

## 138: Norman Hawling

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Norman Hawling  
 Rank: Lance Corporal  
 Battalion / Regiment: 16th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers attd. 5th Bn. Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry  
 Service Number: 40548 Date of Death: 04 April 1918 Age at Death: 24  
 Buried / Commemorated at: Pozieres Memorial, Pozieres, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France  
 Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Thomas Albert and Mary Ann Hawling of Rock Cottage, Victoria Rd., Little Neston

Norman Hawling was a son of 'medicine dispenser' [pharmacist] Thomas and Mary Ann Hawling.

Thomas and Mary Noble had married in the West Ham district of London in July/September 1885 after Mary's first husband, James Noble, had died in Woolwich in late 1883 aged 25. Both James and Mary were, in the 1881 census, recorded as draper's assistants and they had two children both of whom are recorded in later census returns. Mary (née Timbs) and James had married in Poplar in late 1879.

It is possible that Norman Hawling had no strong or immediate connection to Neston and that his parents moved to the town shortly before, or sometime after, he was killed in April 1918.

At the time of the 1891 census the family was living in Oldham where their second child, Gladys, had been born in early 1890. By 1911, still in Oldham, the size of the family had increased significantly (Norman had been born in early 1894):

Thomas Albert	Head	38	Dispenser	Medicines	Worker	Boston Lincs.
Mary Ann	Wife	39				Poplar London
Constance A.F.	Daughter	14				Plumstead London
Gladys		11				Oldham Lancs.
Thomas Albert	Son	9				"
Norman		7				"
Doris	Daughter	3				"
Cyril	Son	5				"
Mildred Ann Noble	Step-daughter	20	Confectioner's asst.			Poplar London
Winifred Marie	Step-daughter	19				"

1901 census (extract) - 474 Ashton Road, Oldham

Thomas Albert Hawling	38	dispenser medicines	born Boston, Lincs.
Mary Ann	39		born Poplar, London
Constance A.F.	14		born Plumstead, London
Gladys	11		born Oldham
Thomas Albert	9		born Oldham
Norman	7		born Oldham
Doris	3		born Oldham
Cyril	5		born Oldham
Mildred Ann Noble	20	step-daughter, confectioner's asst.	born Poplar, London
Winifred Marie Noble	19	step-daughter	born Poplar



474 Ashton Road, Oldham  
[Source: Google StreetView]

Constance was registered as Constance Alberta F Hawling in Woolwich in early 1887.

Although the family then consisted of ten persons, 474 Ashton Road (now the A627, the main road leading south to Ashton-under-Lyne) was a relatively small terraced house and probably inadequate for a growing family.

Certainly, ten years later, at the time of the 1911 census, the family had moved the small distance north to Marlborough Street, a quieter residential area although the house is no longer standing.

It is interesting to note that Cyril and Doris had both become apprentice drapers, the profession of Mary Ann and her first husband some thirty years earlier:

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

*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 SURNAME	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.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.			
Thomas Albert Hawling	Head	48	Married	25					Dispenser of medicine	Worker	Boston, Lincs.		
Mary Ann Hawling	Wife	49	Married	25	9	8	1		Shop assistant, drapery	Worker	Poplar, London E		
Gladys Hawling	Daughter	24	Single						Clerk, Law	Worker	Oldham, Lancs		
Thomas Albert Hawling	Son	19	Single						Dispensary assistant	Worker	Oldham		
Norman Hawling	Son	17	Single						Draper's apprentice		Oldham		
Cyril Hawling	Son	15	Single						Draper's apprentice		Oldham		
Doris Hawling	Daughter	13							do		Oldham		
Eileen Hawling	Daughter	9							School	School	Oldham		
Gwendoline Hawling	Daughter	5							School		Oldham		
Mildred Ann Noble	Step-daughter	30	Single						Confectioner's manageress	Worker	Poplar, London		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—

Total.	Dist.		
	Males	Females	Persons
	4	6	10

(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 (Kitchens 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: Thomas Albert Hawling  
Postal Address: 49, Marlborough St., Oldham  
Seven

1911 census (condensed) – 49, Marlborough Street, Oldham

Thomas Albert Hawling	48	dispenser of medicine	born Boston, Lincs.
Mary Ann	49		born Poplar, London
Gladys	24	shop assistant, drapery	born Oldham
Thomas Albert	19	clerk, law	born Oldham
Norman	17	dispensary assistant	born Oldham
Cyril	15	draper's apprentice	born Oldham
Doris	13	draper's apprentice	born Oldham
Eileen	9		born Oldham
Gwendoline	5		born Oldham
Mildred Ann Noble	30	step-daughter, confectioner's manageress	born Poplar, London

Thomas and Mary had been married for 25 years and eight of their nine children had survived.

Whilst Norman Hawling's Service Record has not been found, so details of his army service and death are unknown, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he was serving with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, then attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, when he died on 4 April 1918. It is known, however, that he served previously with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* records that Norman enlisted at Upperwell, Lancashire, although this is probably a mis-recording and he probably enlisted at Uppermill, a village east of Oldham.

The 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (Newcastle) Northumberland Fusiliers was formed at Newcastle in September 1914 by the Newcastle & Gateshead Chamber of Commerce; it came under the orders of the 96<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division and in June 1915 the troops landed at Boulogne on 22 November 1915 and remained on the Western Front. On 7 February 1918, whilst in Belgium, the Battalion was disbanded and its personnel were transferred to various Territorial Force battalions, Norman Hawling moving to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 14<sup>th</sup> Division:

The record of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry is documented and, in early 1918 and covering Norman's death on 4 April, it is known that:

*On New Year's Day the Battalion was on the move again back to the Somme country, where January was spent mostly in training. About the middle of the month the 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was ordered to shed a Battalion, and for a few days the fate of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion hung in the balance. Eventually, however, it was decided that the 6<sup>th</sup> King's Shropshire Light Infantry should be broken up to furnish reinforcements, instead of the 5<sup>th</sup> Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, and during February the Battalion was in the trenches at Bois d'Urvilliers, with rest intervals at Montescourt. The first twenty days of March were similarly spent, and all was quiet. Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> descended the German avalanched....*

*On that day and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the Battalion put up a stout fight, but, being overwhelmed by numbers, was withdrawn only with difficulty. On the 4<sup>th</sup> April it again came in for further hot fighting, and was again forced back, its casualties in the fortnight having amounted to some twenty-six officers and upwards of five hundred men. Lieut.-Colonel Sebastian, who had commanded the Battalion so successfully in many of its previous fights, met with a motor accident on his way to rejoin from leave in England, and was still suffering from the effects when he took up the command on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Next day he fell mortally wounded, and the command of the Battalion devolved on Major Labouchere, who, unfortunately, was wounded and captured in the engagement of the 4<sup>th</sup> April, when Captain S. L. Symonds (the Adjutant) brought the remnants of the Battalion out of action. This chapter of accidents, together with the depletion of all ranks, sealed the fate of the Battalion, although its ultimate disappearance as a fighting unit was deferred for a while. Major Barwell (wounded and invalided to England in 1917) now rejoined and assumed command. An effort was made to patch up the Battalion by amalgamating with it some 10 officers and 300 men of the 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry, but these were required for reinforcing other units, and were presently withdrawn.* [www.lightbobs.com]

The War Diary gives further detail of the troop movements around the date of Norman's death, 4 April 1918:



Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28-3-18		Weather breaks. Battn. moves in afternoon to SARRONS; arriving 11pm. everyone wet through. Much trouble in getting billets.	///
	29-3-18		Moved at midday to NOGENT, transport following independently, arriving there at 5.30pm. Busses expected at 9. 9% no busses, 12% no busses.	///
	30-3-18		Embuss at 1am. arrive LOEVILLY 11am. Fairly good billets. Accommodation chiefly occupied by refugees. Rain tumbling down.	///
	31-3-18		Very wet day. 5 officers and 200 other ranks joined from Glosters & Northumberland Fusiliers 13th Entrenching Battn.	///

23-3-18 Weather breaks. Battn. moves in afternoon to SARRONS; arriving 11 p.m. everyone wet through. Much trouble in getting billets.

29-3-18 Move at midday to NOGENT, transport following independently, arriving there at 5.30 p.m. Busses expected at 9. 9 p.m. no busses. 12 p.m. no busses.

30-3-18 Embuss at 1 a.m., arrive LOEVILLY 11 a.m. Fairly good billets. Accommodation chiefly occupied by refugees. Rain tumbling down.

31-3-18 Very wet day. 5 officers and 200 other ranks joined from Glosters & Northumberland Fusiliers 13th Entrenching Battn.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

**WAR DIARY**  
OF  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
(Erase heading not required.)

5 Ox & 7 Buckets

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-4-18		Embuss at 3 p.m., taken to ST. NICHOLAS, whence we move to small valley behind the BOIS DE GENTELLES. In reserve to 41st and 43rd Brigades.	///
	2-4-18		Fine day - remain in valley all day. Relieved at night by French. March to BOIS DE BLANGY in pouring rain. Bivouac for night in wood.	///
	3-4-18		Remain in wood till afternoon, when we march to HAMELET. Battn. rests here for 3 hours. Move out at 8 p.m. and relieve cavalry holding line just east of HAMEL. All 4 companies in front line.	///
	4-4-18		Heavy bombardment opens 5-25am. About 8% Boche attack employing at least 4 waves of troops. Both flanks go. Battn. forced to evacuate position. Line taken up S. of VAIRE. Casualties: Lt. SELMAN killed. To CHARLESLEY 2/Lts. CLIFF, BORNMAN, HORNGASTLE, CLARK, wounded; Major LABOUCHERE wounded and missing.	///
	5-4-18		Relieved at 1am. by Australians. March back to AUBIGNY, rest for 1/2 hour for rum and coffee, then march out and man rear defence line near canal. Capt. SYMONDS in command.	///
	6-4-18		Moved to new position about 5m. south of road. Quiet day. Mine put out in front of position. Extraordinary activity overhead on part of REC.	///
	7-4-18		Remain in reserve until evening when Reserve line taken over by Australians. March to ST. FUSCIEN. Post billets - men very crowded.	///
	8-4-18		Wet day, chiefly spent in checking rolls etc.	///

1-4-16 Embuss at 3 p.m.; taken to ST. NICHOLAS, whence we move to small valley behind the BOIS DE GENTELLES. In reserve to 41st and 43rd Brigades.

2-4-18 Fine day - remain in valley all day. Relieved at night by French. March to BOIS DE BLANGY in pouring rain. Bivouac for night in wood.

3-4-18 Remain in wood till afternoon, when we march to HAMELET. Battn. rests here for 3 hours. Move out at 8 p.m. and relieve cavalry holding line just east of HAMEL. All 4 companies in front line.

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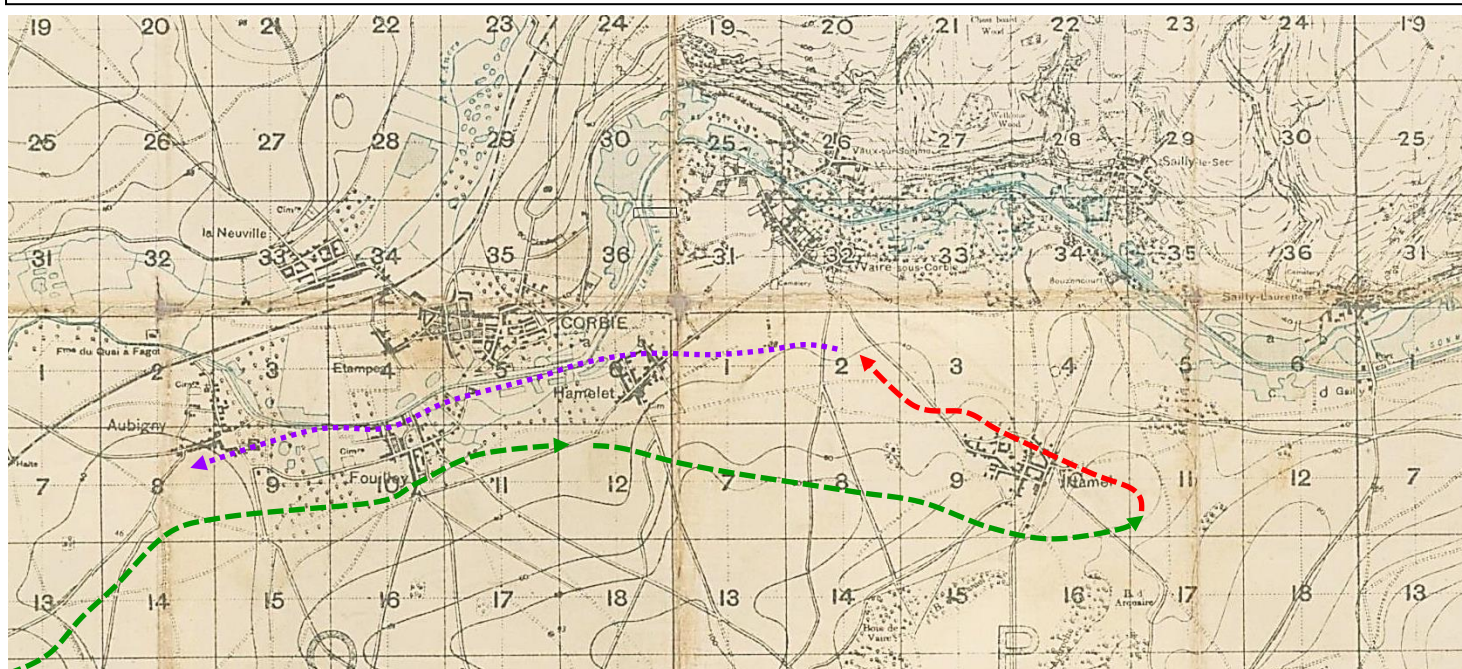
4-4-18 Heavy bombardment opens 5.25 a.m. About 8 a.m. Bosch attack employing at least 4 waves of troops. Both flanks go. Battn. forced to evacuate position. Line taken up south of VAIRE. Casualties : 2/Lt SELMAN killed. Lt. CHARLESLEY, 2/Lts CLIFF, BORMAN, HORNCastle, CLARK, wounded; Major LABOUCHERE wounded and missing.

5-4-18 Relieved at 1 a.m. by Australians. March back to AUBIGNY, rest for ½ hour for rum and coffee, then march out and man rear defence line near canal. Capt. SYMONDS in command.

6-4-18 Move to new position about ½m. south of road. Quiet day. Were put out in front of position. Extraordinary activity overhead on part of RFC.

7-4-18 Remain in reserve until evening when Reserve line taken over by Australians. March to ST. FUSCIEN. Poor billets – men very crowded.

5-4-18 Wet day, chiefly spent on checking rolls etc.



The area of the Somme valley around Corbie, France, in May 1918. Original scale: 1:40,000.

The approximate route taken by the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry is shown. The green line is the march taken by the troops on 3 April 1918 to a position east of Hamel. Following heavy bombardment from the Germans (to the east of Hamel) on the morning of 4 April, the red line indicates the movement of the troops towards the south of Vaire-sous-Corbie. It was in this area that Norman Hawling was killed. On 5 April, the day following Norman's death, the troops marched westwards to Aubigny, a distance of about 5km (purple line).

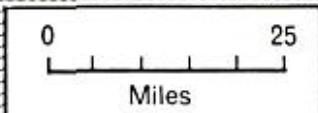
[Source of base map: <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/>]

2000 yards

Norman Hawling is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, 6km north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial *relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. [CWGC]*



# THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES 21 MARCH - 17 JULY 1918



KEY  
○ GERMAN ARMIES

*German troop strengths in the west had increased by 30% between November 1917 and 21 March 1918, primarily due to transfer of troops from the east following the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. British strengths had decreased by 25% since "Third Ypres" (Passchendaele) 1917 as they were content to wait upon the arrival of the fresh American troops.*



KEY

- 'MICHAEL' 21 March-5 April.
- 'GEORGETTE' 9-11 April.
- 'BLÜCHER-YORCK' 27 May.
- 'GNEISENAU' 9 June.
- 'MARNE-RHEIMS' 15-17 July.
- Army boundaries.
- Army General Headquarters.
- Army Headquarters.

Arthur Banks 1973

Norman Hawling died to the south of Vaire-sous-Corbie, The Somme (red star), on 4 April 1918  
 [Source: *A Military Atlas of the First World War* Arthur Banks Leo Cooper (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books) 2001]



925722	E440383	Hawlings Norman	16 H 400 H 401 H 0548	11. 11. 18. France Death Awarded	York II 9.19.	12 12 1.				3.XII.19	Fa. Thomas Ft. 12 12 1 Hawling	PA
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Includes War Grat £10-0-0.

### 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. Norman's father, Thomas, received a payment of outstanding wages of £2 12s 1d from the army and a War Gratuity of £10. This, a total value of £12 12s 1d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £1950 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.

### British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

As noted previously, it is quite likely that Norman Hawling never lived in Neston and that his family moved here around the time of his death; they do not appear to have been here in 1914 as Thomas Albert Hawling is not listed in Kelly's Directory for that year. However, it seems that both Thomas Albert and Mary, Normans parents, continued to live here until their deaths, both dying in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1937 (Thomas was aged 74 and Mary was 75).

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HAWLING Norman	Northd Fus	Pte	40548
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	10/1/105 B 61	14827	
BRITISH	"	"	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380



Inscription for Norman Hawling on the Pozieres Memorial, Pozieres, France

Gladys Hawling, an elder sister of Norman, married Alfred Salmon at St Anne's Church, Lydgate, Saddleworth, in mid-1913 and Gladys died, aged 25, in late 1915.

Cyril, Norman's younger brother lived on Wirral and died here in late 1969 aged 73. Cyril married Nellie Dickenson at St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, in late 1922 and in the 1939 Register they are recorded at 4 Shrewsbury Road, Hoylake:

Cyril Hawling	born 20 February 1896		draper, war pensioner
Nellie	born 4 December 1898		
Albert N C	born 12 October 1923		
Annie Meek	born 7 September 1854	widow	private means
Hilda Burton	born 9 July 1878	single	private means

Albert was Cyril and Nellie's only child; any relationship to Annie Meek and Hilda Burton is unknown.

Cyril died on Wirral in late 1969 and Nellie died in mid-1978.

Doris Hawling, a younger sister of Norman and Cyril, married Robert William Holroyd at St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, in mid-1924. In the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at Carr Lodge, Beckett Road, Dewsbury in Yorkshire:

Robert W Holroyd	born 8 March 1897		auctioneer, valuer, estate agent
Doris	born 19 September 1897		
Robert B	born 6 December 1928		

One line of the record has been redacted

Alice Guest	born 31 August 1916	single	paid domestic servant
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Robert died, aged 64, in mid-1961 and Doris died in the Dewsbury district in mid-1969 (although her year of birth was mis-recorded as 1898). It is believed that Robert was their only child.

Eileen, another younger sister of Norman and Cyril, married John Mousley at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in mid-1925. In the 1939 register they are recorded as living at 12 Rocky Lane South, Heswall:

John Mousley	born 19 April 1891		chauffeur, gardener
Eileen	born 6 September 1901		
Gerald A	born 30 August 1925		

One line of the record has been redacted

Fredr. Straker	born 2 August 1867	widower	Bank Manager (retired)
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It is believed that John and Eileen had two further children, Max (registered mid-1927) and Margaret (registered mid-1929).

It is not certain when John and Eileen died.

Gwendoline Hawling, the youngest sibling of Norman, remained single and died in the Dewsbury district in late 1927 when she was 22.