

## 143: Robert James Jolley

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: R. J. Jolley  
 Rank: Second Lieutenant  
 Battalion / Regiment: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment  
 Service Number: Date of Death: 22 August 1918 Age at Death: ?  
 Buried / Commemorated at: Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Departement de la Somme, France  
 Additional information given by CWGC: None

Robert James Jolley was the eldest child of Sidney John and Mary Jolley. Sidney (sometimes *Sydney*) was the eldest son of plumber Robert and Eliza Jolley of Southport and he was baptised, together with his brother William, at Christ Church, Southport, on 1 September 1867. Eliza had been born in Ireland and Sidney John became a career soldier. It is known that Sidney served in India with the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cheshire) Regiment between 1893 and 1900 and, subsequently, saw action in the Second Boer War in South Africa (11 October 1899 - 31 May 1902). Whilst it is known that he served as a Quartermaster and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the Cheshire Regiment and, later, the Lancashire Fusiliers, no exact dates are known for his service.

It is believed that Sidney married Mary Agnes Rowlandson in Bombay in 1893 and that Robert James was born on 13 February 1894 in Bellary in Karnataka State, 306 kilometres from Bangalore, the state capital. It is understood that Robert was baptised in Bellary on 1 March 1894. Whilst Robert was not born in Neston he lived here from about 1903 (when he would have been 9) until sometime between mid-1908 and early 1911.



Sidney John Jolley and with his wife Mary Agnes and family in India in 1899. The youngest child is Agnes Eliza, Sidney William is on the right and Robert James Jolley (then about 5) is at the front. [Source: <http://www.rootschat.com/forum/>]

The second child, Sidney William, was born at the army garrison in St Thomas Mount, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

JOLLEY .....	Robert James .....	Bellary .....	1894	304
.....	Sidney William .....	St. Thomas Mount	1895	380

GRO Army Birth Index – 1891 to 1895

The third child, daughter Agnes Eliza, was probably born in Trimulgherry (the anglicised name for Tirumalagiri) to the north of Hyderabad.

Sidney and Mary returned to Britain with their three children by 1902 and Letitia Catherine Jolley was born, in Chester, in that year. Sidney was still a soldier, serving with the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cheshire) Regiment and, presumably, was based in Chester at that time. However, it is clear that not long afterwards the family moved to Neston as it was here that the final four children were born: James (July/September 1904); Catherine (July/September 1905); Charles Edward (January/March 1907); Andrew Kennedy (January/March 1908). However, it is not known where in Neston the family lived; the family is not listed in the 1906 Kelly's Directory of Cheshire.

The Regimental Registers of Births note that Sidney John Jolley was still serving with the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cheshire) Regiment when James, Catherine and Charles were born.

Sometime after the birth of Andrew the family moved from Neston to Shotton; Sidney John Jolley had then retired from the army on a pension and in the 1911 census is recorded as being the manager of a club and with Robert and Sidney jnr being employed in the local iron works:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
1	Sidney John Jolley	Head	46	Married	18	8	8		Army Pensioner, Manager Club	487	480	worker	Southport	066		British
2	Mary Agnes Jolley	Wife	41	Married	18	8	8						Cheshire Chester	122		English
3	Robert James Jolley	Son	17	Single					Helper Roller Iron works	10	Gal Sheet Iron work	worker	India Resident	714		English
4	Sidney William Jolley	Son	15	Single					Scrap Cutter Iron works			worker	India Resident	1		English
5	Agnes Eliza Jolley	Daughter	12						School	390		0	India Resident			English
6	Letitia Catherine Jolley	Daughter	8						School				Cheshire Chester	122		English
7	James Jolley	Son	7						School				Cheshire Neston	120		English
8	Catherine Jolley	Daughter	5						School				Cheshire Neston			English
9	Charles Jolley	Son	4										Cheshire Neston			English
10	Andrew Kennedy Jolley	Son	3										Cheshire Neston			English

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)				Totals		
				Males	Females	
I certify that— (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns. (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sums with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary corrections I have compared all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.				6	4	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 (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.	
6	Signature: Sidney John Jolley	
	Postal Address: Shotton Lane Shotton	

1911 census (condensed) – Shotton Lane, Shotton [5 Henrietta Street]

Sidney John Jolley	46	army pensioner, manager club	born Southport
Mary Agnes	41		born Chester
Robert James	17	helper roller iron works	born India Resident
Sidney William	15	scrap cutter iron works	born India Resident
Agnes Eliza	12		born India Resident
Letitia Catherine	8		born Chester
James	7		born Neston
Catherine	5		born Neston
Charles	4		born Neston
Andrew Kennedy	3		born Neston

Sidney and Mary had been married for 18 years and all 8 children were still living.

Henry Hall Summers visited Shotton in 1894 looking for land upon which to build a new factory for sheet rolling mills as space for expansion at the existing Globe Works near Stalybridge, founded by John Summers, had been exhausted. John Summers had died in April 1876, at the age of 54, and the expanding iron-working business he established was continued by his four sons.



5, Henrietta Street, Shotton  
[Source: Google StreetView]

The reclaimed marshland of the Dee was cheap, with good access to communications and plentiful water, and in 1895 Summers' purchased 40 acres at the reputed price of 2s 6d per acre, a total of £5 with an option to buy an additional 50 acres. By 1911, when the Jolley brothers were employed at the works, the company was the largest manufacturer of galvanized steel in the country, and probably the largest manufacturer of steel nail strips and sheets. The site then occupied 60 acres and 10,000 acres of marshland had been purchased. Looking across the Dee from Shotton, the factory had the appearance of a town of

small factories, and there were 26 tall chimney stacks. The workforce had now reached 3000 and the weekly wage bill was

£6000. The capacity of the factory was 160,000 tons of steel per year. However, *all was not well at the works. Trouble started in November 1909 over what was known as the Contract System. On each mill, one man employed ten others on a piecework system and the Firm paid the contractor for each ton of finished steel sheets. Differences in pay and favouritism led many of the undermen to join the Steel Smelters Union in order to get the Contract System abolished. They then threatened the Firm with strike action if it did not meet their demands. To keep the peace, Henry drew up an agreement with the Union, and thought that would be the end of the matter, but the Iron and Steel Contractors were angered. They wanted to keep the System, refused to recognize the Smelters Union, and came out on strike.*

*Henry Summers attempted to keep the works running by drafting in workers from other areas. At the main gates men were posted on picket duty, and in an attempt to prevent any trouble on the picket lines, and to guard the Works, many policemen from a wide area were drafted in.*

[<http://www.angelfire.com/fl/shotton/history11.html>]

In April/June 1911, shortly after the 1911 census, Mary Agnes Jolley died aged 42 (apparently of heart failure) and was buried at Shotton.

It is suggested that, following the death of Mary, that Sidney John Jolley returned to the army and that his younger children were placed in care; certainly, on the outbreak of war, both Robert James and Sidney William Jolley, Robert's brother, enlisted in the army. An additional note is given at the end of this account on Sidney William Jolley.

On 16 August 1914, just 12 days after Britain declared war on Germany, Robert James Jolley disembarked at Le Havre with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment, part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Whilst the Service Record for James has not been found it is known that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was, in 1914, engaged in numerous actions on the Western Front including The Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, The Battle of Le Cateau and The Affair of Crepy-en-Valois, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914 and The First Battle of Ypres.



ADVANCE OF ARTILLERY.

The 15th Brigade R.F.A. under Lt. Col. HAWKES had advanced at ZERO, and during the attack on the BROWN LINE the batteries had been getting into action on about the line of the H.A.U.E objective, P.O.C.'s being pushed out to points which had previously been selected from a model of the enemy's country which had been made by the Division holding the line. The condition of the Roads for about 500 yards on our side of the old "NO MAN'S LAND" had made the advance of the batteries very difficult and getting into action was further hampered by the fog. Battery Commanders had practically to chance the positions they took up, and as a matter of fact out of the 4 positions occupied 2 turned out to be good and 2 unsuitable, batteries occupying the latter having to move again. All the time that BEAUREGARD DOVEBOOTS was in the hands of the Germans, i.e. up to the night of the 22nd instant, the Artillery in advance of BUQUOY was entirely overlooked by the enemy.

ADVANCE FROM BROWN LINE.

It was now nearly 8 o'clock and the mist was rather thicker than ever. The Division advanced from the BROWN Line supported by Mk. V. Tanks as ordered, but units were very much mixed up and it was almost impossible to keep direction. On the right for instance the support battalion was at one time in front of the attacking battalion. Men from the right Brigade had got across into the left Brigade area. Parts of one unit of the 33rd Division on our left were reported to be to the right of our left Brigade. Others had swung round into the area of the Division on the right. Germans who had been taken prisoners were running about in the mist. It was not possible for the Infantry to keep close to the Tanks and on several occasions the latter narrowly missed firing into our own men.

The 16th R. WARWICKS under Lt. Col. DEAKIN (right battn., left Brigade) moving on a compass bearing got right on across the railway, (which was the RED or final objective), and gained the crest of the Hill beyond (i.e. the RED DOTTED or exploiting objective) with about 8 platoons. The 1st OSHIRES under Lt. Col. RODDY who had the BUQUOY - ACHET-lo-PETIT Road to guide them advanced through ACHET-lo-PETIT where there was a stiff fight with rifles and M.G.'s for fire supremacy. The Germans were firing from trees in many cases, and it was extremely difficult to locate the positions of the M.G.'s. The Tanks had also all gone on. The 1st OSHIRES leaving one Company to mop up ACHET-lo-PETIT rushed the railway and in face of heavy M.G. fire, especially from the trench half way up the further crest, made good a footing on the far ridge, about 3 platoons reaching the RED DOTTED objective. This was about 9.30 a.m. At this stage the left Brigade captured a battery of 5.9" and 77 mm. in the Railway Embankment. Our left flank was, however, in the air and at this moment the enemy counter-attacked and got right behind the 1st OSHIRES at one time, threatening to cut them off entirely. The latter, however, fell back, counter-attacked in their turn and gained the trench line W. of the Railway Embankment (through G.14.d. central).

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About 10.30 a.m. news having been received at the left Brigade Headquarters that the left flank was exposed, the 1st NORFOLKS under Lt. Col. HUMPHRIES were ordered up to reinforce the 1st OSHIRES in front of ACHET-lo-PETIT and to bring their left flank to join up with the 33rd Division. The 16th R. WARWICKS who had also been pushed back in a less degree by the above mentioned counter-attack, conformed to the general line, and withdrew to the northern side of the railway. (Counting their march to the assembly positions this battalion had covered something over 15 miles in a direct line in 1 1/2 hours). Had the O.C. 1st NORFOLKS been able to see he could have reinforced the left flank in time. As it was the personal initiative of this officer (since killed) and the way he carried out his orders to protect the left flank, from this moment onwards, were undoubtedly the means of enabling the whole of the 8th Division line to maintain their positions just short of the railway.

The Tanks had not, on the whole, got further than the railway line, they too having evidently lost direction and a good number being knocked out in the valley. The railway crossings were all covered by German Anti-Tank guns and the obstacle was a very formidable one.

On the right of the Division, one Company of the 1st DEVONS, Lt. Col. HALFORD were on the railway (in L.20.c.), but when the situation was eventually straightened out the line taken up ran along the trench 400 yards this side of the railway with a defensive flank running back to about L.22.c. where touch was gained with the NEW ZEALANDERS. M.G. fire from the high ground in L.23.c. throughout this day and the next made the position on the right difficult. Over 500 prisoners, 4 Field guns, and a large number of M.G.'s, T.M.'s and much other material were captured during the day's operations. Our own casualties were extraordinarily light.

II. OPERATIONS ON AUGUST 22nd.  
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The night 21st/22nd was spent in re-organizing battalions and consolidating. During the morning of the 22nd instant, a patrol from the 1st DEVONS captured over 250 prisoners, a portion of a Regiment who were attempting to counter-attack the New Zealanders. This capture seems to have been entirely due to the initiative of two men who encountered the whole body of the Germans in an old trench and instead of retiring opened fire on them and compelled them to surrender. Another party of 100 men belonging to the same regiment were captured by a patrol from the 12th GLOUCESTERS.

Late on the night of the 22nd/23rd orders were received for the attack to be continued on the morning of the 23rd. It was decided that the two Brigades in the line who had attacked the day before could carry on and the reserve Brigade (13th Infantry Brigade) was therefore still kept in hand for exploitation. It was also decided that the Infantry should go on under a heavy barrage, without Tanks, as to ask the latter to cross the railway until the line was more advanced would, it was considered, only result in further heavy casualties.

III.

OPERATIONS ON THE 23rd AUGUST.

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ATTACK BY 15th and 95th INFANTRY BRIGADES. (Morning of 23rd).

The attack took place at 11 a.m. the battalions being in the following order from right to left :- (95th Inf. Bde.) 12th GLOUCESTERSHIRE Regt., 1/E. SURREY Regiment. (1st D.O.M.I. in support). (15th Inf. Bde.) 16th R. WARWICKSHIRE Regiment (closed up in the assembly trenches they had captured on 21st). 1st BEDFORDSHIRE Regiment (who had relieved 1st OSHIRE Regt early on the morning of the 23rd).

On account of the short time available the barrage had been arranged on an arbitrary line, and owing to the exact map locations of the trenches not being known, the barrage was a little too far ahead of the Infantry at the start, and was consequently lost in places. The front of attack on the left was a glacis-like slope as far as the railway, and a similar slope up the other side. The valley on the right of the attack across the railway was cut up by banks and trenches. In addition there was a trench running the whole length of the far crest about halfway up, and the valley towards the level crossing was full of M.G.'s which swept the whole front of the attack. Three lines of wire on the left constituted a serious obstacle before the railway was reached. Gaps had to be looked for and it was here that many casualties to Officers occurred. In fact the left of the attack was completely held up for a time, and it was not until two Tanks working in front of the 37th Division had nearly gained the crest, and put out many enemy M.G.'s, that the advance could be resumed. Those Tanks, and the magnificent advance of the 37th Division, who had only relieved the 33rd Division during the previous night, on our left, undoubtedly allowed the 1st BEDFORDS to gain their final objective. Lt. Col. COURREY, commanding the Battalion, himself personally pushed in two platoons at the critical moment and took the ridge. This gallant Officer was unfortunately killed, as were 9 Other Officers of the battalion. Two Companies of the 1st NORFOLKS were put in to thicken the line on the left, which was then successfully consolidated. About the same time 1st B. SURREYS (Lt. Col. MINOGUE) gained their final objective on the right, but the 12th GLOUCESTERS were held up just short of PLES, being shot in the back from L.36.

It is impossible to realize the difficulty of the whole of the attack on the 23rd without seeing the ground. The determination with which the railway embankment on the right was tackled can be judged from the fact that over 23 M.G.'s were captured on a 50 yards front, and in another portion of the Railway one platoon of the 1/S. SURREYS worked round a small trench and captured 100 prisoners and 12 M.G.'s. Over 150 M.G.'s in all were captured by the

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Right Brigade. One of the revines opposite this Brigade was known by the Germans as the "AUGSBURG M.G. Strong Point" (MASCHINENGWEHR STUETZPUNKT).

The whole attack was a very gallant piece of work the advance of the 16th R. WARWICKSHIRE Regiment without a check to their final objective, with a formidable trench system running both at right angles to, and across, their line, was especially brilliant. The battalion was commanded by Lt. Col. DEAKIN, who on the day of the original attack had taken a howitzer across the railway and from the top of a mound by the level crossing had himself shot down the gunners serving a 5.9" battery which was firing point blank at the advancing troops of the 95th Infantry Brigade.

The enemy fought skilfully and made good use of their M.G.'s until we came to grips with them when they surrendered freely.



SERCUS.	8th	2 Coys bathing. All Coys holding kit and clothing inspections.
	9th	C.O. inspected the Battalion at 11-45 a.m. Major J.A. BUSHEFIELD took over Command of letter "A" Coy. Capt E.J. GROVES M.C. took over Command of letter "B" Coy
	10th	Battalion inspected by the B.G.C. in full marching order. "A" and "B" Coys at 11-30 a.m. "C" , "D" and H.Q. at 12-15 p.m. The B.G.C. remarked on the splendid turnout of the Battalion.
	11th	Church Parade Service 11-45 a.m. Non-Conformists Parade Service 9-30 a.m. R.C. Mass in the Church SERCUS at 9 a.m.
	12th	"A" and "B" Coys on 300 yards range at U.26.a.7/2. (Sheet 27). "C" and "D" Coys Platoon Training. Battalion under 6 hours notice to move. Capt R.W. MILLS rejoined the Battalion from leave.
	13th	Training carried out under Company arrangements near billets. Orders for entrainment received.
	14th	Battalion paraded at 8 a.m. and marched to ARQUES Station "A" Company entrained at 8-27 a.m. and remainder of Battalion at 12-27 p.m. Detained at FREVENT about 5-30 p.m. Battalion had tea near the Station and marched to BOUQUEMAISON arriving about 9-30 p.m.
BOUQUE- MAISON.	15th	Companies at disposal of Company Commanders for cleaning up, platoon training, etc.
	16th	Platoon Training carried out. All Coys bathing. A small percentage of passes allowed for men to proceed to FREVENT and DOULLENS.
	17th	Tactical Scheme carried out by the Battalion. (see O.O. attached).
	18th	Voluntary Parade Service at 9-30 a.m. for C. of E. Non-Conformists Parade Service at 11-30 a.m. in the Cinema Hall, BOUQUEMAISON. R.C. mass at 9-30 a.m. in the Church. Battalion moved to HALLOY at very short notice. Marched off from BOUQUEMAISON at 8-15 p.m. and arrived at HALLOY about 11-30 p.m.
HALLOY.	19th	The Battalion moved to BAYENCOURT arriving about midnight.
	20th	Battalion moved up to assembly positions.
Trenches.	21st.	1. The Battalion formed up on the night of the 20th/21st August in a selected position N.W. of BUCQUOY Village. The 1st NORFOLKS and 1st BEDFORDS in front with the 1st CHESHIREs and 16th R. WARWICKS in Support. The general line of the attack was on a two Corps front with the IVth Corps on the left and the Vth Corps on the right - the 5th Division forming part of the IVth Corps - the direction of the advance was towards BAPAUME.

Trenches.	21st	2. A heavy mist settled down during the night which made observation and co-operation between units a matter of great difficulty.
	(contd)	3. At 4-55 a.m. the advance started, when the whole line advanced under the protection of a very heavy barrage, 12 tanks being allotted to each division. The village of BUCQUOY and the line of the 1st objective beyond it were captured by the 37th Division without encountering any very serious opposition and the enemy reply to our barrage was very feeble.
		4. On reaching the 1st objective, the 15th Brigade "leap-frogged" through the 37th Division and after a short halt proceeded on to the 2nd objective, this was reached by the 1st NORFOLKS and 1st BEDFORDS with very few casualties and up to time.
		5. Owing to the thick mist and the smoke of the barrage, some units had rather lost direction during the advance, but a halt of half an hour on the line of the 2nd objective gave Battalions time to reform and the regiment formed up in perfect order with the 16th R. WARWICKS on our right and the HOOD Battalion of the Naval Division on our left - the 1st NORFOLKS and 1st BEDFORDS dug in on the line of the 2nd objective.
		6. At zero plus 162, the final advance commenced and the Battalion, passing through the 1st NORFOLKS, advanced towards the village of ACHIET-le-PETIT accompanied by about 6 tanks. As our guns were now out of range, the advance was carried out without an artillery barrage.
		"A" Company, commanded by Major J.A. BUSHFIELD, was on the left of the front line, "B" Coy, commanded by Capt E.J. GROVES. M.C. on the right, with "C" Company, (Capt L.I.L. FERGUSON) and "D" Coy (Capt W.J. BATHURST) in Support.

(A9175) Wt W235/P356 6-0,000 11/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/Cert/15

Trenches.	21st	11. A strong enemy counter-attack which developed within 15 minutes of gaining the final objective was driven off and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.
	(contd).	12. The situation had now become very precarious, the two leading Battalions of the 15th Brigade were at least 500 yards further in advance of the Battalions on their right and left, and the enemy were seen to be working round on the left.
		13. Under these circumstances a re-adjustment of the line became imperative. Battalion H.Q. was removed to a position on the western edge of the village, and "A" and "B" Coys were compelled to withdraw slowly to the high ground behind the railway and in front of the village. Two tanks were sent round to form a defensive flank on the left of the village and Major J.A. BUSHFIELD with details from three Companies was sent round the left side of the village to get in touch with the HOOD Battalion and to protect the left flank of "A" and "B" Coys. "C" Coy was ordered round to the right in support of the WARWICKS.
		14. With great difficulty and under extremely heavy Machine Gun fire from three sides, which caused very heavy casualties, a new line was established about 300 yards East of the village. This line was held by the Battalion until they were relieved by the 1st NORFOLKS immediately after dark, who took up a position slightly West of that occupied by us. The Battalion moved into support on the line of the second objective in rear of the village.
		Relief complete by 11-30 p.m.



Trenches.	21st (contd).	The following Officers of the Regiment took part in the attack :- Lieut-Colonel E.L. RODDY. (Commanding). Major H.S. WALKER. (2nd in Command). Capt C.H. HORSLEY M.C. (Adjutant).
		"A" COMPANY. § Major J.A. BUSFIELD. (Comdg Coy). § 2nd Lieut C.E. POSTLES. (No. 1 Platoon). (Shropshire L.Infy) § 2nd Lieut J.D. PINQUEY. (No. 2. Platoon). 2nd Lieut G.C. CALVERT. (No. 3. Platoon). 2nd Lieut A. WILKINSON. (No. 4. Platoon).
		"B" COMPANY. Capt E.J. GROVES. M.C. (Comdg Coy). Lieut F. LATHAM. (No. 5. Platoon). § 2nd Lieut H.C. BAILEY. (No. 6. Platoon). 2nd Lieut A.H. RIDDICK. (No. 7. Platoon). 2nd Lieut A.F. WHEEN. (No. 8. Platoon).
		"C" COMPANY. Capt L.I.L. FERGUSON. (Comdg Coy). 2nd Lieut R.L. DAMPIER-BENNETT. (No. 9. Ptn). § 2nd Lieut A. RICE. (No. 10. Platoon). 2nd Lieut A.D. MUNRO. (No. 11. Platoon). § Lieut G.R. SIMPSON. (Comdg No. 12. Platoon)
Trenches.	21st. (contd).	"D" COMPANY. Capt W.J. BATHURST. (Comdg Coy). 2nd Lieut A. SQUIRES. (No. 13. Platoon). ☒ 2nd Lieut R.J. JOLLEY. (No. 14. Platoon). § 2nd Lieut E. WIGHTMAN M.C. (No. 15. Platoon). ☒ 2nd Lieut M. MAGUIRE. (No. 16. Platoon).
		Battn. H.Q. Lieut A. ROBERTS. (Signalling Officer). § Lieut A.M. LEWIS. (Intelligence Offr). Capt J. HOLLAND. (R.A.M.C.) (Medical Offr). Revd E. Mc GRATH C.F. (R.C. Chaplain). R.S.M. B. HALLMARK.
		Note - § Wounded. ☒ Killed.
	22nd	Battalion in Support in Brown Line (2nd objective) Quiet day. 2 Coys moved to trenches in front of ACHIET-le-PETIT in Support of 1st NORFOLKS.
	23rd	Battalion moved forward at night. All four Coys occupying positions in front of village. Bn. H.Q. just West of Village.
	24th	Battalion moved forward about noon to the high ground East of Railway.
	25th	Battalion moved over to the left to positions South- East of ACHIET-le-GRAND.

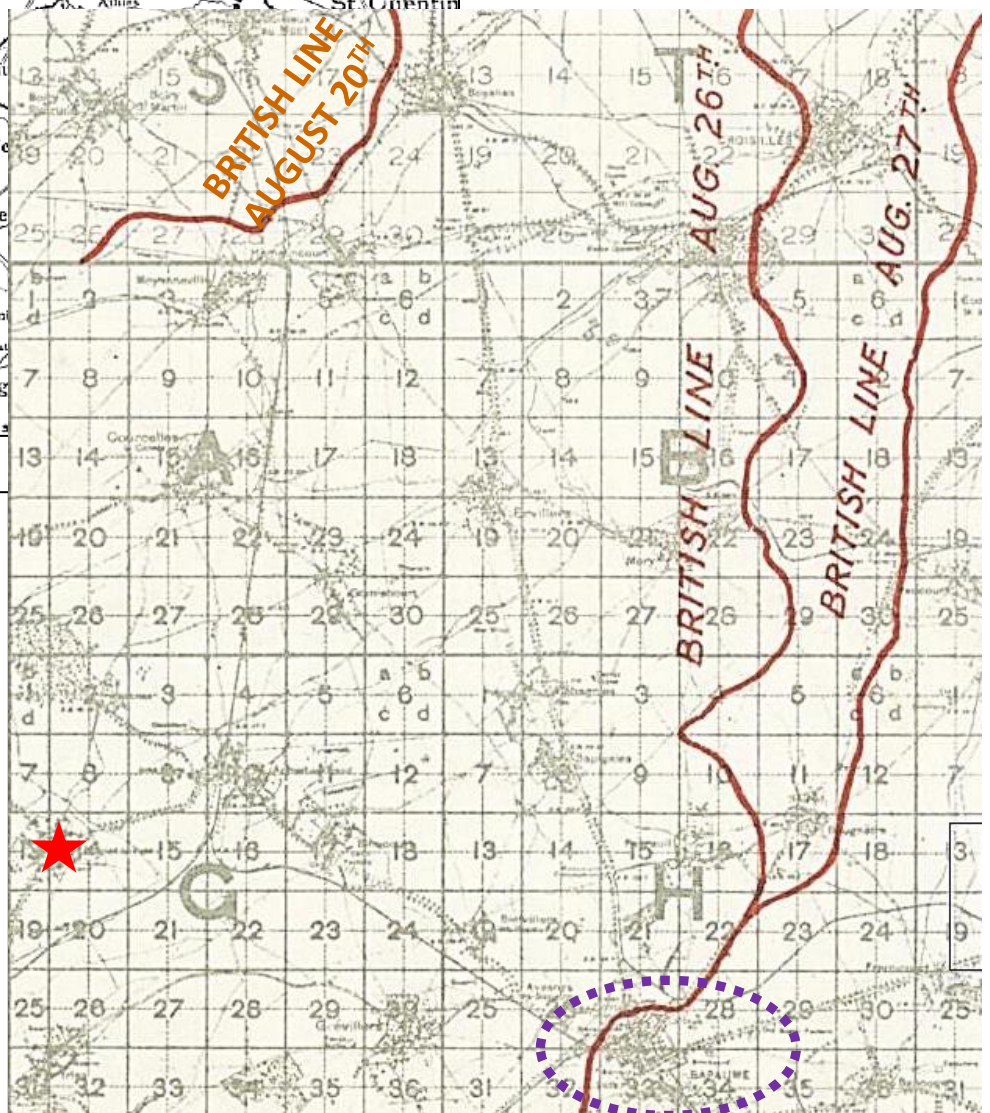
Although, by August 1918, Robert James Jolley was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, it is known that he was a Corporal with the Service Number 9802.



The Allied line between 8 August and 8 September 1918. The map shows how the Allied front line moved progressively eastwards at this time.

The location where Robert James Jolley died is indicated by the red star.

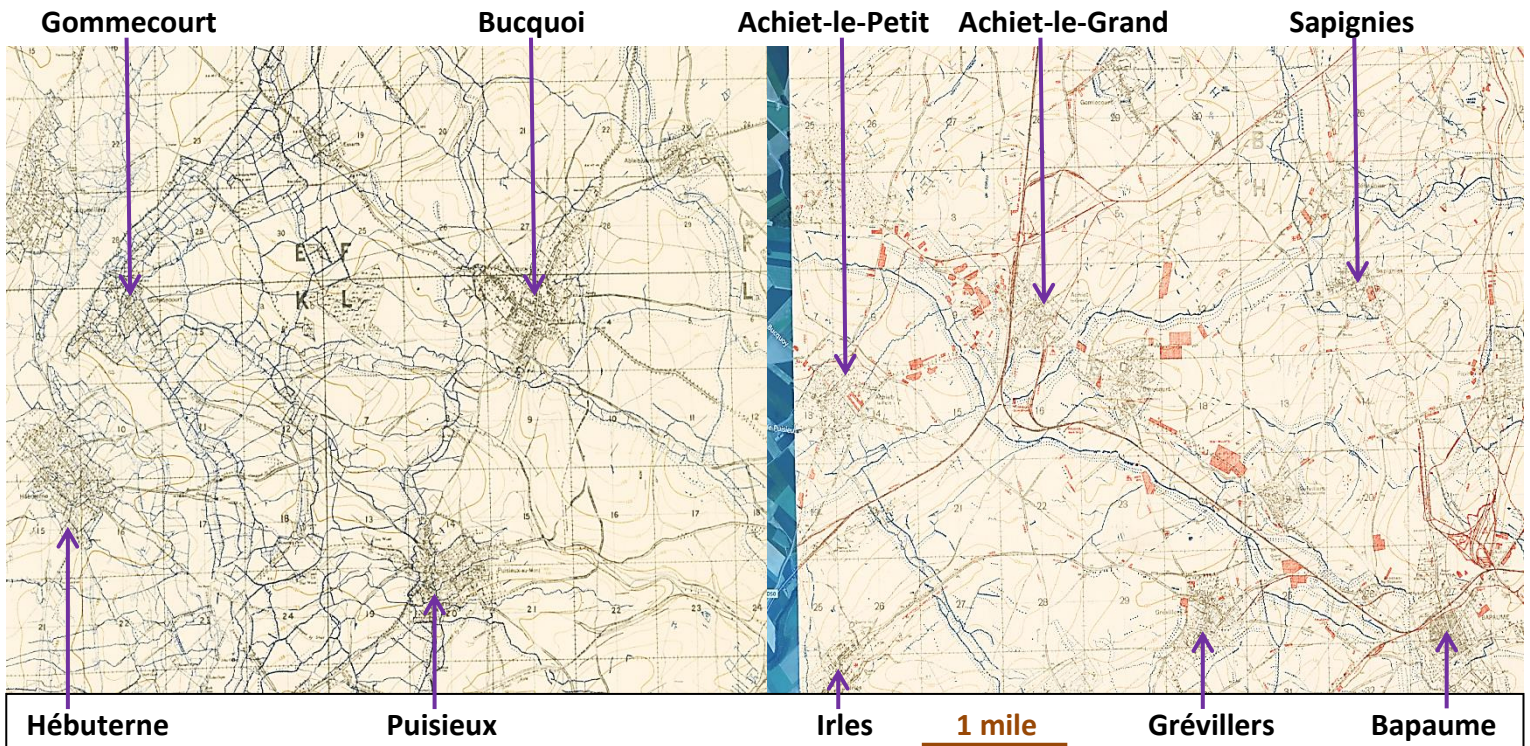
[Source:  
<http://www.1914-1918.net/maps.htm>]



Official First Army situation map, mid-day 27 August 1918 showing, in more detail, the eastward movement of the Allied front line between 20 – 27 August 1918.

Bapaume, the prime objective, is encircled and the approximate location of the death of Robert James Jolley near Achiet-le-Petit on 22 August is indicated by the red star.

[Source:  
<http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo:34>]



Trench map of the area north and west of Bapaume

This composite is composed of two maps, both showing the trench systems before the start of the Third Battle of Albert (21-23 August). To the west, the map sector is dated 8 April 1918 and the map sector to the east is dated 4 July 1918. The map sectors do not quite coincide and the coloured vertical strip is an 'infill' of the modern-day satellite map.

On these maps the British trenches are coloured blue and the German positions are in red.

Robert James Jolley was killed as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment, moving south-eastwards towards Bapaume, was advancing through Achiet-le-Petit.

[Source: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>]

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
JOLLEY	Ches R	X. 2/Lieut	9802
R. J.	- "	- "	- "
Robert James.	Roll.	Payon R. & F. Roll	101/101/101/801 2074 22
X VICTORY	Cheshire Regt	130	Commissioned 11-7-18
BRITISH	164	136	1.V. 1001/W. 4/5-10-21. W. 4/1/21242.
14 STAR	J/2/5	136	CH 34
Theatre of War first served in			WS. 1/2/21242.
Date of entry therein	16-8-14		NS/5/3346 K. 1380.

**Correspondence.**

O. B. to. 2. Recs. Shrewsbury forwards list of men who have been promoted to Commission and enquire Re disposal of medals

Ext<sup>d</sup> from J/2/101 B3 page. 801 Rev. W. M. R. 23.11.20.

EF 9. 31. 3. 21

medals to Father  
S. J. Jolley Esq.

Address. 11 Paradise Row  
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10106  
DM

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

The card notes that Robert received his commission on 11 July 1918.

1/18—18 Bks.—Wt. & Sons, Ltd. 1591					CREDITS		
Record No.	Registry No.	NAME AND RANK	Regt. or Corps	Date and Place of Death	Account	Effects 1918-1919	Effects 1919-20
42399	40/223	Jolley 2nd Lt	1st Sheshire Rgt.	22-8-18 W. of wounds	Cox & Co. C. P. Base 8.18 10.18	7/19 2/107 10 - 3 5 8 7	28 - -
					WAR GRATUITY. Trans for 3868. 13/5. Regd. Paper Serial No. effect 19/20	35 0 0	
					P.P. Shrewsbury 10.18.	3 6 2	*

### 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. It appears that payments of outstanding wages of £116 5s from the army and a War Gratuity of £35 were made, the largest sum being payable to Cox & Co., the banking institution used by many officers. Another sum, of £28, was also paid but it is unclear as to whether this was a payment of wages or an additional War Gratuity. This sum, £179 5s, is equivalent to a labour value (wages) of around £27 800 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.



Robert James Jolley is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery at Gezaincourt, a village situated 2km to the south-west of Doullens. At the end of March 1918 the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations moved to Gezaincourt, where they were joined for a short time in April by the 45<sup>th</sup>. They remained until September. The cemetery was begun in April 1918, after the close of the German offensive in Picardy.

In 1921, when Robert's medals were being despatched, his father, the recipient, was recorded as living at 11 Paradise Row in Chester. This area, near the wharfs on the north-west side of the Roodee, has since been redeveloped.

Robert James Jolley is commemorated on the Connahs Quay War Memorial and at St Ethelwold, Shotton Parish Church.

Source: <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/refurbishment-work-flintshire-war-memorial-8566007>

**JOLLEY** Robert James of 5 Henrietta-street Shotton **Flintshire**  
2nd lieutenant Cheshire regiment died 22 August 1918  
in France on active military service Administration **St.**  
**Asaph** 27 June to Sidney John Jolley army pensioner.  
Effects £129 19s. 1d.

England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administration)

The sum of £129 19s 1d received by Sidney, Robert's father, in June 1919 has a *labour value* (ie wages) equivalent of about £20 200 in 2016).

It is recorded that Sidney John Jolley, Robert's widowed father, returned to the army on the outbreak of war although, at that date, he would have been about 49.

It is believed that he was, in 1915, stationed at Brocton Camp on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. In the Autumn of 1914, only months after the start of the First World War, construction of two large training camps began here on land belonging to Lord Lichfield. Designed initially as transit camps these soon became military training establishments offering instruction in musketry, scouting, signalling, physical training, gas warfare and other related military skills. Attached to the Lancashire Fusiliers Sidney John Jolley was a training officer with the rank of Quartermaster and, apparently, an Honorary Lieutenant.

Sidney (recorded as *Sydney*) died, in the Holywell district, in April/June 1938 aged 73.

Sidney William Jolley, Robert James Jolley's brother, also served in WW1, joining initially the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 14 August 1915 as a Private with the service Number 33234. The 12<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion was formed in Wrexham in October 1914 as a Service Battalion of Kitchener's Fourth New Army and came under the orders of the 104<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division. The troops moved to Tenby in February 1915 and on 10 April 1915 became a Reserve Battalion and moved to Kinmel Camp near Abergele.

As the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion remained as a training unit in Britain it appears that Sydney changed battalion; certainly, it is understood that he served in France from 18 December 1915 but, having received a severe injury (it is believed that he lost part of a leg), was discharged on 6 June 1916.

Following his discharge Sidney applied for, and received, a Silver War Badge which he could wear in public to indicate that he had served with the military and had not shirked his responsibility.

Sidney William Jolley, from a highly-creased group photograph. [Source: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?/topic/1315-16-sidney-william-jolley/>]



Sidney married Marguerite Allingham at a Civil Marriage in Holywell in April/June 1919 and they had at least six children, all born in the Shotton/Holywell area. In the 1939 Register the family was recorded at 38 Dodd Drive, Connahs Quay:

Sidney W Jolley	born 5 December 1895	storekeeper – telephone operator ARP
Margaret	born 21 November 1900	
Margaret (jun)	born 6 September 1921	silkworker
Peter	born 29 February 1924	
Robert J	born 13 May 1927	

Three lines of the record have been redacted

Sidney and Margaret (Marguerite, although *Margaret* seemed to be preferred within the family) may have had at least three other children not seen in the record: Sidney William (registered April/June 1920) ; Emmanuel Christopher S (registered early 1929) ; Eileen (registered late 1937).

In early 1943 Margaret married William C Cornford at a Civil Marriage in Holywell and Emmanuel married Joan Williams at a Civil Marriage in Ruthin in early 1962.

Sidney William Jolley died, aged 54, in the Chester district in April/June 1950. Margaret may have died in West Cheshire in late 1969 although the date of birth was shown as 5 November 1900.

Of the other siblings of Robert James Jolley, it is known only that:

Letitia Catherine Jolley married Albert Jones at St Michael's Church, Chester, in July/September 1921 and in the 1939 Register they were recorded at 8 St David's Drive, Hawarden:

Albert Edward Jones	born 1 June 1901	change driver, steel furnaces
Letitia C	born 2 June 1902	
Marjorie	born 5 April 1922	accounts clerk, grocery shop

Marjorie may have married Cyril Davies in Holywell in late 1945.

Letitia died, in the Chester district, in April/June 1974. It is not certain when Albert died.

Catherine Jolley married William G Bryant in the Hemel Hempstead area in July/September 1934. In the 1939 Register they were recorded at Street farm, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire <sup>1</sup>:

William G Bryant	born 17 October 1880	farmer
Catherine	born 24 August 1908	

One line of the record has been redacted

It is believed that William and Catherine had two children, Busick C D A W G Bryant (registered in Hemel Hempstead in mid-1939) and Priscilla R E S M Bryant (registered in

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<sup>1</sup> Street Farm, on the Chipperfield Road, is a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Grade 11 Listed Building, probably built for John de Street c.1530

Watford in late 1945). Priscilla married Patrick Young in Chelsea in mid-1972 but nothing further is known of Busick.

William Bryant died, aged 78, in the Hemel Hempstead district in early 1959 but it is not known when Catherine died.

Andrew Kennedy Jolley married Charlotte Kennedy at Bolton Register Office in late 1937. He died, in the West Cheshire area, in early 1966 aged 57. The 1939 Register records them being inmates - Andrew would have been a patient and Charlotte residing with him - at Barrowmore Hall, Great Barrow, Chester (the East Lancashire Tuberculosis Colony and Settlement):

Andrew K Jolley	born 13 February 1908	general woodworker for portable building maker
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Charlotte	born 17 September 1907	
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One line of the record has been redacted but shows a date of August 1938. The redacted line probably records daughter Teresa B Jolley who was registered in West Cheshire in mid-1938.

*In 1919 it was decided to establish a tuberculosis colony for members of the armed forces who had contracted tuberculosis. At the wish of the Ministry of Health, a charity called East Lancashire Tuberculosis Colony was established by the Red Cross Society and Order of St John of Jerusalem. In 1920, they purchased Barrowmore Hall, Great Barrow, near Chester. Many additional buildings were built on the estate before the colony opened in January 1921. Until 1924 it did not have a sanatorium and only provided after-care. Similar colonies existed in Cambridgeshire and Kent, but this was the only tuberculosis colony in the North. Barrowmore provided treatment and care for persons of limited means suffering from tuberculosis, and means to earn a living. Preference was given to Lancashire ex-service men, but later civilian cases who had been recommended by Tuberculosis Officers were also admitted. Barrowmore Colony consisted of a sanatorium and training centre, a farm, and accommodation for colonists. There were cottages for men who had recovered sufficiently to work at the Colony and live with their families, and dormitory accommodation for single men. The colony began with 70 beds, but by 1940 there were 165 beds at sanatorium and 103 in the village. Colonists in the village would engage in crafts or industry, such as woodwork and upholstery, both for therapy and for an income.*

*Barrowmore Sanatorium and many of its other buildings were destroyed by a landmine in 1940, which also resulted in significant loss of life. A new sanatorium was opened in 1943, later buildings were added in 1970s. The number of tuberculosis patients eventually decreased and there was no need for a dedicated tuberculosis colony. [https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/]*

Nothing further is known of Charles Edward Jolley or of Agnes Eliza Jolley.

There are no records of any of the Jolley family in Neston in the 1939 Register.

Let the boy try along this bayonet-blade  
How cold steel is, and keen with hunger of blood;  
Blue with all malice, like a madman's flash;  
And thinly drawn with famishing for flesh.

Lend him to stroke these blind, blunt bullet-leads,  
Which long to nuzzle in the hearts of lads,  
Or give him cartridges of fine zinc teeth  
Sharp with the sharpness of grief and death.

For his teeth seem for laughing round an apple.  
There lurk no claws behind his fingers supple;  
And God will grow no talons at his heels,  
Nor antlers through the thickness of his curls.



"Arms and the Boy"

Wilfred Owen

(1893 - 1918)

