

Baines' Brief Lives

Foreword

In the late 1690's the writer and scientist John Aubrey wrote a number of biographies about his friends, it was called Aubrey's Brief Lives. This book of 'brief' lives relates to the Boys and Masters of Baines School who fought in the Great War. In 1919, the school magazine, the Poultonian, featured a sentence about the Boys and Masters and how they should be remembered and that should be in a book called 'Baines and the Great War'. It has taken over 100 years to fulfil this and tell their stories but this book bears testament to them.

As with many of the older schools Baines School has a War Memorial for both the Great War and the Second World War. I thought during the Covid-19 lockdown that I would write a brief backstory on those boys that did not return from the Great War. This became longer and longer as I included those that were wounded in the War, then those that were imprisoned and then realised that I had to include all those Boys and Masters that fought in the War and returned. There were 308 boys noted in the archive of the School although during the writing of this book others have come to light. The School magazine, published a roll of honour showing all the boys and masters that were in WWI, however on reading the magazine I realised that many were missing but had been reported in the magazine. Some boys who were at the school before Thomas Whittington was Headteacher were also missing from the list. The list of the War dead is also affected in the same way and two extras were located during research. To the best of my knowledge the list is complete but as this is a working document readers may know of others missing from the lists or other errors. This project has taken longer to research and write than the duration of World War I.

The school's War Memorial are unique in that they include all those boys (it was a Boy's school at the time) that died as a result of the World Wars. A national or town memorial only lists those that died in conflict. Therefore, there are a few listed on the memorial that appear on no other National or Town War Memorial. Included on the War Memorial in school were those Boys that were sent home and died as a result of injuries. Some institutions like banks had their own private War Memorial so some Boys could appear on these.

As for the name Brief Lives, this can be read one of two ways. For those that fought and died in the World Wars or for the backstories of those Boys and master that fought.

Much of the school archive from the World Wars have been lost in the past 100 years. There is mention in the school magazine, the Poultonian, of a collection of photographs of every boy that fought in World War One, sadly this has been lost. The school magazine received letters and photographs from the Old Boys but the magazine only published part of those letters received with many of the originals being lost.

I am indebted to Baines School for access to the War Memorials and the Poultonians. The book is based on material on the School War Memorial and the school magazine; the Poultonian. However, there may be errors and omissions in the information listed as it is very difficult to check every fact. But where possible I have tried to check all information given. Added to this, during the Second World War many of the national records from WWI were lost in the blitz and this has hampered progress.

Unlike other books this is a working document and if you have any more information then please contact the author.

This book is dedicated to all those Old Boys and Masters that fought in World War I.

Many of the images in this project are from the National Archive. All other images permission has been asked for and granted.

David J Astall

President Baines School Former Pupils Association (2019-24) and Secretary Baines Alumni

The Books

It was proposed in January 1919 that the school produced a book called, "Baines and the Great War". To the best of my knowledge that book was never written, which was a shame as the school then had many of the original letters and photographs. They had a photograph of every boy who attended the school and fought in the Great War. This book and the Second World War books are the culmination of that idea.

As these books are online 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 corresponded with the school in the Second World War.

Book 1 – gives information about those Boys that are named in the Book of Remembrance. Added to these names are some of the back stories of those Boys that fought and survived the War, those that were wounded and those that were prisoners of war. Many of the national records of those that fought were lost in WWII during the Blitz. It has to be remembered that 450,700 civilian and military British personnel did not return after WWI. 20,000,000 people died in WWI, with 21,000,000 injured worldwide.

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

 ${f Book~3}$ – the correspondence from the Old Boys to the Poultonian Magazine that gives some insight to their lives in WWII.

Volunteering and Conscription

Many people believed that the men that fought in the Great War did so through volunteering, this correct to a point but in 1916 a policy of conscription was introduced. Prior to this millions had volunteered to fight on the western Front, some were willing volunteers and others went along for the ride. Similar recruitment problems faced the British army to those that had emerged during the Boer War. One of the major problems during the Great War was public health. Many of those that volunteered shwed alarming results following medical examinations. 2.5 million men had to be given medical examinations before being allowed to fight. Med were graded II or III for fitness but by 1918 only a quarter of those examined were either II or III.

In the Second World War all abled bodied men of fighting age were conscripted to either the fighting force or the pits.

Produced by D R Jesson Secretary Printed by Baines School Reprographics

BAINES SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS ASSOCIATION SPRING 2016 NEWS LETTER

Welcome to the latest News Letter.

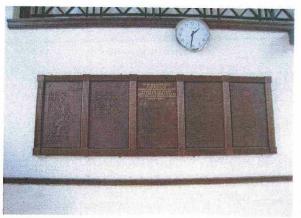
A Happy New Year to you all from Baines School.

Details of the 2016 AGM and Dinner can be found on page 4 of this News Letter

Where do your subscriptions go?

During the last 12 months your committee have used your subscriptions to support projects within the school

Many of you will remember the mobile lectern, which of late has not been used due to the hall no longer being large enough to accommodate full school assemblies. Your committee decided that the panels within the lectern should be more prominent within the school hall and in consequence replaced the panels with plain wood and had the panels mounted and placed on the rear wall of the hall adjacent to the 1914/1919 memorial





The next step in the process is to have all the names on the panels picked

out in gold so they can be more easily seen. The cost of this project so far has been £2500.00.

The people who did the work on our behalf said that when they were made it must have been a labour of love as the names on the panels are not letters stuck on but were carved out of the original block of wood.

Digitising the items from the School Magazine, the Poultonian

This seems a simple task, but it is quite time consuming. Firstly, every Poultonian needs to be read to find information and correspondence from the Old Boys relating to the wars. Prior to this all the Poultonians 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 magazine¹.

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 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!")

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 mg s, 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 (8th 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 paragra	lon.
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¹ Image scanned from the Poultonian

Finding the war dead

Sometimes it is quite difficult trying to find the information about the Old Boys that died in the world wars 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:

Arthur Pope

Private in the Royal Engineers during WWI.

This is all we know about Arthur.

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 700,000 died in WWI and to go through them all would be very difficult. 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.²



Alfred William H. Pope.

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 Chemist; enlisted 26 Oct. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 2 Feb. 1916, and died 16 July

in action there 14 Nov. 1917; anm.

following, from wounds received in action at Pozières the previous day. Buried. in Heilly Cemetery; unm.

The listing is now complete and can be added to the document.

² Scanned from De Ruvigny Roll of Honour

Name: Arthur Pope Serial No.: 8933 Rank: Private

Regiment: 13th (Service) Battn., The Royal Fusiliers

(City of London Regiment)

Service: Served with the Expeditionary Force (BEF) in

France and Flanders

Date of death: 16th July 1916

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born in Runcorn on 15th 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).

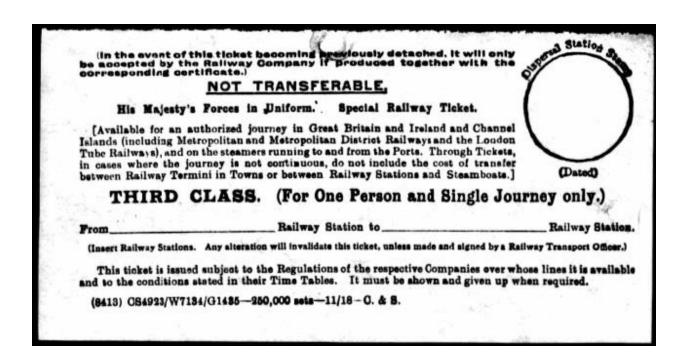
Cemetery: Heilly Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme, France

Notes: Died from wounds received on 15th July 1916 in action at Pozieres, France

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



No known copyright restrictions on any of the material used.

Introduction to Book 1

Baines School is probably unique in the way that it kept the boys of the School and parents informed about those members of the School community who were fighting in the War. During the Great War the School sent out the school magazine to all the Boys to keep them informed about what was going on at home and in return the Boys sent letters back to the school to let them know how they were getting on, many of these letters were censored by the war office. The School was acting like any other family keeping everyone informed.

In the second world war the School sent Christmas parcels to each and every Old Boy serving in the Forces, at one time this was over three hundred, no mean feat! These correspondences give an insight into life at the front line and the contents of the letters from the Poultonian in World War I will form part of this book. As more letters were sent in World War Ii then these together with the Poultonian reports will form part of the Second and Third Books in this series. I suggest in books 2 and 3 that they are dipped into as some of the accounts can be quite harrowing, more so than in the World War I book.

The School War Memorials list all those Old Boys and Masters who fought in the Wars and died as a result of the conflicts. This would include those that were injured, and were sent home to die, and those boys that died before getting to the battleground, something the Town Wwar Memorials do not list. The War Memorials are now housed on the back wall of the school hall. The panels of the WWII war Memorial were moved from the reading desk to the back wall of the School Hall. It is hoped that the blank panel in the School Hall can be used by those past Pupils who have died whilst in the services post-WWII.

The School War Memorials are unique in another way in that 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. The boys listed on the memorial will be on different town War Memorials. 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 in recording his death. After WWI the School started its Book of Remembrance, which covers 1914 to 1919, as some OBs died after the end of the War, from their injuries. 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?

In 1919 the school magazine wrote that those Boys that fought in the Great War should be commemorated in a book. After 100 years I thought it was high time that this book was written before the information is lost for ever.

It is over 100 years since the National War Memorials were set up and the Royal British Legion was formed. The School Reading Desk was officially unveiled in in 1953, nearly 70 years ago so it seemed a fitting epitaph to commemorate these events. 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 those 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.

The Last post and Reveille

Have you ever wondered what the last Post and Reveille actually mean at the Armistice Service in November? The Last Post signifies Good Friday and death of Jesus Christ and the Reveille the Resurrection.

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 School. 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 the War but returned home with injuries, which ended his war before the end of the conflict. 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 and was killed, 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 2020-2024 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.

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.

The motto of the Royal British Legion is 'Service not Self'. This is my service to the families of the School to tell the stories of their ancestors and the service they gave to help make the world a safer place.

David J Astall January 2023

Baines and the outbreak of The Great War

Ever thought you might be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Philip Wood, a former pupil at the school was with a party of friends touring France during August 1914 when the Great War was declared. On the day War broke out they were in Paris, now you are probably thinking that's easy, jump on a train and get back to England as soon as possible. One small problem lots of others had had the same idea. The only way was a 14 day hike to Le Havre. Baines initiative.

The first Old Boy to die in the Great War

Squadron Sergeant-Major Swarbrick. He died in November 1914 in the Egyptian conflict.

An Anomaly

The school's War Memorial lists all those boys and masters killed in the great war. Unfortunately this is not quite the case. Boys that attended school before Thomas Whittington was the headteacher are not listed³ unless they were related to boys in the school and therefore would be known. This resource therefore may increase in size if other members of the school are found that were before Whittington's time.

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³ This was possibly due to the registers in the school which were a little sparse.

COMMERATION

For past and present
For the Old Bainesians that fought in the Great War
Written in 1917

Comrades who beyond our borders Own our sacred name of home, Whom one Captain ranks and orders Wide howe'er his soldier's roam.

Brothers once and always brothers, Long as heart of youth is true, And afar the fair Boon-mother's Shadow falls beloved of you.

We that watch your faith's achieving From this home where faith upgrew, Count the truth of our believing, Truer by the deeds of you.

From beside your hearthstone olden,
From the altar where ye kneed,
Lo of time or distance holden
Brave we send our prayers afield.

Where ye sorrow, unforsaking
These shall at your side ascend,
And their breath on bosoms aching,
Be the whisper of a friend.

Where ye wander, these are near you.
Where ye labour, these shall yet
With the hopes all holy cheer you
And forbid that ye forget.

Taken from the school magazine, the Poultonian.

Book 1



World War I

The names, ranks and regiments listed in the book are those referred to in the Poultonian Magazine and on the School War Memorial. However from time to time boys move regiments or are promoted and this may not be recorded.

Some of the information used in this resource was published in the Poultonian magazine. These references came from letters, which were censored by the military, reports of visits to the school and family members and reports from other boys in the school.

The Old Boys War Memorial

The war memorial was set up by subscription with £40 of the proposed cost being raised by the Boys in the school. As we can see it was a collective effort with ideas coming from the Old Boys about what it should look like.

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.

Many of the National War records were destroyed or damaged during the Blitz therefore it has been quite challenging at times to find the information required to complete the book. This book also includes, and this I feel is unique, the names and some back stories of those that fought and returned.

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The names that follow are from those listed in the April 1920 edition of the P time the editor stated that some of the information may be incorrect and that missing. I have included all the names and made corrections were possible to their back story.	names may be , I have also added
Those members of the School community that died during the Great W they were discharged	
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Those Boys and Masters that died in the Great War 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: 25th Sept

1917 **Age:** 33

Where born/lived: Born in Fleetwood on 18th

Dec 1893. Married to Annie who lived in

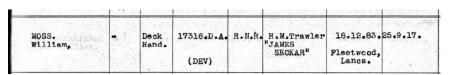
Fleetwood. Prior to joining the Navy, he was a

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. The James Seckar was a steam driven minesweeper. It was built in 1917 and was sunk by torpedo from a German

submarine. 123 were on board of which 16 died.



Service record

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.

Notice: war memorial



HMS James Seckar

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Record: MOSS, WILLIAM

Additional information: Son of John and Betty Moss, of Fleetwood; husband of Annie Peake (formerly Moss), of 71, Adelaide St., Fleetwood, Lancs.

Cemetery: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

Cemetery/memorial r... 24.

Country: United Kingdom

War memorial notice



Name: Frank Ashworth

Serial No.: 41081 **Rank**: 2nd Lieutenant

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

Service record: Corporal in the Training Reserve 3rd Battalion

Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant from Corporal

Date of death: 29th 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: Originally, he was with the 73rd TR Batt., (attached to Lancashire Fusiliers). He died of wounds in the battle of Gallipoli and Dardanelles and is buried where he fell at Zonnebeke, Arrondissement leper, West Flanders (West-



War Memorial panel at Tyne Cot

Vlaanderen), Belgium. The battalion had just returned to the Western Front that month from Salonika in Bulgaria.

Frank wrote to the Poultonian on May 13th, 1918, from France, two months before he was killed:

'I've just been out a month. We had ten deep in the line on my joining this battalion, and that was a good kick-off. Our first morning we had to go over the top from the support line to the front line, losing in our company about twenty men. During the whole period in the line, we lost about forty men and no officers, although the officer causality averages about one per day. My complete kit has gone. I have only met one person I know out here so far. He was my old Sergeant Major in the Lancashire Fusiliers. There is a rumour that we are leaving the North and proceeding down South. We were opposed to Jerry's latest push, and we didn't half draw it across him. We were on a crest in support and could see him about 1000 yards away, sending platoons over in single file at various intervals, and massing for an attack down in the hollow. By Jove! it was better than grouse shooting. Yesterday, I heard from someone that Larry had been wounded. I don't know whether it is true, but I sincerely hope it isn't. I hope you are all as well as I am, I never felt fitter.'

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Date of entry therein					11		W 1380

Service record

Name: Charles William Atherton

Serial No.:106351 Rank: Lieutenant

Regiment: 187th Special Company, Royal Engineers.

Formerly 250th Royal Warwick Regt.

Service record: Lieutenant although on the War

Memorial it is listed as Corporal. **Date of death**: 25th 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. A memorial is placed in Hanwood Church in Shropshire

Notes: Killed in Action at the Battle of Loos in France in a gas attack. The memorial in Hanwood Church is an eagle lectern in brass.





War memorial inscription

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.

The British decide to use gas in the attack at Loos, 25th 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.

The Battle of Loos took place from 25th September to 8th 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 26th 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.

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The Barnes brothers Harry and William

Name: Harry Barnes Serial No.: 11683 Rank: Private

Regiment: 6th Battalion, Kings Own (Royal

Lancaster Regiment)

Date of death: 7th Oct 1915

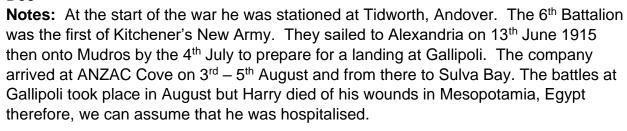
Age: 23

Where born/lived: Son of Cllr Samuel and

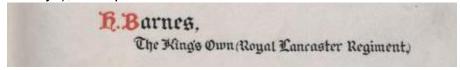
Martha Barnes of the Royd, Bispham. Born at Todmorden

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

D98



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



The name on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank Monument



BARNES, Pte Harry, 11683. 6th Bn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt. Died of wounds 7th Oct., 1915. Age 23. Son of Samuel and Martha Barnes, of The Royd, Bispham, Blackpool. Born at Todmorden. D. 98.

Notice for the war memorial

Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank WW1 Memorial



6th Bn on the battlefield

Soldier's effects

Name: Will (Billy) Barnes

Serial No.: 680259 **Rank**: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: "A" Battery, 26th Brigade, Royal Feld Artillery **Service**: British Army Bombardier 1302 Royal Field Artillery

Promoted to Corporal Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

Date of death: 2nd 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 then moved to Bispham. He was an engineer/surveyor at Thornton Urban District Council. At the start of the war, he was training at the Territorial Force and was mobilised to France. As with his brother he was born in Todmorden.

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

Notes: Attended the Officer Cadet School, Exeter. He fought with Brigadier-General Topping's Boys and was wounded on August 13th, 1916, on the Somme. The injuries were to his back caused by an exploding shell. He was in the No2 Military Hospital, Manchester. He was promoted to Bombardier in 1916. He died in Quérénaing, Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France of his wounds.



Service record

201879	Sgr	BARNES.	R.F.A.201879 Gnr
		Will.	

[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 26th November 1927 aged 31. She is buried in Plot 1 Row 2 Grave 1. Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Malta.]

95, Orrell Rd., Wigan.

BARROW, Lce. Cpl. Benjamin, 11917. 1st Bn.

Coldstream Guards. 15th Sept., 1916. Age 23.

Son of John Joseph and Frances Ellen Barrow, of

Name: Benjamin Barrow

Serial No.: 11917 Rank: Lance Corporal Regiment: 1st Battalion. Coldstream Guards

Date of death: 15th 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

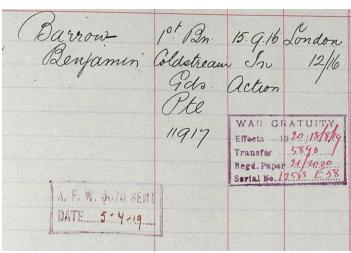


11917 Lance Corporal

Benjamin

BARROW

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.



Soldier's effects

Name: Alfred George Bennett

Serial No.: S/10898

Rank: Private

Regiment: 6th Battalion (Service). The Buffs (East

Kent Regiment)

Date of death: 7th Oct 1916

Age: 25

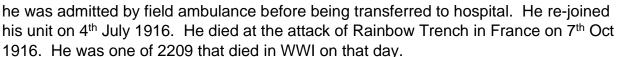
Where born/lived: Born in Mistley near Ipswich in

Essex in April 1891 and lived in Catford in Kent. He was a

boarder in the school.

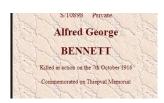
Cemetery: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 5D

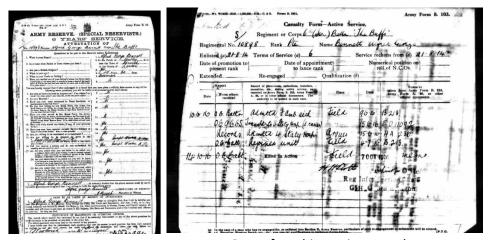
Notes: On 10th June 1916, during a training exercise in Fleselles



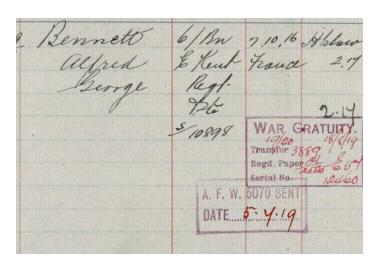


Panel at Thiepval





Pages from his service record



Soldier's effects

Name: Reginald Blackhurst

Serial No.: TS/2073

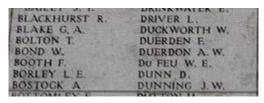
Rank: Private

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

Lancaster Regiment)

Date of death: 16th April 1915

Age: 21



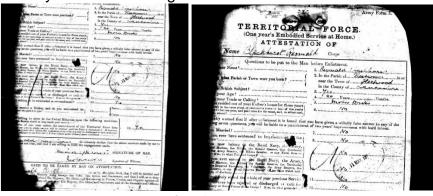
Names on the panel at Ypres

Where born/lived: He was born in 1894. His parents owned the Crown Hotel on Dock Street in Fleetwood however by 1911 the family lived and worked at the Golden Ball in Poulton.

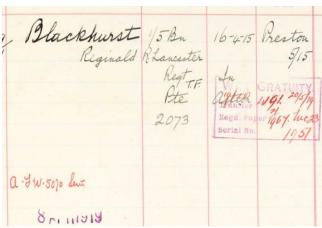
Cemetery: Ypres (leper), Arrondissement leper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium Menin Gate, Panel12.

Notes: Killed in action in France and Flanders, at the 2nd battle of Ypres, Belgium. He

died a year after enlisting.



Pages from the service record



Soldier's effects

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Name: George William Hubert Blakeway

Serial No.: 5364 Rank: Sapper

Regiment: 8th Field Company Engineers,

Australian Imperial Army.

Date of death: 21st March 1920

Age: 31

Where born/lived: Born in Pendleton, Lancashire in 1889 before moving to Blackpool. In 1912 he emigrated to

Australia. He married in 1917 in Australia. **Cemetery:** CofE Cemetery, Randwick,

Sydney



Australian Imperial Army

Notes: Not much can be reported about George Blakeway as he enlisted in Australia and was discharged from the Army therefore did not appear on a Town War Memorial.

On 27th Oct 1917 at the second battle of Passchendaele at Ypres, he received injuries from a 10-inch shell to his left leg, which was shattered. He also received several wounds to his right leg, head and right eye. He did not die on the battleground and therefore was discharged following this. On 21st March 1920 he contracted Tuberculosis (TB) whilst on active service in Abyssinia. I am unsure why he had volunteered a second time with injuries as bad as his. He was discharged again and died in Australia.



A page from his enlistment papers

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: 2nd Dec 1916

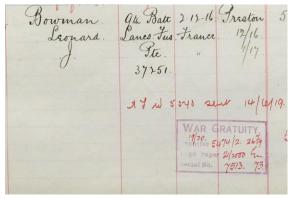
Age: 27

Where born/lived: He was born in 1889 in Blackpool. In 1901 he was living on Lockwood Avenue, Poulton with his parents and eight siblings. By 1911 he had moved to Newport, Wales. Cemetery: Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France Notes: He died of wounds from the Battle of the Somme in

France



Image of his own gravestone



Soldier's effects



Service record

The Battle of the Somme – first day

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

Final phase

On 15th 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 1st/4th South Lancashire's during the action known as Flers-Courcelette.

Meanwhile, 2nd and 8th South Lancashires and 8th and 9th 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 21st October in the battle of the Ancre Heights. On the 18th October the 1st 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 23rd October the 2nd East Lancashires captured and held German positions near Guedecourt.

Further north, near Beaumont Hamel, 8th East Lancashires and 10th Loyal North Lancashires attacked side by side on the 15th November in the battle of the Ancre, but failed with severe casualties. The final act of the Somme offensive opened on 18th November, when the three 7th 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.

Name: Alfred Bromley Serial No.: G/2158 Rank: Serjeant

Regiment: 8th Battalion. Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Service: He was deployed to France on 31st Aug 1915 as a Lance

Corporal before being promoted to Serjeant

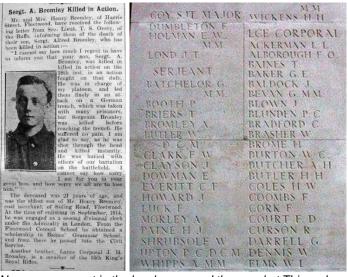
Date of death: 18th Aug 1916

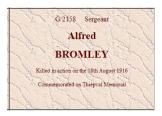
Age: 21

Where born/lived:

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.

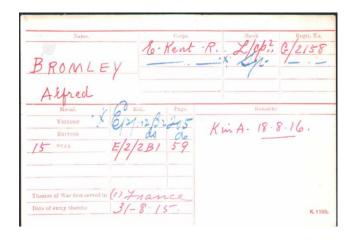


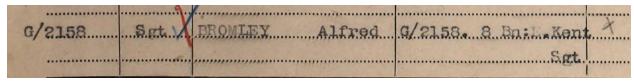


Newspaper report in the local paper and the panel at Thiepval.

1	-	- 4-			/- /		
	G/2158	L/C	BROMLEY	Alfred	31-8-15(1)	K in A.	18-8-16.
1		***************************************					

Notes: He had been at the front since 31st August 1915. Prior to enlistment he had been at the Admiralty. During the War 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, trying to get back to the trench. Alfred led the platoon in a successful attack on a German trench where many prisoners were taken. Alfred died instantly and was buried where he fell.





Service record

His brother James Henry Bromley was a member of the Kings 15th Royal Rifles.

Name: William Brooke Serial No.: 201201 Rank: Corporal

Regiment: 1st/4th Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Date of death: 20th Sept 1917

Age: 28

Where born/lived: Born in Robertown, Liversedge, Yorkshire in 1889 before moving to

Blackpool.

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

Notes: He joined in February 1915 and went to France in July 1916. He was killed in action, by a shell bursting at the 3rd Battle of Ypres: Battle of the Menin Road Ridge. His death was instantaneous. The night before he died, he gave his watch to his friend and asked him to take it back to his parents in case he did not survive the battle. His brother Irvine Brooke of the DGA was badly gassed and was sent to the convalescent home at Squires Gate.

		/			
201201	Pte	BROOKE	William	1/4th K 0	R L
				201201	Pte
		-			

Name.		Corps.	Barr	k. Regtl. No.
		R. Lane. J	R. Ju	201201
BROOK	F			
2				
William				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	1	lemarks.
Victory	H2/103 B1	93086 .		
Винтын	H2/103 B1	do		
STAR				
				Service record

Name: Joseph Herman Preston Brown

Serial No.: 50324 Rank: Private

Regiment: 2nd Battalion Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment

Date of death: 14th 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



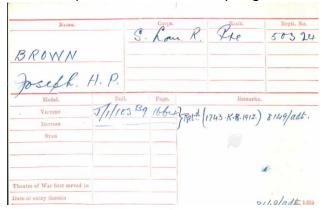
Bank Memorial

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

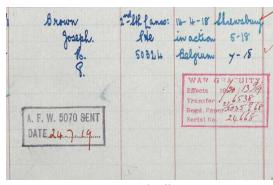
Cemetery: Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium Panel 6 and 7.

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': 12th to 15th April, Hazebrouck; 13th to 15th 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. He was killed in action as part of the German Spring offensive.



Service record



Soldier's effects



Name: John Gordon Cameron

Serial No.: 241659

Rank: Private

Regiment: 5th Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment

Date of death: 30th Nov 1917

Age: 24

Where born/lived: He was born in Bellshill, Lanarkshire on 1st Oct 1894. **Cemetery**: Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France Plot IV E 16

Notes: The family moved to Old Red Bank, Hesketh Avenue, Bispham. He enlisted on 20th Dec 1915. Prior to this he had been a Master in the school. He had been sent to France on 14th July 1916 with the Expeditionary Force. He visited the School on leave in 1917 and the Poultonian wrote that he was very cheery. He wrote a field card on his return to France however he died of his wounds at Cambrai, France on 30th Nov 1917. He was buried at Epehy in SW Cambrai.

The officer commanding the company had been wounded so the 2nd Lieutenant took command. Only 40 men were left at the post, and they had come under heavy attack from the Germans. They held the position for 24 hours and John had given valuable help. Of the lewis gun team John and two others were all that remained but held their position to the last. He was shot through the lung and his death was instantaneous.



John King: in fanst.

Gordon Rames Cution

241659. Grane

WAR GRATUITY.

Transcerts 88/2. 222

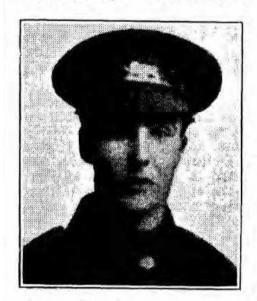
Regd. Paper 2/2000 266.

A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 10. 4936.

Service record

Soldier's effects

CAMERON, JOHN GORDON, Private, No. 241659, 5th (Territorial) Battn.



John Gordon Cameron.

The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.), s. of Angus Cameron, of Old Red Bank, Hesketh Avenue, Bispham, Blackpool, Electrical Engineer, by his wife, Maria, dau. of William Cox; b. Bellshill, co. Lanark, 1 Oct. 1894; educ. Bispham, and Bain's Grammar School, Poulton; was a School Master; enlisted 20 Dec. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 14 July following, and was killed in action at Cambrai 30 Nov. 1917. Buried at Epehy, south-west of Cambrai. An officer wrote: "Of the Lewis Gun Team, he and the other two, who were all that was left, held on to their position till the last. He was shot through the lung, and his death was almost instantaneous. We will miss him very much. He was not only a clever soldier, but under all trying conditions, he was always cheerful." Unm.

CAMERON, NATHANIEL, 2nd Lieut., 6th Scaforth Highlanders, Morayshire Battn. (Territorial), only s. of Donald Cameron, of

The Battle of Cambrai was also known as the First Battle of Cambrai and Schlacht von Cambrai. It was followed by the biggest German counterattack against the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) since 1914. The town of Cambrai, in the département of Nord, France, was an important supply centre for the German Siegfriedstellung (The Hindenburg Line) and capture of the town and the nearby Bourlon Ridge would threaten the rear of the German line to the north.

Name: Edward Wallace Cardwell

Serial No.: 72032 Rank: Gunner

Regiment: 14th Battalion Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison

Artillery

Date of death: 3rd Jan 1917

Age: 23

Where born/lived: Born on 17th Sept 1893 in Marton and lived

in Blackpool.

Cemetery: Longueval Road Cemetery, Somme, France. Plot

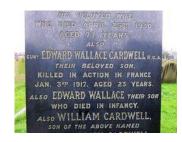
J14.

Notes: Killed in action in France. The inscription on his grave

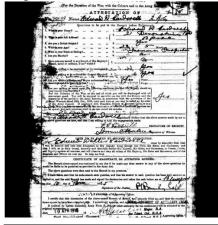
reads: GOD IN HIS LOVING CARE WILL GUARD OUR

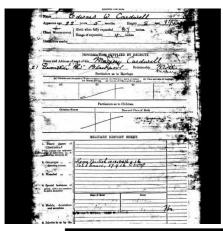
LOVED ONE LYING THERE.

CARDWELL, Gnr. Edward Wallace, 72032. 14th Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery. 3rd Jan., 1917. Age 23. Son of John and Margary Cardwell, of Hornby Villa, Devonshire Rd., Blackpool. J. 14.



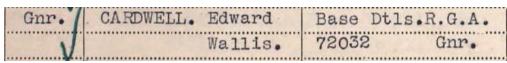
Pages from his service record











Service records

The Cleator brothers Charles and Rowland

Name: Charles Frederick Cleator

Serial No.: 99400 Rank: Private

Regiment: 146th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) Formerly service number 33592, Royal Own Lancs. Regt.

Date of death: 18th Nov 1917

Age: 19

Where born/lived: See notes below.

Cemetery: Tyne Cot Memorial West-Vlaanderen

Belgium

Notes: He had just returned to the front in Flanders after being in hospital with trench fever. Both his brother Rowland and

their other brother, James were in the action. Rowland died but James was only injured. Charles was killed in action from shelling and buried where he fell in Zonnebeke, Arrondissement leper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

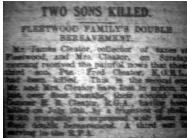




Panels from Tyne Cot







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 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 18th 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.

Name: Rowland Bleasdale Cleator

Serial No.: 112990 Rank: Gunner

Regiment: 303rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Date of death: 11th 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.







Report from the local newspaper

Rowland Bleasdale Cleator was born in 1896 in Fleetwood, the son of James and Sarah Jane Cleator. In 1915, the family lived at 21 Lord Street, Fleetwood.

Gunner R. B. Cleafor.

He enlisted at Fleetwood on 11th December 1915 and served in the Western European Theatre.

He was buried in Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium, and commemorated in Fleetwood Memorial Park and the 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 18th November 1917







Name: Arthur Reginald Coope Serial No.: 64640 then 70536

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: Welsh Regiment then 1/4th Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers

Date of death: 7th May 1918

Age: 19

Where born/lived: Born in 1899 in Kearsley, Bolton before

moving to Blackpool after 1901.

Cemetery: Niederzwehren Cemetery, Hessen, Germany Plot

IV.E.11



Gravestone St Stephen's Churchyard, Kearsley

Notes: He was wounded in both legs and was sent to Ohrdruf (Wolfis), Landkreis Gotha, Thüringen, Germany. This was used as a POW concentration camp during WWI and contained 20,000 prisoners.

He had the chance to escape but decided to stay with his chum who was badly wounded and could have bled to death had Reggie (who was assisting him to staunch the bleeding) left him.

COOPE Ar	thur Reg	inald	Welch.	R.Pte.	64640
			4/R.W.	Fus. 7.05	3.6.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.		
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Service records

Name: Leonard (Jimmie) Coulston

Serial No.: 5313 Rank: Private

Regiment: 25th Bn., Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force

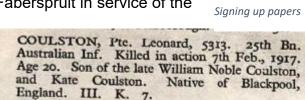
Date of death: 7th Feb 1917

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born on 4th Nov 1896 in Blackpool but moved to Australia. His father, Corporal W N Coulston of the Duke of

Lancaster's Imperial Yeomanry, died at Faberspruit in service of the

Queen in May 1900. He died when Leonard was 4 years old as a result of this attended Baines School as a boarder with his brother John Noble Coulston. He signed up in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

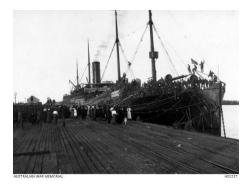


Cemetery: Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont III K7

Notes: He sailed from Brisbane to Plymouth from 3rd Aug to 18th Oct 1916 on the A.50 "Itonus". Having disembarked the ship sailed into the Mediterranean Sea and was sunk by German U-boats near Malta in Dec 1916. On 14th Dec 1916 he sailed to France from Folkestone on the SS "Queen Victoria" before joining his Unit in France on 18th Dec 1916. On the 7th Feb 1917 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 10th Feb 1917.



Gravestone



A50 Itonus

25th 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. The 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.

Name: Thomas Crook

Serial No.: 34505 Rank: Private

Regiment: 12th Battalion Highland Light Infantry Formerly

G.S./9058, Res. Cav. Regt. **Date of death**: 25th Jan 1917

Age: 22

Where born/lived: Born in 1895 in Inskip with Sowerby in

Lancashire before moving to Kirkham.

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

France

Notes: He was sent to Scarpe, France to fight in the trenches but was admitted to hospital in Rouen with pneumonia, of which

he died on 25th Jan 1917.



St Peter's Inskip with Sowerby

Name: Edward L Davies

Serial No.: 21983 Rank: Driver

Regiment: 2nd Field Sqdn., Royal Engineers (Field Company Regiment)

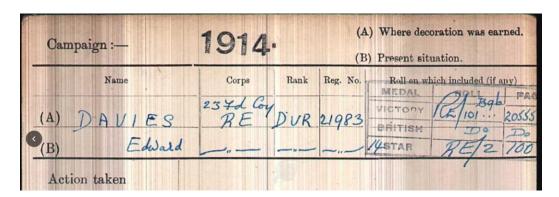
Date of death: 27th Dec 1917

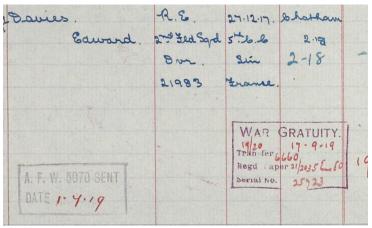
Age:

Where born/lived: Born in Wigan

Cemetery: Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France

Notes: Died of wounds in the Somme





Service records

Name: Frank Emsley Serial No.: 33846 Rank: Private

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

Date of death: 30th 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 in the civil service. He was shown as a Civil Servant (Inland Revenue) on CWGC certificate. By Feb 1916 he had moved back North 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 30th November 1917 he was killed in action in France. His sergeant wrote: "Frank would be greatly missed as he was always such a willing and cheerful soldier. He fought like a hero."

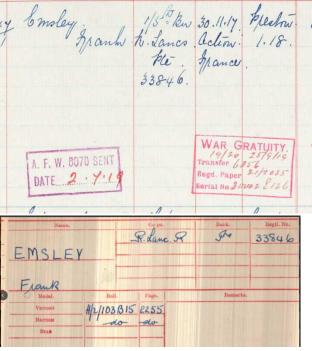




Panel at Cambrai



Newspaper report



Service records

ATTESTATION OF

Herbert Trovugatorpo M.A. a

Name: Hermann (Herbert) Grossman

Serial No.: 60246 Rank: Gunner

Regiment: 28th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison

Artillery

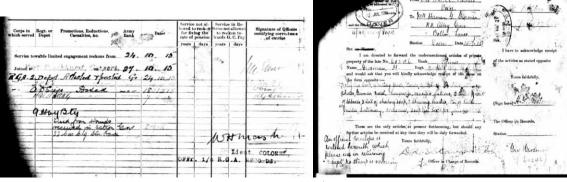
Date of death: 5th Sept 1918

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. He was their only son.

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 at the clearing station in France. He had been dangerously wounded in the neck on 4th Sept., while at his gun. He changed his name to Herbert possibly due to a German name.



Soldier's records



Name: Harold Hartt

Serial No.: 11568 (Manchester 4th City Batt)) 11515

(Liverpool)

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: 7th Bn. (Territorial), The King's (Liverpool)

Regiment

Service: Serjeant then Acting Warrant Officer Class 2 in the 4th then 19th Manchester Regiment. He rose from Private to Sergeant in five months. Then he moved regiments to the Liverpool Regiment and was promoted to Second Lieutenant. He was promoted Company

Sergeant-Major for Gallantry. **Date of death:** 5th May 1917

Age: about 18

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

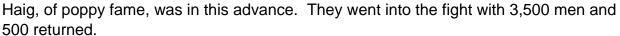
Salesman at a calico printers warehouse

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

Notes: He travelled to France in 1914. He was promoted from Private to Sergeant in

Service record

five months. He wrote in the Poultonian in 1916 that he was 'resting' in a cottage on the bank of a principal river in the North of France (Carnoy⁴, Somme). Resting meant lectures, practising night attacks and touring a pied. This rest period was for two months. The action that followed was near Montauban; two miles through the German lines. Sir Douglas



Harold has a near escape when in charge of his platoon when a 60lb cannister containing high explosives blew him into the traverse of a trench, wrecked his dug-out and destroyed all his kit. As the force of the explosion twisted sheets of iron, smashed beams and covered him with a shower of sandbags, old iron and rocks, his escape was miraculous. This was on 23rd July 1916 in which two of his friends were wounded and one missing. Harold was reported missing for 12 hours being surrounded by enemy trenches, but when nightfall came, he escaped with five others. In acknowledgement and gallantry due to men falling to the left and right of him, taking the German trench and in the face of enemy fire. He helped hold the ground from counterattacks and received special commendation from the Colonel and the Brigadier-General. This resulted in his being promoted to Company Sergeant-Major for gallantry.

⁴ Carnoy was completely destroyed by the Germans on July 1st, 1916.

The night before Harold was killed, he had written to W A Jolly to thank him for contacting Conn Mackey and passing on Harold's details.

He was 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: Frank Blakely Highman

Serial No.: 2/1924

Rank: Driver/Gunner/Sapper

Regiment: Samoan Advanced and 11th Battery, 3rd Brigade, NZ

Field Artillery, NZEF (HQ staff)

Service: Served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He

served in Samoa with the NZ Field Engineers

Date of death: 20th June 1917

Age: 21

Where born/lived: Born in Fleetwood in the first quarter of 1896. Christened in Fleetwood on 17th April 1896. He moved in 1901 to Pilling then to Thornton. His parents moved to Lyall Bay, Wellington NZ.



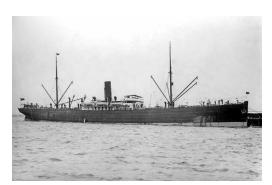
GNR. F. B. HIGHMAN, of Wellington, Killed in action.

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

Notes: He joined up on August 5th, 1914. After several months in the Samoa campaign with the NZ field artillery he returned to New Zealand. After a short training in the artillery, he was sent to Egypt. On the 12th January 1916 he was reported to have jaundice. In April 1916 he was then sent to France and served as an observer.

Embarkations: WW1 HMNZT 1 or HMNZT 2 Vessel was Moeraki or Monowai, New Zealand Field Artillery, Samoan Advance Party WW1 from Wellington, New Zealand to Suez, Egypt

HMNZT 26 Vessel was Aparima, 5th Reinforcements.



Frank left Wellington NZ 13 June 1915 aboard HMNZT 26 Aparima bound for Suez, Egypt





Panel at Messines Ridge (NZ) Memorial

He was killed in action in France and buried where he fell.

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 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 June all along the front line the troops waited for the subterranean cataclysm that signalled of 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.

Name: Jack Hirst

Serial No.: 250380 2152

Rank: Private

Regiment: 6th Bn. Manchester Regiment

Date of death: 25th Jul 1917

Age: 22

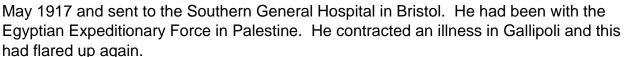
Where born/lived: Born in Oldham in 1895. He died in

Christchurch, Hampshire

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

Notes: Jack died of Dysentry in Bournemouth following an operation. His father had visited him two days before his

death but could not return in time. He was invalided home in

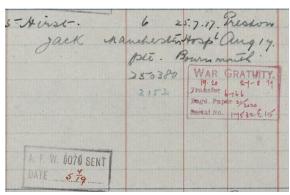




Jack's gravestone

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К. 138

	#		
Pte	HIRST Jack	1/6th Manc	h Regt
-		2152	Pte
		1/6th Manc	h Regt
		250380	



Service records

Name: Tom Hartley Howarth

Serial No.: 406089

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment: 59th Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Date of death: 6th 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. There is a memorial to him at St

Thomas Church, Caunce St., Blackpool.

Notes: Joined up in Grantham. Moved to France and joined 20th Division, 3 March 1916. In March 1917 he was resting for a couple of weeks in a French village about 40 miles behind the lines. In his letter to the Poultonian he regrets missing the speech day but hoped to be at the next one where there was planned to be a big re-union.

On 30th Nov 1917 he is recorded as being badly wounded in the head and missing at Cambrai Front in Ypres. He never regained consciousness and died of his wounds at a POW camp in Limburg, Westphalia. He was two weeks short of his 20th birthday.



Tom's gravestone





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 Bourlon Wood. This took place on 29th November, with Divisional HQ going into huts at Trescault. On 1st 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. 59th Division was ordered to withdraw from Bourlon, which it did successfully, taking up a position at Flesquieres.

Name.	Corps	Bank.	Regal. No.
HOWARTH	M.G.C.	×2/Liens	/-
Tom Hartley Medal. Soll.	Page.		Dec. 6/12/17
BRITISH X OFF 22	7 7/E IVX,	18607 dy 25.8.2	2 Na/6/20915.
Theatre of War first served in Date of entry therein 73.72	.5.17.	NW/6/2	0.915 ISSO

Name: Harold Iddon Serial No.: 51539 Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: "D" Bty., 173rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery **Service:** Acting Serjeant, Royal Army Medical Corps then Second Lieutenant Royal Field/Horse Artillery D Bty, 173 Bde

Date of death: 23rd Aug 1918

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born in Preston in 1890

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

Notes: He was a former Science Master of the school and was



Panel at Penwortham

the son of R Iddon of Penwortham. He attended the University of Liverpool. He died in the London Hospital having being wounded on 27th April 1918. He had been in Boulogne Hospital since that time, making good progress towards recovery. His parents received a letter on the 10th August 1918 stating that he was no longer seriously ill. He was moved to the London Hospital on 18th August 1918 and was reported to have had a good journey. However on the 21st August he had an attack of vomiting, collapsed from the weakness and had heart failure on the 23rd August.

He had enlisted in 1914 and had passed all the exams in the Field ambulance service to reach Sergeant Major (1st Class). He transferred to the RFA in 1917. He had been in France since July 1915.

		Dig. Anthony.	
21239	W.O.1.	Harold.	51539""W:0:1:
55689	Pto		55000 # D+c

Name: Charles Pratt Johnson

Serial No.: 1491 Rank: Private

Regiment: British Medical Expeditionary Force in 1/5th Btn.,

Manchester Regiment

Date of death: 7th Aug 1915

Age: 21

Where born/lived: Born in 1894 in Fleetwood Cemetery: Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Gallipoli,

Çanakkale, Turkey, I. E. 11

Notes: 6th 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': was the final heart-breaking letter from Charles who never came home. He wrote it whilst serving with the British Medical Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli. He was tragically killed in action just nine days after sending it.

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. Charles promised that he would be home for Christmas, but his family never saw him again.

JOHNSON, Pte. Charles Pratt, 1491. 1st/5th

Here is the full transcript of the letter:

Bn. Manchester Regt. Killed in action 7th Aug., 1915. Age 21. Son of Charles Herbert and Amy Johnson, of 59, Baines Avenue, Irlam, Manchester. Native of Fleetwood, Lancs. I.

"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.

Name: William Dixon Johnson

Serial No.: 485076 Rank: Rifleman

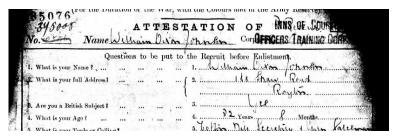
Regiment: 12th Battalion City of London Regiment (Kensington) ("The Rangers")

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

Training Corps serial no.: 35076 **Date of death:** 27th Aug 1917

Age: 34

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

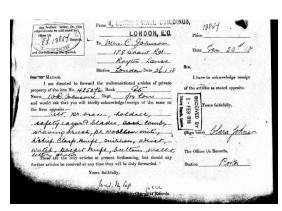


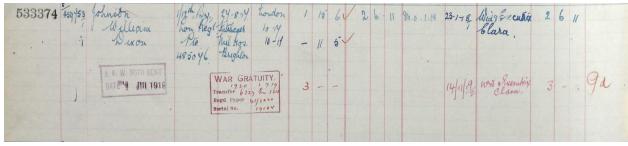
then moved to Crompton to work as a clerk in a cotton mill. His father was not living with the family in 1891 in Poulton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents, then an uncle in 1901. He married on 20th Aug 1906 in Crompton. William was injured at the Battle of Langemarck at the German Retreat.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

Cemetery: Crompton Cemetery

Notes: He left school at Christmas 1898. He was attached to the Inns of Court OTC. Due to him dying at home he is not listed on the 12th 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.





Soldier's effects

Name: Norman Kemp

Serial No.:

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: 5th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

Service:

Date of death: 9th Sept 1916

Age: 21

Where born/lived: Born in 1895 in Chadderton, Oldham. By 1901 he had moved with his parents to Egerton Rd, Blackpool. When he was 15, he attended Rossall School, presumably having moved from Baines School. 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.

Name: Joseph Kershaw

Serial No.: 14411 Rank: Private

Regiment: 24th and 1/5th Battalion.

Manchester Regiment

Date of death: 20th Oct 1918

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born in 1898 in Oldham (above Town) Cemetery: Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

Notes: His family moved from Oldham to Cleveleys. He was killed in action in France at

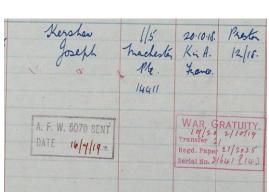
the Battle of the Selle which was during the Hundred Days Offensive.

The battle of the Selle, 17th-25th 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 after being forced out of the Hindenburg Line at the battle of Cambrai-St. Quentin, 27th September-9th October 1918. The Allied advance then slowed in the face of increasing German resistance, and by 10th October the Germans were taking up a new position on the River Selle, close to Le Cateau.

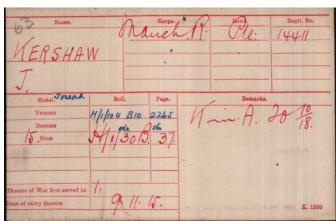
On 17th October Rawlinson's Fourth Army attacked on a ten-mile front south of Le Cateau. Their aim was to reach a line between Valenciennes and the Sambre and Oise Canal. From there the key German railway centre at Aulnoye would be in artillery range. The Fourth Army attack made slow progress – after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

days the right wing had made the biggest advance, a move of five miles.

The attack was then widened. By the evening of 19th 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 20th October the First and Third Armies attacked north of Le Cateau. It was during this attack that Joseph was killed.



Soldier's effects



KERSHAW, Pte. Joseph, 14411. 1st/5th Bn. Manchester Regt. 20th Oct., 1918. Age 20. Son

of John R. and Margaret Kershaw, of "Ivv

Bank," Beach Rd., Cleveleys, Blackpool.

Army record

Name: Edward Herbert Charles le Marchant

Serial No.: Rank: Captain

Regiment: 1st 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 Lieutenant⁵. In 1914 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. By 1916 he was promoted to Lieutenant then

Captain

Date of death: 29th Oct 1916

Age:

Where born/lived: He was born 9th Sept 1894 in Dover. He was the son of Colonel E. H. Le Marchant of the Hampshire Regiment, and of Mrs. Le Marchant. His father died in the last Afghan Campaign. His mother was a nurse with the Red Cross in Paris. Apart from being an Old Bainesian he was also an Old Harrovian⁶. He was a boarder at Baines from 1907-8.

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

Notes: He died of wounds in France having been shot through the lung. On leaving Harrow Captain Le Marchant was intending to go to Sandhurst, but ultimately took a Commission direct in his father's old Regiment on 1st April 1914. 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 29th, 1916, of wounds received in action at the Battle of the Somme six days before. He was shot on the 23rd Oct transferred to Rouen on 27th Oct and died on 29th Oct.

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.

⁵ The discrepancy may be due to the information not being changed before he was killed

⁶ Attended Harrow School after leaving Baines

Name: John Albert Morris

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

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: 20th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (Public School Battalion) London Regiment

Service:

Date of death: 1st Nov 1916

Age: 23

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

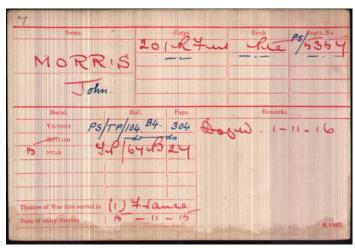
1915

Cemetery: Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Departement de la Somme, Picardie,

France II. F. 30.

Notes: Initially joined up with the 3rd Public schools Battalion. Killed in action in the

Somme, Picardie, France



Record card

Name: George Paul Serial No.: 4619 Rank: Private

Regiment: The 10th (Scottish) Bn., The King's (Liverpool

Regiment)
Service:

Date of death: 17th Oct 1915

Age: 19

Where born/lived: He lived in Liverpool but was born in

London. He was a boarder at Baines.

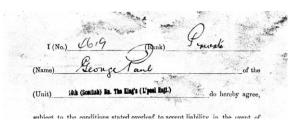
Cemetery: Divisional Cemetery, Ypres (leper), Arrondissement leper, West Flanders

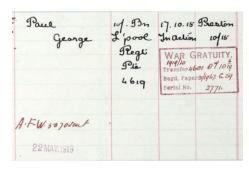
(West-Vlaanderen), Belgium, PLOT H. 15.

Notes: As he died in Oct 1915, he was a member of the 1/10th. 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 6th Sept 1915 and died in October aged 19.









Record cards

Name: Arthur Pope Serial No.: 8933 Rank: Private

Regiment: 13th (Service) Battn., The Royal Fusiliers

(City of London Regiment)

Service: Served with the Expeditionary Force (BEF) in

France and Flanders

Date of death: 16th July 1916

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born in Runcorn on 15th 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. This became ICI.

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

Notes: Died from wounds received on 15th July 1916 in action at Pozieres, France at

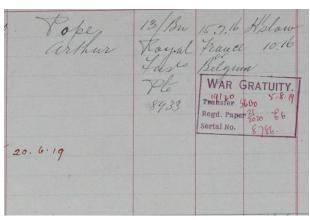
the Battle of Ancre. The 13th were part of the 111th Brigade, 37th Division.



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 Cov captured the orchard. However, the 13th 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.

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. Runeorn, 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 Pozières the previous day. Buried.

taken from De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour



Soldier's effects

Name: Geoffrey Fildes Potts

Serial No.:

Rank: Lieutenant

Regiment: 17th Battalion Manchester Regiment, BEF **Service:** In 1914 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

Date of death: 23rd April 1917

Age: 23

Where born/lived: Born in April 1893.

Cemetery: Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais,

France VH29

Notes: He joined up in 1914. In 1916 he wrote to the

Poultonian that he was upset that he had not been in the battle as he was a

Quartermaster.



Arras, France

His report in the Poultonian in 1916 reported a supply journey to the front line. Lorries took the ammunition and artillery and dropped this along the road in 'dumps' this was then taken to the front line in convoy. Ammo going one way with empty ambulances and full ambulances going the other. At certain crossroads he as quartermaster arranged field kitchens to be placed. Tea was then given to the walking wounded as they passed. They crossed the old British front line then what was supposed to be the old German front line but no trenches just craters some 30 feet across by 10 feet deep. The roads closer to the new front line were damaged with many obstacles, they could not get to the front so 'dumped' the ammo by the roadside. The whole journey of 3 miles took 10 hours.

He was killed in action in Arras, Pas-de-Calais.

Some of the letters he sent to the Poultonian were amusing and illuminating. In gum-boots reaching to the thigh...It's a critical moment when the mud and water are gradually reaching to the top of your boots. One man got stuck and it took six hours to dig him out.

We had a bad day yesterday (Feb 11th), they shelled this place from 2:30 to 7:30. My new boots were torn to ribbons by a 5.9" lachrymatory shell⁷. I have a horse called Polly who seems oblivious to the shelling but shies violently at a piece of white paper!

On becoming Quartermaster-Sergeant he returned to duty and volunteered to go to the front in the battle of which he died. He was made Liaison Officer. The Colonel sent him back to convey intelligence to the Brigadier and as he approached the HQ in order to telephone he was hit in the groin by a sniper's bullet and died in the arms of the

⁷ This shell contained Chlorine gas which was tear gas,. This was early chemical warfare

Regimental Sergeant Major a few seconds later. Before he died he passed on the message to the RSM. He was buried on the battlefield.

Report on the battle where Geoffrey died

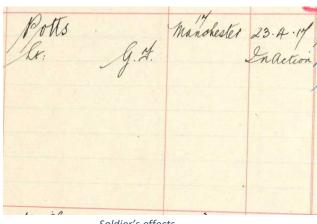
Arras, Hindenburg Line – Heninel 23rd April 1917

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 1917, 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 23rd 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 23rd April 1917 or died of wounds in Casualty Clearing Stations or French military hospitals by the end of May.



Soldier's effects

Name: Arthur Singleton

Serial No.: 6556

Rank: Serjeant

SINGLETON, Serjt. Arthur, 6556. 16th Bn.

Manchester Regt. 30th July, 1916.

Regiment: 16th Battalion Manchester Regiment **Service:** Promoted from Corporal to Serjeant

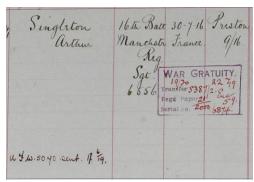
Date of death: 30th July 1916

Age: 27

Where born/lived: Born in 1889 in Blackpool. He later lived in Prestwich

Cemetery: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

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



Soldier's effects

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 battalion and 2nd Royal Fusiliers 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.

Name: Robert Parkinson Whiteside

Serial No.:

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: 1st Battalion, the King's (Liverpool) Regiment

Service:

Date of death: 28th 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. He

was shot through the head whilst leafing a machine gun section into action in France. 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 9th April, which involved the regiment's 11th, 13th, and Liverpool Pals (1st) battalions. The 13th moved forward with the 3rd Division at 05:30, 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 April, 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.
	OZOGITOR IN ORGANICOR
	Weather - Soul Poor Vanhely Wand Westerly -
28/4/17	Releval 2/7 Than Reg in Item Sector - Deposition of Companies in follows: - D' By Right From I Line B Coy Course Firmy Line, "C' by Left Firmy Line. "A Coy. Right Support By-
	27 MARY Fook over from in VILANCE LINE (in Support CAMBRIN LEFT Subsector) 2 Companies and Support CAMBRIN BIGHT Sub-sector - Bosch antillary our graces, fring
	attendering Relief: 4 Canalter D ley during tellif -
	- + and attacks on my Right and Jeff respectively look since according to rate.
图是	They appear to have been succeeded with scales four types and constitute that such side
	Person sugalation, about 10-30 four and continues made the dissummentally Throught night.
	Beetlevik Printpuns Majori
	Casualties of OR. 4;

: Whitesis 2 Ct:	de R.P.	L'pool Regt.	28.4.M In action	Transfer 2096 136/14 &P. Base 5/17
				WAR GRATUITY. 2/1/948 5388 1/9/20
J. V	Solo	50 ma 2 dier's effects	S	erial: 0.34.11.19

Name: William Frederick Williams

Serial No.: 6001 Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: 17th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers

Service: Service number: 58393 **Date of death:** 27th September 1918

Age: 21 (27th Nov 1897)

Where born/lived: Born in Petrograd (St Petersburg) and he was a boarder in the

school. He later lived in Hampton Road, South Shore.

Cemetery: No record of burial

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. He trained with the Manchester OTC at Hulme Hall, University of Manchester⁸. Gazetted to the Royal Fusiliers in 1917, he had been at the front since May 1918. He was killed instantaneously within a few hours of the Battle of Cambrai starting. Killed after 9 am by enemy plane dropping bomb into Canal du Nord at Noyelles, France.

The 3rd line of this war diary has his last name as Harris, with '(Williams?)' in the right column- the adjutant was unsure of his last name, but the next image shows Williams.







⁸ The Poultonian has him studying at Worcester College, Oxford. He was training with Manchester OTC at the time. This seems odd. He is, however, listed on the Hulme Hall, University of Manchester, War Memorial. Therefore I believe School got it wrong.

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: 21st March 1918

Age: 18

Where born/lived: He was born in Blackpool on 23rd 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

On Thursday 21st March 1918 Lewis was seated in his plane, ready for a flight when another pilot was landing; he collided with Lewis's plane striking him on the head; and he was killed instantly. He was interred at Layton Cemetery. He was 18 years old.

Name: Duncan James Sidney Clark

Serial No.: 317801 Rank: Sergeant Pilot

Regiment: 75th Training Sqdn., RAF

Service:

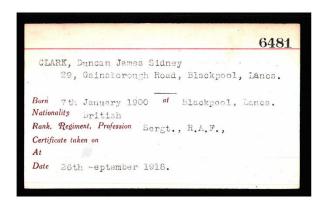
Date of death: 20th Aug 1919

Age: 19

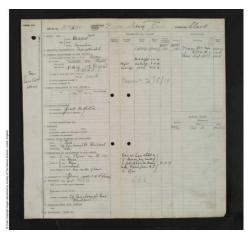
Where born/lived: Born in Blackpool on 7th Jan 1900 but christened in Rastrick, Yorkshire on 4th Feb 1900. Prior to enlisting Duncan was a gent's outfitter. He enlisted in 1917. **Cemetery:** Marton (St Paul) Church Burial ground 11 Grave 2

Notes: Died of injuries received whilst flying.









Service record

A SAD PARTHY BERRAYMENT.

On Wednesday meming Demson J. Cart., colored, consequence and d. M., damas Cart., colored, consequence and d. M., damas Cart., colored, consequence and d. M., damas Cart., colored, col

FUNERAL OF LATE DUNCAN JAMES S. GLARK.

The funeral of the late Duncan James B. Clark late sergeom in she Royal Air Feron of 29. Geinsborough Road, Bleokpool, tool place at the fination Comestery on Saturday, There was first as pervice in Resilien Perude Wesleyan Church, where the decossed was accusionated to worshiping, conducted by the second of the conduction of the cond

Mirs. Troughton, Mr. H., Nuttail and Mr. S. Crane (representing Rawchiffes, Ldd.), Mr. Blackmore (representing Comrades of the Great War), Mr. J. Albert Bowman, Mr. L. Fawcett, Mr. H. Wood (representing Active Service), and Mr. James Thompson, Mr. C. Palmer, Miss Johnson Miss Agrus and Miss Service) and Great Mr. James Thompson, Mr. C. Palmer, Miss Johnson Miss Agrus and Miss Agrus and Sunday School). The deceased a slder brother, Lonald Osborne Clark, who is on the way from Egypt on his first leave for two-anda-salf pears, did not arrive as land been anticipated. After the service the cortage processed a Marton Cemetery, where the interment ook place, and at which other friends had ook place.

and the stream of the following of the property of the following of the fo

The funeral arrangements were in the bands of Mr. Vickers, Palatme Road Black

Name: John Bayman Coward

Serial No.:

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment: Royal Flying Corps No 35 Squadron

Service: Originally, he was with the 25th Squadron but posted a move

on 22nd Mar 1918. He was promoted to 2nd Lt on 4th Nov 1917.

Date of death: 26th Mar 1918

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Born in Nottingham on 15th Sept 1898 before moving to Blackpool. He once lived at the King's Arms Hotel in

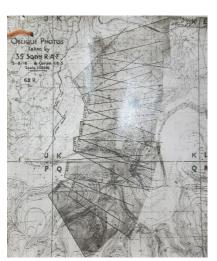
Blackpool, where his parents were the owners. They later moved to the Crown Hotel, Garstang.

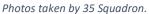
Cemetery: St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens

VIII. F. 9.

Notes: The 35 Squadron was based in

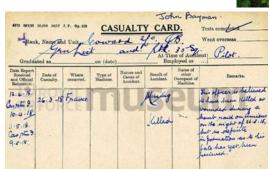
Thetford but moved to France in Jan 1917. It was attached to the Corps until March 1918 in Poulainville, France. No. 35 Squadron was tasked with providing medium and short distance aerial reconnaissance for one of the British Army Corps Commands (Cavalry).





COWARD, 2nd Lt. John Bayman. Royal Flying Corps. 26th March, 1918. Age 19. Son of William and Cissie Coward, of The Crown Hotel, Garstang, Preston, Lancs. Native of Nottingham. VIII. F. 9.





The Personnel Casualty Ledger shows that JB Coward was killed or died of wounds on 26th March 1918 whist flying an Armstrong Whitworth FK8 on bombing duties over Amiens. Prior to this he had been reported missing.

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."

A letter posted in the Poultonian states:

From Lt Rees, Recording Officer of the Squadron

Jack and a companion officer apparently went to a place not far from the aerodrome to get some dinner, and after dinner they went for a walk. The Huns then came over and bombarded the place. One of the bombs hit a house they were passing at the time. They rushed into the house to assist the inmates when the Huns fired their machine guns at them, hitting Jack's companion. He took his friend into another house for safety, when a bomb hit this house. Jack's friend states that eh was standing at the door of the house when the bomb fell. And although no news has been heard of him since, the friend says he is certain he was killed. Jack's friend is in hospital in the South, recovering from the injury he received at this time.

Who do we believe The Personnel Casualty Ledger or Lt Rees, Recording Officer of the Squadron? I am more inclined to believe the latter.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's records do not show where the remains of John B 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: 2nd 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: 19th Aug 1917

Age:

Where born/lived: Lived at Lindum House, Sheaf St, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.

Cemetery: Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery Ypres (leper), Arrondissement leper, West Flanders

(West-Vlaanderen), Belgium IB 20

Notes: He enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers on 14th Nov 1915 and was transferred to the fledgling 48th Squadron, RFC on 27th May 1916. The Squadron was formed at Netheravon, Wiltshire in April 1916 and was posted to France in March 1917. It was the first squadron to be equipped with the Bristol F2 Fighter.



Richard died when his [A7171 Bristol Fighter] was driven down by Enemy Aircraft believed out of control at Ostend.





Record cards



Soldier's effects

Name: Tom Wright

Serial No.:

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment: Originally in the 5th Batt. Training Reserve, Cheshire Regiment (Feb – Aug 1917) but exchanged to the 143rd Squadron,

RAF.

Date of death: 20th July 1918

Age: 20

Where born/lived: Lived in Bold Street, Fleetwood. Son of Mr and Mrs W. T Wright.

Cemetery: Fleetwood Cemetery Grave Reference:122.

Notes: Prior to joining the forces he was a Bank Clerk at the London City and Midland Bank in Blackpool. He was commissioned in Aug 1917 in the Cheshire's as a Lieutenant. Then in November 1917 he became a Second Lieutenant in the RAF. He was killed in a training exercise near Maidstone, in July 1918. Another pilot had engine trouble and collided with Tom's plane in mid-air. He was the sone of William Thomas and Grace Wright of Fleetwood. He died a day after his 20th birthday. He died as a result of a flying accident therefore will not appear of a town war memorial.

"Accidental death" was the verdict at an inquest on Lieut. Thomas Wright, of Fleetwood, and Noel F. Lerris, who received fatal injuries in a flying accident on Saturday. Lieut. T. Wright (20), was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wright, Bold-street, Fleetwood. Previous to joining a training battahion in February, 1917, he was employed as a bank clerk at Blackpool. He was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in August last, and got his commission three months later.

Newspaper article

Lieut. Thos. Wright.

Lieut. Thos. Wright.

Profound sympathy is expressed with Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wright, of Bold-street, Fleetwood, in the loss they have sustained through the death of their eldest son, Lieut. Thomas Wright, R.A.F. Deceased, who attained his 20th birthday on the day previous to his death, joined the 5th Battalion Training Reserves in February, 1917, 'and was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in August, receiving his commission in November last year. It appears that at 9 o'clock on aturday morning last deceased and two others received instructions to go up in their machines. Lieut. Perris was the first to ascend, and Lieut. Wright followed. When they had reached an altitude of about 5,000 feet, something went wrong with Lieut. Perris' machine, and it dropped, crashing into Lieut. Wright's plane, which was underneath, with the result that both machines came to earth in flames, and both occupants were killed. Before enlisting, the deceased was a clerk in the London City and Midland Bank at Blackpool.

MPRESSIVE FUNERAL AT FLEETWOOD.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL AT FLEETWOOD.

The remains were conveyed by train to Fleetwood on Tuesday. At Maidstone, a funeral procession was formed, and the remains, which were on a gun carriage, were escorted to the rathway station by the band of the Royal, West Kent Regiment, headed by a company of officers, non-com, officers, and men of the R.A.F.

The funeral, which took place at Fleetwood on Wednesday afternoon, was accompanied with full military honours, and was of a very impressive character. Heading the procession came a firing party of the R.F.A. from the Hutment Barracks, under command of Lieut. Rowlands, followed by the band of the R.A.M.C. from Blackpool. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and on each side of the open hearse walked three R.F.A. officers (Lieutenants), who acted as bearers. Behind the hearse walked Lieut. Mason, of Fleetwood, representing the R.A.F., a number of officers (including Mr. J. A. Robertson, O.B.E., the port commander), and men of the R.N.R. from the drifters in the dock, and a detachment of the East Lancachire Labour Battalian, in command of Lieut. Stead. Behind the carriages containing the mourners came Messre. J. R. Gibson, G. Poole, W. Preston, Alex, Gibson, R. Knowles, Herbert Jonge, J. S. Warker, T. Oldham, W. Hodgkinson, Capi. Taylor, J. Cowell, and others.

rell, and others, args crowds congregated in the vicinity of deceased's parents' house in Bold-street, also at the graveside, where the service impressively read by the Rev. L. Arting, l. after which three volleys were fired, the "Last Post" was sounded by buglers

The mourners were :—Ist carriage, Mr. T. Wright, Jack Wright, Harry Wright, Mr. Jac armell, and Hy. Cartmell; 2nd carriage, fr. Geo. Hydes, Mr. Joseph Smyth, Mr. T. ardwell, and Mr. H. Howarth; 3rd carriage, two Arthustall, Mr. Geo. Grimshaw, Mr. Co. Cowell, and Mr. Johnson; 4th carriage, fr. Johns, Mr. Cartmell (Lord-street), and fajor Kean.

Rav. and Mrs. Arthogolail. See Edward H. Holden, Mr. and Mrs. R. Barron, Mr. and Mrs. R. Barron, Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Southward and Annels, Dr. and Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. J. H. Marr, Mrs. Marray and family (Mapledene), Mr. and Mrs. R. Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Mrlis, Manager and Staff London City and Midland Bank, Ltd., South Shore, Mr. H. R. Moss and family, Arnold Wilkinson, Eric Mitchell, Supt. and Mrs. Vates, and Asthur, Mrs. Jensson, Mr. Armold Wilalmson, Ecte Mitchell, Suph and Mrs. Yales, and Arthur, Mrs. Lemson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Willing, Mr. Howard, Toe and Frank, Capt. and Mrs. Blifot, Mr. and Mrs. T. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Cov, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Atherton, Annale Maggie, Uncle Arthur, Annale Edie, Uncle Jack, and led by Capt. Amew and a

The Missing Boys

The following boys are mentioned in the Poultonian of having died in action but are not mentioned on the School War Memorial.

HAWORTH, Lt. Herbert. 11th attd. 8th Bn.

Loyal North Lancs Regt. 7th June, 1917. Age 26. Son of John and Ellen Haworth, of "Aldersydes,"

117, Holmfield Rd., Blackpool. II. C. 3.

Name: Herbert Haworth

Serial No.:

Rank: Lieutenant

Regiment: The Loyal North Lancashire

Regiment 11th Bn. attached. 8th Battalion.

Date of death: 7th June 1917

Age: 26

Where born/lived:

Cemetery: KLEIN-VIERSTRAAT BRITISH CEMETERY II. C. 3. Belgium

Notes: He is mentioned in the April 1918 edition of the Poultonian but is not listed on the War Memorial. He joined up in 1914 with the Public School Batt., Royal Fusiliers with his brother, John before transferring to The Loyal North Lancs. He was sent to France, was wounded and returned home. When he was fit he returned to France and was killed in action. His personal inscription on the grave is: PLAY UP, PLAY UP &

PLAY THE GAME

Name: Harold Hull

Serial No.: Rank: Private

Regiment: Army Service Corps Date of death: March 1917

Age: 41

Where born/lived: Blackpool in 1876.

Cemetery:

Notes: Not mentioned on the school war memorial. He was killed in France when a

bomb dropped from an enemy aircraft.

The names that follow are from those listed in the April 1920 edition of the Poultonian. At the time the editor stated that some of the information may be incorrect and that names may be missing. I have included all the names and made corrections were possible, I have also added to their back story.

Those members of the School community that died during the Great War of injuries after they were discharged.

James A Greenwood

Royal Army Service Corps (RASC)

Service number: T4/248399.

Invalided out of the Army due to serious injury to his lung and an affliction of the heart, owing to concussion. James got married and went on honeymoon. Following his honeymoon, he returned home where his family had had flu. He contracted the disease (Possibly Spanish flu). This caused congestion of the lung which proved to be fatal. He died just a month after his wedding in Stamford.



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Those members of the School community that fought and survived the Great War

Captain Geoffrey William Allen



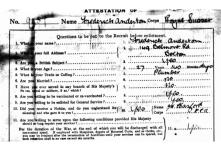
5th Leicester Regiment

Sapper Fred Anderton

Service number: 9057, (T)1410, 428189. Born in 1888. After leaving school he moved to Bolton and became a plumber.

Originally, he was with the Royal Sussex Regiment before being transferred to the Royal Engineers. He was stationed in Macedonia in 1916. Fred was not added to the Roll of Honour but was mentioned in a letter from Stanley Atherton as being an OB.

Royal Engineers



		/	
428189.	SPR./	ANDERTON. Frederick	R. Sussex Regt. (T
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			R. Sussex Regt.
•			9057. SPR
			Royal Engineers.
			428189.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
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Frederick. Modal. Bo		Page.	Remarks	
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		1997		
Theatre of War first served in		1907		

Lance Corporal Edward M M Andrews

Royal Army Medical Corps

Service number 169691.

His unit was the 141st Field Ambulance. Edward had previously served with the Monmouth Regiment, under the service numbers 4768 and 15074. He transferred to the RAMC. He sent a field card to the School in April 1918 stating he was alive and well. In the Poultonian Christmas 1918 it was reported that Eddie was convalescing after a gas poisoning. He did the drawings for the School War Memorial. He wrote in the Poultonian in 1916 of the journey from Longridge Deverill to Ripon, where he was stationed. His report praises the work of the Red Cross Volunteers.

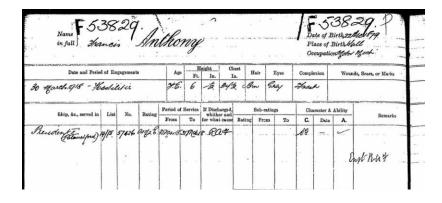


Wireless Operator Francis Anthony

Royal Navy

Service number F53829.

Born in Hull on 22 Dec 1879 and joined the Royal Navy in 1899. Served aboard President II. This appears to have been one day. 30th March 1918 to 31st March 1918.



Transport Junior Officer R J Anthony

Australian Navy

Served on HMS Themistocles

In 1914 the Commonwealth of Australia chartered the ship as the troop ship HMAT Themistocles, with the pennant number A32.

She carried elements of the First Australian Imperial Force for service overseas in sailings from Melbourne on 22 December 1914, Sydney on 12 May 1915, Fremantle on 23 July 1915, Sydney and Fremantle on 8 and 13 October 1915, Melbourne on 28 January and 28 July 1916, Fremantle on 13 October 1916, Sydney on 29 December 1916 and Melbourne on 4 August 1917.

Commonwealth Government control of Themistocles ended on 20 October 1917. However, on 28 January 1918 she was at Sydney carrying military medical officers.

Private O Ashcroft

Royal Flying Corps

Service number 4708

Lance-Corporal John Scott Ashton

7th Kings Own Royal Lancaster

1914			(A) Where decoration was earned. (B) Present situation.			
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	Corps 34Bde R +a	Corps Rank 34 Bde Wr R 70	(B) Corps Rank Reg. No. 34 Bde Ur 5036 R + a Ur 5036	(B) Present sit Corps Rank Reg. No. Rallon. 34 Bde		

Service number 14859

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in the 7th King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). He was promoted to corporal, but this is not recorded in the Poultonian.

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	14859	L/Gpl+	Ashton	John Scott	17/7/15 (1	.) C1. "Z" 1/4/1919		

Sapper Stanley Atherton

Royal Engineers

Service number: 428140.

He served in Macedonia for two years and ten months without leave. He contracted malaria very badly. On sailing to Salonika the first person he met was old boy, Frank Heywood.

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428140.	SPR AT	HERTON, Stanley,	R.E. (T) -		103	3/-
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Private Herbert Atkinson

Royal Flying Corps

Service number 12204

Born in 1893, lived at Marton Moss near Blackpool. He was a master in the school.

Name,	La He		Corps.		2 AM	Regti. No.
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Sergeant Robert Houseman Bagshaw

Army Service Corps

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	- V	Robert Housemen	sergeant.
SA OFFOFF	W O	DADNODATE	D A G G GA OFFOFF

Service number 55854

Born in Fleetwood on 13th December 1895 and worked as a cashier before being called up for the War. He was the son of William Edward Bagshaw and Agnes Houseman. In 1915 whilst in Aldershot (21st January 1915) he was working as an Army Service Clerk in the RASC then he was posted to Egypt. He sailed from Liverpool on 6th December 1915 embarking on "Empress of Britain" to Port Said. He disembarked on 22nd December 1915 in Port Said. Robert was hospitalised from 24th Feb 1916 to 5th March 1916



in Port Said. Robert was hospitalised from 24th Feb 1916 to 5th March 1916 with measles, fever and dysentery.

When he was discharged from hospital he was posted to 144 D.U.S. (Outward Supply Depot) Suez at Tewfik on 16th May 1916. He was promoted to Corporal on 24th June 1916 and was later promoted to Serjeant. In July 1916 their camp in Egypt was visited by two German Taubes. One bomb dropped a few yards away from Robert's tent killing three and wounding six others; the Germans afterwards dropped about five more bombs killing and wounding other soldiers.

Later that year from 19th Aug to 28th Aug he was hospitalised again for eye trouble this time. A year later from 13th April to 3rd May 1917 he developed Conjunctivitis and was again hospitalised. From 16th Aug to 10th Sept 1918 he was in hospital again with Gastritis. You would have thought that he had seen enough of hospitals to last a lifetime, but from 11th Sept – 17th Sept he was back again with Synovitis Right Knee.

He married Jennie Cross in Fleetwood on 19th June 1926. He died in on 16th June 1958 in Kirkham. He lived at Orleans House on Fleetwood Road.

John James Bailey

RAF, Egyptian Expeditionary Force

Service number 167826

He was born in Poulton on 16th Nov 1900. He was sent to Egypt on 13th May 1918. His trade was a car finisher.

Private G W Bailey

5th Reg., The King's Own Royal Lancaster

Private Percy Baker



Trench Mortar Battery

Cadet Harold Redvers Barlow

Merchant Navy

Harold is mentioned in Book 2 when he died on active service in WWII. Born in Hyde in Cheshire in 1900. In WWI he was a cadet in the Merchant Navy. He lived in Blackpool and was killed in action in 1941.

Apprentice H Barlow

Transport work

Joseph Barrowclough

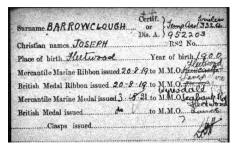
Telegrapher



RMS Sicilian

Born in Fleetwood in 1900. Joseph studied Wireless Telegraphy at Marconi's College, London. He was posted to RMS Sicilian (Allan Line). In St John, food was plentiful and moderate in price. Ice began to break on the St Lawrence about April 6^{th,} and huge masses came floating down past the ship, which happily did not come into collision with them.

When he was homeward bound from St. John, N.B., Canada, having joined the Navy as wireless officer on March 22^{nd} 1918. They went out in convoy on March 24^{th} and whilst rounding the North of Ireland one or more German submarines got amongst the convoy and torpedoed the SS Anchoria of the anchor line boats. Three torpedoes were fired at the Sicilian but thanks to the skilful handling of the ship by the officer on the bridge, they



managed to dodge them. Depth charges were dropped by the destroyer escort and the explosion violently shook the Sicilian. Two or three days out a fire broke out in one of the rooms of the salon; happily it was got under control.

2nd Lieutenant Reuben Walter Barrett

Royal Air Force

Service number 2775.

Born in 1844 in Clitheroe and then moved to Singleton. He was a game keeper.

Started as a Private in the 18th London Regiment then promoted to Warrant Officer

Class 2 and Company Sgt Major. He was with the London Regiment from 9th March 1915 to

17th Aug 1917 before moving to the Royal Air Force. When he was a sergeant he was awarded the Military Medal.



He died in 1958 in London

590954 C.S.M. BARRETT Reuben	18/Lond.R.2775 1(a) 9. 3.15 to 17. 8.17.
Walter	

Deane Bateson

Royal Flying Corps

Service number 56901

He was born in 1899 in Blackpool and enlisted on 2nd Feb 1917 in the Royal Flying Corps. He was employed as a motor engineer. He married Nora Southern in 1925. He died in 1978 in Blackpool.

Captain Harry Swift Beaumont

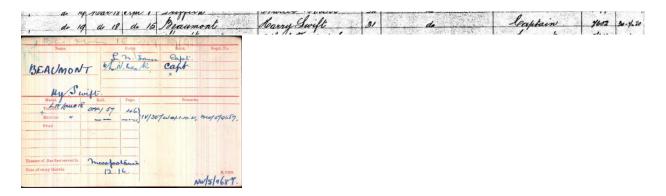
6th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment



He was born in 1889 in Dewsbury, moving to Blackpool when he was two years old to live in his grandfather's Boarding House. He attended the University of London at the start of his military service. During the war he fought in Mesopotamia. By 1939 he is registered as a Grammar School master but not at Baines. He died in Blackpool in 1960. Awarded the Military Cross on 18th Dec 1920.

Beaumont, Harry Swift; Capt. Loyal North Lancashire Regt. Military Cross.

In 1920 he lived in Poona in India, before returning to Blackpool via Woodbridge in Suffolk where he married.



Harry wrote to the Poultonian on 26th April 1918 from Poona Gymkhana Club and wrote that he was in Mesopotamia throughout the whole campaign that culminated in the capture of Baghdad, and had the bad luck to be hit in the chest with shrapnel on the last day of fighting. He had a very lucky escape as the bullet just stopped short of his heart. After being in hospital for three weeks in Baghdad he was invalided to India and spent three pleasant months on sick leave in Simla, where people were very kind to him. He was passed fit for duty in India and was given a job in the Military Accounts Department, Poona. He was awarded the military Cross in Mesopotamia.

Private George Bedford

Royal Army Medical Corps Naval Section

Service number 63732

He was born in 1894. Before enlisting he was a hand compositor. He was in the 106 Field Ambulance Corps, RAMC. He enlisted on 25th Aug 1915 in Aldershot.



At the end of the war he had spent 3 years and 1 month in France as a stretcher bearer. This caused issues with his knees and varicose veins.

Regissant or Corps. R.A.M. Rept. No. 63732 Rock	C. Hi the Officer or Schlies has perviously been C. Storyck of Front the Army, Royal Navy or the Royal Air Nove, he will distinct the Curpe with Register of Cur
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Private A Bennett

The Buffs⁹, 9th Battalion

RAMC

Private G W Bennett

Service number: 22264 and 595459

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George. W.			
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Private H Bennett

Service number 33709.

Stationed at Andover at the start of the war.

7th Kings Own Royal Lancaster

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⁹ The Buffs were the Royal East Kent Regiment

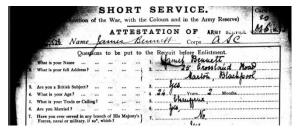
Private James Bennett

Motor Transport, Army Service Corps

Service number 167258.

He lived in Marton, Blackpool where his trade was a chauffeur, He was born in 1891. He was shipwrecked ten days after arriving in France. The pilot had taken them safely out of the harbour and then grounded them on a breakwater. A soldier managed to alert the bridge and stop them grounding nose on. They were stuck for 45 mins until their SOS and flares were

noticed and help arrived. Their problems did not stop there however. A big tug arrived and tore the stanchions off the bow; a smaller tug got them off then a larger tug took them in tow. James also notes that the first time he drove a car to his battery, it was through a hail of bursting shells bits flying all around.



Royal Engineers

Dispatch Rider George E Bevan

Service number 494923



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			Royal Engineers			
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Charles Biggin

Artists' Rifles, Officers' Training Corps

Charles joined the Artists rifles when he failed to get into the RAF. Rather than being disappointed he had settled down to a life in training and had passed his gunnery exam in Rainham. He was stationed at Hill Camp, Romford.

The Artists Rifles was a popular unit for volunteers. It particularly attracted recruits from public schools and universities. The group was organised in London by Edward Sterling, an art student, and comprised various professional painters, musicians, actors, architects and others involved in creative endeavours. The famous poet Wilfred Owen was a member of it. Its official name is 28th County of London Battalion (Artist's Rifles), County of London Regiment (Territorial Force).

Private George Blakeway

Life Reserve, Australia

As George died after the end of the war, he was not recorded in the list of the dead in the Poultonian. Details are listed in the section on those that died in action.

2nd AM James Arthur Bleasdale

Royal Air Force

Service Number 55742

Born 1898 and enlisted in 1917. Prior to joining up he was a motor engineer. Lived with his grandmother, Mary Jane Bleasdale

Munition Worker JR Bleasdale

Lieutenant Charles Gilbert Bleasdale

R N R (Special Branch)

Service number: K7531

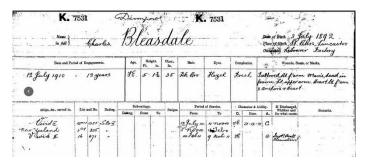


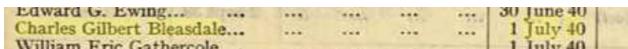
In 1918 he joined the HMS Conway.
From the Commanding officer, School Ship "Conway",
Birkenhead, March 6th 1918. To J Bleasdale esq, Blackpool. I
have pleasure in advising you that your son, Charles Gilbert
Bleasdale, has been successful in the entrance examination, and
has been accepted to join the "Conway", next term, May 2nd.
Captain H W Broadbent, RNR.

HMS Conway was formerly HMS Nile. She was built in Plymouth in 1827 and launched on 28th June 1839. She was decommissioned in 1864 after 10 years of service. In 1876 she

was renamed HMS Conway. In 1956 she was shipwrecked following a fire.

Charles was born on 3rd July 1892 in St Peters, Blackpool, Lancashire. He survived the first world war and in 1945 he is still listed as a medic in the Navy lists. He died on 23rd Sept 1963 in Blackpool.



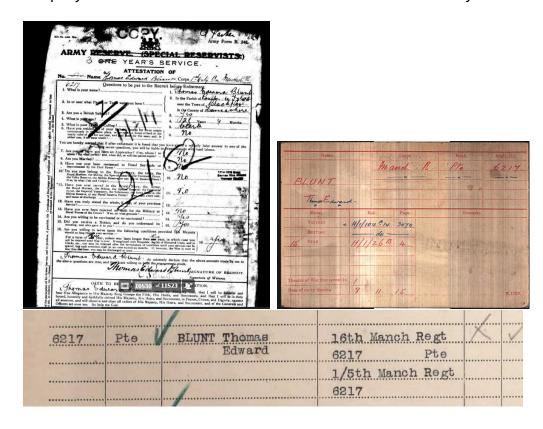


Private Thomas Edward Blunt

16th Manchester's (1st/5th City Pals)

Service number 6217

Stationed in Northern France in 1916 on the banks of a principal river¹⁰. He was born in Stalmine on 24th Nov 1892 before moving to Wyre View, Hambleton in 1899. He is registered in 1911 as living in Bury where he was the Director and Buyer for a local company. He was married in 1919 and lived the rest of his life in Bury. He died in 1974.



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¹⁰ Censored in the reports

Lance Sergeant (William) Vincent Bolton

Army Pay Corps

Service number 5689, 20648

He was part of the Kings (Liverpool) Regiment. As he was part of the foot guard he was classed as a Lance Sergeant rather than a Corporal.

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Bugler S Bowes

RAMC

2nd Lieutenant W Bowman

Artists' Rifles

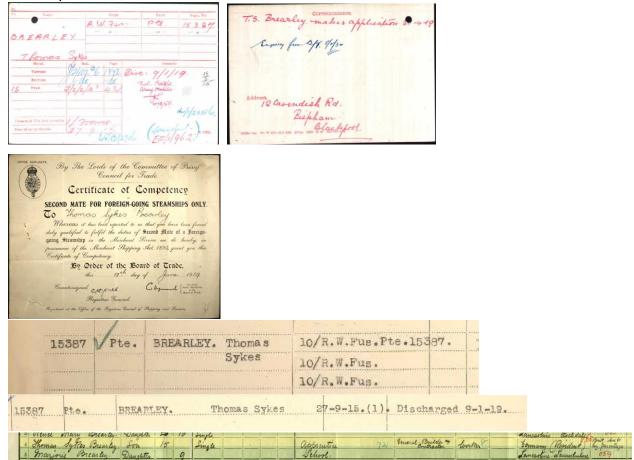
He lived on George Street, Blackpool.

Private Thomas Sykes Brearley

10th Batt. Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Service number 15387. He was a Drill Instructor. Born in Aachen, Germany in 1896 although registered as Aix La Chapelle, France. On leaving school he joined P & O lines. In the 1911 census he is recorded as a British subject by way of parentage, there is no 1901 census. In the first world war he was wounded in the fight for Delville Wood. A shell exploded near him and he was blown 30 yards but was taken to hospital suffering from shell shock.

After the war he joined the Merchant Navy and fought in the Second World War. He travelled the world eventually arriving back in UK to settle down in 1955. He died in 1972 in Blackpool.



Harry Bridge

RAF

Service number: 103198

He was born on 8th April 1899. He enlisted in May 1917. He was an old boy and a master at the school. In the April 1915 Poultonian it was noted that Harry had been stationed at West Harlepool for some time. He was having breakfast when the first shell sent by the German ships fell in a street quite close to the house in which he was staying.

Private James Henry Bromley

3rd King's Royal Rifles Corps,

Service number 53743

Born in 1890. He was a Musketry Instructor. Brother of Alfred Bromley who did not survive the war.

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		6/	9657		

Flight Officer John Preston Brown

Royal Naval Air Service

Service number 137155

John was not listed in the 1920 Roll of Honour but had written to the Poultonian in 1918 about joining up with the RAF. He was brother to Joseph Herman Preston Brown who was killed in action in France in 1918 and is listed in the war dead part of this document. John was born in Fleetwood on 18th Jan 1900 and joined up on 15th April 1918 to the RNAS. He survived the war becoming a bank cashier in Poulton at the Midland Bank and died in 1989.

Flight Officer John Francis Rook Brown

Royal Naval Air Service

Service number: 30942

Born in 1877.

Corporal G W Browne

Royal Flying Corps

Service number: 4306

Originally joined the Royal Fusiliers, Public School Battalion but became a mechanic in the RFC. The rank of corporal appears to be from the Royal Fusiliers.

Name.		R. 4. C.	Rayk	Regtl, No.
BROWNE. G.W.				
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Medal.		Page.	Rema	rks.

2nd Lieutenant H Burnet (Bunny)

Royal Engineers

Service number 51411.

He was in the artillery, discharged due to sickness 4th May 1917. He took a commission in the RFA and was stationed in 1917 at Bettisfield Park Camp. Following the time at camp he went to the Artillery Cadet School at St John's Wood and from there to Lark Hill, Salisbury Plain. He gained his commission in July 1917.

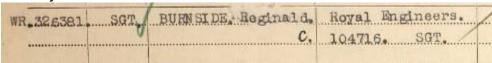


Serjeant Reginald Charles Burnside

Royal Engineers, Inland Water Transport

Service numbers: 104716 and WR/326381.

He was born in 1890 and lived in Southfield, Poulton. He was discharged from the RE with a disability on 18th Feb 1918.



BURNSIDE R.C.	R.E.	Rank.	10 4 C(1 6
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Sapper Robert Butler

Royal Engineers

Service number: 134005

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	,		134005 SPR.

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Robert				
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Private L Cain

4/5th Pioneer Batt., AIF

Private H Calverley

Light Infantry (Australia)

Captain George Cardwell

Royal Engineers

Born in 1896 in Marton, near Blackpool. He was a decorator and plumber before the war. At the end of the War he was in France with the Forward Light Battery Training School. He trained drivers of Petrol and Petrol Elector Tractors. He died in 1939 in Blackpool.

Sapper Frank S Cardwell

Royal Engineers (Cavalry)

Service number 71957.

He was stationed in Mesopotamia. He was a shoeing-smith looking after the horses wellbeing and acting as a farrier. He fought at the front line in Amara.

He wrote to the Poultonian in 1917 about his time in the Middle East. He was camped on the banks of the Tigris several miles above Baghdad. The river had gone down significantly and was still subsiding. He states that it begins to rise in October. On 4th September when he wrote this the weather was hot and the wind was either non existent or blowing very hard causing sand storms. His relaxation was an evening swim in the Tigris.

On December 14th 1917 the Army pushed forward over the Hai and then cleared the Dahra Bend on the night of 15th – 16th February 1917. The Shamran Peninsula was covered in the Turkish dead. The Turks were chased by the cavalry and gunboats. The infantry followed and took many prisoners. HMS Firefly¹¹ was in attendance. They eventually took Baghdad.

Born in 1896 in Blackpool and died in Horsham, Sussex in 1965. Before and after the war he worked for the post office in Fleetwood and in Blackpool. He was reported as a prisoner of War in Kut.



71957. SPR. CARDWELL. Frank.S. Royal Engineers. 71957. SPR.

2nd Lieutenant F Cardwell

Royal Engineers

Private Norman Cardwell Service number 401545. Born 1883, lived in Leyland. Mechanical Transport Army Service Corps

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¹¹ This was a river gunboat

Acting-Sergeant Frederick Carter

RAMC

Service number 50330.

He was an acting Sergeant in 1914 then acting Corporal in 1917.

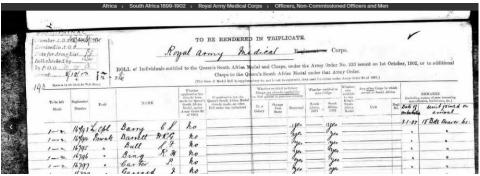


Private P Carter

RAMC

Service number 16797

Born in 1875. He served in the Second Boer War in the Transvaal, South Africa from 1899 to 1902.



V Carter

Naval Construction Works, Barrow

AM Francis Roland Cave

RAF Air Mechanic

Service number 188572.

Born 4th March 1898 and lived in Thornton. He enlisted on 24th May 1918 and was a Fitter. Worked as a sub postmaster after the War.

John Clarke

Private William Clarke

RAMC

Service number 12489.

Served at 1 Casualty Clearing Station. Served in France from Aug 1914.

Private J Collinge

7th Kings Own Royal Lancaster, Liverpool

Driver Harry Cookson

Army Service Corps

Service number T4/253317.

Born in Blackpool. He was stationed in France.

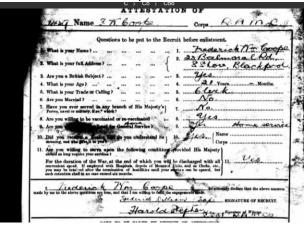
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Staff-Sergeant Frederick William Coope

RAMC

Service number: 1459 and 144067.

Born in 1893 in Blackpool. Later in life he became an accountant, He died in Oct 1955.



Gunner R Coope

Royal Field Artillery

Driver H Leslie Cooper

Royal Field Artillery

Born in Out Rawcliffe. Contracted fever, dysentery and jaundice in 1914 and was confined with his battery to a council school in Preston. He was stationed in Mesopotamia

Trooper W Cooper

Duke of Lancs Yeomanry

2nd Lieutenant James O Cooper

Royal Flying Corps

Service number 3695.

He was promoted from Air Mechanic 2nd Class to Second Lieutenant. In 1914 stationed at Farnborough. Brother of H Leslie Cooper

Private John Noble Coulston

Australian Imperial Force

Service number 2157.

Born in Blackpool in 1895. He was the son of William Noble Coulston and Kate Collard. His father died in 1900 and John went to live in Tyldsley Terrace in Blackpool in lodging houses run by his aunt. In the 1911 census he is 15 years old and recorded as a boarder at the school, his mother had died in 1909. He left England with his brother Leonard to sail to Sydney, Australia on the Themistocles. However, his brother died in action in 1917.



He enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. He died on 11th Jan 1927 at a military hospital in Brisbane, Australia.

Private Jack Cowell

Machine Gun Corps

Private H Crabtree

5th Kings Own

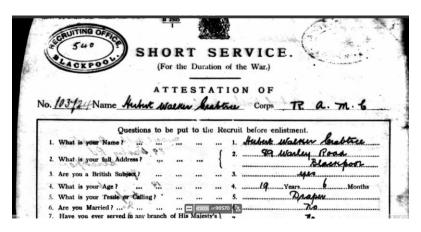
Service number 29329

Private Herbert Walker Crabtree

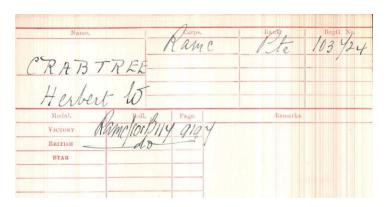
68th Field Ambulance, RAMC

Service number 103724.

Born in 1897 in Blackpool son of John and Gertrude. He enlisted in 1915. He was stationed in Macedonia. He was invalided to Malta with malaria. He died in 1969 in Blackpool.



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Private E Crawshaw

8th (Irish) Battalion. Kings Liverpool Regt

2nd Lieutenant Jack Cross

RFC

He was at Cadet School, Denham with Philip Troughton

Private Norman Curwen

Mechanical Transport, ASC

Service number M2/131904.

Born in 1896 in Blackpool. He ferried stores from the boats on the canal to 'some place inland'. in Alexandria, Egypt. He died in 1936 in Blackpool





Private Frank Curwen

South Wales Borderers

Service number 77935

He lived on Newton Drive, Blackpool. Born in 1899. He was discharged from the Army on cickness grounds on 27th March 1919. He did not fight oversees in his two years in the Army.

779 35.	Pte.	Curwen. Frank.	15.1-4,121	26/11/17.	27 /3/10	0.00		(16) A.	Age. 19. No.
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Seaman John W Darnall

Royal Naval Reserves

Service number: DA7201.

In 1916 he was engaged on minesweepers. It is stated on the roll of honour in the Poultonian that he was discharged. He was a Deck Hand. According to the Admiralty he refused his Silver medal in 1917. He also refused it in 1920.

Private David Deacon

Royal Marines Light Infantry (Plymouth)

Service number 18084.

He was born on 20th July 1897. He was a Police Sergeant. He was issued with the Victory medal in Plymouth but returned it in 1925.



Sapper Henry R Dennison

Royal Engineers

Born in Blackpool in 1889 and died in 1962

	undide.				
Name.		Corps.	1	tank.	Regtl. No.
DENNISON		R.E.	Sp		82 579
Henry R.					
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Signaller E Dent

Royal Field Artillery

Service number 117274. Awarded the Military Cross

Frank Dent

Royal Navy

Served on board SS Politician¹². He wrote on 10th Oct 1917 from Calcutta. He had met an OB at Durban five weeks previously. This chap was from the Hall Line.

Frank had been torpedoed whilst bringing shells and other explosives from Canada on 29th April 1917. They had been sailing through wreckage all day. He writes that he returned to the bridge at 6:30pm after dinner only to be fascinated by the trail of the torpedo, while the quartermaster put the wheel over in an attempt to dodge it. He torpedo caught the ship in the No 5 hold and immediately the ship took a heavy list. He evacuated the listing ship in a lifeboat but as they could not get away fast enough the lifeboat was swamped. Of the 12 in the boat three drowned, some were picked up by another lifeboat but the rest including Frank scrambled back onto the ship and left in another lifeboat. Each lifeboat was examined by the submarine commander who wanted to take prisoners of the Captain and the Chief Engineer. During the day ships sheered off and left the lifeboats but at night the occupants of the boat feared to light their torches fearing that other ships would fire on them thinking they were another submarine trap. They were picked up by an old collier bound for Marseilles and landed at Gibraltar where they stayed the night. They came back to England as part of a convoy of 27 ships, three weeks after the incident. Five days later he was heading back to Durban.

¹² This is not the famous SS Politician that founded off the Isle of Eriskay, Scotland in 1941 carrying 22,000 cases of Whisky and is the ship that was used in the book Whisky Galore. This was an earlier SS Politician.

Engine Room Artificer William Massey Dent Royal Navy,

Born in Fleetwood on 29th JUNE 1894. Served on the HMS Empress of India from 1914. This ship was a super dreadnought, fresh out of Barrow in December 1914. The Empress was a seaplane carrier operating in the Med. Some of her armoured plating was 17 in thick. A big ship with big guns (13.5 inch), firing a charge of lose on 2000lbs. He was in charge of 18 boilers.



Unfortunately, the fate of this ship was sad as she was used for target practice for gunnery exercises in early November, 1913. She was also reckoned to be pretty near obsolete. So she was towed into Devon's Lyme Bay for gunnery tests. Before this, her propellers had been removed and other more portable fittings stripped off her.

Trooper John N Dixon

Duke of Lancs Own Yeomanry Dragoons

Service Number DOY 110094 and RAF 317833

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He was transferred to the RAF on 1st April 1918.

Edward Dixon

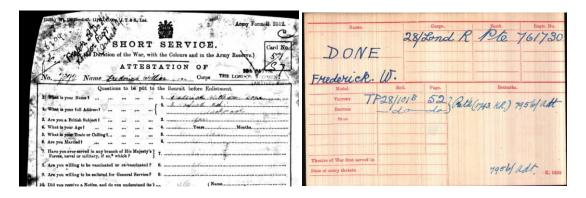
South African Army

Edward (Ted) had dual citizenship. He was born in 1901.

Frederick William Done

2nd Artists Rifles (part of SAS)

Service number 761730 then 7372. Born in Blackpool in 1891. He joined the London Regiment After the war he became a musician, a violinist. Before the war he was a member of the Brighton Municipal Orchestra, Winter Gardens and North Pier Orchestras. He fought in Flanders where the mud was so deep that a man could sunk up to his neck in it¹³. He was discharged at the end of the war with only a shell wound in his back. Died in 1963 at Great Marton, Blackpool.



Sergeant Charles Albert Double

Royal Field Artillery





Name.		Corps	Rank.	Regtl. No.
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	(1) Fine	e		
Theatre of War first served in				

Service number: 56324. He was born in Hull in 1891 and moved to Fleetwood in 1902. He died on 1st July 1925 and is buried in Fleetwood. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

-

¹³ Wrote this in the Poultonian

2nd Hand William Henry Double

Minesweeper, Royal Naval Reserve

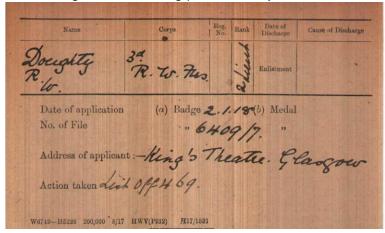
Service number 3217/DA. He was born in Hull but at an early age moved to Fleetwood where in 1911 he was a fish buyer. He was born in Sept 1892. In 1939 he still lives in Fleetwood and is still in fishing. He signed up in the Naval Reserve in 1908 and left the service in 1955.

DOUBLE,	Albert	Engn.	4479/ES
•	Geo. H.	2 Hd.	15619/DA
	Harry	D.H.	15240/DA
	Wm. H.	2 Hd.	3217/ DA

2nd Lieutenant R W Doughty

1st Rhonnda Btn., SWB

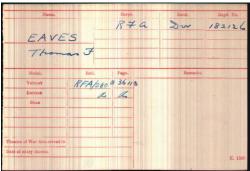
He was registered as being part of th Royal Welsh Fudiliers.



Transport Corporal Thomas Fred Eaves

Royal Field Artillery

Service number 182126



Lieutenant Dick Edge

Royal Field Artillery

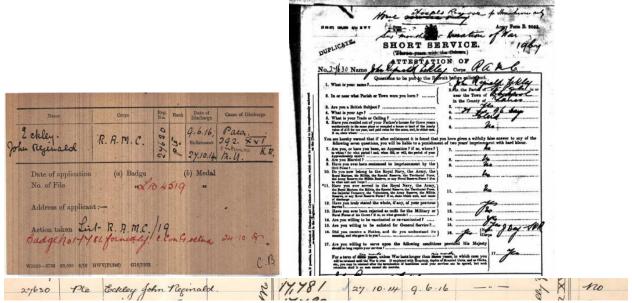
He joined up in 1915. In 1917 he was the Signal Brigade Officer. Awarded the Military Cross. He later took part in the battle of the Somme and has also in Flanders. He was wounded and gassed and was in hospital at St Omer.



Private John Reginald Eckley

Royal Army Medical Corps

Service number 27630. Born in 1892 in Blackpool. Following the war, he worked at the Ministry of Munitions in Greta before becoming a storekeeper in Blackpool. He died in May 1988.



He was awarded a Silver War medal meaning that he was injured in the war.

Edgar Fletcher

5th King's Own Lancashire Regiment

Old Boy and a master of the school.

Lieutenant Ernest Fletcher

3/3 East Lancs Brigade, Royal Field Artillery le married in Farnsworth, Bolton. He had a

Service number: 128622. He was born in 1897. He married in Farnsworth, Bolton. He had a concert party called "The Dons" part of the 57th Division, RFA, in France. These were performing at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool in Feb 1918. Ernest did not appear with them as he was in hospital with a badly inflamed eye due to bruise and poisoning two days before leave. At first the medics thought that he would lose the sight in this eye but this was saved.

His musical act was a mixture of comedy and burlesque; much of the script was written by Ernest.

Lieutenant A Ernest Fletcher

Royal Engineers

He was wounded and gassed and was in hospital at Wimereux.

Lieutenant Aubrey Pollitt Fletcher

19th Canadian Battalion

Born in Feb 1891 in Hale near Altrincham. He died in 1957 in New Hampshire. It is believed that Aubrey was a boarder at the school. He emigrated to Canada and departed from Manchester, England. Destination: Toronto. Occupation: Wool Merchant. In 1912 he returned to the UK. In 1916 he enlistment in Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He returned to Newfoundland in 1919.

Private Jack Fretwell

53rd (Young Soldier) Battalion, Ches Rgt

Service number: 13199. Up to 27 October 1917, this was known as 62nd Battalion of the Training Reserve had had formerly been the 12th (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. A basic recruit training unit based at Kinmel (Rhyl), it was part of 14th Reserve Brigade.



Stationed at Kinmel Park Camp, Abergele, North Wales. Kinmel Park is famous for a major riot involving Canadian forces.

On 4 and 5 March 1919 Kinmel Park in Bodelwyddan, near Abergele, North Wales, experienced two days of riots in the Canadian sector of the local military complex.

The riots are believed to have been caused by delays in repatriation and by the Canadian soldier's resentment at being used by their British officers as forced labour.

The camp the largest in the UK consisted of 20 sub camps and also a trench training area. This was uncovered in 2000 during archaeological excavations.

There are a number of interesting personal stories from the camp. Private Carlyle D. Chamberlain, an American who had enlisted in the Canadian Army was fascinated with the local history of the area, and would visit sites of interest, including nearby Penycloddiau hillfort. During excavations of the hillfort in 2008, graffiti was found on a stone bearing Chamberlain's name and regiment. We also know that the poet Robert Graves was in command of an officer's cadet battalion at Kinmel Park in 1917, while he recovered from wounds sustained in action. The Canadian war artist, David Milne painted scenes of life at Kinmel Park Camp during his service.

Staff Sergeant Artificer John H Furness Motor Transport Army Service Corps Service number M2/052841. Born in 1887 and died in 1958 in Blackpool. He worked as an automobile engineer. Stationed in Egypt.

David and Robert Furness met up at the Front in France.

Lance Corporal Robert Furness

Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry

Before going to France he was involved in the Irish Rebellion.

Lieutenant David Furness

Royal Engineers

Served in France and spent a lot of time in the line in a dug-out. The work was strenuous, and he finished up with a dose of gas poisoning. He was sent to sick camp to recuperate. During his time in France he had a good horse, he tells the Poultonian. Part of his time in France he was billeted at a ruined house complete with grand piano, billiard table (French pattern), one champagne glass and best of all a bath with hot and cold running water!

Captain Henry (Harry) Gardner

Royal Garrison Artillery

He was appointed engineering instructor to his battalion in 1916 pending confirmation of a commission in the RE. He had spent two years in France. He was recommended for the Legion d'Honneur, by his Commanding Officer, Colonel and General for 'initiative, resource and personal courage whilst in command of the 241st Siege Battery, in the support of the French Army, in the famous Battle of Kemmel in April when they held up a very determined attack. During the attack he was gassed.

Battle of Kemmel April 1918

The plan put together was for the French to take Mont Kemmel and the British Kemmel village. Throughout the night it poured with rain and by dawn this had turned into a thick mist. The available artillery was so meagre that the Germans failed to recognise the preliminary bombardment for what it was. At the junction of the two Divisions the British 74th Brigade managed to make some headway, but by the finish of the day the only gain that had been made was to strengthen the French line and fill in the gaps.

The exhaustion of the Germans, however, was beginning to show through and further attacks against the remaining hills in the locality were all withstood and repulsed. By the evening of the 28th though, it was apparent from the number of deserters and resulting information that another assault was about to be launched in the area of Kemmel. Counter bombardments were commenced but nevertheless the German attack manifested itself just before 06:00 hours after a gas and shell bombardment.

Despite being met by devastating fire from the French the Alpine Corps pushed through the French lines towards Scherpenberg. Initial worries that yet another breakthrough was about to occur were found to be alarmist as the French 39th and 154th Divisions supported the weakening line and started to push the Alpine Corps backwards. Loker fell for a short time but a vigorous counter attack by French Dragoons pushed the enemy back out of the village.

To the north the British in the area of Voormezele were forced to relinquish the area through the sheer weight of the artillery bombardment.

The German losses were too great to be able to continue with such abandon and when the Alpine Corps was ordered to advance again at 17:00 hours it found that it was so reduced in numbers that it was unable to comply. The second great German offensive had come to a halt and Ludendorff was forced to call off Operation Georgette. His attention would now turn towards the south and this time against the French.

Mont Kemmel would in fact remain in German hands until the end of August when the American 27th Division and British 34th Divisions would finally drive them back from the area.

Lance Corporal Joseph O G Garside

Army Service Corps

Service number M/396133 as a Private in the ASC then 17088 as a Lance Corporal in the 9th Batt., Royal Lancaster Regiment. His son, Fred died in the Great war.

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the same of the sa						Trans.5th LAB.BATTN.
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<						M/396133 PTE 23-4-18
						A.R.CL.Z. 3-7-19

2nd Lieutenant Jack Rudolph Gaulter

1st/4th Battalion, KORL



Service number: 32031. He was born in 1898 and joined the Army in 1916. He lived at Bleasdale House, Poulton-le-Fylde. Awarded the Military Cross for personal courage in leading his men in an attack and for good reconnaissance work in the enemy lines.

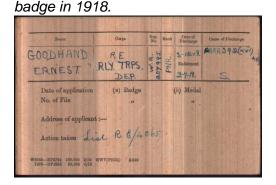
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Name, Corp. 2 Rank. Regtl. No.
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(M.C)
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W Glasgow

Engineer on Munitions

Pioneer Ernest Goodhand

Royal Engineers Railway Transport Service Service number W.R.207995. Born in 1894. Discharged on 3 Dec 1918 but he died on 20 May 1921 in Barnetby, Lincs. In 1911 he was a butcher's errand boy. He was awarded a silver war



Private D Gray

Wireless Telegraphist R Green

Gunner J Green

5th Kings Own Royal Lancaster

Royal Navy

Motor Machine Gun Brigade

E Gregg Royal Navy

He was stationed on HMS Duke of Edinburgh which was the lead ship of the Duke of Edinburgh-class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the early 1900s. She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben and light cruiser SMS Breslau.



Signaller W Gregory

Royal Naval Reserve

Leonard Hall RAMC

Leonard was married with three children. He joined the RAMC in 1915 and served three years in Manchester. He was then sent to Blackpool for three months for training. He left England on 15th June 1918 and passed through France and Italy by train, this stage of the journey took 10 days. After a pleasant voyage for three days they reached Egypt. In 1918 he was working at clerical work in an Indian hospital which was entirely male staffed.

A soldier went up to Leonard and asked him if he had ever lived in Poulton-le-Fylde; this soldier was Mr Newton Radcliffe, a grocer on the Breck.

Cadet C S Hamer
The Queen's Gold Medal.

HMS Conway, Royal Navy

HMS Conway's reputation continued to improve and she was now an established success with growing importance in the training of a new breed of professional merchant service officers. An annual report acknowledged, "Many of the leading ship owners of Liverpool will give a preference to the Cadets of the Institution".



On 4th February 1864 HM Queen Victoria acknowledged Conway's achievements and announced her intention to grant £50 annually, to be distributed in prizes to Conway boys; and to present annually a gold medal. "Her Majesty's wish in the establishment of this prize is to encourage the boys to acquire and maintain the qualities which will make the finest sailor. They consist of cheerful submission to superiors, self-respect and independence of character, kindness and protection to the weak, readiness to forgive offence, desire to conciliate the differences of others, and above all, fearless devotion to duty, and unflinching truthfulness." These were high ideals, but they encapsulate what Conway strove to encourage in her cadets. They didn't just make fine sailors, they developed exemplary men who have succeeded in every walk of life for precisely those reasons.

The royal announcement continued; "The medal will be open to boys who have been one year on board the ship, and have received not less than half the total number of marks at the previous quarterly examinations. The commander, after conferring with the head masters, shall select not less than three, nor more than five of the boys whom he considers to possess the qualities for which the prize is given. He shall then submit these names to the boys who have been assembled for the purpose in the school, and each boy who



has been on board six months previously to the time of distribution shall then and there vote for one of the boys so selected. The boy who receives the highest number of votes shall receive the medal. These regulations shall be placed upon a board on the main deck, to be called the Queen's Prize List", and the name of each boy who receives the medal shall be recorded upon such list." The board, a large framed black board, is now in the Conway Chapel at Birkenhead Priory and it faithfully records the names of all the winners on gold lettering. The first recipient was cadet Oswald Hillkirk. Queen Victoria's award helped shape the lives of thousands and through them to influence the lives of countless others, which was probably her intent.

The Queen also awarded a prize to the boys competing for cadetships in the Royal Navy. "The prize will consist of a binocular glass, with a suitable inscription, together with £35 towards the expense of the outfit of the boy."

Queen's Medallists: 1916 C S Hamer

HMS Conway was a training ship moored in Liverpool. The Conway was unfortunately wrecked in 1953.

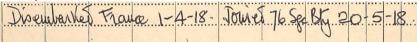
J W Harding

10th East Lancs, Military Band

Captain F Hargreaves

Royal Garrison Artillery

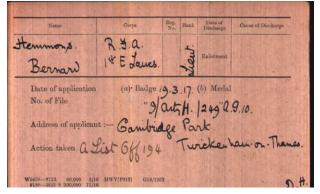
Prompted from Bombardier.



Lieutenant Bernard Hemmons

4th Batt. East Lancs Brigade

He was born in Manchester in 1891 before moving with his family to Singleton.



Seaman S Harrison Royal Naval Reserve

Wireless Operator R Henderson RFC

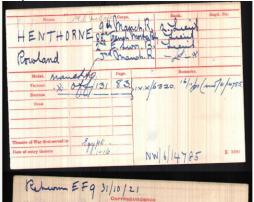
Lieutenant I Henry Army Service Corps

Lieutenant H H Henthorne Army Service Corps

Lieutenant Rowland Henthorne

Trench Mortar Battery

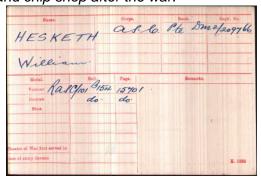
Born in Newhey in 1892 before the family moved to Breck Rd in Poulton. In 1911 he was a clerk in a builders. Second Lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment before transferring to Trench Mortar Battery and was promoted to Lieutenant/ He then transferred to East Surrey Regiment before completing the circle back at the Manchester Regiment. He fought in Egypt. In 1939 he is registered as living in Poulton and is a Builders Merchant Director. He died in 1964 in Lytham.



Private William Hesketh

Army Service Corps

Service number DM2/209766. Born in 1898 and died in 1961 in Warbreck. He owned a fish and chip shop after the war.



Instructor Harry Norval Heywood

Royal Air Force

Service number: 122261. He was born in Oldham in June 1886. The family moved to Lord St., Blackpool where he appears on the 1901 census. Ten years later he is recorded as a newspaper reporter. He was discharged from the RAF on 12th Feb 1919. He died in 1969 in Reading.

Private Eric G Hill

5th Kings Own Royal Lancaster

He was a signaller. He was with the 76th Training Reserve Battalion attached to the Kings Own Royal Lancaster.

P	riv	ate	Hei	rher	+ H	Λh	son
г	117	alt		nei		UU	SULL

Kings Shropshire Light Infantry

Service number 66362. Originally joined the Liverpool Regiment then the King's Shropshire Light Infantry service number 32097.

Regiment or Corps K. S. L. Regil. No. 3209 Thank P. Surname. HOBSON	J discharged from the Army, Royal Navy or the
Christian Names Herberto in full Permanent addiess 12 Cambrid Blackpool	(b) Dates of discharge (c) Causes of discharge (d) Particulars of Pension or Gratuity received (if any):—
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I do not claim to be seffering Place of Examination Date	from a disability fue to my military sorvice. Signature of Officer or Soldier. Signature of Officer witnessing.

Herbert served in France for 2 months and in England for 2 years. On 30th April 1917 he had exposure. He was hospitalised at the Canadian General Hospital, Boulogne before being transferred to Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham. He was discharged to Halford Manor VAD, Stratford on Avon.

Name.		Corpa.	Rank.	Begil, No.
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Herbert				
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Private R Holden

5th Kings Own Royal Lancaster

Hornby

Stationed at Caversham, near Reading from May 1915 throughout the whole of the war.

Private William H Howson

Royal Fusilier

Born in 1899 in Blackpool. Stationed in Malta. Transferred to the Seaforth HighInders.

Lieutenant Philip Hoyle

1st Cpy, Leicester Regiment then RFC

Originally Philip was with the Royal Fusiliers and in the Officers' School of Instruction in Scotland. He moved from the infantry to the RFC to become an observer. In Oct 1916 he was sent home to train as a pilot. He carried out theoretical training at Reading before going on indefinite leave waiting to be sent to Egypt. The reason for his leave was that he had picked up throat trouble in France. He completed his active service in Egypt, in September 1918 and was posted as an instructor in "Avros and rotary engine scouts" at Cranwell, He had the bad luck to crash at Macclesfield on a Sopwith Camel through engine trouble and was slightly injured.

Flight Sergeant J Humphreys

RFC

He dodged torpedoes by flying to France

2nd Officer Rexford Hunt

HM Transport E. 01

Born 1896 in Fleetwood. He joined the merchant Navy in 1916 where he was second mate. By 1919 he was a master. He died on 7th Oct 1939 in Gravesend in Kent.

OFFICE DUPLICATE. By The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade.
Certificate of Competency
second mate for foreign-going steamships only. To Rexford Hunt.
Whereas it has been reported to us that you have been found duly qualified to fulfit the duties of Second Mate of a Foreign-going Steamship in the Merchant Service, we do hereby, in
Gertificate of Competency. 1894, grant you this Certificate of Competency. 180 Order of the Board of Trade.
this 10th day of June, 196
Countersigned, Unest: J. Mogspris Summer of Trade Registrar General.
Registered at the Office of the Registrar General of Ripping and Samon.



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Sergeant Arthur Milner Hutchinson

16th OC Batt, Northern Regt, R Engineers
Service number: 113214. He was born on 10th Aug 1891 at Spring House, Great Eccleston and
died in July 1974 in Somerset. He is buried in Copp Church, Great Eccleston. In 1909 he
attended the University of Manchester as a Medical student. In 1917 he wrote to the Poultonian
about the clinging properties of mud. There are two types, he wrote: the plastic and the
lymphatic. The former clings to your clothes and the latter was difficult to plough through. In
1918 he was fighting on the French-Belgium border at Hertain, a village about five miles from
Tournai and about ten miles from lille. He fought in France, but in 1920 he was stationed in
British Somaliland. By Christmas Day that year he had arrived in Aden. He then crossed 90
miles of the desert in a Ford car. He found the Camel Corps where he trained two gun teams in
two days. On 1st Jan war was declared on the Mullah. They then trekked to Jidah over two
hundred miles away and attacked the fort, In 1915 his address was:

34 Sub-Section, M Section, 3rd Coy., 5th Batt., Special Bde., RE, BEF. One of the incidents that Arthur was involved in was being buried u[to his neck for two hours as a result of a 'Jack Johnson¹⁴' exploding not far from where he stood. He suffered shock and bruises only. In 1921 he returned to Plymouth from Bombay. He was one of the last OB to serve in the Army.

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¹⁴ The German howitzer shells are 8 to 9 inches in calibre, and on impact they send up columns of greasy black smoke. On account of this they are irreverently dubbed "Jack Johnsons" by the soldiers.

Private Archibald (Archie) Nigel Guy Irving Australian Imperial Force



Born on 14 May 1891 in Basingstoke, Hampshire and died on 5 Jul 1978 in Leemurdie, Western Australia. On 6th May 1917 he was at the Targo Military Hospital on Salisbury Plain with pneumonia. He was fearful of being sent home unfit.

Lieutenant Bertrand Kemp Jackson Alexandra Hospital, RAMC Born in Blackpool in 1889. He was attached to a special unit in the RAMC – dental corps.

King's Own Lancs, 7th Battalion **Trooper Victor Jackson** Service number 4567 and 110841. Transferred to 21st Corps Cavalry Regiment, Palestine, DLOY. Whilst enroute to the Middle east the ship he was on was torpedoed on 1st Jan 1917. Victor escaped unhurt. The ship was the Cunard liner SS Ivernia. Whilst he was in hospital in Palestine he met an former Old Bainesian, Joe Hopkinson, who was an orderly with the RAMC.



The British Ocean liner IVERNIA SS was commissioned as an auxiliary transport, was torpedoed and sunk on January 1st, 1917, 58 miles S.E. of Cape Matapan when on her way to Alexandria. At the time of the attack the IVERNIA was carrying about 2,400 troops of the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Rifle Brigade and Yeomanry. Of these three officers and 82 other ranks were drowned. The ship's surgeon, the chief engineer and 34 of the crew were also drowned.

The submarine responsible for the sinking was the UB-47. She was commanded by Lt. Cdr. Steinbauer The Captain of the torpedoed RMS Ivernia was the same captain as of RMS Lusitania (torpedoed in 1915): Captain William Thomas Turner . Once again, Turner survived, but soon afterward, Cunard decided that "all Turner would be captain of, from then on, was his desk ". Capt. Turner was fortunately exonerated of all false accusations for being partly responsible for Lusitania's sinking.

Lieutenant Robert Jaggar

Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons

Born in 1900 in Blackpool. During the war he had moved to Huddersfield.



2nd Lieutenant Percy Jennings

Royal Field Artillery

Trooper Frank Haydn Johns

Duke of Lancaster Own Yeomanry He was born in 1890 in Fleetwood and died in 1946. He was posted to Salonica with the first draft of DLOY. Admitted into Salonica DLOY Hospital, Malta in 1917 for 5 months with jaundice.

Trooper W F Johns Duke of Lancaster Own Yeomanry

Cadet E W Johnson **RAF**

W Johnson RFC, BEF

7th Batt., King's Own Lancs **Private J Jolly**

Corporal J C Jolly 9th Batt., King's Own Lancs

Sergeant W A Jolly

19th Batt., Royal Fusiliers

He was classed as medially unfit in 1916 and was with the Army Post Office (APO) S17 Reinforcement Office serving as a confidential clerk, stationed in France. His first night under canvas was a memorable one,. The snow was 4inches deep outside his tend and it was blowing a blizzard so he created a bed from wooden supports with a ground sheet over the top and blankets. This bed served him well and was so comfortable that he did not wake up to see the Zeppelin raid over the camp on Easter Tuesday morning. He was able to see them through the tent flap. He was pestered by French hawkers but the French he learnt in school helped him greatly. He managed to bring down the charges for a bath from 1F 50c to 90c.

2nd Lieutenant Charlie H Kellett

RE Chemist Corps¹⁵

He joined up on 8th April 1916 in Chester and was sent immediately to London, the Chatham and within a fortnight he had been posted to France. He wrote in the Poultonian that the troops were gassing the Hun. They were given a gas cylinder, a mask and a revolver and put into a front line trench then left to shift for ourselves. He was first attached to the 1st Battalion before moving to the 3rd Battalion. Former pupil and junior master. Following the war he joined the Kew Observatory as the resident observer. He joined the Royal Engineers at the start of the war but moved to the East Lancs Reg.

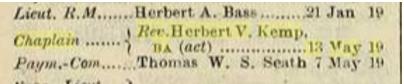
In 1917 Charlie visited a farmhouse where C B Bairnsfather the artist had resided in the early part of the War. He created the character 'Old Bill'. Charlie stated in the Poultonian that the walls were covered in Bairnsfather's drawings. The barn where Charlie slept had 20 infantry men. It would have been good apart from a leaking corrugated iron roof, soaked sand bags. The water gathered in a corrugated iron sheet so if someone got out of a bunk and knocked the sheet they had a shower of cold water. On 31st Dec 1916 a shell burst in the farm yard and blew the cook house to bits. No one was injured. On New Years Eve a church service was held 30 men packed into a little dug out, every inch of space occupied. The service was held by torchlight with the singing of 'Oh! God, out help in ages past', 'Abide with me' and ended with 'The King'. Rarely had there been a more impressive service punctuated by the roar of the guns..

Rev Herbert Victor Kemp BA

Royal Navy

He was born in Blackpool in 1887 and lived in Lansdown Crescent. He originally served on HMS Dublin (1917) which was a Light Cruiser, ex-2nd-class Cruiser, Chatham-class. He later served on HMS Glory, which was a 12,950 ton battleship. He died in 1939.





HFKing

Mess Officer William Henry King

HMS Fearless

Born in Manchester in 1883. This was a Light cruiser, ex-Scout cruiser, Boadicea/Active-class. He died in Blackpool in 1959.



Corporal T Kirkham

1st West Lancs, Ammunition Column

¹⁵ One of the Special companies of the Royal Engineers to combat the issues of chemical warfare. The Germans were using poisonous chlorine gas on the French.

Sergeant George Victor Law

39th Field Ambulance, 7th Company, RAMC Service number 305249. George was born in Shawforth, Rochdale in 1895. He was stationed

at Sheitch Sa-ad, Egypt. He was stationed with Frank Cardwell on the banks of the Tigris.

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2nd Lieutenant Rowland Law

3rd/5th Batt., East Lancs Reg

He was also a Lieutenant in the RAF

Private Frederick Lawrenson

2nd Batt., Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Service number: 241833. He was born in 1886. After school he moved to St Helens where he worked for Pilkington Glass as a glass layer.

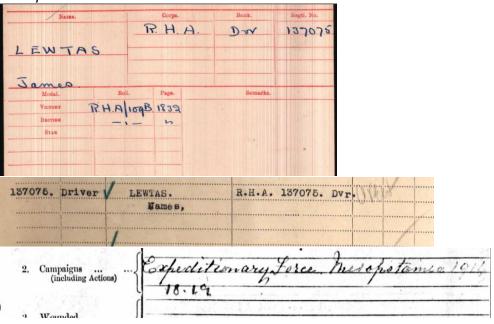
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				R.W.Ft	18.	
				17/R.W.F	18.	
				R.W.Ft		
***************************************			*************	17/R.W.Ft	******************	

Driver James Lewtas

Royal Field Artillery

Service number 137075. Born in 1897 at Stalmine Grange, Stalmine. He served in

Mesopotamia



Corporal A Lawson

32, Stationary Hospital, France RAMC

Private George Lawson

Royal Army Medical Corps

Stationed at Australian Voluntary Hospital¹⁶, Boulogne



Private H Leadbetter

Royal Naval Division

Private Sidney A S Leech

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Service number: 3066. He was a Sub-conductor.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Sub-contractor L Leech

114

¹⁶ This is a British Base Hospital

Telegraphist Harold Lindley

Merchant Navy

Studied Wireless Telegraphy at Marconi's College, London. He later joined the Navy and in 1918 he was in the Mediterranean visiting Naples. He had chance to write to the Poultonian about his visit to the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Flight Cadet F Lord

RAF

1st Air Mechanic Leslie E Lord

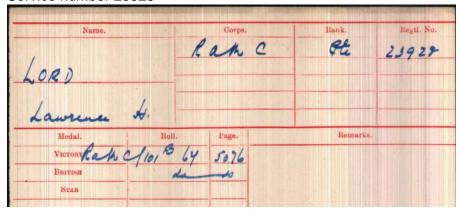
31st Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

Service number: P/231360. He was stationed out in India. At the time the Indians had never seen aeroplanes.

Private Lawrence Halliwell Lord

RAMC

Service number 23928



Gunner Clifford Lowe

Royal Field Artillery

Service number 244377. Was stationed at Fulwood Barracks before being sent to France on Christmas Day 1917. He sailed from South Africa on the Balmoral Castle. He had lived in South Africa from 1910. It was his hope to return to South Africa after the war.





THE VESSEL ON WHICH THE DUKE OF CONNAUDHT WILL START FOR SOUTH AFRICA ON TUESDAY: THE LINER "BALMORAL CASTLE."

The Duke of Consusgist has arranged to leave Portmoeth for South Africa, where he is to open the first Union Parliament on November 4, on Tunday. The vessel on which he will travel is the Union Castle laws "Balmaral Castle," which has been specially reconstructed and reierabled. He

William Marsh

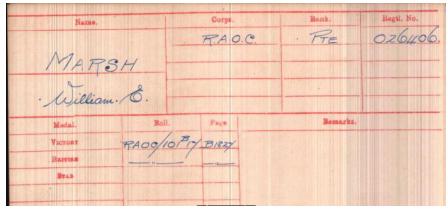
Royal Engineers

Service number 9133. Born in 1892. He was with the sound ranging section of the RE in France and the Army Ordnance Corps. He had a narrow escape when leaving Woolwich Barracks to go to Portsmouth when a few days afterwards an explosion damaged Woolwich. Later in the War he was hospialised in Etaples with acute bronchitis.

Private William E Marsh

Army Ordnance Corps

Service number: 026406

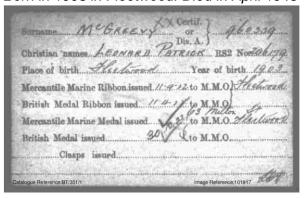


Cadet H Mason Royal Flying Corps

Private J R Mason RAMC

J C Mather RNVR

Midshipman Leonard Patrick McGreevy Born in 1903 in Fleetwood. Died in April 1945



Merchant Navy

Signaller J Mellor

Royal Engineers

Lieutenant Clarence Ackers Molyneux

5th Manchester's/Tank Corps

Moved from the 5th Manchester to the Tank Corps. He was stationed in Egypt, in 1916. He retired from the Army in November 1921.

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W Monk Royal Navy

Born and lived in Knott End. After the war he joined the RAF.

Trumpeter H Morgan

Duke of Lancs Yeomanry

Service number: 66887

Private Frederick William Munns

Royal Marines Light Infantry

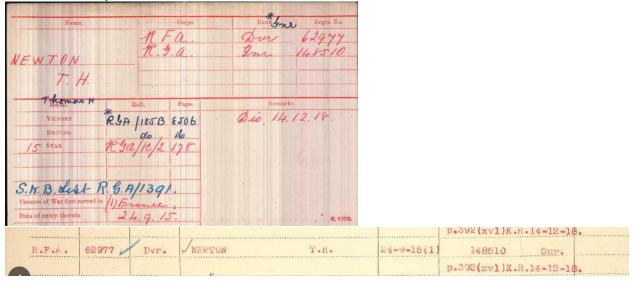
Service number: PLY/487/S. He was part of the 487 Plymouth Batt. Born 31 Aug 1894, enlisted

in 1914. He was discharged in 1919 where is recorded as living in Wolverhampton.

Gunner Thomas H Newton

Royal Garrison Artillery

Service numbers: 62977, 148510. Arrived in France on 30th November 1916 and was at the front by 4th December 1915. Formerly in the Royal Field artillery before moving to the Royal Garrison artillery. He was a driver in the RFA.



E C Nicholson

Royal Air Force

Service number: 200985. Muster date was 1st June 1915. Mentioned in despatches in 1915 whilst serving in the Dardenelles. He worked in observation work from balloons.

1st Air Mechanic B O'Niel

Royal Flying Corps

Service number:(P)12669

Private F Nield Royal Flying Corps

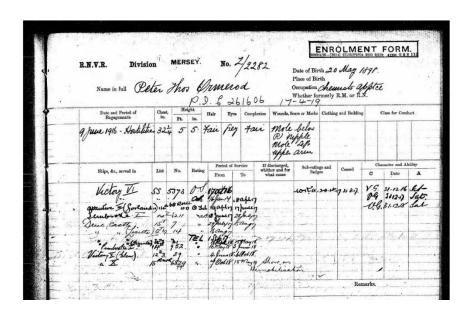
Peter Thomas Ormerod

Telegraphist/Wireless Operator

He was born in 1898 and before going to war was a chemist's assistant. He was a crew member on the HMV Lisette, at the Naval Base Falmouth. He joined up in 1916. In 1918 in the

Poultonian he wrote that he was training as a flight officer in the RNAS. HMV Lisette was sunk on 13th March 1918. The Lisette was a cargo ship and was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea 8 nautical miles (15 km) north east by north of the Shipwash Lightship (United Kingdom) by a Kaiserliche Marine submarine with the loss of a crew member. Later in the he was as a crew member of HM "Q" Ship.





Q-boats, more commonly Q-ships, or "Mystery Ships". They were heavily armed gunboats disguised as merchantmen and were designed to lure enemy submarines into making surface attacks.

In 1915, during the First Battle of the Atlantic, the British found that the German U-boats were strangling her sea-lanes so needed a countermeasure. Convoys, where the best way of beating the enemy but the Admiralty was suffering from a lack of funds. As depth-charges were primitive the only way of attacking U-boats was to force them to surface and to shoot them or ram them. The problem was how to lure the U-boat to the surface.

One solution was the creation of the secret Q-ship, The Q related to their home port in Queenstown, Ireland. The Germans named them as a *U-Boot-Falle* ("U-boat trap"). A Q-ship would appear to be an easy target, but in fact carried hidden armaments. A typical Q-ship might resemble a tramp steamer sailing alone in an area where a U-boat was reported to be operating.

The U-boat would only fire at a ship that mattered as torpedoes were expensive, and a submarine only carried a limited number of them, ideally employed when the vessel is submerged and invisible to her target. Ammunition was cheap and plentiful As a result,

submarine captains prefer to surface and use their deck gun on easy or already weakened targets.

By seeming to be a suitable target for the U-boat's deck gun, a Q-ship was intended to lure a submarine into surfacing. Once the U-boat was vulnerable, perhaps even gulled further by pretence of some crew dressed as civilian mariners "abandoning ship" and taking to a boat, the Q-ship would drop its panels and immediately open fire with its deck guns. At the same time, the vessel would reveal her true colours by raising the White Ensign. When successfully fooled a U-boat could quickly be overwhelmed by several guns to its one, or defer from firing and try to submerge before mortally wounded.

Acting Sergeant Reginald Ormerod

Seaforth Highlanders

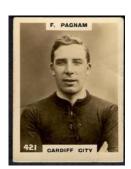
Service number: S/11977. He then signed up for the Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) service number:29465. He was born in Blackburn in 1895 before moving to Blackpool by 1901. He was stationed in Poona in 1917. On arriving at Basra he was told the front line was 250 miles away and a large portion of it had to be completed on foot. After nine days of marching the glamour and enthusiasm of war had worn off. He did, however, see Mesopotamia. He was wounded on 22nd Feb 1917 in the attack on Sanna-i-Yat and was hospitalised in india, He was hit in every limb.

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Gunner Fred Pagnam

Royal Garrison Artillery

Service number 124544. He was born on 4th Sept 1891 in Poulton-lee-Fylde. Fred Pagnam was a professional footballer/ In Dec 1915 he enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery (2 Depot) as a gunner. In 1917 he had a bout of Colitis and was hospitalised in Portland. However, on 3rd March 1918 he was absent from a Tattoo whilst on active service, until he surrendered himself to the military authorities at Shoreham at 10:30pm on 13th March 1918. He was forfeit five days pay. On the 26th March he did it again. He was absent without leave from 10pm on 26th March 1918 until he was apprehended by the Police at 4pm on 10th April in Wallasey.



His punishment was that he was demoted to a Gunner. His absence without leave was to play in football matches. Classed as a deserter from 20th April 1918. After leaving the war he carried on with his footballing career and later became a publican. He died on 1st March 1972 in Salmesbury.

Cadet Parker OTC

Private H P Parkinson Army Pay Corps

Gunner W Parkinson 2nd West Lancs, Royal Field Artillery

Private N Peck 16th Canadian

Private A Pendlebury

King's Own Royal Lancashire, 3rd Battalion

According to the school's roll of honour the compilers were unsure of his regiment.

Lieutenant Vivian Pendleton

Army Service Corps

Born in 1888. Vivian was also the Transport Officer. He was sent to Zanzibar and Bombay. He contracted enteric, which involved a rather lengthy period in hospital. Died in 1957 in Southport.

Sergeant Staff Instructor B Pickett

5th King's Own

Rose to Staff-Sergeant in two months of enlisting. He was a master in the school.

Driver/Motor Mechanic Frank Pickup

Tank Corps

Born in 1889 in Windermere.

Private R Poole 5th Batt., King's Own, Royal Engineers

Private Norman Proudlove

Loyal North Lancs Regiment

Service number 29171. Born in Blackburn in 1898 before moving to Blackpool and then Poulton-le-Fylde. Before enlisting in 1917 he was a chemist's apprentice. Served in France in 1918.

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He had several spells in hospital, the last one being.

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12. Place of origin of disability.

13. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability in so far as it is recorded in the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case and in other relevant official documents. 15914 32621, 55 7 100m 4) 1/10 J.P. Gp. 158

12. Place of origin of disability.

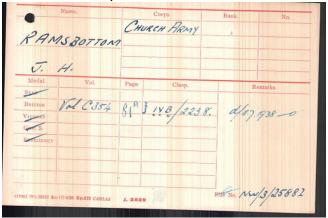
War Office Daily List No.5629. NLS 1918_WList52 Entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorised under Army Order 204 of 6th July 1916. The terms of this award being met by being named in this list. Next of Kin address: Blackpool

Private J Ramsbottom Joined up in 1915 in Plymouth. Royal Naval Defence, BEF

J H Ramsbottom

Evangelical Church Army

He was with troops in London. He was later sent to France.



The Church Army was an alliance member whose evangelists and volunteers, stepped up to the challenge of sharing the gospel with those facing great adversity in the trenches and on the home front.

Through recreation huts, tents, hostels, rest homes, mobile canteens and hospital visiting, thousands of men and women found hope in their darkest hour thanks to the Church Army's work.

The Church Army huts provided places of calm where soldiers could take time out to think and pray as well as to receive input from a Church Army evangelist.

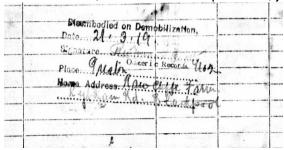
Some huts were just an hour's walk from the front line and also served to tend the wounded when the first port of call, known as the first dressing stations, were full.

The huts served other purposes too. They were packed out in the evenings from hundreds of men. Thry sold everything at cost price. Tea with plenty of sugar was the favourite drink of the men; and it was said that most camps averaged 20 gallons a day. Sheets of writing paper were handed out each week. They had cinema shows once a week. On the religious side they had a voluntary service every Sunday night. The Church Army also provided recreation tents in the camps to which the soldiers were sent.

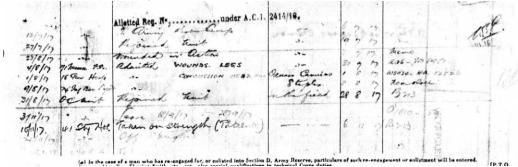
Private John Rawcliffe

King's Liverpool Regiment

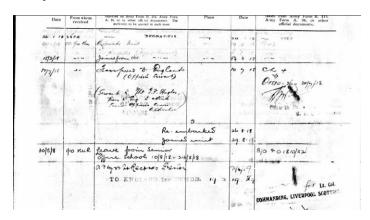
Service number 356898. He lived at Rawcliffe Farm. He joined up on 10th Nov 1915 and was sent to Rouen, France on 11th April 1916, joining his regiment on 18th April.

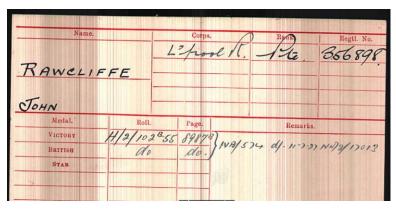


He was wounded many times in action.



He attended senior officers school from 29th August 1918 but re-joined on 1st October. He was finally demobilised on 21st March 1919.





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Lieutenant Thomas Herbert Redford

Royal Field Artillery

Service number: 87872. He was mentioned in Despatches. He was originally in the Royal Horse Artillery as a gunner and then was promoted in the RFA to lieutenant.

Name.	Co.ps.	Rank. Regtl. No.	
REDFORD	R.F. A. (c/275 Bly, 55 W. Laure Droin)	Gunner 87873: * Leut	<u>k</u>
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*Thomas Hereet Ro	II. Page. Ou R. FR	RJa/349 1 / 1/2 50076.	
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2nd Air Mechanic Alan C Reid

Royal Flying Corps

Sous-Lieutenant Maurice Regnard

Mitrailleuses Section (C de G)



I assume that he was a French national OB of the school as he is not registered in the UK WWI forces. He may have been a boarder in the school. He was awarded four citations on his Croix de Guerre and was mentioned in despatches twice, the last one gained at Verdun. His brother who unfortunately was not named in the Poultonian was killed. He had six citations on his Legion d'Honneur. He had also

gained the Medaille de l'aigle Blanc de Serbie and La Medaille d'or de l' ACF. He was grievously wounded on 9th August 1918, when he lost his right leg in Samara. He received five wounds at the Battle of Nautdideir.



Legion d'Honneur



Medaille de l'aigle Blanc de Serbie



La Medaille d'or de l' ACF

Private D Richards

RAMC

Private J Richards

MTASC

Private W Riding

MTASC

Service number: T/25918. He joined up in August 1914.

1st Air Mechanic J Riley

RAF

1st Air Mechanic T D Roberts

Royal Naval Air Service

He was a leading mechanic. He was mobilised in August 1914, with the Blackpool troop of the DLOY, and was transferred to the RNAS in the following May as a draughtsman and engineer.

Prior to this he had spent nine months in the 'land of mud and death' (France) with the DLOY.. He returned from France in March 1916 to take up a post at the Admiralty as an aeronautical draughtsman and designer attached to the Air Ministry. After a short period he was drafted back to France with Squadron 82.

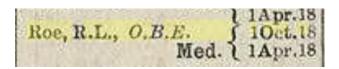
There is a great account in the April 1916 edition of the Poultonian of his journey from Southampton to the front line in France. In July 1918 he was mentioned in dispatches by the Air Ministry for valuable work on the staff. In the letter he writes about the grat battle of Loos in the September and the fact it was seven whole days and nights bombardment. Following the battle he visited his old squadron of the DLOY at Steenwerck (Belgian border) where he met Archie Sutherland. On 5th Feb he wet on leave for 7 days then back to Flanders, but soon afterwards was ordered back to HQ in ngland to work as a staff-draughtsman to the Naval Air Station in London. This job involved him designing aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant R L Roe

Royal Flying Corps

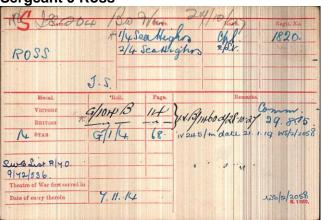
He was awarded his OBE on 22nd Dec 1919

Roe, Flight Lt. R. L. ... 22Dec.19



Sergeant J Ross

3/4th Seaforth Highlanders



Private R Sandham

Royal Marine Engineers

Service number: 86193. He was born in Fleetwood. The image below relates to a long service medal.

86193 Landham R. 13051 Sea 1cl " 4. 10.19 RNR. Flectwood

Midshipman Willie Sellars

Royal Navy

2nd Lieutenant George Shaw

Middlesex Regiment

Service number: PS/5616. Started his Army career as a private in "A" Company, 3rd Public School Battalion, Royal Fusiliers then became the Second Lieutenant in both the Middlesex Regiment and the RAF. He reported in the Poultonian in 1916 that the trenches were so bad that it took two hours to get from the support line to the firing line – a distance of 500 yards. The mud was waist deep, some soldiers had to leave their waders in the mud and continue in stocking feet. The Germans used to explode mines near the firing lines and then use these craters as trenches. The British would flank the crater and when the Hun took up residence they shot them.

This report from the Poultonian had to be censored due to army restrictions. It was reported that he had got his commission with the King's Liverpool.

A journey from England to Palestine

The first stage of the journey across the channel to France is too well known to need description. Most Old Boys of military age known quite enough about that. On this occasion George found hi arrival in France quite different than his former experiences, on which occasions he, on the first went north to the line in cattle trucks; on the second went south to the Italian frontier in a first class compartment; sharing it with three officers of his own battalion. The whole countryside looked so beautiful and peacefull that it was almost impossible to believe that the great Boche offensive was just being launched. They stopped for a few hours at several famous towns where they made thr most of their time. At many place en route the people came out to hive them a most enthusiastic welcome, quite reminiscent of the early days of the war. This was Georges first vuisit to Italy and his impression on seeing dark-robed men walking along by gaily painted houses, reminded hi of comic opera scenes. Most of the houses had designs painted on them like stage scenery, and most of the people appeared to be dressed ready for a fancy-dress ball. The poverty stricken state of the country struck him very forcibly. This was reflected in the money exchange, which is at the rate of about 42 lires to the £. The normal rate is about 10d [24p].

The few days voyage across the Mediterranean in a great liner was, he says, was perhaps the most enjoyable part of all. There were hundreds of officers aboard and the splendid times they had in mess and concerts in the music room afterwards will not be soon forgotten. Spending time lounging on deck or being energetic playing deck quoits all served to shorten the time. Eventually they saw the low sandy shored of Africa ahead, dotted with palm trees, as they had expected to see it, and in very short time they were at anchor, followed into harbour by the destroyers which had accompanied them. As for Egypt there were groups of chanting natives, veiled women, English soldiers, long files of camels, mosques and minarets, quaint streets lined with bazaars and vast wastes of sand are jumbled together in one's mind in jumbled confusion.

/At noon they left a camp in the desert and and settling down for the night the train was still rushing through the desert. Next morning waking soon after sunrise, looking through the window a wonderous blaze of gorgeous colour, met their gaze – fields of intensely green grass, plentifully besprinkled with scarlet poppies, orange groves, olive trees, and the human element supplied its quota of colour in the shape of gaudily dressed Bedouin Arabs dusky natives of our own Camel Corps, up from Egypt and clothed in garments of deep Mediterranean; everything in fact looked fresh and bright and restful after the hot glare of the desert. Such was the first view of Palestine. Many places of Biblical interest were visited – the city of Jerusalem alone making a strong appeal, and the first day George spent there will be unforgettable, He finds their warfare a delightful change from the monotonous trench warfare in France. At one spot where they were settled for a time the temperature reached 110F [43C] in the shade and during the heat of the day it was impossible to do anything. In the Judean hills the climate in May was beautiful.

Bandsman J Shields 10th East Lancs

Service number: 2325. Discharged on 17th Jan 1917

Chief Officer Kenneth Denton Shoesmith Transport Service (to Bordeaux)

Became an artist. Born in 1890 in Halifax and died in 1939. He joined the Merchant Navy. After the War he joined the Royal Mail Stem Packet Company.





Surname SHOESMITH	Certif. 644967
Christian names KENNETH. L	Certif. 644.967 Dis. A. M. S. S. 506627 DENTON RS2 No. 1500
Place of birth 9 Halifax	Yorke Year of birth 1890
Mercantile Marine Ribbon issued	28.11. 14 to M. M.O. Josk 2
British Medal Ribbon issued	18. 11. to M.M.O. Handley and allow
Mercantile Marine Medal issued.	M.M.O. Galles Gall
British Medal issued	to M.M.O. M.W.U.
Clasps issued	90)
Catalogue Reference:BT/351/1	Imago Palasay or GTT to

AC2 Walter Slater

Lance-Corporal A E Smith

2nd Lieutenant G Smith

Royal Naval Air Service

Royal Engineers

Royal Engineer

Sergeant George Smith

Service number: 1464. George was born in 1896 and lived at South Shore, Blackpool. He enlisted in October 1914, at 18 years old. He was drafted to the hospital ship, Kildonan Castle. The ship spent four months employed on the Dardanelles service, continually bringing wounded from the Pennisula to Malta and Egypt.

Royal Army Medical Corps

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In Feb 1916 the unit was disbanded

and George was sent to Alexandria to join HMS Gascon. In March 1916 he set off for a very interesting trip to Bombay and the Persian Gulf. It was intended to bring h wounded of the

Mesopotamia Expedition from Basra (90 miles from the mouth of the river) to Bombay. The River Tigris is very shallow so only shallow draught ships could make the journey. They got to 15 miles from Basra when an uncharted sandbank blocked their progress. After four days, numerous tugs and an exceptional high tide they were freed. They moved the wounded to Bombay.





After a week in Bombay they embarked the wounded and sailed through to Southampton. He arrived home in June 1916 but was again on the high seas in July on the Mediterranean Service between Malta, Salonica and Egypt.

Gunner S Smith

RGA/90th Siege Battery

Joined the army in 1915 where he was stationed on the East Coast in a coastal defence battery. He joined the 90th siege battery when it formed and after training was posted to France in 1916. On 8th November 1917 he wrote from Hemingford Military Hospital, Birkenhead having been injured in France. He was originally sent to Ypres to be treated for a shell splinter in his left hand but was then transferred to England.

W Smith

Nothing is known about him apaprt from his name in the roll of honour in the Poultonian.

Sergeant Sydney D Spencer

Duke of Lancs Own Yeomanry

Service number: 3159, 110298, 397028. The numbers refer to promotions from Private to

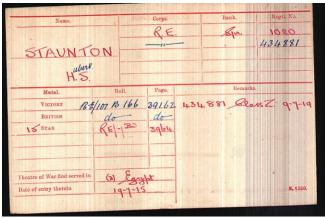
Lance Corporal then Sergeant.



Sapper Hubert S Staunton

Royal Engineers

Service number: 1020 and 434881. He served in Egypt in 1915.



Corporal Archibald Sutherland

Duke of Lancaster Yeomanry¹⁷

Service Number 3050 and 110289. Awarded the Miliary Medal for special observation carried out under heavy fire in Sept 1916 whilst serving in the RGA.





He was promoted to corporal in the DLOY and then transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) where he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

110289.	SUTHERLAND, Archibald	.3050. D.L.O.Yeo.
	market and the second	Dragoons. Cpl.

Private W R Swarbrick

RAMC

Lance-Corporal R Talbot

10th (Scottish) Battn., KLR

Private Thomas Stanley Taylor

Artists' Rifles¹⁸. Cadet Corps

Service number: 766770. He was born on 18th May 1899 in Poulton-le-Fylde. He lived on Hardhorn Road, Poulton. In 1917 he was hospitalised for influenza¹⁹. He died in Garstang in Sept 1983.

Sapper W A Taylor

Royal Engineers

¹⁷ The Duke of Lancaster Yeomanry are sometimes shown on documents as Yeomanry Dragoons

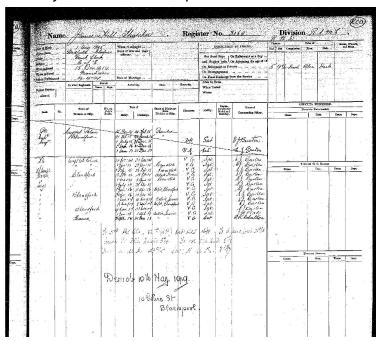
¹⁸ The Artists' Rifles was part of the County of London Battalion.

¹⁹ There was nearly a 'dog-fight' in the school yard when Stanley Taylor visited the school in 1917 with his dog Nigger. The School dog, Jack and him met on the yard. But one look at stanley's dog sent Jack slinking away.

Sergeant James Hill Thatcher

Royal Marine Medical Unit

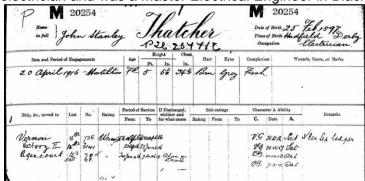
Service number: 3063. James was the brother of John Stanley Thatcher. He was born in Hadfield, Derbyshire in 1895. He was part of the RAMC and was demobbed from France in Dec 1918. After leaving the Royal Marines he became a bank manager and lived in Thornton Cleveleys. He died in Blackpool in 1958.



Electrician John Stanley Thatcher

HMS Agincourt

He was born in Hadfield, Derbyshire in 1897 before his family moved to Lancaster and is reported on the 1901 census but by 1907 the family had moved to Blackpool. Apart from HMS Agincourt he also served on the Vernon and the Victory II. After the war he continued as an electrician and was a Master Electrical Engineer in Blackpool. He died in 1968 in Blackburn.



Trimmer A Thompson

Royal Naval Reserve

A trimmer filled the wheelbarrows with coal from the bunker and moved it to the stokehold.

Private F. Thompson



RAMC

Served in Salonika. He joined in 1914 and was stationed at Grantham and in York. Whilst in Grantham he was involved in a Zeppelin Anderton raid and was lucky and escaped injury. Stationed at Belton Park the home of Lord Brownlow which was a hospital with 600 patients.

W A Thorp

Discharged from Army Service Corps

Army Service Corps

Private W F Thornton

3rd West Lancs, Field Ambulance

He joined the RAMC then was QMS at the RAF.

Corporal F S Tomlin

Royal Naval Division (Medical Unit)

Sapper Frederick R Tranter

Service number: 77977

Royal Engineers



2nd Lieutenant Philip Troughton

RFC

He was at Cadet School in Denham with OB J Cross.

Captain H Usher

15th Middlesex

After the war he was attached to the Machine Gun Corps.

Demetrius Ventiris

Ministry of Public Assistance

Born in 1895. He was a Greek student in the school, stationed in Athens. He was imprisoned by the Royalists in November 1916. After release he joined the Venizelist movement in Salonika as a secretary.

2nd Lieutenant Harold D Waddington

Royal Fusiliers

He was a member of the regular army – Royal Engineers

Lance-Corporal Rupert Waddington

Duke of Lancs., Yeomanry

Captain Douglas Wain

RAMC

He was awarded an OBE.



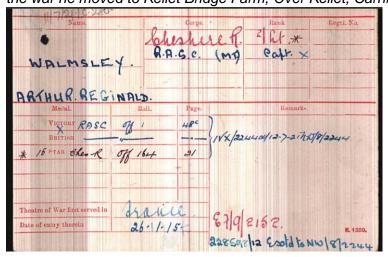
Midshipman D A Walker

RNVR

Captain Arthur Reginald Walmsley

Cheshire Regiment/RASC

Service Number: O A 135218. Born in 1881 in Accrington. He was an electrical engineer. After the war he moved to Kellet Bridge Farm, Over Kellet, Carnforth.



Private H Walmsley

Artists' Rifles

Sapper J Ward

81st Company, Royal Engineers

Private R T Walsh

5th Batt', King's Own Royal Lancaster

2nd Lieutenant G White

Royal Engineers

Private H White

King's Own

WHITE, H., Private, King's (Liverpool Regiment).

He joined in September 1917, and was drafted to France four months later. He was in action at Bétiume, La Bassée, and Nieuport, and after the cessation of hostilities, rendered valuable services whilst engaged on reconstruction work. He holds the General Service and Victory Medals, and was demobilised on his return to England in February 1920.

3rd Officer H S White

Mercantile Marine

Private T N White

2/5th Cheshires

Lance-Corporal Joseph Whitehead

4th King's Own Royal Lancaster

Service number: 242447. Moved to 1st Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and became a 2nd Lieutenant. He was hospitalised in Orpington with a septic foot which he suffered in Ypres. He

also fought in France. He retired from the army in Sept. 1921.



Private H Whittaker

5th Batt., West Riding

Flight Lieutenant Lawrence Martin (Dick) Whittington

Royal Naval Air Service -206 Squadron



Service number: Oair56554. Born in 1896. Son of the Headmaster, Thomas Whittington. Started his training at Crystal Palace on 5th August 1917, prior to this he had been stopped from enlisting due to his job. He was also trained at Greenwich, Redcar and Middlesborough before going to Cranwell Aerodrome. He wrote to the

Poultonian at 4:30am on watch in the tower. He wrote that it was jolly cold. During the war he served in France. He was wounded [B7586 DH9] when he crashed near Busnes and dbf after a bombing raid. The plane fortunately came down on the English side of the line. Both Lt L M Whittington was wounded and AG S Jones. He survived the war but died on 21st May, 1933 in a Nursing home in Windsor, he was 37 years old. He served in both the RNAS and the RAF during the war. He returned home on special leave in 1918 but still had to attend KLMCH for treatment. Later returning to Netley for operations on the nerves in his injured arm. After the War he worked for ICI in Thornton.

WHITTINGTON,	Lawrence M.	Flt.S.Lt.	R.N.A.S.	v:	В.	By A.M.

From the Poultonian July, 1918. The contents of this letter was originally censored by the school but due to the war records becoming public many of the names and places can be listed.



On St Patrick's day Larry left RAF Manston with two other pilots who had been with him throughout his training. They spent the night at Dover Aerodrome and the following day crossed the channel in the destroyer, HMS Racehorse. Each night after reaching the aerodrome near Dunkirk, they had had an air-raid as well as being shelled by a gun from Ostend way, at intervals of eight minutes. On the Thursday night after the usual air

raid, a shelling of about 600 shells fell on the town. However four of their destroyers got sunk so they got something in return. Larry and his two chums were lucky to get in the same squadron, They were supposed to have a months practice in formation flying before going up the line. A few nights after arriving he was sitting in the ward room mess when the mail came in. One of the letters had a Blackpool post mark and the man who received it was just about to go home on leave so promised to post two letters for Larry, one to his fiancée and another one. Just before starting the second letter he was sent up the line at once taking only the barest necessities leaving his kit behind. The letter that was sent to his fiancée mentioned all the information above and the fact that the three chums (Musketeers). They had created a pact that if any of these three chums had got into difficulties then the other two would come to his assistance.

A letter had been sent from the father of one of the three two say that the other one had been killed. It happened on Easter Sunday morning. The small aerodrome that they were stationed in was full of shell holes and ditches, with factory chimneys along one side and telephone wires crossing it and the engines were not sufficiently powerful to lift them clear of these obstacles in the prescribed place. The first chum went first, made an error of judgment, crashed badly and was killed. The second pilot touched the telephone wir5es and crashed. Larry went next knowing that these poor boys had each two bombs of 112 lbs each liable to go off at any moment. Larry had been lucky throughout all his training but on reaching France his adventures began. 'One day feeling very fit he went one morning for a height test flying over Dunkirk at about 17,000 feet when as he says: I heard the deuce of a row going on just below me, and discovered it came from bursting shells. I did a bunk inland quickly; on arriving at the aerodrome I found that as I was flying so high the French Anti-aircraft gunners had taken me as a Hun. I secured a piece of shrapnel which had fallen in the aerodrome. It will be a rather interesting souvenir.' It was written that 'Dick', Larry's nickname was making a general nuisance of himself to the Huns. His aircraft had 22 holes in it, one in the fuselage was 6 inches in diameter but managed to land safely until April 19th (Primrose Day).

On this occasion his engine was 'dud' and he could not take off with the rest of his formation and by the time he had got it right they were on the horizon. He set off to catch them up but with the day being misty and the cloud low, he lost them and himself. He prepare3d to land in what appeared to be an aerodrome as he could see the hangars. On landing he discovered that this was an aerodrome in the middle of construction, with the ground not being levelled up and a trench running right across it. He hit the trench at 50 knots, the plane disintegrated but luckily he and his observer were unhurt. He could not telephone headquarters to state that he was well. After many hours of touring France in different cars he eventually reached

headquarters only to find that the Admiralty had declared him as 'missing'. A message was sent to state that this was not the case but there was the anxiety at home of the original report until the second one arrived.

On St Georges Day his duty for the day having finished he was preparing to see Dick Edge in hospital at St Omer when the Flight Commander said to his 'That it was a very bad day, and one of the other pilots had already been on a raid. Will you take his place?' Larry did, but as he flew he was surrounded by five Hun plane. They wounded his gun-layer (S Jones), who was hit in the leg and rendered unconscious. Larry brought one of them down but to do this he had to expose himself to the guns of the others. They were in light scouting planes were he was in a much heavier bombing plane and therefore less manoeuvrable. He dived for a better position but found himself surrounded by another four. They wounded him in the side causing his ribs to splinter, but fought on until wounded by a tracer bullet, which split open his right fore-arm from elbow to wrist. He felt he was losing consciousness but guided the control as best he could with his left hand, aiming for our lines and decided he would rather risk death by crashing rather than being set alight in the air, he shut off his engine. He had been hit at 11,500 feet and fell the greater part of the distance whilst unconscious remembering nothing of the crash. He fell in a shell hole ion our side if the lines about 100 yards away from a field dressing station. They saw him falling and rushed to the spot just in time to rescue the two unconscious occupants as immediately on crashing the plane set ablaze and was burnt to a cinder.

Twenty minutes after crashing his wounds had been dressed and he was ready for transportation to the rear. He was admitted to No 5 The British Red Cross Hospital, Wimereux, and remained there until May 17th. He then crossed the English Channel to Southampton but was attacked by a submarine and all donned life belts. Fortunately they were not torpedoed. He was admitted to the British Red Cross Hospital, Netley.

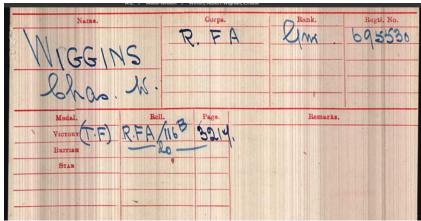


Grand Hötel des Anglais et des Bains de 1914 à 1919 Höpital N°5 CROIX ROUGE BRITANNIQU

Gunner Charles W Wiggins

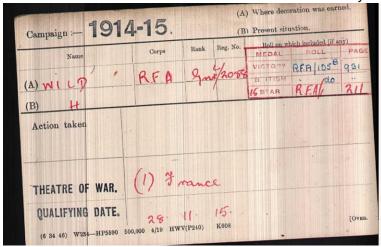
3/2 West Lancs, RFA

Service number: 695530



Gunner H Wild

Royal Field Artillery



Sergeant A Wilkinson

Army Service Corps

Wireless Operator P Wilkinson

RNVR

Private W Wood

Royal Fusiliers

Awarded the Military Medal

Bombardier Frederick W Woodward

Royal Field Artillery

Service number: 935288. Stationed East of Suez Canal

WOOD WARD	Corps,	A B	mbr. 1	Regil. No. 1604
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Date of entry therein				

Lance-Corporal Leonard Yates

3rd King's Own

Service number: 58112 now 53846 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Transferred York and

Lancaster Regiment

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Name.	Corps.	,	Rank.	Regtl. No.
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Those members of the School community that were wounded in the Great War

Private George W Bennett

RAMC/Labour Corps²⁰

Service number 22267 (RAMC) and 595759 Labour Corps). He was the brother of James Bennett. George was a private in the RAMC before being transferred. George lost his left eye and fractured his upper jaw during one of the battles in France. From the front line he passed through the main dressing station at Dickie Buch and from there to the casualty clearing station staying there the night. He proceeded in an ambulance train to Boulogne and so on to Blighty.

The worst time George experienced was at Ypres, where they were for two hours in the centre of the German barrage. They sustained many casualties which they had to carry over two miles with mud knee deep and shells bursting on every side. George was in one of the squads working with Royal Berks.

Name.	Rame.	Phe	22264
BENNETT	Rab.C.		595459
Leorge. W. Modal. Vaccuar Bassian	1822623028	Bemark	
BEAN			
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Private William Calkeld

Royal Highlanders (Black Watch)

Service number S/12455. William was born in 1895 in Blackpool. He was wounded several times. In 1917 he was hospitalised at the Grand Duchess George of Russia Hospital in Harrogate. He was discharged, officially, from the army on 22nd August 1918 from Perth. He had served 2 years and 7 months.

s/12455	Pte	CALKELD. William	9/R.H.Pte.S/12455
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	And the second s	1/R.H.

3/12455 " Balkeld Wm Depot " 440-353 12-1-16 22.8-18

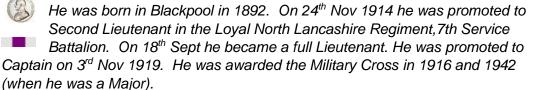
²⁰ The Labour Corps cooked, cleaned, carried and cared for the soldiers on the front line and behind the lines. They built roads and railways, carried the wounded and buried the dead. Men and women from across the Commonwealth made a vital contribution to the war effort as workers.

Captain Robert Challoner²¹

7th Loyal North Lancs, BEF

Service number: 97646. He was awarded the Military Cross for returning down the communication trenches and rescuing his wounded Colonel. He was awarded this on 3rd June 1916. In WWII he reached the rank of Major.²²

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1916. During the War he did lost his right eye in action.





He received his first MC on the 3rd June, 1916 as a Captain with the Service Battalion, L.N. Lanc. Regiment. It was received in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field. He received a second Military Cross on 16th June 1942 when he was in the Pioneer Corps. He received it in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field. The second MC was received in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of the first MC.

Fought as a Major in the Royal Engineers in WWII. He was also mentioned in Dispatches on 5th April 1945. Received in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in France, 1940.

He married Daisy Harris in 1922 and died in Hastings in 1974. He is mentioned in the WWII book.

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²¹ Grandson of Colonel Robert Bickerstaffe, 6th Dragoon Guards, military hero.

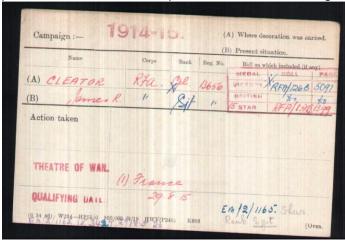
²² Image from the London Gazette

Sergeant James Rawcliffe Cleator²³

Royal Artillery

(Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery)

Service number 13656. He was born in Fleetwood. Over the course of 1914 and 1915 he was posted several times and promoted twice. He fought in France.



	/		
13656	Sergt	OLEATOR	R.F.A. 13656 Sgt
2		James Radcliffe	

Sergeant George William Clarkson

7th Batt Loyal North Lancs

Service number 23551, Billy started the war in Andover, before moving to Whitchurch in Hampshire. This camp according to letters sent by Billy to school switched between 8in of mud to frozen earth. Following this he was a member of the Royal Defence Corps so his service number was 92123. The RDC was formed for those servicemen that were too old or medically unfit. The reason he joined this unit was that he was invalided home from the Loyal North Lancs. He was an Acting Corporal in the RDC and then a Sergeant.

Name,	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
	L. N. Lan. R. R.D.C.	St.	23551
CLARKSON	R.D.C.		92123
George W.			
Medal. Roll,		-	
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²³ According to the Poultonian he was James Rawcliffe Cleator, which stands to reason as his brother was Rowland Bleasdale Cleator. According to military records it is James Radcliffe Cleator.

92123 A/Cpl	CLARKSON George	8/N.Lan.R. Pt	e .23551
	William		

2nd Lieutenant William Enoch Crossley

7th Batt. Loyal North Lancs



Service number: 23730 and 13033. He joined up on September 7th 1914. Awarded Military Medal and Military Cross for devoted service to the wounded in the Somme attack on July 23rd 1916. He was wounded several times in the war.

Private John Dent

7th Kings Own Regiment

John was captured by the Germans and was put into a POW camp, however he had been wounded. He appears in the POW sction.

2nd Lieutenant R Doughty

1st Rhondda Battalion, SWB

Awarded the silver War Badge²⁴. Badge number 240985. He was discharged in 1920.

2nd Lieut. Doughty, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 240985. King's Theatre, Glasgow.

Name	Corps	Reg. Rank	Date of Discharge	Cause of Discharge
Doughty .	3ª. R. W. 74	2 shinh	Enlistment	
Date of application No. of File		2.1.18	THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	
Address of applicant	-King's	Theat	te. Ge	agow
Action taken dei	089469			
W6749—H5226 200,000 8/17	HWV(P932) H17/1	881		

²⁴ The Silver War Badge was awarded to most servicemen and women who were discharged from military service during the First World War, whether or not they had served overseas. ... This was as often a result of sickness, disease or uncovered physical weakness and war wounds.

Lance Corporal James Furness

3rd/1st Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry

Service number: 3156. He was invalided home. According to the Poultonian James was recorded as a Lance-Corporal. When searching for his medal card and records he is a Private. Sometimes the Poultonian wrote things down incorrectly however...

			to be inscribed on the medal.
3156	L.Cpl.	FURNESS James.	D.L.O.Yeo. 3156.
			Pte.

Recorded as a Lance-Corporal on official records but also as Private in the same record.



Sergeant Edward John Gibson

Royal Army Medical Corps

Service number 1658. He fought in Egypt in 1915. Promoted and recorded in the Poultonian as a Lance Corporal but according to official records was promoted to Sergeant.



Lance Corporal Fred Gosling

21st Batt. Australian Imperial Forces

Service number 7233 Born in Blackpool in April 1894, his father was George. He tried to enlist in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia but due to poor eyesight he was rejected but after two more attempts he was accepted and sailed from Melbourne on Feb 19th 1917. It took 9 weeks to sail to UK. As they arrived in British waters they were escorted by destroyers, each ship taking a different route.



On 25th April 1917 at 2:10pm great consternation was caused by a long white streak of foam which was coming towards them with great speed. The ship tried to avoid it by turning but being too slow and clumsy the 'tin fish' hit her about 20 feet from the stern, taking out one propellor and damaging the other. Then she began to sink, but when the airtight doors were closed, she held. The troops were removed from the troopship. They completed the journey in destroyers which had come up in answer to the SOS. All 2000 troops were saved. The ship was the Bideford which was slightly damaged but survived the attack but was sunk in World War II. After 2 months on Salisbury Plain Fred was sent to France.

He was wounded on 22nd Dec 1917 with a gunshot wound to the left leg, caused by a machine gun bullet. This put him in hospital for Christmas and the new Year. The 21st Battalion merged with the 24th battalion shortly afterwards as both had suffered massive loses, however the new battalion was still small. He sailed home on the Ballarat which was sunk by a submarine when 30 miles from England.

Torpedoing of the troopship; Ballarat

"We got within a few hours of land when they got a torpedo into us. I was sitting on the fore well deck hatchway reading and sheltering myself from the cold, when someone called out, 'There it comes!' I looked up and saw a torpedo coming straight for where I was sitting.

The alarm was sounded, and we got to our boat stations, the soldiers behaving admirably. There was no rushing, and the boats got away in good time; the sea was calm. I went below to get my pocket book, and my boat got away without me and four others. They would not come back, so we looked about to get into another, but the cry was always the same 'You don't belong to this boat!'

We did not get excited or anxious, as we knew the wireless had sent out distress signals. It seemed no time before we, could see destroyers coming. There were about five destroyers and two trawlers. They came right alongside, and we got off direct onto them. They would take a load, and then scout round whilst the next got her load, and when all were transhipped, we made off at about 30 miles an hour.

We enjoyed the fast ride immensely and have nothing but admiration for the British navy. They treated us like old friends and couldn't do too much for us."

5th Officer Jack Hesketh

Admiralty Service

2nd Lieutenant Reggie Hesketh

Kings Own Lancs Regiment, 5th Battalion He was born and lived in Great Eccleston. His father was Captain Hesketh. Reggie was stationed at Burao, Somalialand at the end of the war, fighting the Mad Mullah (Maud). There is a report in the Poultonian of him and Arthur Hutchinson (former pupil) playing cricket at Burao. Between the two of them they took 9 wickets for two runs to win the Regimental Shield. In 1916 Reggie was reported to be in the Western General Hospital in Manchester, with injuries to his left arm, leg and head. He was transferred to the Blackpool Victoria Hospital then home. He was wounded on the road from Mauricourt to Trones Wood by a shell which killed two of his comrades and wounded several more. Reggie had been reported as slightly gassed and was in hospital in Hoxton, Epsom in 1918.

Private F H Hett

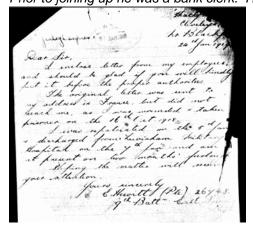
10th Batt., Black Watch

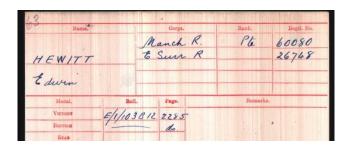
Private Edwin Hewitt

9th East Surreys

Service number 60080 (Manchester) and 26748 (Surrey). Born in Oldham in 1899; his father was a solicitor and his mother a baker. After his father died in 1907 they moved to Anchorsholme where his mother ran a boarding house. Originally enlisted with the 5th Batt. Manchester Regiment. He then moved to the East Surrey Regiment. He was Reported missing, but later reported in a letter that he was wounded and taken prisoner on 16th Oct 1918. He was repatriated on 5th Jan 1919. Prior to joining up he was a bank clerk. He died on 13 Dec 1984 in Worcester.



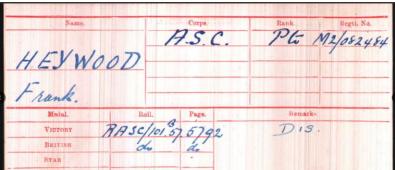




Dispatch Rider Frank Heywood

Army Service Corps

Stationed in Salonika.



Private Joseph Hopkinson

Royal Army Medical Corps

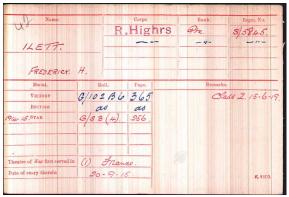
Service number 29229. He was stationed in Palestine.



He was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.

Private Frederick Heaton llett

Service number S/5845

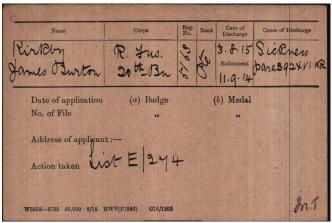


Black Watch, 10th Battalion

Private James Burton Kirkby

3rd Public Schools, Royal Fusiliers

Service number 5163. He was invalided home in Aug 1915.



Private A Lymm

He was invalided home.

Union Forces of South Africa

Lieutenant (John Robert) Conn Mackey 5th King's Own Yeomanry
He was sent home to rest in 1916 with a leg wound. He was also sent home to convalesce in 1917. He lived in Poulton-le-Fylde.

Name.		Corps.		Rabk.	Regul. No.
MACKEY	15	Rlan	aslers	X fieut	
John Robert	Com	Page.		Remarks.	
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Theatre of War first served in	France				
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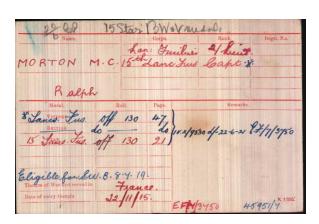
Captain Ralph Morton

15th Lancashire Fusiliers

Ralph was sent to Boulogne, France as a machine-gun officer as acting adjutant. He writes in the Poultonian that in 1916 that things are moving rapidly, He spent Christmas Day 1915 thigh deep in mud in a trench 10 yards from the German lines. On July 1st 1916 he was part of the Big Push but he was the only officer to return apart from the Colonel and the Adjutant. In July 1916 he was at Ovillers fighting hand to hand with the Prussian Guards. On the 12th July he was at La Boisselle.

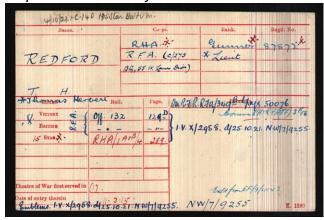


He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service in the field. Unfortunately, he was seriously wounded on 10th July 1917 during the German push on the Dunes. Whilst at Nieuport he was hit by a piece of shell, under the left arm, and it went through to his right lung, where it remained. After having his wound dressed he was he was placed on a stretcher, and was carried out to an ambulance when a shell burst under him, killing the bearers, and bringing a building down and buried them all. Ralph was pushed down with a huge beam across his neck, which splintered the bone. After several struggles he was freed himself and walked a few yards, when he collapsed and the next thing he remembered was finding himself in hospital at La Panne, where he had to remain for five weeks before being fit to move. He was kept for another six weeks at base before being shipped to England. He then went to the military hospital at Devonport, where he made satisfactory progress. He was about to become a Major at the time he was hit, and was eager to get back to his regiment. However he was given eight weeks more convalescence in Bournemouth. He never did become a Major, which leads me to believe that he did not return to the front.



Lieutenant T H Redford

Royal Horse Artillery/Royal Field Artillery Service number: 87872. He was a gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery before being transferred to the Royal Field Artillery, where he was promoted to Lieutenant. He was a member of the C/275 Battery 55 W Lancs Dion. He was wounded on the Western Front and was sent back to Park St Hospital in London. Before joining the army he was a member of the Manchester and County Bank. He was wounded twice in France. In December 1917 he was mentioned in Dispatches for bravery in action.



Lieutenant Reginald Simpson

6th Batt., Cameron Highlanders

He was originally with the DLOY as a trooper but took up a commission with the Cameron Highlanders. He was stationed at Northern General Hospital RAMC, Newcastle where he worked as a Red Cross Nurse. Following the war, he had a staff job with the 14th Training Depot Station (RAF) near Salisbury before gaining a commission with the Air Flying Corps (RAF) and was stationed in Italy.

In the Poultonian in 1916 Reginald writes from an Old German Dug-out, Support Line, France about the antics that go on when they are 3 days on the front line. At night they crept into the Huns Lines under the barbed wire fence hoping not to be snagged to drop bombs into the German Trenches then creep back. He was later wounded and hospitalised with gunshot wounds to his thigh and head. Both injuries were severe. He was leading a machine gun party, his Captain having fallen, when he felt himself wounded.

William (Willie) Smith

He was wounded in France.

Lance-Corporal Richard Talbot

1/10th (Scottish) Batt., KLR

Service number: 5119 and 356562. Born in 1893. He was a master in the school. He originally joined the RAMC at the age of 21. He lived in South Shore, Blackpool. He was transferred from the RAMC where he served at the 1st Western Hospital to The Kings Liverpool Regiment. He had spent a mere 241 days with the RAMC, within three months he had been promoted to lance-Corporal. His right leg was injured on 6th July 1917 whilst in action at Rouen and was admitted to hospital. On the 11th July he was sent back to England. At the end of 1917 he had been posted to Oswestry. He never returned to the front.

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Sapper Frederick Reginald Tranter

Royal Engineers

Service number: 77997. Stationed at Wynberg, South Africa. He was shipped out by hospital ship from Daressalaam. He spent a great deal of time in hospital.

On Christmas Day 1916 he wrote from 'somewhere' in German East Africa where they had been travelling for sometime. This was a railway station as that evening he was invited to dinner with the officer as they waited for porters. He hoped to receive letters from home at their next stop Tabora some 800 miles away. 500 of these miles would be on foot in the rains and swamp. In the first part of the journey the rivers were very swollen and had to be crossed, many with the water at waist depth. Very dangerous in fast moving rivers. At one place they had to cross a belt of bush, 16 miles deep, and as one chap broke down they had to camp in the middle of it. There was no human life in the 16 miles only wild animals. They were heading up to the front but did not know where it was or could even report where it was if they had of known.

On 10th January Reggie wrote that he had reached Tabora and were now embarking on the railway. He states that he did not see any wild animals in the bush but heard the lions at night. He wrote that one night the lions visited the camp which frightened some of the boys in their tents.

On 31st January 1917 he writes about his sleeping accommodation but as it is further up the line ghe cannot state where it is. He writes that the furniture is hand made by the natives without the use of nails. His bed is made from four forked branches and the frame is made of branches and rushes bound over them for lying on. He writes that it is just 12 months to the day that he embarked on this adventure. Two days after sending the letter he caught malaria.

On the 14th April he wrote that he had spent 3 months out in the bush. But on 29th May he wrote that they had moved on, however it was not all good news. He had initially moved to hospital as he had another attack of malaria and then was sent further up the line. On August 29th he wrote to state that he had again succumbed to malaria but was fit and well.

On another journey he writes in Poultonian is that he travelled by tractor from noon until 1am arriving at Morogoro, where they took a short rest until daylight, when they set off again, arriving at Daressalaam about 2pm. They were then paraded and all stores and equipment shortages made good, and next morning embarked for Kilwa, where they arrived the following day. As an advance was about to be made they were pushed forward over tracks, to where the columns were concentrating previous to the push, which ended up pushing what remnants were left clean out of German East Africa. From the first day things looked bright and everything was going nicely, and I began to think I was going to be in at the death after all, when I suddenly got in the grip of that terrible enemy we had to fight – as well as the Germans – malaria. I tried to hand on for three days, but as the columns were on the move again I had to give in and go back to hospital, where I have been ever since. I was fast for ten days, at the end of which the fever left me weak and washed out. I was then sent onto Daressalaam, and then to Durban, and from there onto Wynberg Hospital, Capetown. I arrived here on 20th November 1917 where I have been trying to throw off all the effects, one of which was a valvular trouble of the heart, Happily this is much improved and I shall not be long in hospital. The people of the Cape have been very kind to us taking us on outings and giving us treats.

Captain Herbert Brough Usher

15th Middlesex Regiment

His regiment was the Duke of Cambridge Own (Middlesex Regiment). Bertie was severely wounded about two days before the fall of Baghdad. It robbed him of the satisfaction of walking in when it was taken.



Private Richard Waddicor

7th Batt, Loyal North Lancs

Service number: 13157. He was in action in France.



Lieutenant Alfred Shaw Walker

3rd/4th Loyal North Lancs

Suffered severe shrapnel wounds in June 1916 in the 'Great Push'. He had arrived in France on 6th May 1916 and was immediately sent to the trenches. Following his injuries he was sent back to England and was hospitalised in the military hospital in Manchester where he underwent an operation on a perforated ear drum. Even though the operation was successful, he was deaf on that side. The perforation was the result of a very important but dangerous reconnaissance of which he had volunteered. Sixty men and three officers went on the reconnaissance but only 19 returned. He was commended for his gallantry.

Later he was attached to the RAF and was stationed at Cranwell before moving to Freiston Shore then to Manston before departing to France on March 18th 1917. He returned to Oswestry and wrote to the Poultonian on 14th Oct 1917. The letter stated that he was a trainer of recruits.

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Corporal Cyril Whalley

Manchester Reg (23rd Batt)

Service number 46444. He was born in Blackpool in 1889 and lived in Layton. He was awarded the Military Medal for distinguished conduct in the action in which he was wounded in July 1917, which pierced the drum on one ear. Even though the medical team under Dr Milligan battled hard he never regained hearing on that side. He was discharged from the Army due to ill health on 4th Sept 1917 following a stay in military hospital in Christchurch. He died in 1943 in Blackpool. He was also enlisted in 1918 in the

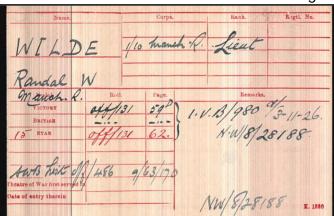
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Lieutenant Randal W Wilde

Manchester Regiment

He was the son of a former Mayor of Oldham and was one of the first boarders in the school. At the start of the war he was stationed in Heliopolis, Egypt. In 1914 he was camped right at the edge of the desert and expecting to go to the front pretty soon. Returned invalided from Dardanelles. After the war he moved to Los Angeles, USA



Lieutenant T W Yates

Lancashire Fusiliers

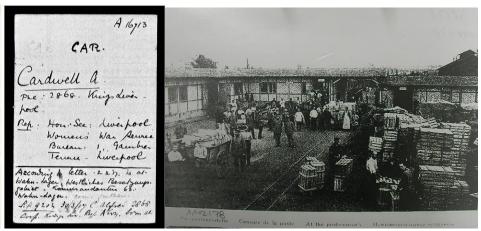
He lived in Lytham Road South, Blackpool. He was shot in the leg whilst in action in France and as a result lost his leg.

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Those members of the School community that were Prisoners in the Great War

Private Alf Cardwell

8th (Irish) Batt. Kings Liverpool Regiment Service number 4386. Alf lived in Marton. He was a Prisoner of War in 1917 at Wahn-Lafer, Westphalia. After fighting for 17 successful months his regiment was completely surrounded by the Prussian Guards, who greatly outnumbered them and instead of taking them all prisoners they put them to the bayonet, the plucky 8th rose to the occasion and sold their lives dearly. Although they were wiped out they left a greater number of casualties on the enemy's side. After the very severe fighting, Alf was very lucky in finding cover in a shell hole, hoping to get back into his lines by night. In this he was disappointed being taken prisoner on August 10th.



The horrors of war are never forgotten but we can heal some of the wounds as time passes. Here is a report on a visit to the former Wahn PoW camp nr Cologne in Germany.

The Wahn POW camp where Alf was imprisoned is now a hidden piece of tranquility, nothing like its former existence. These are rare pictures because the area is not accessible to the public as it is part of Wahn AFB and is restricted area.

In the middle of today's Cologne-Wahn AFB there is a nice, well maintained PoW cemetery with mostly dead from nearby former Great War PoW camp Wahn. There are French, Russian known and unknown marked graves and also quite a few German ones. Even today, after so many years, each Remembrance Day (Volkstrauertag) a delegation of German soldiers of all ranks gather on the grounds of the cemetery and pay tribute to the dead and lay the wreaths. The military catholic priest and Lutheran pastor each hold a speech and prayer as does the base commander. It is possible that the British PoW dead have been relocated at a later date to Koeln-Sued cemetery.

When the pictures were taken there were a surprising number of fresh wreaths and flower bouquets, although Volkstrauertag is only in November. This serves as an outstanding example of how Germany honours the dead of former hostile countries in dignity. Even without any civilian guests visiting the graves, they are not forgotten and are remembered by German Armed Forces personnel.



Figure 1Satellite view of the former PoW camp - Wahn

The camp, which formerly was the Wahner Heide Artillery practice camp, lies in open country and forms a sort of loosely jointed village. It carries 35,000 men on its register and was formerly a parent camp for working camps in the district. Barracks are set aside for prisoners who have tried to cross the frontier.

Private James Chadwick

3rd/10th (Scottish) Batt. KLR

Service number 356805. He lived on Talbot Road, Blackpool. He was born in 1889 in Blackpool. Enlisted on 1st Nov 1915, and was sent to France on 30th March 1916 and demobbed in 1919. He served in France from April 1916 to Dec 1918. He was wounded in France and was reported as missing but captured on 30th Nov 1917 being sent to a Heilsberg PoW Camp and released in Dec 1918. After the war he became a joiner, working for his father's firm in Little Layton.

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7th Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment **Private John Dent** Service number for the KORL is 2341. He also joined the Royal Fusiliers possibly after he was injured and his number became GS/96362.



2nd Lieutenant Thomas Titley Haworth

2/6th Battalion. Ryl Warwickshire Reg He was born in Blackburn on 12th June 1889 before the family moved to South Shore in Blackpool. In 1917 whilst in the trenches in France a German bomb blew up 30 yards from his position. But he survived. Taken prisoner on 14th April 1918 and repatriated on 13th Dec 1918, Western Theatre of Operations. Two other OB, one also a Master were taken prisoner at the same time and taken to the same camp.

He moved in 1962 to Southampton and then emigrated to Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe where he died on 27th June 1972.

2nd Lieutenant Claude Jennings

He was reported as missing in action. In mid May 1918 it was reported that Claude was in the same POW camp as Titlev Haworth. He ioined the Manchester University OTC in 1915 and was gazetted to the 3rd Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. Later being attached to the Royal Staffordshire Regiment. He was just aged 20 when he was captured and it was to be the day he was to embar on leave.

4th North Staffordshire Regiment

2nd Lieutenant Vincent Harrison Johnston

East Lancs Regiment

He was an Old Boy and a former Master of the school. In 1916 he was stationed at HQ of the 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Cheshire's. He was offered a commission in the machine gun corps but turned it down. He did however take up the post of musket instructor. He was admitted to 1st Northern General Hospital in Newcastle on 1st Oct 1917 then sent to France in Jan 1918. He was later captured and sent to a POW camp where he met Titley Haworth and Claude Jennings.

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Private Frederick McMinn

2nd Royal Fusiliers

Service number 8134. He was born in Manchester on 18th March 1890. Prior to the war he was a clerk with the L & Y Railway Company, however after the war he was a Paint Sprayer & Driller. Prior to him being a Prisoner of War he was reported missing presumed dead. His letter to the Poultonian in 1917 from Germany was that he had a fractured knee, bad shoulder and trench foot. He died on 7 Jan 1972

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Captain Richard Henry Whittington

Royal Fusiliers

Born in Middlesborough in 1900. He was the Headmaster's nephew. Richard (Dick) was taken prisoner whilst taking a group of five men out with him one night on a patrol, to see whether the enemy was taking a sap and its direction. They were making their way back to the trenches but entered a German trench. Captain Dick and two other men were taken prisoner but the others managed to escape.

He was held in a German camp in 1916 at Darnell then sent in 1918 to Holland before returning home. During his imprisonment he had suffered memory impairment, happily it was reported that it was regaining its tome. As punishment for the air raids on Freiburg the senior officer prisoners were put at the top of a high building as close as possible to the usual objectives of the bombers. They had five raids in one day and he said it was wonderful to see the bombs dropping; they were luckily safe. After the raids the Germans would come out of their bunkers and crowd round the officers voicing expressions of disappointments that they had not been killed. This could have been a war crime if they had been. Died in 1977 in Suffolk.



Life at a Heilsberg PoW Camp Heilsberg PoW Camp

Between August and December 1918 a number of British Prisoners of War died at Heilsberg Prisoner of War camp in the east of Germany. It is likely their deaths were a result of insufficient food, overwork or one of the diseases that often swept through these overcrowded and insanitary camps. Conditions in Germany at this time were harsh. Food was scarce due to the blockade enforced by the Royal Navy, with the German Army and Navy having priority above the civil population, which suffered from the effects of malnutrition. Inevitably, rations for prisoners came even lower down the list of priorities for the German authorities.

Heilsberg was one of the Mannschaftslager, these were the soldiers' (as opposed to officers') camps. Normally these comprised wooden barracks about 150 feet in length (each housing 250 POWs), although it is believed that in Heilsberg camp the barrack blocks were partly underground to preserve heat. Most prisoners were required to work, despite the insufficient rations. The Heilsberg camp contained mainly Russian and Rumanian prisoners, with British and Commonwealth POWs only a small proportion of the camp population. (It is believed that in October 1918, there were about 1,000 British POWs at the camp at its satellite or sub-camps, out of a total of 95000 prisoners).

Food parcels were sent to the camps by relatives and groups (such as the Red Cross) from the UK and commonwealth. These food parcels were not only good for morale, but were probably instrumental in saving many prisoners from starvation. The contents of these parcels often included tea, condensed milk, jam, dried fruit, meat and cheese, as well as cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Letters from home!

Who can imagine what it meant to us? For fifteen weary months we had been forced by starvation and hardship to submit to humiliation and indignities, allowed barely sufficient food to keep body and soul together, and forced to gather weeds and herbs for sustenance; gaunt, unwashed, unshaven and devoured by vermin; knowing practically nothing of what was going on beyond our barbed wire enclosures; seemingly dead to the world, and, for all we knew, mourned as dead; would we ever see our loved ones again?

...And at last to see the old familiar handwriting; to be brought into touch with the outer world. At sight of those letters I broke down completely.

The Heilsberg 39 project

Recently, as a result of improved accessibility and maintenance at the cemetery, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has sought and obtained approval from local authorities for a project to erect 39 headstones to commemorate the casualties buried within the Heilsberg / Lidzbark Warminski cemetery. Official clearance to proceed was received in August 2013 and work on the project commenced shortly after.

The 39 headstones are grouped in a special memorial plot, in the vicinity of a marker stone, known as a Duhallow Block (so called because the first such memorials were erected in Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, near Ypres in Belgium.) The block has been engraved with the inscription seen below:

THE MEN IN WHOSE MEMORY THE HEADSTONES IN THIS GROUP HAVE BEEN ERECTED DIED IN CAPTIVITY DURING THE 1914-1919 WAR AND ARE BURIED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CEMETERY

The headstones are numbered 1 – 39 and have been assigned to each casualty in alphabetical order. The new Lidzbark Warminski War Cemetery (located here) was completed in 2014 and an inauguration ceremony took place on Friday, 16 May 2014.

Here is a BBC News report on the Heilsberg 39 – British solders that died at the camp -