

FALLEN UNIVERSITY COMRADES



Rosie Setford 130165354

Supervised by Dr Jane Webster & Ian Johnson

The men from the Northumberland Fusiliers on the Armstrong War Memorial

Aims:

- To investigate individually the 67 men in the Northumberland Fusiliers commemorated on the Armstrong War Memorial.
- I will uncover the relationships they had with each other as neighbours living on the same street, as friends attending the same school and as soldiers serving in the same battalions, falling together on the battlefield.



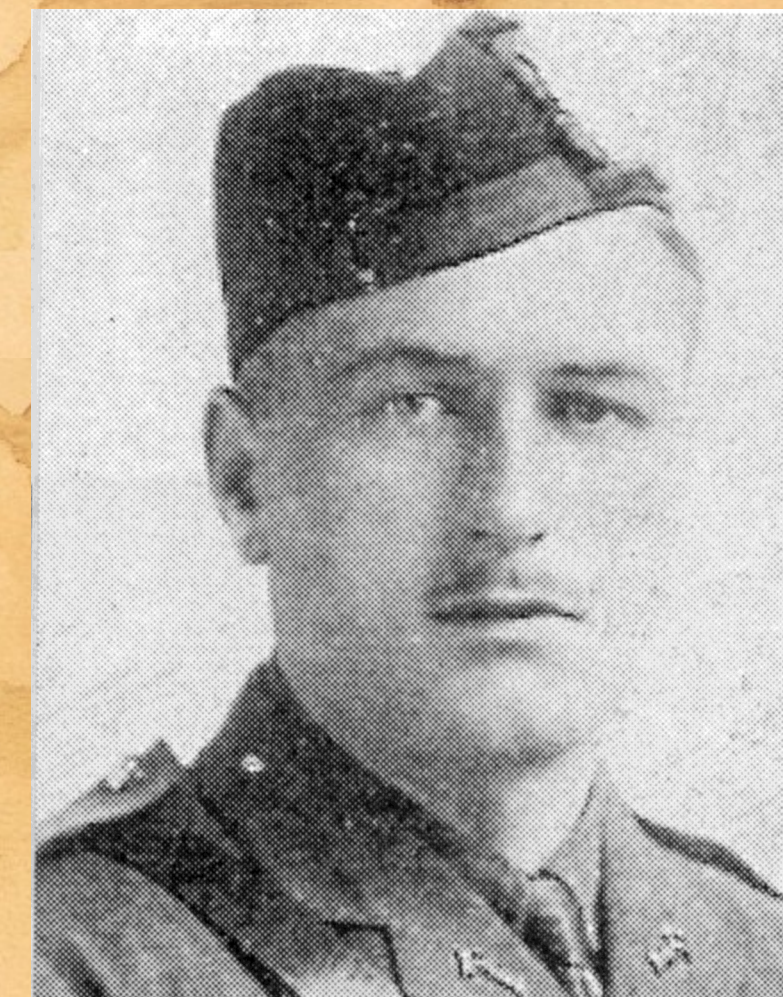
The Armstrong College (now Newcastle University) being used as a hospital for soldiers during the First World War.

Introduction:

The Armstrong War Memorial commemorates the students of Durham University and its Colleges of Medicine and Physical Science, namely Armstrong College (now Newcastle University).

These soldiers named on the memorial fought and lost their lives in the First World War. This project focuses on a total of 67 men, who all enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers during the war.

Soldiers who died in the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916



William Nixon
Northumberland Fusiliers 20th (service) Battalion (1st Tyneside Scottish)

Those soldiers commemorated on the Armstrong Memorial who lost their lives on the 1st July 1916, the first day of the Somme

William Nixon, 20th Bn.	Henry Sibbit, 22nd Bn.	Arthur Cecil Young, 16th Bn.	Patrick Austin Murray, 25th Bn.	John Macfarlan Charlton, 21st Bn.
----------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

These soldiers, all belonging to the same regiment, and all named on the Armstrong Memorial, were killed on the same day. We only know details of one of the soldier's deaths on this day.

On his 25th birthday, John Macfarlan Charlton was killed by a bullet through the head while leading his company near La Boisselle, France. William Nixon was killed during the first wave of the attacks on the 1st, but unfortunately all we know for the remaining three men is they were killed in action on this disastrous day.

Soldiers who attended the same school before the war



Robert Cecil Knott
Northumberland Fusiliers 28th (reserve) Battalion

The year the soldiers started at Royal Grammar School, Jesmond



1906	1907	1908	1909
Robert Cecil Knott, 28th Bn.	Ronald Woodhouse Taylor, 11th Bn.	Norman Ratcliffe Futers, 1st Bn.	John Harrison Sellers, 3rd Bn.

These are four students of the Jesmond Royal Grammar School who enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers during the First world War. They started school at different times meaning they were in different year groups, but they may have known each other around school before the war began.

Method:

Archival sources available through Special Collections in the Newcastle University Library were used to build upon the soldiers' stories. These included resources like the Durham University Roll of Service and the Durham University Journal. The Durham Journal was particularly interesting as it published announcements of individuals who attended both universities who had perished during the war, giving details of their life at university prior to the war and information of how they died.

Another source that was indispensable to my project was Ancestry. It is a website which enables subscribers to track down their family history via sources such as censuses, birth records and marriage records. For my project Ancestry helped me to uncover information regarding the soldiers' addresses before the war and their military medals.

Conclusions:

Only a small fraction of the research has been presented on this poster. Details of the soldier's date of birth, date of death, their addresses before the war, family members, military history and the story of their death have all been investigated and documented.

For example, two brothers, Hugh Vaughan Charlton and John Macfarlan Charlton, both commemorated on the Armstrong Memorial, were killed within a week of each other. Secondly, two soldiers, Ernest Crawford Hadden and Gerald Ogilvie Laing, both belonging to the 20th Battalion, were killed on the 5th June 1917 during the Arras Offensive. Finally, Arthur Cecil Young and Denys Armstrong were both residents on Osbourne Avenue at numbers 15 and 34, mere doors away from each other, before they fought in the war.

This information will be presented on the Armstrong Memorial Digital Memory book website (<http://memorial.ncl.ac.uk/>), along with another 155 individuals from different infantry regiments.

