

In Memory of

Private

J Hunt

88932, 1st/8th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 15 June 1918 Age 33

Son of Walter and Eliza Hunt, of Occold. Eve. Suffolk.

Remembered with Honour

Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Self: Private James HUNT

James was born 1882 in Occold to parents Walter William HUNT and mother Eliza BARNES. Until 1911, he lived in Redlingfield Rd, Occold and was working initially as an 'ag lab – horse' and then as a 'horseman on farm'. In 1911, the family were living in a 7 room house in Redlingfield Rd so a fairly substantial property in those days where most houses in Occold would have been 2-4 rooms.

He had siblings Jessie, Alfred Lewis, Ernest and Gladys Hilda.

In 1912 on Aug 25th, Sep 1st and Sep 8th banns of marriage were announced in St Michaels Church between James HUNT and Elizabeth LISTER (nee ROOT), widow of Walter LISTER and 11 years older than James. She was also sister of William (Willie) ROOT, KIA in 1917. But on 8th Sep the banns were objected to by his mother Eliza HUNT (nee BARNES) albeit no reason was recorded. There are no records to suggest that the marriage took place and, in his subsequent Army record, he describes himself as unmarried hence has no direct descendants. A bit surprising as, in 1912, James would have been 27yrs old so no longer a minor.

Also interesting to note is that, in all the 310 banns held in St Michaels Church Parish Records since 1870, this is the ONLY one which was objected to.

Page 41 The Year 18 1912.13

N ^o <u>67 121</u>	Banns of Marriage between
<u>James Hunt</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>
and	<u>Elizabeth Lister</u>
<u>widow</u>	<u>Both of this Parish</u>
Were published, as follows:	
1st, on Sunday <u>Aug 25th</u>	by <u>H E Marshall, Rector</u>
2d on Sunday <u>Sept 1st</u>	by " "
3d, on Sunday <u>Sept 8th</u>	by " "

*1912
Objected to Sept 8th by the
mother of James Hunt*

Now here comes the interesting bit. Unlike most of the KIA's, we have managed to locate James HUNT's Army Service Record, not too many of which have survived. These run to around 25 pages of handwritten notes, often illegible or faded, detailing every aspect of the soldier. And the most startling fact to emerge is that James was not KIA but died of natural causes!

So we can see from this that James enlisted in the Army Service Corps at Driffield, Yorkshire on 7 Jul 1913 on a 1 year service i.e. before the outbreak of WW1. His Regimental number was 235.

One interesting fact on his attestation is that he claims to have served in the 3rd Grenadier Guards and was discharged in Dec 1910; reason given was 'purchased'. We can find no record of this.

His medical record at the time described him as a farm worker, 5ft 10½ tall, weight 158lb, chest when fully expanded 39in with range of expansion of 3½in. He had 4 vaccination marks on his left arm.

So why Yorkshire when he was previously living in Occold? But it was not uncommon for young men to leave a very poor rural economy to seek better paid jobs elsewhere including heavy industry around Birmingham, clothing mills around Manchester, shipbuilding at Liverpool and Newcastle and coal mining in Cumbria, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Kent.

He was re-engaged in the Army Service Corps on 3 Jul 1914 for 1 year as a 'wagoneer' at Langtoft, near Peterborough, Cambs. He would have been responsible for looking after the horses and wagons that took vital supplies to the Front Line.

Army Form B. 65.

RE-ENGAGEMENT PAPER.

DECLARATION to be made by a Special Reservist on re-engaging.

I (No.) 235 (Rank) Wagoneer
(Name) J Hunt
at present serving in the (Corps) ARMY SERVICE CORPS 11 C (11)
enlisted on the (date) 7th July 1913
for a period of (years) one year
desiring to re-engage for the (Corps)* ARMY SERVICE CORPS 11 C (11)
do declare that I will serve His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, for a further period of one years, from the end of my current term of engagement in the Special Reserve, provided my services should so long be required; and also for a further term in Army Service of one year, or such lesser period as may be determined, if on service beyond the seas, or if a state of War exists between His Majesty and any Foreign Power, or while Soldiers in the Reserve are by proclamation required to continue in or re-enter upon Army Service, if so directed by the competent military authority.

Signature of Soldier James Hunt
Signature of Witness _____
Declared before me this third day of July 1914
Signature of Attesting Officer Walter Capt as
Date 3. 7. 1914.
Place Langtoft

We have a record of his service from the day he joined to the day he died but much of it is either illegible or too faded. However, the following is the best we can do:

From 7 Jul 13 to 17 Aug 14 he was stationed in England albeit we know not where. From 20 Aug 14 to 1 Dec 17, he was transferred, we think to Expeditionary Force somewhere (probably France) but impossible to decipher. He returned to England on 2 Dec 17. During this period of service, he was given leave from 5 Dec 15 to 12 Dec 15 and again from 5 Feb 17 to 15 Feb 17 – so not a lot!

On 8 Dec 17 he was transferred back to England as a 'skilled ploughman' and required to report for duty to No 1 HT (?) Depot, Park Royal, London. He came back from Le Havre aboard the troopship SS Archimedes (below) and disembarked at Southampton.



He returned to France embarking at Southampton and disembarking at Le Havre on 4 Apr 18.

On 20 Apr 18, he was compulsorily transferred to 1/8th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry; reason given as 'Benefit of the Service'. His serial number was 88932.

When he was discharged from the Army Service Corps on 14 Dec 1918, he was described as:

- Employment in the Army: Driving
- Sobriety: Excellent
- Reliable: Yes
- Intelligent: Yes
- Any special aptitude in civil life: Yes with horses

On leaving the Army Service Corps, he was awarded a bounty of £10.

Around 10 May 18, he was declared 'sick' whilst in the field (possibly in Italy) and on 14 May 18 his medical record shows he suffered a self-inflicted wound (SIW) to his throat which was diagnosed as an incision. On 12 Jun 18 he was transferred to Rouen General Hospital, France. He died there on 15 Jun 18. Cause of death was '**melancholia suspected diphtheria** due to exposure while on Active Service'.

Diphtheria was widespread at the time and often fatal. Melancholia is a bit of strange one. He did serve in France and possibly Italy prior to his death so it could be the equivalent of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as we would call it today, especially in view of the self-inflicted wound.

14-5-18	O.C. No. 21966	Evacuated Sick	Roche
14-5-18	7/5 2. 2. 2. 2.	S. J. W. Throat	do
18-5-18	5. 2. 2. 2.	2. Y. D. Mental	do
		7. Throat W. Throat S.I. Man	do
2-6-18	HQ 21966	2. Y. D. Mental	Rouen
15-6-18	P. G. H.	Died of Melancholia } suspected Diphtheria }	do

REGIMENT (8th. Bn. Durham Light Inf. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company) D. Coy.

Regimental No. 88932 Rank Private.

Surname HUNT Christian Names J.

Died { Date 15/6/18. Place In the Field France.

Cause of Death ~~Died of Natural Causes. (Melancholia suspected Diphtheria)~~
due to Exposure while on Active Service.

Nature and Date of Report Form B. 632 d/15-6-18.

By whom made O.C. No. 6 G.H. Rouen.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Following his death, his father, Walter William HUNT, received a memorial scroll (illegible) so I guess, since James was on active service when he died, he was treated as KIA. Certainly he is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as well as the Occold Roll of Honour.

His father, of The Causeway, Occold, was also asked to acknowledge receipt of the following items:

I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 88932 Rank Pte.

Name James Hunt .,

Regiment 8th. Durham Light Infantry.

and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on the form overleaf:—

4 Discs, letters, photo, purse,
coin, watch & chain & case,
badge, belt, spoon.

On 18 Oct 1819, his father, Walter William HUNT, living in The Causeway, signed (with his mark) a statement of his son's family. The statement was witnessed by Rev Herbert Edward Champion MARSHALL, Rector of Occold at the time.

One item to note. His brother Alfred Lewis address seems to be 'NE2 Germany' – a bit puzzling? But this was after WW1 ended – so is it possible Alfred Lewis also served in the Army and ended up in Germany after their defeat? We can find no surviving Army record for Alfred Lewis.

832 DURHAM LIGHT INFY. Army Form W. 5050

To be filled in by Officer in Charge of Records

32 Pte James Hunt deceased

STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, such correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...	none	
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	none	
Father of the Soldier ...	Walter William Hunt	The Causeway, Occold, W. Yorks.
Mother of the Soldier ...	Eliza Hunt	The Causeway, Occold, W. Yorks.
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ... Alfred Lewis Hunt 31 Ernest Hunt 29	NE2, Germany Sunderland, W. Yorks.
	Half blood ...	
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ... Doris Durant 39 Evelyn Hilda Hunt 20	New Town, Occold The Causeway, Occold
	Half blood ...	

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—

	Name of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...		
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.

Signature of the Declarant: W. W. Hunt

Relationship to the Soldier: Father

Address in full: The Causeway, Occold, W. Yorks.

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by Walter William Hunt and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at Occold this 18th day of October 1919.

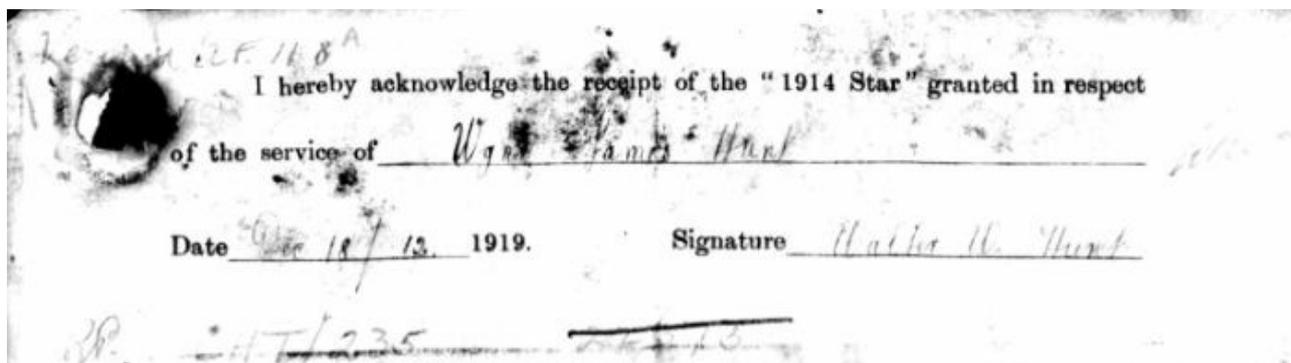
Signature of Minister or Magistrate: H. E. Marshall Qualification: Chaplain in Holy Orders

Address: Occold Rectory, W. Yorks.

Occold, W. Yorks.

127. W. W. 101814, 1,000,000, 2/18, S.O.P.34.

On 18 Dec 1919, father Walter William received the 1914 Star medal in honour of James and then the British War Medal and the Victory medal on 21 Dec 1921. Families of those KIA did not normally receive these 3 medals (affectionately known "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred") but we guess it was because he died of natural causes.



Parents: Walter William HUNT and Eliza BARNES

His father Walter William was born 1857 in Occold to parents Lewis HUNT and Sophia LAST. He led a fairly typical rural existence as an ag lab all his life until his death and burial in Occold Cemetery on 18 Oct 1932, grave unknown.

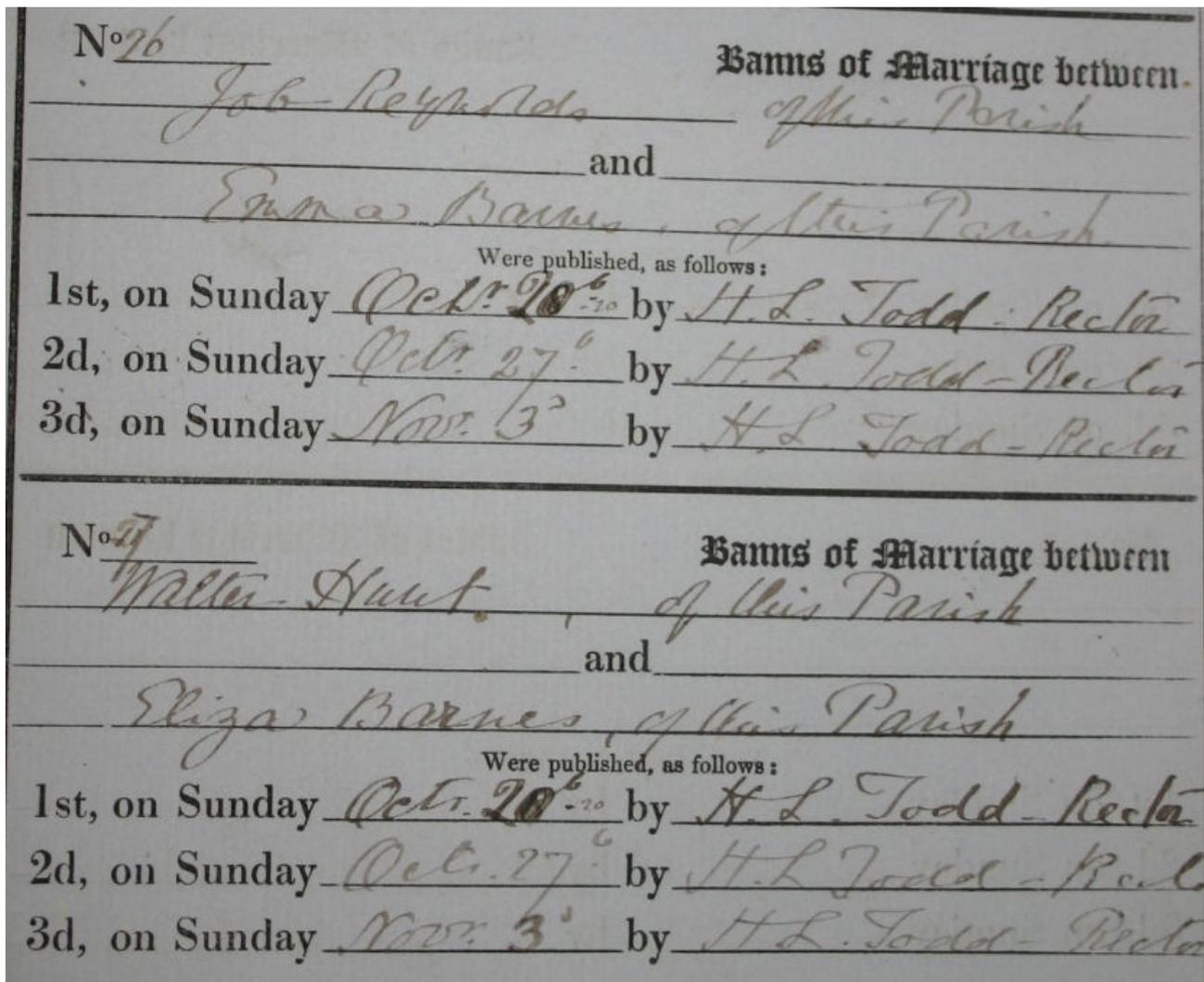
As well as James, they had children Jessie, Alfred Lewis, Ernest and Gladys Hilda.

We know in 1891 and 1901 that he was living in Redlingfield Rd but we also know from receiving his son's effects, memorial scroll and medals that he was living in The Causeway in 1919 onwards if not before.

On 10 Nov 1878, he married Eliza BARNES, born 1860 in Syleham or Stoke Ash to parents James BARNES and Sarah BAILEY as shown by their banns, witnessed by Horatio Lovell TODD, Rector of Occold who lost his own son Nicholas Herbert TODD.

Interestingly, also married on the same day was Emma BARNES, 1st cousin of Eliza, to Job REYNOLDS. Job's brother Ambrose later became landlord of The Bottles Inn and remained so until his death in 1914.

In 1861, Eliza was living at London Rd, Braiseworth but moved to Redlingfield Rd, Occold probably close by where Walter William lived. She died in Occold and was buried 18 Jul 1834 just 2 years after Walter William passed away.



Inter-relationships

As well as losing his son, Walter William was also related to 6 others on the Roll of Honour:

Frederick ELLIOTT – 1st cousin 1 x removed

Ernest Arthur MILLS – Brother-in-law of 1st cousin of wife of 1st cousin

George HAMMOND – Brother-in-law of uncle of wife of 1st cousin 1 x removed

Walter William HUNT – 1st cousin 1 x removed

James LISTER – Nephew

Ernest Alfred HADDOCK – 1st cousin 1 x removed

Just goes to show how inter-related everyone was in a small community like Occold!

Paternal grandparents: Lewis HUNT and Sophia LAST

Lewis was born 1832 in Occold to parents Benjamin HUNT (1807-1887) and Mary LOVET (1806-1871) and led a fairly typical life as an ag lab until 1881. He then

became an engine driver most probably driving one of the traction engines making their debut in Occold and later a coal seller living in Redlingfield Rd.



He died Mar 1896 at the age of 64 and probably buried in Occold.

He married Sophia LAST in 1854 and they children Maria,, Caroline (mother of James and Reginald LISTER both KIA), Anna and Levi. Sophia was born 1833 in Eye to parents William LAST (1803-1880) and Eliza CANHAM (1812-1876). Sophia died in 1896 about 6 months after husband Lewis.

Maternal grandparents: James BARNES and Sarah BAILEY

James was born 1826 in Denham to parents John BARNES (1796-1863) and Martha BOYCE (1800-1828). He led a fairly uneventful life as an ag lab but moved around quite a bit from Denham to Syleham, Braiseworth, Redlingfield Rd, Occold, Cranley Green, Eye before returning to Redlingfield Rd in 1901 living with daughter Eliza HUNT and where he died in 1903.

Note that Private James HUNT, his parents and both sets of grandparents all lived in Redlingfield Rd at some point.

He married Sarah BAILEY in 1849. Sarah was born 1827 in Hoxne, one of 12 children born to parents Robert BAILEY (1789-1858) and Hannah RUSH (1799-1876). Like most married women, she had no occupation. She died in 1895 aged 67 and 8 years before husband James.

As well as Eliza, James and Sarah had children James, George, Ammer, John and Henry.

By Barry & Patricia Woods, ©2016

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