

## Addiewell WW1

### Those Wounded, 6 Military Medalists & Awards


Sgt Thomas Allan	<p><b>An Addiewell Sergeant's Story</b> – Sgt Thomas Allan, who was in the regular army when war broke out, is at present home on a month's sick leave, having just recovered from an attack of enteric fever, he tells an interesting story of his experiences while in France and Belgium. His regiment (Scots Greys) first saw action at a little village named Binch, some few miles farther on than Mons. Describing the action in his own words, Sgt Allan said that it was about two o'clock on Saturday morning of August, 21<sup>st</sup> and our men were enjoying a much needed rest, having done a forced march of 40 miles the day previous. Our patrols came in with the news that the Germans were advancing in large numbers. They very soon made their presence felt, shells began to burst in all directions, and the noise gradually became deafening. Our men put up a stubborn resistance at first, but the enemy's preponderance in numbers soon told and eventually we were forced to retire. The covering of the retirement naturally fell to the cavalry regiments, and I can tell you we had a busy time of it trying to keep the Germans in check. Our turn eventually came however, when we came in touch with the remainder of the French Army, which by this time had been mobilised and brought up to the river Marne. A combined attack along the line set the Germans in full retreat, and so quick did they retire that it was always about every third day before the Brito-French forces could catch up with them. Nature however, saved the Germans to a great extent, and the strong position on the banks of the river Aisne, which luckily was situated on their line of retreat probably saved them from utter disaster. Since then Sgt Allan has had a fair share of trench fighting, which has been a prominent feature of the war for many months back. Commenting on the Christmas truce which was supposed to have been between our soldiers and the Germans, he says it may have occurred on certain parts of the line, but not where his regiment was situated. Occasionally however, small parties of German soldiers would disband their arms and come over to the British lines asking to made prisoners as they were sick of the war. Quite a number of those fellows could speak good English and two of them in particular whom he had conversed with had been employed at the Ritz Hotel, London prior to the outbreak of the war. They were regular nice fellows and they stated confidently that they would have been quite content had they been allowed to remain in London. His opinion, however, of the average German soldier was that he was a crafty, cunning, creature who would stoop to low cowardly methods of fighting that a British soldier would not dream of. Regarding outrages and barbarities, he could vouch for several by officers in particular. Sgt Allan was a crack shot, in his regiment and although reticent in admitting it must have accounted for quite a number of the Germans He had not long joined the army when he won a gold watch and a sum of money for clever marksmanship and prior to his enlistment he won distinguished honour while in the Territorials. Being a full sergeant before the war broke out there is every likelihood of him receiving further promotion before it is finished.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1915.</i></p>
Pte James Anderson	<p><b>Addiewell Territorial Wounded</b> – Pte James Anderson, whose home is at Graham Street, Addiewell, has been severely wounded in action. He was mobilised with the Territorials. He is at present in an English hospital.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917</i></p>
Pte James Bell MM	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wins Military Medal</b> – Mr William Bell, residing at Faraday Place, has just received information from the War Office to the effect that his son Pte James Bell, 5<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders has won the Military Medal for bravery on the field. On one occasion he pluckily kept a machine gun going, when his comrades had all been killed until assistance was forthcoming. On another occasion he volunteered to carry a despatch warning a company that they had advanced too far, and after a dangerous journey he managed his task successfully thus saving the company from almost certain disaster. On returning however, he got badly wounded and was not picked up so</p>

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	<p>some considerable time. Through some mistake he was posted missing, which resulted in the delay in him receiving the decoration. Pte Bell is the youngest of three sons who took part in the war and voluntarily enlisted with the colours at the age of 18 in March 1917. After a period of nine months' training he was sent to France where he experiences the hottest of the fighting until he was wounded on October, 24<sup>th</sup> 1918. Previous to enlistment he was employed in the locomotive department of the Oilworks and we well known in the village, He was recently discharged from the Army, but has re-enlisted again and is already on foreign service.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1919.</i></p> <p>Brother of William and Charles Bell named on the War Memorial.</p>
Pte Patrick Brennan	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier's Experiences</b> – Pte Patrick Brennan of the 1st Black Watch, is home at 38 Graham Street, Addiewell, on a short furlough. He was been at the front in France since last October. He was in the Army for a year before the outbreak of the war, and was sent to France on the 17th October. After spending five days at the base he was sent to the front. The Germans at this time had been retreating from Paris and had taken up a strong position at the Aisne. After some severe fighting it developed into trench warfare. Pte Brennan says his first experience of a battlefield was one which would not readily be forgotten. Hundreds of wounded and dead were lying all around, and neither the British nor the Germans could bring in their wounded, as the country was swept by shells and bullets. On one occasion the British allowed the Germans to bring in their wounded, but when we were attempting to get ours they opened fire on our men. He thinks the Germans act in a most cowardly manner. In their attacks they come on bravely enough for a time, but when they are about twenty-five yards from our trenches the British jump out to meet them with the bayonet. As a rule they break and fly, as they will not stand up to a bayonet charge. Sometimes the trenches in the Ypres district are only about thirty yards from each other, while at other times they may be anything from 200 to 500 yards apart. When they're very close the men throw bombs from the one set of trenches into the other. As a rule in the trenches at night and every third man is on the look-out for a period of two hours and then they get a rest and the others take duty. All trenches have to be protected by barbed wire to prevent a surprise attack. The attack is generally launched about day-break, but as both sides do this a very good lookout is kept and a hot reception awaits the attacking party. On one occasion when the British were attacking Pte Brennan got the length of the German barbed wire when a shell bursting lifted him into the air. He was not wounded but he got such a shock that his nervous system has suffered severely, and he does not expect to be back in the fighting line again. In all probability he will be retained for home service.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 20th August, 1915.</i></p>
Pte Harry Burns	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Mr &amp; Mrs James Burns, Addiewell have received news from the matron of a British Hospital at Rouen to the effect that their nephew Pte Harry Burns, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Royal Scots, has been so seriously wounded that his leg had to be amputated. Pte Burns was a reservist, and was called to the colours at the outbreak of war. He had been serving with the British Expeditionary Force from the retreat from Mons up till the 9<sup>th</sup> of June when he was wounded by a German shell. In a previous letter to his Aunt Pte Burns stated that he did not feel in the best of spirits owing to the death of his commanding officer, who had been killed when being relieved from trench duty. It was a terrible night, he said, we were being relieved from the trenches by another company, and as the moon was out, it was as clear as daylight. The German trenches and ours were only 100 yards apart, so they fairly got at us. It was a terrible twenty minutes. We had to run for shelter behind any likely object that would stop a bullet and a good many of our chaps were bowled over before getting to cover. Our officer was one of the unlucky number, but it was his bravery that caused his death. He stopped and bandaged a wounded</p>

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	<p>comrade and another of our chaps was calling for help, he also went over to assist him. While he stood to get a bandage from his pocket he was shot dead by a German bullet. The incident fairly upset all our company as he was well liked. He mentions that a Loganlea soldier was also killed while in the trenches, viz: Pte John Muirhead. He stood up and was picked off by a German sniper. He only lived two hours after being shot. Pte Burns expects soon to be removed to a hospital nearer home. <i>Midlothian Advertiser, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1915.</i></p>
Pte Patrick Burns	<p><b>Addiewell Soldiers Wounded</b> – Pte Patrick Burns, Kings Own Scottish Borderers – Addiewell – wounded <i>Midlothian Advertiser 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917</i></p>
L/Cpl Thomas Burt	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – L/Cpl Thomas Burt, KOSB, has been reported to his father Mr George Burt, fitter Addiewell Works as wounded in the head and the left leg. He was 23 years of age and is in hospital in Dundee. Prior to the outbreak of war he was employed as a shale miner with Messrs Young's Oil Company's Works, Addiewell. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1917.</i></p>
Pte Archibald Campbell	<p><b>Casualty List</b> – Pte A Campbell, Cameron Highlanders, Addiewell – wounded <i>Midlothian Advertiser 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.</i></p>
<p>L/Cpl Fred Davis <b>MM</b></p> 	<p><b>Military Medal for Local Soldier</b> - (Photo) is of L/Cpl Fred Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> Camerons who has been successful in winning the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery in the field. Cpl Davis joined up about four years ago and has been in France about three years. He experienced most of the severe fighting which took place during that time and has been wounded on four different occasions and gassed twice. He is at present lying in hospital in France recovering from wounds received in recent action. L/Cpl Davis is only 21 years of age and previous to enlistment was employed at Loganlea coal pit. He resided with his brother Mr Daniel Davis in the village and was well known locally, <i>Midlothian Advertiser 29<sup>th</sup> November 1918.</i></p>
Pte Hugh Devlin	<p><b>West Calder Soldiers Story</b> – The following is an extract from the diary of Pte Hugh Devlin, Muirhall, West Calder of 1<sup>st</sup> Btn Gordon Highlanders;- I enlisted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 1892, for the Gordon Highlanders at Glasgow. From there I was sent to Aberdeen, where I went through the usual recruit's course, and when I became efficient I was drafted to Dublin. I was stationed in that city until my regiment secured a station in Scotland, namely Maryhill, I then had about two years' service, and that was when I was warned to proceed to India with a draft. I landed in India on the first day of January 1895. Entrained at Rawalpindi, with a night's journey in the train brought us to at that time one of our advanced barracks, namely Nowsheera. We rested there on day, and started out three days march, which brought us within 2 or 2.5 miles from the Malakand Pass. We halted on the safe side of a little hill called Dargai, not the Dargai of 1897. On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1895, the whole regiment was astir by 4:40am. We advanced along with the following regiments, namely, Ghurkhas, Sikhs, and the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, to the foot of the Malakand Pass, where I was receive my baptism of fire. The Gordon's were on the right slopes of the Pass 5000 feet high, and my company was on the companies selected to attack and take by storm the topmost peaks of the right slopes of the pass, with about 14 casualties, four being killed. It took us from about 6am until 2:30pm to dislodge the wiry Pathans from their shelters, All the time we were attacking them they were hurling bits of rocks</p>

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and stoned down on top of us, but that did not stop us. The Seaforth Highlanders with the remainder of their Brigade we could hear away on our extreme right towards the Amball Pass, teaching those powerful Afghans the same lesson we were after giving them on our part of the Pass that day. Our Brigade (2<sup>nd</sup>) camped for the night on the top of the Pass, while the Seaforth's and the remainder of their Brigade advanced on through the Khar Valley. We left the Malakand a day later, and came up on the Seaforth Brigade when we learned that there had been a still fight in the Khar Valley, where we were informed the Bengal Lancers got among them with their lances. You can rest assured they did not forget them. Our next task was the crossing of the Suat river, which is full of under currents. We had great difficulty getting our transport across. We in kilts had more advantage. The men in trews were less comfortable in getting across. The river in some parts was from 5 to 6 feet deep. I scrambled across somehow, holding on to a camel's tail being towed across. We rested a few days after getting across the Suat river which brought us into the Jandol Valley. On 10<sup>th</sup> April, our convoy was attacked by a strong force of Afridas while away on our flank that splendid corps of Guides which has been the homes of the Battie's were into it hot protecting the convoy. Here it was where one of the Battie's unfortunately was killed, the loss of Major Battie caused the Guides to be more determined, for they never let one of the Pathans away with their life. The Guides afterwards swore to avenge the death of Major Battie. This engagement was called the Panjkora river. Our next task was to advance and take a mud fort which could hold from 1000 to 2000 troops. We advanced in skirmishing line and took the fort with very few casualties; with the capture of the guns and prisoners we were the means of receiving the two officers, who with about a company of Dogras (native soldiers) were shut up in one of the forts in Chitral. This fort was a mud fort. We lay in Mundi for about four months with nothing taking place, only the usual trouble nightly with snipers. All this had taken place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April and 4<sup>th</sup> December. Then it was my misfortune to have a very series attack of enteric fever which caused my being in hospital for four months and was the finish of my Chitral experience with my being sent back to a convalescent hospital, namely Cherat. A year or so elapsed and once again the regiment was called on service, 1897 and 1898. We paraded as we did for the previous expedition, and found ourselves in front of the famous Dargai Pass. After a reconnaissance on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1897, which was to, I believe, find out the strength of the enemy, we found ourselves fighting our old friend on a different part of the frontier, only on a larger scale, which won for the Gordon's another page in their history, namely the storming and taking of Dargai, which cleared the entrance into the interior of the enemy's country. The remaining fighting was all done, when we were passing through the Bara Valley. The sniper gave us a lot of trouble at night always with their pin ponging. We were then in the centre of a cluster of mountains with nothing but the river bed to walk on for a road. Nothing more of any consequence came off until we landed back to within 20 miles of Peshawar, where with two months rest we once more found ourselves back to in Pindi again. About two years of peace in barracks, and once again we were warned to hold ourselves in readiness for the South African War. I was thinking of getting home to England with my first period of service finished. The order came out that we were to be a part of the Indian contingent for service in South African War. I had the good luck to be in one of the regiments to be besieged in Ladysmith for four months with a continuous bombardment daily from the Boer gunners, most part of them Germans. It was then I had my first diet of horse flesh, together with smoking tea leaves and dried tea leaves and a fine thing for reducing one's flesh. But the day of relief came to us for the health of the troops was becoming serious thought to the authorities and with Buller's army outside, I believe I was one of the first man to notice the three horsemen galloping over the plain which lay between the town of Ladysmith and the Boer positions which had been captured by our brave army that came to our relief. I received a bit of Golden Bar tobacco, and

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	<p>I never thought more of the favourite week in my life; in fact I was very near eating it after being so long without it. The troops of the beleaguered garrison lined the streets when General Buller's army marched through the main streets of Ladysmith. I have seen many a turnout of our army but it was one of the sights I never will forget. I took from 7am until 5pm before the last of General Buller's army had passed the spot where my battalion had taken up. We then went away on the march to about ten miles outside Ladysmith to recruit which we did well, for we got plenty of food, and we gave it value. We started away on the march again after our old friends the Dutch, all though the Lydenburgh Mountains, where we had daily engagements. We went past gold mines, and even through the Devil's Knuckles, a beautiful gold mine at a place called The Pilgrim's Rest, and ended my South African services with coming back to Pretoria doing blockhouse duty, and finally found myself embarking once more for the land of milk and honey (India). Two years afterwards I left the army for good, with my time finished as I thought I had done little bit in the year 1905. When the cloud hovered around our homes once more, when no other than the greatest murderer in the world's history wanted a dig at us, I offered my services with very little trouble. I left West Calder on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1914 and found myself again with my old Regiment in the trenches at Ypres. My first salute there was nearly getting buried alive along with other five, three of us got away after being half buried through the effects of a "Jack Johnson" bursting right in front of our parapet; also nearly getting felled with a giant fir tree which had been battered to pulp with German shells. Otherwise I have been very lucky, and I wish to remain so. I have no more time to go into full details of the present conflict but hope to do so on some future occasion. Before I finish I must remind you of the good work done in France by the hospitals. The hospitals here deserve the highest of praise for the way both doctors and nurses work in adding to the comforts of the sick and wounded, for cleanliness and the care that is taken of the most serious cases, cannot be surpassed.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1915.</i></p>
Pte John Harvey	<p><b>Addiewell Soldiers Wounded</b> – Pte John Harvey of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, whose home is at Cross Street, Addiewell, has been wound in the recent fighting in France.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1917.</i></p>
Pte Peter Houston	<p>Information has been received by Mr John Houston, Graham Street, Addiewell to the effect that his brother Pte Peter Houston, Royal Irish Fusilier's has been wounded in the big battle in France as a result of the German offensive. Pte Houston was employed at Clyde Bridge Steel Works previous to joining the Army, but is well known in the village.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</i></p>
Pte Edward Johnstone	<p><b>More Addiewell Men Wounded</b> - Information has reached Addiewell this week that Pte Edward Johnstone, Royal Scots, who resided in Simpson Street, Addiewell has been wounded in both the arm and the leg. Johnstone, who is unmarried, has been brought to an English hospital.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1914.</i></p> <p><b>Addiewell Soldier's Story</b> – Pte Edward Johnstone, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers tells an interesting story of his experiences while at the front. He received two bullet wounds in the arm, and also one in the leg at the Battle of Ypres. Giving his opinion of the German soldiers, Pte Johnstone says they are a treacherous lot, and the underhand methods they adopt to gain their ends are indescribable. However, the British Tommie's are now well accustomed to those methods, and the Germans who adopt them now do so to their own disadvantage. He was in several bayonet charges all of which came off victoriously. Describing one in particular, he says that his regiment had run short of ammunition and the Germans apparently notice this, for they commenced a most vigorous attack. The order was at once given to charge, and</p>

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	<p>with the assistance of the Scots Greys, his regiment rushed on the oncoming Germans. In less than an hour the enemy were scatted in all directions, and their position became safe till more ammunition was brought forward. Referring to the German infantry Pte Johnstone says it is not comparable with the British infantry at all, their marksmanship is so bad. During the retreat from Mons, the German infantry were firing at random as they marched, thus only wasting ammunition. Their artillery, however is excellent, and the “Black Marias” and “Jack Johnsons” do a lot of damage. While in the trenches he had the painful experience of seeing a comrade have part of his face blown away. He himself had part of his forefinger blown off and at another time had his hand grazed with shrapnel. Previous to getting 14 days leave, Pte Johnstone was lying in an hospital in London.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1914.</i></p> <p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Pte Edward Johnston of the Royal Scots Fusiliers has been home on seven days leave recuperating from wounds received while at the front. He was wounded at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, firstly on the thigh and then on the wrist while he was being carried from the battlefield on the stretchers by member of the Red Cross. Both were bullet wounds. Describing the battle in his own words, Pte Johnston said: “The sights I witness were heartrending, and they will never be erased from my memory. The British artillery fire was so accurate and terrible that a tornado of shells fell into the German trenches and hurled into the air, arms, legs and other parts of men’s bodies.” It was a ghastly spectacle he remarked. After the artillery bombardment concluded we had to charge across the intervening ground to capture the German trenches, and as we did so we trampled over the human remains, which lay all around. All the British regiments engaged here suffered heavy losses, due the masterly constructions of the barbed wire entanglements which greatly impeded our progress. However, we got more than our own back when the Germans later tried to retake the ground they had lost. After the losses we had sustained we felt that a hand to hand combat with the enemy would have been a source of consolation to us, but, as on former occasions, the sight of cold steel evidently unnerved them and the once again we were deprived of obtaining what we desired most. It was about this time that a stray bullet lodged in my thigh, and shortly afterwards when I was being carried to the rear on the stretchers, another one lodged in my wrist. I first received treatment in hospital in Boulogne, then I was sent in a hospital ship to Southampton and thence by train to Norfolk. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Pte Johnston has got wounded since going to the front. On the last occasion he received three bullet wounds, two in the right arm, and one in the left. He was also receiving treatment in hospital when the Germans carried out their last air raid, some of the bombs dropping only a short distance from the hospital. Pte Johnston’s brother who is also a soldier is at present lying in Princess Christian’s Hospital, Weymouth suffering from a sever wound in the right hand, and it is feared that he may yet have to lose his two middle fingers.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915.</i></p>
Sapper Alex Justice	<p><b>Champion Walker Wounded</b> – Sapper Alec Justice, Addiewell, Scotland’s champion walker is in a Surrey hospital recovering from wounds and the effects of a German gas attack in Belgium, Alec is loud in his praise of the nursing staff of the institution, who, he says, could not be more attentive to broken soldiers. A fortnight before our “heel and toe” expert met with his “accident” he won from scratch, a mile walk, in which Canadians, English, Irish and “brither” Scots, competed. For this he got a silver watch, but his prize together with his teeth were lost when he was laid low. Alec who used to assist in the training of the Glasgow Rangers players at Ibrox Park is getting along all right now, and hopes to be quite fit soon.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.</i></p>

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<p>Cpl Alexander Kerr <b>MM</b></p> 	<p><b>Military Medal for Local Soldier</b> – (Photo) – Cpl Alex Kerr, Royal Scots, Loganlea, who was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the field the exploit for which he has received this honour and for which he was made a Corporal on the field, was a remarkably brave one. His battalion made an attack which did not materialise, and Kerr with his machine gun went too far and was cut off. Alone he worked his gun for two hours, keeping the enemy at bay till darkness fell, when he was able to return, Since then he has been slightly wounded by shrapnel and is at present working as an orderly in the YMCA hut in a convalescent camp. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 27<sup>th</sup> July 1917.</i></p>
<p>Pte Andrew Laing</p>	<p><b>Casualty List</b> - Pte A Laing, Gordon Highlanders, Addiewell – wounded <i>Midlothian Advertiser 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.</i></p>
<p>Sapper John Laing <b>MiD</b></p>	<p><b>Mentioned for Bravery</b> – Mr and Mrs Robert Laing, 46 Loganlea, have just received a parchment from their son Sapper J Laing of the Irish Division. The parchment which is signed by W B Hickie, Major General, states that “I have read with much pleasure the reports of your Regimental Commander and Brigade Commander regarding your gallant conduct and devotion to duty on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1917, and have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the record of the Irish Division”. Previous to enlisting Sapper Laing worked as plumber with Mr Lister, West Calder. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 20<sup>th</sup> July 1917.</i></p>
<p>Pte Bernard Lee</p>	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> - Official information has been received by Mr Thomas Lee, 2 Campbell Street, Addiewell, that his son Pte Bernard Lee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Scots, was wounded in France on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. He enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1915.</i></p>
<p>Cpl James Lee <b>MM</b></p> 	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier's Experiences</b> – Vivid Description of Battle in France – The following letter is from L/Cpl James Lee, 8<sup>th</sup> Btn Black Watch describing the big engagement in France on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915. Dear Brother, A few lines to let you know I am in good health, hoping to find you all in the same. Thank God for his kind mercies to us all. You will remember when I wrote you last I told you to keep a sharp lookout for coming event. Well the expected has happened with, I am pleased to say, excellent results. You will likely have read about it in the papers, and I will try and give you a short account of the great battle. After a continuous bombardment by the British and French artillery for eight days, the like of which the world has never witness, the ground rocked and swayed. For days at time it was impossible to walk, and to carry out any orders was simply out of the question. I t continued up till Saturday morning, when we stood to our arms at 4:15, and lined up to face what turned out to be one of the greatest strongholds of the enemy on the whole line. We got the order to cross the parapets about 4:30 and the Black Watch and Cameron Highlanders occupied the centre of the position. We advanced across the open country, no cover of any description to be found. The Germans opened fire with heavy guns, shrapnel and whizzy-bangs, and a murderous fire with machine guns from the left which tore wide gaps in our ranks. The leading companies of the Black Watch and Cameron's suffered awfully. The position lay half left from our trenches, and consisted of a village and colliery on the one side and another village 400 yards ahead, and to get them we had to take four lines of trenches, so that will give you some idea of the loss we suffered at the</p>

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beginning of the fight. I was given the command of No 12 section from Sgt Angus who went down early in the fight as did practically all our officers. The cries of the wounded and the moans of the dying were pitiful to hear. In the second rush I was struck on the waist belt below the lower rib, and I thought somebody had struck me with a ton of pi iron and I reeled and fell in amongst a batch of dead Cameron's. It stunned me for the moment, but I rallied and ran for my section, and had just got into line when a shower of bullets from one of their machine guns caught me on the flank. My hold-all, soapbox, and razor were shot to pieces, so you see I must have been in the thick of it. I am sending you the remains of these things as a souvenir. You would have been proud of your countrymen could you have seen them charge across the open country in face of a murderous fire from every kind of weapon they bring against us. The Highland Brigade defied it all. The moment I left the parapet I made up my mind to get there as quick as possible and carry the position with the bayonet. The Huns stuck it for some time in their first line, and they thought perhaps they could defy anything, they were so strongly entrenched, but the Black Watch when once started never turns back. We broke their line in the centre and they jumped out and ran for their second line. The bayonet prevented a lot of them from ever reaching Germany again. However, those of them who did get away dropped into their second line, and you can easily see it was harder to take than the first one. They also rushed up all the reserves they could get. We never stopped at their first line, and the roar got up all along the line that they were giving way. The Highland Brigade took the second line in a body, and the Black Watch broke through the third line and ran for the village and the pit. We had about 400 yards to their third line. This village was full of machine guns and riflemen who battered away all the time we were charging across the open. Finally we reached the Main Road, and on reaching the village we charged out through it and pursued the fleeing Huns in every direction until the Commanding Officer shouted "For God's sake men, don't go any further". The beggars had dug themselves in below, the floors of the houses to a depth of 12 feet, and when ordered to come out they shook like a leaf and threw up their hands and cried "Mercee, mercee me, commarade me, your comrade". The first we took was a German Doctor who spoke English very well. He did not live long however, as one of their own shells came across and blew him and other two out of sight. To return to the village, we took a considerable amount of prisoners and booty, and we surrounded the pit and dug ourselves in for the time being as night was now coming on and to make things worse it started to rain early in the morning and continued all day, with the result that the trenches were in some places 3.5 deep with mud and water. We had to hold the position all night in case there might be a counter attack, but I don't think they will attack for a considerable time to come, as they got more than they bargained for. By the way, I had a talk with one of the Huns, and he told me that the Germans are terrified of the Highlanders and the Guards. I asked him what Guards, and he replied, "The Irish Guards, of course". He didn't seem to know there were other Guards. The German is all right when living in a trench behind machine guns, but in the open or hand to hand work he is no use. Remembering the sack of Louvain, the massacre of poor little children, the ravishing of the nuns and women of all kids when we entered that village with our well-polished bayonets and rifles, we didn't forget these things. We hacked our way in every direction for three days and three nights until relieved by another division. We retired badly worn out to our original position late on the fourth night. We lay until morning and marched off to one of the largest towns in the North of France for a rest. On the way we passed several villages, and the whole population turned out and danced with joy. Will send you on the remains of my small kit as a souvenir. Two days before the battle I bought some postcards to send for my birthday but I couldn't get them away with the result that I had to take through the fight. The charge was one of the finest in the whole war, and we were complimented by the General Commanding the



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	<p>Brigade. He conveyed a message from General French congratulating us on our bravery and dash.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1915.</i></p> <p><b>Casualty List – Cpl J Lee</b>, Addiewell, Black Watch  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.</i></p> <p><b>Military Medal for Local Soldier</b> – We have been notified that L/Sgt James Lee of the 8<sup>th</sup> Black Watch has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the field. His home is at 2 Campbell Street, Addiewell, and previous to enlisting he was an employee of Young’s Oil Company. Sgt Lee took part in the Battle of Loos, Hill 60 and other big engagements. He was wounded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, but is now recovered and hopes to be able again to do his bit for King and country.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.</i></p> <p><b>Lance Sgt Lee Home on Leave</b> – L/Sgt Lee has been home for a few days leave, recuperating from wounds received while serving with the British Forces in France. It may be remembered that we recorded in our columns recently that he had been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the field. He took part in the Battle of Loos last year, and other big engagements. Previous to enlistment he was an employee of Young’s Oil Company.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 8<sup>th</sup> December 1916.</i></p> <p><b>Local Soldier Honoured – Sgt James Lee</b> – On Saturday afternoon, Sgt James Lee, of the Black Watch, whose home is at Addiewell and who was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field was presented with a gold filled watch and chain from the people of the parish in recognition of his gallantry. The meeting was held in the Institute hall, under the auspices of the Honours and Memorial Committee. Mr Mutch presided and he was accompanied by Sgt Lee, Dr John Young, Mr Glass, Mr G Robb and Mr A Russell. In opening the proceedings the chairman said it was needless for him going into any details regarding the object of the meeting, as they all knew they had met to do honour to Sgt Lee and his regret was that there not a larger meeting. Perhaps the fact that it was a Saturday afternoon when many people had other things to do had kept a number of the villagers from being with them. Sgt Lee had gone from his home ready to go wherever the military sent him and he had risked the dangers of the battlefield in France on their behalf. He was the first Addiewell soldier to be honoured for winning distinction on the battlefield and the letter they had received from his Lieutenant showed that he well worthy of the honour awarded to him. He had much pleasure in calling upon Dr John Young to make the presentation.</p> <p>Dr Young said he felt it a great honour to be there on such an auspicious occasion. Mr Anderson the general manager of Young’s Oil Company was to have made the presentation to Sgt Lee, but unfortunately he has been called to London on important business and he was asked to take his place. They all regretted Mr Anderson’s absence, seeing he was their representative of the company with which the Lee family had been so long connected. They had met to honour one who had gone from amongst the, one who had not to go of necessity but had given his services voluntarily. He was a practical miner and therefore had quite a good excuse to stay at home. He might still have been making a good wage and enjoying all the comforts of home. Instead of that, however, Sgt Lee felt there was a moral obligation – although there was no civil or legal obligation that he should don the khaki and fight for liberty, justice and right. He belongs to a family with an honourable record. Of seven sons, four went forth to their bit for King and country. When they spoke of King and Country they did mean anything in the abstract, they meant they went forth to fight for the people of this district in which they lived. They went to give their lives if need be for the defence of those at home and that the cause of right might be maintained. That was a very noble record for a family. Another brother Pte Bernard Lee came home suffering from wounds received in action, and they said of him as they did of Sgt Lee – all honour to him. Although he had not won the Military medal he had played his part as a good citizen.</p>
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	<p>Another brother , the later Pte John Lee, although in failing health thought it his duty to serve in some capacity. He went on home service but his health gave way and his death took place s they all knew. That man gave his life for his country just as truly as any soldier who fell on the battlefield. The other brother was at present in France doing his bit there as a British soldier. Sgt Lee volunteering in January 1915 and went out to France in May of the same year, just after battle of Neuve Chapelle. He soon had to take part in severe fighting, having been at the Battle of Loos which tested the nerve of every British soldier engage in it. I July of last year he took part in the battle of the Somme and it was he acquitted himself so bravely.</p> <p>The Germans held strong positions in a village and a wood, and they had got to be taken from them. Sgt Lee and his company were sent to do it and in capturing the village and the wood Sgt Lee showed such great bravery, initiative, determination and coolness in leading his men that he was awarded the military medal. He well deserved the honour for what he had done. In closing he would ask him to accept the watch and chain and hoped he would long be spared to wear it. Every time he looked upon it, he would be reminded of the admiration and esteem of the subscribers in West Calder parish. He would be reminded of how they admired his courage, his fortitude, his patriotism and the ready response he made to the call of duty in the hour of trial.</p> <p>Sgt Lee in reply, said he could only thank them for their beautiful and useful gift. He could assure them he had only done his duty, just as the other men had done from this locality. They all regretted the loss of life, but they could not expect to get through a job of this kind without losses. He had only come home yesterday, and people were asking him how long the war was going to last. That was a most difficult question to answer. This much he would say, that it would not be soon finished. He thought it was every man's duty who was physically fit, to see this thing through. There were two things they did require to finish it and that was men and money, and now was the time for those at home, to see that they got them. He could only again thank them for the handsome gift, which he would treasure as long as he lived.</p> <p>On the motion of Mr George Robb, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Dr John Young for the able manner in which he had made the presentation, and to Mr Mutch for presiding over the meeting, and this terminated the proceedings. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917</i></p>
Pte Patrick Lee	<p><b>Local Soldier Wounded</b> – Mrs Lee, 2 Campbell Street, Addiewell, has been notified that her son Pte Patrick Lee, has been admitted to hospital at Warrington, England suffering from a bullet wound in the leg. Pte Lee has been nearly two years in France and served with a Trench Mortar Battery and latterly with the Royal Scots. In civil life he worked as a miner at West Mains Colliery. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1918</i></p>
Pte Alexander Martin <b>MM</b>	<p><b>Military Medal for Local Soldier</b> – On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst Pte Alex Martin, South African Scottish, younger son of Mr William Martin, Stephenson Street, Addiewell, was presented by the Staff General with the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery while doing duty as dispatch runner in December last. Pte Martin is now in Rosslyn Lodge, Hampstead, London, recovering from wounds received in April, when again acting as dispatch runner. Before going to France he served under General Botha in South Africa, during the rebellion and the German South West Campaign. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.</i></p> <p>The Military Medal for Gallantry was awarded to Bro Alexander Martin who was seriously injured. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1918 Bro Martin was able to attend the Lodge and was presented with a dress apron. – <i>West Calder Thistle Lodge Meeting 1920.</i></p>

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Pte Robert McCallum	<p><b>Letter from a Local Soldier</b> – Writing home on 6<sup>th</sup> May, from the trenches at the Dardanelles, Pte Robert McCallum, of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots, says;- he is in good health, although it is very hot, also that the Turkish fire is sometimes very severe. The troops have all necessary food requirements, but they are short of writing paper, smokes and matches, and anticipate supplies from home early. He is doing all he can for the good cause. Pte McCallum is a son of Mr John McCallum, Faraday Place, Addiewell. <i>Midlothian Advertiser, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1915</i></p> <p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded at Dardanelles</b> – Information has been received by Mr and Mrs John McCallum, Faraday Place, Addiewell, to the effect that their son, Pte Robert McCallum has been wounded in action at the Dardanelles. Pte McCallum was among the first contingent which was sent to the Dardanelles and experienced the awful horrors of landing on Turkish soil. Since then he has experienced a large share of trench fighting and has also been in several bayonet charges. He received a bullet wound in the back, and was treated for some time on a hospital ship, after which he was taken to Alexandria where it is understood he is improving satisfactorily. Pte McCallum enlisted in the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots shortly after war broke out, and later, with his parent's consent, volunteered for foreign service. <i>Midlothian Advertiser, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1915.</i></p>
Bombardier William McCallum	<p><b>Local Soldier Wounded</b> – Mr James McCallum, residing at Davie Street, Addiewell, has received official information from the War Office that his son Bombardier William McCallum has been wound on the left leg. Bombardier McCallum has been over two years with the colours and experienced about 18 months of active service. He received his wound while taking part in the recent heavy fighting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He is at present in hospital in Manchester. Previous to enlistment he was employed as a booking clerk, Princes Street Station, Edinburgh <i>Midlothian Advertiser 10<sup>th</sup> May 1918.</i></p>
Pte John McGarry	<p><b>Addiewell Soldiers Wounded</b> – Pte John McGarry - Addiewell – wounded <i>Midlothian Advertiser 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917</i></p>
Pte William McGonigal	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Mrs McGonigal, 8 Loganlea, Addiewell, has been informed that her husband, Pte William McGonigal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron's (Scottish Rifles) has been wounded in action in France. His wounds are in the chest and his left lung has been punctured. Pte McGonigal enlisted in September last, and left Nigg in May with a draft for the front. He was employed as a "brusher" at Foulshiels Colliery. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1915.</i></p>
Pte John McGucken	<p><b>Muirhall Soldier Wounded</b> – Mr Edward McGucken, residing at Muirhall, has received information that his youngest son, Pte John McGucken has been wounded in action in France. Pte McGucken, who is attached to the Royal Scots, was called up about a year ago, and after about three months training was dispatched to the front, where he has since been in some big engagements. Previous to joining up with the colours he was employed in the Oilworks where he was well-known and respected. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.</i></p>
Pte William McMahan	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Pte William McMahan of the Royal Irish Rifles has had his leg amputated as a result of wounds received in action. His home is at Watt Street, Addiewell. <i>Midlothian Advertiser, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1917.</i></p>
Pte Francis Murphy	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier at the Front</b> – Mrs John Tocher, Addiewell, has received a letter from Pte F Murphy, who is serving in France. Pte Murphy says he is in hospital with a slight wound in the head, but he is nearly all right again. He</p>

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	<p>regrets to state that Pte John Murphy was killed the same day as he got his wound. The conditions at the front are not so bad as they were at first, but they all hope the war will not be long until it is over. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1915</i></p>
Pte Peter O'Rorke	<p><b>More Addiewell Men Wounded</b> – Pte Peter O'Rorke, Highland Light Infantry, a married man who resided in Watt Street, Addiewell, has been wounded in the hand. He has also been brought across from France, and is in an English hospital. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1914.</i></p>
Pte Joseph O'Rourke	<p><b>Addiewell Soldiers Wounded</b> – Pte Joseph O'Rourke, Irish Dragoons – Addiewell - wounded <i>Midlothian Advertiser 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917</i></p>
Pte Hugh Ovens	<p>Mrs Ovens, 8 Livingstone Street, Addiewell has been notified that her son Pte Hugh Ovens of the 54 Scottish Rifles had been wounded in action and was in a hospital at Brighton, England. The wound was a gunshot wound in the neck. Pte Ovens has been on service since 1914 and took part in several of the big engagements. <i>Midlothian Advertiser</i></p>
Pte Thomas Queen	<p><b>Letter from a Loganlea Soldier</b> – Pte Thomas Queen, of the 12<sup>th</sup> Btn Argyll &amp; Sutherland Highlanders, writing home to his people at 17 Loganlea, says they are only beginning to work under active service conditions and have still something to learn. A good start has been made, and all ranks are showing the right spirit. He has got his baptism of fire in the trenches, and he says the conduct of the battalion in their last engagement was most praiseworthy and well calculated to inspire confidence. He is keeping fit and well. Pte Queen enlisted shortly after the new year, and has been in France for some time. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1915.</i></p>
Pte Joseph Rooney	<p><b>Local Soldier Wounded</b> - News has also been received that Pte Joseph Rooney whose parents reside in Muirhall has been wounded in the ankle. Pte Rooney was a shoemaker with West Calder Co-operative Society previous to enlistment and has been in the Army for a considerable time. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</i></p>
Pte Thomas Smith	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Mr John Smith, 23 Graham Street, Addiewell has been notified that his son, Pte T Smith of the Royal Scots, has been admitted to the Scottish Hospital, France suffering from gunshot wounds in the left forearm. <i>Midlothian Advertiser 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.</i></p>
Pte Thomas Smith 	<p><b>West Calder Soldier Missing</b> - Information has been received by Mrs Smith, Muirhall, West Calder, that her husband Pte Thomas Smith, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Highlanders, is posted missing in France. Previous to enlisting he worked as a clerk in the dispatch department at Addiewell Oil Works. <i>Midlothian Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1915.</i></p>
Pte William Smith	<p><b>Casualty List</b> – Pte W Smith, Royal Scots, West Calder – wounded</p>


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	<p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.</i></p> <p><b>Addiewell Soldier Loses a Leg</b> – Mr John Smith, 23 Graham Street, Addiewell has received a telegram stating that his son Pte William Smith, Royal Scots has been severely wounded by gunshot in the right leg, and is now in the 14<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, France. Later information from the chaplain stating that his right leg has been amputated but that otherwise he is making a good recovery. Mr Smith has two sons serving in the army.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 8<sup>th</sup> December 1916.</i></p>
<p>Pte Cochrane Turnbull</p>	<p><b>Casualty List</b> – Pte C Turnbull, Royal Scots, Addiewell, previously reported wounded, now reported not wounded.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.</i></p>
<p>Pte John Welsh</p>	<p><b>Addiewell Man Wounded</b> – Pte John Welsh of the Seaforth Highlanders, who resided with his mother at Graham Street, Addiewell, previous to the war, has been wounded in France and is now in Craigleith Hospital. Pte Welsh has a chum in the hospital who was hit by bullets in nine different places, but none of the wounds are serious.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1914.</i></p> <p><b>An Addiewell Soldier's Story</b> – Pte J Welsh of the Seaforth Highlanders, who was wounded in the arm on first morning of the battle of Aisne, is at present home on thirteen days' leave. He tells a graphic story of his experiences while in France. He was among the first contingent of the Expeditionary Force which landed on French soil but receiving an injury to his foot, shortly after, he was confined to hospital during the retreat from Mons. However, he took part in the battle of the Marne, and was in the subsequent advance to the present position near the river Aisne, where the fighting is still raging. It was on the first morning of this battle that Pte Welsh received his wound. Describing the opening of the battle, he said that as far as he could remember it would be about 3 o'clock in the morning, and his regiment was busily engaged digging trenches when the German artillery opened fire. At first the shells went whizzing over their heads, but with the assistance of their aeroplanes it was not long until the German artillerymen found the range. The shells caused a terrific explosion but a very large portion of them were ineffective, and it was greatly owing to the that the regiment did not have more severe losses, as they were taken unawares. The fighting was scarcely started when Commanding Officer Bradford who was speaking to the Adjutant, was killed by a piece of shrapnel, while the Adjutant was unhurt. Up till the time of getting wounded, which was shortly after the firing commenced, Pte Welsh thinks that the regiments losses as far as he could judge must have been fully one hundred. Describing incidents on the advance to the Aisne, he said the sights witnessed were horrible. Villages they passed through were a mass of ruins, the inhabitants having fled and the streets, were littered with the carcasses of both horses and men. Referring to outrages by German soldiers, which have been published plentifully in our newspapers since the war commenced he says that a great part of them are quite true, and he has ample confirmation of those affairs, while at the front. The German bullet which wounded Private Welsh was in his arm for eight days, and he has it home with him now as a memento along with a French bullet. The German bullet is extremely sharp pointed, while the French one is something the same shape as the British. Pte Welsh leaves the village on Tuesday for his depot, from which he expects to be sent again to France.</p> <p><i>Midlothian Advertiser 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1914.</i></p>
<p>Captain William Allan Young <b>DSO</b></p>	<p><b>Success of Captain W A Young</b> – We are pleased to observe that one young townsman, Captain William Allan Young, DSO, eldest son of Dr William Young, Burnvale has received the degree of Doctor of medicine from Edinburgh University. He was capped at the graduation ceremony held in the McEwan Hall Edinburgh on Wednesday by Principal Sir J Alfred Ewing. There was a large and representative gathering at the graduation ceremony.</p>

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	<p>Captain Young rendered valuable service with the Army during the war and was awarded the DSO. His success shows that he has made excellent use of the little leisure he has had since his return to this country and we congratulate him on another upward step in his profession.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 20<sup>th</sup> November 1918.</i></p> <p><b>Local Officer Awarded the DSO</b> - Captain William Allan Young RAMC (Photo) – we are pleased to observe that Captain William Allan Young of the RAMC, elder son of Dr Young, Burnvale, was home on short leave at the end of the year. It was also very gratifying to see from the New Year List of honours that our young townsman received the decoration of the Distinguished Service Order, and he was heartily congratulated by his many friends on his well merited success. Captain Young was educated at Addiewell and West Calder school, after which he proceeded to Edinburgh University where he graduated. For a year he was surgical resident in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and for 6 months at Colinton Mains Fever Hospital. For some time he worked under Dr Williamson the Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh a gentleman who is still well remembered in the village. Captain Young afterwards studied at Cambridge University and the University College, London, and for a short time he acted as assistant to Dr Thresh of Chelmsford the great authority on water supply in England. He then went as Port Medical Officer and Assistant Medical officer of Health at Southampton. Early in 1914 he received the appointment of Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the City of Manchester, where he was doing splendid work when the outbreak of war took place. In August 1915 Captain Young joined the RAMC and shortly afterwards he was sent to the East. He was attached for sanitary services to the Australians and New Zealanders at Anzac in Gallipoli and was complimented there by his superiors for his patience and tact in dealing with infectious diseases. He was then sent to Egypt where he was laid aside for a short time with a mild attack of dysentery. In Egypt he was also complimented for the good work he accomplished. Early in the summer of last year he came with his Division to France and since that time he has had sanitary supervision of a considerable area and was successful in dealing with an outbreak of infection disease. At one of the big battles he volunteered for service at a collecting station and under fire attended to a large number of our wounded. It is officially recorded that he performed his duties with great skill and devotion. Captain Young has returned to the post of duty in France and we hope he may be spared to return safely to take up the good work he was doing in Manchester.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser – 12<sup>th</sup> January 1917.</i></p>
<p>Pte Robert Young</p>	<p><b>Addiewell Soldier Wounded</b> – Mr James Young, 34 Graham Street, Addiewell has been notified that his son Pte R Young of the Royal Scots has been wounded in action for the second time, and is now in a French Hospital.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.</i></p> <p><b>Local Territorial Wounded</b> – Mr James Young, 34 Graham Street has been notified that his son Pte R Young of the Royal Scots Fusiliers has been wounded in action for the second time. His wounds which are severe are in the leg, and he is at present in a French hospital. Pte Young was a Territorial before the war and was mobilised in August 1914. He was wounded in a previous engagement and making a good recovery returned to the fighting line.  <i>Midlothian Advertiser 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.</i></p>