

Thomas Banister - Newspaper Articles

SERGEANT T. BANISTER. A large congregation assembled in Church on the evening of Tuesday, September 21st, at the Memorial Service for Thomas Banister, who was killed in action in France on the 9th. The St. Andrew's Coy. of C.L.B. and the Leyland Scouts attended in honour of their comrade to whom they owe so much, and whose loss is deeply felt.

There are many in Leyland who will be glad to have a record of the two following letters from officers in Tom Banister's regiment

"I heard of his death with a sense of personal loss, for I always found him a fine soldier willing and ready to do his duty and always ready to help others. His promotion to Sergeant was rapid and well deserved, and in his death at the post of duty the Service is the poorer for a very gallant soldier. I am Yours very sincerely, C.W. Jacob, Lieutenant."

"Dear Sir, I am writing to tell you how deeply I sympathise with you in the loss of one of my sergeants, Tom Banister, who I understand was before the war an enthusiastic worker in your work among the lads. If he was as keen in that work as he was in his soldiering there would not be many keener. His energy was infectious, and men put under his charge seemed to acquire the same keenness which was so striking a point in the sergeant's character. It will be a comfort to know that he has gone to a place where there are neither wars nor rumours of wars, and that he died at his post doing his duty. He was beloved of all the boys and none feels the loss more than I. Believe me to be Sincerely yours, L. HEATLEY, Lieut. 12th, King's (Liverpools). P.S. All the other Leyland boys are quite well and they are fine fellows without exception. **LEYLAND**

ST.ANDREW'S PARISH MAGAZINE - October 1915

Sgt. Thomas Banister (23) who formerly lived with his grand-mother at 25 Water Street, Leyland, was killed in action in France on Thursday the 9th Sept. (1915) at daybreak. He enlisted in the 12th King's (Liverpool) Regiment on Sept. 7th last year and had been at the front about two months. He was born in Bamber Bridge where his parents now reside, but he lived in Leyland from being 18 months old. He was employed at Berry's Mount Pleasant Mill. One of the originators of the Boy Scout movement in Leyland and when he enlisted he was Assistant Scoutmaster of the local troop, and was one of the first to join the Parish Church Lads Brigade. On leaving Leyland for service in the Army he was a Colour-Sergeant in the C.L.B., and was a member of the Whittle Harriers. **CHORLEY GUARDIAN AND LEYLAND HUNDRED ADVERTISER - Saturday 18 September 1915**

MEMORIAL SERVICE. - A memorial service, conducted by the Rev. C. H. Dyer, was held on Tuesday evening at the Leyland Parish Church, in memory of Lance-Sergt. Thomas Bannister, 25, Water-street, Leyland, who was shot by a sniper at the Dardenelles on September 9th. Deceased, who was 23 years old, was in the 12th Batt. King's Liverpool Regiment. He was one of the founders of the Boy Scout movement in Leyland; he was

also one of the first to join the Parish Church Lads' Brigade, detachments from both these bodies being present at the service. There was a large congregation. **PRESTON HERALD - Saturday 25 September 1915**

IN MEMORIAM. - Mrs. Bannister, 23, Towngate, Leyland, has this week been presented with a painted photograph of her grandson, Lance-Sergt. Thomas Bannister, King's Liverpool Regiment, who was killed by a sniper in Flanders a short time ago. The present has been subscribed for by Lance-Sergt. Bannister's fellow workmates at Messrs. A. Berry and Sons, Mount Pleasant Mills, where he was employed previous to the outbreak of war. **PRESTON HERALD. - Saturday 16 October 1915.**

(NOTE: The subject of both articles in the Preston Herald is the same. The cemetery where he lies is near Armentieres, French Flanders, so the second report as to his death is correct. The first report is incorrect as the 12th Battalion King's were not at the Dardenelles / Gallipoli campaign)