

The Nott Brothers

Thomas, Louis and Henry Nott were the sons of a noted engineering contractor, Louis Philip Nott (1858 – 1916). His success brought wealth and the family moved to Stoke House, Stoke Bishop which today is the main building of Trinity College.

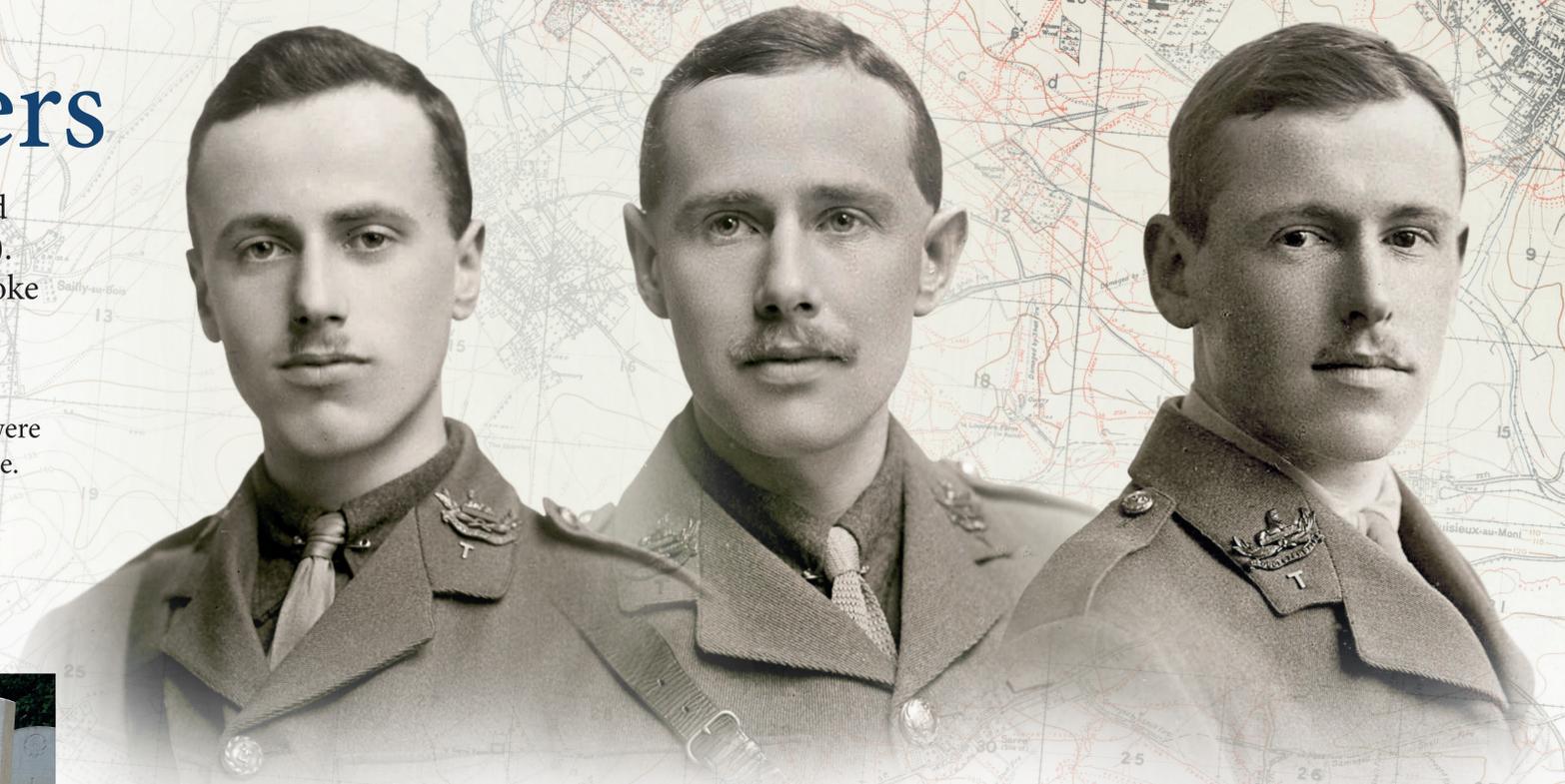
Thomas, Louis (known as Cameron) and Henry (known as Pat) were all educated at Clifton College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. When war broke out Cameron and Pat left Cambridge to return to Bristol, joining their older brother in the 6th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. After training, all three Nott brothers arrived in France at the end of March 1915.



Pat's grave at Hebuterne



The graves of Thomas and Cameron at Villers-Faucon



**Lieutenant
Henry Paton NOTT,
1/6th Battalion**

KILLED IN ACTION, 27 APRIL 1916,
AGE 21, BURIED AT HEBUTERNE
MILITARY CEMETERY

**Lieutenant Colonel
Thomas Walker NOTT DSO,
1/6th Battalion**

KILLED IN ACTION, 18 APRIL 1917,
AGE 28, BURIED AT VILLERS-FAUCON
COMMUNAL CEMETERY

**Captain
Louis Cameron NOTT MC,
1/6th Battalion**

KILLED IN ACTION, 18 APRIL 1917,
AGE 23, BURIED AT VILLERS-FAUCON
COMMUNAL CEMETERY

The youngest, 21-year-old Pat, was mentioned in despatches in December 1915 and killed on 27 April 1916. Needing to consult with his brother Thomas about patrol work for the night, he had been moving along a communication trench with a fellow officer when a shell made a direct hit and he was killed instantly. Henry is buried at Hebuterne Military Cemetery on the Somme.

Major Cecil Coates wrote a letter of sympathy to Henry's family back in Bristol:

'He joined my company in August 1914 and has been for some months my right-hand man. For the last month he has had command of 'C' Company. I have seen him under various circumstances and have always admired him for his keenness and ability. I could always rely on him, and have known him to do many a risky job rather than allow his men to expose themselves. In fact, I have had on several occasions to order him to stop. He was loved and respected by the whole company, and all join with me in sending sincere sympathy.'

His brother Cameron wrote home, 'many men of his company were in tears as they were very fond of our kid, as they used to call him.'

Having survived the 6th Battalion's part in the Battle of the Somme during July and August 1916 the

surviving brothers went on to distinguish themselves; Thomas earning a Distinguished Service Order in January 1917 and Cameron the Military Cross. Thomas was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel that month and took command of the battalion. By 1917 Cameron had reached the rank of Captain and had been the battalion's adjutant since July 1915.

In April 1917 the Battalion were following the Germans as they retreated from the Somme to the *Siegfried Stellung* (quickly dubbed the Hindenburg Line by the British). The landscape was systematically destroyed by the enemy; roads were blown up, houses knocked down, churches and buildings of any height razed to the ground to prevent observation, trees cut down and even reported cases of poisoned wells. Alongside such destruction the Germans left booby traps in their thousands and delayed action mines, all designed to impede the British advance.

On 18 April 1917 the 1/6th Gloucesters were in support in the village of Villers-Faucon where they made their Battalion HQ in a disused cellar. Unbeknown to them it had been chosen as the ideal site for a mine on a delay-action fuse. With the Headquarters holding both Thomas and Cameron alongside four other officers including the Battalion's Medical Officer and Chaplain, a mine detonated at 3.55am, killing the occupants instantly.



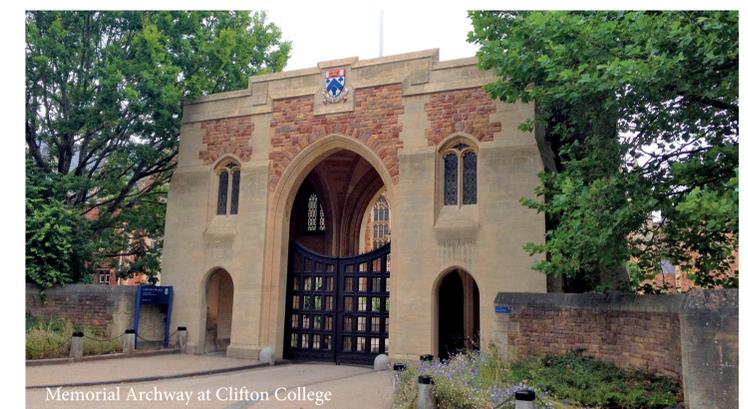
The Nott brothers commemorated on the family grave, Canford Cemetery

28-year-old Thomas and 23-year-old Cameron are buried alongside their fellow officers at Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery. They are also remembered with Pat, their younger brother on the Stoke Bishop War Memorial, Clifton College Memorial Arch, Emmanuel College War Memorial, Bude Memorial, Cornwall where the family owned Efford House, and on the family gravestone in Canford Cemetery.

On 2 May 1917 a memorial service for Thomas and Cameron was held at Redland Park Church which was attended by their mother Mary and six sisters. As well as losing her three sons in the space of a year, Mary Nott had also lost her husband; Louis dying in July 1916.



Cameron's original grave at Villers-Faucon



Memorial Archway at Clifton College

108 Corporal Hubert William CORNOCK, “C” Company, 1/6th Battalion

DIED OF WOUNDS, 26 JUNE 1915, AGE 26, BURIED AT BAILLEUL
COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, NORD

Hubert Cornock went overseas with the 1/6th Battalion at the end of March 1915, serving for 88 days before his death. His tale is a familiar story; a young life, full of promise ended by an enemy bullet.

A fluent French speaker, he lived at Kensington Hill, Brislington and had attended the Merchant Venturers' Technical College. Prior to the war he had worked at the Great Western Railway Offices at Temple Meads. Hubert had also served in the Volunteer Force (as a 16-year-old) since 27 February 1905 prior to the creation of the Territorial Force in 1908.

He was hit in the thigh whilst leaving trenches on Messines Ridge on 26 June 1915, dying from his wound later that night.

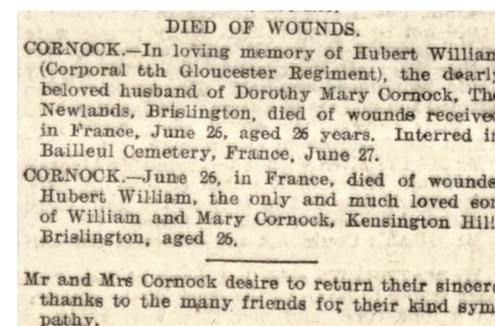


108 Corporal Hubert William Cornock,
“C” Coy, 1/6th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Lieut-Colonel H.C. Woodcock, O.C. 3/6th Battalion Gloucester Regiment, who had originally commanded the 1/6th Battalion wrote movingly to Hubert's father:

'It is with the deepest regret that I have heard of the death of your son, who had served so long with the 6th Gloucesters. You will probably remember that he served in my old "C" Company when I was Captain many years ago, and he formed one of a group of real good fellows for whom I have the greatest affection. He was always an enthusiastic and keen soldier, and especially since mobilisation has shown his true worth, and I am confident his loss will be felt, not only by his own Company comrades, but by the whole Battalion.'

Official notice of his death was also given in the 'In Memoriam' section of the Western Daily Press on 6 July 1915.



6 July 1915, Western Daily Press

The Battalion Chaplain (Rev. O. J. Loynes), wrote to Hubert's wife, Dorothy: *'He received a soldier's funeral, and was buried by me in Bailleul Cemetery, in a part especially consecrated and set apart for British soldiers. A wooden cross, with his name and regiment, has been erected on the grave, also grass has been sown, so that in a little while it ought to look nice. The number of his grave is 1427.'*



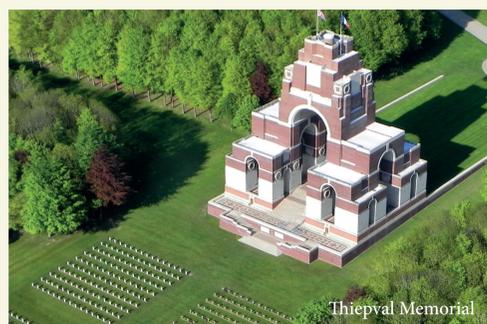
Private Henry Allaway in khaki with his family; wife Florence Elizabeth, eldest son Sydney James, daughter Phyllis Nora and youngest son Henry James.

Photo courtesy of Len Allaway

266377 (formerly 4250)

Private Henry J. ALLAWAY, 1/6th Battalion

KILLED IN ACTION, 21 JULY 1916, AGE 37, COMMEMORATED
ON THE THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, SOMME



Thiepval Memorial

Henry Allaway was born in St Werburgh's in 1878, one of seven children. He attended Stoke Bishop School and later worked as a fishmonger's errand boy. In 1899 he married Florence Elizabeth Thomas and they had three children. When war broke out the family were living at 64 Chessel Street, Bedminster with Henry working as a boiler cleaner for the Electricity Depot, a protected occupation, meaning he did not have to enlist. Despite his employer's reservations Henry joined up.

Henry went to France as a reinforcement at some point in the first half of 1916. He was killed during the Battalion's attack on German positions near Ovillers on 21 July 1916, some three weeks into the

Battle of the Somme. The Battalion war diary describes the frantic nature of the fighting with positions changing hands; the initial attack caused 29 casualties, the German counter-attack inflicted a further 27 losses and a subsequent attack to retake the position another 45 men. This final attack was met by 'heavy machine-gun fire from both flanks' and 'The two leading platoons suffered very heavy casualties and were unable to get near enemy trench.'

Following this action Henry was originally posted as missing but, with no news received of his fate, was officially declared dead by the authorities some months later.

Henry's body was never formally identified. His remains may well still lie out in the fields of the Somme or could well have been found and buried under a headstone bearing the words 'A Soldier of the Great War, Known Unto God'. With no dedicated grave he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. His name is incorrectly recorded on the 6th Battalion memorial here as Private H.G. Allaway.