The Middlesbrough Roll of Honour of the Great War

Supplementary Names, - "B"

Compiled by Robert Coulson (1952 – 2008)

The names below are found on the Supplementary Panels on the Middlesbrough War Memorial. The names were received for inclusion after the official unveiling of the Memorial, and are included on the 3 supplentary panels.

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.

Backhouse, George Henry.

George Henry Backhouse was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in Darlington for service with the 22nd battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.
In actions during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, Private Backhouse was killed at the age of 26 on March 5th 1917.
His grave can be seen today in Fins New British Cemetery on the outskirts of the village of Fins on the Somme.
George Backhouse was the son of John and Mary Backhouse of 113 Portman Street in Middlesbrough.

Bacon, Charles.

Bage, J R.

John Robert Bage was born in Middlesbrough and was a member of the 2nd Garrison battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment.
Wounded in action, Private Bage passed through the casualty chain to England where he died of his wounds aged 24 on March 16th 1918.
The son of Middlesbrough couple Thomas and Elizabeth Bage his grave today lies in North Ormesby Cemetery.

Baker, C.

Middlesbrough born Charles Baker enlisted in the town with the Yorkshire Regiment before transferring to the 1st battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles.
Rifleman Baker was killed in actions close to Hannebeke Wood aged 27 on August 16th 1917 during the Battle of Langemarck, part of the Passchendaele offensive.
He has no known final resting place, his name remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial on the Passchendaele Ridge.
Charles Baker was the grandson of E Playford of 96 Beaumont Road in North Ormesby.

Barrett, Frank Gordon.

Frank Gordon Barrett was born in Keighley in Yorkshire and enlisted in Glasgow for service with the 17th battalion of the Highland Light Infantry.
Lance Corporal Barrett was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1st 1916, as the Highlanders attacked the Liepzig Salient at 7-30am.
His grave can be seen today in Serre Road Cemetery No 2 situated six miles north east of the town of Albert.

Brand, Jas Richardson.

Bray, Edwin.

Edwin Bray was born at Burton-on-Stather in Lincolnshire and before the war worked as a bricklayer.
He enlisted in Hartlepool and did his war service with the 245th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery.
Wounded in action, Gunner Bray died of his injuries aged 39 on September 3rd 1917 and today lies in Godewaersvelde British Cemetery nine miles south west of Ypres and close to the Belgian border.
Edwin Bray was the husband of Mrs Margaret Bray of 45 Bishopton Road, Grove Hill in Middlesbrough.

Bell, William Fred.

Born and enlisting in Middlesbrough, William Frederick Bell was a member of the 18th battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Bell died on April 10th 1917 aged 30 and is buried in Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery in the southern outskirts of the town of St Omer.
He was the son of Sarah and the late Henry Bell and husband of Florence Maude Hauxwell, formerly Bell of the High Street in Yarm.

Bell, R.

Robert William Bell enlisted in Middlesbrough joining the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Bell was killed in fighting close to Foucaucourt on February 13th 1917 and today lies in Assevillers New British Cemetery situated six miles south west of Peronne.

Bennett, James William.

Loftus born and enlisting in Newcastle, James William Bennett served with the 10th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.
Private Bennett died while the battalion were out of the line on September 25th 1916 at the age of 25.
His grave can be visited today in Adanac Military Cemetery in the village of Miraumont on the Somme.

Benson, Joseph William.

Best, R.

Birtley, Joseph William.

Joseph William Birtley was born in Middlesbrough and served with the 1st battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment who were in India and the Middle East through and after the Great War.
Private Birtley died at the age of 21 on October 3rd 1919 and is buried in Port Said War Memorial Cemetery situated in the western suburbs of Port Said in Egypt.
He was the son of Mrs E Reynolds and his stepfather was Mr Henry Reynolds of 11 Stanley Street in Middlesbrough.

Borke, Thos Jas.

Double entry, see Thomas Joseph Barke in the main listing.

Bowers, Joseph.

Joseph Bowers lived in Middlesbrough where he enlisted with the Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry.
Stationed in Ireland, Private Bowers died on October 10th 1918 when aboard the RMS Leinster sailing from Kingstown to Holyhead the ship was torpedoed sixteen miles off the Irish coast.
His body recovered, Joseph Bowers' grave lies in Grangegorman Military Cemetery situated off Navan Road in Dublin.

Bowman, Ernest.

Born and living in North Ormesby, Ernest Bowman enlisted in Middlesbrough and served with the 8th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Bowman was killed during the Somme offensive in an afternoon attack on the village of Contalmaison on July 10th 1916 at the age of 22.
With no known grave his name is remembered today on the Thiepval Memorial situated north east of Albert on the Somme.

Briggs, George William.

George William Briggs was Middlesbrough born and enlisted in the town to join with the 2nd battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Killed in action at the Battle of Festubert on May 16th 1915, Private Briggs rests today in Guards Cemetery close to the village of Cuinchy four miles east of Bethune.

Briggs, Ralph.

From the Medal Index Cards, Ralph Briggs served as a private soldier with both the Yorkshire Regiment and the Labour Corps but his name does not appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register.

Brogden, I A.

Isaac Arthur Brogden was born in Thornaby and before the war was a school teacher at the Lawson School in Cargo Fleet.
He enlisted in Middlesbrough joining the Teesside Pioneers, the 12th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Sergeant Brogden was wounded in actions close to Hamlincourt during the German 1918 spring offensive and died of his injuries aged 35 on March 22nd 1918.
His grave can be visited today in Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery seven miles south west of Arras in the village of Bailleulval.
Isaac Brogden was the son of Charles and Susannah Brogden of Thornaby and the husband of Jane Brogden of 72 Stanley Street in Norton.

Brown, Charley.

Born in Wetherby and enlisting in Leeds, Charley Brown was a member of the 10th battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.
Lance Corporal Brown was killed in action aged 30 on July 1st 1916 as the battalion attacked the village of Fricourt on the first day of the Somme offensive.
His grave today lies in Dantzig Alley British Cemetery just east of the village of Mametz on the Somme.

Brown, Walter.

Walter Ernest Brown was Stockton born and enlisted into the 124th Field Company of the Royal Engineers in Neath, Glamorgan.
Sapper Brown was killed in action on July 1st 1917 and is buried in Canada Farm Cemetery at Elverdinghe five miles north west of Ypres in Belgium.

Bullivant, W.

Middlesbrough born and enlisting in the town, William Bullivant did his war service with the 13th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Bullivant was taken as a prisoner of war and died in enemy hands on October 10th 1918 being buried by the Germans in Leuze Communal Cemetery seven miles east of Tournai in Belgium.

Burnside, William.

Able Seaman William Burnside, the holder of the Military Medal, served with the Drake Battalion of the Royal Naval Division, the sailors who fought on land.
He died at the 2nd Battle of Passchendaele on November 11th 1917 and today lies in Dozinghem Military Cemetery five miles from Poperinghe in Belgium.

Busby, Thomas W.

From the Medal Index Cards Thomas W Busby served with both the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Labour Corps but his name does not appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register.

Bye, Thomas.

Thomas Bye was born in Middlesbrough where he enlisted to join with the 4th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment.
Private Bye was wounded in actions close to Eaucourt L'Abbaye during the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds aged 26 on October 1st 1916.
His grave subsequently lost his name appears on the panels of the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme.