

	Name:	2/Lt Robert Bernard ABRAHAMS 1/4th Yorkshire Regt (TF)	
Age	AKA:	Barnett ABRAHAMS, Robert Barnett ABRAHAMS	
	Parents:	Lewis ABRAHAMS (born in 1867 in Poland - died in 1930, buried in Hoop Lane Cemetery, London) and Millie BARNETT (born in 1868 in Poland - died in 1938 in Hackney, LDN, ENG)	
24	Life Range	1892 - 15 Sep 1916	
	Marriage Status:	This person never married and had no children	
-25	1867	Birth of Father:	Lewis ABRAHAMS (born in 1867 in Poland - died in 1930, buried in Hoop Lane Cemetery, London). In Poland.
-24	1868	Birth of Mother:	Millie BARNETT (born in 1868 in Poland - died in 1938 in Hackney, LDN, ENG). In Poland.
-1	1891	Census:	Mile End, London. 52 Redman's Road, Mile End, Old Town Lewis ABRAHAMS , age 25, Furrier, born Russia Pole (sic) Milly ABRAHAMS, age 25, born Russia Pole (sic) Isaac ABRAHAMS, age 3, born London. [<i>Isaac may be the Isaac ABRAHAMS, age 13, a pupil at Great Ealing School, Ealing St Marys Road, Ealing in 1901</i>] Hetty ABRAHAMS, [no age] , born London Isaac ABRAHAMS, brother, age 17 (?), Furrier, born Russia Pole (sic) (Plus 1 Servant) <i>Ancestry.com - RG12; Piece: 304; Folio 30; Page 7; GSU roll: 6095414</i>
0	1892	Birth:	Mile End, London.
9	1901	Census:	Hackney, LDN, ENG. Massie Road, Hackney: Lewis ABRAHAMS , age 36, Wholesale Furrier, born Russia (Naturalised British Subject) Nellie (?) ABRAHAMS, age 35, born Russia (Naturalised British Subject) Hetty ABRAHAMS, age 11, born London Barney ABRAHAMS, age 9, born London Lilly ABRAHAMS, age 7, born London Becca BARNETT, mother-in-law, age 54, born Russia [Plus 1 Servant] <i>Ancestry.com: Class: RG13; Piece: 222; Folio: 152; Page: 43</i>
19	1911	Census:	Hackney, LDN, ENG. Massie Road Hackney NE: Lewis ABRAHAMS , age 44, Manufacturing Furrier, born Poland Millie ABRAHAMS, age 43, born Poland [married 26 years; 7 children; 5 living] Isaac ABRAHAMS, age 23, Furrier, born Mile End London Nettie ABRAHAMS, age 21, born Mile End London Barnet ABRAHAMS, age 19, Solicitor's Articled Clerk, born Mile End London Soloman ABRAHAMS, age 17, Furrier, born Mile End London Lily ABRAHAMS, age 9, born Hackney London (Plus 2 Servants) <i>Ancestry.com: RG14PN1110 RG78PN37 RD11 SD4 ED5 SN262</i>
21	Jul 1913	Occupation:	Admitted to practice (Law).
23	Jul 1915	OTC:	SNR: London University.
23	26 Oct 1915	Commission:	2/Lt, 1/4th Yorkshire Regiment (TF). [<i>LG, 5 Nov. 1915, p.11041</i>]
24	21 Jul 1916	Overseas:	
24	14 Sep 1916	Circumstances:	Assembly Trenches.

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	<p>Situation: Lead-up Very late on the 14th, the 1/4th moved into assembly trenches. There were no communication trenches, so many out in the open. Seen, shelled and 40 casualties, including Abrahams.</p>		
24	15 Sep 1916	Death:	France. Killed in Action.
		Burial:	Thiepval Memorial. Commemorated.
24	10 Nov 1916	Probate:	£194. DOD = 14 Sept 1916; Probate to Father.
		Personal File:	No File.
		Father's Occupation:	Manufacturing; Furrier.
		Father's Status:	ALIVE: died 1930.
		Mother's Status:	ALIVE: died 1938.
		Age:	24.
		Age Diff Parents:	1.
		School:	City of London School. Possibly Great Ealing School (<i>In 1879 it became a school for Jewish boys</i>). His brother Isaac was there in 1901.
		Higher Education:	University of London.
		Occupation:	LAW: Solicitor (Roberts, Abrahams & Co).
		Brothers:	2nd of 3.
		Brothers Served:	1: (Possibly) Labour Corps.
		Other Brothers:	1: No Evidence.
		First Burial:	Yes: Near High Wood, Martinpuich.
		CWGC Register:	Son of Lewis and Millie Abrahams, of 6, Stafford House, Maida Hill, London.
		Siblings:	<p>Isaac ABRAHAMS, b. abt 1888, Furrier, Mile End London Married Bessie SAUNDERS 1913, Whitechapel. Three (known) children - Rebecca, b. 21 Aug 1914; Frank, b. 23 Jan 1916 and Millicent, b. 29 Oct 1917. 557625 Labour Corps. Enlisted May 1918. SR on Ancestry states he was born Russia. [May not be the same Isaac ABRAHAMS but all else fits.]</p> <p>Nettie ABRAHAMS, b. abt 1890, Mile End London</p> <p>Solomon ABRAHAMS, b. abt 1894 Changed his name to Laurence ABRAHAMS and admitted to practice law in September 1919</p> <p>Lily ABRAHAMS, b. abt 1902, Hackney London</p>
	<p>General Notes: Forenames: There is considerable confusion concerning his forename/s. However, his mother's maiden name was BARNETT and he appears in the census records as Barney and then Barnet. His birth was registered in March Quarter 1892 [so he may have been born late 1891] as Barnet ABRAHAMS. He may have assumed the name Robert or changed his name (as his brother did in 1919). A Barnett ABRHAHAMS graduated from London University.</p> <p>From: Record of Service of Solicitors and Articled Clerks with His Majesty's Forces 1914— 1919 ROBERT BERNARD ABRAHAMS. Admitted July 1913. Member of Roberts, Abrahams & Co., of Basinghall Street, E.C.</p>		

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Joined University of London O.T.C. in July 1915. Appointed 2nd Lieut, to 3/4 Batt. Yorkshire Regt. Sept. 1915. Served in France. Killed Sept. 15, 1916, in the Battle of the Somme, and was buried near Martinhuich and High Wood.

From: University of London Officers Training Corps, ROLL OF WAR SERVICE 1914- 1919

Robert Bernard ABRAHAMS Second Lieutenant Yorkshire Regiment son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Abrahams of Dalston killed in action on the Somme on 13th September 1916 (sic) buried in Central to High Wood, Bazentin Wood and Martinpuich.

From: A Memorial Roll of the Officers of Alexandra Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment Who Died 1914 – 1919. Compiled by Robert Coulson (1952 – 2008)

2nd Lt Robert Bernard Abrahams – 4th Battalion.

A solicitor before the war, Robert Abrahams worked for Roberts, Abrahams and Co in London. He joined the London University Officer Training Corps in July of 1915 and was commissioned with the 4th battalion in September 1915. Robert Abrahams lost his life during the Battle of the Somme in the summer of 1916. In late August and early September the 4th battalion were involved in training exercises in the Millencourt area. On September 10th they were called into brigade support at Shelter Wood and on the evening of September 14th the battalion moved up into their assembly positions in Eye and Swansea trenches for an attack the following day. They had to move up over open ground as the communication trenches were so crowded. The Germans opened fire on the battalion and caused some forty casualties. 2nd Lt Robert Bernard Abrahams was killed in this action on September 14th 1916 aged 24. He was the son of Lewis and Millie Abrahams of 6 Stafford House, Maida Hill in London. His body was never recovered and he is remembered today on the Thiepval Memorial high on the old Somme battlefield.

[<http://www.ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/pdf-files/bob%20coulson/officers-died-ww1.pdf>]

Listed in "The British Jewry Book of Honour".

He was a Freemason: <http://www.masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk/writeup.php?string=7>

From "Lodge of Tranquility" <http://www.lodgeoftranquility.kk5.org/#/loi/4543765687>

Robert Abrahams was initiated into the Lodge in 1915. He was raised in January 1916. He was killed in action on 14th September 1916 at the age of 24. His name appears in some records as Robert Bernard Abrahams but this is probably not strictly accurate. He was the son of Lewis and Millie Abrahams of 6 Stafford House, Maida Hill, London. (Some records state their home to be in Dalston.) He went to London University where he obtained a BA degree. He qualified as a solicitor in July 1913 and was briefly in practice in Roberts Abrahams & Co., of Basinghall Street, London EC, which is described in one reference as a family firm. He joined the Officer Training Corps of London University from which he was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the Yorkshire Regiment. The Yorkshire Regiment is better known as The Green Howards. It was also known as Alexandra Princess of Wales Own. The 50th Division were set to take part in their first "set" battle to further Haig's plan for the Battle of the Somme. The Battle of the Somme was launched on July 1st 1916 and continued for months. The particular part of the action in which the Division was engaged has been referred to as the battle of Flers-Courcelettes. The Division's position was further forward than the rest of the front line leaving them exposed to German fire from the front and both sides. The plan was to advance on the 15th and to capture three objectives. All three were achieved but with heavy losses. The Germans had been subjected to heavy bombardment since the 12th. The attack was to be accompanied by a creeping barrage, and for the first time was supported by tanks. On 14th September at 8 pm the Battalion moved to the start line. They moved to Eye Trench which was the most forward firing line, and to Swansea Trench which was immediately behind that. The communication trenches between were filled with troops. The soldiers moving into position had no choice but to cross open ground. The Germans immediately unleashed a barrage which caused 40 casualties. Robert Abrahams was among those who fell. He has no known grave. His name is recorded among those on the monument at Thiepval. It stands on the Somme battlefield. It is dedicated to those whose grave is unknown. His name also appears on the magnificent illuminated scroll in the Common Room at the Law Society's Hall in Chancery Lane. The list is in alphabetical order. Robert Abrahams name is the first on the list. The tanks were primitive and unreliable. The head of the "Landships Committee" Winston Churchill was very critical and thought they had been used prematurely. Their speed was half a mile an hour. Out of 49 tanks that started only 15 made it to No Mans Land. They did however have a considerable effect on British morale, and the opposite on the enemy. In fact in this sector only two tanks were used on the left flank.

Gerald Mendoza

November 2011

Acknowledgments to Yorkshire Regiment; Jewish Chronicle; Yorkshire Post; University of London Senate House Library and Archive; Law Society