

## 111: Arthur Tryweryn Apsimon

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]		
Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC:	Arthur Tryweryn Apsimon	
Rank:	Lieutenant	
Battalion / Regiment:	14th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers	
Service Number:	Date of Death: 4 August 1917	Age at Death: 34
Buried / Commemorated at:	Bard Cottage Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders Belgium	
Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Thomas and Anna Elizabeth Apsimon, of 107, Liscard Rd., Wallasey. Native of Liverpool.		

Arthur Tryweryn Apsimon was born in April 1883 in the Toxteth Park district of Liverpool, the third of four sons of Thomas and Anne Elizabeth Apsimon. It is not known where or when Thomas and Anne married but, at the time of the 1881 census, two years before Arthur was born, they were living in Toxteth Park with their two young sons although Thomas was not in the household on census night:

Age	Relationship	Sex	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
27	Wife	Female	27	milliner's wife	America New York
10	Son	Male	10		Liverpool
5	Son	Male	5		Liverpool
19	Servant	Female	19	Nurse	Liverpool
18	Servant	Female	18	General Servant	Cardiganshire

1881 census (extract) – 14, Amberley Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool			
Anne E. Apsimon	27	milling engineer's wife	born America, New York
Joseph H.	1 year 10 months		born Liverpool
Thomas T.	5 months		born Liverpool
Bertha Upton	19	servant, nurse	born Liverpool
Catherine James	18	general servant	born Cardiganshire

Amberley Street exists now only as the entrance to the car park of the Merseyside Caribbean Council Community Centre to the west of the junction of Upper Parliament Street and Mulgrave Street.

The family had moved to Birkdale, near Southport, by 1885 when their last child, Estyn Douglas Apsimon, was born but at the time of the 1891 census they were living near Sowerby Bridge in the Upper Calder valley in West Yorkshire.

By 1901 the Apsimon family, who were all together, was back on Wirral and living on Dunraven Road in West Kirby where the three eldest sons were working for their father:



#	Thos. Apsimon	Head	m.	57	2511	Servant domestic		Ireland -
	Anne E.	do.	wife	m.	47	Commission agent & Manchester Warehouseman	Employer	Merioneth. Bala
	Joseph Hy.	do.	son	s	21	Cashier to do.	worker	America (British subject)
	Thos. Trevor	do.	do	s	20	Traveller to do.	do	Lancs. Liverpool
	Arthur T.	do.	do	s	18	Apprentice to do.	do	do do
	Estyn D.	do.	do	s	15	School-boy	Stu	do Birkdale
	Harriet A. Jones	s. in law	wid		45	Living on own means		America (British subject)
	Mary Anne	do.	servt	s.	24	General Servant domestic		Denbigh - Rhos

1901 census (extract) – 5 Dunraven Road, West Kirby

Thomas Apsimon	57	commission agent and merchant for Manchester warehouseman	born Bala, Merionethshire
Anne E.	47		born America (British Subject)
Joseph Henry	21	cashier to commission agent	born Liverpool
Thomas Trevor	20	traveller to commission agent	born Liverpool
Arthur T.	18	apprentice to commission agent	born Liverpool
Estyn D.	15	schoolboy	born Birkdale
Harriet A. Jones	45	sister-in-law, widow,	born America
		living on own means	(British Subject)
Mary Anne Jones	24	general servant, domestic	born Rhos, Denbigh

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to Mostyn Avenue in West Kirby, a parallel street to Dunraven Road and with similar housing:

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

Number of Schedule 269  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after delivery.)

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 Person aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage.	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 Home.				
1 Thomas Apsimon	Head	57	Married					Private Means	570			Merioneth. Bala	British Subject	
2 Anne Elizabeth Apsimon	Wife	57	Married	33	4	4		Private Means	370			United States, New York	Foreign Born	
3 Joseph Henry Apsimon	Son	21	Single					Market Gardener	575	own account		Lancashire, Liverpool	British Subject	
4 Estyn Douglas Apsimon	Son	15	Single					Solicitor	27	do		do	British Subject	
5 Mary Davies	Servant	28	Single					General Servant, domestic	0			Montgomery, Montgomery	Foreign Born	490

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

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

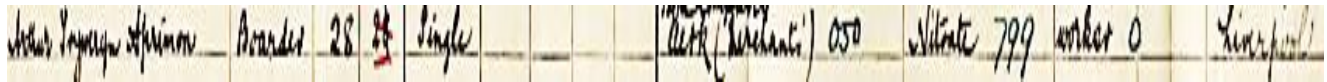
Signature: Thomas Apsimon  
Postal Address: 5 Dunraven Road, West Kirby

1911 census (condensed) – 'Derwen', Mostyn Avenue, West Kirby

Thomas Apsimon	68	private means	born Bala
Anne Elizabeth	57	private means	born United States, New York
Joseph Henry	32	market gardener, own	born Liverpool
Estyn Douglas	25	account solicitor	born Southport
Mary Davies	28	general domestic servant	born Montgomery

Thomas and Anne had been married for 33 years and all four children were still living.

By this date Thomas Apsimon had retired and Joseph Henry, the eldest son, had changed career and was now a market gardener. Estyn, the youngest son, had qualified as a solicitor (like Arthur he may previously attended Calday School) and Arthur was living at a boarding house on Bernard Street in London, near Russell Square station, and was working as a merchant's clerk for a nitrate company:



1911 census (extract) – 47 Bernard Street, London W.C.

Arthur Tryweryn Apsimon	28	clerk (merchant's), nitrate	born Liverpool
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On the outbreak of war Arthur enlisted in the London Irish Rifles, a volunteer rifle regiment formed in 1859 during the Victorian Volunteer Movement as the 28<sup>th</sup> Middlesex (London Irish) Rifle Volunteer Corps. However, Arthur soon received a commission for the Royal Welch Fusiliers, one of the oldest line infantry regiments of the regular army and part of the Prince of Wales' Division. On 30 March 1915 he became a Temporary Second Lieutenant (*Supplement to the London Gazette*, 3 May 1915).

The 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers was formed at Llandudno in November 1914 as part of the 128<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Division but on 29 April 1915 the formation became the 113<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Division. In August 1915 the troops moved to Winchester and on 1 December 1915 they mobilised for war and landed in France where they were involved in several actions on the Western Front including The Battle of Albert (1 - 13 July 1916) when the Division was used to assault and clear Mametz Wood; the casualties were so great that the Division took much of the rest of the year to rebuild.

**The Royal Welch Fusiliers -  
Welch or Welsh?**

The Royal Welch Fusiliers was one of the oldest infantry regiments in the regular army, hence the archaic spelling of the word *Welch* instead of *Welsh*. In the Boer War and throughout the First World War, the army officially called the regiment "The Royal Welsh Fusiliers" but the archaic "Welch" was officially restored to the regiment's title in 1920 under Army Order No.56. During those decades, the regiment itself unofficially used the "Welch" form. [Wikipedia]

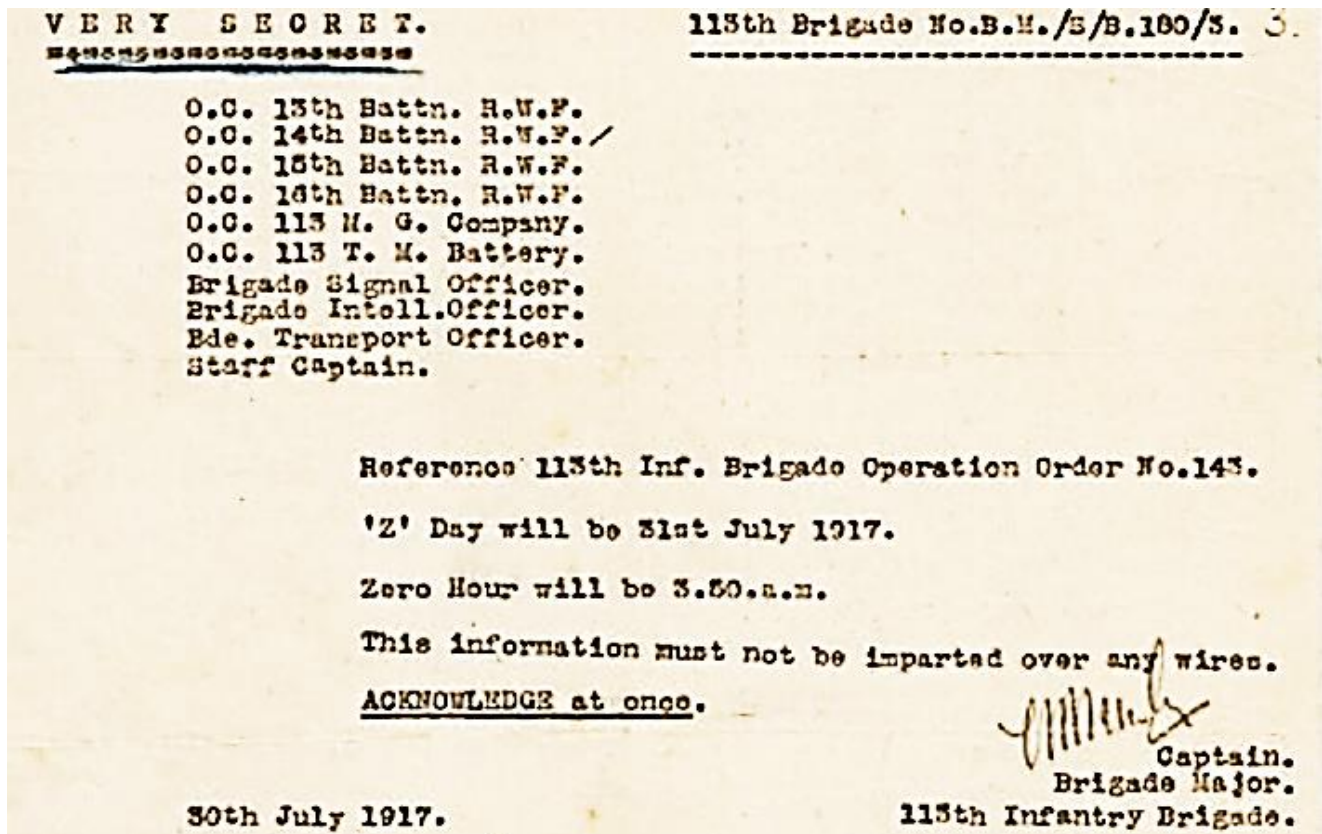
In the 1917 Division was in action at The Battle of Pilckem Ridge (31 July - 2 August 1917) and it was here, on the final day of the conflict, that Arthur Apsimon was injured, dying from his injuries two days later. Pilckem Ridge was:

*.. the opening attack of the main part of the Third Battle of Ypres in the First World War. The battle took place in the Ypres Salient area of the Western Front.[a] The Allied attack had mixed results; a substantial amount of ground was captured and a large number of casualties inflicted on the German defenders, except on the tactically vital Gheluvelt plateau on the right flank. The German defenders also recaptured some ground on the XIX Corps front, from the Ypres–Roulers railway, north to St. Julien. After several weeks of changeable weather, heavy rainfall began in the afternoon of 31 July and had a serious effect on operations in August,*

causing more problems for the British who were advancing into the area devastated by artillery fire and which was partly flooded. The battle became controversial, with disputes about the predictability of the August deluges and for its mixed results, which in much British writing were blamed on misunderstandings between Gough and Haig and on faulty planning, rather than on the resilience of the German defence.

The first of a series of set-piece attacks was to begin with an advance to three objectives, the blue, black and green lines, through the German front line system and then the Albrecht (second) and Wilhelm (third) lines, which were approximately 1,000, 2,000 and 3,500 yards from the British front line, at any of which a halt could be called if necessary. Local advances to the red line (fourth objective) 1,000–1,500 yards further forward, by patrols from the reserve brigades into undefended ground, were left to the discretion of divisional commanders.] The British Fifth Army had 752 heavy guns and 1,442 field guns, with support from 300 heavy guns and 240 field guns belonging to the French First Army in the north and 112 heavy guns and 210 field guns of British Second Army to the south. Gough also intended to use 120 tanks to support the attack, with another 48 held in reserve. Gough had five divisions of cavalry in reserve, a brigade of which was to be deployed if XIV Corps reached its objective.

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Pilckem\\_Ridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pilckem_Ridge)]



The 'Secret Orders' issued to the 113<sup>th</sup> Brigade stated that the action at Pilckem Ridge would commence at 3.50am (Zero Hour) on 31 July, designated as 'Z Day'.

*Due to the excellent observation possessed by the Germans, zero hour had been chosen for dawn at 3:50 a.m. but with mist and unbroken cloud at 500–800 feet, it was still dark when the British bombardment began. The shelling was maintained for six minutes, while the British infantry crossed the 200–300 yards of no man's land, then the barrage began to creep forward at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes.*

The War Diary of the 14<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers notes Arthur Apsimon's role in the action and his subsequent injury on 2 August [mentions of his name are arrowed]:

August 1-1917 During the morning and the afternoon, the position in the GREEN LINE, indicated above were held by the Batt. Rain fell heavily throughout the day and there was heavy hostile shelling on our own lines and particularly on the front (STEERBECK) line which was held by the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff to our front and by the 11<sup>th</sup> S.W. B's to our right. Between 3.0-5.0 PM many wounded men from the 115 Bde. began to come through our lines. About 4.0 PM Major WHELDON received orders from the 113<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. to relieve the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff in the front line.

At 945 Wt. W1422/M160 350000 12/16 D.D.&L. Form/C.2115/14

An order was immediately sent to 2nd Lt. G. E. J. EVANS and his six Lewis Gun Teams who were <sup>still</sup> with the 15<sup>th</sup> Puff. to report back to their unit at once and arrangements were made with the 115<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. to recommit the front line forthwith. Whilst these things were being done and shortly after 5.0 PM it became clear that a certain amount of demoralisation had set in the front line Battalion. Considerable parties of unwounded men belonging to the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff were to be seen retreating to our lines. Orders were then given for every man, with the exception of 2 runners and 2 signallers attached to head Q's, to stand to on the GREEN LINE. Hold up all stragglers and defend the line at all costs. There was enemy indication at this time that the enemy was either preparing for or had launched a serious attack and the bombardment was intense. The measures taken were reported to the G.O.C. 115 Bde. who approved and ordered us

At 945 Wt. W1422/M160 350000 12/16 D.D.&L. Form/C.2115/14

with any available men to reinforce the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff on the left about 6.0 PM. Just at the moment 2nd Lt. G. E. J. EVANS with his six Lewis Gun Teams reported back to the unit and he was ordered forthwith to take up his guns and reinforce the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff which he did at 6.0 PM. 2nd Lt. E. ROBERTS and his men were released in STRONG Pt. U27C82.3 by 2nd Lt. AT. APSIMON and the Ad. Q's details and 2nd Lt. ROBERTS and his men were ordered to follow the Lewis Gun Teams and also reinforce the 17<sup>th</sup> Puff. and they moved up about 6.30 PM. During this time considerable difficulty was experienced in coping with the numbers of stragglers retreating from the front line and no information could be obtained as to what really was happening. Major JESSE WILLIAMS then on took out a patrol consisting of himself, S/6908 lance Sgt THOMAS E. and

At 945 Wt. W1422/M160 350000 12/16 D.D.&L. Form/C.2115/14

916842 Pte S. E. CHATER and went forward about 300 yds. from the GREEN LINE to ascertain whether an enemy counter-attack was in progress.

About 8:15 PM Major J. Williams returned and reported that there was no counter-attack nor any evidence of the enemy making for counter-attack. This was reported to the 115<sup>th</sup> Bde. by Major WHELDON and the G.O.C. ordered Major W.P. to move all the men under his command still in the GREEN LINE forward. At the same time the unit was informed that the 115<sup>th</sup> Bde. front line was abandoned and that we reconstituted the front line.

At 8:30 PM the whole of the GREEN LINE moved forward in extended order to a line right and left of U27 d7.5 and by 10 PM the front line had been reconstituted with a series of posts on this point, linking up with the GUARDS on the left - but there was a considerable gap

36945 Wt. W1242/25160 350000 12/18 14.12.17 Form N. 1224/14

between us and the 114<sup>th</sup> Bde which was partially filled up by remnants of the 115<sup>th</sup> Bde.

August 2nd 17

About 1:00 AM Capt. VAUGHAN of the 13<sup>th</sup> Puff reported at B.H.Q. at NORMAN JUNCTION to take over the front line from BRIERLEY RD. at U27 d7.5 to the right and take over from the 114<sup>th</sup> Bde. One man in that sector was to be retained and was to hold the front line between BRIERLEY RD. at that point and the Railway.

We provided a guide for Capt. VAUGHAN for the purpose and about 1:30 AM another boy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Puff reported at NORMAN JUNCTION and 20102 Pte GEORGE VARLEY (same name) who had guided up Capt. Vaughan also guided up this boy to the front line and we held the line thence forward from BRIERLEY RD. to the Railway. This line was held throughout the day in heavy rain and under constant shelling, especially in the afternoon.

owing to the difficulty of getting up ration to the advanced

36945 Wt. W1242/25160 350000 12/18 14.12.17 Form N. 1224/14

Posts orders were given that the IRON RATIONS were to be eaten, our own wounded were collected together with wounded men of the 115<sup>th</sup> Bde. and Lt. Day - 15<sup>th</sup> Puff. was of the greatest assistance in the work.

About 4:30 PM we received orders from the 115<sup>th</sup> Bde that some men of the 114<sup>th</sup> & 115<sup>th</sup> Bdes. still remaining in the front line were to be relieved and ordered to march back to the CAMP Bk. and that the 113<sup>th</sup> Bde. was to hold the General Post - the 16<sup>th</sup> Puff on the right and the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Puffs on the left.

By arrangement with Lt. Col. R. CAMPBELL, DSO 13<sup>th</sup> Puff. the 13<sup>th</sup> Puff took over the forward posts by the STEPHENSON the front line at U27 d7.5 and the STRONG PT. in the GREEN LINE. The unit ~~to~~ took over the line which had been held by the 15<sup>th</sup> Puff from BATTERY COPE to the PILKEM RD. at IRON CROSS - the line being in rear of the TRAMWAY and BRIERLEY ROAD.

By 9:0 PM our men in the front line had been relieved

36945 Wt. W1242/25160 350000 12/18 14.12.17 Form N. 1224/14

by the 13<sup>th</sup> Batt. R.W. Fus. the relief being carried out under an extremely intense bombardment. By 10.0 pm the unit had taken over the BATTERY COPSE to IRON CROSS line in a series of nine posts of 1 NCO & 6 men each, four of the posts being Lewis Gun Posts.

Whilst fixing these posts Lt. A.T. APSIMON was mortally wounded and Sec. Lts. G.E. EVANS & L. STEPHENS were wounded, but there were no casualties amongst the men.

Connection was immediately established with the squads on the left but the 16<sup>th</sup> Regt on the right were not found until the following morning.

August 31 1917 The line taken over the previous night was held throughout the day and the subsequent night. During the day every man had his feet rubbed and dry pair of socks and a hot drink. This was largely due to the energetic activity of P.M. TUCKER.

A6945 Wt. W21424/W2150 350000 12/16 D. D. & L. FORMS/C. 221/314

Weather conditions were still bad and the trenches were full of water. At intervals during the day there was a considerable amount of hostile shelling and our artillery was, as on previous days extremely active.

August 21 1917 The rain ceased and weather conditions became slightly better. There was the usual hostile bombardment at intervals throughout the day.

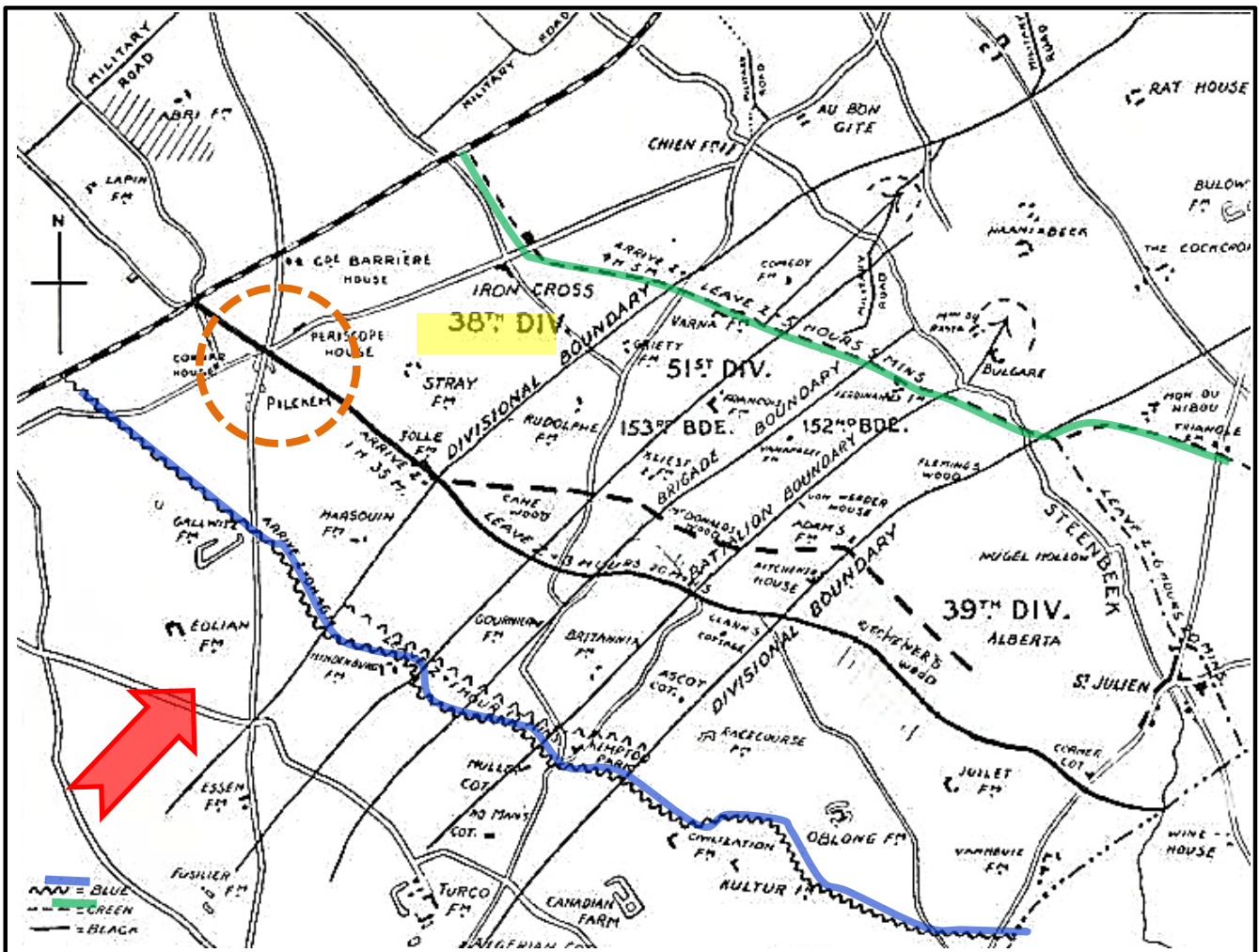
At 9.0 pm we were relieved by the 11<sup>th</sup> Bde (11<sup>th</sup> Welsh) and the men marched back to ELVERDINGHE CHATEAU independently by Posts going across country to the right of PERISCOPE House then proceeding along the Railway for 100 yards and from there proceeding along a track ~~marked~~ marked by the 113<sup>rd</sup> T.M. Coy. to CACTUS Point and across the CANAL to ELVERDINGHE. All the Bde. was in before 2.0 am. On arrival at the CHATEAU each man was given a complete set of dry clothing a hot meal & hot drink.

A6945 Wt. W21424/W2150 350000 12/16 D. D. & L. FORMS/C. 221/314

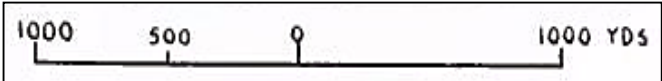
The entry for 2 August notes:

By 9.0 pm our men in the Front Line had been relieved by the 13<sup>th</sup> Batt. R.W. Fus. the relief being carried out under an extremely intense bombardment. By 10.0 pm the unit had taken over the BATTERY COPSE to IRON CROSS Line in a series of nine posts of 1 NCO & 6 men each, four of the posts being Lewis Gun Posts.

Whilst fixing these posts Lt. A. T. APSIMON was mortally wounded and Sec. Lts. G. E. EVANS & L. STEPHENS were wounded, but there were no casualties amongst the men.



The strategic positions on 31 July 1917, the opening day of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge.



The position of Pilckem village is outlined in orange, the Blue Line and Green Line objectives are highlighted (the Black Line runs parallel to, and between, these) and the 38<sup>th</sup> Division's sector of conflict is shown. The direction of Allied troop advance is indicated by the red arrow. The map indicates that the Blue Line of advance should be achieved in 'Z + 1 hour 15 minutes', the Black Line at 'Z + 3 hours 20 minutes' and the Green Line at 'Z + 5 hours 5 minutes'.  
 [Source: base map from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Pilckem\\_Ridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pilckem_Ridge)]



The waterlogged ground conditions at Pilckem Ridge in the opening days of the conflict. The right-hand photograph (Imperial War Museum Q5935) shows stretcher-bearers knee-deep in the mud.

#### LIEUT. A. F. APSIMON KILLED.

The very sad news has been received that Lieut. Arthur T. Apsimon, of the R.W.F., and the third son of Mr. T. and Mrs. Apsimon, of West Kirby, who are staying at Caergwrle, had been severely wounded and had succumbed to his wounds. The deepest sympathy is felt for the parents and family in their great bereavement. Mr. Apsimon has been in ill-health for some time, but the bereaved parents, while acknowledging the kind sympathies of their many friends, feel proud and glad that they had a son who led such a grand life, and that he lived and died with so much self-sacrifice. He had "the spirit of Christ," and they feel happy to think that he is no further from them now than when he was in France. Mr. and Mrs. Apsimon have another son with the Expeditionary Forces, who is a doctor. The following is a brief account of the fallen officer:—

Lieut. Arthur T. Apsimon, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Apsimon, of West Kirby, was wounded on the 2nd August, and died of his wounds on the 4th inst. at an advanced dressing station. He

was 34 years of age, and immediately on the outbreak of war enlisted in the London Irish Rifles, shortly afterwards being granted a commission in the R.W.F. He went to France in 1915. In a letter to Mr. Apsimon, Major Wheldon says that his son took part in the recent operations in Flanders, in which the Welsh Fusiliers distinguished themselves by defeating the famous Guards Fusiliers. He went into the fight at a critical time, and in the words of Major Wheldon, "he did the job. Major Wheldon says: "I do not think you can believe how very sorry we all are to lose him. For some of us he was precious as one of the few survivors of the old — Battalion. He was for all of us a most lovable man, who never spoke or thought unkindly of others, and of whom no one could speak or think except with affection. After he was hit I heard one of his men say, 'Mr. Apsimon never seemed to mind shell fire.' I know he did mind it—we all do, but his serene and quiet courage left that impression on his men, and gave them confidence. I will miss him personally—more than any officer I have known. His quiet humour, gentle nature, and the sturdiness of his views were ever a comfort to me. He was honourably buried by the Rev. D. M. Jones in Bard Cottage Cemetery by the canal bank, leaving us much the poorer in his absence, and his country and his friends richer in the memory of a noble sacrifice."

Liverpool Daily Post - Tuesday 14 August 1917



#### LIEUTENANT A. T. APSIMON.

The death has occurred from wounds received in action of Lieutenant Arthur T. Apsimon, R.W.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Apsimon, of West Kirby. Lieutenant A. T. Apsimon, who was thirty-four years of age, enlisted at the outbreak of war in the London Irish Rifles and shortly afterwards received a commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and went to France in 1915. He was wounded on August 2, and died two days later at a dressing station. In a letter to his parents Major Wynn P. Wheldon narrated how Lieut. Apsimon with his signallers and runners helped to hold the new front won by the Welsh division, and how the next day he fell a victim to a shell. "He was," continues the major, "the most lovable man, who never spoke or thought unkindly of others and of whom no one could speak or think except with affection. . . His serene and quiet courage gave his men confidence. I will miss him personally—more than any officer I have known. His quiet humour, gentle nature, and the sturdiness of his views were ever a comfort to me."

The report in the *Chester Chronicle* of Arthur Apsimon's injury and death suggests that this was as a consequence of shell-fire although it is known that he died of wounds received two days previously. The *Liverpool Daily* report (and the *Birkenhead News* of

18 August 1917) quoted a letter received by the family from Major Wynn P Wheldon, Arthur's commanding officer in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, with the comment: *I will miss him personally - more than any officer I have known.*

Sir Wynn Powell Wheldon served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France from December 1914 until December 1918. As major and second in command, he was wounded, his bravery being mentioned in dispatches and recognised by the D.S.O. in 1917. Before the war he was a lawyer and, following the Armistice, he became the Secretary and Registrar of Bangor College from 1919 until 1933 when he was appointed Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Department of the Board of Education. He died at Prestatyn on 10 November 1961.



Liverpool Echo - Saturday 11 August 1917  
This notification records 'Mr and Mrs T. Apsimon, late of West Kirby and Neston'

DIED FROM WOUNDS.  
APSIMON—August 3, aged 34 years, Lieutenant Arthur T Apsimon, R.W.F., dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Apsimon, late of West Kirby and Neston.

HOYLAKE OFFICER MENTIONED.

The name of Second-Lieutenant A. T. Apsimon, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, whose parents reside at West Kirby, and who was recently killed in action, appears in the list issued by Sir Douglas Haig of those mentioned for distinguished and meritorious conduct and devotion to duty.

Liverpool Echo - Thursday 3 January 1918

CASUALTIES AMONG LOCAL MEN.

The death has occurred from wounds received in action of Lieutenant Arthur T. Apsimon, R.W.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Apsimon, of West Kirby. Lieutenant A. T. Apsimon, who was thirty-four years of age, enlisted at the outbreak of war in the London Irish Rifles and shortly afterwards received a commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and went to France in 1915. He was wounded on August 2, and died two days later at a dressing station.

Liverpool Echo - Tuesday 14 August 1917

In early 1918 it was reported that Sir Douglas Haig had noted officially Arthur's distinguished and meritorious conduct and devotion to duty.

At the time of Arthur's death his family resided at Parkside House, 107 Liscard Road, Wallasey. [Image L. Hayes]



The Chester Chronicle report of Arthur's death (Saturday 18 August 1917) noted that Mr and Mrs Apsimon have another son with the Expeditionary Forces, who is a doctor. This was Joseph Henry Apsimon, the eldest son, who had retrained as a medical practitioner and who, by May 1914, was living on Hinderton Road in Neston. By this time the dependents of serving military men were entitled to

free treatment and medicines by doctors who had agreed to provide this service and Joseph Apsimon was one of these listed in Neston. Around this time Dr Joseph Apsimon was also placing a number of advertisements in the local newspapers:

PRIVATE SALES.  
13 WORDS...Three Days... 1/- ....Six Days... 2/-  
8-10 Phoenix 2-seater, 1912; all accessories; £85.-  
Dr. Apsimon, Neston. 7775m30

GARDEN FRAME, with two lights, 11ft. by 4ft., back 18in., front 12in., in perfect condition.—J. H. Apsimon, Hinderton-road, Neston. 8027

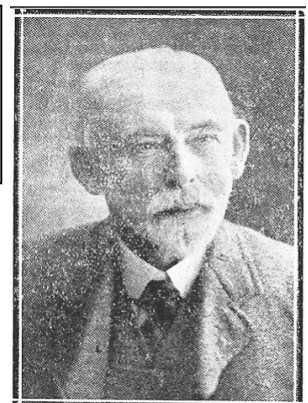
Liverpool Echo - Saturday 30 May 1914

Cheshire Observer - Saturday 30 January 1915

Joseph Henry Apsimon, 45, died in May 1925

An obituary (in Welsh) and photograph appeared in Y Brython, 2 October 1919

Thomas Apsimon, Arthur's father, died on 18 September 1919 aged 75 in Woodchurch and he was buried in the family grave at St Bridget's Churchyard, West Kirby. Throughout his adult life he was connected strongly to the Presbyterian Church in Wales and in August 1902 he was elected as a Moderator to the Welsh Presbytery which, at that time, embraced Lancashire, Cheshire, Flintshire and Denbighshire.



Mr. Thomas Apsimon, WEST KIRBY.

In late 1915 a report of that association's meeting commented that *Mr T. Apsimon, Neston, who has not been able to attend Presbytery for a long while, owing to very indifferent health (Y Goleuad - 12 November 1915)*. This is the only direct reference known to Thomas Apsimon being resident in Neston.

Certainly, Thomas Apsimon had a strong connection to West Kirby and was much involved with the community whilst he lived in the town; in 1900, combining his continuing strong connection to Wales and his position in the town, he was elected as the vice-chairman of the Eisteddfod that was held in the new Public Hall in West Kirby in June of that year.

Arthur's mother, Anna, died in 1928.

Estyn Douglas Apsimon, the youngest brother who was a practicing solicitor, was struck off the Roll of Solicitors in November 1936 although his transgression is unknown. Estyn died in 1962.

In the Matter of the Solicitors Act, 1932.  
 NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 7 (2) of the Solicitors Act, 1932, that on the nineteenth day of November, 1936, an Order was made by the Disciplinary Committee constituted under the Solicitors Act, 1932, that the name of ESTYN DOUGLAS APSIMON, formerly of West Kirby, in the county of Chester, be struck off the Roll of Solicitors of the Supreme Court.— Dated this nineteenth day of November, 1936.  
 EDMUND R. COOK, Deputy Registrar of (006) Solicitors.

*The London Gazette* – 24 November 1936

Arthur Apsimon is commemorated on the Hoylake and West Kirby War Memorial on Grange Hill, West Kirby, but not on the Wallasey War Memorial.



Arthur Apsimon's War Grave,  
 Bard Cottage Cemetery, Ypres  
 [International Wargraves Photography Project]

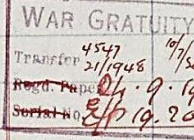


The Apsimon family grave  
 St Bridget's churchyard, West Kirby

Arthur Tryweryn Apsimon  
 [Photo: Philip Knight-Jones]



Record No.	Registry No.	NAME AND RANK	Regt. or Corps	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS		
					Account	Effects 1917-1918	Effects 1918-19
30131	50184/2	Apsimon Lt.	<sup>14</sup> Welsh Sts.	4.8.17 In action	Charter 3114 21/9/14 box 260 9/17 bP Base 9/17 box 260 9/17	93 18 6 60 ✓ 19 4 7 9 10 ✓	
							5



### 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. Outstanding credits of £162 7s 8d from the army were paid, some to Cox & Co., the banking organisation used by many officers. A War Gratuity of £5 was paid in July 1920. This, a total value of £167 7s 8d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £26000 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.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, Bard Cottage Cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank.

Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding), the 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917.

There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. [Adapted from <http://www.cwgc.org/>]

No one with the surname Apsimon was recorded as living in Neston in the 1939 Register (29 September).