

No. 7 September 2015

1. 2nd Lieutenant Alfred Hallam Petty 5th Notts & Derby Regiment (Sherwood Foresters). 26 year old Alf Petty, like his brother Jack, was born in Hull. Also like his brother Alf had been a school teacher, teaching for a while at Chesterfield Grammar School. Their father Mortimer ran Eton House School in Hull but the family had strong ties with Bradwell and when Mortimer received word in July 1916 from the British Red Cross that his son had been wounded it was addressed to him at Kinder Cottage, The Hills. The message said that Alf had been wounded in the thigh during the advance and had crept into a shell hole. Another wounded soldier had managed to crawl back from the hole to report that Alf was wounded but was unable to move. Alf was considered to be too close to the German lines for rescue and so was taken prisoner of war to be transferred to a German hospital. Mortimer's hopes must have been raised when he received a note from a Lieutenant Theodore Downman dated 15th July. The note in part said Alf was being well looked after. His wounds were not necessarily serious but would keep him in bed for some time. After this reassurance it must have come as a hammer blow to Mortimer and his wife Sarah Hallam Petty when they learned on the 9th September that their son had died in captivity just 2 days after Lieutenant Downham's encouraging note. In 1924 Alf's body was re-interred in St Souplet British Cemetery near Cambrai, France.
2. 7823 Private Lionel Middleton Notts & Derby Regiment (Sherwood Foresters). Lionel who was aged 21 would have been visiting his father Thomas Middleton in Church Street. Lionel's mother Isabella had died before the war. In the 1911 census Lionel's occupation was given as apprentice joiner. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record shows that Lionel died on 24th October 1916 of wounds received fighting with the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers in the Battle of the Somme. Not surprisingly in view of the confusion that must have reigned at the time the War Diary of the 6th Battalion shows Lionel as being wounded one day later on the 25th October. Lionel is buried at Dartmoor Cemetery, Belcorderel-Belcourt, France