

## 34: James Maxwell Hampson

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: J. Maxwell Hampson  
 Rank: Sergeant Recorded in CWGC as Lance Sergeant  
 Battalion / Regiment: 5th/6th Bn. Royal Scots  
 Service Number: 250421 Date of Death: 08 March 1918 Age at Death: 26  
 Buried / Commemorated at: New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), West Flanders, Belgium  
 Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Henry & Susan Hampson of Ness

James Maxwell Hampson ('Max') is recorded also on the plaque in Neston URC church.

James Maxwell Hampson was a son of Neston collier Henry & Susan Hampson of Colliery, Neston (Henry is recorded as a collier from 1881 to 1911 and, at other times, as a labourer). James was baptised at Neston 13 September 1891 and was a founder-member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Neston Company Boys' Brigade and was a Staff-Sergeant in that organisation. He also attended Neston Presbyterian Church.

Henry Hampson, who had been born north of Wigan (he was baptised at Horwich on 24 July 1853), came to Neston to work as a collier and in April / June 1878 he married Susan Scott at a Civil Marriage in Chester. Their first child, Ellen, was baptised at Neston on 14 March 1879 when Henry was recorded as a labourer. Henry never achieved the same level of success as his brother, William.

The Hampsons were well-known in the Neston mining industry and the Scotts were important local farmers. Henry's brother, William, came to Neston in 1874 as the supervisor/ manager of the new colliery when it reopened, after being closed for nearly 20 years, as the Neston Colliery Company; it is believed that Henry followed him here in the same year, or shortly afterwards, to work at the colliery.

Susan was the daughter of farm labourer Andrew and Elizabeth Scott; in the 1871 census the family was living at Ness Colliery and Susan, 14, was recorded as a dressmaker. A synopsis of the Scotts is given in the textbox at the end of this entry.

In 1881, some ten years before James was born, the family was living in Little Neston at Sea View Cottages, off Wood Lane (or Colliery Lane, now Marshlands Road):

Henry Hampson	<del>Head</del>	<del>Mar</del>	30		Coal Miner	<del>Aspull</del> Lancashire
Susan do	<del>Wife</del>	<del>Mar</del>		24		Neston Cheshire
Ellen do	<del>Daughter</del>	<del>"</del>		2		do
Herbert do	<del>Child</del>	<del>"</del>	11 mo			do

1881 census (extract) – 11, Sea View Cottages, Little Neston

Henry Hampson	30	coal miner	born Aspull, Lancashire
Susan	24		born Neston
Ellen	2		born Neston
Herbert	11 months		born Neston

When Herbert was baptised on 8 April 1881 (the address was given as The Colliery) Henry was recorded as a miner. Herbert died aged 11 months on 12 April, a few days after his baptism, and was buried on 16 April 1881. Another son, also named Herbert, was baptised the following year on 12 February 1882 but, like his namesake, he also died aged 11 months, on 21 December, and was buried on 24 December 1882. Ellen, their first child, also died, aged 14, and was buried on 10 December 1892.

At the time of the 1891 census, before James' birth, the family lived in Little Neston:

Henry Hampson	Head	40	Coal Miner			Blackrod, Lancashire
Susan	Wife	34				Neston
Ellen	Daughter	12				Neston
Albert Scott	Son	5				Neston
Walter Harold	Son	1				Neston

1891 census (extract) – Little Neston

Henry Hampson	40	coal miner	born Blackrod, Lancashire
Susan	34		born Neston
Ellen	12		born Neston
Albert Scott	5		born Neston
Walter Harold	1		born Neston

Albert Scott Hampson was baptised on 11 October 1885 but died on 22 February 1900 having '*...succumbed to an attack of pneumonia after only 4 days illness. He was a promising youth, a regular attendant at the Presbyterian Church*' [Source: *Cheshire Observer*, Saturday 3 March 1900]. Albert was buried, aged just 14, on 22 February 1900.



Andrew was baptised on 10 July 1887 but he died on 22 November 1887 and was buried, aged 6 months, on 22 November. By this date Henry and Susan had buried all their first five children and these are commemorated in a family grave in Neston churchyard.

Walter Harold Hampson, Henry's fifth child, was baptised at Neston on 8 September 1889 when Henry was a labourer. He was the first child to live into adulthood, dying in Birkenhead in late 1966 aged 77.

James Maxwell Hampson was, as noted previously, baptised at Neston 13 September 1891 and a further son, Henry, was baptised on 25 August 1893 when Henry snr was a miner.

Hampson family grave, Neston Parish Church



So, by the time of the 1901 census there were three sons living at home:

Henry Hampson	Head	50	✓	hewer, coal miner, under	born West Houghton, Lancashire
Susan	Wife	44	✓		born Little Neston
Harold	Son	11	✓		born Little Neston
Maxwell	Son	9	✓		born Little Neston
Henry	Son	7	✓		born Little Neston

1901 census (extract) – 5, Smith's Cottages, Little Neston

Henry Hampson	50	hewer, coal miner, under	born West Houghton, Lancashire
Susan	44		born Little Neston
Harold	11		born Little Neston
Maxwell	9		born Little Neston
Henry	7		born Little Neston

By 1911 the family had moved to The Nessit (between Flashes Lane and Mill Lane) in Ness and the same three sons, the only children still living, were at home:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.												Number of Schedule 75 (To be filled up by the Enumerator and returned)							
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						
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>																			
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Divorced," or "Servant," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	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.)	Completed Years the Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one year."	Children born alive.	Children living.	Children who have died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working as Householder.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."	NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	State whether — (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalization, (3) "Alien," (4) "Enemy," (5) "Lunatic," (6) "Insane," (7) "Mentally defective," (8) "Feeble minded," (9) "Epileptic," (10) "Paralytic," (11) "Deaf and dumb," (12) "Totally blind," (13) "Totally deaf," (14) "Totally idiotic," (15) "Totally insane," (16) "Totally feeble minded," (17) "Totally epileptic," (18) "Totally paralytic," (19) "Totally deaf and dumb," (20) "Totally blind and deaf," (21) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb," (22) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane," (23) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic," (24) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic," (25) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded," (26) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded and mentally defective," (27) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded and mentally defective and lunatic," (28) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded and mentally defective and lunatic and insane," (29) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded and mentally defective and lunatic and insane and epileptic," (30) "Totally blind and deaf and dumb and insane and epileptic and paralytic and feeble minded and mentally defective and lunatic and insane and epileptic and paralytic."
Henry Hampson	Head	60	Married	35	10	3	4	1	0	Miner	Hewer	Resident	West Houghton, Lancashire	British subject by parentage					
Susan Hampson	Wife	54	Married	35	10	3	4	1	0			Resident	West Houghton, Lancashire	British subject by parentage					
Walter Harold Hampson	Son	21	Single							Colliery, surface labourer	Colliery	Resident	Colliery, Little Neston	British subject by parentage					
James Maxwell Hampson	Son	19	Single							Nursery Gardener	Nursery	Resident	Colliery, Little Neston	British subject by parentage					
Henry Hampson	Son	17	Single							Apprentice Plumber	Plumber	Resident	Colliery, Little Neston	British subject by parentage					
<p>(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)</p> <p>I certify that —</p> <p>(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper column.</p> <p>(2) I have entered the names and surnames in Columns 2 and 3 correctly, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>Initials of Enumerator: <i>H.M.</i></p> <p>Total: Males 43, Females 1, Persons 5</p>														<p>(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)</p> <p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Bathrooms, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.</p> <p>4</p>		<p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature: <i>Henry Hampson</i></p> <p>Postal Address: <i>The Nessit, Ness, Colliery</i></p>			

1911 census (condensed) – The Nessit, Ness

Henry Hampson	60	miner, hewer	born West Houghton, Lancs.
Susan	54		born Ness Colliery
Walter Harold	21	colliery, surface labourer	born Colliery, Little Neston
James Maxwell	19	nursery gardener	born Colliery, Little Neston
Henry	17	apprentice plumber	born Colliery, Little Neston

Henry and Susan had been married for 35 years and only three of their ten children had survived.

Only eight of Henry and Susan's ten children have been located in the baptism and burial registers of Neston Parish Church although in April / June 1902 a Reggie Hampson was baptised at the church (his parents are unknown) and he was buried,





aged 2, at Neston on 16 July 1903. As his address was given as 'Colliery', it is possible that he was a son of Henry and Susan.

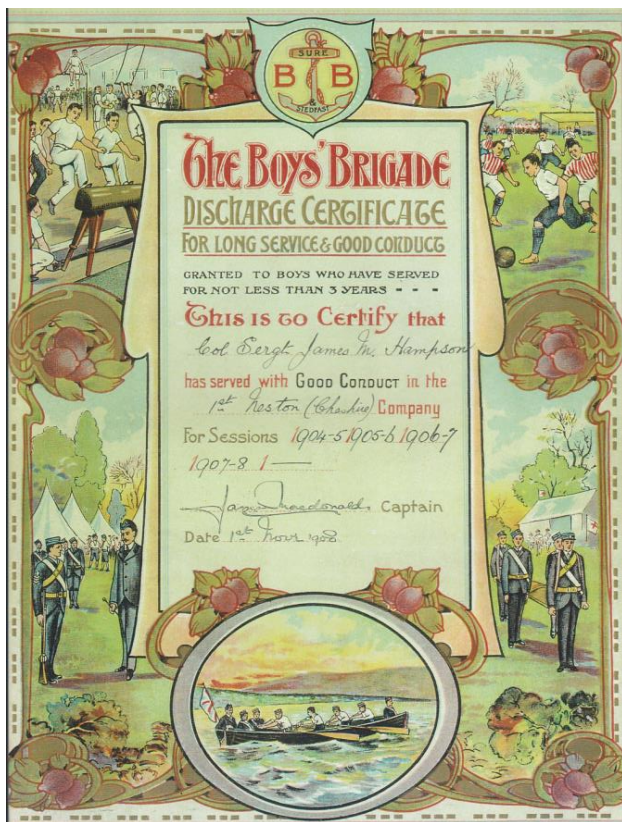
Henry Hampson (known as Harry) James' brother, served in the Royal Engineers in WW1.

James Maxwell Hampson served with distinction in the 1st Neston (Cheshire) Company of the Boys' Brigade between

1904 and 1908 where he reached the rank of Colonel Sergeant. He left the Brigade in 1907, receiving a Discharge Certificate on 16 July, but rejoined the following year and received a second Discharge Certificate on 1 November 1908.

James' older brother, Walter Harold Hampson, was a Comrade of the Great War (Neston Branch) and was awarded a 'Card of Comradeship' on 15 March 1919.

The Comrades of The Great War were formed in 1917 as a non-political association to represent the rights of ex-service men and women who had served or had been discharged from service during World War I. Comrades of The Great War was one of the original four ex-service associations that amalgamated on Sunday 15 May 1921 to form The British Legion.



The organisation was founded by Edward Stanley, 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby as a right-wing alternative to the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (NFDSS) and the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers. In particular, the NFDSS had put a candidate up against Derby's son in the Liverpool Abercromby by-election, 1917. [Wikipedia]





In the 1911 census it was recorded that James Maxwell Hampson was a nursery gardener and it is known that he was working for Arthur Kilpin Bulley in his Bees Seeds organisation.

Born in 1861 to a cotton merchant family in Liverpool, Bulley developed a love for natural history and plant cultivation. As a committed socialist he stood unsuccessfully as a Parliamentary candidate in three elections, including as a Women's Suffrage candidate. In 1897, Bulley bought some land at Ness where he built a house, 'Mickwell Brow', and started to develop extensive gardens which were freely open to the public between dusk and dawn, every day except Christmas Day. Bulley started a commercial nursery in the gardens in 1904 - Bees Ltd.- as well as continuing as a cotton trader.

For reasons which are not known, Max Hampson moved north to Edinburgh and, on 2 April 1914 he joined the staff of the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden as a labourer. However, on 31 August of that year he attested for one year, in Edinburgh, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), a Territorial regiment. His medical report at that time records that he was then 23 years 3 months old, was 5ft 6¼ins tall, weighed 144lb (10 stone 4lb / 65.5kg), had a 37-inch expanded chest and had normal vision and very good physical development. His initial Service Number was 2093 and he gave his address in Edinburgh as Glenogle House, now considered as one of the historic buildings of the city.

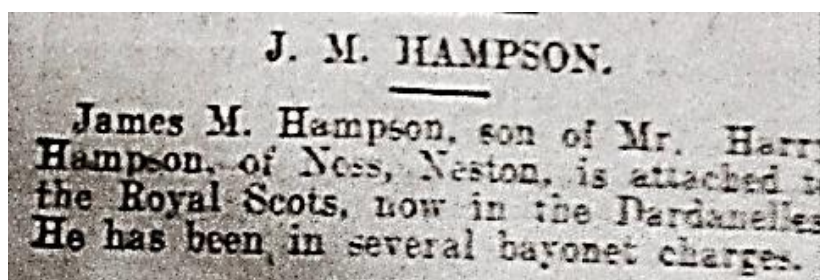
The War Service Roll 1914 – 1919 of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, notes:

*'At the outbreak of war in August 1914 the appeal for recruits for H.M. Forces met with ready response from the Staff of the Royal Botanic Garden. Before many weeks had passed every fit man who would be accepted had left for service. At the time the Garden Staff was one of 110 members, of whom one-fifth were women. Of the men, 73 joined the Forces. Over a fourth of these have given their lives for their country.'*



Glenogle House, Glenogle Street, Edinburgh

Max Hampson undertook military training from the beginning of September 1914 until 20 March 1915 (202 days) before he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) which commanded all the Allied forces in Gallipoli, the only active theatre of war in the Mediterranean at that time. Whilst serving in Gallipoli Max



Birkenhead News – Saturday 9 October 1915

was appointed Lance Corporal on 3 May 1915 before, on 14 March 1916 (having served for 359 days with the MEF) joining the British Expeditionary Force and being transferred to Suez, Egypt, where he served for 312 days before returning home on 21 January 1917.

Max's time in Egypt was punctuated on numerous occasions with bouts of trench fever or, as recorded on 23 September 1916, 'PUO' - pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin, another name for the same complaint. In January 1917 his condition had deteriorated to the extent that he had to be brought home and was transferred to hospital in Dublin where he spent 55 days, from 21 January to 16 March 1917, at the Richmond Hospital. Having been discharged from hospital he then spent a further 129 days 'at home' - whether this was time was spent in Neston, Edinburgh or in barracks is unknown.

(1711) Wt. W16289/M1370 1,000,000 2/17 J.F.W. E708 **NEXT OF KIN.** Army Form W. 3040

Relation.	Name	Address
<i>M</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>M. Maxit Near Neston</i>
		<i>to Wetherhill</i>

Date of Adm. to Hos. or Cas. rep. by O.C.	Date Depot & N. of K. noti- fied.	Nature of Casualty.	Name & partic- ulars of Hospital.	Source of infor- mation.
<i>23.9.16</i>	<i>2.10.16</i>	<i>PUO</i>	<i>Cdn 8th Hk</i>	<i>HA 2776</i>
<i>24.9.16</i>		<i>as</i>	<i>Weymouth</i>	<i>HA 2852</i>
<i>27.9.16</i>		<i>Sick</i>	<i>Cologne at 8th Hk</i>	<i>HA 2869</i>
<i>2.10.16</i>			<i>at Hospital</i>	<i>HA 2976</i>
<i>14.1.17</i>		<i>Trench Fever Recd</i>	<i>at 1st Base Hosp 13th Hk</i>	<i>HA 5958</i>
<i>18.1.17</i>		<i>Trench Fever Severe</i>	<i>at 6th Base</i>	<i>HA 6052</i>
<i>21.1.17</i>	<i>29.1.17</i>		<i>at 1st Base</i>	<i>HA 6103</i>
			<i>at Richmond Hk</i>	<i>HA 6115</i>

Army Form W 3040 Next of Kin Form for Max Hampson detailing some of his episodes of trench fever, when he was hospitalised, whilst serving in Suez in early 1916 and January 1917.

Thanks to his Service Record a considerable amount of detail is known about Max's movements up to his move back from France in early 1917 and this is outlined on the following page.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 86, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 86, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
23. 10. 16.	H. R. O.	Ad. 8 <sup>th</sup> Sty. Hospital.	Wimereux.	23/9/16.	H.A. 2476.
25. 10. 16.	- do -	To No 1 Conv. Depot ex 8 <sup>th</sup> Sty. Hospital.		27/9/16.	H.A. 2552.
30. 10. 16.	- do -	To Base Detach ex 1 Conv. Depot.		2/10/16.	H.A. 2996.
13. 12. 16.	Base Detach.	To Base Detach ex Base Detach, Etaples.		3/10/16.	H. Roll.
12. 11. 16.	23 S.R.S.	Proceeded to join 5 R. Scots in the field.		9/11/16.	H.R. of 9/11/16.
22. 11. 16.	of R.S.	Rejoined unit.	- do -	22/11/16.	B. 213 of 16/11/16.
16. 1. 17.	{ 92 <sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance.	Ad. (N.Y.D. - Fever) Remaining.	In the field.	5/1/17.	C.D. 2317.
18. 1. 17.	90 <sup>th</sup> F.A.	Ad. 5/1/17. To 5 C.R.S. Co.	- " -	5/1/17.	C.D. 2400.
20. 1. 17.	29 <sup>th</sup> F.A.	Ad. (Trench Fever) 12/1/17.	To 22 A. Train	13/1/17.	C.D. 3519.
20. 1. 17.	of R.S.	To H.P.C.	In field.	5/1/17.	B. 213 of 12/1/17.
21. 1. 17.	{ 5 C.R.S.	To 29 C.C.S.	- " -	12/1/17.	C.D. 3542.
4. 2. 17.	{ (92 <sup>nd</sup> F.A.)	Ad. St. John Ambulance Base H.P.C. 14/1/17.	To U.K.	18/1/17.	H.A. 6052.
27. 1. 17.	{ H.R.O.	Ad. (Trench Fever) Etaples		14/1/17.	H.A. 5952.
	{ St John Ambulance	To U.K. per H.S. Warilda		18/1/17.	W. 3083.
	{ Base Hospital, Etaples.				
		H. Codrington for C. i/c. Gen. Infy. Northern Section. Cpl. 24/17.			
		Gained Prof. Pay. Class II Posted to H. of R. of Scots.			
		Captain. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Echelon, B.C.F.			

The following gives the outline of James Maxwell Hampson's movement through the wartime hospital system in late 1916 and early 1917. On this record it is the fifth column, headed 'date', which gives the date of the 'event'. Some detail has been omitted in this description and some additional information added.

On 23 September 1916 Max was admitted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital at Wimereux, a coastal town about 3 miles north of Boulogne. This was a Base Hospital, probably originating as one of the town's hotels and staffed by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with attached Royal Engineers and men of the Army Service Corps. This hospital at Wimereux existed from March 15 until Mar 1919. On 27 September Max was moved into the Convalescent Depot of the hospital before (30 October) moving to the Base Camp at Étaples south of Boulogne, the notorious camp which 'processed' those on their way to the front. On 9 November Max re-joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots in the field, meeting up with his unit two days later. However, less than 2 months later (5 January 1917) Max was readmitted for care, now to the 92<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance before, on the same day, being moved to the 90<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance station. These were two of three such field hospitals serving the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The Field Ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit (the most forward of the RAMC units), not a vehicle, with a theoretical capacity of 150 casualties although, in battle, many would be overwhelmed by numbers. The Ambulance was responsible for establishing and operating a number of points along the casualty evacuation chain. Admitted with 'N.Y.D. - Fever' [Not Yet Diagnosed] his illness was confirmed as being trench fever when, on 12 January, Max was taken to the 29<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, one of the three serving the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division and then, by train, to the 29<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, probably at Gézaincourt in Picardie. The Casualty Clearing Station was part of the casualty evacuation chain, further back from the front line than the Field Ambulances and staffed by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with attached Royal Engineers and men of the Army Service Corps. Although they were quite large, CCSs moved quite frequently. On 14 January 1917 Max was again moved, this time to the St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital 1, a 520-bed institution at Étaples. On 18 January 1917 began the final stage of his return home when he embarked on the Hospital Ship *Warilda* a steam vessel of 7 700 tonnes which could carry around 540 casualties.



The Hospital Ship *Warilda*, which brought Max Hampson back to Britain, ran between Le Havre and Southampton from 25 July 1916 until she was torpedoed and sunk, with the loss of 123 lives, on 3 August 1918 - one of those lost being Private John Robinson MM of Parkgate. For fuller details of the *Warilda* and the sinking of the vessel see a later entry in this work, **77: Jonathan Robinson**.

### Trench Fever

'Trench Fever' was first reported in the trenches of the Western Front in December 1914 and its impact continued to grow throughout the war. Trench Fever attacked all armies and until the final year of the war baffled doctors and researchers. Chief symptoms of the disease were headaches, skin rashes, inflamed eyes and leg pains but, despite such wide-ranging symptoms (which resembled typhoid and influenza) the condition was not itself particularly serious, with patients recovering after some five or six days although prolonged hospitalisation amounting to several weeks was common. In military terms, however, it proved one of the most significant causes of sickness and military authorities were therefore keen to determine the root of the problem.



In 1918 the cause was identified as excretions from lice, affecting all trenches: *Rickettsia quintana*. The disease was transmitted via the bites of body lice and was chiefly prevalent on the warmer Western and Italian Fronts.

In 1917 a renewed incidence of the disease was recorded with effects much as before although the average duration of sickness was slightly longer. In 1918 victims reported suffering frequent relapses after intervals of several days.

Following his return to Britain, and his treatment for trench fever in Dublin, Max Hampson returned to the British Expeditionary Force on 24 July 1917 as a Corporal, having been promoted 3 days before his departure. This promotion was one of expediency as another corporal in his unit, Cpl J Murray, had been invalided home earlier. He actually sailed to France on 28 July, disembarking the same day, and was back in Étaples the following day where he was posted to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots. Little is known of the events over the next several months other than that, on 14 January 1918, he was appointed as a Lance Sergeant, a corporal acting in the rank of sergeant.



The 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles) amalgamated with the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> to become the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots. (Lothian Regiment) on 15 June 1916 and on 29 July 1916 they transferred to the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. However, the precise circumstances of Max Hampson's death are undocumented although it is probable that he was one of the five 'other ranks' who died on 8 March 1918 whilst countering an enemy attack. The relevant extract from the Battalion's War Diary, together with the unit's instructions for this time, are reproduced below although no mention is made of any significant action at that time:



WAR DIARY		Army Form C. 2118.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		5/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots
(Erase heading not required.)		
16 72-	Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.	
7:3:18	Battalion holding line, Battn. relieved at night by 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. Dorset Regiment & moved into Brigade support. O.O. 138. Appendix "B".	G.D.C.
Support HET SAS sector 8:3:18	Battalion in support. During early morning enemy counter attacked Brigade on our right. At 9.0am two company's of Battalion were detailed to support counter attack which was being delivered by two companies of 2 <sup>nd</sup> King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.	G.D.C.
Support HET SAS sector 8:3:18	light. Infantry. The Coy's detailed came under heavy artillery fire as they moved out the open but reached their allotted positions & gained touch with counter attacking troops. The counter attack being successful the Coy's were ordered to return. Officer casualties, Wounded Lt. Col. J.A. Fraser D.S.O. D.C.M., Captain A.H.S. Paterson. Wounded remained at duty, Lt. A.M. Macdonald. Casualties to O.R. were 5 killed, 14 wounded.	G.D.C.

### War Diary (condensed) of the 5/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots – the entry for 7 – 8 March 1918

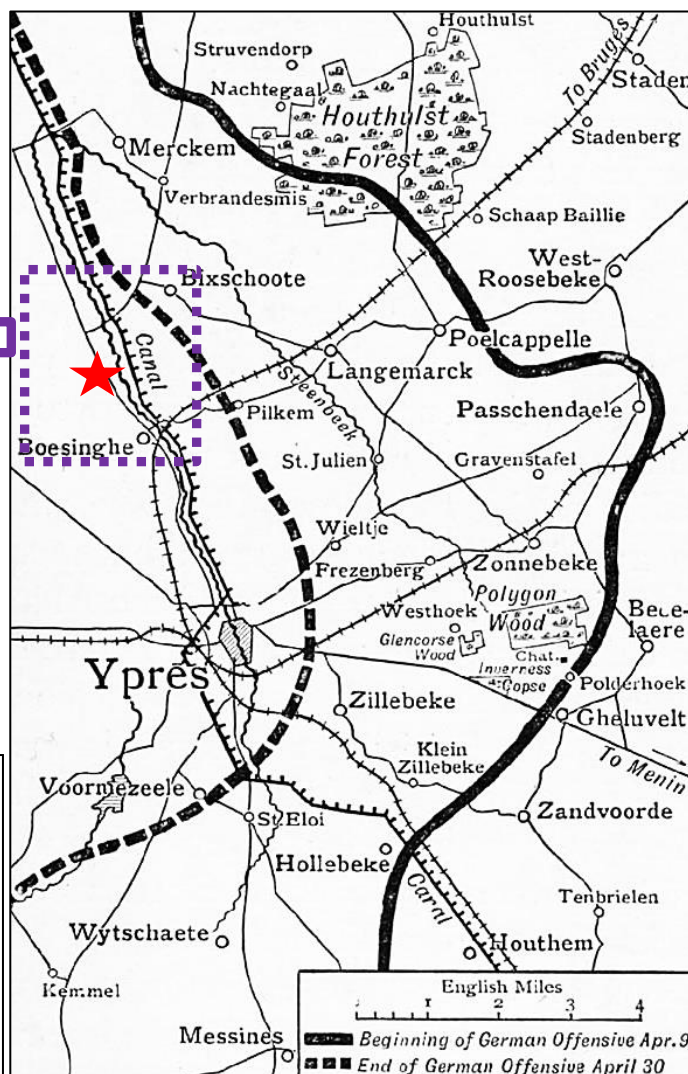
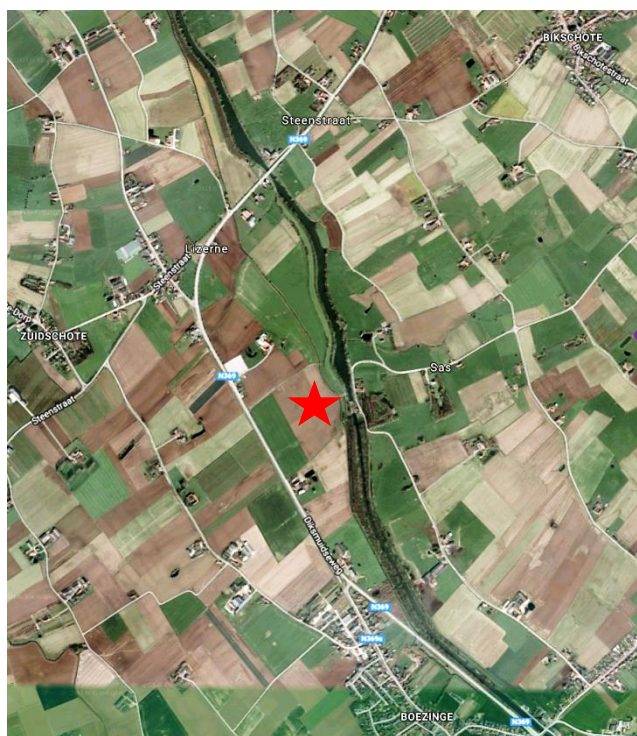
7:3:18 Support HET SAS sector Battalion holding line. Battn. relieved at night by 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Dorset Regiment and moved into Brigade support. O.O. 138. Appendix 'B'.

8:3:18 Support HET SAS sector Battalion in support. During early morning enemy counter attacked Brigade on our right. At 9.0am two company's [sic] of Battalion were detailed to support counter attack which was being delivered by two companies of 2<sup>nd</sup> King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The Coy's. detailed came under heavy artillery fire as they moved out the open but reached their allotted positions and gained touch with counter attacking troops. The counter attack being successful the Coy's. were ordered to return. Officer casualties, Wounded Lt. Col. J.A. Fraser [?] DSO, DCM, Captain A.H.S. Paterson. Wounded remained at duty, Lt. A.M. Macdonald. Casualties to OR were 5 killed, 14 wounded.

Whilst it is known that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division took part in The First Battle of Arras, a phase of the "First Battles of the Somme, 1918" (and fought over much of the desolate landscape created after the 1916 Battle of the Somme), part of the German 'Spring Offensive', this did not commence until 21 March. British intelligence had predicted a German offensive in the Arras–St Quentin area based upon the build-up of troops and artillery there and the British response was increased nightly bombardment of the German front lines, rear areas, and possible areas of troop assembly. It was during this preparatory stage that Max Hampson died, reportedly having being shot in the neck. It was reported that his remains were identified by his brother, Private Harry Hampson (Royal Engineers) who happened to be stationed in the vicinity and it is known that Max was buried at the Paratonniers Farm Cemetery at Boesinghe but that, together with many others, his body was exhumed and reburied at the New Irish Farm Cemetery, north-east of the town of Ieper (Ypres), on 1 February 1921.

It appears, from the scant information, that Max Hampson was close to the Yser Canal, north of Ypres and close to Boesinghe (the Het Sas Sector) when he was killed.





This map represents the German advance westwards in April 1918, a month after Max Hampson was killed. The location of Het Sas, by the Yser Canal (leperlee) is shown by the red star and the area enclosed by the purple rectangle is shown on the modern satellite image.

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

*Appendix B*  
 SECRET. 5/6th. ROYAL SCOTS OPERATION ORDER No. 138. Copy To...  
 BY LIEUT-COL. J.A. THORPE, D.S.O., D.C.M., COMMANDING.  
 MAP REF. SHEET 20 S.W. 1/20,000. Date. 7-3-18.

- The 5/6th. ROYAL SCOTS will be relieved in the Front System Forward Zone tonight 7/8th. March 1918 by the 1st. Dorset Regt.
- Guides 1 per platoon, 1 per Coy. H.Q. and per L.G. A.A. Position will report to 2/Lt. DALGLEISH at CATINAT at 530 p.m. tonight. Post guides will be arranged for by companies.
- The order of relief will be
 

Right	D. Coy. 1st. Dorset Regt. will relieve B. Coy. R. Scots.
Centre	A. Coy. -do- -do- D. -do-
Left	C. Coy. -do- -do- A. -do-
Support	B. Coy. -do- -do- C. -do-
- A.A. L.G. positions and mountings will be handed over receipts for mountings showing pattern taken, and three copies forwarded to Bn. H.Q. A.A. Sights will NOT be handed over.
- Trench stores, defence schemes etc., must be carefully handed over and Company Commanders must satisfy themselves that the relieving Officer thoroughly understands the defence etc. of this area. Receipts in triplicate will be forwarded to H.Q. immediately after relief.

Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) instructions issued on 7 March 1918, the day before James Maxwell Hampson died. There is no reference here to any significant action that was being planned at that time.

- The system of signalling from front posts to Coy. H.Q. must be carefully explained and handed over.
  - Companies will obtain certificates from the incoming unit that the shelters and surroundings in their area have been handed over in a clean and sanitary condition. Two copies of these certificates will be forwarded to Bn. H.Q. immediately after relief.
  - On relief in the Front System of the Forward Zone the 5/6th. Royal Scots will withdraw to Support Area and relieve the 15th. H.L.I.
  - Guides one per platoon and one per Coy. H.Q. will be at CARRE DE LONDRES at 7 p.m.
  - The dispositions of Companies in support will be
 

C Company.	GOURBI	CORPS LINE.
B Company.	LES LILAS.	
A Company.	CAMELIA and VOLTIGEUR FARM.	
D Company.	CRAUDE FARM.	
  - Receipt for trench stores etc. taken over in support area will be forwarded in triplicate to Bn. H.Q. as soon as possible after relief.
  - Completion of relief will be reported by wire and runner in code as follows :-
 

RELIEF COMPLETE	- OH
LITTLE SHELLING	- MY
MUCH SHELLING	- GOODNESS.
  - Acknowledge.
- Issued at a.m. & Adjutant, 5/6th. Bn. The Royal Scots.  
 Copies to :-  
 No. 1 & 2. War Diary. 3. File. 4. 14th. Inf. Bde.  
 5. C.O. 6. Adjutant. 7. S.D. 10. O.C. Coys.  
 11. M.O. 12. Lt. Dalgleish. 13. T.O. & Q.M.  
 14. 1st. Dorsets. 15. H.L.I.



## NESTON SOLDIER KILLED.

News has been received of the death of Sergt. Maxwell Hampson, of the Royal Scots, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hampson, of Ness, Neston.

Sergt. Hampson joined the Royal Scots in Edinburgh in the early stages of the war, and has been in the thick of the fighting for nearly three years. One of the first of the troops to land on the Gallipoli Peninsula Sergt. Hampson went through the whole of this campaign, and afterwards took part in heavy fighting in France. In leading his men over the top in a local attack he was shot through the throat and instantly killed. His remains were interred in a local military cemetery, having been identified by his brother, Private Harry Hampson, of the Royal Engineers, who happened to be stationed in the vicinity.

The death of Sergt. Hampson, whose quiet and unassuming disposition made him popular with all has caused great grief amongst his many friends and acquaintances, and the utmost sympathy is extended to his parents. Sergt. Hampson was one of the original members of the 1st Neston Company Boys' Brigade, and as a staff-sergeant devoted a large amount of time in earnest work towards this organisation previous to the war. For a number of years he was an employee of Messrs. Bees, Ltd.

James Maxwell Hampson's War Grave at the New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), Belgium. [photo: CWGC]



676827 <sup>E</sup>/<sub>503416</sub> Hamilton  
James W.  
5/6th Bn 8-3-18 Hamilton  
Royal Scots Aclon 5-18  
L. Sgt France  
250421

**WAR GRATUITY.**  
Effects 19/12/20  
Transferred 23/19  
Ferd Paper 24/25 10/-  
Serial No. 27/10/11

A. F. W 5070 SENT  
DATE 12 JUL 1919

19 17 7 = 19 17 7 - m/o 1/5 21-10-18, La Tadmint 19 14 4  
Henry  
La Tadmint  
Henry 17 10 0

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.

The total payment, £37 7s 7d, is approximately equivalent to a labour value (ie wages) of about £5700 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.

Henry ('Harry') Hampson jnr, Henry Hampson's youngest son, was killed on 27 March 1930 when, riding a motorcycle in Ness, he collided with a stray horse. He was 36. In late 1923 Henry jnr had married Ethel Anyon in a Civil Marriage on Wirral and it is believed that they had one son, Maxwell Hampson, who was born in mid-1924. Ethel, however, died on 28 November 1926 aged just 28.

## FUNERAL OF MR. HENRY HAMPSON

The funeral of Mr. Henry Hampson, who died at his home "The Nessit," Ness, on Sunday, took place on Wednesday, when a service was held at Neston Presbyterian Church prior to the interment at Neston Cemetery. The Rev. C. C. Lundie officiated.

Mr. Hampson, who was in his 30th year, was a native of West Houghton, near Wigan, and at the age of nine was employed driving ponies in the coal-mines at Aspull, Lancashire and, along with his brother, the late Mr. Wm. Hampson, he was employed by Messrs. Pearson and Knowles, of Ince, near Wigan, at the time of the terrible explosion at the Moss Pits in 1871, and was one of the first to volunteer to descend after the mine fired the first time. He came to Neston in 1874, when his brother was appointed supervisor of the Neston Colliery. During the time he was at the colliery he was engaged in tunnelling and boring work at which he proved to be an expert. He also did a large amount of work in boring artesian wells and bored wells at Cheedle, Holywell, Helsby, and Mostyn House, Parkgate. He was also asked to give his advice in the sinking of wells at Clatterbridge. He retired about twenty years ago. He was a member of the Ness Bowling Club, and on several occasions played in the Veterans' Handicap.

Mr. Hampson was a popular figure in the district, and he will be missed by a large number of friends and acquaintances. He leaves one son, Mr. W. H. Hampson, to mourn his loss. Another son, Mr. Harry Hampson, died as a result of injuries received through running into a straying horse when motor-cycling on the Ness-road in March of this year.

The principal mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hampson (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. T. Darbyshire (sister), Miss Doreen Spruce (grand-daughter), Mr. John Platt (brother-in-law), Mrs. Wm. Jellicoe (sister-in-law), Mrs. A. Scott, Mrs. Waring, Mrs. J. Scott, Miss E. Scott, and Mrs. Ethel Platt (nieces), Messrs. James Hampson, Andrew Scott, Thos. Booth, W. Darbyshire (nephews), Messrs. Arthur Scott, and Robert Scott (cousins). The general mourners included: Messrs. J. Wilde, D. Jones, T. Anyon (sen.), R. Lewis, A. W. Cartwright, Miss M. A. Matthews. Messrs. T. Norman, H. Hough, J. Jones, and A. Warburton acted as bearers.

Susan Hampson, Max's mother, died in late 1924 aged 67.

Maxwell Hampson, the son of Henry ('Harry') jnr and Ethel, married Linda Edmondson at St Paul's Church, Seacombe, in mid-1947 and it is believed that they had at least three children:

Susan Hampson, born in Wallasey in late 1948.

Stephen Hampson, born in late 1951.

Stephen died on 11 February 1952 aged just 4½.

Penelope Hampson, born in mid-1953.

Unfortunately, Maxwell also died young, dying in Hampstead, London, in mid-1961 when he was 37.

Henry Hampson snr lived until he was 79, dying at his home in mid-1930 just a few months after his son, Henry, was killed in the motorcycling accident. The only one of his ten children still alive, Walter Harold Hampson, attended the funeral at Neston.

Walter Harold Hampson (born 28 July 1889) had married Elizabeth Mary Spruce (born 14 November 1893) at a Civil Marriage in Chester in July / September 1924. At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) they were living at 'The Nessit', Mill Lane, Ness,

and Walter was recorded as a jobbing gardener.

It is believed that they may have had at least one daughter, Doreen, although no record of the birth has been found (in fact, no births have been found in the registers to a Hampson née Spruce). In the 1939 Register Walter and Mary were recorded with Reggie Hampson (born 10 April 1931) and William Osgood (born 27 January 1930) in the household. It is not certain that Reggie was the son of Walter and Elizabeth - a Reggie Hampson, born on Wirral at this time, has Mealor as the mother's maiden name. However, it is known that Reggie married Barbara Davies (born 22 October 1935) of 21, Cottage Close, Burton Road, at Neston Parish Church in mid-1954.

William Osgood does not seem to be a close relative - a William G Osgood was born to a mother née Whittle in Birkenhead at this time.

Walter died in late 1966 aged 77 but it is not known when Elizabeth died.



**HAMPSON** James Maxwell of Mill Hill Ness near **Chester**  
lance-sergeant the Royal Scots died 8 March 1918 in  
France Administration **Chester** 16 May to Henry Hampson  
retired miner. Effects £183 4s. 3d.

National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 16 May 1918

The £183 4s 3d that James left in his Will would, at 2018 values, represent  
£34 520 when related to wages.



Hampson gravestone in Neston Cemetery

The small commemorative stone to James Maxwell Hampson, close to the family grave, in Neston Parish Churchyard. The stone is much weathered and encrusted with lichen.



## A footnote on the Scott Family of Little Neston

George Scott, and his wife Susanah/Susan, came to Neston in about 1837 from Northumberland to farm near Little Neston colliery. George was born in Coupland and Susanah in Cornhill, both villages in Northumberland. In the 1851 census George Scott (45) was described as a 'farm bailiff, also farmer of 40 acres employing 3 sons.' In 1871, farming Ness Colliery Farm, he had 111 acres and was employing six labourers. George and Susanah had at least 6 sons, three of whom were engaged in farming in Little Neston:

**Andrew** (born c1828, Northumberland) was farming the land adjacent to Ness Colliery Farm in 1871. In 1881 this farm was described as being 97 acres and Andrew employed 4 men and 1 boy. He was married to Elizabeth (born Dunscore, near Dumfries, Scotland) and they had at least five children including:

**Susan** – their eldest child who married collier Henry Hampson in 1878. James Maxwell Hampson, one of their sons, was killed in WW1.

**Janet / Janette** - who married John Platt, the eldest son of Neston Colliery undermanager James Platt on 25 February 1892. In the 1901 census John Platt was the Colliery Undermanager – James Platt had become the manager - and he went on to become a colliery manager and consultant mining engineer in the Skelmersdale area.

**Richard** - who married Ruth Platt, the third child of Neston Colliery manager undermanager James Platt, on 9 January 1891 at Neston Presbyterian Church.

*'A WEDDING - Some interest was created in the Neston district on Friday by the marriage of Miss Ruth Platt, second daughter of Mr Platt, the underground manager of the Neston Colliery with Mr Richard Scott, son of Mr Andrew Scott, a well-known farmer of the colliery. The steam whistle of the works struck up a lively tune while the party were on the way to the Presbyterian Church, where the ceremony was performed. A number of presents have been made by friends and workmen employed at the colliery.'*  
[source: *Cheshire Observer*, Saturday, January 10, 1891]

In the 1891 census Richard, 22, a ploughman, and Ruth were living with his parents (Andrew and Elizabeth) at their farm at Ness Colliery. Andrew Scott, 66, died in 1894 and was buried at Neston on 23 August. Richard then took over the running of the farm but he found this difficult and he was unable to cope

On the morning of Monday June 24 1895 Elizabeth Scott found her son *'...hanging in an outbuilding on the farm. He was quite dead when cut down. Deceased, who managed the farm for his mother, has been mentally affected for several months'* [source: *Liverpool Mercury*, Tuesday June 25 1895]. The farm was actually owned by the Stanley family and, after Richard's death, his widow Ruth and two small children had to leave the farm and move in with her parents Margaret & James Platt (the colliery manager) on Colliery Lane. For many years Ruth ran the tobacconist & stationer's shop on The Cross, Neston, where she also lived.

**Thomas** (born c1830, Northumberland) was married twice (Esther [Bridson] and Elizabeth) and was, for many years, a farm labourer. However, in 1881, he was recorded as being a 'farmer of 78 acres employing 2 men'. In 1891 five of Thomas's children were recorded as being employed on the farm; Robert (22), Martha (19), Henry (17), David (16) and Wilson (15). When Thomas died aged 67 (he was buried at Neston on 18 December 1896) his unmarried son, Robert, took over the running of the farm and, in 1901, he was employing unmarried brothers David (26) and John (20) as teamsmen on the farm (teamsman: "A carter who drives a team of horses attached to a heavy dray, wain or timber cart, drawing a heavy load". *A Dictionary of Occupational Terms*). Within the farming context the term would also cover a man in charge of the ploughing. Another unmarried brother, Arthur (34) was a hay dealer, Wilson (24) had become a blacksmith and Charles (18) was a plasterer. In late 1901 Robert married Bertha Florence Swift in Liverpool and, it is understood, the farm was renamed Ivy Farm. The site is now covered by the housing development of West Vale and West Drive. In the 1930s it is believed that they sold the farm and moved to White House Farm on the south side of the Green in Little Neston.

**George** (born c1836, Northumberland) married Hannah Brown of Little Neston on 13 May 1856. In 1856 he was recorded as a 'farmer of 36 acres employing 1 man and 1 boy' at a farm close to The Harp in Little Neston. In 1871 the farm, identified as Colliery Farm, had expanded to 54 acres although only 1 man and 1 boy were still employed there. By the time of the 1881 census William Ashbrook was the farmer here.