Edith's parents at Coxhoe in County Durham (see census return, page 1277).

Nothing further is known of Rachel Barnes or Martha Barnes, although it is possible that Martha married a William Henry Goater in Leigh in early 1904.

It is believed that Nathan Barnes enlisted at Cramlington - although it is not known when - and he died on 1 July 1916 whilst serving with the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1<sup>st</sup> Tyneside Scottish).

The 20<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was formed at Newcastle on 14 October 1914 by the Lord Mayor and the City. The four Tyneside Scottish battalions contained as few as 25% Scots, the majority being Geordies attracted by the glamour of a "Scottish" regiment and north-easterners with some Scottish connection. An application for a full kilted uniform was rejected, however, and the Tyneside Scottish wore a Glengarry hat with each battalion being allowed to maintain a pipes and drums band.

Initially training in Newcastle City centre the 1<sup>st</sup> Tyneside Scottish moved to Alnwick camp, in the grounds of Alnwick castle, on 29 January 1915 for training and the troops remained here for the first part of the year. In June 1915, at Ripon, the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion came under the orders of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 34<sup>th</sup> Division and in late August 1915 they moved to Salisbury Plain to begin final training.

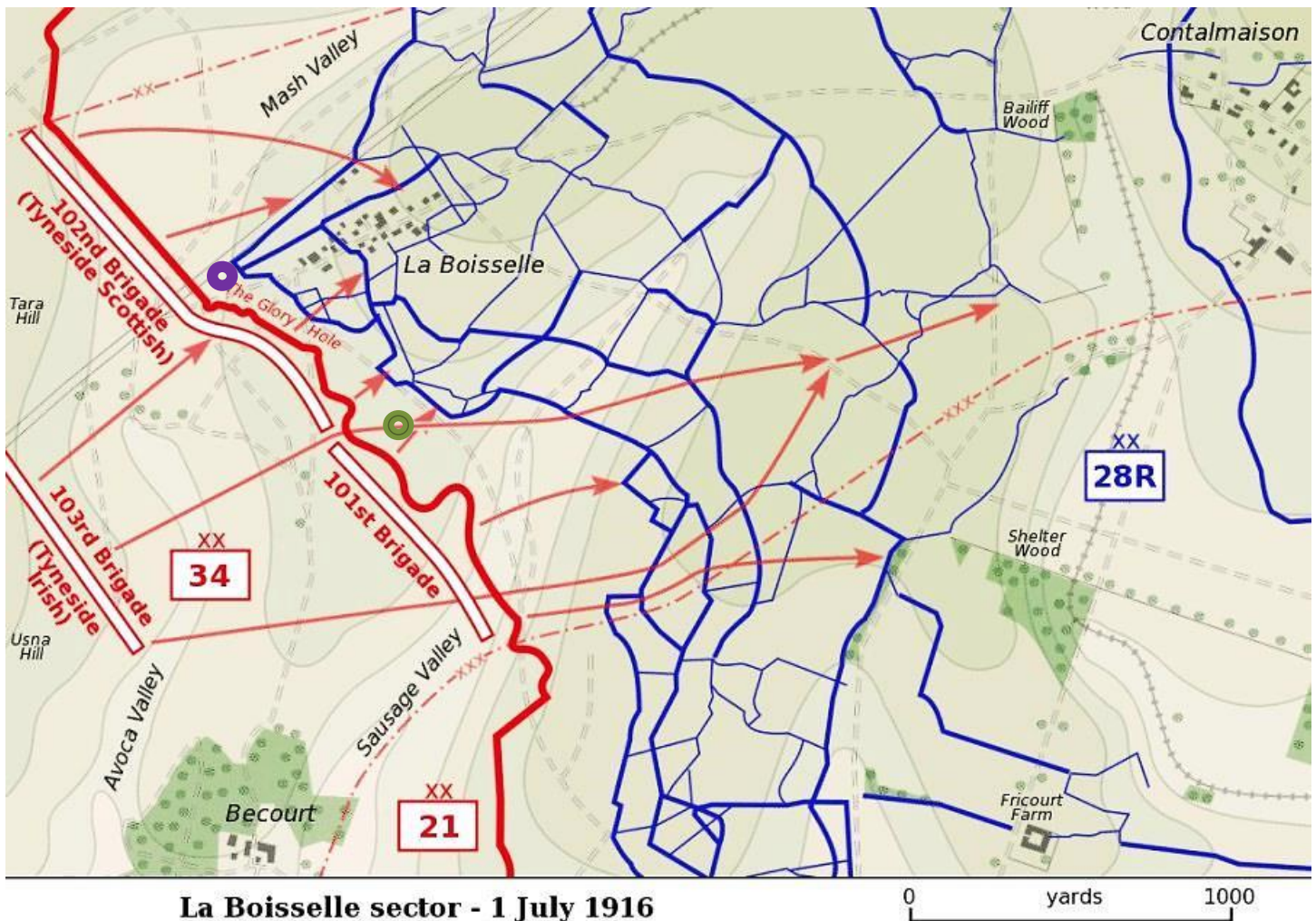
In January 1916, prior to mobilisation and the departure for France, the four battalions of the Tyneside Scottish were granted home leave, two battalions at a time. The first pair of battalions were granted six days leave, the second pair - the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tyneside Scottish - were given only four days. By mutual agreement the men of the second pair of battalions agreed to take the six days of leave they felt was their due and all failed to return at the appointed time. This massed mutiny went largely unpunished. Once in France the 1<sup>st</sup> Tyneside Scottish concentrated at La Crosse, east of St Omer.

The Tyneside Scottish first saw action in The Battle of the Somme. On 1 July 1916, the first day on the Somme (and the day on which Nathan Barnes died), the brigade attacked astride the Albert-Bapaume road, roughly in the centre of the British line opposite the fortified village of La Boisselle. It was up this road that the anticipated cavalry exploitation would be made. The importance of this sector meant that it was particularly well defended so, to support the attack, two large mines were detonated under the German positions on either side of La Boisselle, the Y Sap mine (40,600lb) to



the north and the Lochnagar mine (60,000lb) to the south. At the time, these were the largest mines ever detonated.

When the attack commenced at 7.30am, the entire infantry of the 101<sup>st</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (the Tyneside Scottish) and the 103<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (the Tyneside Irish) attacked in four columns. The front line troops moved from the British front line and the rear lines left from Tara and Usna Hills. The Scottish battalions were played into battle by their pipers and the objective of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was to pass to the north and south of La Boisselle. South of the road, in front of La Boisselle on a sector known as "The Glory Hole", no man's land was extremely narrow. Here the Tyneside Scottish managed to cross the first German trench line but were halted by intense machine gun fire with heavy casualties short of the village.

North of the road, the Tyneside Scottish had to advance up the wide killing ground of Mash Valley where no man's land was up to 750 yards wide and the advancing infantry were shelled from Ovillers to the north and La Boisselle to the south. Some men managed to cross the valley to the rear of La Boisselle but they were soon driven out and the survivors were forced to retreat.



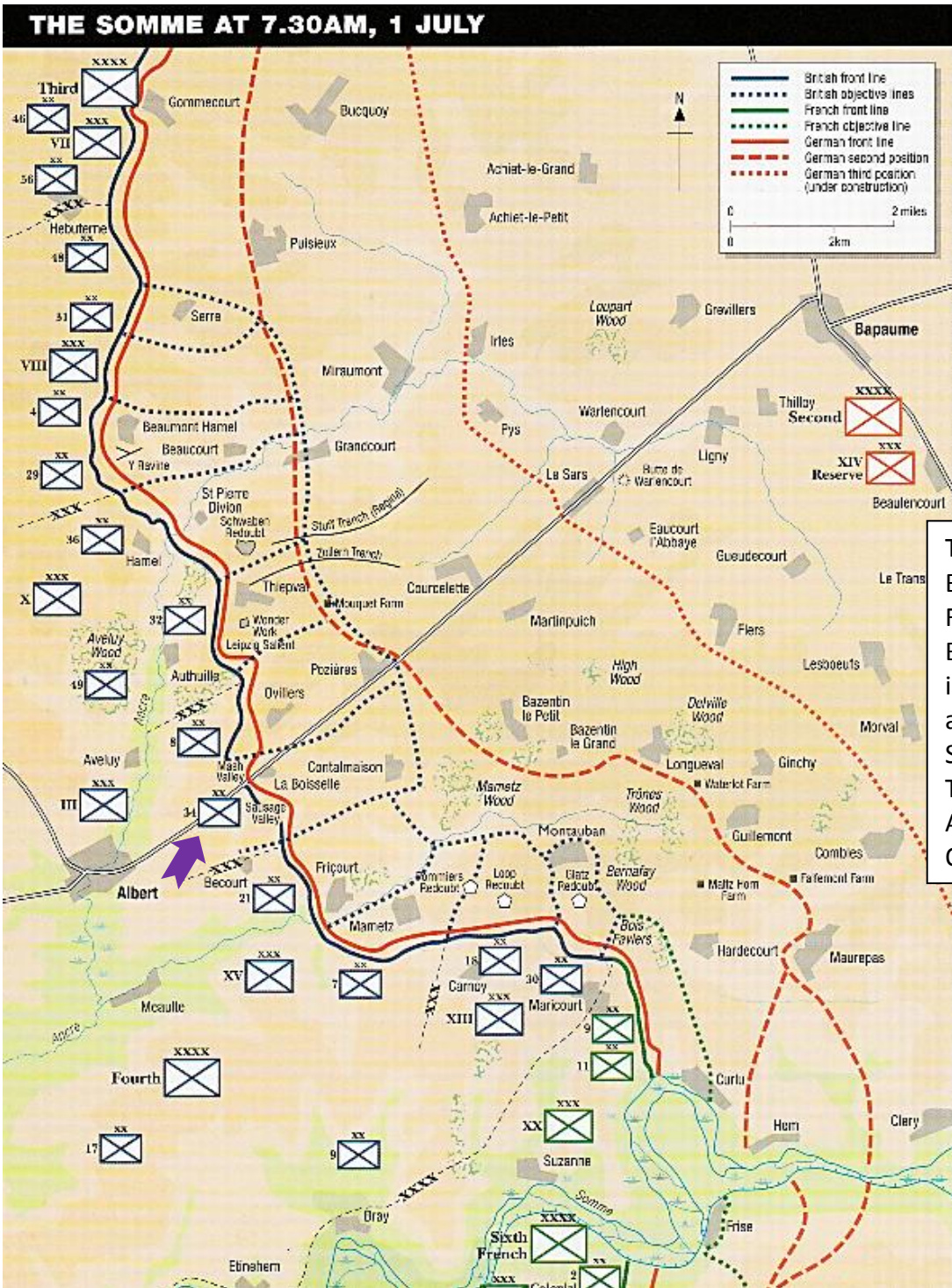
Sketch Map of La Boisselle with British movements on 1 July 1916

Approximate position of the Y Sap crater  and the Lochnagar crater . The Allied front line is shown in red and the German positions in blue. The British troop movements are shown with the red arrows.



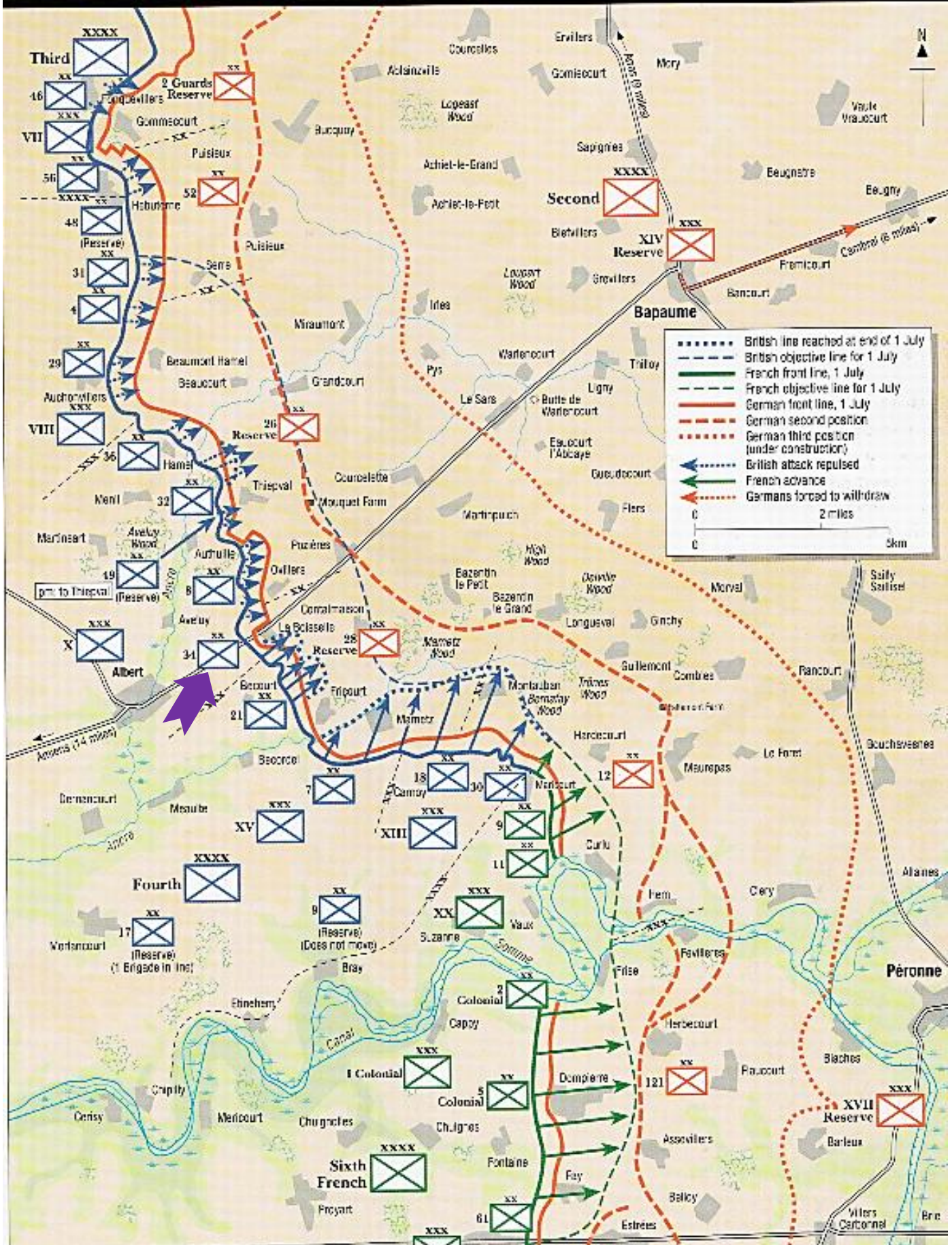


The Lochnagar crater (300ft wide and 70ft deep) on 1 July 2010, 94 years after it was created. The Y Sap crater was later infilled. [Source: www.lochnagarcrater.org]



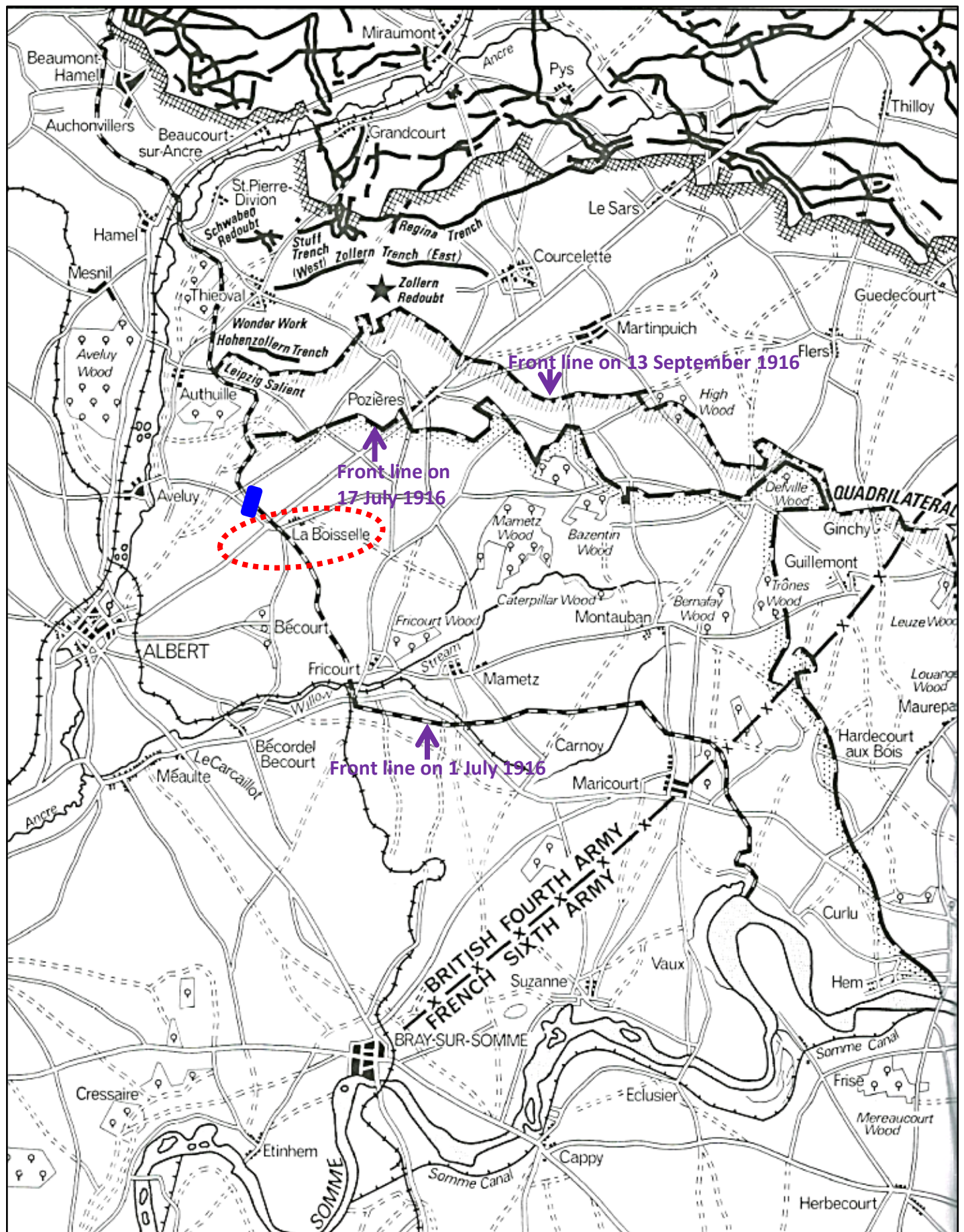
The location of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division) is indicated by the purple arrow. [Source: Somme: 1 July 1916 – Tragedy & Triumph Andrew Robertshaw Osprey Publishing 2006]

# THE SOMME AT NIGHTFALL, 1 JULY



The location of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division) is indicated by the purple arrow.

[Source: Somme: 1 July 1916 – Tragedy & Triumph Andrew Robertshaw Osprey Publishing 2006]



It is believed that Nathan Barnes was killed or mortally wounded by the Albert-Bapaume road near La Boisselle, outlined in red on this map, on 1 July 1916, the first day of The Battle of the Somme. The known position of the Tyneside Scottish at the commencement of the action on 1 July 1916 is shown by the blue bar to the north-west of La Boisselle.

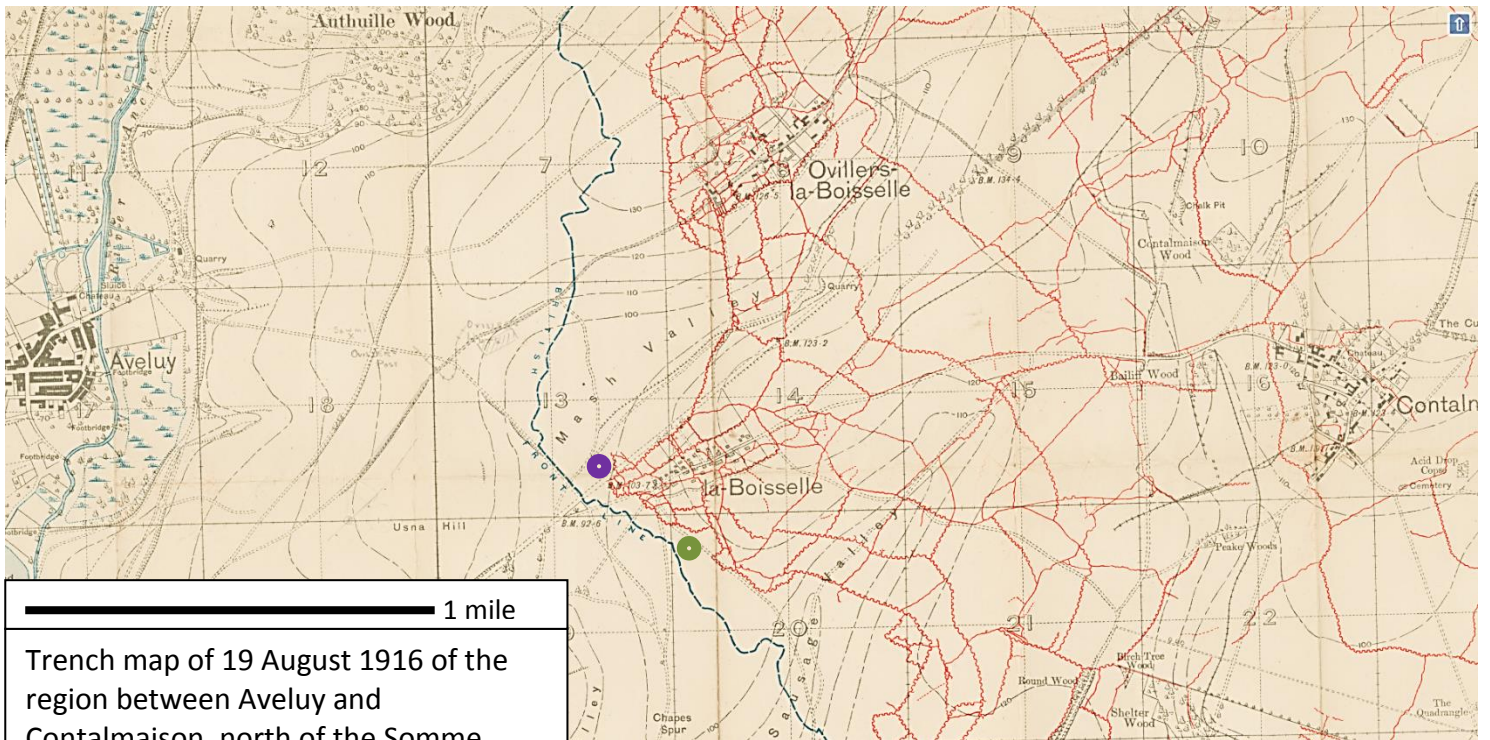
[Source: *A Military Atlas of the First World War* Arthur Banks Leo Cooper (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books) 2001 (The map shown here is the western half of the map in the book)]



British troops in a sunken road between La Boisselle and Contalmaison, July 1916

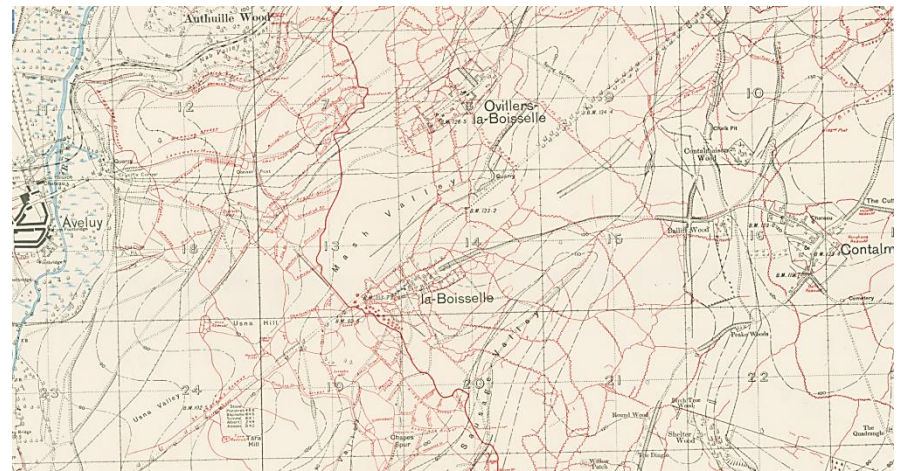
By the end of the day, the Tyneside Scottish were back where they started. The brigade suffered the worst losses of any brigade on 1 July (the Tyneside Irish Brigade had the next worst tally of casualties); the 1<sup>st</sup> Tyneside Scottish lost 584 men and all four battalion commanders were killed.

Although no records have been found detailing the circumstances of Nathen's involvement on 1 July, it is known that he was, initially, recorded as missing and it was not until November 1916 that it was confirmed that he had been killed in action.



Trench map of 19 August 1916 of the region between Aveluy and Contalmaison, north of the Somme. This map, representing the situation six weeks after the unsuccessful assault on La Boisselle shows the German trenches and positions (in red on this map) and the north-south British front line (in blue) to the west. As on the previous map, the locations of the two large mine craters have been indicated.

No eastwards gain in territory had taken place despite the heavy fighting in July and the trench map of 1 September 1916 (small map, opposite) shows that German forces had occupied the area as far west as the east side of Aveluy.



Source for both trench maps: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.  
 KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS.

Lance-Corporal Nathan Barnes, 10, Scott Street, Hartford Colliery, has been killed in action. He was reported missing on July 1.

Newcastle Journal - Saturday 18 November 1916

The first day of The Battle of the Somme was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army; on this day British forces suffered 57,470 casualties, including 19,240 fatalities and gained just three square miles of territory.

It is, therefore, interesting to note that Nathan Barnes was the only soldier with a Neston connection to be killed on this day.

[General information adapted mainly from:

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/333/tyneside-scottish/>

<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/northumberlandfusiliers20.php#sthash.3R970pd7.dpuf>]

George Barnes, Nathan's father, died in the Durham area in April/June 1919 aged 70.

Sarah Barnes, Nathan's mother, died at Sedgely, Co. Durham, in late 1929 aged 80.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BARNES Nathan	North's Fus	Pte	20/141
Medal	Coll.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	0/1/108/18	3856	Rm A
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

392868	20/141	Barnes Nathan	20th Bn 16th F. Fus. Local 20/141	1. 4. 16 France	York 12/16	3 8 3	3 8 3	7-0 4/7	3.4.17	Wid: Mary 3. 8 3. Self & children.								
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Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In June 1919 Nathan's widow, Mary (otherwise known as Polly), received a payment of outstanding wages of £3 8s 3d from the army and, in October, a War Gratuity of £7 10s. This, a total value of £10 18s 3d, is equivalent to a labour value (wages) of around £1700 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

Polly Barnes, Nathan's widow, married George A Catley in Tynemouth in late 1920 when she would have been about 46. George died, aged 48, in mid-1929 in the Tynemouth area. Polly died in late 1957 aged 82.

In the 1939 Register Polly, and two unmarried sons, were living at 10 Scott Street, Seaton Vally, Northumberland - this was the same house where Polly lived at the time of the 1911 census:

Polly Catley	born 12 October 1875	widow	
Norman W Barnes	born 1 October 1895	single	datal worker, colliery
David Barnes	born 8 March 1912	single	colliery hewer

Norman Wilfred Barnes died in late 1944 aged 48. He probably remained unmarried. It is not clear whether David Barnes married and it is not known when he died. George Meredith, Polly's father, died in Tynemouth in early 1934 aged 84.

Nathaniel Barnes, Nathan's second son, married Isabella Taylor at Tynemouth in late 1932; he died in late 1976 aged 68. In 1939 they were living at 29 Mortimer Street, Seaton Valley, Northumberland:

Nathaniel Barnes	born 27 December 1909	colliery hewer
Isabella	born 8 September 1913	

Three further lines of the record have been redacted

Nathaniel and Isabella may have had six children: Rose A (mid-1933) ; Laura N (mid-1935) ; Brenda (early 1938) ; Nathaniel (late 1940) ; Norman W (mid-1942) ; Margaret A (mid-1944).

Peter Barnes, an older brother of Nathan, had spent his working life on the Lancashire Coalfield. In 1939, Peter and his wife, Ellen, were recorded at 2 Chaddock Lane, Tyldesley, a mill and mining town about 7½ miles SE of Wigan:

Peter Barnes	born 21 February 1873	retired
Ellen	born 22 May 1876	retired

Peter Barnes died, aged 76, in early 1950 and Ellen may have died in mid-1963 aged 87. Darius Barnes, another older brother of Nathan, had spent much of his life working on the Yorkshire Coalfield. In 1939, a widower (his second wife, Ida, had died in mid-1931), Darius was living at 13 Sycamore Crescent, Wath-upon-Deerne, near Rotherham:

Edward Simmons	born 1 November 1889	colliery surface worker
Margaret H Simmons	born 21 February 1891	
Darius Barnes	born 17 December 1874	widower, colliery hewer

The relationship, if any, between Darius Barnes and Edward and Margaret Simmons is unknown. Darius died in the Rotherham district in late 1964 aged 90.

Leah Barnes, the eldest daughter of George and Sarah and Nathan's sister, married coal miner William M Frowen at Bolton Register Office in April / June 1896. William died, aged 60 in the Pontypridd district in late 1937 and in 1939 Leah was living at 5 Maybury Gardens, Willesden, in NW London with her married daughter and family:

Albert E Trigg	born 20 April 1902	plasterer
Emily A	born 16 September 1906	
Leah Frowen	born 20 October 1876	widow

One line of the record has been redacted.

It is unclear when Leah died.