

**Grange U3A Family and Social History
Group Project on the Grange WW1 War Memorial**



***A short biography in commemoration of
James Haycock 1889- 1917***

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James Haycock was born in 1889 at Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire to Thomas and Martha.

James was the second son of three brothers, Richard (1887), James (1889) and Thomas (1899). There were two daughters Annie and Nora.

Thomas was a bricklayer at the local iron works and both he and Martha came from Dudley in Worcestershire.

Nothing is known of James' early days until he enlisted in the Army other than in the 1911 Census where he was described as being "a grocers assistant" living at home.

The World War 1 Service Medal and Awards Roll mentions he was in the 413 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Although on his epitaph at Vlamertinghe Cemetery it states he was of the 352 Siege Battery.

No. of Contract.....dated....		IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION				SCHEDULE "B" PAGE 29 .	
Name and address of Firm.		COMPREHENSIVE REPORT B HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS to be read in conjunction with COMPREHENSIVE REPORT A HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS together with TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).				NAME OF CEMETERY VLAMERTINGHE NEW MIL. CEM. "C"	
Badge Design No. and Layout	Headstone No.	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	No. of Letter in text	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
	1676	Mr. A. Killee					
1186/2B	1677	HE DIED FOR HIS COUNTRY (Mrs. L. Stewart, 285, Gt Western Street, Rusholme, Manchester).				56	19
	1678						
1186/2C	1679	NOT DEAD BUT SLEEPETH		NOT LOST BUT GONE BEFORE		11.1	38
	1680						
1186/2E	1681	DEARER TO MEMORY		THAN WORDS CAN TELL		17.9	61
		(Mrs. M. Haycock, 15, Grange View, Carnforth, Lancashire).		FROM FATHER, MOTHER BROTHERS & SISTER			

The proposed inscription for James clearly shows the grief that his family felt about him. Many inscriptions reflect the devastation felt by relatives. Note that his initial burial reference changes to the final one, V. F. 3.

It should be mentioned that siege batteries were not separate units, often being attached to Groups and Brigades. When he died he was in the 352 Siege Battery believed to be attached to the 2nd Canadian Heavy Artillery Group. This means it is often unlikely that there is a War Diary specific to the Battery. You would have to check the Brigade War Diary.

No. of Contract.....dated.....		IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION				SCHEDULE "B" PAGE 20.			
Name and address of Firm		COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS to this report is attached COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS (those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined) and TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).				NAME OF CEMETERY VLAMERTINGHE NEW MIL. CEM "C" To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:- VLAM.N.M.C.			
Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st line	2nd line	3rd line	4th line	Centre of Stone	To be stencilled on foot of Headstone below ground level.			
	Number and Rank	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment	Date of Death	Age	Relig: Emb.	Plot -P Row -R Grave-G	No. of Stone	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
1186/2A	40648 GUNNER	A. KILLER	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	30TH AUGUST 1917	NONE	CROSS	5 E 30	1676	
1186/2B	<u>101812 SERJEANT</u>	<u>R. GWYHER</u>	<u>ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY</u>	<u>30TH AUGUST 1917</u>	<u>AGE 20</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>5 E 31</u>	<u>1677</u>	
1186/2A	102138 GUNNER	H. PRICE	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	30TH AUGUST 1917	NONE	CROSS	5 E 33	1678	
1186/2C	<u>102058 GUNNER</u>	<u>R. VILLIERS</u>	<u>ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY</u>	<u>30TH AUGUST 1917</u>	<u>AGE 19</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>5 E 34</u>	<u>1679</u>	
1186/2A	188533 GUNNER	E.W. COLLINGWOOD	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	12TH SEPTEMBER 1917	NONE	CROSS	5 F 2	1680	
1186/2E	<u>157772 GUNNER</u>	<u>J. HAYCOCK</u>	<u>ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY</u>	<u>12TH SEPTEMBER 1917</u>	<u>AGE 28</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>5 F 3</u>	<u>1681</u>	
1186/2A	174607 GUNNER	F. SNAPE	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	12TH SEPTEMBER 1917	AGE 37	CROSS	5 F 4	1682	

The details on this form reveal the number of RGA personnel killed in action. The casualties amongst the gun crews was horrendous as unlike the infantry they could not move easily to another position in time to prevent being shelled themselves. Many were gassed or killed by shrapnel from exploding shells or mortars, etc.

James was awarded the Victory and British medals. Having been killed on the 12th September 1917, he was buried at the Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery in grave number V.F.3. James's gravestone details are as follows:

James Haycock
Service Number 157772 Royal Garrison Artillery
352 Siege Battery
Date of Death 12 September 1917
His personal inscription reads;
"Dearer to memory than word can tell from father, mother,
brothers and sisters"
Haycock, James 157772 352nd Siege Battery R.G.A. . 12th
September 1917 Age 28. Son of Thomas and Martha Haycock of
15 Grange View, Carnforth, Lancashire. V.F.3

Sources:

Ancestry.co.uk

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

W/O 95/296 2nd Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery 1917 Feb– Nov
1918.

Revised 31st January 2023

David Clapp