

LEST WE FORGET - Remembering the men of Waterloo and Taunton who died in World War 1



Compiled by Hazel Arda and Meg Gain 2024

INTRODUCTION

They say '*old soldiers never die*' but the 94 names of the men who were killed in World War 1, inscribed on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial, did not have the opportunity to grow old. Many of them were very young, barely 20 years of age, when they died.

Several are buried in Ashton but many others are buried or commemorated overseas, in France or Turkey or Iraq.

As the years have passed, memories of these men and the details of their lives have faded. Back in 2014, Hazel Arda and Meg Gain co-operated to piece together these details to contribute to "*Lives of the First World War*" project by the Imperial War Museum. The work was interrupted by personal circumstances and then by a global pandemic. In 2021 we decided to continue with our research which has now reached its conclusion.

We hope the work will help people to imagine the lives of these men who made the ultimate sacrifice so that they are not just names on the war memorial.

The work has proven to be like constructing a giant jigsaw puzzle to find out the family backgrounds of the men commemorated on the memorial. Obviously, genealogy sites such as *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* have proved valuable and, where a named man appears in someone's family tree, they have not always been aware that their ancestor perished in the War. Hazel has valiantly checked the *Ashton Reporter* for obituaries of the men. She eloquently described how she found the first of the named men in the local paper- Novello Bancroft and how emotional it felt to put a face to a name. She also found it overwhelming to see page after page of photos of young men who would never return home.

We have used websites such as The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 1914-1918.net and the invaluable site devoted to men of the local Pals Battalion, the 9th Manchesters - *ashtonpals.com* developed by one woman. Unfortunately this website has now been withdrawn due to financial constraints. The Tameside History Forum has listed all the names of those serving in the Ashton Pals Battalion who appeared in the *Cheshire Reporter* of 15 August 1914.

Background information on campaigns and battles has involved lots of reading of websites and books on World War 1. This has expanded our knowledge of the 'War to end all Wars' as well as the sad tales of loss and bereavement in a small community which only increased our admiration for the bravery and sacrifice of the men of Waterloo and Taunton.

Inevitably there are still gaps in the information we have gathered. More than two-thirds of the service records covering 1914 -1920 were destroyed or damaged by enemy action during World War 2. There are discrepancies in census records too.

We can safely say we have found the research interesting and fascinating. We hope our readers will do so too. Meg Gain and Hazel Arda 2024

WATERLOO AND TAUNTON WAR MEMORIAL



The War Memorial commemorating the dead of two World Wars stands at the junction of Oldham Road and Taunton Road, adjacent to the Dog and Partridge public house. It is a four-sided column made of Portland Stone, on top of three steps. On each side of the column there is a sword cut into the stone and beneath, a wreath. There are four bronze panels, bearing 94 names from the First World War, and 28 from the Second World War.

The architect was Percy Howard. The *Ashton Reporter* described the monument as being “of simple but dignified design”.

The Mayor of the Manor, Mr Maurice Lees, unveiled the memorial on St George's Day (23 April), 1921, in front of a crowd of around 3,000 people.

A procession led by the Manchester Regiment band and Firing Party started at the junction of Ney Street and Oldham Road. The Mayor and Mayoress of Ashton (Councillor and Mrs Henry Greenwood), schoolchildren, and the representatives of the churches were led by the Salvation Army Band.

Councillor E. Williamson, Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, gave a speech. The lesson “*God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*” was read by Mr R Thornley. The Rev T. Brian Castle led the prayers.

Mr Lees then unveiled the memorial. The assembled sang the hymn “*Fight the Good Fight*”, and the Rev A.D. Johnson dedicated the monument. The Rev A.L. Bradfield gave the Benediction. A volley of shots were then fired into the air, and the proceedings closed with the Last Post.

The bronze tablets bearing 122 names were dedicated on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, 1950, by Canon A.D. Johnson, Vicar Of Christ Church, Oldham Road.

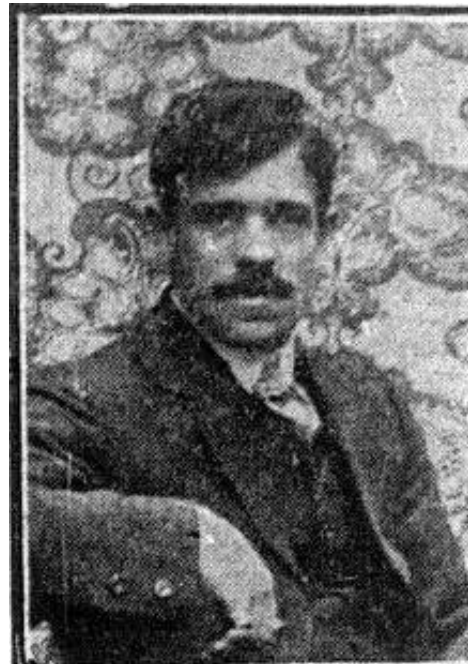
The inscription reads: ERECTED / TO THE / MEMORY / OF THE MEN OF / WATERLOO / AND / TAUNTON / WHO GAVE / THEIR LIVES / FOR THE / FREEDOM / AND HONOUR / OF KING / COUNTRY / IN THE / GREAT WAR / 1914-1918 / AND / 1939-1945

Arthur Apperley 1882 – 1918 Service Number: 351508
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/6th Battalion

Arthur Apperley was born in Ashton under Lyne in the summer of 1882. His father was David James Apperley and his mother Elizabeth Hubbard. Arthur's parents came from Birmingham and were married at the parish church of Bishop Ryder in Birmingham on 12 Nov 1871. David and Elizabeth appear to have moved to Ashton shortly after the birth of their first son Tom.

Arthur had four older siblings - Tom born in 1872, James born in 1875, George born in 1876 and Lily born in 1879. He also had two younger siblings Agnes born in 1888 and Reginald born in 1891.

At the time of the census in 1891 the family were living at 84 Dean Street in Ashton. Arthur was 8 years old; he and his sister Lily are listed as scholars, however the definition of the term in census instructions was vague and was often used as a blanket term for children whether they were at school or working. His father David worked as a brass polisher.



By the time of the next census, in 1901, the family were living at 122 Brook Street, Ashton. Arthur was 18 years old and worked as a Brass Finisher, the same as his father. A brass finisher was the general name given to a person who worked with brass and would include casting, grinding, smoothing and polishing brass parts.

Four years later Arthur, aged 23, married Annie Gertrude Perkins at St Peter's Church, Ashton on 27 May 1905. They had one daughter Lily, born later that year. Sadly Annie died the following year and Arthur's father died a year later in 1907.

Arthur married Margaret Ogden at Christ Church, Ashton on 5th March 1910. Arthur & Margaret had four children: Doris was born in 1910 but sadly died the following year, Harold born in 1912, Florence born in 1913 and Bernard born in 1917.

At the time of the 1911 census Arthur, Margaret & his 5 year old daughter Lily were living with Arthur's mother and his two younger siblings in a four-roomed house at 22 Gordon Street in Waterloo. Arthur was still working as a brass finisher at Spencer & Cook's in Stalybridge.

Arthur enlisted in January 1915. He volunteered with the Manchester Regiment. He was given the service number 3360 and sometime later was given a new service

number of 351508. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows Arthur served with the 1st/6th Battalion, his Medal Rolls Index Card and obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* also show that he served with the 1st/9th Battalion.

Arthur's Medal Index Card shows his first Theatre of War was the Balkans where he arrived on 23 Oct 1915. As part of the Manchester Regiment, Arthur would have been at Gallipoli for a couple of months before being evacuated to Mudros in Greece and then on to Egypt. Early in August 1916 the Manchester Brigades, along with the Lancashire Fusiliers, took part in a long march to help defend the Suez Canal. The men would have marched under the blazing sun and often had to struggle through loose sand. Many collapsed under the extreme physical effort. Arthur may well have taken part in this march and the following battle of Romani.

In the Spring of 1917 Arthur's unit landed at Marseilles, France and proceeded to the Western Front. Conditions in the trenches were very different to those Arthur had been accustomed to and must have been a great shock. By September 1917 Arthur's unit moved north to take part in the Third Battle of Ypres also known as Passchendaele. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days, and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

During 1918 Arthur's unit took part in a number of encounters in what is now known as the First and Second Battles of the Somme. In the three months before he died. Arthur was engaged in guarding German prisoners. Towards the end of the war Arthur developed pneumonia & influenza. He was taken to the 5th General Hospital stationed on the outskirts of Rouen where he died on 13 Nov 1918, two days after the end of the war. Arthur was 36 years old. He is buried at the St Sever Cemetery Extension in Rouen, grave number S.III.AA.10.

Joseph Edward Appleby 1892 - 1915 Service Number: 724
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/9th Battalion

Joseph was born in West Bromwich, Staffordshire in 1892. His parents Samuel Appleby and Agnes Leeson were married at Kidderminster in 1886. Joseph had two younger sisters, Eliza born in 1887 and Agnes born in 1889. Joseph also had two older sisters, Annie Lilly born in 1895 and Elsie Ann born in 1897. Joseph and his family moved to Ashton under Lyne sometime between 1895 and 1897.

Joseph was 9 years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and sisters at 30 Hope Street in Hurst. Joseph's father operated a steam hammer at a local Iron Works.



By the time of the next census in 1911 Joseph and his family were living at 16 Waterloo Street in Dukinfield. Joseph was 19 years old and worked in one of the many coal mines in the area. Joseph's father wasn't with the family at the time of the census. We don't know if his parents had separated or whether his father was just away from home at the time of the census. Sometime after the census was taken, Joseph started to work for the Ashton Corporation Tramways as a conductor on the Hurst route.

Joseph married Hannah Edwards in Ashton in 1912. Joseph & Hannah made their home in Waterloo after they were married. They had three daughters: Hannah was born in 1912 but sadly died the following year and was buried at Christ Church, Waterloo. Their second daughter Elsie was born in 1913 and their third daughter Selina was born in 1915. Selina also died in infancy and was buried at Christ Church in 1917.

Joseph's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the exact date he enlisted in the army but an article in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* (29 January 1916) suggests he joined the Ashton Territorials around 1908. Joseph was given the service number 724. Another article in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* lists men who were with the Ashton Territorials 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in July 1914, it shows that Joseph was with G Company in the Battalion.

Joseph's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

Joseph landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. 'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days' (ashtonpals.webs.com)

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Campaign is considered to be a failure and over 140,000 men were lost. Seven months after arriving at Gallipoli Joseph was killed in action on 18 Dec 1915, shortly after being recommended for promotion to sergeant.

An article, reporting Joseph's death, was published in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* 29th January 1916 and included copies of letters paying tribute to Corporal Appleby.

"Dear Mrs. Appleby, I deeply regret to have to inform you that your dear husband, Joe, was killed in action on December 18th, his death being instantaneous. Throughout the arduous months of training in Egypt he was a hard and enthusiastic worker, well-liked by the officers and men, and at all times during service operations in Gallipoli was brave and conscientious in his duties, and it was only a day or two before that his promotion to sergeant was recommended. The news came as a shock to me, for we had worked side by side on many occasions."

A memorial service for Joseph was held at the United Methodist Church in Waterloo, which he formerly attended. Joseph has no known grave, he is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Panel 158 to 170 as well as the Waterloo War Memorial.

Edward Arda 1898 – 1916 Service Number: J/39295
Royal Navy Ship: H.M.S. Victory

Edward was the son of Edward Arthur Arda and Martha Alice Moseley. He was born on 14 Mar 1898 in Bedminster, Somerset. Edward was baptised a few months later on 3 July 1898 at St Silas in Ardwick, Manchester.

Edward came from a large family; all his siblings were born in Manchester. He had an older brother George Arthur born in 1896 who served in the Marines during the war. Edward also had eight younger siblings: Herbert was born in 1900 but sadly died in 1901, Margaret born in 1901, Alice born in 1904, twins Frank and James were born in 1905 but both died shortly after; James born in 1907, Elizabeth born in 1909 and Eleanor born in 1914.



Edward was 3 years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and siblings at 7 Wilson Street, Clayton. His father worked as a stationary boiler fireman. When Edward was 6 years old, he and his older brother were admitted to Birley Street School, Manchester on 22 August 1904. The family were living at 77 Blackthorn Street in Manchester.

By the time of the census in 1911 Edward and his family were living in a four-roomed house at 96 Carmen Street in Ardwick. Edward was 13 years old and still attended school as did his sisters Margaret and Alice. His older brother George worked as an errand boy and his father still worked as a fireman at a local cotton mill. Later Edward started work in one of the many cotton mills in the area.

Edward enlisted in the Navy 10 May 1915 at the age of 17. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* (10 June 1916) states that he “*always had a hankering after the Navy*”. His service record shows that he was 5 feet 9 inches tall, had brown hair, hazel coloured eyes and a fresh complexion.

Initially Edward served on HMS Powerful which was used as a Training Ship at Devonport. In December 1915 he transferred to HMS Victory, and a short time later he transferred to HMS *Malaya*, a new 'super-dreadnought' battle cruiser built in 1915. Edward served as a Boy 2nd Class and from November 1915 he had obtained the relevant competencies to be rated Boy 1st Class. In March 1916 Edward was rated Ordinary Seaman.

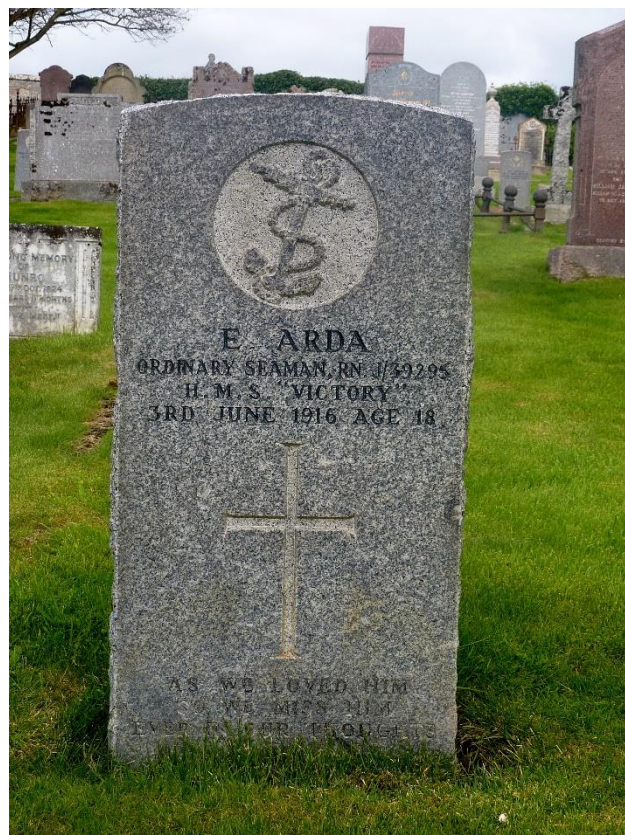
On 31 May 1916 the *Malaya* took part in the Battle of Jutland, considered to be the only major naval battle of World War One. The battle took place between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet in the North Sea, off mainland Denmark. HMS *Malaya* was hit at least eight times and took major damage and heavy crew casualties. Sixty five men died in the battle or later from their injuries, and a similar number received injuries. Many casualties, including Edward, suffered severe burns.

After the battle, Edward was transferred to HMS *Victory* with a number of other wounded men. Edward died on 3 June 1916 from wounds he received during the battle. He was 18 years old.

Edward is buried at Rosskeen Parish Church Extension, Invergordon in Scotland, Grave C.380. His family chose the inscription 'As we loved him so we miss him, ever in our thoughts'.



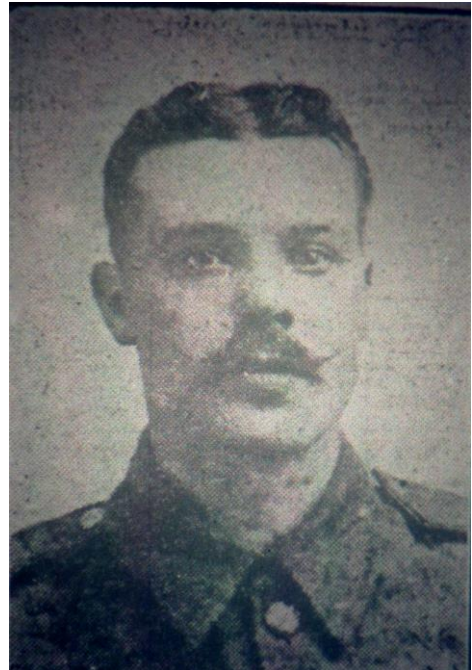
Rosskeen Parish Church © Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone for Edward Arda © H Arda

Novello Bancroft 1888 – 1917 Service Number: 29390
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion

Novello Bancroft was born in Stalybridge between October and December 1888. He was baptised at Old St George's, Stalybridge along with his brother Lawrence on 4 Mar 1893. Novello was the second child of Bethany Bancroft and Sarah Jane Hartley. Bethany and Sarah were married at St Michael's, Ashton under Lyne on 18 Jun 1886. At the time of the census in 1891, Novello was two years old. He lived with his family at 31 Warrington Street in Stalybridge. Novello's father worked as a Driller at an engine works and his mother was a weaver in a local cotton mill.



By the time of the next census in 1901 the family were living at 29 Stocks Lane in Stalybridge. Novello was 12 years old, his sister worked in the cotton mill along with their mother. Novello's father still worked in the Iron industry.

Novello was 22 years old at the time of the census in 1911. He lived with his parents and two siblings at 14 Cobden Street in Ashton. Novello worked as a Grocer's Assistant, his sister Edith worked as a cotton weaver and his brother Lawrence was an apprentice cabinet maker.

Novello married Ada Porter at St Michael's parish church in Ashton in 1915. Novello and Ada didn't have any children.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says that Novello joined the Army in June 1916 at Manchester. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted as this had been extended to include married men after 25th May 1916. Novello joined the 26th Manchester Regiment. He served as a Private and was given the Service Number 29390. Novello was later transferred to the 3rd Battalion and then to the 2nd Battalion in the Manchester Regiment.

After training, Novello went to France on 11 February 1917. Just a couple of months after he arrived, Novello's wife Ada received two notifications from the War Office, one stating that he had been wounded on April 2nd and the other that he died of wounds at a place not stated on April 2nd.

An article published in *the Ashton under Lyne Reporter* 28 April 1917 reads "*There is some uncertainty about the reported death in France of Private N Bancroft, whose wife resides at 14 Cobden Street, Ashton, and if any of our many soldier readers can*

give Mrs Bancroft any news about her husband, or throw any light on his fate, help would be eagerly welcomed. Mrs Bancroft has received from Preston two notifications. One states that Private Bancroft was wounded on April 2nd and the other that he died of wounds at a place not stated on April 2nd. Naturally Mrs Bancroft clings to the slightest thread of hope that her husband is yet alive. Private Bancroft was 28 years of age. Many people would know him. He used to work at Young's provision stall in the Ashton Market before he went to Messrs Seymour, Mead and Co's Beswick branch. He joined the army in June last year, and went out to France on February 11th this year. His last letter, dated March 29th, was written in quite a cheery vein."

Records show that Novello did in fact die on 2 Apr 1917, probably from wounds sustained at the Somme. From April to June 1917 No.21 Casualty Clearing Station, was based at Nesle and casualties from there were buried in the cemetery. Novello is buried in the Nesle Communal Cemetery, Grave Reference C.20.

George Barker 1895 – 1918 Service Number: 350448
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion

George Barker was born in Ashton under Lyne in the late spring of 1895. His parents Robert Barker and Emma Vials were married on 28 Aug 1875 at St Stephen's, Audenshaw. Robert and Emma had a large family and George was the youngest of 11 children.

By the time of the census in 1901 George was 6 years old. He and his family lived at 97 Old Street in Ashton under Lyne. His father Robert worked as a Locksmith. George was about 14 years old when his father Robert died in 1910 at the age of 56 years. Life must have been very hard for George and his family as his father would have been the main wage earner.

The census in 1911 shows the family living in a three-roomed house at 217 Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne. George was 15 years old and worked as a Scavenger in a cotton mill. The youngest children in textile factories were usually employed as Scavengers and Piecers. Scavengers had to pick up the loose cotton from under the machinery. This was extremely dangerous as the children were expected to carry out the task while the machine was still working. George's brother Ernest was a housepainter and his two sisters worked in a Draper's Shop.

George married Alice Stead in Ashton in 1914. George and Alice had two children, Ivy born in 1914 and George born in 1918, after his father's death.

George's Service Record shows he joined the Territorial Reserves at Ashton under Lyne on 20 February 1914 at the age of 19 years. Recruits were able to choose which regiment they joined, George chose to join his local unit, the Ashton Territorials 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment where he served as a Private. George was given the service number 1869. Later he was given the new service number 350448.

His attestation papers show that George lived at 227 Oldham Road and worked as a labourer at Guide Bridge for the Great Central Railway. A medical on the same day shows George was 5 feet 5 inches tall, his vision and physical development were good and he was considered fit for the Territorial Force Reserve.

George would have initially undergone a period of training in England before embarking on active service. George's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

Sadly, George's Service Record doesn't contain any information regarding his military service. However, there are a number of records which highlight the

movements of the 9th Manchester Battalion. George may well have been involved in these.

On the 1st May, 1915 the 9th Battalion received their firm orders to leave for Gallipoli. They landed on 9th May amid fierce shelling by Turkish troops. The Gallipoli campaign aimed to open a supply route via the Black Sea to Russia, and to shorten the war. The operation was an unmitigated disaster which resulted in a massive loss of life.

The 9th Battalion spent the majority of 1916 on guard duty on the Suez Canal, along with training exercises and route marches.

On 4th March 1917 the 9th Battalion embarked on HMT Arcadian bound for France. They disembarked at Marseilles on 11th March. They began training on the tactics of trench warfare in very different conditions to those they had become accustomed to. On 22nd August they travelled by train to Ypres. As part of the 42nd Division they took over a sector almost a mile in width, enduring appalling conditions due to bad weather and constant heavy enemy shellfire. They left the front line at the end of September

The German spring offensive, or Kaiserschlacht ("Kaiser's Battle") was the last big push which saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front beginning on 21 March 1918. George was killed on the first day of this offensive. He has no known grave but George is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panel 64 to 67 as well as the Waterloo War Memorial.

Edward Bates 1884 – 1918 Service Number: 377088
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/10th Battalion

Edward Bates was born in the Spring of 1884 in Ashton under Lyne. His parents Thomas Bates and Betty Garside were married at St Stephen's church in Audenshaw on 1 November 1869.

Edward was the youngest of eight children. He was 7 years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his parents and siblings at 19 Earnshaw Street in Taunton, Ashton under Lyne. Edward's father was a general labourer and his mother worked as a Cotton Weaver. Edward was 16 years old when his father died in 1900 at the age of 52.

A year later, the census shows Edward and his family still living on Earnshaw Street. Edward worked as a Piecer in the cotton mill. A Piecer would repair the broken threads on spinning machines. This was often a job done by children because they needed nimble fingers. Edward's sister Clara was a Cotton Weaver and his brother Robert worked as a Baker.



Edward was 27 at the time of the next census in 1911. He still worked as a Piecer and lived at 12 Earnshaw Street with his mother, his sister Clara and her husband and young son. By the time he enlisted, Edward was working as a Spinner at the Hathershaw Spinning Company.

Edward's Service Record no longer exist so we don't know when he enlisted. His Medal Index Card shows that he enlisted in Ashton under Lyne and was awarded The British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Edward joined the Manchester Regiment, he was given the service number 30043. Later he was given the new service number 377088. Edward's Medal Index Card does not show when or where he was first posted.

Towards the end of the summer of 1917, as part of the 42nd Division, the 1/10th Battalion headed towards the Third Battle of Ypres. Better known as Passchendaele the battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The Division was held back for a later attack and were employed bringing up

supplies and ammunition under heavy shellfire. Edward would be spared the full horrors of what became one of the deadliest battles in history.

By early 1918, Allied troops on the Western Front were weary from years of launching failed campaigns against the Germans. They were overstretched, short of manpower and suffering from low morale. In contrast, the German Army was boosted by the arrival of men from the Eastern Front – and busy preparing for a huge attack. 21 March 1918 saw the start of the German spring offensive, or Kaiserschlacht ("Kaiser's Battle"), the last big push which saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front.

Edward died of wounds on 5th April 1918 he was 34 year old. He is buried at Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France, grave reference XVII.A.6.

John Beaumont 1882 - 1917 Service Number 1571/2511

Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st Battalion

John Beaumont was born on 26 February 1882 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 9 April 1882 at St Peter's Church, Ashton. He was the son of Samuel Beaumont and Elizabeth Ann Wharmby. In 1891 John (9) was living with his parents and younger siblings, Samuel aged 7 and Alice 10 months, at 33 Brook Street, Ashton.

His parents worked in a cotton mill, Samuel as a twiner and Elizabeth Ann as a weaver. Samuel and Elizabeth had five children but only John and his brother Samuel born 1886 survived past infancy. John cannot be traced in 1901 census although his parents and brother, Samuel, aged 17 were living at 13 Hodgson Street in the west end of Ashton.

In April 1900 John enlisted with the Royal Lancashire Regiment and given the service number 9048. His service record shows he was living at Hodgson Street in Ashton and worked as a Cotton Spinner at Rock Mill in Waterloo. His service record also shows he was already a volunteer with the Manchester Regiment. John was 6 feet 2 inches tall which was particularly tall as the average height for a man in 1900 was 5 feet 6 inches.

John embarked for South Africa on 10 September 1900. The South African or Boer War (1899–1900) was a conflict between the British Empire and two Boer Republics over influence in South Africa. John fought throughout the war, finally arriving back in England in February 1902.

John married Flora Virginia Fox on 4 Jan 1908 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton. Flora died the following year, probably after giving birth to a son, John Albert Beaumont born 1909 Ashton.

In the 1911 census John Beaumont aged 29, a widower, was living with his parents at 8 Mary Street, Taunton, Ashton with his one year old son. John Albert.

John Beaumont, a widower, married Mary Ann Hindley on 15 Nov 1913 at Oldham St Mary's. As John lived in a different parish he gives his address as 50 West Street the same as Mary Ann in order to save having to pay for two lots of banns.

John's Service Record does not contain any information regarding his service during World War 1 but other records show he re-enlisted in Oldham at the start of the war and his Medal Rolls Index Card shows he joined the 1st Battalion of Manchester Regiment landing in France 11 December 1914. The Battalion served on the Western Front until leaving France on 10 December 1915. The Battalion then moved to Mesopotamia (now Iraq), landing at Basra on 8 January 1916. Following Turkey's decision to enter the war on Germany's side, Britain sent troops to protect its oil supplies in the Ottoman province of Mesopotamia. John died in Basra on 13 October 1917 and is buried at the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery grave number XII. D. 3.

Horace Bennett 1894 – 1915 Service Number: 3391
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1st/9th Battalion

Horace was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne between April and June in 1894. His parents Charles Bennett and Sarah Garside were married at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1883.

Horace was the youngest of seven children. He was 7 years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and 5 siblings at 15 Earnshaw Street, Taunton in Ashton under Lyne. Horace's father worked as a general labourer and his older brothers John, Elisha and Albert worked in the cotton mill. It must have been very cramped living in a small 4 roomed house. This might explain why his older brother James was staying with their grandfather, John Garside, a few houses away on Earnshaw Street. Horace was 15 years old when his father Charles died in 1909 aged 58.



Horace and his family were still living at 15 Earnshaw Street at the time of the next census in 1911. Horace was 17 years old and worked as a house painter's apprentice. All his siblings were working and the family also took in a young boarder to help pay the rent. Sometime before he enlisted in the Army, Horace started to work at Lumb Mills in Littlemoss.

The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* shows that Horace and his brother John enlisted together in Ashton the week of 10 July 1915. Horace chose to join the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 3391.

Horace's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. His Medal Index Card also shows that he was sent to the Balkans with the Manchester Regiment in October 1915.

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Campaign was a failure with the loss of over 140,000 men. Horace was only in Gallipoli for a couple of months before he

was fatally wounded. He died on 22 December 1915 from wounds that he received in action. Horace was 21 years old.

According to an article published in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* 8th January 1916 "*He had been in many tight corners, and fought from the first landing. In his own words, he was in capital health, and had not received a scratch.*"

Horace is buried at the East Mudros Military Cemetery in Greece. Grave reference III.E.156.

Three of Horace's brothers were also in the Army. James served with the 2/9th Manchester Regiment, Elisha with the South Lancashire Regiment and John with the Lancashire Fusiliers. John was killed in action in France on 5th July 1916 just seven months after Horace. Their mother Sarah Bennett nee Garside had lost her husband and two sons within six years.

John Bennett 1884 – 1916 Service Number: 4053
Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion

John was born in Ashton under Lyne on 14th July 1884 and was christened at Christ Church in Waterloo on 3rd March 1888. His parents Charles Bennett and Sarah Garside were married at Christ Church in 1883.

John had an older brother James who was born in 1883. He also had five younger brothers Elisha born in 1885, Albert born in 1887, Harry born in 1889, Joshua born in 1890 and Horace born in 1894.

John was 6 years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his parents and brothers at 17 Earnshaw Street, Taunton in Ashton under Lyne. His father was a Coal Miner and his mother worked in a local cotton mill.

By the time of the next census in 1901 John and his family had moved next door, to 15 Earnshaw Street, Taunton. John was 16 years old and worked as a Roller Turner for textile machinery. This would involve working a machine to sort the cotton into rolls before it could be used for spinning. His brothers John, Elisha and Albert also worked in the cotton mill. It must have been very cramped for the family living in a small, four-room house. This might explain why his older brother James was staying with their grandfather, John Garside, a few houses away on Earnshaw Street.

John was 25 years old when his father Charles died in 1909 at the age of 58.

At the time of the census in 1911, John was 27 years old. He still lived at 15 Earnshaw Street with his mother and brothers. The family also took in a young boarder, possibly to help pay the rent. John worked as a labourer for a Railway Company.

The *Ashton Reporter* shows that John and his brother Horace enlisted together in Ashton the week of 10 July 1915. John joined the 10th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers and was given the service number 4053.

John's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1914-1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

John would have initially undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he

would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

John's Battalion landed at Boulogne, France on 15 July 1915. They spent an initial period of trench familiarisation and training before holding the front lines in the southern area of the Ypres salient.

During the spring of 1916 John's Battalion would have been involved in a number of localised operations to try and gain a tactical advantage. The Germans first used Phosgene gas during these operations.

The battle of Albert is the official name for the British efforts during the first two weeks fighting of the first battle of the Somme. The first day of fighting became the costliest day in British military history with over 57,000 casualties in a single day.

John was killed in action on 5th July 1916 shortly before his 32nd birthday. An obituary in the Ashton Reporter states that John was "a crack shot and was continually on sniping duty".

Like many who took part in the Battle of the Somme, John has no known grave. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 3C and 3D.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.



Thiepval Memorial © Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Stanley Buckley 1888 – 1917 Service Number: 352313
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1st/9th Battalion

Stanley Buckley was born in Ashton under Lyne between July and September 1888. His parents Samuel Buckley and Hannah Schofield were married in Ashton in 1882.

Stanley came from a large family. He had two older brothers: John Arthur born in 1884 and Albert born in 1886. He also had eight younger siblings Wilfred Schofield born in 1890, Edith in 1891, Willie in 1892, Sarah Elizabeth in 1894, Jane in 1895, Annie Garth in 1897, Samuel in 1899 and Hannah born in 1901.

Stanley was two years old at the time of the census in 1891. His family were living at 13 Newmarket Road in the Taunton area of Ashton.

Stanley's father worked as a rent collector for a gas company.

By the time of the next census in 1901 Stanley was 12 years old. His family had moved to 8/6 Newmarket. Stanley's father still worked as a gas rents collector and his older brothers both worked for a local brewery. Stanley's grandfather, John Schofield, was a retired labourer and lived with the family

By 1911 Stanley's parents and his two youngest siblings Samuel and Hannah were living at Poplar Cottage in Bradwell, a small village in Derbyshire. Stanley's father was now Secretary to a Limited Gas Company. Stanley was 22 years old and still lived on Newmarket Road with his grandfather and his other siblings. Stanley worked as a Letterpress Printer at office of the Ashton *Reporter* newspaper. Letterpress printing involved putting individual letters into a printing press, inking them and then rolling or pressing the letters - paper against paper to form an impression.

Stanley's Service Record no longer exists. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Stanley joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment in March 1916, he was given the service number 4865. We don't know if Stanley volunteered or if he was conscripted after this was introduced in March 1916. Stanley's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star which was only awarded to men who served in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915.



Stanley would have initially undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

Stanley was moved to the 1/9th Manchester Battalion whilst in Egypt and given a new service number 352313. The 9th Battalion spent the majority of 1916 on guard duty of the Suez Canal, along with training and route marches.

On 4 March 1917 the 9th Battalion embarked on HMT Arcadian bound for France. They disembarked at Marseilles on 11th March. They began training on the tactics of trench warfare in very different conditions to those they had become accustomed to.

Stanley was killed in action on 3rd July 1917 he was 28 years old. A friend of Stanley's, John Batty wrote to Stanley's parents *"I am sorry to inform you that your son Stanley was killed between 12 and 1am this morning. I don't know if Stanley ever mentioned me in his letters, but during our training out in Egypt and here we have stuck to each other like brothers. I, along with Stanley and a party, were warned off to do some wire laying in the front of the trench, when the enemy shelled our trench with their trench mortar. I am proud to tell you he met his death with a smile on his face, and that he in every way proved himself a true type of soldier and a pal."*

An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* shows that Stanley attended the Taunton Sunday Schools, and was a member of the Waterloo and Taunton Liberal Club. *"The flag was hoisted half-mast at the club on the sad news being brought to the notice of the members. He is the first member of the Ashton Branch of the Typographical Society to fall in action. Two brothers are also in the forces, Private William Buckley is serving with the Royal Engineers in France, and Private Samuel Buckley is at Whitchurch."*

Stanley is buried at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais in France, Grave D.14.

Charles William Burgess 1878 – 1916 Service Number: 12356
Regiment & Unit: Royal Warwickshire Regiment 2nd Battalion

Charles William Burgess was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1878. His parents James Burgess and Alice Morrell were married at St Barnabus' church in Openshaw in 1874. Charles had two brothers: James born 1876 and died in 1877 and Thomas born 1881. Charles' sisters were Jane Hannah born 1883 and Bertha born 1885.

Charles was two years old at the time of the 1881 census. He lives with his parents and younger brother Thomas at 43 Cavendish Street in Ashton. Charles' father was a shoemaker.

By the time of the next census in 1891 the family were living at 26 Gordon Street in Waterloo.

Charles was aged 12 and was listed as a scholar as were his younger brothers and sisters.

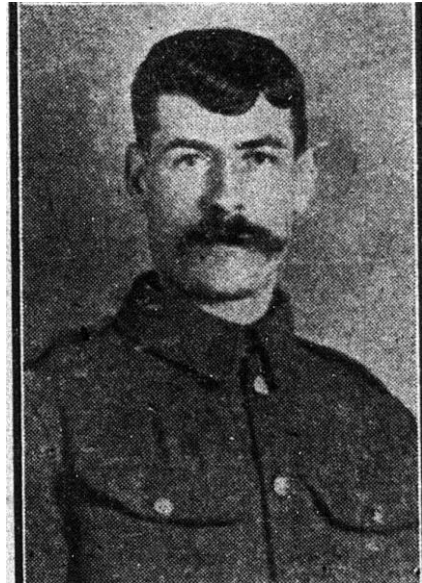
In 1901 Charles married Elizabeth Ann Marsden at Christ Church in Waterloo. Charles and Elizabeth Ann had seven children: William Henry born 1901, James born 1903, Harry born 1904, Esther born 1905, George born 1906, Esther Jane born 1908 and Alice born in 1915. Sadly, Charles and Elizabeth lost three children in infancy - James and Harry in 1904 and Esther in 1905.

The 1901 census shows Charles and Elizabeth living at 32 Ney Street in Waterloo. Charles was working as a coal miner.

The 1911 shows Charles living apart from his family. Charles was boarding with Rowley and Lydia Eyre at 53 Butcher Street, Thurscoe in Rotherham, Yorkshire. He was aged 32 and worked as a coal miner. Elizabeth and their three children William Henry, George and Esther Jane were living at 4 Wellington Street in Waterloo.

Before volunteering for the Army, Charles worked at Copperas House Pit in Bardsley. He supported his local football team Waterloo United, and was a member of the committee at one time.

Charles' Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card indicates that he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1914-1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.



Charles initially joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in December 1914 as a Gunner and was given the service number 55911. He was later transferred to the 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was given a new service number 12356

Charles was killed in action on 30 April 1916 he was aged 39. A letter sent by the Chaplain to Charles' widow says "*He was killed by a shell – at once – so he had no pain. Yet his death was every bit as brave as if he had been charging the enemy*". Shortly before his death Charles had written to his wife to send her some money to buy a birthday present for herself and Easter Eggs for the children.

Charles is buried at the Citadel New Military Cemetery, Fricourt, Somme in France Grave IV. E. 1. His family chose the inscription for his headstone '*Until memory fades you will live forever in our hearts, wife and children*'.

John Cassidy 1893 – 1917 Service Number: 303456
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd/8th Battalion

John Cassidy was born in Ashton under Lyne on 23 November 1893. His parents John Cassidy and Annie Murphy were married the following year at the Registry Office, Ashton.

John had eight younger siblings: James born in 1896, Esther 1897, Francis 1899, Herbert 1901, Annie & Phelim (twins) born 1903, Mary 1908 and Thomas born in 1912. Sadly Herbert and Phelim both died in infancy

John was seven years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his family at 6 Dunkerley Street in Waterloo. His father worked as a Bass Dresser in a brush works. Bass is a fibrous material obtained from jute, hemp, flax etc. used for making rope. Brush Makers had a number of skills included turning, carpentry and working with fibres.



The family were still living at 6 Dunkerley Street, Waterloo in 1911. There were eight people living in a small terraced house. John was aged 17 and employed as a Scavenger at the Cedar Mill in Hurst where he had worked since the age of 13 years. This was a dangerous job as it involved gathering the cotton waste from underneath machinery whilst it was still operating. It was the lowliest of the apprenticeships and many young people were killed or seriously injured in this occupation. By the time he enlisted, John was working as a Piecer in the same mill. John's father continued to work at the brush works. His grandfather lived with the family and was a retired Blacksmith.

John's Service Record hasn't survived but the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* shows he enlisted on 14 November 1914 and chose to join the 1/9th Manchester Regiment also known as the Ashton Territorials. He was given the service number 2905. John was later moved to the 2/8th Manchester Regiment and given the new service number of 303456.

John's Medal Index Card shows his first theatre of war was with the Ashton Territorials at the Dardanelles better known as Gallipoli, from 5 July 1915. Fighting had been taking place from May 1915 when the Ashton Territorials first landed. Early reports in the local press tell of "*Exciting Experiences*" and "*Heroic Deeds*." By the time John was posted, a number of men had already been injured and killed but

the full horrors of the war had not yet reached home. The Gallipoli campaign aimed to open a supply route via the Black Sea to Russia, and to shorten the war. The operation was an unmitigated disaster which resulted in a massive loss of life.

John received severe wounds to his thigh and right arm during this campaign which resulted in losing the use of his arm. He was invalided back to England where he was treated at Lawnhurst Auxiliary Hospital, Didsbury, Manchester for six months before he regained the use of his arm.

In March 1917 John was again drafted to the Front and attached to the Lewis gun section.

John was killed in action on 9 October 1917 possibly at the Battle of Poelcapelle which was fought in Flanders, Belgium on that date. The battle marked the end of the string of highly successful British attacks in late September and early October, during the Third Battle of Ypres.

John's final resting place is unknown, he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, Panel 121 A.



Tyne Cot Memorial © Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Andrew Chalmers 1877 – 1916 Service Number: 24850
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 12th Battalion

Andrew Chalmers was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1877 and was christened at St Michael's parish church on 17 August 1879.

Andrew was the eldest child of Andrew Chalmers and Charlotte Hallworth. His parents were married at St Peters, Ashton on 21 August 1876.

Andrew and Charlotte had 11 children including Andrew junior. Thomas born 1880, Simeon born 1882, John William born 1884, Bertha born 1886, Annie born 1889, Sarah born 1891, Lilian born 1894, Lottie born 1895, Philip born 1898 and Ada born 1899. Sadly Lilian and Philip died in infancy.

At the time of the 1881 census Andrew was aged 3. He lived with his parents and brother Thomas at 13 Boodle Street, Ashton. Andrew's father worked as a Carter.

By the time of the next census in 1891, the family were living at 8 Mary Street in Taunton, Ashton. Andrew was aged 13 and worked as a stable boy. His mother's brother, Philip Hallworth was staying with the family. In 1901 the family were still living at 8 Mary Street. Andrew was aged 23 and worked as a Minder in the cotton mill, his father was a Carter for a brewery.

Andrew married Martha Ellen Hardy at Ashton in 1907. Their daughter Hannah Andrew Chalmers was born in Audenshaw in 1910.

The 1911 census shows Andrew, Martha and their daughter living at 8 Lumb Lane in Audenshaw. Andrew was aged 33 and worked as a carter for a railway company.

Andrew's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the exact date he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted as this was introduced in January 1916. He joined the 12th Battalion Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 24850.

Before being posted abroad Andrew would have undergone a period of training. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic

training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

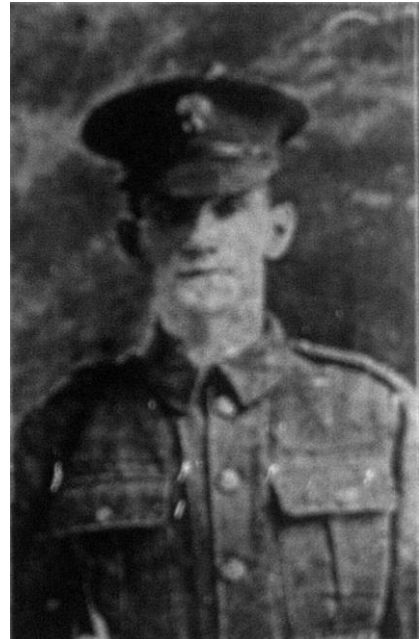
An article in the 19 August 1916 edition of the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says that Andrew's wife remarked to a neighbour that she had not heard from her husband for several weeks. The next day she received notification from the War Office that her husband was officially reported as missing from 6th July. On the 1st of July Andrew's brother John was wounded at the start of the Somme offensive. He was transferred to hospital in Bury, Lancashire for treatment and made a full recovery before being sent back to active service. The family still hadn't received any news regarding the whereabouts of Andrew. It wasn't until March 1917 that they finally received official notification Andrew had been reported as having been killed in action on 7 July 1916 during the Somme Offensive. Like many who took part in the Somme Offensive Andrew has no known grave but is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13 A and 14 C.

Irwood Collier 1885 – 1917 Service Number: 28874
Regiment & Unit: 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards

Irwood Collier was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne on 4 Apr 1885. He was christened at St Michael's parish church on 3 January 1886 as "Herwood". Irwood's parents James Collier and Hannah Tetlow were married at Christ Church, Waterloo on 3 September 1866.

Irwood had six younger siblings: Albert born 1871, Bertha born 1873, Sarah born 1874, Alice born 1878, Handel born 1880 and Beatrice born 1881. He also had two older sisters Annie born 1887 and Ethel born 1889. Bertha and Handel sadly died in infancy and Alice died aged 10 years.

In 1891 Irwood (recorded as Herwood) was 6 years old, he lived with his family at 96 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Irwood and his younger sisters are listed as scholars. The definition of the term in census instructions was vague and was often used as a blanket term for children whether they were at school or working. His father worked as an Engineer at a local coal mine.



By the time of the next census in 1901, Irwood was 15 years old and lived with his parents and four siblings at Brooklands Terrace in Waterloo, Ashton. Irwood was employed as a Piecer in a cotton mill. Cotton piecing was usually carried out by the youngest children in the mill. They would be responsible for leaning into the spinning machine to repair any broken threads from the cotton spindles. They had very little time to repair each thread as the machine was constantly moving. This was a very dangerous job with a high risk of serious injury.

Irwood's mother Hannah died in 1910 at the age of 64. She was buried at Christ Church in Waterloo on 15th November 1910.

Irwood married Mary Elizabeth Thomas on 7 Jan 1911 at the Methodist New Connexion Church on Stamford Street, Ashton under Lyne. Mary sadly died just 4 years later. Irwood and Mary did not have children.

The 1911 census shows Irwood and Mary Elizabeth living with Irwood's father at 30 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Irwood was 26 years old and worked as a Cotton Spinner at the Rock Mill in Waterloo where he had worked from being a boy. His

wife worked as a Card Room Tenter in a cotton mill. Mary Elizabeth Collier died in 1915 aged 26.

Irwood's Service Records haven't survived, but his obituary in the *Ashton Reporter* states he was "called up" or conscripted "on 3 January 1917. Conscription was the compulsory enlistment of men in the armed forces. Conscription in the UK started with the Military Service Act of January 1916. It specified that single men aged 18 to 40 years old were liable to be called up for military service. A second Act of a few months later in May 1916 extended conscription to married men. Men who were conscripted did not have a choice about which regiment they joined. Irwood was assigned to the Grenadier Guards and given the service number 28874. The Guards Regiments were considered by many to be the elite of the infantry of the regular army. They eventually took in volunteers and conscripts but took care to maintain their pre-war standards of efficiency and were amongst the infantry's most feared by the enemy.

After a period of training, Irwood embarked for France on 11 August 1917. By this time the 4th Battalion came under command of 3rd Guards Brigade. Irwood would have seen action at the 3rd Battle of Ypres also known as the Battle of Passchendale which took place from July to November 1917. Irwood was only at the Front for a matter of weeks before he sustained serious injuries on 8 October 1917 to both legs, his right arm and face from gunshot wounds. He underwent two operations in the field hospital to try and save his left leg but these were unsuccessful and his leg was amputated.

Irwood was transferred to the King George Military Hospital in London where he appeared to make progress. He needed a further operation to remove infected bone from his leg but failed to recover. Irwood died on Saturday 8 December 1917 surrounded by his three sisters, brothers-in-law and his fiancé (her name is not recorded). He was 32 years old.

Irwood was buried with full military honours at Hurst Cemetery in Ashton under Lyne with his late wife Mary Elizabeth (Grave H291). The band of the Manchester Regiment stationed at Ashton Barracks and a firing party were present.

Hugh Collins 1896–1917 Service Number: 28078
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment “D” Company 20th
Battalion

Hugh Collins was born in Oldham, Lancashire towards the end of 1896. His parents were Hugh Collins and Margaret Preston. They were married at St John's Church in Manchester 1 Feb 1890.

Hugh had three younger sisters, Catherine born in 1890, Margaret Ann born in 1892 and Maria born in 1894. He also had three older brothers, William born in 1899, James born in 1906 and Joseph born in 1908.

At the time of the census in 1901, Hugh was 4 years old. He lived with his parents and siblings at 5 Highclare Lane in Worsborough, Yorkshire. Hugh's father worked as a coal miner. The family moved back to Lancashire sometime before 1906.

By the time of the next census in 1911, Hugh, his mother and siblings were lodging with a family at 24 Peel Street in Ashton under Lyne. His mother was still married, but her husband was not at the same address. Hugh was 15 years old and worked as a horse driver below ground at a colliery. Horse drivers were usually males under 21 years of age. This was unskilled work but was frequently a first step to working in the mines. Wages for horse drivers were substantially less than for jobs working the coalface.

Hugh's Service Record shows he enlisted in Oldham on 6 July 1915, for 'the duration of the war'. He was living at 274 Oldham Road, Waterloo and named his father as his next of kin. Hugh joined the 20th Battalion Manchester Regiment, D Company. He served as a Private and was given the service number 28078.

Young men enlisted in the First World War for many reasons such as peer pressure or patriotism, or for many, employment or a desire for adventure were also motivating factors. All too soon the realities of Army life and discipline became apparent. Hugh may well have been one of the many who struggled to adapt to this new way of life. His Service Record shows that he was AWOL (absent without leave) whilst training at Heaton Park on a number of occasions. This resulted in either confinement to barracks or forfeit of pay.

Hugh was posted on 9 November 1915 and landed with the rest of his Battalion at Boulogne in France.

By February 1916 Hugh had been admitted to hospital with wounds received from a high explosive shell. His Service Record shows his main injuries were to the left side of his face and upper arm. The record also shows he was suffering from "Shell Shock" a term used during World War 1 to describe what we now know as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Symptoms can include fatigue, tremor, confusion, nightmares and impaired sight and hearing. At first shell shock was thought to be caused by soldiers being exposed to exploding shells, as in the case of Hugh. As the war progressed, doctors found many men suffering from the symptoms of shell shock without having even been on the front line.

By the end of February, Hugh had been transferred back to the U.K. for further treatment at the Bangour War Hospital, a Psychiatric Hospital just outside Edinburgh. His Service Record shows that in May 1916 Hugh was granted 10 days furlough to visit family in Oldham and was now considered fit for light duties. By this time Hugh was assigned to the 24th Manchester Battalion "A" Company.

Hugh was initially posted to Altcar Training Camp near Liverpool. His Service Record shows he was again absent without leave on a number of occasions. This could possibly be an indication that he had not fully recovered from shell shock. Hugh was stationed at Altcar throughout the summer of 1916 and later at Ripon Camp in North Yorkshire. It is unclear when Hugh returned to active service at the Front, but having been stationed in the UK during the summer of 1916, he was spared the horrors of the Somme offensive.

Hugh died of wounds on 4th May 1917 when he was 20 years old. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais in France Panel Reference Bay 7

James Edward Crane 1893 – 1915 Service Number: 19399
Regiment & Unit: East Lancashire Regiment "B" Company 2nd
Battalion

James Edward Crane was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1893. His parents Charles Crane and Hannah Jane Booth were married at St Michael's Church, Ashton on 6 September 1890.

Charles and Hannah had three children: William Henry born in 1891, James Edward and a baby boy born in 1895. Sadly William Henry died in 1892 and Hannah and her third son died shortly after his birth in 1895.

Charles Crane remarried three years later in 1898 to Eleanor Taylor. Charles and Eleanor had seven children, half siblings of James Edward. Nellie was born in 1898, Isabella Pauline born in 1900, Eleanor born in 1902, Shela born in 1904, Dorene born in 1906, Novello born in 1907 and Margaret was born in 1910.

James Edward was aged 8 at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his father, stepmother and two half-sisters at Hope Fold in Littlemoss. James' father Charles worked as a Cotton Spinner in the mill.

James was aged 18 at the time of the next census in 1911. The family were living at 13 Earnshaw Street in Waterloo. It must have been very cramped with 10 people living in a four-roomed house. James had joined his father in the cotton mill and worked as a Piecer.

James enlisted in the East Lancashire Regiment in 1915 and was given the service number 19399. He was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers and given the service number 3759.

Before being posted abroad James would have undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

James' Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows he entered the war on 9 April 1915. He was killed in action a month later, on 9 May 1915 aged 22 years.

James final resting place is unknown but he is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium Panel 5 & 6. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

Edward Eason 1886 – 1917 Service Number: 203509
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/6th Battalion

Edward Eason was born in Ashton under Lyne on 30 May 1886 and christened at Christ Church, Waterloo on 22 August 1886. His parents Jemimah Knight and James Eason were married at Christ Church in 1879.

Jemimah and James had a large family of 12 children: Albert born 1880, Elizabeth Hannah 1882, Harry 1884, Eda 1888, James 1891, Walter 1892, Kester 1894, Mary Jane 1896, Hannah 1898, Ethel 1901 and John born in 1904.

Edward was 4 years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his parents and siblings at 116 Oldham Road in Waterloo. His father was a coal miner and his mother worked in the cotton mill as a cotton reeler.



Edward was 14 years old when the next census was taken in 1901. The Eason family still lived at 116 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Edward was a Fly Maker in a spindle works. His father still worked in the coal mine. His older brother was a blacksmith and his older sister worked in a calico mill.

At the time of the census in 1911 Edward was 25 years old. He worked as a cotton spinner's piecer. This was dangerous work as it meant tying together broken threads whilst the machinery was working. Edward lived with his parents and siblings at 144 Oldham Road in Waterloo.

Edward married Ann Maria Foden in 1913 at Christ Church in Waterloo. They had a daughter Emily born in 1915. Sadly Emily died shortly after birth.

Edward's Service Record no longer exists, his Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914 -1915 Star. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Edward joined the Army in April 1916. This suggests he may have volunteered as conscription for married men was not introduced until May 1916. Edward joined the 2/6th Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 203509.

Before being posted abroad Edward would have undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical

fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

In spring of 1917 the 2/6th Manchester Regiment left for France where they saw active service on the Western Front. The summer of 1917 saw the major British Offensive of the Third Battle of Ypres also known as Passchendaele. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days, and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Edward was killed in action, a few days after the end of Passchendaele, on 17 November 1917. He was originally buried at Westhoek Ridge Cemetery. In 1919 his remains were exhumed and he was reburied at Hoge Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen in Belgium, grave reference XIII.K.17

Edward's brother James Eason was killed in action on 7 July 1917 in France. He is remembered on the memorial at Thiepval Pier. Their parents lost two sons in just four months.

James Eason 1891 – 1916 Service Number: 5196
Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion

James Eason was born in Ashton under Lyne on 7 December 1891 and christened on 17 June 1893 at Christ Church, Waterloo. His parents James Eason and Jemimah Knight were married on 29 November 1879 at Christ Church, Waterloo.

James came from a large family. He had six older siblings: Emma Knight born 1878, Albert 1880, Elizabeth Hannah 1882, Harry 1884, Edward 1886 and Eda born 1888. James also had six younger siblings: Walter born 1892, Kester 1895, Mary Jane 1896, Hannah 1898, Ethel 1901 and John born 1904. Sadly Harry and Hannah died in infancy and later Elizabeth Hannah aged 6.

In the 1891 census James was a baby of two months, living with his parents and four older siblings at 116 Oldham Road, Waterloo. James Eason senior was a Coal Miner at Wood Park Colliery in Bardsley. His mother Jemima worked as a Reeler at a local cotton mill.

At the time of the next census in 1901, James was 10 years old. The family had grown in size with three more children. They were still living at 116 Oldham Road in Waterloo. The 1911 census shows the family were living at 144 Oldham Road, Waterloo. James was aged 20 and worked as a Piecer in the cotton mill. His father still worked as a Coal Miner.

James' Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal as well as the 1914-1915 star. The 1914-1915 Star awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. This suggests James volunteered rather than being conscripted which was introduced in January 1916. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and was given the regimental number 5196.

James was killed in action on 16th July 1916 in France. He is remembered on the memorial at Thiepval Pier and Face 3C and 3D

James' brother Edward was killed in action on 17th November 1917. He is buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen in Belgium. Their parents lost two sons within four months.

John Edmunds 1888 – 1917 Service Number: 25593
Regiment & Unit: South Wales Borderers 1st Battalion

John was born on 31 Oct 1888 in Ashton under Lyne and christened at St Michael's Parish Church on 3 November 1889. His parents Thomas Edmunds and Ann Fern were married in 1888 in Ashton. John had seven siblings: William Fern Edmunds born 1887, Joseph Henry Edmunds 1891, Arthur 1892, Thomas 1894, Eleanor Elizabeth 1896, Alfred 1899 and Timothy born 1899. Joseph Henry & Arthur both died as young children.



John was two years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his parents and older brothers, William and Joseph, at 63 Oldham Road in Waterloo. John's father worked as a Coal Miner.

When the next census was taken in 1901 John was 12 years old. He worked half time as a Piecer at Rock Mill in Waterloo and attended school half time. John's older brother William also worked as a Piecer and his father still worked as Coal Miner. The Edmunds family still lived at 63 Oldham Road in Waterloo.

By the time of the census in 1911 John was 22 years old. He still worked as a Piecer at Rock Mill. The work of a Piecer was hazardous as it involved tying together broken threads of cotton whilst the machinery was still in motion. Most of John's younger siblings also worked in the cotton mill, Timothy and Alfred were at school. The family had moved to a bigger house at 17 Hill Street (now Vale Street) in Waterloo.

John married Edith Margaret Roberts nee Jones in Ashton under Lyne in 1914.

John's Service Record no longer exists but an article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter states that he enlisted sometime in 1915. John joined the 1st Battalion of the South Wales Borderers and was given the service number 25593. John's Medal Index Card shows that after a period of training, he was sent to Gallipoli where he landed at the end of October 1915.

The eight month long campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. This campaign took part amidst the most appalling conditions, such as the unrelenting heat of a Mediterranean summer,

a lack of water, poor food, inadequate equipment and without proper sanitation. Sickness and disease were rife. At the height of the war there were up to 5,000 cases of dysentery a week. Soldiers of the Welsh regiment were amongst the last to leave the peninsula during the final evacuation in January 1916. During this time John contracted a fever and was invalided home for six weeks before being drafted to the Western Front.

During 1916 the South Wales Borders were in action in the Somme offensive between 1 July and 18 November 1916. The Somme offensive ultimately included 12 separate battles, many of which became slogging matches that lasted for weeks. The Somme became one of the bloodiest known battles in history. The first day of the offensive alone saw the British Army sustain approximately 60,000 casualties, and around 20,000 deaths, the bloodiest day of its history. In total there were over 1,000,000 casualties, and over 300,000 men were killed or declared missing.

On 19th February 1917 John was taken to the military hospital with a badly wounded leg and he died the next day. He was 28 years old. John is buried at Bray Military Cemetery, Somme in France, grave reference II.C.49.

John's younger brother Tom was killed on 22 September 1916 by a sniper whilst on sentry duty. His brother Timothy died in Germany 17th October 1918. Their parents suffered a tragic loss of three sons within three years.

Thomas Edmunds 1894 – 1916 Service Number: 35399
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion

Thomas was born in Ashton under Lyne on 15 Aug 1894 and was christened at St Michael's parish church a few months later on 14 October. His parents Thomas Edmunds and Ann Fern were married in Ashton in 1888. Thomas had seven siblings William Fern born 1887, John 1888, Joseph Henry 1891, Arthur 1892, Eleanor Elizabeth 1896, Alfred 1899 and Timothy born 1899. Joseph Henry & Arthur both died as young children.

Thomas was six years old when the census was taken in 1901. He lived with his parents and siblings at 63 Oldham Road in Waterloo. His father was a Coal Miner and his older brothers worked in the cotton mill.



By the time of the next census in 1911 Thomas was 16 years old. The family had moved to a larger house at 17 Hill Street in Waterloo. Thomas worked as a Piecer in the cotton mill along with most of his other siblings. The job of a piecer was hazardous work as it involved tying loose threads of cotton whilst the machinery was in motion.

Thomas's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. Thomas was not awarded the 1914-1915 Star, therefore did not serve in a theatre of war before the end of 1915. Thomas may have enlisted like his brothers or he may have been conscripted as this was introduced at the start of 1916. He joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 35399.

Thomas was killed on 22 September 1916 by a sniper whilst on sentry duty. He was 22 years old. Thomas is buried at the Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais in France, grave reference R.29.

Thomas's older brother John was killed in 1917 and his younger brother Timothy was killed in 1918. Their parents lost three sons in the space of three years, a very personal tragedy for them.

Timothy Edmunds 1899 – 1918 Service Number: 57568
Regiment & Unit: Lincolnshire Regiment 2nd Battalion

Timothy and his twin brother Alfred were born on 3rd March 1899 in Waterloo and christened at Christ Church in Waterloo on 16 June 1899. Their parents Thomas Edmunds and Ann Fern were married in Ashton in 1888.

Timothy had seven siblings William Fern born 1887, John 1888, Joseph Henry 1891, Arthur 1892, Thomas 1894, Eleanor Elizabeth 1896 and Alfred born 1899. Joseph Henry & Arthur both died as young children.

Timothy was two years old when the census was taken in 1901. He lived with his family at 63 Oldham Road in Waterloo, Ashton. His father was Coal Miner and two of his older brothers were Piecers in the cotton mill.

By the time of the next census in 1911 Timothy and his family were living at 17 Hill Street in Waterloo. Timothy was 12 years old and attended school with his twin brother Alfred. Timothy's father worked in the coal mine and his older siblings worked in the cotton mill. Timothy's cousin, Maud Fern, was staying with them at the time the census was taken.

Timothy's Service Record no longer survives but his Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. Timothy was not awarded the 1914-1915 Star, therefore did not serve in a theatre of war before the end of 1915. Timothy may have enlisted or he may have been conscripted after his 18th birthday in 1917. Timothy was initially assigned to the Royal Lancashire Regiment and given the service number 37025. He was later transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment and given the new service number 57568.

Timothy's older brother John died from wounds in France on 20th February 1917. His brother Tom was killed on 22 September 1916 by a sniper whilst on sentry duty

Timothy died in Germany 17th October 1918. He was later reburied in the Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen grave number IV.A.13. His parents lost three sons within the space of three years.

Joseph William Edwards 1897-1916 Service Number: 28077

Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 24th Battalion

Joseph William Edwards was born between April and June 1897 in St Helen's Lancashire, the son of Thomas Edwards and his wife Mary Ellen Fisher. His parents had married in 1896 in Parr, Lancashire.

In the 1901 census Thomas, Mary Ellen and Joseph William aged 3 were living at 4 Parr Mill Cottages, Parr, Lancashire. There was a niece and nephew living in the same household. Joseph's father, Thomas, was a Coal Miner, born in Spennymoor, Co. Durham.

By 1911 Joseph was aged 13 living with his parents and a younger brother, Frank Edwards born 1908 at 22 Moorcroft Street, Droylsden. Joseph was already working as a Cotton Doffer. A doffer was responsible for removing bobbins holding spun cotton from the spinning machines and replacing them with empty ones.



Joseph William Edwards enlisted in Oldham. He joined the 24th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Known as the Oldham Pioneers, the battalion was raised in November 1914. The battalion landed at Le Havre in early November 1915. Joseph died in hospital as a result of severe wounds received from shell fire on 3 December 1916, during the Somme Offensive. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website records Joseph's date of death as 3 December 1916. However an article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states he was unconscious and passed away the following day. Private Edwards had been expected home for Christmas as he had been promised a furlough after having served in France for 14 months.

His commanding officer wrote '*He was a willing youth and never flinched from duty*' He was buried in Mailly Wood Cemetery, France, son of Mr T. Edwards of 26 Wellington Street, Waterloo. Joseph's mother, Mary Ellen Edwards and her other son Frank were still at that address in 1939.

Thomas Lewis Evans 1896 – 1915 Service Number: 1384
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/9th Battalion

Thomas Lewis Evans was born in Southport in 1896. He was christened at St Luke's Church in Southport on 3rd May 1896. His parents Thomas Owen Evans and Eliza Ann Hesketh were married at St Luke's in Southport on 24 Aug 1895. Thomas Evans senior was a labourer. The family lived at 10 Olive Grove.

Thomas had a number of siblings: Alfred Owen Evans born 1899 North Sefton, now part of Merseyside, William who was baptised on 29 Dec 1901 at St Luke's, Leonard born 1905 in Ashton u Lyne and Edith May born 1913 in Ashton u Lyne. Their father worked as an Electric Linesman.

Thomas was five years old when the census was taken in 1901. He lived with his parents and younger brother Alfred at 194 Sussex Road, Southport. His father worked as a Trolley Electrician.

In 1911 Thomas was 15 years old. He lived with his parents and younger brothers at 2 Picton Street in Waterloo. He worked as a Weft Carrier for a cotton mill. His father worked carrying out emergency repairs for the Council's Trams.

In August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. T Evans of Waterloo is listed as a member of F Company. Thomas was given the service number 1384. He landed with his battalion at Gallipoli on 9th May 1915.

After dark on 7th June 1915 the 9th Battalion's objective was to straighten the line. From an area known as the Vineyard, 100 men of the 9th Battalion, along with two Companies of the Chatham Battalion of the Royal Naval Division attacked the Turkish front line trenches. Although the 9th Battalion succeeded in taking the Turkish trench, sadly a number of men lost their lives during this assault. Thomas was one of those who was killed. He was 19 years old.

Thomas has no known grave but is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Panel 158 to 170 as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial.

John Garside 1880 – 1917 Service Number: 18423
Regiment & Unit: South Lancashire Regiment 6th Battalion

John was the son of William Garside and Emma Eason. He was born in Waterloo, Ashton on 11 May 1880. John's parents were married at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1876

John had two younger siblings, a brother Harry born on 7 March 1876, and a sister Lizzie born in 1877. John also had five older siblings, Sydney born on 1 March 1883, Walter born in 1885, Annie was born in 1887 but Annie sadly died in 1891 when she was 4 years old. Ellen was born in 1890 and Tom was born on 6 Jun 1891 but died shortly afterwards.

John was ten months old when the census was taken in 1881. He lived with his parents, brother Harry and sister Eliza at Saxon's buildings on Ney Street in Waterloo. His father William worked as an Iron Roller Turner throughout his life.

By the time of the next census in 1891, John was ten years old and attended school. He lived with his family at 7 Downing Street in Waterloo. John's father worked as an Iron Roller and his older brother Harry worked as a Cotton Piecer.

John was 11 years old when his mother Emma died in 1892. She was 37 years old. In 1896 John's father William was remarried to Sarah Ann Fish in Ashton.

John was 18 years old when he was baptised at Christ Church, Waterloo on 10 May 1898. The 1901 census shows John and his family were still living at 7 Downing Street in Waterloo. John was 20 years old and worked as a Piecer in a cotton mill, his brother Sydney was a Blacksmith and Walter worked for a mineral water manufacturer.

John was 31 years old in 1911. He continued to live with his parents and siblings. A nephew was also staying with the family at 36 Langham Street, Waterloo. John still worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill.

John enlisted in the army at Warrington, Lancashire on 16 April 1915. He joined the South Lancashire Regiment and was given the service number 18423. His medical details show he was 5 feet 6 ½ inches tall which was average at the time. Before being posted abroad John would have undergone a period of training in the evenings and at weekends in England. 'Training for ordinary tommies began with



basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

John's Medal Index Card shows he entered the theatre of war on 25 November 1915 at Gallipoli. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* indicates that John had been treated for both frostbite and dysentery.

In the spring of 1916 John was transferred to Malta and then Alexandria where he was admitted to hospital for a possible kidney infection. By late summer of 1916 John was serving in Mesopotamia (Iraq). His Service Record shows he was again hospitalised, this time for injuries to his neck and hand.

John was killed in action on 25 Feb 1917 in Iraq. His final resting place is unknown but John is remembered on the Basra memorial Panel 23.

Robert Garside 1889 –1916 Service Number: 43156
Regiment & Unit: Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 1st Battalion

Robert Garside was born in Dukinfield in 1889. His parents Alfred Garside and Mary Ellen Cunningham were married at St Michael's, Ashton under Lyne on 15 September 1883. Robert had six sisters, Mary born 1885, Annie 1887, Alice 1892, Clara 1893, Agnes 1896, and Sarah born in 1896 but who died in infancy.

In 1891 Robert was two years old. He lived with his family at 3 Ogden Square in Dukinfield. His father, Alfred, was a Coal Miner.

Robert was eight when his mother Mary Ellen died in Stalybridge in 1897 at the age of 32.

His father Alfred was re-married to Harriet Hannah Hague nee Herod at New St. George's in Stalybridge on 15 Nov 1897. Alfred and Harriet had four children: Walter born 1899, Arthur born 1900 but who died the following year, Arthur born 1904, and Emily born 1906 but who died in infancy.

Robert was 12 years old by the time of the next census in 1901. His father, step-mother and older sister all worked in the cotton mill. The family lived at 1 Pickford Lane in Dukinfield. By 1911 the family were living on Oldham Road in Waterloo. Robert was 21 years old and worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill. This was dangerous work as broken threads had to be re-tied whilst the machinery was in motion. His older siblings also worked in the cotton mill and his father worked as a miner.

Robert married Beatrice Knowles on 26 April 1913 at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne. The couple had a daughter, Beatrice, born in 1916.

Robert's Service Record no longer exists but an article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* suggests he joined the army sometime towards the start of the war. His Medal Index Card indicates that he originally joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers and given the service number 21226 before transferring to the Scottish Rifles. His Medal Index Card also indicates he entered the war on the 31 December 1915.

The article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states "Mrs Garside of 115 Waterloo has received the sad intimation that her husband, Private R Garside of the 1st Cameronians, was killed in action on October 29th 1916. Private Garside joined the forces about two years ago, and had seen plenty of active service in France. He had been wounded twice, once in the side of his head, and once in his arm. Previous to joining the forces he was employed as a Cotton Spinner at the local Maple Mill,

Oldham. He took an interest in local football, but was of a rather retiring disposition, and devoted much time to fretwork and other quiet hobbies. As a youth he attended the Christ Church Day School, and a memorial service is being held in the school on Sunday morning next. He is 26 years of age, and leaves a sorrowing wife and a child 10 months old, whom he has never seen.

Robert was killed towards the end of the Somme Offensive, and like many men who took part has no known final resting place. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 4 D.

Peter Gerrard 1897 - 1918 Service Number: 351926
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion

Peter Gerrard was born in the June quarter of 1897 in Burnley, the eldest child of Matthew Gerrard and Mary Jane Farrimond. Matthew and Mary Jane were married a year earlier.

The 1901 census shows the family were living in Horwich, Lancashire. Peter was just three years old with two younger siblings: Martha aged 2 and Ann only 7 months.

Peter's mother Mary Jane Gerrard nee Farrimond died in 1910 in Oldham aged 35.

By 1911 the family had moved to Waterloo and were living at 23 Hill Street. Matthew Gerrard was a widower aged 45, working as an insurance agent. There were seven children living with their father: Peter was 13, Martha (12), Ann (11), Nancy (9), Thomas (7), Beatrice (3) and John (1). Matthew Gerrard had another bereavement when his daughter Beatrice died aged 8 in 1916.

In the July-September period of 1917 Peter Gerrard married Emily Winterbottom, daughter of James and Hannah Winterbottom at Holy Trinity church in Ashton. Emily Gerrard appears in the 1921 census as a 25 year old widow with a baby son, Ronald, living at 71 Charles Street, Ashton, the home of her parents.

Peter's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the date he enlisted or when he entered the war. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Peter may well have been conscripted when this was extended to include married men in May 1916.

Peter joined the Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion and was given the service number 351926.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days but both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured. Peter was killed on the first day of this offensive. His final resting place is unknown but he is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial in France, panel 64 to 67.

EDWARD GREEN 1880-1915 Service Number 7794
Regiment and Unit: Rifle Brigade 9th Battalion

Edward Green was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1880, son of William Green and his wife Alice Clayton. In 1881, when Edward was 7 months old, the family were living at 36 Hill Street, Waterloo. Edward had three older siblings: Isaac born 1873, Elizabeth Ann born 15 Feb 1876 and Sarah Alice born 1878. Their parents had married in 1872 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton.

By 1891 the family had moved to Oldham. Alice Green was a 41 year old widow with five children, including 10 year old Edward, living with her at 4 Longfield Street. Another son John had been born in Ashton in 1883.



By 1901 Edward aged 20, his mother Alice and siblings Isaac and Sarah Alice were living with Edward's sister Elizabeth Ann and her husband Harry Loughlin. Elizabeth Ann had married Harry at Christ Church, Waterloo. They had a 5 year old son Thomas. The family were living at 41 Hill Street in Waterloo. Edward worked as a Piecer at a local cotton mill.

The 1911 census shows that Edward, aged 30 was still living with his sister and brother in law, Harry and Elizabeth Loughlin, at 23 Mary Street, Taunton. Edward was employed as an Ironworker at Park Bridge Ironworks.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* from 14 August 1915 says that when war was declared, Edward felt it was his moral duty to defend his country. He enlisted at Ashton Barracks on the 4th January 1915. Edward chose to join the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and was given the service number 7794. The article goes on to say that *"along with several more from Ashton and Bardsley he was drafted to Winchester. Settling himself down to the tasks and duties of a soldier, he soon became efficient in everything that was needed to fit him for the sterner duty of life as a soldier."*

Edward was a member of the committee of the Waterloo Football Club and took a prominent part in its welfare. Players and committee members were deeply saddened at his loss. He also attended the Wesleyan Chapel, Oaken Clough Waterloo. His name was recorded on the Roll of Honour, and was the first to fall in action.

Edward arrived in France on 20 June 1915 when orders were received to relieve troops in the Hooze trenches. Edward was going along a communication trench when he was shot by a sniper in his left shoulder. The bullet entered Edward's left lung and ultimately proved fatal. Edward died in the dressing station the following day 21 June 1915 aged 35 years.

Edward was laid to rest in the Bedford House Cemetery in Ypres, Belgium. Enclosure No.2 VI. A. 21.

William Greenhalgh 1894-1917

Service Number: 21587

Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 21st Battalion

William Greenhalgh was born 13 January 1894 in Chorley, Lancashire. He was baptised on 25 March 1894 at Chorley St George, son of James Greenhalgh and his wife Mary nee Holding/Holden. James and Mary were living at 10 Tootell Street Chorley at the time. James was employed as a Coal Miner.



The 1901 census shows William was aged seven, living with his parents and six siblings at 29 Derby Street, Newton in Makerfield. His older siblings were John J. born 1886, Ann born 1888, Ellen born 1890, and Eliza born 1892. He had two younger siblings: Florence born 1898 and Charles born 1900. William's father James died in 1902. The rest of the family cannot be traced in the 1911 census.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says that William was a prominent athlete and excelled at football and wrestling. Prior to enlistment William had been employed at Lees Spinning Company at Hollinwood near Oldham.

William enlisted in November 1914 at the start of the war. He chose to join the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 21587. William's Service Record no longer exists so we know very little about his time in the army.

During 1916 he may well have seen action in the Somme offensive which took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916. The Somme offensive ultimately included 12 separate battles, many of which became slogging matches that lasted for weeks. The Somme became one of the bloodiest known battles in history. The first day of the offensive alone saw the British Army sustain approximately 60,000 casualties, and around 20,000 deaths, the bloodiest day of its history. In total there were over 1,000,000 casualties, and over 300,000 men were killed or declared missing.

William Greenhalgh died of wounds on 26 October 1917 aged 23 years. He was buried in the Lijssenthock Military Cemetery, Belgium Grave XXII. F. 5A (*Source CWGC*). Lijssenthock was situated on the main route between the allied military bases and the Ypres battlefields. This suggests William was injured sometime during the Battle of Passchendaele and taken to a casualty clearing station.

William was awarded the Military Medal posthumously. The Medal was sent to '*his young lady*' as the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* described her. She was Miss N. Hilton of 43 Wellington Street, Waterloo. Nellie Hilton aged 14 was at 30 Wellington

Street in 1911 census. The same article says that William's older brother John (Jack) Greenhalgh was serving in Salonika.

On the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record it says William was the son of Mrs M Greenhalgh of Chorley Lancs. On the grave record, next of kin, in brackets, was noted as Mrs E Hirst of 11 Downing Street, Waterloo. This was William's older sister Eliza who married Henry L Hirst in 1917 at Bardsley Methodist Church, Keb Lane, Bardsley. In the 1921 census Henry Lees Hirst born in Devon, his wife Eliza born in Chorley and their son William Henry aged 2 are living at 11 Downing Street, Waterloo. In the 1939 register Henry L Hirst, wife Eliza and son William H(enry). Hirst born 1918 are living at 11 Downing Street, Waterloo. At the same address is Mary Greenhalgh aged 75 born 9 Sept 1864 (this was the mother of William and Eliza). This explains the reason for William's inclusion on the Waterloo & Taunton Memorial.

James Greenwood 1885-1917 Service Number: 32400
Regiment & Unit: Somerset Light Infantry 6th Battalion

James Greenwood was born 3 September 1885, son of Joseph Greenwood, a Coal Miner and his wife Martha Marsden. He was baptised on 13 June 1886 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne. His parents had married in 1880 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Waterloo.

In the 1891 census James was aged 5 and living with his parents and three siblings at 3 Bishop Street, Off Oldham Road, Waterloo. His father was employed as a Coal Hearer. James had two older siblings: Annie born 1880 and Harry born 1882. His younger brother George William was born in 1888.

As a youth James attended the Christ Church Day and Sunday School.

By 1901 the family had moved to 38 Oldham Road Waterloo. Joseph Greenwood aged 42 was still working at the coal face. Daughter Annie (20) was working as a Card Room Hand in a cotton mill, Harry (18) was a Waggoner at a coal mine and James (15) was employed as a Cotton Piecer. A Piecer was responsible for securing broken threads on spinning machines. It was hazardous work as the work was undertaken whilst the machinery was in motion.

James Greenwood married at Christ Church in 1910 when he was 24. His wife was Mabel Margaret Moss aged 20. They appear in the 1911 census at 4 Dunkerley Street which was a small street between Oldham Road and Taunton Road in Waterloo, close to where the War Memorial is now situated. There were about half a dozen small terraced houses which ran down one side of an unmade street. James was employed as a Cotton Spinner at the Rock Mill which was just across the road. James and Mabel had a baby son, Harry born 17 August 1910, they had two further children: Martha born 2 July 1912 and George William born 2 December 1914. The census record shows that James' wife Mabel was born in Sialkot, India. James and Mabel lived next door to another named soldier from the Waterloo Memorial- John Cassidy.

James' Service Record no longer exist so we cannot be sure when he enlisted. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* dated 27 January 1917 states he was only at the front for about two weeks before his death. An Act of Parliament was passed in May 1916 extending conscription to married men. James was most likely conscripted sometime after this date, undertaking training in England before being sent to France at the end of that year. He first joined the Manchester Regiment with the service number 4119 but was later transferred to Somerset Light Infantry 6th Battalion, Service Number 32400.

The newspaper article states *“Mrs Greenwood of 95 Oldham Road, Waterloo, has received official intimation from the Record Office at Preston that her husband, Private James Greenwood, of the Somerset Light Infantry, died from an acute attack of pneumonia on January 14th. His wife has felt the loss very keenly, and is left with three young children. She has received a letter from Nursing Sister B.J.D. Reid, sister in charge of No 41 Casualty Clearing Station, stating the sad news of his death, and informing her that everything possible had been done, but that it was of no avail. He died very peacefully about 11pm on the 14th inst.*

His brother Private Joseph Greenwood, of the 2/10th Manchester Regiment, is at present in training at Colchester, but expects having to go out before long.”

James was buried at Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension, Grave I. B. 3. He was 31 years of age. Mabel, the widow of James Greenwood, remarried in October 1917 to Albert Goodwin.

John Greenwood 1899-1918 Service Number 142081
Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps

John Greenwood was born on 26 Sept 1899, son of Albert Greenwood, a pork butcher and his wife Edith Mills Winterbottom. John was baptised at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne on 5 November 1899. His parents had married at Christ Church that same year.

In the 1901 census, John, aged 1 was living with his parents at 109 Margaret Street, in the west end of Ashton. Albert Greenwood was employed as a pork butcher.

By 1911 the family had moved to 26 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Edith Greenwood (35) was living with 11-year-old John and 8-year-old Ethel. Her husband Albert was not living at the same address.

John enlisted in Ashton on 26 Oct 1917 when he was 17 years 11 months old. His occupation was a tailor's cutter. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. Service number 142081.

He died in the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool on 25 June 1918 aged 18. The cause of his death was periosteal sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer which affected his left knee. John Greenwood was buried in Hurst Cemetery, Grave M. 658. The pension ledgers mention his mother Edith and father Albert.

Harold Hallam 1898 – 1917 Service Number: 401438
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/5th Battalion

Harold was born on 4 Jul 1898 and was christened at Waterloo Methodist New Connexion chapel on 2 Aug 1898. He was the eldest child of Albert Hallam and Elizabeth Hinsley. His parents were married in Ashton under Lyne in 1897. Harold had five younger siblings Alice Ann born 1900, Agnes 1902, Leonard 1904, Eva 1906, and Hannah born 1911.



Harold was aged 2 at the time of the 1901 census. He lived with his parents and sister, Alice Ann, on Clive Street in Waterloo. The census shows that Harold's father Albert wasn't in work and that his mother was the wage earner, working as a Cotton Spinner.

At the time of the next census in 1911, the family were living at 27 Hill Street (now Vale Street) in Waterloo. Harold was aged 12. He went to school part time and also worked part time delivering milk. His father worked as a Cotton Spinner. The family took in a boarder to help pay the rent.

Before joining the army, Harold worked as a Cotton Spinner at Texas Mill, Ashton. Harold was a devout member of the United Methodist church in Waterloo.

Harold's Service Record no longer exists but his obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* shows he joined the army in July 1917. We don't know if Harold enlisted or was conscripted after his 18th birthday. Conscription was introduced at the beginning of 1916. Harold initially joined the 18th Manchester Battalion, part of Kitchener's new army and was given the service number 401438. He was later moved to the 1/5th Manchester Battalion.

In September 1917 Harold's Battalion moved to join the offensive at Ypres. This is officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, or more popularly, Passchendaele. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and

Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured.

A letter to his parents from the Chaplain states that Harold was killed in an attack early on the morning of 2 September 1918. He was killed by a machine gun being shot at close range. Harold was only 20 years old. A comrade of Harold's wrote *"it was difficult to have to part with such a dear and faithful pal. He was liked by all his comrades."*

A memorial service has held for Harold in Waterloo Sunday School where he had attended. At the close four members of the Boys Life Brigade sounded the Last Post.

Harold is buried in the Manchester Cemetery, Riencourt-Les-Bapaume in France
Grave Reference B.15

John Healey 1891 – 1917 Service Number: 351761
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd/9th Battalion

John Healey was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1891. His parents Henry Healey and Elizabeth Emma Bramwell were married at St Michael's Parish Church in Ashton on 6 September 1890. John had three sisters Mary Ann born in 1894 (died 1895) and Sarah born in 1895 (died 1896) and Emma born in 1899.

At the time of the 1901 census John was aged 9. The census shows that John's parents were no longer living together and that John, his mother and sister Emma were lodging with a widow and her son on Katherine Street in Ashton. John's mother worked as a calico weaver.



By the time of the next census in 1911 the family were living at 3 Blucher Street in Waterloo. John was aged 19 and worked as a Roller Turner at Park Bridge Iron Works. His sister Emma was aged 12 and still at school. Their mother worked as a Cotton Weaver. Sadly Emma died three years later in 1914. John's father, Henry Healey died two years later.

John was a dedicated follower of Waterloo Football Club.

Although John's Service Record no longer exists, an article in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* states he joined the Army in April 1915. John would have volunteered as conscription did not start until 1916. He joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 351761.

The *Ashton Reporter* on 10th July 1915 lists the names of men leaving for Southport with the Manchester Regiment. J Healey of 13 Ney Street, Waterloo is included in the list.

The 2/9th Battalion was formed as a second line unit which assumed responsibility for home defence and provided replacement drafts to the first line. The second line competed with the New Army for limited resources and was poorly equipped and armed. The Division was stationed in the south of England for most of 1915 and 1916, taking responsibility for the defence of part of the East coast.

John's Battalion finally landed in France in February 1917. During the summer of that year the Division took part in operations on the Flanders Coast. In October John took part on the Battle of Poelcapelle. Poelcapelle was part of the Third Battle of Ypres, a major Allied offensive in Flanders which later became known as Passchendaele.

The battle began at 5.20am on 9 October 1917. Assault troops had struggled for hours through miles of mud before even reaching their start lines, and many were exhausted. It proved impossible to bring up sufficient artillery ammunition to support the advance, and the few gains were quickly lost to German counter-attacks.

John was killed by a shell explosion on the first day of the battle. He was 26 years old and the last of his mother's children.

John is buried at the Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium, Grave number XXX.E.7

Percy Higginbottom 1891-1918 Service Number: 171612
Regiment & Unit: Royal Garrison Artillery 285th Siege Battery

Percy Higginbottom was born 13 July 1891 in Ashton under Lyne, son of James William Higginbottom and his first wife Sarah Elizabeth Lord. Percy was baptised on 6 Sept 1891 at Christ Church, Oldham Road..

In 1901 Percy was aged 9, the eldest of five children. (His siblings were Annie born 1893, Florence born 1895, Varena born 1897 and Noel born 1899). His father was a cotton spinner. The family were living at 32 Jersey Street off Alexandra Road, Ashton.

By the time of the 1911 census, James William Higginbottom's first wife Sarah had died in 1906. He had remarried the following year to Hannah Mary Kershaw nee Hulley. Percy was living at home at 77 Minto Street off Oldham Road with his father, stepmother, four siblings and two step-sisters. Percy was aged 19, employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was a dangerous occupation as it meant leaning over moving spinning machinery to tie together any broken threads.

Percy Higginbottom, aged 21, occupation spinner- cotton mill married Harriet Broadbent on 20 Jan 1912 at St Peter's church, Ashton. Percy was living at 16 Stanley Street at the time of his marriage (according to the marriage certificate). Percy and Harriet had two daughters, Brenda born 1912 and Irene born 1916.

Percy's Service Record no longer exists but his obituary in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* shows he joined the army on 23 July 1917. Percy may have enlisted but there is a strong possibility that he was conscripted as this was extended to include married men from May 1916.

He was a Gunner with the Royal Garrison Artillery, 285 Siege Battery and was given the service number 171612.

Percy was killed in action on 31st October 1918. Percy was originally buried with a small number of comrades at Sweveghem Churchyard but he was reburied after the war, at Vichte Military Cemetery in Belgium, grave I.BB.3.



George Hoole 1875-1915 Service Number 3009
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 4th Battalion

George Hoole was born on 19 September 1875 in Poona, India, son of William Hoole and his wife Ann Eccles. He was baptised on 4 October, 1875 in Poona. George's father was a Private in the 77th Regiment which served in India. This probably explains the varied birth places of William and Ann's children: Joseph born in Bury about 1863, John Thomas born about 1868 in Gibraltar, William born in 1868 in Preston, Mary Ann born about 1871 in Weymouth Dorset, and Margaret born in 1879 in Preston.

In 1881, at the time of the census, the family were living at 67 Skeffington Road Preston. George was 5 years old and his place of birth was shown as East Indies. George had four siblings living at home: John (17), William (13), Mary (10) and Margaret (2). In the 1881 census William Hoole, George's father, describes himself as an "army pensioner and militia drummer."



By 1891, the family had moved to Chorlton on Medlock. George, aged 16, was working as an errand boy for a mineral works. They were living at 32 Burton Road. William Hoole was aged 54 and employed as a general labourer. George had two younger siblings living at home- Margaret (12) and William (4). The local Birth Index on the Lancashire BMD website shows that the mother's maiden name for William Hoole born in 1887 in Preston is also Hoole. This suggests that William was most likely the grandchild of William and Ann, possibly the son of their daughter Mary.

William Hoole, George's father, died between 1891 and 1901. Ann Hoole, George's mother, and his sister Margaret (born 1879 Preston) were living at 205 Oldham Road, Waterloo in 1901. Ann was a 64 year old widow. Margaret (22) was employed as a lozenge cutter. George cannot be traced in 1901 census.

George Hoole married Agnes Conway in Oldham in 1908. In the 1911 census George and Agnes were living at 10 William Street Oldham with a one-year-old daughter Ann. George was employed as a lozenge mixer. George and his sister Margaret may have been working at Thomas Kerfoot's factory, a pharmaceuticals company, in Bardsley Vale.

In the 1914-1915 Electoral Register, George Hoole is listed at 281 Oldham Road, Waterloo. George and Agnes had four children: Ann born 28 May 1909 in Oldham, Jane born 11 April 1911 in Ashton, Isabella born 20 May 1913 in Ashton and George Arthur born 1 January 1915 in Ashton.

The obituary for George in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that George and his two brothers had served together in the South African campaign. Also known as the Second Boer War this lasted from 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902. At the outbreak of war in 1914, George immediately volunteered for active service. He was drafted to Grimsby where he was involved with drilling new recruits.

A severe cold, thought to be caught whilst getting wet on a route march, developed into bronchitis. The newspaper article goes on to say *“Although he received every attention, firstly at Princess Street Hospital in Manchester, followed by many weeks at Holyhead Red Cross Hospital, and lastly at Lady Sheffield’s Alderley Park he never recovered.”* George died on 26 August 1915 aged 39.

George was given a military funeral. The cortege was witnessed by several hundred people as it passed slowly through Waterloo and Bardsley on its way to St Joseph’s R C Church in Moston. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was carried by members of the regiment, accompanied by a firing party. After the service was concluded, the firing party fired three volleys followed by the sounding of the Last Post. George is commemorated at the Soldiers’ Plot. 173 (Screen Wall).

Agnes was left with four small children when George died. George Arthur would have been only 8 months old.

David Howarth 1880-1916 Service Number #4216

Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment. 12th Battalion

There are inconsistencies which make it hard to be sure we have the correct David Howarth. The most likely is David born Feb 1880, son of Edward Howarth and Hannah Hodgkins. In 1881 the family were living in Knott Lanes, David was aged 1, born in Bardsley. There were four older siblings: Harriet born in Oldham about 1870, Edward born 1873 Ashton, Sarah Ann born 1876 Ashton and Elizabeth born 1878 in Ashton.

By 1891 Edward and Hannah Howarth were living with their children including 11-year-old David at 13 Hill Street Waterloo (now Vale St). Their daughter Harriet had died aged 11 in 1881. They now had another son, William born about 1885 in Staffordshire.

Edward (senior) was employed as a coal miner, probably at Bardsley Pit. Edward (17), Sarah Ann (14), Elizabeth (13), David (11) and William (6) made up the household.

By 1901 they had moved to 2 Napoleon Street off Anglesey Rd. Hannah Howarth was a 58 year old widow. Her husband Edward had died aged 54 in 1900.

David was 21. He and his younger brother William (16) were employed as "marine store dealers and carriers".

There is a possible marriage of David Howarth to Margaret Hannah Foster in 1906 at St Michael's but the name of David's father on the marriage certificate is David not Edward. Finally, in the "Effects of Soldiers of the Great War", a gratuity paid against the name of David Howarth death 7 Jul 1916 is to widow, Annie.

David Howarth cannot be traced in 1911 census but his mother and younger brother William are living at 31 Hill Street Waterloo. Hannah Howarth is running a marine store business and William (25) is assisting.

David Howarth, Private of 12th Battalion Manchester Regiment was killed in action on 7 July 1916 on the Somme. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 13A and 14C.

Joseph Howarth 1880-1916 Service Number 41453
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion

Joseph Howarth was born in Ashton under Lyne in April 1880, son of George Howarth and his wife Sarah Ann Sutcliffe. George Howarth was a joiner by trade and came from Todmorden, Yorkshire. George Howarth and Sarah Ann Sutcliffe were married on 13 May 1860 at St Thomas, Heptonstall in Yorkshire. George was aged 21 and worked as a weaver, Sarah was aged 21 and also worked as a weaver.

The 1881 census shows Joseph was aged one and living with his father and ten older siblings at 1 Broadoak Road Ashton. George Howarth was still married but his wife was not living at the same address. Joseph's siblings were Samuel born 1861, Annie born 1862, Martha Ann born 1864, Margaret born 1866, Lavinia/Lena born 1867, James Willie born 1869, Lily born 1872, George Herbert born 1874, Sarah Ann born 1876, and Thomas born 1878.

In the 1891 census the family were living on Turner Lane. George Howarth was a widower and there were eight children living with him. Joseph was the youngest, aged 10.

By 1901 Joseph, aged 21 was living at 16 Minto Street with his married sister Lavinia Wallwork, nee Howarth. Joseph was employed as a house painter.

In 1911 Joseph was living away from his home town. He was a boarder with the Ward family in Reading, Berkshire. He was employed as a house painter.

Joseph's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when he joined the army or about his war service. His Medal Index Card shows that was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Joseph may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted when this was introduced in January 1916.

The UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919 database indicates Joseph died on 21 November 1916 from wounds rather than being killed in action. He is buried at the Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais France, Grave II.A.12. From October 1914 onwards, Boulogne and Wimereux formed an important hospital centre and until June 1918, the medical units at Wimereux used the communal cemetery for burials. This strongly suggests that Joseph was wounded elsewhere, possibly during the Somme Offensive, and taken to Wimereux for treatment.

Joseph's family chose the inscription '*Dearer to memory than words can tell*' for his headstone.

John William Hulme 1897 – 1917 Service Number: 352452
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9 Battalion

John William Hulme was born in Ashton under Lyne on 10 September 1897. His parents Frederick William Hulme and Matilda McManus were married at Holy Trinity Church, Rusholme in 1897. John was christened at Christ Church, Ashton on 3 October 1897, however he was brought up in connection with the Waterloo Wesleyan Church and School.

At the time of the 1901 census, John and his parents lived at 8 Anglesey Street in Waterloo. John was aged 3 years, his father worked as a labourer for a manufacturing chemist. The family took in two boarders.

John had one sister, Edith, born in Ashton in 1907.

By the time of the next census in 1911 the family were living a few houses away at 13 Anglesey Street. John was aged 13 and worked as a scavenger at the Rock Mill cotton mill. A scavenger was one of the lowliest jobs in the cotton mill. It literally meant scavenging for waste underneath moving machinery. John's father continued to work as a labourer for a chemist. Sadly John's sister Edith died a short while after the census was taken.



John enlisted in early 1916 he was 19 years of age. He joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment and was in the Lewis Gun section. He was given the service number 352452. Tragically John was killed on 1 May 1917 after being in France for only 9 weeks. An account in *the Ashton under Lyne Reporter* states that he was "*enjoying a little sunshine when a shell came along and killed him and another boy*". The shock must have had a devastating effect on John's mother especially as she had only just been discharged from hospital following an operation. His parents received a letter from John's commanding officer announcing his death and which described him as a sturdy and fearless soldier.

A letter from John's sergeant reflected the popularity which the young soldier had achieved. "*We had learned to look on him as a brother more than a mate, a good man at his work, and he gained the admiration of everyone he came in contact with, always a bright little fellow, who did all required of him with a smile.*"

A memorial service was held for John at the Wesleyan Church in Waterloo. An account in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* states the service "*was conducted by Mr Collins of Hollinwood, and there were quite a number of relatives and friends present. Appropriate hymns were sung, Miss Whitehead presiding at the organ, and at the close four buglers from an Ashton Boys Brigade sounded the Last Post*".

John is buried at the Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais in France. Grave number IV.A.26

Harry Hulse 1900-1918 Service Number: 44082
Regiment and Unit: East Surrey Regiment 2/23rd Battalion

Harry Hulse was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1900. His birth is registered as Harry Stopford (Cheshire BMD 1900 AUD/68/18). He was the son of Ann Stopford, the sister of Mrs Elizabeth Hulse. Elizabeth Stopford married Thomas Hulse in 1896 at Christ Church, Chadderton. She was widowed early as she is shown living at 32 Medlock Road, Woodhouses in the 1901 census with two daughters Ethel and Edith, her sister Ann Stopford and nephew Harry aged 1. Harry's mother worked in a cotton mill.

By the time of the next census in 1911, Harry was living at 31 York Street in Ashton and was 11 years old. He is listed as the son of his aunt, Elizabeth Hulse. This was probably because of the stigma attached to being an unmarried mother at that time. Harry's mother Ann was living at the same address and is listed as a boarder. There are two young girls Alice and Nora Stopford living with Ann and her sister Elizabeth. They may well have been Ann's daughters and so would be Harry's sisters. Ann worked in the carding room at the cotton mill and Harry attended school along with two of his cousins.



Harry's Service Record shows he joined the Army (attested) on 11 October 1917, at the age of 17 years 11 months. Harry was 5 feet 3 ½ inches tall which was below the average height of 5 feet 6 inches. He had a fresh complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes. On 12 October Harry was posted to the 72nd Training Reserve Battalion. He was mobilized on 5 November 1917 and posted to the Liverpool Regiment. Over the next 8 months Harry was transferred at least 3 times. Part of the document is damaged and therefore not possible to read all of Harry's postings, however his Medal Index Card shows that he served with the East Surrey Regiment and the 2nd/23rd London Regiment.

Harry's Service Record indicates at some point he had received training as a Lewis Gunner. The Lewis Gun was the British Army's most widely used machine gun. It required a team of two gunners who were fully trained at the Lewis Machine Gun School to operate it, and two to carry ammunition and reload.

An obituary in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* says "Official news has been received by Mrs Hulse, of 219 Oldham Road, Waterloo, that her son Private Harry Hulse, of the 2/123rd London Regiment, was killed in action on September 2nd. He was 18 years of age. It was his first time up the line, and he was engaged in looking after the Lewis gun. He joined the forces in November 1917, and was drafted out to France in July this year."

Harry has no known grave but is remembered on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais in France on Panel 6.

James William Ireson 1882-1916 Service Number 54994
Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 10th Battalion

James William Ireson was born in Dukinfield in 1882. His parents John (Jonathan) Ireson and Ellen Temple were married at St Michael's Parish Church in Ashton under Lyne on 30 September 1871, although neither were born in Ashton. John Ireson was born about 1850 in Yarwell, Northamptonshire; Ellen Temple was born in Bath, Somerset. They moved to Ashton about 1870. In 1871 John and Ellen Ireson were living on Bentinck Street with a 9 month old baby Ellen Elizabeth born in Kent. John Ireson was employed as a chimney sweep.

James was 9 years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his mother and four siblings at 80 Portland Street in Ashton. James' mother, Ellen was a widow, aged 39. She worked as a dressmaker. His older sister Ellen (20) worked as a cotton reeler and his brother Jonathan Luke (17) was a hat setter.

James' siblings were Ellen Elizabeth Ireson born 1870 St Mary Cray, Bromley, Kent Jonathan Luke born 1873 in Dukinfield, Betty or Bessie born 1879 in Ashton and Clara born 1880 in Ashton. James had another sister, Rose Emma who was born in Dukinfield in 1874 but she died at the age of 5 in 1880.

On the next census in 1901 James is listed as the head of the household aged 21 years. He was working as a carter. His mother, Ellen and his sister Clara are listed with the surname Davies. The family lived at 86 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Ellen's grandson Wilfrid Fogg lived with the family. He was born in 1895 in Ashton.

James's older sister Ellen Elizabeth had married Herbert Fogg in 1894. Sadly Herbert had died in 1900 and Ellen, a widow, was living at 39 Peel Street, Ashton with two daughters, Nelly (5) and Clara (1). The head of the household was William Davies aged 60 born in Ashton.

James William Ireson married Mary Emma Dyson at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1906.

James was 29 years old at the time of the census in 1911. He and Mary were living at 41 Knowl Street in Stalybridge. James worked as an engine painter for a gas engine works and Mary was a weaver at a cotton mill.

We don't know when James joined the army but his Medal Index Card suggests it was after 1915. He may have volunteered or, as conscription started in May 1916 for married men, he could have been conscripted. Conscripts had no choice of regiment which may account for James joining the South Wales Borderers. He was given the service number 34268. James later moved to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was given the new service number of 54994.

James William Ireson died on December 1916 of pneumonia. He was 38 years old. He was buried in Varennes Military Cemetery, grave reference I.F.8. Husband of M.E. Ireson of 3 Primrose Terrace Stalybridge.

John Frederick Jenkinson 1894 – 1915 Service Number: 1805
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/9th Battalion

John's parents were John Jenkinson and Emily Jackson. They were married in the Spring of 1893 near Doncaster. John was born the following year in 1894 in Tickhill, a small town just outside Doncaster, West Yorkshire. His brothers and sisters were all born in Ashton under Lyne although their parents returned to Yorkshire for the christening of their second son George on 28 Jun 1896 at Stainton near Tickhill.

Frank was born in 1898 but died in 1910 at the age of 12. Twins Harry and Samuel were born a year after Frank but died the same month. Three further children were born over the next few years, Alice in 1903, Sam in 1907 and Tom in 1910. Ada was born 5 years later in 1915 but died the same month.



By the time of the 1901 census the family were settled in Waterloo, Ashton. They lived at 4 Brunswick Street. John Frederick was aged 6 years. His father worked as a carter for the iron works at Park Bridge. Ten years later in 1911 the family were living at 356 Oldham Road. John's father was still working as a carter but for a cotton waste cloth maker. John Frederick and his brother George were both working in the cotton industry as piecers at Maple Mill in Hathershaw, Lancashire. The work of a piecer was hazardous as they were responsible for tying broken threads of cotton whilst the machinery was in motion.

At the age of 19, John joined the Territorial Army in February 1914; this would have been on a part time basis for a period of 4 years and he would have had a choice about which Regiment he wanted to join. John chose to join the Manchester Regiment, his local Territorial Force. He was given the service number 1805.

In August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. John Frederick is listed as a member of G Company. At the time of his enlistment, John was 5 feet 8 inches tall, which was above average for that time period. His chest measurement was 34 inches and his eyesight and physical development were good.

After a period of training John embarked for the Dardanelles, better known as Gallipoli where he arrived on 27 July 1915. By the end of that year the Gallipoli Campaign was winding down and the Ashton Territorials were packing equipment ready to leave the Peninsula. On 27 December a Turkish shell hit the Territorials causing a number of casualties including Private Jenkinson. John was initially reported as having been killed in action on 27 December 1915, but this was later confirmed as December 28th. On the day of the explosion John had just written a letter to his mother, telling her he had received a parcel & also sent a message to his

brother Private George Jenkinson, who was in training with the Manchester Regiment at Codford Camp, Wiltshire.

John was connected with the Waterloo Wesleyan Sunday School where a memorial service was held in the church on Sunday after news of his death had been received by his family. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial in Turkey Panel 158 to 170 as well as the Waterloo Memorial.

Morris Jones 1888-1917 Service Number 205128
Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2/5th Battalion

Maurice (Morris) was born on 4 Apr 1888 son of Thomas Jones, a coal miner and his wife Mary Jane nee Lomas. He was baptised on the same date as his baby sister, Mary on 5 October 1890 at St Michael's parish church, Ashton under Lyne. His birth record and baptismal record show his name as Maurice but some census records and his war records spell his name as Morris. He is commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial as Morris Jones.

Maurice's parents Thomas Jones and Mary Jane Lomas married on 14 February 1880 at Bardsley Holy Trinity church.

They had 11 children: Clara born 1880 who died the same year. Harry born 1882 died 1885, Hannah born 1884, Ann born 1886, died 1887, Maurice born 1880, Mary born 1890 died 1894, Fred born 1894 died 1894, Ernest born 1896 died 1896, Albert born 1897 died 1897, Betty born 1898 died 1898 and John William born 1910.

In 1891 Maurice was aged two and living with his family at 9 Buckley Street, Limehurst (now Treehouse Avenue). His name was entered as Morris Jones. He had an older sister, Hannah born 1884 and a younger sister, Mary born 1890. Mary died aged 3 in 1894.

In the 1901 census, he is entered as Maurice Jones aged 12 living with his parents, Thomas and Mary Jane. His father was a coal miner and his older sister Hannah (16) was a cotton weaver. Maurice was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was a dangerous job, requiring skill and dexterity as it involved tying broken threads by leaning over moving machinery. Maurice's mother died in 1909.

By 1911 Thomas Jones was a widower, employed as a hewer of coal and was living with son, Maurice aged 22 at 9 Buckley Street, with his married daughter Hannah, her husband Fred Jackson and their 7-year-old son, also called Maurice. Maurice Jones was employed as a cotton spinner (piecer).

Morris Jones married Edith Shepherd at Stamford Street Methodist church in Ashton in 1914. His pension records from World War 1 show payment to his widow, Edith.

We don't know when Maurice joined the army as his Service Record no longer exists. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Maurice joined the 2/5th Lancashire Fusiliers and was given the service number 205128. The 2/5th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers was a Territorial Force raised in Bury, Lancashire in 1914. They were mobilised on 4 May 1915 and landed at Boulogne. The Lancashire Fusiliers were involved in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. The Battle of Menin Road Ridge took place from 20-25 September 1917. Morris Jones was killed in action on 20 Sept 1917, the first day of the battle. There were 20,255 casualties including 3,148 fatalities from this offensive. Morris was identified from the original wartime grave by a label and was reburied at Tyne Cot Cemetery grave ref V.C. 24. Morris Jones is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial.

John William Kirk 1892-1917 Service Number 203439
Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1st/5th Battalion

John William Kirk was born October 1892 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Peter Kirk, a brewer's labourer and his wife Harriett Elizabeth nee Jackson.

In 1901 John William was aged 8 living with his parents and three sisters at 183 Oldham Road, Limehurst. His father Peter was a brewer's labourer. John's siblings were Ada born 1890 in Whaley Bridge, Mary born 1897 in Ashton and Clara born 1900 in Ashton.

In 1911 the family were living at 372 Oldham Rd Limehurst. (John) William was the eldest of five. He was aged 18 and employed as a piecer at a cotton mill. This was hazardous work as it involved tying together broken threads whilst the machinery was in motion.

John William's older sister Ada had married but there were two more sisters, Annie born 1904 and Dorothy born 1906. A further child was born to Peter and Harriett later in 1911, a son called Cyril.

John William Kirk enlisted in the 3/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in Ashton on 10 December 1915. He gave his address as 372 Oldham Road Waterloo and his age as 23 years and 3 months. His next of kin was his father, Peter.

The Battalion were mobilised on 8 February 1916. John Kirk was transferred to the 5th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers on 1 July 1916. He was posted to France on 23 February 1917. He was admitted to Hospital with debility on 8 May 1917. In the following month he was given 14 days detention for making an 'improper reply' to a NCO.

John William Kirk took part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, better known as the Battle of Passchendaele. It became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days during that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing

John William Kirk's death is recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website as 6 Sept 1917 aged 25. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

George William Lawton 1890 – 1917 Service Number: L/34375
Regiment & Unit: Royal Field Artillery “A” Battery 107th Brigade

George was born May 1890 in Uppermill, Saddleworth, son of Herbert Lawton and his first wife Mary Gould. Herbert Lawton and Mary Gould were married at St John, Roughtown, Mossley, in 1886. Their first son James was born the following year in 1887 but sadly died the same year. Their second son Harold was born in 1888. Mary Lawton nee Gould died in 1891.

In the 1891 census Herbert Lawton was a widower, aged 30 with a baby son, George William. They were living with Herbert's parents, James and Maria Lawton in Saddleworth.



In the 1901 census George William was aged 11 living with his father and step-mother, Martha and older brother, Harold at 18 Taunton Road, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. Herbert Lawton died shortly after the 1901 census was taken, at the age of 40 years. George was aged 11 and his brother Harold was 13.

By 1911 George was living with his widowed step-mother and his brother Harold at 124 Taunton Road, Waterloo. George was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. This involved leaning over moving machinery to tie together any broken threads, a hazardous occupation.

George joined the 181st Ashton Brigade, Royal Field Artillery on 17 July 1915 on a 'short term' basis for the duration of the war and was given the service number L/34375. At the time of enlistment George (25) was 5 feet 9 inches which was above average at the time, and had a chest measurement of 36 inches. He weighed 140 lbs. The Division was formed between September and December 1915 and they were mobilised to France between 2nd and 6th June 1916.

Before being posted abroad George would have undergone a period of training in England. *'Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.'* (1914-1918.net)

George left for France on 11 March 1916. On 29 April 1916 he was demoted to the recruitment grade of Gunner as punishment for neglect of duty whilst on active service. His Service Record does not give any further details.

He was admitted to hospital at Freeland Hill from 23 May to 19 July 1916 with a broken ankle. George died in hospital on 27 June 1917 in Northern France (Bailleul, Dept du Nord) from a wound received by a bullet to the back. He was 27 years old.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* about the Lawton Brothers says “*All who knew Gunner George Lawton will regret the loss of a clean living, finely built young fellow, who gained a host of friends by his frank, manly and affectionate disposition. The Loss which Mrs Lawton has to bear is intensified by the fact that her older son, Harold, was reported missing on 2 November 1916, and she has never heard anything definite about his fate*”

George is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France grave III.D.114. He is also remembered on a tombstone in St George's Parish church yard in Mossley where his mother was also buried.

Harold Lawton 1888-1916 Service Number 39916
Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion

Harold Lawton was born in 1888 in Uppermill, Saddleworth. He was the older brother of George William Lawton, both were sons of Herbert Lawton and his first wife, Martha Gould. Herbert's mother Mary Lawton nee Gould died in 1891.

In 1891, Harold aged 3 was living with John Nield, a widower and his 28-year-old daughter Martha Ann at 9 Mill Street Mossley. He was described in the census of 1891 as nephew of John Nield.

Ten years earlier, Harold's mother Mary Gould, aged 19 had been a lodger with John Nield and his wife Dorothy.



Herbert Lawton married a widow Martha Parker/Jackson in 1899 at Christ Church, Waterloo. By 1901 Harold aged 13 was living with his father, Herbert and his 2nd wife Martha at 18 Taunton Road. Herbert Lawton died in November 1901 and was buried at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne. In 1911 Harold and his brother George William were living with their widowed step-mother Martha Lawton at 124 Taunton Road. Harold was employed as a pawnbroker's assistant to Councillor J Stopford of Waterloo, pawn broker and draper.

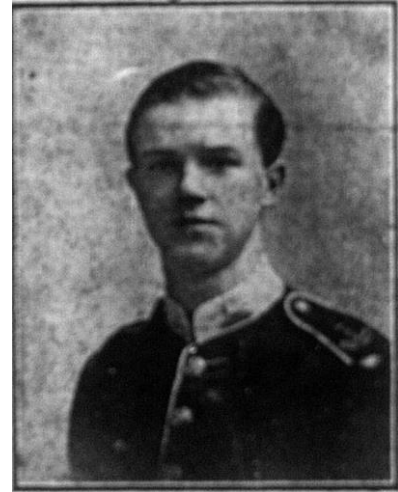
Harold joined the army on 10 April 1915 and sent to France early July. He was a Private in the 10th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. His brother George had enlisted first saying that he was the stronger of the two, and his brother Harold would be able to look after their widowed mother.

Harold was reported missing on 2 November 1916. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says *"On enquiring from his trench chum, who is now lying in hospital in Nantwich, it is believed that Harold met his death whilst carrying rations to the trenches, but owing to the heavy shelling by the enemy they lost sight of each other."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website records Harold's death date as 5 Nov 1916 at Geudecourt, Dept de la Somme. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. His pension record card shows his next of kin as Martha Lawton, his stepmother.

Walter Leech 1894-1917 Service Number 350869
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion "A"
company

Walter Leech was born in Ashton under Lyne between July and September 1894. His parents Ralph Leech and Sarah Elizabeth Lees were married at Holy Trinity, Bardsley on 12 June 1892. Walter had an older brother, John, born in 1892. Sadly John died a few months later. John was buried at Holy Trinity, Bardsley on 2 February 1893. Walter had three younger siblings: Elsie born in 1896, Lawrence born in 1901 and Bertha born in 1908.



Walter was six years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and siblings Elsie and Lawrence at 15 Oaken Clough, Limehurst. His father Ralph worked as a Tool and Engine Fitter, a job he would do for most of his life. By the time of the next census in 1911, Walter's family were living at 358 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Walter was 16 years old and worked as a Cardroom Engine Tenter. An Engine Tenter would look after a machine in the carding room in a cotton mill where the cotton was untangled and finally pulled together into one strand ready for spinning. Walter's sister Elsie also worked in the carding room at the mill. Walter was 17 when his father died in 1912. Ralph Leech was 45 years old.

Walter enlisted in the army at Ashton under Lyne in September 1914, shortly after war was declared. He joined the Ashton Territorials, 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment where he served as a Private. He was given the service number 2496. Walter was later given a new service number of 350869.

Walter would have initially undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary 'tommies' began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber), he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net).

Walter was with the "A" Company when the battalion went to the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) in 1915. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge

numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula. Records show that Walter suffered from dysentery during this time.

Walter returned to active duty in France on 23 October 1917. Walter was killed in action less than a month later, on 8th November 1917

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says "*Tuesday of this week a letter came to Mrs. Sarah E. Leech announcing his (Walter Leech's) death on November 8th. The communication, dated November (illegible) came from Major T.E.HOWARTH - "About noon today as he was passing down the trench an enemy shell exploded near him and a fragment struck him on the head piercing his helmet. He passed away about an hour afterwards without having regained consciousness. I am extremely sorry for your loss. All his friends in this great battalion have lost a good comrade, and I shall also miss him. He was a willing and cheerful and keen comrade and soldier, and a boy in whom I could absolutely trust."*

Walter is buried at Coxyde Military Cemetery in Belgium grave reference IV.K.20. He was 23 years old. His family chose the inscription '*Too dearly loved to be forgotten*' for his headstone.

Henry Lewis 1897-1915 Service Number 1853

Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Henry Lewis was born on 4th March 1897 in Ashton under Lyne and christened at Christ Church, Waterloo on 2nd April 1897. His parents Henry (Harry) Lewis and Annie Hyde were married at Holy Trinity, Ashton in 1893.

Henry had six siblings: James Henry born 1894 died 1894; Sarah Ann born 1895; Doris born 1899, Walter born 1900, Thomas born 1901 died 1904 and Elijah James 1904



Henry was four years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his mother and siblings at 81 Moss Street in Ashton. Henry's mother, Annie Lewis (27) is listed as single on the census. There are three children listed below her name: Henry (4), Sarah A. (5) and Doris (2). There is a Harry Lewis (35) born Capenhurst, Cheshire, a bricksetter's labourer listed in the same household but he is recorded as 'married' and as Annie's brother but this very likely to be her husband.

By the time of the next census the family were living at 103 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Henry was 14 years old and worked as a scavenger in a cotton mill, the same as his sister Sarah Ann (16). Scavengers were considered to be low-grade workers. They were employed to pick up the cotton waste underneath moving machinery. It was hazardous work and also breathing in cotton dust was very bad for the lungs. There were two younger siblings: Doris (11) and Wilfred (4). Their father Henry (48) worked as a carter for a builder and contractor.

Prior to enlisting, Henry was employed as a piecer at the Rock Mill in Waterloo. This was also a dangerous job, involving leaning across moving machinery to tie up broken threads on spinning machines.

Henry enlisted at Ashton 19 February 1914. He joined the Ashton Territorials and was given the service number 1853. Henry's Service Record contains very little information but his medical assessment shows he was 5 feet 6 inches tall, which was average for the time. He had a chest measurement of 33 inches and good vision.

In August 1914, the Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. Henry is listed as a member of B Company.

Henry landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. 'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days' (ashtonpals.webs.com)

Just over a month after landing at Gallipoli Henry was killed in action on 18 June 1915, he was 18 years old.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* from 17 July 1915 reads "The family have suffered two heavy blows within a few weeks. In April, the mother died, and this has been followed by the death of the son. The circumstances of his death are given in the following letter from Lieut. Handforth, dated 28th June 1915: - *"Dear Mr. Lewis, I much regret to have to inform you of the death of your son, who was killed by a rifle bullet on the 18th inst. We were in a trench only about 40 yards from the enemy, and unfortunately your son was shot through the head. He never regained consciousness, and I believe he died quite painlessly. The enclosed letter is one which he had written, and handed to me to censor. I would have sent it on to you earlier, but we only came out of the front line trenches yesterday, and I had no opportunity of inquiring until this morning how your son went on after he was carried out of the trench. Will you accept my sympathy with you in your bereavement? Your only consolation must be that your son was faithfully doing his duty to his country. He was actually firing at the Turks at the moment when he was struck by the bullet which killed him. Yours sincerely, G.W. Handforth, Lieut"*.

Bandsman Leonard Brooke, of 4, Bishop Street, Waterloo, who is engaged in ambulance work with the Ashton Territorials, in a letter to his wife says that he carried Private Lewis out of the trenches after he had been hit, and said - *"It is curious that it should be my lot to carry away my own neighbour, but as we cannot alter things we must make the best of anything that comes our way."*

Henry is buried at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey, grave reference C.58.

Arthur Littlewood 1876-1915 Service Number 18995

Regiment and Unit: East Lancashire Regiment 1st Battalion

Arthur Littlewood was born in Hathersage, Derbyshire between January and March 1876. He was christened at St Michael's, Hathersage on 16 April 1876. His parents were John Littlewood and Louisa Nuttall. They were married in Hathersage on 22 August 1875.

Arthur came from a large family. His older brother George was born in 1875. He also had nine younger siblings, Wilfred born in 1879, Harry born in 1881, Mary Ann born in 1883, Jessie born in 1885, John Richard born in 1888, Maurice born in 1890, Cecilia born in 1893, Frances born in 1897 and Elsie born in 1899. Arthur was 5 years old at the time of the census in 1881. He lived with his parents and three brothers in the village of Hathersage, Derbyshire. Arthur's father worked as a labourer for a stonemason. By the time of the next census in 1891, Arthur was 15 years old and worked as a Groom. His father was a Stonemason. The family lived at 89 Bean Row in Hathersage.

Arthur married Ann Finney in Oldham between October and December 1900.

In 1901 Arthur and Ann were living with Ann's family at 9 Rock Terrace, Buxton in Derbyshire. Arthur was 25 years old and worked as a Labourer. Ann was aged 17 years old. Arthur and Ann had seven children. Richard born in 1902, May born in 1904, Arthur born in 1906, Charles Anthony born in 1907. Sadly Charles died the following year. Their youngest children were Marion born in 1909, John born in 1911 and Elsie born in 1914. By the time of the census in 1911 Arthur, Ann and their family were living at 249 Newmarket Road in Ashton. Arthur was 35 years old and worked as a Carter.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Arthur enlisted 17 February 1915. He chose to join the 1st Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment and was with 'D' Company. Arthur was given the service number 18995. He landed in Western Europe on 7th July 1915. Arthur died of wounds just over a month later on 22 August 1915, probably at the 4th Casualty Clearing Station which was at Beauval from June 1915 to October 1916.

The article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* reads "Mrs Littlewood who resides in Mary Street, Taunton, received a communication on Thursday from a soldier friend of her husband that he had died as the result of wounds. Private Arthur Littlewood was well known in the district, having worked for several farmers. He enlisted on February 17th in an East Lancashire line regiment, and was sent to France from Plymouth 6 weeks ago. He was on outpost duty when he was shot by a sniper and died the day after. Much sympathy has been extended to Mrs Littlewood as she is left with six little children, the eldest being only 12 years of age". Records show that Ann was actually left with five young children to support

Arthur is buried at Beauval Communal Cemetery, Somme in France grave reference C.7. His wife chose the inscription 'Ever remembered by his loving wife Annie' for his headstone.

James Lomas 1887-1917 Service Number: 28951
Regiment and Unit: Border Regiment, 11th Battalion

James Lomas was born on 20 March 1887 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 1 May 1887 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton, son of Robert John Lomas and his wife Caroline. Robert Lomas had married Caroline Hulme in 1879 at Christ Church, Ashton. James had seven siblings all together but two had died before 1911. They were Edith born 1880, Sarah Elizabeth born 1883, died 1884, Violet born 1886, Robert born 1890, Annie born 1891, William born 1895 and Annie born 1902.

In 1891 James was aged four, was living with his parents in the home of his paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Ann Lomas, a 66-year-old widow at 73 Oldham Road, Waterloo. James' father, Robert John Lomas was a coal miner. By 1901 Robert and Caroline were still living at 73 Oldham Road with six children. James was aged 14 and employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was a hazardous occupation, involving tying broken threads by leaning over moving machinery.

James Lomas married Fanny Bradshaw in 1910 at St Mark's Church, Dukinfield, Cheshire. By 1911 James, aged 24, cotton spinner and Fanny also 24 were living at 42 Crescent Road, Dukinfield. They had a baby son, Robert.

James' father, Robert was widowed by 1911 and he was living with three of his children at 153 Oldham Road, Waterloo.

James' Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when he enlisted. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. James may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916.

James initially joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 50162. He was later transferred to the 11th Battalion of the Border Regiment. The 11th and 12th Borderers were two Pals battalions. These battalions had enlisted together, with the promise they would serve alongside friends and neighbours rather than be randomly allocated to battalions.

The 11th battalion served on the Western Front during World War 1. James died from wounds on 9th December 1917 aged 30. The Battle of Passchendaele had ended on 6 November and the Battle of Cambrai on 7 December two days before James' death. It is most likely he received his injuries at one of these battles before being taken to the hospital centre at Wimereux. James was buried in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery.

Albert Lydiate 1888-1918 Service Number: 123234
Regiment and Unit: Veterinary Corps

Albert Lydiate was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1888 and was the seventh child of George Lydiate and his wife, Elizabeth, nee Makin. His parents were married at St Mary's, Stockport on 30 Apr 1876. George & Elizabeth had nine children all together.

Albert's siblings were: John born in 1877, Hannah born 1879, Thomas born 1882, George born 1884, twins Arthur & Herbert born 1886 and Elizabeth & Harold in 1891. Elizabeth died when she was 3 years old.



The 1891 census shows the family living at 70 Granville Street in Ashton. Albert was aged 2. His father worked in a local cotton mill as a self-acting minder and his older siblings John & Hannah also worked in the cotton mill. By the time Albert was 12, the family had moved to Corra Street in Dukinfield. Albert worked half time in the cotton mill with his older siblings. The family were still living on Corra Street in 1911. Albert and his siblings still worked in the cotton mill and their father worked as a night watchman.

On 16th June 1912 Albert, aged 23, married Ruth Harriet Mellor, aged 22, daughter of Joseph Mellor, at Stamford Street Methodist New Connexion Church in Ashton. They had one daughter Ruth Elizabeth born later that year on 22 October. Albert and Ruth made their home at 3, Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Ruth and her daughter continued to live in Waterloo after Albert's death. They were shown on the 1939 register living at 39 Wilshaw Lane.

Albert joined the army on 1 November 1916. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was extended to married men in May 1916. Albert served in the Army Veterinary Corps. This Corps was responsible for the medical care of animals used by the army; mostly horses, mules and pigeons. The A.V.P. were engaged on the Western Front, at Gallipoli, in Salonika, Mesopotamia and Palestine. Following the Armistice in 1918, the Corps was granted the prefix "Royal" in recognition of their service. Albert died on 23 November 1918, 12 days after the Armistice. He was 30 years old.

An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says Albert had served in France before being sent to Italy "*He was admitted to hospital last March, and after undergoing several operations for a neck wound was finally sent to this country, and died in Notts. County War Hospital on November 23rd from congestion of the lungs. At one time he was a well-known member of the Oldham Police Force and Fire*

Brigade. Two other brothers have also served, one having made the supreme sacrifice, Lance-Corporal Harold Lydiate, and the other, Private Herbert Lydiate having been discharged. The deceased leaves a widow and one child. The funeral was attended by military honours”.

Albert is buried in Hurst Cemetery, Ashton, Grave reference D.511, son of George and Elizabeth Lydiate of Dukinfield and husband of Ruth Harriet of 3 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. His family chose the inscription *'Thy will be done'* on his headstone.

Frank Mahon 1894 – 1916 Service Number: 4555
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 11th Battalion

Frank Mahon was born in Hurst, Ashton under Lyne in 1894. His parents were James Mahon and Elizabeth Shaw. His parents were married at St James, Cowhill Lane in Ashton on 17 Apr 1881. Frank's older siblings were Mary born in 1882, Ellen in 1883 and John in 1891. His younger sister Lily was born in 1902.

Frank was aged 6 when the census was taken in 1901. He and his family were living at 36 Nook Lane in Hurst. His father worked in the cotton mill as did his older sisters. By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to 50 Nook Lane. Frank was 17 years old. He and his brother John worked as sweet packers for the Thomas Kerfoot pharmaceuticals factory in Bardsley. Their father James wasn't working.

James and Elizabeth's grandchild was living with them. The family took in a boarder to help pay the rent. Prior to enlistment, Frank was well known in local football circles, playing for Waterloo United..



Frank enlisted in September 1914 and was one of the first from Kerfoot's to volunteer. Frank joined the 11th Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 4555. He entered the war at Gallipoli in November 1915. His first few weeks were particularly hard. The war diary for the 11th Battalion records on 7th November they were moved to dugouts on the beach below the Karakol Gap, then returned to Corps reserve on West Beach where the battalion was engaged in general fatigues on the beach. A violent thunderstorm broke over the peninsula on 26th November 1915 which washed away dugouts and flooded trenches, not to mention soaking the men to the skin. The following days were also bitterly cold and wet and it was impossible to get dry. On 29th November, gale force winds and a howling blizzard forced many of the battalion to take shelter at the A.S.C. dump. Hard frost followed and there was much suffering by the soldiers. Over 200 men were hospitalised by frostbite and hypothermia and 23 were discovered to be missing after the storms.

In December they left the Gallipoli Peninsula for Egypt. Here the battalion training ensued and the general health improved readily. On April 23rd 1916, the Turks attacked Katia and the battalion was put on standby to move. However, by 29th April, the situation had become normal and the battalion was "stood down". Training

continued, in what was, by now, extreme heat which caused many soldiers to suffer from heat related illnesses.

Frank was sent to France, along with the 11th Battalion in July 1916. July 20th saw their first taste of life on the Western Front. This first day at the front, the battalion suffered four casualties in "S" Company due to rifle grenades. For several days, both sides were active with sniping and grenades and patrols were sent out at night to examine the enemy saps and/or strengthen the barbed wire defences. This first tour ended on 29th July when the battalion was sent to billets in Bertrancourt, engaging in fatigues and Lewis Gun training. On 23rd September, they arrived behind the lines and bivouacked at Aveluy. At this time, a large scale offensive operation was pending, in which the 11th Manchesters were to have their share. The operations of 26th - 30th September 1916 cost the battalion 309 casualties.

Frank received a severe gunshot wound to the thigh and developed gas gangrene. Gas gangrene was a severe bacterial infection which produced toxins that destroyed muscle tissue and caused gas to accumulate in the affected area. Frank died from his wounds at the Canadian Stationary Hospital, Boulogne on 3 October 1916, he was 22 years old. He is buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery Grave V111.C.167

Stansfield Mather 1889-1917 Service Number 34411
Regiment and Unit: Royal Horse Artillery 181st Brigade

Although his name is spelled Stansfield on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial, this man's first name was actually Stanfield, from his paternal grandmother's name, Eliza Stanfield. Stanfield Mather was born on 13 September 1889 at 162 Oldham Road, Waterloo. He was baptised at the Waterloo Methodist New Connexion Church on Oldham Road, as were all his siblings.

Stanfield was the son of Samuel and Eliza nee Ousey. His parents married in 1886. Samuel Mather was a butcher by trade. Stanfield's older sister Eunice was born on 27 Oct 1887. He had six younger siblings, Fanny Stanfield born 28 Apr 1892, Christiana born 31 Mar 1894, Robert Ousey born 28 Oct 1895, Maurice Samuel born 21 Jun 1897, Alice born 8 Oct 1899 and Arthur born 4 Aug 1900.



Stanfield attended Taunton School on Newmarket Road, Waterloo.

By 1901 the family were living at the butcher's shop at 161 Oldham Road. Stanfield was 11 and he lived with his parents and seven siblings: Eunice (13), Fanny (8), Christiana (7), Robert (5), Maurice (3) and Alice (1). Arthur was a seven-month-old baby. Stanfield was aged 21 in 1911. He was working in the family butchery business with his father. The family were now living at 98 Oldham Road in Waterloo.

Stanfield was a member of the Liberal Party and visited the Liberal club in Waterloo which was on Oldham Road, diagonally opposite where he lived.

He joined the 181st (Ashton) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery as a shoeing smith, and went out with them to France, where he served until December 1916. His duties there entailed visits to the firing line with ammunition, and, on one of these journeys, he received a slight wound on the head, but, after treatment in France, was soon back again with his unit. In December 1916 he wrote to his brother Robert to say he was in the 8th General Hospital in Rouen, suffering from an internal complaint. Stanfield was in fact suffering from enteric or typhoid Fever. He was invalided home with enteric fever, and sent to the Smithson War Hospital, Greenock, Scotland, where he seemed to start to recover. However, he caught a chill in April 1917 and his father received a telegram to say that he was dangerously ill. Mr Mather went at once to Scotland, and remained with his son until he passed away on 18th April at the age of 27.

A funeral service was held at Christ Church, Ashton. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack flag, and a firing party and buglers attended from Ashton Barracks. The Rev R.G. Hutton conducted the burial service, and at the close of the committal ceremony, three volleys were fired over the open grave, and the buglers sounded the "Last Post".

Arnold Matthews 1897-1918 Service Number: 47745
Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 16th Battalion

Arnold Matthews was born in 1897, son of James Matthews and Elizabeth Ann Evans. His parents married in 1893 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne.

In the 1901 census Arnold was aged 3 living with his parents at 188 Oldham Road, Waterloo. His father James was a shopkeeper (chip potato and confectionery). He had an older brother James born 1895 and a younger brother Herbert born 1899.



Arnold was aged 13, a school boy, living with his family at 278 Oldham Rd Waterloo, a five-roomed house, in 1911 census. His father James was a chip shop proprietor. James Matthews stated he has been married for 17 years and three of his nine children had already died. The nine children were James b 1895 died 1903 aged 8, Arnold born 1887, Herbert born 1899, David born 1901 died the same year, Allan born 1902 died 1904, Jack and Arthur who were twins born 1905, Frank and Evelyn, also twins, born 1909.

Arnold joined the army in the spring of 1916. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after it was introduced in May 1916. Arnold originally joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 5022. He was transferred to 16th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers and given the new service number 47745.

The 16th was a Pals Battalion raised in Salford in 1914. They trained in various places in Britain before embarking for France in November 1915. The Battalion first saw action on 1 July 1916 on the Thiepval Ridge. The battle almost wiped out the whole Battalion. In 1918, the year in which Arnold died, the battalion were involved in action on the Somme including the battles of Hindenburg Line and the final advance in Picardie. Arnold was poisoned by a gas attack at Cambrai.

Arnold was transferred to the Bangour Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland. On his arrival he wrote a letter to his parents saying *"I have been gassed by mustard gas, and it has burned the skin of my leg round the knee. You talk about fighting! We were in the thick of it ever since I went out. We were round St Quentin to start with. Then we went between there and Cambrai on the way to Le Cateau. We were the only lot who went across the canal and I got gassed about four days after."*

After moving to Bangour Hospital, Arnold appeared to be doing well until he had a relapse about a week before he passed away. His father went to see him before he died on the day war ended, 11th November 1918.

He was buried at Hurst Cemetery, Ashton (grave reference D.129) with a military funeral.

His Pension Record card notes the name of his mother Elizabeth Ann Matthews. He was awarded the Victory and British Medals posthumously.

Herbert Wilfred Matthews 1886-1915 Service Number: 1734
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Herbert Wilfred Matthews was born in 1886 in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne, son of Reuben Matthews and Sarah Jones. His parents married at St Mary's, Oldham in November 1881.

In 1891 Herbert Wilfred was aged 4, the only child of Reuben and Sarah, living at 210 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Reuben was employed as an iron planer.

Herbert's mother, Sarah died in December 1891. Sarah was buried at Holy Trinity in Bardsley on 29 December 1891.



In the 1901 census his widowed father was living with Herbert's paternal grandparents, Richard and Mary Jane Matthews at 208 Oldham Road. Herbert is recorded as "Wilfred" aged 15. He was working as an office boy.

By 1911 Reuben Matthews, father of Herbert, was aged 50, a widower. He was living in the same household as his widowed mother, Mary Jane Matthews at 326 Limehurst.

Herbert Wilfred Matthews married Florrie Goodliffe on 26 March 1910 at Stamford Street Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Ashton. Herbert was 23 and employed as a clerk to a leather manufacturer. He lived at 326 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Florrie, aged 21, daughter of George Henry Goodliffe (deceased) was a cotton weaver. She lived at 23 Anglesea Street, Waterloo at the time of their marriage.

In 1911 Herbert aged 24, a clerk to a leather merchant, and Florrie (22), a cotton weaver, were living at 65 Oldham Road Waterloo. They had a child Ethel who was born 1911.

The attestation of Herbert Wilfred Matthews took place on 14 February 1914 in Ashton. He was 27 years old. His height was 5 feet 5 inches and he had a chest measurement of 33 inches. He gave his address as 65 Oldham Road and his occupation as an engineering tool maker at Joshua Heap's which was on Boodle Street, off Oldham Road, Ashton. He named his next of kin as his father Reuben Matthews. He was considered fit for the Territorial Force Reserve. The Territorial Force provided an opportunity for men to join the army on a part-time basis. Recruits had a choice of regiment, but the local nature of the TF meant that, in general, the man joined his home unit. The TF County Associations, the administration of the local TF, were planned to be a medium by which the army could be expanded in wartime. Men trained at weekends or in the evenings and went away to a summer camp. Territorials were not obliged to serve overseas, but were enlisted on the basis that, in the event of war, they could be called upon for full-time

service ("embodied"). The physical criteria for joining the Terriers was the same as for the Regular army but the lower age limit was 17.

Herbert joined the 1/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, a Pals Battalion. In August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The "*Ashton Reporter*" names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. Herbert is listed as a Corporal with C Company. He was given the service number 1734.

The battalion landed in Gallipoli on 9 May 1915 and were involved in fierce fighting. . Herbert Wilfred Matthews was killed on 8 June 1915 in the Dardanelles. He was buried in the Redoubt Cemetery in Gallipoli, Turkey. XI, C, 17. There are 2027 casualties buried there.

An article in the Ashton Reporter 22nd January 1916 published part of a letter sent to Herbert's widow from Quartermaster Sergeant W. Birchell *"I can fully realise what the loss of a good husband and father means to you, and no words of mine can express how deeply I feel for you in your sad loss. I can truthfully say for myself, and on behalf of all who came in contact with him, that no other N.C.O. was so much respected. I know that while in Egypt and on the voyage out there that he had the respect of every N.C.O. of his Company for his generosity and his kindness, and I always felt proud that he had justified the trust I put in him when I recommended him for the N.C.O. He always studied the men first in everything he did or undertook, and that among other things made him the popular N.C.O. that he was. He often spoke to me about his home, and I know that he dearly loved his wife and child. When the war came he volunteered like a true British soldier can - his precious life, knowing he had left a devoted wife and a child behind. The loss was a great blow to me, as he and I were thrown so much together, being in the same Company. We are some distance from the quiet spot where your dear husband lies. I visited his grave near the ambulance receiving station, and it had a wooden cross on, and was kept in very good order."*

Thomas Mawdsley 1889-1917 Service Number 320
Regiment & Unit: Australian Machine Gun Corps 22nd Company

Thomas or Tom Mawdsley was born in the July quarter of 1889 in Clayton, Manchester, son of James Mawdsley and Ann Wright. His parents were both from Preston and had married at Preston Registry Office in 1871. Thomas was the youngest of at least eight children: Annabella born 1873 Preston, Albert born 1876 Preston, Arthur born 1877 Preston, Amanda born 1879 Bradford, East Manchester, Clara born 1881 Bradford, Manchester and Helena born 1887 in Beswick, East Manchester. There was a child, also called Thomas, born 1882 Manchester who died in 1884.



In the census of 1891, James and Ann Mawdsley were living with seven children at Clayton Mount, Beswick, a suburb of East Manchester. James was a Trades Union Secretary. Thomas Mawdsley was the youngest child, aged 1.

By 1901 the family had moved to Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. They were living at 58 Newmarket Road. James aged 53 was still employed as Trades Union Secretary. There were still five children living at home: Albert (23), Amanda (21), Clara (20), Helena (14) and Thomas aged 11.

James Mawdsley died in 1902 aged 54. He was buried on 7 February 1902 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton.

In 1911 Ann Mawdsley was a 61 year old widow at 234 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Her son Arthur (32) was a widower with a 9 year old son, Arthur, born in Chorley, living at the same address. Helena (24) was still living at home and Tom (Thomas) was aged 21 and working in a cotton mill as a stripper and grinder. This was an engineering job maintaining the thousands of wire teeth on a carding machine. Carding machines performed a combing operation, aligning the fibres so they make a strong thread when spun.

About 12 months later Thomas left Waterloo for Australia. On 29th March 1916 Thomas enlisted at Brisbane in the Australian Expeditionary Force and was given the service number 320. His Attestation papers show that he was working as a Barman prior to enlisting and that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to poor eyesight.

A medical report at the time of his enlistment shows that Thomas was 26 years and 8 months old, was 5 feet 4 1/2 inches tall and weighed 138 lbs. He had a medium complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. Thomas had two vaccination marks in his left arm (vaccinated 1907) and a scar on each shin. He was considered fit for active service.

On 19th September 1916 Thomas sailed from Melbourne with the Expeditionary Force, they arrived in Plymouth two months later on 14th November. On 23rd November 1916 they arrived at Grantham Training Depot. During his training Thomas was given 48 hours detention for being absent from Parade. In March 1917 Thomas was transferred from the 11th to the 22nd Machine Gun Corps and left England for France on the 17th March 1917.

Thomas had been in France for just over a month when he was wounded in action on 25th April 1917. He was admitted to the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to the head, right thigh, left and right leg and fractures of the left tibia and fibula. The only possible chance of saving him would have been by immediate amputation but he was in too serious a condition to undergo the operation. Thomas died about four hours after being admitted to the hospital on 25 April 1917. He was 27 years old.

An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Thomas had been captain of the Taunton Football Club for some years and was a member of the Ashton Rink Hockey Club. He was also a member of the Taunton Male Choir. While living in Australia he was selected to play for England against Scotland in a football match at Brisbane.

Thomas was buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, II.A.6, son of James and Ann Mawdsley of Taunton Bank, Ashton under Lyne.

Arthur McManus 1878-1917 Service Number 201688
Regiment & Unit: King's Own Scottish Borderers 1/4th Battalion

Arthur McManus was born in Dukinfield in 1878, son of John McManus and his wife Agnes nee Mooney. His parents had married at St Andrew's, Ancoats, Manchester on 16 March 1868.

Arthur had eight siblings: William born 1864 born in Bolton, John Thomas born about 1869 in Manchester, George born 1871 in Dukinfield, Sarah Ann born 1873 Dukinfield, Rosanna born 1880 died 1883 Dukinfield, Robert born 1882 died 1890 aged 7 and Rosann born 1885 Dukinfield.

Arthur was aged 3 at the time of the 1881 census. He and his family were living at 15 Leech Street in Dukinfield. His father John was working as a Blacksmith. By 1891 the family had moved to number 19 Leech Street. Arthur was aged 12 and was a scholar. His father was working as a Labourer and his mother was working in a cotton mill. Arthur and his family were still living at 19 Leech Street in 1901. Arthur was aged 21 and worked as a Machine Minder in the Cotton Mill. His father, John was still working as a blacksmith. In addition to Arthur, his parents, his older brother George and sister Rosann, their married sister, Sarah Ann, was living in the same house with her husband and three small children.

Arthur married Martha Beswick at St Mark's Dukinfield in 1905. They didn't have any children. In 1911 Arthur and Martha were living at 62 Newmarket Road, Waterloo in Ashton. They were both aged 31 years and both worked in the cotton mill.

Arthur's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal, the Allied Victory Medal and the 1915 Star. This means that Arthur volunteered some time in 1915. He joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers and was given the service number 201688.

Arthur died in Egypt on 6th March 1917, he was 38 years old. Arthur is buried at the Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, grave reference E.167.

James Millin 1900-1919 Service Number: M401332
Regiment & Unit: Royal Army Service Corps 700th Mechanical or Motor Transport Company

James Millin was born on 17 March 1900 in Waterloo. James had a twin sister Sarah Alice. They were baptised at Christ Church on 6 May 1900. James was the son of James Millin and Alice Eliza Buckley who had married at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Waterloo on 1st September, 1892.



James and Alice Eliza had five children. Harry born 1893, Leonard born 8th April 1896, Lewis born 9 October 1897, James and Sarah born 1900. James' twin Sarah died when a small child in 1901.

In the 1901 and 1911 census, the family were living at 25 Mary Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne. Their father worked as a railway carrier or drayman. James was still a school boy in 1911. His older siblings were working. Harry was a cotton spinner's piecer, Leonard was a painter's apprentice (an appropriate job for a man who would later run a decorator's shop on Oldham Road between Rock Street and Atlas Street. Lewis was a farm labourer and would later have a farm in Alt Hill.

James joined the army in April 1918, he may have volunteered or been conscripted after his 18th birthday. James was in the 700th Mechanical or Motor Transport Company of the Royal Army Service Corps. Service number M/401332. He was stationed at the Hyde Road Depot repairing army motors.

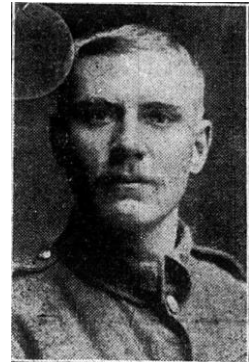
He died of influenza and pneumonia on 26 Feb 1919 at the 2nd Western General Hospital which had opened in the Central High School for Boys, Whitworth Street, Manchester in 1914. He was buried on 3 March 1919 at Christ Church, Taunton Road, Ashton U Lyne. Grave reference 42.19. His father chose the inscription 'Gone from our midst but not from our memory'.

Vernon Millward 1887-1918 Service Number 205682

Regiment & Unit: Wiltshire Regiment 1st Battalion

Vernon Millward was born on 17 April 1887 and baptised on 22 May 1887, son of John Millward and his wife Julia Ann Buttrey. They were married at St John's Church in Dukinfield in 1880.

Vernon was one of at least ten children born to John and Julia. When Vernon was 3 years old, his father was a farmer at Lower Fold Farm in Alt, a hamlet to the north of Ashton under Lyne. He had four older siblings at the time of the 1891 census: Mary Elizabeth born 1882, Eliza Ann born 1883, John born 1884, and James William born 1886. There were two younger siblings too: Ellen born 1888, and baby Edwin born 1890.



Vernon's father, John Millward, died in 1897 when he was only 36, leaving Julia with eight young children. She would have had to leave the farm where they were tenants. Julia Ann Millward aged 40 was living at 3 Hill Street, Waterloo (now Vale Street) in 1901. At the same address were her children: Mary Elizabeth (19), Eliza Ann (17), John (16), James (15), Vernon (13), Ellen (12), Edwin (10), Allen (9) and Arthur (6). Another child, Harold Millward born 1893, had died as an infant. Vernon was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. Piecers had a hazardous occupation. They were often employed young as they had to mend broken threads during the spinning process whilst the machinery was still in motion. This required deftness of hand.

Julia Ann Millward died in 1908, aged 46, leaving her children without parents. In 1911 Vernon Millward and three of his siblings, Ellen (recorded as Helen), Edwin and Allen were living with their married sister, Mary Elizabeth Evans, nee Millward at 45 Oldham Road. Vernon aged 23 was employed as a cotton piecer.

Vernon Millward was married the following year to Annie Anwyl, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Jane Anwyl, at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne. They had two children Jessie Millward born 1912 and Vernon Millward born 1914. Sadly Vernon died shortly after birth and was buried at Holy Trinity, Bardsley on 21 July 1914.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* 14 November 1914 shows that Vernon enlisted that week. Vernon initially joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment. He was later transferred to the 2/7th Manchester Regiment and then the 1st Wiltshire Regiment. Vernon had 3 different service numbers 2993, 205682, 351242. Vernon's brother Allen enlisted in October the same year.

Vernon would have initially undergone a period of training in England. Training for ordinary tommies began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was

approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (1914-1918.net)

Vernon's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915.

Vernon Millward died of wounds aged 31 on 20 July 1918 in France. He was buried in Acheux British Cemetery (Plot 1, Row E, Grave 45). His headstone reads "Be ye faithful unto Death and I will give you a crown of life". His widow Annie Millward of 79 Newmarket Road was recorded in the Graves Register for that cemetery. Vernon's death record notes he was the son of John and Julia Millward of Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. Between April and August 1918 the German offensive brought the Allied front line to within 8km of Acheux. There are 180 burials there from the First World War.

Edward Kerruish Moore 1895-1918 Service Number 352126
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 8th Battalion

Edward Kerruish Moore was born in January 1895 in Salford, son of John Kerruish Moore and Margaret (Maggie) Ann Christian. Edward was the eldest of four sons. His siblings were Ernest John born 1897 in Walthamstow, Essex, William Henry born 1904 Manchester and Arthur born 1907 in Ashton under Lyne. Edward's parents were both born on the Isle of Man but they married in Swindon, Wiltshire on 26 December 1893.

In the 1901 census Edward aged 6 was living with his aunt and uncle at 6 Nicholls Street in Salford. His father was a schoolteacher living alone in Longsight, South Manchester. His mother, Maggie, was at her parents' home in Bride, Isle of Man, with 4 year old Ernest John. By 1911 the family were living at 79 Newmarket Road, Waterloo, Ashton. Edward was 16 and described as a student. His brothers, Ernest John, William Henry and Arthur were at the same address.

Edward's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Edward may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916.

Edward joined the 2/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment as a sergeant but was commissioned to rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

Edward Kerruish Moore died of wounds at Villers-Bretonneaux on 25th April 1918 aged 23. The record of his burial at Daours Community Cemetery shows that he was the son of John K. Moore and Margaret Ann Moore of 79 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. In the register of soldiers' effects, his father John K. Moore was the recipient. Edward K. Moore was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal posthumously in 1923.

John Moore 1897-1917 Service Number: 352123
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9th Battalion

John Moore was born in 1897 in the Ancoats area of Manchester, son of John Moore and Jane Entwistle.

In the 1901 census John aged 4 was living at 43 Winton Street, Ashton under Lyne with his parents and two siblings, Florrie born 1892 in Bolton and Ernest aged 10 months, born 25 June 1900 in Ashton. John Moore, senior was employed as a steam wood sawyer.

Before the next census in 1911 John's mother, Jane Moore had died. Jane died in 1909 and his younger brother, Ernest had died in 1907. John Moore, senior had moved his family to Hurst. John aged 71, a widower, was a wood cutting machinist. Florrie, his daughter was a ring spinner in a cotton mill and 15 year old John was a scavenger in a mill. This involved collecting cotton waste by crawling underneath moving machinery- a hazardous job. They were all living at 6 St. Mary Street, Hurst.

Florrie Moore, sister of John, married Harry Howarth in 1912. They are shown in the 1939 register living at 229 Oldham Road, Limehurst (now Waterloo). Harry was a licensee of a pub. The location would indicate it was the Wellington pub on the corner of Wellington Street and Oldham Road.

John's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the date he joined the Army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. John may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916.

John Moore was killed in action on 9 October 1917 aged 21 years. This was most likely at the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days during that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

John is buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery grave XLIV. D. 21, close to comrades from his regiment who were killed on the same day. His family chose the inscription '*He lives with us in memory still from his loving sisters*' for his headstone.

Thomas Ernest Murray 1891-1916 Service Number: 109320
Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps/ Later Royal Navy

Thomas Ernest Murray was born in Douglas, Isle of Man on 31 July 1891, son of John Murray (1851-1905) and Emily Kewley (1859-1895).

Thomas Ernest Murray married Ethel Lee, daughter of George and Jane Lee at Dukinfield St Mark's on 26 Dec 1909. He had joined the Royal Navy on 5 Oct 1909 and his first ship was HMS Vivid II.

In the 1911 census Ethel Murray aged 21 was living with her mother Jane Lee (61) at 98 Railway Street, Dukinfield. Both women state they are married but their husbands are not with them at that address. It is probable that Thomas was at sea.

By the time of his death on 31 May 1916 Leading Stoker Thomas Ernest Murray was serving in the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Defence. He died on the first day of the Battle of Jutland. The battle was the only full scale naval battle of the First World War and took place off the Jutland peninsula, Denmark. HMS Defence was escorting the main body of the Grand Fleet when she was fired upon by one German battlecruiser and four dreadnoughts as she attempted to engage a disabled German light cruiser. The fire from the German ships was heavy and Defence was hit by two salvos from the German ships that caused the aft 9.2-inch magazine to explode. The resulting fire spread to the adjacent 7.5-inch magazines which detonated in turn. The ship exploded with the loss of all hands between 893 and 903 men were killed.

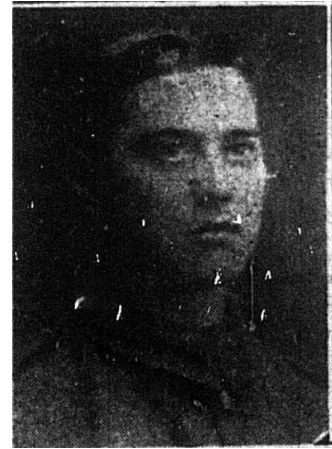
Thomas is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 15 as well as on the Waterloo and Taunton memorial.

The WW1 Pension Ledgers give Thomas's service number as 109320 and his widow Ethel Murray received gratuities. Two children are named on the ledger: Emily Murray born 12 Feb 1912 and George W. Murray born 30 Jun 1913.

By the time of the 1921 census, Ethel Murray nee Lee had remarried. She married James Heywood in 1920 at Christ Church, Oldham Road Waterloo. The couple were living at 32 Gordon Street, Waterloo with six children including Emily Murray born 1912 and George W Murray born 1913.

Richard Newsam 1891-1917 Service Number: 47498
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 11th Battalion

Richard Newsam was born at 19 Hill Street in Waterloo on 01 Jun 1891. He was the son of Richard Newsam and Alice nee Buckley. Richard and Alice were married at St Pauls in Stalybridge 16 Jan 1870. Richard Newsam senior worked as a coal miner. They had a large family of twelve children. All the children were christened at Christ Church, Ashton. Richard was christened on 05 Jul 1891.



Richard's siblings were: Bertha born 1870 baptised 21 Aug 1870, Annie 18 Nov 1872 baptised 05 Jan 1873, David born 6 February 1875 baptised 6 June died and was buried 13 Dec 1879 at Christ Church, William born 29 Apr 1877 baptised 20 May 1877, Ralph born 05 Apr 1879 baptised 01 Jun 1879, Tom born 19 Oct 1880 baptised 05 Dec 1880 died 1881, Maggie born 03 Jan 1882 baptised 04 Mar 1883, Edward born 05 Mar 1885 baptised 05 Apr 1885, Alice Ann 08 Mar 1887 baptised 03 Apr 1887, Violet born 22 February 1889 baptised 07 Apr 1889, David born 27 Feb 1894 baptised 01 Apr 1894 died 1900 buried 13 Oct 1900 at Christ Church.

Richard was only nine when his father died. Richard Newsam, senior, was buried at Christ Church on 04 Jun 1900. In 1901 the family were living in a four-roomed house at 53 Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne. Richard's older sister Annie had a learning disability. Richard's older brothers worked in the mine and his sisters in the calico works. The family took in a boarder to help pay the rent. By 1911 the family had moved to 15 Store Street in Waterloo. Richard was aged 19 and worked as a butcher. His brother Edward still worked in the mine and his sister Violet was a weaver in a cotton mill.

Richard's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Richard may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916. Richard joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 47498.

The Manchester Regiment 11th Battalion arrived in France in July 1916. There the Battalion saw heavy fighting in dreadful conditions. Fifty two men were killed along with four officers and others were wounded.

Richard was killed in action 27 September 1917. He is buried at Quarry Cemetery, Marquion, Pas de Calais, France. Grave A.15

Boaz Newton 1896-1916 Service Number: 56825
Regiment and Unit: 13th Hussars/Machine Gun Corps 7th Squadron

Boaz Newton was born 3 May 1896 In Ashton under Lyne, son of Boaz Newton and Lucy Bedford. His parents married in Barnsley in 1872. Boaz was baptised on 24 May 1896 at Stamford Street Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Ashton.



Boaz had 11 siblings: Martha Ann born in 1874, Elizabeth born 1876, Benjamin Mawson born 1877, Horace born 1880, Jane born 1883, George born 1885, Agnes born 1888, and William born 1890, all born in Yorkshire, in the Barnsley area.

Between 1890 and 1892 the family moved to Ashton.

Gertrude May was baptised at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton on 3 April 1892, Harold born 1894 and Wilfred born 1899 in Ashton.

Boaz was four years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and seven siblings at 36 Mount Street in Ashton. His father worked as a Railway Signaller. His older siblings worked in the cotton mill.

Lucy Newton, mother of Boaz, died in 1909 aged 53.

By 1911 Boaz was aged 14, living with his widowed father and siblings at 98 Oxford Street Ashton. He was employed as an apprentice railway coach builder. Before joining the army he was employed at the Stamford Commercial Ltd, Hurst, where he assisted in the weaving department. He was a scholar at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Mill Lane, and a member of the Boy Scouts.

His brother, Private G(eorge) Newton, was in the West Riding Regiment. He had been in the army four years, and had once been "gassed". Before joining the army he was employed at the Dukinfield Wagon Works

Boaz enlisted sometime before October 1915. He joined the 13th Hussars with the service number 11259. Boaz landed in France on 18th October 1915. Sometime later he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (cavalry) 7th squadron and given the new service number 56825.

Boaz was killed in action on 18th December 1916 aged 20 in Basra, present day Iraq. A letter from the commanding officer states that Private Boaz Newton had been under his command for some time, and was one of his most valued men. He led the ammunition pack into action behind the machine gun with skill. He regretted his death very much indeed. They had one consolation that he died as a soldier should do, with his face to the enemy, carrying out most valued work. He was buried close to the walls of Kut-El-Amara, on the banks of the Shatt-al-Hai. His grave was not found after the war. Boaz is commemorated on the Basra Memorial Panel 41.

George Newton 1884-1916 Service Number: 7915
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion

George was the son of Jonathan Newton of Stalybridge and his second wife, Elizabeth Harndon of Hadfield near Glossop. George's mother, Elizabeth died the same year that George was born. Jonathan Newton already had four children by his first wife Ann Mellor who he married in 1860 in Ashton. Eber born 1862, Tom born 1868, Sarah Ann born 1870 and Mary Hannah born 1874. Ann Newton nee Mellor had died in 1882.

George Newton first appears in the census in 1891 when he was seven years old. His father was a self-acting minder in a cotton mill. He had married Sarah Bradbury, his third wife in 1885 in Altrincham Cheshire. They were living in Stalybridge with five children: Tom (22) was a piecer in a cotton mill, Sarah Ann (20) was a cotton weaver, and Joseph Webb Bradbury (Sarah's son) who was 19 and a cotton card room hand. George had a younger half-sister called Bertha who was five years old in 1891. George's father, Jonathan Newton, died in 1899.

In 1901 census George was 17 and living his widowed step mother Sarah, his younger half-sister Bertha and his older half-brother Joseph and Joseph's wife, Harriet at 74 Wakefield Road Stalybridge. He was working in the carding room of a cotton mill.

George married Annie Lees on 25 Aug 1909 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne. In the 1911 census George and Annie were living on Brierley Street in Stalybridge with a seven month old baby, Frank.

In August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. G Newton is listed as a member of H Company (this may have been George).

George Newton died of his wounds on 9 July 1916 aged 32, at the start of Somme Offensive. The offensive took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916. The offensive ultimately included 12 separate battles, many of which became slogging matches that lasted for weeks. The Somme became one of the bloodiest known battles in history. The first day of the offensive alone saw the British Army sustain approximately 60,000 casualties, and around 20,000 deaths, the bloodiest day of its history. In total there were over 1,000,000 casualties, and over 300,000 men were killed or declared missing.

He was buried in Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension I.D.3 France. At the time of his death, Frank Newton, the son of George and Annie, was just 6 years old.

John Nickeas 1884-1915 Service Number: 2485
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st Battalion

John Nickeas was born in the first quarter of 1884 in Seacombe, Wallasey, Cheshire, son of John Nickeas, a labourer and his wife Elizabeth Ann nee Longden. John's parents came from Manchester and were married at the Cathedral which was also the Parish Church on 8th June 1865.

John and Elizabeth Nickeas had a large family. There were at least eight children. Abraham Thomas Nickeas was born in 1868 but died as a child in 1870. Richard born in 1870 and James born in 1874 were both born in Manchester. Abraham was born in 1876 in Patricroft, Albert was born in Bootle in 1879. Thomas born 1881 and John born 1884 were born in Seacombe. A daughter, Mary Ann was born in Southport in 1886.

In 1891 John was a seven year old living with his parents, three older brothers: Abraham (15), Albert (12) and Thomas (10) and a younger sister, Mary Ann aged 5. The family were living at 11 Lloyds Sidings in Birkdale. John's father was a bricklayer's labourer.

By 1901 the family were living at 33 Bedford Road, Birkdale. John was 17 and working as a carter for the Corporation (the local authority). Albert, his older brother, was still in the family home as was Mary Ann, his sister. Henry Wright was a boarder. Henry would later marry Mary Ann Nickeas.

John Nickeas, junior married Jane Griffiths Owens, daughter of Joseph Owens, at Birkdale St Peter's Church on 13 June 1903 when he was only 19 and she was 18. His occupation was labourer. In 1911 census John (28) a brick setter's labourer was in hospital in Southport. His wife Jane and their three children cannot be traced in this census. John's parents were still alive, living at 135 Kew Road, Birkdale.

John joined the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in August 1914. After training at Cleethorpes he was drafted out to France at the end of January 1915. John was most likely wounded at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres which took place between 22 April and 25 May of that year. The battle started with a surprise attack by the German army and saw the first use of a new German weapon, poisonous chlorine gas. An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says "*His brother, Thomas Nickeas, who is also serving, was gassed recently, but has recovered from the effects of the noxious fumes.*" We don't know what injuries John received but he would have been taken to one of the clearing stations based at Hazebrouck where he died on 28 April 1915 aged 32.

He is buried in Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery Grave reference II H9.

Francis Rourke/ O'Rourke 1892-1917 Service Number: 36929
Regiment and Unit: Royal Welch Fusiliers 8th Battalion

Francis was born in 1892 in Ashton, son of Henry Rourke, a plasterer from Hanley, Staffordshire and his second wife Ellen Byrne from Harbury, Warwickshire. Henry had married Ellen in 1886 in Wolstanton, Staffs, two years after his first wife, Annie Devine, had died.

Henry, father of Francis, died in 1897 so Ellen Rourke was a widow when her son, Francis was only 5 years old. Francis had three siblings, William born 1887 in Burslem, Martin born 1889 in Ashton, and Mary Annie born 1894 in Ashton. Mary Annie died in the first year of life.



In 1911 Ellen (O'Rourke), aged 45 was living with three sons, William, Martin and Frank (Francis) at 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo. All three sons were working as piecers in a cotton mill. There were two cotton mills near to their home- the Atlas and the Rock. Piecers were responsible for spotting broken threads on spinning machines. They had to tie the broken threads by leaning across moving machinery. This was a hazardous job requiring deft fingers.

Before the war Francis was a member of St Mary's Catholic Church and Sunday School. He also played football for Charlestown Mission Football Club in the Hooley Hill and District League. An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says "*he was of a cheery disposition, and was very much esteemed in the district.*"

Francis attested 19 Nov 1915 in Ashton. He joined the 8th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers on 24 Nov 1915 at Wrexham. His address was 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. He was 23 years old and worked as a tram conductor. Before entering the war, Francis was stationed at the Litherland Training Camp, Liverpool, where he won the crossed rifles badge for marksmanship.

Francis was posted 7 June 1916; his battalion embarked at Devonport, Plymouth. They disembarked 5 July to take part in the Mesopotamia campaign which was fought between the Allies, represented by British Empire troops, and the Central Powers, mostly from the Ottoman Empire. Francis was admitted to hospital in October 1916 in Amara, in present day Iraq. He was suffering with jaundice but he re-joined his regiment on 5th November. Francis was punished later that month, on 23 November 1916, for having a dirty rifle.

In December the unit, along with others, began operations against Kut, with skirmishes which saw six men killed, missing or died of wounds, ten wounded, and 102 sick that month. The rainy season now intervened, until on 9 January 1917, the

Battle of Kut formally began. They were in reserve during operations to clear the Khudhaira Bend 9-11 January, but the next objective was to cut off the Hai Salient, a series of trenches across the River Tigris from the town of Kut.

The 8th RWF took over trenches opposite the Salient on 12 January 1917 and strengthened these, digging in the rain and mainly at night to advance their position ready for an attack. Their Brigade (the 40th) advanced the trenches by 650 yards before 25 January when the attack began at about 9.35am. Attacking in three waves, despite an artillery bombardment, they suffered losses crossing No Man's Land and entered the enemy trenches where bombers (grenade-throwers) were used to push forward. The Turkish bombers counter-attacked, but, by dusk, the battalion had captured two lines of trenches on a 1200 yard front. The 40th Brigade lost 14 officers and 282 Other Ranks. Francis O'Rourke was killed on 16 February 1917. The Battle of Kut ended on 24 February 1917.

Francis was aged 24, son of Mrs Ellen Rourke of 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial in Iraq, Panel 15 as well as the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial.

Edward Wolfe Tone O'Sullivan 1891-1918 Service Number: 235999

Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 17th Battalion

Edward was born in the June quarter of 1891 in Hendon, north London, son of Michael O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Olive Hourigan. In the 1891 census the family were living in Willesden, North London. Michael and his wife Elizabeth were from County Cork, Ireland. Michael was employed as a tailor, a job he would do for the rest of his life. At the time they had three children: Mary (6) born in Marylebone, Michael (3) born Marylebone and Patrick aged 1 born in Kilburn.

By 1901 the family had moved to Waterloo. In the 1901 census they were living at 12 Gordon Street, Waterloo. Michael and Elizabeth had seven children living at home: Mary (16), Michael (14), Patrick (11), Edward (10) William (8), Ellen (4) and Katherine (1). The last three children were born in Ireland. By 1911 the family had moved further along Oldham Road. They were living in a six roomed house at 10 Dunkerley Street. There were eleven people in occupation. Patrick, Edward's older brother was married to Alice (19), Edward W. Sullivan was aged 20 and employed in a cotton mill as a Spinner's scavenger. His brother William (18) was also a scavenger. This was one of the lowliest jobs in a cotton mill. It meant gathering up cotton waste, often from underneath moving machinery. The younger children were Ellen (15), Catherine (12), Joseph (10), John (8) and Daniel (6). Michael Sullivan recorded he had been married for 47 years! This is an over estimation as he had married Elizabeth Hourigan in Kilburn on 4 June 1884. They had 13 children, three of whom had died before 1911.

Edward O'Sullivan married Elsie Carr in 1913 in Ashton under Lyne. They had two daughters Kathleen Elsie O'Sullivan born 9 Jan 1917 and Elizabeth born 16 July 1919. Elsie O' Sullivan must have been just pregnant when her husband was killed. In 1921 Elsie O'Sullivan and her two young daughters were living at 106 Union Rd Hurst along with Elsie's 19 year old sister, Violet. Elsie Sullivan (sic) of 91 Oldham Road Waterloo was remarried in 1922 in Ashton to James Scott.

Edward initially joined the Manchester Regiment 17th Battalion and was given the service number 2944. He was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers 17th Battalion and given the new number of 235999.

The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* on 14 November 1914 included a list of men who had enlisted that week, Edward W Sullivan was included in the list. With his regiment, Edward is likely to have been deployed in Gallipoli and later moved to the Western Front.

Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which

helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula

Edward O'Sullivan was killed in action in either France or Belgium on 9 Oct 1918. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial panels 54-60

Patrick Sarsfield O'Sullivan 1890-1918 Service Number: 41390

Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps

Patrick Sarsfield Sullivan (O'Sullivan) was born in the March Quarter of 1890 in Hendon, North London. Patrick was the son of Michael O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Olive Hourigan. In 1891 Patrick was just one year old and living with his parents and two siblings, Mary and Michael, at 36 Denmark Road, Willesden.

By 1901 the family had moved to Waterloo and were living at 12 Gordon Street. Michael, father of Patrick, was a tailor. Patrick was 11 and had two older siblings, Mary (16) and Michael (14). He had a brother Edward who was just a year younger. There were three younger children who had all been born in Ireland: William (8), Ellen (4) and Katherine (1).

Patrick Sarsfield Sullivan married Alice Player in 1910 in Ashton under Lyne. Patrick (21) and Alice (19) were boarding with Patrick's parents at 10 Dunkerley Street in the 1911 census. They had a daughter, Elizabeth born in 1912.

Patrick's parents died within a year of each other- Michael O'Sullivan died in 1914 and his wife Elizabeth died in 1915.

Patrick's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916.

Patrick joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. *"Medical care throughout the First World War was largely the responsibility of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). The RAMC's job was both to maintain the health and fighting strength of the forces in the field and ensure that in the event of sickness or wounding they were treated and evacuated as quickly as possible.*

Every battalion had a medical officer, assisted by at least 16 stretcher-bearers. The medical officer was tasked with establishing a Regimental Aid Post near the front line. From here, the wounded were evacuated and cared for by men of a Field Ambulance in an Advanced Dressing Station." (Imperial War Museum)

Patrick was the older brother of Edward O'Sullivan and died just before Edward on 18 August 1918 of wounds (gas) in the hospital in Rouen, France. Patrick is buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension Grave Q.IV.K.3.

Arnold Pearson 1897-1918 Service Number: 351087
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/9th Battalion

Arnold Pearson was born in Droylsden on 1st May 1897 and christened at St Michael's Parish Church in Ashton under Lyne on 23 May 1897. He was the only child of George Edward Pearson and Maria Williams. His parents were married at St Peter's in Ashton on 30 May 1896. George was 23 years old at the time of their marriage and worked as a piecer in a cotton mill, Maria was 27 years old.

At the time of the 1901 census Arnold was 3 years old. He was staying with his maternal grandparents, David and Sarah Williams at 29 Anglesea Street in Waterloo. Arnold's grandparents came from North Wales. His grandfather was a retired collier. Arnold's parents were living at 11 Hodgson Street in Ashton. Arnold's father George Edward Pearson was born in the U.S.A but was a British citizen. He worked as a Cotton Spinner.

At the time of the next census in 1911 Arnold and his parents were living at 89 Ryecroft Street in Ashton. Arnold was 13 years old and worked as a Piecer in a cotton mill along with his father. The work of a piecer in a cotton mill was a hazardous job as it involved tying broken threads whilst the machinery was in motion.

Arnold's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when Arnold joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have enlisted or he may have been conscripted when this was introduced in January 1916. Arnold joined the 1/9th Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 351087.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured.

Arnold was killed in action on 21st March 1918 when he was aged 20. He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme in France, Panel 64 to 67.

Stephen Peate 1897-1916 Service Number: 23930
Regiment & Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 13th Battalion

Stephen Peate was born between July and September 1897 in Bardsley which was still part of Ashton Under Lyne. His surname was registered as Peat, without the 'e', as were his siblings. Their parents were Thomas Allen Peate and Sarah Ellen Slater. Thomas and Sarah were married at Holy Trinity, Bardsley in 1889. Their early married life was tinged with sadness. Their first daughter Ellen was born in 1893 but died three years later. Their second daughter Marian was born in 1895 but died within a month of her birth. Their three sons: Allen born in 1891, Stephen born in 1897 and Joseph who was born in 1903 all survived childhood.

In 1901 Stephen was just three years old, living with his parents at 270 Oldham Road in Bardsley. His brother Allen was aged 10. Thomas Peate, Stephen's father, ran a beer-house. His occupation was recorded as a beer seller. They employed a young woman, Mary, as a general servant.

By 1911 Thomas Peate had retired and the family were living at 16 Langham Street in Waterloo. Allen and Stephen both worked at a local cotton mill, Allen as a piecer and Stephen as a scavenger. A scavenger was one of the lowliest occupations in a cotton mill. It involved collecting cotton waste from the floor, often by crawling under moving machinery. There were two cotton mills very close by- the Atlas and the Rock Mill.

Stephen enlisted in Llandudno, North Wales on 1 May 1915 'for the duration of the war', with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This Short Service with the regular Army had been introduced by Lord Kitchener for wartime volunteers the previous August. It was not necessary to produce evidence of age or even of one's name in order to enlist. Stephen gave his age as 19 years however he would have been only 17 years old. His service record shows that Stephen was 5 feet 3 and a half inches tall and had a chest measurement of 34 inches and weighed 105 lbs. He was given the service number 23930. Stephen embarked for France with the 13th Battalion. They sailed from Southampton on 1 December 1915. Stephen was badly injured during the Somme Offensive and taken to No 9 Red Cross Hospital where he died at No Red Cross Hospital on 22 April 1916.

Stephen's mother received a letter from a nurse on his ward "*You will have had the sad news of your son's death by now from the War Office. I am sister of the ward he was in, and I thought you would like what news I can give you. Stephen Peate was in a very bad way when he arrived here. He had a bad wound in the upper part of his right leg, with the bone also broken. That might have healed up well enough, if it had not been for gas gangrene. He was unconscious to the end almost, and then fell asleep and just quietly stopped breathing about 4 p.m. without any pain, which is*

a great deal to be thankful for. The surgeon told him his only chance was to have the leg off, but the boy asked that it should be given one more day's chance, as he did not want to lose it. It was taken off but all to no good, as the gas had spread, so nothing could have saved him. I feel awfully sorry for you, but think how many mothers lose sons who are in pain till the end, but yours was not."

Stephen is buried at Calais Southern Cemetery Plot C. Row 3. Grave 6.

Stephen Peate was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914-15 Star.

Lord Frederick Pennington 1895-1914 Service Number: 1602
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Lord Frederick Pennington was born in 1895 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Thomas Pennington, secretary to a brush-making company, and his wife Emma nee Morton. His parents Thomas Pennington and Emma Morton were married on 26 December 1888 at St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist, Swinton, Lancashire.



The 1901 census records him as Lord F. Pennington aged 6. He lived with his parents and four brothers, George, Tom, John M. and Harry at 94 Welbeck Street in Ashton. John's father worked as Secretary for a brush works.

By the time of the census in 1911 the family were living at 59 Newmarket Road in Waterloo. The family were moderately well off and lived in six-roomed house rather than usual more modest two up, two down. Lord Frederick Pennington was 16 years old and worked as a mechanic. His father Thomas born about 1866 in Swinton, Lancashire was Company Secretary (brush making).

Lord Frederick had at least eight siblings: Robert born 1890, George born 1891, Tom born 1892, Sir John Morton born in 1896, and Harry born 1898. A boy was born in 1900 but died the same year. Two girls were born after that, Alice Caroline in 1902 and Emma Morton in 1904

Lord Frederick Pennington married Violet Jones between April and June 1914 in Ashton under Lyne.

Frederick Pennington joined the F Company of the Ashton Territorials but when the company left Bury for Egypt, Frederick stayed behind with the home services section. They were based at the Mossborough Camp, Rainsford. Later Frederick was drafted to the Transport section. He was taken ill with appendicitis and was operated on in hospital in Liverpool. He was recovering when he had a relapse.

Fred Pennington died in a military hospital in Liverpool on 2 Oct 1914 after an attack of appendicitis. His pension records mention his widow Violet. He was aged 19. A service at Liverpool Crematorium was attended by his father Thomas Pennington and two of his brothers: Robert and Tom. Lord Frederick Pennington was buried in the Manchester Crematorium in a family grave.

His widow Violet married Jack Oscar Stanley Watts in 1916 at Welbeck Street Baptist church. In 1921 the couple were living at 4 Stanley Place in Dukinfield.

Sir John Morton Pennington 1896-1917 Service Number: 352110
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9th

Sir John Morton Pennington was born in Ashton on 29 August 1896. His parents Thomas Pennington and Emma Morton were married on 26 December 1888 at St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist, Swinton.

The 1901 census suggests he was known as John, rather than his rather grand birth name of Sir John Morton. John was 4 years old and lived with his parents and four brothers, George, Tom, Lord Frederick and Harry at 94 Welbeck Street in Ashton. John's father worked as Secretary for a brush works.



By the time of the census in 1911 the family were living at 59 Newmarket Road in Waterloo. The family were moderately well off and lived in six-roomed house rather than usual more modest two up, two down. John was 14 years old and worked as a messenger for the same brush company his father worked for. His father Thomas born about 1866 in Swinton, Lancashire was Company Secretary (brush making). John had at least eight siblings: Robert born 1890, George born 1891, Tom born 1892, Lord Frederick born 1895, and Harry born 1898. A boy was born in 1900 but died the same year. Two girls were born after that, Alice Caroline in 1902 and Emma Morton in 1904

John enlisted in the Manchester Regiment on 22 January 1916. He was given the service number 350112. He left for France two months later on 3rd March. John was killed by a shell on 19 April 1917 he was 20 years old.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says "*For several days his parents had been held in anxious suspense owing to a letter they had sent to their son, Pte. 352110 John Pennington in France, having been returned. Enquiries were made at both the Home Office and at Preston, but nothing definite could be learned. On Tuesday a letter was received from France from Major E.H. Scott as follows: - "Dear Mr Pennington, I am writing to tell you how much we all regret the death of your son. He was Company Clerk, and was of the greatest assistance to the Company Sergt. Major and myself. He was very popular with all ranks, and was always willing to help, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. His death was instantaneous, as he was hit by a shell when leaving Company headquarters".*

John was known for his kindly and straightforward manner. He is buried at Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais France, grave VII.B.3

James William Penney/Penny 1875-1916 Service Number: 17661
Regiment & Unit: Prince of Wales Volunteers (South Lancs
Regiment) 2nd Battalion

Born on 28 December 1875 in Waterloo Ashton under Lyne, James William was the son of John Elijah Penney and Martha Skellorn. He was baptised on 6 July 1879 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton. His parents John and Martha were married in 1874 and had at least four children: Sarah Elizabeth born 1874 died 1874, James William 1875, Betty born 1878 died 1880 and another Betty born 1883.

At the time of the 1881 census James was five years old and lived with his parents on Oldham Road in Waterloo. His father worked as an Engine Tenter and his mother was a weaver.

James was 12 years old when his mother died in 1888 at the age of 39.

In 1891 James and his younger sister Betty were boarding with the Bailey family at 6 Swan Street in Waterloo. James was 15 years old and worked as a Piecer in a cotton mill. A piecer's job was to tie up broken threads on a spinning machine, usually whilst the machinery was in motion. This was hazardous work, requiring deft fingers.

By the time of the next census in 1901 James and his sister were living with their aunt and uncle at 36 Oldham Road in Waterloo. James was 25 years old and still worked as a Cotton Piecer.

James and Betty's father John Elijah Penney died in 1910 and was buried at Christ Church on Oldham Road on 14 April 1910.

In 1911 James was aged 35, single, and was boarding with the Vaughan family at 49 Oldham Rd. He was a cotton piecer. (The Vaughan's son, Frank is also remembered on the Waterloo Memorial.)

James' Service Record shows he enlisted at Ashton on 4 September 1914. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and was given the service number 6848. He was transferred to the South Lancashire Regiment (the Prince of Wales Volunteers) on 6 March 1915 and given the service number 17661. James was 5 feet 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall and chest measurement of 34 inches. He had a sallow complexion, blue eyes and black hair.

James first posting in France was 1 May 1915. He was severely injured with shrapnel wounds in both legs in October of that year. He may have received his injuries during the Battle of Loos which was the British first large scale offensive and was referred to as 'The Big Push.' Following surgery he was sent to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich for further treatment.

James returned to France on 1 February 1916 and was sent back to the front at the Somme 3 months later. He was injured with a gunshot wound to the hand in July 1916 and taken to hospital in Rouen for treatment before returning to action a week later. James was again seriously wounded in action on 21 October with gun shot wounds to his left arm and leg. The Matron of the Scottish Red Cross Hospital at Rouen wrote to his sister *"I am deeply grieved to inform you that your brother passed away on November 1st at 10 o'clock in the morning. He never rallied from the time he was brought in. His leg was badly injured, also his arm. He was cared for and nursed during his time of suffering."*

The Somme offensive took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916. The offensive ultimately included 12 separate battles, many of which became slogging matches that lasted for weeks. The Somme became one of the bloodiest known battles in history. The first day of the offensive alone saw the British Army sustain approximately 60,000 casualties, and around 20,000 deaths, the bloodiest day of its history. In total there were over 1,000,000 casualties, and over 300,000 men were killed or declared missing.

James is buried at the St Sever Cemetery extension at Rouen in France, grave O.I.Q.10.

George Harry Potts 1899-1918 Service Number: 153921
Regiment & Unit: Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 46th Battalion

George Harry Potts was born in Ashton under Lyne in July 1899, son of Thomas Potts and Annie Chadwick. He had five siblings: Joshua born in 1883 in Dukinfield, Lily born 1884 in Dukinfield, William Miles born 1887 in Ashton, Thomas born 1891 Ashton, and Sarah Elizabeth born 1893 in Ashton.



Thomas Potts, a cotton mill worker had married Annie Chadwick in 1883 at Holy Trinity Church, Ashton. In the 1891 census the couple were living at 103 Bentinck Street Ashton, with two children, Lily (6) and Willie Miles (4). Their eldest child, Joshua, was living with his paternal grandmother in Dukinfield.

In 1901 the family were still at 103 Bentinck Street. Lily and William were now working; Lily as a confectioner's assistant and William as a hairdresser's assistant. George Harry was aged 1.

In 1911 the family, including 11-year-old George Harry, were living at 58 Oldham Rd Waterloo. Thomas Potts was employed as a cotton grinder. Willie (24) was a butcher, Thomas (20) was a motor driver, Sarah Elizabeth (17) was a shop assistant and George Harry was a school-boy.

It is not known exactly when George Harry Potts joined the Army. The 46th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps were involved in the Hundred Days Offensive and saw action at the battle of the St Quentin Canal in September/October 1918.

George Harry Potts died on 3 Oct 1918 in France and Flanders. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 10

Wilfred Ratcliffe 1889-1918 Service Number: 351321
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion

Wilfred was born on 7th January 1889 in Ashton under Lyne, eldest child of Joseph William Ratcliffe and Annie Elizabeth Wrigg. His parents had married the year before. He was baptised on 4 December 1889 at St James Church, Cowhill Lane, Ashton. Joseph and Annie had six children including Wilfred: Gilbert born 1891, Lilian born 1896 died 1897, James born 1898 died 1898, Mona born 1900 and Ruby born 1906 died 1906.

Wilfred was aged 2 when the census was taken in 1891. He lived with his parents and his father's aunt at 93 Ann Street in Ashton. His father worked as a Cotton Grinder. By the time of the next census in 1901 Wilfred and his family had moved to 244 Lower King Street in Hurst. Wilfred was 12 years old and worked half time as a Ring Spinner in a cotton mill. His father was still working as a cotton grinder. In 1911, Wilfred aged 22 was living with his parents at 244 Lower King Street, Hurst. He was employed making skips. His father and younger brother Gilbert worked in the cotton mill.

Wilfred Ratcliffe married Emma Lloyd in 1912 at Christ Church, Oldham Road Ashton. They had a son, James born in 1913. Emma was living at 6 George Street, Waterloo at the time of her husband's death.

Wilfred's Service Record no longer exists so do not know exactly when he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Wilfred joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 351321.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured.

Wilfred was killed in on the first day of this action. He was aged 29. Wilfred's final resting place is not known. A special cross was erected at the Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme in France with the words "*Believed to be buried in this cemetery.*"

Ida Harry Redfern 1886-1918 Service Number : 45264
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 17th Battalion

Ida Harry Redfern was born 27 May 1886 in Droylsden. He was baptised at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Waterloo on 4 April 1906. Ida Harry was the son of John Redfern and his wife Rachel Harrison.

In 1891 the family were living at Palatine Square in Dukinfield. John Redfern was a tin plate worker and he and Rachel had five children including Ida Harry aged 4. There were three older sisters: Minnie born 1880, Janet born 1882, Ada born 1884 and a younger sister, Gertrude born 1889.



In 1901 the family were living on Newmarket Road, Waterloo. John Redfern was a retired tinplate worker. Ida was 14 and employed as apprentice to a letter press printer.

By 1911 Rachel Redfern was a widow living with her grown-up children on Huddersfield Road in Oldham. Harry was aged 24 and was employed as a clerk.

Harry married Mildred Wolfenden in 1912 at St James Church, New Brighton. They had two sons Geoffrey born 1913 and John Granville born 1915.

Harry joined the army on 15 November 1916. He may have volunteered or he was most likely conscripted when this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Harry joined the Manchester Regiment.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured.

Ida Harry Redfern was killed on 22 March 1918 aged 32. Harry has no known grave but is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Panels 64-67. He was the son of John and Rachel Redfern of Oldham and husband of Mildred of 24 Green Lane, Garden Suburbs, Oldham.

An obituary the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* describes Harry as a popular and well known Ashton soldier.

Frank Ridyard 1875-1918 Service Number: 29827
Regiment and Unit: East Lancashire Regiment 2nd Battalion

Frank Ridyard was born on 14 August 1875 at Chapel Street in Hyde and was baptised at the Wesleyan Methodist church on Norfolk Street in Hyde on 26 Sep 1875. He was the youngest child of James and Mary nee Fairbrother who were married at St Michael's, Mottram on 26 Sep 1874. James and Mary had seven children: Frank born 1875, Ellen born 14 Mar 1877, Annie born 7 Aug 1879, Mary born 4 Aug 1881, Harold born 1884, James born 30 Jun 1886 and Herbert born 1890.

Frank was aged 5 at the time of the 1881 census. He lived with his parents and sisters Ellen and Anne at 41 Clarendon Road, Pendleton in Salford. His father worked as a joiner at a Paper Mill. In 1886 Frank and his family were living at 28 Jackson Street in Ashton. By 1891 they had moved to 55 Turner Street in Ashton. Frank was now aged 15 and was training to be a joiner like his father.

Frank Ridyard married Emma Hay Jones at St Peter's Church, Ashton on 10 Oct 1896. Frank and his wife Emma and two children were living at 31 Lord St off Alexandra Road Ashton in 1901. Their children were Annie born 1898 and James born 1900. Annie and James were baptised together on 7 Mar 1901 at the Methodist New Connexion Church in Hurst. Frank was working as builders' hire-man at the time. By 1911 Frank and Emma had moved to Fulwood near Preston. They were living with five children at Ainly Road. They had a further three children: Ethel born 1906 in Ashton, Edith born 1908 Stockport and Frank born 1910 Newton Heath. Hilda born in 1903 had died at the age of 3 in 1906. Frank was aged 35 and worked as a joiner.

Frank's Service Record no longer exists so we do not know the exact date he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Frank may have enlisted or most likely he was conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. He originally joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 47765. He was later transferred to the East Lancashire Regiment. On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured. Frank Ridyard died 24 March 1918 and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial.

Frank Robinson 1899 -1918 Service Number: 96558
Regiment and Unit: King's Liverpool Regiment 4th Battalion

Frank Robinson was born on 26th August, 1899 at 14 Bramah Street, Hurst, Ashton under Lyne, the son of Francis Robinson and his wife Emma nee Green.

He was baptised at St James Church Cowhill Lane, Ashton on 27 Sept. 1899/

Frank's parents married at St James on 10 Oct 1897.



Frank first appears in the census in 1901 when he was just one year old. He was the only child living with his parents Francis and Emma at 50 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Frank was their second child. A girl, Sarah Jane was born in 1898 but she died in March of the following year. Francis Robinson worked as a concreter on the roads.

By 1911 Francis and Emma had five children living with them at 74 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Frank, however, was not in the family home. He was living with his maternal grandfather, Noah Green and his second wife, Jane Elizabeth at 96 Oldham Road, Waterloo. He was a 12 year old school boy. Frank's siblings were: John born 1901, Harry born 1903, Emma born 1905, Mary born 1907, Noah born 1909, George born 1915 and Lily born 1917.

Frank's Service Record no longer exists so we do not know the exact date he joined the army but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916. He joined the King's Liverpool Regiment and was given the service number 96558.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says that Frank was first sent to France on 2 April 1918. The article goes on to say that he was reported missing a few weeks later on 16 April 1918. Frank's address was given as 96 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Mrs J Green of the same address was asking for any information on his whereabouts. (Mrs Jane Green was Frank's grandfather's second wife).

Frank's death was eventually confirmed as 3 May 1918. He was 19 years old. He was a prisoner of war at Tournai. Frank is buried at the Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension grave ref II.C.2.

Samuel Schofield 1897- 1917 Service Number: 57989
Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 227 Company

Samuel Schofield was born on 2nd June 1897, the eldest child of James Schofield and Sarah Ellen Chadwick. His parents married at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton in 1896. Samuel was baptised in the same church on 22 Oct 1897.



In the 1901 census Samuel was a young child of three with a younger brother Joseph, a baby of 11 months. The family was living at 15A Downing Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne.

By 1911 the family were still living at 15 Downing Street.

Samuel, aged 13, was working as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was hazardous work as it involved leaning over moving machinery to tie together broken threads. His father James was a roller turner in a textile factory. The family had grown and Samuel now had four younger siblings: Joseph (10), Thomas (6), Florence (2) and Eva (7 months). Mrs and Mrs Schofield state they have been married for 14 years and have had seven children, two of whom have died. These were James born 1898 died 1899 and John born 1902 died 1904. James and Sarah had another son, Sydney, born 11 June 1913

Samuel's father died in 1915 so his mother was left with a young family to look after.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Samuel joined the army in July 1916. He could have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January of that year. Samuel was formerly in the Liverpool Regiment service number 5608. Later he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps.

Samuel died on 6 Oct 1917 at the 12th Casualty Clearing Station, Mendinghem, France. Official records describe his cause of death as a result of wounds. However, the matron and chaplain of the hospital wrote to Samuel's parents stating he died as a result of gas poisoning. He was most likely gassed during the Third Battles of Ypres, possibly The Battle of Broodseinde which took place on 4 October 1917. The battle resulted in a total of 20,000 British, Australian and New Zealand casualties.

Before enlistment, Samuel had been a devout member and teacher at Taunton Sunday School. The hospital chaplain wrote to Mrs Schofield that he had been with Samuel the morning he died and they had prayed together.

The death of her eldest son, Samuel in 1917, at the age of 20, must have been devastating, having lost her husband just two years earlier.

Samuel is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery. He was 20 years old.

Thomas Smith 1896-1916 Service Number: 2327
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1/9th Battalion

Thomas Smith was the son of Thomas Smith and Jane Brierley. He was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne in September quarter of 1896. Thomas, senior, was born in Birmingham and his wife Jane was born in Manchester. By 1881 the couple had two children: Thomas Charles born 1878 and Sarah Ann born 1880. They were living at 25 Steele Street in Manchester. Thomas Charles died in 1882 aged 4.



By 1891 Thomas and Jane had moved to Waterloo and were living with five children at 8 Langham Street off Oldham Road. Their children were: Sarah Ann (11), Mary A (9), Joseph (7), Emma (or Emmy) aged 5 and three-year-old May. The last two children had been born in Waterloo.

By 1901 Thomas a telegraphic workman, was aged 50 and married to Jane (48). They were living in a two-up-two down house at 24 Ney Street. Mary A (19) was employed as a bottler in a jam works (probably at Robertson's jam works in Droylsden), Joseph (17) was a roller turner for textile machinery, Emma (15) was a bristle cutter in a brush works, May was 13 and Thomas was aged 4.

Thomas Smith senior died in 1910 aged 56.

By 1911 Jane Smith was a 54 year old widow. She records that she had been married for 30 years and four of her ten children had died before 1911. Emma (25) a cop reeler in a cotton mill and Thomas (15) an iron moulder were living with her at 24 Ney Street, Waterloo.

Jane Smith, a 65 year old widow was living alone at 24 Ney Street in 1921 when the next census was taken.

Before enlisting Thomas lived with his mother at 24, Ney Street, Waterloo. He was an apprentice moulder at Messrs. Urmson's Works in Wellington Road, Ashton and attended the United Methodist School on Worthington Street, Waterloo

Thomas Smith was drafted out to the Dardanelles in July 1915, but escaped unscathed from the perils of Gallipoli although his Regiment suffered heavy losses. By early 1916 he was in Egypt in the neighbourhood of the Suez.

Thomas was accidentally killed on 26 April 1916. A letter to his mother from an officer present at the time described the accident. Thomas was with a group practising bomb throwing when one of the bombs, which had a defect, suddenly exploded. Thomas was hit in the neck and died almost straight away. The two killed

were Private 3244 E. Chadderton and Private 2327 Thomas Smith. Nine others were wounded, two seriously.

“He was buried the following morning with full military honours, the whole of his company going with him to his last resting place.”

In the letter he was described as being *“very popular amongst his mates, and always did his duty well - in fact, he was one of my favourite men in the platoon. We all mourn the loss of a big hearted lad.”*

Thomas was just 19 years old when he was killed. He is buried in the Suez War Memorial Cemetery grave C71.

Thomas Smith 1894-1915 Service Number: 1137
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1/9th Regiment

Thomas or Tom Smith was born 28 April 1894 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 18 August 1894 at St Michael's Parish Church, son of Thomas Smith and his wife Maggie or Margaret Armstrong.

In 1901 Thomas and Maggie Smith were living on Lordsfield off Turner Lane, Ashton. Thomas, senior, was a railway carter, transporting parcels and items sent by rail to Charlestown Station. They had six children living with them: Henry (13) who was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill (Henry may have been the child of an earlier marriage), Thomas aged 6, Martha Jane (5), Robert (3), Mary Elizabeth (2) and six month old Eliza.

By 1911 the family were still living on Lordsfield. Thomas Smith, senior was 58 years old and working as a horse-keeper for the London and North West Railway. His wife, more formally named as Margaret, was aged 40. They had seven children living with them: Thomas aged 16 was a piecer in a cotton mill, Robert (13) was a part-timer, meaning that he attended school for half the day and worked the other half in a cotton mill, Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) was 12 years old and she and her younger sister, Eliza (10) attended school, Samuel (8), Ethel (7) and Willie (2) made up the rest of the family. Thomas Smith recorded that he had been married for 18 years and had 10 children, two of whom had died before 1911.

Thomas Smith joined the 1/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 1137. Thomas landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. 'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days' (ashtonpals.webs.com).

Thomas was killed in action on 19 June 1915 just over a month after landing at Gallipoli. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Panels 159-171, son of Mrs Margaret Smith of Lordsfield, Turner Lane, Ashton under Lyne as well as the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial..

Sydney Stelfox 1887-1915 Service Number: 2193
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Sydney Stelfox was born 15 December 1887. The General Record Office Index lists his mother's maiden name as Stelfox. He was baptised at Waterloo Methodist New Connexion chapel, Oldham Road on 8 February 1888 and named as the son of James and Mary Hannah Stelfox. There is marriage of James Smith and Mary Hannah Stelfox on 21 August 1887 at Christ Church so it is unclear why Sydney was given the surname Stelfox.



His mother married Thomas Jones from Rhos, Denbighshire in 1889 at St Michael's Parish Church in Ashton. The marriage certificate indicates she was a spinster.

Sydney was three years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his grandparents, Henry and Alice Stelfox at 1 Hill Street (now Vale Street) in Waterloo. His grandfather Henry and his uncles, Henry, Ernest and Arnold were all coalminers.

In 1887 Henry Stelfox had a severe accident whilst working at the Limehurst Peacock Colliery. His thighbone was broken by a fall of coal. Sydney's mother, Mary Hannah, was living very close by with her husband, Thomas Jones, also a coal miner and their one year old daughter, Ellen at 7 Hill Street Waterloo.

By the time of the next census in 1901, Sydney was 13 years old and worked as Piecer in a cotton mill. This was a hazardous occupation as it involved tying loose threads of cotton whilst leaning over moving machinery. Sydney lived with his grandparents and his aunt Susannah Stelfox. His two half siblings Hannah Jones aged 5 and Alice Jones aged 4 were also staying at 180 Oldham Road in Waterloo on the night of the census. His mother, Mary Hannah and her husband were living at 28 Ney Street, Waterloo, very close by. In fact, Alice and Hannah Jones were entered twice in 1901 census- once with their parents and also with their grandparents.

In 1911 Sydney was 23 years old and worked as Coal Miner at Woodpark Colliery in Bardsley. He boarded with Walter and Violet Lomas at 269 Oldham Road, Limehurst. Limehurst referred to the northern part of Waterloo at the time. His mother Mary Hannah Jones nee Stelfox was back in Hill Street at number 3 with her widowed father Henry Stelfox and six of her eight children.

In 1913 Sydney married Mary Ann Whillock at St Mark's in Dukinfield. The couple lived at 3 Hill Street in Waterloo.

Sydney enlisted with the Ashton Territorials in September 1914 and was given the service number 2193.

Sydney landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. *'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days'* (ashtonpals.webs.com)

A month later on 12th June, Sydney was killed in action. He was 27 years old.

In a letter to Mrs. Stelfox, Sydney's widow, Lieut. Shaw says - "*Dear Mrs. Stelfox - It is with the deepest regret I have to inform you of the death of your dear husband, Private Sydney Stelfox, 13 Platoon, "D" Company. As we were proceeding from the firing line to the reserve trenches yesterday after being relieved, the enemy shelled us, and a portion of a shell struck him on the head and killed him instantaneously. The NCOs, men and myself sadly lament his death, as he was a steady man, and a good and willing soldier, and an excellent trench and sap digger. Assuring you are of the sympathy of everyone in the Platoon in your sad bereavement, yours faithfully, H.C.Shaw, Lieut "*

A tribute paid to Private STELFOX by one of his comrades reads - "*He saved old England's honour, He nobly did his best, He fought for King and country. And now he lies at rest*".

Sydney is buried at Redoubt Cemetery, Helles, Turkey grave reference XII.B.14

Frank Stockdale 1895-1919 Service Number: 350973
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion

Frank Stockdale was born in 1895 in Ashton under Lyne, son of John Williamson Stockdale and Elizabeth Williamson. His parents had married in Ashton on 30 October 1894 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on Stamford Street. Frank came from a small family. He had two younger brothers: Noel Williamson Stockdale born in 1897 and Harold Stockdale born in 1908.

Frank was aged 5 at the time of the 1901 census. He lived with his parents and brother Noel at 28 Oldham Road, Waterloo. His father worked as a hairdresser.

In 1911 Frank, aged 15, was living at 56 Oldham Rd, the home of his maternal grandfather John Williamson, a widower. Frank worked as a piecer at the local cotton mill as did his brother Noel (14). The work of a piecer was hazardous as it involved tying loose threads of cotton whilst leaning over moving machinery. It is likely that Frank worked at either the Atlas Mill or the Rock Mill, both of which were nearby. Frank's youngest brother, Harold, was only three years old. Frank's father, John and his grandfather, also John, ran a grocer's shop.

Frank's Service Record shows that he enlisted at Ashton on 15 October 1914 when he was 19 years old. He indicated that he had 3 years previous service with the 9th Manchester Regiment (Ashton Pals) Territorial force. He re-enlisted with the Ashton Pals and was given the service number 2639, he was later given the number 350973. His medical record shows that he was 5 feet 9 inches which was above the average height of 5 feet 6 inches at the time. His chest measurement was 36 inches, he had good vision and good physical development. Frank was certified fit to join the Territorial Force.

Frank was posted to the Balkans (Gallipoli) in August 1915. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula. Frank was only at Gallipoli for just over a month when he was sent back to England with Enteric (Typhoid Fever) - a bacterial infection, common during the war in the Mediterranean, particularly in the early years. It manifested in patients as headache, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, body aches in back, limbs, and joints, and shivering, and fevers. Frank was treated at the Royal Victoria also known as Nettley Hospital.

Frank never returned to the war and in January 1918 he was discharged as physically unfit. His medical record is sparse. There is a note indicating Frank's condition was a result of 'stress of campaign & enteric fever'. However the final diagnosis was Dementia Praecox and required permanent asylum treatment. Dementia praecox was a term that was used to describe a chronic, deteriorating psychotic disorder. We now know the condition as schizophrenia. The term may also have been used to describe cases of 'shell shock' now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Frank died on 5 May 1919 aged 24 years. He is buried at Ashton under Lyne (Hurst) Cemetery grave G.317

William Taylor 1890-1915 Service Number: 5335
Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1st Battalion

William Taylor was born 14 January 1890 and was baptised on 6th April 1890 at Christ Church, Waterloo, son of Samuel Taylor, native of Waterloo and his wife Martha Richards of Failsworth. Samuel Taylor had married Martha in 1879 at Christ Church.

In 1891 William was living with his parents at 41 Wellington Street, Waterloo. Wellington Street was a narrow unpaved street with houses along just one side, off Oldham Road. Samuel Taylor was a 35 year old coal miner, probably working either at Limehurst Colliery or Wood Park pit in Bardsley. There were four children in the household and a boarder, Moses Broadhurst. William was the youngest child. His three siblings were: Ben born 1881, Emma born 1883, and Alice born 1886.



By 1901 the family had moved next door to 43 Wellington Street. Samuel was still working as a coal miner (hewer). Ben, the eldest son, was no longer living at home. Emma (18) was working in a cotton mill as a setter in the card room and Alice (16) was a pill maker, probably working at Kerfoot's pharmaceutical company in Bardsley Vale. William was 11 years old and now had a younger brother James (7). The family still had a lodger, a 27 year old man, Alvyn Garlick.

In the 1911 census Samuel records himself as Sam Taylor and says he has been married for 32 years and one child out of six had died before 1911. He was still working as a coal miner. The family were living at 324 Oldham Road, Limehurst which was the name of the northern part of Waterloo. Ben, the eldest son, was living with his family again. He was aged 29, single and also working as a coal hewer, William Taylor (21) and his brother James (17) were working as piecers in a cotton mill. Piecers were essential to the efficient spinning of cotton. When the threads snapped, the piecers had to tie the broken ends together again, usually whilst the machinery was in motion. This required deft fingers and was an extremely hazardous occupation.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says William was a long time scholar at Taunton Sunday School and a member of the P.S.A (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) Society.

William enlisted with the 4th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on 2 September 1914. After a period of training at Barrow in Furness, he was transferred to the 1st battalion. William was posted to Gallipoli on 25 September 1915. He died from exposure on 28 November just two months after his arrival. He was 24 years old.

William has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial Panel 59 to 73 or 218 to 219.

Robert Allen Lewis Thomas 1896-1917 Service Number: 350379
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Robert was the only son of Robert Edward Thomas and Martha Thomas Lewis. He was born on 2 December 1896 in Scotforth, Lancashire and was baptised at St Paul's church in Scotforth on 7 February 1897. His parents were married on 2 December 1894 at Woodfordbridge in Essex.



We don't know when Robert moved to Ashton under Lyne but at the time of the census in 1901, he and his mother Martha were living at 35 Oldham Road, Waterloo with his mother's sister Mary. Robert was four years old. On the census his mother Martha says she is married although her husband does not appear to be living with the family. Martha was working as a cleaner and her sister Mary was a chemistry assistant.

By the time of the next census in 1911, Robert and his mother were living at 143 Taunton Road, Waterloo. Robert was 14 years old and worked as a Piecer at a cotton mill. A Piecer would repair the broken threads on spinning machines. This was often a job done by children because they needed nimble fingers but it was also very hazardous because it involved leaning across moving machinery. Robert's mother says she was a widow and worked as a cleaner.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The *Ashton Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion. Robert is listed as a member of 'A Company'. We don't know if he was already with the Territorials before the war or whether he enlisted during the first week.

Robert's Medal Index Card shows he was initially given the service number 1727 and that he was later given the new service number 350379. The Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. The 1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

Robert landed at Gallipoli with his unit on 9 May 1915. He was one of the first to be wounded after being shot through the left hand by a sniper. He was sent to Alexandria for hospital treatment.

Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature

could also plummet. In the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. Robert was one of those who was ill with dysentery. In September 1915 Robert was again injured, this time in the right foot.

By Spring of 1917 Robert and his Company had been transferred to France and proceeded to the Western Front. Conditions in the trenches were very different to those Robert had been accustomed to and must have come as a great shock.

On 16 May 1917 Robert was on sentry duty in the trenches when he was shot by a sniper. He died instantly. Robert was 20 years old.

Robert was originally buried in a small cemetery alongside some of his comrades who had fallen in battle the previous week. They were later reinterred at Templeux Le Guerard British Cemetery. Robert's grave reference is II.E.39.

Harold Thornley 1881- 1917 Service Number: 23504
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 22nd Battalion

Harold was born in Openshaw in 1881, son of Thomas Thornley and Phoebe Cooper. His parents married at St John's Church Manchester in 1866. Harold's siblings were Frederick James baptised on 10 Apr 1867 at Christ Church Bradford, Manchester, Alice born 1877 Newton, Manchester, and Minnie born 1878 Newton, Manchester.



In 1881 Harold's parents and siblings were living on Kay Street, Bradford, a suburb of east Manchester. Thomas Thornley was a Turner at Iron works born 1844, Frederick Thornley, the eldest child was age 14 and worked on the railway.

Harold was aged 9 at the time of the 1891 census. His mother was a widow aged 45 and living with her four children at 33 Taylor Street, Bradford. Frederick Thornley aged 24 worked as machine hand, Alice aged 14 was a shop assistant and Minnie (13) was a fustian cutter. Harold was still at school.

The family were still living at 33 Taylor Street in 1901. Harold (19) was working as an iron driller. His sister Alice was a confectioner's assistant and Minnie was working, sewing blouses.

Harold married Margaret Ellen Rushton at Chorlton on Medlock in 1903. The Thornley family - Harold, Margaret and three daughters, Edith, Phyllis and Florence were living at 16 Fairhaven St in West Gorton in 1911 census. Harold (29) was a general fitter.

Harold enlisted in Manchester on 1 February 1914. He joined the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment, service number 23504. Harold entered active duty in France on 16 July 1915. Whilst in France, Harold was seriously injured with barbed wire and received hospital treatment for about 12 months. Approximately six weeks before his death, Harold was awarded the Military Medal.

Harold was killed in action on 4 October 1917, possibly at the Battle of Broodseinde. An account in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says he was '*sniped while in a shell hole before going over.*' He was 36 years old.

Harold's final resting place is not known but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium Panel 120 to 124, as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial.

Frank Vaughan 1895-1917 Service Number: 35411
Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 18th Battalion

Frank Vaughan was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne on 25 September 1895. He was baptised at Christ Church, Waterloo on 1 November 1895. Frank's parents were Harry Vaughan and Elizabeth Ryan. They were married at Christ Church in 1894. Elizabeth was a British Subject born in Philadelphia U.S.A. Frank had one younger brother John Ryan Vaughan who was born on 24 September 1900.

Frank was six years old when the census was taken in 1901. His family lived at 42 Oldham Road in Waterloo. His mother's siblings: Fanny, Robert, Mary, William and Samuel Ryan were boarding with them. It must have been very cramped as the house only had four rooms, a traditional two up-two down. Frank's father worked as a coal miner.

By the time of the next census in 1911 the family had moved to a larger house at 49 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Frank was 15 years old and worked as a Cotton Piecer. A Piecer would repair the broken threads on spinning machines. This was often a job done by children because they needed nimble fingers. Frank's father still worked as a coal miner. His mother's siblings continued to board with them and the family also took in an extra boarder. This was James W Penney who was also killed during the First World War. He died in 1916 and is also commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial

We don't know when Frank joined the army. Frank's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-15 Star; this tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in 1916. Frank joined the 18th Battalion, Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 35411.

Frank would have initially undergone a period of training in England. 'Training for ordinary 'tommies' began with basic training for physical fitness, drill, march discipline, essential field craft, and so on. Later, as the soldier specialised (in the infantry, for example, as a rifleman, machine gunner, rifle grenadier, signaller or bomber) he would receive courses of instruction relevant to his role. Especially as he was approaching being warned for the active fronts, he would receive basic training in first aid, gas defence, wiring and other aspects. This training continued when he was on active service.' (*1914-1918.net*)

At the end of July 1917 the 18th Battalion took part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the

heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days. During that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Frank was most likely wounded at some point during the first few days of Passchendaele. He died from his wounds on 4 August 1917, probably at one of the casualty clearing stations that had been set up in readiness for the forthcoming offensive. Frank was 21 years old.

Frank is buried at the Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium grave III.E.47. His family chose the inscription on his headstone '*Our thoughts are ever of you*'.

Thomas Henry Watkin 1885-1915 Service Number: 8756
Regiment & Unit: Sergeant 2nd Cheshire Regiment

Thomas Henry Watkins was born in Sheffield in the last quarter of 1885 to John Watkins and his wife Mary Ann Reid. The spelling of the surname seems to vary across records- sometimes Watkin and sometimes Watkins.

In the 1891 census Thomas was aged 5 and living with his parents at 6 Bishop Street in Waterloo. He had an older brother William John aged 8, also born in Sheffield and a younger sister Mary Alice aged 1, born in Ashton.

John Watkin, father of Thomas Henry died in 1891 aged just 34. By 1901 Thomas' widowed mother was living on Clive Street Waterloo with three children: John W aged 18, Thomas Henry (16) and Mary A (11). Thomas Henry was working as a cotton spinner's apprentice. This was a hazardous job as it involved tying broken threads as the machinery was still moving.

In the 1921 census Thomas' widowed mother, Mary Ann Watkins (sic) was living with her unmarried daughter, Mary Alice (30) at 18 Clive Street, Waterloo.

Thomas was educated at the Christ Church schools, Waterloo and had also worked at Hannah Lees and sons, Iron works in Park Bridge. He had hoped to gain a commission in the regular Army. He was a bugler in the Ashton Volunteers. He was in India with the Army when war broke out. He was shot in action and was taken captive on Hill 60. In a letter home, he wrote "I was picked up on the field wounded by one of the Germans who gave me a nice hot drink of coffee."

He was nursed for gunshot wounds to the left thigh and lower leg in a German Military Hospital. There he contracted tetanus and died on 27 May 1915 aged 29 years. News of his death did not reach his family until July of that year. He is buried at Cologne Southern Cemetery grave XV.B.34. Thomas is also remembered on a family headstone at Hurst Cemetery, Ashton under Lyne.

John Joseph Wilde 1880-1918 Service Number: 61391
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 12th Battalion

John Joseph Wilde was born in 1880 in Ashton under Lyne, one of nine children. His parents Joseph Wilde and Mary Jane Andrew were married at St James' church, Cowhill Lane in Ashton on 9 November 1872.

In 1881 he was aged 1 living on Oldham Road, Waterloo with his parents and three older siblings, Sarah (7), Walter (5) and Susannah (3). Joseph Wilde, father of John Joseph, was employed as a blacksmith.

By 1891 the family had grown. There were now eight children: Sarah Ann (17) and Susannah (13) were employed in the cotton industry. Walter Andrew (15) was a roller puncher, John Joseph was aged 11 and already working as a spinner's piecer. This involved tying broken threads for the spinning machine operator so that the machinery did not have to stop. It was dangerous working across moving machinery and required deft hands. There were four younger siblings too: Harry born 1882, James born 1884, Tom born 1886, and Mary Jane born 1889. John's younger brother Joseph, who served in the Army until his death in 1915, was born the year after the census in 1892.

In 1901 the family were still living at 44 Oldham Road. Joseph, the head of the family was still employed as a blacksmith but this census is a little more specific about where he worked, "in a roller works". Sarah and Walter had married and left home. Susannah was the eldest of seven children still at home. John Joseph was 21 and working as a cotton twiner.

The family had moved a little further up Oldham Road by 1911 to number 68. Joseph senior was employed as blacksmith. He records that he had been married for 39 years and there were nine children. All were still alive in 1911. John Joseph is the second eldest, aged 31, and is employed as a cotton twiner.

John Joseph's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the exact date he enlisted. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916. John Joseph Wilde joined the South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales Volunteers) Service number 42221. At some point after September 1917 he transferred to the 12th battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 61391.

John Joseph Wilde was killed in action aged 39 on 25 August 1918 in France. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial Panel 9. John J. Wilde is commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial, his brother Joseph Wilde, senior and uncle Joseph Wilde, junior are also named on the memorial.

Joseph Wilde 1897-1917 Service Number: 350351
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Joseph Wilde was born on 17 July 1897 in Dukinfield. He was baptised on 29 June 1898 at St James Church, Ashton under Lyne, son of Walter Andrew Wilde and Mary Hallam or Allen. In the 1901 census Joseph aged 4 was living with his parents, Walter and Mary and a younger brother Ernest aged 2 at 10 Langham Street, Waterloo. Walter Wilde was employed at a colliery as a banksman.



By 1911 the family had grown. Walter and Mary were still living at 10 Langham Street with five children: Joseph (13) was a cotton operative, and his siblings were Ernest (12), Ann (9), Ethel (8) and Walter (2). A sixth child named after his father; Walter Andrew, had died as a baby in 1906.

Joseph enlisted into the 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on 14 Feb 1914 in Ashton under Lyne. He was aged 17 and gave his address as 10 Langham Street Waterloo. He was employed as a cotton spinner at the Rock Mill which was literally just across the road. His father was named as next of kin. His service number was 1669. He later became a Corporal with service number 350351.

Joseph served in Gallipoli and France. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms. Also large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula.

Joseph Wilde is recorded as being killed in action in France on 3 June 1917 aged 19 years. He is buried at Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery grave F.14.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says '*This young soldier, who would have been 20 years of age on the 17th of this month, was killed on the 2nd June, according to the official news received at the latter end of last week, and yet, though so young, he was spoken about by his officers as one of the bravest and best non-commissioned officers.*'

Joseph Wilde is recorded on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial as Joseph Wilde, Junior, to differentiate him from his uncle, also Joseph Wilde, who was killed at Gallipoli in June 1915.

Joseph Wilde 1892-1915 Service Number: 1215
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion

Joseph Wilde was the youngest of nine children, offspring of Joseph Wilde, a blacksmith and his wife Mary Jane Andrew. In the 1901 census Joseph was aged 8 living at 44 Oldham Road Waterloo with his parents and six older siblings: Susannah (23), John Joseph (21), Harry (18), James (16), Tom (14), and Mary Jane (11).

By 1911 Joseph was aged 19 and was employed as a cotton piecer. This was a dangerous occupation; it involved tying broken threads together, whilst the spinning machinery was in motion. His six older siblings who appeared in the 1901 census were still living in the family home. Two other siblings were already married by 1901: Sarah born 1873 and Walter Andrew born 1875.

Walter Andrew Wilde was the father of Joseph Wilde (junior) commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial.)



Joseph joined 1/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment towards the start of the war. He was a Private - service number 1215. Joseph and his battalion landed at Gallipoli on 9 May 1915. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula.

Joseph was originally reported as missing on 7 June 1915 before being confirmed as having been killed in action. He was aged 22 years. There was a bayonet attack that day in which at least eighteen of Joseph's comrades lost their lives.

Joseph has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Panel 159 to 171. His name on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial records him as Joseph Wilde, senior to differentiate him from his nephew, also Joseph Wilde, 1897-1917. The two men were killed almost exactly two years apart.

Alfred Wilson 1891-1915

Service Number: 59247

Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 41st Brigade

Alfred Wilson was born on 16 June 1891 in Parr, St Helen's, Lancashire to Sarah Wilson, unmarried at the time. Sarah married Joseph William Smith the following year on 8th October 1892 at St Peter's Church, Parr.

Alfred appears with his mother, Sarah and her husband, Joseph, a coal hewer, in the 1901 census. He is named Alfred Wilson Smith aged 9 in the census return. There are four other Smith children in the household: William born 1893 in St Helen's, Annie, born 1894 in Warrington, Clara born 1896 in Warrington and Joseph born 1898 in St Helen's. The family were living at 107 Newton Road, St Helen's.



By 1911, Alfred was no longer living with the family who were still in St Helen's. He had attested on 4 Oct 1909 in Manchester when he was 18 years and 3 months old.

He was posted on 21 Dec 1909. He had an accident, noted in his service records, on 4 March 1910 when he fell off his horse whilst on duty. The accident is recorded in great detail. Alfred was caught up in his rein which became twisted around his right leg. This caused a sprain which 'was slight in nature' and it was noted 'the soldier was in no way to blame'. This took place at Kildare which is a town in the Republic of Ireland. Alfred was probably stationed at the Curragh camp to the east of the town.

In the 1911 census Alfred Wilson aged 19 was with the 118th Brigade of the RFA (Royal Field Artillery) in Farnborough. He was a driver. In his service records it states he was transferred to the Army Reserve when he was 21.

Alfred had experienced several narrow escapes. On several occasions his horse was killed under him and, whilst acting as an orderly, he was riding a bicycle to deliver an important message when a 'Jack Johnson' shell struck the bike and smashed it completely, leaving Alfred miraculously unscathed.

Alfred Wilson was killed in action on 7 Dec 1915 at Cambrin in France. Cambrin was only about 800 yards from the front lines during World War 1. Alfred was hit by shrapnel whilst on horseback and died instantly.

Alfred is buried at Cambrin Churchyard extension. His headstone indicates he was a Bombardier which was junior to a Corporal in the Royal Artillery.

According to an article in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter*, Alfred had been living with his maternal grandmother, Annie Wilson, at 25 Oaken Clough for a number of years. He was connected to the United Methodist church which was on Worthington Street in Waterloo, very close to the war memorial. He was also a prominent member of Waterloo Liberal Club. He had been back in Ashton on a short furlough in August 1915 for the Wakes.

Edward Wilson 1895–1917 Service Number: 203428
Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1/5th Battalion

Edward Wilson was born in the autumn of 1895 in Ashton under Lyne. He was the second child of Frank Wilson and Charlotte Rodgers who were married at the parish church of St Michael, Ashton under Lyne on 14 March 1891.

Edward had an older brother, Frank born 1892 and three younger sisters, Beatrice born 1899, Annie 1902 and May born 1907.

In 1901 Edward was aged 5 years. He and his family lived at 6 Lamb Street, Dukinfield. His father worked at the Gas Works in Ashton.



The family were still living at Lamb Street in 1911. Edward was aged 14 and worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill. This was hazardous work, often employing youngsters as deft hands were needed. It involved tying broken cotton threads whilst the spinning machines were in operation. His father worked making nails. By 1917 Edward and his family had moved to 2 John Street in Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Edward's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the exact date he enlisted but an article in the *Ashton under Lyne Reporter* says he had been in the army just over a year when he died. Edward may have volunteered or he could have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916.

Edward originally joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 4358. He was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers and given the new service number of 203428.

Edward would have seen action at the 3rd Battle of Ypres also known as the Battle of Passchendaele which took place from July to November 1917. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days, and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Edward died at a hospital clearing station on 6 Sep 1917 from the effects of shrapnel wounds to his abdomen and left arm. He was 21 years old. Edward is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery Belgium, Grave XVIII. H. 3A. The inscription on his headstone reads *'Ever remembered by Father'*

James Edward Wright 1887-1918 Service Number: 351599
Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/5th Battalion

James Edward Wright was the son of Alfred and Nancy. He was born in Hurst in 1887. His parents, Alfred Wright and Nancy Bennett were married at St Mark's in Bredbury on 6 October 1872. James had five older siblings: Ann born in 1873, Richard 1875, John Samuel 1878, Betty 1881 and Sarah was born in 1884. He had a younger brother Joseph who was born in 1889.

In 1891 the family were living at 30 Water Street in Hurst. James' older siblings Ann (18) and Richard (16) worked in a local cotton mill. His father worked as a coal miner. Other siblings, John (12), Betty (9) and Sarah (7) were at school. James Edward was just three and he and his younger brother, Joseph (1) were at home. Alfred Wright, James's father, died a few months after the census was taken.

On 4th May 1895 James' mother, Nancy, remarried to John Price at St Stephen's in Audenshaw.

By the time James was 14 in 1901 he was living at 20 Waterloo Street in Dukinfield. He was working as a hewer in the coal mine. Although the census shows James' mother as being married and her name as Nancy Price, her husband John was not at the family home on the night of the census. He may have been working away from home or the couple may have split up (this seems more likely as Nancy reverted to using the name of Wright on the 1911 census). In the same household were Sarah Wright (17) a cotton reeler, Joseph Wright (12), both James's siblings.

In 1909, James married Margaret Leech at Holy Trinity on Dean Street in Ashton. Later that year James and Margaret had a son William who sadly died as a baby.

The census two years later, in 1911, shows James and Margaret living at 21 Mary Street in Waterloo. James was still working in the coal mine and Margaret worked in the cotton mill. Margaret was expecting their second child, a daughter Elizabeth who was born a few months later on 21 July 1911. Their third child, James Edward, was born on 9 September 1914.

James' Service Record no longer exists so we do not know the exact date he enlisted. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* published 10 July 1915 lists the names of men who had enlisted with the 3/9th Manchester Regiment, part of the Territorial Force, and after training at the Armoury in Ashton under Lyne, were being moved to Southport. J E Wright of 21 Mary St, Taunton is included in the list. *'Despite the rain, large crowds of people had assembled in the vicinity of the Armoury, in Old Street, to get a glimpse and a last word of good-bye to the men. As they marched through the town towards Charlestown Station the enormous crowd gave them an enthusiastic send off.'*

James died of his wounds at either the County Hospital or the 4th Northern General Hospital, Lincoln on 2 Nov 1918, just a few days before the war ended. He was 31 years old and left a widow and two children. James is buried in a family grave at Hurst Cemetery Ashton grave reference M.778. His head stone reads 'Rest in the Lord'

HOME ADDRESSES IN WATERLOO AND TAUNTON

STREET/ROAD and Number	Name of person
Anglesey Street 13	Hulme
Bishop Street 6 (1891)	Watkin(s)
Buckley St 9 (now Treehouse Ave)	Jones
Downing Street 11	Greenhalgh (Next of kin-sister at this address)
Downing Street 15	Schofield
Dunkerley Street 4	Greenwood James (1911)
Dunkerley Street 6	Cassidy
Dunkerley Street 10	O'Sullivan E/O'Sullivan P.
Earnshaw Street 12	Bates
Earnshaw Street 13	Crane
Earnshaw Street 15	Bennett Horace & John
George Street 6	Ratcliffe
Gordon Street (later Rock Street)	Apperley
Hill Street (now Vale St)	Stelfox
Hill Street (now Vale St) 17	Edmunds John, Thomas and Timothy
Hill Street 23	Gerrard (1911)
Hill Street 27	Hallam
Hill Street 31	Howarth (David's mother & sibling)
John Street 2	Wilson Edward (1917)
Langham Street 10	Wilde J (jun)
Langham Street 16	Peate
Langham Street 36	Garside John
Lumb Lane 8	Chalmers
Mary Street 8	Beaumont
Mary Street 21	Wright
Mary Street 25	Millin
Minto Street 16	Howarth J
Newmarket Road 3	Lydiate
Newmarket Road 26	Greenwood John
Newmarket Road 59	Pennington F & Pennington J
Newmarket Road 62	McManus
Newmarket Road 79	Millward (Annie Millward widow)
Newmarket Road 79	Moore Edw. (Parents' home 1918)
Newmarket Road 118	Buckley
Newmarket Road 234	Mawdsley
Newmarket Road 249	Littlewood
Ney Street 2	Mahon
Ney Street 13	Healey
Ney Street 24	Smith Thomas
Ney Street 32	Burgess
Oaken Clough 25	Wilson Alfred (maternal grandmother)
Oldham Road 33	Ridyard
Oldham Road 49	Penny (lodger) and Vaughan
Oldham Road 56	Stockdale
Oldham Road 58	Potts
Oldham Road 65	Matthews H W
Oldham Road 68	Wilde John J. and Joseph (sen)
Oldham Road 86	Ireson
Oldham Road 95	Greenwood James
Oldham Road 98	Mather

Oldham Road 103	Lewis
Oldham Road 123	Garside R
Oldham Road 144	Eason E & J
Oldham Road 153	Lomas' father
Oldham Road 227	Barker
Oldham Road 274	Collins
Oldham Road 278	Matthews A
Oldham Road 281	Hoole
Oldham Road 356	Jenkinson
Oldham Road 324	Taylor
Oldham Road 358	Leech W
Oldham Road 360	Moore J (Florrie Howarth, sister's address)
Oldham Road 372	Kirk
Picton Street 2	Evans
Spring Bank Smallshaw	Green
Stanley Street (Ashton) 16	Higginbottom
Store Street 15	Newsam
Taunton Road 124	Lawton George W and Harold
Taunton Road 134	Collier
Taunton Road 143	Thomas
Taunton Road 145	O'Rourke
Wellington Street 26	Edwards
York Street 31 (Ashton)	Hulse
Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Oldham	
Brierley St Stalybridge	Newton G
Oxford Street 98 AUL	Newton B
Ryecroft Street 89 AUL	Pearson
Green Lane 24, Oldham	Redfern
Lordsfield off Turner Lane AUL	Smith Tom
16 Fairhaven St West Gorton	Thomas

MEMORIALS and BURIAL PLACES

Memorials and Cemeteries	Name of person commemorated or buried there
Acheux British Cemetery	Millward (grave ref I.E.45)
Alexandria (Chatby) Military Cemetery , Egypt	McManus (grave ref E.167)
Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais	Collins
Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord	Lawton, G.W, (grave ref III.D.114)
Basra Memorial, Iraq Panel 41	Newton B
Basra Memorial, Iraq Panel 15	O'Rourke
Basra Memorial, Zubayr, Iraq Panel 23	Garside J
Beauval Communal Cemetery	Littlewood (Grave ref C7)
Bevillers Military Cemetery, Near Cambrai, France	Bates
Boulogne Eastern Cemetery	Mahon (grave ref VIII.C.167
Bray Military Cemetery Bray-sur-Somme	Edmunds J (Grave Ref 11C 49)
Calais Southern Cemetery	Peate (grave ref C.3.6)
Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Cambrin, France	Edmunds Thomas (Grave Ref R29) <i>possibly Wilson Alfred</i>
Christ Church Oldham Rd Ashton-u-Lyne	Mather
Christ Church, Oldham Rd Ashton-u-Lyne	Millin (grave ref 42.19)
Citadel New Military Cemetery Fricourt, Somme	Burgess
Coxyde Military Cemetery	Leech, W (grave ref IV.K.20)
Daours Community Cemetery	
Daours Community Cemetery	Moore E
East Mudros Military Cemetery, Greece	Bennett Horace
Gorre British and Indian Cemetery	Pennington J (grave ref VII.B.3)
Gorre British and Indian Cemetery Pas de Calais	Hulme (grave Ref IVA, 26)
Gorre British and Indian Cemetery Pas de Calais	Hulme
Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais	Mawdsley (grave ref II.A.6)
Hazebrouck Cemetery	Nickeas (grave ref II.H.9)
Helles Memorial Panels 59-73, 218-219	Taylor
Helles Memorial, Panel 158-170 (<i>stands at the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula, Turkey</i>)	Appleby Taylor
Helles Memorial 158-170	Evans
Helles Memorial 159-171	Jenkinson
Helles Memorial 159-171	Smith Tom
Helles Memorial 159-171	Wilde J. (sen)
Hooze Crater Cemetery Ypres Belgium	Eason E. (XIII K17)
Hurst Cemetery Ashton-u-Lyne	Collier
Hurst Cemetery Ashton-u-Lyne	Matthews A
Hurst Cemetery Ashton-u-Lyne	Lydiate (grave ref D511)
Hurst Cemetery Ashton-u-Lyne	Greenwood John
Hurst Cemetery, Ashton-u-Lyne	Stockdale
Hurst Cemetery Ashton-u-Lyne	Wright (grave ref M778)
Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey	Lewis, H (grave ref C58)
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery	Wilson E (grave ref XVIII.H.3A)

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery	Wilson (grave Ref XVIII H3A)
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery	Greenhalgh
Mailly Wood Cemetery	Edwards
Manchester Cemetery Riencourt –Les-Bapaume, France	Hallam
Manchester Crematorium, England	Pennington F
Mendinghem Military Cemetery	Vaughan (grave ref III.E.47)
Nesle Communal Cemetery, Somme France	Bancroft
Neuville-Bourjonval Cemetery	Wilde J (jun)
Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany	Edmunds Timothy (grave ref IVA13)
Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium	Crane (ID 12699864)
Pozieres Memorial , Panels 64-67, Ouvillers-la-Boisselle	Barker
Pozieres Memorial Panels 64-67	Ridyard
Pozieres Memorial Panels 64-67	Pearson
Pozieres Memorial Panels 64-67	Gerrard
Pozieres Memorial 64-67	Redfern
Quarry Cemetery Marquion France	Newsam (grave ref A 16)
Redoubt Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey	Stelfox (grave ref XII.B.14)
Redoubt Cemetery Gallipoli Turkey	Matthews HW (grave ref XI.C.17)
Roisel Communal Cemetery Somme, France	Ratcliffe
Roskeen Parish Church Extension, Invergordon, Scotland	Arda
Rouen Hospital	O'Sullivan P (burial place unknown)
Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France	Buckley (Grave Ref D 14)
St Philip's RC Church, Moston, Manchester Soldiers' Plot 2	Hoole
St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen	Apperley
St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen	Penny
Suez Memorial Panel C71	Smith, Thomas
Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery	Thomas (grave ref II.E.39)
Thiepval Memorial Pier & Face 3c, 3d	Lawton, H
Thiepval Memorial	Bennett John
Thiepval Memorial 13A/14C	Howarth, D
Thiepval Memorial 13A/14C	Chalmers
Thiepval Memorial 3c/3D	Eason, J.
Thiepval Memorial Face 4D	Garside. R
Tournai Communal Cemetery	Robinson (grave ref II.C.2)
Twelve Trees Copse Cemetery Krithia, Gallipoli, Turkey	Green
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 121A	Cassidy
Tyne Cot Memorial	Moore J
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 54-60	Kirk
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 54-60	O'Sullivan, E
Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 120-124	Thornley
Tyne Cot Cemetery	Healey (grave ref XXX.E.7)
Tyne Cot Cemetery	Jones (grave ref V.C.24)

Varennnes Military Cemetery	Ireson (grave ref I.F.8)
Vichte Military Cemetery, Anzegem, Belgium	Higginbottom (grave ref I.BB.3)
Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 9	Wilde John J.
Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 6	Hulse
Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 10	Potts
Wanquetin Communal Cemetery	Greenwood James (Grave Ref IB3)
Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery, Somme, France	Newton G (grave ref I.D.3)
Wimereux Communal Cemetery	Howarth Joseph (grave ref 11.A.72)
Wimereux Communal Cemetery	Lomas (grave ref VIII.A.21)