

South Ribble in the Great War

Volume 1 - by Charles O'Donnell
Preston & Central Lancashire WFA
southribble-greatwar.com





South Ribble in the Great War
By Charles O'Donnell
Preston & Central Lancashire WFA 2020

Copyright © Charles O'Donnell, 2020

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means; electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without permission in writing from the author.

This work is made available subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the author's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on a subsequent purchaser.

The moral right of Charles O'Donnell to be identified as author of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act, 1988.

Introduction



Image 1. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Lijssenthoek was the location for a number of casualty clearing stations during the First World War. The village was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. The remains of 7 local men who died of wounds lie here. Photograph by Charles O'Donnell, Preston & Central Lancashire WFA.

The Borough of South Ribble came into being at midnight on March 31st 1974. It is an area well known to the inhabitants of sixty years before, which few would ever hear of until very late in life. They were familiar with their own parish and the groupings they had been placed into for the provision of local services: the Walton-Le-Dale and Leyland Urban Districts, and the more amorphous country area of Preston Rural District (Penwortham, Longton etc) lying to the south of the river.

This was a very different Lancashire to ours: extensively agricultural, there were few cars, and the intense urban development (and crowded arterial roads) which is such a feature of our South Ribble was restricted to little more than a few streets cramped around the local cotton mill. Yet it was the inhabitants of these very individual and in some cases perhaps even closed communities and congregations which in August 1914 were pitched into the world-wide nightmare experience that was the First World War.

A war whose influence was felt almost as much in the homes of Bamber Bridge and Farington as it was on the battlefields of Flanders. The fighting would end, albeit

temporarily in a long armistice until 1939, but the home front would be changed forever. Never before in history had such forces of social and economic change been released so suddenly. Our world was born out of them.

Over 700 men from the area would perish out of the many thousands that enlisted or who were conscripted. Others had their lives changed irrevocably through injury and disease. These are the stories of 31 men from the South Ribble area who gave their lives in the greatest conflict that had been known. There are also 5 stories of people who survived the war.

Charles O'Donnell
WFA Leyland & Central Lancashire



Image 2. CWGC headstone of Wheeler James Henry Whittle at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. The 4th, 47th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations were based here from July 1917 in readiness for the Third Ypres offensive. 8 other local men died of wounds and are buried here. Photograph by Charles O'Donnell, Preston & Central Lancashire WFA.

Contents

NAME	PAGE
Private Albert Watson - 1ST LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	7
Lance Corporal John Coupe - 1ST KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)	9
Guardsman Robert Holmes - 1ST SCOTS GUARDS	11
Lieut.Col. Francis A. Jacques - 14TH KING GEORGE'S OWN FEROPZEPOR SIKHS	13
2nd Lieutenant Arthur Claud Middleton - 1/8TH LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS	15
Lance Sergeant Thomas Banister - 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	18
Private James Finch - 1ST LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	20
Boy 1st Class Joseph Thomas Porter - H.M.S. MALAYA, ROYAL NAVY	22
Private Matthew Livesey - 9TH KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)	24
Sergeant Henry Cyril Crozier MM - 12TH YORK & LANCASTER REGIMENT	26
Private James Coleman Clarke - 45TH BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE	28
Private William Tickle - 1/20TH LONDON REGIMENT	30
Lance Corporal Arthur Bowling - 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	32
Sergeant Sidney Bretherton - 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	34
Private Robert Heywood - 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	36
Private Edward Monarch Jamieson - 7TH EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	38
Private Charles Nutter - 14TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	40
Company Sergeant-Major Harry Heyes - 2ND SCOTS GUARDS	42
Private Edward Ashcroft - 60TH CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (C.E.F.)	44
Sergeant Arthur Parker - 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	46
Private George Brown - 1/4TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	49
Private Roland Edgerton Valentine - 1/9TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	50
Sergeant Charles Naylor - 1/8TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)	55
Gunner Richard Leonard Crozier - CII (102) BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	57
Second Lieutenant Alexander Drysdale - ROYAL FLYING CORPS	59
Private Thomas W. Haydock - ROYAL MARINES MEDICAL UNIT, ROYAL NAVAL D.	61
Gunner George S. Crozier - 231ST SIEGE BATTERY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	64
Guardsman Reuben Brown - 1ST SCOTS GUARDS	66
Private James Anselm Darwen - 2/4TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	69
Corporal John McNamara VC - 9TH EAST SURREY REGIMENT	71
Private Joseph Ainsworth - 6TH KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)	74
John Francis Vervloet - BELGIAN REFUGEE	76
Quartermaster Marion Ferguson Foster M.B.E. - RED CROSS V.A.D.	77
Sapper Robert Harold Crozier - SIGNALLING DEPOT, ROYAL ENGINEERS	78
Private Arthur Albert Carter - 11TH & 6TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	79
Corporal Cornwall Mackerel - LABOUR CORPS	81

#10373 Private Albert Watson
1ST LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT



Image 3. British soldiers in improvised shelters on the Aisne in 1914. Reproduced from *The Old Contemptibles* by Keith Simpson (George Allen and Unwin)

Albert Watson was born on 12 May 1884 in Chorley to George and Eliza Watson (nee Fox) and was baptized the following day at St. James, Chorley. George was a collier born at Mawdesley about 1833 and Ellen was born at Euxton about 1835. The couple lived at 175 Brooke Street. In 1891 they were living at 8 Crosse-Hall Lane, Chorley with Albert who was six and a scholar.

Albert was still with Ann and John Robert Livesey in 1911 at 168a Brook Street, Chorley. He was working as a labourer at a local wagon works. By the time war broke out in 1914, he was living in Leyland. Albert was one of the first of our local men to go out and the first to die.

Having arrived in France at Le Havre on 12 August, 1914 – having crossed from Southampton on the ‘S.S. Agapenor’ – the battalion was moved into Belgium on 23 August 1914 and then took part in the ‘Retreat from Mons.’ In the subsequent advance their first major engagement was at Troyon on the River Aisne. At 10.30 am on 14 September they attacked a factory which they took and held until, with ammunition running out, they were forced to fall back to the ridge that they had previously occupied.

In this action the Battalion suffered heavy casualties, 14 officers and 500 N.C.O.s and

South Ribble in the Great War

men were killed, wounded and missing including Albert, and in 'B' Company alone 3 officers out of 15, and 175 out of 220 other ranks were casualties.

The Battle of the Aisne resulted in a stalemate which would lead to the race to the sea, where the Allied and German armies would continually try and outflank each other until they reached the coast at Belgium. It was the end of open warfare and the beginning of trench warfare.

Albert's remains were never recovered for burial and he is remembered at La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France.

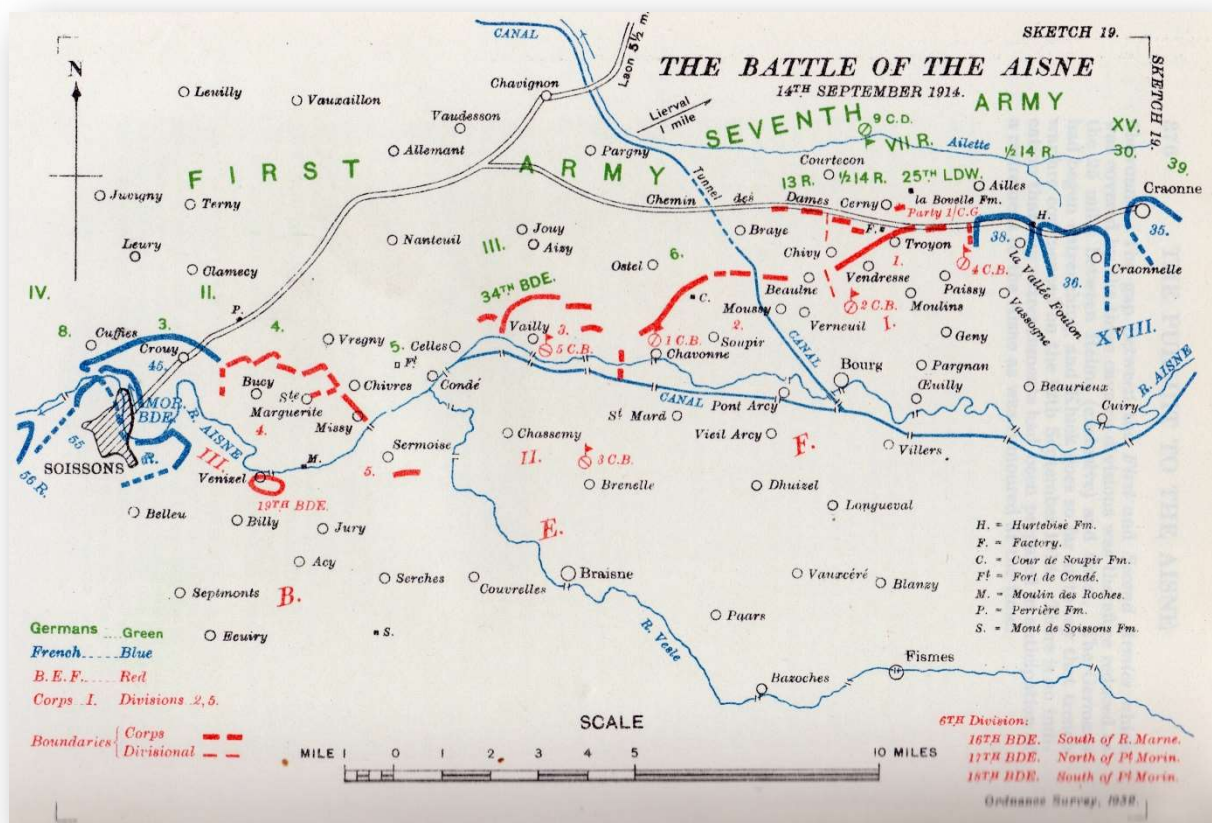


Image 4. Map showing the positions of the Allied and German forces at the Aisne on 14 September 1914, the day Albert Watson would lose his life. Reproduced from History of the Great War, Military Operations France and Belgium 1914 (HMSO)

#6924 Lance Corporal John Coupe
1ST KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)

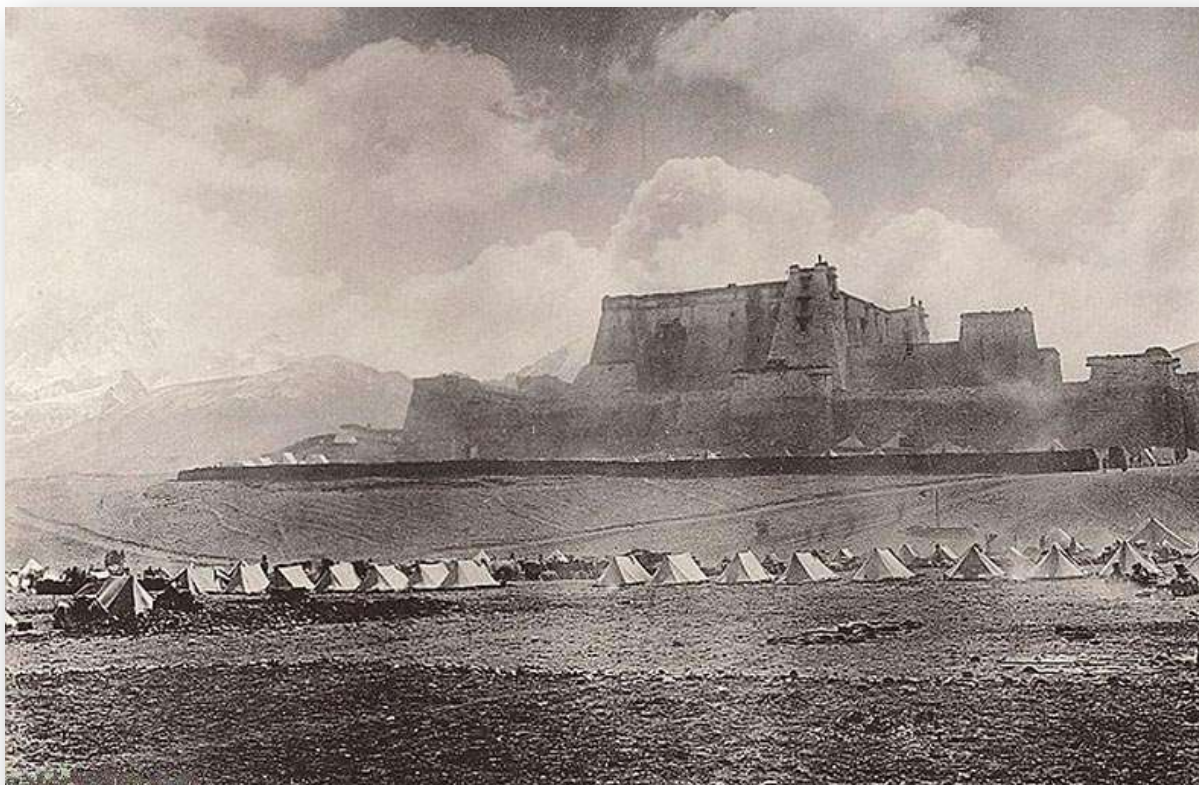


Image 5. The formidable fortress of the Gyantse Jong with the British and Indian camp in the foreground. 'The Fusiliers thought that, in the hands of European troops it would be impregnable. 'But the Tibetans were poorly armed and led by officers who were in awe of the British. 'The artillery opened up a breach in the walls which was stormed on 6th July 1904.' Reproduced from Royal Fusiliers City of London Regiment website.

John Coupe was born at Over Darwen on 8 July 1882 to William and Ann Coupe (nee Donnelly). William was an iron moulder and he founded William Coupe Limited by Many Brooks, Kittlingbourne Brow, Higher Walton on the site of the old Moon's Mill foundry. John was the seventh of nine children born to the couple.

John started his working life as a brass moulder before enlisting with the 1st Bn, Royal Lancaster Regiment on 2 November 1901 when he was 18 years and 6 months of age. His service record survives and from that we know that he was 5 feet 3 inches and weighed 115 pounds. He had a fresh complexion, brown hair and grey eyes with a mole on his left shoulder and a scar on his left knee.

John achieved 2nd class musketry qualification in 1903 and a 3rd Class certificate of education on 28 May 1904. He was promoted Lance Corporal 22 February 1904 and was qualified as a nursing orderly 17 March 1904 and as a stretcher bearer on 24(?) March 1904, although he is listed as being granted an extra nursing allowance as early as 1 August 1902.

John was awarded the Tibet Medal in 1905 for services during the Gyantse campaign where had been employed as a nurse for eight months. He received a chest wound during that campaign. The campaign was part of the British expedition to Tibet and was intended to counter Russia's perceived ambitions in the East and was initiated in large part by Lord Curzon, the head of the British India Government.

When he was discharged, John went to live with his parents at 44 Mount Pleasant House in Higher Walton. He had served 3 years and 264 days in total. He returned to his former occupation as a brass moulder.

In 1911 John was living at 36 Kittlingbourne, Higher Walton with his mother and father, his brothers Thomas and Isiah and sister Alice.

He was re-engaged with the colours with effect from 2 November 1913 and embarked for France 19 September 1914. His record initially states killed in action 13 October 1914, but this has been corrected later to read that he died of wounds the day after on 14 October 1914. It is not clear at the moment if he died at the Battles of Messines or the Battle of Armentieres. He was awarded the 1914 Star, British War and Victory Medal to add to his earlier Tibet Medal.

In a note from the war office within John's records, his articles of personal property were sent to his next of kin, Mr W. Coupe, 36, Kittlingbourne, Higher Walton, Preston - John's brother. Further to this, another note asks that any medals that have been won or that may eventually be awarded should go to his brother via the solicitors W. J. Woodcope in Bamber Bridge. In a later note from July 1919, John's brother asks that his Bronze medal be forwarded to 42 Foundry Cottages, Higher Walton.

Locally, John is remembered on the All Saints, Roll of Honour and the All Saints Cross which stands outside the church. His name is on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium (Panel 2)

#9983 Guardsman Robert Holmes
1ST SCOTS GUARDS



Image 6. Guardsman Robert Holmes. This image has been altered to show his posthumously awarded 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal ribbons. Image courtesy of David Sumner

Robert Holmes was born 9 September 1895 to John and Jane Holmes and baptised the following month 13 October 1895 at St. Andrews, Leyland. His father was a fruiterer on Towngate at 5 Garden Terrace (now 105 Towngate). He enlisted at age 19 in Preston at the outbreak of the war and went out to France 4 January 1915. He was a member of Leyland Congregational Church (now Leyland United Reformed Church).

Robert joined up 2 September 1914 and arrived in France 5 January 1915. He was one of three local men who were killed in action at the same time, dying alongside Guardsmen Harold Southworth and William Collinge who were occupying the same stretch of trench.

According to local newspaper reports, they were blown up by a mine on 25 January 1915. However, it appears that these reports may be incorrect and they were most probably killed by gunshot wounds. See below for the War Diary excerpt. Robert's nephew, David Sumner has in his possession, a letter from one George Charnley dated 1 June 1915 written from a German POW camp Merseburg which in part says - "Harold Southworth was shot through the head (as he was next to him) also two more Leyland boys in R Holmes and W Collinge". Robert was 19 years of age.

On that day the British Expeditionary Force fought what became known as 'The First Action at Givenchy' - Givenchy is 3.5 km west of La Bassée. The War diary of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, records the following:

At 6.30am a German deserter reported that an attack was going to be made in half an hour, bombardment first, and then our trenches were to be blown in by previously laid mines.

After an hour all happened as deserter had said. 5 Right Flank and 40 Left Flank got away - their story is as follows - The Germans first shelled them, then got out of their trench, and attacked half right, then they threw bombs in, got to the tip of the parapet and shot down into the trenches. The Germans afterwards swarmed up to the 'Keep', where Major Romilly was. There they were checked and held. Reinforcements came up and a counter attack was delivered at 1pm but did not retake much ground. Battalion was relieved at 4pm by Sussex Regiment.

A memorial service was held at Leyland Congregational Church on Sunday 30 January 1916. The register of soldiers' effects shows that Robert left £3 6s. 4d. and a War Gratuity of £3. 0s. 0d. to his father John.

Robert and William are buried side by side at Canadian Cemetery No.2, Neuville-St. Vaast, Pas de Calais – Robert in plot 12. F. 2. and William in plot 12. F. 3. Harold is remembered on Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France on panels 3 and 4. Locally, Robert appears on the civic war memorial on Church road, the United Reformed Church memorial lamp on Hough lane and also on the gravestone over the family plot in St. Andrews churchyard. He appears on the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle. Note that Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives his age as 20, he was actually 19 when he died. Robert appears on the Leyland - Church Road Civic Memorial and the Leyland - United Reformed Church Lamp.



Image 7. Robert's grave alongside that of his comrade William Collinge at Canadian Cemetery No.2, Neuville-St. Vaast. Image courtesy of David Sumner.

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Augustus Jacques
14TH KING GEORGE'S OWN FEROZEPURE SIKHS



Image 8. Francis Augustus Jacques. Reproduced from *The Bond of Sacrifice*, Volume 2.

The following text is from the volume 'The Bond of Sacrifice', Volume 2. These volumes contained the biographies of the officers who died in World War 1. However only two volumes were ever produced up to the middle of 1915, the series being discontinued due to the appallingly high mortality rate among officers. Francis lived on Moss Lane near Leyland.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS AUGUSTUS JACQUES, second in command of the **14th KING GEORGE'S OWN FEROZEPURE SIKHS**, born at Leyland, Lancashire, on the 9th April, 1867 was the third son of the late Rev. Canon Jacques, Rector of Brindle, Lancashire, and a brother of the Rev. J. K. Jacques and of Captain G. P. R. Jacques.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacques was educated at Rossall School, where as a boy he was very good at games, especially football. As a man he was keen and hard-working, a good rider, played polo a little, and hockey with his regimental team. His chief recreation, however, was gardening, to which he devoted all his spare time and money. In November, 1887, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment from the Militia, becoming Lieutenant in March, 1890. In September of the same year he was transferred to the Indian Army, and for a few months served with the 4th Rajputs, then joined the 14th Sikhs. In 1891 he took part in the Hazara Expedition, receiving for his services the medal and clasp, and in 1894-95 he accompanied the Waziristan Expedition, for which he received an additional clasp to his medal. Two years later he was again on active service, taking part in operations on the North West Frontier of India, at Tochi, and received for his services

another medal with clasp. After that campaign, in November 1898, he was promoted Captain, and in 1900 he was again on active service, being present at operations in China during the Boxer rising, for which he received the medal. After that date he remained with the 14th Sikhs until his death, with the exception of temporary appointments as Assistant Cantonment Magistrate, Second-in-Command of the 45th Sikhs for one week, and of the 29th Punjabis for six months. He was promoted Major in November, 1905, and Lieutenant-Colonel in the 14th Sikhs in November, 1913, when he became Second-in-Command. For active service in the Great War he proceeded with his regiment to Egypt, where he was engaged in operations against the Turks on the Suez Canal. Afterwards his battalion was ordered to the Darndanelles, and on the 4th June, 1915, during an advance of his regiment on Gallipoli Peninsula, Lieutenant-Colonel Jacques was killed instantaneously, and was buried on the field of battle.

His Commanding Officer wrote: "Your husband's death is a terrible blow to me. I miss his help and advice, which he was always willing to give. We have lost in him a splendid and capable officer who will be difficult to replace. A General Officer, in writing to me on the 7th June, asked me to say, when writing to you, how struck he was, during the three weeks previous to the 4th June, by his pluck and energy. 'He was the life and soul of the organisation of the defence of the part of the line in his charge, always busy and cheerful, and I regret his loss intensely.' These are the General's words." And a brother officer wrote: "Your husband was wonderfully calm and cool in action, much the same as when on parade, and it did one good to see him and be near him. He did not seem to know what fear was."

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacques married his cousin, Olivia Katherine, daughter of Burhill Jacques, Esq., of San Diego, California, and left two daughters: Barbara Caroline, born in January, 1912; and Ruth Olivia, born in February, 1914.

**2nd Lieutenant Arthur Claud Middleton
1/8TH LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS**



Image 9. Arthur Claud Middleton. Reproduced from 'The Bond of Sacrifice', Volume 2.

Arthur Claud Middleton was born at Adlington on 12 April 1888 to Arthur Thomas (born Liverpool) and Margaret (Madge) Middleton (born Timperley). He was the eldest of three sons, the others were Eric Rycroft born c. April 1892 and John Archibald born c. July 1893. The family moved around, living at Rivington Lodge, Dryfield Lane, near Horwich in 1891, then 4 Seafield Road, Lytham St. Annes in 1901. By 1911, they were at Thring Holme, Lostock near Bolton. By the time of Arthur's death, they were at Beechfield, Leyland.

He was employed at Springfield Mill, Babylon Lane, Adlington. The mill was once owned and operated by the Middleton

family. They had a number of residences in relative proximity to the mill including Springfield House, Appenzell and Newlands (Appenzell is now a hotel). The workers had cottages in Factory Lane while a number of the junior management lived in accommodation at Springfield Terrace. The factory was one of the main sources of employment for local people.

Arthur died 7 June 1915, in all probability in the Turkish counter offensives after the Third Battle of Krithia. His grave is close by that of his Commanding Officer, James Albert Fallows of 'Minden,' Moss Lane, Leyland, who lies in grave A 9. In the Will Index held by Lancashire Record Office administration was granted in London to his father Arthur Thomas Middleton, Manufacturer. Effects £1,184 11s 0d. As well as two memorials in the South Ribble area, he is remembered on the Adlington War Memorial and on the family headstone at Leyland, St. Andrews Churchyard.

The Bond of Sacrifice; A Biographical Record of all British Officers who fell in the Great War.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Claud Middleton, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Middleton of Adlington and Beechfield, Leyland, was born at Adlington, on the 12th April, 1888.

He received his early education at the Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School, and was afterwards a student at the Old College, Windermere. After twelve months' study in Germany he took the three years' course at the Manchester School of Technology, obtaining his degree of B.A. (Tech.). In 1907 he joined the firm of Messrs. T. Middleton and Co., coloured cotton goods manufacturers, Springfield Mill, Adlington. At one time he was a member of the Bolton Rugby Union Football Club, and played in the team until the club was disbanded. He was, too, at that time actively associated with the work of St. John's Mission, Lostock, where he taught a class of boys.

On the outbreak of the Great War Mr. Middleton applied for a commission, and in August, 1914, was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. He made rapid progress with his military studies, though he had no previous training, and when stationed in Egypt with his battalion he took up scouting work with a detachment of Gurkhas. When his battalion proceeded to Gallipoli Peninsula, 2nd Lieutenant Middleton was appointed Scout Officer for the battalion, and was congratulated by the General Officer Commanding the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force for the excellence of his work in this direction. It was while engaged in these hazardous duties that he was mortally wounded on the 6th June, 1915, dying the following day. Of a genial, warm-hearted disposition, 2nd Lieutenant Middleton was very popular with his brother officers and the men of his battalion.

The Lancashire Fusiliers Annual 1919-20 Number XXIX

LIEUTENANT A. C. MIDDLETON. Arthur Claud Middleton was the eldest son of Mr. A. T. Middleton, of Adlington and Beechfield, Leyland. He was educated at Blackrod and Rivington Grammar School, and afterwards at Old College, Windermere. Subsequently he studied for a year in Germany, and completed his education by a three years course at the Manchester School of Technology, obtaining the B.A. degree (Tech). As would be expected, he then (1907) joined the family firm of Messrs T. Middleton and Co., coloured cotton manufacturers, and there continued to do excellent work, both in the mill, and in mission work among boys at Lostock. Socially, he made many friends, by whom his memory is warmly cherished.

When war was declared Arthur Middleton at once offered his services, and was given a commission in the 8th Battalion. He had no previous military training, but the call of his King and Country would not be made in vain in one of his temperament. With his Battalion he went to Egypt, and was selected for a course of scout duty with those famous Nepaulese tribesmen, the Ghurkas. At the Dardanelles he was still Scout Officer, and the late Lieut. Colonel J. A. Fallows mentioned how well he carried out his dangerous service in "No Mans Land." On another occasion he brought in 2nd Lieut. W. V. Boydell, who was badly wounded, and died.

Lieut. Middleton was wounded on June 7th, and he died on the following day, when in his 27th year. The knowledge of the work which he did, and the good opinion of his brother officers, will ever be a consolation to his family and his many friends. They also have this that he stands among the immortal band: "The unforgotten that for a great dream died."



Image 10. Third Battle of Krithia, 4th June 1915. Major-General Sir William Douglas, General Officer Commanding 42nd Division, on an observation ladder up a tree. © IWM (Q 13253)

**#14690 Lance Sergeant Thomas Banister
12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)**



Image 11. Thomas Banister (far left) with the Church Lads Brigade. The picture is from a postcard sent to his cousin. On the reverse it reads "Don't they look a mess. These are some of the guards. This is for Dorothy". Photograph courtesy of South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre

Thomas Banister was born on 3 August 1892 in Bamber Bridge to James and Elizabeth Banister. He was to live most of his life in Leyland with his grandmother. Before the war, Tom worked as a weaver at Berry's mill on Leyland Lane and was one of the originators of the Scout movement in Leyland, becoming assistant scoutmaster. He was also a keen member of the Church Lads Brigade (CLB), reaching the rank of colour sergeant. It is estimated that around 50,000 Brigade Lads served in the First World War, during which many honours and distinctions were awarded.

Tom enlisted in the 12th King's (Liverpool Regiment) on 1 September 1914 at Southport. He evidently made a capable soldier, putting his experiences in the scouts and the CLB to good use. He was promoted rapidly to Lance Corporal on 20 February 1915, Corporal on 21 July 1915 and unpaid Lance Sergeant the same day. The 12th left their training encampment the next day for embarkation at Southampton and arrived at Boulogne on 24 July 1915.

The first task for the 12th was to gain familiarisation in trench warfare. They headed to Le Becque via Wizernes and Hazebrouck where they made their camp on 29 July 1915. Tom's first experience of trench warfare was spent in the front line for several

days at Armentieres before returning to camp at Le Becque for classes in bombing and machine gunning. The 12th moved into trenches on 6 September near Fleurbaix to continue their familiarisation. It was here on the 9 September 1915 that Tom was killed by a German sniper.

In a letter to his parents Lieutenant L. Heatley wrote “His energy was infectious, and men put under his charge seemed to acquire the same keenness which was so striking a point in the sergeant's character. It will be a comfort to know that he has gone to a place where there are neither wars nor rumours of wars, and that he died at his post doing his duty”.

Tom was buried close to where he fell at Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France. A memorial service was held at St. Andrew's, Leyland on 21 September 1915.

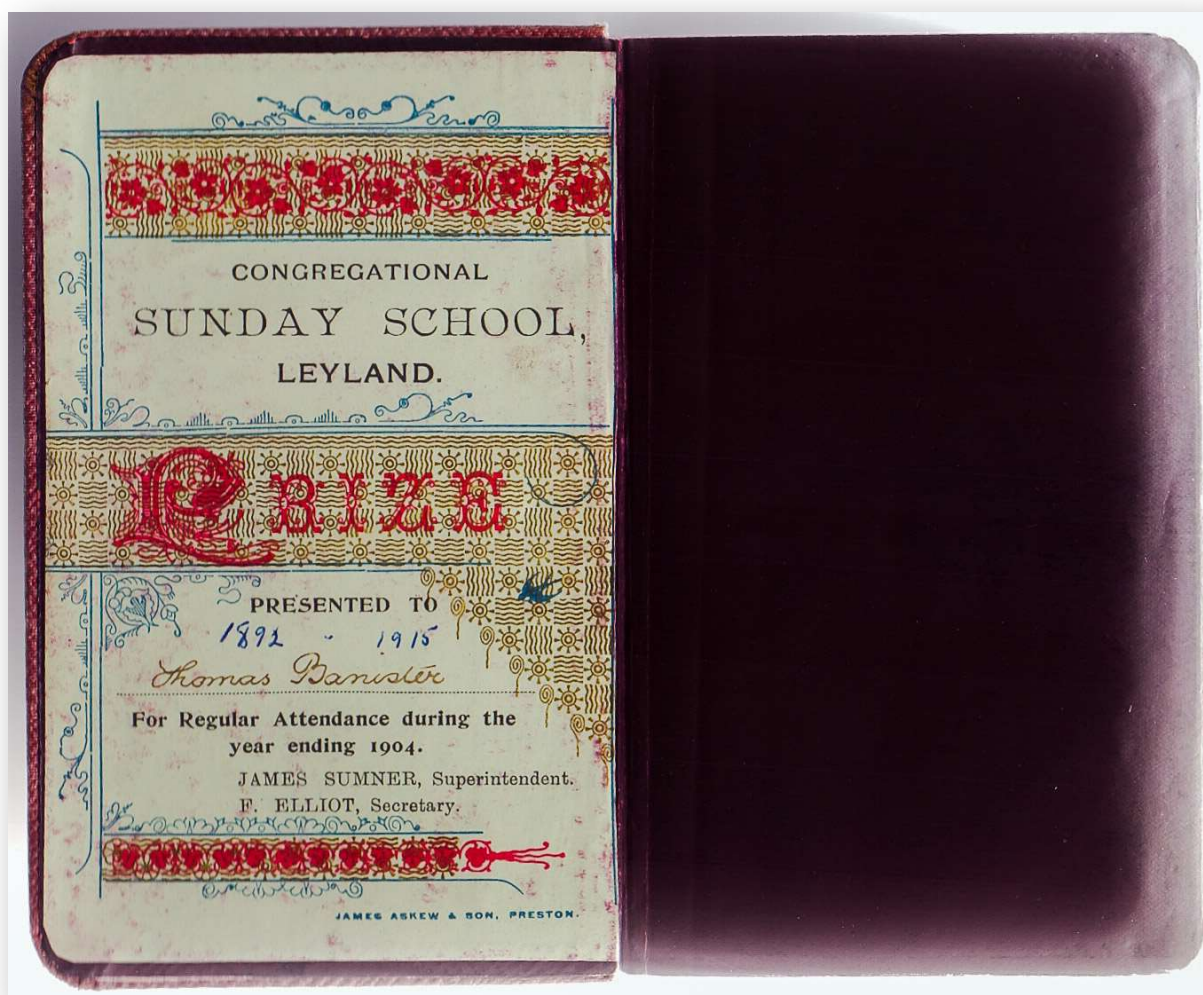


Image 12. Inside page of a bible presented to Thomas Banister by the Congregational Sunday School, Leyland in 1904. Photograph courtesy of South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre.

#3541 Private James Finch
1ST LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT



Image 13. James Finch in civilian clothing. Photograph courtesy of Irene Banister

James Finch was born at 14 Spring Street in early March 1881, the fifth child and second son of Richard Finch and Elizabeth Finch (nee Forshaw). Spring Street was in the Christchurch Parish of Preston, and James was baptised there on 20 March 1881. The area today is much changed, with the facade of Christchurch making up part of County Hall. At this time, his father Richard was a plasterer and whitewasher, with Elizabeth at home looking after the young family.

It is thought that James enlisted with the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment as soon as he was able, serving with them in The South African War from 1899 to 1902. On his return James married Rosetta (Rose) Pickering on 30 May 1903 in Preston. They had five children; Edith Finch b. 19 June 1905, Richard Finch b. 21 April

1907, Stanley Finch b. 24 December 1910, Helen Finch b. 12 April 1914 and Neva Finch b. 12 June 1915. In 1911 the young family were living at 8 School Street in Farington where James was employed as a rubber worker and Rosetta was a ring Spinner in a local cotton mill. They later moved to 39 East Street in Farington.

James re-joined the army on 3 September 1914, joining the 1st Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He was home until 2 December 1914 and landed in France on 3 December 1914. James performed well and was appointed Lance-Corporal on 1 February 1915. He took part in the Battle of Aubers Ridge on 9 May 1915. There were subsequent incidences of drunkenness and James was deprived of his rank on 17 July 1915. He would not be the only soldier to take solace in drink.

James was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Loos, 25 September 1915. reportedly shot through the heart. His body was found by a member of the Cyclist Corps. A blood-stained photograph of his wife, his identity disc, a Princess Mary Gift Box and a games register were returned to his wife. Rose was awarded a pension of 24/6 a week for herself and the five children with effect from 17 April 1916. James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Image 14. The Battle of Loos 1915 by Fortunino Matania. Reproduced from *Brighton in the Great War* by Douglas d'Enno (Pen & Sword Books). Matania was the Great War illustrator for *The Sphere Magazine* 1915-1920

#J/41735(Dev) Boy 1st Class Joseph Thomas Porter
H.M.S. MALAYA, ROYAL NAVY

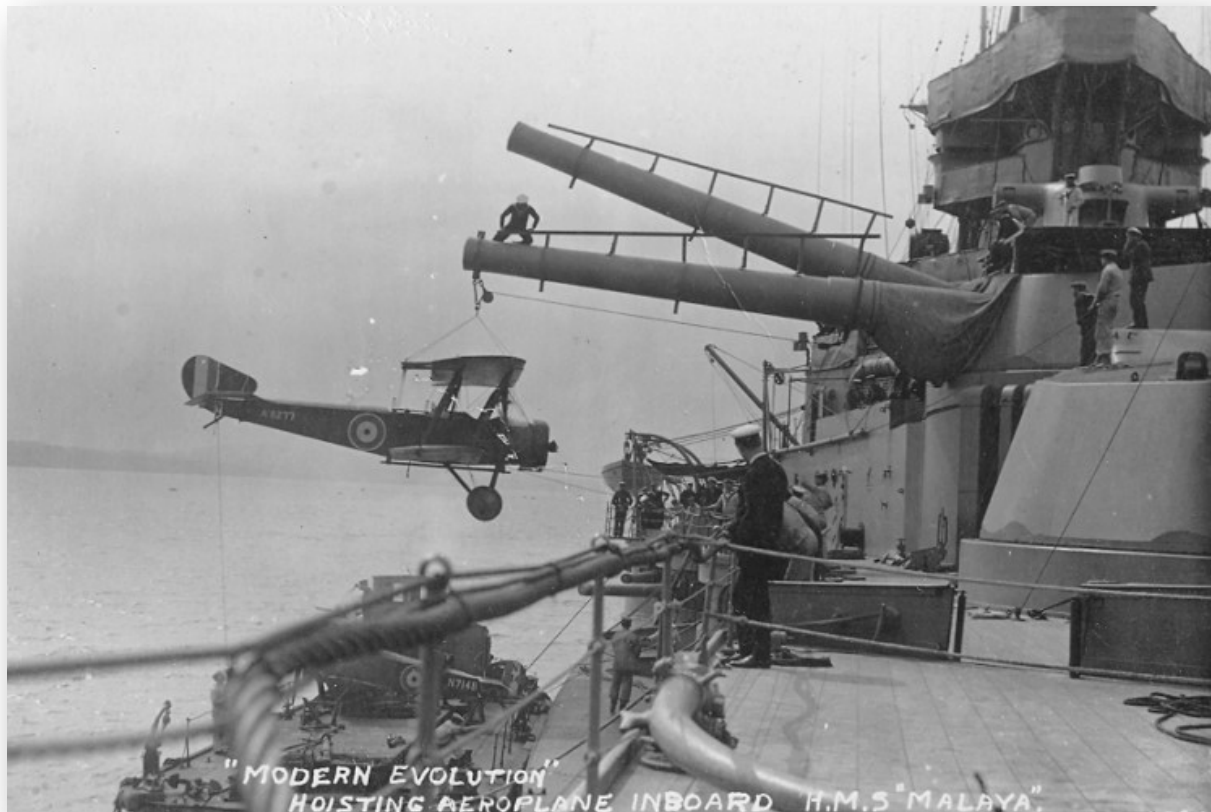


Image 15. H.M.S. Malaya hoisting an aeroplane on board using the left gun of B turret. Picture from Ships Nostalgia website

Joseph Thomas Porter was born 22 November 1922 to Ada Benson in the parish of St. Maurice in York. He was ranked as a first-class gunner and a proficient swimmer, having been awarded medals at the York Bluecoat Swimming School. He had been employed at Stannings bleachworks in Leyland and had attended St. Andrew's Parish church. His last known address was 46 (or 47) Golden Hill Lane.

Joseph joined the navy on 22 November 1915 as soon as he turned 16 years of age, having earlier joined as a boy 2nd class on 23 June 1915 (Boys 2nd Class could join from age 15). He signed on for the usual 12 years' service. He was 5 feet and a half inch tall with a chest measurement of 31 inches, brown hair and brown eyes with a fresh complexion. Joseph had 2 scars on his right knee and a scar on his left elbow.

Joseph had served on H.M.S. Powerful (at that stage a troop transport & accommodation ship) from 23 June 1915 until 13 December 1915, then on H.M.S. Victory I (Portsmouth Barracks, not *the* H.M.S. Victory) from 14 December 1915 until 27 January 1916.

Joseph joined his final posting, H.M.S. Malaya, on 28 January 1916. The action in which he lost his life was the Battle of Jutland, 31st May to 1st June, 1916. The Battlecruiser Action took place between 15.48 and 17.35 G.M.T. on the 31st of May, the 3rd British Battlecruiser Squadron being under the command of Admiral Beatty. H.M.S. Malaya was part of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's Grand Fleet. The following extract is from the official history of the battle; "Naval Operations", by Julian S. Corbett, dated 1923.

"...The Barham had hardly turned before she was badly hit by a heavy shell which caused many casualties and wrecked her wireless gear. Those of the enemy ships that were within range seemed to be concentrating on the turning point, but the Valiant, her next astern, got round without being touched. The Warspite was no less fortunate, and as Malaya, the rear ship, turned it was evident that she was the target of a whole division or more. Salvoes were falling all round her at the rate of six a minute. By hauling out to port, however, she escaped, but for the next twenty minutes she was constantly straddled, and was twice so badly hit below the water line that she began to list. It was then decided to open fire short with the 6-inch starboard battery in order to set up a screen, but before the order was passed another heavy shell burst inside it, devastating guns and crew and starting a fire amidst the havoc it had wrought..."

Joseph also appears on the Leyland - Church Road Civic War Memorial and the Leyland - St. Andrew's C.E. WW1 Plaque. He was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

#14164 Private Matthew Livesey
9TH KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)



Image 16. Matthew Livesey in uniform - studio portrait.
Photograph courtesy Andy Bennison

Matthew Livesey was born on March 19th 1889 at 2 Charnley Fold, Bamber Bridge. Like the rest of his family he was a cotton worker at Orr's Mill. A keen amateur footballer, he was a member of Higher Walton Albion's team that won the 1911-12 Preston and District league.

At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, serving in the 7th battalion with men mainly from Barrow in Furness. He was killed on 1st July 1916 as his battalion marched to the Battle of the Somme. After the war, one of his comrades visited his family to explain how Matthew met his death. As he stopped by the roadside, the ammunition he was carrying accidentally exploded. He was killed instantly.

In August 1920 his younger sister Lizzie and father John set out to France to try and locate his grave. The War Office were unable to provide information of its location, but this did not deter them. Taking a bunch of flowers and a plastic wreath Lizzie and her father travelled, mostly on foot, from one cemetery to another, desperately searching for Matthew. The journey was in vain and they returned home heartbroken. Lizzie left her bouquet of flowers on an unknown soldier's grave but was unable to part with the plastic wreath and took it back home to Lancashire. Lizzie carefully noted the places they had visited, the people she met, the sights they saw and her feelings about Matthew's death in a journal.

In March 1921 Matthew's remains were located. He had been buried where he had fallen. His body was exhumed and buried at Blighty Valley Cemetery, three miles from

the town of Albert. In June 1921 Lizzie returned to France with her father and little sister Hilda, to lay her plastic wreath on her brother's grave.

Lizzie died in June 1976, aged 85. She was buried on 1st July, the sixtieth anniversary of her brother's death.

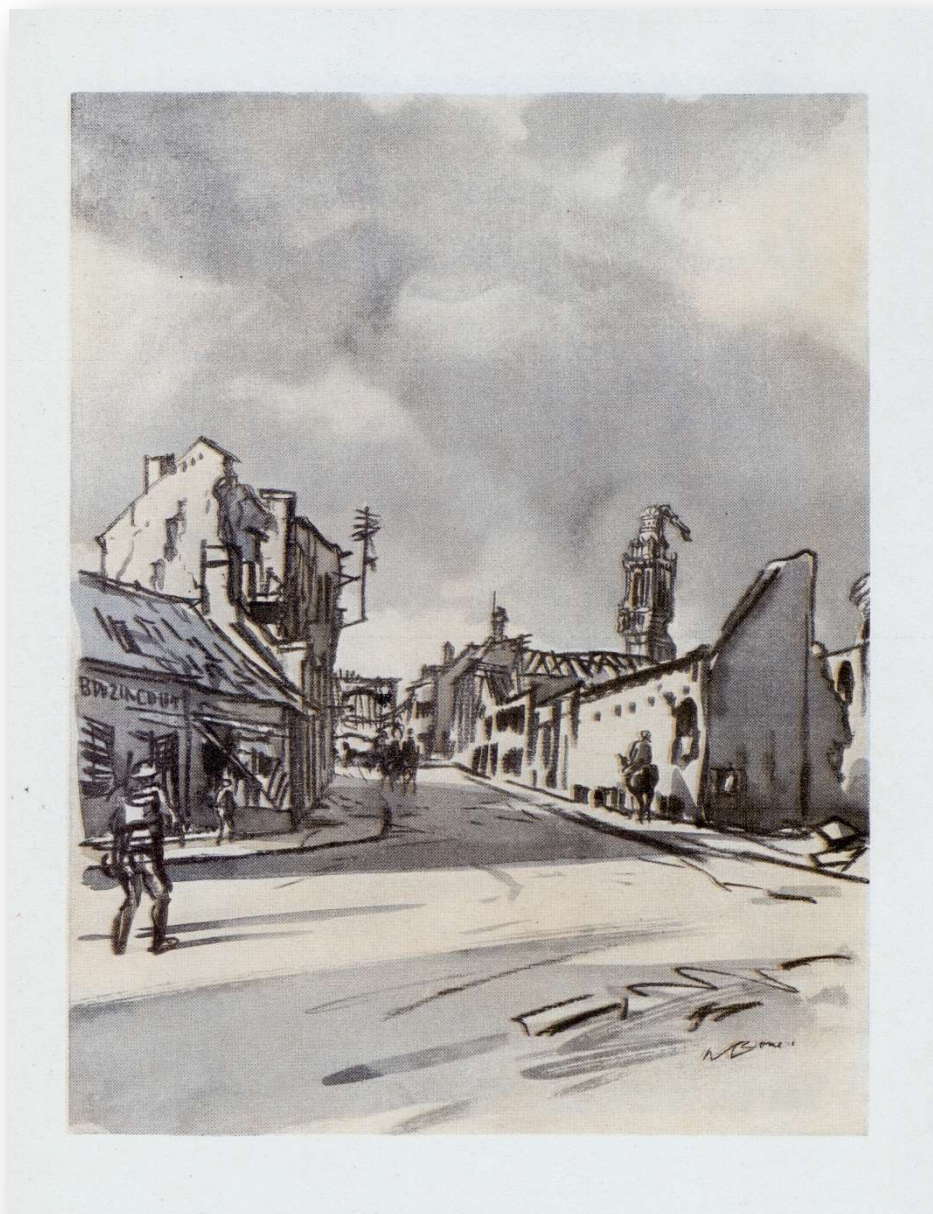


Image 17. A sketch in Albert. Drawing in pen and ink my Muirhead Bone. Reproduced from *The Western Front - Drawings by Muirhead Bone 1917*.

**#12/628 Sergeant Henry Cyril Crozier MM
12TH YORK & LANCASTER REGIMENT**



Image 18. Serre (Somme) 1916 by Wilhelm Sauter. Image in the Public Domain.

Henry Cyril Crozier (b. 10 May 1888) lived with his parents at 6 North Ribble Street up to 1901. He studied hard and was teaching in Sheffield by 1911. He joined the 12th (Service) Battalion (Sheffield) of the York and Lancaster Regiment. This Battalion was the 'Sheffield Pals' Regiment.

Within a month of Britain's declaration of war against Germany on 4th August 1914, the Duke of Norfolk and Sir George Franklin presented themselves at the War Office to propose the formation of a Sheffield battalion recruited from both university and commercial men. The proposal was readily accepted and on 10th September enlistment began at the Corn Exchange for the Sheffield City Battalion, the 12th (Service) Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment.

Henry was living at 4 Beeton Road, Sheffield at the time he enlisted with the 12th. He was immediately posted as a sergeant He then went into training with the battalion at Redmires Camp, followed by spells at Ripon and Salisbury. While still on home shores, Henry married Clara Lockwood, a local Sheffield woman in the second quarter of 1915.

Henry's first taste of overseas service began on 21 December 1915 when the 12th embarked for Egypt to defend the Suez Canal against an expected Turkish attack. They were then redeployed to the Somme region of France and sailed from Port Said 10 March arriving at Marseille 15 March 1916 and then moving northward through France

via train. The Battalion detrained on the 18th March at Pont Remy and after spending a week or so here in training, marched on by Longpre, Vignacourt – where parties were sent up to do duty with more experienced troops in the trenches – and Beauquesne to Bertrancourt, where the Battalion remained until the 2nd April on which date it took over 1,300 yards of front line trenches three-quarters of a mile west of Serre. There, the 12th made up part of the new 31st Division.

The 31st Division, a New Army division made up of Pals battalions, was to capture Serre and then turn north to form the northern defensive flank of the Fourth Army. The 31st Division attacked uphill from several copses and the two attacking brigades were engaged by the Germans with small-arms fire, firing 74,000 bullets when repelling the attack. Small groups of the Accrington Pals and the Sheffield City Battalion, managed to cross no man's land and reach Serre and a party advanced 1.25 mi (2.01 km) to Pendant Copse, before being cut off and killed or captured. Reserve Infantry Regiment 121 was confronted by the British attack before all the troops had emerged from their dugouts. More than three infantry sections were blown up in the mine explosion at Hawthorn Redoubt, the rest of the garrison being trapped until the end of the attack. A counter-attack towards the redoubt by two platoons gradually bombed the British back; after an hour only the troops in the *Heidenkopf* remained and it was re-captured during the night. Reserve Infantry Regiment 119 lost 292 casualties, Reserve Infantry Regiment 121 lost 560 men, Infantry Regiment 169 had 362 casualties and the 31st Division suffered 3,600 casualties - of which Henry was one.

During his service, Henry was awarded the Military Medal, but it is unknown how this award came about as detailed records were not kept and a newspaper account has not been found. Henry left £197 10s 11d to his brother Frank Braham Crozier. His body was never recovered and as such he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme.

See also George Stafford Crozier, Richard Leonard Crozier and Robert Harold Crozier.

#5053 Private James Coleman Clarke
45TH BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE



Image 19. James Coleman Clarke in uniform. Reproduced from Play Up Higher Walton by Peter John Holme

James Coleman Clarke was born c. October 1885 at Preston, the fifth of eleven children born to Thomas Clarke, an Army Pensioner born at Uppingham, Rutland and Annie Clarke born at Dublin. His brother George (born 1894) who would serve in the 1/4th Battalion was their ninth child.

By 1891, the family had settled at 22 Church Terrace and Thomas was employed as a Police Constable. James was apprenticed for several years at Dewhurst's Mill in Higher Walton. He and George were keen athletes, representing football teams in Higher Walton. He was also a bell ringer at All Saints, Higher Walton and is mentioned in the Memorial Book of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

James emigrated at some time after 1910 to Parramatta, New South Wales, where he became a boot repairer. He is listed as single on his military record, which survives in its entirety in the Australian archives. He took the oath at Liverpool, New South Wales on 29 December 1915.

The 45th embarked at Sydney on 30 March 1916 aboard HMAT A16 Star of Victoria bound for Egypt. They then sailed from Alexandria on 7 June, landing at Marseilles on 14 June. On 14 July, less than a month before his death, James wrote home a poignant letter more concerned with the welfare of his brother George and the rest of his family.

The battalion was plunged into the Battle of the Somme at Pozieres from 23 July 1916. James was badly wounded on either 5 or 6 August, probably in fighting in or around Pozieres and taken to the 4th Australian Field Ambulance. On 6 August he was

transferred to the 44th Casualty Clearing Station near Puchvillers and on 7 August to the 13th Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, where he died of his wounds on 12 August. James is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Ref VIII.B.134. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Meanwhile George took part in various engagements including the Battles of Festubert (15-25 May 1915), Guillemont, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, and Morval in 1916. Wounded in the autumn of 1916, he was shipped back to Britain to convalesce in hospital in Glasgow. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

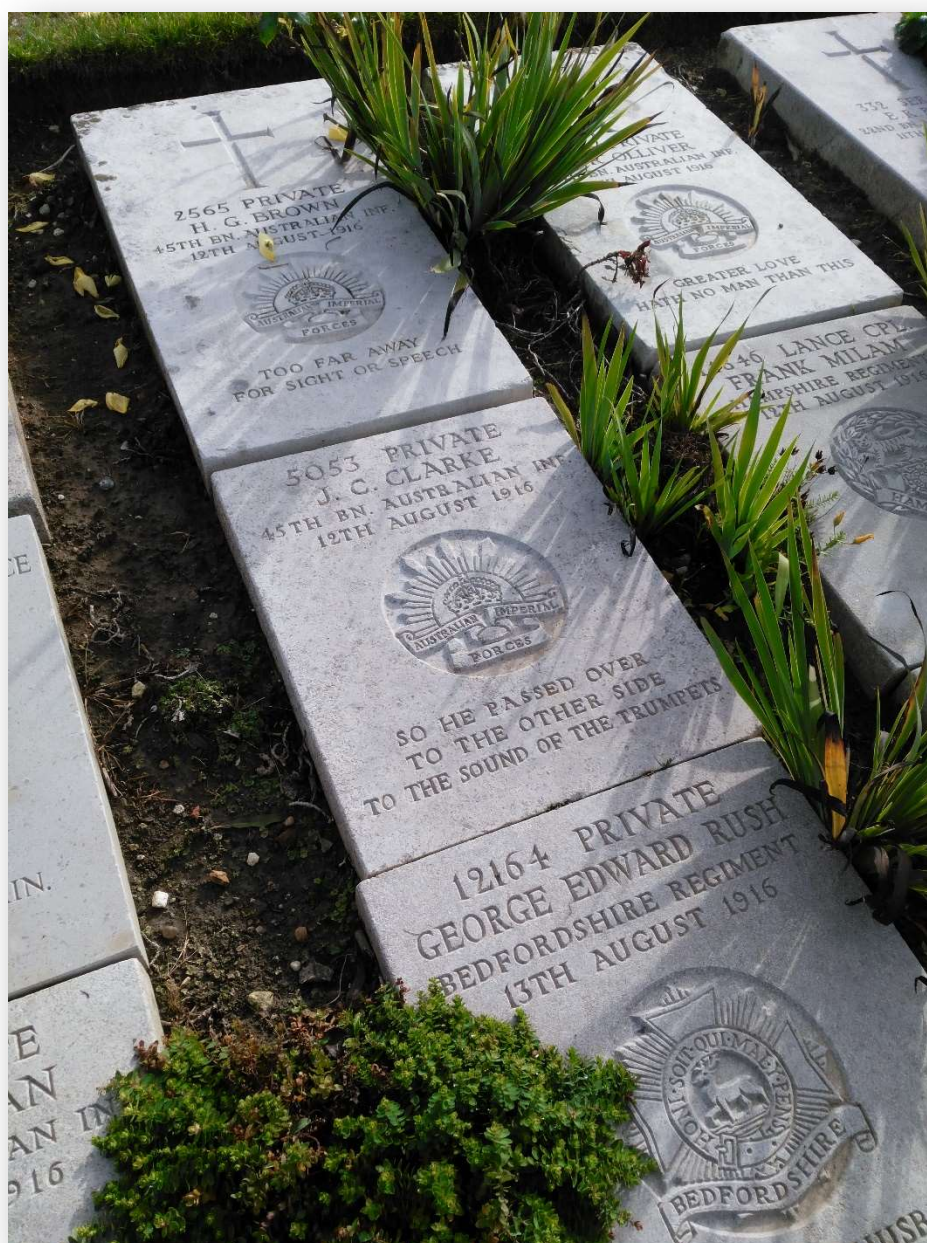


Image 20. The CWGC headstone of James at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery. Photograph Charles O'Donnell

#633094 Private William Tickle
1/20TH LONDON REGIMENT



Image 21. William Tickle. Image courtesy of Jim Rawcliffe

shows how the attack was supported by tanks.

"EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE district. Oct 1 7.0 a.m. Our artillery began a deliberate bombardment of FLERS and FLERS SUPPORT LINES and EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE. During the night, the battalion, together with the 17th & 19th LONDON REGT was assembled in advanced support line. 3.15 p.m. The three battalions with ANZACS on right and 50th DIV. on left attacked in four waves on a four company front & advanced under a creeping barrage. The first two waves in the cases of the 19th and 20th LONDON REGTS reached their final objectives and dug in on the further side of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE. The third and fourth waves of the same battalions remained in the FLERS line, and dug in but were bombed back 100 yards by a small party of the enemy who had been overlooked. Two tanks co-

William Tickle was born in 1892 to Richard and Elizabeth Ann Tickle (nee Ryding). Richard was an engine driver (stationary) in 1901. The couple had six children, Ellen Eccles Tickle b. 1879, Ralph Tickle b. 1884, Mary Howard Tickle b. 1888, William Tickle, Margaret b. 1894 and Alfred b. 1897. In 1901, the family lived at 226 Station Road.

We don't know exactly when William joined up, but it seems likely that he volunteered in late 1914, as he was in France 14 July 1915. Shortly before he left for France, he married his sweetheart, Selina Joan Varley.

William's battalion took part in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges and he was killed in action on the first day of the battle on 1 October 1916 during the action to capture Eaucourt l'Abbaye. The entry below in the war diary of the battalion

operated and advanced along the FLERS and FLERS SUPPORT LINES and arrived about the centre of the abbaye when they saw troops on our left in retreat. The occupants set fire to their tanks and left. A block was formed in the FLERS line and held by our own bombers and trench mortar."

William's widow Selina received a war gratuity of £8 on 25 November 1919. William is also remembered on the Bamber Bridge - Brownedge St. Mary's R.C. War Memorial and a headstone memorial in St. Mary's churchyard. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

William's brother Alfred also attempted to enlist; however, he was found to medically unfit for service due to his eyesight.



Image 22. Battle of Transloy Ridges. 1 - 18 October. A British soldier poses lying reading on an abandoned German stretcher, High Wood. October 1916. © IWM (Q 4370)

#18152 Lance Corporal Arthur Bowling 12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)



Image 23. Gravestone memorial to Arthur Bowling at the family plot, St. James's churchyard, Leyland. Image Charles O'Donnell.

1908 at St. James, Leyland. Their first child, John Thomas, was born 14 March 1909 and John followed 18 July 1912. Arthur continued to work at the bleachworks until attesting at Preston on the 5 September 1914. He was passed fit and is described on his medical examination paper as being 5 feet 3 and half inches tall and weighing 105 pounds. His chest was 35 inches with a 2-inch rate of expansion. His was a fresh complexion with blue eyes and black hair. His visual acuity was 6/6 (normal) in both eyes and pulse good. He gave his religion as Church of England.

The 12 Battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) were formed at Seaforth September 1914 and went to Aldershot to join the 20th Division. In February 1915 they were at Witley and then in April 1915 they were in training on Salisbury plain.

On 30 April 1915 Ellen Jane was delivered of the couple's third child, Mary.

Arthur Bowling was born in 1885 to Richard and Mary Bowling (nee Gore) and was baptised 2 August 1885 at St. James, Leyland. Richard was a grocer at the time of Arthur's birth and was a carter in 1891 living at 85 Leyland Lane. The family also lived at 85 Leyland Lane in 1901 and Richard had changed occupation to minding the engines at a cotton mill and Arthur had started work at the bleachworks in Leyland.

In all, Richard and Mary had seven children, John born 1875, James born 1877, Catherine born 1879, Mary born 1881, Arthur born 1885, Richard born 1888 and Emily born 1891. Mary died just a few months after Emily was born on 8 November 1893.

Arthur married Ellen Jane Wiggans on 14 November

On 24 July 1915 the 20th Division landed at Boulogne. Their first battle action was at Mount Sorrel on the Ypres Salient from 2 February 1916. From there the 20th went to the Somme where they took part in the Battle of Delville Wood at Guillemont from 21 August, next they were in action at the Battle of Guillemont from 3 September. Arthur was appointed Lance Corporal on 8 September. He was next in action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette from 16 September, the Battle of Morval from 27 September 1916 and then the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 1 October, where Arthur was to be killed in action in a shell barrage near Gueudecourt on 3 October. The War Diary for that day has only a short entry, "*Wet. Some heavy shelling. Casualties 15 wounded, 2 killed. Draft of 93 O.R. arrived.*"

KILLED IN ACTION. Mrs. Bowling, 1 Grove-street, Leyland, has received information from the War Office of the death in action, on Oct 4th (1), of her husband, Lance-Corporal Arthur Bowling, 12th King's Liverpool Regiment. He joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of war, and previous to this was engaged in the scutching department at the Leyland Bleach and Dye Works. Deceased was 31 years of age, and leaves a widow and three children. **PRESTON HERALD - Saturday 20 October 1916.**

On 1 November 1916 Ellen Jane sent off an application for Arthur's pension and on 18 April 1917 she was granted 20s 3d for herself and the three children. On 12 January 1917, Ellen Jane received Arthur's remaining money of £4 11d., and on 9 October 1919 she received a war gratuity of £8 10s. Arthur also appears on the Leyland Church Road Civic War Memorial, the Leyland St. James's C.E. WW1 Cross and a family gravestone memorial within St. James churchyard. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal

#14836 Sergeant Sidney Bretherton
12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)

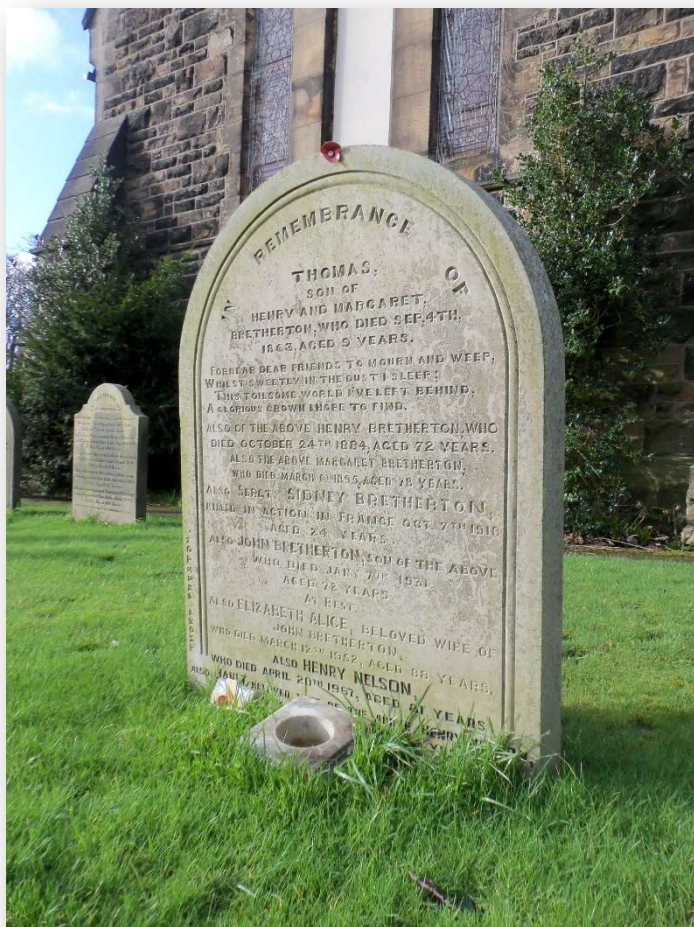


Image 24. Gravestone memorial to Sidney Bretherton at the family plot, St. James's churchyard, Leyland. Image Charles O'Donnell.

three-quarter inches tall and weighing 128 pounds. His chest was 36 inches with a 2-inch rate of expansion. His was a fair complexion with grey eyes and light hair. His visual acuity was normal in both eyes and pulse a pulse rate of 72. He gave his religion as Church of England.

The 12th Battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) were formed at Seaforth September 1914 and went to Aldershot to join the 20th Division. In February 1915 they were at Witley and then in April 1915 they were in training on Salisbury plain. On 23 January 1915, Sidney was promoted to unpaid Lance-Corporal and paid Lance-Corporal on 15 February 1915. On 24 July 1915 the 20th Division landed at Boulogne and Sidney was promoted Corporal on 17 August 1915.

Their first battle action was at Mount Sorrel on the Ypres Salient from 2 February 1916. Sidney was promoted Lance-Sergeant on 9 April 1916 and Sergeant 9 August 1916.

Sidney Bretherton was born in early July 1892 in Ulnes Walton to Elizabeth A Bretherton (nee Hart), age 28, and John Bretherton, age 33. John worked as a finisher at the local bleachworks. Sidney was baptised 24 July 1892 at St. James, Leyland.

In 1911, the family lived on Slater Lane in Leyland. Elizabeth and John had a large family and they were all in the textile trade in some capacity or another, Sidney's job was as a weaver in a local cotton mill. Sidney gained some experience of command when he was a staff sergeant in the Leyland St. Andrew's Church Lads' Brigade.

Sidney attested on 1 September 1914. He was passed fit and is described on his medical examination paper as being 5 feet 7- and

From there the 20th went to the Somme where they took part in the Battle of Delville Wood at Guillemont from 21 August, next they were in action at the Battle of Guillemont from 3 September. He was next in action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette from 16 September, the Battle of Morval from 27 September 1916 and then the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 1 October where Sidney was killed in action on 7 October 1916. The war diary for the 12th Battalion explains the attack they made that day.

"Attacked Rainbow and Cloudy trenches at 1:45 p.m. Latter trench about 1000 yards from our front line. Both objectives taken and several prisoners. 6 officers hit, 1 of whom were killed. Spent all night consolidating. Total casualties 19 killed, 125 wounded, 4 missing believed killed, 69 missing. Draft of 27 O.R. arrived."

John Bretherton received £6 18s in March 1917 and a war gratuity of £12 on 9 October 1919. On 26 June 1920, Sidney's 1914-15 Star was sent back to be amended as some details on the medal were incorrect. Sidney's name appears on the family gravestone at St. James, Leyland and he also appears on three memorials in Leyland - Church Road Civic War Memorial, St. Andrew's C.E. WW1 Plaque and the St. James's C.E. WW1 Cross.



Image 25. The Battle of Transloy Ridges. 1 - 18 October. A derelict hansom cab found in Bazentin-le-Grand is renamed "10 Downing Street" and filled with grinning British soldiers. © IWM (Q 4383)

#18607 Private Robert Heywood
12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)



Image 26. The Battle of Transloy Ridges. 1 - 18 October. A captured German gun pulled by British troops and surrounded by onlookers is brought back from High Wood. © IWM (Q 4376)

Robert Heywood was born on 9 October 1892 in Farington to John Thomas Heywood and Ellen Heywood (nee Hodson). He was baptised at St. Paul, Farington on 30 October 1892. John Heywood was a rubber worker and his son followed him into that trade. In 1911 the family lived at 28 Mill Street in Farington.

Robert was aged 21 and 11 months old when he attested on 4 September 1914. He was passed fit and is described on his medical examination paper as being 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 140 pounds. His chest was 34 inches with a 2-inch rate of expansion. His was a fair complexion with brown eyes and brown hair. He had a burn scar on the right underside of his chin. His visual acuity was nearly normal in the right eye and normal in the left. He gave his religion as Church of England.

The 12th Battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) were formed at Seaforth September 1914 and went to Aldershot to join the 20th Division. In February 1915 they were at Witley and then in April 1915 they were in training on Salisbury plain. On 24 July 1915 the 20th Division landed at Boulogne.

Their first battle action was at Mount Sorrel on the Ypres Salient from 2 February 1916. From there the 20th went to the Somme where they took part in the Battle of Delville Wood at Guillemont from 21 August, next they were in action at the Battle of Guillemont from 3 September. Robert was next in action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette from 16 September, the Battle of Morval from 27 September 1916 and then the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 1 October where he was killed in action on 7 October 1916. The war diary for the 12th Battalion explains the attack they made that day.

"Attacked Rainbow and Cloudy trenches at 1:45 p.m. Latter trench about 1000 yards from our front line. Both objectives taken and several prisoners. 6 officers hit, 1 of whom were killed. Spent all night consolidating. Total casualties 19 killed, 125 wounded, 4 missing believed killed, 69 missing. Draft of 27 O.R. arrived."

Robert Heywood was numbered among the missing. Letters from an uncle and a friend were sent to the records depot from late October 1916 to January 1917 enquiring as to his whereabouts. It was assumed he had been taken to a casualty clearing station after the action in which he was posted missing. This period, as you might imagine, was always a very anxious period for the families of the men.

Robert was never sent to a casualty clearing station and his body was never recovered for burial. He was listed as killed in action 7 October 1916, just two days short of his 24th birthday. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial. His father John received £4 8s. 10d. on 5 May 1917 and a war gratuity of £9 on 9 October 1919.

Robert also appears on the Farington Moss - St. Paul's C.E. WW1 Window, Leyland - St. Ambrose C.E. WW1 Cross and the Leyland - St. Ambrose C.E. WW1 Plaque. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

**#17010 Private Edward Monarch Jamieson
7TH EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT**



Image 27. Battle of the Ancre Heights. Transporting wounded by horse-drawn light railway from Crucifix Corner to Aveluy, October 1916 © IWM (Q 1348)

Edward Monarch Jamieson was born in April 1890 in Bamber Bridge to Alice Jamieson, age 40, and Edward Jamieson, age 33. Edward senior was a locomotive engine driver. In 1911, Edward Jamieson was living with two sons, Richard and Edward Monarch on Dewhurst Row in Cuerden.

The 'Monarch' part of his name is derived from the name of the locomotive engine that used to serve the small branch line that went into Dewhursts' Cuerden Mill. It is unknown if his father used to drive it, but the tracks went up Dewhurst Row and into the mill complex.

Edward Monarch Jamieson enlisted with the 7th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment at Preston in September 1914. They were formed as part of the Second New Army to join the 56th Brigade of the 19th Division. They then moved to Tidworth, and then on to Andover. In February 1915 they moved to Clevedon and then Salisbury Plain.

On 18 July 1915 the 19th Division were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne and the Division engaged in various actions including the action of Pietre. In 1916, the 19th

Division were engaged at the Battle of Albert, the attacks on High Wood, the Battle of Pozieres Ridge and the Battle of the Ancre Heights, where Edward Monarch Jamieson was to be killed in action 15 October 1916. There is little of note about the day in the official War Diary.

The local newspapers reported his death as follows.

BAMBER BRIDGE SOLDIER KILLED BY SHRAPNEL. The father of Private Edward Monarch Jamieson of the East Lancashire Regiment, has received information that his son was killed in France on October 14th last. Prior to the War he resided at 26, Dewhurst's-row. He enlisted in November, 1914. A letter has been received from Lieut. Wrack, for whom he acted as orderly, stating that he was killed by shrapnel, and died a soldier's death without pain. The officer says Jamieson was a good soldier, and ever ready to do his duty. **Preston Daily Post, Wednesday, 15 November, 1916, also Preston Herald, 18 November, 1916.**

The Registers of Soldiers' Effects show that Edward Monarch's remaining pay was paid to his father and his War Gratuity of £9 was split equally three ways between his brother Richard and his two sisters. Alice Cheetham and Elizabeth Woodcock on 12 December 1919. Edward also appears on the Bamber Bridge - Browndge St. Mary's R.C. War Memorial. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal.

#19344 Private Charles Nutter
14TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)



Image 28. Charlie Nutter's place of birth, Browsholme Hall © [Hugh Chevallier](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

Charles Nutter was born 10 August 1894 at Browsholme Hall, Whitewell (where his father worked as a gardener) and baptised 'Charlie' at St. Michael's, Whitewell on 30 September 1894. His parents were George E Nutter, age 20, and Amelia Nutter, also aged 20. In 1901 George and Amelia were living at 'Lostock Houses' in Lostock Hall. In addition to Charlie, there was William, age 8, Florence, age 4, Amelia, age 2, and Annie who was 2 months old.

By 1911 there were two other children born to the family, Elizabeth, age 8, and George Edward, age 5. They were living at 7 South View, Lostock Hall - probably the same address as 'Lostock Houses', the place they lived in 1901. Charlie was working as a cotton spinner in local mill.

To date, a service record has not been found for Charlie. It seems likely that he enlisted under the name Charles Nutter as all the military records found call him this in contrast to his civilian records which name him Charlie.

The 14th Battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) formed at Seaforth, Liverpool in October 1914 as part of the Third New Army (K3), then moved to South Downs,

Seaforth and joined the 65th Brigade of the 22nd Division then moved to Eastbourne. In April 1915 They moved back to Seaforth and then to Aldershot. The 22nd Division were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne 5 September 1915. On 28 October 1915 They embarked from Marseilles to Salonika, Greece arriving 5 November 1915, and engaged the Bulgarian army in the various actions; the Battle of Horseshoe Hill and the Battle of Machukovo. Charlie died about this time on 16 October 1916. It is unclear what was the cause of his death, but malaria was rife in the area where he served. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Charlie's mother Amelia was his sole heir. On 26 April 1917 she received his effects of £10 2s. 11d. and a war gratuity of £9 on 23 September 1919. He also appears on the Lostock Hall - Methodist Chapel WW1 Obelisk, the Lostock Hall - St. James's C.E. WW1 Board and the Lostock Hall - Civic War Memorial. He was awarded 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal.



Image 29. The Parish Church of St Michael, Whitewell © Copyright [Alexander P Kapp](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

**#7250 Company Sergeant-Major Harry Heyes
2ND SCOTS GUARDS**



Image 30. Company Sergeant-Major Harry Heyes, 2nd Scots Guards. Photograph Courtesy of Sarah Yates

Harry Heyes was a professional who enlisted before the start of the war, a dedicated soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer whose actions at Festubert would earn him the distinction of the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

Born Henry Heyes in Preston in 1889 to John and Margaret Ann Heyes, by 1901 Harry was living with his grandparents in the St. Ambrose area of Leyland. It is likely that he joined the Scots Guards by 1911.

Harry saw much action with the 2nd Scots Guards while in France and Flanders, becoming a specialist bomber. The 2nd landed in France on 7 October 1914 as part of the 20th Guards Brigade. The 2nd first saw action at First Ypres that November and went on to fight at the Battles of Neuve Chapelle (10-13 March

1915), Aubers (9 May 1915) and Festubert, where Harry's actions earned him the epithet "Daredevil" and saw him awarded the DCM, second only to the Victoria Cross in terms of prestige. The citation in the London Gazette dated 24 August 1915 read:

For great gallantry and ability on the 16th-18th May, 1915, at Festubert, when, after two Officers in charge of the bomb throwers had been wounded, he carried on the work with great skill and courage, and managed to capture 250 yards of German trench which he held.

A grand reception was held at Leyland on 7 July 1915 where Harry was feted and gave speeches encouraging the men of the town to go out and "avenge the Leyland soldiers

who were now below the soil". Also present was Harry's fiancée Hetty Elizabeth Wiles who he would later marry at St. Jude's, Kensal Green on 8 January 1916.

Harry went back out to the Western Front and the 2nd joined the 3rd Guards Brigade on 9 September 1915. He saw action with the 2nd at the Battles of Loos (25 September-8 October 1915), Fleurs-Courcelette (15-22 September 1916) and Morval (25-28 September 1916).

As part of his duties Harry instructed other men in bombing. On 24 February 1917 he was instructing a group when a bomb went off, severely wounding him. He was taken to No.21 Casualty Clearing station where he died the same day. His remains are buried at plot B.79 La Neuville Communal Cemetery, near Corbie, Somme, France.



Image 31. La Neuville Communal Cemetery, Corbie, Somme, France. Henry's Grave is in row B, plot 79 close to the centre of the photograph. Photograph courtesy of Paul Reed

#120950 Private Edward Ashcroft
60TH CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (C.E.F.)



Image 32. Painting by Mary Riter Hamilton, "Isolated Grave and Camouflage, Vimy Ridge," May 20, 1919. Mary Riter Hamilton. Library and Archives Canada, Accession No. 1988-180-223; e010857264

John Ashcroft & Ellen Trafford were married at St. Saviour's church, Bamber Bridge on 24 December 1892. They were both residents of Lostock Hall and John was a printsmen and Ellen was rover in a cotton mill. Edward Ashcroft and his twin brother Robert were born to the couple 17 May 1893 at Midge Hall . They were baptised a few days later on 4 June 1893 at St. Saviour's. Other records for the family, most notably the 1901 and 1911 census, seem to be absent. This may be explained by Edward's re-emergence in Montreal, Quebec in 1915. The family could have moved to Canada not long after the twins' birth in 1893.

Edward attested for the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 7 September 1915 at Sherbrooke, southern Quebec at the confluence of the St. Francis and Magog rivers. He said that he was already a member of the 54th Regiment of Militia (Carabiniers de Sherbrooke) and his trade was labouring. He is described as 5 foot 4 inches tall, with

fair complexion, fair hair and blue eyes. His chest measured 29.5 inches with maximum expanse of 33.5 inches. He had no distinctive marks.

Before leaving Canada, Edward married Georgina 21 February 1916. It seems likely that she followed him over to England and may have stayed with his father John at 5 Central Buildings in Lostock Hall. Edward initially joined the 69th Reserve Battalion C.E.F. He arrived at Bramshott camp, Hampshire on 28 April 1916. He was then transferred to the 23rd Battalion at Otterpool camp at Folkestone 7 June 1916 and taken on strength at Dibgate camp, also Folkestone, the same day. There were three separate incidences of Edward going absent without leave while in the south east. From 2 August to 5 August 1916, from 26 September 1916 to 29 September 1916 and from 16 October 1916 to 19 October 1916. All these incidences occurred when it is likely his wife was in the country. The first incidence was punished with 8 days detention and the second with 15 days field punishment number 2 (shackled to prevent his escape and to undergo hard labour and marches with full pack etc). Incident three was punished with 14 days field punishment number 2.

Edward was then sent to the 60th Battalion C.E.F. for overseas duty on 27 October 1916. He was admitted to hospital to be treated for scabies 8 March 1917 and discharged 10 March 1917. Scabies is an infection caused by a microscopic mite and was common among men who shared very close quarters.

The 60th Battalion was in the trenches at Vimy in the early part of April up to the 5 April 1917, and then in the Divisional reserve at Villers-Au-Bois from 6 April to the 8 April. After communion services at 8 and 11 am, the Battalion were ordered up to the assembly trenches to the west of the Arras-Bethune road running through Souchez. They left at 9.30 in the evening and arrived in the trenches at 12:35 am the following morning 9 April. There were no shelters or dugouts for the men and they had to spend an uncomfortable night exposed to the elements. The Battalion were in support on the Bethune Road when the attack on Vimy Ridge got under way at 5:30 am on 9 April. They moved from the assembly trench to the old front-line trenches at 11:15 am, where they stayed. It is difficult to know exactly when or how Edward died on the 9 April, but it is likely he died during the period the battalion were on the move between 5:30 and 11:15 am by a shell burst or bullets.

Edward Ashcroft was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He also appears on the Lostock Hall Civic Memorial on Hope Terrace. Georgina Ashcroft lived at a number of locations in Quebec and New Brunswick from 1917 onwards and the last mention of her in the records is at 9 Plateau Street, Montreal, Quebec on 2 August 1923.

**#14811 Sergeant Arthur Parker
12TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)**



Image 33. Number 446 Leyland Lane. This was the house that Arthur Parker grew up in. It was formerly number 127 Leyland Lane - Brook Cottage. The streets of Leyland were re-numbered in the 1930s. Image Charles O'Donnell

William James Parker and Emily Hosker were aged 21 when they were married at St. James's Church, Moss Side, Leyland on 12 July 1894. William was a bleacher and Emily a weaver. Their first son, Arthur, was born early in 1895 and baptised at St. James's 31 March 1895. They had two other children, Amy, baptised at St. James's 10 January 1897 and Ethel, born about 1906. William originally hailed from Carlisle, while Emily was a local woman from Cuerden, near Bamber Bridge.

In 1901, the family lived at 3 Broad Street, Leyland and William was working as a 'maker of cotton goods. Emily was at home with Arthur, 6 and Amy, 4. Arthur attended school at Balshaws Grammar School on Church Lane.

By 1911 William and the family had moved to 127 Leyland Lane, also known as Brook Cottage as it was once the nearest house to the Wade Brook. William was still in the cotton industry at a local bleacher - he was described as a 'maker of cotton piece goods.' Emily was at home. Arthur at this time had followed his father into the cotton

trade and was employed as a feeder on a stentor frame at a bleaching works. A stentor frame was a device for drying cotton goods after they had been bleached. Both father and son were likely employed by Stannings in Leyland. Amy was working for a draper as a dressmaker's apprentice, while the youngest, Ethel, was at home with mum.

Between 1911 and 1914, Arthur had secured a position as a clerk at Leyland Motors Limited. He was connected with Leyland St. James's Church and Sunday schools, and was assistant scoutmaster and secretary of St. James's Band of Hope Society.

Arthur attested at Southport on 1 September 1914. He was living with his parents in Leyland and was still occupied as a clerk. He was 19 years and 250 days and had no previous military service. His service record gives a lot of detail about him which would otherwise be lost. His medical examination showed he was 5 feet 7 and a half inches tall, weighed 144 and a quarter pounds, had a chest measurement of 37 inches with an expansion of 3 inches, a dark complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair and no distinctive marks. He had good physical development and a pulse of 72. He had been vaccinated at infancy with two vaccination marks on his left arm and his vision was normal. He was Church of England.

Arthur joined the 12th (Service) Battalion, King's (Liverpool Regiment) (KLR) at Seaforth, Liverpool later the same day. The 12th Bn KLR formed part of the Second New Army (K2), then moved to Aldershot and joined the Army Troops 20th Division. Arthur was posted Private on 8 September 1914 and appointed unpaid Lance Corporal 1 November 1914. He was fully inoculated (2 doses) November 1914.

The 12th Bn KLR became part of the 61st Brigade of the 20th Division and moved to Witley January 1915 and Arthur was vaccinated on 28 January 1915. The Battalion then moved to Salisbury Plain February 1915. Arthur was appointed paid Lance Corporal 1 February 1915 and promoted Corporal 3 May 1915. He was obviously showing much promise as he was appointed paid Acting Lance Sergeant 14 March 1916 and confirmed in appointment Lance Sergeant 14 March 1916.

Arthur's Battalion mobilised for War on 27 July 1915 (1) and landed at Boulogne, from there they were sent to Flanders where they took part in the Battle of Mont Sorrel from 2 to 14 June 1916 (Ypres Salient). Sometime in the next month they were moved to the area of the front around the Somme. They took part in the Battle of Delville Wood from 14 July 1916 to 3 September 1916, during which Arthur was appointed Sergeant and he was confirmed in this rank on 9 August 1916. He missed the end of this battle due to being treated for Pyrexia (fever) of Unknown Origin from 29 August 1916 to 4 September 1916. His battalion were active throughout the rest of the Battle of the Somme, taking part in the following actions:

- Battle of Guillemont from 3 to 6 September 1916
- Battle of Flers-Courcelette from 15 to 22 September 1916
- Battle of Morval from 25 to 28 September 1916

- Battle of Le Transloy from 1 to 18 October 1916 - during which Arthur was injured and treated an Internal Cruciate Tear of the Knee from 6 October 1916 to 9 October 1916.

Arthur was treated for Rheumatism from 18 December 1916 to 19 December 1916. He was killed in action in or around Havrincourt 1 May 1917 during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It would seem that he must have been killed while undergoing routine duties by either rifle fire or shell fire. The War diary of the 12th Battalion reads as follows:

28 April 1917 to 30 April 1917. Good weather continued. Owing to enemy observation, work could not be done by Coys in front line by day. Each night, with assistance of a Company of Reserve Battn (7th D.C.L.I) work was done on wiring, strong points and construction of posts, present front line forming new "Main Line of Resistance." The CHATEAU in HAVRINCOURT was observed to be on fire on 29th inst.

1 May 1917. Battn. in line facing HAVRINCOURT Village, with 3 Coys in Front Line trenches & remaining Coy. in Reserve.

2 May 1917. In early evening, 3 aeroplanes of British type and carrying British markings, maneouvered over F.A. Battery near Bn. H.Q. at an extremely low altitude. These planes could not be traced as belonging to aerodromes in this area.

The family plot at St. James's, Leyland says that Arthur was laid to rest close to where he was killed at Havrincourt Wood. It is not in question that his battalion was in the line at Havrincourt at the time, but it would seem that if he was laid to rest where he fell, the grave and marker was lost in the upheaval of war, as Arthur does not have any known grave and he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme. He is remembered locally at Balshaws School, Leyland, the Civic Memorial, Leyland, St. James's Cross, Leyland and the South Ribble Memorial, Lostock Hall. Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Arthur left effects of £8 18s. 8d. paid to his father William on 29 November 1917 and a further 7s. 6d. paid to his father on 14 March 1918. Army Form W. 5080 (plaque and scroll commemoration) from the Infantry record office was signed by William James Parker 14 July 1919 and witnessed by the Vicar of St. James, Leyland. A War Gratuity of £15 10s. 0d. was paid to William on 9 October 1919.

#202601 Private George Brown
1/4TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT



Image 34. Photograph taken at a visit to George Brown's CWGC burial site at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery in 2016. Image Charles O'Donnell

George Brown was born at Preston in 1879 to Reuben Brown and his first wife Julia Ackers. He worked as a cotton weaver. He married Jane Ellen Bretherton in the third quarter of 1913 but the couple were childless. There are few records available for George. He did not serve abroad in 1914 or 1915, which makes it likely he was conscripted. George met his death during the preliminary stages of the Battle of Third Ypres.

15th July, 1917, the preliminary bombardment of the enemy lines by our guns commenced. In the early morning ten shells from a Hun high velocity gun landed on Battalion Headquarters, one actually entering the Colonel's dugout and exploding there without injuring him! On the night following, a fighting patrol of ours had a brush with a Hun patrol in NO MAN'S LAND, and did good work, bringing back a dead German, who turned out to belong to the 449th Infantry Regiment, who were expected to be opposite to us. On the 20th Second Lieutenant

Vincent took a raiding party of 20 in to the enemy lines and found a post of four men; two fled, one was bayoneted, and one taken prisoner. During these days artillery had been active, and our casualties were 6 killed, 13 wounded, 2 gassed. Chapter VI, The Third Battle of Ypres. The War History of the 1st/4th Battalion, the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

George's wages of £2 6s 11s were passed to his wife on 30 July 1917 and she was also awarded a War Gratuity of £3 on 5 November 1919. See also Reuben Brown and Cornwall Mackerall

**#203996 Private Roland Edgerton Valentine
1/9TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)**



Image 35. CWGC headstone of Roland Edgerton Valentine at Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery. Image Charles O'Donnell.

Frederick Oswald Valentine and Elizabeth Ann Openshaw were aged 27 and 28 respectively when they were married at Christ Church, Adlington on 18 October 1892. Frederick was a painter and decorator and Elizabeth was a housekeeper. Their first child, Margaret Alice, was born 12 November 1893 and baptised 11 February 1894 at Adlington. They had one other child - a brother for Margaret, Roland Edgerton, born 16 May 1898 in Leyland and baptised at St. Ambrose, Leyland 10 July 1898.

From the records, it would appear that Elizabeth died in 1900. The 1901 census shows Frederick and his young family living with his mother Frances, 59, and his sister Alice, 25 at 11 Newsholme Street in

Leyland. Frederick was still working as a house painter.

By 1911, Frederick and his children were still with his mum at 11 Meadow Street, Leyland. Frederick was carrying on his painting and decorating and Margaret was a rubber worker. Roland was studying at school.

No service record survives for Roland, but assuming that he did not join the services under-age, he would have been called up shortly after his eighteenth birthday on 16 May 1916. He joined 1/9th Battalion the Kings (Liverpool Regiment). He was killed in action at the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, the opening attack of the Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Ypres). We are fortunate in that the War Diary is extremely detailed for this day and we can only imagine what Roland and his comrades went through. As one might expect, the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele was an extremely busy one. The 1/9th Battalion War Diary is very detailed and like most War Diaries it is handwritten

in pencil - some of which is very faint. Where I cannot read a particular word, I have inserted a question mark rather than second guess the writer.

"JULY 30 1917 OXFORD TRENCH. The Battalion objective was the BLACK LINE from C.24.G.35.55. to D.19.A.40.45. The forming up trench was OXFORD TRENCH. Battalion Headquarters being in the Cart dugout. All ? were completed by about 2.30 AM. - the first wave was composed of C. Company on the left (LEFT) and D. Company on the right (RIGHT) with a platoon from B. Company under 2nd Lieut. Ebbels in rear to mop up PLUM FARM and APPLE VILLA. B. Company was in support and A. Company in reserve.

At 3.0 AM tea was issued and the leading wave got out of OXFORD TRENCH and lay in front of it. Zero hour was fixed for 3.50 AM. when the 5th and 6th Kings would have to attack and capture the German front line system and consolidate the BLUE LINE.

JULY 30 / JULY 31 1917. The night was quiet, and the Battalion had got into position without casualties. At 3.50 AM the barrage started and the 5th and 6th Kings left the trenches. Our leading waves left OXFORD TRENCH to take up their position in WARWICK TRENCH. At 4.20 AM the Battalion started - it was very dark and difficult to pick up landmarks - no news had yet come in from the 5th and 6th Kings. Four minutes after ZERO, the enemy put a heavy barrage of H.E. shells on OXFORD TRENCH - several men were hit there. A Lewis Gun team was knocked out and the reserve Lewis Gun ammunition blown up, and the wounded had to be dressed in the open trench. No news came in for a long time, but numbers of German prisoners were seen coming over to our lines. At 6.30 AM Capt. Atkinson, Lieut. G. W. Harrison, 2nd Lt. Lees, and A/RSM Roberts went over to establish Headquarters at JASPER FARM. No news was received from the 5th, 6th or 9th until 7.30 AM. when a runner returned from Capt. Atkinson bringing messages from the front line Companies and supports. Capt. Richer reported that he had reached his objective but was in need of reinforcements - Capt. ROBERTS reported that he had crossed the STEENBEKE with from 6 to 10 men, another message following immediately, said that he had reached BANK FARM. 2nd Lieut. GELDARD reported that he had reached his final objective with seven (7) men.

Headquarters the proceeded first to UHLAN FARM, and then to a dugout near JASPER FARM. A message was then received that 2nd Lieut ELLAM had reinforced 2nd Lieut GELDARD with fifty (50) men and that all was consolidated. A runner reported that D. Company had been held up by machine guns on both flanks, but the men who had been temporarily held up were reforming their Company in small parties. At this time the enemy was shelling his old front line system, NO MANS LAND, and as far back as POTIJZE very heavily with 77mm., 4.2, 5.9 and 8 inch shells in addition to high bursting shrapnel.

In the vicinity of JASPER FARM there were five (5) tanks, most of which appeared to be derelicts.

A message was received at 9.30 AM from 2 Lt. EBBELS who with his platoon was at APPLE VILLA, saying that the enemy was massing on HILL 35. - at the same time the 164 BRIGADE who were to attack the GREEN LINE began to pass JASPER FARM. A verbal message was received saying that Lieut FAUSSET had been killed and 2. Lt BARKER wounded. 2nd. Lieut RAWCLIFFE was slightly wounded.

At 11.45 AM, orders arrived from the Brigade that all available men were to be sent up to the BLACK LINE and that we were to be reinforced by TWO (2) Companies of the 6th Kings.



Image 36. Battle of Pilckem Ridge. Scene in a captured village on Pilckem Ridge, 31st July 1917. Note the tapes marking the track along which a cavalryman is leading two horses. © IWM (Q 2634)

Major HOARE then went forward by PLUM FARM to BANK FARM and the POMMERN REDOUBT to see what the situation was - at PLUM FARM there were several wounded and Lieut. HARRISON established an Aid Post there in a concrete dugout. BANK FARM had been captured by this Battalion although it was really in the sector allotted to the 166 Brigade. A German machine gunner on the roof of a concrete dugout had caused us many casualties - in carrying out the attack on this gun Lieut. FAUSSET who led the party was shot through the heart - a tank arrived at the ? moment and shot the machine gunner who had been firing his gun up to the last minute and was now lying dead on the roof of the dugout surrounded by hundreds of empty cases. Capt. ROBERTS had also come up against BANK FARM, whereupon 2nd Lieut GELDERD seeing that the leading companies were going too far to the left (LEFT) attacked the POMMERN REDOUBT with six men one of them being a signaller armed with a shutter. Unaided, they captured about forty prisoners. Then 2nd Lieut ELLAM arrived with B Company and the number of prisoners was increased to about 90 (ninety) - the enemy was quite demoralized and running in crowds over the crest line of HILL 35. 2nd Lieut RANDALL had led an attack on a party of Germans who started bombing our men on their left flank as they were digging. At BANK FARM Capt. ROBERTS saw a

party of Germans lying in a trench - he immediately rushed towards them shouting as he waved his arms above his head "Hoch, hoch, hoch" - the enemy at once stood up and also putting up their hands replied "Hoch, hoch, hoch" and surrendered.

During the attack on the POMMERN REDOUBT, Corporal JAMES CLARK discovered an enemy machine Gun team trying to take their gun out of action - he immediately shot one of the gunners, put the remainder to flight, and caused them to abandon their gun. At the same place, Lance Corporal J. MARCHBANK organized a bombing squad and worked his way down an enemy trench - this squad although only seven (7) strong took twenty (20) prisoners. Private F. FOWLER also displayed great gallantry in bombing the enemy and when the supply of bombs was finished he used German bombs. Through his efforts at least a dozen prisoners were taken.

The Companies were reorganised and were consolidating in line from BANK FARM to the POMMERN REDOUBT - this was being heavily shelled from 11 AM till 4 PM. Company HQ were established in a dugout at BANK FARM on the roof of which was the machine gun which had caused so much trouble. This dugout had been the Headquarters of the Artillery Officer believed to be a Colonel who was taken prisoner by Sergeant Williams. A number of maps and papers were taken here and sent down to the Brigade. BATTALION H.Q. were now established at PLUM FARM. About 4 PM reports began to come in that things were not going well with the 164 Brigade in front of us and that it was falling back but for some time no confirmation of this was forthcoming.

Company Commanders were warned to be ready to meet a counter attack - the day had been dark and misty and it was impossible to see anything clearly. Some distance away on the left, parties of Germans could be seen and some of them apparently advancing with their hands up - what had happened on the right flank we did not know. FREZENBERG we believed to be in our hands as the enemy appeared to be shelling it. From the reports came in that the 164 Brigade was falling back - small groups of men appeared to be coming back over HILL 35 but there was still no sign of a general withdrawal. The Battalion ? was "standing to" ready to meet a counter attack - our artillery officer came in during the evening and reported that the 164 Brigade had retired and the enemy were holding HILL 35 in force. An ? order arrived from the Brigade ? a general ? up on the BLACK LINE but this involved no change in our own dispositions - it ended by saying that the BLACK LINE was to be held at all costs - it was followed later by another ORDER, directing that the Brigade was to be relieved that night. All efforts were now being directed to bringing up supplies and every man at BATTN. H.Q. who could be spared was put on this job. The shelling was now very violent all round PLUM FARM. A party of 20 (twenty) had been sent for from the FRONT LINE to carry up water etc. - in less than half an hour all but 3 (three) were casualties, eight (8) of them being killed.

During the night the 164 Brigade retired over the BLACK LINE and rain fell heartily."

Roland was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His effects of £1 7s. 9d. were authorised 26 November 1917 and paid to his father, and a War Gratuity was authorised 3 November 1919 and also paid to his father. He is also remembered

on three Leyland memorials - the Church Road Civic Memorial, the Wesleyan Methodist Church WW1 Roll of Honour and the St. Andrews C.E. WW1 Plaque

Note: The Leyland Parish News for September 1917 gives his date of death as 2 August 1917, while the Register of Soldiers Effects gives date of death as between 31 July 1917 and 2 August 1917, which are the recognised dates for this battle.



Image 37. Battle of Pilckem Ridge. Party of German prisoners carrying a British stretcher case over difficult ground on Pilckem Ridge, 31 July 1917. © IWM (Q 5731)

**#305704 Sergeant Charles Naylor
1/8TH KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)**

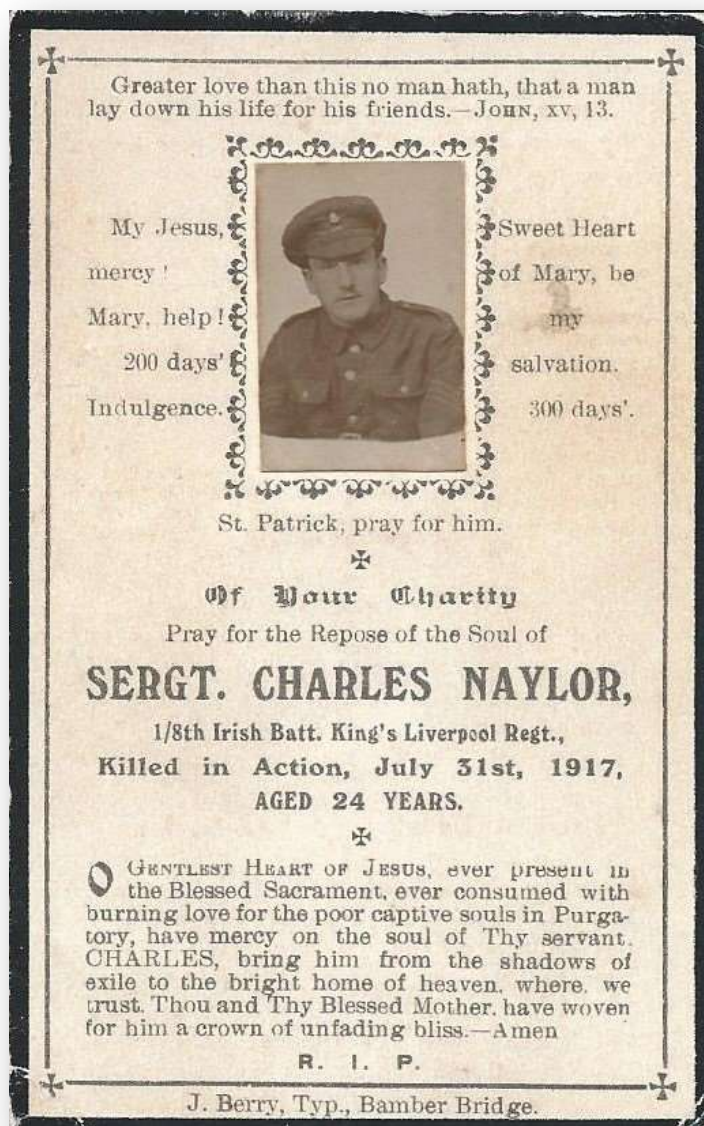


Image 38. Charles Naylor's mass card printed by J Berry of Bamber Bridge. Image courtesy of Helen Saddleton

Charles Naylor was born in 1893 to chemist and druggist James Louis Naylor and Sarah Agnes Naylor (née Dandy). They lived over the shop at 219-221 Station Road in Bamber Bridge, premises still used as a pharmacy by the Boots chain to this day. Before joining up in September 1914, Charles worked as a rating surveyors' clerk.

Charles was promoted to Lance Corporal in November and Corporal on 17 March 1915. He landed in France with his regiment on 3 May and was in action at Festubert on 14 June 1915 where the battalion suffered heavily, the Company Captain was killed and Charles was promoted to Sergeant in the field. Recommended for a commission, he was at Cadet Training School in August and September 1916, before he was recalled because so many N.C.O.'s had been killed. From January to March 1917 he was attached

to a company of Royal Engineers then recalled to his battalion for the Third Battle of Ypres. He was killed in action on the first day of the battle and has never been forgotten.

As part of the First World War Centenary celebrations in 2017 a ring of eight commemorative bells were cast at Taylor's foundry in Loughborough and embarked on a journey from the War Memorial Tower in Loughborough via Tyne Cot Cemetery to St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres. Each bell bears the names of eight men and Charles Naylor was one of them courtesy of Charles' great niece Helen Saddleton and her son Harry.

The church was constructed in the 1920s in memory of the 500,000 British and Commonwealth troops who died in the battles for Ypres. However, there were insufficient funds at the time for bells to be installed and the Bells for St. George project completed the bell tower. On Sunday 22 October 2017, more than 200 people gathered there for the dedication of the bells, which, the church says, will “launch a new perspective to the remembrance of the sacrifice given by so many in [Ypres] during the Great War.”

Charles' medals came up for sale on eBay in 2018. Preston and Central Lancashire WFA were able to alert his family and help reunite them with the medals. The name of Charles Naylor appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial to the missing panel 4 and 6.



Image 39. 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal returned to Charles' family in 2018. Photograph courtesy of Helen Saddleton

#167483 Gunner Richard Leonard Crozier
C BATTERY, CII (102) BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY



Image 40. An Italian selling goods to British troops at Rivasecca. This village was part of the British defences on the Montello and was held by 23rd Division in December 1917. © IWM (Q 26279)

Richard Leonard Crozier (b. 5 October 1877) was the eldest of the Crozier boys who went off to war. Richard became a printer and ran his own business in the area of Three Tuns Yard, Preston. This yard was on North Road near the site of the present day ringway. According to the 1917 Commercial Directory of Preston he was in business with Thomas Leach and Richard C. Pye as Letterpress printers.

Richard married Elizabeth Ellen Walker in the third quarter of 1907. It would seem that the couple were childless as no births have been found. He lived at 69 Selbourne Street, Preston in 1911 and at Walton House, Walton-le-Dale at the time of his death.

It isn't known when or how Richard joined the Royal Field Artillery, but the fact that he received the British War Medal and Victory Medal, but not the 1914 or 1914/15 Star suggests he first saw action after 1 January 1916. Therefore, he could have been a volunteer late in 1915 or a conscripted man after 1 January 1916. 102 Brigade RFA

made up part of the 23rd Division and they saw action in 1916 on the Somme and in 1917 at Messines Ridge and Third Ypres. The division were redeployed to the Italian Front in late 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website has this to say about operations in Italy:

Commonwealth forces were at the Italian front between November 1917 and November 1918. On 4 December 1917, the XIth and XIVth British Corps relieved the Italians on the Montello sector of the Piave front, with the French on their left. The Montello sector acted as a hinge to the whole Italian line, joining that portion facing north from Mount Tomba to Lake Garda with the defensive line of the River Piave covering Venice, which was held by the Third Italian Army. The Commonwealth troops on the sector were not involved in any large operations, but they carried out continuous patrol work across the River Piave, as well as much successful counter battery work.

It is possible that Richard died on 11 December 1917 as a result of an enemy artillery or air attack. He is buried in plot I.E.3 at Giavera British Cemetery, Arcade, Italy. He left £895 7s 11d to his wife in his will.

See also George Stafford Crozier, Henry Cyril Crozier and Robert Harold Crozier

**Second Lieutenant Alexander Drysdale
ROYAL FLYING CORPS**



Image 41. An RE8 with a French Nieuport 27 fighter escort, c. 1916 by Lieutenant Richard Barrett Talbot Kelly. Reproduced from *The Great War As Recorded through the Fine and Popular Arts*, Ed. Sacha Llewellyn and Paul Liss

tobacco warehouse who moved the young family to Penwortham from Glasgow in about 1910.

Alexander signed up for the Royal Flying Corps on 29 August 1917 and went to train at RAF Harlaxton. Many advances were being made in the field of aviation but it was still in its infancy. There had been no standardised primary or basic pilot training until the establishment of the RFC School of Special Flying at RAF Grange, Gosport, Hampshire in 1917. Even so, the training regime was in its early days - machines had quirks and pilots made mistakes.

The Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed on 1 April 1918 by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). Of the four RAF officers from the area who died, three were to perish in aero accidents and one in hospital from as yet unknown causes. Lieutenant John Harrison Gardner (New Longton) died in an accident near Cologne in Germany 9 January 1919. Second Lieutenant William Ernest Seed (Penwortham) died in hospital 12 December 1918. Flight Cadet Stanley Redvers Iddon (Walton-le-Dale) died in an accident while training at RAF Harlaxton 6 September 1918. The first from the area to perish was Alexander Drysdale.

Alexander was born to Alexander and Elizabeth Barker Drysdale in Glasgow in 1899. He was the eldest of five surviving sons born to the couple. Alexander senior was a charge hand at a

On 25 March 1918 Alexander took to the skies in a Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 with his instructor Lieutenant Gordon Smith Mellis Gauld (formerly of the Royal Field Artillery). Gauld was born in Japan to his Canadian missionary parents in 1893 and after qualifying as a pilot became an instructor. The R.E.8 was used for artillery observation, air photography and reconnaissance. It was a heavy craft and it was said that it had a tendency to stall easily if a sensible airspeed was not kept up. A few minutes later the aircraft crashed, from an unknown cause, and both were killed instantly.

Gordon SM Gauld was buried at Grantham, while Alexander's body was brought home to Penwortham and he was interred in the family plot at St. Mary's. His CWGC headstone is inscribed, 'O FOR THE WINGS OF A DOVE'.



Image 42. An RE8 at IWM Duxford. Photograph in the public domain

DEAL 3041 (S) Private Thomas Winder Haydock
ROYAL MARINES MEDICAL UNIT, ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION



Image 43. Thomas Winder Haydock when a young boy. Image courtesy of Les Gregson

Thomas Winder Haydock was born on 25 November 1887 to Robert and Elizabeth Ellen Haydock of Starkie Street Leyland. Robert is shown as a farm labourer in the parish register. Thomas was baptized at St. Andrews, Leyland 8 January 1888.

In 1891 the family were living at their grocery shop at 17 Starkie Street, Leyland. Robert was now described as a master grocer and was 43 years of age and was born in Leyland. His wife Elizabeth Haydock was 41 and was born in Oakenclough. They had five daughters and five sons at home with them - Margaret E, 20, who was a silk and cotton winder, John E, 18, a silk and cotton weaver, Sarah E, 16, a silk and cotton weaver, Catherine, 12, a silk and cotton weaver, Jane, 10, a scholar, Mary A, 7, a

scholar, James, 5, a scholar and Robert, 4, Thomas W, 3, and Oswald who was 3 months of age.

By 1901 the family lived at 23 Turpin Green Lane. Robert was now described as a general labourer again and his wife Elizabeth had taken over the shop-keeping duties. Eight of their ten children were still at home - John E, 28, a general labourer, Catherine, 22, Jane, 19, a cotton winder, Mary A, 17, a cotton winder, James, 15, a labourer at rubber works, Robert, 14, a labourer at rubber works, Thomas W, 13, a cotton winder, and Oswald who was 10 years of age. Elizabeth Winder, Elizabeth's mother, 75, was also living with the family.

In 1911 Thomas was living at 34 East Street, Farington with his father in law, Joe Reed who was 47 and working as a domestic coachman. He was a widower living with his two daughters, Frances Lilian, 23, a cotton weaver (Thomas's wife), Elizabeth Ellen, 19, a cotton weaver, and his son Egbert Sidney, 19, a cotton warehouseman. Thomas was 23 and was a silk weaver. Their daughter Laura Ellen Haydock, 1, was also with the family.

Thomas enlisted with the Royal Marines aged 27 years and 20 days on 15 December 1914 at Manchester and embarked 3rd (RN) Field Ambulance Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF). He was described as being 5 feet 6- and three-quarter inches tall with a fresh complexion and brown eyes and brown hair. 1 March 1915 to 1 December 1915 transferred to re-organised 2nd (RN) Field Ambulance, 16 May 1916 posted to 3rd (RN) Field Ambulance, 5 August 1916 posted to Base Depot Etaples, 28 December 1916 posted to 2nd (RN) Field Ambulance, 3 February 1917 Nephritis, Invalided to UK 20 February 1917; Discharged Invalided 13 July 1917 for "Nephritis." Issued Silver War Badge No. RN13833.

He died at home on 16 March 1918 at 34 East Street, Farington after he had been discharged from the service. The cause of death is described as Bright's Disease (a disease of the kidney usually called acute or chronic nephritis in modern medicine) and Uraemia (the terminal clinical manifestation of kidney failure). The informant was his wife Frances Lillian Haydock who was present at his death. Frances died about a year later and their child, Laura Alice Haydock had predeceased them in 1916. A Mr N. Hargreaves of 21 Turpin Green Lane, Leyland wrote a letter on behalf of Thomas' father Robert of Bent Bridge, Leyland dated 5 May 1919 confirming that Frances and her child were deceased and asked that the War Gratuity be awarded to him. The payment was eventually awarded to Mr. Joe Reed, Frances' father of 34 East Street Farington on 23 April 1921. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

In From the Cold

Thomas was initially remembered on the Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial, described as follows by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC): "The Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial is a memorial to the missing and commemorates casualties with no known grave. The majority of the casualties commemorated by this memorial are servicemen and women from the land forces of the United Kingdom, who subsequently died in the care of their families. They were not commemorated by the Commission at the time but, through the efforts of relatives and research groups, including the "In From The Cold" Project, these casualties have since been found. There are still many cases to be resolved and the memorial therefore allows for further names to be added."

A CWGC headstone was later erected over his burial place at St. Paul's in Farington. Les Gregson recalls: *"Because he died at home in Farington on 16 March 1918 he was not regarded as a war casualty until a campaign to get such people recognised was successful a few years ago. As a result of this I recently managed to get a military headstone effected on his grave in Farington, St Paul's."*



Image 44. The Commonwealth War Grave of Thomas Winder Haydock in the churchyard of St.Paul's, Farington. Image Charles O'Donnell

**#124113 Gunner George Stafford Crozier
231ST SIEGE BATTERY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY**



Image 45. George Stafford Crozier. Image courtesy of John Mitchell

George Stafford Crozier (b. 5 November 1880 Walton-le-Dale) lived in Alfreton, Cheshire and was working as a watchmaker. George married Violet Mable Brighthouse 12 September 1907 at South Wingfield, Derbyshire - Violet's home village. George and Mabel set up shop and home at 54 Bridge Street, Northampton soon afterward. A daughter, Edith Muriel, arrived 20 August 1908. Another daughter, Mary Eileen, arrived 15 May 1912 by which time the family had settled back in the Preston area at 84 Berry Lane, Longridge.

George attested with the Royal Garrison Artillery on 9 December 1915 and was posted to the Army Reserve the following day. He was mobilized 27 October 1916 and posted the same day. On 28 October 1916 he joined RGA No.2 Depot. He was eventually posted to 231st

Siege Battery RGA in the field on 17 September 1917. This was the battery he was with at the time of his death.

George went home on a two-week furlough from 28 February to 14 March 1918. His daughter Mary Eileen would later remember this leave. She said that it was memorable because her father took her and her big sister to a local toy shop where he bought her a purse - an item she still had in her possession in 2008.

George returned to the front about one week before the German Army launched their spring 1918 offensive, Operation Michael. He was with his battery near Amiens when

they were probably overrun by this offensive. He was buried near to where he fell on 29 March 1918 in an isolated grave, 13 miles south of Amiens, 20 miles due west of Roye, 10 miles SW of the High road from Amiens to Roye.

Mabel received a letter along with George's belongings 15 July 1918. The items returned were 8 unopened letters, a newspaper, pocket book, diary, watch chain, knife, photos, cards, wallet, pencil, purse, wrist watch and a testament. George's body was later exhumed 18 January 1921 and reburied along with many of his comrades in the extension to Mezieres Communal Cemetery

See also Henry Cyril Crozier, Richard Leonard Crozier and Robert Harold Crozier.



Image 46. British soldiers including the Buckinghamshire Territorial Battalion milking abandoned cows, near Roye, 26th March 1918. © IWM (Q 10835)

#12517 Guardsman Reuben Brown
1ST SCOTS GUARDS



Image 47. Guardsman Reuben Brown in Uniform. Image courtesy of Christine Waller.

Reuben Brown was born at Leyland in 1898 to Reuben Brown and his second wife Margaret Todd. He lived with his parents at Tank Cottage, Mill Lane, Leyland and was working as a blacksmith when he joined up. He enlisted on 8 December 1914 at Preston aged 19 years and 2 months. He was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Scots Guards. His medical examination showed that he stood 5 foot 9 inches tall and weighed 151 pounds (10 stones 11 pounds). His chest was 37.5 inches in diameter with a 3-inch expansion. He had a mole on his left breast and he had perfect 6/6 vision in both eyes. In fact, he was described as in "Good physical condition".

From Preston, Reuben first went to Caterham Barracks in Surrey before moving on to the Wellington Barracks in

Westminster. These Barracks are around three hundred yards from Buckingham Palace and are still used by foot guards' battalions undertaking public duties in the area. Reuben was given a further physical examination 22 May 1915 at Wellington where he was passed fit for military service. He then embarked for France where he landed on 24 May 1915 and was then transferred immediately to the 2nd Battalion (part of the 7th Division at that time).

At the time of his landing in France, the 2nd Battalion were engaged at the Battle of Festubert, but as that battle ended 25 May 1915 it is very unlikely that Reuben would have seen action there. The 2nd saw their next action at Givenchy on 15 and 16 June 1915. This action was in response to a plea by the French Army who were being pressurised at Arras. To relieve this pressure the 7th Division attacked the German

lines at Givenchy, which they took on 15 June. However, they lost it again the next day in a German counter offensive. The battle ended in a stalemate costing the lives of 368 men and 19 officers on the allied side.

The 2nd Battalion were next in action at the Battle of Loos between 25 September and 8 October 1915. It was the biggest British attack of 1915, the first time that the British used poison gas and the first mass engagement of New Army units. The French and British tried to break through the German defences in Artois and Champagne and restore a war of movement. Despite improved methods, more ammunition and better equipment, the Franco-British attacks were contained by the German armies, except for local losses of ground. British casualties at Loos were about twice as high as German losses (59,247 casualties and losses)

Having survived these two battles Reuben was wounded 17 July 1916. He sustained a gunshot wound to his right arm. It is likely that he was sniped at when in his trench or was wounded as part of a raiding party. He was at first evacuated to the 9 Field Ambulance 18 July then onto the 12 Casualty Clearing Station at Hazebrouck the same day. From there he went to one of the many field hospitals near Boulogne on 19 July and on 21 July he was invalided home to England. He had been on the western front for 1 year and 59 days. He was transferred back to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion 22 July and was admitted to the 2nd Northern General Hospital in Leeds the same day. He remained in hospital until 22 August 1916.

Reuben was again posted to Wellington Barracks in Westminster. There were two offences reported against him at this time. On 12 January 1917 he was charged with "Creating a disturbance in the Barrack Room after "lights out"" and was sentenced to 2 days confined to barracks the following day. Being confined to barracks was sometimes referred to as "jankers", and men would be expected to perform menial time-consuming tasks. On 22 January 1918 Reuben turned up for guard duty at St. James's Palace whereupon he was rejected for duty. The charge sheet doesn't show why. The following day he was sentenced to 3 days confined to barracks and was ordered to "Make Good Guard".

It was then almost time for Reuben to return to France. He was again examined at Wellington Barracks on 26 February 1918 and was found fit for military service. He married his sweetheart Christine Aramina Angus at the Clifton Hotel in Blackpool 28 March 1918. Two days later on 30 March 1918 he was back in France and was transferred to the 1st Battalion. He had been convalescing and serving at home for a total of 1 year and 251 days.

Over in northern France, Reuben and the 1st Scots Guards were plunged almost immediately into a series of battles that became known as The Battle of the Lys (1918). These battles from 7 to 29 April 1918, were part of the 1918 German offensive in Flanders, also known as the Spring Offensive. It was originally planned by General Ludendorff as Operation George but was reduced to Operation Georgette, with the objective of capturing Ypres, forcing the British forces back to the

channel ports and out of the war. In planning, execution and effects, Georgette was similar to (although smaller than) Operation Michael, earlier in the Spring Offensive.

The 1st Scots Guards were involved in three smaller battles in this series. The Battle of Estaires from 9 to 11 April, the Battle of Hazebrouck from 12 to 15 April and the Battle of Bethune on the 18 April. French reinforcements arrived in the latter part of April, the Germans had suffered many casualties, especially among the *stoßtruppen* and attacks toward Hazebrouck failed. It was clear that Georgette could not achieve its objectives; on 29 April the German high command called off the offensive.

Little is known about Reuben's death in action on 17 May 1918. His battalion was not engaged in any battles that day. The fact he was at first posted missing would suggest he may have been killed on a raiding party. In this second stint in France he served a total of 49 days. Reuben's son, also Reuben second name Francis, was born on 10 December 1918. A pension note dated 14 January 1919 awarded 20 shillings and 5 pence per week for Christine and Reuben Francis.

See also George Brown and Cornwall Mackerel.



Image 48. Guardsman Reuben Brown in Uniform with his wife Christine. Image courtesy of Christine Waller.

#13965 Private James Anselm Darwen
2/4TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT



Image 49. Gravestone memorial to James Anselm Darwen at the family plot, St. Mary's churchyard, Bamber Bridge. Image Charles O'Donnell.

James Anselm Darwen was born in 1891 to Robert and Margaret Darwen (nee Wrigley). In 1901 James was living at 7 James Street, Bamber Bridge with his parents who were both 39 years old. Robert was a self-employed window cleaner who was born at Whittle-le-Woods. James' siblings were Mary (15), a cotton weaver, Margaret (13) a cotton spinner, Teresa (12), a cotton weaver, Martha (7) and Robert (2). Everyone else in the household was born in Bamber Bridge.

By 1911, Robert Darwen had become a maltster and brewer and the family had moved to 20 Sergeant Street, Bamber Bridge. Margaret was looking after the house and the family had been joined by another son, Austin Bernard (8). Mary was still a

weaver, as were Margaret, Martha and Teresa. James had become an omnibus driver, while the younger Robert was a mule-spinner. Austin was at school.

Between 1911 and 1914, James moved from driving a bus to become a carrier for Hopwood Brothers, a firm of carriers based on Station Road in Bamber Bridge. He joined up in Preston aged 23 years and 4 months on 2 September 1914. His medical examination showed he was 5 feet 5 and a quarter inches tall and weighed 136 pounds. His chest measured 37 inches girth with a 3-inch expansion. He had a fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair and had 6/6 (normal) vision. The following day he was posted to the 8th Battalion L.N.L. A few weeks before his embarkation to France, James married Annie Amelia Andress at All Saints, Bournemouth on 31 July 1915. The ceremony was conducted by A.P. Armand and witnessed by two members of the bride's family, C.A.B. Andress and B.M. Andress.

James was transferred to HQ, Brigade Unit, 74th Infantry Brigade 26 August 1915 and arrived in France 25 September 1915. He was posted to the 2nd / 4th Battalion L.N.L. 7 May 1918 and was killed in action 28 September 1918 in fighting near Cambrai. It is not known if James was survived by any children, but his widow Annie was awarded a pension of 13/9 per week from 21 April 1919. James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. James also appears on the Bamber Bridge - Brownedge St. Mary's R.C. War Memorial

James' younger brother Robert was also killed in action earlier the same year.



Image 50. The civilian population leaving Cambrai, September 1918. The British 57th Division and the Canadians entered Cambrai on 8 October 1918. © IWM (Q 55406)

**#28939 Corporal John McNamara VC
9TH EAST SURREY REGIMENT**



Image 51. John McNamara in uniform. Photograph in the public domain

John McNamara VC is arguably the most famous of all the soldiers, sailors and airmen from the South Ribble area, and one of the few to have his own memorial which stands nearby his old house.

John was born in 1887 to John Thomas McNamara and Margaret McNamara (nee Kelly) in Walton-le-Dale. His parental heritage was Irish, his grandfather (also John) was born in Ireland about 1842. In 1911, John was living with his uncle, John Eckersley at 6 Charnley Fold, Bamber Bridge and was working as a ring jobber at A. S. Orr's cotton mill. He was courting his future wife Mary Ann Atkinson of Higher Walton and they married in 1912 at the Preston register office. They would go on to have four children together.

John's service record does not survive, but we know from various records that he at first enlisted as Private #25097 in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and transferred 9 April 1918 along with the entire 10th Loyals to the 9th East Surreys under Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Cameron to reconstitute that battalion after their horrendous losses during the German Spring offensive. He is famous for the gallant action that won him the British Army's highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross. All VC awards are published in the London Gazette, the official public record. The edition dated 15 November 1918 reads as follows:

No. 28939 Cpl. John McNamara, E. Surr. R. (Preston). For conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty. When operating a telephone in evacuated enemy trenches occupied by his battalion, Cpl. McNamara realised that a determined enemy counter-attack was gaining ground. Rushing to join the nearest post, he made the most effective use of a revolver taken from a wounded officer. Then seizing a Lewis gun, he continued to fire it till it jammed. By this time he was alone in the post. Having

destroyed his telephone, he joined the nearest post, and again displayed great courage and initiative in maintaining Lewis gun fire until reinforcements arrived. It is undoubtedly due to the magnificent courage and determination of Pte. McNamara that the other posts were enabled to hold on, and his fine example of devotion is worthy of the highest praise.

The VC award was made posthumously. John was killed in action 16 October 1918 in fighting in and around the town of Haussy, where the East Surreys were pushing the Germans back in what was increasingly becoming a mobile war as the German army began to crack. He is buried at the Romeries Communal Cemetery near the town of Solesmes. He is remembered by a plaque on an earth bank where his house used to stand in School Lane, Bamber Bridge, and his is one of the names on the Brownedge St. Mary R.C. Memorial at Brownedge Green, Bamber Bridge.



Image 52. Commemorative medal struck in recognition of the VC award. Purchased by South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre and reproduced here with their permission

On 22 November 1918, John's C.O., Lieutenant Colonel Ewen A. Cameron wrote to his widow offering to accompany her to receive the Victoria Cross (see image). The medal was presented 27 February 1920 by King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

For many years John's VC was housed in the East Surrey Museum based in the stately Clandon House in Surrey. In 2015 a catastrophic electrical fire took hold and completely destroyed the interior of the building. It was thought that the VC and other priceless artifacts of the regiment were lost. Miraculously, the VC survived in a bank

vault along with other medals and papers belonging to the regiment. In 2018 the VC will be returned to the area on loan.

As a community we are proud of John's actions. His VC citation is brief and does not mention the fact that John also helped evacuate the wounded from the action together with an officer and that the following morning they returned for the dead to give them a proper burial. His was and still is a great example to everyone and we hope that by exhibiting the medal in 2018 will reinvigorate his legacy.



Image 53. The great great great Grandson of John McNamara salutes by the John McNamara VC Paving Stone, McNamara Gardens, Bamber Bridge 2018. Photograph courtesy of South Ribble Borough Council

**#11325 Private Joseph Ainsworth
6TH KING'S OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT)**

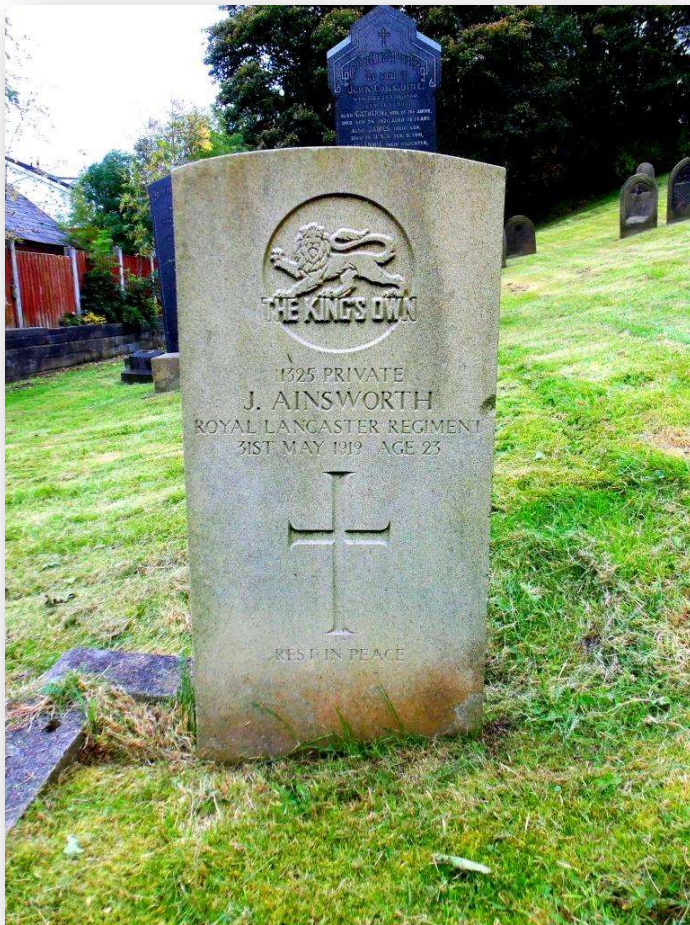


Image 54. Joseph Ainsworth's grave in the churchyard of Our Lady and St. Patrick in Walton-le-Dale. Image Charles O'Donnell.

Joseph Ainsworth was born 26 August 1896 in Goosnargh to Mary-Ann Ainsworth and her late husband. In 1911 he was living with his mother at 23 Chorley Road, Walton-le-Dale, and his three sisters and two brothers, Mary Alice (31) born Preston - who has no listed trade or occupation, but seems to have been helping her mother at home, Ann born Claughton (25) a Weaver. Christopher (20) born Goosnargh a labourer, Edward (17) a Weaver born Goosnargh (who was also to die in the war) and Winnifred (10), born Walton-le-Dale. In Civilian life, Joseph was employed as a Sap Peacer in the cardroom at Higher Walton Mill.

Some interesting documents still survive from Joseph's service record, mainly pertaining to his various medical conditions that he

suffered throughout his service. He enlisted 11 August 1914 for the duration of the war.

Joseph was vaccinated 1 April 1915 and Inoculated 6 May 1915. He was admitted to hospital in Gallipoli 30 November 1915. He then went to Basra via Port Said and invalided to India by H.S. Varela on 18 December 1916. He seems to have contracted Malaria straight away, being admitted to hospital 25 December 1916. He spent the next few years in India, returning home 10 February 1919.

Physically, he was described as being 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighed in at 102 lbs and had a chest expansion of 34 inches with an expansion of 2 inches. His eyesight tests show that he had some visual impairment. His right eye had a score of 6/18 which means that he had relatively good visual acuity but a significantly reduced field of vision. His left eye scored 6/24 which means he had a combination of slightly reduced visual

acuity and a reduced field of vision or having blurriness or cloudiness in his central vision.

On Army Form B 179a, 'STATEMENT BY A SOLDIER CONCERNING HIS OWN CASE', Joseph has given us some rich information about his service. He served in the Dardanelles for 6 months, Mesopotamia for 18 months, India for 12 months and Salonica for 2 months. He wrote,

"I am suffering from Rheumatism since I was in the Dardanelles in 1915 from getting wet through in the trenches at the time of the flood. I am also suffering from nazal cattar while in Mesopotamia, through getting my nose full of dust, the discharge that should come down my nose goes down the back of my throte."

Joseph goes on to say that he had treatment at "29th B H Salonica I had treatment for Rimattisiam + Nazal Cattar." He states that he was fit before his army service. The document was signed in Reading War Hospital 8 March 1919. Joseph spent a total of 28 days in Reading War Hospital from 10 February 1919 to 10 March 1919 suffering from Enteritis. He was discharged to the dispersal hospital in Oxford. He was officially transferred to Class "Z" of the Reserves 9 April 1919 and died at home 31 May 1919.

Joseph also appears on the Walton-le-Dale St. Leonard's C.E. WW1 Plaque and the Walton-le-Dale - Our Lady and St. Patricks R.C. Crucifix. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

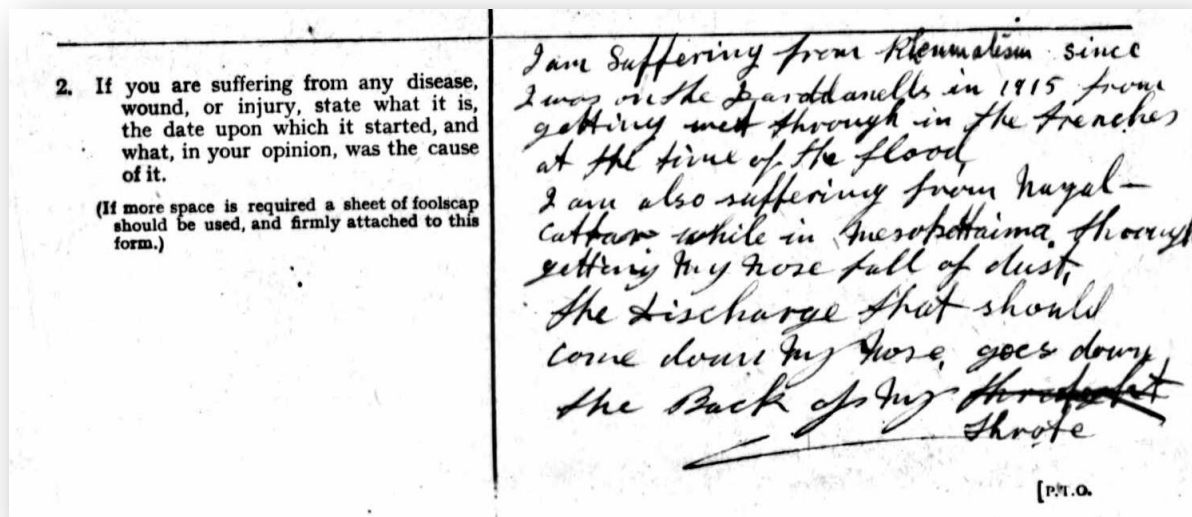


Image 55. A cutting from the record where Joseph gives a statement on his health. Image from Joseph's service record via Ancestry.co.uk

John Francis Vervloet
BELGIAN REFUGEE

John Francis Vervloet helped ordinary Belgians flee the German advance before being reunited with his family who had found refuge in Leyland. The Chorley Weekly News of Saturday 30 January 1915 recorded his exploits.

Last Friday week saw the happy reunion of a poor Belgian refugee with his wife and children. Francis Vervloet is an engine driver. On returning to his house in Antwerp at noon on October 7th he found a placard on the door to say that his wife and children had gone to Ostend. In the same house were the children of the stationmaster, frightened and crying. The mother had gone to Dendermonde to bring into safety her mother, the father attending to his duties.

Mr Vervloet left the children in the care of friends and went to the station which was literally packed with refugees. With two other railwaymen he took several journeys conveying refugees from Antwerp to Esschen. Later, owing to preparation for the German advance, the trains could not return to Antwerp, but were held up at Esschen. A part of three days he spent on the train with nothing to eat but three small turnips. Worse than his own hunger was the hunger of the children, who were crying for milk and even for the water used to feed the engine. At last, on October 10th, they succeeded in reaching Rosendawl in Holland where they were provided with food.

The Dutch provided for them as well as they could, the women and children often in convents. If they had money and did not work, they had to pay one franc per day for food: if the men found work and were willing to do it, their employer paid the franc.

Mr Vervloet found work in a coalyard and was very pleased to be able to keep his money. The food consisted of soup and bread, with twice a week a small piece of meat. His great anxiety was to find his wife and children and to that end he wrote to all the bureaux and inserted notices in the papers, but could not hear anything. Then from an acquaintance he learned they were with relatives who had gone to London. He succeeded in following them there, arriving at Alexandra Palace on January 8th. There he remained for nine days trying, at first unsuccessfully, to locate his family.

He was told to apply at the office of the General Registrar, Somerset House, where he found that his wife and children were safe in the Old Vicarage, Leyland. He at once wrote to his wife and the news was brought to the knowledge of the Vicar, who lost no time in taking the necessary steps to restore him to his family. Over the joy of that re-union we draw a veil

**Quartermaster Marion Ferguson Foster M.B.E.
RED CROSS VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT**

Marion Ferguson Foster was born 26 May 1881 to James Yates Foster, an engineer born in Preston and Elizabeth Stuart Foster born in Scotland. She was baptized 31 July 1881 in Fulwood. The church in which she was baptized is not given in the records.

By 1891 she was living at Whitefriars, Liverpool Road, Penwortham with her parents, siblings and staff. James was 35 and a printers engineer and Elizabeth was 33. Marion had two younger brothers John H. (7) and Frank (6) both born like her in Fulwood. Lily C Franklin (27) was their school governess born in London, Jane Johnstone (20) a housemaid born in Scotland and Annie Preston, a cook (23) born in St.Michaels on Wyre.

In 1901 Marion was living at North Street, Daventry with her Uncle Harold W Johnson (36), a clergyman / school master and Aunt Sarah A Johnson (34), both from Preston. As well as Aunt and Uncle, her cousins Muriel (10), Phyllis (8) and Harold (6), all born in Daventry. There was also a schoolmaster and a matron, 20 boys and four other staff.

Marion began work at the Moor Park Hospital on 4 August 1914 with the rank of Quartermaster. Her duties were varied but included canteen duty, depot duty and she was also the head clerk of the hospital. To begin with she was working part time on canteen duty until 11 August 1914 then moved to depot duty, also part time until 4 January 1915 when she became a full-time member of staff. Marion had the entire charge of the Admission and Discharge Books. She was still serving 15 May 1919 when her VAD certificates were completed and her service was voluntary unpaid throughout.

Marion was awarded the MBE, specifically for her work in Moor Park Hospital. The London Gazette dated 26 March 1920 p.3831 reads: "Miss Marion Ferguson Foster. X-Ray Worker at Preston Infirmary and Moor Park Auxiliary Hospital." The London Gazette dated 27 July 1920 p.7854 reads "Miss Marion Ferguson Foster. Secretarial services at Moor Park Auxiliary Hospital."

For more information about the work of the Voluntary Aid Detachments during WW1, visit the [British Red Cross website](http://www.britishredcross.org).

**#58342 Sapper Robert Harold Crozier
SIGNALLING DEPOT, ROYAL ENGINEERS**

Robert Harold Crozier (23 June 1886) lived with his parents at 6 North Ribble Street and later at Walton House in Walton-le-Dale. He went into an apprenticeship with E. Dewhurst at their Mount Street Works in Preston about 1900.

Robert attested at Preston on 4 December 1914. He went along to the attestation armed with recommendations from his employers testifying to his character and his ability in the field of electrics. He was examined for service with the Royal Engineers and his standard was found to be very good. There is a paper on his service file which shows that he was specially selected for service with the RE. It was remarked that he was an "Intelligent and active recruit very promising for expert branch."

Details from his physical examination show that he stood 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed 142 pounds. His chest measured 36 inches and expanded 3 inches. He also had a small mole at the base of his neck.

The rest of the records are indistinct but show that he was posted to the signalling depot of the Royal Engineers 10 May 1915. He first served abroad in Egypt, landing there 29 July 1915. Robert suffered from dysentery and between 20 March and 22 April 1916 he was treated for this condition at 2nd General Hospital in Manchester and he continued to have abdominal problems throughout his service. He was treated for a gunshot wound to his right buttock and a shrapnel injury to his eyelid in October 1918. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Robert married Emily Parkinson in the first quarter of 1923. They named their son Henry Cyril (b.1924) after Robert's brother.

See also George Stafford Crozier, Henry Cyril Crozier and Richard Leonard Crozier

20858 Private Arthur Albert Carter
11TH & 6TH LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT



Image 56. Arthur Albert Carter later in life with his wife and granddaughter. Image courtesy of Barbara Clarkson

Arthur Albert Carter was born 4 May 1894 at Walton-le-Dale to Robert Carter, a cotton weaver born at Brindle c. 1868 and Mary Elizabeth Carter (nee Robinson) born at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire c.1868.

Arthur was one of three children born to Robert and Mary. Harriet Ada was born at Walton-le-Dale c. 1895 and Mabel Florence born Walton-le-Dale c. 1904. In 1901, the family lived at 5 Taberner Terrace, Houghton Lane, Higher Walton. By 1911, they had moved to Higher Walton Road, Walton-le-Dale, a little closer to Preston.

Arthur started his working life as a boot maker with his mother running the shop he worked in. In 1913, his father was listed in Barrett's Directory as an overlooker at a local mill and also proprietor of the boot and shoe makers shop at 261 Station Road, Bamber Bridge. When he signed up for the Army in 1915, this spelled the end for the shop as it could not continue to run without him.

Arthur enlisted with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 22 May 1915. He was 21 years of age. He initially joined with the 11th (Reserve) Battalion, but moved on to the 6th (Service) Battalion at some point later. He put down his mother's name on his Soldiers Small Book as his next of kin at 241 Station Road, Bamber Bridge. We know from his demobilization records that he served with "D" Company, 6th Battalion L.N.L. in Mesopotamia. It is not known at the time of writing whether he joined the battalion in time for the campaign in Gallipoli. His trade as a shoe maker was called upon while serving, at least from November 1917 to March 1919. He left the middle-east at the end of December 1918, headed for the dispersal unit at Heaton Park, Manchester. He was officially demobilized 20 May 1919, transferring to the "Z" reserve the following day.

The family had moved to 25 Carr Street, and Arthur headed here once he had been handed his papers. The full documentation relating to his demobilization still exists and I was privileged enough to be invited to his daughter, Barbara Clarkson's home to take copies and also take some photographs of his medals.

The story doesn't end here. Arthur joined "C" Company of the 9th County of Lancaster Home Guard on 8 January 1942 when he lived at 7 Havelock Terrace, Bamber Bridge. He was given the rank of Lance Corporal. His proficiency record shows the tests he undertook, including training with the Sten gun.

#612534 Corporal Cornwall Mackerel
LABOUR CORPS

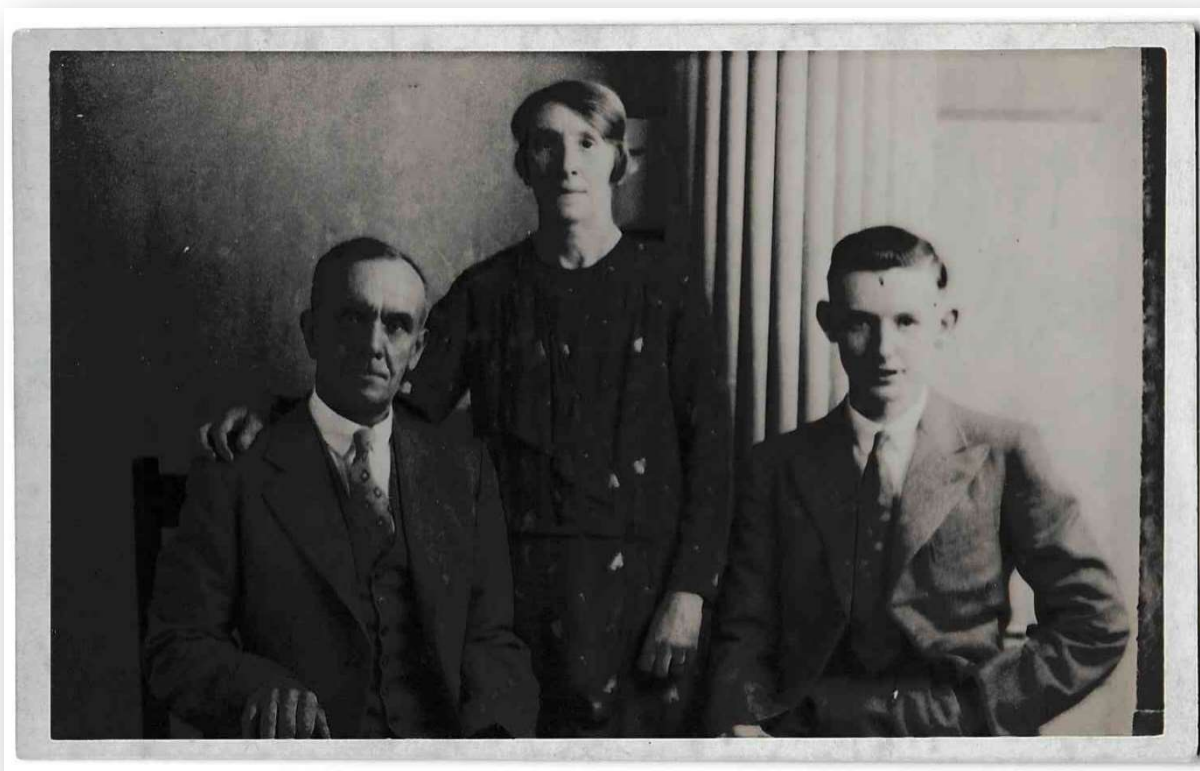


Image 57. Cornwall and Clara Mackerel with Reuben Francis Brown. With special thanks to Christine Waller of Lostock Hall for access to photographs and medals.

Cornwall Mackerel was born at Leyland to John and Mary Mackerel on 6 Oct 1875. His first job after leaving school was a bleacher, most probably at Stanning's and Co. in Leyland.

Cornwall joined the 4th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment as a Private on 12 May 1894 later attesting for the 1st Battalion at Preston 27 December 1894 for a full 12 years service. He was aged 19 years and 3 months. When he was examined, he was found to be 5 feet 4.25 inches tall, weighed 8 Stones and 8 pounds with a 33.5-inch chest and an expansion to 35.5 inches. He was described as having a sallow complexion with hazel eyes and brown hair. He had a tattoo of a stag's head on the back of his left hand and a man's head with an anchor on his left forearm.

Cornwall at first trained and was stationed at home from 27 December 1894 to 21 October 1896 before shipping out to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) from 22 October 1896 to 10 February 1899. He then moved to South Africa where he was stationed from 11 February 1899 to 3 October 1902. During this time, he saw action during the Second Boer War at the battles of Belmont, Modder River, Orange Free State and Transvaal. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps for the aforementioned

battles and later the King's South Africa Medal with South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902 clasps.

Cornwall returned home to complete the rest of his service from 4 October 1902 to 26 December 1906. During this period, he married Clara Brown in the second quarter of 1905. Clara was the full sister of George Brown and the half-sister of Reuben Brown above.

When the Great War came, Cornwall re-enlisted in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and was promoted to Corporal due to his earlier service. Little is known about his exploits in the war, other than he was transferred at some point to the Labour Corps. This sometimes happened to older soldiers who were not fit for front line duties. He was awarded the 1914-15 star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal to put alongside his earlier South African campaign medals.

Upon the death of Reuben Brown, Cornwall and Clara took his son Reuben Francis Brown into their care. He was still living with them at number 70 Leyland Lane at the time of the 1939 registration.

See also George Brown and Reuben Brown.



Image 58. Focus on the Campaign clasps on the Queen's South Africa Medal. With special thanks to Christine Waller of Lostock Hall for access to photographs and medals.

