



'My Story'

Ben Stoner

Submitted by: Mrs Sylvia Stoner November 2018

'My father-in-law, Ben Stoner, a devoutly religious man, was a conscientious objector but served as a stretcher bearer in the 89th Field Ambulance Unit, I think supporting the 29th Division of the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers. He was in Egypt, Gallipoli, and on the front line at Ypres and the Somme- experiences he never talked about. I have a small album of war-time photographs, only a few of which are named. One is of 'Salvation Corner', Ypres, others of the prison and gasometer, Ypres, Elverdinghe Church and a chateau at Boesinge. Not until photos and reports of the bad conditions and defeats of our troops began appearing in the press was the ownership of cameras banned.'

For more on conscientious objectors see Bertie Walton's story: <http://www.collingham-notts.org.uk/community/collingham-parish-7790/bertie-walton---conscientious-objector/>

Additional information from the Collingham in the Great War Committee:

What was a Field Ambulance Unit?

The Field Ambulance was a mobile front-line medical unit (not a vehicle), manned by troops of the **Royal Army Medical Corps**. Most Field Ambulances came under command of a Division, and each had special responsibility for the care of casualties of one of the Brigades of the Division. The theoretical capacity of the Field Ambulance was 150 casualties, but in battle many would need to deal with very much greater numbers. The Field Ambulance was responsible for establishing and operating a number of points along the casualty evacuation chain, from the Bearer Relay Posts which were up to 600 yards behind the Regimental Aid Posts in the front line, taking casualties rearwards through an Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) to the Main Dressing Station (MDS). It also provided a Walking Wounded Collecting Station, as well as various rest areas and local sick rooms. The Field Ambulances would usually establish 1 ADS per Brigade, and 1 MDS for the Division.

Source: The Long, Long Trail website

A Benjamin Stoner (born c 1890, Liverpool d 1983) appears on the WW1 Medal Roll Index cards as being in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He fought in the Balkans (Macedonia).

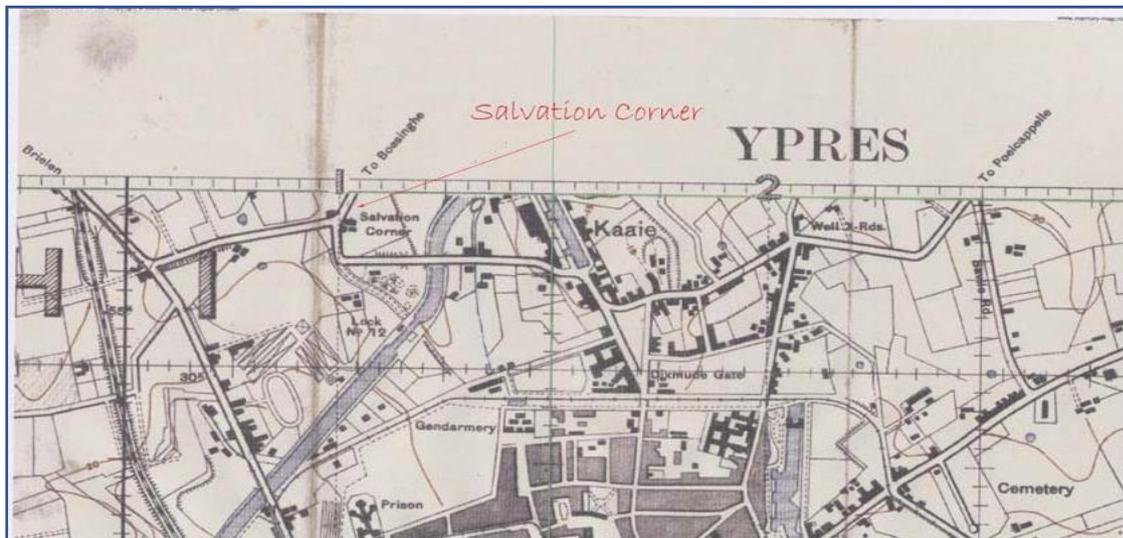
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
STONER.	RAMC	Pte	2035
	<u>do</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
Benjamin			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RAMC/10 B. 3347		Dismbd. 10. 7. 19
BRITISH	<u>do</u>		
"15" STAR	RAMC/14 B. 1466		
Theatre of War first served in (23) Baellans			
Date of entry therein 20. 10. 15			

K. 1350.

Above: Benjamin Stoner's medal index card from Ancestry.co.uk showed he was in the RAMC which connects to Mrs Stoner's details.

Salvation Corner, Ypres

Map Source: <https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/111007-28nw-edition-6a/>



Such names were made up by the soldiers to signify areas of the towns, villages and trenches and became semi-official, appearing on trench maps and on signage. Landmarks got the same treatment, so maps show "Suicide Road" for somewhere with a lot of snipers, "Salvation Corner" for somewhere with no shelling, "Shrapnel Corner" for somewhere with nothing but shelling, "Dirty Bucket Corner" for a place with awful latrines.

