

## **Driver George Edward Wilkinson ©**

**Regimental number: 2686**

**1st/3rd Northumbrian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery**

**born: 19 March 1892–died: 4 June 1916**

Driver George Edward Wilkinson was one of 304 miners from the Harton Coal Company Ltd.'s Boldon Colliery in Durham, England, who enlisted in the military during the First World War.<sup>1</sup> He was one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the conflict.<sup>2</sup>

George Edward came from a mining family. Both his father and paternal grandfather were coal miners. He was born on 19 March 1892 in Hebburn, Durham,<sup>3</sup> a small town on the south bank of the River Tyne between the towns of Jarrow and Gateshead. His father, William Wilkinson (1857–1917),<sup>4</sup> and his mother, Margaret (née Fenwick) (1865–1952),<sup>5</sup> were both born in Durham villages about 7 km apart. William, the son of George and Ann Wilkinson, was born in Eighton Banks;<sup>6</sup> Margaret, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Fenwick, in Perkinsville.<sup>7</sup> William and Margaret married in the second quarter of 1884 in the Sunderland district, Durham.<sup>8</sup>

The couple had 11 children, 6 of whom survived to adulthood. Annie Johnson (1885–?)<sup>9</sup> was the eldest, followed by Elizabeth (1888–1888),<sup>10</sup> Thomas (1889–1889),<sup>11</sup> Thomas Fenwick (1890–1890),<sup>12</sup> **George Edward**, Thomas (1894–?),<sup>13</sup> William (1896–1897),<sup>14</sup> William (1898–1918),<sup>15</sup> Joseph Leonard (1903–1908),<sup>16</sup> Elizabeth (1908–?),<sup>17</sup> and finally Ethel (1909–2005).<sup>18</sup>

In early April 1891, William, Margaret and daughter Annie J. were living in a three-room house at 12 Frederick Street, Hebburn. William's parents, George and Ann, and his brother Edward were living next door at 13 Frederick Street. All the men were employed as coal miners.<sup>19</sup>

In late March 1901, George Edward was 9 years old. He, his parents and siblings were still living at 12 Frederick Street: 16-year-old Annie J. was employed as a dressmaker; George Edward and seven-year-old Thomas probably attended school, while baby William remained at home.<sup>20</sup> The previous year, George Edward's grandmother Ann had died.<sup>21</sup> However, his grandfather and uncle continued to live next door. His aunt, Margaret A. Willis, her husband and son, had moved in with his grandfather.<sup>22</sup>

During the next decade the family's composition continued to change. George Edward gained three more siblings with the births of Joseph Leonard, Elizabeth and Ethel. It must have been a sorrowful time when four-year-old Joseph Leonard died. Perhaps the marriage of Annie J. to William Alexander Johnson in 1908<sup>23</sup> brought some happiness to the family. In April 1911, George Edward was living with his parents in a four-room house at 21 Fir Street, Hebburn. He and Thomas had followed their father into the mines; his brother William was attending school, and Elizabeth and Ethel remained at home.<sup>24</sup> Annie J., William and their infant son, George, were living close by in Hebburn.<sup>25</sup>

Two years later, in the fall of 1913, George Edward married Sarah Annie Wright (1893–?),<sup>26</sup> the daughter of John Edward and Maria Errington Wright.<sup>27</sup> George and Sarah's son, Raymond, was born on 19 November 1914.<sup>28</sup> By then, George was probably employed at the Boldon Colliery.

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, George Edward was 22 years old. He enlisted around June 1915<sup>29</sup> in the 1st/3rd Northumbrian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (RFA), Territorial Force

(TF), which was based at the Elswick Ordnance Works, Dunn Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, about 11 km from Hebburn.<sup>30</sup>

The 1st Northumbrian Brigade, RFA, TF, with three batteries (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and an ammunitions column, was formed in 1908 as a result of the *Territorial and Reserve Forces Act* 1907.<sup>31</sup> In 1914, it was part of the Northumbrian Division and provided the artillery support for the 50th Division.<sup>32</sup>

On 19 April 1915, the 1st/3rd Northumbrian Brigade landed at Le Havre, France, with the 50th Division.<sup>33</sup> By January 1916, its headquarters was located at Kruisstraat, Belgium, about 1 km from Ypres (a.k.a. Leper). George Edward probably arrived there in early January.<sup>34</sup> Although he had trained as a gunner,<sup>35</sup> he was assigned to be a driver. (Both ranks were equivalent to the rank of private.) As a driver, he was responsible for the general welfare of the horses that he drove and was part of an 18-pound field gun crew of 10 men, 6 of whom operated the “18-pounder” in action. The gun was towed on a limber drawn by a team of six horses, with a driver riding the nearside horse of each pair. On reaching its firing position, the team would advance until the gun was in position. The ammunition wagon (a limbered wagon, also drawn by a six-horse team) was then brought alongside the gun. The horses and limbers then moved back to the wagon lines.<sup>36</sup>

From January to June 1916, George was involved in attack and defensive tactics in various battle locations within the Ypres Salient area, such as Lille Gate, Blauwepoort Farm, Hooge, Zillebeke, Swan Chateau, and the Menin Road. During an attack, field artillery would fire on the enemy until the last possible moment. During a defence, their fire would break up the enemy advance. Firings were orchestrated. A gun crew was expected to fire, for example, two or three rounds per gun per minute for a certain period of time; then another crew would commence firing its gun.

By 7 April, the brigade’s headquarters was located at La Clytte (a.k.a. De Klijte), Belgium, about 8 km from Ypres. During most of May, the brigade was in a rest period while the Royal Field Artillery reorganized. The 1st/3rd Northumbrian Brigade became the 252nd Brigade, RFA. It consisted of three field gun batteries (A, B, and C), each with six 18-pound field guns, and a “D” battery with 4.5-inch howitzers. George was assigned to “A” Battery. On 28 May 1916, the brigade received orders to travel via Flêtre – Méteren – Bailleul to relieve the 42nd RFA Brigade.

On 3 June, Lieutenant Colonel F.L. Pickersgill, RFA, commanding the 252nd Brigade, issued Operations Order No. 4 A for a “demonstration” to support the 24th Division’s “minor enterprise” on the night and early morning of 3 and 4 June. He outlined the attack’s plan. Strambas horns would signal a raiding party to withdraw. Then airplanes of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) would drop signal lights behind the enemy lines. These signals would be answered by the BEF’s red and green Very lights. Once that happened the 252nd Brigade would begin the first phase of its demonstration. “A” Battery’s objective was to fire two rounds per gun per minute on the front line; with slightly different targets during the second and third phases. The other batteries would join in at their allotted times.<sup>37</sup>

During the confrontation on 3 June, “A” Battery suffered five casualties: Battery Corporal S. Bolton (1287) was killed; Acting Bombardier J. Appleby (1033) and Drivers T. H. Donnison (1438), T. Freeman (1368) and G. E. Wilkinson (2686) were wounded.<sup>38</sup>

George Edward was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Bailleul, France. He was one of the 149 injured men admitted on 3 June and the only patient to die there on a showery Sunday, 4 June 1916.<sup>39</sup> The chaplain mistakenly recorded his name as Gunner J. A. Wilkinson,

Service Number 2686.<sup>40</sup> George Edward's death was listed in his brigade's war diary on 4 June 1916. His name was briefly noted under "Local Casualties" in the *Shields Daily Gazette* on 24 June 1916.<sup>41</sup>

Sarah Annie was living with her young son Raymond and her parents John E. and Maria E. Wright at 2½ Campbell Street, Hebburn.<sup>42</sup> when she was informed of his death on 9 June. She applied for a widow's pension, and was awarded 13s 9d. She also received 6s 8d per week for Raymond, to start on 19 November 1916 and end on 19 November 1930. However, on 22 June 1918, she was awarded an alternative pension of 34s a week in lieu of the previous pension.<sup>43</sup> She received George Edward's savings of £3 9s 11d on 25 July 1916 and a war gratuity of £3 10s on 24 June 1919.<sup>44</sup>

Driver George Edward Wilkinson was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. B. 140).<sup>45</sup> 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. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

George Edward was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).<sup>46</sup> As next of kin, Sarah Annie received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll.

Although George Edward's family must have grieved his death, the social conventions of the day demanded that the bereaved accept their losses quietly and stoically. Their world continued without him. By 1915, his parents had moved from Hebburn to Boldon Colliery and were living at 156 Charles Street.<sup>47</sup> His father, still employed as a coal miner, developed pneumonia and died at home on 29 December 1917. Annie J.'s husband, William Johnson, reported the death.<sup>48</sup>

There was to be more sorrow for the family. On 25 January 1918, nineteen-year-old William, who had enlisted in the 157th Brigade, RFA, was killed.<sup>49</sup> During the next decade, George Edward's mother, Margaret, and his two young sisters, Elizabeth and Ethel, lived with Annie J., her husband and family at 1 Coronation Terrace, Boldon Colliery.<sup>50</sup> His brother Thomas with his wife, Mary Ellen, and their family were also living in Boldon Colliery.<sup>51</sup>

Coal mining was a physically demanding, dangerous occupation that was not well compensated. In May 1929, the owners of Harton Coal Company reduced the minimum wage of some workers to 3s per day, which resulted in a work stoppage. The court sided with the owners and the workers involved in the strike were fined for breach of contract.<sup>52</sup>

During the following decade, the family left the area. On the eve of another war in 1939, George Edward's brother Thomas was working as a market gardener, living with his family in Castle Ward, Northumberland.<sup>53</sup> His mother Margaret was living with Ethel, at 4 Back Lane, Sedberg, Yorkshire (West Riding).<sup>54</sup> Ethel, who was working in a laundry, married William H. Derham in 1940.<sup>55</sup> About a kilometre away, Elizabeth was working as a servant at Hart Hall, a boy's boarding school.<sup>56</sup> Margaret continued to live with Ethel and William at 4 Back Lane until her death in 1952.<sup>57</sup>

George Edward's wife Sarah Annie and son Raymond remained in Hebburn until about 1925.<sup>58</sup> In 1938, Sarah Annie and her mother were living at 62 Bourneside Road, Chertsey, Surrey.<sup>59</sup> Sarah Annie's mother Maria died in the spring of 1939.<sup>60</sup> That year Sarah Annie was living at 15 Jubilee

Crescent, Chertsey, Surrey.<sup>61</sup> Information about the fate of George Edward's son Raymond was not readily available.

Driver George Edward Wilkinson's sacrifice was not forgotten. His name was inscribed on the Workmen's Memorial plaque, Boldon Colliery, in remembrance of the 187 men from the colliery who lost their lives in the Great War<sup>62</sup> and on a panel at St. Nicholas's Church, Hedworth Parish, Boldon Colliery, in loving memory of the men of Hedworth Parish who died in the war.<sup>63</sup> More recently, the *South Tyneside Remembers World War One* website listed his name with some biographical information.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Boldon Colliery," *North East War Memorials Project*

(<http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=9698>: accessed 28 February 2021)

<sup>2</sup> "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail*

(<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 3 February 2021)

<sup>3</sup> "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: accessed 1 March 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, Christening date: 6 Apr 1892, Christening place: Hebburn, Durham, England, United Kingdom, Christening place (Original): St. Oswalds, Hebburn, Durham, England, Birth date: 19 Mar 1892, Father's name: William Wilkinson, Mother's name: Margaret Wilkinson; "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1892, J Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 866, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick

<sup>4</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1857, D Quarter in Chester Le Street, Volume: 10A, Page: 181, Mother's maiden surname: Johnson; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 28 January 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, Registration year: 1917, Registration quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec, Registration district: South Shields, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 896, Age: 60

<sup>5</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Margaret Swan, GRO Reference: 1865, D Quarter in Chester Le Street, Volume: 10A, Page: 405, Mother's maiden surname: *left blank*. **Note:** This is most likely Margaret Fenwick. Her older sister, Sarah Jane, was also registered as Swan. Their parents, Thomas Emmerson Fenwick and Elizabeth Swan married in 1868; "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 March 2021), entry for Thomas Emmerson Fenwick, Marriage date: 28 March 1868, Marriage place: St. Nicholas, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England, Spouse: Elizabeth Swan, FHL Film number: 1068906; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 3 April 2021), entry for Margaret Wilkinson, Registration district: Sedburg, Inferred county: Yorkshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 735

<sup>6</sup> "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 3 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, Registration district: Chester Le Street, Sub-registration district: Chester Harraton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 60, Piece: 3763, Folio: 68, Page: 10

<sup>7</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 3 March 2021), entry for Margaret Fenwick, Registration district: Chester Le Street, Sub-registration district: Chester Harraton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 134, Piece: 4992, Folio: 72, Page: 29

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Margaret Fenwick, Registration district: Sunderland, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 815, Spouse: William Wilkinson

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- <sup>9</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Annie Johnson Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1885, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 797, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick
- <sup>10</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Elizabeth Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1888, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 722, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Elizabeth Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1888, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 406, Age: 0
- <sup>11</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1889, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 775, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1889, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 351, Age: 0
- <sup>12</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Thomas Fenwick Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1890, S Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 810, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Thomas Fenwick Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1890, D Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 810, Age: 0
- <sup>13</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1894, J Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 865, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "England, Select Births and Christenings," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 April, 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, Birth date: 8 April 1894, Baptism date: 2 May 1894, Baptism place: St. Oswald, Hebburn, Durham, England, Father: William Wilkinson, Mother: Margaret Wilkinson, FHL film number: 1894219
- <sup>14</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1896, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 831, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1897, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 430, Age: 0
- <sup>15</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1898, S Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 877, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/87696/WILLIAM%20WILKINSON>: accessed 27 May 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, Service number: 223044
- <sup>16</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2010), entry for Joseph Leonard Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1903, D Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 909, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Joseph Leonard Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1908, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 566, Age: 4
- <sup>17</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Elizabeth Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1908, D Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 900, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick

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- <sup>18</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Ethel Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1909, D Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 911, Mother's maiden surname: Fenwick; "England & Wales, Civil Register Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 11 April 2021), entry for Ethel Derham, Registration district: Kendal, Inferred county: Westmoreland, Registration number: K51D, District and subdistrict: 377/1A
- <sup>19</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 March 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, Registration district: South Shields, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 4169, Folio: 14, Page: 32
- <sup>20</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for George E. Wilkinson, Registration district: South Shields, Sub-registration district: Jarrow, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 41, Household schedule number: 112, Piece: 4745, Folio: 40, Page: 23
- <sup>21</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 6 March 2021), entry for Ann Wilkinson, Registration district: South Shields, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 465
- <sup>22</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Edward Wilkinson
- <sup>23</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Annie Johnson Wilkinson, Registration district: South Shields, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 1319
- <sup>24</sup> "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, Registration district: South Shields, Registration district number: 556, Sub-district: Jarrow, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 24, Piece: 30372
- <sup>25</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for William Johnson, Registration district: South Shields, Registration district number: 556, Sub-registration district: Jarrow, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 24, Piece: 30372
- <sup>26</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2008," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for George E. Wilkinson, District: South Shields, County, Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 1402; "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for Sarah Annie Wright, District: South Shields, County: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 842
- <sup>27</sup> "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 4 March 2021), entry for Sarah Annie Wright, Registration district: South Shields, Registration district number: 556, Sub-district: Jarrow, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 28, Piece: 30376
- <sup>28</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for Raymond Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1915, M Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10A, Page: 1700, Mother's maiden surname: Wright; "UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923," *Fold3* ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com): accessed 22 March 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, Service number: 2686
- <sup>29</sup> "War Gratuity Calculator," (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator>: accessed 15 February 2017) **Note:** There was very little information regarding George Edward Wilkinson's military service. His service record did not survive the 1940 fire at the Army Records Office, Walworth, London. His military career was pieced together using a number of sources.
- <sup>30</sup> "Northumberland Batteries, Royal Field Artillery during the Great War," *War Time Memories Project* (<https://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/fartillery.php?pid=795>: accessed 11 March 2021)
- <sup>31</sup> "Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_and\\_Reserve\\_Forces\\_Act\\_1907](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_and_Reserve_Forces_Act_1907): accessed 20 May 2021)
- <sup>32</sup> "Every Name A Story Content: Corbridge," *North East War Memorials Project* (<http://www.newmp.org.uk/article.php?categoryid=99&articleid=1542&displayorder=14>: accessed 11 March 2021)

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- <sup>33</sup> "252 Brigade Royal Field Artillery, War Diaries, 1915 April –1917 Jan," *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7354685>: accessed 20 April 2021), Reference: WO-95-2817/4. **Note:** 1st /3rd Northumbrian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, became the 252nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, in May 1916. Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 1st/3rd Brigade's movements during this time period comes from this source.
- <sup>34</sup> *Find a will/GOV.UK* (<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/Wills/MyWills>: accessed 9 April 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, Date of death: 04/06/1916, Regiment number: 2686. **Note:** George Edward signed his will on 1 January 1916.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* **Note:** George gave his rank as Gunner.
- <sup>36</sup> Dale Clarke, *British Artillery 1914–1919 Field Army Artillery*, (2012 Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing), e-book (Apple), Chapter "Organization," p. 22
- <sup>37</sup> "252 Brigade Royal Field Artillery, War Diaries, 1915 April –1917 Jan," *National Archives, Kew*, attached after entry for 30 June 1916
- <sup>38</sup> "252 Brigade Royal Field Artillery, War Diaries, 1915 April –1917 Jan," *National Archives, Kew*, entry for 3 and 4 June 1916
- <sup>39</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–19/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/?id=e001509285&app=fonandcol&op=img>: accessed 14 April 2021), entries for 3 and 4 June 1916
- <sup>40</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 10 April 2021), entry for J.A. [sic] Wilkinson. **Note:** This was a clerical error on the part of the chaplain.
- <sup>41</sup> "Local Casualties," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 April 2021) *Shields Daily Gazette*, 24 June 1916, p.3. **Note:** Thomas H. Donnison, service numbers 1438, 760331, Thomas Freeman, service numbers 1368, 760296, and Joseph Appleby, service number 1033 were also listed. They came from the same area as George Edward.
- <sup>42</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 10 March 2021), entry for J.A. [sic] Wilkinson; "Electoral Registers 1832–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 8 March 2021), entry for John E. Wright, Marie E. Wright, Year: 1918
- <sup>43</sup> "UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923," *Fold3* ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com): accessed 20 April 2021), entry for Wilkinson, George Edward, Regimental no. 2686
- <sup>44</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 April 2021), entry for George Edward Wilkinson, Service number: 2686
- <sup>45</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/202235/G%20E%20WILKINSON>: accessed 16 April 2021), entry for G. E. Wilkinson
- <sup>46</sup> "British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 15 May 2021). **Note:** There were no entries for a George Edward Wilkinson, regimental number 2686. He might have been issued a different regimental number after the brigade was reorganized in May 1916.
- <sup>47</sup> "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, Year: 1915, Polling district or place: Boldon Colliery, Constituency: P.C. of Durham, Houghton-Le-Spring Division, County: Durham, Country: England
- <sup>48</sup> "Copy of an entry of death," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order\\_history.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp): accessed 28 April 2021), entry for William Wilkinson, GRO Reference: 1917, 4th Quarter in South Shields, Volume: 10a, Page: 896, When and where died: 156 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery, Age: 60, Rank or profession: coal miner (examiner), Cause of death: pneumonia, Signature, description, and residence of informant: William Johnson, son-in-law, 1 Coronation Terrace, Boldon Colliery, When registered: 31 December 1917
- <sup>49</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/87696/WILLIAM%20WILKINSON>: accessed 23 July 2021), entry for William Wilkinson

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- <sup>50</sup> "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 28 April 2021), entry for Margaret Wilkinson, Years: 1925, 1927, 1929, Polling district or place: Boldon Colliery, Constituency: P.C. of Durham, Houghton-Le-Spring Division, County: Durham, Country: England
- <sup>51</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 3 May 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, Registration year: 1914, Registration district: South Shields, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 1589, Spouse's surname: Mary E. Haddon; "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 28 April 2021), entry for Thomas and Mary Ellen Wilkinson, Years: 1923, 1925, 1928, 1929, 1930, Polling district or place: Boldon Colliery, Constituency: P.C. of Durham, Houghton-Le-Spring Division, County: Durham, Country: England
- <sup>52</sup> "Work Resumed at Boldon Colliery," *Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette*, 6 May 1929, p. 8; "Miners to Pay £320," *Sheffield Independent*, 13 June 1929, p. 1, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 17 May 2021)
- <sup>53</sup> "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 9 May 2021), entry for Thomas Wilkinson, Schedule number: 81, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: GDHA, Borough: Sedbergh, Registration district: 564/4
- <sup>54</sup> "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 23 April 2021), entry for Margaret and Ethel Wilkinson, Schedule number: 187, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: KSDA, Borough: Castle Ward, Registration district: Sedbergh
- <sup>55</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 23 April 2021), entry for Ethel Wilkinson, Marriage year: 1940, District: Sedbergh, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9A, Page number: 6. **Note:** Spouse's name was spelled as William H. Dereham [*sic*] rather than Derham
- <sup>56</sup> "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 23 April 2021), entry for Elizabeth Wilkinson, Schedule number: 5, Sub-schedule number: 12, Enumeration district: KSDF, Borough: Sedbergh, Registration district: 483/1
- <sup>57</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Electoral Registers, 1840–1962," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 26 April 2021), entry for Margaret Wilkinson and Ethel Derham, Years: 1948, 1950, 1951, Country: England, County: West Yorkshire, Parliamentary division: Skipton, Place of abode: 4 Back Lane
- <sup>58</sup> "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 20 May 2021), entry for Sarah Annie Wilkinson, Years: 1924, 1925, Polling district or place: Hebburn, Constituency: P.C. of Durham Jarrow Div., County: Durham, Country: England
- <sup>59</sup> "Surrey, England, Electoral Registers 1832–1962," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 27 April 2021), entry Sarah Annie Wilkinson, Residence year: 1938, Parliamentary Division/Constituency: Chertsey, Residence place: Surrey, England
- <sup>60</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 27 April 2021), entry for Maria E. Wright, Registration district: Surrey, North eastern, Inferred county: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 19
- <sup>61</sup> "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 23 April 2021), entry for Sarah Annie Wilkinson, Schedule number: 168, Sub schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: DMCO, Borough: Chertsey, Registration district: 32-2
- <sup>62</sup> "Workmen's Memorial," *North East War Memorials Project* (<http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=9698>; accessed 20 April 2021)
- <sup>63</sup> "St. Nicholas Church," *North East War Memorials Project* (<http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=6440>; accessed 20 April 2021)
- <sup>64</sup> *South Tyneside Remembers World War One* (<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/52831/Search-WW1-records>; accessed 20 April 2021), entry for Wilkinson, George Edward