

## *PRIVATE ALBERT PRATTLEY EMMITT*

5<sup>th</sup> Bn, Yorkshire Regiment (Yorkshire Hussars Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own)  
Regimental Number 241552



Albert was the son of Hannah Emmitt of Nawton, Kirkbymoorside. He was born in 1891 and Hannah Emmitt and Francis George Prattley married at St Gregory's Kirkdale in that year.

The 1901 census shows Hannah and Francis George (occupation shepherd) living at New Row, Langtoft, near Drifffield. Albert was at that time aged 9, and had an older

sister Hilda aged 10, (both born in Nawton) and a younger brother William, who was 8 and born in Hutton le Hole. (Thomas William also served in the First World War and his story is told later in the book)

Hannah sadly died in 1904 at the age of 36.

Francis George Prattley remarried in 1906. His wife was Mary Jane Stamp (nee Leng) of Hutton Le Hole and they were married at St Mary's Lastingham.

The 1911 census shows Francis George and Mary Jane living in Hutton Le Hole with Francis David (son of previous wife and born in Langtoft), Esther Annie aged 4 and Herbert Ernest born in 1911 (born in Hutton le Hole) Francis George was employed by the Rural District Council as a roadman and came originally from Leafield in Oxfordshire.

The 1911 census shows that Albert, aged 19 years, was a horseman on the farm of Mr Richard Brown of Sunley Court, Muscoates, Kirkbymoorside. His brother Thomas William was working as a wagoner, for a Mr Marton, at Trowbridge which was a neighbouring farm in Muscoates.

There is an interesting family photo of the Prattley family on page 36 of 'A History of Hutton Le Hole'.

It appears that David Prattley, who was born in 1839, (Albert's grandfather) was the one who brought the Prattleys to Hutton Le Hole. He was from Oxfordshire and in 1871 a Gamekeeper in Woodstock, Oxon. By 1881 the family had moved to Hutton Le Hole and David was working as a farm labourer. On the 1901 census, and now aged 61 years old, he is listed as a farmer by his own means.

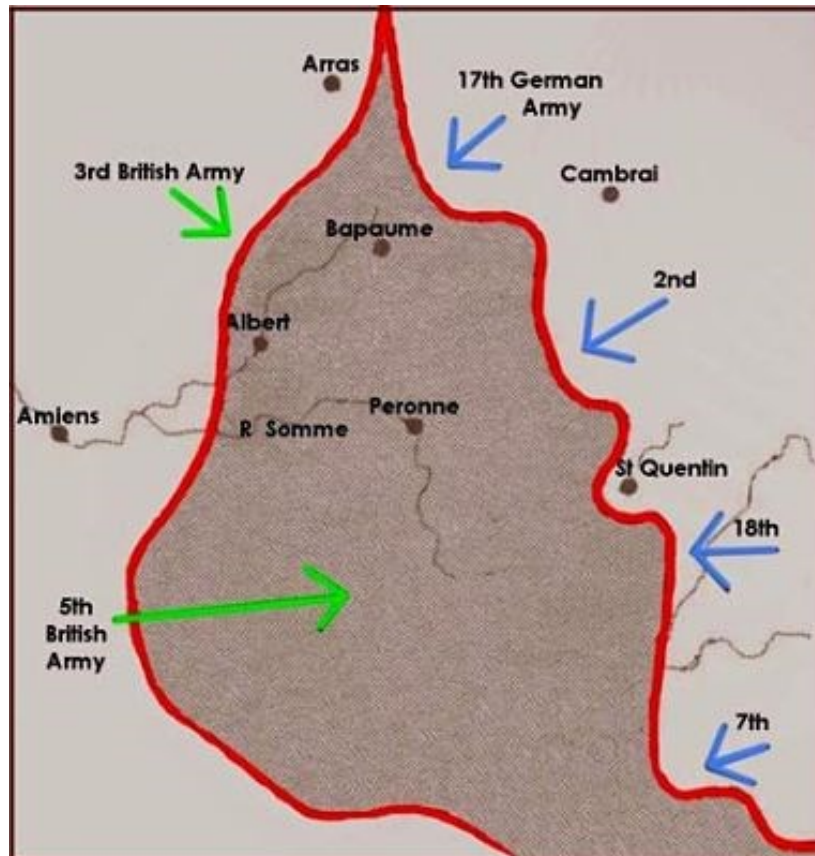
In 1901, David's son Thomas lived next door to his father with his wife and family and worked as a shepherd in the village. He later moved to Ferryhill, near Sedgfield in Co. Durham and was employed as a Coalminer/stoneman at North Bitchburn Colliery, Still married, but lodging in Ferryhill, his wife Jane remained in Hutton le Hole with their 5 daughters and one son (a hard life!!!). Jane was a local girl - Jane Wardell, and she and Thomas were married at St Marys, Lastingham in 1893.

Albert Prattley Emmitt enlisted in Malton and served with the British Expeditionary Force. He was involved with his battalion in the Battle of St Quentin – The German Offensive.

The Russian Revolution and that country's subsequent withdrawal from the War in the East had allowed the Germans to transfer troops to the Western Front. On the 21st of March 1918 they were ready to launch 76 Divisions against the 28 of the Allies along a 50 mile Front in the St Quentin area.

The plan appears to have been to split the British and French Armies, capture the Channel ports and thus cut off the British Army and prevent further landings. The news that America had belatedly entered the War meant they had to take decisive action before they were outnumbered.

The lads of the 5th Yorks Battalion were thrown right into the centre of this onslaught. Each side would lose around a quarter of a million men. The British alone lost around 180,000 and some Units were wiped out. The Germans advanced close to Amiens but failed in their overall objective and the great loss of irreplaceable crack troops here and later on the River Lys led to their final defeat.



The following information is from the 5<sup>th</sup> Yorks Battalion War Diary of 26<sup>th</sup> March 1918. The day that Albert lost his life.

*“26<sup>th</sup> - At about 8.00 am enemy appeared and firing ensued. CO of 2nd Worcesters then took over command of 24<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde and issued orders from HQ at Vermando Villers for general withdrawal to Rosieres line by battalions from Left to Right, but as soon as Left Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> DLI, withdrew the Worcesters on the Right of 150<sup>th</sup> Bde immediately retreated across country.*

*This incident made withdrawal of the 150<sup>th</sup> Composite Battalion very difficult and the whole of rear guard platoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> Yorks was either killed or captured”.*

Albert is remembered on Panel 31 and 32 of the Pozieres Memorial.

EMMITT, Pte. Albert Prattley, 241552. 5th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 26th March, 1918. Age 27. Son of Francis George Prattley, of Hutton-le-Hole, Kirby Moorside, Yorks, and the late Hannah Prattley.



*The Pozieres Memorial.*

Soldiers were commemorated on the Memorial when their loss had been officially declared by their relevant service but there was no known burial for the individual, or in circumstances where graves could be individually marked, or where the grave site had become inaccessible and unmaintainable.

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. Pozieres is a village 6 kilometres north-east of the town of Albert, France. The Memorial encloses Pozieres British Cemetery which is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road, D929, from Albert to Pozieres.

Francis Prattley would have been advised of Albert's death and as his next of kin receive his effects. The following is from the "Army Registers of Soldiers Effects 1901 - 1929" which is shown on the web site for the National Army Museum.

916934	710959f	Emmitt Albert Prattley	1/5 Rm Yorks Rt 241552	26.3.18 Presumed on service France	York ✓ 24.5 Y19	B1219 St. Francis 24.5 = P28
Including War Pensions 1/3.						