The Middlesbrough Roll of Honour of the Great War

Names "O"

Compiled by Robert Coulson (1952 – 2008)

In the years 1914-1918 thousands of Middlesbrough men and women served their country in a time of hardship, stress and suffering both for the troops on the battlefronts and those left at home.
After the Armistice in November of 1918 handsome memorial tablets and plaques recalling the fallen were erected in the works, shops and churches of the Middlesbrough area.
At this time a committee was formed to consider the question of a war memorial for the town as a whole to remember the citizens who had laid down their lives.
In the words of the committee,

"We recognise the splendid sacrifice made by our men and we desire that our children and our children's' children should hear the story and share in the inspiration which such sacrifice will always give".

The response of the townspeople resulted in the fine cenotaph of Aberdeen granite and the wall of Portland stone containing the bronze panels with the names of the fallen that we see today at the entrance to Albert Park.
The memorial works were completed at a cost of approximately £17,000 and the people of the town attended in their thousands for the dedication and unveiling ceremony which took place on November 11th 1922.

This roll of honour contains close to 3500 names of the fallen who are remembered on the memorial and also those whose names were put forward by their families after the unveiling ceremony.

I felt it fitting that as the centenary of the onset of the Great War approaches I should try and add a little information on those remembered and the actions in which they laid down their lives.

I would just add that much as I regret it, details on some of theses brave people is not available due to the passage of time but their names will still appear in the text as they do on the memorial panels.

Finally just a few points to consider,

It will be noticed that on some of the entries no Middlesbrough connection may be obvious, indeed the person appears to have come from well outside the area or even the country.
It must be remembered that it was the townspeople who put the names forward for inclusion and as an example a relation who stayed with the family in the town occasionally, could well appear after his family took the trouble to forward the name.

Middlesbrough was a thriving centre of industry at the time and a person may well have been employed in the town before hostilities and had their name included by workmates.

Serving under an alias is also quite common and although sometimes used to cover criminal activity, was normally just a person keen to serve but underage and using another identity.
Also a mother who had taken another man's name might have offspring who preferred to serve using their natural father's name.

Double entries for the same name also appear quite a few times, for example, Samuel Alder and S Alder.
I believe they are one and the same person named twice as a result of a large family with different branches putting the name forward twice.

The person will appear in the listing as named on the memorial with any variations in spelling and second names being included in the text.

It will be noticed that some entries begin "I believe this to be".
These are people who to the best of my judgement are those named but can not be 100% certain. They are included with the best intentions and if a mistake is made I make my apologies in advance.

Robert Henry Coulson died on 8 November 2008. His papers were donated to the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, and the work below comes from these papers.

Oakes, Charles.

Born at Winsford in Cheshire, Charles Oakes enlisted in Middlesbrough with the Teesside Pioneers, the 12th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Sergeant Oakes died of illness or accident on April 11th 1918 aged 24 and today lies in La Kreule Military Cemetery one mile north of Hazebrouck in the village of La Kreule.

Oakes, Frank.

Frank Oakes was also born at Winsford in Cheshire and was I believe the brother of Charles listed above.
He enlisted in Thornaby for his war service with the 1st Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery.
Gunner Oakes died on October 25th 1918 during the Salonika campaign, his grave today lying in Mikra British Cemetery at Kalamaria, five miles south of Thessaloniki in Greece.

Oakley, Edward Ernest.

Edward Oakley was born in North Ormesby and enlisted in Middlesbrough into the 1st battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.
Corporal Oakley died of illness or accident on June 20th 1918 at the age of 20.
His grave can be visited today in Bleue-Maison Military Cemetery in the village of Eperlecques to the north west of St Omer.
Edward Ernest Oakley was the son of David Stevenson Oakley and Lizzie Oakley of 12 Stovin Street in North Ormesby.

Oakley, James.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, James Oakley served with the 11th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry and worked before the war as a stonemason.
Private Oakley was killed in action at the age of 34 on March 21st 1918 during the Battle of St Quentin.
Having no known grave his name is remembered today on the Pozieres Memorial by the side of the Bapaume to Albert road on the Somme.

O'Boyle, John.

John O'Boyle was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town into the Teesside Pioneers, the 12th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Boyle was killed in action during the Battles of the Lys in fighting close to Strazeele on April 11th 1918 at the age of 27.
With no known grave his name appears today on the Ploegsteert Memorial situated south of Ypres on the road to Armentieres.

O'Brien, E.

Middlesbrough born Edmund O'Brien enlisted in the town to serve with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
In the line close to Reninghelst during the Passchendaele offensive, Private O'Brien was killed in action aged 22 on October 18th 1917.
Another with no known final resting place he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial set on the slopes of the Passchendaele ridge.

O'Brien, Henry.

Henry O'Brien enlisted in Middlesbrough with the Yorkshire Regiment before transferring to the 5th battalion of the Border Regiment.
Private O'Brien was killed in action at the Battle of St Quentin on March 21st 1918 at the age of 25.
Sadly with no known grave he is remembered today on the Pozieres Memorial to the north east of Albert on the Somme.
Henry O'Brien was the brother of Hugh O'Brien of 24 Disraeli Street in Middlesbrough and brother of Peter O'Brien listed below.

O'Brien, Patrick.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, Patrick O'Brien did his war service with the 7th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Brien was killed in action aged 24 on July 25th 1915 just two days after the battalion had arrived at the front close to La Clytte.
His body lost he is remembered on the panels of the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres in Belgium.

O'Brien, Peter.

Peter O'Brien brother of Henry listed above was born in Stillington and enlisted in Middlesbrough with the 6th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Brien was killed in actions at Hessian Trench and Stuff Redoubt on September 28th 1916 aged 20 during the Somme offensive.
Another with no known grave he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme.
Peter O'Brien was the brother of Hugh O'Brien of 24 Disraeli Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Connell, Walter.

Born and living in Middlesbrough, Walter O'Connell enlisted in Stokesley to serve with the 6th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Connell was killed in action aged 19 on October 9th 1917 in a 4-30am attack on the village of Poelcapelle during the Passchendaele offensive.
His grave can be visited today in Cement House Cemetery situated north of Ypres on the Langemarck to Boesinghe road.

O'Connor, Joseph.

O'Connor, Michael.

Michael O'Connor was Bishop Auckland born and before the war worked as a labourer in the shipyards.
Enlisting in Middlesbrough with the Yorkshire Regiment, Private O'Connor then transferred to the Labour Corps and died of illness or accident on March 14th 1918 at the age of 45.
The son of Patrick and Mary O'Connor of Middlesbrough, his grave today lies in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, three miles north of Boulogne on the French channel coast.

Ogilvie, Arthur.

O'Hara, John.

Middlesbrough born John O'Hara worked as a blast furnace labourer before the onset of war.
Enlisting in Middlesbrough into the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, Corporal O'Hara was wounded in actions close to Flreurbaix and died of his injuries aged 40 on January 30th 1915.
Today his grave lies in Merville Communal Cemetery situated one mile north east of Merville town centre.
John O'Hara was the son of Mr J O'Hara of 17 Reed Street in Thornaby.

O'Hara, Joseph.

Joseph O'Hara was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town for war service with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Hara was killed in action aged 19 on June 15th 1915 during the Battle of Givenchy.
Another with no known grave his name is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial, four and a half miles north east of Bethune.
Joseph O'Hara was the son of Mrs A Quinn of 60 Lincoln Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Hara, Martin.

Martin O'Hara was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in the town into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry before transferring to the 1st battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry.
Private O'Hara was killed in action at the Battle of the Scarpe on August 30th 1918 at the age of 19.
Having no known grave his name is remembered on the panels of the Vis-en-Artois Memorial at Haucourt, seven miles south east of Arras.
Martin O'Hara was the son of James and Ellen O'Hara of 12 Model Houses, Station Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Keefe, John.

Oldfield, Harry.

Harry Oldfield was born in Middlesbrough and enlisted in Sunderland for service with the 2nd battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment.
Private Oldfield was killed in action on April 11th 1918 at the Battle of Bailleul during the Battles of the Lys.
His grave can be seen today in The Huts Cemetery at Dickebusche to the south west of Ypres in Belgium.

Oliphant, John.

Oliver, Alfred.

Alfred Oliver was born in Darlington and served with the Merchant Navy as a Boy Sailor aboard the Liverpool registered SS Gladys.
He lost his life aged just 17 on November 27th 1917 when the Gladys struck a mine and sank three miles south west of Cape Gris Nez.
Alfred Oliver was the son of Alfred and Annabella Oliver of 41 Dacre Street in Middlesbrough and is remembered today on the Tower Hill Memorial in Trinity Square in London.

Oliver, James Arthur.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough with the Yorkshire Regiment, James Oliver then transferred to the 1/5th battalion of the Manchester Regiment.
Private Oliver was wounded during operations on the Flanders coast and died of his wounds on October 29th 1917 aged 20.
His grave can be visited today in Zuydcoote Military Cemetery six miles north east of Dunkirk in the village of Zuydcoote.

Oliver, Percy.

Percy Oliver served with the Searchlight Inspection Unit of the Royal Engineers.
Sapper Oliver died due to illness or accident on January 6th 1919 aged 28 and today lies in Etaples Military Cemetery situated fourteen miles south of Boulogne on the French channel coast.
Percy Oliver was the husband of Selina Beatrice Oliver of 216 Borough Road East in Middlesbrough.

O'Lone, John Bennett.

John O'Lone served under the surname of Bennett as a stoker aboard HMS Invincible.
He perished aged 31 on May 31st 1916 when Invincible blew up and sank after taking a hit from the SMS Lutzow during the Battle of Jutland.
John O'Lone was the son of William and Rose O'Lone and husband of Teresa C O'Lone of 59 Monkland Street in Middlesbrough.
His name is remembered today on the naval memorial overlooking the town of Chatham in Kent.

O'Neill, John.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, John O'Neill did his war service with the 8th battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders.
Private O'Neill was killed in action during the Battle of Loos on September 25th 1915 at the age of 21.
Having no known grave his name appears on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery situated along the main Lens to Bethune road.

O'Neill, Edward.

Enlisting in Middlesbrough, Edward O'Neill served with the 5th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Neill was killed in action on November 5th 1916 in fighting close to the Butte de Warlencourt as the Somme offensive drew to a close.
Another with no known final resting place his name appears on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme.

O'Neill, Michael.

Michael O'Neill was born and lived in Middlesbrough and enlisted in Stockton with the Royal Munster Fusiliers before transferring to the 1st Garrison battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment.
Private O'Neill died during the Gallipoli campaign on September 28th 1915 aged 48 and today lies in Portianos Military Cemetery at Mudros Bay on the island of Lemnos.
Michael O'Neill was the husband of Mrs M O'Neill of 8 Dixon Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Neill, N.

I believe this to be Michael O'Neill who was born and lived in Middlesbrough and enlisted in Stockton into the Royal Munster Fusiliers before transferring to the 1st Garrison Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment.
Private O'Neill died in a hospital centre during the Gallipoli campaign on September 28th 1915 aged 48 and is buried in Portianos Military Cemetery at Mudros Bay on the Greek island of Lemnos.
He was the husband of Mrs M O'Neill of 8 Dixon Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Neill, Thomas.

Middlesbrough born Thomas O'Neill enlisted in the town to serve with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Wounded in actions in the Armentieres sector, Private O'Neill died of his wounds on December 31st 1915.
His grave today lies in Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension situated one mile west of Armentieres.

O'Neill, William.

Born in Middlesbrough, William O'Neill served as an Air Mechanic 1st Class with No 7 Squadron of the RAF.
He died at home after the end of the war on April 18th 1919 at the age of 24.
William O'Neill was the son of Arthur and Mary O'Neill of 47 Bright Street in Middlesbrough and is buried in North Ormesby's St Josephs Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Opton, R W.

Correct name Robert William Hopton, he was Middlesbrough born and served with the Portsmouth battalion of the Royal Naval Division.
Private Hopton died on a hospital ship on May 4th 1915 aged 21 during the Gallipoli campaign and being buried at sea is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common.
Robert Hopton was the son of Joseph Henry and Jane Hopton of 40 Dean Street in Middlesbrough.

O'Reilly, John William.

John William Henry Victor O'Reilly was born in Tynemouth and enlisted in Middlesbrough with the 5th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private O'Reilly was killed in action aged 30 on December 22nd 1917 in fighting close to Brandhoek in the Ypres Salient.
His grave can be seen today in Tyne Cot Cemetery situated five miles north east of Ypres in Belgium.
John O'Reilly was the husband of Annie S O'Reilly of 113 Corporation Road in Middlesbrough.

Ord, John.

Born and living in Nunthorpe, John Ord enlisted in Middlesbrough for service with the 1st Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery.
Gunner Ord died of illness or accident on October 24th 1918 at the age of 29.
His grave can be visited today in St Sever Cemetery Extension situated in the southern suburbs of the city of Rouen.

Ord, John Intin.

John Intin Ord was born in Hartburn in Stockton and enlisted in Newcastle with the 447th Field Company of the Royal Engineers.
Sapper Ord was killed in action on May 27th 1918 at the age of 20 during the Battle of the Aisne.
Having no known grave he is remembered on the Soissons Memorial in the town of Soissons on the river Aisne.
John Ord was the son of George and Catherine Ord of 48 Abingdon Road in Middlesbrough.

Osborne, William Alfred.

Born in North Ormesby, William Osborne did his war service with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Osborne died at home of war related illness or injury aged 25 on April 12th 1921.
The son of Mr W A and Mrs Sarah Osborne of North Ormesby his grave can be seen today in North Ormesby Cemetery.

O'Toole, Arthur.

Outlaw, Charles.

Living in Middlesbrough, Charles Outlaw worked as a blast furnaceman before the war.
He enlisted in the town for war service with "B" Battery, 59th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery.
Gunner Outlaw was wounded in action during the Somme offensive and died of his injuries on November 10th 1916 at the age of 37.
His grave today lies in Pozieres British Cemetery situated four miles north east of Albert on the road to Bapaume.

Outlaw, John.

Outhwaite, George Henry.

George Outhwaite served in the Royal Navy as an Ordinary Seaman aboard HMS Bulwark.
He lost his life on November 26th 1914 aged 23 when Bulwark exploded and sank at Sheerness in Kent whilst loading ammunition.
George Outhwaite was the son of Benjamin and Ann Outhwaite of 12 Crown Mews in Middlesbrough and is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common.

Outhwaite, Raymond.

Sergeant Frank Raymond Outhwaite served with the 6th Field Survey Company of the Royal Engineers and died in Italy after the Armistice on December 12th 1918 at the age of 23.
His grave today lies in Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension two miles north of Dueville in the Italian province of Vicenza.
He was the son of Frank and Lottie Outhwaite of Saltburn.

Ovington, Lawrence.

Lawrence Ovington was born in Redcar, lived in Middlesbrough and enlisted in Northallerton with the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Sergeant Ovington was killed in action aged 25 on November 16th 1916 in fighting at Gird Trench and Hook Sap during the Somme offensive.
His grave can be seen today in Bazentin-le-Petit Communal Cemetery Extension, three miles to the north of Montauban on the Somme.
Lawrence Ovington was the son of Ralph Stephenson Ovington and Mary Ann Ovington of 42 Tavistock Street in Middlesbrough.

Oxley, Ernest.

Middlesbrough born Ernest Oxley enlisted in the town to serve with the 12th battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.
Wounded in actions at Delville Wood during the Battle of the Somme, Private Oxley died of his wounds aged 25 on August 9th 1916.
His grave lies in Abbeville Communal Cemetery on high ground overlooking the town of Abbeville.
Ernest Oxley was the husband of Mrs E M Oxley of 19 Pearl Street in Middlesbrough.