

dartmoor cemetery

overview

Dartmoor Cemetery was the site of a dressing station just outside of Albert, now a place of rest with a wealth of stories.

george and robert lee: father and son

When teenager Robert Lee (grave location: I. A. 36) joined the army, his father also volunteered in order to keep him safe. Sadly they were both killed by shellfire on September 5th 1916 and are buried alongside each other. Their grieving mother and widow, Frances, wrote two dedications for their gravestones but then changed them both to "Thy Will Be Done":

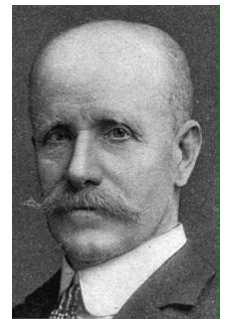
1186/20 ^B	35	THY WILL BE DONE HE TOILED AND SUFFERED	FATHEFUL TO THE END (Mrs. F. Lee, 16 Talfourd Rd, Peckham, S.E. 15.)
1186/20 ^B	36	THY WILL BE DONE MY LOVE FOR HIM	WILL SPEEL BE GIVEN AND NEVER PAKE AWAY (Mrs. F. Lee, 16 Talfourd Rd, Peckham, S.E. 15.)

john sweeney: shot at dawn

John Sweeney (II. B. 1) was a volunteer in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force who saw action in Gallipoli in 1915 before being stationed to the Somme. Unable to cope any longer, he deserted his regiment in 1917. He was captured five weeks later, found guilty of cowardice and shot at 5.44 am on October 2nd. His father, Bernard, lost another son in 1918 and later took his own life in despair.

james miller: vc recipient

Private James Miller (I. C. 64) was aged 26 when he was killed on 30th July 1916, his bravery earning him a posthumous Victoria Cross. An extract from *The London Gazette* states that "Private Miller was ordered to take an important message under heavy shell and rifle fire and to bring back a reply at all costs. He was compelled to cross the open, and on leaving the trench was shot almost immediately in the back, the bullet coming out through his abdomen. In spite of this, with heroic courage and self-sacrifice, he compressed with his hand the gaping wound in his abdomen, delivered his message, staggered back with the answer and fell at the feet of the officer to whom he delivered it. He gave his life with a supreme devotion to duty."



henry webber: the oldest casualty

Dartmoor Cemetery contains the grave of the oldest casualty of the war (location: I. E. 54). When war broke out in 1914, Henry Webber was a retired stock broker. He was a judge and president of the local Boy Scouts Association. With three sons serving in France, he insisted on joining up too despite being so old. He was killed by shellfire in Mametz wood, aged 68, while bringing up supplies. Webber's family received personal messages of sympathy from the King and Queen. His wife never really recovered, dying two years later. His three sons survived the war. His gravestone bears the familiar words: "dulce et decorum est pro patria mori".