



**Name:** Robert O Carter

**Position:** Private

**DOB-DOD:** 1897 – 1 July 1916

Robert worked as a cooper wireman's assistant in Sunderland's ATE post office before he joined the British Army,

Robert died on the first day of the Battle of the Sommes, a battle which has gone down in history as the worst day in the history of the British Army.

At 07:30, 1 July 1916, thousands of soldiers began their attack against a German trench line which was supposed to have been destroyed. However, it was still active. Over the next 12 hours, 29,000 people were killed and many more were wounded.

Robert, part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham light infantry (DLI), took part in the Battle of Albert that day and he, as well as 139 comrades, died. During the Battle of the Somme, 299 officers and other ranks from the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI were killed in action, 42 died of wounds and a further 4 died later, a total of 345 individuals.

Robert was remembered by Mrs. P. Smith (formerly Carter), of 3, Watson's Cottages, Hendon, Sunderland.

His name is recorded on the Thiepval memorial which commemorates more than 72,000 men of British and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave, the majority of whom died during the Somme offensive of 1916.

On the high ground overlooking the Somme River in France, where some of the heaviest fighting of the First World War took place, stands the Memorial. Towering over 45 metres in height, it dominates the landscape for miles around. It is the largest Commonwealth memorial to the missing in the world.

Robert is also recorded on a memorial at Sunderland ATE.

On his medal index record he was posthumously awarded the Victory and British War Medal and the 1914-1915 star which was a campaign medal approved in 1918, for issue to officers and men of British Imperial Forces who saw service in any theatre of war against the Central Powers between 5th August, 1914, and 31st December, 1915.

|   |                       |      |    |    |             |                |      |    |    | Date of birth of respondent       |     | Date employed    |     |        |             |
|---|-----------------------|------|----|----|-------------|----------------|------|----|----|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|--------|-------------|
|   | 1.                    | 2.   | 3. | 4. | 5.          | 6.             | 7.   | 8. | 9. | 10.                               | 11. | 12.              | 13. | 14.    |             |
| 1 | Robert Vanitt. Carter | Head | 23 | —  | Married one | under          | Yone | —  | —  | 6 offer<br>Firemans' ed. instant. | 638 | P. L. Telegraphs | 408 | Worker | Durham.. D. |
| 2 | Prisall Carter.       | Wife | —  | 21 | Married     | <del>one</del> | —    | —  | —  | —                                 | —   | —                | —   | —      | Sunderland. |
| 3 |                       |      |    |    |             |                |      |    |    |                                   |     |                  |     |        |             |
| 4 |                       |      |    |    |             |                |      |    |    |                                   |     |                  |     |        |             |

Campaign :- 1914-15 (A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation

| Name                     | Corps | Rank | Reg. No. | Roll on which included (if any) |
|--------------------------|-------|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| (A) CARTER DuLL. Mc20141 |       |      |          | 9/1/03 B11 1859                 |
| (B) Robert O. - - - - -  |       |      |          | do do                           |

Action taken

Dead

THEATRE OF WAR (1) France

QUALIFYING DATE. 11.9.15

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