

**Corporate Brydon Cragie<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 18/135**  
**1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers**

**born: about 1893 - died: 10 July 1918**

Corporal Brydon Cragie was born in about 1893<sup>1</sup> in Dipton in Durham.<sup>2</sup> He was the son of Robert and Margaret Cragie. His father, a coal miner, was born in about 1849 in Bellingham, Northumberland and his mother, probably the former Margaret Thompson, was born in about 1855 in Falstone, Northumberland. Robert and Margaret were married in Bellingham in early 1872<sup>3</sup> and had eleven children—ten of whom survived until 1911.<sup>4</sup> Brydon's siblings were Mary (born in 1872),<sup>5</sup> Margaret Ann (born in 1874),<sup>6</sup> Jane (born in 1877),<sup>7</sup> Henry Archibald (born in 1878),<sup>8</sup> Nicholas (born in 1881, but died a few months later),<sup>9</sup> Isabella (born in 1882),<sup>10</sup> Kate Elizabeth (born in 1885),<sup>11</sup> Robert Thompson (born in 1888),<sup>12</sup> Minnie (born in 1890)<sup>13</sup> and David Mole (born in 1897).<sup>14</sup>

Brydon's father was a coal miner. In 1901, the family was living at Langley Terrace, Annfield Plain, near Lanchester.<sup>15</sup> In 1911, they were at the same address but by then Brydon was also working in the mines as a colliery bankman.<sup>16</sup>

Brydon served as a corporal in the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. This was a regular army battalion stationed in Portsmouth at the outbreak of the war.<sup>17</sup> It joined the fight on the Western Front in Le Havre, France on 14 August 1914 and served on the Western Front throughout the war, participating in many of the major engagements.

Although 10 July 1918 was a quiet day for his Battalion,<sup>18</sup> it was not for Brydon. Only four months before the signing of the Armistice, Brydon was wounded and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his back and right side.<sup>19</sup> They penetrated his abdomen. He died the day he was admitted and was buried the following day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row E, Grave 18) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. He was a member of the Church of England. His mother, who was still living on Langley Terrace, was notified of his death<sup>20</sup> and received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>21</sup>

The day that Brydon was admitted to No. 1 CCCS, there were 137 admissions – this was among the highest number of admissions so far that month.<sup>22</sup> Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.<sup>23</sup> This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No.1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

Brydon was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie, Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred County: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 316

<sup>2</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie, Registration district: Lanchester, Registration District Number: 550, Sub-registration district: Tanfield, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 29865

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<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Robert Cragie, Registration district: Bellingham, Inferred County: Northumberland, Volume Number: 10b, Page Number: 437

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Craigie [sic], Mary, Volume 10B, Page 37

<sup>6</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Margaret Ann, Volume 10B, Page 317

<sup>7</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Jane, Volume 10A, Page 331

<sup>8</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Henry Archibald, Volume 10A, Page 300

<sup>9</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Nicholas, Volume 10A, Page 328; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 17 November 2016), entry for Nicholas Craigie [sic], Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 16

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Isabella, Volume 10A, Page 308

<sup>11</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Kate Elizabeth, Volume 10A, Page 268

<sup>12</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Robert Thompson, Volume 10A, Page 271

<sup>13</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, Miniie, Volume 10A, Page 275

<sup>14</sup> "GRO online index," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 17 November 2016) entry for Cragie, David Mole, Volume 10A, Page 331

<sup>15</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie, Registration district: Lanchester, Sub-registration district: Tadfield, ED, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 4666, Folio: 68, Page Number: 59, Household schedule number: 361

<sup>16</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie

<sup>17</sup> "List of Northumberland Fusiliers battalions in World War I," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Northumberland\\_Fusiliers\\_battalions\\_in\\_World\\_War\\_I#1st\\_Battalion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Northumberland_Fusiliers_battalions_in_World_War_I#1st_Battalion); accessed 15 May 2015)

<sup>18</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub Unit: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Piece Description: Piece 1430/1-4: 9 Infantry Brigade: 1 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1914 Aug - 1919 May), Piece Number: 1430

<sup>19</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 623

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie

<sup>22</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

<sup>23</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)

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<sup>24</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 May 2015), entry for Brydon Cragie