IN
MEMORIAM
1914–1918
Lest They Be Forgotten
I have used the genealogical website Ancestry to conduct my research into the families of the soldiers on the Humshaugh war memorial. The same site has been a source of some military records and these have been supported by the details held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

As the latest census we have access to is that of 1911, it has sometimes been difficult to link a name to the village. The military records have been useful when available, but many of those for the First World War are sadly missing, having been lost during WW2 bombing raids on London. I have verified the facts to the best of my ability, using contemporary newspaper reports from The Hexham Courant and The Hexham Herald. Most of the photographs of the soldiers are also from these old newspapers and are, therefore, of very poor quality.

Jen Ogle 2014
Some personal and family details about the Soldiers of the first world war listed on the Humshaugh war memorial.
Lance Sergeant Wilfred Henry Charlton was killed on 4th October 1917.
Age 29
Served in the 12th/13th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.
Died in Belgium during the Battle of Passchendaele.
He has no known grave and is listed amongst the missing soldiers on the Tyne Cot Memorial, in the cemetery of the same name, near Ypres.

Wilfred Henry Charlton was born in Acomb on 18th February 1887, son of Stephen Charlton, a farm worker, and his wife, Jane. The family lived at Keepershield in 1891 and at Plane Trees Cottage in 1901, where Wilf is listed as an apprentice gardener. In 1911, the family were at ‘Roselea’ in Linden Terrace and he was now described as a domestic gardener. He went to France with 4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers on 20th April 1915 and records show that he was first wounded between arriving in France and 14th October 1915. By 4th January 1916, he had been transferred to Ripon Convalescence Centre.

The Hexham Courant - 30th September 1916

Mr and Mrs Stephen Charlton of Humshaugh received information that their son Wilfred Charlton was seriously wounded on September 16th. Before the war broke out he was employed as a gardener by the Misses Cruddas, Haughton Castle.

Hexham Herald – 24th November 1917

Mr and Mrs Stephen Charlton of Humshaugh have received news that one of their sons, who are serving with the army, Wilfred Henry Charlton, is missing.
(Almost a year later they received official notification of his death.)

Hexham Herald – 26th October 1918

Mr and Mrs Charlton, Roselea, Humshaugh, have received official news that their son, Sergeant Wilfred Henry Charlton, Northumberland Fusiliers, posted missing on Oct 4th 1917, is now presumed killed on that date. Their Majesties in a message of sympathy to Mr and Mrs Charlton on the loss of their son, after expressing their true sympathy, desire to say, ‘He whose loss you mourn died in the noblest of causes. His Country will be ever grateful to him for the sacrifice he has made for Freedom and Justice.’
In Memory of
Lance Serjeant
Wilfred Henry Charlton

35222, 12th/13th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 04 October 1917 Age 29

Son of Stephen and Jane Charlton, of "Roselea," Humshaugh, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
J W Cocker

Sergeant James Williams Cocker died on 15th September 1916.
Age 33
Serving with 1st/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in France during The Battle of the Somme
He is buried in the Delville Wood Cemetery in Longueval, France.

James Williams Cocker was born in Denny, Stirlingshire, in 1883. He was the son of James Cocker, a domestic gardener, and his wife, Annie. In 1901 James senior was a gardener at Chesters and James William had moved out of the area to work at Armstrong’s ordnance factory in Elswick. His 1914 marriage to Beatrice Welch was registered in Hexham, suggesting that he had, by then, moved back into the area.

Hexham Herald - 14th October 1916 – Humshaugh Man Killed

Sergeant James Cocker, son of Mr James Cocker, has been killed on 15th September, 35 years of age.

21st October 1916 – Humshaugh Man Makes Sacrifice

Much regret has been caused in the North Tyne district by the death of Sergeant James Cocker, Northumberland Fusiliers, who was killed on the memorable day of 15th September, in The Battle of the Somme. Youngest son of Mr James Cocker of Chesters Gardens, Humshaugh, the gallant sergeant joined the king’s forces with his brother, who is still in France, and nobly sacrificed a good position in the gardening profession to serve his king and country.

Rallying to the flag on the outbreak of war, Sergeant Cocker was drafted to France in March 1915, where he attained the rank of sergeant. In the advance of the gallant Northumberland Fusiliers, Sergeant Cocker was pierced through the heart with a machine gun bullet and was killed instantaneously. The deceased was in his 35th year and much sympathy will be felt for his grief-stricken parents.
In Memory of
Serjeant
J W Cocker

1860, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 15 September 1916

Remembered with Honour
Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
A J Herdman

Private Arthur John Herdman was killed on 26th April 1915
Age 23
Served with 1st/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in Belgium during the Second Battle of Ypres.
He has no known grave and is listed amongst the missing soldiers on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Arthur John Herdman was the son of John Herdman and his wife, Annie Isabella, nee Parker, of Hill House, Humshaugh. He was born on 24th December 1891 and baptised in Humshaugh on 21st February 1892. John Herdman was a joiner. In 1911, Arthur John was listed as a land agent’s clerk, whilst his younger brother, William Parker Herdman was an apprentice joiner. The latter joined the army after his brother’s death and is described on his army records as a joiner, wheelwright and undertaker. He served with the Royal Army Service Corps and thankfully he survived the war.

Hexham Courant - 29th May 1915

Mr and Mrs Herdman of Humshaugh have received official intimation that their son, Private A J Herdman of B Company 4th Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action near Ypres on April 26th. Private Herdman, who was only 23, was widely known and highly respected in the district. He was an exceptionally smart, intelligent young chap and a capital all-round athlete. He played both cricket and football. For some years he was employed in the estate office at The Chesters, after which he went to take up similar work in the estate office of Mr R Vyner of Newby Hall near Ripon. The greatest sympathy is felt with Mr and Mrs Herdman in their bereavement.
In Memory of

Private

Arthur John Herdman

1855, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 26 April 1915 Age 23

Son of John and Annie Isabella Herdman, of Hill House, Humshaugh, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
H Hiscock

Private Harold Hiscock died on 13th November 1916
Age 23
Served with 1st/4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in France during final stages of The Battle of the Somme
He has no known grave, is listed amongst the missing on the Thiepval Memorial in
the Somme region of France.

Harold Hiscock was born in Yorkshire in 1893, the son of Richard Arthur and Ann
Elizabeth Hiscock. In 1911, he was living with his parents at Plantation Cottage,
Cloughton, near Scarborough. His father was a woodman, working for the Duchy
of Lancaster, who own a lot of land in the area. Harold was described as an under
woodman. By the outbreak of war, he must have moved to the Humshaugh area,
and enlisted in Hexham.

No newspaper reports have been found to further identify Harold Hiscock’s link to
Humshaugh, nor the circumstances surrounding his death.
In Memory of
Private
Harold Hiscock

5397, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 13 November 1916 Age 23

Son of Richard Arthur and Ann Elizabeth Hiscock, of Plantation Cottages, Cloughton, Scarborough.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Private Robert Leathard died of wounds on 2nd October 1918
Age 26
Serving with 14th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in Germany as a prisoner of war
Buried in the Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany

Born in Hylton Castle, County Durham, in 1892, into a family of farm labourers, Robert was the eldest son of George William and Matilda Leathard. They had lived on several farms in County Durham and Northumberland and, in 1911, they were in the Seaton Delaval area. It is not known exactly when they came to Humshaugh.

**Hexham Herald – 6th July 1918**

Mr and Mrs Leathard, Leazes Head Farm, Humshaugh, have received word that their eldest son Private Robert Leathard has been reported wounded and missing since May 27th.

**Hexham Herald – 9th November 1918**

Private Robert Leathard 28081– Died October 2nd 1918, while a prisoner of war, eldest and dearly loved son of George and Matilda Leathard, Leazes Head Farm, Humshaugh. He died in Kassell Camp, Germany, from wounds received last May.

Mr and Mrs Geo. W Leathard have received word that their eldest son, Pte Robert Leathard, N F, who was a prisoner of war, died in the prisoners of war camp, Kassel, Germany, on October 2nd, from septic poisoning following wounds received on May 27th. The news was unexpected by his parents, for in the last letter they received from him, on Wednesday of last week (dated Sept 16th), he stated he was going on well. He expressed his disappointment that no letters or parcels were reaching him, though these had been regularly sent him from home.

Joining the Northumberland Fusiliers, he was trained at Rugeley and saw considerable fighting in France before he was captured during the heavy German attack on May 27th last year. He was then suffering from a broken arm and a broken leg, and though he seemed to go on well, septic poisoning set in suddenly and caused his death. He was one of four brothers who have served in the war, another being discharged, while two are yet in the forces. The deceased was well-known in the district, having generally worked with his father as a farm servant.
Before he enlisted, however, he was engaged with Mr Preston at the White House, North shields. Mrs Leathard has received the following letter:

*British Mission, Prisoners of War Camp, Kassel, Germany, October 4\textsuperscript{th}.*

Dear Madam – It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of your dear son, Robert, who died on October 2\textsuperscript{nd}. The poor boy’s death was quite sudden, the cause being septic poisoning. The funeral took place this morning, and a number of his comrades attended, including representatives of the British Church, British Help Committee and the Germans. His death is mourned by all who knew him, so we do trust that you will not feel alone in your sorrow. We are praying for you that God will give you strength to bear up under the sad blow. May our Father bless and keep you.

Yours very sincerely
V Champion,
British Missioner
Thomas Pearson Saint

Private Thomas Pearson Saint died on 5\textsuperscript{th} November 1917
Age 25
Served with 1\textsuperscript{st}/4\textsuperscript{th} Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in Belgium during the Battle of Passchendaele
He has no known grave and is listed amongst the missing soldiers on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Thomas Pearson Saint was the son of Joseph Saint, a mason, and his wife Jane. He was born on 31\textsuperscript{st} August 1891 and baptised at Humshaugh on 11\textsuperscript{th} October 1891. His baptismal record names his mother as Louise Jane. In 1911, Thomas was living with his family in Humshaugh and, on the census, is listed as a farm servant, a cowman. Thomas was the nephew of Pearson Saint, also a mason, who lived at Hill House, Humshaugh, who also had sons serving in the army. The records of the War Graves Commission name Thomas as the son of Joseph Saint, of 10 Bede Terrace, Chester-le-Street. Thomas’ mother was from County Durham and other members of his family still live in the Chester-le-Street area.
In Memory of

Private

Thomas Pearson Saint

242262, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 05 November 1917 Age 25

Son of Joseph Saint, of 10, Bede Terrace, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Edward Tailford – AKA Charlton

Private Edward Tailford died on 15th September 1916
Age 31
Serving in the 4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Killed in action in France
He is remembered in France on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing

Hexham Courant – 28th October 1916

Private Edward Charlton N F was killed in action in France on the 15th September. He was formerly known as Edward Tailford, The Square, Humshaugh. He was a married man, 31 years of age, and prior to his enlistment, was an assistant gardener at Haughton Castle.

He enlisted on 16th November 1915 and went out to France on 2nd March last. He was a member of the Humshaugh Angling Association and was a keen fisher in his spare time. Of a quiet disposition, he was liked by all who knew him.

Note - Edward was the grandson of Mary and Edward Tailford of Humshaugh. Edward senior had been a tailor in the village, who had died in the 1870s. In 1901, the 15-year old Edward was living with his widowed grandmother, Mary, and was described as a farm labourer. He was possibly the son of the Tailfords’ daughter, Mary, who, by 1901, was married and living in Gateshead with her husband and younger children. There were other members of the wider family in the village.

In 1911, Edward was still living with his grandmother in The Square, Humshaugh, although he had changed his surname to Charlton, which is how the newspaper records him in the above report of his death. In 1911, Edward was a quarry labourer.
In Memory of

Private

Edward Charlton

3322, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 15 September 1916

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
William Turnbull

Private William Turnbull died on 8th October 1918
Age 22
Serving with 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in France during the final weeks of the war
He is buried in the Forenville Military Cemetery,
Cambrai, France

Hexham Courant - 19th October 1918

Killed in action on 8th October, Private William Turnbull, Northumberland Fusiliers, dearly beloved and eldest son of the late Thomas and Rebecca Turnbull, Park Cottage, Humshaugh.

Note – William Turnbull was the son of the shoemaker, Thomas Turnbull, and his wife, Rebecca nee Foster. The family lived in Humshaugh, at Park Cottage. On the 1911 census, the 14-year old William is listed as a student, suggesting that he was in some sort of higher education. His sister, Ellen, is described as a pupil teacher. William was the grandson of William Turnbull, also a shoemaker, and his wife Ellen, who had lived at Haughton Boat House. William had been conscripted into the army.

Despite his premature death in 1918, William Turnbull survived both of his parents, His mother, Rebecca, dying in October 1914 and his father, William, in June 1916. He was survived by his sister Ellen, who, in 1917, married James Kailofer from Ryton. The couple later lived in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.
In Memory of
Private
William Turnbull

200809, 1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 08 October 1918 Age 22

Son of Thomas and Rebecca Turnbull, of Humshaugh, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Foreville Military Cemetery

[Image of a cemetery]

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
H Vass

Private Henry Vass died on 7th November 1916
Age 33
Served with the 1st/7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Died in France during the final stages of The Battle of the Somme
He has no known grave and is listed with the missing on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme region of France.

Henry Vass was born and baptised in Humshaugh in 1883, the youngest of the six children of John and Ellen Vass. John was a coachman and, having first worked at Park End, he was then employed at Humshaugh House for many years. The Vass family lived near The Crown, next door to the Tailfords. Ellen Vass died in 1894 and John, already retired in 1901, died in 1903.

Henry was a groom and, in 1911, he was listed on the census at Chesters Stables. When he was killed in 1916, he still had an unmarried sister in Humshaugh and another, who was working as a cook in Hexham. His brother, John, was also a groom, working for the Allgoods at Nunwick Hall.

On 6th January 1917, Henry Vass was listed in the Hexham Courant, amongst the war casualties of 1916. It confirmed that he was killed on 7th December 1916.
In Memory of

Private

Henry Vass

6148, 1st/7th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 07 November 1916 Age 33

Son of the late John and Ellen Vass.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
G Crozer

Gunner George William Crozer died on 18th July 1916
Age 24
Serving in ‘B’ Battery, 50th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
Died in France during The Battle of the Somme
He has no known grave and is listed amongst the missing soldiers on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres

George William was the son of Robert and Jane Crozer, described by the War Graves Commission as being of Woodhill, Otterburn. In 1911, George lived with his father and two brothers, on a farm at Acklington. The family were agricultural labourers, born in the Ashington area. It seems that, at the beginning of the war, George’s parents were living in Chollerton, although the link with Humshaugh is unclear. In 1916, there may have been members of his wider family in the village, agricultural workers being a very mobile group of people.
In Memory of

Gunner

George William Crozer

90044, "B" Bty. 50th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 18 July 1916 Age 24

Son of Robert and Jane Crozer, of Woodhill, Otterburn, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
**J W Ritson**

Pioneer John William Ritson was killed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917  
Age 45  
Serving with the 305<sup>th</sup> Road Construction Coy., Royal Engineers  
Died in Belgium during the Battle of Passchendaele  
He is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Near Ypres

**Hexham Herald – 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917**

Mrs Ritson of Dale Cottage, Humshaugh, has received information that her husband, Pioneer J W Ritson, Royal Engineers, has been accidentally killed in France. Particulars as to how he met his death are not given. The deceased, who was a native of Hexham, was for some years, a platelayer on the North-East Railway, residing at Stocksfield when so employed. Subsequently, he worked at the Black Pasture Quarry, Wall. He leaves a widow and a family of five.

Note - John William was the husband of Christina Ritson of Dale Cottage in Humshaugh. Born Christina Tailford, she was most likely related to another of our village casualties. Records show that John William was discharged from the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion North’d Fusiliers in 1916, due to illness. He was later enlisted as a road builder with the Royal Engineers.

After his father’s death, John William Ritson junior joined the army in November 1917. He will have been conscripted on reaching the age of 18. He was a ‘rifleman of the line’ and suffered a gun shot wound at Arras in 1918. He was hospitalised and fortunately the war had ended before he was fit enough to resume active service.
In Memory of
Pioneer

John William Ritson

228347, 305th Road Construction Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 25 September 1917 Age 45


Remembered with Honour
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
J A Beattie

Sergeant James Adam Beattie died on 14th December 1917
Age 24
Transferred from Northumberlad Fusiliers to 2nd Battalion King’s African Rifles
Died on a hospital ship off the coast of Sierra Leone.
He was buried at sea and is remembered on the Mombasa British Memorial, Kenya

Hexham Herald – 12th January 1918

Walwick Man Dies of Wounds – Mr and Mrs Beattie of Walwick Farm, Humshaugh, received official information that their son, Serg James Adam Beattie, King’s African Rifles, late Northumberlad Fusiliers, has died of wounds on a hospital ship, the Dunluce Castle. Sergeant Beattie was wounded in German East Africa.

Note - James Adam Beattie was wounded at Mtama on 14th October 1917 and died on board the hospital ship, HMS Dunluce Castle, on 14th December 1917, off the coast of Sierra Leone. He was buried at sea and is remembered on the Mombasa British Memorial, specially erected in memory of men buried at sea. He was 24 when he died.

James Adam Beattie was the son of Adam Beattie, farm bailiff at Walwick Farm, and his wife, Mary Ellen. He was baptised at Warden Church in 1893. He enlisted at Hexham and served on the Western Front with the 2nd/4th Battalion Northumberlad Fusiliers. In January 1917, he was transferred to the King’s African Rifles to serve in German East Africa, one of many officers and NCO’s from other regiments sent to Africa to boost the native force.

Mrs Beattie received a letter from Nurse Hilda Flynn, serving on the Dunluce Castle, stating that he was one of the bravest soldiers she had nursed and that he had had a very peaceful end, almost sleeping away.
In Memory of

Serjeant

James Adam Beattie

200696, 2nd/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 14 December 1917 Age 24

Son of Adam Beattie, of Walwick Farm, Humshaugh, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour

Mombasa British Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
**J D Davidson**

Lance Corp. James Dobson Davidson died of wounds on 27th March 1918  
Age 35  
Serving with the M.T. Company, Army Service Corps  
Died on the front line in France, probably near Cambrai  
He is buried in the Dompierre French National Cemetery, south of Caen

**Hexham Herald - 20th April 1918**

Humshaugh Man Succumbs to Wounds – On Monday morning, Mrs Davidson of Humshaugh was notified by telegram of the death of her husband, **Corp. James Davidson**. According to the message, the deceased died on March 26th in a French ambulance, from gunshot wounds in both legs. At the time of his enlistment, over three years ago, the deceased was a chauffeur in the employment of Mr A M Allgood, of Walwick Grange, and having been many years in the service of the Allgood family, he was well-known in North Tynedale, and his death is much lamented in that district. He leaves to mourn his loss, a widow and one son. He was attached to the Motor Transport Service and had been about three years at the Front.

Born in Warden in 1883, he was the son of James Davidson, a railway signalman, and his wife Margaret. The family lived at Railway Cottages in Warden. In 1901, James was a groom at Chesters, whilst his brother, Frederick, was a gardener there. In 1911, James lived at Heatheridge Cottage with his wife Mary Hannah nee Scott, who had lived with her grandmother, Mary Herron, in Humshaugh. James was a domestic chauffeur, in the service of the Allgood family.

He had served with the Army Service Corps, as a driver in a heavy artillery corps. James Dobson Davidson is buried in the Dompierre French National Cemetery, south of Caen. The civilian photograph of James is by kind permission of Shona Stonely, a family member, who has her family tree on the Ancestry genealogy site.
In Memory of
Lance Corporal
James Dobson Davidson
M2/078615, 886th M.T. Coy, attd XVIII Corps Heavy Artillery, Army Service Corps who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour
Dompierre French National Cemetery

THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR EVERMORE

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
**William Beattie**

Private William Beattie died on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 1918  
Age 30  
Serving with the Army Service Corps  
Died on the Italian Front in the Veneto region  
Buried in Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery, Vicenza

Having served in France since 1915, William was amongst the thousands of British troops transferred to the Italian front during 1917. They were controlling the line stretching from the marshes near Venice into the alpine regions of the Dolomites. Army records indicate that William was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery whilst recovering wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

**Hexham Herald 12\textsuperscript{th} October 1918**

Beattie – Died from pneumonia at casualty clearing station in Italy on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October, aged 29 years. Private William Beattie M T Army Service Corps, beloved and eldest son of A and M E Beattie, Walwick Farm. Unfeigned regret has been occasioned in Humshaugh district by the news received this week of the death, in Italy from an attack of pneumonia, of Private William Beattie of Walwick

**Hexham Courant – 19\textsuperscript{th} October 1918** - Mr and Mrs Beattie, Walwick Farm, Humshaugh, received official information that their eldest son, Private William Beattie, Motor Transport, Army Service Corps, 21\textsuperscript{st} Field Ambulance, has died at a clearing station in Italy. Private Beattie joined the colours in July 1915 and left Hexham for France as driver of Dr Stewart’s Ambulance Car ‘The North Tyne’. In December 1917, he was transferred to Italy, where he died from pneumonia on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October. Prior to enlisting, Private Beattie, like many other patriotic boys, came over from Canada. He was 29 years of age. Mrs Beattie has received the following from Col. W J Wright ADMS, Italy, dated 6\textsuperscript{th} October:-

Dear Mrs Beattie,  
With deepest regret I heard of your son’s death yesterday. As his late commanding officer, please accept my deepest sympathy in your very sad bereavement. During the times I commanded the 21\textsuperscript{st} Field Ambulance, I always found your son most obliging and cheerful, no work was too hard or too dangerous for him. He always took his orders with a smiling face and in every possible way was ready to help the sick and wounded. Although I have left my own unit, I know well how much he will be missed, both by officers and men, with whom he was most popular. He always set a fine example to all ranks and was a splendid example of a true Britisher.
Note – William Beattie is buried in Northern Italy in the Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension. His death was followed, a month later, by that of Fred Hall, who had driven one of the other Hexham ambulances to France. Both men died in the same place and in similar circumstances, from pneumonia, after a short illness. It is more than likely that they had succumbed to Spanish Flu.
Trooper John William Douglas died on 27th October 1918
Age 26
Served with 1st Hertfordshire Yeomanry
Died in India attached to 15th Indian Cavalry Division
He is buried or remembered in Delhi War Cemetery


16th November 1918 - Trooper J W Douglas killed. Mr and Mrs Douglas of Humshaugh Mill received word that their second son, Trooper John William Douglas, who was attached to the Herts Yeomanry, British Reserve Cavalry Regiment, stationed at Meerut, India, died of influenza on the 27th October last, aged 26 years. It came as a severe blow to his parents, as only last week a letter received from him, dated 9th September, stated he was quite well and in good health, but the heat was very severe. He was saying that he was very pleased that the war would soon be finished and they would all get back home again, as there is no place like home.

He joined the Dragoon Guards some time after war was declared and was trained at Tidworth. He, along with several others, were chosen out of their regiment and sent overseas to India, and was stationed at Meerut, and attached to the other cavalry regiment, where he has been since. He unfortunately caught influenza, which has been very prevalent in the district, and died after a short illness.

Previous to answering his country’s call, he was engaged as a grocer’s assistant in the Heaton Branch of the Newcastle upon Tyne Co-operative Society Ltd. He was a great favourite with everyone whom he came in contact with. This is the second son Mr and Mrs Douglas have lost within the last four months, and they are grandchildren of Mr E J Waugh of Humshaugh Mill, Chollerford.

Note – John William Douglas was the son of Joseph Douglas, born in Bingfield, and his wife, Ruth, nee Waugh. The latter was the daughter of Edward Waugh, the miller at Humshaugh Mill. The couple married in 1890 and brought up their family in the west end of Newcastle, where Joseph was a police constable, later promoted to sergeant. When he retired, he and Ruth returned to Humshaugh Mill. John William was born in the city in 1892 and had lived and worked in Heaton. He married in 1914 and had two young children.
In Memory of
Private
John William Douglas

18086, 1st/1st, Hertfordshire Yeomanry who died on 27 October 1918 Age 26

Son of Joseph Douglas; husband of Ethel Cristian Cowan (formerly Douglas), of 48, Chapman St., Heaton,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Remembered with Honour
Delhi War Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission