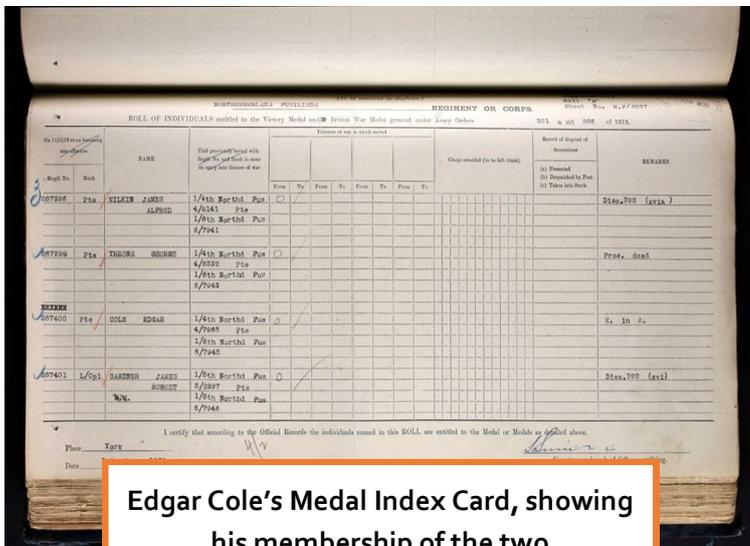
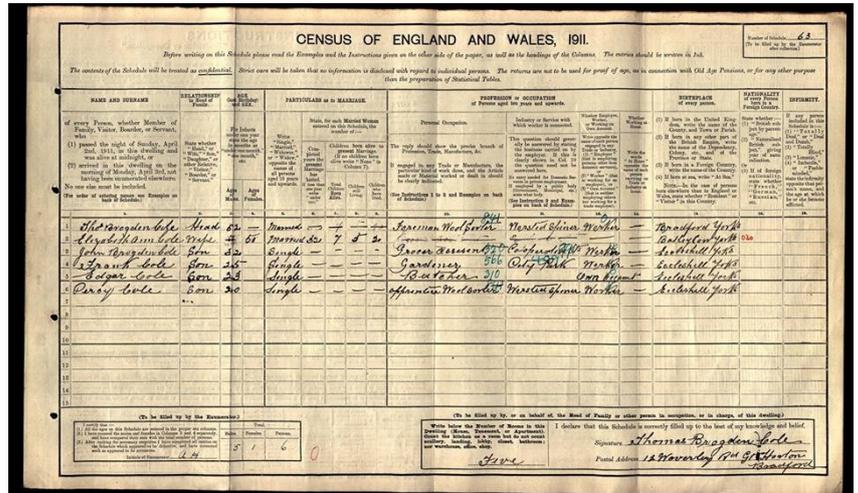


EDGAR COLE

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS 1/4TH AND 1/6TH BATTALIONS

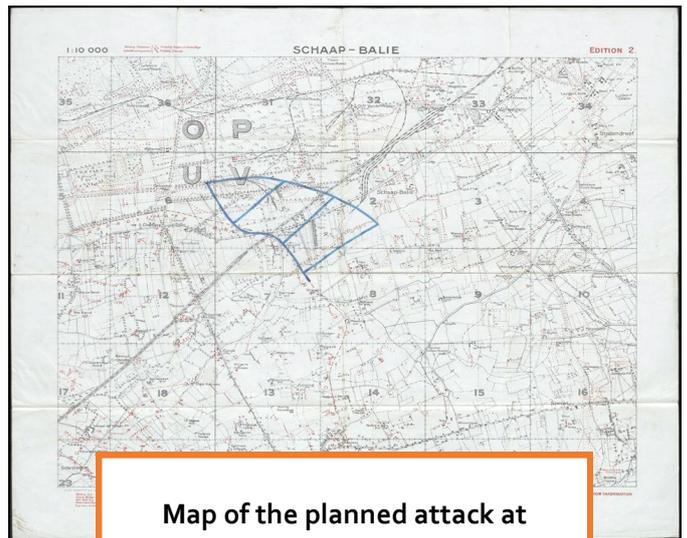
Edgar Cole Was born in 1887 to Thomas Brogden and Elizabeth Ann Cole. The family is listed on the 1891 Census as living at 15 Moorside Terrace, Eccleshill. By 1901, the family had moved to the other side of the city to 12 Waverley Terrace and were still living there at the time of the 1911 Census. By this time, Edgar was 23 years and working as a Butcher, he had three brothers all still living at home. Edgar married Lily Mattocks in 1916.



Edgar Cole's Medal Index Card, showing his membership of the two Northumberland Fusiliers Battalions.

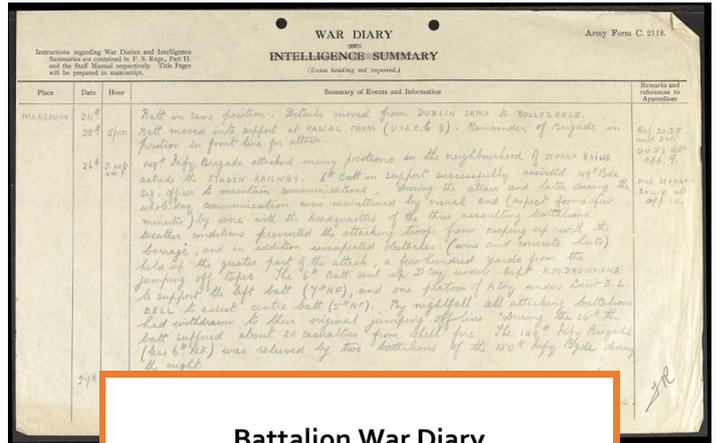
Edgar's Service Records have not survived. His Medal Index Card shows he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private . In October 1917, the 1/6th Northumberland Fusiliers was a little to the north of the Ypres Salient and way from the main scene of fighting for the capture of Passchendaele. It was necessary for the British to continue smaller scale attacks outside this area in order to tie up German reserve troops and prevent them being moved to the main Passchendaele area. There was one such attack on 26th October 1917 near Schaap Bailie to the north of Ypres.

The 1/6th Northumberland Fusiliers, in support of the 149th Brigade had maintained telephone communications across the battlefield throughout, men going out to repair cables cut by shell fire. Indeed D Company and a platoon of A Company had been sent forward to assist in the attack. The battalion War Diary lists 50 men becoming casualties 26-27/10/1917. Of the 22 recorded deaths in the battalion for these dates, only two have known graves...



Map of the planned attack at Schaap Bailie.

The attack by the 149th Brigade had been a failure. Attacking at dawn, they had been stopped by both uncut wire and enemy machine guns that had survived in concrete blockhouses from the opening attacking barrage. The infantry, under dreadful ground conditions, found they could not keep up with the 'creeping barrage' designed to protect them due to the mud. This attack, one of so many that met the same fate towards the closing of the fighting for Passchendaele.

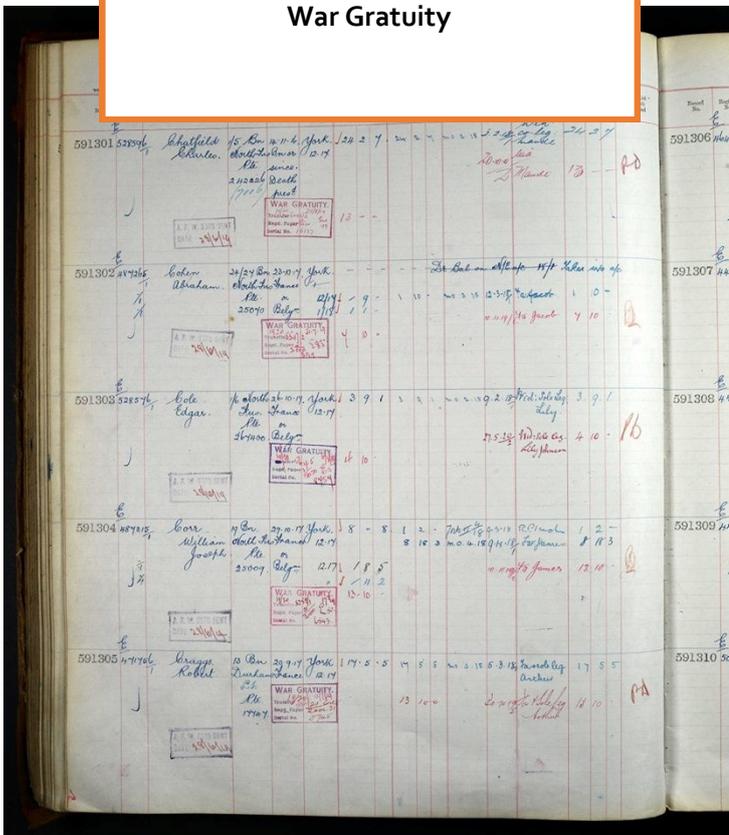


Battalion War Diary

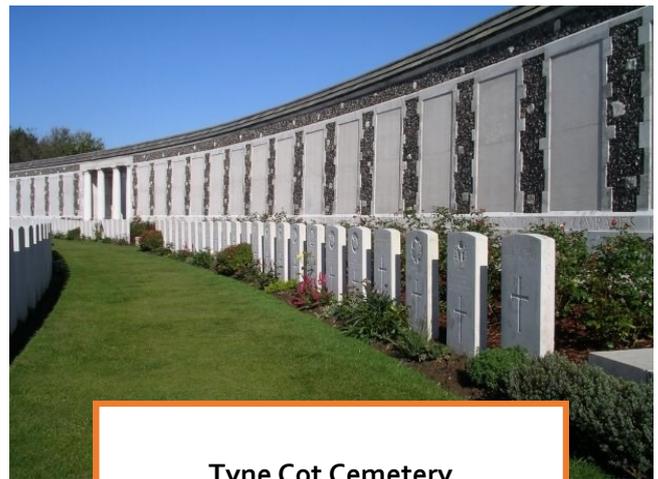
The Battalion War Diary lists 50 men becoming casualties 26-27/10/1917. Of the 22 recorded deaths in the battalion for these dates, only two have known graves...

Evidence of payment of back pay and War Gratuity

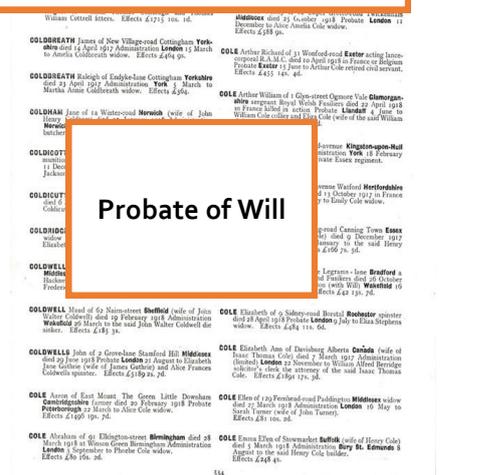
...Edgar Cole was killed with his battalion on 26th October 1917. He was not fortunate, his grave was not identified so therefore he is commemorated along with approximately 35,000 others on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Passchendaele.



Edgar's widow is listed as the beneficiary in his will in 1918 with an address of 25 Rugby Place, Legrams Lane. She is also listed as receiving his back pay from Edgar's personal effects and also his War Gratuity in 1920. At this time, Lily had remarried to become, Lily Johnson.



Tyne Cot Cemetery



Probate of Will