

# History: KS3

## Histories in the Headstones



### The Lost Twenty-Nine – World War I Soldiers from Lye

Read these source extracts:

#### 1. Pte John Parkes

Extract taken from County Express 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915

#### *“Lye Hero's Death – Public and Military Funeral Witnessed by Thousands*

*Pte John Parkes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcesters died in the Birmingham University Military Hospital on Friday week, following the amputation of a leg as the result of a severe wound received in action on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Pte Parkes who was the eldest son of Mrs Brettle of 49 Park Street Wollescote, joined the army some nine years ago.....*

*....on the night of May 15th-16<sup>th</sup> when in a glorious dash with the bayonet, Pte Parkes fell with his left leg shattered.....Parkes was eventually conveyed to the base hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the limb.*

#### 2. Pte Harry Deeley

Extract taken from County Express

#### *“Lye Soldier's Sufferings.*

#### *Critical Surgical Operation*

#### *Whilst Still Suffering from Wounds.*

*It was visitng day at Corbett Hospital....the wife and mother of a IYE SOLDIER, Pte Harry Deeley....They found him cheerful and recovering from the second terrible physical ordeal he has been called on to face since as a reservist he re-joined the colours last August. The first of these was on sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> when his left arm was smashed by the explosion of a shrapnel shell during the fighting on the Aisne.....*

*To a County Express representative Pte Deeley told the story of his experiences.....Asked if his arm had now recovered he said he still had it bandaged and showed that it was 1 ½ inches shorter than the right arm. He can use it but a little. At the same time he is cheerful; not*

*even the latest ordeal has broken the spirit of steel which is the glory of the British Tommy.”*

### **3. Pte James Holden**

In November 1915 James wrote to his mother describing the action in the trenches:

“The other day we went up to the trenches to relieve another battalion....Suddenly something went off with a bang....The Germans had blown up a mine under D Company's trench, filled up the trench and buried half the Company, so we had to dig them out at night. It was terrible the rain was puring down in buckets full”.

### **4. Pioneer William Trevis**

**Extract taken from a newspaper of the time:**

“Sapper William Henry Trevis, an officer's servant in the R.E. Eldest son of Mr and Mrs F Trevis 125 Birminhgam Street, Stourbridge, died in Wordsley Military Hosptial yesterday week from influenza and pneumonia. He came home on leave three weeks earlier and was taken ill while at home. He was within a few weeks of his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sapper Trevis joined the army early in 1915 and had been in France for about two years. He was formerly employed by Messrs B Perkins and Son of Amblecote”.

### **5. Look at the table of Soldiers buried in Lye and Wollescote Cemetery.**

What do all these sources tell you about what life was like for soliders during The First World War?

---

---

---

---

---

Which source/s do you find the most useful and why?

---

---

---

---

---