

## My Family Through The Great War

My interest in the First World War comes from stories my Grandpa told me about members of my family. If ever I have had questions on the Beveridge Bloodline, he is my first port of call, as he is (in my view) the family archives, because no one else knows half as much as him. This was shown to an even greater extent when we went on holiday to Northern France and saw the war graves in the area. He came over especially to see one particular grave, James Beveridge.



Three generations – me, my dad and Grandpa at Jim's grave in Lebusquière

In my artwork I wanted to show the links throughout my family, and indeed it took me by surprise, the extent of our family's war links

My research mostly involved talking to Grandpa and him sending me lots of photographs and documents. I then selected ones that linked together or held a personal significance...

- Gerald O'Hagan Beveridge was my great, great uncle and was the brother of Jim and Arthur Beveridge, mentioned below. He was a Warrant Officer in the South Irish Horse. I thought it was important to include him, as I have been told so much about my great grandfather and his twin, but I know very little of their eleven siblings. Since I hate not knowing facts, I learned more about him, both in war and before.
- William J. McNamara was my great, great grandfather (my Grandpa's grandfather). The most interesting point I found about him, is that he was a founder officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which is what other members of my family then went on to join.
- I've used hand-stitched and stencilled fabric to convey the handmade and possibly only 'home comforts' the men at the front might have been able to have with them. I remember reading about the way men would receive home-made goods to bring them comfort in the trenches.
- The family portrait is of my great grandmother (centre, right) and her father, Arthur, who was a Corporal in the Warwickshire Fusiliers (the 'Moonrakers' Regiment). He saw active service in Belgium. I found the family side of the war quite sad, as, apart from the separation, it meant that he lost out on years he could have spent with his children. He left when they were young, and only saw them a few times over four years. I could never dream of that happening to my Dad.

- The group photograph is of an RAMC Field Ambulance taken on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 at a St Patrick's Day Church Parade. My great grandfather is on the left of the Padre (second row from the front in the centre). He was Captain Arthur Beveridge. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1918. His story is mostly of success, with the Military Cross and in the Second World War, the Norwegian War Cross. However, in 1917, he lost his twin and we believe he suffered post-traumatic stress. He has become something of an icon for me, as he went through hard times and became stronger. I like to think that his memory will always be carried on through my life and generations to come.
- Arthur Beveridge and his twin, James 'Jim' Beveridge (centre photograph), both served as captains of field ambulances in Northern France

*Jim* was killed in action on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1917, rescuing wounded at the Battle of Cambrai – the first land battle to use tanks. It is his grave I visited whilst on holiday in August 2012, and the memories of this have been the biggest cause for me to make this 'mood board' of my family's link to the First World War.

Penny Beveridge (8J)





Gerald  
O'Hagan



Not so easy  
growing up  
when your father  
risks his life  
DAILY

Will the  
war be  
ending



William J.  
Macdonald