

# LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS WARDELL

Labour Company Regimental No: 315153

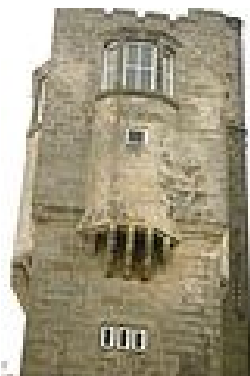
Previously 1<sup>st</sup> Wiltshire  
Regiment Regimental No:  
10685



Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
WARDELL	Milit. R. Labour Co	Lance Cpl	10685 315153
T. Wardell			
No.	Boll.	Page.	Remarks.
1	LC/101 B III	11311	Ris. 3. 3-19.
2	do	do	
3	LC 62 (165)	11/165/2	
first served in <i>Messines</i>			
herein 11-12-14.			

Thomas Wardell, who was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1893, was the youngest son of John Wardell, a mason, and Susannah (nee Barker). John, who was born in Hutton le Hole and lived in the village all his life, married Susannah at St Mary's Church, Lastingham in 1873. Susannah was born in Muscoates, and before her marriage, worked as a domestic servant for the Frank family at Ox Close Farm, Hutton le Hole. Thomas had two older brothers, John and William and five sisters, Ann, Jane, Sarah, Ruth and Mary.

Thomas lived as a child with the family in Hutton le Hole and per the 1911 census was employed, at the age of 18 years old, as a footman for the Leyland family at Haggerston Castle, Beal, Northumberland. Christopher John Naylor inherited the castle from his uncle and took the name of Leyland and his second wife was Helen Dora Cayley, from The Green, Brompton (near Scarborough).

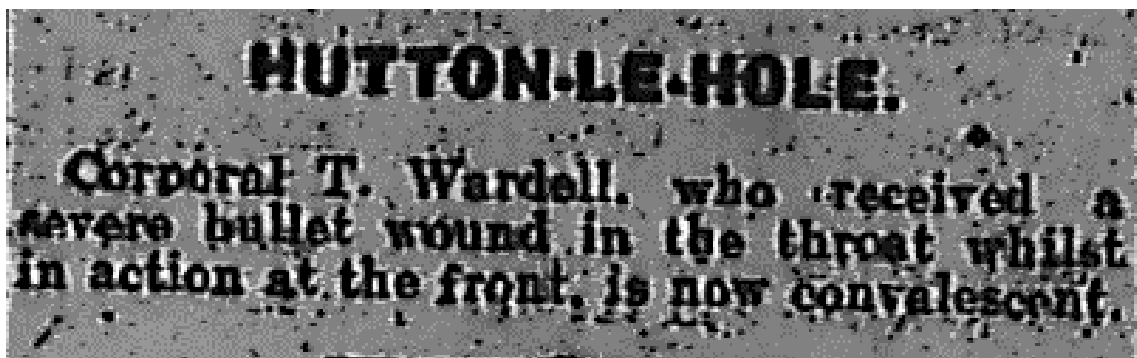


As a result of a fire in 1911 only the tower and rotunda of the Castle survived and on the death of Christopher Leyland in 1926 the ruins of the house were demolished.

### *Remains of Haggerston Castle*

At some point Thomas moved to Wiltshire. His service record states, at the time war was declared, he enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment in Devises. His attestation papers signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1914 record that he was 21 years and 56 days old and his occupation was footman. At his medical examination, where he was considered fit for the army, he was 6ft tall, weighed 151 lbs., and had hazel eyes and dark brown hair.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1914 Thomas left with the British Expeditionary Force for France and whilst in action was wounded and admitted to hospital in Boulogne on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1915 and brought back to England on 5<sup>th</sup> April. A report in the Yorkshire Gazette dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 1915 reads:



Following recuperation it appears that Thomas served with No 644 H.S. Employt. Coy. in Devises and his service number as part of the Labour Corps became 315153. (*Home Service Employment Company - units served only in the UK often comprising of soldiers who were recuperating from wounds or sickness but were fit enough to carry out some 'light duties'.*)

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 1916 he was promoted to Acting Corporal and later appointed Acting Sergeant. On occasions in August and September 1916 and again in April 1917 he was reprimanded for minor offences.



Thomas married Ethel May King at St Peter's Church, Devises on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1918.

Ethel was a local girl and was employed as a furniture upholsterer by Charles Sloper and Son, at that time a well-known

store in Devises.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918, Acting Sergeant Wardell transferred from 644 H.S.E Coy to 615 H.S.E Coy. and was discharged on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1919. His wife's address at this time

was given as 83 Mortimer Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, however correspondence regarding his entitlement to medals was from the Rose and Crown Hotel, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

It is believed Thomas became the landlord of this establishment, as the 1939 survey shows him with Ethel May, at 22 Market Place, Chippenham and his occupation as 'innkeeper'

24 Market Place	1440	1	BAILEY, FREDERICK, G	-	M	July 12 <sup>th</sup> 80	M. Master Household Turnisher
		2	BAILEY, MAY, D.	-	F	Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup> 92	M. Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	HILLMAN, FRANCES, L.	-	F	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> 84	S. Domestic Servant.
22 " "	1441	1	WARDELL, THOMAS	-	M	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> 93	M. Inn-keeper.
		2	WARDELL, ETHEL, M.	-	F	Apr 8 <sup>th</sup> 93	M. Unpaid Domestic Duties



*The Rose and Crown, 22 Market Place, Chippenham as it is today.*

Thomas and Ethel had two sons – Thomas (jnr) born in 1922 and Frederick John born in 1924. Thomas (snr) died in 1958 aged 64 years old and Ethel died in 1961.

Corporal Thomas Wardell received the 14-15 Star, British War medal, and Victory medal, affectionately known as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred'.



When the WW1 medals were issued in the 1920's it coincided with a popular comic strip published by the Daily Mirror newspaper. Pip was the dog, Squeak the penguin and Wilfred the young rabbit. For some reason the three names of the characters became associated with the three campaign medals

being issued at that time to many thousands of returning servicemen, and they stuck.

## Family History

### Parents:

John Wardell – m – 1873 – Susannah (nee Barker)  
Occupation Mason

### Children:

John – William – Thomas – Ann – Jane – Sarah – Ruth – Mary  
b 1893

Thomas – m – 1918 – Ethel May King in Devizes

### Children:

Thomas (jnr) b 1922 and Frederick John b 1924

Thomas (snr) died in 1958 and his wife Ethel in 1961