

## The Masons' Company

e-Bulletin

01 July 2016

## CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME



On this most sombre day, the centenary of the 1st day of the 141 day offensive that became known as the Battle of the Somme, I thought members might be interested to read the few details that I have managed (with the assistance of Lt Col Colin Bulleid, Secretary of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Association) to glean about the Company's contribution to The Great War.

The 1917-18 Livery List records the names of 34 people (Liverymen or their sons/daughters) who were serving or had served in the Royal Navy or Army (the Royal Air Force had yet to be formed). Poignantly, it also lists the 5 who had lost their lives – a sobering figure when one realises that the Company only numbered 60 Liverymen and 4 Apprentices at this time.

The five who made the ultimate sacrifice are listed more fully as follows:

**Private Albert Edward Bayley**, son of Liveryman Edward Hodson Bayley, served in the Canadian Contingent and was killed at the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915.

**Lieutenant Hugh Michael Hunter**, son of the Upper Warden Robert Lewin Hunter, served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Duke of Edinburgh's) Wiltshire Regiment. An undergraduate at University College Oxford at the outbreak of war in 1914, he immediately enlisted and joined his battalion as they staged through Lyndhurst in Hampshire and arrived in Zebrugge on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1914. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915, was mentioned in Despatches by Sir John French on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and died from wounds at Boulogne the following day. He was 24 years old.

He is buried at Putney Vale Cemetery in plot A.S.53.



Lt Hunter's Service Record



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**Private Norman Everard Kipling**, son of Liveryman John George Kipling, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Honourable Artillery Company. He survived the Battle of the Ancre but was killed by a shell in the trenches on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1917. He was 21 years old.

He is buried at the Ancre British Cemetery at Beaumont Hamel in plot VI.A.15.

**Ancre British Cemetery** 

Lieutenant Eric Macintosh, son of Liveryman Ewan Macintosh, was commissioned into the Hertfordshire Regiment in March 1915 and was killed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917. The Regimental Chaplain wrote at the time "He fell facing the enemy. His men tell me he was wounded in the hand and refused to leave them and was shortly afterwards killed by a piece of shell. He was brave as the bravest of our officers, and always cheerful and dear to the hearts of us all". He was 20 years old.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres on panels 54 & 56.

**Sub-Lieutenant Edmund John Palmer**, a Liveryman and accountant, volunteered for service but was rejected on account of his eyesight. He joined the Friends' Ambulance in France but returned after some months and was commissioned in September 1915. Joining the Nelson Battalion of the Royal Naval Division in France in February 1917, he was killed on 27<sup>th</sup> April. A letter received from his Major said "that he was leading his men in an assault which resulted in the taking of a village from the enemy on that particular date". He was 27 years old.

He is buried at the Aubigney Communal Cemetery Extension in plot VI.D.6.



The Menin Gate



Lt Macintosh's Service Record