

## HAROLD NEWELL

1887–26.9.1915 aged 27 years

Private 14967 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers



Harold was the son of Henry and Mary Newell *nee* Pepper and lived with them at 13 Meadow End. He had three sisters and two brothers. He was single and worked as a gypsum 'boiler' before volunteering for enlistment. The 13<sup>th</sup> Bttn landed in France on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1915 where they marched from the coast to the Loos area marching over 20 miles on three successive nights. They arrived in the battle area on the 24<sup>th</sup> September as a reserve to the main attack starting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. On that same night they marched a further 10 miles through rain to within 5 miles of the front line.

On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> the Bttn were moved up through communication trenches full of wounded men, runners and stretcher bearers. They were under shell fire and hampered by flooding due to the heavy rain. During the afternoon reserves were pushed piecemeal into various areas to reinforce the line. The 13<sup>th</sup> were ordered to relieve 46th brigade at Chalet Wood and Hill 70 redoubt. Three of the fusilier companies dug in on the lower slopes of the hill, the remaining company was ordered to strengthen the line south of Chalet Wood. The attack was renewed on the 26<sup>th</sup>, but the enemy on the summit of Hill 70 could enfilade approaching troops. An artillery bombardment to remove this threat commenced at 8.00am but was hampered by a thick mist obscuring the top of the hill, the shells fell short, much of the German wire remained uncut. With the Germans holding a continuous line from Chalet Wood to Loos Crassier such an attack was doomed, but it went ahead anyway at 11.00am. Harold was killed in this area. He had been in France just two weeks. The attack was characterised by confusion, inexperience and shortage of suitable artillery and reliable shells, hence the name of the CWCG cemetery at Loos. He has no known grave. He is recorded on the Loos memorial panel 20-22 at Dud Corner cemetery.

When the telegram arrived at Meadow End Mary's screams and wailing could be heard on Nottingham Road.