

93: James Edward Anderson

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: James Edward Anderson

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 1st / 10th Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Service Number: 4252 Date of Death: 16 June 1915 Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres (Ieper), West Flanders, Belgium

Additional information given by CWGC: None

James Edward Anderson was a son of hotel coachman Robert and Mary Ann Anderson (née Edwards). At the time of the 1901 census the family was living at 166 Lochee Road, Liff and Benvie near Dundee and consisted of:

Robert G. Anderson	44	coachman (domestic)	born Dundee
Maryann	42		born Edinburgh
Maryann	18	assist. In India-rubber shop	born Crail, Fife
Hannah	15		born Dundee
William	13		born Dundee
David	17	joiner (app.)	born Crail
Alice	11		born Dundee
James	8		born Dundee
Edith	4		born Dundee

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to Neston although the location of the youngest child, Edith, is unknown:

1	Robert Anderson	Head	55		Married					Coachman	4 060	Hotel 943	Edinburgh	Edinburgh	510
2	Maryann Anderson	Wife	53	37	Married	29	7	7	8				Edinburgh	Edinburgh	513
3	David Anderson	Son	26		Single					Joiner to Builder	210		Leuchars	Fife	517
4	William Anderson	Son	23		Single					Grocer's Assistant	320		Dundee	Fife	513
5	Alice Anderson	Daughter	21		Single					Milliner	895		Dundee	do	
6	James Anderson	Son	18		Single					Joiner	210		Dundee	do	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Total		
Males	Females	Persons
4	2	6

(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, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the Kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

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

Signature: Robert Anderson
Postal Address: Five Ways, Neston

1911 census (condensed) – Five Ways, Neston

Robert Anderson	55	hotel coachman	born Edinburgh
Mary Ann	53		born Barry, Forfarshire
David	26	joiner to builder	born Leuchars, Fife
William	23	grocer's assistant	born Dundee
Alice	21	milliner	born Dundee
James	18	joiner	born Dundee

Robert and Mary Ann had been married for 29 years and all their 7 children had survived.



The Neston Hotel (formerly, before 1901, the *Letters Hotel*) on Neston High Street

Robert Anderson was a coachman at the Neston Hotel (the proprietor was William Abell-Higginbottom) on Neston High Street and James was a joiner working for local builder Albert Fleming.

Although two other local casualties of WW1 had the same surname - John Anderson and

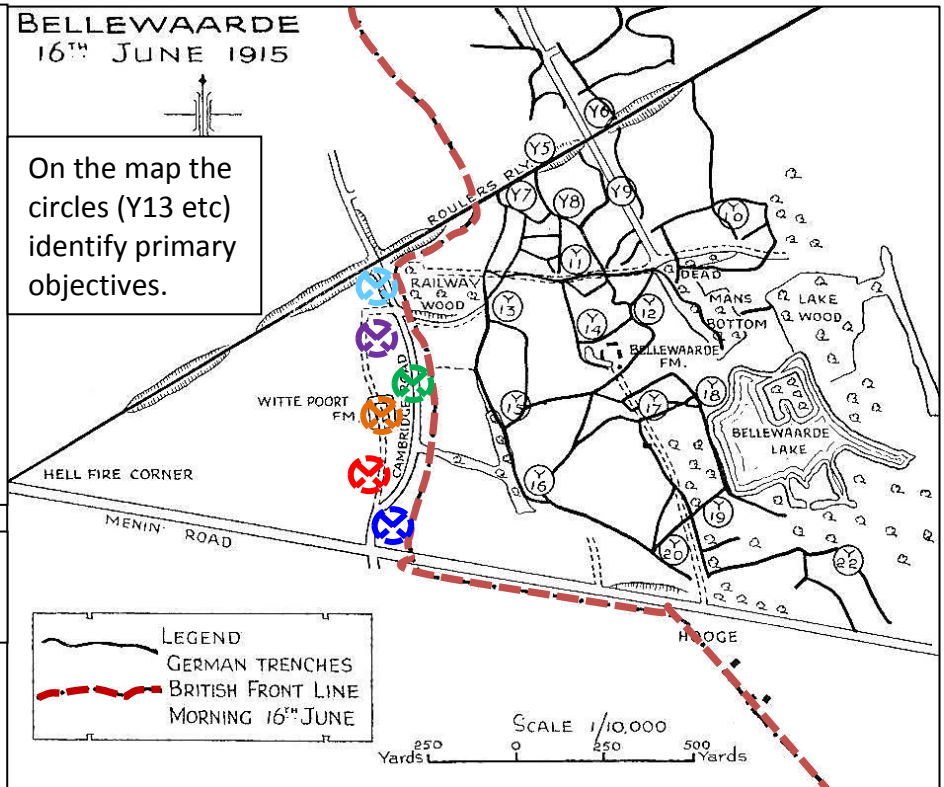
Walter Anderson - there does not appear to be any close relationship.

James attested for the 10th (Scottish) (Reserve) Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment), in Liverpool, on 15 December 1914. His Service Record shows that James was aged 22 years 3 months (but recorded also as 22 years 165 days), was 5ft 8ins tall, weighed 141lb (10 stone 1lb / 64kg), had a 36½-inch expanded chest and was of good physical development with good vision.

The 1/10th (Scottish) Battalion, a battalion of the Territorial Forces, was formed in Liverpool in August 1914 as part of the South Lancashire Brigade, West Lancashire Division. The troops later moved to Edinburgh and then to Tunbridge Wells. Although James had not joined at this date the troops landed at Le Havre on 2 November 1914 where they transferred to the 9th Brigade, 3rd Division and were engaged in various actions on the Western front including the First Battle of Ypres (19 October - 22 November 1914).

On this map the location of the Assembly Trenches occupied by The King's (Liverpool Regiment) on the early morning of Wednesday 16 June 1915 is represented by the red symbol. Other regiments in support and close proximity are shown by: Cheshire Field Company RE - orange Lincolnshire Regiment - purple Royal Fusiliers - dark blue Royal Scots Fusiliers - green Northumberland Fusiliers - light blue

Source:
www.westernfrontassociation.com



It is recorded that James embarked for France on 13 March 1915 and that he was killed in action just three months later.

During 1915 the 10th Battalion was engaged in The First Attack on Bellewaarde (referred to also as The First Battle of Bellewaarde or The Battle of Hooge) and this took place on 16 June, the day on which James Anderson died.

The battlefield here was very small, approximately ½ mile square, but over 1000 men died within a 12 hour period and many others were wounded and died later of infection or complications. Opposing trenches were only 150 – 300 yards apart and the operations were very congested.

At the close of The Battles of Ypres, the German trenches between the Menin Road and the Ypres-Roulers railway formed a salient.

Behind their front lines lay the Bellewaarde Ridge and the lake, the former giving the enemy good observation over our lines. Hooge, at the southern point of this salient, lay battered and ruined between the opposing lines; while just south of the Ypres-Roulers railway the eastern edges of Railway Wood were held by the enemy, and the western edges by British troops of the 3rd Division. The British line from opposite Hooge ran along just south of the Menin Road to just east of Birr X Road, then turned sharply northwards skirting the eastern edges of the Cambridge Road to the angle formed by the latter and the railway, where, for some 300 yards, it followed the latter eastwards, turning again sharply north-west.

Early in June it was decided to attack the salient, and, if possible, gain possession of the ridge; the attack was to be carried out by the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Division. Though they make interesting reading, it is impossible to give full details of the operations, orders, and indeed, from a regimental point of view, such matters as particulars concerning the attacking troops and objectives allotted to them are sufficient to place the reader au fait with the situation before the attack began. One fact, however, is clearly demonstrated in these orders, that, at this period there was a shortage of bombs, for the utility of the hand-grenade in trench fighting was only just being recognised.

There were three phases in the attack on Bellewaarde. In the first the objective was the eastern edge of a narrow strip of wood (Y.16 and Y.15), and the German front-line trenches as far as the north-east corner of Railway Wood; in the second the objective was the line of the road from the house 100 yards south of Y.17, through Y.17 to Bellewaarde Farm, thence through.14 and Y.11 to Y.7; the objective in the third phase was the south-western corner of Bellewaarde Lake, Y.18 - Y.12 - Y.7.

The attacking troops for the first phase were (from right to left) the 4th Royal Fusiliers, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 5th Fusiliers. As soon as the German front was taken the Royal Fusiliers were to bomb down the trench from Y.16 to Y.17, while the Royal Scots Fusiliers, in conjunction with the 5th Fusiliers, were to seize the hostile trench lying between Y.13 and Y.15 and the second objective, the 5th Fusiliers pushing their bombing parties on towards Y.7.

As soon as the first objective had been gained the guns were to bombard the second objective, i.e., from the house 100 yards south of Y.17 to Y.11; about the centre of this line lay Bellewaarde Farm. The 1st Lincolns and Liverpool Scottish (1/10th King's Regiment), who during the first phase, were to move up to the front line vacated by the troops of the first phase, and were to capture the third objective. In later years this was known as "leap-frogging."

The 7th Brigade was to support the 9th, and the 8th was in reserve. On the right of the 3rd Division troops of the 7th Division were to support the 9th Brigade by seizing the German trenches from Y.20

to Y.16, and by covering rifle and machine-gun fire from the Menin Road. On the left the 6th Division was to assist the 3rd by opening covering fire with rifles and machine guns. From 2.50 a.m. with three pauses at 3.10 a.m., 3.40 a.m. and 4 a.m., until 4.15 a.m., the Divisional Artillery was to bombard the enemy trenches. At 4.15 a.m. the infantry were to advance to the assault. The attack was to take place on 16th June.

[Extract from 'History of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) 1914-1919', E. Wyrall, 1928]

On 16 June 1915 The Liverpool Scottish, along with the 1/Lincolns attacked and advanced, but, against orders, soldiers from reserve battalions (2/Royal Irish Rifles and 1/1 HAC) also went forward. The battalions taking part in this third phase of the attack caught up with troops who had gone forward earlier, and who were waiting for the barrage to move forward. Because they had moved so quickly, they ran into their own barrage (mist and smoke prevented observation by the gunners). The trenches were now crowded with troops from different phases of the attack, as well as those who should not have attacked at all. Control of the battle broke down and heavy German artillery started to take its toll. Despite taking the trenches, these could not be held due to the bombardment of both British and German artillery. Counter-attacked at 7.30am, and again at 9.30am, the Liverpool Scottish and the Lincolns were forced back.

The events leading up to, and on, the 16 June are recorded in the Battalion diary:

On the 2nd June 1915 the 9th Brigade relieved the 83rd Brigade in trenches N of ZILLEBEKE, which had been inspected by Officers of each Battn. on the previous day. Leaving E Camp on the VLAMERTINGHE-OUDERDOM Road at 6 pm the Battalion marched via KRUISSTRAAT, where tea was served, arriving at the trenches about midnight where we took over from the East Yorks. The trenches which were situated on the East Edge of ARMAGH WOOD were well made, being very deep, and had an additional advantage in being dry. We had 470 Rifles and 4 Machine Guns in the fire trench, whilst a small support trench on the right was manned by 38 rifles, in addition a small garrison of 1 NCO and 19 men held a redoubt in SANCTUARY WOOD. One company of the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the latter wood was under the Command of our C.O. as Reserve. Headquarters were established in a Dugout about 30 yards behind the firing line. The 3rd and 4th June were very quiet days and for the most part passed without incident, sniping was indulged in by our men on the right with some success, but unfortunately this position was open to enfilade fire from a machine gun and several casualties occurred before the traverses could be improved.

On the night of the 5th the R.E. Officer in charge of mining operations blew up a small charge in an attempt to check similar operations by the enemy, the effect of his so doing was only local. Various improvements, including the making of loop holes, were carried out. On the night of the 16th the Brigade were relieved by the 150th Brigade, the 5th Durham Light Infantry taking over the particular section which we had occupied. The Battn. marched back to VLAMERTINGHE arriving there about 4 am on the morning of the 7th. A and C Coys were billeted in A Camp and B and D Coys in B Camp, Headquarters being in a house near to the station.

On Wednesday the 9th inst. orders were received that the III Div. were to go back for 10 days rest and the Battn. marched back to a point near to BUSSEBOOM, there encamping on a field which had been occupied by our Transport for some time. From the 10th to the 15th June the Battn. was busily engaged in training for an operation to take place on the 16th, particular attention being given to bombing.

On the morning of the 12th June a composite company under Captain R.F.B. Dickinson attended a ceremonial parade near camp, when the G.O.C. 3rd Division, General Haldane presented DCMs to NCOs and men of the Brigade. Private Howarth, of 'B' Coy being one of the recipients of this distinction. On the evening of the 14th June Major A.S. Anderson proceeded to RAILWAY WOOD (which is situated West of BELLEWARDE Farm and North of Hooge) from which point the 9th Brigade were to attack on the morning of the 16th. He took with him 2 men per Company to act as markers and also 2 Cyclists. At 4 pm on the afternoon of the 15th the Battalion left the camping ground near BUSSEBOOM and proceeded via YPRES to RAILWAY WOOD.

The attack was made on a frontage of about 1,000 yards, the Northumberland, Royal Scots and Royal Fusiliers were detailed to take the first line and we, in conjunction with the Lincolns, were to take the 2nd Line, the 7th Brigade being in Reserve. We were shelled rather heavily between 12 on the morning of the 16th and during this time several of our men were killed or wounded. Our artillery bombardment started at 2.10am and carried out the work of demolition so successfully that little difficulty was experienced in taking the first and second line trenches. Unfortunately however in continuing the advance we suffered many casualties as, owing to the difficulty experienced in observing signals, it was impossible to keep our shells ahead of the advancing infantry. Although the 3rd Line German Trenches were reached it was impossible to hold on to them and so the whole Brigade consolidated the 1st and part of the 2nd Line German trenches, manning them until 11.30 pm on the night of the 16th at which hour they were relieved by the 8th Brigade. The casualties amongst our Officers were particularly heavy and of the 24 Officers who went up only Lieutenant Wall, 2nd Lieutenant T.G. Roddick and Lieutenant Chavasse ¹ came back unscathed. The work of all ranks throughout the day calls forth the highest praise, our bombing parties doing particularly good work. The stretcher bearers throughout a most trying day did excellent work and showed great courage in attending to so many wounded under very heavy shell fire. The following is an extract from a special Order by Major General Haldane Commanding 3rd Division published on the 17th June. "The Major General Commanding cannot adequately express his admiration for the gallant manner in which the attack was carried out yesterday. The dash and determination of all ranks was beyond praise, and that some actually reached the objective in the first rush and remained there under most trying circumstances is a proof of their superiority over the German Infantry. That the captured ground could not all be held is disappointing, more especially as the losses incurred were heavy. But these casualties have not been in vain. The 3rd Division carried out a fine piece of work and fought splendidly, and their commander is deeply proud of them". From the 17th to the end of the month the Battalion was encamped in the same field near BUSSEBOOM, Lieutenant L.G. Wall being in command, with 2nd Lieutenant T.C. Roddick acting Adjutant, the time being devoted to Company Training and Route Marching.

*Leslie G Wall
Lieut. Commanding 10th (Scottish) Battalion
The King's (Liverpool Regiment)*

The role of the Liverpool Scottish at The Battle of Hooge was described also (in 1930) by Lieutenant A M McGilchrist, who served in the war with the Liverpool Scottish, and became the battalion's official historian:

[The Liverpool Scottish, 1900-1919 (10th Liverpool Regiment), vol. 1
A.M. McGilchrist Henry Young & Sons, Ltd 1930]

¹ Lieutenant Chavasse subsequently became the only man to be awarded both a Victoria Cross and bar in the First World War. An outline of his life is given at the end of this entry.

The Battle of Hooge or, as it is now officially and more correctly named, the First Action at Bellewaarde, was a holding action to pin down enemy reserves and so assist the operations which were being carried out on the same day at Givenchy by the British and at Vimy by the French. It had as its object the capture of the enemy's system of trenches lying between the Menin Road and the Ypres-Roulers Railway. Here the German line formed a salient and their front-line trenches south from Railway Wood were on a ridge from which they had a clear view of all the country behind the British lines right down to Ypres itself. The attack, if successful, would deny to the enemy this advantage of position and would straighten out the uncomfortable re-entrant in our own line.

According to the operation orders the attack was to be in three stages. First, the Royal Fusiliers, Royal Scots Fusiliers and Northumberland Fusiliers were to assault the enemy's front line of trenches. When this line was taken the Lincolns (on the right) and the Liverpool Scottish were to go through and capture the second line from a house 100 yards south of Y 17 to Y 11, the dividing line between the battalions being a hedge 150 yards south of Railway Wood, running east from Cambridge Road, and thence the track leading to Bellewaarde Farm. Flanks during this second phase were to be secured, on the right, by the 7th Brigade, which was ordered to work up under Y 20 and the trench from that point to the second T in Eclurette and, on the left, by the Northumberland Fusiliers who were to work to Y 7 and Y 8 by bombing parties. The Royal Fusiliers and Royal Scots Fusiliers were to reorganize and support the second phase if necessary. After the capture and consolidation of the second line the three battalions which had taken the first objective were to go through again and capture the third objective, which was from the south-west corner of Bellewaarde Lake, through Y 18, Y 12 and Y 8, to Y 7.

The 7th Brigade was ordered to support the 9th Brigade closely, to occupy trenches vacated by the 9th Brigade, to dig communication-trenches linking up our trench-system with the enemy's and, after the capture of the third objective, to consolidate the line gained.

No. 3 Motor Machine-Gun Company was also to support the attack from the Menin Road.

It will be seen from the above orders that the battalions engaged were to do a double leap-frog. First the Lincolns and Liverpool Scottish were to pass through the other battalions to assault the second objective, and then the Royal Fusiliers, Royal Scots Fusiliers and Northumberland Fusiliers were to go through again and attack the third objective.

The disposition of the Liverpool Scottish for the attack was as follows :—

“X,” “Y” and “V” Companies, from right to left, attacking each with two platoons in the first wave and two in close support, and “Z” Company supporting the whole.

Every battalion drew from Brigade 400 bombs, including 150 of the Mills pattern—then a new invention—125 wire-cutters, and 10 small flags, for the bombers to indicate their positions. It was arranged that one platoon in each battalion should carry spades to help in the work of consolidation. In the Liverpool Scottish these were distributed—7 to each of the front companies and 30 to “Z,” the supporting company. The supply of bombs was hopelessly inadequate, but no more were available. The total brigade reserve amounted only to 1,200.

Each man carried 200 rounds S.A.A., an extra day's ration in addition to the emergency ration, and had two sandbags tucked through his belt. Haversacks were worn on the back, all packs being marked and stored.

A section of the 1st Cheshire Field Company, R.E., was attached to the Battalion to assist in consolidation.

The Battalion marched off from Busseboom at 4 p.m. on the 15th. The prospect of really having a go at the enemy after sitting still in the trenches for months appealed to everyone and the men were in tremendous form, singing and joking most of the way up. After a very slow march with many halts the assembly position in Cambridge Road was reached about midnight. The enemy had undoubtedly got wind of the impending attack. Indeed he could hardly have failed to notice the unusual concentration of troops in and near our trenches and also the fact that a number of new trenches had been dug behind Cambridge Road. These were to accommodate units of the 7th Brigade during the first stages of the attack. At any rate, Cambridge Road was shelled steadily with 5.9 and 8-inch shells from soon after midnight and many casualties were incurred.

Our artillery bombardment opened at 2-50 a.m. and continued until 4-15 a.m. with three pauses, at 3-10, 3-40 and 4 o'clock, to mislead the enemy as to the actual hour of the attack. After many months' experience of being shelled in trenches and knowing that our own supply of shells was so inadequate that the reply of our guns, if any, would amount to only a very small fraction of the weight of metal which the enemy was sending over it was a “sicht for sair e'en” to see the Germans for once getting the worst of the bargain. Our bombardment was very accurate and heavy enough to satisfy the most critical.

At 4-15 the three battalions detailed for the first phase got out of their trenches for the assault. Very soon there appeared at various points on the enemy's parapet screens stuck in to indicate to our gunners what portions of the position had been captured. These screens which were of canvas nailed to two poles were about six feet long by three deep and were coloured red and yellow. Each company carried six of them. They proved singularly ineffective. In the morning haze and the smoke and dust from the shelling they were not easy to see, and as, after zero hour, our artillery were not working to a time programme it happened again and again during the action that they continued to shell trenches which had been captured and not a few of the Battalion's casualties were caused by our own guns. The enemy's counter-bombardment was so heavy that the telephone lines laid by the gunner signallers who, with the Forward Observation Officers, were close up behind the attacking troops, were constantly being blown away and communication by runner was too slow and unreliable to be of much assistance. The artillery were therefore working very much in the dark—this being long before the days of creeping barrages and contact aeroplanes—and it was quite unavoidable that we should run into our own shelling.

The Lincolns and Liverpool Scottish, according to plan, as soon as they saw that the enemy's front line had been taken left their assembly position in Cambridge Road and moved forward over our front line to just short of the parapet of the enemy's front trench, where they lay down to reorganize and await the signal to go on to the second objective. In carrying out this operation “V” Company, which had to advance through Railway Wood, found that on its front the attack had been held up by machine-gun fire and that the enemy was still holding his front line. After a pause, during which they were reinforced by part of “Z” Company, the men dashed forward and carried the position, bayoneting those of the enemy who still offered resistance and taking about forty prisoners. Other parts of the front line also were still holding out and three men, Corporals W. E. Blackburne and S. Smith and Lance-Corporal A. Moir, “Y” Company, seeing a machine-gun in action bombed their way along the trench to it, capturing the gun and killing a number of the enemy. Corporal Smith for his share in this feat and for his gallant conduct throughout the day received the D.C.M.

After a wait of about 15 minutes while our artillery bombarded the second objective, the line moved on and without great difficulty, except for heavy cross machine-gun fire from the vicinity of the railway cutting at Y 6, captured the line from the pond beside Bellewaarde Farm to Y 11. This proved to be in most places a very shallow trench only two or three feet deep and was not occupied by the enemy. It would have been quite impossible to hold against a counter-attack unless there had been time to deepen and improve it considerably which, of course, there was not. Undoubtedly the best thing to do was to go straight on to the final objective, and Lieut.-Colonel E. G. Thin gave orders to this effect. He himself was wounded immediately afterwards. Most of the Battalion, with a few men of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and Northumberland Fusiliers, moved forward again, some men going over the open and some by the communication-trenches. Unfortunately a certain number of the Liverpool Scottish on reaching the second line, which they knew to be their final objective, did not go on with the rest but began to dig in where they were. These men suffered very severely from the enemy's shelling and hardly a man who remained in the second line escaped injury. In spite of lack of numbers the third line was taken and the work of consolidation started. Some men, carried away by excitement and over-keenness, went even farther and were seen pushing on towards Dead Man's Bottom but of these none got back.

For a time all went well and, as the third-line trench was a very deep and well-made one, it appeared likely that the Battalion would be able to hold what it had won, but they were a very small band who had got thus far and reinforcements were urgently needed. Messages were sent back asking for more men, and three small parties of the Liverpool Scottish managed to make their way up to the most advanced trench, followed later by a platoon of the Northumberland Fusiliers. But the enemy's shelling was very heavy, the communication-trenches

were entirely destroyed in some places and were choked with dead and wounded so that movement of troops from the rear was a matter of very great difficulty. The leap-frogging and the moving up of the supporting Brigade into trenches vacated by the 9th Brigade caused serious congestion, and units became badly mixed up with one another. Some of the Royal Irish Rifles, of the 7th Brigade—true Irishmen and unable to see a fight without joining in—actually took part in the attack and had to be collected and sent back to their correct position. In spite of this chaos, it might have been possible to hold all the third line had the section of it on the right of the Liverpool Scottish been captured but, so far as can be ascertained, the attack there had never been able to get beyond the second line and thus the Battalion's right flank was in the air.

A stubborn fight went on all morning in the network of trenches between Y 8 and Y 11. The enemy had a covered access to this part of his system from the railway-cutting, Y 5 to Y 6, and he launched counter-attack after counter-attack, sometimes over the open but mostly by bombing parties. These were all repulsed and the left flank temporarily secured. The duty of looking after this flank, as has been told, devolved upon the Northumberland Fusiliers but some of the Liverpool Scottish also took part in its defence. Two men in particular did magnificent work, Corporal Bartlett and Private W. Short, both of "V" Company. They were detailed by Captain Sandilands, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, to join one of his bombing squads which were engaged in clearing the enemy out of those parts of the trenches on the left which he was still holding. After much heavy fighting Corporal Bartlett was killed but Private Short continued to take part in alternate attack and counter-attack until well on into the afternoon. He afterwards received the D.C.M. and the French Croix de Guerre for his invaluable work.

Those of the Liverpool Scottish who had reached the final objective remained in possession for some hours. They were not seriously attacked but they broke up an attempt at a counter-attack from the northerly side of Dead Man's Bottom. They were continually under the fire of machine-guns from the railway cutting between Y 5 and Y 6, which were able to enfilade parts of the trench they were holding, and a number of men were hit. About noon, bodies of the enemy were seen emerging from the south end of Dead Man's Bottom and moving across towards the trenches about Y 18. To counter this threat to the right flank of the position Captain W. J. H. Renison organized a defensive flank in the communication-trench immediately north of Bellewaarde Farm. About the same time an enveloping movement by the enemy developed on the left flank and it was also noticed that the British troops on the right were retiring from the second German line. Threatened on both flanks, the troops in the third objective were now in an impossible position and a general retirement was ordered to the second line, where a stand was made for a short time. The enemy, however, had already re-occupied his second line of trenches south of Bellewaarde Farm and his bombing parties could be seen and heard working their way northwards. The Scottish by this time had used up every bomb they had and were forced to continue the withdrawal to the German first-line trenches.

One incident during the retirement must be recorded. Captain Dickinson, O.C. "X" Company, was lying severely wounded in the second line, just beside the small pond in front of Bellewaarde Farm, and his wounds were of such a nature that it was impossible to get him away. With him were twelve or fifteen of the Battalion, nearly all wounded. When the Germans were observed bombing up the trench these men, although they had no bombs left, determined not to leave Captain Dickinson out to fight it out where they were. It was only when directly ordered by him to retire that they did so and by that time the enemy were practically on top of them. All were hit and only one or two succeeded in getting back to the first line of trenches.

During the afternoon a fresh attack on the German second line was launched by units of the 7th Brigade but only a few men were able to reach the enemy's trenches, where they were soon overpowered, and it was then decided to consolidate the first line.

The German shelling which had been severe throughout the day reached its height between 7 and 8-30 p.m. During that time it is estimated that 100 shells per minute fell on the Brigade front. The enemy made desperate efforts to recapture his front line but all his attacks were repulsed, the Liverpool Scottish doing their full share in beating them off, and when, about 11-30 p.m., the 8th Brigade relieved the 7th and 9th Brigades the whole of the German front-line system of trenches was

handed over intact. Not a little of the credit for the successful holding of the German front-line must be given to Company-Serjeant-Major W. G. Flint who, when all the officers in his vicinity had become casualties, organized the defence of the line with great skill.

The British attack had not yielded all the results hoped for but it had none the less been of decided value, although the casualties were out of all proportion to the visible gains and were certainly far in excess of those of the enemy. The two main objects of the attack—the pinning down of the enemy's reserves and the capture of the ridge occupied by him—had been attained and the action must therefore be written down a successful one. A legitimate question is, however, was not the success too dearly won? So far as the Liverpool Scottish are concerned that question is difficult to answer. Judged by material results there is no doubt that their losses were not justified, but those who fell won for the Battalion, by their gallant conduct in the attack and their still more gallant deaths, a glorious name and established a tradition which those who came after were proud to remember and uphold. The Liverpool Scottish had fully held their own in a Brigade justly famous for its fighting qualities. They—with a few of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and Northumberland Fusiliers—were the only troops who reached the final objective and they did not withdraw from their advanced and isolated position until forced to do so by circumstances beyond their control. Of 23 officers and 519 other ranks who went into action only 2 officers—Lieutenant L. G. Wall and 2nd-Lieutenant T. G. Roddick, the latter suffering from concussion—and 140 men came through untouched and, as most of the casualties occurred in or near the second German line, the proportion of killed and missing was abnormally high.

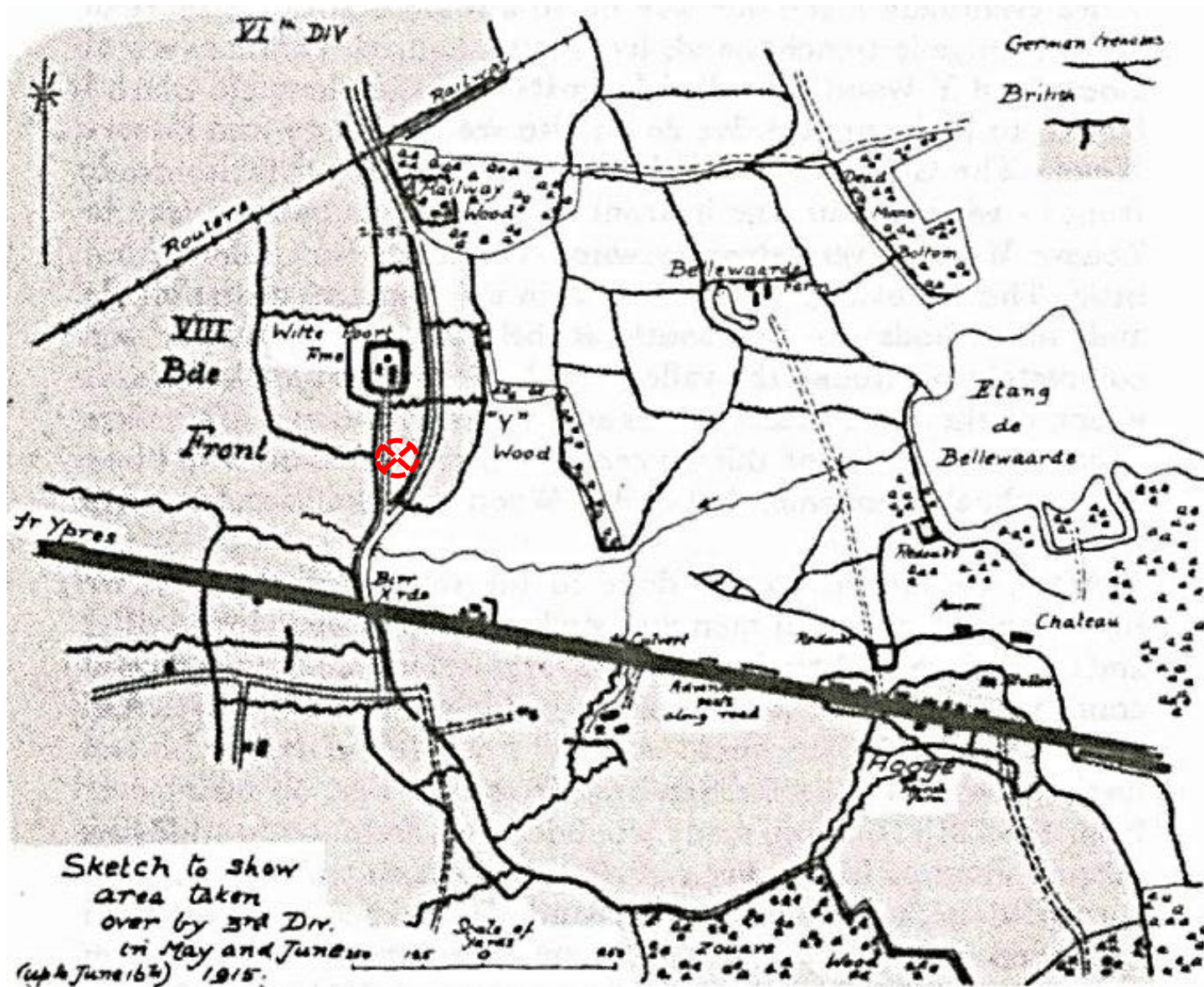
In detail the casualties were :—4 Officers and 75 other ranks killed; 11 Officers and 201 other ranks wounded; 6 Officers and 103 other ranks missing. Of the missing all the officers and—with a very few exceptions—all the men were subsequently reported killed. The Liverpool Scottish had practically ceased to exist but they had definitely proved themselves as a fighting unit and set the seal to their previous record in the Brigade.

One section merits special mention for its behaviour during and after the action—the Battalion stretcher-bearers. They had done splendid work during the attack itself, they remained in the line after the Battalion was relieved, and on the night of the 16th and the succeeding night they continued to carry out their duties until they were satisfied that every wounded man had been brought in. An inspiring example was set them by the Medical Officer, Lieutenant N. G. Chavasse, to whose untiring efforts in personally searching the ground between our line and the enemy's many of the wounded owed their lives. Lieutenant Chavasse received the Military Cross, and one of the stretcher-bearers, Private F. F. Bell, the D.C.M. in recognition of their gallantry.

After the return of the Battalion to camp at Busseboom, Brigade Headquarters asked for a list of those recommended for decoration or mention and this was sent. This list is believed to have been destroyed by a fire which broke out in Brigade Headquarters. At any rate it never reached Division, and by the time its loss was discovered and a fresh list called for and sent in all the decorations allotted for the action had been apportioned to the various units. Thus no member of the Liverpool Scottish was decorated on the recommendation of his own unit. The three men who received the D.C.M. all did so on the recommendation of the Commanding-Officers of other units. Ten men were, however, awarded the Military Medal in 1916 in recognition of their conspicuous gallantry at Hooge—Serjeants J. Briggs, W. Sloss and P. J. Thomson, Lance-Corporals A. F. Foden and J. M. Tomkinson, and Privates B. G. Barnshaw, J. C. Darroch, W. Fitton, J. R. Pollock and D. Williams.

The following entirely gratuitous commentary on the Liverpool Scottish in the attack by an impartial observer is perhaps worth recording.

The present writer's father, soon after the action, happened to get into conversation with a Gordon Highlander in the train from Euston to the North. The Gordon, who was obviously just home on leave from the front, had no idea that his fellow-traveller was in any way connected with the Liverpool Scottish or even with Liverpool. On being asked from what part of the line he had come, he replied : "I've come from Wipers, Sir. My division has just been over the top at Hooge. We were in reserve close behind and I saw the finest sight I'll ever see. I saw the Liverpool Scottish make their attack and they went over just as if they were on parade."



The area occupied by the 3rd Division, May – 16 June 1915 the western and southern sectors of this map, (shown shaded). The location of the Assembly Trenches occupied by The King's (Liverpool Regiment) on the early morning of Wednesday 16 June 1915 is represented by the red symbol. The map locates also some of the places noted in the KLR War Diary entry for 16 June including Railway Wood (adjacent to the Roulers railway line in the north) and Dead Man's Bottom, the woodland north of Bellewaarde Lake (Etang de Bellewaarde). This woodland was reached by some of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) although, it was reported, none returned.

The base sketch map was drawn by Billy Congreve of Burton Hall [see [123: William La Touche Congreve VC DSO MC](#)] in this work.

Billy Congreve was then the aide-de-camp to Major General Haldane of the 3rd Division, within the V Corps, and becoming an influential member of the divisional staff.

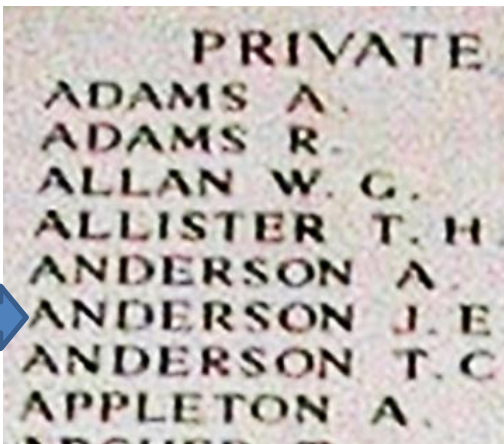
[Source: *Armageddon Road : A VC's Diary 1914 – 1916* Billy Congreve Edited by Terry Norman 2014 Pen & Sword]

ANDERSON.—At Five Ways, Neston, Cheshire, on the 12th inst., Robert Graham Anderson, beloved husband of Mary Ann Edwards, late of Dundee—deeply mourned.

Notification of the death of Robert Anderson in the *Dundee, Perth, Forfar, and Fife's People's Journal* - Saturday 25 September 1915

The charge at Hooge, which brought fame to the Liverpool Scottish, was dearly paid for, and Neston has her place in the price, Mr and Mrs Robert G. Anderson, of Five Lane Ends, having lost their younger son, Private James Anderson. He joined the Scottish some time after the commencement of the war, and was stationed at Blackpool until his departure for the front, where he had been since March last. The news of his death first reached his home through a private source but it has since been officially confirmed. He was a well-liked industrious youth, and all who came into contact with him will mourn his loss. Private Anderson is the third Nestonian to be killed in action.

[Deeside Advertiser – 23 June 1915]



James Anderson's name inscribed on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

As James Edward Anderson is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial it is clear that his body was not recovered or that his grave was not, subsequently, identified. The Memorial bears the names of more than 54,000 soldiers who died before 16 August 1917 and have no known grave.



There appears to be no mention of the death of James Anderson in any local newspapers but he is commemorated also on the Thornton Hough Civic Memorial.



Thornton Hough Civic Memorial near the URC Church.

192725/121055/1	Anderson James Edward	10th (Scottish) 16-6-15. Preston Kingsd/Pool Regt. Liverpool 1916 4252	2 2 4	2 2 4	11.0.12/15	22.12.15 18.10.15 2	Creditors of J.E.'s Estate. W. Fleming & Co 190 maul	2 2 4	3 - -
	LFW 5070 sent 2 MAY 1919	WAR GRATUITY. 1/19/100 Transfer 4000 10/6 Regd. Paper 7887 6/6 Serial No. 2699 5/8	3 - -						

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In May 1919 a payment of outstanding wages of £2 2s 4d from the army and a War Gratuity of £3 was paid to the creditors of James' estate, W. Fleming & Co. This, a total value of £5 2s 4d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £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.

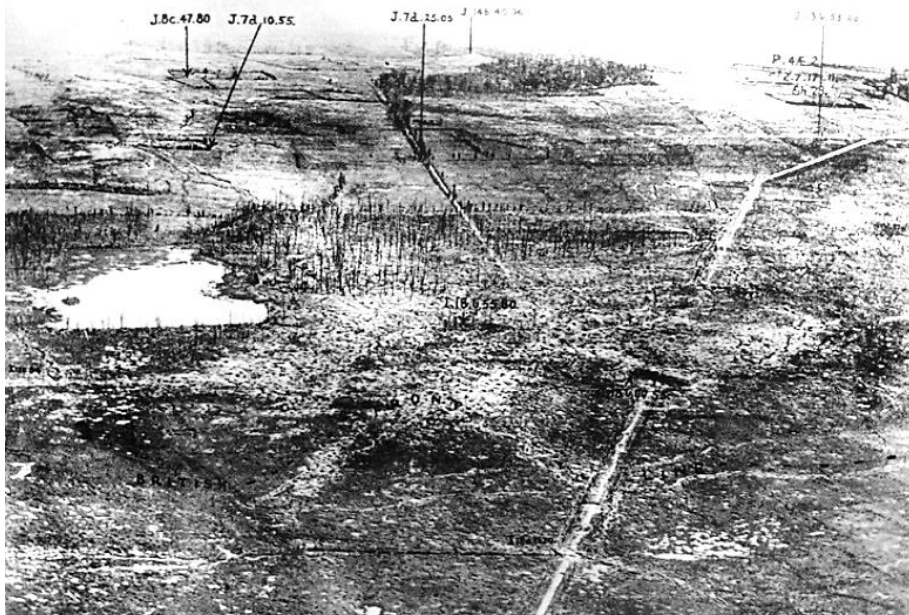


Taken near Hooze, a photograph of the first attack on Bellewaarde Farm by the Liverpool Scottish, 6 am, 16 June 1915. Photograph by Private F.A. Fyfe, 'Z' Company, 1/10th King's (Liverpool) Regiment (Liverpool Scottish). Image from 'The Battle of Bellewaarde 16th June 1915'.



Bellewaarde Lake was really a pond at the bottom of the shallow valley below Bellewaarde Ridge and surrounded by shell-blasted trees.

<http://ww1blog.osborneink.com/?p=8448>



An overhead view from above the Menin Road. Bellewaarde Ridge is in the background and Y Ridge is visible below the lake.

In his book *Sanctuary Wood and Hooge*, historian Nigel Cave records the testimony of a Private Clapham as he braved the dangers of the battle to take a look around and noted the effects of chlorine on the vegetation around him:

Since the morning most of the branches of the trees in the wood had gone, and many of the trunks had become mere splintered poles. Something else had changed also, and for a time I could not make out what it was. Then it suddenly flashed across my mind that the thick hedge at the back of the trench had entirely disappeared. It was right in the path of the storm of gas shells and they had carried it away.

[<http://ww1blog.osborneink.com/?p=8448>]

A PRETTY WEDDING.—A pretty wedding took place at the Presbyterian Church, the contracting parties being Mr. Bruce, of Scotland, and Miss A. Anderson, of Five Ways, Neston. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. D. Anderson, wore white crepe de chine with a veil, and wreath of orange blossom. Miss E. Anderson was bridesmaid, and looked very pretty in old rose silk, with black picture hat. Mr. A. Bruce was best man. There were a great number of presents. The happy pair afterwards left for North Wales.

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 21 September 1918

James' sister, Alice Anderson, married in September 1918 and she was given away by her older brother, David, with Edith Anderson as a bridesmaid.

Robert Graham Anderson, James' father, died aged 57 on 12 September 1915.

David Anderson (born 3 March 1885) married Grace Ackland (born 3 August 1887) at St. Cyprian Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool in late 1913 and they had two children, both living at home at the time of the 1939 Register. Although the first child, Edna, was born in West Derby, the family had moved to Neston by 1918 and were living at 'Dee View', off Lees Lane in Little Neston where David was a *joiner, builder's general* foreman and Alice was recorded as *invalid - incapacitated*. The two children were Edna Hannah (born Toxteth Park, 23 September 1914, *paid housekeeper duties*) and John Graham (born Neston, 29 March 1918, *skilled workman PO Engineering Dept. telephone and telegraph fitter*).

Grace Anderson died in mid-1941 aged 53 and David Anderson may have died in mid-1950 aged 64.

Edna Hannah Anderson married Robert James Kameen at a Civic Marriage on Wirral in mid-1940.

It is significant that James Anderson died on the same date, and in the same conflict, as 136: Harvey Sisson Gillanders. See that entry for additional details of The Battle of Bellewaarde.

Noel Godfrey Chavasse

The *Lieutenant Chavasse* mentioned in the 10th Battalion War Diary is Noel Godfrey Chavasse, the only man to be awarded both a Victoria Cross and bar in the First World War, and one of only three men ever to have achieved this distinction. Noel was one of two identical twin boys born to the Rev. Francis James Chavasse (later Bishop of Liverpool and founder of St. Peter's College, Oxford) and Edith Jane Chavasse (née Maude) on 9 November 1884 at 36 New Inn Hall Street, Oxford. The twins were so small and weak at birth that their baptism was delayed until 29 December 1884 and both were very ill with typhoid in their first year of life. The family grew up in Oxford until, on 3 March 1900, Rev. Chavasse was offered the Anglican Bishopric of Liverpool and they then lived at the Bishop's Palace at 19 Abercromby Square. Both Noel and his twin, Christopher, went to school at Liverpool College where they excelled at sports and made good academic progress and, in 1904, both were admitted to Trinity College, Oxford. In 1907, Noel graduated with First-class honours but Christopher failed, leading to a nervous breakdown. Both of them stayed at Oxford, Noel to study medicine and Christopher to retake his exams. During their time at Trinity, both men had not neglected their sports, rugby union being a favourite of theirs. In 1908, both twins represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games in the 400 metres. Noel finished second in his heat while Christopher finished third, neither time being fast enough to progress further.

In May 1910 Noel became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; Christopher, meanwhile, studied for the ministry. Having continued his studies at a hospital in Dublin Noel registered as a doctor with the General Medical Council in July 1912 and began work at the Royal Southern Hospital in Liverpool. In early 1913 Noel was accepted by the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and was commissioned as a lieutenant on 2 June and was attached to the 10th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment), as Surgeon-Lieutenant. Awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at Hooge, Belgium in June 1915, Noel was promoted to captain on 1 April 1915 and on 30 November he was Mentioned in Dispatches.

Noel Chavasse was first awarded the V.C. for his actions on 9 August 1916, at Guillemont, France when he attended to the wounded all day under heavy fire. The full citation was published on 24 October 1916 and read: Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, M.C., M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps. For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. During an attack he tended the wounded in the open all day, under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy. During the ensuing night he searched for wounded on the ground in front of the enemy's lines for four hours. The next day he took one stretcher-bearer to the advanced trenches, and under heavy shell fire carried an urgent case for 500 yards into safety, being wounded in the side by a shell splinter during the journey. The same night he took up a party of twenty volunteers, rescued three wounded men from a shell hole twenty-five yards from the enemy's trench, buried the bodies of two Officers, and collected many identity discs, although fired on by bombs and machine guns. Altogether he saved the lives of some twenty badly wounded men, besides the ordinary cases which passed through his hands. His courage and devotion were beyond praise.



Chavasse's second award was made during the period 31 July to 2 August 1917, at Wieltje, Belgium; the full citation was published on 14 September 1917 and read:

War Office, September, 1917. His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of a Bar to the Victoria Cross to Capt. Noel Godfrey Chavasse, V.C., M.C., late K.A.M.C., attd. L'pool R. For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action. Though severely wounded early in the action whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the Dressing Station, Capt. Chavasse refused to leave his post, and for two days not only continued to perform his duties, but in addition went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying out. During these searches, although practically without food during this period, worn with fatigue and faint with his wound, he assisted to carry in a number of badly wounded men, over heavy and difficult ground. By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example, he was instrumental in rescuing many wounded who would have otherwise undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions.

Adapted from: <http://www.bellewaarde1915.co.uk/> and Wikipedia