

WILLIAM LAKE

Private 19972



William Lake was born on 14 November 1896 in Newton Ferrers, and baptised in Holy Cross Church on 17 January 1897. He was the third son of William Cawse Lake, a labourer, and Elizabeth Ann Lake, who lived with their large family in School Cottage at the top of Newton Hill. The school register shows him attending between 20 November 1899 and 5 February 1904 (Roll No. 387).

He enlisted at Plymouth into the 5th (Service) Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment. The battalion had formed up at the beginning of the war, and moved to France early in 1915. It became part of 34th Brigade in the 11th (Northern) Division. As part of The 5th Army, the division was engaged in the Battle of Broodseinde, a phase in the Third Battle Ypres (Passchendaele). This was the last attack before the weather broke and the ground became impossibly waterlogged. 5 Dorset's were specially detailed to deal with counter-attacks in the area of Poelcappelle. On the evening of 5 October, 5 Dorset's moved forward to relieve the Manchester's in the front line. Both the front line and support lines were nothing more than consolidated shell holes. Throughout the next day the battalion was considerably harassed by enemy artillery and sniper fire, and there were a number of casualties. One these was Private William Lake, killed in action on 6 October 1917.

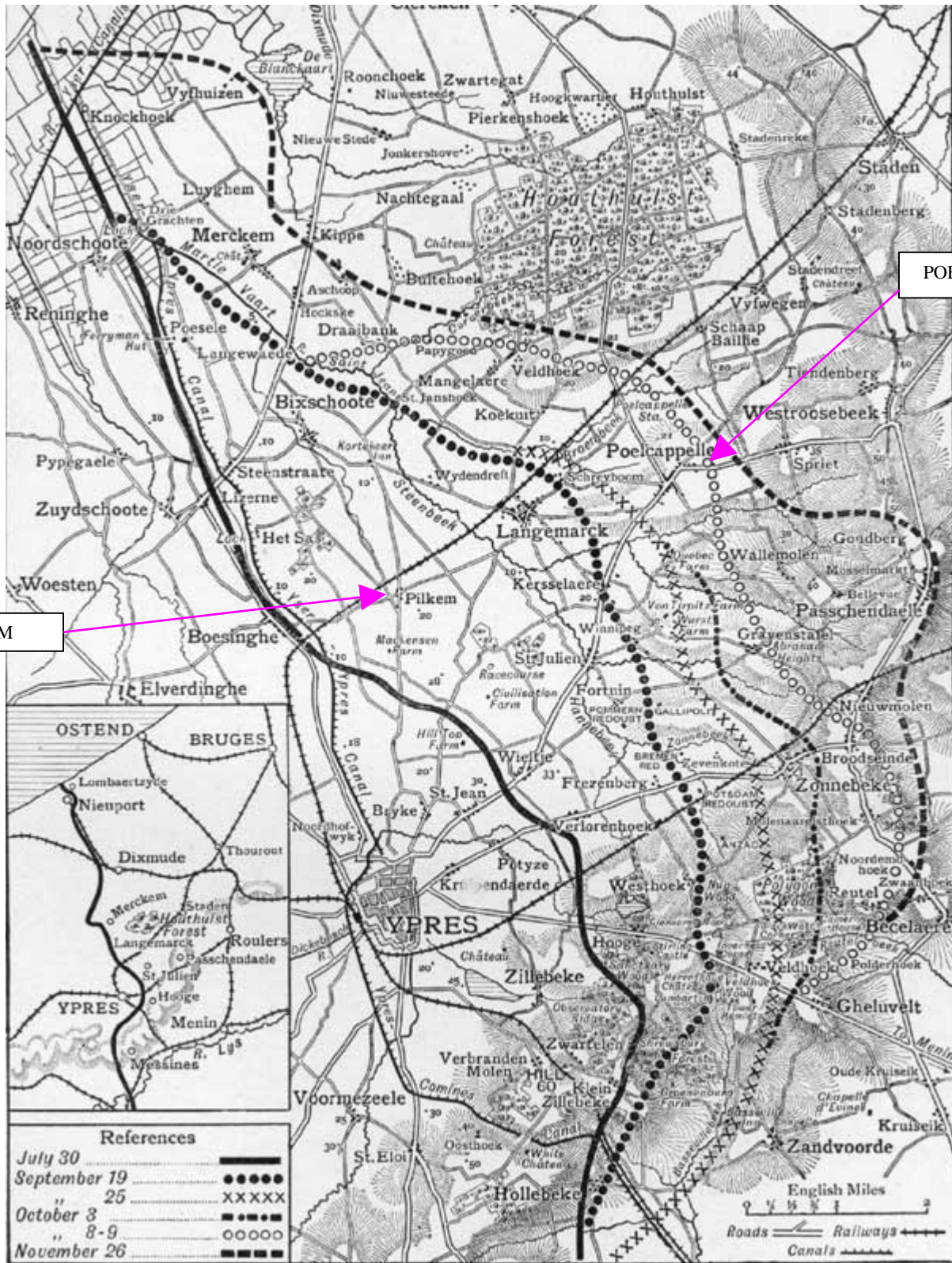
He is remembered with honour at the Tyne Cot Memorial (Panel 92)



And on the family memorial stone in Holy Cross churchyard.



IN
LOVING MEMORY OF
WILLIAM
THE THIRD LOVED SON OF
W & E LAKE
WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION OCT 6TH 1917, AGED 20 YEARS
HE DIED FOR HOME AND COUNTRY
LORD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST.
ALSO IN SACRED MEMORY OF
HIS LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
SUNBEAMS FOR JESUS



PILKEM

POELCAPPELLE



This famous photograph was taken near Pilkem Ridge
(see map above)