

116: James Bell

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: James Bell

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 9th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Service Number: 75896

Date of Death: 22 March 1918

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Arras Memorial, Arras, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

James Bell was the oldest son of blacksmith James and Martha Bell. James Bell snr was the son of blacksmith William and midwife Elizabeth Bell of 69 Circus Street, Liverpool and it is believed that James married Martha Barlow at St James' Church, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, in April / June 1878. Their first child, Margaret, was born in about January 1881 when they were living in Gayton and James jnr was their second child and was also born in Gayton although, when his birth was registered in the 3rd quarter of 1881, the address was given as Neston. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* records him having been born in Neston but there is no record of his baptism at Neston Parish Church.

Walter Bell, the second surviving son of James snr and Martha, may have been their first child to be born in Neston; he was baptised, as Edward Walter, at the Parish Church on 9 October 1883. By the time of the 1891 census four further children had been born in Neston although Amelia (baptised 10 July 1890) died in July / September 1890; there is no record of her burial at Neston Parish Church:

Liverpool Rd	1	James Bell	Head.	39	Blacksmith		Liverpool
		Martha Do.	Wife	36			Heswall
		Margaret Do.	Daughter	12			Gayton
		James Do.	Son	10			Gayton
		Walter Do.	Do.	7			Neston
		Thomas Do.	Do.	6			Neston
		William Do.	Do.	5			Neston
		Elizabeth Do.	Daughter	4			Neston

1891 census (extract) – Liverpool Road, Neston

James Bell	39	blacksmith	born Liverpool
Martha	36		born Heswall
Margaret	12		born Gayton
James	10		born Gayton
Walter	7		born Neston
Thomas	6		born Neston
William	5		born Neston
Elizabeth	4		born Neston

By the time of the 1901 census the family had moved from Liverpool Road to Golden Lion Yard, a small area of low-quality housing and industry located in the centre of Neston to the rear of present-day 'Concept Interiors'. It is probable that the Bell's blacksmithy was also located in the Yard.

James Bell	Blacksmith	Worker	Cheshire England
Martha Bell			Do Do
James	Blacksmith	Worker	Do Do
Walter	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
Thomas	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
William	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
Elizabeth	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
Martha	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
Emily	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do
John	Blacksmith	Do	Do Do

1901 census (extract) – Golden Lion Yard, Neston

James Bell	48	blacksmith	born Cheshire
Martha	43		born Cheshire
James	19	railway porter	born Cheshire
Walter	17	farm labourer	born Cheshire
Thomas	15	telegraph messenger	born Cheshire
William	14		born Cheshire
Elizabeth	13		born Cheshire
Martha	9		born Cheshire
Emily	7		born Cheshire
John	6		born Cheshire

The baptisms of Thomas, William and Elizabeth at Neston have not been found.

By 1901 James had become a porter on the railway but, by the time of the 1911 census, he was recorded as a general labourer:

1	James Bell	Huband	58	58	Married 24	14	7	8	Blacksmith	(9)	marriage account	Don't	Liverpool Lancashire
2	Martha Bell	Wife	53	53	Married 24	14	9	5	"				Heswall Cheshire
3	James Bell	son	29	29	single				general labourer	330			Heswall Cheshire
4	William Bell	son	24	24	single				general labourer				Neston Cheshire
5	John Bell	son	17	17	single				apprentice Blacksmith		8		Neston Cheshire
6	Martha Bell	Daughter	18	18	single				(Widow & 160 Sumner)				Neston Cheshire

(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 columns.
 (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum 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 corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Total
 Males 4 Females 2 Persons 6

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

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

Signature *Mr James Bell*
 Postal Address *Golden Lion yard Neston*

14 rooms

1911 census (condensed) – Golden Lion Yard, Neston

James Bell	58	blacksmith	born Liverpool
Martha	53		born Heswall
James	29	general labourer	born Heswall
William	24	general labourer	born Neston
John	17	apprentice blacksmith (assisting in business)	born Neston
Martha	18		born Neston

James and Martha had been married for 34 years and nine of their fourteen children had survived.

Other known children of James and Martha Bell are:

- George baptised 24 November 1891 buried at Neston (1 year 3 months) 16 December 1892
- Martha baptised 12 February 1893
- Sarah Emma baptised 7 July 1894 and often referred to as Emily.
- John baptised privately on 10 October 1895
- Hannah baptised privately, 3 September 1897 buried at Neston (9 months) 6 September 1897
- Mary baptised privately, 3 September 1899 buried at Neston (11 days) 8 September 1899

Thomas Henry Bell, James' younger brother and the third son of James snr and Martha, died on 10 April 1915 whilst serving with the Cheshire Regiment in Belgium. He is commemorated on the memorial plaque in Neston Parish Church. [See [7: Thomas Henry Bell](#)].

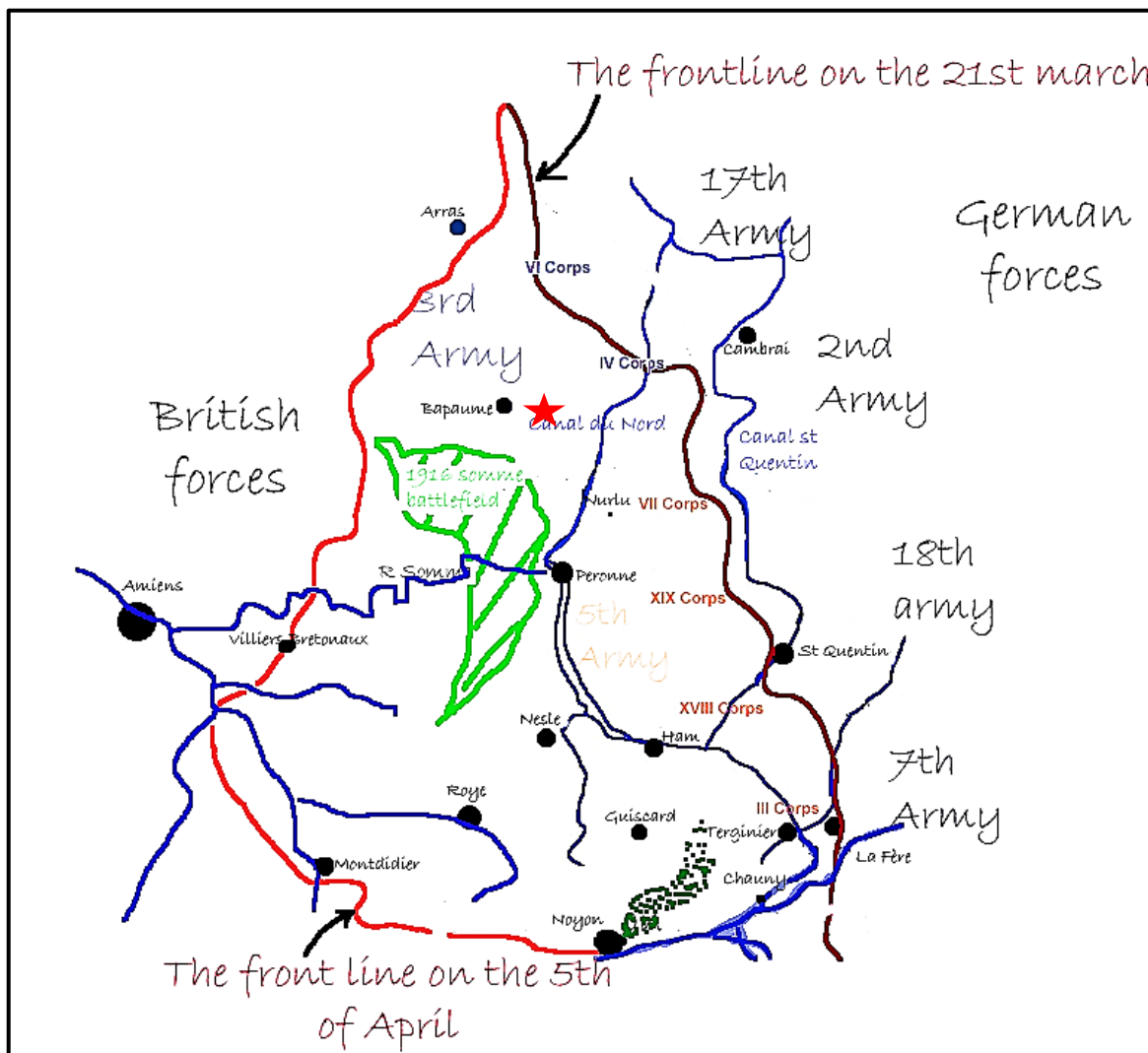
It is believed that James first enlisted, in Neston, in the Cheshire Regiment (with the Service Number 386) but transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers with whom he was serving when he was killed in action in March 1918.

The 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers was raised at Wrexham on 9 September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army and joined the 58th Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. They trained at Tidworth in south-east Wiltshire, spending the winter in billets in Basingstoke, before returning to Tidworth in March 1915 for final training. They proceeded to France, landing at Boulogne on 19 July 1915 and their first action was at Pietre, in a diversionary action supporting The Battle of Loos. In 1916 they were in action during The Battle of the Somme, capturing La Boisselle and being involved in the attacks on High Wood, The Battles of Pozieres Ridge, the Ancre Heights and the Ancre. In 1917 they were in action in The Battle of Messines and The Third Battles of Ypres and in March 1918 at The Battle of St Quentin (21 - 23 March) where James Bell was killed. This action in March 1918 resulted from *Operation Michael*, a major German military operation that began the Spring Offensive. It was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin and its goal was to break through the Allied lines and advance in a north-westerly direction to seize the Channel ports, which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and to drive the BEF into the sea. Two days later General Erich Ludendorff changed his plan and pushed for an offensive due west, along the whole of the British front north of the River Somme. This was designed to separate the French and British Armies and crush the British forces by pushing them to the coast. The offensive ended at Villers-Bretonneux, to the east of the Allied communications centre at Amiens, where the Entente managed to halt the German advance; the German armies had suffered many casualties and they were unable to maintain supplies to the advancing troops. Wikipedia notes that:

Much of the ground fought over in March 1918 was the wilderness left by the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The failure of the German offensive marked the beginning of the end of the First World War. The arrival in France of large reinforcements from the United States replaced Entente casualties but the German Army was unable to recover from its losses before these reinforcements took the field. Operation Michael failed to achieve its objectives and the German advance was reversed during the Second Battle of the Somme, 1918 (21 August – 3 September) in the Allied Hundred Days Offensive.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives the following information about this battle:

The colossal German offensive launched on 21 March, following the largest bombardment ever seen on the Western Front, resulted in spectacular successes but failed to achieve the outright breakthrough sought by Ludendorff. Slowed by the innumerable defiant actions of



The front line between British and German forces, 21 March - 5 April 1918. The approximate location of James Bell when he was killed is indicated by the red star and the area of the 1916 Somme battlefield is cross-hatched in green. [Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Michael#St._Quentin]

outnumbered garrisons in isolated British redoubts, the end of the day, contrary to German expectations, saw the greatest gains achieved against Gough's Fifth Army on the front from St Quentin to the Oise. The night of 21/22 March witnessed a frenzy of activity as near-reeling British Divisions readjusted to the incursions into their defensive zones and German forces were reinforced to inflict further damage.

Dense mist again prevailed on the morning of the 22 March; a day of intense and continual fighting. Third Army continued to hold ferocious German assaults in its Battle Zone until mid-afternoon when its centre was forced back producing scenes of disarray on the Bapaume-Cambrai road. More seriously Fifth Army, under incessant pressure began to show worrying signs of collapse. No longer holding a continuous front, extensive enemy infiltration between its units destroyed any semblance of co-ordinated defence; in the bewildering turmoil of exhausting and never-ending small retirements British casualties were heavy.

The Germans were through the Reserve Line by evening. Facing an unprecedented disaster all available troops were hastily thrown into action on 23 March to bolster the failing Fifth Army but were unable to stop German infantry swarming over the Somme; Péronne was evacuated. A near forty-mile wide breach was made in the British line; Fifth and Third Armies became perilously separated. Haig ordered in his depleted reserves, desperately sought further aid from the French and in high anxiety for the safety of the entire BEF ordered the construction of new rear defence lines on which to hold the expected continued German onslaught.

The official transcript of the War Diary entries covering the presumed date of death of James Bell (22 March 1918) are given on this and the following pages.

9th (S) Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Narrative of Events from 22nd March 1918 to 29th March 1918.

- 29th March The Battalion was in HERRICK CAMP between HAPLINCOURT and BERTINCOURT. The enemy barrage opened about 5-0 a.m. on the Front Line. At 7-0 a.m. the Transport Lines just west of BERTINCOURT were heavily shelled and several men and ~~some~~ mules hit. Several direct hits were registered on the Quartermaster's Stores resulting in a loss of most of the Stores.
- The Battalion "stood to" at 5-0 a.m. and awaited orders until about 11-30 a.m. when a move was made to assembly positions in GAIKA COPSE, west of VELU WOOD.
- The neighbourhood of this position was somewhat heavily shelled during the morning and early afternoon.
- At 4-30 p.m. orders were received to move up and dig a new line on the BEAUMETZ - HERMIES Ridge.
- The 9th. Welsh Regt: dug on the Right and the 9th. R.W.F. on the Left and the 6th. Wiltshire Regt: in Support. This line was partially dug by 9-30 a.m. when orders were received to rest the men as much as possible as another move was impending.
- At 10-30 p.m. orders were received to move back behind the crest on which trenches had been dug and await further orders for a move.
- 22nd March. At 12-30 a.m. on the 22nd: orders were received to move to the Cross Roads at I.28.b.6.3. (Map Sheet 57c N.W.).
- This move was completed by 4-0 a.m. and the Battalion was accommodated in a hut Camp at this point.
- At 9-30 a.m. orders were received to move forward and dig a new line covering the two ridges in I.10 and I.11. about 500 yards South West of the village of MORCHIES. The 6th. Wiltshire Regt: digging a line down the road running due South from MORCHIES to the BEETROOT FACTORY in I.17.d.
- This line was dug in without trouble by 1-0 p.m. and Battalion H.Q. established in the ~~same~~ road at I.17.a.5.7. Three Companies were in the front line and one in Support. The Wilts: H.Q. were established in the same place.
- A Battalion of Cheshires in the 25th. Division were dug in 200 yards behind the line taken up by this Battalion and ~~their~~ Battalion H.Q. were in position at the same point as ours. Touch was maintained on the Right with the 6th. Wiltshire Regt: but no connection could be secured with any troops on the Left flank.
- Two Companies of the 9th. Welsh Regt: were at, about 2-30 p.m., thrown in on the Left flank to endeavour to get into touch with any troops who might be in this neighbourhood.
- At about 2-30 p.m. the enemy could be seen massing in large numbers on the high ground between VAULX and MORCHIES.
- It appeared at this time that some of our troops were in positions North and West of MORCHIES and the 1st. Leicesters subsequently withdrew through our lines. The enemy developed a heavy attack about 3-30 p.m. along the whole of the front occupied by this Battalion which was beaten off at all points with much loss to him.
- Cavalry could be seen on the high ground before mentioned in support of this attack.
- A counter attack with a large number of tanks was started by us at about 5-0 p.m. which was supported by two Coys: of the 9th. Welsh Regt:.. These Coys: failed to materialise but one Coy: of the Cheshire Regt: (25th. Division) ultimately supported the tanks.
- The enemy was driven back over the line of the MORCHIES VAULX Road by this counter-attack and could be seen fleeing up the high ground North of this Road.
- Many tanks however were knocked out and at dusk the enemy again crossed the line of this Road.
- A Battalion of Royal West Kents and a Battalion of the

22nd. March. Queens West Surrey Regt of the 41st. Division came up after
(contd:) dark and the line was reorganised as follows :-

The R.W.Kents relieved the two Companies of the 9th. Welsh Regt and the left Coy: of the 9th. R.W.Fus: with four Companies, their line running approximately from I.9. Central to I.10. Central.

Three Coys: of the 9th. R.W.Fus: from I.10. Central to I.11.b.6.2. (one of these Coys: having relieved the left Coy: of the 6th. Wiltshire Regt:).

The 4th. Coy: of the 9th. R.W.Fus: in Support in I.10.d.

The 6th. Wiltshire Regt: line ran from I.11.b.6.2. to the BEETROOT FACTORY in I.17.d.

The Queens relieved the Cheshire Battalion previously mentioned and the Cheshire Battalion dug a new line from the BEETROOT FACTORY in I.17.d. to Battalion H.Q. at I.17.a.5.7.

Another Brigade of the 41st. Division were to continue the Left flank of the R.W.Kents but this Brigade appears to have lost its way in the dark, at any rate the Left of the R.W.Kents was reported during the night to be in the air.

During the night of the 22/23rd March 6 prisoners and one Machine Gun were captured by the 9th. R.W.F. by patrols.

Consolidation was continued during the night 22/23rd and the early morning of the 23rd.

at 7-0 a.m. on the 23rd: the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the 6th. Wilts: front and the troops in front of them were seen coming back although no attack actually developed on the 6th. Wiltshire Regt.

During the whole of the morning of the 23rd. the enemy could be seen massing on the VAULX MORCHIES high ground and moving in a S.W. direction. The whole area was very heavily shelled, particularly Battalion H.Q., and no connection was possible either with Companies or Brigade except by runner or pigeon after about noon.

At about noon reports were received that the right flank of the 6th. Wiltshire Regt: was in the air.

This news with various other information and a request for Artillery support was sent off by pigeon.

Orders were received about noon by runner from Brigade that the line would be withdrawn after dark to the Green Line West of BEUGNY.

A conference of the 5 Commanding Officers was arranged and it was decided to endeavour to support the Right flank by throwing out two Companies of the Cheshire Battalion to make a line of Posts from the BEETROOT FACTORY in a S.W. direction.

This was done without opposition in the first place but it subsequently appeared that the enemy were working round the flank of these posts. at 3-15 p.m. orders were received from the 58th. Brigade to withdraw in small groups to a line round East and N.E. of BEUGNY.

The 41st. Division had received no orders to withdraw and it was obvious that we could not withdraw without involving them. The 5 Commanding Officers again conferred and orders were sent to all Companies to withdraw at once.

The shelling by this time had become most intense on Battalion H.Q. and it subsequently transpired that no runner got through to Coys: with this message.

Various attempts were made with Battalion H.Q. Staff to form a defensive flank but all these attempts were completely wiped out by the enemy barrage.

The remaining two Coys: of the Cheshire Battalion were also practically wiped out by the same barrage.

The Battalion H.Q. of the 6th. Wiltshire Regt:, 9th. R.W.Fus: and the Cheshire Battalion came away at 5-0 p.m. after it became obvious that Companies were endeavouring to withdraw, but very few managed to get through the barrage and undoubtedly many Officers, N.C.O's and men were captured in the Battalion H.Q. Dug-out.

By 5-0 p.m. the enemy had worked up the BAPAUME - UGENSB

23rd. March.

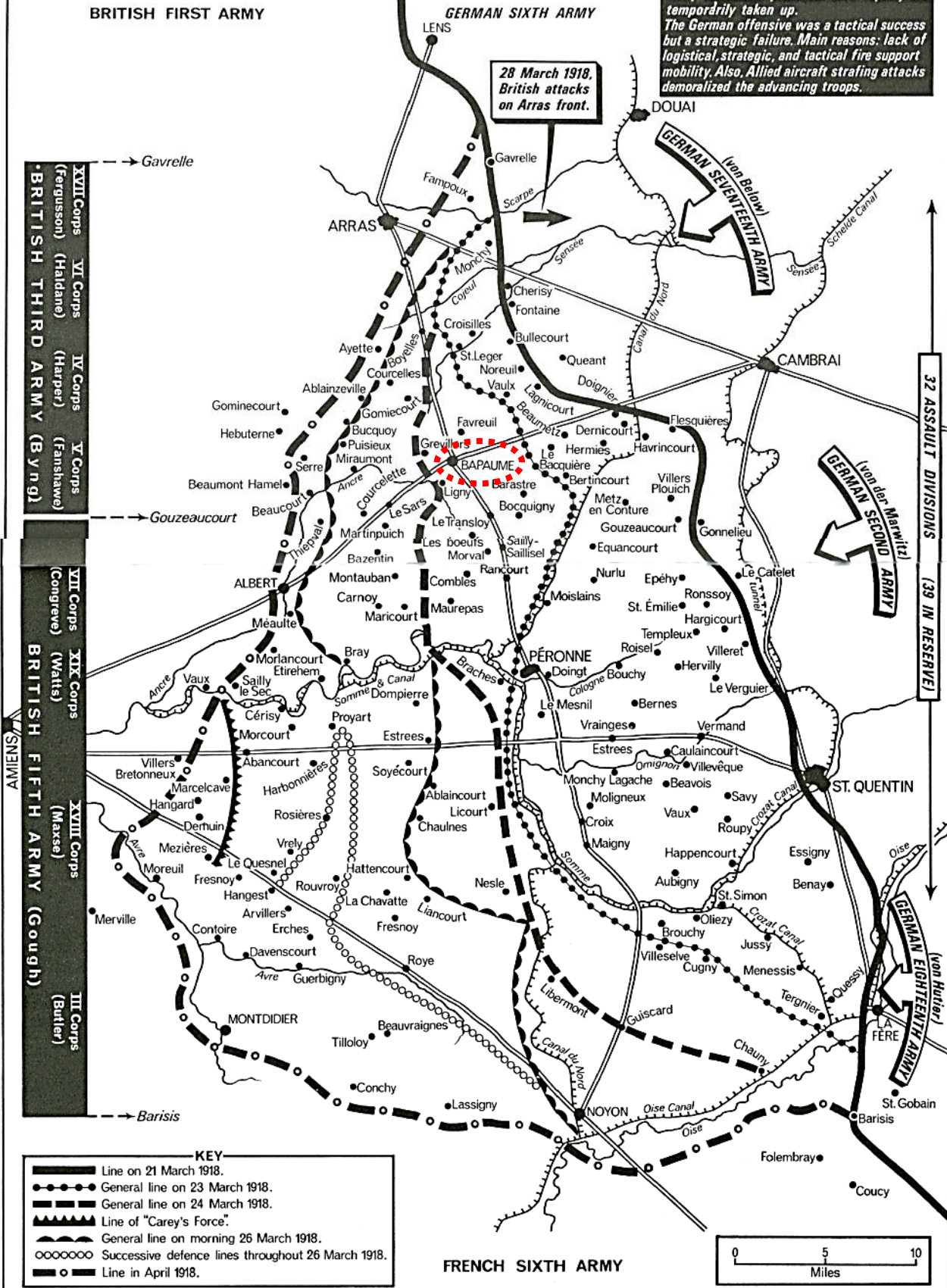
- 23rd. March. CAMBRIA Road practically to BEUGNY and it appeared from his Machine Gun fire that he was established on the high ground in I.10.a.
- Accurate information as to times, etc: cannot be given as escape seemed so impossible that all papers, etc: were burned before leaving Battalion H.Q. at 5-0 p.m.
- The Green Line was reached at about 6-30 p.m. and all available troops were reorganised
- The 9th. R.W.Fus: were then about 60 strong with 9 Officers.
- A line was consolidated behind the Green Line in I.20.a by the Battalion. No further attacks took place that night.
- 24th. March. Next morning, 24th., an attack was delivered on the 9th. Cheshire and 9th. Welsh Regts: who were holding the Green Line in I.20.d. This attack was driven off.
- At 11-0 a.m. orders were received that if a withdrawal was forced by the enemy this would take place to the Red Line East of BAPAUME and troops would withdraw fighting.
- At about 2-30 p.m. the troops on the Right of this Division gave way and it was decided to withdraw the Welsh Regt: covered by the 9th. R.W.Fus and South Wales Borderers who had come up in Support. The enemy pressed forward so quickly that it was considered necessary to counter attack on to the high ground N.E. of FREMICOURT. This was carried out and the retirement carried out in an orderly manner to the Red Line which was reached at 6-30 p.m.
- The troops were again organised on the Red Line and the position on this line was as follows :-
- Remains* The remainder of the 56th. Brigade were in the Brickyard in H.28.c., one Battalion of the 56th. Brigade (9th. Cheshires) was on the Right and subsequently one Battalion of the Worcesters were on the Left, extending from the BAPAUME - CAMBRIA Road to the Road and Railway junction in H.28.a.
- At about 10-0 p.m. the 9th. Cheshire Regt: reported that they had had orders to withdraw and at the same time orders were received by the 57th. Brigade Units on the Left to withdraw. It was therefore decided to withdraw all Units to the West of BAPAUME in H.31.d. This withdrawal was carried out without opposition and a fresh position was taken up on the Road running through H.31.a. and c. to the BAPAUME - ALBERT Road at which point a junction was effected with the 56th. Brigade. The Line was held with the 6th. Wiltshire Regt: on the Left, the 9th. R.W.Fus: in the Centre and the 9th. Welsh on the Right. Position was taken up at about 11-30 p.m.
- A draft of 60 men from the Depot met the Battalion on this Road bringing the strength of 80 rifles. (approximately).
- 25th. March. At 7-0 a.m. on the 25th. it became apparent that the enemy were approaching from the South East and heavy Machine Gun fire and sniping started from this direction.
- At 9-0 a.m. the Shropshire Light Infantry withdrew 500 yards to a trench on the Right leaving the Right flank of the Welsh in the air. This flank was withdrawn to conform.
- At 9-50 a.m. it would seem that the troops on the Left were being pushed back on GREVILLERS.
- At this time the 56th. Brigade were holding the high ground in G.38.d. with the 56th. Brigade running in a S.W. direction from this point and the 57th. Brigade running in a N.E. direction to the East of GREVILLERS.
- By 10-30 a.m. the 57th. Brigade had come back on GREVILLERS and as a dangerous salient was then formed the 56th. Brigade withdrew to a line running along the edge of LOUPART WOOD through a previously organised line held by the 9th. Cheshires and some troops of the 56th. Brigade who had been sent back to cover the retirement on a line running roughly along the Sunken Road in G.35.b. and d.
- The line to the East of LOUPART WOOD was not given up until 1-3 0 p.m. when the enemy had attacked several times and been beaten off, and only then because both the Right and Left flanks were in the air.
- The Brigade then retired through the 51st. Division and took up a position in G.38.c. on a line running N.E. from the Quarry in that square. This line was reached by 4-0 p.m.

THE GERMAN ADVANCE AND THE BRITISH RETREAT MARCH - APRIL 1918

Important note: on 3 April, the Allied armies were unified under one supreme "generalissimo" (Foch).

RIVAL STRENGTHS		
ARMIES	DIVISIONS	GUNS
German 17th. Army	25	2,234
German 2nd. Army	21	1,751
German 18th. Army	25	2,623
British 3rd. Army	14	1,120
British 5th. Army	12	1,566

This map depicts the German advance and the British retreat between 21 March and 28 March 1918, together with the line re-established on 4 and 5 April 1918. On 22 March, the first breakthrough south of the River Somme occurred, and by 26 March, the lines of the British Fifth Army (south of the Somme) were near to total disintegration. Between 26 and 27 March, many successive positions were rapidly and temporarily taken up. The German offensive was a tactical success but a strategic failure. Main reasons: lack of logistical, strategic, and tactical fire support mobility. Also, Allied aircraft strafing attacks demoralized the advancing troops.

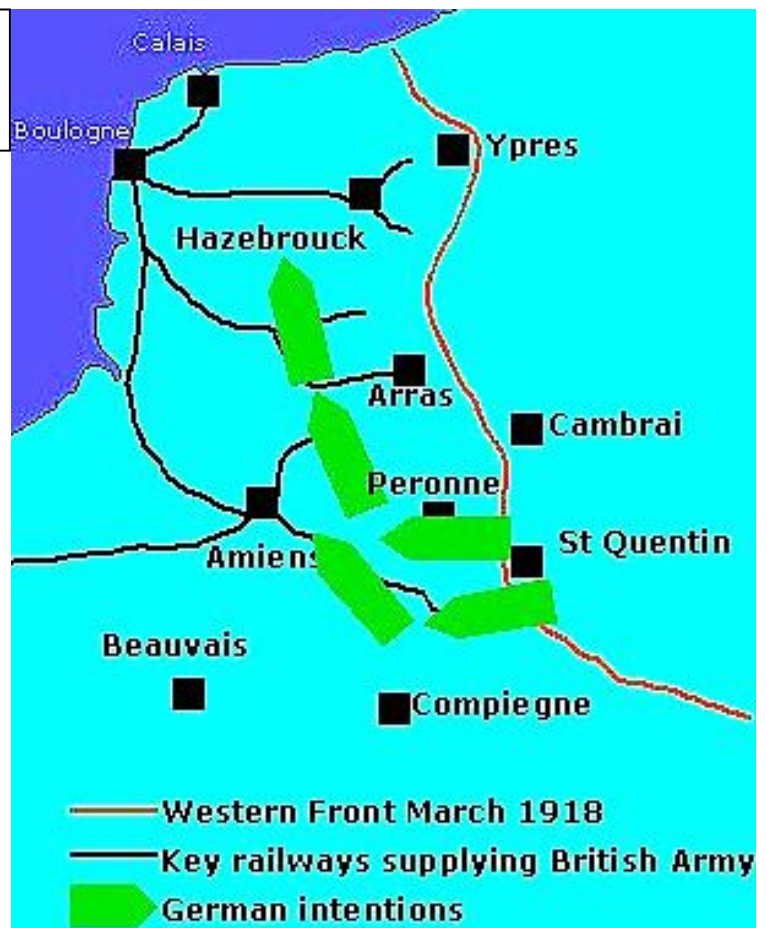


James Bell died on 27 March 1918 to the south-west of Bapaume (encircled in red) [Source: *A Military Atlas of the First World War* Arthur Banks Leo Cooper (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books) 2001]

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battles/battles-of-the-western-front-in-france-and-flanders/the-first-battles-of-the-somme-1918/>

Between 21 and 28 March 1916 the 9th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers recorded that 446 men were killed, wounded or missing, 'the greater part of whom were missing', together with 3 officers killed, 5 wounded, 3 wounded and missing and 3 missing.

As James Bell is commemorated on the Arras Memorial it is clear that his body was never found or that his grave was not discovered. The memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the UK, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave.



Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£			s.	d.	£	
912421	776573	Bell, James	9th Welsh Private 45896	Provence 22.3.18 Death presumed Sept. 19 France		26	6	4				11/1/19, Lt. James	26	6	4	
		Includes War Gratuity £20. 10/-														

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In mid-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. James's father, James, received a payment of £26 6s 4d which included a war Gratuity of £20 10s, an unusually large payment. The £26 6s 4d is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £4100 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.

James Bell snr died, aged 77, in mid-1929 and Martha Bell died, aged 80, in mid-1938.

Of James' brothers, Edward Walter died in early 1938 aged 54, William died in late 1943 aged 53 and John died in early 1950 aged 57.

At the time of the 1939 Register John and William were living at 7 Talbot Gardens off Burton Road, Neston:

John Bell born 23 August 1895 widower blacksmith
 William Bell born 3 November 1886 single gardener in domestic service

Two lines of the record have been redacted

John Bell had married Martha Jane Dodd at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1920 but Martha died, aged 32, towards the end of that year following the birth of a daughter, also registered as Martha Jane Bell. Martha jnr married Stanley Gordon Bennett (although the marriage register also names him as Peter) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in mid-1945.

As noted previously, Thomas Henry Bell died in Belgium on 10 April 1915 whilst serving with the Cheshire Regiment. [See **7: Thomas Henry Bell**].

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
BELL James	R.W.Fos.	Plt	75896
Medal.	Batt.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY BARRIS	J/2/102	827	8846
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920



Operation Michael. German reserves marching forward along the Albert road, March 1918. Imperial war Museum photo, from <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battles/battles-of-the-western-front-in-france-and-flanders/the-first-battles-of-the-somme-1918/>