

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



EDGAR PULLAN

WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 13TH NOVEMBER 1916

BORN IN 1888 AT THORNTHWAITE, THE SON OF
CHRISTOPHER AND HANNAH PULLAN AND HUSBAND OF
MARGARET PULLAN

Pullan Family History

- 1881 census shows Christopher, his wife Hannah and their 6 children living at Thornthwaite Brow Rd, Thornthwaite as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Christopher (Head)	41	Farmer of 10 acres	Dacre, Yorkshire	1840
Hannah (wife)	34		West End, Yorkshire	1847
John	12	Scholar	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1869
Alfred	10	Scholar	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1871
Ellen	7	Scholar	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1874
Annie Elizabeth	5	Scholar	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1876
Mary Ann	3		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1878
Ben	baby		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1881



Thornthwaite, Yorkshire

- **1891 census** shows Christopher, his wife Hannah and 6 of their children living at Ash Tree Farm House, Morton near Keighley as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Christopher (Head)	51	Farm labourer	Dacre, Yorkshire	1840
Hannah (wife)	43		West End, Yorkshire	1847
Ellen	17	Mill hand worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1874
Annie Elizabeth	15	Mill hand worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1876
Mary Ann	13	Mill hand worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1878
Ben	10	Mill hand worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1881
Hannah	8	Scholar	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1883
Edgar	3		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1888 - 1916



Style on a footpath overlooking Morton near Keighley, Yorkshire

- **1901 census** shows Christopher, his wife Hannah and 5 of their children living at Mill Bank Lodge, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Christopher (Head)	61	General labourer	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1840
Hannah (wife)	54		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1847
Annie Elizabeth	25	Machine minder, worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1876
Mary Ann	23	Machine minder, worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1878
Ben	20	Woolsorter, warehouse	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1881
Hannah	18	Machine minder, worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1883
Edgar	13	Machine minder, worsted	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1888 - 1916

- **1911 census** shows Christopher and Hannah had been married for 45 years and that of their 13 children born alive, 5 had since died. It also shows the Pullan family still living at Mill Bank Lodge, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Christopher (Head)	71	Labourer, stone waller	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1840
Hannah (wife)	64		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1847
Annie Elizabeth	35		Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1876
Hannah	28	Worsted winder	Thornthwaite, Yorkshire	1883

- **1911 census** also shows Edgar Pullan now married to Margaret and living with their 6 month old son. Edgar and Margaret had been married for one year and their address was 1, Pearl Street, Keighley as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Edgar (Head)	23	Cloth weaver	West End, Yorkshire	1888 - 1918
Margaret (wife)	22		Ingrow, Yorkshire	1890
Walter	baby		Ingrow, Yorkshire	1911 - 1932



Pearl Street, Keighley

World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

August 4th 1914

Britain declares war on Germany

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

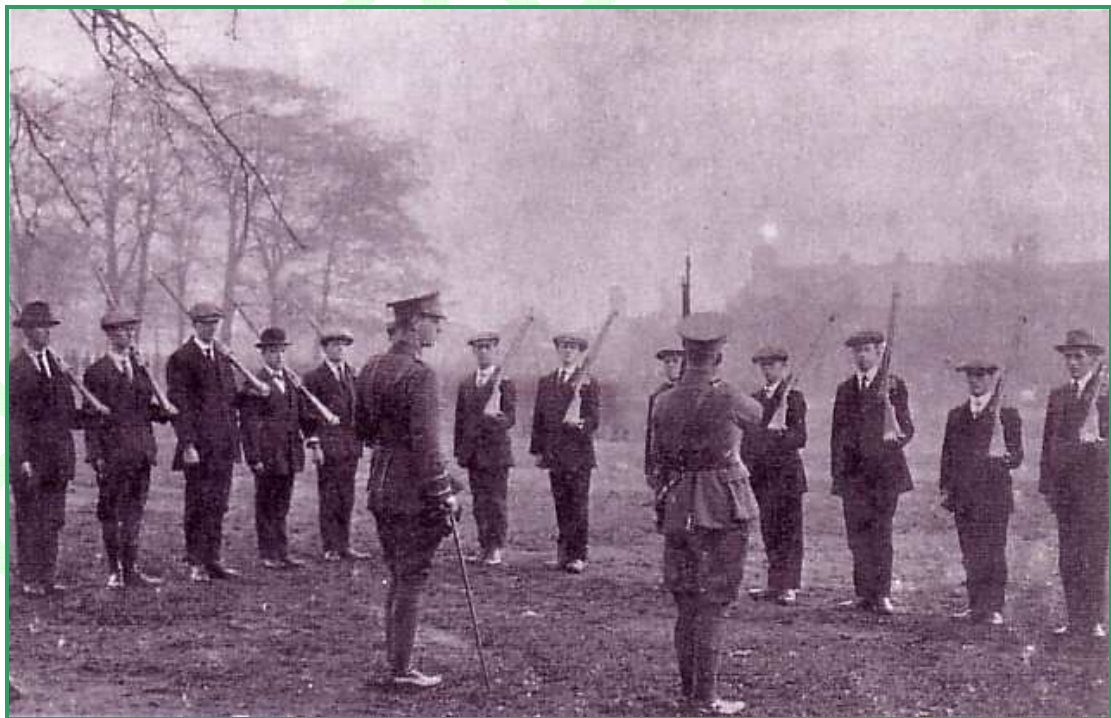
The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee
London 1915



Officers instructing volunteers, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's New Army)

(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2nd Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Edgar Pullan was employed by Messrs. Robert Clough in the weaving department at Grove Mills, Ingrow.

During the Great War, Edgar responded to the call and enlisted on the 26th March 1915 into the 18th (service) battalion of the (Prince of Wales's Own) West Yorkshire Regiment. His regimental number was 18-619 and he commenced with the rank of Private.

The 18th battalion West Yorkshire Regiment was otherwise known as the **2nd Bradford Pals battalion**. It was formed in Bradford on the 22nd January 1915 and training commenced at Manningham Park, before the battalion moved to Ripon. In June 1915, the 18th battalion was attached to the 31st Division.

The 31st Division was the quintessential New Army Division, being made up entirely of Pals battalions from Accrington, Leeds, Bradford, Barnsley and Hull.

In December 1915 the 18th battalion moved to Egypt to complete its training before arriving in France in March 1916 in preparation for the **Battle of the Somme**.

During the Great War, the West Yorkshire Regiment raised a total of 37 battalions, including Territorials. 66 Battle Honours were bestowed and 4 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the West Yorkshire Regiment.



WW1 West Yorkshire Regiment Cap Badge

Pte Edgar Pullan entered the Theatre of War on the 22nd December 1915 when the 2nd Bradford Pals battalion landed in Egypt.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
PULLAN	W. YORKS	Pte	18/619
Edgar.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	0/2/104 B2	239.	
BRITISH	0/2/104 B2	239.	
15 STAR	0/2/104 B2	239.	K in A
Theatre of War first served in	(3) Egypt		
Date of entry therein	22-12-15		

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Edgar Pullan (source: *The National Archives*)

Battle of the Somme

1st July – 18th November 1916

The Battle of the Somme was fought from the 1st July – the 18th November 1916 and claimed more than 1.5 million casualties.

The battle was preceded by 7 days of preliminary artillery bombardment, in which the British fired over **1.7 million shells**. The logic behind this was so to destroy the German trenches and barbed wire placed in front of the trenches before sending in the infantry.



British Artillery, end of June 1916.

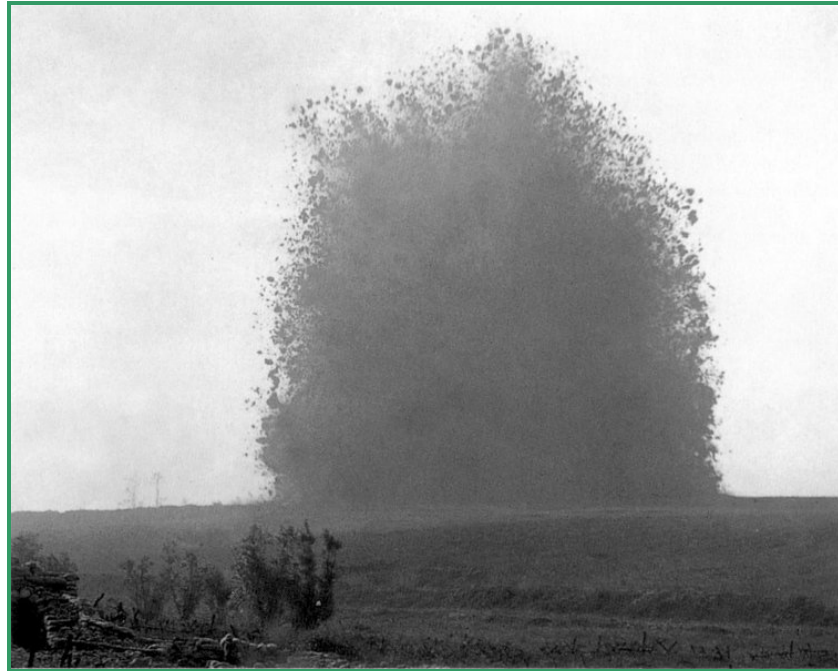
7 day preliminary artillery bombardment, Battle of the Somme, 1916

However, the enemy's position was situated on high, undulating tract of ground, in which they had deep trenches and bomb proof shelters for their men. When the bombardment started the Germans moved these men into the relative safety of the deep dugouts. When the bombardment stopped, the Germans knew that this was the signal for an infantry advance. They moved from the safety of their dugouts and manned their machine guns to face the British and French.



Infantry preparing to go 'over the top' during the Battle of the Somme

Ten minutes before the infantry advance, at 7.20 a.m. on the 1st July 1916, a British officer detonated a massive mine beneath the **Hawthorn Ridge** (photo below).



Explosion of the Hawthorn Ridge, 1st July 1916

At 7.30am, on a clear midsummer's morning, the British infantry emerged from their trenches and advanced in extended lines at a slow steady pace across the grassy expanse of 'No Man's Land'.

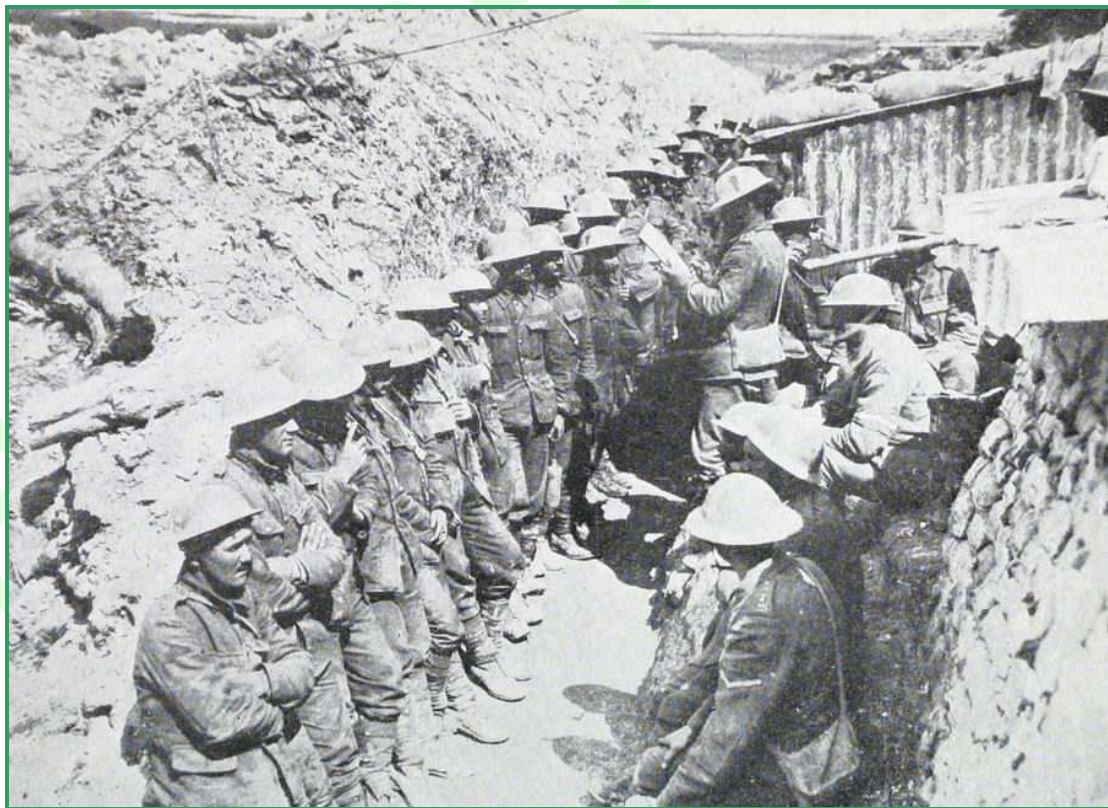
There they met a hail of machine-gun and rifle fire from the German defenders. Accurate German barrages immediately added to the pandemonium, as shells engulfed the attackers and wrecked the crowded British assembly trenches. The advancing infantry and many more waiting to attack suffered enormous casualties.

The Battle of the Somme is best remembered for its first day, 1st July 1916 on which the British suffered 57,470 casualties, including **19,240 dead** - the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army.

Ironically, going 'over the top' at the Somme was the first taste of battle many of these men had, as many were part of "Kitchener's Volunteer Army" persuaded to volunteer by posters showing Lord Kitchener himself summoning these men to arms to show their patriotism.



Going 'over the top'



Roll call in the British trenches at the Battle of the Somme, afternoon, 1st July 1916
(source: www.gwpda.org/photos)

The Battle of the Ancre

13th – 18th November 1916

The **Battle of the Ancre** was the final act of the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Launched on the 13th November 1916 the objective of the battle was as much political as military.

The general assault was launched amidst a tremendous artillery bombardment in darkness and thick fog at 5.45am on Monday the 13th November. The attackers had to contend with deep mud, heavy enemy fire and poor visibility.

The objectives of the battle were not achieved; only in the marshy lowlands near the river were gains made, and these at great cost.



Ancre battlefield, November 1916

The Somme campaign finally came to and end on the 18th November 1916 when the British 51st Highland Division took Beaumont Hamel during the **Battle of the Ancre**, which had in fact been an objective for the first day.

On the 19th November, with winter rain again enshrouding the battlefield, offensive operations were called off.

The battle became a metaphor for futile and indiscriminate slaughter. By the time the Battle of the Somme was abandoned the Allies had advanced only 5 miles.

The British Army suffered, over the course of the entire 142-day Somme campaign, some 415,000 casualties, which works out to be around 3,000 per day. The French lost 200,000 men and the German's nearly 500,000

Pte Edgar Pullan was **Killed in Action** during the final phase of the Somme Campaign on the **First Day of the Battle of the Ancre** on the 13th November 1916.

He was 29 years of age



Article Date: 01 December 1916

PRIVATE EDGAR PULLAN OF SUTTON MAKES THE GREAT SACRIFICE

News has been received at Sutton during the weekend that Private Edgar Pullan, of the West Yorkshire Regiment (2nd Bradford Pals), has been killed in action "somewhere in France". Pte. Pullan was well known in Sutton, where he resided up to his marriage a few years ago. He enlisted on the 26th March 1915 in the 'Pals', and was in training for a time at Manningham Park, afterwards going to Ripon with his Battalion. Prior to going out to the Front, Private Pullan was at Fovant (Salisbury Plain). His Battalion went to Egypt in December 1915, and was afterwards transferred to France in February of this

year. Pte. Pullan was the youngest child of Mr. Christopher Pullan. He was 29 years of age and leaves a widow and one child to mourn his loss. He was highly respected in the village, and was over on leave a few months ago, and was a fine, manly, soldierly-looking young man.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Casualty Details

Name: PULLAN, EDGAR

Initials: E

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Unit Text: 18th Bn.

Age: 29

Date of Death: 13/11/1916

Service No: 18/619

Additional information: Husband of Margaret Pullan, of 1, Pearl St., Ingrow, Keighley, Yorks.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: II. E. 2.

Cemetery: SAILLY-AU-BOIS MILITARY CEMETERY

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

SAILLY-AU-BOIS MILITARY CEMETERY



Sully-Au-Bois Military Cemetery, France

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

The Sully-Au-Bois Military Cemetery in France was begun in May 1916, in a field opposite the Town Major's dug-out.

It was used by field ambulances and fighting units until March 1917, when the Allied line had moved forward, and again from April to August 1918, when the front came very close to it.

Sully-au-Bois Military Cemetery contains 239 Commonwealth burials of the Great War. The cemetery was designed by W C Von Berg.

Pte Edgar Pullan is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial



Sailly-Au-Bois Military Cemetery, France
(source: photo provided by Natalie Thackray)

WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)

Pte Edgar Pullan was posthumously awarded the
1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Lest we Forget

CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE EDGAR PULLEN, West Yorks. Regt., of Sutton, killed in action November, 1916. Aged 29 years.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)