

ORIGINAL FILE DESTROYED

A.A. 3152.

208003 BMDR. A.R. SHELTON.

R.F.A.

LAPUGNOY MIL. CTY.

FRANCE.

P.A.

7-4-61



048026

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

Sunnyfields
Meadowside
Great Bookham
Surrey.

21. 1. 46.

To Sir Fabian Ware

Dear Sir

Is it possible to know what-
condition the Graves are in at,
Lapugray, Military Cemetery.
my late Husband is buried
there & my last visit was in
1934.. I have wondered a lot-
how the Cemeteries have fared
during the last 6 years. I should
deem it a great favour if you
could give me any information
regarding the above named Cemetery,
& when it will be possible to
visit again the Cemetery.

Thanking you I remain
yours Faithfully
A. L. Shelton.

208003

Bombardier, Alexander R. Shelton

"A" Battery, 58th Bde, R. F. A

Killed in action 10th March 1918.

VII. B. 16.

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES
COMMISSION
RECEIVED
24 JAN 1946

No.

52/1107./88

AA/3152

208003 SHELTON. RDR. A. R.

Lapugnoy hill. Cl 5.
Plot VII. Row B. Grave 16

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

Awaiting report from France?

AA/3152.

30th January 1946.

Dear Madam,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 21st January regarding the grave of the late Bombardier Alexander, R, Shelton of the Royal Field Artillery who is buried in Grave 16, Row B, Plot VII, in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, and in reply inform you that according to a report received here in June last from one of our representatives working in France, this cemetery was then in quite good condition.

The Commission's gardener-caretaker had then just returned from Germany where he had been interned, and had already tidied the graves, on which a good stock of roses and other flowering plants were growing in the headstone borders. It was apparent that the local inhabitants had been caring for the cemetery during the period of enemy occupation, and had suffered very little damage.

A request has now been sent to our Head Office in France, asking for a report to be sent on the condition of your husband's grave, and as soon as this is received it will be sent on to you.

I regret that the Commission have no information as to when it will be possible for you to visit this cemetery, though it is understood that it will be some time yet before the

/ necessary

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

necessary Exit Permits are granted for this purpose, owing to the difficulty of transport, which, as you will appreciate, is still very far from normal. It is probable that when freedom of travel is allowed, an announcement to that effect will be made in the Press.

Yours faithfully,

th.
Secretary.

Mrs. Shelton,
Sunnyfields,
Meadowside,
Great Bookham,
SURREY.

Chief Administrative Officer,
Head Office,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
B.L.A.

Ref: AA/3152.

Cemetery: LAPUGNOY MILITARY CEMETERY.

Grave of: 208003 Bdr. A.R.SHELTON.

Plot VII Row B Grave 16

Please add hereunder a very brief note of the condition of this grave when you have occasion to visit the Cemetery, and return to me.

I.W.G.C.
Wooburn House.
Date 30th January 1946

J. Keegan
Secretary.

Vice-Chairman,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
(SECRETARY)

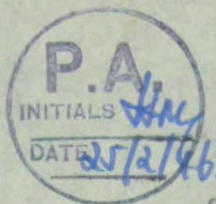
1. The Cemetery was visited on 14.2.46
2. The condition of the grave is clean and tidy. Planted with a Rose, Lavender and Narcissus.
3. The headstone is in good condition.

I.W.G.C.
France.

M. D. Keegan
for Chief Administrative Officer

Date 18th February, 1946.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)



25th February 1946.

Ref:- AA/3152

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your letter of the 21st January, I am pleased to inform you that I have now received a report on the condition of your husband's grave in the Lapugnoy Military Cemetery in North-East, France.

A representative of the Commission visited this Cemetery on the 14th February when he found Bombardier A.R. Shelton's grave to be clean and tidy. It is planted with a Rose, Lavender and Narcissus; the headstone is described as being in good condition. I trust that these few details will be of some assurance to you that your husband's grave is being decently maintained.

Yours faithfully,

19 Secretary.

Mrs. Shelton,
Sunnyfields,
Meadowside,
Great Bookham,
SURREY.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

Sunnyfield
Meadowside
Great-Bootham
Surrey.

Feb. 28th 1946.

Dear Sir

Thank you very much for your letter received this morning. I am most grateful for the kindness shown in making enquiries & obtaining the information about the condition of my late husband's grave. it is a great comfort to know that all through the years of war, some kind hands have been attending to these graves of our dear ones. The Rose & lavender were on the grave when last I paid a visit, but I am sure some one has kindly planted the lavender. for which I do thank

Them. on two occasions I stayed
with one of the gardeners. he was
an ex service man & his name
was. Charles Thomas. would it be
possible to trace him. as when I
can visit again my dear ones
grave, I should like to stay
with Mr & Mrs Thomas who were
so very kind to me. but I lost
touch with them through the war.
once again thank you & all
concerned for the grand work
you are doing. & the comfort
it brings. yours sincerely
A. R. Shelton.

Bombardier 208003. A. R. Shelton
A. Battery. 58th Bde: Royal Field Artillery

RECEIVED
WAR GRAVES
COMMISSION
23 FEB 1946
No.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)



To

The Assistant Secretary Finance
Imperial War Graves Commission
Woolburn House
Woolburn Green
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Mr. Mackintosh

Would you include in your letter a paragraph on the following lines (& have a spare copy of the letter for P. 351)

I am sorry to say that Mr. C E Thomas of Laventie died in July 1940. His widow is at present in this country; if you wish to write to her perhaps you would send your letter c/b this office, so that it may be forwarded to her.

Rumney

1.3.46.

AA 312.

4th March 1946.

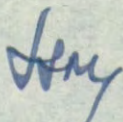
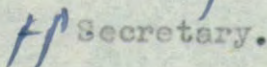
Ref: A.A.3152.

Dear Madam,

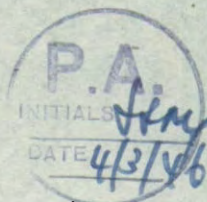
I have to thank you for your letter of the 28th February, and in reply to your enquiry concerning one of our gardener-care-takers, Mr. C.E. Thomas, I regret to have to inform you that he died in July 1940.

His widow is at present in this country, and, should you care to write to her, perhaps you would send your letter care of this office so that it may be forwarded to her.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. A.L. Shelton,
Sunnyfield,
Meadowside,
Great Bookham,
SURREY.



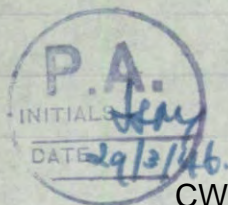
Ref: A. A. 3152. Sunny fields
Meadowside
Great Bookham
27th March. 1946. Sincerely.

Dear Sir

Very many thanks to
you for forwarding my letter
to Mrs. Thomas. I have received
a reply & we are hoping to
meet as soon as possible,
after her visit to her son.
It is more than kind of
you to take so much trouble
in the interest of others.

Once again thanking you

Yours Sincerely,
A. D. Shelton.



15 Bessand Gardens
Wimbledon.

S. W. 19

3.4.61

Dear Sirs

Please excuse me for writing, but I wondered could you help me. my dear Husband was killed on March 10th 1918. I have a daughter going to Paris on the 16th of this month, + would like to visit her Father's grave. if she could do the Journey + back in a day. I have put all particulars in this letter. my daughter was only 3²^{ms} old when her Father was killed + does not wish to see him now



CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

74 T. Crippled with Arthritis &
cannot go again, my grateful Thanks
for past favours
yours Sincerely

A. L. Shelton

INder no Fr. 88, LAPUGNOY.

FRANCE.

SHELTON. Bonds; Alexander, Reuben

"A" Battery, 58 Brigade, Royal Field
Artillery, 10th March 1918, age 34

Son of Harry & Matilda Shelton of
Fulham. Husband of Alice, Lucy,
Shelton of 487 Fulham Road, Fulham,
London. Previously Served
12 years with 4th Dragoon
Guards. . Vll. B. 16.

AA. 3152

20.8003 BMDR. ALEXANDER REUBEN SHELTON,
"A" BTY. 58th BDE. R. F. A. 10th MARCH,
1918. AGE 34. Son of Harry and
Matilda Shelton, of Fulham husband of
Alice Lucy Shelton of 487, Fulham Rd,
Fulham London. Previously served 12 years
with 4th Dragoon Gds.
LAPUGNOY MIL. CTY. FRANCE.

Plot CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)

Fv. 88

~~Enquiries Branch~~

For PA

James Campbell

5th April, 1961.

5/4/61

AA.3152.

Dear Mrs. Shelton,

In reply to your letter dated 3rd April, I can confirm that Bombardier Alexander Reuben Shelton, 208003, Royal Field Artillery, is buried in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, France. The particulars of his grave are Plot 7, Row B, Grave 16.

The village of Lapugnoy is 4 miles ^{west} east of the town of Bethune (some 100 miles north of Paris) and 2 miles south of the Bethune-^{Lillers} St. Pol road. The Military Cemetery is a mile north-west of the village on a road to the neighbouring village of Allouagne.

The cemetery is open at all times. A register is available in the register box in the cemetery, the plan in which enables one to ascertain the location of a particular grave, or one can ask one of the gardeners for assistance.

It should be quite possible for your daughter to visit the grave from Paris and return the same day. According to the current timetable one could leave Paris (Nord) station at 9.33 a.m. and arrive at Bethune, changing at Arras, at 1.03 p.m. A taxi could then be taken to the cemetery and back. One could leave Bethune at 4.48 p.m., changing at Arras again, and arrive back in Paris at 7.43 p.m. As my timetable is the one for March it might be as well to confirm these times, but I do not think it is likely that they have been changed.

Yours sincerely,

James

Director-General.

Mrs. A.L. Shelton,
15 Bernard Gardens,
Wimbledon,
London, S.W.19.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/13 (AA3152)