

**Data relating to the men of 'D' Company, 11th Service Battalion (Lonsdale), The Border Regt. as identified on 'The Roll of NCO's and Men Proceeding Overseas, 1915'.
291 on roll plus six Officers**



Analysis and research by Mr Peter Sloan

Marital Status

Data for 245 men

Single 167 (68%)

Married 78 (31%)

Age

Data for 289 men

20 or under – 95 (32%)

20 to 30 – 135 (46%)

30 or over – 59 (20%)

Men with children – 59 (24%)

J. Howsen with 6 children

17 married men were killed (28%), 12 of whom had children, 3 of them (Timmins, Elliott, Matthews) 4 children.

Youngest (according to records) - 18

Oldest - 42 (Captain Dawson)

Location

Data for 261 men

Workington 150

Maryport 19

Aspatria 20 (Bulgill -5, Blennerhasset-5, Fletchertown - 4, Aspatria - 3, Mealsgate, Oughterside -2)

Carlisle 20

Other Cumbria - 41 (Gresouthen - 2, Dearham - 2, Great Broughton - 2, Millom, Whitehaven - 10, Parton-2, Mawbray, Wigton – 4, Lowca, Penrith - 4, Keswick, Nenthead, Cleator Moor,

Temple Sowerby, Silloth, Irthington, Abbey Town, Distington, Brigham, Flimby-2, Cockermouth, Plumbland)

Outside Cumbria - 11 (Birmingham, Clapham, Canonbie - 2, Wadhurst, London, Lincoln, Glasgow, South Shields, Bishop's Waltham, Ashington)

Location refers to birthplace or residence.

- 250 from Cumberland, 11 from outside, 36 unknown.
- 250 (95%) of D Company were from Cumberland and 219 (83%)from West Cumberland.
- 150 (57%) were from Workington.
- 226 (86%) were from towns or, exceptionally, cities.

Family Relationships

- Pvt. William and Cpl. Thomas Beaty: brothers – both killed in action in 1917, Thomas at Nieuport.
- Sgt. Alex. Blezard brother in law to John McLuskey who was killed in action.
- Pvt. James and Pvt. John Bragg: brothers. Both survived. James wounded 1st July & treated at Alnwick.
- Cpl James Culley, kia 18/11/1916 – two brothers serving Thomas in RASC & William HMS Bramble.
- Thomas Edwards brother in law to Joseph Martin both killed on 1st July 1916
- Pvt. Reuben Hetherington dow 14/7/1916. Brother Frank killed serving in RFA in 1915.
- Pvt. Thomas and Pvt. Joseph Rumney: brothers – Joseph kia and Thomas wounded on 1st July 1916
- Pvt. Morrison Timmins (kia 1/7/1916) had four brother serving in forces.
- 2nd Lieut. Godfrey Tynane, kia 18/11/1916, had 2 brothers kia in 1917. William in 7bn Canadian infantry and Hugh in RN submarines.
- Pvt. Laybourne one of four brothers in France



Occupations

Data for 243 men

Miner - 55	Police Constable – 4	Brassworker
Collier - 21	Postman – 2	Gardener
Colliery Pumperman	Plasterer – 3	Rivetter
Engine Driver - 3	Insurance Agent	Dentist
Labourer - 27	Tanner	Boiler Cleaner
Coke Worker - 2	Grocer – 4	Commercial Traveller - 2
Ironworker - 3	Picture Framer	Shoemaker
Blastfurnaceman - 2	Outfitter	Boilersmith
Weighman	Watchmaker	Railway Cleaner
Machinist - 2	Joiner – 2	Mason
Engineer	Tailor – 2	Sailor
Apprentice Engineer	Barber	Farmer - 3
Brazier	Butcher – 6	Farm Worker
Steelworker – 18	Hatter	Farm Servant - 12
Bricklayer - 2	Drapers Assistant – 5	Shepherd
Brick Labourer	Plumber	Gamekeeper
Signalman	Printer	Groom
Railwayman	Moulder	Motor Mechanic
Fireman (Railway) - 2	Platelayer - 2	Stoker
Solicitor (off)	Analyst	Schoolmaster – 2
Storeman	Hotel Boots	Collector - Corporation Gas Dept.
Painter – 4	Architect's Assistant (off.)	Clerk - 6
Stage Carpenter	Commission Agent	Carter – 2
GasStoker		

- Officers – Two (Twynam and Robinson) occupations unknown. Barnes – Surveyor in Canada; Corbett – Architect; Dawson – Author and Traveller; Hobson – Solicitor.
- The majority of men worked in heavy industry – 128 (52%). This figure excludes labourers, 27 (%), of whom most would have worked in towns. At least 77 (31%) men worked in the local pits. Only 20 (8%) worked in traditional rural occupations. This was an urbanised, industrialised workforce reflecting the industrial nature of West Cumberland at the outbreak of the war.

Transfers to other Units

In total 37 (12%) men on the original 1915 roll transferred out of the Company. Eight of these died.

Significant unit transfers:

Other Border Battalions – Eight
Labour Corps – Seven
Royal Engineers – Five
Commissioned - Two



Casualties

Total number of men on roll – 291 (plus six officers as additions)

Wounded

Wounded – 66 (incomplete) (21%)

Somme wounded – 30 (27 on first day)

SWB Awards – 27

Officers – 2, Other Ranks – 62

Total known Somme Casualties killed and wounded(24%)

Dead

Killed in Action – 86

Died of Wounds - 18

Total Killed – 104 (34%)

Granatloch, 5th June 1916 - 5

The Somme, First Day 1916 - 42

The Ancre, November 1916 - 18

Nieuport, July 1917 – 8

Officers – 4

Other Ranks - 100

1916 – 74 (25%)

1917 – 19 (6%)

1918 - 11 (3%)

Total Known Casualties - 170 (55%)

Notes:

- Wounded only includes men wounded and survived. Only counted once however many times wounded – many men were wounded several times. Doesn't include men who were later killed eg. A soldier wounded at The Ancre and then killed at Nieuport is only counted under KIA. (The exception being Somme wounded and killed - -see separate figures.)
- Figures for killed and died of wounds are likely to be accurate.
- Figures for wounded are incomplete.
- Should Granatloch casualties be added to overall Somme casualties?
- The lists do not include names of men or casualties who joined after 'D' Company was posted overseas.
- The data includes officers of 'D' Company. (All 'D' Coy. officers proceeding overseas in 1915 became casualties.)
- All errors are certain to be my own!

Sources:

Ancestry.com/National Archives:

MIC Cards

First World War Service Records

1901 census Data

Border Regiment Forum - <http://forum.kerchi.co.uk> (Thanks to Chris Szigeti)

The Border Regiment In The Great War – H.C. Wylly

Cumbria Archive Service (Carlisle) - The Lonsdale Catalogue, especially:

D LONS/L13/13/203 Roll of platoons 13-16 - Not dated [1915]

D LONS/L13/13/188 Register (alphabetically arranged) of - date: October 1914 - January 1915

Commonwealth War Graves Commission - Debt of Honour

The King's Own Border Regiment Museum, Carlisle

Men Could Do No More - www1.freewebs.com/granatloch (Thanks to Kevin Johnson)

Roland Edgar

Workington Library:

1914 – 1918 – West Cumberland Times

1914 – 1918 – Workington and Harrington Star

1911.com - 1911 Census Data

