

Private **Sydney Perry** No.17268 (1895 – 21 September 1916)

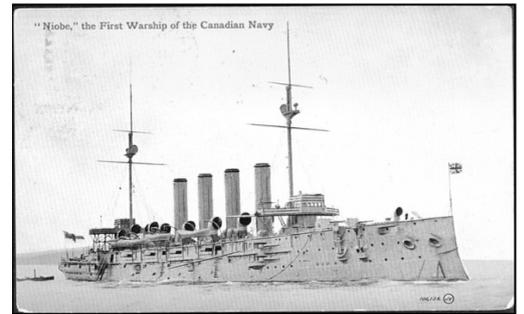
1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Sidney was born at Trewinnow in Lewannick, the son of John Henry Perry and Hannah Perry. In 1911 Sidney was a farm labourer working for Francis Mitchell of Linkinhorne. Sidney enlisted at Launceston in December 1914. He died of wounds, almost certainly received on 20th September 1916. His battalion came under heavy shellfire after taking up positions in a sunken road in the Longueval sector which was part of the Somme battle area. About 60 casualties were suffered on this day. Sidney was wounded and was probably taken to the Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly, near Albert. He died from his wounds there on 21st September and was buried at the associated RAMC cemetery at Heilly Station Cemetery, Méricourt-l'Abbé. He is remembered on the Linkinhorne War Memorial and on the Rolls of Honour in Coad's Green and North Hill.

Chief Petty Officer **George Sargent** VR/772 (1892 – 23 January 1919)

Engine Room Artificer 4th Class; HMCS Niobe

George was born in North Hill, the son of James and Mary Sargent of Botternell Farm. George was a pre-war sailor who had emigrated to Canada and joined the newly formed (1910) Royal Canadian Navy. He was with the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve and attached to the cruiser HMCS Niobe. This ship, along with another old cruiser, HMS Rainbow, was transferred from the Royal Navy to the Canadian Navy in 1910 as their first large warships. George contracted pneumonia and died in the Halifax Military Hospital. His grave is in Halifax (St John's) Cemetery, Nova Scotia, Canada. He is remembered on the Linkinhorne War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour in St Torney's Church.



Gunner **John Sloman** No.105088 (1896 – 18 October 1916)

Royal Field Artillery, B Battery, 51st Brigade

John Sloman's name is to be found on the Roll of Honour in Coad's Green Methodist Church where he attended the Day School or Sunday School. He was born in Tredidon, near Tregadillet, but his family moved to Yeolmbridge and from there to Woodlands near Callington. John died at the Battle of the Somme on 18th October 1916. It is possible that he died in the Butte de Warlencourt sector. His body was never identified or recovered. His name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial in France and the memorial in St Thomas' Church in Launceston.

Second Lieutenant **Alfred James Wills** (1895 – 18 October 1918)

Royal Garrison Artillery, 182nd Siege Battery

Alfred and his wife Ethel were both born in the parish of North Hill. Alfred was born in Middlewood almost four years after Ethel Annie Jones had been born in Battens. They married early in 1918 but just a few months later Ethel was a widow. Alfred was killed on the second day of the Battle of the Selle. He was the highest ranked North Hill combatant. Alfred's name is inscribed on the war memorial in Stoke Climsland; his father was a bootmaker in nearby Venterdon. Ethel died on 25th June 1990 in Launceston and is buried in St Torney's churchyard in North Hill. She had been married for 8 months and a widow for 71 years.

The 22nd Heavy Artillery (HA) Brigade included the 182nd Siege Battery which had been present in France since September 1916. Alfred was gazetted as Second Lieutenant from 21st January 1917. This meant that he was in charge of a large howitzer and its crew. Shown here is a 6", 26 cwt howitzer as used by the 182nd Siege Battery.



The 22nd HA Brigade was part of the British Third Army which attacked in thick mist at 5:20 a.m. on 17th October 1918. Behind a creeping barrage, the infantry and tanks moved forward on a ten mile long front, south of Le Cateau. Despite tenacious enemy resistance and much uncut wire, the River Selle was crossed during the first day and by nightfall Le Cateau had been captured. The fighting continued into the next day and it is likely that Alfred was killed at this time during enemy counter-barrage fire. On the same day two other 182nd men also died. All three bodies were exhumed in 1920 from a grave location at the entrance to a sugar factory near Inchy, nearly three miles from Le Cateau, and reinterred together at the nearby Highland Cemetery in Le Cateau.