

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

**Jack Peet Bee**

**Private**

**Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derbys Regt)**

Service no. **21918**

**1<sup>st</sup> Btn Northamptonshire Regt**

Service no. **19359**



Date of birth	Date died of wounds	Age
5 <sup>th</sup> July 1894 <sup>1</sup>	20 July 1916	22yrs

### Background: Jack Peet Bee

Jack Peet Bee's parents, Thomas (1859-1925) and Alice Bee (née Peet) (1857-1949) married in St John the Baptist Church, Collingham, in 1885. Alice was a native of Collingham and was raised on 'Bocock's Row' off South End. She had a daughter, Harriet<sup>2</sup>, in 1878 (father unknown). The birthplaces of the Bee children indicate the typical farm labourer's itinerant life: Fred b. 1885 (Hawton) Mary Ann b 1887 (Collingham) Minnie born 1892 (Nettleham) and Jack (John) Peet Bee b 1894 in Thorpe. However, by the early 1900s they had settled in Brough and were still there in 1911. The 1911 census shows:

Father: Thomas Bee 52yrs. Farm Labourer b. Waddington c1859

Mother: Alice Bee 54yrs

Harriet Tonn (daughter of Alice) 33yrs & her children Eva (3) and George (1)

Frederick Bee<sup>3</sup> 25yrs Farm Labourer

**Jack Peet Bee 16yrs Farm Labourer**

Jack's sister, Mary Ann, died in 1893 aged 5. Records indicate Thomas and Alice Bee moved from Brough sometime after 1911 and were living at Sincil Bank, Lincoln in 1916. His sister Harriet, who had been living with them after her husband Arthur, was killed, moved to Besthorpe Road, Collingham about the same time.

<sup>1</sup> Data from handwritten note Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives ref: PR/23,030/2

<sup>2</sup> See Harriet's husband Arthur Tonn's profile (Killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1916)

<sup>3</sup> Fred Bee (1885-1945) also fought in World War 1

## The Bee Family

Photographs kindly supplied by Stephen Allen, a descendent of Jack's sister, Minnie.



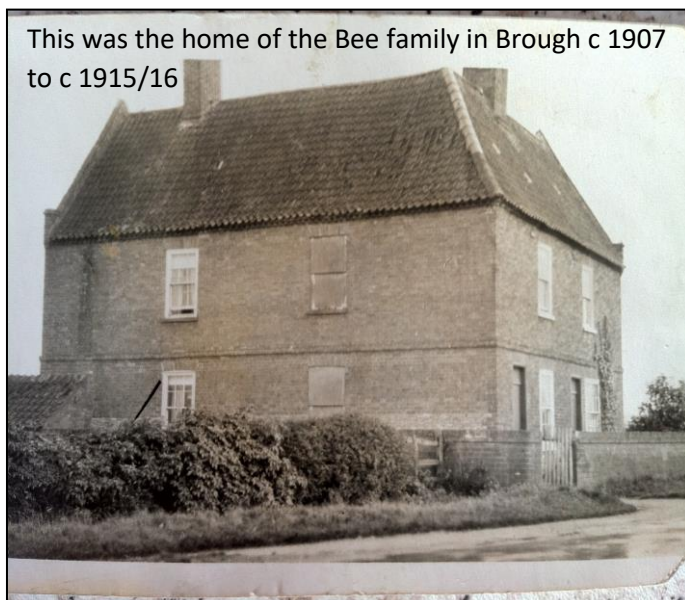
*Alice Bee, Jack's mother*



*Thomas Bee, Jack's father*



*Left: Minnie Bee, Jack's sister  
(1892-1969) Minnie married  
William Feneley in St John the  
Baptist Church in 1913*



This was the home of the Bee family in Brough c 1907 to c 1915/16



The property on Fosse Road, Brough today

## Military History: Pte. Jack Peet Bee



**Enlisted:** 10 January 1915  
aged 19yrs 6mths

Jack joined the Sherwood Foresters Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment & later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northants was mobilised on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1914 and landed at Le Havre as part of the British Expeditionary Force on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Battalion was based on the Western Front throughout the war.

*Above: Studio photograph of Jack Peet Bee in army uniform (possibly Sherwood Foresters). Jack enlisted in January 1915, aged 19. Image c/o Stephen Allen from an original belonging to his great grandmother, Minnie Feneley (née Bee).*

## **Actions from when Jack entered the theatre of war on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1915<sup>4</sup> after training:**

### **1915**

The Battle of Loos, was fought between 25 September and 19 October 1915. Where British losses were exceptionally high with some 50,000 casualties, including 20,000 dead.

### **1916**

#### **The Battle of Albert**

Fought between 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 1916, this formed the first two weeks of the Battle of the Somme, an Anglo French Offensive. Although successful elsewhere, the British attack from the Albert-Bapaume Road to Gommecourt was a disaster and this is where most of the c 60,000 British Casualties occurred. The British attack on the road south of the Albert-Bapaume Road commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and the three-day Battle of Bazentin Ridge which commenced on 14 July.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Northants were involved in both the Battles of Albert and Bazentin. Jack may have been mortally wounded at either of these battles in July – this is probable as if he'd been wounded earlier he is likely to have been evacuated further from the front.

Jack died of his wounds on 20 July 1916 and is buried at the Albert Communal Cemetery Extension. The Extension was used by fighting units and Field Ambulances from August 1915 to November 1916 so it is reasonable to assume that Jack was injured nearby.

#### **War Memorials**

Private Jack Peet Bee is remembered on:

**Albert Communal Cemetery Extension Somme, Grave I.J.12**

**His headstone reads 'In the midst of life we are in death.'**

**South Collingham - St John's Church - Parishioners War Memorial as J P BEE  
Private 1st Btn. Northamptonshire Regiment**

**South Collingham - St John the Baptist Church - Roll of Honour and Parishioners'  
Plaque War Memorial**

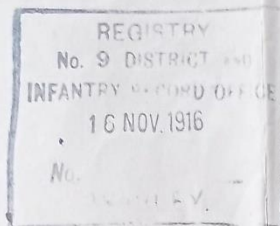
## **Further details October 2018**

Mr Steve Allen came across further paperwork and documents relating to Jack Peet Bee and has kindly shared them via email attachment here. The newspaper cutting of Jack's death (page 6) is particularly poignant:

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<sup>4</sup> Jack Bee 'entered theatre of war' on 28<sup>th</sup>/7/1915 (WW1 medal index card Ancestry.co.uk)





Infantry Record Office,

No.9.District.

Warley.

November 13<sup>th</sup> 1916.

Identity Disc.

Sir,

1 Wallet.

Correspondence

Post Cards. &

Photo.

1 Note Book.

1 Gospel.

2 Little Plates.

In accordance with instructions received from  
The Secretary, War Office, I beg to forward you  
herewith the effects as per margin of your Son.....  
the late No. 19359. Private Jack Peet. Bee.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment

Yours Faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
Captain.

for Officer i/c Records. No.9. District.

Mr J. Bee.

48. Sincil Bank.

Lincoln.

Official letter accompanying Jack P Bee's effects 1916 included identity disc,  
correspondence, wallet, postcards, photos, 1 Gospel, notebook, 2 little plates



## FELL IN THE GREAT PUSH.

—101—

### Pte. J. P. Bee succumbs to Wounds.

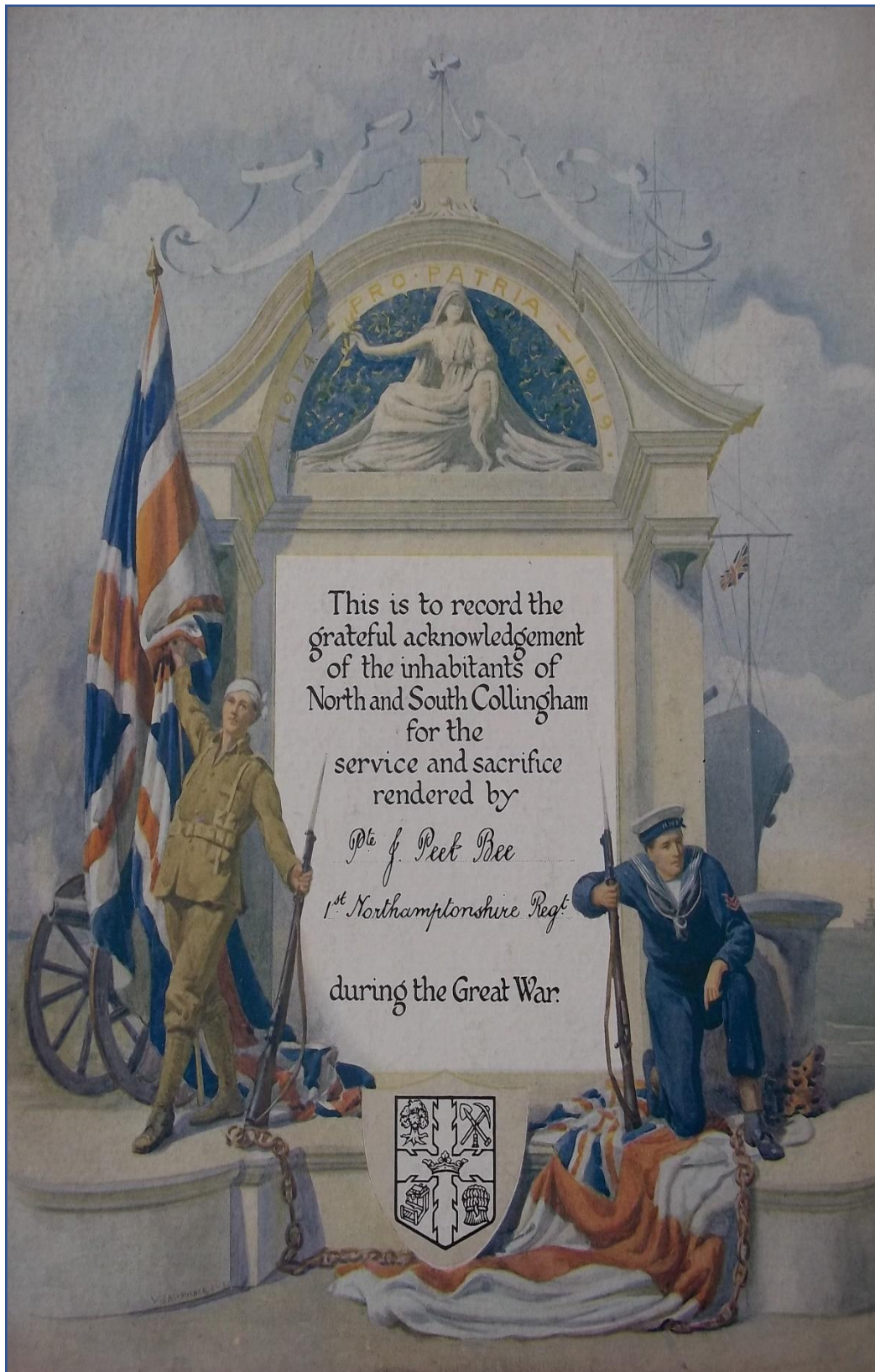
"I expect before you receive this you will have heard the news that your son, Pte. J. P. Bee, has given his life for his country. He was wounded in action yesterday morning, July 20th, and died shortly after coming into this clearing station. I did not see him before he died, but I buried him yesterday morning, his body being carried to the grave covered with the Union Jack. He lies with many others in a quiet little cemetery just outside this town, in Northern France, quite near the place where he fell. This will, I expect, be a great grief to you, but you must be comforted by the knowledge that your son died the most glorious of all deaths in the service of his King and country, and also whilst taking part in this great advance which is now going on, and which we hope is going to end in victory over the enemy and the restoration of peace."

Thus the letter which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bee, of 49½, Sincil Bank, Lincoln, and late of Brough, near Newark, received from the Chaplain at the 57th Field Ambulance last week.

Pte. Bee was 22 years of age, and he enlisted at Newark in the Sherwood Foresters. He was afterwards transferred to the Northamptonshire Regiment. He had been at the Front about a year, and amongst other engagements in which he had fought was the memorable charge on the Hohen-zollern Redoubt last October.

Newspaper clipping re: J P Bee





Jack Bee's diploma. These were awarded to all those who served in WW1 in North and South Collingham. Those who survived were presented with them at an awards ceremony on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1920





**H**E whom this scroll commemorates  
was numbered among those who,  
at the call of King and Country, left all  
that was dear to them, endured hardness,  
faced danger, and finally passed out of  
the sight of men by the path of duty  
and self-sacrifice, giving up their own  
lives that others might live in freedom.  
Let those who come after see to it  
that his name be not forgotten.

*Pte. Jack Peet Bee—  
Northamptonshire Regiment*





## Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries.

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph of  
the Grave of:—

Name *Bee*

Rank and Initials *Pl. J. P.*

Regiment *Northamptonshire Regt.*

Position of Grave *Albert*

*Communal Cemetery  
Extension.*

Nearest Railway Station *Albert.*

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote  
the number (21/1977) and be addressed to:—

Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,  
War Office,

Winchester House,

St. James's Square,

London, S.W., 1.

Owing to the circumstances in which the photographic work is carried  
on, the Director regrets that in some cases only rough Photographs can  
be obtained.

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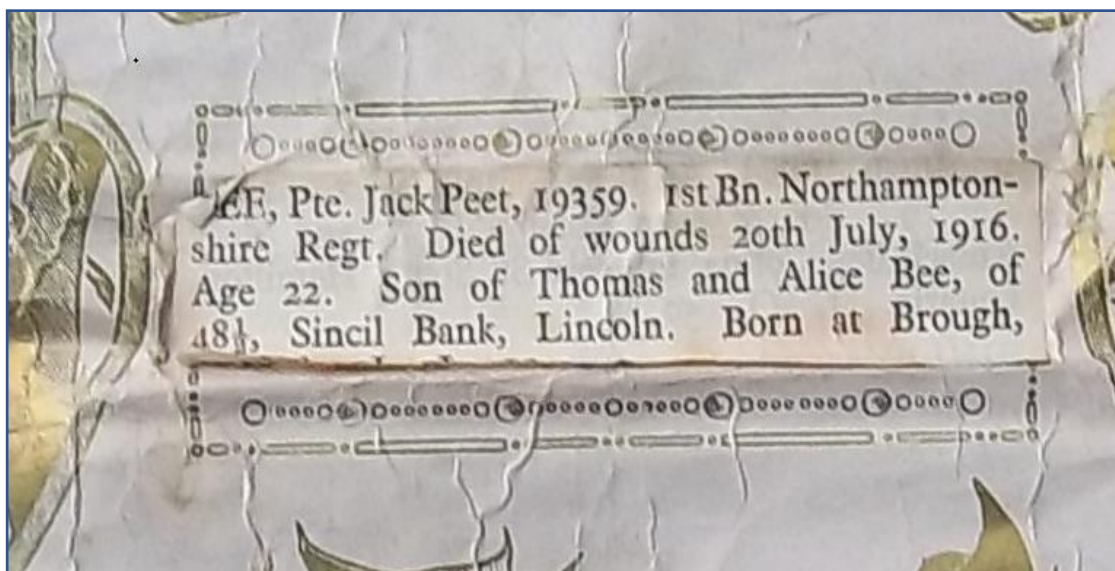
Leaflet showing photograph of Jack's original wooden battlecross marking his grave in Albert  
Communal Cemetery





Above: Jack Peet Bee's certificate of burial.





Above: detail of certificate on p10



## Frederick Bee (1886-1945)

Jack's older brother, Frederick (Fred) Bee also enlisted in the army. They were both included in the Newark Advertiser's 'Roll of Honour' on 3rd February 1915<sup>5</sup>. At the time they were both in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion Sherwood Foresters. Fred stayed with the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment) Private no: 21917 and served in the Balkans. He sent for his medals in 1920 where his address was given as 48 ½ Sincil Bank, Lincoln. He married Florence Rose (1901 – 1987) of Nottingham in 1936. He died in Lincoln March 1945.

Photo of Frederick Bee c 1915 c/o Stephen Allen

<sup>5</sup> See p38 T Frecknall 'Collingham and District in the Great War' available in Collingham Library

## Sources:

With thanks to Jeremy Lodge for his initial research on Jack Peet Bee 2014 and Stephen Allen for his Bee family photographs Dec 2017 & October 2018

Sources used by Jeremy Lodge:

*British Army Service Record 1914 – 1918*

*Short Service Recruit Attestation Paper*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/61300/ALBERT%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY%20EXTENSION> Accessed 23/08/2014*

*<http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com/history/battles/the-battle-of-aubers-ridge-9-may-1915.html> Accessed 23/08/2014*

*<http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com/history/battles/the-battle-of-loos-25-september-to-19-october-1915.html> Accessed 23/08/2014*

Compiled by Helena Pielichaty & updated Oct 2018

