



Albert Henry PUNTER

**Corporal. 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Bn.
Northumberland Fusiliers.**

At KES:

Albert, born in London, was an orphan in the care of an aunt. He came to KES in 1894. He was so "troublesome" that he was expelled in 1896 and not even given his leaving outfit!

In 1911 he was a sailor lodging in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Date of Death: 1st July 1916

Place: France

Buried: Thiepval Memorial, Somme

23rd Northumberland Fusiliers were raised at Newcastle in November 1914 and landed in France in January 1916.

Despite his "troublesome" past Albert was promoted to Corporal and was killed on "the worst day of the war", the first day of the Battle of the Somme. On first day some 60,000 men were killed or injured.

On July 1st 1916 at 07.30, the British Army attacked the German entrenched positions in the Department of the Somme – France, a line some 18 miles long. The British divisions marched slowly over no-man's land, carrying 66 pounds of kit each, in wave after wave of extended lines.

The week previously, the British artillery bombardment from 1,350 guns had expected to annihilate the barbed wire, trench defence and artillery; but, as the British crossed no man's land, they found this was not the case – struggling through uncut barbed wire, they were mown down by German machine guns – and 19,000 of them killed.