

# The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



## The Great War 1914 - 1919



In Memory of

**LEONARD WILLIAMSON**

① ————— Corporal  
15929 ————— ②  
③ ————— 8th Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.)  
who died on  
Monday, 13th November 1916. Age 22. ④

Additional Information: Son of John and Rose Williamson, of Manchester.

⑤  
**Commemorative Information**

Cemetery:

Grave Reference/  
Panel Number:

Location:

⑥

**BERTRANCOURT MILITARY CEMETERY, Somme, France**

Plot I. Row K. Grave 3.

Bertrancourt is a village in the Department of the Somme. Using the D919 from Arras to Amiens you will drive through the villages of Bucquoy, Puisieux, Serre-les-Puisieux and then Mailly-Maillet (approximately 25 kilometres south of Arras). On leaving Mailly-Maillet, 100 metres further along the D919, turn left following the signs for Bertrancourt village (approximately 3 kilometres). On arrival at Bertrancourt take the first turning left and continue for 300 metres. A signpost will be seen which will direct you right onto a small lane which continues straight to Bertrancourt Military Cemetery.

Historical Information:

⑦

The Cemetery was used by Field Ambulances in 1916 and 1917, and by Corps and Divisional burial parties in the critical months of June, July and August, 1918, when the German front line, after two years, was again within 8 kilometres of it. Plot I contains British burials, the earliest dating from the second month after the British Army took over the Somme front (31st July, 1915) and the latest from the days following the capture of Beaumont-Hamel (26th November, 1916); and of these a large number belong to Yorkshire or Lancashire regiments. Plot II contains British burials (the majority belonging to Lancashire Territorial battalions), dating from the 2nd July, 1916, to the 23rd August, 1918. There are now over 400, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

### Display Record of Commemoration

#### Leonard Williamson

1. Leonard Williamson was a Corporal. This is the lowest NCO rank in the Army. Leonard was in charge of a section of eight men.
2. This is his individual regimental number. Leonard's number (15929) is a five-digit number. This indicates that he was probably one of those men who rushed to enlist shortly after the outbreak of war in response to Kitchener's appeal for volunteers. A four-figure number would indicate that a man is a pre-war regular soldier. A six-figure number suggests that a man had been conscripted later in the war.
3. This was Leonard's unit, the **8th Battalion, The King's Own Regiment**. The policy of recruiting regiments from a local area is emphasised by the regiment's other title, given in the brackets, **The Royal Lancaster Regiment**.
4. The date upon which Leonard died. In this case he died in the attack on the village of Serre.
5. These are Leonard's 'next of kin'. As they are his parents, he cannot have been married.
6. The cemetery where he is buried and the location of his grave.
7. The fact that he is buried in a cemetery used by a field ambulance suggests that he was not killed outright. However, he did not live long, or he would have been buried at a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) or a base hospital.