

## Baines Wartime Memories Project



### Introduction

The School did a great deal to ensure they kept in touch with the Old Boys during both World Wars. In WWII the School sent Christmas parcels to each and every Old Boy serving in the Forces, at one time this was over three hundred. Since the World Wars the School has produced two unique war memorials, one for WWI and one for WWII. It is hoped that this can be added to by those past Pupils who have died whilst in the services post-WWII.

The War Memorials are unique as they contain names of all the Old Boys serving in conflicts ranging from one who was possibly at school for less than a year to others that had many generations at School. Serving members of the Armed Services are named on town and regimental memorials but not collectively as these are. At least one Old Boy does not appear on any other War Memorial as he had been discharged from the army before he died, a matter of a few months, so the School war memorial becomes very important. After WWI the School started its Book of Remembrance, which covers 1914 to 1919, as some OB died after the end of the War. After WWII due to the tireless efforts of Mr Rawes a Memorial Reading Desk, still in the school hall, and its panels on the back wall, was bought and the names of the fallen added.

So why produce this document and why now?

Firstly, the Reading Desk was officially unveiled in in 1953, nearly 70 years ago so it seemed a fitting epitaph to this. Also the names of the fallen, on these memorials are just names, unconnected and soon they will be forgotten. Reading their backstories has revealed some fascinating facts that need to be kept in the school archive. The tales of heroism and tragedy need to be reunited with the Boys. Therefore, I felt it was time to put this omission correct and write about them, so that future generations can see the family of Baines that we lost.

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.**

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### About the author

I am not going to blow my own trumpet but as with the names I thought I would add my backstory. I am not an historian, I was an ICT teacher, teaching for 25 years at Baines. Prior to that I was at Colchester. Having lived for nine years in Colchester, a large garrison town steeped in military history from the time of Boudica and the Romans to modern times I became very interested in military history. My father was an officer in the RAF Military Police, stationed in Egypt and my grandfather was one of the lucky ones in the Somme who survived that WWI but returned home with injuries. Those injuries could well have saved his life. He had fingers blown off when an incendiary bomb exploded near the trench he was in, the soldier in front of him took the blast, my grandfather lost fingers on his right hand and could not hold a rifle and was discharged from the Royal Engineers.

Since leaving the School I helped develop the Baines Alumni and became its Secretary and during the Covid Pandemic 2020-2022 I was president of the Former Pupils Association. I produced the monthly newsletter for the Alumni which contained a great deal of history of the School and its former pupils, therefore this document seemed like a natural progression.

This '*little*' project started when I read the book, '*Aubrey's Brief Lives*' by John Aubrey, the sixteenth century scientist. This book contained information about some of his friends giving some of their back history. Some of these people were well known like Samuel Pepys others were not and would never have been remembered without Aubrey's intervention.

Having always been interested in history I decided that those former pupils who died in the World Wars needed more than just a name in a book or on a memorial, their stories needed to be told before they are forgotten for ever.

As a technologist and author (of technical books) I had all the items I needed at hand to translate the scanned Poultonians and search the internet for information.

**David J Astall**

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### The Books

As these books are permanently in progress it is hoped that other stories and facts can be added as well extending this project in future to include those that died in more recent conflicts. It is a book where the lives of these Old Boys are fascinating and gives a social history of the lives of those that fought for this country.

Two of the books relate to the names on the School War Memorials, the third is slightly different in that it gives an insight to those Boys that survived the Second World War.

**Book 1** – which gives information about those Boys that are named in the Book of Remembrance.

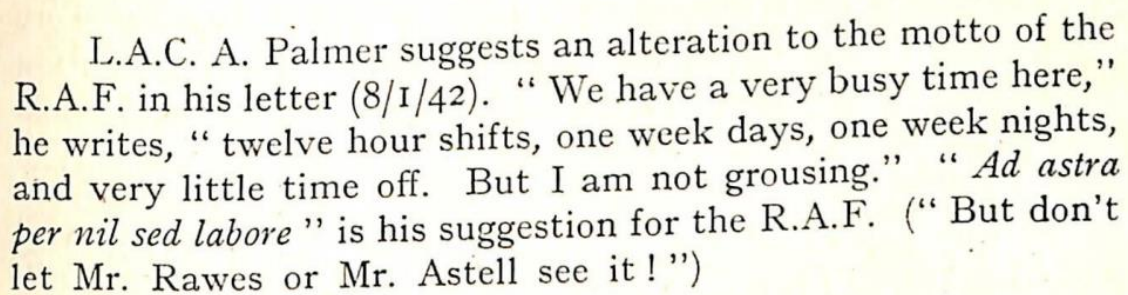
**Book 2** – which gives information about the 71 Boys that gave their lives in World War II and are remembered on the School Reading Desk.

**Book 3** – the correspondence from the OB to the Poultonian Magazine that gives some insight to their lives in WWII.

### Digitising the items from the School Magazine, the Poultonian

This seems a simple task, but it is quite time consuming. Firstly, every Poultonian in the 1940s needs to be read to find information and correspondence from the OB. Prior to this all the Poultonians in the 1940s had to be scanned and digitised and I thank Robert Wright, Former Pupil for doing this.

So, each paragraph is then highlighted, copied and pasted in a document, for example: This is from the April 1942 magazine.



L.A.C. A. Palmer suggests an alteration to the motto of the R.A.F. in his letter (8/1/42). "We have a very busy time here," he writes, "twelve hour shifts, one week days, one week nights, and very little time off. But I am not grouching." "*Ad astra per nil sed labore*" is his suggestion for the R.A.F. ("But don't let Mr. Rawes or Mr. Astell see it!")

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

When it is copied and pasted this is the result (and this is one of the good ones!) . You will notice the original page is slightly skewed therefore the Optical Character Recognition software reads it differently.

L.A.C. A. Palmer suggests an alteration to the motto of the R.A.F. in his letter (8/1/42). "We have a very busy time here, he writes, "twelve hour shifts, one week days, one week mgs, and very little time off. But I am not grousii^ . „ . f^ per nil sed Lahore" is his suggestion for the R.A. . ( ^ on let Mr. Rawes or Mr. Asfell see it! )

Using the original copy, the corrections need to be made and the paragraph's layout changed to match the rest of the document. If other information is needed to be checked then it's a visit to the Internet to search and add details.

The result is the corrected paragraph:

**L.A.C. A. Palmer** suggests an alteration to the motto of the R.A.F. in his letter (8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942). "We have a very busy time here, he writes, "twelve-hour shifts, one week days, one week nights, and very little time off. But I am not grousing" "Ad astra per nil sed labore" is his suggestion for the R.A.F. (But don't let Mr. Rawes or Mr. Astell see it!). [ *Translation: To the stars through nothing but hard work. That actual motto of the RAF is: Per Ardua Ad Astra, which means Through adversity to the stars*].

Then onto the next paragraph.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### Finding the WWI war dead


Sometimes it is quite difficult trying to find the information about the OBs that died in WWI and takes a bit of searching, this can produce good results or not as the case may be. First of all, it cannot be assumed that all the Boys were born on the Fylde, that makes it more difficult to find them, also records can sometimes be incorrect, even the official ones.

Let's take an example:

This is all we know of Arthur Pope who is recorded as a Private in the Royal Engineers.

As I could not find his name in the Royal Engineers database, I had to carry out an electronic search on the 22639 members of the Royal Engineers who died in the Great War. This meant downloading the database and searching for 'Pope'; only to find that the military records we had on Arthur were incorrect and he wasn't a Royal Engineer.

Now there is an issue as millions died in WWI and to go through them all would be impossible. So another tack is used, the Rolls of Honour. The lists of people that died in the War and then match these to the name and rank, hoping the rank is correct. Eventually after three hours I had found him in De Ruvigny Roll of Honour. This is the correct Arthur Pope as he was educated at Baines Grammar School.



**Alfred William H. Pope.**

IN ACTION OVER 14 NOV. 1916; *unn.*

**POPE, ARTHUR**, Private, No. 8933, 13th (Service) Battn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.), only s. of Fred Pope, of Hollywood, Fleetwood Road, Thornton-le-Fylde, by his wife, Mary E.; b. Runcorn, co. Chester, 15 Jan. 1896; educ. Baines's Grammar School, Poulton-le-Fylde, and on leaving there entered the laboratory at the Thornton Alkali Works, where he became Assistant Chemist; enlisted 26 Oct. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 2 Feb. 1916, and died 16 July following, from wounds received in action at Pozieres the previous day. Buried in Heilly Cemetery; *unn.*

The listing is now complete.

**Name:** **Arthur Pope**  
**Serial No.:** 8933  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battn., The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)  
**Service:** Served with the Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France and Flanders  
**Date of death:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
**Age:** 20  
**Where born/lived:** Born in Runcorn on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1896 before moving to Thornton Cleveleys. At 15 he was an Assistant Chemist at the Thornton Alkali Works, where his father Fred worked (ICI).  
**Cemetery:** Heilly Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme, France  
**Notes:** Died from wounds received on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916 in action at Pozieres, France

IN ACTION OVER 14 NOV. 1916; *unn.*

**POPE, ARTHUR**, Private, No. 8933, 13th (Service) Battn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.), only s. of Fred Pope, of Hollywood, Fleetwood Road, Thornton-le-Fylde, by his wife, Mary E.; b. Runcorn, co. Chester, 15 Jan. 1896; educ. Baines's Grammar School, Poulton-le-Fylde, and on leaving there entered the laboratory at the Thornton Alkali Works, where he became Assistant Chemist; enlisted 26 Oct. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 2 Feb. 1916, and died 16 July in action at Pozieres the previous day. Buried.

## **Baines Wartime Memories Project**

### **Finally**

These documents are gleaned from information from a large number of resources therefore some of the information may be incorrect. Where possible this has been reported and changes asked to be made. However, if you find any errors or information that you need to add then please contact me.

**David J Astall**

# **Baines Wartime Memories Project**

## **Book 1**



## **World War I**

The school hall houses the Book and Monument for Remembrance for all those Boys and Staff who died in The Great War. The Monument contains names of those who died from 1914 to 1919 but as you will see from the following pages this should be 1914 to 1920.

I am indebted to the work carried out by Former Pupil, Robert Wright on the school's Book of Remembrance where Robert has listed each of the war dead that appear on the school war memorial.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### Royal Navy and Merchant Navy



**William was the only member of the RN to die in the Great war in the School**

**Name:** William Moss

**Serial No.:** 17316DA

**Rank:** Deck Hand

**Regiment:** RN Reserve

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917

**Age:** 33

**Where born/lived:** Born in Fleetwood on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1893. Married to Annie who lived in Fleetwood. Prior to joining the Navy, he was a Fisherman.

**Cemetery:** Plymouth Naval War Memorial. Devon

**Notes:** Killed in Action on HM Trawler James Seckar. The James Seckar, Admiralty trawler, disappeared W of Bay of Biscay.

MOSS, William,	Deck Hand.	17316.D.A.	R.N.R.	H.M. Trawler "JAMES SECKAR"	18.12.83.	25.9.17.
		(DEV)			Fleetwood, Lancs.	

MOSS, Deck Hand William, 17316.DA, R.N.R. H.M. Trawler "James Seckar." Drowned in loss of vessel in Atlantic, 25th Sept., 1917. Age 33. Son of John and Betty Moss, of Fleetwood; husband of Annie Peake (formerly Moss), of 71, Adelaide St., Fleetwood, Lancs. 24.



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### Army



**Name:** Frank Ashworth

**Serial No.:** 41081

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. (Territorial)

**Service record:** Corporal in the Training Reserve 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant from Corporal

**Date of death:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 1918

**Age:** 23

**Where born/lived:** He was born in Bolton in 1895 then lived at 43 Livingstone Road, Blackpool with his mother Mary-Anne and his siblings.

**Cemetery:** Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, panel 108 to 111

**Notes:** He died of wounds in the battle of Gallipoli and Dardanelles and is buried where he fell at Zonnebeke, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium. The battalion had just returned to the Western Front that month from Salonika in Bulgaria.



*War Memorial panel at Tyne Cot*

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Charles William Atherton

**Serial No.:** 106351

**Rank:** Corporal

**Regiment:** 187<sup>th</sup> Special Company, Royal Engineers.  
Formerly 250<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwick Regt.

**Service record:** Corporal

**Date of death:** 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915

**Age:** 21

**Where born/lived:** Son of William Henry and Hilda of Ivy House, Hanwood, Shrewsbury. He was born in 1894 in Yockleton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire and was a boarder at the school.

**Cemetery:** Loos Memorial Pas de Calais France panel 4 and 5

**Notes:** Killed in Action in France in a gas attack.

### 187th Special Company, Royal Engineers

This was created to counter the attacks from the Germans using Chlorine Gas against defenceless French troops in the Ypres Salient.



War Memorial Panel at Loos



### The British decide to use gas in the attack at Loos, 25 September 1915

The British army employed poison gas for the first time in the opening barrage for the Battle of Loos, principally to overcome a shortage of artillery. All ranks were issued with the original pattern gas helmets, but the battle and weather conditions at Loos proved them to be a severe hindrance (the eyepieces prohibited vision and movement; rain caused chemicals in the fabric to run out and irritate the eyes, and breathing was difficult). Many men chose to discard the helmet.



Corporal, Charles William Atherton, 106351, 187th Special Coy  
Royal Engineers. Killed in action in France 26 September 1915  
Remembered on Loos Memorial, France. Panel 4 and 5.

**The Battle of Loos** took place from 25 September to 8 October 1915 in France on the Western Front. 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 largely contained by the Germans, except for local losses of ground. The British gas attack failed to neutralize the defenders and the artillery bombardment was too short to destroy the barbed wire or machine gun nests. German tactical defensive proficiency was still dramatically superior to the British offensive planning and doctrine, resulting in a British defeat.

When the battle resumed on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, the Germans had recovered and improved their defensive positions. Much of the barbed wire, in some places 30 ft deep, remained uncut and the British had used their stock of chlorine gas. British attempts to continue the advance with the reserves were repulsed. Twelve attacking battalions suffered 8,000 casualties out of 10,000 men in four hours. The British preparatory bombardment, which amounted to desultory fire for about twenty minutes apparently inflicted no casualties. German machine gunners reported being "nauseated" from the sight of so many corpses (20,000) and ceased firing so that the British could retreat with their wounded.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### The Barnes brothers Harry and William

**Name:** Harry Barnes

**Serial No.:** 11683

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Kings Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

**Date of death:** 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915

**Age:** 23

**Where born/lived:** Son of Samuel and Martha Barnes of the Royd, Bispham. Born at Todmorden

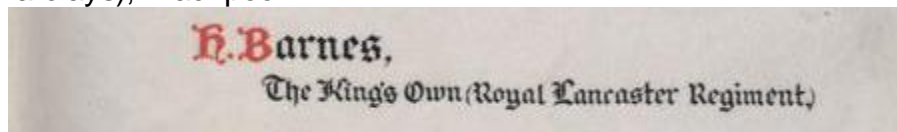
**Cemetery:** Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, Grave D98

**Notes:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was the first of Kitchener's New Army. They sailed to Alexandria on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1915 then onto Mudros by the 4<sup>th</sup> July to prepare for a landing at Gallipoli. The company arrived at ANZAC Cove on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> August and from there to Sulva Bay. The battles at Gallipoli took place in August but Harry died of his wounds in Mesopotamia, Egypt therefore, we can assume that he was hospitalised.

Before volunteering for the Great War, he worked for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank (now Barclays), Blackpool.



*6th Bn on the battlefield*



*The name on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank Monument*



*Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank  
WW1 Memorial*

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Will Barnes

**Serial No.:** 680259

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** "A" Battery, 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

**Service:** British Army Bombardier 1302 Royal Field Artillery

Promoted to Corporal

Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Date of death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1918

**Age:** 24

**Where born/lived:** Brother of Harry Barnes, who by the time of Will's death had moved to Lynton, Layton Lane, Blackpool. As with his brother he was born in Todmorden.

**Cemetery:** Quérénaing Communal Cemetery, Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.  
Grave A11

**Notes:** Died in Quérénaing, Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France of his wounds

*[The Barnes family Samuel and Martha were hard hit in the war and post war era, losing not only their sons Harry and William but their daughter s Kathleen who was a member of the Army Education Corps. She died at Imtarfa. Malta on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1927 aged 31. She is buried in Plot 1 Row 2 Grave 1. Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Malta.]*

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Benjamin Barrow

**Serial No.:** 11917

**Rank:** Lance Corporal

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.  
Coldstream Guards

**Date of death:** 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1916

**Age:** 23

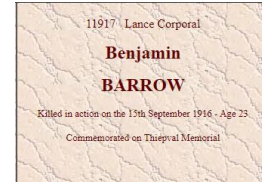
**Where born/lived:** Son of John Joseph and Frances Ellen Barrow of Wigan. He was born in Wigan.

**Cemetery:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

**Notes:** Killed in action in Lers-Courcelette, France.

This battle was the first in which tanks were used, though on a limited scale. The three Coldstream Battalions attacked in line. The attack started badly with machine-guns opening up on the flank. Many officers were soon killed, and the Guards Division became two groups of mixed units. Seeing the confusion, Lt Col J V Campbell of the 3rd Battalion rallied this mixed bag of men with his hunting horn and overran the machine-gun positions. The attack was carried forward and took the German trenches. Colonel Campbell then led the 2nd and 3rd Battalions on towards Les Boeufs but they came under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. A second call on the hunting horn rallied the troops and they took the next line of trenches where they consolidated as they were far in advance of the flanking British Divisions.

BARROW, Lce. Cpl. Benjamin, 11917. 1st Bn. Coldstream Guards. 15th Sept., 1916. Age 23. Son of John Joseph and Frances Ellen Barrow, of 95, Orrell Rd., Wigan.





# Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Alfred George Bennett

**Serial No.: S/10898**

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Service). The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

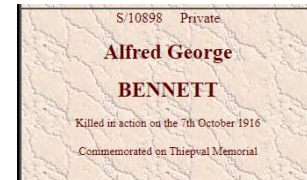
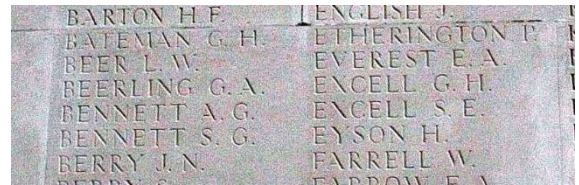
**Date of death:** 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916

**Age:** 25

**Where born/lived:** Born in Mistley near Ipswich in Essex in April 1891 and lived in Catford in Kent. He was a boarder in the school.

**Cemetery:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 5D

**Notes:** On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1916, during a training exercise in Fleselles he was admitted by field ambulance before being transferred to hospital. He re-joined his unit on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He died at the attack of Rainbow Trench in France on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916. He was one of 2209 that died in WWI on that day.



ARMY FORM 6. 55.

ARMY RESERVE. (SPECIAL RESERVEISTS).  
OF RESERVE SERVICE.

ATTESTATION OF  
No. 10895 Name *George Edgar Russell* County *Mass.* State *Mass.*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Volunteering

1. What is your Name? *1. Mr. George Russell*

2. What is your Place of Birth where you born? *2. In the Parish of St. Dunstons in the County of London*

4. What is your age? *4. 27 Years*

5. What is your Trade or Calling? *5. Bookbinder*

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Form 7-60 - W-1, W-108B-41-01 - 1,000,000-5-59 - C & G Form 8, 1961.

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

S / Regiment or Corps 6<sup>th</sup> (W) Bde "The Buffs"

Regimental No. 10848 Rank Pte. Name Bennett Major George

Enlisted (a) 21.8.14 Terms of Service (a) 6 Service reckons from (a) 21.8.14

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_ National position on roll of N.C.O.s. \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report From whom received		Record of promotions, appointments, transfers, exoneration, etc. During active service, see required enclosure Form B, SIA, Army Form A, M, or its other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken upon Army Form B, SIA, Army Form A, M, or other official documents.
10.6.16	O.B. Rattray	Admitted 3 Amb. Aid	Field	9.6.16	B.218.
	O.G. P.B.S.	Trencher to Military Hosp. (1 carrier)		15.6.16	E.D. 11092
	Higgins	Admitted to Military Hosp.	Argyll	15.6.16	HA 230.
	O.B. Rattray	Repinned unit	Field	4.7.16	B.213.
11.10.16	O.B. Rattray	Killed in Action	Field	7 OCT 1916	memo.
			A.M.H.R.		submitted for O.T.C.
					Reg Infy Section, 1st Div.
					G.I. Co. 3rd Battalion

In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Reginald Blackhurst

**Serial No.:** TS/2073

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 1st/5th Bn. Kings Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

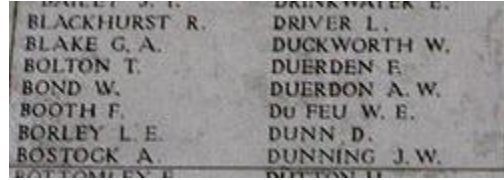
**Date of death:** 16th April 1915

**Age:** 21

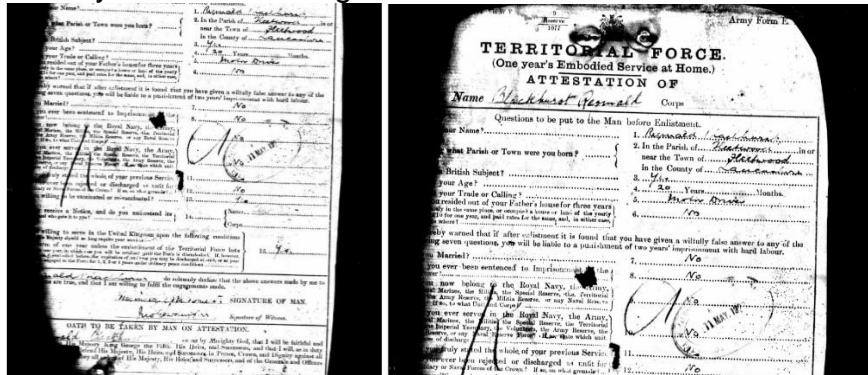
**Where born/lived:** He was born in 1894. His parents owned the Crown Hotel on Dock st in Fleetwood and he was living there in 1901, by 1911 the family lived and worked at the Golden Ball in Poulton.

**Cemetery:** Ypres (Ieper), Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium Menin Gate, Panel12.

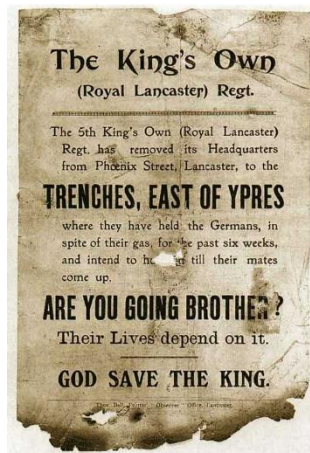
**Notes:** Killed in action in France and Flanders, at the 2nd battle of Ypres, Belgium. He died a year after enlisting.



*Names on the panel at Ypres*



Pages from his service record



Field kitchens in Ypres

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

Name: **George William Hubert Blakeway**

Serial No.: 5364

Rank: Sapper

Regiment: 8<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers,  
Australian Imperial Army.

Date of death: 21<sup>st</sup> March 1920

Age: 31

Where born/lived: Born in Pendleton in  
1889 and moved to Blackpool then un  
1912 he moved to Australia. He married in  
1917 in Australia.

Cemetery: CofE Cemetery, Randwick, Sydney

Notes: Not much can be reported about George Blakeway as he enlisted in Australia  
and the list of the War dead do not include those who were living in Australia.



On 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917 he received gunshot wounds to left leg and right eye at the second  
battle of Passchendaele at Ypres. He was discharged following this. On 21<sup>st</sup> March  
1920 he contracted TB whilst on active service in Abyssinia. I am unsure why he had  
volunteered a second time with injuries as bad as his. He died in Australia of TB.

A page from his enlistment papers



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Leonard James Bowman

**Serial No.:** 37251

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 9th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, (formerly 4308, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry)

**Date of death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1916

**Age:** 27

**Where born/lived:** In 1901 he was living on Lockwood Avenue with his parents and 8 siblings. He was born in 1889 in Blackpool. By 1911 he had moved to Newport in Wales.

**Cemetery:** Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France

**Notes:** Died of wounds from the Battle of the Somme in France



*Image of his own gravestone*

### The Battle of the Somme – first day

Ovillers-La-Boiselle On the next spur north of La Boisselle, the fortified village of Ovillers was the centre of fierce and protracted fighting from 7th to 15th July in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> South Lancashires and 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Loyal North Lancashires, all in the 25<sup>th</sup> Division, played a prominent role in capturing the ruins from the Prussian Guards.

### Final phase

On 15<sup>th</sup> September a renewed British offensive was launched to clear the last German strongpoints on the high ground and to break out towards Bapaume. This attack was supported by the first ever appearance of tanks, two of which were dug out of the mud by the 1/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashires during the action known as Flers-Courcelette.

Meanwhile, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> South Lancashires and 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Loyals were involved in operations to clear the northern end of the Thiepval Ridge, in particular successfully storming the Stuff and Regina trenches there on 21<sup>st</sup> October in the battle of the Ancre Heights. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October the 1<sup>st</sup> East Lancashires, who had only recently returned to the Somme, attacked at Le Transloy through “a vast lake of mud, pitted with shell-holes”, losing all the officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs of the assaulting companies and a total of 362 other ranks, while on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Lancashires captured and held German positions near Guedecourt.

Further north, near Beaumont Hamel, 8<sup>th</sup> East Lancashires and 10<sup>th</sup> Loyal North Lancashires attacked side by side on the 15<sup>th</sup> November in the battle of the Ancre, but failed with severe casualties. The final act of the Somme offensive opened on 18<sup>th</sup> November, when the three 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions assaulted the village of Grandcourt in appalling weather. Winter now brought an end to this terrible battle, in which the men of the New Army had most worthily maintained the reputation of the Lancashire regiments for invincible determination, cheerfulness and gallantry.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Alfred Bromley

**Serial No.:** G/2158

**Rank:** Serjeant

**Regiment:** 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

**Service:** Deployed to France 31 Aug 1915 as a Lance Corporal.

Promoted to Serjeant

**Date of death:** 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1916

**Age:** 21

**Where born/lived:** He was born in Chadderton, Oldham in 1895 before moving to Fleetwood in 1901. In 1914 he took up a post as Second Divisional Clerk at the Admiralty in London before enlisting at Holborn.

**Cemetery:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme. Part VI, Department de la Somme, Picardie, France. Grave pier and face 5D and Fleetwood Memorial Park and (Methodist) Churches of Wesley and Elm Street plaque.



**Sergt. A. Bromley Killed in Action.**

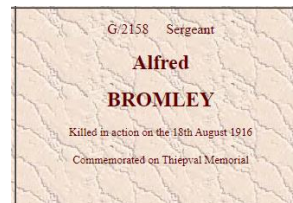
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bromley, of Harris Street, Fleetwood, have received the following letter from Sgt. Lieut. T. S. Overy, of the Buffs, informing them of the death of their son, Sergt. Alfred Bromley, who has been killed in action:-

"I cannot say how much I regret to have to inform you that your son, Sergt. A. Bromley, was killed in action on the 18th inst. in an action fought on that date. He was in charge of my platoon, and led them finely in an attack on a German trench, which was taken with many prisoners, but Sergeant Bromley was killed before reaching the trench. He suffered no pain, I am glad to say, as he was shot through the head and killed instantly. He was buried with others of our battalion on the battlefield. I cannot say how sorry I am for you in your great loss, and how sorry we all are to lose him."

The deceased was 21 years of age, and was the eldest son of Mr. Henry Bromley, coal merchant, of Siding Road, Fleetwood. At the time of enlisting in September, 1914, he was engaged as a second divisional clerk under the Admiralty in London. From the Fleetwood Council School he obtained a scholarship to Baines' Grammar School, and from there he passed into the Civil Service.

Another brother, Lance Corporal J. H. Bromley, is a member of the 15th King's Royal Rifles.

COY. SGT. MAJOR WICKENS H. H.	M.M.
DUMBLETON F.	LCE CORPORAL
HOLMAN E. W.	ACKERMAN L. L.
M.M.	ALBOROUGH F. O.
LOND J. T.	BAINES T.
SERGEANT	BAKER G. E.
BATCHELOR G.	BALDOCK J.
M.M.	BEVAN G. M.M.
BOOTH P.	BLOWN J.
BRIERS T.	BLUNDEN P. C.
BROMLEY A.	BRADFORD C.
BUTLER W.	BRASHER W.
P. C. M.	BROME H.
CLARK F. W.	BURTON W. C.
CLAYSON J.	BUTCHER A. H.
DOWMAN E.	BUTLER H. H.
EVERITT C. F.	COLES H. W.
HOWARD J.	COOMBS F.
LUCK F.	CORK F.
MORLEY A.	COURT F. D.
PAINE H. J.	CURSON R.
SHRUBSOLE W.	DARRELL G.
UPTON P. C. D.C.M.	DENNIS W.
WHIPPS A. M.M.	ELMS W. I.



Newspaper report in the local paper and the panel at Thiepval.

**Notes:** He served in France and Belgium. He was shot through the head and killed instantly at the attack South of Waterlot Farm in the Somme.

Alfred Bromley was born in 1895 in Chadderton, Oldham, the son of Henry and Mary Ann Bromley. Alfred was the eldest of four children, and shortly after his birth the family moved to 10 Harris St Fleetwood, where his father was a coal merchant. In 1911 Alfred was 15 and at Baines Grammar School. The family were now living at 8 Harris Street.

He first served in: France, entering there on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1915. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1916 he was killed in action in France, age 21.

He was in charge of a platoon on an attack on a German trench, the trench was taken. Alfred died instantly and was buried where he fell. His brother J.H. Bromley was a member of the Kings 15<sup>th</sup> Royal Rifles.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** William Brooke

**Serial No.:** 201201

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

**Date of death:** 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917

**Age:** 28

**Where born/lived:** Born in Roberttown, Liversedge, Yorkshire in 1889 before moving to Blackpool.

**Cemetery:** Tyne Cot, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 18 to 19

**Notes:** Killed in action at the 3rd Battle of Ypres: Battle of the Menin Road Ridge

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Joseph Herman Preston Brown

**Serial No.:** 50324

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Prince of Wales's  
Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment

**Date of death:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 1918

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1898 in Fleetwood.

His father was a bank manager in Fleetwood with

Joseph becoming a bank manager also. His

mother died in 1905 (41) and his father in 1907

(42) therefore Joseph and his siblings went to live with his uncle and family on Beach Road in Thornton.

**Cemetery:** Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium Panel 6 and 7

**Notes:** The Battle of the Lys, Flanders. Operation 'Georgette' is the second German Spring Offensive. Three British Divisions hold off 13 German divisions inflicting crippling loss in a series of officially recognised 'battles': 12 to 15 April Hazebrouck; 13 to 15 April Bailleul.

Before military service he was employed by the Midland Bank, where he is commemorated in the Midland Bank War Memorial at Head Office. Killed in action as part of the German Spring offensive.



*Bank Memorial*



*Panel from the memorial in Ploegsteert*



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** John David Cameron

**Serial No.:** 10168

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment

**Date of death:** 24<sup>th</sup> Jul 1916

**Age:** 24

**Where born/lived:** Born in Liverpool in 1892. He married Mary Emma Crowe in Liverpool on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1915. As he was born in Liverpool and married in Liverpool. He was a master at the school.

**Cemetery:** Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France Plot IV E 16

**Notes:** Died of wounds in the Battle of Delville Wood in the Somme in France.



# Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Edward Wallace Cardwell

**Serial No.: 72032**

**Rank:** Gunner

**Regiment:** 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery

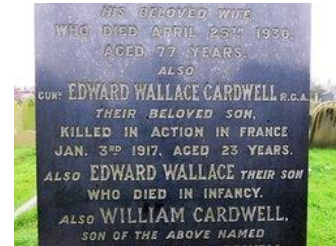
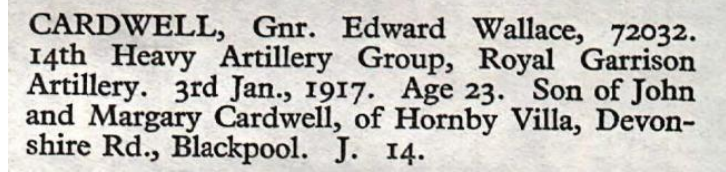
**Date of death:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1917

**Age:** 23

**Where born/lived:** Born in 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1893 in Marton and lived in Blackpool.

**Cemetery:** Longueval Road Cemetery, Somme, France. Plot J14

**Notes:** Killed in action in France. The inscription on his grave reads: GOD IN HIS LOVING CARE WILL GUARD OUR LOVED ONE LYING THERE.



## Pages from his service record

[illegible]

REGISTRATION OF DEATH

Name Edward W. Cardwell

Age 22 1914 5 months 18 days 1915

Sex Male Color White Race White 1915

Place of Birth Illinois

Range of occupation Student

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY REGISTRE

Name and Address of Agent of the Chicago Cardwell

Domestic Mr. Cardwell Relationship Wife

Particulars as to Marriage

(1) Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Residence \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Place and date of ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars as to Children

Children None Date and Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY HISTORY SERVICE

1. Period (years of service) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Organization \_\_\_\_\_

3. Organization \_\_\_\_\_

4. Awarded \_\_\_\_\_

5. Special features of public service \_\_\_\_\_

6. Mobile, Accidents and accidents \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Cause \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Registrar \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible][illegible]

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### The Cleator brothers Charles and Rowland

**Name:** Charles Frederick Cleator

**Serial No.:** 99400

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 146<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Formerly 33592, Royal Lancs. Regt.

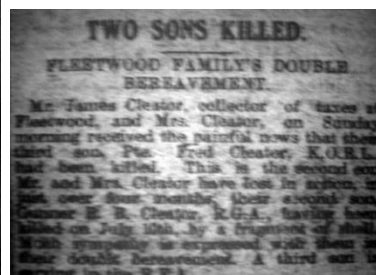
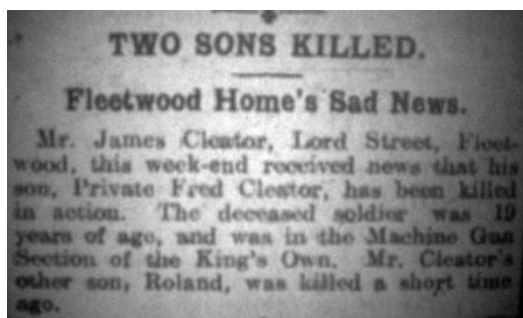
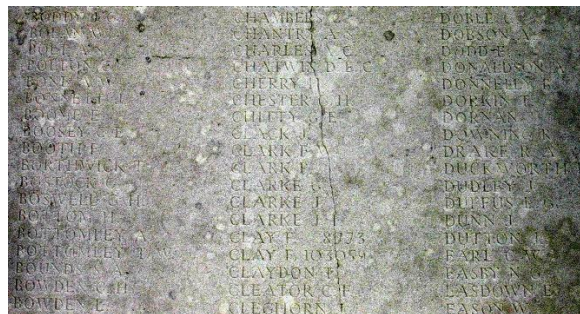
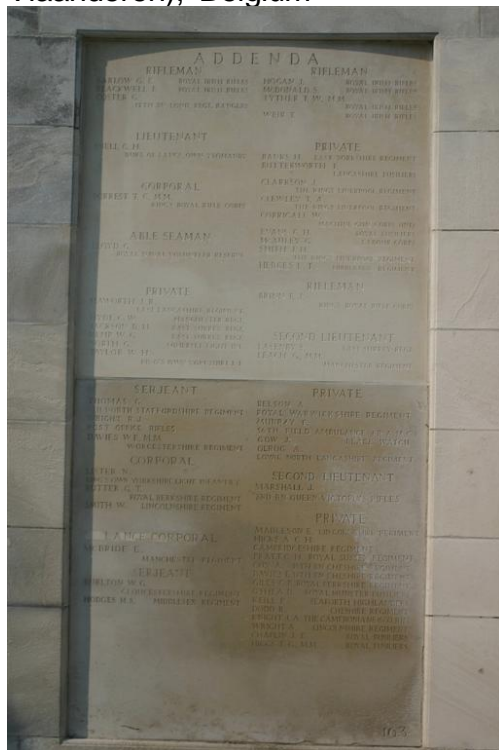
**Date of death:** 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** See notes below

**Cemetery:** Tyne Cot Memorial West-Vlaanderen  
Belgium

**Notes:** Killed in Action from shelling and buried where he fell in Zonnebeke, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium



## **Baines Wartime Memories Project**

Charles Frederick Cleator was born in 1898 in Fleetwood, the son of James and Sarah Jane Cleator.

In 1901, Charles was living at 33 Adelaide Street. Fleetwood with his parents, two brothers and two sisters. Charles's father, James was a local income tax collector and his mother, Sarah Jane was a baby linen dealer. In 1915, the family later lived at 21 Lord Street in Fleetwood.

He enlisted in Fleetwood and served in the Western European theatre of war. He served first in the Royal Lancashire Regiment No 33592, then in the Machine Gun Corps (infantry). 146th Company No 99400. On 18 November 1917 he was killed in action in Belgium, age 19.

He is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Fleetwood Memorial Park and Wesley and Elm Street Methodist Churches, Fleetwood.

Charles's brother's, James Radcliffe (1895 - 1980) and Rowland Bleasdale (1896 – 1917) also enlisted in the armed forces. James served in Royal Field Artillery and survived the war and married Elma Goldsbrough in 1927 and died in 1980 in Durham. Rowland served in Royal Garrison Artillery and was killed in action on 11 July 1917.



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Rowland Bleasdale Cleator

**Serial No.:** 112990

**Rank:** Gunner

**Regiment:** 303<sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

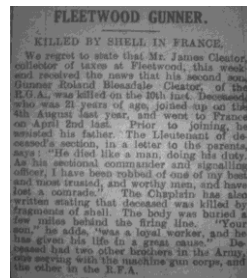
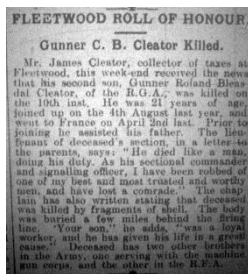
**Date of death:** 11<sup>th</sup> July 1917

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:**

**Cemetery:** Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**Notes:** Before the war he was an assistant collector of taxes, the same career as his father. He was killed in Action by fragments of shell in Flanders at the battle of Passchendaele.



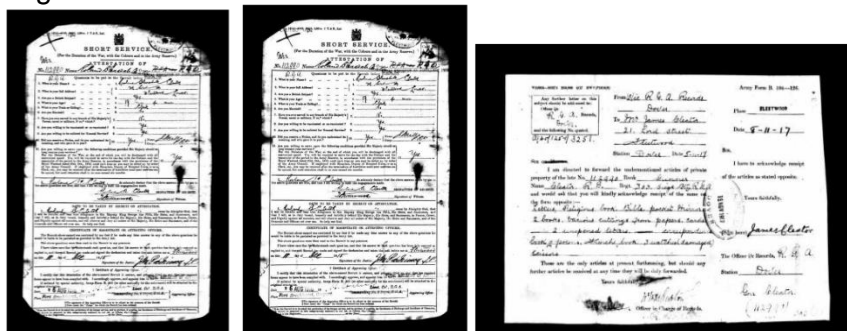
Rowland Bleasdale Cleator was born in Fleetwood, the son of James and Sarah Jane Cleator. In 1915, the family later lived at 21 Lord Street in Fleetwood. Rowland was a clerk.

He enlisted at Fleetwood on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1915 and served in the Western European Theatre. He was a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. 303<sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery.

On 11 July 1917 he was killed in action in Flanders, age 20. He was buried in Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium, and commemorated in Fleetwood Memorial Park and Wesley and Elm Street Methodist Churches, Fleetwood.

Rowland's brothers, James Radcliffe (1895 - 1980) and Charles Frederick (1898 - 1917) also enlisted in the armed forces. James served in Royal Field Artillery and survived the war and married Elma Goldsbrough in 1927. Charles served in Machine Gun Corps (infantry) and was killed in action on 18 November 1917

Pages from his service record



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Arthur Reginald Coope

**Serial No.:** 64640 then 70536

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** Welsh Regiment then 1/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Welsh  
[Welch] Fusiliers

**Date of death:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 1918

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1899 in Kearsley, Bolton before  
moving to Blackpool after 1901.

**Cemetery:** Niedierzwehren Cemetery, Hessen, Germany Plot  
IV.E.11

**Notes:** He died in action in Ohrdruf (Wolfis), Landkreis Gotha,  
Thüringen, Germany



*Gravestone St  
Stephen's Churchyard,  
Kearsley*

### Ohrdruf, Germany

This was used as a POW concentration camp during WWI and contained 20000 prisoners. As his death date was close to the end of the war was, he fighting to close the camp.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Leonard Coulston

**Serial No.:** 5313

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 25<sup>th</sup> Bn., Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force

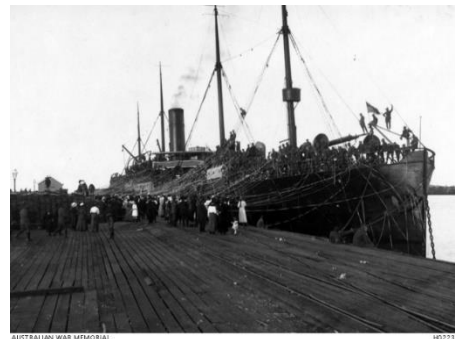
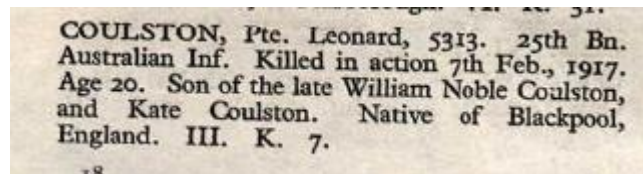
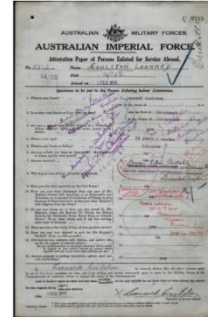
**Date of death:** 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1917

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:** Born on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1896 in Blackpool but moved to Australia. His father died when he was 4 years old. He attended Baines as a boarder with his brother John Noble Coulston. He signed up in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

**Cemetery:** Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont III K7

**Notes:** He sailed from Brisbane to Plymouth from 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug to 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916 on the A.50 "Itonus". Having disembarked the ship sailed into the med and was sunk by German U-boats near Malta in Dec 1916. On 14<sup>th</sup> December he sailed to France from Folkestone on the SS "Queen Victoria". On 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1916 he joined his Unit in France. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb he was killed in action and buried where he fell at Le Sars, near Butte de Warlencourt, France. This was reported at HQ on the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 1917.



A50 Itonus

### 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion

In the first half of 1917, the AIF's heaviest fighting took place in France, at the second battle of Bullecourt.

All armies were struck with disease outbreaks in the extremely cold months of January and February — especially respiratory illness (eg colds, bronchitis) and rheumatism.

I ANZAC Corps helped to patrol the front over winter. The men noticed the Germans withdrawing to the newly constructed Hindenburg Line. The Australians soon realised the enemy had retreated to this heavily fortified and strongly defended position.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** **Thomas Crook**

**Serial No.:** 34505

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry Formerly  
G.S./9058, Res. Cav. Regt.

**Date of death:** 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1917

**Age:** 22

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1895 in Inskip with Sowerby in  
Lancs before moving to Kirkham.

**Cemetery:** St Sever Cemetery Ext. Rouen, Seine-Maritime,  
France

**Notes:** Died in action at the battles of Scarpe.



*St Peter's Inskip with  
Sowerby*

**Name:** **Edward Davies**

**Serial No.:** 21983

**Rank:** Driver

**Regiment:** 2nd Field Sqdn., Royal Engineers

**Date of death:** 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 1917

**Age:**

**Where born/lived:** Born in Wigan

**Cemetery:** Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France

**Notes:** Died of wounds in the Somme

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Frank Emsley

**Serial No.:** 33846

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

**Date of death:** 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917

**Age:** 22

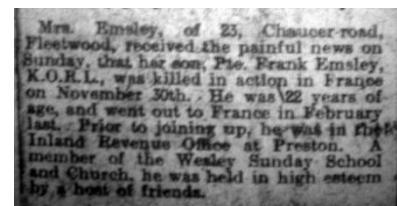
**Where born/lived:** Frank Emsley was born in Leeds in 1895, the son of Arthur and Sarah Eliza Emsley. In 1901, Frank was living in Headingley cum Burley in Yorkshire with his parents. The family then moved to Chaucer Road, Fleetwood. In 1911, Frank was living as a boarder at 14 Maclise Road, West Kensington, London. He was a boy clerk, civil service. He was shown as a Civil Servant (Inland Revenue) on CWGC certificate. By Feb 1916 he had moved back to Preston. Frank's half-brother was George William Musgrave, who became an assistant schoolmaster.

**Cemetery:** He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, Panel 3. Fleetwood Memorial Park and Wesley and Elm Street Methodist Churches, Fleetwood.

**Notes:** He enlisted at Preston and served in the Western European Theatre. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917 he was killed in action in France.



Pla. F. Emsley.





## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** **Harold Hartt**

**Serial No.:** 11568 (M/c) 11515 (L/pool)

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. (Territorial), The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

**Service:** Serjeant then Acting Warrant Officer Class 2 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment the promoted and moved regiments to Second Lieutenant Liverpool Regiment

**Date of death:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917

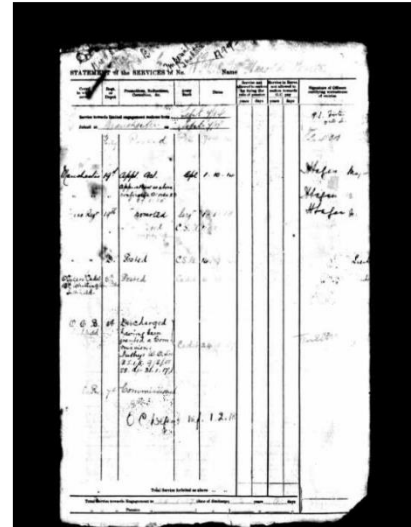
**Age:**

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1893 in Glasgow before moving to South Shore, Blackpool. In 1911 he was a Salesman calico Printers Warehouse

**Cemetery:** Viamertinghe Military Cemetery, VI. K. 1.

**Notes:** He travelled to France in 1914. Killed in Action at the Battle of Passchendaele which became notorious for conditions that transformed the terrain of shell holes and trenches into a quagmire of mud. They were in action at the Menin road Bridge.

The official war diary records that he was killed by a sniper in the trenches at Railway Wood, Ypres. Mentioned in battalion war diary, on p57 of the PDF WO 95\_2927\_1. This can be found in the National archive.



**Name:** **Jack Hirst**

**Serial No.:** 250380 2152

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. Manchester Regiment

**Date of death:** 25<sup>th</sup> Jul 1917

**Age:** 22

**Where born/lived:** Born in Oldham in 1895. He died in Christchurch, Hampshire

**Cemetery:** Bournemouth East Cemetery, R. I. 153.

**Notes:** One of 205 soldiers that died on that day. He died in the Second Battle of Passchendaele.



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Tom Hartley Howarth

**Serial No.:** 406089

**Rank:** Second Lieutenant

**Regiment:** 59<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

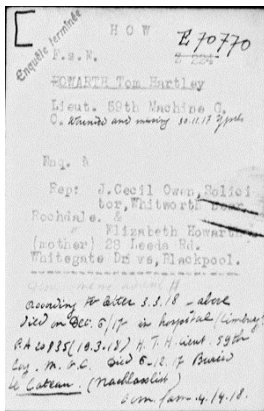
**Date of death:** 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1917

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1898 in St Annes before moving to Blackpool.

**Cemetery:** Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Le Cateau-Cambresis, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

**Notes:** Formed Grantham. Moved to France and joined 20<sup>th</sup> Division, 3 March 1916. On 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917 he is recorded as wounded and missing in Ypres. Died of wounds in hospital on the Western Front



### The German counter attacks (30 November – 3 December)

These battles were phases of the Cambrai Operations

After moving on 23 November to Etricourt, preparatory to taking over the line at Gouzeaucourt, orders were relived for the Division to switch to the northern flank of this operation, to relieve the Guards Division at Bourslon Wood. This took place on 29 November, with Divisional HQ going into huts at Trescault. On 1 December, many casualties were sustained from German shellfire which preceded an enemy infantry counterattack. This was beaten off by the Division. During the day, 470 Field Company RE, which was marching to the area of Gouzeaucourt, found itself caught up in the German advance in that area. Fighting as infantry, it assisted in the defence of the area until the Guards Division counter attacked and retook Gouzeaucourt. 59<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered to withdraw from Bourslon, which it did successfully, taking up a position at Flesquieres.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** **Harold Iddon**

**Serial No.:** 51539

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** "D" Bty., 173<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

**Service:** Acting Serjeant, Royal Army Medical Corps then

Second Lieutenant Royal Field Artillery D Bty, 173 Bde

**Date of death:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1918

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:** Born in Preston in 1890

**Cemetery:** Penwortham (St Mary) Churchyard D/173 Bd

**Notes:** He attended the University of Liverpool. Died of wounds on the first day of the second battle of Bapaume. The Second Battle of Bapaume opened on 22 August and was continued with a night attack on 23/24 August, in which 173<sup>rd</sup> Bde supported 175<sup>th</sup> Bde and 47<sup>th</sup> Division.





## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Charles Pratt Johnson

**Serial No.:** 1491

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** British Medical Expeditionary Force in 1/5<sup>th</sup> Btn.,  
Manchester Regiment

**Date of death:** 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 1915

**Age:** 21

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1894 in Fleetwood

**Cemetery:** Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Gallipoli,  
Çanakkale, Turkey, I. E. 11

**Notes:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 1915 Landed at Gallipoli and transferred to the 127th Brigade of the 42nd Division. The Division was involved in attempts to break out of the Helles bridgehead The Battle of Krithia Vineyard; an unsuccessful attempt to divert Turk attention from a large British landing.



'I shall be home for Christmas': Heart-breaking final letter from World War One soldier who never came home. This is the heart-breaking letter sent home by a 21-year-old soldier who was serving with the British Medical Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli in World War One. He was tragically killed in action just nine days after he sent his final letter - he never made it home.

The letter, written to his younger sister said that he was looking forward to having 'a jolly nice time' at Christmas, and enclosed a poppy picked from no man's land while snipers shot at him. Private Charles P. Johnson promised that he would be home for Christmas, but his family never saw him again.

Here is the full transcript of the letter:

*"My Dear Mamie,*

*Just a few lines to wish you Many Happy Returns of the Day. I am sorry I cannot send you anything along, but I have picked a flower in the dead of night on that space between the trenches they call No Man's Land. I hope you will treasure them. I was sniped at many a time, going out for them but with lying flat & crawling I managed to get them. Never mind Mamie I shall be home for Christmas I hope we will have a jolly nice time. I must close now*

*With heaps of love, Your affectionate brother  
Charlie"*

A letter sent to his mother from the War Office on 30th November 1915 said that she would receive four pounds, four shillings, and three pence (around £400 today) as settlement. Charles, who lived in Manchester, is buried at Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery in Gallipoli, Turkey.

His sister Mamie who the letter was written to become a schoolteacher and lived to the age 89, passing away in 1993.

# Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** William Dixon Johnson

**Serial No.: 485076**

**Rank:** Rifleman

**Regiment:** 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion City of London Regiment (Kensington) ("The Rangers")

**Service:** Signed up in 1915 for the Inns of Court Officer's

Training Corps serial no.: 35076

**Date of death:** 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1917

**Age:** 34

**Where born/lived:** Born in South Shore, Blackpool in 1883

then moved to Crompton to work as a clerk in a cotton mill. His father was not living with the family in 1891 in Poulton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents, then an uncle in 1901. He married on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1906 in Crompton. William was injured at the Battle of Langemarck at the German Retreat. William died at home of his wounds. Presumably he had been injured in France and returned home, where he died.

**Cemetery:** Crompton Cemetery

**Notes:** Due to him dying at home he is not listed on the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Memorial or listed as one of the war dead, therefore the Baines Memorial is the only mention of him.

It will be difficult to ascertain when he was injured as he was discharged, and this would have taken some time. I would hazard a guess that he was injured in the Battle of Arras in April 1917.

55076  
348008

(For the duration of the year, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

**ATTESTATION OF** **WNS OF COURSE**

No. 454 Name William Dixon Jones Corp. **OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS**

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... .. 1. William Dixon Jones

2. What is your full Address? ... .. 2. 118, Shaw Road  
Raydon

3. Are you a British Subject? ... .. 3. Yes

4. What is your Age? ... .. 4. 22 Years 8 Months

5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... .. 5. Station Duty Secretary & Gun Callerman

[illegible]

*All his worldly goods returned*

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Norman Kemp

**Serial No.:**

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1916

**Age:** 21

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1895 in Chadderton, Oldham. By 19-1 he had moved with his parents to Egerton Rd, Blackpool. When he was 15, he attended Rossall School, presumably having moved from Baines. He died in Ginchy, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France. He is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Radcliffe, Bury, Lancashire

**Cemetery:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 3 C and 3 D.

**Notes:** Arrived in Alexandria and the Division engaged in The Battle of Romani which helped to secure the safety of the Suez Canal. Norman was killed in action at the battle.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Joseph Kershaw

**Serial No.:** 14411

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
Manchester Regiment

**Date of death:** 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1918

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1898 in Oldham (above Town)

**Cemetery:** Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

**Notes:** Killed in action in France at the Battle of the Selle. It was between Allied forces and the German Army, fought during the Hundred Days Offensive of World War I

KERSHAW, Pte. Joseph, 14411. 1st/5th Bn. Manchester Regt. 20th Oct., 1918. Age 20. Son of John R. and Margaret Kershaw, of "Ivy Bank," Beach Rd., Cleveleys, Blackpool.

The battle of the Selle, 17-25 October 1918, saw the British force the Germans out of a new defensive line along the River Selle that they had been forced to take up being forced out of the Hindenburg Line. The battle of Cambrai-St. Quentin, 27 September-9 October 1918, had been Haig's contribution to Marshal Foch's great autumn offensive, designed to force the Germans out of the Hindenburg Line. It had succeeded, but the Allied advance had then slowed in the face of increasing German resistance, and by 10 October the Germans were taking up a new position on the River Selle, close to Le Cateau.

The British needed two weeks to prepare to attack the new position. The British had suffered 140,000 casualties at Cambrai-St. Quentin during the battle.



On 17 October Rawlinson's Fourth Army attacked on a ten-mile front south of Le Cateau. Their aim was to reach a line between Valenciennes and the Sambre and Oise Canal. From there the key German railway centre at Aulnoye would be in artillery range. The Fourth Army attack made slow progress – after two days the right wing had made the biggest advance, a move of five miles.

The attack was then widened. By the evening of 19 October, the First Army (Horne) had fought its way into a position where it could take part in an attack north of Le Cateau. Early on the morning of 20 October the First and Third Armies attacked north of Le Cateau. By the end of the day they had advanced two miles. In earlier battles that would have been a dangerous distance to have moved and would have placed the British right in the middle of the German fighting zone, but the fighting had moved out of the German fortified zone and into open country, and the Germans had only had ten days to build up their defences on the Selle.

Early on 23 October Haig launched a night attack with all three of his British armies, the First, Second and Fourth. This time the British advanced six miles in two days. The British were now twenty miles behind the rear line of the Hindenburg Line, and the Germans were on the back foot. They formed another new line between Valenciennes and the Sambre, but that line was penetrated on 4 November (battle of the Sambre), after which the speed of the Allied advance increased. The British advanced as far between 4-11 November as they had between 27 September and 3 November, and as the war ended the Canadians liberated Mons.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Edward Herbert Charles le Marchant

**Serial No.:**

**Rank:** Captain

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment (The Head Master's).

**Service:** He is classed as a Captain as it was posted in the London Gazette in July 1916 but on the official war record he is recorded as a Lieutenant. In 1914 he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. By 1916 he was promoted to Lieutenant then Captain

**Date of death:** 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916

**Age:**

**Where born/lived:** Born Sept 1894 in Dover. He was the son of Colonel E. H. Le Marchant, the Hampshire Regiment, and of Mrs. Le Marchant. Old Harrovian who was a boarder in the school for a short time before attending Harrow.

**Cemetery:** St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Departement de la Seine-Maritime, Haute-Normandie, France

**Notes:** He died of wounds in France. On leaving Harrow Captain Le Marchant was intending to go to Sandhurst, but ultimately took a Commission direct in his father's old Regiment. He was wounded at Ypres in October 1915, and, after a brief spell of leave, again returned to the Front and was gazetted Captain in July, 1916. He died on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1916, of wounds received in action six days before. He died following the Battle of the Somme.

Many messages were received by his mother both from British Tommies and French soldiers, some of these writing with the warmth of personal regard, and others expressing sorrow for the loss of one whom they knew and admired as a soldierly personality.



**Name:** John Albert Morris

**Serial No.:** 5357 (registered as 53577 on some documents)

**Rank:** Lance Corporal

**Regiment:** 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1916

**Age:** 23

**Where born/lived:** Born in Blackpool in 1893. He married Jane in Blackpool in July 1915

**Cemetery:** Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France II. F. 30.

**Notes:** Killed in action in the Somme, Picardie, France



# Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** George Paul

**Serial No.: 4619**

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** The 10<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** He lived in Liverpool but was born in London. He was a boarder at Baines.

**Cemetery:** Divisional Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium, PLOT H. 15.

**Notes:** As he died in Oct 1915, he was a member of the 1/10<sup>th</sup>. After intensive searching in the Regimental records of the WWI dead there is only one soldier that matches the name, and he is a Private. Killed in action in Bellewaarde, Ypres, Belgium. George died when the battalion assisted in the repulse of a German counterattack on 8 October. He enlisted in May 1915. Embarked to France on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915 and died in October aged 19.

[illegible]

I (No.) 1619 (Rank) Private  
(Name) George Paul of the  
(Unit) 10th (Scottish) Bn. The King's (L'pool Regt.) do hereby agree,  
subject to the conditions stated overleaf to accept liability in the event of

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Arthur Pope

**Serial No.:** 8933

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battn., The Royal Fusiliers  
(City of London Regiment)

**Service:** Served with the Expeditionary Force (BEF) in  
France and Flanders

**Date of death:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 1916

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:** Born in Runcorn on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1896 before moving to Thornton  
Cleveleys. After leaving Baines he was an Assistant Chemist at the Thornton Alkali  
Works, where his father Fred worked (ICI).

**Cemetery:** Heilly Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme, France

**Notes:** Died from wounds received on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916 in action at Pozieres, France at  
the Battle of Ancre. The 13<sup>th</sup> were part of the 111<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 37<sup>th</sup> Division.

IN RECORD BOOK 19 NOV. 1916; 1916.

**POPE, ARTHUR**, Private, No. 8933, 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.), only s. of Fred Pope, of Hollywood, Fleetwood Road, Thornton-le-Fylde, by his wife, Mary E.; b. Runcorn, co. Chester, 15 Jan. 1896; educ. Baines's Grammar School, Poulton-le-Fylde, and on leaving there entered the laboratory at the Thornton Alkali Works, where he became Assistant Chemist; enlisted 26 Oct. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 2 Feb. 1916, and died 16 July in action at Pozieres the previous day. Buried.



On 15th July 1916. The 10th Battalion were directed towards the orchard on the southwest of Pozieres. Some success at 9am when Lt F M Taylor and D Coy captured the orchard. However, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion were pinned down by machine-gun fire. A second advance at 6pm failed. All battalions involved sustained such heavy losses and were taken out of the line of fire.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** **Geoffrey Fildes Potts**

**Serial No.:**

**Rank:** Lieutenant (T)

**Regiment:** 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment

**Service:** In 1914 he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (T)

**Date of death:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917

**Age:** 23

**Where born/lived:** Born in April 1893.

**Cemetery:** Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France VH29

**Notes:** Killed in Action in Arras, Pas-de-Calais

**Report on the battle where Geoffrey died**

Arras, Hindenburg Line – Heninel 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917



*Arras, France*

After the assault at Flers, the Battalion withdrew to Pommern Redoubt. They then travelled to Bailleulval via Mericourt and Le Souich. Returning to the front line in early November, the 17th Battalion spent the following two months of 1916 alternating in Bellacourt trenches and billets in Bailleulval with the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers.

On 7th January, the Battalion was withdrawn to reserve at Sus St Leger and a month later returned to Pommern. They undertook various fatigues in preparation for next major Allied assault. In late March, the Battalion took over front line positions near Mercatel. They then moved progressively forward as the German Army made its tactical withdrawal from the Somme defences to the highly fortified Hindenburg Line near Arras. They also spent time on fatigues and in reserve at Mercatel.

Prior to the Arras offensive, the 17th Battalion returned to the front in late April 1917 and improved the trench system in front of the village of Heninel, facing Cherisy. In the early morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the men moved forward in preparation for the advance. The Germans carried out a major assault at 9am, and the Manchester's managed to hold their hastily built defences. A second attack followed at 2pm, and the men maintained their positions – but at huge cost. They were withdrawn to Neuville-Vitasse and then Hericourt.

650 men had taken part in the offensive at Heninel. Only 290 remained on duty after the withdrawal. 93 men from the 17th Battalion were killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917 or died of wounds in Casualty Clearing Stations or French military hospitals by the end of May.

**Name:** **Arthur Singleton**

**Serial No.:** 6556

**Rank:** Sarjeant

**Regiment:** 16th Battalion Manchester Regiment

SINGLETON, Serjt. Arthur, 6556. 16th Bn.  
Manchester Regt. 30th July, 1916.



## **Baines Wartime Memories Project**

**Service:** Promoted from Corporal to Sarjeant

**Date of death:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 1916

**Age:** 27

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1889 in Blackpool, lived in Prestwich

**Cemetery:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

**Notes:** Killed in action at the Mansel Copse area in the Somme

### **Report on the battle that killed Arthur**

On 22nd July the battalion was detailed to take part in the attack on Guillemont and moved up to Mansel Copse area, on the 24th they moved again to the assembly trenches at Cambridge Copse. It should be noted here that the battalions' losses had been made up from drafts from many different regiments in a very short time and had not had time to assimilate into the battalion.

The attack started on the night of the 29th July, the battalion moved to be in their positions for 4.45am the next day, they attacked in dense fog and were savaged by machine guns and rifle fire from both flanks, several attempts to get through were made but eventually they were beaten back with heavy casualties. The 18th batt and 2nd RFs made the village but were cut off by the German barrage, two companies of the 17th were sent up but failed to relieve the situation. In the early hours of July 31st, the battalion was relieved and returned to Mansel Copse near Mametz.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Robert Parkinson Whiteside

**Serial No.:**

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (T)

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the King's (Liverpool) Regiment

**Service:**

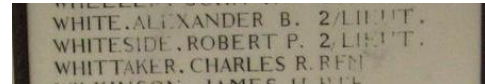
**Date of death:** 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** Born in Blackpool in 1898

**Cemetery:** Arras, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Bay 3.

**Notes:** Killed in Action, buried where he fell. As he was a bank clerk at the Midland bank, he appears on the London Joint City and Midland Bank Memorial located on the outside of 8 Canada Square building.



Midland Bank Memorial

### Report on the battle that killed Arthur

After the Somme Offensive ended in November, the Allies began to prepare for a series of combined Allied offensives in April 1917. These plans would not be significantly disrupted by the German Army's strategic withdrawal to the "Hindenburg Line" in northern France. The phased withdrawal, conducted from February to April, reduced the German front by 25 miles (40 km). The regiment's six second-line battalions arrived on the Western Front with the 57th (2nd West Lancashire) Division in February 1917.



To support the ill-fated Nivelle Offensive, Britain initiated the Battle of the Scarpe, in the Arras area on 9 April, which involved the regiment's 11th, 13th, and Liverpool Pals (1<sup>st</sup>) battalions. The 13th moved forward with the 3rd Division at 0530, near Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, capturing almost 500 men and completing its objectives. To the south, barbed wire obstructed the Pals with varied results. The 18th consolidated in front of the wire until relieved on the 10th, while the 19th and 20th were eventually withdrawn, having suffered heavy losses within about 100 yards (91 m) of the wire. Casualties for the King's during the initial phase of the Arras Offensive exceeded 700.

The War diary from the day after the attack.

ARRAS.	29th.	Remained in billets in ARRAS. Various Church Services held. The attack practiced by the battalion in the afternoon.
--------	-------	---

28/4/17  
 29/4/17  
 Weather - Dull. Poor visibility. Wind Westerly -  
 Relieved 27th Man. Reg. in this sector - Disposition of Companies as follows:- "D" Coy Right Flank  
 Line, "B" Coy Centre Flank Line, "C" Coy Left Flank Line. "A" Coy. Right Support Coy -  
 27th Man. took over from us VILLAGE LINE (in support CAMBRAIN LEFT Subsector) 2 Companies  
 and 2 Companies in Support CAMBRAIN RIGHT Subsector - Both Artillery in grass, fairly  
 active during Relief; 4 Casualties. "D" Coy during Relief.  
 The two gas attacks on our Right and Left respectively took place according to order.  
 They appear to have been successful.  
 Enemy commenced bombing with shells, in two places and something that would be  
 better described as gas, about 10-30 pm and continued until the dawn of the 30th.  
 Casualties - 0 R. 4.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Frank Blakely Highman

**Serial No.:** 2/1924

**Rank:** Driver/Gunner

**Regiment:** 11<sup>th</sup> Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, NZ Field Artillery, NZEF

**Service:** Served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

He served in Samoa with the NZ Field Engineers

**Date of death:** 20<sup>th</sup> June 1917

**Age:** 21

**Where born/lived:** Born in Fleetwood on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1896. He moved in 1901 to Pilling then to Thornton. His parents moved to Wellington NZ.

**Cemetery:** Messines Ridge (NZ) Memorial, Mesen, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium, 13808699

**Notes:** He was buried where he fell. Killed in action.



The New Zealand artillery served with the New Zealand Division on the Western Front for the rest of the war, fighting at Messines and Passchendaele in 1917, against the Spring Offensive.

In 1917 and 1918, the 2nd (Army) Brigade served as a movable artillery unit under British command. It fought at Messines (June 1917) and Nieuport (June–December 1917).

On the 2nd of June 1917 the Batteries laid down a concentrated barrage on Messines and over the following days continued barrages on trenches and other enemy positions. In the dark hours of the morning of the 7th of June all along the front line the troops waited for the subterranean cataclysm that signalled the start of the Battle of Messines. Under Messines Ridge miners and sappers had dug tunnels and filled them up with tons of explosives and at 3:10 am the detonator switches were triggered, and the earth erupted into pillars of fire and earth, instantly killing the thousands of German troops. Over the following days the Batteries moved forward and laid down barrages in support of the Infantry. On the 17th the men moved to the wagon lines at Nieppe, France where they rested and undertook equipment maintenance.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

### Royal Flying Corps/Royal Air Force



**Name:** Lewis Brown

**Serial No.:** Z/7852

**Rank:** Probationary Flight Officer

**Regiment:** Royal Air Force (RAF/RFC), Royal Naval Air Service

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918

**Age:** 18

**Where born/lived:** He was born in Blackpool on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1899 and was employed as a manager at a grocer's store.

**Cemetery:** Blackpool (Layton) Cemetery

**Notes:** Before being enlisted he was the manager of a grocery store. It is sad when someone dies on the battlefield but in some ways worse when they die as the result of a flying accident as Lewis did. He was killed at Eastbourne in a training exercise.



*Gravestone at  
Layton Cemetery*



# Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** Duncan James Sidney Clark

**Serial No.: 317801**

**Rank:** Sergeant Pilot

**Regiment:** 75<sup>th</sup> Training Sqdn., RAF

**Service:**

**Date of death:** 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1919

**Age:** 19

**Where born/lived:** Born in Blackpool on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1900 but christened in Rastrick in Yorkshire on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1900. Prior to enlisting Duncan was a gent's outfitter. He enlisted in 1917.

**Cemetery:** Marton (St Paul) Church Burial ground 11 Grave 2

**Notes:** Died of injuries received whilst flying.



6481

CLARK, Duncan James Sidney  
29, Gainsborough Road, Blackpool, Lancs.

*Born* 7th January 1900 *at* Blackpool, Lancs.  
*Nationality* British  
*Rank, Regiment, Profession* Sergt., R.A.F.,  
*Certificate taken on*  
*At*  
*Date* 26th September 1918.



FORM 104  
 10-1-63

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FILE NO. 517801 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353

### Service record

[illegible]

**FUNERAL OF LATE DUNCAN  
JAMES S. CLARK.**

The funeral of the late Duncan James B. Clark, late sergeant in the Royal Air Force, of 29, Gainsborough Road, was held at the place at the Milton Cemetery on Saturday. There was first a service in Balfour Parade Wesleyan Church, where the deceased was accustomed to worshipping, conducted by the Rev. Frank Manning, and which was attended by a number of fellow and sympathizers in addition to the following ministers, Mrs. and Mrs. J. Clark (father and mother), Mrs. Holroyde (aunt), Mr. B. Wolfenden, Mr. B. Bowman, Mr. W. Bateson, Mr. J. Sykes,

[illegible]

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Vickers, Palatine Road Blackpool.

## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** John Bayman Coward

**Serial No.:**

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** Royal Flying Corps No 35 Squadron

**Service:** Originally, he was with the 25<sup>th</sup> Squadron but posted a move on 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 1918. He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1917.

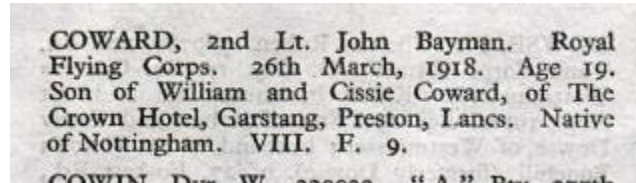
**Date of death:** 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 1918

**Age:** 20

**Where born/lived:** Born in Nottingham on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1898 before moving to Blackpool. He once lived at the King's arms Hotel in Blackpool, where his parents were the owners. They later moved to Crown Hotel, Garstang.

**Cemetery:** St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens VIII. F. 9.

**Notes:** 35 Squadron was based in Thetford but moved to France in Jan 1917. It was attached to the Corps until March 1918 in Poulainville, France. No. 35 Squadron was tasked with providing medium and short distance aerial reconnaissance for one of the British Army Corps Commands (Cavalry).



Photos taken by 35 Squadron

CASUALTY CARD							Tests completed
Rank, Name and Unit							Went overseas
Graduated as							Employed as
Date Report received and Official Reference	Date of Casualty	Where occurred	Type of Machine	Nature and Cause of Accident	Result of Accident	Name of Officer Occupant of Machine	Remarks
12.6.18 Capt. S.	26.3.18	France		Moving	Killed		This officer is believed to have been killed or wounded during a bomb raid on Amiens on the night of 26.3.18. But no definite information as to his fate has yet been received.
10.4.18 Capt. S.							
11.5.18 Capt. S.							
9.6.18							

The Personnel Casualty Ledger shows that JB Coward was killed or died of wounds on 26th March 1918 whilst flying an Armstrong Whitworth FK8 on bombing duties over Amiens.

The Casualty Card for JB Coward shows "This officer is believed to have been killed or wounded during a bomb raid on Amiens on the night of 26th March 1918 but no definite information is available on his fate has been received"



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's records do not show where the remains of JB Coward were located [Casualty Form shows burial at British Military Cemetery, Amiens (reported by 41 Stationary Hospital)] but show that after the war they were concentrated (reinterred) as follows:

COWARD, JOHN BAYMAN Second Lieutenant ST. PIERRE CEMETERY, AMIENS  
VIII. F. 9.

**Name:** Richard Dutton

**Serial No.:** PS/6267

**Rank:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

**Regiment:** British Army Royal Fusiliers then 48th Sqd Gen List Royal Flying Corps

**Service:** Private in Royal Fusiliers

Promoted to British Army Second Lieutenant General List and Royal Flying Corps

**Date of death:** 19<sup>th</sup> Aug 1917

**Age:**

**Where born/lived:** Lived at Lindum House, Sheaf St, Poulton.

**Cemetery:** Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery  
Ypres (Ieper), Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders  
(West-Vlaanderen), Belgium IB 20

**Notes:** The 48<sup>th</sup> Squadron was formed at Netheravon, Wiltshire in April 1916. It was posted to France in March 1917. It was the first squadron to be equipped with the Bristol F2 Fighter. He died when his [A7171 Bristol Fighter] was driven down by EA believed out of control at Ostend.



## Baines Wartime Memories Project

**Name:** William Frederick Williams

**Serial No.:** 6001

**Rank:** Gunner

**Regiment:** Royal Field Artillery

**Service:**

**Date of death:**

**Age:**

**Where born/lived:** Born in 1898 in Shaw nr Oldham and he was a boarder in the school

**Cemetery:**

**Notes:** As he was a boarder in the School we therefore cannot find his family. The school registers for this time are stored at the Lancashire Archive their Military Service is difficult to find. The 1911 census has him down as William Frederick William.

**Name:** Hermann (Herbert) Grossman

**Serial No.:** 60246

**Rank:** Gunner

**Regiment:** 9<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

**Date of death:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918

**Age:** 25

**Where born/lived:** born in 1893 in Manchester.

He enlisted in Blackpool. He lived in High St, Blackpool for a time. His parents Herman Gustav and Clare Elizabeth Grossman were Jews and lived in Bolton.

**Cemetery:** Ligny-St. Flochel British Cemetery, Ligny-Saint-Flochel, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France PLOT IV. B. 19. Jewish Roll of Honour

**Notes:** Died of Wounds, Possible name change as it is a German name

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(For the Duration of the War.)

**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 60246 Name Herbert Grossman R.F.A.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment:

1. What is your name?	Herbert Grossman
2. What is your full Address?	High St, Blackpool
3. Are you a British Subject?	Yes
4. What is your Age?	25 years, 8 months
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	Writer
6. Are you Married?	No
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military (if so, state particulars)?	No