



Private Fred Townend

18515

**10th Battalion Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)**

Killed in action on 29 July 1916

Private Fred Townend (18515) was killed in action in the Contalmaison system of trenches on Saturday 29th July 1916. Fred, who was born in Bradford, was a warehouseman in a textile mill and at the time of his death he is listed as a resident of Manningham. According to army records his widow was called Mary. *Source: UK Army Register of Soldiers' Effects 1901 - 1929*

Evidence from the *'Report of Operations carried out by 10th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment on the night of 28/29 July 1916'* tells us that the Battalion had been ordered to bomb up MUNSTER ALLEY and consolidate the position. We learn that "the enemy vigorously attacked with bombs, with men concealed in shell holes on either side of the trench and a party in the trench". Forcing Number 13 Platoon to fall back to their original position at which point "the enemy launched a vigorous bombing attack which lasted for half an hour but were

driven back from our barricade." Members of the Platoon pushed forwards 20 yards but were stopped by the enemy bombs once more. They bravely held that position and erected a new barricade, "our bombers continuing to bomb the enemy during its construction." The German forces were pushed back some yards but then erected a new barricade, determined to hold this position they bombed the British for about one hour. "There is little doubt he wished to drive us out of MUNSTER ALLEY as his bombers came into the open ground in front of his barricade and continued until it was quite light to throw bombs with great determination."



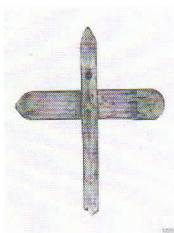
1 August 1916 showing Contalmaison smoking in the background

Source: Public Domain Wiki Media

The 10th Battalion sustained “somewhat serious casualties.”

OFFICERS	OTHER RANKS
2 KILLED	31 KILLED
4 WOUNDED	124 WOUNDED
	12 SUFFERING SHELL SHOCK
1 MISSING	30 MISSING

Private Fred Townend was killed in action on this day. He was buried with several other soldiers in a small cemetery and his grave marked with a small wooden cross provided by the Graves Registration Unit.



Post War Exhumation and Reburial

When the First World War ended the Imperial War Graves Commission faced a huge challenge. (i) There were still many soldiers awaiting burial from the final weeks of the conflict.

(ii) There were soldiers listed as missing whose bodies were still to be found (estimated at 500,000)

(iii) There were many soldiers, like Fred Townend, who had been buried in small burial grounds which did not reflect the large commemorative cemeteries which were being created to honour the war dead.

Consequently in August 1919 Fred Townend’s body was exhumed by a Canadian Graves Detachment and reburied on 19 August in POZIERES Cemetery (Plot 4 Row P Grave 22)

Source: Canadian Graves Detachment Burial Return 19.8.19

POZIERES Cemetery



Source: Commonwealth Graves Commission