

Lieut Eric Fletcher, attached 2nd Batt. (Prince of Wales Volunteers), South Lancashire Regiment d 3rd July 1916



When I took these photographs in October 2017 the cross was leaning upon the right hand side, covering the wording for Lieut. Fletcher. This may no longer be the case.



In ever loving memory
of
HAROLD
SECOND SON OF **JOHN** AND
MARY FLETCHER,
BORN 8TH OF DECEMBER 1882,
DIED 27TH OF FEBRUARY
1896

ALSO OF
ARTHUR HENRY, THEIR ELDEST SON
Dates unreadable

ALSO OF
ERIC GRAHAM
THEIR YOUNGEST
AND LAST SURVIVING SON
LIEUTENANT 2ND SOUTH
LANCASHIRE REGT.
BORN 14TH OF APRIL 1888
KILLED IN ACTION AT
THIEPVAL, 3RD DAY OF
JULY 1916

CWGC:
Son of John and Mary Nicholson
Fletcher, of 15, Church Walk,
Ulverston, Lancs.

Buried at Delville Wood Cemetery.

When originally buried he was
unidentified, but his officer's
clothing and "Key Insurance Plate
F54300" helped identify him.

At the time of writing (May 2020) his Memorial Plaque is advertised for sale at £244.99 by North East Medals.

The *Barrow News* 15 July 1916 had:

LIEUT. ERIC FLETCHER

Another promising career has been cut off in the prime of manhood by the falling in action of Lieut. Eric Graham Fletcher, South Lancashire Regiment, the last surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fletcher, of Hamilton House, Church Walk, Ulverston, and late of Greenbank. The gallant young officer was in the thick of the fighting in which the South Lancashires took such a prominent part in the big British offensive at the beginning of this month, and on Monday morning the following wire was received by his parents: - "Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut. E. G. Fletcher, South Lancashire Regiment, was killed in action July 4th. The Army Council express their sympathy." Lieut. Fletcher, who was born at Rock House and educated at Eckersley's School, was 28 years of age. He served his articles with Messrs. Settle and Brundritt, architects, Ulverston, and obtained his commission on the 14th August, 1914, being at that time in the office of a leading firm of Liverpool architects, Messrs. Woolfall and Eccles. During the furious fighting at Hill 60 in May of last year he was wounded by shrapnel, and suffering severely from shock he was invalided home. He returned to the front at the end of January. Much sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher in their affliction. Lieut. Fletcher's eldest brother Arthur took part in the Boer War as a member of the first Active Service Company of the 4th King's Own. His cousin, Capt. Colin MacDonald, of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, has been

killed at Mesopotamia, and another cousin, Capt. Jas. B. Dinwiddie, of the 1st Border Regiment, wounded twice in Gallipoli, has died in hospital in London.

Information on Captain James Travers Blount-Dinwiddie can be found at <https://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/content/blount-dinwiddie-james-travers> and <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1030001887>

According to the King's Own Museum, Lancaster, Private A. Fletcher served in Number 1 Active Service Company. <http://www.kingsownmuseum.com/ko2182-03.htm>

The Lancashire Infantry Museum writes the following about the battle in which Eric Fletcher was killed:

***Thiepval** Some two miles north of La Boisselle, on 3rd July, the 2nd South Lancashires attacked the strongly fortified Thiepval Spur, the highest point of the German defences, losing 14 officers and over three hundred other ranks. Despite repeated assaults on this dominating feature, including attacks by 8th Loyals on 24th and 26th August, and by 2nd and 8th South Lancashires on 3rd September, the trench systems around Thiepval remained in German hands until late September.* <http://www.lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk/the-regiments-in-the-great-war-1914-18-3/>

From *Ancestry*, the **1891 Census** has the Fletcher family living at 1 Alexander Road, Ulverston. John Fletcher (38) is a Mining Engineer, born Whitehaven, Cumberland; Mary N. Fletcher (37), born Scotland; Arthur H? McK. Fletcher (11), scholar, born Liverpool; Harold Fletcher (8), scholar, born Liverpool; Ethel Fletcher(6), born Liverpool; Eric G. Fletcher (2), born Ulverston; Mary Mitchell (50), Domestic Nurse, born Scotland; Annie Menzies (26), General Domestic Servant, born Scotland.

At the time of the **1901 Census** John Fletcher (48), Mining Engineer, born Whitehaven, has moved to 12, Greenbank. Sharing the household is Joanna Thompson (45), widow, sister-in-law, living on own means, born Dumfries, Scotland; Eric G. Fletcher(12), no occupation recorded, born Ulverston; Jane Johnstone (45), General Domestic Servant, born Glasgow, Scotland.

In the **1911 Census** Eric Fletcher (23) is a Boarder at 12 Nicander Road, Liverpool. He is an architect's clerk. The family home is still 12, Greenbank, Ulverston, where Eric's parents still live, alongside Arthur Henry Fletcher (31), single, Analytical Chemist (Iron Smelting), born Liverpool; and Ethel Fletcher (26), single, no occupation recorded; and General Domestic Servant Sarah Jane Lawrence (26?), born Ulverston. Arthur died soon afterwards, in the second quarter of 1911.

Arthur Henry Fletcher appears on the **Royal Chelsea Hospital Pensioner Soldier Service Records**. He volunteered for the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment on 5 February 1900 (Service no 7292), and is described as a labourer. He was posted overseas on 16 March 1900, and promoted to Lance Corporal on 23 April 1900. His discharge was on 6 June 1901. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Clasps for Transvaal & Natal.

Mary Nicholson Fletcher died at Fountain Street Nursing Home, Ulverston on 4 January 1919, leaving her effects to her husband and unmarried daughter, Ethel.