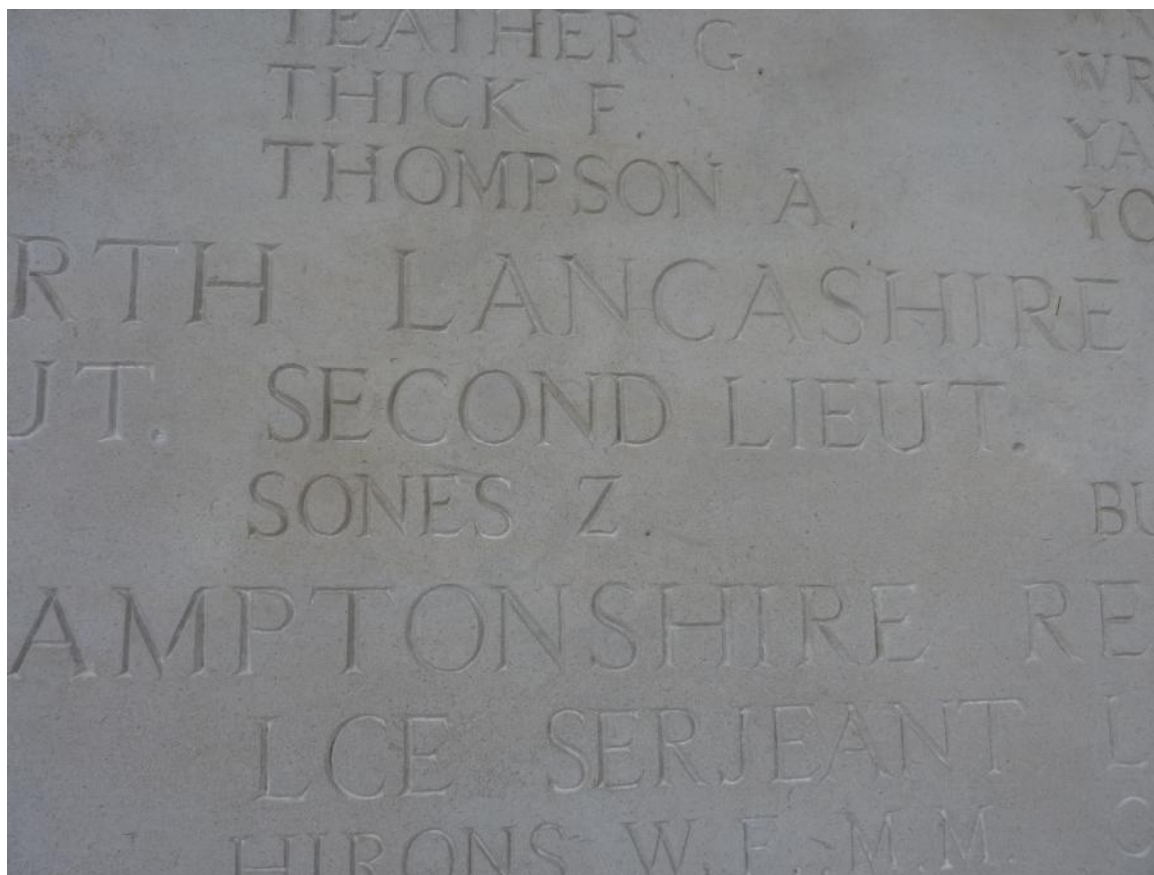


ZIBA SONES (1891-96)

Date of Birth	June 1879
School Information	None
Career Information	Boot and shoe manufacturer's manager and leather currier. A popular entertainer at concerts in Halesworth district for many years.
Date Of Death	22 March 1918
Cause of Death	Killed in action
Location	France
Cemetery	Pozieres Memorial, France Plot – Panel 54
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Branch of Service	5 th Battalion attached to 2 nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment

In October 2014 there was an OF visit to his memorial







Pozières British Cemetery and Memorial



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The village of Pozières and the surrounding farmland were fiercely contested during the Allied offensive on the Somme which began on 1 July 1916. Initially an objective for the first day, the ground was taken by Commonwealth forces three weeks later. Pozières British Cemetery is the final resting place of nearly 2,800 Commonwealth soldiers most of whom fell in 1916. In Part 5, to the right of the entrance, are the graves of those originally buried here for fighting units and field ambulances. This site was greatly expanded after the end of the war when graves were brought here from several smaller burial grounds nearby. Nearly half of those buried here remain unidentified, but among them are more than 1,800 who served as regiments of the United Kingdom, more than 700 men of the Australian Imperial Force, and over 200 who fought with Canadian units.



through the last winter of 1916 - 7, before moving several kilometres to the east when German forces withdrew to the well-fortified Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917.

The German Offensive, 1918

On 21 March 1918, the Germans launched an offensive named Operation Michael against Allied forces on the Somme. By 23 March, the ground had been lost and the town of Albert was captured. Nearly 8,000 men served in the Pozières Memorial were killed in the first four days of the offensive, when Commonwealth soldiers struggled to resist massed German forces, including specially equipped and trained assault units known as stormtroopers. Within two weeks the Germans had advanced around 65 kilometres. They were eventually halted at Villers-Bretonneux by British and Australian troops on 4 and 5 April 1918. On 8 August, Allied victory in the Battle of Amiens began a advance which would recapture this area on 24 August, and would only cease with the Armistice which ended the fighting on the Western Front.

Pozières was lost in March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive, and recaptured by the Allies in August. Around the cemetery stands the Pozières Memorial, which commemorates those who fought on the Somme in 1918. It bears the names of their fellow comrades who have no known graves, including more than 180 men of the forces of South Africa, and over 14,300 who served with British regiments, most of whom fell in March and April 1918. Both the cemetery and the memorial were designed by William Harrison Woodhouse.

Pozières was a crucial German stronghold. During the Somme offensive, artillery bombardments devastated the surrounding fields and destroyed the village. The area where this cemetery now stands was known as 'Tramway Crossing' or 'Red Cross Corner', and in the first weeks of July 1916 Commonwealth forces advanced slowly across this ground, fighting through well-prepared German defences. On 22 and 24 July men of the 1st Australian Division and the 48th (South Midland) Division assaulted the area behind the cemetery and the village of Pozières itself, capturing this part of the German line at heavy cost.

The Germans fought hard to hold the area around the village, engaging Commonwealth forces with artillery fire and mounting counter-attacks using flamethrowers and barbed wire. Many of those lost to men here fell during these engagements. To the north-west of Pozières stood Massey Farm, a local factory owner's mansion which the Germans had fortified. Commonwealth forces suffered many thousands of casualties attacking the mansion before it was taken on 26 September. From fighting continued through September and October, particularly to the east of here around Oxley and Contalmaison. The Allied offensive ended in November 1916, and Commonwealth forces held this ground.

Plan of the 1st Australian Division on 24 July 1918, showing the location of the Pozières Memorial.

The names on the 1st Australian Division roll call are based on those in the Pozières Memorial.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commission is responsible for the maintenance of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of many ages, are found around the globe in 153 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit www.cwgc.org. Enquiries are also welcome at our offices: CWGC Head Office Tel: +44 (0) 1438 537200 Email: casualtyenquiries@cwgc.org CWGC France Office: Tel: +33 (0) 3 21 21 77 00 Email: france.areas@cwgc.org

For more information about the location and names of those commemorated here, scan the QR code (right).



