

## Corporal Daniel Kelly<sup>©</sup>

Regimental number: 2464

1/5th Battalion (Territorial), Northumberland Fusiliers

born: 1894 – died: 28 June 1916

Corporal Daniel Kelly was born in 1894<sup>1</sup> in Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland.<sup>2</sup> He was one of eight children born to Daniel and Eleanor Kelly.<sup>3</sup> His father Daniel was born in Londonderry, Ireland, in about 1855<sup>4</sup> and his mother (the former Eleanor Richardson)<sup>5</sup> on 29 March 1869<sup>6</sup> in Bedlington, Northumberland.<sup>7</sup> They were married near South Shields in the country of Durham in 1889<sup>8</sup> and had their first child, Lawrence, on 29 May 1890<sup>9</sup> in Jarrow, Durham.<sup>10</sup> Then followed John (born on 14 December 1891),<sup>11</sup> Daniel, Eleanor (born on 12 September 1899),<sup>12</sup> Annie (born on 4 July 1904)<sup>13</sup> and Agnes (born on 10 October 1909).<sup>14</sup> Two of Daniel's siblings died in childhood<sup>15</sup>—Annie (born in about 1897, but died at the age of 2)<sup>16</sup> and Francis (born in 1901 and died in 1903).<sup>17</sup> All but three children were born in Wallsend.<sup>18</sup>

In the first years of their marriage, Daniel Sr. and Eleanor were living with Eleanor's widowed mother, Ann, at 45 Denham Terrace, Wallsend.<sup>19</sup> The family would return to Denham Terrace many years later. By 1901, the family was living at 25 Portugal Road, Wallsend, where Daniel Sr. was a labourer in the shipyard. By 1911, the family had moved probably less than a mile away to 2 Roman Wall. By now Daniel Jr. was a labourer (a banksmith) in a coal mine.

At some point before the war, Daniel Jr. worked for Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson,<sup>20</sup> a shipbuilding design, engineering, and management company based in Wallsend.<sup>21</sup>

Daniel Jr. enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers in Wallsend.<sup>22</sup> He joined the Western Front on 20 April 1915.<sup>23</sup> His brother John enlisted in the same regiment and went to the Front on the same day.

Daniel was with the 1/5th Battalion when he was wounded near the French-Belgian border just over a year later. It is not known exactly when he was wounded. In the third week of June 1916, his battalion was stationed in Locre, just over the border in Belgium, north of Bailleul, France.<sup>24</sup> The battalion did not experience a lot of casualties but, on 26 June, there was heavy bombardment with trench mortars, wounding one officer and 25 soldiers from the non-officer ranks. The next day was fairly quiet. Then there were another three casualties on 28 June, again by trench mortars. That night the 150th Brigade on the right of the battalion carried out a raid with heavy bombardment. Although this had limited effect on the battalion, there were another four casualties during the night. Maybe Daniel was injured on one of these days. He died of his wounds at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 28 June 1916,<sup>25</sup> at the age of 21. He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 135).<sup>26</sup>



**Daniel Kelly before the war, about age 19**  
"Your WW1 Heroes Gallery 5," *Chronicle Live*



**Daniel Kelly in uniform**  
"Your WW1 Heroes Gallery 5," *Chronicle Live*

Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre.<sup>27</sup> Several casualty clearing stations, including the No. 1 Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. Commonwealth burials at Bailleul began in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Daniel's father was his next-of-kin and was notified of his death.<sup>28</sup> At the time, Daniel Sr. and Eleanor were living at 103 Denham Terrace in Wallsend.<sup>29</sup>

Daniel was awarded the Military Medal in October 1916,<sup>30</sup> which was given to Other Ranks (non-officers) for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land.<sup>31</sup> No citation could be found for his MM but his brother John reported that "... he had safely got his platoon back to their trench after their officer was shot in no-mans land."<sup>32</sup> Daniel was also awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in

an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>33</sup>

Daniel's brother John also received the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914–15 Star. He may have received the Distinguish Conduct Medal.<sup>34</sup>

Daniel is remembered on the war memorial in Wallsend to commemorate employees of Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson who gave their lives in the Great War.<sup>35</sup>

Daniel's father died in Wallsell in 1931 and was buried at the church of Our Lady and St Columba on 21 March 1931.<sup>36</sup>

Daniel's brother John enlisted at the same time as his brother and served in the same unit until Daniel's death. John was hospitalised as a result of a gas attack soon after their arrival in France in April 1915, but returned to the Front. He was demobilized in 1919.<sup>37</sup> John married Ethel Richardson (born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1893)<sup>38</sup> whom he married in 1919.<sup>39</sup> The family story is that Ethel was Daniel's girlfriend but, when he died, she began writing to



**John Kelly**  
Source: Family



**Lawrence Kelly**  
Source: Family

his brother John. They married after the war and had a son, John, born in 1920.<sup>40</sup> Unfortunately, the marriage did not last—John apparently suffered from the trauma of the war—and Ethel remarried.<sup>41</sup> She married John Y. Gibson in 1929<sup>42</sup> and, in 1939, she and John were living at 26 Larne Crescent in Gateshead, Durham, with Edith’s sisters, Vairanica and Catherine.<sup>43</sup> John also remarried much later. He married Charlotte Annie Stewart (nee Carr), a widow, on 8th September 1945 at St Columba’s Catholic Church in Wallsend.<sup>44</sup> Annie died in 1958 and John in 1966.<sup>45</sup>

Lawrence also served in the Great War. He enlisted in 1917 and served in Italy. In 1939, Daniel’s mother and brothers, Lawrence and John, were still living at Denham Terrace.<sup>46</sup>

Daniel’s sisters, Eleanor, Annie and Agnes stayed in Wallsend. Eleanor (known as Nell) married John Wilson in 1920 and had five daughters.<sup>47</sup> In 1939, she and John were still living at 115 Denham Terrace, where John was a general labourer.<sup>48</sup> Nell died in 1975.<sup>49</sup> Annie married Michael Reiling in 1931 and had two sons.<sup>50</sup> In 1939, she and Michael, a general labourer, were living at 24 Roman Wall, Wallsend.<sup>51</sup> She died in 1976.<sup>52</sup> Agnes married William Harding in 1933 and had six children.<sup>53</sup> She and William, a joiner, were living at 101 Denham Terrace.<sup>54</sup> Agnes died in 1955.<sup>55</sup>



**Eleanor Kelly**  
Source: Family



**Annie Kelly**  
Source: Family



**Agnes Kelly**  
Source: Family

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Thanks are extended to John Gibson, Daniel Kelly's great nephew and grandson of John Kelly, and to Margaret Scott, Daniel great niece and granddaughter of Eleanor Kelly, for their assistance with this biography.

<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly, Registration district: Tynemouth, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 192

<sup>2</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>3</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly, Registration district: Tynemouth, Registration district number: 559, Sub-registration district: Wallsend, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 30720

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2008," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly, District: South Shields, County: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 1158

<sup>6</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2019), entry for Lawrence Kelly, Ref: RG101/2998C/025/4, Letter code: GCTB

<sup>7</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2008," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>9</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Lawrence Kelly

<sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>11</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Lawrence Kelly

<sup>12</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 February 2020), entry for Eleanor Wilson, Ref: RG101/2998C/025/16, Letter code: GCTB

<sup>13</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 February 2020), entry for Annie Reiling, Ref: RG101/2998C/015/31, Letter code: GCTB

<sup>14</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 February 2020), entry for Agnes Harding, Ref: RG101/2998C/024/43, Letter code: GCTB

<sup>15</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>16</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Annie Kelly, Registration district: Tynemouth, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 140

<sup>17</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Francis Kelly, Registration district: Tynemouth, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 129

<sup>18</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly; Wallsend was historically known as Wallsend-on-Tyne.

<sup>19</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2019), entry for Daniel Kelly, Sub-registration district: Wallsend, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1b, Piece: 4220, Folio: 48

<sup>20</sup> "Your WW1 Heroes Gallery 5," *Chronicle Live*

(<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/gallery/your-ww1-heroes-gallery-5-7252551>: accessed 3 December 2019), by Catherine Arthur, 12 June 2014

<sup>21</sup> "Swan Hunter," Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan\\_Hunter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan_Hunter): accessed 3 December 2019)

<sup>22</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

<sup>23</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly

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- <sup>24</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 July 2016), Regiment or unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1/5th Battalion (Territorial), Division: 50th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Apr - 1918 Jul, Piece description: Piece 2828/2: 5 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1915 Apr - 1918 Jul), Piece number: 2828
- <sup>25</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Kelly, D. The date of death was recorded by the chaplains of the No 1 CCCS as 28 June 1916. However, all other military records show that he died on 29 June.
- <sup>26</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Kelly, Daniel, Service No: 2464
- <sup>27</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- <sup>28</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Kelly, D.
- <sup>29</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Kelly, Daniel
- <sup>30</sup> *The London Gazette*, (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29780/supplement/9833>: accessed 5 August 2016), entry for Cpl. D. Kelly, Publication date: 10 October 1916, Supplement: 29780, Page: 9833
- <sup>31</sup> "A Guide to British Awards for Gallantry or Meritorious Service in WW1," *the Great War* (<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-gallantry-awards.htm#MM>: accessed 5 February 2016)
- <sup>32</sup> "Your WW1 Heroes Gallery 5," *Chronicle Live*
- <sup>33</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 July 2016), entry for Daniel Kelly
- <sup>34</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 December 2019), entry for John Kelly
- <sup>35</sup> "Your WW1 Heroes Gallery 5," *Chronicle Live*
- <sup>36</sup> "England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538–1991," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2019), entry for Daniel Kelly, FHL film number: 2046563
- <sup>37</sup> Family source
- <sup>38</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Ethel Gibson, Schedule number: 331, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: FBOL, Registration district: 557-2
- <sup>39</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 7 December 2019), entry for John Kelly, District: Tynemouth, County: Northumberland, Volume: 10D, Page: 672
- <sup>40</sup> JOHN
- <sup>41</sup> Family source
- <sup>42</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2019), entry for Ethel Kelly, Registration district: Gateshead, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 1451
- <sup>43</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," entry for Ethel Gibson
- <sup>44</sup> Family source
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>46</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Lawrence Kelly
- <sup>47</sup> Family source
- <sup>48</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Eleanor Wilson
- <sup>49</sup> Family source
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>51</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Annie Reiling,
- <sup>52</sup> Family source

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> "1939 Register," entry for Agnes Harding

<sup>55</sup> Family source