

ALAN JAMES JACKSON (1906-13)

Date of Birth	18 June 1894 in Bradwell, Essex
School Information	Prefect. Sergeant OTC. Shooting VIII, captain 1913. He went on to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge in 1913 and passed examinations in science, Part I and II in 1914. He also rowed in the 3 rd boat for Cambridge.
Career Information	None
Date Of Death	27 April 1915
Cause of Death	Killed in action.
Location	Ypres
Cemetery	<u>YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL</u>
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Branch of Service	Middlesex Regiment, 3rd Bn

I'm indebted to Diana Summers for the following additional research she has done, in conjunction with his entry on the Gonville and Caius College Cambridge war memorial :-

Alan James Jackson was a farmer's son. He was born at Bradwell in Essex on the 19th June 1894 and was educated for seven years at Framlingham College. At school, he was a prefect, a sergeant in the OTC and captained the Shooting Eight in 1913. He was admitted to Gonville and Caius College in 1913 and passed examinations in science, Pt I and II, in 1914. Whilst at College he rowed in the 3rd boat.

When war broke out, Alan joined the army as Private 5121 in the 20th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers. He was discharged to a cadetship two months later and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment in 1915. His medals card states that he sailed for France on the 11th April and was probably one of the five officers who joined the Battalion on the 17th. Alan was killed (during the Second Battle of Ypres) on the 27th April and has no known grave. He had been at the front just over a week.

The Battalion was part of the 28th Division, 85th Infantry Brigade. The commander during this time was Major G H Neale who wrote very poignantly of the battle in the war diary:s

At 3.30 am orders were received to send the 2 Coys holding the line to the canal forward to discover the French right and deploy to the right...An advance then ensued and we got up to within about 600-800 yards of the enemy position. Here we got some cover and were ordered to cooperate with Canadians who received orders to dig themselves in... Remained in position all day being heavily shelled for 5 hours and almost suffocated at times. During afternoon Canadian reinforcements arrived on our left coming through heavy shell fire & a further attack was absurd. This ended as far as 3/Mddx was concerned in very heavy casualties - the whole of those who did the advance being practically wiped out. We got to within 300-400 yards of enemy where we came under concentrated crossfire of not less than 8 machine guns & severe frontal rifle fire. The advance ended. During the night of the 23rd some 40 NCOs and men of 3/Mddx who were left dry themselves in somewhere amongst the Canadians. I have never been able to find out where. The only part of the 3/Mddx Rgt who returned were the Advanced (illegible) under Lt (illegible) (attached and since killed) and 2 days later the 40 NCOs & men who were with the Canadians. ...

During all these days, we were under close artillery fire – trench mortars, bombs, etc and were harassed by mining operations of enemy and reverse fire into most of our trenches, the Germans having a trench in between the fire trenches and support trench in which they had machine guns & worked every night. Every man except sentries was worked all night every night and as much as was possible during the day in addition to long periods of standing to arms – no relief in fire trenches was possible as the whole Battalion was in fire trenches. There was a great shortage of water as the water tins arrived half empty, though dispatched full...

Total Casualties as far as can be ascertained at present from 22nd Ap to 3rd May

5 Officers killed

5 Officers wounded

1 Officer missing – Lieut Jackson – he was sent out on patrol to the front N of St Jean on the night of the 22nd Ap & has not been heard of since

Other ranks killed & wounded & missing 325

Alan's parents were James Rand Jackson and his first wife, Alice Mary née Witney. James Rand was a farmer, born at Bradwell in Essex and who lived at Leggatt's Farm in Tillingham. This was a larger farm employing a significant workforce. He later moved to Castle Heddingham and Nunnery Farm. The couple seem to have had just the one son and when he was killed, a bed was endowed in Addenbrooke's Hospital in his memory.

Alan's uncle George Robert Jackson emigrated to Australia for health reasons and worked with his uncle, Robert Rand of Mahonga, New South Wales. This was a very prosperous stock farm.

Alan's grandparents, James Jackson and Mary Ann née Rand were also farmers in Tillingham.

Below is a picture of his name on the Menin Gate.

<p>ROWLES S. W. LMD F. SNE J. SNE W. KINGFOLD G. L. KIRSEN T. B. KWILESS W. WYCOCK J. A. EACH J. EACH J. A. HAVENS R. G. W. DONARD J. FSTER E. EWIS F. A. EWIS G. R. EWIS J. EWIS O. H. LCYD D. I. LCYD G. LOYD J. ONG J. ONGMATE A. G. ONGSON W. ONGWORTH J. T. OOSE A. E. OWE R. OYNTON W. MCANAN W. MCGUIRE T. MADDOX F. MAHARRY R. MALKIN J. E. MANN S. F. MANUEL J. A. MAPE W. MARTIN H. J. MASON T. MEANEY J. MEEK E. C. MEREDITH G. F. MEREDITH W. MEREDITH W. A. MURREDDY S. R. MILLARD P. T. MILLER J. MILLS J. H. MITCHELL E. MOGLES B. MOORE J. H. MOORE J. R. MORTLEY S. MORRIS A. F. MORRIS C. MORRIS J. 1912 MORRIS J. 1917 MORRIS S. MVERNCOUGH G. MVERNCOUGH I. MULHANN W. L.</p>	<p>ROWLANDS A. ROWLEY W. I. YELLAND F. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT LIEUT. COLONEL STEPHENSON E. W. R. MAJOR LARGE P. M. RUSTON A. C. CAPTAIN BELLFIELD E. CUTHBERT G. DOBBS W. G. DUMSDAY C. R. HILTON H. F. LARGE H. E. NORRIS F. SICHEL G. M. J. LIEUTENANT ASH W. J. FARR P. W. GILLON-FERGUSON J. S. E. MYTTON P. POWER G. H. F. SHOUBERT N. THOMSON L. C. TIGAR H. W. Von WINGLER M. W. WEST C. H. R. SECOND LIEUT. BEAR S. J. BISHOP G. C. W. DEVEREUX F. H. GRIEVE W. P. HARVEY L. JACKSON A. J. KELLY P. E. KING M. E. MCDONNELL H. J. W. MAKELHAM E. K. MARKS P. M. ROGERSON H. SIMPSON F. J. R. SMITH L. H. STEAD G. H. STORREY G. C. SUTHERLAND J. L. WHITFIELD J. A. H. CON. S.JT. MAJOR BIRNIE R. C. M.M. JONES J. I.</p>	<p>WYCHERLEY F. C. YELLAND F. COY. QMR. SERJT. ALLIES S. SERJEANT BURTENSCHAW G. E. BYE C. A. CONNELL J. M.M. DENNISON T. DOLLIMORE W. G. DUTTON W. GIGGINS W. G. GREEN A. W. HERRINGTON A. V. HIGLETT E. T. JOHNS G. A. JONES E. H. KING H. D. C. M. KNEE C. E. LOWEN G. J. J. MORRIS F. B. MYALL S. I. PETTIFER H. E. POINTER A. T. PURCELL S. J. SHUTTER W. J. SMITH E. J. STIMPSON G. I. STRAY A. G. TURNER W. H. I. WALTER R. A. LANCÉ SERJEANT AMBLER F. DORAN J. HUGHES H. F. LIGHTOLLER H. CORPORAL ALLEN M. ALLINGHAM F. G. BLACKMORE W. W. BEGGIES F. C. BRAY H. W. CAREY G. E. CASHEN W. H. CASTLEY E. CHAPPELL M. CLAYTON W. CROSS W. DYNT P. B. DEVONSHIRE H. DICKINSON R. D. EDMONSON J. W.</p>	<p>POUND A. RALPH J. H. RUFF H. SALTER F. SIMPSON A. S. SKINNER F. SMITH J. SNOW G. SPENCER F. STAMPER E. W. STREATER A. H. STRINGER F. E. TAPP T. TAYLOR G. J. TIRRELL C. E. TREWIN F. UFTON W. C. VALENTINE R. WADDINGTON H. WALDRON G. T. WALKER A. E. D. C. WALKER F. G. WEIR J. WELSH W. WILSON R. H. E. WITHERS W. WROTH S. S. PRIVATE ABBOTT G. H. ACKROYD H. ADSHHEAD J. O. ADSHHEAD W. ALCOCK J. T. ALDOUS A. E. ALFORD W. ALLEN I. S. AMBROSE J. F. ANDERSON J. S. ANNAND C. ANSCOWBE G. ANSTFY W. H. ARDIN W. T. ARDLEY S. ARNFIELD J. R. ASHFORD H. W. ASHFORD J. W. ASHWORTH J. ATWELL A. AUSTIN C. AUSTIN S. AUSTIN S. AYTON F. BAILEY A. H. F. BAILEY C. BAILEY M. S. BAKER A. BAKER F. W.</p>
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