2nd Lieutenant Walter Tull was sent to the Italian Front and became the first black officer in the British Army to command white troops.

He twice led his Company across the River Piave on a raid in enemy territory and both times brought all of his troops back safely with out a single casualty.

He was mentioned in despatches for his bravery and was recommended for a Military Cross, which he never received.
After their time in Italy, Walter’s Battalion was transferred to the terrible Somme Valley in France. On March 21, 1918, the Germans made one last desperate effort to win World War One.

On 25 March, 1918, Walter was killed by machine gun fire near Favreuil aerodrome. Leicester goalkeeper, Private Tom Billingham, attempted to retrieve his body under heavy fire but was unsuccessful due to the enemy soldiers advance. Having no known grave, his name is inscribed on Bay 7, Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d’Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France.

In 1999 Walter Tull’s former club, Northampton Town, erected a memorial outside of Sixfields Stadium, naming the road to the stadium “Walter Tull Way”.

“I lost my brother Walter. He was a footballer you know and the first black infantry Officer in the British army. I lost him once before when we were just boys in the orphanage at Bethnal Green and then I lost him again in the German offensive of ‘18’.”
Britain’s Boy

The train rumbled through Nunhead, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill stations without a word being spoken by anyone. Then as they crossed the Thames shortly before arriving at Victoria, the grieving mother from Sidcup spoke. “I’ll always believe it is my son Thomas,” she said, defying the others to contradict her. The elegant lady glanced up and replied firmly but politely, “I’ll always be sure it is my Francis.”
The young widow from Gillingham looked as if she was about to speak, but seemed to think better of it. Instead she reached into her clutch purse and pulled out a label which was still attached to a length of parcel string. She seemed to stare at it for a while before returning it to her bag. She remained silent.

“It will be my brother Walter,” said the man in the corner in a very certain tone. Nobody replied this time. They all turned to the window and gazed out onto the platform as they pulled into Victoria. Each lost in their own thoughts.
Florence Margaret Tompkins was already pregnant with her son Jim when she married James Brill in 1914. She was just 16 years of age and struggling to cope as a young mother when war broke out.

Her husband joined the Royal Marines in Chatham and was sent out to fight the Turks in the Dardanelles campaign in 1915. He was seriously wounded and died of his wounds aboard HMT “Mashobra” on 3 May 1915. He was buried in Alexandria, Egypt which meant that his wife could never afford to visit his grave.

His last effects were sent back from the hospital ship to the barracks in Chatham and sent onto Florence at her home in Kensington. This was in 1915. Florence died in 1965. She kept James tattered photo and the string that had tied up that last parcel in her purse until the day she died, nearly 60 years later. Nearly one million British lives were lost in World War One. Imagine the grief Florence felt magnified this number of times over.
Charles David Waller was born in Croydon on December 20th 1892. As David and Anna Waller’s only son he was expected to one day take over the family building and decorating company that his Yorkshire born grandfather had started in 1853. His father paid for him to attend Whitgift Grammar school and apprenticed him into the family firm as a carpenter on leaving school.

Charles was 21 when war broke out on 4th August 1914. Two weeks later he enlisted with the Queen’s Westminster Rifles at their Croydon recruiting centre. He left for France on the 19th February 1915 and served in the trenches at Houplines and Ypres. The impact of this time can clearly be seen. The fresh faced recruit in the picture taken in Croydon (left) contrasts with his gaunt expression in the one taken on leave having just left the trenches (below). The rail warrant shows this was on November 2nd and that he returned to his parent’s home.
Charles was one of the 689 men of the Queen's Westminsters who attacked the German lines at Gommecourt on 1st July 1916. 494 of these men were to be killed or wounded (72% of the Battalion). Charles was one of those killed and like Captain Francis Gibbon Swainson has no known grave. His parents initially received a telegram informing them he was missing in action. A year later his father David wrote to the Red Cross for news. Their letter confirmed the worst. Five years later David Waller was still trying to track down the final resting place of his only son through the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission.

Postscript
A Father’s Only Son:
Rfm 2327 Charles David Waller
David Waller never got over the loss of his only son. He attended two memorial services at Westminster Abbey in 1919 and 1921, the latter to dedicate a special window in memory of the fallen soldiers of the Queen’s Westminsters (right). He also attended the opening of the Thiepval memorial to the missing of the Somme in 1932. Like other families he received his son’s medals and death plaque but nothing could replace his only son, the lad he’d groomed from birth to take over the family business.
IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN OF
THE QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER
RIFLES.

The New Window Erected in Westminster Abbey
From a drawing in colour by D. Macpherson

Recently, in Westminster Abbey, the Prince of Wales, as Honorary
Colonel of the Queen's Westminster and City Service Rifles, unveiled a
handsomely-stained glass memorial to the men of the Queen's Westminster
Rifles who fell in the war. This regiment thus preserves the unique
distinction of being the only Territorial regiment to be commemorated in
perpetuity in the Abbey. The window is the work of the house of
Powell. It contains large-scale figures of St. George, the Patron Saint
of England and of the Army, and King Richard I, the great Crusader.
Among a long list of other notable figures, the battalion specifically
commemorates its share in the battles of Ypres Salient and in the capture
and defence of Jerusalem, and these are commemorated by views of the
ruins of Ypres Cathedral and of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at
Jerusalem. The figure of St. Denis of France, St. Martin of Ypres,
St. Peter, the Patron Saint of the Abbey of Westminster, and St. Louis,
the King of France, who was associated with the Crusades, are
appropriately depicted, and at the base of the shafting are the regimental
badge and coats of arms.
To Grandad,

Monty is not forgotten

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going dawn of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.”

(Laurence Binyon)
A Window for the Abbey 37
Focus: Art & Design

In Memoriam 39
Focus: Poetry

Not Forgotten 43
Focus: ICT Research

Plenty of Rain, Mud & Other Things 47
Focus: Letter writing

Shot at Dawn 51
Focus: Newspaper story

Swainson’s Last Letter Home 56
Focus: Letter writing

The King’s Telegram 61
Focus: Diary writing

The Return of the Unknown Warrior 63
Focus: Play script writing

Curriculum Links 68

Not Forgotten Image Credits 77
Sgt Richard Monty Daniel was killed by a German shell on the 26th October 1916 after only 6 days in the trenches. Monty came from a family of bargeman from Rochester in Kent. Before the war he worked as a shipwright in Chatham Dockyard and served part time in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (REKMR). He transferred to the Buffs in September 1916 and when he was killed he was still wearing his REKMR uniform with his Sergeant's stripes. Despite this the army refused to pay his wife of only 3 months a Sergeant’s widow’s pension.

Captain Francis Gibbon Swainson MC was killed at Gommecourt, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916. Francis came from a wealthy family in Preston Lancashire and joined the Queen’s Westminster Rifles as a 2nd Lieutenant at the outbreak of war in 1914. By June 1916, at the age of only 21, he was a Captain and holder of the Military Cross for bravery in battle at Ypres. Swainson was initially listed as missing, and his mother Eliza did not have confirmation of his death until nearly a year later.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Tull was killed on March 25th 1918. Walter grew up in Folkestone, but lost both his parents at an early age and was taken into the Bonner Road orphanage in Bethnal Green. He played football for Clapton, Tottenham Hotspurs and Northampton Town before war broke out. In December 1914, Walter enlisted in the The Football Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and proved to be such a distinguished soldier that he was made an officer in May 1917. Later that year Walter made history by becoming the first black Briton to lead troops into battle at Piave in Italy. He was nominated for a Military Cross but never received his medal.

Private Thomas Highgate was the first British soldier to be shot at dawn on 8 September 1914. During the hectic retreat from the Battle of Mons, he was caught in a barn, accused of desertion, and sent into an immediate Court Martial. He was given no assistance with his trial and found guilty of desertion. The army made sure he was executed in front of other troops to deter others. In 2006, Parliament granted a Royal Pardon to Highgate, but his hometown of Shoreham, Kent refuses to recognise him on their memorial.
• WRITE your soldier’s name in the centre arch at the top of the window.
• WRITE an epitaph in the oblong at the top of the stained glass window.

Epitaph: An inscription on a tombstone or monument commemorating the person buried there OR a short piece of writing celebrating the life of a deceased person. An example of an epitaph is “Gone, but not forgotten.”

Supported through Their Past Your Future 2 (TPYF 2) Programme
The Thiepval memorial is the largest British war memorial in the world. The memorial contains the names of 73,357 British and South African men who have no known grave and who fell on the Somme between July 1916 and 20 March 1918. Both Monty Daniel and Francis Swainson’s names are found here.

On a memorial of this size there is no space for an epitaph to remember any individual. It is very easy for soldiers like Francis and Monty to become lost amongst so many names.

Epitaph
An epitaph is a short inscription on a tombstone in memory of the person buried there.

In Memoriam
Is a Latin phrase meaning ‘in memory.’ It is often used to remember someone after they’ve died.
“His face was a ray of sunshine
Amongst so many dark clouds”

“Little cross of bronze
The cross he won
But never wore
My son”

“In Memoriam
The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Eastertide call into mind the men,
Now far from home, who, with their sweethearts, should
Have gathered them and will never do again.
Edward Thomas
(written a year before he died at Arras in 1917)

“The Coward
I could not look on Death, which being known,
Men led me to him, blindfold and alone
Rudyard Kipling

“A Son
My son was killed while laughing at some jest. I would
I knew
What it was, and it might serve me in a time when jests
are few.
Rudyard Kipling
(following the death of his son John in 1915)
The Unknown Warrior
Thousands of soldiers killed in World War One were left with no known grave. They are honoured in Westminster Abbey through the tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The remains of an unidentified soldier were brought back to England and buried amongst the Kings of England on 11th November, 1920.

SECTION 1: Can you write an epitaph for a window for Westminster Abbey dedicated to one of the four soldiers in the Not Forgotten Story.

- Read through your soldier’s story in the Not Forgotten booklet and answer the questions in the box below. This will help you remember the key parts of his life.
- Use the template to put together an epitaph.
- Use your epitaph in your stained glass window.

What were the major events in your soldier’s life?


How did your soldier die and how do you think he would have felt about the circumstances of his death?


How do you think he would like to be remembered?


In Memoriam

Focus: Poetry

Activity 2
SECTION 2: Now try and write your epitaph for your soldier.
Remember the epitaphs are usually quite short, four lines are normally enough.

My list of words and phrases
Write a list of words or phrases for your epitaph

Sort out my list of words and phrases
Now look at all the thoughts you have jotted down.
Can you put them into some sort of order?

The final draft of my poem
Ask a partner to read through what you have written.
What works well? What isn’t clear and needs improving?
When you have done this give your epitaph a title and write your final draft in this box
Use your answers to section 1 to help you

In Memoriam
**Focus: ICT Research**

**Activity 3**

**Not Forgotten**

**CHOOSE** some soldiers who are featured on one of the 4 memorials featured below and see if you can find out any further information on the CWGC website.

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

QWR Scroll Westminster Abbey

Sidcup War Memorial

Chatham Dockyard

Dover War Memorial

Francis G Swainson 1916

Thomas Highgate 1914

R Monty Daniel 1916

Walter Tull 1918

Charles D Waller 1916

Percy Jones 1915

Fred Langdon 1915

George T Palmer 1916

Hugh F Mott 1916

Reg Unwin 1916

Victor Marlow 1917

William J Norris 1918

Richard H Treffry 1917

Ernest Weller 1918

**Not Forgotten** Focus: ICT Research Activity 3

44

43

149
**VISIT** your local war memorial. Write down the names of 4 soldiers and the regiment in the army that they belonged. Now fill out the rest of the table with the information you find when you search the CWGC website (see instructions below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Soldier</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
<th>Where they are buried</th>
<th>Other information (Next of Kin, address etc...)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INSTRUCTIONS**

2. Double click on the ‘Search Our Records’ button.
3. Fill in the details that you have of your soldier/s on the ‘Debt of Honour Register’ form.
4. Click ‘submit’ (You should now see your soldier’s name come up with more information about him or her)
5. Click on to the name of your soldier and more information will come up, which you can use to fill in the table.
6. Click to see a certificate showing your soldiers name and the picture of the cemetery or memorial where they are remembered.

www.cwgc.org
In Memory of
Private RICHARD MONTY DANIEL

G/12973, 7th Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
who died
on 26 October 1916

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
In Memory of
Private RICHARD MONTY DANIEL
G/12973, 7Bn., The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment
who died age 28
on 26th October 1916
Next of kin often shown here (closest relation)
Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
Cemetery: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Country: France
Locality: Somme

Location Information: The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929). Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July.

Historical Information: On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, corpse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918. The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial. The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 31 July 1932. The dead of other Commonwealth countries who died on the Somme and have no known graves are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

No. of Identified Casualties: 72107

Interpreting CWGC Information:

(1) Monty was a Private, the lowest rank in the army.
(2) Monty belonged to the East Kent Regiment (“The Buffs”), and was in the 7th Battalion. A Battalion is about 800 men.
(3) Monty’s army number was G/12973. He would have known this by heart and worn it around his neck on his dog tags. When a soldier died the number on his dog tags was used to identify him.
(4) Date of Monty’s death. Monty died on the 26th October 1916, during the Battle of the Somme.
(5) Some certificates show next of kin here. Jessie Daniel, however, is not recorded on his records at the Commonwealth War Graves website.
(6) Location of grave or memorial. As you can see his name is on a memorial, this means that Monty has no known grave! This is true of most of the men who died on the Somme. He is found in name only on Pier and Face 5 D.
READ the letter below right. It was written by Lance Corporal (Arthur) Victor Sharman from the Somme to his mother in Sidcup on the day that Monty Daniel died, 26th October 1916. Soldiers rarely wrote the truth when they wrote home and Victor obviously did not want to worry her but hints how things really are when he says, ‘There is plenty of rain and mud and other things out here.’

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn". (Laurence Binyon)

Soldiers in the trenches longed for what they called a ‘Blighty.’ This was a wound bad enough to get them home permanently. On the 13th August 1917 Victor Sharman got his Blighty. He was shot in the left arm at the beginning of the Battle of Passchendael and sent home. He never went back to war and when the war was over he married his sweetheart Muriel. He died of old age on 1st June 1995, aged 97.

As Victor wrote his letter on October 26th 1916 he had nearly 80 years ahead of him. For Monty that would be his last day alive. He had only been married 3 months but his life was over at just 29.
Dear Jessie

Six days now in this God forsaken hole, Haggard and hopeless in my muddy ‘home,’ Six days ago I staggered to this place, Sliding and slipping, sinking in my boots, In to the mud of Faback Graben trench. My first day here I’m eager to forget, For now we’ve marched into a grey, treeless world, That’s been shelled into my idea of hell. The rank stench of ‘No Man’s Land’ still haunts me, And its cause hangs limply from our wire. That first night a flare lit up the darkness, Revealing grinning rats, grown fat as cats, And when the brightness died in dark, The ice wind came to chill me to the bone, As I stood ankle deep in mud and slime. Between fitful moments of troubled sleep, I think of our training camps at Ramsgate, Flashing sabres charging at the gallop, Pointless preparation for war in France, That’s fought with bullets, shells and monstrous tanks.

I sit here ‘chatting’ with my mates from home, In vain hope of ridding ourselves oflice, For every unwanted guest we remove, It seems two more move in and take their place, To leave us just as lousy as before. We have cans of bully beef for dinner, And biscuits hard enough to feed to dogs, It’s left me dreaming dreams of Sunday roasts. Our tea is flavoured from a petrol can, But comes in handy when we need to shave.

Six days ago I staggered to this place, Now I long to be back in Gillingham, And hold you Jessie in my arms again, I keep our wedding picture close to me, To give me strength when I am feeling down. And now darling its time for me to close. Monty

NOW I AM A SOLDIER WITH NO KNOWN GRAVE.

They say that the one that has your name on Is the one shell you never get to hear. It’s true! All that I am, all that I was. Finished. Ended in an instant of blinding light. I was husband, brother, uncle...Sergeant? I died with my Sergeant’s stripes still on me. Now I have a number (G/12973), but no rank, And no body ‘neath a memorial stone. Here in my corner of a foreign field My story ends.

Peter Daniel

Supported through Their Past Your Future 2 (TPYF 2) Programme
Focus: Letter Writing

Activity 4

Plenty of Rain and Mud and Other Things

IMAGINE you are Monty. You saw a young boy in the street when you were travelling out to the trenches who reminds you of your nephew Billy. When you finally arrive in the trenches you decide to write a postcard to Billy and a letter to his father, your brother William, telling them about your life as a soldier in France.

• Read the poem “Dear Jessie” on page 42 to help you think of things to write.
• Use the Postcard template below to write a postcard to your nephew, Billy.
• You will need to be careful what you tell your nephew, he’s young and you don’t want to scare him with too much detail about what life is like in the trenches.

20th October, 1916

Master Billy Daniel
Medway House
Slipway Yard
Rochester
Kent
England
20th October, 1916

Dear brother, William,

Focus: Letter Writing

Plenty of Rain and Mud and Other Things

- Read the poem “Dear Jessie” on page 42 to help you think of things to write.
- Use the Postcard template below to write a postcard to your brother, William.
- You are close to your brother and can tell him truthfully how awful life in the trenches and the Somme really is.
On 8 September 1914, Private Thomas Highgate became the first British soldier in World War One to be shot at dawn for cowardice. During the retreat from the Battle of Mons, he was caught in a barn, accused of desertion, and sent for immediate trial. The speed of events forced Highgate into making his own defence. The members of his company who survived the battle were scattered amongst the retreat, making it impossible to call up character witnesses. His military conduct sheet had record of a previous desertion in February of 1914. Although the incident involved Highgate signing up for another regiment, not abandoning the military altogether, it damaged his credibility a great deal. In the end, it was his word against the civilian who found him.

The court found him guilty as charged and sentenced him to be executed at dawn. An attempt was made to make Highgate’s execution as public as possible, to deter others from deserting. In 2006, Parliament granted a Royal Pardon to Highgate and the other 345 soldiers who were shot at dawn during World War I. Even with the pardon, Highgate’s hometown of Shoreham, Kent refuses to recognize him on their memorial. He is remembered at the British memorial at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne in France and on the Sidcup War memorial in Kent.
Below is Thomas’s testimony. What is his version of what happened?

Source #1 Thomas Highgate’s Testimony at his trial:
“I came out of bivouac with my Regiment this morning, we halted on the side of the road. I fell out on the right to ease myself. The Regiment went on before I was finished. I went on but could not find them, got strolling about, went down into a farm, lay down in an empty house, and have a slight remembrance of putting some civilian clothes on, but do not remember exactly what happened until the man came down to arrest me…

Q Why did you say to M. Fermor you “wanted to get out of it and that was how you were doing it”, or words to that effect?
A “When he came to me, I told him that I was trying to get out of it, meaning that I had lost my way, wanted to get out of the place in which I was, and wanted to rejoin my regiment. I cannot say why I was in civilian clothes.”

Below is a first hand account of the Retreat from the Battle of Mons. What were the conditions that Thomas was surrounded by? Does this change the way you view his behaviour at the barn?

Source #2 Excerpts from The Retreat from Mons, August 23rd-September 5th, 1914 by Corporal Bernard John Denore:
“We marched all day long, miles and miles it seemed, probably owing to the fact that we had had no sleep at all since Saturday the 22nd, and had had very little food to eat… The marching was getting quite disorderly; numbers of men from other regiments were mixed up with us. …The men were discarding their equipment in a wholesale fashion, in spite of orders to the contrary; also many of them fell out, and rejoined again towards dusk. …It was the most terrible march I have ever done. Men were falling down like nine-pins. They would fall flat on their faces on the road, while the rest of us staggered round them, as we couldn’t lift our feet high enough to step over them…”

Below is a very brief summary of the trial. Would you find it difficult to defend yourself without a lawyer?

Source #3 Condensed Information from military records displaying the outcome of Thomas’s trial. An ‘accused’s friend’ is a defence lawyer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charges</th>
<th>Plea</th>
<th>Verdict</th>
<th>Remarks and Particulars of character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desertion</td>
<td>Not Guilty</td>
<td>Guilty</td>
<td>No accused’s friend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here is the testimony of the witness who originally found Thomas in the barn. What is his version of events?

Source #1 From the testimony of Thomas Fermor at Thomas Highgate’s Trial:

“...I went toward the MEDLIN and found there the accused here present before the court, dressed in civilian clothes. I asked him what he was doing, he answered “I have lost my Army, and I mean to get out of it”, or words to that effect. I asked him where his clothes were and what Regiment he belonged to. He said “The West Kent” I searched him and found on him the book which I produce. I took him to the place where he thought he had left his clothes, rifle, and cartridge. We found his clothes in a woodshed. His rifle and cartridge were missing - I took him to the MAIRIE and gave him up to the French police. I also produce his uniform which is marked 10061 R.W.K...”

Source #2 Condensed Information from Highgate’s Squadron, Troop, Battery, and Company Conduct Sheet:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date of Offence</th>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Punishment Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Aug 29, 1913</td>
<td>Exchanging duties without permission</td>
<td>7 days CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>7 Sept, 1913</td>
<td>Absent from tattoo until 11:25 pm</td>
<td>5 days CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>15 Feb, 1914</td>
<td>Having a rusty rifle on guard mounting parade</td>
<td>2 extra guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>28 Feb 1914</td>
<td>Deserting his majesty’s service</td>
<td>42 day Detention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>1 July 1914</td>
<td>Absent from tattoo until 10:40 pm</td>
<td>5 days CB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CB= Confined to barracks

To the right is information on Thomas’s behaviour while he was in the military. The desertion charge on 28 February 1914 is when Thomas tried to sign up for 2 regiments at the same time.

- What type of soldier does he appear to be?
- Are these major offences or minor offences?

To the left is a page that would have been in Thomas’s service book. It is an excerpt from a letter written by the War Secretary, Lord Kitchener, to the troops.

- What type of behaviour does Lord Kitchener expect from the soldiers?
Villagers Against Adding Deserter’s Name to Memorial

“...A proposal to add the name of the 19-year-old farm labourer, who deserted after less than two weeks of action during the Battle of Mons, was defeated by eight votes to one at a meeting of the parish council in Shoreham. Instead, councillors have agreed to leave a space for his name to be added if moves by Parliament to grant pardons to executed British soldiers succeed.

...George Jameson, the council chairman, said yesterday: “Many people felt strongly that he should not be on there. Local members of the British Legion said they would not want to salute a memorial bearing the name of a deserter. Others felt that, given the conditions during the First World War and the effects we now know that shell-shock can have on soldiers in the trenches, his name deserved to be added.”

...Michael Green, of the Royal British Legion, said: “Many men fought at Mons and stood their ground. Obviously, by deserting, Highgate put his comrades at further risk. Should his name be honoured alongside those who stood and served their country bravely? I don’t think so.”

Daily Telegraph, Monday 4 February, 2000

“Honour My Dead Uncle Like You Said You Would”

“...Earlier this month, Defence Secretary Des Browne announced he would be seeking a group pardon for all the soldiers shot for desertion, cowardice and other offences. Now Mr Highgate, 67, is calling on Shoreham’s parish council and British Legion to place Pte Highgate’s name on the memorial. There was a heated debate in the village in 2000 when it was discussed whether the name should go on its newly refurbished memorial. A gap was left in case Pte Highgate was ever pardoned. Now Mr Highgate, of Northumberland Park, Erith, says it is time for Shoreham to honour its pledge. The retired mechanic said: “I am pleased about the pardon. It will be welcomed, but it is obviously too late.

“The only thing I want is for the people of Shoreham, who said if ever he was pardoned his name would be put on the plaque, to fulfil their promise so my great-uncle can rest in peace and dignity.””

-Michael Rielly, News Shopper