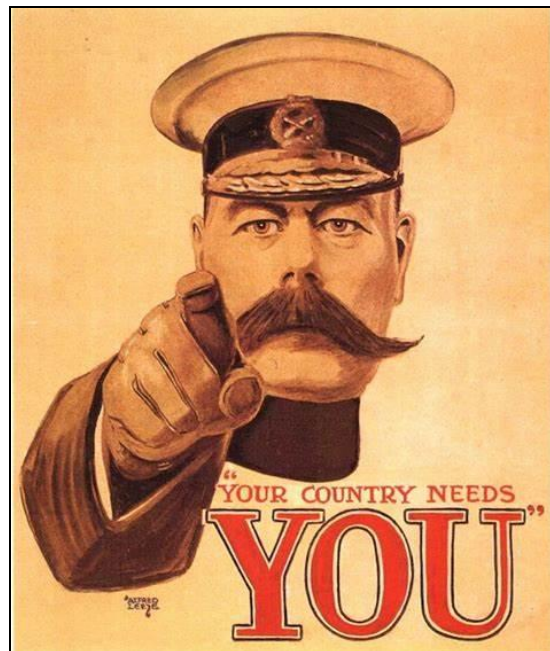


**IN MEMORY OF  
14853 PRIVATE HARRY TOON  
(APRIL 1895 – Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1915)  
9<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT  
KILLED IN ACTION IN WW.1**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART – UPDATED AUGUST 2020**

## **THE FRONT COVER IMAGES**

The original "Lord Kitchener Wants You" poster was a 1914 advertisement by Alfred Leete which was developed into a recruitment poster. It depicted Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War. Above the words "YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU". Kitchener, wearing the cap of a British Field Marshal, stares and points at the viewer calling them to enlist in the British Army against the Central Powers. The image is considered one of the most iconic and enduring images of World War I.

## **BRITISH ARMY STATISTICS - 1914**

At the beginning of 1914, the British Army had a reported strength of 710,000 men including reserves, of which around 80,000 were regular troops ready for war. By the end of the First World War almost 1 in 4 of the total male population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland had joined up, over five million men. Of these men, 2.67 million joined as volunteers and 2.77 million as conscripts (although some volunteered after conscription was introduced and would most likely have been conscripted anyway).

## **COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION (CWGC) CERTIFICATE FOR 14853 PRIVATE HARRY TOONE BEINVILLER'S MILITARY CEMETERY**

**In Memory Of  
Private**

**H TOON**

**9th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment who died on 15 November 1915 Age 20**

**Son of Thomas and Annie Toone, of 334, Western Terrace, Coalville, Leicester.**

**Native of Griffydam, Leicester.**

**Remembered with Honour**

**BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY**

**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH**

**WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

## BEINVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY

Bienvillers Military Cemetery was begun in September 1915 by the 37th Division, and carried on by other Divisions in the line until March 1917, reopened from March to September 1918, when the village was again near the front line, **and completed in 1922-24 when a number of graves, mainly of 1916, were brought in from the battlefields of the Ancre.** Its twenty-one plots show a remarkable alternation of original burials in regimental or divisional groups, and groups of concentrated graves. The cemetery now contains 1,605 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 425 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to two casualties known or believed to be buried among them. The 16 Second World War burials all date from the early months of the war, before the German invasion in May 1940 forced the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from France. *(taken from the CWGC website for which they own the copyright).*

Bienvillers is a large village in the department of the Pas de Calais 18 kilometres south-west of Arras.

Harry Toon's death is recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and he is listed as being buried at **BEINVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY** – Grave reference - I. A.71. **Toon is miss spelt as Toone in their records and on his gravestone.**



Bienviller's Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France



**PRIVATE HARRY TOONS' GRAVE**

**(Copyright of original - Michael Doyle Their Name Liveth For Evermore: The Great War Roll of Honour for Leicestershire and Rutland)**

**THERE IS A LINK DEATH CANNOT SEVER  
LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE LIVE FOREVER**



# HARRY TOON

## **Ages given are taken from the 1911 census records**

Little did Thomas Toon (aged 45), a coal miner, and his wife Annie (40) Toon (Nee Birkin) know the future tragedy that was to befall them after they moved to Griffydham sometime between 1901 and 1911 with their five sons Harry (16), Maurice (12), Thomas (10), John (9) and Fred (8) to live in one of the last cottages at the end of Elder Lane where it meets the Rempstone Road. Thomas and Annie were born in Melbourne and Newbold respectively and all the sons were born in Worthington. Harry (born April 1895) is shown on the 1911 census as a "Clay Worker - Pipe Works – Earthenware" (presumably at The Lount Brick and Sanitary Pipe Company, Newbold), but the following report of his death in the Coalville Times states that he worked at Coleorton Colliery, presumably Coleorton No.3. (Bug & Wink).

Harry was one of the volunteers that joined Kitchener's Army in 1914 at the young age of 19 when he enlisted at Coleorton hall on Sept 5th 1914 and was posted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire regiment (service number 14853) which was raised at Leicester in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's third new army (K3). The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire regiment joined the 23<sup>rd</sup> division as divisional troops. In April 1915 they transferred to the 11th brigade, 39<sup>th</sup> division. After many months training in various camps in England, they were mobilised for War and proceeded to France on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1915. The division, following trench warfare training in the area of Tilques, were then engaged in various actions on the Western Front where Harry Toon sadly lost his life.

It was only just over 18 weeks after the regiment arrived in France that Thomas and Annie received the devastating news that their son had been killed in battle. There follows a report from the Coalville Times:-

### **Coalville Times – Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915**

#### **GRIFFYDAM SOLDIER KILLED – A FORMER MINER AT COLEORTON COLLIERY**

Mr & Mrs. Thomas Toon, of Griffydham, have received information that their son, Private Harry Toon (14853), 16<sup>th</sup> Platoon, D. Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, has been killed in action at a place not stated. The sad news was first received in a letter from Second-Lieutenant. V. W. Sheldon, who states that Toon was killed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Private Toon was aged 20, and resided with his parents at Griffydham and worked at Coleorton Colliery. He and his two pals, Privates C. Platts and S. Johnson, enlisted at Coleorton Hall, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914, and after training in various camps in England, landed "somewhere in France" on July 29<sup>th</sup> last.

**According to the CWGC registration documents, Thomas and Annie Toone, where living at 334, Western Terrace, Coalville, Leicestershire, but these appear to be c.1920 when they were completed.**



*Peter & Michael Doyle Library*

*Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France*

**(Copyright of original - Michael Doyle Their Name Liveth For Evermore: The Great War Roll of Honour for Leicestershire and Rutland)**

## WHY ARE ALL THE LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENTS REFERRED TO AS "THE TIGERS" ?

In 1825, the regiment which at that time was known as the "17th Foot", was given the honour of wearing the insignia of a tiger superimposed with the word "Hindoostan", in recognition of its long stint in India between 1804 and 1823. The regiment began to be popularly called the Tigers and the name has since stuck. All the Leicestershire regiments wore the badge below in various formats. The current Leicester Rugby Team took the name of "The Tigers"



**MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH  
WORTHINGTON**



**Harry Toon's name is  
marked by red dots.**



# GRAVE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W 3372.

## GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FOR...

COMMUNE: BIENVILLERS. REPORT No. 1. SCHEDULE No. 5.c.

PLACE OF BURIAL BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57d.E.7.b.45.25.

The following are buried here:—

ENTERED. 29.6.20  
SLIPS OK. CKLD. ES 15/7/20

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 1. ROW "A" (CONTD.)						
9/Leicesters	969 <del>14896</del>	ILIFFE	PTE J.	10.11.15.	GRU.	67✓
7/ -do (S.L./L.S./6/6039)	11558	TIFT	PTE F.W.	20.11.15.	GRU.	68✓
7/ "	15653	AMATT	PTE J.E.	11.11.15.	GRU.	69✓
9/ " (S.L./L.S./6/6039)	16075	HALL	L/C.J.	10.12.15.	GRU.	70✓
9/ " (S.L./L.S./6/6039)	14853	TOOME	PTE H.	15.11.15.	GRU.	71✓
9/ "	15106	KING	PTE J.	25.11.15.	GRU.	72✓
9/ "	12835	BATCHELOR	PTE J.W.	24.11.15.	GRU.	73✓
7/ "	11447	ANDERSON	PTE J.W.	27.11.15.	GRU.	74✓
9/ "	13540	CONNAH	L/C.J.	4.12.15.	GRU.	75✓
7/ "	11398	MARLOW	PTE A.	17.12.15.	GRU.	76✓
9/ "	14534	CAPENHURST	L/C.A.	20.12.15.	GRU.	77✓
7/ "	12215	WALKER	PTE F.	16.12.15.	GRU.	78✓
7/ "	11248	MALLENDER	PTE W.S.	1.1.16.	GRU.	79✓
9/ "	18555	WHISTON	L/C.A.C.	20.1.16.	GRU.	80✓
7/ "	11742	BERRY	PTE G.	25.1.16.	GRU.	81✓
9/ "	11831	MOORE	P TE W.B.	27.1.16.	GRU.	82✓



No. of Contract.....dated.....

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

SCHEDULE "A" PAGE 4

Name and address of Firm,

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS

NAME OF CEMETERY.

to this report is attached

BIENVILLERS M. C.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS

(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined) and

To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:-

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

BIEN. 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 Headstones below ground level.	
	Number and Rank	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment	Date of Death	Age	Relig. Emb.	Plot Row R. of Grave G Stone
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1035/1A	11694 PRIVATE	R. CURSLEY	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	23RD SEPTEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A H 61
1035/1A	12875 PRIVATE	A.G. RAVEN	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	26TH SEPTEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 62
1035/1C	14785 CORPORAL	E.M. ROBERTSON	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	4TH OCTOBER 1915	AGE 20	CROSS	1 A 63
1035/1B	11872 PRIVATE	S.E. LEE	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	24TH OCTOBER 1915	AGE 24	CROSS	1 A 64
1035/1A	11335 SERJEANT	W. COPE	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	26TH OCTOBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A H 65
1035/1A	12137 PRIVATE	A. BAILEY	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	2ND NOVEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 66
1035/1B	14969 PRIVATE	E.W. ILIPPE	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	11TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 32	CROSS	1 A 67
1035/1A	<del>11553</del> 11553 PRIVATE	F.W. TIFT	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	20TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 22	CROSS	1 A H 68
1035/1A	15653 PRIVATE	J.E. AMATT	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	11TH NOVEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 69
1035/1A	16075 LANCE CPL.	J.H. HALL	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	9TH DECEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 70
1035/1B	14853 PRIVATE	H. TOONE	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	15TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 20	CROSS	1 A 71
1035/1C	15106 PRIVATE	J. KING	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	25TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 18	CROSS	1 A 72
1035/1B	12835 PRIVATE	J.W. BATCHELOR	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	24TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 23	CROSS	1 A 73
1035/1A	11447 PRIVATE	J.W. ANDERSON	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	27TH NOVEMBER 1915	AGE 30	CROSS	1 A H 74
1035/1A	13540 LANCE CPL.	JAMES CONNAH	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	3RD DECEMBER 1915	AGE 28	CROSS	1 A H 75
1035/1B	11396 PRIVATE	A. MARLOW	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	17TH DECEMBER 1915	AGE 21	CROSS	1 A 76
1035/1A	14534 LANCE CPL.	A. CAPENHURST	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	20TH DECEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 77
1035/1A	12215 PRIVATE	F. WALKER	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	16TH DECEMBER 1915	NONE	CROSS	1 A 78
1035/1A	11248 PRIVATE	W.S. MALLENDER	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	1ST JANUARY 1916	NONE	CROSS	1 A 79
1035/1B	18555 LANCE CPL.	A.C. WHISTON	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	20TH JANUARY 1916	AGE 19	CROSS	1 A 80

Proof Checked.....  
 Final Check No. 1.....  
 Office Copy Prepared.....  
 Final Check No. 2.....

Name and address of Firm. C MPREHENSIVE REPORT B HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS NAME OF CEMETERY.  
 ..... to be read in conjunction with BLENVILLERS M.C.  
 ..... COMPREHENSIVE REPORT A HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS  
 ..... together with  
 T O STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used  
 are quoted on the badge design.)

Badge Design No. and Layout.	Headstone No.	TEXT.				No. of Letters in text. (7)
		Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	61					
	62					
1035/1C	63	MISSIONS	ARE THE SERVICE OF GOD (Mr. F. S. Robertson, Bertha Cottage, Woodside, Coupar Angus, N.B.)			26 7-7
1035/1B	64	HE SHALL RISE AGAIN	(Mr. S. J. Lee, Bridge House, Selston, Notts.)			16 4-8
	65					
	66					
1035/1E	67	A CHEERY WORD	A SMILE FOR ALL (Mrs. E. Iliffe, 2, Queen Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.)	HE DIED A HERO	LOVED BY ALL	44 12-10
	68		(Mrs. M. H. Rickard, High Street, Coningsby, Lincs.)			
	69					
	70					
1035/1E	71	THERE IS A LINK	DEATH CANNOT SEVER (Mrs. T. Toone, 334, Western Terrace, Ashby Road Coalville Near Leicester.)	LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE	LIVE FOREVER	57 16-7
1035/1C	72	EVER IN THE THOUGHTS	OF THOSE THAT LOVED HIM (Mr. S. King, 23 West Holme Street, Leicester.)			36 10-6
1035/1B	73	FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH	(Mrs. A. Batchelor, 18 Granville Street, Woodville Near Burton on Trent			17 4-4
	74		(Mr. F. Anderson, 8 Esk Terrace, Toll Bar, Bentley Near Doncaster)			
	75		(Mrs. M. A. Connah, 27, Brook Street, Buckley, Near Chester).			

Proof Checked.....  
 Final Check No. 1.....  
 Office Copy Prepared.....  
 Final Check No. 2.....

Names and addresses of Next of kin shown in brackets and are not to be engraved on the headstone.

2-17-1 196  
 2



TOMKINSON, Pte. W. W., 1525. 1st/7th Bn. Sherwood Foresters. 22nd June, 1916. V. A. 3.

TOMLINSON, Pte. William, 205611. 2nd/4th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. Killed in action 24th May, 1918. Age 25. Son of William Tomlinson, of 8, Ronald Rd., Balby, Doncaster; husband of Edith Annie Tomlinson, of Westfield Lodge, Trinity St., Huddersfield. XX. B. 1.

TOONE, Pte. H., 14853. 9th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 15th Nov., 1915. Age 20. Son of Thomas and Annie Toone, of 334, Western Terrace, Coalville, Leicester. Native of Griffydham, Leicester. I. A. 71.

TORPEY, Pte. F., 12179. 2nd Bn. Irish Guards. 27th March, 1918. Son of Mr. J. Torpey, of Park Hotel, Park Lane, Wigan. I. A. 21.

TOVELL, Pte. Arthur George, 25090. 138th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). Killed in action 1st Feb., 1917. Age 22. Born at Huntingdon. Son of Arthur and Jane Tovell, of 162, North St., Hugglescote, Leicester. VII. B. 2.

TOWNSEND, Pte. D. J., 77224. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers, attd. Trench Mortar Bty. 7th June, 1918. XVIII. B. 11.

TOWNSEND, Pte. H. H., 2459. 2nd Bn. London Regt. (R. Fus.) attd. 12th Bn. London Regt. (The Rangers). 1st July, 1916. XIX. J. 14.

TOWNSEND, Pte. S., G/12203. 2nd Bn. Middlesex Regt. 23rd Oct., 1916. XXI. K. 5.

TRAFFORD, Pte. J., 19861. 10th Bn. Loyal North Lancs Regt. 27th June, 1916. Age 28. Brother of James Trafford, of 29, Wentworth St., Heyworth St., Liverpool. II. C. 6.

TRELIVING, Lt. A. S. 23rd Bn. Middlesex Regt. attd. Trench Mortar Bty. Killed in action 29th March, 1918. Age 24. Son of A. G. Treliving, of Ilford, Essex; husband of E. A. Treliving, of 1031A, Romford Rd., Manor Park, Essex. I. A. 18.

TRENCH, Lt. Frederick Power le Poer. 3rd Bn. Leinster Regt. attd. 2nd Bn Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 9th April, 1916. Age 24. Only son of Frederick and Catherine Le Poer Trench, of "Edymead", Clarence Park South, Weston-super-Mare. XIV. A. 6.

TRODD, Rfn. G. J., S/9852. 2nd Bn. The INDEX No. Fr. 745 Rifle Brigade. 23rd Oct., 1916. Son of Mrs. BIENVILLERS Fuller, of 2, Sussex Grove, Brixton, London. MIL. CEM. VIII. C. 5.

TROTTER, Lce. Serjt. A., 20939. 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards. 7th June, 1918. Son of Mr. M. Trotter, of Bishopston, Ferry Hill, Durham. XVIII. B. 20.

TUNNAcliffe, Cpl. A., G/5123. 13th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 4th May, 1918. Son of Mrs. M. Tunnacliffe. XV. A. 10.

TURNER, Pte. Herbert James, 77795. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 6th June, 1918. Age 18. Son of Mrs. E. Turner, of Somerton Rd., Martham, Great Yarmouth. Native of Fleggburgh. XVIII. B. 14.

TURNER, Pte. Lewis, 306836. 2nd/7th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. 29th May, 1918. Age 30. Son of Miles and Mary Turner, of 36, Moorfield St., Halifax; husband of Emma Jane Turner, of 10, Osborne Grove, Lightcliffe, Yorks. XXI. A. 5.

TURVER, Pte. Ernest, 30339. "A" Coy. 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards. Killed in action 23rd May, 1918. Age 21. Son of George Turver, of Clifton, Brighouse, Yorks. XIX. A. 11.

TWEEDIE, Gnr. J., 190934. 342nd Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery. 27th May, 1918. Age 32. Husband of Sarah Tweedie, of Borgue Village, Kirkcudbright. XVIII. A. 1.

TWIGG, Serjt. J., 241581. 5th Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Inf. 23rd June, 1918. Son of Mrs. M. A. Twigg, of 23, Doncaster Rd., Elmsall, Pontefract. XXI. D. 7.

TWIST, Spr. Thomas, 235. 1st/1st North Midland Field Coy. Royal Engineers. Killed in action 5th Oct., 1916. Age 21. Son of George John and Lucy Twist, of 13, Loxley Rd., Bearwood, Smethwick, Staffs. V. C. 2.

TYLER, Bmdr. Horace Charles, 106038. "B" Bty. 296th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 30th April, 1918. Age 36. Husband of Amelia Jane Tyler, of 75, Windsor Rd., Richmond, Surrey. XIII. D. 5.

TYLER, Pte. W., 12661. 6th Bn. Bedfordshire Regt. 4th May, 1916. IV. D. 4.

22 - mtd.