

## **LEST WE FORGET**

**Remembering the men commemorated on the  
War Memorial at Christ Church, Oldham Road,  
Ashton under Lyne who gave their lives in the  
First World War.**

**Research by Meg Gain 2025**

**With thanks for the assistance of Naomi Madeley**

**and**

**Lt Col (Ret'd) Stuart Green**

**WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE in the entrance of  
Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne.**

**“In grateful and proud memory of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who formerly lived in this parish and neighbourhood who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1919.”**

**Those names which are also commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial are indicated by an asterisk \***

**George H. Allen 1897-1916 Service Number: 42034**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 9<sup>th</sup> Company**

George Harry Allen was born on 10 July 1897 and was baptised on 3 Sept 1897 at Christ Church, the son of George Allen and his wife, Mary Ann nee Rose. His parents married at Christ Church in 1890.

In the 1901 census George was aged 3, living with his parents and four siblings at 46 Turner Lane, Ashton. His father was a labourer in a cotton waste works. By 1911 the family had moved to 51 Boodle Street. George Harry, aged 13, was a half-timer which meant he spent half of his week at school and the other half working in a cotton mill. George Allen, senior, was a carter in a cotton waste works and the family had grown with two younger siblings, Wilfred born 1905 and Nancy born 1908.

George Harry's father died in 1914 aged 48.

George Harry Allen joined the Manchester Regiment and had the service number 3451. He later transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> company of the Machine Gun Corps. He was killed in action on 16 August 1916 in France. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Faces 5c and 12c. The WW1 Pension ledgers gave his mother's name as Mrs Mary Ann Allen and her address as 79 Minto Street, Ashton. Commemorated on the war memorial at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne.

**Percy Allen 1896-1916 Service Number: 1901**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**



Percy Allen was born in the April-June quarter of 1896 in Bardsley. His parents were Charles Allen, a housepainter, and his wife Elizabeth. In the 1901 census Percy aged 4 was the youngest of five children living at 2 Freeman Street, Oldham. By 1911 Percy was aged 14 and apprentice housepainter to his widowed father, Charles. His older brother Alfred (17) was living at the same address: 34 Clive Road, Failsworth.

Percy Allen married Annie Barber on 15 May 1916 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton. Percy was killed in action in France on 10 July 1916 aged 20, only a few months after his marriage. His widow Annie was remarried to John Yates in March 1919.

An article in the Ashton Reporter of 5 August 1916 reported that Percy had been killed whilst in the trenches. A friend who witnessed his death wrote to his widow Annie.

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



Joseph was born in West Bromwich, Staffordshire in 1892. His parents Samuel Appleby and Agnes Leeson were married at Kidderminster in 1886.

Joseph had two younger sisters, Eliza born in 1887 and Agnes born in 1889. Joseph also had two older sisters, Annie Lilly born in 1895 and Elsie Ann born in 1897. Joseph and his family moved to Ashton under Lyne sometime between 1895 and 1897.

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Frank Ashton 1898-1917 Service Number: 65947**

**Regiment and Unit: King's (Liverpool Regiment) 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Labour Company**

**Transferred to (42645) 72<sup>nd</sup> Company Labour Corps.**

Frank Ashton was born in 1898 in Ashton under Lyne, son of William and Jane Ashton. His parents married at Millbrook, St James in 1888. In the 1901 census Frank was aged 3 and the youngest of four children. He was living with his parents and siblings at 30 Gordon Street, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. Frank's father, William was a dealer in india rubber products. By 1911 Frank's mother, Jane, had died and his 47-year-old father, William Ashton was living with his four children, Mary, Florence, George and 13-year-old Frank at 50 Cavendish Street, Ashton.

Private Frank Ashton was killed in France and Flanders on 28 Sept 1917 aged 19. He was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, Belgium. Grave Ref III.H.38. The personal tribute reads: "The call of duty for King and Country".

An article in the Reporter 3 November 1917 reads:

*"Killed by a shell.* Mr William Ashton of 101 Moss street, Ashton has received news that his son, Private Frank Ashton, of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Labour Company was killed in action on September 28<sup>th</sup> by an exploding shell. Captain Maurice Reeve Smith writes: "it seems to me that I have lost more than a mere member of my company, for he was the dearest brightest little chap of them all. I never once saw him without his charming smile, rain or fine, work or play."

Private Ashton was only 19 years of age and enlisted as soon as he was old enough. He was employed as a piecer at the Texas Mill where he had worked since he was 13 years of age. His brother, Private George Ashton has been with the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Territorials at Gallipoli and in France.

**Thomas Atherton 1879-1918 Service Number: P.W.1215**

**Regiment and Unit: Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Thomas Atherton was born in Ashton in 1879 to John Atherton, a coal miner from Hindley, Wigan and his wife Ellen Kitchens. In the 1881 census Thomas aged 1 was living with his parents and three siblings, Sarah Jane born 1874, Samuel born 1876 and Martha born 1881 at 1 Canning Street, Ashton. By 1901 the family were living at 23 York St Ashton. Thomas's father, John was working as a corporation labourer and Thomas aged 21 was a colliery hewer (underground). Thomas Atherton married Jane Hannan on 8 Aug 1901 in Ashton. In the 1911 census Thomas and 'Janey' Atherton were living at 111, Wellington St Ashton. They had four children: William (9), James (8), Eleanor (6) and Joseph (3). In the 1921 census Jane Atherton is aged 41, a widow with six children: William (19), James (18), Nellie (Eleanor) 16, Joseph (14), Kathleen (9), and Thomas (6).

Lance Corporal Thomas Atherton was killed in action in France and Flanders on 22 Sept 1918. He was buried in the Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand, France. Grave reference V.E.8.

**James Bailey 1894-1917 Service Number: 41357****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Bailey was born in 1894 in Ashton, son of William Edward Bailey and his wife Ann nee Fish. His parents had married in 1889 at Christ Church.

James first appears in the census in 1901. He was aged 7 living with his parents and two older siblings, a half-sibling and a younger sister at 155 Turner Lane. William, James' father was working as a cop picker in a cotton factory. By 1911 the family had moved to 129 Turner Lane. James was aged 17 and working as a piecer in a cotton mill. His father was a cotton cop packer. By now the family had grown by three extra children: Wilfred (9), William Edward (6) and Alice (4).

Corporal James Bailey was killed on 7 October 1917 in Belgium. He was buried in the Coxyde Military Cemetery. Grave reference IV.E.18. James' name is also on the main Ashton Civic memorial on Crickets Lane.

**Matthew Bailey 1883-1915 Service Number: 2085****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Matthew Bailey was born in 1883 in Ashton. He attested in Ashton in 1900, aged 18. He married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Williams in 1903 in Ashton. In the 1911 census Matthew and Lizzie were living with Lizzie's widowed mother, Lucy Williams, at 5 Robinson Street off Turner Lane, Ashton. Matthew was a miner, a coal hewer. Private Matthew Bailey died on 8 June 1915 of wounds sustained during action in Gallipoli. Private Matthew Bailey was buried in Chatby Military Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt. Grave reference L.89

An Ashton Miner Pte. M. Bailey Fatally Wounded:  
Another Ashton Territorial who has given his life in the defence of his country, and in company with men from his own town is Private Matthew Bailey. His wife, who resides at 5 Robinson Street, off Turner Lane, Ashton, received, on Saturday last, an official communication from the Territorial Records Office, Preston, which stated that her husband, Private M. Bailey, of the 9th Battalion, Manchester Regiment (Territorials), had died of wounds received on June 13th."I can hardly

realise it yet", said Mrs Bailey, to a Reporter representative. "To think he will never come back is hard enough, but not to know where he is buried, or where he died, makes it all the worse. In a letter which I received from him a fortnight ago he had been slightly wounded, but in the next letter he wrote that he was in the trenches again".

Private Matthew Bailey, who was 32 years of age, was very well known in Ashton. For a number of years, he had worked at the New Moss Colliery.

**John Bardsley 1893-1915 Service Number: 2616**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Bardsley was born on 28 Oct 1893 and baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 7 Jan 1894. He was the son of Thomas Bardsley, a French polisher and his wife, Jane nee Lewis. His parents married in 1887 at St Peter's church, Ashton. John first appears in the census in 1901. He was 7 years old and lived with his parents and seven siblings at 17 Rook Street. In 1911 the family were still living at 17 Rook Street, off Katherine Street but his mother, Jane, was the Head of the household. John, aged 17, was working as a 'little piecer' in a cotton mill. Dangerous work as it involved tying up loose threads whilst the machinery was in motion.

John Bardsley joined the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He died of his wounds at Gallipoli on 9 Aug 1915. The Reporter of 4 Sept 1915 has an "In Memoriam" notice as follows "Private John Bardsley 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment aged 22, son of Mrs Bardsley, 35 Henrietta Street, Ashton killed in action 12 August in the Dardanelles. There is a discrepancy in the date of death, but the official records say the date of death was 9<sup>th</sup> August and John Bardsley died of wounds. He was buried at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery, in Turkey. Grave reference G.30.

**Charles H Barnes 1874 (?)-1916 Service Number: 17458**

**Regiment and Unit: Kings Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Charles Henry Barnes was born in Manchester about 1874. He was killed in action in Ypres on 2 March 1916, the husband of Mrs Sarah Ann Barnes of 32 Delamere Street North, Ashton under Lyne and son of the late William and Mary Barnes. Charles was 42 years old. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Belgium. Panel 12. The record shows that he served under the surname Hill.

Charles Harry Barnes married Sarah Ann Perry in 1895 at Christ Church. They had six children, one of whom died before 1911. In 1901 Charles Henry Barnes and his wife Sarah Ann with two young children, Lottie (4) and Sam (1) were living at 31 Rylands St Gorton. Charles was employed as a coal carter. In the 1911 census Charles Harry and Sarah Ann Barnes were living at 23 Rylands St Gorton, south Manchester. Charles was working as a stoker. They had five children living with them- Lottie (14), Mary Hannah (10), Harry (7), Frank (4) and Phyllis (3). Charles' widow, Sarah Ann Barnes was living at 32 Delamere St North in 1921 with four children: Mary Hannah, Harry, Frank and Phyllis.

**Herbert Barrett (actual spelling Barratt) 1893-1915 Service Number: 1769****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Barratt was born on 25 March 1893 and baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 14 May 1893, son of Albert Barratt and his wife Emma nee Stapleton. His parents married in Ashton in 1890. In the 1901 census Albert and Emma and four sons were living at 99 Wellington Street, Ashton. Herbert was eight years old with an older brother, Ross (10) and two younger brothers, Albert (6) and James (10 months). Herbert's father was a cotton spinner. In 1911 the family still lived at 99 Wellington Street. Albert was working as a labourer for a metal broker. Herbert, now 18, was a piecer in a cotton factory. Lance-Corporal Herbert Barrett/Barratt was wounded at Gallipoli. The 3rd Battle of Krithia had been fought on 4 June 1915, so it is quite likely that is where he was wounded. The battle was the last in a series of Allied attacks against Ottoman defences. There were 4000 British losses in the first 24 hours.

Herbert Barratt was awarded three medals: 1914-1915 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Barratt was transferred to hospital in Egypt. Herbert Barratt, son of Albert and Emma Barratt of 46 England Street, Ashton Under Lyne died of his wounds on 28 June 1915 in Egypt. He was 22 years old. He was buried at Chatby Military Cemetery in Alexandria. Grave Reference L73. Herbert is also commemorated on the Civic Memorial, Old Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Michael Barry 1868-1917 Service Number: 12913****Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps**

Michael Barry was born on 20 Dec 1868 in Liverpool. He was baptised the following day at St Peter's Priory, Liverpool, son of John Barry and his wife Sarah O'Riley. In 1881 John and Sarah Barry with five children were living at 84 Park Street, Ashton under Lyne. John Barry was a house carpenter, born in Ireland. Michael was aged 12.

By 1901 the family had moved to 23 Wellington Street, Ashton. Michael was aged 32 and working as a coal miner. He was married but his wife does not appear on the census with him. He married in 1891 to Mary Jane Walker in Ardsley by Barnsley, Yorkshire. His 9-year-old daughter Margaret Barry (born 1892 in Barnsley) is with her father.

Michael Barry joined up in Garstang Lancashire and was assigned to the Cheshire Regiment and given the service number 20485. He later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and was given a new service number 12913. Private Michael Barry died on 4 Jan 1917 in France. He was 48 years old. He was buried in the Bailleul Community Cemetery Extension. Grave Reference III.A.138. His burial record shows him as the brother of Miss Agnes Barry of 10 Abingdon Rd Kensington, London. Agnes Barry born 1878 in Ashton was Michael's younger sister.

**Charles W.C. Bates 1897-1918 Service Number: M32380**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy - Engine Room Artificer**

Charles William Cecil Bates was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire on 17 Oct 1897, son of William Bates and his wife Harriet nee Cooper. By 1901 William and Harriet with three-year-old Charles were living in Ashton at 10 Latchford Street. By 1911 they had moved to 51 Elgin Street, Ashton. Charles was aged 13 and employed as an errand boy.

Charles joined the Royal Navy on 28 Jun 1918. The M before his service number indicated he was an engine room artificer. His rating ERA also shows he had a skilled job focusing on the repair and maintenance of the ship's engines and machinery. He had been a fitter prior to joining up. Charles was based on H.M.S. Vivid which was the Navy barracks at Devonport, Plymouth. He died on 7 Oct 1918, aged 20, at the Plymouth Naval Hospital, East Stonehouse, Devon, now part of Plymouth. He was suffering from emphysema and pneumonia. Charles was buried at Shrewsbury Longden Road Cemetery. His father is named as William Bates of 51 Elgin Street, Ashton under Lyne on the burial record. The grave reference 192.15.B

**\*Edward Bates 1884 – 1918 Service Number: 377088**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/10th Battalion**

Edward Bates was born in the Spring of 1884 in Ashton under Lyne. His parents Thomas Bates and Betty Garside were married at St Stephen's church in Audenshaw on 1 November 1869. Edward was the youngest of eight children. He was 7 years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his parents and siblings at 19 Earnshaw Street in Taunton, Ashton under Lyne. Edward's father was a general labourer and his mother worked as a Cotton Weaver.

Edward was 16 years old when his father died in 1900 at the age of 52.

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

Edward's Medal Index Card shows that he enlisted in Ashton under Lyne and was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Edward joined the Manchester Regiment; he was given the service number 30043. Later he was given the new service number 377088.

Towards the end of the summer of 1917, as part of the 42nd Division, the 1/10<sup>th</sup> Battalion headed towards the Third Battle of Ypres. Better known as Passchendaele, the battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud.

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

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

**Herbert Batty 1887-1918 Service Number: 15625**

**Regiment and Unit: Hampshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Private Herbert Batty, son of George and Sarah Batty of Ashton Under Lyne died 15 September 1918 and was buried in Christ Church graveyard on 18 September, 1918.

Herbert was born on 25 August 1887 and baptised at St Michael's church on 9 Oct 1887, son of George Batty of Mossley and his wife Sarah Connor. George Batty married Sarah Connor in 1884 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton.

In the 1891 census Herbert was aged 3 living with his parents and siblings: Harry (5), Lilian (2) and Nellie (3mo) at 78 Kenyon Street. Nellie died aged 1 in 1892. Two other children died in infancy- Mary born and died 1886 and John William born 1892 died 1893.

By 1901 the family had moved to 66 Kenyon Street and another son, Fred, had been born in 1893. Herbert, aged 13, was working as a 'farmer's apprentice'. Unable to trace the family in 1911 but ten years later in 1921, George and Sarah and their daughter Lilian aged 32 were living at The Golden Pheasant on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss. Herbert Batty is commemorated on the Littlemoss Memorial as well as Christ Church.

Herbert's younger brother Fred Batty born 1893 died on 17 March 1919 and is also buried in Christ Church Graveyard.

**\*John Beaumont 1882-1917 Service Number: 1571/2511**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

John Beaumont was born on 26 Feb 1882 in Ashton, son of Samuel Beaumont and Elizabeth Ann nee Wharmby. In the 1891 census John, aged 9, was living with his parents and two younger siblings at 33 Brook Street, Ashton.

John does not appear in the 1901 census although his parents and his younger brother, Samuel (17) were living at 13 Hodgson St Ashton. John had enlisted in 1900 with the Royal Lancashire Regiment and was given service number 9048. He was working as a cotton spinner at the Rock Mill, Waterloo. John embarked for South Africa on 10 Sept 1900. He took part in the Boer War (1899-1900) and he arrived back in England in Feb 1902.

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

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

John remarried Mary Ann Hindley in Oldham in Nov 1913. John re-enlisted in Oldham at the start of the war. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment landing in France on 11 Dec 1914. He later moved with his Battalion to Mesopotamia (now Iraq). John died at Basra on 13 Oct 1917 and was buried at the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery. Grave reference XII.D.3.

**\*Horace Bennett 1894 – 1915 Service Number: 3391**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1st/9th Battalion**

Horace was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne between April and June in 1894. His parents Charles Bennett and Sarah Garside were married at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1883. Horace was the youngest of seven children. He was 7 years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and five siblings at 15 Earnshaw Street, Taunton in Ashton under Lyne. Horace's father worked as a general labourer and his older brothers John, Elisha and Albert worked in the cotton mill. Horace was 15 years old when his father Charles died in 1909 aged 58.

Horace and his family were still living at 15 Earnshaw Street at the time of the next census in 1911. Horace was 17 years old and worked as a house painter's apprentice. The Ashton under Lyne Reporter shows that Horace and his brother John enlisted together in Ashton the week of 10 July 1915. Horace chose to join the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 3391.

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

The eight-month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Campaign was a failure with the loss of over 140,000 men. Horace was only in Gallipoli for a couple of months before he was fatally wounded. He died on 22 December 1915 from wounds that he received in action. Horace was 21 years old.

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

Three of Horace's brothers were also in the Army. James served with the 2/9th Manchester Regiment, Elisha with the South Lancashire Regiment and John with the Lancashire Fusiliers. John was killed in action in France on 5th July 1916 just seven months after Horace. Their mother Sarah Bennett nee Garside had lost her husband and two sons within six years. Horace is buried at the East Mudros Military Cemetery in Greece. Grave reference III.E.156.

**\*John Bennett 1884 – 1916 Service Number: 4053**

**Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion**

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

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

By the time of the next census in 1901 John and his family had moved next door, to 15 Earnshaw Street, Taunton. John was 16 years old and worked as a Roller Turner for textile machinery. This would involve working a machine to sort the cotton into rolls before it could be used for spinning. His brothers John, Elisha and Albert also worked in the cotton mill.

John was 25 years old when his father Charles died in 1909 at the age of 58. At the time of the census in 1911, John was 27 years old. He still lived at 15 Earnshaw Street with his mother and brothers. John worked as a labourer for a Railway Company.

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

John's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. John's Battalion landed at Boulogne, France on 15 July 1915. They spent an initial period of trench familiarisation and training before holding the front lines in the southern area of the Ypres salient. During the spring of 1916, John's Battalion would have been involved in a number of localised operations to try and gain a tactical advantage. The Germans first used phosgene gas during these operations.

The battle of Albert is the official name for the British efforts during the first two weeks fighting of the first battle of the Somme. The first day of fighting became the costliest day in British military history with over 57,000 casualties in a single day. John was killed in action on 5th July 1916 shortly before his 32nd birthday. An obituary in the Ashton Reporter states that John was "a crack shot and was continually on sniping duty".

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

**Rupert H Black 1898-1917 Service Number: 188959****Regiment and Unit: Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery**

Rupert Hilton Black was born on 4 March 1898 in Ashton under Lyne, son of John William Black and his wife Elizabeth nee Hilton. His parents married at St James Church in 1887. Rupert was baptised at St James Church, Cowhill Lane on 11 May 1898. In the 1901 census Rupert was aged 2 living with his parents and older sister Mary at 21 Taunton Road, Ashton. Rupert's father was a solicitor's clerk. By 1911 Rupert was a school-boy at 21 Taunton Road. His father was an Estate agent, and his sister Mary was an assistant school mistress.

Rupert was a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery and he was killed in action on 22 Aug 1917. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium as well as the Christ Church Memorial.

**Harold J Blackshaw 1899-1918 Service Number: 94525****Regiment and Unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harold Joseph Blackshaw was born in 1899, son of William Blackshaw and his wife Elizabeth Ann Hurst. His parents married at Holy Trinity, Ashton in 1896. In the 1901 census William and Elizabeth Ann Blackshaw were living at 17 Canning Street, Ashton. William was a coal merchant's labourer. There were two stepsons- George W Hurst (11) and Joseph Leonard Hurst (9) in the household along with Thomas Blackshaw (3), Harold (2) and Rosella aged 2 months.

By 1911 William Blackshaw, Harold's father, had died and Elizabeth Ann Blackshaw, a 44-year-old widow was living at 17A Duncan Street, Ashton. Harold was at the same address aged 12.

Harold Blackshaw was only 20 when he was killed in action on 11 April 1918. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panel 27-30.

Harold is listed on the CWGC website as the son of Mrs E.A. Fogerty (formerly Blackshaw) of 47 Jermyn Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Herbert Bonsall 1896-1918 Service Number: 33463**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Bonsall was born in the first quarter of 1896 in Chelmorton Derbyshire, the son of Joseph Bonsall and his wife Elizabeth Robinson. Herbert first appears in the census in 1901. He was five years old living with his parents and four siblings at Fivewells Farm, Taddington, Derbyshire. By 1911 the family had moved to Ashton. Joseph, Herbert's father, was working as a cowman at Hope Fold, Littlemoss. Herbert now had six siblings, all of whom were living at home. Herbert aged 15 was a farm labourer.

Herbert Bonsall's war service records have survived. They tell us that he attested in Wrexham at the age of 19 on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915. He gave his next of kin as Joseph Bonsall, father, of 64 Minto Street, Ashton Under Lyne. He was assigned to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and given the service number 33463. His height was 5' 7", his chest measurement was 37ins and he weighed 149lbs. His religion was CoE.

Herbert was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 14 Sept 1915. He was moved to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 22 Feb 1916 and sent to France.

The records note that he was promoted to Corporal and later Lance Sgt. He was disciplined twice: in April 1915 for having 'a dirty dismounting guard' and in Sept 1917 for 'insolence to a senior NCO'.

Herbert was hospitalised with measles in March 1917. Later that same year, on 3 August 1917, Herbert Bonsall was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

Lance Sgt Herbert Bonsall was killed in action on 4 Jan 1918 in France. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. The record on the CWGC website notes he was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Bonsall of 25 Cranbrook Street, Ashton.

In 1919 a note from the War Office lists the private property of Lance Sgt Herbert Bonsall as: 1 wallet, photos, 1 Religious book, a metal watch (damaged), 1 metal chain, 1 razor, 1 letter and cards. They were to be sent to Mrs Elizabeth Bonsall at 2 Robinson Street, off Turner Lane, Ashton.

**James Christopher Bracegirdle 1891-1918 Service Number: 351808****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Christopher Bracegirdle was born in the first quarter of 1891, son of Thomas Bracegirdle and his wife Martha Hannah Suthers. His parents married on 10 June 1882 at St John's Dukinfield. He appears in the 1891 census as a baby of four months. His father was working as a coal miner. James had two older sisters: Maria (8), and Edith (2). The family were living at 46 Delamere Street North. By 1911 James was aged 20 and working as a cotton spinner- piecer. He was living with his parents and one older sister: Edith (22) and a younger sister: Annie Eliza (18) at 15 Robinson Street, Ashton.

James Christopher Bracegirdle married Florence Thorburn in 1915 in Ashton. Their married home was at 23 Robinson Street.

Private James Bracegirdle, son of Thomas and Martha Ann (sic) and husband of Florence was killed in action on 30 August 1918 in France. He was buried in Bancourt British Cemetery. Grave reference III.A.15.

**William Bramall 1894-1915 Service Number: 2642****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Bramall was the eldest child of Joseph Bramall and his wife Annie Elizabeth nee Bailey. In the 1901 census William was aged 7 living with his parents and four younger siblings at 20 Earnshaw Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne. His father, Joseph, was employed as a pork butcher.

By 1911 the family had moved to 102 Victoria Street, Ashton. William, now 17, was working as a 'little piecer' in a cotton factory.

William married Mary Steele at Christ Church in 1915. It can only have been a few months afterwards that he was killed at Gallipoli on 13 Sept 1915 aged 21. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

**Herbert Bridge 1895-1917 Service Number: 352260**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Bridge was born on 23 Sept 1895 in Ashton, son of Horatio Lindley Bridge and his wife, Emily, nee Packwood. His parents had married in 1882 at Handley by Staveley in Derbyshire. In the 1901 census Herbert was aged 5 and living with his parents at 4 Union Street which was off Henrietta St Ashton. He had eight older siblings. Herbert's father was working as an insurance agent.

By 1911 the family had moved to 21 Junction Street, Ashton. Horatio Bridge (73) had retired from work. All nine of his children were employed. Herbert, the youngest, aged 14 was working as a 'jobber' for a soap box maker.

Herbert's father died in 1913.

Herbert enlisted, joining the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 352260. Herbert Bridge was killed in action on 22 December 1917. He was buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, France. Grave Reference VI.H.51, son of Horatio and Emily Bridge, 42 Winton Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Harvey Brooks 1896-1917 Service Number: 351817****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harvey Brooks was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1896, son of Richard Harvey Brooks and his wife, Harriet nee Oldfield. His parents had married at St Michael's Parish Church in 1896.

In the 1901 census Harvey was four years old, living with his parents and a younger brother, Frank aged 7 months. His father was working as a cotton spinner and the family lived at 43 Howard Street, Ashton.

By 1911 Richard Brooks, Harvey's father, was a widower (Harriet Brooks had died in 1907 aged 33) with three children: Harvey aged 14 was a 'learner' as a cotton operative. He had two younger brothers: Frank aged 10 and Eric aged 8. They were living at 18 Elizabeth Street, off Henrietta St Ashton.

Lance Sgt Harvey Brooks aged 21 was killed in France on 9 Oct 1917. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

**Robert Broughton 1898-1917 Service Number: R/12534**

**Regiment and Unit: Kings Royal Rifle Corps “D” Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Robert Broughton was born in 1898 in Salford. He was the son of James Broughton and his wife Mary Hannah nee Harrop. His parents had married in Salford in 1893.

In the 1901 census Robert was aged 3 with an older brother, Herbert aged 4 who died in October 1901 and a younger sister, Dorothy aged 1. His father James was a general labourer. His mother was not at home on census night. The family were living at 1 Benbow Court, Salford.

In 1911 James and Mary Hannah Broughton with three children were living at 10 Rosamund Street, Salford. James was working as an attendant at the Manchester Royal Exchange. Robert was aged 13, the eldest of three: Dorothy (11) and James (4).

Robert Broughton was killed in action on 17 Feb 1917 aged 19. He was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. His father was named as James Broughton of 26 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss and the late Mary Hannah Broughton. However, Robert's mother, Mary Hannah did not die until 1923. In the 1921 census James and Mary Hannah were living at Willow Bank Cottage, Littlemoss.

**George H Brown 1879-1916 Service Number 2281**

**Regiment and Unit: East Yorkshire Regiment 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

George Henry Brown was born in 1879 in Haughton, Denton. He was the son of Eleanor Brown, an unmarried mother. In the 1881 census George was a one-year-old living with his mother, Eleanor who was a boarder at 243 Stockport Road, Haughton.

Ten years later George was 11 and living with his mother in his Uncle James Brown's home at 47 Two trees Lane, Denton.

By 1901 George aged 21 was working as a labourer in a felt hat works. His mother Eleanor was aged 52 working as a charwoman. They lived at 6 Hyde Road, Denton.

George Brown married Mary Ellen O'Brien on 3 September 1910 at St Ann's RC Church, Ashton under Lyne. They had a son, James born in 1911 in Ashton.

In the 1911 census George Brown aged 32 and Mary E aged 31 with a baby, James, were living at 90 Seymour Street, Denton. George, born in Denton, was working as a felt hatter's labourer. In the same household were George's mother, Eleanor Brown,

aged 62, a disengaged charwoman and James Brown, uncle of George, a widower aged 57. Both Eleanor and James were born in Bolton.

A record card notes the death of Lance Corporal George Hy Brown of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action 7 June 1916, His widow Mary Ellen of 26 Canning Street had remarried on 6 Jan 1917 in Ashton Under Lyne to John Partland and George's pension was to be paid to Mrs Partland.

He was buried in Lindenhoek Chalet Military Cemetery Grave reference I.K.10. Husband of M.E. Brown 26 Canning Street, Ashton.

**James Henry Brown 1892-1915 Service Number: 2941**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Henry Brown was born in 1892 in Dukinfield, son of Henry Brown, a farrier and his wife Ann Clarke. In the 1901 census James was aged 8 living with his parents and two sisters at 6 Yorkshire Street, Ashton.

In 1911 he was still at the same address. His mother, Ann was now a widow, and James Henry was working as a painter's apprentice. He was 18 years old.

Private James Henry Brown was killed at Gallipoli on 26 Aug 1915. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial there, as well as the main Ashton Civic Memorial and the one at Christ Church.

**Abel Buckley 1892-1917      Service Number: 11003**

**Regiment and Unit: King's Shropshire Light Infantry 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Abel Buckley was born on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1892 in Stalybridge. He was baptized in Dukinfield on 7 Jan 1893, son of Samuel Buckley and his wife Jane nee Richardson. His parents married on 11 Jun 1892 at St Peter's, Ashton under Lyne.

Abel first appeared in the census in 1901. He was 8 years old and living with his parents and a younger brother, Thomas (6) at 1 Robinson Street, Stalybridge. His father, Samuel Buckley, was working as a cotton spinner. In 1911 the family were still living at the same address. Samuel Buckley aged 40 notes that he and his wife had nine children but four had died before 1911.

Abel enlisted in Ashton Under Lyne, but his military records have not survived so we are unsure of what date.

An article in the Stalybridge Reporter on 10 November, 1917 .....

*News has been received by Mrs Buckley of 1 Robinson St Stalybridge that her son, Pte Abel Buckley has been killed. Letter of 27 October stated that an enemy shell fell into the trench killing Pte Buckley and killing three others. Pte Buckley was aged 25. His Father, Samuel, is serving in the Cheshire Regiment in home forces. His younger brother, Tom, is also in the Army. Pte Buckley was a Piecer at Hulme Spinning Co. He had served in France for about 3 years. A year ago, he was wounded in the leg & spent several months in a London hospital.*

*Abel Buckley died on 21 October 1917 in Belgium. He was buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery, Grave ref IX.H.8*

Abel Buckley's name is also on the main Civic Memorial in Ashton.

**Albert Buckley 1888-1917 Service Number: 62077**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 102<sup>nd</sup> Field Company**

Albert Buckley was born in April 1888 in Ashton, son of John Buckley and his wife Hannah nee Harper Heyes. His parents had married at St Michael's Parish Church on 31 Dec 1870. Albert first appears in the census in 1891 living at 182 Katherine Street, Ashton, with his parents and five older brothers. Albert's father, John Buckley, was employed as a porter at the Town Hall. John Buckley died in 1900.

Hannah Buckley, a widow, was living at 47 Turner Lane in the 1901 census. Three of her sons were still living at home: Samuel aged 18, Harry (16) and Albert aged 12.

Albert Buckley married Clara Travis on 23 Dec 1909 at Christ Church. His attestation record in 1915 gives his address as 152 Oldham Road. They had two daughters, Ivy born 1910 and Constance Mary born 1912.

In the 1911 census Albert aged 22, married to Clara (23) with their daughter Ivy aged 11 months, were living at 41 Turner Lane. Albert was working as a boot maker. His widowed mother, Hannah, was at the same address along with his older brother, Samuel.

Sapper Albert Buckley was killed on 14 April 1917 aged 29. He was buried in the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (transport farm) in Ypres, Belgium. Grave reference V11.L.31. Husband of Clara Staynes (formerly Buckley) 155 Newmarket Road, Ashton.

(Clara Buckley nee Travis had remarried in 1921 to Joe Leonard Staynes.)

The Reporter of 28 April 1917 reported the death of Sapper Albert Buckley of the Royal Engineers. He was killed by a shell on 14 April. He had been employed as a boot and shoe repairer on Oldham Road and Turner Lane.

**James Buckley 1890-1917 Service Number: 118610**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 19<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery**

James Buckley was born in the last quarter of 1890 in Droylsden, son of Samuel Edgar Buckley and Mary Cunliffe. In the 1891 census he was just four months old living with his parents and two brothers, John (3) and Harry (2) at 15 Chapel Street, Droylsden. His father was a general labourer. James aged 10 was living with his aunt, Mary Cunliffe, a widow in 1901 at 20 Moorcroft Street, Droylsden. By 1911, James (20) was working as a lap springer in a cotton mill. He was living at 29 Church Street, Droylsden with his parents, an older brother, Harry and seven younger siblings. His maternal grandmother, Maria Cunliffe was at the same address. James was one of 15 children born to Samuel and Mary.

In July 1916 James Buckley married Jane Walker in the Chorlton district of Manchester. They had a child, Jane born 1916. Jane Buckley remarried after James' death. She married John McKeown from Barrow in Furness and they lived on Craven Street, Droylsden.

Gunner James Buckley died of wounds on 21 April 1917. He was buried in La Clytte Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave Reference II.A.19.

**\*Stanley Buckley 1888-1917 Service Number: 352313**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1st/9th Battalion**

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

Stanley came from a large family; he had ten siblings. Stanley was two years old at the time of the census in 1891. His family were living at 13 Newmarket Road in the Taunton area of Ashton. Stanley's father worked as a rent collector for a gas company.

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

By 1911 Stanley's parents and his two youngest siblings Samuel and Hannah were living at Poplar Cottage in Bradwell, a small village in Derbyshire. Stanley's father was now Secretary to a Limited Gas Company. Stanley was 22 years old and still lived on Newmarket Road with his grandfather and his other siblings. Stanley worked as a Letterpress Printer at the Ashton Reporter newspaper office.

Stanley's Service Record no longer exists. An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter states that Stanley joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment in March 1916,

Stanley's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star which was only awarded to men who served in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915.

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

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

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

am proud to tell you he met his death with a smile on his face, and that he in every way proved himself a true type of soldier and a pal."

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

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

His name is also on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**\*Charles W Burgess 1878-1916 Service Number: 12356**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Warwickshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Charles William Burgess was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1878. His parents James Burgess and Alice Morrell were married at St Barnabus church in Openshaw in 1874. Charles was two years old at the time of the 1881 census. He lived with his parents and younger brother Thomas at 43 Cavendish Street in Ashton. Charles' father was a shoemaker. By the time of the next census in 1891 the family were living at 26 Gordon Street in Waterloo. Charles was aged 12 and was listed as a scholar as were his younger brothers and sisters.

In 1901 Charles married Elizabeth Ann Marsden at Christ Church in Waterloo. Charles and Elizabeth Ann had seven children, but several died in infancy. The 1901 census shows Charles and Elizabeth living at 32 Ney Street in Waterloo. Charles was working as a coal miner.

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

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

Charles' Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card indicates that he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. Charles initially joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in December 1914 as a Gunner and was given the service number 55911. He was later transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was given a new service number 12356.

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

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

**John Burke 1891-1915 Service Number: 28240**

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

John Burke was born in 1891, son of John and Mary Burke nee Smith. He had a twin brother, Joseph. In 1901 the family were living at 80 Charles Street Ashton. John's father was employed as a greengrocer. John was aged 9 and had seven siblings.

In 1911 Mary Burke was a widow living at 171 Fleet Street, Ashton with five of her children and a nephew Alfred Smith. (John Burke senior died in 1906 aged 48).

John Burke (19) was working as a hawker. John's older brother, Peter Burke, also joined the Manchester Regiment and was discharged in 1919.

There is a likely marriage of John Burke to Ann Kirk in 1915 at Christ Church.

The death of Private John Burke is listed on the CWGC website but there is no age given nor any details of his family. The recorded death was 25 September 1915 in France. Private John Burke was commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Death 25 Sept 1915 in France: Private John Burke of the King's Liverpool Regt #28240. Formerly #4482 Manchester Regt.

There is some inconsistency however as his pension record shows he was killed between 3-4 October 1915 at Vermelles. The pension was payable to his widow, Ann.

Ann Burke, a widow, aged 26, born in Burnley was living at 86 Charles Street, Ashton in 1921. Other records show John Burke's address as 86 Charles Street, Ashton

An article in the Stalybridge Reporter in Oct 1915 records the death of John Burke of Stalybridge. It refers to his wife as Mrs J Burke of 10 Ashton Street, Stalybridge so we do not know if this is Ann nee Kirk. The article says that John joined the Manchester Regiment in 1914 but transferred to the King's Liverpool Regiment on 31 May 1915. He is listed on Kings Liverpool listing of individuals entitled to a Victory Medal and/or a British War Medal.

John Burke is also recorded on the Ashton War Memorial on Crickets Lane.

**Gilbert H Byrne 1894-1914 Service Number: 23758**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers**

**Formerly #1063 Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion enlisted 1/1/1913**

Gilbert Hugh Byrne was born on 14 Jan 1894 in Ashton. He was baptised on 11 Feb 1894 at St Ann's R.C. Church in Ashton, son of Edward and Mary Ann nee Coffey. His parents had married in 1890 in Ashton.

In the 1901 census Gilbert was seven years old and living with his parents and three siblings at 23 Beauchamp Street, Ashton. Gilbert was the eldest; he had two sisters- Dorothy (5) and Eileen (1). He also had a baby brother, Wilfred aged 2 months. Edward Byrne, Gilbert's father was a letterpress printer.

By 1911 the family had moved to 10 Burlington Street. Gilbert aged 17 was an apprentice house painter. His father was now a newspaper proofreader. Another child, Augustine aged 6 had been born in the meantime.

Gilbert Byrne was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers 12<sup>th</sup> Field Company when he was killed on 3 Oct 1914 at Vailly-sur-Aisne, not long after the start of the war. A clasp to the 1914 Star (medal) was sent to his father Mr E.Byrne 'in respect of the services of his late son" in 1920. Edward Byrne's address was 8 Burlington Street, Ashton.

## **Arthur E Caine 1894-1916 Service Number: J/47981**

### **Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy**

Arthur Edward Caine was born on 6 April 1894 and baptised on 1 Aug 1900 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Stamford Street, Ashton Under Lyne. He was the son of John Caine and Ellen Rayner. In the 1901 census, John and Ellen Caine were living at 48 Cranbrook Street, Ashton with seven children. Arthur Caine was aged 6 with four older siblings and two younger brothers. Arthur Edward Caine was educated at Charlestown School under Mr Johnson.

In 1911 the family were still living at 48 Cranbrook Street. Arthur aged 16 was now working as a joiner and apprentice builder. After serving his apprenticeship as a joiner, he went to work for Mr Green of Ryecroft. He had also spent 12 months in Vancouver before returning to the UK at the start of WW1. He was a member of the Wesleyan Sunday School on Mill Lane, Ashton.

Arthur joined the Royal Navy. He was an Ordinary Seaman. An article in the Ashton Reporter was headed "Three Ashton brothers with the Forces...Two in the Navy and one has been lost". George and Sidney Caine were the two in the Navy but the loss was their brother, Arthur Edward. Mr and Mrs Caine of 43 Cranbrook Street had received 'intimation of the death of their son'. Seaman Caine served on board H.M.S.

Indefatigable. He had enlisted in the Navy in January 1916 and had been on board H.M.S. Indefatigable for about one months. He died at sea during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916 aged 22. His body was not recovered for burial. Arthur E. Caine is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial as well as the Christ Church War Memorial. After his death, his mother, Ellen Caine wrote a moving poem called "The Soldier's Farewell" which sold over 1000 copies. The money raised was used to buy comfort for soldiers and sailors.

*"But in the midst the dying*

*I, too, am doomed to die*

*Do not weep for me, dear mother*

*I fought the fight with bravery*

*And the battle has been won*

*And now I go to wear the crown*

*My Father calls me home"*

**James Carroll 1875-1917 Service Number: G/2257**

**Regiment and Unit: Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) regiment 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Carroll was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1875, son of John Carroll and his wife Ellen Shanley. James' parents married in Ashton in 1875.

In 1881 James was aged 5 with a younger sister, Mary (1) living with their parents at 113 Charles Street, Ashton. John Carroll was a cotton self-actor minder.

James married Annie Maria Cooper in 1899 in Ashton. In 1901 the couple were living at 86 Portland Place. Annie's father, William Cooper, a widower and her two brothers, Charles and Claude were at the same address.

In 1911 James and Annie were living at 71 Ellesmere Street, Patricroft. They had four children with them. James was working as a cotton spinner. James states he has been married for 12 years, and two of his six children had died before 1911. The surviving children were John Willie (9), Nellie (Ellen) aged 8, James (6) and Margaret aged 2 months.

Private James Carroll died on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1917 aged 42. He was buried in Dukinfield Cemetery. Grave Reference R.C.C.2.143, husband of Annie Maria Carroll 12 Cryer Street, Littlemoss.

In the 1921 census Annie M Carroll was living at 12 Cryer Street with five children: Thomas born 1913 in Patricroft and Francis born 1915 in Ashton, both of whom had been born since the 1911 census.

**\*John Cassidy 1893 – 1917 Service Number: 303456**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd/8th Battalion**

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

John was seven years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his family at 6 Dunkerley Street in Waterloo. His father worked as a Bass Dresser in a brush works. The family were still living at 6 Dunkerley Street, Waterloo in 1911. John was aged 17 and employed as a Scavenger at the Cedar Mill in Hurst where he had worked since the age of 13 years. This was a dangerous job as it involved gathering the cotton waste from underneath machinery whilst it was still operating. By the time he enlisted, John was working as a Piecer in the same mill. John's father continued to work at the brush works. His grandfather lived with the family and was a retired Blacksmith.

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

John's Medal Index Card shows his first theatre of war was with the Ashton Territorials at the Dardanelles better known as Gallipoli, from 5 July 1915. Fighting had been taking place from May 1915 when the Ashton Territorials first landed.

Early reports in the local press tell of "Exciting Experiences" and "Heroic Deeds." By the time John was posted, a number of men had already been injured and killed but the full horrors of the war had not yet reached home. The Gallipoli campaign aimed to open a supply route via the Black Sea to Russia, and to shorten the war. The operation was an unmitigated disaster which resulted in a massive loss of life. John received severe wounds to his thigh and right arm during this campaign which resulted in losing the use of his arm. He was invalided back to England where he was treated at Lawnhurst Auxiliary Hospital, Didsbury, Manchester for six months before he regained the use of his arm.

In March 1917 John was again drafted to the Front and attached to the Lewis gun section. John was killed in action on 9 October 1917 possibly at the Battle of Poelcapelle which was fought in Flanders, Belgium on that date. The battle marked the

end of the string of highly successful British attacks in late September and early October, during the Third Battle of Ypres.

John's final resting place is unknown, he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, Panel 12.

**Arnold Castle 1884-1917 Service Number: 38097**

**Regiment and Unit: York and Lancaster Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**



Arnold Castle was born in 1884 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Edward Castle, from Kent and Elizabeth Ann Williamson of Ashton. They were married in 1883 at Hurst St John's.

In the 1891 census Arnold was aged 6 and living with his parents and three siblings at 2 Park Square off Mossley Road. His maternal grandmother Alice Williamson was living with the family.

By 1901 the Castle family had increased. Arnold was now 16 and working as a carter for a spirit merchant. He now had five younger siblings.

Arnold married Elizabeth Chadwick on 12 May 1906 at Trafalgar Square Methodist Church, Ashton Under Lyne. They had a son, Harry, born 11 Nov 1906.

In the 1911 census Arnold, his wife Elizabeth and four-year-old son Harry were living with Elizabeth's parents, William and Isabella Chadwick at 167 Victoria Street, Ashton. Arnold aged 26 was a carter for a brewery and Elizabeth was a cotton weaver.

Arnold attested on 4 Dec 1915 and was assigned to the Army Reserve the following day. His address at attestation was 93 Wellington Road, Ashton. He was mobilised on 30 May 1916 and posted on 1 June 1916. He was part of the second Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. In April 1917, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were involved in trying to capture Hill 70, a key German position. It was probably during this fighting that Arnold Castle was killed on 22 April 1917 aged 32. He left a widow and a small son. He was buried in St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos. Grave reference I.I.9.

**T. Henry Catterall 1892-1918 Service Number: 110235**

## **Regiment and Unit: Tank Corps 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Thomas Henry Catherall/Catterall was born in Jan 1892 in Wrexham, North Wales, the son of John Catherall and his wife Christina nee Morris. John and Christina had married at Wrexham Registry Office on 26 Nov 1890.

In the 1901 census Thomas was aged 8 living at 8 Griffiths Row, Gwersyllt, Wrexham. His father was a coal miner. Thomas had an older brother John W. born 1891 in Wrexham and three younger siblings: Florence (5), Annie (3) and Joseph (10 months).

By 1911 the family had moved to Ashton and lived at 94 Charles Street. Thomas, now 18, was working as an 'engine cleaner'. His father was employed as an odd-job man at a colliery. Thomas had six younger siblings: Rosina (11), Joseph (10), Phoebe (7), Robert (5), Percy (3) and Lydia (9 months).

Thomas married Clara Smith in 1914. They had a son, Thomas, born 11 March 1918 who would never have known his father.

Thomas Henry Catherall was killed on 23 Aug 1918 aged 25. He was buried at the Berles New Military Cemetery. Grave reference IV.A.5. The cemetery is about 15Km southwest of Arras.

Son of John and Christina Catherall of Ashton under Lyne and husband of Clara of 54 Trafalgar Street, Ashton.

**\*Andrew Chalmers 1877 – 1916 Service Number: 24850**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 12th Battalion**

Andrew Chalmers was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1877 and was christened at St Michael's parish church on 17 August 1879. Andrew was the eldest child of Andrew Chalmers and Charlotte Hallworth. His parents were married at St Peters, Ashton on 21 August 1876.

Andrew and Charlotte had 11 children including Andrew junior. At the time of the 1881 census Andrew was aged 3. He lived with his parents and brother Thomas at 13 Boodle Street, Ashton. Andrew's father worked as a Carter.

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

Andrew married Martha Ellen Hardy at Ashton in 1907. Their daughter Hannah Chalmers was born in Audenshaw in 1910. The 1911 census shows Andrew, Martha and their daughter living at 8 Lumb Lane in Littlemoss. Andrew was aged 33 and worked as a carter for a railway company.

Andrew joined the 12th Battalion Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 24850.

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

**John Coffey 1897-1915 Service Number: 1786**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Coffey was born on 2 April 1897 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised at St James' church, Ashton on 5 Oct 1897, son of John Coffey and Sarah Elizabeth nee Horrocks. His parents had married at St Michael's Parish Church in 1887.

In the 1901 census John was aged 3 and living with his parents and three older sisters at 23 Paradise Street, Ashton. His father, John, was employed as a cotton bobbin carrier and his mother worked as a cotton blowing room hand.

By 1911 the family had moved to 5 York Street; John was aged 13. His three older sisters, Mary Elizabeth, Rose Ann and Maud were still living at home, and he now had two younger siblings: Samuel (11) and Bertha (8). On the census form John's father states that he and his wife have had 14 children, eight of whom had died before 1911.

John Coffey was killed in action at Gallipoli on 21 June 1915. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial and on the Ashton Under Lyne Memorial off Crickets Lane.

\*\* There were other John Coffeys from Ashton killed in WW1. This is one is verified by his mother's name on the Pensions Ledger.

**Edwin D Collier 1888-1916 Service Number: 11077**

**Regiment and Unit: Prince of Wales Volunteers (South Lancs Regiment) 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Edwin Davis Collier was born on 2 Nov 1888 in Ashton, son of Herbert Hibbert Collier of Dinting near Glossop and his wife Rebecca Davis from Broseley, Shropshire. His parents married in Broseley on 26 May 1886. Edwin Davis Collier was baptised at Christ Church on 20 Jan 1889.

In the 1891 census Edwin was aged 2 living with his parents and two siblings: George Herbert aged 4 and Ethel, six months at 34 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss. His father was a railway clerk. In the 1901 census, the family had moved to 52 Lumb Lane; Edwin was 12 with older brother George, aged 14 and sister, Ethel, aged 10.

By 1911 the family were living at Westfield, Littlemoss. Herbert Collier and his two sons, George and Edwin, were all working as railway clerks.

Edwin married in 1914 at Holy Trinity, Ashton to Daisy Gabbitas.

Edwin became C.Q.M.S. (Company Quartermaster Sergeant) in the Prince of Wales Volunteers, South Lancashire Regiment. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on 23 Jan 1916. He was buried in the Pieta Military Cemetery. Grave Reference C.VII.3

**\*Irwood Collier 1885 – 1917 Service Number: 28874**

**Regiment & Unit: 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards**

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

In 1891 Irwood (recorded as Herwood) was 6 years old. He lived with his family at 96 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Irwood and his younger sisters are listed as scholars. His father worked as an engineer at a local coal mine.

By the time of the next census in 1901, Irwood was 15 years old and lived with his parents and four siblings at Brooklands Terrace in Waterloo, Ashton. Irwood was employed as a Piecer in a cotton mill. Irwood's mother Hannah died in 1910 at the age of 64. She was buried at Christ Church in Waterloo on 15th November 1910.

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

The 1911 census shows Irwood and Mary Elizabeth living with Irwood's father at 30 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Irwood was 26 years old and worked as a Cotton Spinner at the Rock Mill in Waterloo where he had worked from being a boy. His wife worked as a Card Room Tenter in a cotton mill. Mary Elizabeth Collier died in 1915 aged 26.

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

After a period of training, Irwood embarked for France on 11 August 1917. By this time the 4th Battalion came under command of 3rd Guards Brigade. Irwood would have seen action at the 3rd Battle of Ypres also known as the Battle of Passchendaele which

took place from July to November 1917. Irwood was only at the Front for a matter of weeks before he sustained serious injuries on 8 October 1917 to both legs, his right arm and face from gunshot wounds. He underwent two operations in the field hospital to try and save his left leg, but these were unsuccessful, and his leg was amputated.

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

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

**Alexander Cross 1888-1917 Service Number: 24177**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion**

Alexander Cross was born in 1888 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Alexander Cross and his wife Mary Ann Howard. His parents had married in 1875 at St Michael's Parish Church.

In the 1891 census Alexander aged 3 was living with his parents and six siblings at 99 Princess Street, Hurst. His father was a coal miner. Alexander Cross senior died the following year in 1892 aged 35. Mary Ann Cross was a widow with six children, the youngest less than a year old.

In 1901 the family lived at 101 Princess Street. Mary Ann was a 43-year-old widow with five children still at home. Alexander was 12.

By 1911 the family living at 101 Princess Street were Mary Ann (52), a cotton frame tenter, Alexander aged 22 working as a labourer for a chemical manufacturer and Ethel aged 18 working as a weaver.

Later that year, on 23 Sept 1911 Alexander Cross aged 23 married Bertha Glossop aged 25 at St John's Hurst. The couple had been neighbours- Alexander at 101 Princess St and Bertha at 85 Princess Street.

Alexander and Bertha had a daughter, Mary born 23 Sept 1913. She was baptised at St James' Ashton. Their address was Post Yard, Cross Street, Ashton.

Alexander was originally in the R.F.A. and was given a service number 97599. He later transferred to the Manchester Regiment, 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and was given a new service number 24177.

Lance Sergeant Alexander Cross was killed on 21 August 1917. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 13A, 14C.

**John A Davies 1885- 1917 Service Number: 5863**

**Regiment and Unit: 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers (Prince of Wales Royal)**

John Albert Davies was born 19 Sept 1885 Macclesfield Cheshire, and baptised 15 Nov 1885 at Sutton St George, Macclesfield. son of James Davies, a labourer from Chelford, Cheshire and Caroline Walmsley of Macclesfield who had married in Prestbury on 4 May 1874.

In 1891 John A. Davies, aged 5, son of James and Caroline was living at 274 Oldham Road, Bardsley. In 1894 John's mother Caroline died aged 44. His father remarried in 1896 at Christ Church, Ashton to Sally Taylor nee Andrew. His brother, Joseph Davies was aged 1.

By 1901 John A. Davies was aged 15 and living with his father James and his stepmother, Sally at 274 Oldham Road Bardsley. John was working as a Butcher's apprentice. John Albert Davies arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1912. He married Janet Davies nee Linton of Hamilton Ontario on 23 May 1913.

Private John Albert Davies born Macclesfield Nov 1885 Killed in Action on 10 April 1917 #5863 Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers (Prince of Wales Royal).

John Albert Davies is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in France.

**Joseph Davies 1890-1915 Service Number: 3838**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Joseph Davies was born in 1890 Bardsley Ashton Under Lyne, son of James Davies and Caroline Walmsley who married at Prestbury Cheshire 1874. Caroline Davies died aged 44 in 1894. James Davies remarried to Sally Taylor (nee Andrew) in 1896 at Christ Church Ashton.

In 1891 at 274 Oldham Rd Bardsley: James Davies, gardener, born 1850 Chelford Cheshire married to Caroline born 1854 Macclesfield. They had nine children including John Albert aged 5 and Joseph (1). Joseph was the younger brother of John Albert Davies 1885-1917.

In 1901 274 Oldham Road Bardsley James Davies with his second wife Sally born Oldham. Joseph Davies was aged 10.

By 1911 James and Sally Davies with Harriet Davies (23) and Joseph Davies (21) were living at 477 Ashton Road Oldham. Joseph was working as a roller fluter in textiles, probably in a local cotton factory.

Possible death 31 Aug. 1915 Killed in action in Gallipoli. Cpl 3838 (9th Batt Lancs Fusiliers) enlisted Manchester, born Ashton under Lyne.

**William Deakin 1883-1918 Service Number: 40084**

**Regiment and Unit: North Staffordshire (Prince of Wales) Regiment 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Deakin was born in Mossley in late 1883. He was a boarder with the Moss family of Broad Carr Lane, Mossley in 1901. He was 18 years old and working as a collier.

William married Jane Dunn in 1903 in Ashton. In the 1911 census William and Jane and their three children were living at 34 Fleet Street, Ashton. William was a colliery waggoner, working below ground. Only three of their five children had survived infancy. They were Elizabeth born 1903, Mary Alice born 1904 and George born 1910.

William and Jane had two more children after 1911- James born 1913 and John born 1917.

William was the brother-in-law of William Dunn.

Private William Deakin, formerly of the Manchester regiment (Service number 4195), died on 19 April 1918. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

**John Dean 1898-1917 Service Number: 26209**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Dean was born 13 January 1898 in Broughton, Salford, son of Robert Dean and his wife Ruth nee Tudor. John was baptised on 7 September 1898 at St Stephen's in Hulme, Manchester. His father's occupation was 'grocer' and his address 4 Clarence Road, Hulme. His parents had married at St Andrew's, Ancoats, Manchester on 3 June 1876.

In 1901 John was aged 3 and living with his parents and four older siblings at 43 Duke Street, Stretford. His maternal grandmother, Ellen Dean, was a 79-year-old widow living with the family. His siblings were: Robert aged 21 born in Altrincham, James (14) born in Bradford, East Manchester, Margaret Elizabeth (8) born in Manchester, and Joseph (6) born in Salford. Robert Dean, John's father, was employed as a grocer.

By 1911, the family had moved to Ashton under Lyne. They were living at 25 Pothill Square, Ashton. Robert was working as a 'District Agent for a dentist.' He says he has been married for 33 years and has seven children, all of whom are still alive. Robert and Ruth Dean had three children still living at home in 1911: James (24) a collier, Margaret Elizabeth (18) a cotton reeler, and John aged 13, still at school.

Ruth Dean, John's mother, died in 1915 in Ashton. His father, Robert, a widower and his married daughter Margaret Elizabeth and her husband Roy Marland plus two children were living at 146 Oldham Road, Waterloo in 1921. Robert Dean died in 1925 in Ashton.

John Dean enlisted in the Army in Ashton when he was 19 years old. His address was 146 Oldham Road, Ashton. He served in Turkey, Egypt and Iraq. John had been an iron or brass moulder before joining up.

Private John Dean of the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment was killed in action on 31 Jul, 1917. He is commemorated at Ypres on the Menin Gate Panels 19-22.

**George H Dowd 1884-1916 Service Number:8540**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

George Harry Dowd was born in 1884 in Ashton, son of Martin Dowd and Mary Ann nee Ridon. His parents married on 30 Dec 1876 at St Peter's, Ashton.

In 1891 George was aged 7 living with his parents and three siblings at 6 Court New Street, Lees near Oldham. Martin Dowd was working as a grinder in a cotton mill. The family had moved to Ashton by the time of the next census in 1901. They were living at 99 Charles Street. George was aged 16 working as a piecer in a cotton mill. His younger brother, Robert aged 11 made up the household.

George's father, Martin, died in 1905 aged 50. In the 1911 census, Mary Ann Dowd, a widow was living with her two sons, George Harry aged 26 and Robert aged 22, plus her widower son-in-law James Fogerty and Arthur Dowd, aged 17, her grandson. The address was 4 Canning Street, Ashton. George and his brother were both working as cotton piecers. Mary Ann Dowd states she has had nine children, five of whom have died before 1911.

Private Harry Dowd, as he is named on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, son of Mrs Mary Ann Dowd of 4 Canning Street, was killed in action on 27 July 1916. He was buried in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France. Grave Reference VIII.G.25

**Allen E Dunkerley 1893-1917 Service Number: L/24122****Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 165<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

Allen Edgar Dunkerley was born in 1893 in Ashton, the son of James Dunkerley and his wife Annie nee Schofield. In the 1901 census Allen was seven years old and living with his parents and three brothers at 175 Oldham Road. His father, James, was an assistant burser and collector of the poor rate.

Ten years later, Allen, aged 17, was working as a sheet metal worker and living with his parents at "Daisy Bank" 198 Oldham Road. His three brothers were all still living at home. Roland (21) was employed as a shipping clerk, Leonard (19) was a railway clerk and Noel (16) was a junior bank clerk. His father, James, was employed by the town council as assistant overseer of the poor.

Allen Edgar Dunkerley joined the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner. In March 1917 the RFA played a crucial role on the Western Front in France. Allen was killed on 11 March 1917 aged 23. He was buried in the Hebuterne Communal Cemetery in France about 25 km southwest of Arras.

**William Thomas Dunn 1891-1918 Service Number:25600****Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion 'C'Company**

William Thomas Dunn was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1891 in Delph, Saddleworth, son of John Dunn and Caroline Hope. His parents had married in Saddleworth in 1884. In 1901 William aged 10 was living with his mother, Caroline Dunn and three sisters at 2 Railway Street, Springhead, Oldham. Caroline Dunn was widowed and was remarried to Benjamin Ogden, a barber in Mossley in 1904. One of William's sisters, Jane Dunn married William Deakin. William was killed in 1918: he was William Dunn's brother in law.

William Thomas Dunn's attestation took place on 8 March 1915 at the Recruitment Office on Warrington Street, Ashton. He gave his address as 20 Wyre Street, Mossley and his age as 21. William joined his Battalion on 19 May 1917. In April 1918, he was wounded at Etaples. He had a gunshot wound to his left shoulder. William's Army record was not exemplary, On numerous occasions he was given detention because of 'irregular conduct and obscene language'. On one occasion he had threatened an NCO and kicked a comrade. After his wounding, he rejoined his battalion in May 1918. Private William Thomas Dunn was killed in action on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918 aged 27. He was

buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Picardie, France. In the record of soldier's effects, his mother Caroline Ogden of 9 Church Street, Mossley was informed that there was a "rosary (broken), a badge and a wallet" to collect.

Two of William's married sisters lived in Ashton...Jane lived on Fleet Street and Maria lived on Pitt Street. This could explain William's inclusion on the Christ Church War Memorial.

**\*Edward Eason 1886 –1917      Service Number: 203509**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/6th Battalion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In spring of 1917 the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment left for France where they saw active service on the Western Front. The summer of 1917 saw the major British Offensive of the Third Battle of Ypres also known as Passchendaele. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It

eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days, and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

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

An announcement in The Reporter 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1917 marks the death of Private Edward Eason, C Company, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment. Killed in action on 17 Nov 1917 aged 31. 16 Yorkshire Street, Ashton from his sorrowing wife, Annie.

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

**\*James Eason 1891 – 1916      Service Number: 5196**

**Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion**

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

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

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

At the time of the next census in 1901, James was 10 years old. The family had grown in size with three more children. They were still living at 116 Oldham Road in Waterloo.

The 1911 census shows the family were living at 144 Oldham Road, Waterloo. James was aged 20 and worked as a Piecer in the cotton mill. His father still worked as a Coal Miner.

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

James was killed in action on 16th July 1916 in France. He is remembered on the memorial at Thiepval Pier and Face 3C and 3D. James' brother Edward was killed in action on 17th November 1917. He is buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen in Belgium. Their parents lost two sons within four months.

In Memoriam notice in Stalybridge Reporter 2 Dec 1916- "*In loving memory of Private James Eason (5196) Lancashire Fusiliers. Killed in action on the Somme 7 July 1916* (this date is different to the one on the CWGC site) aged 27 years. From his heartbroken wife, Ethel. 91 Old Street Ashton Under Lyne." James Eason had married Ethel Greaves in 1914 at St Michael's Parish Church. Ethel Eason remarried in 1921 to James Dickson. They were living at 67 Boodle Street in the 1921 census.

**Arthur Eaton 1895-1917 Service Number: 352139**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Arthur Eaton was born on 31 Jan 1895 and baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 31 March 1895, son of Henry /Harry Eaton and his wife Mary Agnes Burgess. His parents married on 19 August 1893 at St John's, Dukinfield. Arthur was aged 6 when the 1901 census was taken, living with his parents and baby sister, Marion at 34 Beauchamp Street, Ashton. His father was working as a mule spindle maker. Another child, Norman was born in 1898 but died as an infant in 1900.

By 1911 the family had moved to 16 Melbourne St Ashton. Arthur, now 16, was working as a coal merchant's clerk.

Arthur joined the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment and had the service number 352139. Arthur Eaton was killed on 9 Oct 1917 aged 22. He was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. Panels 120-124. His Pension Record Card shows his mother as Agnes Mary Rawson formerly of 55 Wellington Road, Ashton under Lyne and living in Southport. However, Arthur's parents and his sister Marion were living at 59 Sidney Rd Southport in the 1921 census.

**\*John Edmunds 1888 – 1917 Service Number: 25593**

## Regiment & Unit: South Wales Borderers 1st Battalion



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

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

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

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

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

John's Service Record no longer exists but an article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter states that he enlisted sometime in 1915. John joined the 1st Battalion of the South Wales Borderers and was given the service number 25593. John's Medal Index Card

shows that after a period of training, he was sent to Gallipoli where he landed at the end of October 1915.

The eight-month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces to force Turkey out of the war, and to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium. It was important to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. This campaign took part amidst the most appalling conditions, such as the unrelenting heat of a Mediterranean summer, a lack of water, poor food, inadequate equipment and without proper sanitation. Sickness and disease were rife. At the height of the war there were up to 5,000 cases of dysentery a week. Soldiers of the Welsh regiment were amongst the last to leave the peninsula during the final evacuation in January 1916. During this time John contracted a fever and was invalided home for six weeks before being drafted to the Western Front.

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

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

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

**\*Thomas Edmunds 1894 – 1916      Service Number: 35399**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion**



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

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

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

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

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

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

**\*Timothy Edmunds 1899 – 1918      Service Number: 57568**

**Regiment & Unit: Lincolnshire Regiment 2nd Battalion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



\* Joseph W. Edwards 1897-1916 Service Number: 28077

Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion



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

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

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

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

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

**\*Thomas L. Evans 1896 – 1915      Service Number: 1384**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/9th Battalion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ralph Fernley 1897-1915 Service Number: 3281**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Ralph Fernley was born in the last quarter of 1897 in Ashton Under Lyne, son of James Fernley and his wife Clara nee Barber. His parents married at St Michael's Church in 1891.

In the 1901 census he was three years old and living with his parents at 24 Delamere Street North, Ashton. He had two older sisters: Florence aged 7 and Edna aged 5. A brother, Walter, born in 1892, had died as an infant in 1893.

By 1911 Clara Fernley was a 40-year-old widow working as a charwoman with four children: Florence (Florrie) aged 17, Edna aged 15, James (Ralph) aged 13 and another brother Cephas born 1902. James (Ralph) was working in a cotton mill. They were living at 48 Tatton Street, Ashton.

Private J.R. Fernley, son of the late James and Clare (sic) Fernley of 48 Tatton Street, Ashton Under Lyne died on 4 Dec 1915. He was buried in the cemetery at Alexandria (Chatby) Egypt. Grave reference C.121. He was 18 years old. The personal tribute reads '*A child in years, a man in deeds, he gave his life for his country's needs*'

**James Finnigan 1891-1918 Service Number: 141736**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Finnigan was born in 1891, son of James Finnigan and his wife Sarah nee Daley. His parents married in 1887 at Dukinfield, St Mark's. He must have been born later in 1891 as he does not appear in that year's census. His parents, James and Sarah with two young sons, Willie (3) and Harry (2) were living at 134 Hope Street, Dukinfield. Sarah's mother, Mary Daley was living at the same address. James, senior was working as a hatter. By 1901 James and Sarah and two sons, Harry (12) and Frank (9) were living at 113 Hope Street, Dukinfield. James was working as a commission agent. As they had a domestic servant, we can assume James Finnigan had gone up in the world. Meanwhile James Finnigan, junior (10) and his brother William (13) were boarders at Kenyon Hall College, a private fee-paying school near Leigh, Lancashire.

By 1911 James Finnigan aged 58 was a widower living at 208 Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne with three sons: Harry (22) clerk to a commission agent (probably his father who was a self-employed commission agent), James (19) was working as a plasterer and Frank (17) was a hairdresser. Sarah Finnigan, the mother of James, had died in 1904 aged 40.

James Finnigan, senior died on 5 December 1915 at 208 Oldham Road. Probate was granted to Harry Finnigan, commission agent, James Finnigan, plasterer and Frank Finnigan, hairdresser.

James Finnigan enlisted in Ashton under Lyne. He first joined the Manchester Regiment with the service number 4440 but later he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was killed in action on 28 August 1918 in France. He was buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont, in the Somme area of France. Grave reference I.I.31.

John Fitton 1890-1915 Service Number: 22176

Regiment and Unit: Loyal North Lancs Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



### Stalybridge Reporter 16 Oct 1915.

John Fitton was born on 27 Sept 1890 in Ashton and baptised on 27 July 1894 at Christ Church. He was the son of Edwin Fitton and Alice Shaw. His parents married on 10 March 1873 at St Stephen's, Audenshaw. In 1901 Edwin and Alice Fitton, with four sons and two daughters, were living at 30 Duncan Street. John's father, Edwin, was working as a coal miner. By 1911 Edwin Fitton was aged 62 and a widower. He was still living at 30 Duncan Street with four sons. His son John was 20 years old and was also a coal miner.

John joined the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. An article in the Stalybridge Reporter of 16 Oct 1915 mentions John's letter to his brother at 30 Duncan Street, describing the attack on the Germans in France on 25 Sept 1915. He tells his brother that he was gassed early on in the battle but is 'alright now'. In fact, Private Fitton died on 13 October 1915. He has no known burial place, and he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial Panels 89-91.

**Hague France 1889-1916 Service Number: 25167**

**Regiment and Unit: Grenadier Guards**



Hague France was born in 1889 in Stalybridge, son of James Hague France and his wife Annetta nee Fletcher. He was baptised at Old St George, Stalybridge on 8 Jun 1889. In the 1891 census Hague aged one was living with his parents and baby sister Elsie in the household of his maternal grandmother, Sarah Fletcher in Stalybridge. His father was working as a joiner.

By the time of the next census in 1901, James and Annetta France were living with four children at 64 Kenworthy St, Stalybridge. Hague was aged 11 and still a schoolboy. James was employed as a carpenter.

In 1911 the family had moved to Ashton and were living at 57 Turner Street. Hague was aged 21 and working as a stonemason.

Hague joined the Grenadier Guards. He was involved in fighting in Northern France. He died of wounds on 28 September 1916. Private Hague France was buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery.

An article in the Stalybridge Reporter of 7 Oct 1916 was headed:

*Ashton Soldier's Fate. Might have had exemption but chose to fight.*

Mr and Mrs France of 57 Turner Street had received the sad news of their son's death on 28 Sept. Hague France had chosen to join the Army although, due to his employment at Shuttleworth Brothers of Stalybridge as a stonemason, he might have had exemption. He was 27 years old when he died and of 'fine physique'.

**William Garlick 1889-1915 Service Number: 9238**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

William Garlick was born on 23 March 1889 in Ashton under Lyne and baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 21 April 1889, son of Wright Garlick and his wife Sarah Jane nee Tazacker. His parents married in 1868.

In the 1891 census, William aged 2 was living with his parents and an older sister Sarah Ellen at 38 Mill Lane, Ashton. His father, Wright Garlick was a coal hewer (underground). His maternal grandmother, Sarah Tazacker was at the same address. By 1901 William was aged 12 living with his parents and 16-year-old sister at 37 Duncan Street, Ashton under Lyne. William's sister Sarah Ellen had married John William Kenworthy in 1904. Wright Garlick, William's father, died in 1905 and was buried at Christ Church.

In the 1911 census William Garlick had joined the Army and was listed on the census aged 21, birthplace Ashton under Lyne, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment.

William Garlick had become a Sergeant by the time of his death on 7 May 1915 at Ypres. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate panel 19. A war gratuity was paid to William's sister Sarah Jane Kenworthy in 1920. William Garlick is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**J. Samuel Garside 1886-1918 Service Number: 47657**

**Regiment and Unit: Welsh Regiment 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Samuel Garside was born on 26 June 1886 and baptised on 1 August 1886 in Ashton under Lyne, son of James Garside and his wife Catherine (Kate) Osbaldiston. His parents had married in Ashton in 1878.

John Samuel (shown as John Sam.) Garside first appears in the census in 1891, living at 74 Oldham Road with his parents and three sisters. He was aged 4. His father, James Garside, was a ropemaker.

In 1901 John S. Garside was aged 14 and living at 82 Oldham Road with his parents and two sisters. By 1911 John (24) and his younger sister, Annie (23), were living with James and "Kate", their parents, at 104 Oldham Road. John Samuel was a bricklayer.

John Samuel Garside married Annie Minnie May Rushton on 17 May 1913 at Stamford Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ashton.

John Samuel Garside joined the Welsh Regiment 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion. His service number was 47657. He was killed in action just a week before the Armistice was signed - on 4 November 1918. He has no known burial place, but he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 7. In the Army Register of Soldier's Effects, his widow Annie M Garside is listed.

**\*John Garside 1880-1917 Service Number: 18423**

**Regiment & Unit: South Lancashire Regiment 6th Battalion**



John was the son of William Garside and Emma Eason. He was born in Waterloo, Ashton on 11 May 1880. John's parents were married at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1876. John had two younger siblings and five older siblings. John was ten months old when the census was taken in 1881. He lived with his parents, brother Harry and sister Eliza at Saxon's buildings on Ney Street in Waterloo. His father William worked as an Iron Roller Turner throughout his life.

By the time of the next census in 1891, John was ten years old and attended school. He lived with his family at 7 Downing Street in Waterloo. John's father worked as an Iron Roller and his older brother Harry worked as a Cotton Piecer. John was 11 years old when his mother Emma died in 1892. She was 37 years old.

In 1896 John's father William was remarried to Sarah Ann Fish in Ashton. John was 18 years old when he was baptised at Christ Church, Waterloo on 10 May 1898. The 1901 census shows John and his family were still living at 7 Downing Street in Waterloo. John was 20 years old and worked as a Piecer in a cotton mill. John was 31 years old in 1911. He continued to live with his parents and siblings. A nephew was also staying with the family at 36 Langham Street, Waterloo. John still worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill.

John enlisted in the army at Warrington, Lancashire on 16 April 1915. He joined the South Lancashire Regiment and was given the service number 18423. His medical details show he was 5 feet 6 ½ inches tall which was average at the time.

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

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

John was killed in action on 25 Feb 1917 in Iraq. His final resting place is unknown, but John is remembered on the Basra memorial Panel 23 as well as the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial.

An article in The Reporter of 24 March 1917 was headed **Waterloo Soldier Killed**

*Mr and Mrs William Garside of 36 Langham Street have received the news of the death of their son, John Garside of the South Liverpool Regiment (actually South Lancashire) who was killed in action on 25 Feb 1917 in Mesopotamia. John Garside aged 36 worked as a partner minder at Messrs Rayner's Ltd prior to enlisting. Private Garside had been in the Dardanelles where he had suffered frostbite and dysentery.*

**\*Robert Garside 1889 –1916      Service Number: 43156**

**Regiment & Unit: Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 1st Battalion**

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

In 1891 Robert was two years old. He lived with his family at 3 Ogden Square in Dukinfield. His father, Alfred, was a Coal Miner. Robert was eight when his mother Mary Ellen died in Stalybridge in 1897 at the age of 32.

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

Robert was 12 years old by the time of the next census in 1901. His father, step-mother and older sister all worked in the cotton mill. The family lived at 1 Pickford Lane in Dukinfield.

By 1911 the family were living on Oldham Road in Waterloo. Robert was 21 years old and worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill. This was dangerous work as broken threads had to be re-tied whilst the machinery was in motion. His older siblings also worked in the cotton mill and his father worked as a miner.

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

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

The article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states "*Mrs Garside has received the sad intimation that her husband, Private R Garside of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cameronians, was killed in action on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Private Garside joined the forces about two years ago and had seen plenty of active service in France. He had been wounded twice, once in the side of his head, and once in his arm. Before joining the forces he was employed as a Cotton Spinner at the Maple Mill, Oldham. He took an interest in local football, but was of a rather retiring disposition, and devoted much time to fretwork and other quiet hobbies. As a youth he attended the Christ Church Day School, and a memorial service*

*is being held in the school on Sunday morning next. He is 26 years of age and leaves a sorrowing wife and a child 10 months old, whom he has ever seen."*

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

**Andrew Gee 1888?-1915 Service Number: 1690**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Possible birth of Andrew Gee 28 Jul 1888 baptised at Christ Church on 2 Sept 1888, son of John and Martha Gee. In the 1901 census Andrew aged 13 was with his parents, John and Martha and a brother John aged 15 at 33 Canning Street, Ashton.

In 1911 John and Martha Gee with two sons, John Thomas (25) and Andrew (22) were living at 25 Canning Street. Andrew's mother, Martha died in 1913 age 58.

Andrew Gee was killed by a bullet at his post in the trenches at Gallipoli on 30 May 1915. An article in the Reporter of 12 June 1915 records several mentions of Andrew's death by his fellow soldiers fighting in Turkey. He was obviously well-regarded by his fellows. A special In Memoriam card was produced. R.I.P. Andrew Gee 1690 "B" Company 1/9<sup>th</sup> Manchester regiment 12 May 1915. Andrew Gee is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. There is a discrepancy with the date of his death. One record gives the date as 13<sup>th</sup> May and another as 30 May 1915. The pension records show his father as Mr John Gee of Canning Street, Ashton.

In the 1921 census, Andrew's father and brother, John, were living at 26 Canning Street.

**\*Peter Gerrard 1897 - 1918 Service Number: 351926**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion**

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

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

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

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

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

Peter's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the date he enlisted or when he entered the war. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Peter may well have been conscripted when this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Peter joined the Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion and was given the service number 351926.

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

**Dennis Glynn 1894-1917      Service Number: 32768**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Dennis Glynn was born in Ashton on 7 Oct 1894 and baptised at St Ann's R.C. Church on 24 March 1895, son of Thomas Glynn and his wife Sarah nee Ryan.

In the 1901 census Dennis aged 6 was living with his parents and two brothers at 5 Back Margaret Street, Ashton. His father Thomas was employed as a slater.

By 1911 the family had moved to 8 Canning Street, Ashton. Thomas Glynn, father of Dennis was now a 'property master' at the Hippodrome Theatre in Ashton. Dennis aged 16 was working as a 'piecer' in a cotton mill.

Dennis joined the first Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed at Basra (Iraq) in January 1916. Private Dennis Glynn was killed in action on 25 March 1917 aged 22. He has no known burial place and is commemorated on the Basra Memorial, son of Mrs Sarah Glynn of 8 Canning Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Harry G Goddard 1879-1918 Service Number: 351481**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harry G Goddard proved to be a conundrum. He was born John Henry Goddard on 7 October 1879 in Ashton under Lyne, the illegitimate son of Lizzie Goddard. In the 1881 census Lizzie Goddard and her infant son, John Henry, were living on Gordon Street, Ashton.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Goddard married Samuel Edward Green at Hurst St John's on 23 August 1881.

On 3 September 1890 John Henry Green Goddard was baptised at St James, Ashton. Mother's name was shown as Lizzie Goddard of 52 Winter Street, Hurst. His half-siblings, children of Lizzie and Samuel Green, were baptised on the same day: Mary Hannah born 1882, Emma Jane born 1884 and Sam born 1890, all of 52 Winter Street.

In 1891 Samuel Green and his wife Elizabeth with four children: John Henry Green aged 11, Mary H. Green (9), Emma J. Green (6) and Sam Green (1) were living at 50 Winter Street. Samuel Green aged 29 was working as a brickmaker.

By 1901 John Henry's parents and siblings had moved to 84 Turner Lane but John Henry was not with them. He was boarding with the Ward family at 112 Turner Lane. He is recorded as John H G Goddard aged 21, a cotton piecer.

John Henry G. Goddard married Mary Ann Watkins in 1904 in Ashton.

By 1911 John Henry called himself Harry Goddard. He was aged 31 and was a cotton worker. Married to Mary Ann (28) with four children: Mary (5), Emma (4) and Harry (3). Mary Ann's widowed mother, Maria Watkins was living with the family at 8 Duncan Street, Ashton Under Lyne.

The Army records show his name as John Henry Goddard Green residence Ashton, Killed in Action on 25 August 1918. Private 351481 Widow Mary Ann of 37 York Street, Ashton under Lyne. In the Register of Soldier's Effects, his name is given twice: John Henry Green-Goddard and also John Henry Goddard Green. Widow Mary Ann. Guardian of the children Lizzie Green.

Harry's widow, Mary Ann Goddard Green, died in 1919 in Ashton. The children of Harry and Mary Ann were living with their grandparents, Samuel Edward Green and Lizzie Green at 31 York Street in the 1921 census. There were five children (a sixth Stephen born 1909 died as a baby). They were - Mary born 1905, Emma born 1906, Harry born 1908, Maria born 1912 and Bertha born 1914.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists him as Private J N G Green of the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment died 25 August 1918. Buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery in France. Grave reference VI.H.27.

**Fred Gould 1889-1916 Service Number: 70138**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery “A” Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade**

Fred Gould was born on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1889 in Warrington, son of George Thomas Gould, a furniture dealer, and his wife Mary Peers. Fred was baptised at Christ Church Ashton under Lyne on 4 April, 1906.

In the 1891 census Fred aged 2 was living with his parents at 28 Warwick Street, Warrington. His mother died between 1891 and 1901 as, by the time of the 1901 census, Fred was living in Wolstanton, Staffs with his widowed father and three siblings.



In 1911 Fred aged 21 was living with his two sisters, Lottie (23) and Florrie (20) at 11 Garside Street, Ashton. Fred was a joiner working for a sewing machine works.

Fred joined the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner. He was killed in action on 20 July 1916. An article in the Ashton Reporter of 5 August 1916 says his sister Miss Gould of Taunton Platting received the news of her brother's death. Fred was 26 years old and worked for Jones' Sewing Machine Company before he joined the RFA.

His commanding officer wrote that Fred Gould “Lived clean and fought straight”.

Gunner Fred Gould was buried in the Quarry Cemetery, Montaubon, France. Grave reference V.C.5.

**William Greaves 1891-1918 Service Number: 351354**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion “C” Company**

William Greaves was born in Ashton on 4 Jan.1891, the son of William Greaves and his wife Mary Ellen nee Taylor. He was baptised on 27 Feb 1891 at Christ Church.

His parents married in 1869 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton. William first appears in the census in 1891 when he was 3 months old and living with his parents and six older siblings at 27 Duncan Street Ashton. His father was working as a general labourer. In 1901 the family were still living at 27 Duncan St. William was now 10 years old and another brother, Edwin had been born in 1893.

William's parents died within a few years of each other. Mary Ellen Greaves died in 1905 aged 56 and William Greaves, senior, died in 1911 aged 62. In the 1911 census William's older sister Hannah was head of the household. She, along with her siblings: Fanny aged 30, Betsy (23), William (20) and Edwin (18), were living at 10 Newman Street, Ashton. William was working as a cotton piecer.

Private William Greaves was killed on 20 Oct 1918 aged 27. He has no known resting place. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 9. The records show him to be the brother of Miss H. Greaves of 83 Union Street, Ashton.

**\*Edward Green 1880-1915 Service Number 7794**

**Regiment and Unit: Rifle Brigade 9th Battalion**

Edward Green was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1880, son of William Green and his wife Alice Clayton. In 1881, when Edward was 7 months old, the family were living at 36 Hill Street, Waterloo. Edward had three older siblings: Isaac born 1873, Elizabeth Ann born 15 Feb 1876 and Sarah Alice born 1878. Their parents had married in 1872 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton. By 1891 the family had moved to Oldham. Alice Green was a 41-year-old widow with five children, including 10-year-old Edward, living with her at 4 Longfield Street. Another son, John had been born in Ashton in 1883. By 1901 Edward aged 20, his mother Alice and siblings Isaac and Sarah Alice were living with Edward's sister Elizabeth Ann and her husband Harry Loughlin. Elizabeth Ann had married Harry Loughlin at Christ Church, Waterloo. They had a 5-year-old son named Thomas. The family was living at 41 Hill Street in Waterloo. Edward worked as a Piecer at a local cotton mill. The 1911 census shows that Edward, aged 30 was still living with his sister and brother-in-law, Harry and Elizabeth Loughlin, at 23 Mary Street, Taunton. Edward was employed as an Ironworker at Park Bridge Ironworks.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter from 14 August 1915 says that when war was declared, Edward felt it was his moral duty to defend his country. He enlisted at Ashton Barracks on 4th January 1915. Edward chose to join the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and was given the service number 7794. The article goes on to say that "along with several more from Ashton and Bardsley he was drafted to Winchester. Settling himself down to the tasks and duties of a soldier, he soon became efficient in everything that was needed to fit him for the sterner duty of life as a soldier." Edward was a member of the committee of the Waterloo Football Club and took a prominent part in its welfare. Players and committee members were deeply saddened at his loss. He also attended the Wesleyan Chapel, Oaken Clough Waterloo. His name was recorded on the Roll of Honour and was the first to fall in action. Edward arrived in France on 20 June 1915 when orders were received to relieve troops in the Hooge trenches. Edward was going along a communication trench when he was shot by a sniper in his left shoulder. The bullet entered Edward's left lung and ultimately proved fatal. Edward died in the dressing station the following day 21 June 1915 aged 35 years. Edward was laid to rest in the Bedford House Cemetery in Ypres, Belgium. Enclosure No.2 VI. A. 21

**Edward Green 1894-1915 Service Number: 1641 (Broadoak Road)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Edward Lewis Green was born on 2 June 1894 in Ashton. He was baptised on 3 October 1894 at St James' church, son of William Henry Lewis, a brickmaker and his wife Selina nee Wolfenden. His parents had married in 1890 at St James, Ashton.

In the 1901 census Edward L. Green was six years old, living with his parents and two sisters at 7 Spring Bank Cottages, Broadoak Road, Ashton. His father, William Henry Green was employed as a brickmaker.

By 1911 Edward was aged 17 and working as a cotton piecer in a mill. He was living with his family at 2 Spring Bank Cottages, Broadoak Road.

On his attestation form, when he joined the Territorial Force Reserve in Ashton on 11 Feb 1914, he states he works at the Algar Mills in Hurst. He was 19 years old and only 5' 2" in height. He was given the service number of 1641.

Private Edward Lewis Green went to Gallipoli with his regiment. There he was hit in the side of the head and lost consciousness almost immediately. He passed away on 13 November 1915 at 4.30pm.

Edward Lewis Green was buried in the Twelve Trees Copse Cemetery.

**\*William Greenhalgh 1894-1917 Service Number: 21587**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 21st Battalion**

William Greenhalgh was born 13 January 1894 in Chorley, Lancashire. He was baptised on 25 March 1894 at Chorley St George, son of James Greenhalgh and his wife Mary nee Holding/Holden. James and Mary were living at 10 Tootell Street Chorley at the time. James was employed as a Coal Miner. The 1901 census shows William was aged seven, living with his parents and six siblings at 29 Derby Street, Newton in Makerfield. William's father James died in 1902.

The rest of the family cannot be traced in the 1911 census. An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says that William was a prominent athlete and excelled at football and wrestling. Prior to enlistment, William had been employed at Lees Spinning Company at Hollinwood, near Oldham. William enlisted in November 1914 at the start of the war. He chose to join the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 21587. William's Service Record no longer exists, so we know very little about his time in the army. During 1916 he may well have seen action in the Somme offensive which took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916.

William Greenhalgh died of wounds on 26 October 1917 aged 23 years. He was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium Grave XXII. F. 5A (Source CWGC). Lijssenthoek was situated on the main route between the allied military bases and the Ypres battlefields. This suggests William was injured sometime during the Battle of Passchendaele and taken to a casualty clearing station. William was awarded the Military Medal posthumously. The Medal was sent to 'his young lady' as the Ashton under Lyne Reporter described her. She was Miss N. Hilton of 43 Wellington Street, Waterloo. The same article says that William's older brother John (Jack) Greenhalgh was serving in Salonika. On the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record it says William was the son of Mrs M Greenhalgh of Chorley Lancs. On the grave record, next of kin, in brackets, was noted as Mrs E Hirst of 11 Downing Street, Waterloo. This was William's older sister Eliza who married Henry L Hirst in 1917 at Bardsley Methodist Church, Keb Lane, Bardsley. In the 1921 census Henry Lees Hirst born in Devon, his wife Eliza was born in Chorley and their son William Henry aged 2 were living at 11 Downing Street, Waterloo. This explains the reason for William's inclusion on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial as well as the Christ Church Memorial.

**Clarence Greenwood 1892-1917 Service Number: 29124**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Clarence Greenwood was born in Ashton in 1892, son of Daniel Greenwood and his wife Susannah Holmes. His parents married in 1883 at St Michael's Parish Church.

In 1901 Clarence was 9 years old living with his parents at 116 Cavendish Street, Ashton. He had two older brothers, Henry and Daniel and two younger siblings, Alfred and Florrie. In 1911 the family had moved to 145 Bentinck Street Ashton. Clarence was aged 19 and working as a cotton spinner. There were eight children living at home. Daniel and Susannah had 11 children all together but three had died before 1911.

Clarence Greenwood married Elizabeth Smith on 8 Aug 1914 at Holy Trinity, Gee Cross, Hyde. He and his wife had two sons: Alfred born on Christmas Day 1914 and Eric born on 19 Aug 1916.

Private Clarence Greenwood died of wounds on 4 October 1917 aged 25. He was buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium. Grave reference VI. E.5, husband of E. Greenwood of 38 Burlington Street, Ashton under Lyne.

Elizabeth Greenwood, a widow with two young sons, appears in the 1921 census at 38 Burlington Street.

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

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

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

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

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

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

James' Service Record no longer exists so we cannot be sure when he enlisted. An Act of Parliament was passed in May 1916 extending conscription to married men. James was most likely conscripted sometime after this date, undertaking training in England before being sent to France at the end of that year. He first joined the

Manchester Regiment with the service number 4119 but was later transferred to Somerset Light Infantry 6th Battalion, Service Number 32400.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* dated 27 January 1917 states he was only at the front for about two weeks before his death.

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

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

**\*John Greenwood 1899-1918 Service Number 142081**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps**

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

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

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

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

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

**Wright Greenwood 1889-1918 Service Number: 39915**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Wright Greenwood was born on 23 Feb 1889 in Ashton, son of Eli Greenwood and his wife Winifred nee Roberts. He was baptised at Stamford Street Wesleyan chapel on 24 April 1889. His parents had married in Ashton in 1888.

Wright first appears in the census in 1891 living in Llanycil, Merioneth, Wales. His mother Winifred was Welsh, born in Barmouth. His father, Eli, born in Ashton under Lyne, was working as a brush maker. Wright was two years old and had a younger sister, Ellen, born 1890 in Ashton.

By 1901 the family had moved to Ashton and were living at 90 Minto Street. Eli Greenwood was still employed as a brushmaker. Wright aged 12 was a school boy.

In the 1911 census, Wright was aged 22 and working as a tailor. He still lived with his parents and three younger siblings at 10 Durban Street, Ashton.

Wright Greenwood originally joined the Manchester Regiment with the service number 35357 but later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was killed in action in France on 25 March 1918 when he was 28 years old. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Bay 5, son of Mr E and Mrs W. Greenwood of 10 Durban Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Albert Hadfield 1894-1918 Service Number: 351287**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Albert Hadfield was born on 5 Mar 1894 in Ashton, son of John and Sarah Hadfield nee Burgess. He was baptised at Hurst St John's on 8 April 1894. His parents had married at Mottram in Longendale in 1880. In the 1901 census Albert was aged 7 and the youngest of seven children. The family were living at 133 Queen Street, Hurst. John Hadfield, Albert's father, was a cotton twister.

John Hadfield died in 1902 and his widow, Sarah, had remarried to John Clegg in 1908 at Hurst St John's. Albert was aged 17 and working as a little piecer in a cotton mill. He had three Hadfield siblings living in the same household and five Clegg half-siblings.

Albert joined up in Ashton, probably after his marriage to Gertrude Prudence Wrigg on 9 Jan 1915 at St Peter's church, Ashton. Albert was aged 20 and Gertrude was 24 years old. Both were living at 3 Beech Grove which was off Manchester Road, Ashton.

Albert was wounded and died of his wounds on 28 March 1918. He was buried in the St Sever Cemetery extension, Rouen, France. Grave reference P.VI.M.2b.

His effects and pension were assigned to his widow, Gertrude.

**Samuel Halkyard 1896-1918 Service Number: 1759**

**Regiment and Unit; Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Samuel Halkyard was born in Ashton in the first quarter of 1896, son of James Halkyard and his wife, Emily Jones.

In the 1901 census Samuel aged 5 was living with his parents and four siblings at 48 Brook Street, Ashton in the Holy Trinity area.

Samuel's mother Emily Halkyard died in 1903 aged 40 and his father died just a few years later in 1909 aged 49. In 1911 Samuel, aged 15, was living with his married sister, Alice Ann and her husband, Arthur Artingstall. He was employed as a 'turner' in an iron works. They were living at 44 Brook Street, Ashton.

Samuel's war record still exists. He attested in Ashton under Lyne on 14 Feb 1914. He was embodied on 15 Aug 1914 and embarked for Egypt on 10 Sept 1914. Samuel served with the Manchester Regiment in the Gallipoli campaign. He was invalided home on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915 on the H.S.Stonus leaving from Mudros.

Samuel was discharged as unfit for military service on 30 Nov 1915. He was diagnosed with phthisis (T.B.) and treated in a sanatorium. He was 19 years old. He received a pension for Pulmonary TB aggravated by service.

Samuel Halkyard died on 5 July 1918 at the home of his sister, Alice Artingstall at 24 Earnshaw St Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. He was buried in Dukinfield Cemetery.

Private Samuel Halkyard of the 9<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment is commemorated in the UK Book of Remembrance as well as on the Christ Church War Memorial.

**Clement J. Hall 1895-1915 Service Number:4912**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Welch Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Clement John Hall was born in 1895, son of Frank Arthur Hall, a butcher and his wife Elizabeth Ann Brougham, a cotton weaver. His parents had married in 1886 in Ashton at Holy Trinity. In the 1901 census Clement was five years old living with his parents and two siblings at 21 Blandford Street, Ashton. By 1911 the family had moved to 52 Canning Street, Ashton and Clement (16) was working as a coal miner.

Clement attested at Hyde on 4 March 1913 at the age of 18. He was mobilised at Wrexham.

Clement John Hall married Annie O'Brien on 14 Sept 1914 at Christ Church. They had a son Harold born 6 Jan 1915.

Clement John Hall was killed in action on 16 May 1915. Place unknown. He is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial as well as the Christ Church Memorial.

**Harry Hall alias Charles Brooks 1894(?) - 1918 Service Number: 80325**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery A/255 Brigade Driver**

Harry Hall's background has been difficult to pinpoint and made even more difficult because he adopted a new name, Charles Brooks.

We know he married Charlotte Taylor nee Bradbeer on 18 Jul 1917 at Droylsden St Mary under the name of Charles Brooks. Charlotte Brooks stated in 1918, after Harry's death, that she had made a statutory declaration about his new name. She says he was born Harry Brooks, but we know this to be incorrect. This was in order to receive a pension for herself and three children.

Harry's war service records (where his name is given as Harry Hall alias Charles Brooks) show he attested on 26 Sept 1914 in Ashton but later joined the RFA on 27 Jan 1915 in Newcastle on Tyne. His record was far from exemplary, having been absent without leave on numerous occasions with police seeking his whereabouts. He was once apprehended by Military Police at 1am at Waterloo station. There was a statement from Mrs Hall of Garforth Row, Waterloo in 1917 saying she had not seen her son and he had not been to her house. She did not know where he was but had been informed that he had got married. He was absent without leave in 1916, tried and sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour on 28 March 1916. He was later posted to France. His will bequeathed his worldly goods to his mother Mrs E Hall of 127 Garforth Terrace, Waterloo.

Harry's pension records show his wife as Charlotte born 27 May 1888 and his children as: Sarah Bradbeer Hall born 1910, Alice Taylor Hall b 1911 and Frank Taylor Hall born 1914. In fact, the children were Charlotte Bradbeer's by her first marriage to William Taylor. Charles Brooks married widowed Charlotte Taylor nee Bradbeer in 1917 at Droylsden St Mary.

Harry Hall alias Charles Brooks: Driver H Hall died of influenza 12/11/18 at the 12<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital, France. He was buried in Le Pol British Cemetery Le Pol-sur-Ternoise. Husband of Mrs C Brooke (sic) (formerly Hall) 4 Wheat Street, Ashton under Lyne. Source CWGC site

In 1921 Charlotte Brooks aged 31, widow, born Dukinfield was living at 4 Wheat Street, Ashton with four children: Sarah Taylor (11), Alice Taylor (10), Frank Taylor (6) and John William Brooks aged 10 months. "Father Dead" is written alongside their names.

**James Hall 1894-1917 Service Number: 39649**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 126<sup>th</sup> Company**

James Hall was born on 13 June 1894 in Ashton under Lyne and baptised at St Ann's RC Church on 17 June 1894, son of John Thomas Hall and his wife Catherine Moran. His parents were married at St Michael's Parish Church in 1885. In 1901 James aged 6 was living with his parents and siblings at 6 Arthur Street, Ashton. His father was employed as a coal miner.

By 1911 James, aged 17, was working as a collier, still at the same address with his parents and six siblings.

James originally joined the Manchester Regiment with the service number 2074. He later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and was given a new number 39649.

Lance Corporal James Hall was killed in action in France on 11 May 1917, son of Mr J.T.Hall of 27 Bradgate Street, Ashton under Lyne. He was 23 years old.

James was buried in Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery in France. Grave reference II.E.23.

Lance Corporal Hall is commemorated on the Civic war memorial on Crickets Lane, Ashton as well as the Christ Church memorial.

**\*Harold Hallam 1898 – 1917      Service Number: 401438**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st/5th Battalion**



Harold was born on 4 Jul 1898 and baptised at Waterloo Methodist New Connexion chapel on 2 Aug 1898. He was the eldest child of Albert Hallam and Elizabeth Hinsley. His parents were married in Ashton under Lyne in 1897. Harold had five younger siblings Alice Ann born 1900, Agnes 1902, Leonard 1904, Eva 1906, and Hannah born 1911. Harold was aged 2 at the time of the 1901 census. He lived with his parents and sister, Alice Ann, on Clive Street in Waterloo. The census shows that Harold's father Albert wasn't in work and that his mother was the wage earner, working as a Cotton Spinner.

At the time of the next census in 1911, the family were living at 27 Hill Street (now Vale Street) in Waterloo. Harold was aged 12. He went to school part time and worked part time delivering milk. His father worked as a Cotton Spinner. The family took in a boarder to help pay the rent. Before joining the army, Harold worked as a Cotton Spinner at Texas Mill, Ashton. Harold was a devout member of the United Methodist church in Waterloo.

Harold's Service Record no longer exists but his obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* shows he joined the army in July 1917. We don't know if Harold enlisted or was conscripted after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Conscription was introduced at the beginning of 1916. Harold initially joined the 18th Manchester Battalion, part of Kitchener's new

army and was given the service number 401438. He was later moved to the 1/5th Manchester Battalion.

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

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

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

A memorial service was held for Harold at Waterloo Sunday School where he attended. At the close, four members of the Boys' Life Brigade sounded the Last Post.

Harold is buried in the Manchester Cemetery, Riencourt-Les-Bapaume in France

Grave Reference B.15

**Wilfred Hallowell 1884-1918 Service Number: 9374**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 92<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Wilfred Hallowell was born on 23 March 1884 in Ashton. He was baptised on 27 July 1884 at St James Church, Ashton, son of William and Alice nee Weate. His parents married at Stockport St Matthew in 1882.

In the 1891 census Wilfred, aged 7, lived with his parents and three siblings at 28 Keane Street, Ashton. His father, William, was station master. He was not with his family in the 1901 census. They were living at 13 Oldham Road, Waterloo.

Wilfred Hallowell married a widow Mary Ellen Holt nee Quinn on 25 April 1908 at St James' church. In the 1911 census, they were living at 26 Bank Street, Ashton. Wilfred was employed as a 'machine man'. Thomas Holt aged 8, stepson, was living at the same address.

Sgt. Wilfred Hallowell was killed on 4 April 1918, almost ten years after his marriage. He was aged 34 and was buried in the Roye New British Cemetery in the Somme area of France. Grave reference II.AA.18. Son of William and Alice Hallowell and husband of Ellen. Wilfred is also commemorated on the Civic War Memorial, Memorial Gardens, Ashton under Lyne.

**Charles Hancock 1877-1915 Service Number: 5613**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Charles Hancock was born in Droylsden in 1877, son of Ralph Hancock and his wife Grace Sellars. In 1881 Charles was three years old, living with his parents and four siblings at 21 Green Lane, Droylsden. His father was working as a labourer in a cotton mill. By 1891 Ralph Hancock, Charles' father, had died. His mother, Grace was working as a confectioner. Charles was 13 and working as a butcher's assistant. The family lived at 174 Market Street, Droylsden.

Grace Hancock died in 1906.

Charles Hancock married Mary Teresa Molloy in Ashton in 1912. They had a son, Ralph born in 1913.

Private Charles Hancock was killed on 12 October 1915 in Belgium, leaving a widow and small son. He was buried in Gunners Farm Military Cemetery, Belgium, Grave reference D.3, husband of T.Hancock of 41 Bollington Street, Ashton under Lyne. This was the home address of Teresa Hancock's parents. She was living there in the 1921 census with her son, Ralph.

**\*John Healey 1891 – 1917      Service Number: 351761**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd/9th Battalion**



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

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

By the time of the next census in 1911 the family were living at 3 Blucher Street in Waterloo. John was aged 19 and worked as a Roller Turner at Park Bridge Iron Works. His sister Emma was aged 12 and still at school. Their mother worked as a Cotton Weaver.

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

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

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

The battle began at 5.20am on 9 October 1917. Assault troops had struggled for hours through miles of mud before even reaching their start lines, and many were exhausted. It proved impossible to bring up sufficient artillery ammunition to support the advance, and the few gains were quickly lost to German counter-attacks. John was killed by a shell explosion on the first day of the battle. He was 25 years old and the last of his widowed mother's children. He had worked at the Snipe Pit prior to joining up. However, he was a roller turner by trade, having served his apprenticeship at Park Bridge. He was an enthusiastic follower of Waterloo Football Club.

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

**Alvin Hesketh 1884-1918 Service Number: 260720**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Brigade**

Alvin Hesketh was born on 3 June 1884 in Hurst, Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised at St John's Hurst on 6 July 1884, son of Samuel Travis Hesketh and his wife Sarah Ann nee Morgan. His parents had married at St Paul's Stalybridge in 1874.

In the 1891 census Alvin was aged 6 and living with his parents and five siblings at 7 Stanley Street, Hurst. Samuel, Alvin's father, was employed as a coal miner (underground). By 1901 the family had moved to Wood Lane. Alvin (16) was working as a piecer in a cotton mill.

Alvin married Janey Buckley on 9 June 1906 at St John's, Hurst. They had a daughter, Edith, born in 1908. In 1911 Alvin and Jane Hesketh and their daughter, Edith aged 2 were living at 101 Turner Lane, Ashton. Alvin was employed as a minder in a cotton spinning room. Alvin's father-in-law, Forester Buckley, a 50-year-old widower and his brother-in-law, John Buckley (22) were at the same address.

Gunner Alvin Hesketh of the Royal Field Artillery died on 11 June 1918 aged 34. He was at a camp at Overton, Wrexham when he died. He was buried at Hurst Cemetery, Ashton. His wife, Jane died aged 35 on 20 Nov 1918 and she is also buried at Hurst.

**Robert Hesketh 1886- 1916 Service Number: 19742**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Robert Hesketh was born in 1886, son of Charles Henry Hesketh and his wife Sarah Jane nee Clegg. His parents married at St Paul's Stalybridge in 1881.

In the 1891 census Robert, aged 5, lived with his parents and siblings at 137 Fleet Street, Ashton. His father, Charles, was working as a carter. Charles Henry Hesketh died in 1896 when he was only 34, leaving a widow with eight children. In the 1901 census Sarah J. Hesketh, aged 42, is living at 260 Whitelands Rd, Ashton. Her son, Robert, aged 15 was working as a cotton spinner's piecer.

Robert Hesketh married Bertha Kenworthy in 1906 at Christ Church.

Robert's mother, Sarah Jane Hesketh, died of TB on 15 April 1908. Her death was registered by R. Hesketh of 9 Tatton Street.

In 1911 Robert and Bertha Hesketh with a one-year-old son, James, were living at 3 Water Street, Ashton. Robert's younger brother, John (23), was living at the same address. Robert Hesketh (25) stated he has been married for four years and had three children, two of whom had died before 1911. They were Charles Henry born 1907 died 1909 and John born 1908 died 1909. A fourth child, Norman, was born in 1911, presumably after the date the census was taken. Norman also died in infancy in 1913. Robert and Bertha had another son - Robert was born on 8 Oct 1914. James and Robert were with their mother in the 1921 census after Bertha had married again to William Townsend in 1919 at Christ Church.

Private Robert Hesketh died of his wounds on 13 October 1916. He was buried in Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras. Part 1 A-L

**William Hibbert 1882-1915 Service Number: 2932**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Hibbert was born on 5 December 1882 in Dukinfield. He was baptised on 21 Jan 1883, son of John Hibbert, a cotton spinner and his wife Kate nee Cromeskey. His parents married at St Paul's Stalybridge in 1872.

In the 1891 census William was eight years old, with two older siblings, Mary Jane (18) and George Harry (16). Two other siblings, John 1877-78 and Albert 1879-1883 had died in childhood.

William Hibbert married Mary Jane Mannering on 3 Dec 1906 at St Peter's in Ashton. They had two daughters, Clara born 1907 and Annice born 1908. In the 1911 census William and Mary Jane and their two daughters were living at 2 Clay Houses, Dukinfield. William (30) was working as a general labourer.

Private William Hibbert was killed on 20 August 1915 aged 33. He was commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli. Husband of Mary Jane Wall (formerly Hibbert) of 142 Old Street, Ashton under Lyne. Mary Jane Hibbert nee Mannering married Alfred Wall in 1916. They were living at 142 Old Street in the 1921 census.

**\*Percy Higginbottom 1891-1918      Service Number: 171612**

**Regiment & Unit: Royal Garrison Artillery 285th Siege Battery**



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

In 1901 Percy was aged 9, the eldest of five children. His father was a cotton spinner. The family were living at 32 Jersey Street off Alexandra Road, Ashton.

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

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

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

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

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

**Robert Higham 1888-1917 Service Number: 268887**

**Regiment and Unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Robert Higham was born in Ashton in 1888, one of seven children of Henry (Harry) Higham and his wife Mary Ellen nee Smith. His parents married at Christ Church in 1881.

In 1891 Robert was two years old and living with his parents at 182 Currier Lane, Ashton. His father was a general labourer.

By 1901 Robert's mother was a widow with seven children living at 2 Wicket Gate, off Stamford Street. Robert was aged 12 with three older siblings and three younger siblings.

In the 1911 census Robert was still living with his widowed mother and three siblings at 1, Old Cross Street, Ashton. Robert was working as a hawker. He was 21 years old.

Robert Higham married Eliza Ellen Whalley in 1915 in Ashton. Eliza already had a son, William Whalley born 19 June 1912. Robert and Eliza had a son also called Robert, born 13 Dec 1917. Eliza must have been pregnant when her husband died.

Private Robert Higham died on 17 May 1917 at a Military Hospital, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, Shropshire. He was buried on 21 May at Stalybridge St Paul's, husband of Eliza Ellen Wall of 3 Port Street, Stalybridge.

**Harry Hollingworth 1885-1915 Service Number: 4313**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2nd Battalion**

Harry Hollingworth was born on 27 January 1885 in Ashton, son of Joseph Hollingworth, a tin plate worker and his wife Henrietta Yeomans. He was baptised at Christ Church on 19 March 1885. In the 1891 census Harry was aged 6 with three younger siblings living with his parents at 32 King Street, Hurst.

By 1901 Harry (16) was working as a brass finisher and living with his parents and four younger siblings at 32 Lower King Street, Hurst.

Harry Hollingworth married Esther Peake on 3 Nov 1906 at New St George, Stalybridge. By 1911 Harry and Esther had two young children: Joseph was born 22 May 1907 and Hilda was born 7 Feb 1911. They were living at 13 Turner Street, Ashton.

Harry Hollingworth was killed on 21 May 1915. He is buried at the New Irish Farm Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium. Grave reference XXVII.C.1. At the Armistice in 1918 it only contained 73 burials. It was greatly enlarged when over 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields, northeast of Ypres. It is probable that Harry was reburied there.

**Herbert Hopkins 1893-1915 Service Number:1169**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Hopkins was born in 1893, one of eight children born to Thomas Hopkins, a cotton operative from Macclesfield and his wife Martha Ann Bleakley/Blakeley. His parents married in Ashton in 1886.

In the 1901 census, Herbert was aged 7 living with his parents and five siblings at 95 Warrington Street, Ashton. His father, Thomas, was working in a cotton mill as a spinner. By 1911 Herbert (17) was also working in a cotton mill. He was still with his parents and six siblings at 150 Oldham Road, Ashton.

Private Herbert Hopkins was listed in the Ashton Reporter on Christmas Day 1915 as 'missing since June 1915'.

Private Herbert Hopkins was killed "on or since" 19 June 1915. Death presumed. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment had been fighting in Gallipoli since May 1915. Private Herbert Hopkins was listed amongst the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion who landed on 9 May 1915. He was killed just over a month later. Herbert Hopkins was 21 years old. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli, Turkey.

**Thomas Hopkins 1897-1918 Service Number: 137283**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery "D" Battery 113th Brigade**

Thomas Hopkins was the younger brother of Herbert. He was born in 1897, son of Thomas Hopkins and his wife Martha Ann Bleakley/Blakeley. In 1901 Thomas was the youngest child, aged 4 living with his parents at 95 Warrington Street. In 1911 the family had moved to 150 Oldham Road, Ashton. Thomas was aged 14 and working as a piecer in a cotton mill.

Thomas joined the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner. His brother, Herbert, was missing in action in Gallipoli in 1915.

Gunner Thomas Hopkins (21) died of wounds in France on 21 April 1918. He was buried in the Caestre Military Cemetery. Grave reference I.A.I., son of Thomas and Martha Ann Hopkins of Ashton under Lyne.

**\*David Howarth 1880-1916 Service Number #4216**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment. 12th Battalion**



There are inconsistencies which make it hard to be sure we have the correct David Howarth. The most likely is David born February 1880, son of Edward Howarth and Hannah Hodgkins. In 1881 the family were living in Knott Lanes. David was aged 1, born in Bardsley. There were four older siblings: Harriet born in Oldham about 1870, Edward born 1873 Ashton, Sarah Ann born 1876 Ashton and Elizabeth born 1878 in Ashton. By 1891 Edward and Hannah Howarth were living with their children including 11-year-old David at 13 Hill Street Waterloo (now Vale St). Their daughter Harriet had died aged 11 in 1881. They now had another son, William, born about 1885 in Staffordshire. Edward (senior) was employed as a coal miner, probably at Bardsley Pit. Edward (17), Sarah Ann (14), Elizabeth (13), David (11) and William (6) made up the household.

By 1901 they had moved to 2 Napoleon Street off Anglesey Rd. Hannah Howarth was a 58-year-old widow. Her husband Edward had died aged 54 in 1900. David was 21. He and his younger brother William (16) were employed as "marine store dealers and carriers". There is a possible marriage of David Howarth to Margaret Hannah Foster in 1906 at St Michael's but the name of David's father on the marriage certificate is David not Edward.

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

Finally, in the "Effects of Soldiers of the Great War", a gratuity paid against the name of David Howarth's death on 7 July 1916 is to his widow, Annie.

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

An article in the Ashton Reporter of 5 August 1916 reported that Mrs Howarth, 8 Back Gordon Street, Waterloo had received news that her husband, Private David Howarth of the 12<sup>th</sup> Manchester regiment was killed on 6 July 1916. He had worked as a filler at the Copperas Pit in Bardsley. He had been connected with Christ Church School. He left a widow and four young children.

**\*Joseph Howarth 1880-1916 Service Number 41453**  
**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

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

The 1881 census shows Joseph was aged one and living with his father and ten older siblings at 1 Broadoak Road Ashton. George Howarth was still married, but his wife was not living at the same address.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**James Hulley 1885-1921 Service Number: 244437 (buried in the churchyard)  
Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers**

James Hulley was the youngest child of Joshua Williamson Hulley and his wife Sarah Hardman Nuttall. He was born on 22 August 1885 in Ashton and baptised on 1 Nov 1885.

In the 1891 census, James aged 5 was living with his parents and two older siblings, George and Mary, at 5 Orange Street (to the rear of the Prince of Orange pub).

The family were still living there in 1901. James, aged 15, was an apprentice to a signwriter (probably his father Joshua).

James Hulley married Alice Jones in 1908 at St Michael's Parish Church. By 1911 they had a baby son, Henry Williamson Hulley (born 1909 in Ashton). In the census of that year, they were living at 14 Canterbury Street off Henrietta Street. James (25) was working as a signwriter and painter.

James Hulley first joined the Royal Marines Divisional Engineers in Deal, Kent on 30 Jan 1915. He later transferred to the Royal Engineers, service number 244437 and became a Sapper providing technical and combat support to the front-line troops.

James died on 5 July 1921 and is buried in the graveyard at Christ Church, Oldham Road. He is recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website as the son of Joshua and Sarah Hulley and husband of Alice Hulley of 35 Crescent Road, Dukinfield. Alice Hulley was living at 35 Crescent Road in the 1921 census with two children: Sylvia born 1915 and Frank born 1918. Her marital status was still 'married' and the children's parents are noted as 'both alive'. The first born of James and Alice, Henry Williamson Hulley died aged 4 in 1914. The address at the time was 20 Old Street, Ashton under Lyne.

In the 1921 census James Hulley was an inmate at the Cheshire Lunatic Asylum, Parkside, Macclesfield. He was aged 35 and married. His birthplace was unknown but his occupation was 'former signwriter'.

**John Hulme 1896-1917 Service Number: 351820**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Hulme was born in Ashton on 8 October 1896. He was baptised on 4 April 1897 at St Michael's Parish Church, son of William Hulme and his wife Maria Ann Lee. His parents married at St Peter's on 18 April 1896.

In the 1901 census William and Maria Ann with three sons, John (4), William (2) and Harry (2 months) were living with Maria's mother at 37 Turner Street, Ashton. William Hulme was a railway labourer.

By 1911 John Hulme was 14 and working as a cotton spinner. His father states he has been married for 15 years and had eight children but two had died before 1911. The family were still living at 37 Turner Street.

John joined the Manchester Regiment. His Army records no longer exist, so we do not know when he attested. John had just passed his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday when he was killed in action in Belgium on 9 October 1917. His mother Maria is listed on the register of Soldier's Effects. John Hulme is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, the main Ashton under Lyne Memorial as well as the Christ Church Memorial.

William and Maria Ann Hulme, with four children, were still living at 37 Turner Street in the 1921 census.

**\*John William Hulme 1897 – 1917      Service Number: 352452**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9 Battalion**



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

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

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

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

commanding officer announcing his death and which described him as a sturdy and fearless soldier.

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

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

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

**\*Harry Hulse 1900-1918 Service Number: 44082**

**Regiment and Unit: East Surrey Regiment 2/23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion**



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

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

Harry's Service Record shows he joined the Army (attested) on 11 October 1917, at the age of 17 years 11 months. Harry was 5 feet 3 1/2 inches tall which was below the average height of 5 feet 6 inches. He had a fresh complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes. On 12 October Harry was posted to the 72nd Training Reserve Battalion. He was mobilized on 5 November 1917 and posted to the Liverpool Regiment. Over the next 8 months Harry was transferred at least 3 times. Part of the document is damaged and therefore not possible to read all of Harry's postings, however his Medal Index Card shows that he served with the East Surrey Regiment and the 2nd/23rd London Regiment.

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

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

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

**William Humphreys 1883-1918 Service Number: 183760**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Garrison Artillery**

William Humphreys was born on 15 March 1883 in Chester. He was baptised on 22 April 1883 at St Paul's Boughton, Chester, son of Walter and Sarah.

By the time of the 1891 census, when William was eight years old, the family had moved to Ashton. Walter Humphreys, a bricklayer and his wife, Sarah were living at 99 Minto Street, Ashton with five children. William is listed as 'Willie' aged 8 with three older siblings and a younger sister, Alice aged 5.

In 1901 the family had moved to 76 Cranbrook Street, Ashton. William, now 18, was working as a stonemason.

William Humphreys married Mary Ann Dyson at St James, Ashton on 21 July 1906. In the 1911 census William and Mary Ann and their small daughter, Sarah Ann, born 17 June 1908, were living at 19 Ormonde Street, Hurst with Mary Ann's widowed father, Joseph Dyson.

Gunner William Humphreys died of wounds in France on 27 September 1918. He was buried in the Saulcourt Churchyard extension, Guyencourt-Saulcourt, Somme.

There is also a memorial pillar to William Humphreys in the Hurst Cemetery in Ashton.

**Lees Hyde 1887-1917 Service Number: 62178**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Flying Corps.**

Lees Hyde was born on 7 May 1887 in Ashton. He was baptised on 19 Jun 1887 at St Michael's parish church, son of Lees Hyde and Ann Winstanley nee Garforth. His parents married in 1876 at St Michael's.

Lees Hyde, senior died in 1890 at 1 Cowhill Lane. In the 1891 census Lees aged 3 is living with his widowed mother at 2 Cowhill Lane. Ann Hyde was employed as a farmer and carrier. By 1901 Ann and her 13-year-old son, Lees were still at the same address. Ann was now a general carrier for cotton mills. They had a servant living at the same address. In the 1911 census Lees (23) was working as a bank clerk, still living with his mother at 2 Cowhill Lane, Ashton.

Lees Hyde married Helen Halliwell on 8 April 1912 at Trinity Wesleyan Methodist church on Manchester Road, Droylsden. They had a daughter Kathleen Helen born 1915 who died as a baby. She was buried in Christ Church graveyard.

Lees became an air mechanic with the Royal Flying Corps. He was killed on 8th December 1917 in Salisbury. He was buried in Droylsden Cemetery on 13 December 1917 where his wife Helen had lived.

An article in the Manchester Evening News of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1917 gives an account of the death of 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Mechanic Lees Hyde.

**ASHTON MAN KILLED BY AEROPLANE**

The funeral took place at Droylsden this afternoon of A.M. Lees Hyde of 'Hillcrest' Oldham Road whose death took place on Salisbury Plain as a result of an aeroplane accident. Deceased, who was thirty years of age, was an accountant at Parrs Bank, Manchester. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, whilst working in a bell tent, an aeroplane crashed on the tent, killing one man and injuring three others.

**Harry Illingworth 1891-1915 Service Number: 469****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harry Illingworth was born Harry Simmons in 1891 in Hunslet, Leeds. In the 1891 census he was living with his mother, Elizabeth Simmons in the household of John Barraclough Illingworth and his wife Sarah Jane Storr. He was aged 3 months.

By 1901 John and Sarah Illingworth and their children were living at 11 Crawford Terrace, Ashton under Lyne. Harry aged 10 (now with the surname Illingworth) is listed as nephew of John Illingworth. In the 1911 census John Barraclough Illingworth was a widower living with two daughters and his nephew, Harry at 11 Crawford Terrace. Harry Illingworth aged 20 was employed as an apprentice fitter.

An article in the Ashton Reporter quotes from a letter written by Sgt Harry Stringer to Mr James Crowther of Woodleigh, Oldham Road, Ashton to tell him that his brother-in-law Sgt Harry Illingworth was killed in the Dardanelles on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He was hit in the head by a shrapnel shell whilst superintending the arrival of ammunition and died instantly. He was just 23 years old. He had been employed in the mechanical department of Messrs Summers and Sons of Stalybridge. Harry was educated at Ashton Parish Church School and Ashton Secondary School. He was the secretary of the Church Institute.

Sergeant Harry Illingworth of the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment was one of the many casualties at Gallipoli. He was killed on 5 June 1915 and was buried in the Redoubt Cemetery, Helles, Turkey. Grave reference IX.A.2

**\*James William Ireson 1882-1916 Service Number 54994**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Charles Jackson 1888-1918      Service Number: 130553**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps**

Charles Jackson was born about 1888 in Preston, son of Thomas Jackson, a mason's labourer and his wife Elizabeth nee Coupe. In 1891 Charles (3) lived with his parents and two siblings, Margaret Ellen (11) and Joseph (1) in Preston.

In 1901 Charles lived at 53 Albert Street in Preston with his mother, Elizabeth. Charles, aged 13, was working as a cotton operative.

He married Emma Addy in 1908 in Salford.

By 1911 Charles (23) and Emma (22) were living at 20 Cryer Street, Littlemoss with a one-year-old child, Margaret Ellen.

Private Charles Jackson #130553 Machine Gun Corps enlisted in Ashton.

Charles died on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 in France. He died of wounds. Formerly 36571 Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Charles's war record shows that he and Emma had four children: Margaret Ellen born 23 Dec 1909, Elizabeth born 17 Dec 1911, Alice born 3 Oct 1914, and Lucy born 29 Mar 1917.

In 1921 his widow Emma was living on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss with three daughters, Margaret, Alice and Lucy and a two-month-old Joseph. The record shows 'Father Dead' for the three girls but 'father alive' for the baby son. Charles Jackson's name is also on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**Harry Johnson 1896-1917 Service Number: 351333**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion "A" Company**

Harry Johnson was born on 25 March 1896 in Ashton. He was baptised on 3 May 1896 at Christ Church, son of Edwin Johnson and his wife Sarah Ann Smith. His parents were married in Ashton in 1895. Harry was the eldest of eight children, two of whom died young.

In the 1901 census, Harry was five years old and lived with his parents and three siblings at 21 Newman Street, Ashton. His father, Edwin, was employed as a cotton spinner.

The family were still living at 21 Newman Street in 1911. Harry (14) was working as a cotton piecer. His younger brother, Ernest (13) was employed as an errand boy and the rest of his siblings were at school.

Harry Johnson joined the Manchester Regiment and was assigned to 'A' Company of the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. This battalion was formed at the Armoury in Ashton in 1914. They landed in France in February 1917. Harry Johnson was killed on 9 October 1917 aged 21. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. His parents, Edwin and Sarah Ann Johnson of 80 Oldham Road are recorded.

**\*William Johnson 1887-1917 Service Number:8104**

**Regiment and Unit: King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

William Johnson is commemorated on both the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial and the memorial at Christ Church. Yet, when researching the former, we were unable to find a likely William Johnson living in or around Waterloo.

Now we have tracked him down, thanks to Tameside Local Studies Library, as he was mentioned in a newspaper article about the death of his brother-in-law Harold Thornley, also commemorated on both memorials. Both men were killed around the same time in October 1917.

William was born on 16 January 1887 and was baptised on 2 March 1887 at St Luke's, Miles Platting. His parents Peter Johnson and Mary Ann Whalley had both been married before. Peter Johnson, a widower married Mary Ann Rushton, widow, daughter of James Whaley or Whalley on 21 Feb 1886 at St Philip's, Gorton, Manchester. Mary Ann Rushton had at least four children before she married Peter Johnson. One of those children was Margaret Ellen Rushton (1877-1918) who married Harold Thornley (1881-1917) in 1903. Whilst researching Harold's death, I had wondered why he was commemorated on the memorials when his last known address was Fairhaven St West Gorton. However, his obituary in the Ashton Reporter mentions his wife, Mrs H. Thornley, of 6 Bishop Street, Waterloo who received news of the deaths of her husband and her brother at around the same time. William was actually Mrs Thornley's half-brother, having the same mother but different fathers. Two other Rushton siblings also lived in Waterloo: Thomas Rushton on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss and Martha Ann on Downing Street.

William Johnson was aged 4 in the 1891 census living with his parents at 1 Lower Vickers Street, Miles Platting. His father was a packer in a factory. William had two older siblings: James Henry and Peter. His younger siblings were Richard, Florence, and Alfred. There were four Rushton half siblings in the same household: Thomas, Martha Ann, John and Margaret Ellen. They are recorded as nieces and nephews of Peter Johnson, even though he was their step-father. James Whalley, Mary Ann's brother, was a boarder in what must have been a rather crowded household. William's father, Peter Johnson, died in 1898.

In the 1901 census Mary Ann Johnson (49) a widow was living at 4 Acland Street, Ardwick with five children: Maggie Johnson (actually Margaret Ellen Rushton) aged 23, Peter (19) working as a pit boy, William (Willie) aged 14 working as a cart boy, Florence (Florrie) aged 12 and Alfred aged 10.

By 1911, some of William's siblings had left home. William aged 24 was living with his widowed mother and two younger siblings, Florence (21) and Alfred (20) at 19 Gilmour St Ardwick, William was working as a 'drainer' for Manchester Corporation.

William Johnson married Margaret Elizabeth Roberts nee Checketts in the summer of 1916 at Chorlton on Medlock Registry Office.

William's attestation records have not survived, so we do not know when he joined the Army. At his death he was in the First Battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment with the service number 8104. William was killed on 12 October 1917. He has no known burial place, but he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial Panels 18 and 19. The CWGC site records his death aged 31, son of Mrs Mary Ann Johnson of 9 Bellew Street, Ardwick and husband of Margaret Elizabeth Johnson of 35 Napier Street, Ardwick.

His widow Margaret Elizabeth Johnson was living with her brother, Joseph Checketts in the 1921 census at 35 Napier Street. She had two children with her: Florence Roberts born 1915 from her first marriage and William Alfred Johnson, son of William, born 1917.

### **Aaron Jones 1897- 1915 Service Number: 3291**

#### **Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Aaron Jones was born in 1897 in Ashton, son of William Jones and Sarah Shaw. His parents married in 1897 although his father had been married before.

In 1911 Aaron was 13 living with his widowed mother, Sarah Hannah Jones, on Jermyn Street, Ashton. He had a half-sister Alice (21) and two younger sisters, Mary Ellen (11) and Lizzie (9).

Private Aaron Jones joined the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He enlisted in Ashton at the Armoury.

The 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked for the Dardanelles in early 1915. In November 1915, disease, sickness and heavy rain which turned to frost and snow blizzards took their toll. On 23 November there was heavy shelling from the Turkish trenches. Private Aaron Jones lost his life on that day. The Stalybridge Reporter of 25 December 1915 mentions that Private Aaron Jones of 34 Jermyn Street, Ashton was killed in action in the Dardanelles aged 18.

Aaron Jones was buried in the Azmak Cemetery, Gallipoli. Grave reference II.B.2.

**Joseph Jones 1878-1917 Service Number: 13589**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 'C' Battery 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

Joseph Jones was born in 1878, son of John Jones and Ruth Kidd. In 1881 he lived with his parents at 5 Church Street, Ashton. Joseph was their youngest child, aged 2. He had three older sisters, Sarah Hannah (11), Clara (9) and Ruth (4). In 1891, the family lived at 33 Fleet Street, Ashton. Joseph was 12 and lived with his parents and three siblings, Clara (19), Ruth (15), and George Harry (9).

By 1901 Joseph was aged 22 and working as a cotton spinner. He was still single and lived with his parents and younger brother, George Harry at 113, Church Street.

Joseph Jones of 32 Tatton Street, Ashton under Lyne enlisted on 21 Aug 1903. He died of wounds on 22 August 1917 and was buried in the Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave reference IV.G.11.

His pension ledger card mentions his sister Sarah Hannah Howard nee Jones of 113 Church Street, Ashton and a brother George A Jones, actually George Harry Jones born 1881.

**John Jubb 1896-1915 Service Number: 1829**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John William Jubb was born in Dukinfield in 1896 and baptised at St Mark's Dukinfield on 30 March 1896, son of Thomas Henry Jubb, an iron turner and his wife Annie Cowsill. His parents had married on 20 July 1895 at St John's Dukinfield.

In 1901 John was aged 5 and living with his parents at 45 Mary Street, Dukinfield. He was their only child. By 1911 the family had moved just along the street to 19 Mary Street. John had two younger sisters, Annie and Ada.

Private John William Jubb of "A" Company, 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Manchester Regiment was killed in action on 16 December 1915 at Gallipoli aged 19. He was buried in the Azmak Cemetery at Sulva, Turkey. Grave reference II.B/24.

*The Reporter* of 15 January 1916 gave an account of John Jubb's death. A letter sent by his commanding officer to his mother tells of his death 'early this morning (16 December) whilst in the discharge of his duty in the forward firing trench.' Death was instantaneous as he received a bullet wound to his head.

The account quotes from the last letter Private John Jubb sent to his parents in October 1915. He had just been wounded and says '*out of the 16 lads I left Bury with, only two are left on the peninsula. The others are wounded, sick or killed.*'

**Herbert Judson 1890-1915 Service Number: 15449**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Lancaster Regiment 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Judson was born on 15 Sept 1890 in Ashton and baptised at St Ann's R.C. church on 26 Oct 1890, son of William Henry Judson and his wife Margaret nee Liston. His parents married in Ashton in 1870.

In the 1891 census Herbert was just six months old, living with his parents and four older siblings at 56 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. His father, William Henry, was a brush maker.

The family were still at the same address in 1901. Herbert was a 10-year-old schoolboy, the youngest of four children. Herbert's father was still employed as a brush maker.

Herbert's mother Margaret died in 1906. In the 1911 census, William Henry Judson was a widower aged 62 with four adult children at the same address. Herbert was 20 years old and employed as an iron moulder.

Lance Corporal Herbert Judson of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Lancaster Regiment was killed in France on 11 December 1915 aged 25. He was buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery Part III. Grave reference VIII.C.66.

**John Kenworthy 1893-1916 Service Number: 20112**

**Regiment and Unit: Kings Own Scottish Borderers**

John Kenworthy was born in Dukinfield on 30 September 1893, the son of Edwin and Kate Kenworthy nee Walker. His parents married at Stalybridge St Paul in 1889. John was baptised at Dukinfield St John's on 7 January 1894.

In 1901 John aged 7 was living with his parents at 48 Tame Street, Stalybridge. There were two other siblings, James Kenworthy (11) and Mary Hoyle Kenworthy (2)

By 1911 John lived with his father Edwyn (Edwin) and his brother James at 6, Cartwright Buildings in Stalybridge. He was aged 17 and working as a cotton piecer.

His pension records give his Regiment and Service Number and record that he was reported missing, presumed dead. His father Edwin was the recipient of the war gratuity money.

An article in the Reporter of August 19, 1916, says that the War Office had been in touch with Mrs Ogden of 2 Cartwrights Buildings, Stalybridge regarding her nephew, Private John Kenworthy, K.O.S.B. attached to the Cameron Scottish Rifles who was reported missing on 20 July 1916. Private Kenworthy had resided with Mrs Ogden until he joined up in 1915. After training in Scotland, he went out to the Dardanelles. He was wounded in the thigh and sent to Egypt. He was later transferred to France. John was aged 22 and had worked as a piecer in the spinning department at Chadwick's Mill, Tame Valley. It is not clear why John is recorded on the Christ Church Memorial.

**Joseph Kenworthy 1891-1918 Service Number: 142935**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 9<sup>th</sup> Depot Company 66<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Joseph Kenworthy was born on 27 October 1891 in Ashton, son of John Kenworthy, a collier and his wife Annie Cummings. He was baptised on 27 November 1891 at Christ Church. . His parents had married in 1881 in Ashton.

In the 1901 census Joseph was aged 9 living with his parents and nine siblings at 10 Water Street. His father, John, was working as a coal miner, underground.

By 1911 the family had moved to 21 Delamere Street North, Ashton. Joseph was 19 years old and working as an engineer in a coal mine. Six of his siblings were still living at home. John Kenworthy states he has had eleven children in total, but one child had died in infancy.

Joseph Kenworthy married Mary Ann Schofield at Christ Church in 1912.

Joseph and Mary Ann had a son, Frank born in 1915 in Ashton. By 1921 Mary Ann Kenworthy, aged 25, a widow was living with six-year-old Frank at 39 York Street, Ashton.

The CWGC website records the death of Private Joseph Kenworthy aged 26 on 22 August 1918. He died at 46<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital, Etaples. He was buried at the Military Cemetery at Etaples, France. Grave Reference LXVII.G.16. Husband of Margaret (sic) Kenworthy of 39 York Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Herbert C. Kerr 1897-1915 Service Number: 155344**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Garrison Artillery 16<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery**

Herbert Catterall Kerr was born in Ashton in 1897, son of Joseph Alfred Kerr and his wife Elizabeth nee Catterall. His parents had married at Prescot St Helen's Lancashire on 11 Dec 1874.

In the 1901 census Elizabeth Kerr aged 42 was head of the household. It would seem that her husband was away at sea. Herbert was just four years old, with four older siblings. They were living at 56 Burlington Street, Ashton.

By 1911 Herbert was employed as a railway agent's clerk. He was aged 14 living with an older sister, Margaret Ann (20) and his mother, Elizabeth at 56 Burlington Street.

Herbert Catterall Kerr became a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was with the 16<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery which fought on the Western Front. Herbert was reported wounded and missing between 9 April and 5 May 1915. He may have been taken prisoner.

Herbert Catterall Kerr was buried in the Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, France.

**Arthur Kershaw 1898-1918 Service Number: 50403**

**Regiment and Unit: Prince of Wales' Volunteers (South Lancs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. "D" Company**

Arthur Kershaw was born in July 1898 in Ashton, son of Ferdinand Kershaw, a cotton spinner, and his wife Mary Ann Speakman. His parents had married in 1892 at St Michael's in Ashton. In the 1901 census Arthur was aged 2 living with his parents and older brother, Ferdinand, aged 5 at 62 Minto Street, Ashton.

By 1911 Arthur aged 12 was still at school. Both his father and older brother, Ferdinand worked in the cotton mill. There was a younger brother, Willie aged 8. All living at 62 Minto Street.

Private Arthur Kershaw was killed in action on 10 April 1918. He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panels 6 & 7 in Belgium.

**Ferdinand Kershaw 1896-1916 Service Number:23055**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Scots 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion "A" Company**

Ferdinand Kershaw was Arthur Kershaw's older brother. He was born in Ashton on 18 March 1896. He was baptised at the Primitive Methodist chapel, Katherine Street, Ashton under Lyne on 5 July 1896. The family lived on Minto Street near to Christ Church.

Ferdinand appears in the 1901 census aged 5 living with his parents and two-year-old brother, Arthur. By 1911, Ferdinand aged 15 was working as a piecer in a cotton mill. There were two cotton mills very close to his home: the Atlas Mill and the Rock Mill.

Ferdinand enlisted on 31 May 1915 and joined the Royal Scots, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. His Army records have survived although they are badly damaged. From the records we can see he was 'home' between the end of May 1915 until 4 Oct 1915. He then joined the Expeditionary Force to France until 8 March 1916. He was 'home' again from 9<sup>th</sup> March until 31 August 1916. He returned to France on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1916. He died of wounds at the 45<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, France on 13 Oct 1916.

Private Ferdinand Kershaw was buried in the Contalmaison Chateau Cemetery. Grave reference I.B.7.

The Stalybridge Reporter 4/11/1916 contained a notice from Mr and Mrs F. Kershaw of 62 Minto Street thanking all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy in their great loss.

Ferdinand was engaged to a woman called Gerty. She placed an in-memoriam piece in the Reporter newspaper.

His father, Ferdinand Kershaw received his son's war medals- the British War Medal and the Victory Medal in May 1922. By then, he and his wife Mary Ann had lost two sons in the War.

**John W. Kibble 1891-1916 Service Number: 4087**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion.**

John William Kibble was born in 1891 in Oakengates, Wellington, Shropshire. He appears in the 1891 census when just a few months old, as “grandson” of Thomas Kibble, a labourer living in Wombridge, Shropshire. However, I think John was actually with his parents, Thomas and Maria Kibble, both in their 40s. Thomas Kibble had married Maria Proudler in Shifnal in 1866. His father, Thomas died in 1895 in Shifnal.

By 1901 John William Kibble was aged 10 and living with his mother, Maria Kibble, aged 57, a widow, working as a charwoman. They were living at Stafford Road, Wombridge.

By 1911 John W. Kibble was living in Stalybridge. He is on the census for 12, Ashton Place, Tame Street. He was aged 20 and the nephew of Mary Ann Kibble, a 44-year-old widow. His mother, Maria was still living in Wombridge.

John W Kibble married Elizabeth Corcoran in 1913 in Ashton.

John Kibble enlisted in Ashton and joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 4087. Lance-Sergeant John W. Kibble was killed on 7 July 1916 in Flanders. His pension ledger card names his widow, Elizabeth, who was living on Boodle Street, Ashton. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial as well as Christ Church Memorial.

**James King 1894-1918 Service Number: 28947**

### **Regiment and Unit: Border Regiment 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James King was born in Ashton in 1884, son of James King, an iron moulder, and his wife, Alice Slater. His parents had married on 28 November 1891 at St Michael's, Ashton.

In the 1901 census, James was 7 years old, living with his parents and two sisters, Elizabeth (9) and Margaret Ann (5). The family were living at 34 Delamere Street North.

They were still at the same address in 1911. James, now 17, was working as a clog iron maker. His two sisters were still living at home; they worked in a cotton mill.

James King married Elizabeth Martin in 1914 at Christ Church, Ashton. In 1921 Elizabeth King, nee Martin, a 28-year-old widow was living with her parents-in-law James and Alice King at 114 Oldham Road, Waterloo. She had two children with her: Elizabeth Alice aged 7 and Edith aged 5.

Private James King of the Border Regiment died of wounds on 7 June 1918 aged 24. He was buried at Berles New Military Cemetery, Grave reference III.B.4, son of James and Alice King and husband of Elizabeth King, 114 Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne.

**\*George William Lawton 1890 – 1917 Service Number: L/34375**

**Regiment & Unit: Royal Field Artillery “A” Battery 107th Brigade**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **\*Harold Lawton 1888-1916 Service Number 39916**

### **Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 10th Battalion**

Harold Lawton was born in 1888 in Uppermill, Saddleworth. He was the older brother of George William Lawton, both were sons of Herbert Lawton and his first wife, Martha Gould. Herbert's mother Mary Lawton nee Gould died in 1891. In 1891, Harold aged 3 was living with John Nield, a widower and his 28-year-old daughter Martha Ann at 9 Mill Street Mossley. He was described in the census of 1891 as nephew of John Nield. Ten years earlier, Harold's mother Mary Gould, aged 19 had been a lodger with John Nield and his wife Dorothy. Herbert Lawton married a widow Martha Parker/Jackson in 1899 at Christ Church, Waterloo.

By 1901 Harold aged 13 was living with his father, Herbert and his second wife Martha at 18 Taunton Road. Herbert Lawton died in November 1901 and was buried at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne.

In 1911 Harold and his brother George William were living with their widowed stepmother, Martha Lawton, at 124 Taunton Road. Harold was employed as a pawnbroker's assistant to Councillor J Stopford of Waterloo, pawn broker and draper.

Harold joined the army on 10 April 1915 and sent to France early July. He was a Private in the 10th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. His brother George had enlisted first saying that he was the stronger of the two, and his brother Harold would be able to look after their widowed mother. Harold was reported missing on 2 November 1916. An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says, "*On enquiring from his trench chum, who is now lying in hospital in Nantwich, it is believed that Harold met his death whilst carrying rations to the trenches but owing to the heavy shelling by the enemy they lost sight of each other.*" The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website records Harold's death date as 5 Nov 1916 at Geudecourt, Dept de la Somme. He is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial. His pension record card shows his next of kin as Martha Lawton, his stepmother.

**Matthew Lax 1889-1917 Service Number: 19164**

**Regiment and Unit: Prince of Wales Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Matthew Lax was born on 16 Aug 1889 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 9 Sept 1889 at St Ann's RC Church, son of Mark Lax and his wife Elizabeth nee Smith. In the 1891 census Matthew was aged one and was living with his parents and four older siblings at 6 Gosford Street, Ashton. His father was working as a coal miner. By 1901 the family had moved to Waterloo and lived at 2 Gordon Street. Mark Lax, Matthew's father, was a labourer. Another child, Ada aged 2 had been added to the family. In the 1911 census Matthew was a boarder with the Finch family at 17 George Street, Dukinfield.

Matthew married Mary Ann Richardson on June 12, 1911, in Ashton. The couple moved to Sheffield and that was where Matthew Lax enlisted on 26 August 1914. He was discharged only a few months later as he considered to be medically unfit. He was originally assigned to the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment with service number 11141.

He must have joined up again at a later date as his service number was 19164 and he was in the Prince of Wales Own (W. Yorkshire) Regiment. He had three children: Alice born in Ashton in 1911, Ernest born 1913 in Chesterfield and Ivy born 1915 in Sheffield.

Private Matthew Lax was killed in action on 9 October 1917. He was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

**Frederick Leary 1895-1917 Service Number: 30075**

**Regiment and Unit: Border Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Frederick Leary was born in July 1895 in Oldham, son of John Hobson Leary and his wife Mary Williamson. He was five years old in the 1901 census, living with his parents and five siblings at 15 Villa Road, Oldham. His father worked on the railways as a signalman. Frederick's parents married at Oldham St Paul's on 26 Aug 1893.

By 1911 the family had moved to Ashton and lived at 2 Robinson Street. John Hobson Leary was still a railway signalman. Frederick was 16 and working as a spinner's piecer in a cotton mill. He had four siblings still living at home. His eldest brother, John Willie (20) was married.

Frederick enlisted on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1915 when he was 20 years old. He originally joined the Lancashire Fusiliers with a service number 22858. He later transferred to the Border Regiment. Private Frederick Leary was killed in action on 26 October 1917. He has no known burial place, but he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, panels 85/86.

**Thomas Leary 1897-1917 Service Number: 23662**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Thomas Leary was Frederick Leary's younger brother. They died within a few months of each other in 1917. Thomas was born in Bardsley in 1897.

In 1901 Thomas was aged three living at 15 Villa Rd Oldham with his parents and five siblings. By 1911 Thomas (13) was working as a cutter in an iron foundry. He was living at 2 Robinson St Ashton.

Thomas Leary joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He died of wounds on 31 July 1917 just a few months before his brother, Frederick. He was buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium. Grave Reference II.B.15.

**Er Lee 1891-1918 Service Number: 34298**

### **Regiment and Unit: Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery 181<sup>st</sup> Brigade**

Er Lee was born in the middle months of 1891 in Ashton, son of William Lee and Elizabeth Ann Naylor. His parents married on 23 Jan 1889 in Bakewell. His father died in 1899 aged 41. He had been employed as a pawnbroker's assistant.

In 1901 Er was aged 9 living with his widowed mother, an older brother, Harold (11) and a younger brother, Henry (7) at 148 Portland Street. His mother kept a boarding house. By 1911 Elizabeth A Lee and two of her sons, Harold (21) and Er (19) were sharing a house with another family at 136 Katherine Street, Ashton. Er was working as a grocer's assistant.

Er Lee enlisted at Ashton Town Hall on 12 July 1915 aged 24. His Army records have survived so we know he was 5' 8" tall, had a chest size 36ins and weighed 133lbs. He joined the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner. He was posted to France on 5 June 1916.

Gunner Lee was killed in action in Belgium on 31 Oct 1918. He is buried in the Vichte Military Cemetery.

\*Walter Leech 1894-1917      Service Number 350869

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion "A" company**



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

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

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

Walter was with the "A" Company when the battalion went to the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) in 1915. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of

1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. Dysentery sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula. Records show that Walter suffered from dysentery during this time.

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

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

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

**\*Henry Lewis 1897-1915 Service Number 1853**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



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

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

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

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

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

Henry enlisted at Ashton 19 February 1914. He joined the Ashton Territorials and was given the service number 1853. Henry's Service Record contains very little information,

but his medical assessment shows he was 5 feet 6 inches tall, which was average for the time. He had a chest measurement of 33 inches and good vision.

In August 1914, the Territorials were mobilised, and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. Henry is listed as a member of B Company. Henry landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. 'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days' (ashtonpals.webs.com)

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

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

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

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

**\*Arthur Littlewood 1876-1915 Service Number 18995**

**Regiment and Unit: East Lancashire Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Arthur Littlewood was born in Hathersage, Derbyshire between January and March 1876. He was christened at St Michael's, Hathersage on 16 April 1876. His parents were John Littlewood and Louisa Nuttall. They were married in Hathersage on 22 August 1875. Arthur came from a large family. His older brother George was born in 1875. He also had nine younger siblings, Wilfred born in 1879, Harry born in 1881, Mary Ann born in 1883, Jessie born in 1885, John Richard born in 1888, Maurice born in 1890, Cecilia born in 1893, Frances born in 1897 and Elsie born in 1899. Arthur was 5 years old at the time of the census in 1881. He lived with his parents and three brothers in the village of Hathersage, Derbyshire. Arthur's father worked as a labourer for a stonemason. By the time of the next census in 1891, Arthur was 15 years old and worked as a Groom. His father was a Stonemason. The family lived at 89 Bean Row in Hathersage.

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

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

An article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* states that Arthur enlisted 17 February 1915. He chose to join the 1st Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment and was with 'D' Company. Arthur was given the service number 18995. He landed in Western Europe on 7th July 1915. Arthur died of wounds just over a month later, on 22 August 1915, probably at the 4th Casualty Clearing Station which was at Beauval from June 1915 to October 1916. The article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* reads "*Mrs Littlewood who resides in Mary Street, Taunton, received a communication on Thursday from a soldier friend of her husband that he had died as the result of wounds. Private Arthur Littlewood was well known in the district, having worked for several farmers. He enlisted on February 17<sup>th</sup> in an East Lancashire line regiment and was sent to France from Plymouth 6 weeks ago. He was on outpost duty when he was shot by a sniper and died the day after. Much sympathy has been extended to Mrs Littlewood as she is left with six little children, the eldest being only 12 years of age*". Arthur is buried at Beauval Communal Cemetery, Somme in France. Grave reference C.7. His wife chose the inscription '*Ever remembered by his loving wife Annie*' for his headstone.

**\*James Lomas 1887-1917 Service Number: 28951 (Oldham Road)  
Regiment and Unit: Border Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Lomas was born on 20 March 1887 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 1 May 1887 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton, son of Robert John Lomas and his wife Caroline Hulme. His parents had married in 1879 at Christ Church, Ashton. James had seven siblings altogether but two had died before 1911. In 1891 James, aged four, was living with his parents in the home of his paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Ann Lomas, a 66-year-old widow at 73 Oldham Road, Waterloo. James' father, Robert John Lomas, was a coal miner. By 1901 Robert and Caroline were still living at 73 Oldham Road with six children. James was aged 14 and employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was a hazardous occupation, involving tying broken threads by leaning over moving machinery.

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

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

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

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

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

**James Lomas (Wellington Street) 1881-1918 Service Number: 33834**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps**

James Lomas was born on 19 Sept 1881, the son of William Lomas and Harriet Thompson. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1879. James was baptised at Christ Church on 30 October 1881.

In the 1891 census William Lomas (31) was employed as a hatter. He and his wife had six children with them. James (9) was next to the eldest. The family lived at 33 Church Street, Ashton under Lyne. By 1901 the family had moved to 31 Mill Lane, Ashton. James' father was now working as a beer and wine retailer. James (19) was working as a hewer in a coal mine.

James married Sarah Ann Dunstan in 1904. In 1911 James and Sarah Ann were living at 132 Church Street, Ashton. James was employed as a Turf Commission Agent's clerk. They had four children: Annie (6), William Henry (5), James (3) and Harriet (2).

James Lomas was taken ill and hospitalised at Weaste Hospital in Salford. He died there on 9 July 1918. He is buried in Hurst Cemetery, Ashton under Lyne. In the 1921 census his widow, Sarah Ann was living at 49 Wellington Street, Ashton with seven children ranging in age from 2 to 16.

**Fred Lord 1893-1918 Service Number: 146139**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 12<sup>th</sup> Field Company**

Fred Lord was born in Ashton in 1893, son of Tom Lord and his wife Emily Belcher. His parents had married in Ashton in 1880.

In 1901 Fred was aged 7, living at 65 Boodle Street, Ashton with his widowed father, Tom Lord, a carpenter and joiner, and four siblings. In the 1911 census Fred (17) was working as an apprentice joiner and living at 65 Boodle Street with his father, two brothers and two sisters.

Fred Lord was killed in action on 21 March 1918. He has no known grave; he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. His name is also on the main Ashton Civic Memorial.

**\*Albert Lydiate 1888-1918    Service Number: 123234**

**Regiment and Unit: Veterinary Corps**



Albert Lydiate was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1888 and was the seventh child of George Lydiate and his wife, Elizabeth, nee Makin. His parents were married at St Mary's, Stockport on 30 Apr 1876. George & Elizabeth had nine children all together. The 1891 census shows the family living at 70 Granville Street in Ashton. Albert was aged 2. His father worked in a local cotton mill as a self-acting moulder and his older siblings John & Hannah also worked in the cotton mill. By the time Albert was 12, the family had moved to Corra Street in Dukinfield. Albert worked half time in the cotton mill with his older siblings. The family were still living on Corra Street in 1911. Albert and his siblings still worked in the cotton mill and their father worked as a night watchman.

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

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

of their service. Albert died on 23 November 1918, 12 days after the Armistice. He was 30 years old.

An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says Albert had served in France before being sent to Italy "*He was admitted to hospital last March, and after undergoing several operations for a neck wound was finally sent to this country, and died in Notts. County War Hospital on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from congestion of the lungs. At one time he was a well-known member of the Oldham Police Force and Fire Brigade. Two other brothers have also served, one having made the supreme sacrifice, Lance-Corporal Harold Lydiate, and the other, Private Herbert Lydiate having been discharged. The deceased leaves a widow and one child. The funeral was attended by military honours*".

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

**\*Frank Mahon 1894 – 1916      Service Number: 4555**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 11th Battalion**



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

Frank was aged 6 when the census was taken in 1901. He and his family were living at 36 Nook Lane in Hurst. His father worked in the cotton mill as did his older sisters. By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to 50 Nook Lane. Frank was 17 years old. He and his brother John worked as sweet packers for the Thomas Kerfoot pharmaceuticals factory in Bardsley. Their father James wasn't working. James and Elizabeth's grandchild was living with them. The family took in a boarder to help pay the rent. Prior to enlistment, Frank was well known in local football circles, playing for Waterloo United.

Frank enlisted in September 1914 and was one of the first from Kerfoot's to volunteer. Frank joined the 11th Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 4555. He entered the war at Gallipoli in November 1915. His first few weeks were particularly hard. The war diary for the 11th Battalion records on 7th November they were moved to dugouts on the beach below the Karakol Gap, then returned to Corps reserve on West Beach where the battalion was engaged in general fatigues on the beach. A violent

thunderstorm broke over the peninsula on 26th November 1915 which washed away dugouts and flooded trenches, not to mention soaking the men to the skin. The following days were also bitterly cold and wet, and it was impossible to get dry. On 29th November, gale force winds and a howling blizzard forced many of the battalion to take shelter at the A.S.C. dump. Hard frost followed and there was much suffering by the soldiers. Over 200 men were hospitalised by frostbite and hypothermia and 23 were discovered to be missing after the storms.

In December they left the Gallipoli Peninsula for Egypt. Here the battalion training ensued and the general health improved readily. On April 23rd, 1916, the Turks attacked Katia and the battalion was put on standby to move. However, by 29th April, the situation had become normal and the battalion was "stood down". Training continued, in what was, by now, extreme heat which caused many soldiers to suffer from heat related illnesses.

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

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

**John Malaney 1893-1917 Service Number: 22104**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Warwickshire Regiment 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Malaney, son of John Malaney and Sarah Jane Schofield was born in Ashton on 7 May 1893; he was baptised on 17 June 1893 at Christ Church. His parents married in Ashton on 29 October 1887.

In the 1901 census John lived at 44 Dale Street. He was aged 7 living with his parents, John and Sarah and Nellie Schofield, (2) niece of Sarah Malaney.

By 1911 John (17) and his father were living at 21 Mill Lane. John was working as a pony driver in a coal pit. They had a housekeeper, Emily Hudson. John's mother, Sarah, was not at that address on the night of the census.

John Malaney married Bridget Agnes Fahye in 1913 in Ashton.

John enlisted in Ashton under Lyne. He joined the Manchester Regiment initially with Service Number 2825 but later transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion with a new service number 22104.

Private John Malaney died on 7 June 1916. He was buried in the Croonaert Chapel Cemetery in Belgium, husband of Mrs A Malaney of 47 Tatton Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Ephraim Margrave 1884-1915 Service Number: 2183**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Ephraim Margrave was born in 1884 in Ashton under Lyne, son of George Margrave and Jane Ann Sharp. In the 1891 census, Ephraim was aged 6, living with his father, George aged 39, a coal seller, and four older siblings at 205 Margaret Street. His mother was on the census visiting an address in Whitgift, Yorkshire.

By 1901 Ephraim was aged 16 and working as a cotton spinner. He was the eldest child of six, living at 56 Hill Street, in the Holy Trinity area of Ashton under Lyne. His father does not appear on the census at the same address. Jane A. Margrave who described herself as a widow is head of the household. A baby, Harry Margrave, was only a few weeks old.

Ephraim Margrave married Sarah Garside in 1905 in Ashton. They had two daughters, Elsie born 1907 and Lily born 1909. Elsie died as a baby. By 1911 Ephraim (25) and Sarah (24) with one year old Lily were boarders with the Dawson family at 20 Wild Street, Ashton.

Private Ephraim Margrave died of wounds at Gallipoli on 24 June 1915. He was buried in the Lancashire Landing Cemetery in Turkey. Grave reference C66.

**Albert Marland 1895-1915 Service Number:1263**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Albert Marland was born on 12 August 1895 and baptised at Christ Church on 3 Nov 1895, son of William Marland and his wife Hannah Leech. His parents married in Stalybridge on 15 Feb 1874. Albert was the youngest of ten children. In the 1901 census Albert was aged 5 living with his parents and seven older siblings at 92 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss. His father, William, was employed as a wood cutting machine hand.

The 1911 census shows the Marland family still living at 92 Lumb Lane. Albert, aged 15, was working as an apprentice plumber. Three of his older siblings were still living at home.

Albert joined the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service records no longer exist, so we do not know when he enlisted. He was with his regiment in Gallipoli from May 1915 and was reported missing. An article in The Reporter of 21 Aug 1915 as follows: *“Drummer Albert Marland who had just reached his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and belonged to the Ashton Territorials is reported missing. All the village are anxious concerning his welfare. The people in Lumb Lane have expressed their sympathy to the parents of Drummer Marland and hope good news will be forthcoming.”*

It was thought Albert Marland had been taken prisoner by the Turks, but he was eventually posted as missing, presumed dead, on 19 June 1915. Private Albert Marland is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 159-171. His name is also on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**Harry Marland 1896-1919 Service Number: 126205**

**Regiment and Unit: Labour Corps**



Harry Marland was born in Ashton in 1896, son of Arthur Marland and his wife Mary Ellen Swindells. His parents had married in 1888 in Ashton.

In the 1901 census, Harry aged 5, lived at 36 Keane Street, Ashton with his parents and three siblings. In 1911 the family were still at the same address. Harry aged 15 was working as an office boy. His father, Arthur, was a pensioned post office clerk.

Harry joined the Manchester Regiment with service number 3468. He was transferred to the 32<sup>nd</sup> company of the Labour Corps with service number 126205.

The Register of Soldier's Effects noted Harry's father as Arthur Marland.

Harry Marland died on 8 April 1919 at No 64 Casualty Clearing Station, Kaiserin Augusta Schule, Cologne and was buried in the Cologne Southern Cemetery. Grave Reference III.E.24.

**Samuel Marland 1877-1917 Service Number: 426804**

**Regiment and Unit: Corps of Royal Engineers 422<sup>nd</sup> Field Company**

Samuel Marland was born on 1 Feb 1877 in Ashton. He was baptised on 24 June 1877 at Christ Church, son of James Marland and Mary Ann Saxon. His parents had married at St Stephen's Audenshaw in 1869.

In 1881 Samuel was four years old, living with his parents and three siblings at Moorside View, Littlemoss. His father, James Marland, was working as a joiner.

By 1891 the family lived at 29 Boodle Street. Samuel was 14 years old and worked as a clerk. By the time of the next census, Samuel was 24, working as a bricklayer, living with his parents and four siblings at 75 Uxbridge Street, Ashton.

Samuel Marland married Ann Nicol on 19 August, 1903 in Ashton. Ann was born in Blackpool, and the couple made their home there. In 1911 Samuel and Ann/Annie were living at 2 Wilford Street, Blackpool with a five-year-old daughter called Bessie. Bessie or Elizabeth Marland was born in 1905 in Ashton.

Samuel Marland attested at St Helen's, Lancashire in August 1915. He was 38 years old. His next of kin is named as Ann Marland of Wilford St Blackpool. He had two children: Elizabeth born 24 October 1905 in Ashton and James born 27 May 1915 in Blackpool.

Sapper Samuel Marland died of wounds to his stomach at a Casualty Clearing Station in France on 21 July 1917. He was 40 years old. Samuel was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery Grave Reference XVI.C.II.

**Sidney G Marshall 1884-1917 Service Number: 7462**

**Regiment and Unit: Shropshire Light Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Sidney George Marshall was born on 30 April 1884 in Ashton and baptised on 1 June 1884 at Christ Church. He was the son of George Henry Marshall, a distributor of bills or circulars, and his wife Elizabeth Melhuish Burton. Sidney was one of six children. In 1901 he was aged 16 and working as a cotton piecer in the mill. He lived on Oldham Road, near the Liberal Club, so it is likely he worked at either the Rock Mill or the Atlas Mill.

Sidney married Ruth Healy from Hyde on 13 June 1908 at St Stephen's, Flowery Fields, Hyde. In the 1911 census, the couple lived at 9 Bagshaw Street, Newton Moor, Hyde. Sidney was working as a spinner's piecer.

Sidney joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry with service number 7462.

Sargeant Sidney George Marshall died of wounds on 18 April 1917. He was 33 years old. He was buried in Bethune Town Cemetery. Grave Reference VI.D.30.

His widow Ruth emigrated to Australia and lived in West Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria.

**Charles B. Mather 1899-1918 Service Number: 30117**

**Regiment and Unit: Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Charles Bertrand Mather was born on 16 January 1899 in Ashton. He was baptised on 1 March 1899 at St James' church, Ashton, son of Charles Mather, a plumber and his wife Rosina. Both his birth record and Baptism give his name as Charles Bertrand but in the 1911 census his father states his son's name as Charles Bertram Mather.

In 1901 Charles B. Mather was aged 2 and living with his parents, Charles and Rosina, and a baby brother, Harry, aged 7 months at 44 Russell Street, Ashton. By 1911 the family had moved to 65 Elizabeth Street, Ashton. Charles Mather, senior, was still working as a plumber. Charles Bertram was 12, his brother, Harry, was 10 and they had a sister, Constance, aged 2.

Private Charles B. Mather was killed in action on 3 August 1918 aged 19. He was buried in the Thiennes British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais.

Grave Reference Row F Grave 1.

His mother, Rosina, of 94 Oldham Road was in receipt of his effects. He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

**\*Stansfield Mather 1889-1917 Service Number 34411 (buried in churchyard)**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Horse Artillery 181st Brigade**

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

Stanfield was the son of Samuel and Eliza nee Ousey. His parents married in 1886. Samuel Mather was a butcher by trade. Stanfield attended Taunton School on Newmarket Road, Waterloo.

By 1901 the family were living at the butcher's shop at 161 Oldham Road.

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

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

He joined the 181st (Ashton) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery as a shoeing smith, and went out with them to France, where he served until December 1916. His duties entailed visits to the firing line with ammunition, and, on one of these journeys, he received a slight wound on the head, but, after treatment in France, was soon back again with his unit. In December 1916 he wrote to his brother Robert to say he was in the 8th General Hospital in Rouen, suffering from an internal complaint.

Stanfield was in fact suffering from enteric or typhoid Fever. He was invalided home with enteric fever, and sent to the Smithson War Hospital, Greenock, Scotland, where he seemed to start to recover. However, he caught a chill in April 1917, and his father received a telegram to say that he was dangerously ill. Mr Mather went at once to Scotland and remained with his son until he passed away on 18th April at the age of 27.

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

**James E Matley 1870-1915 Service Number: 56484**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery "D" Battery" 104<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

James Edwin Matley was born in Ardwick, Manchester in 1870, son of Benjamin Matley and his wife Ann. By 1881 James was aged 10 living with his widowed mother, Ann and six siblings at 53 Whiteacre Road, Ashton.

In 1891 James was working as a bricklayer. He was 19 years old, and his mother and six siblings were still in the same household but now living at 3 Princess Street, Hurst.

James Edwin Matley, son of Benjamin Matley (deceased) married Mary Ann Ingham at Hurst St John's on 16 Nov 1896.

In 1901 James and Mary Ann with a two-year-old daughter, Eda were living at 42 Russell Street, Ashton, next door to James' older brother, Charles.

In 1911 the couple were still living in Hurst at 83 New Lees Street. James (40) was working as a bricklayer. They now had four children: Eda (12), Frank (9), James (7) and Hilda (2).

Gunner James Edwin Matley died of wounds on 15 November 1915. He was buried in the cemetery at Etaples in France. Grave reference III.F.21A. Father of Miss E. Matley (Eda) of 3 Springbank Cottages, Smallshaw, Ashton under Lyne.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The attestation of Herbert Wilfred Matthews took place on 14 February 1914 in Ashton. He was 27 years old. His height was 5 feet 5 inches and he had a chest measurement of 33 inches. He gave his address as 65 Oldham Road and his occupation as an

engineering tool maker at Joshua Heap's which was on Boodle Street, off Oldham Road, Ashton. He named his next of kin as his father Reuben Matthews. He was considered fit for the Territorial Force Reserve. The Territorial Force provided an opportunity for men to join the army on a part-time basis. Recruits had a choice of regiment, but the local nature of the TF meant that, in general, the man joined his home unit. The TF County Associations, the administration of the local TF, were planned to be a medium by which the army could be expanded in wartime. Men trained at weekends or in the evenings and went away to a summer camp. Territorials were not obliged to serve overseas, but were enlisted on the basis that, in the event of war, they could be called upon for full-time service ("embodied"). The physical criteria for joining the Terriers were the same as for the Regular army but the lower age limit was 17.

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

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

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

\*Thomas Mawdsley 1889-1917 Service Number 320

## Regiment & Unit: Australian Machine Gun Corps 22<sup>nd</sup> Company



Thomas or Tom Mawdsley was born in the July quarter of 1889 in Clayton, Manchester, son of James Mawdsley and Ann Wright. His parents were both from Preston and had married at Preston Registry Office in 1871. Thomas was the youngest of at least eight children.

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

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

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

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

About 12 months later Thomas left Waterloo for Australia. On 29th March 1916 Thomas enlisted at Brisbane in the Australian Expeditionary Force and was given the service number 320. His Attestation papers show that he was working as a Barman

prior to enlisting and that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to poor eyesight.

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

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

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

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

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

**Frederick McGarry 1891-1916 Service Number: 29878**

**Regiment and Unit: Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frederick McGarry was born in 1891 in Stalybridge. His mother's maiden name was also McGarry which suggests she was unmarried. Frederick McGarry does not appear in the census for 1901 or 1911. His name could be mis-transcribed.

He married Maud Hamilton, daughter of Hans Hamilton in 1914 in Ashton. Maud already had two children: Annie born 2 Sept 1908 and Alice born 14 Jun 1912. A son was born to Frederick and Maud on 31 Oct 1914. He was also called Frederick.

Frederick joined the Manchester Regiment and had the service number 2996. He later transferred to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Frederick was killed in action on 10 Oct 1916 in France. He was buried in the Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, France. Grave reference IX.D.14.

His widow Maud remarried in 1920 to Gerald Carroll.

**James McKenna 1891-1918 Service Number:20370**

**Regiment and Unit: King's Liverpool Regiment 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Born James Francis McKenna on 28 October 1891 in Manchester, son of Francis McKenna and his wife Ellen Dowd. In the 1901 census James F. McKenna was living with his parents, two younger siblings and his maternal grandmother in Pimblett Street, Cheetham, North Manchester. He was nine years old and a schoolboy.

James was no longer living with his family by 1911. His parents and three siblings were living at 65 Barratt Street off Oldham Road, Manchester.

When James married in May 1917, he gave his occupation as 'Soldier'. He would have been 19/20 in 1911 so possibly could have been posted abroad at the time of the census.

James married Norah Deighton, daughter of Thomas Deighton, a warehouseman on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917 at St Philip's church, Bradford Road, East Manchester. James gave his address as 130 Butler Street which was in the East Manchester area of Bradford. James' father, Francis had died in 1916 so is shown as 'deceased'.

James joined the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Kings (Liverpool) Regiment. His service number was 20370. Private James Francis McKenna died of wounds in France on 26 March 1918. He was buried at Chocques Military Cemetery which is near Bethune in Pas de Calais.

Norah McKenna nee Deighton appears in the 1921 census living with her parents, Thomas and Emma Deighton at 20 Cryer Street, Littlemoss. She was a widow with two young sons, Thomas Charles McKenna born 27 April 1916 and James Francis McKenna born 24 March 1918 (just two days before his father was killed). Both sons were born in Littlemoss which explains why James is recorded on the Christ Church Memorial.

**\*Arthur McManus 1878-1917 Service Number 201688**

**Regiment & Unit: King's Own Scottish Borderers 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

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

Arthur was aged 3 at the time of the 1881 census. He and his family were living at 15 Leech Street in Dukinfield. His father John was working as a Blacksmith. By 1891 the family had moved to number 19 Leech Street. Arthur was aged 12 and was a scholar. His father was working as a Labourer and his mother was working in a cotton mill. Arthur and his family were still living at 19 Leech Street in 1901. Arthur was aged 21 and worked as a Machine Minder in the Cotton Mill. His father, John was still working as a blacksmith.

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

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

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

**Albert Mellop 1895-1918 Service Number: S/6458**

**Regiment and Unit: Rifle Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Albert Mellop as he was named on the war memorial was actually Albert Mellor. He was born on 17 January 1895 in Ashton. He was baptised on 10 March 1895 at St Michael's Parish Church, son of James Mellor and his wife Charlotte Greenough. His parents married at St Mark's Dukinfield on 11 August 1894.

In the 1901 census, Albert was aged 6 living with his maternal grandmother, Alice Greenough, a 54-year-old widow at 17 Duncan St Ashton. . By 1911 Albert aged 16 and working as a lap carrier in card room of cotton mill. He still lived with grandmother, Alice Greenough at 24 Jersey Street. Albert's younger sister, Mona was at the same address.

Sgt Albert Mellor died of wounds on 10 Sept 1918 age 23 in France and Flanders. Buried Ligny-St Flochel British Cemetery Averdoingt Grave reference IV.D.2 (son of James and Charlotte Mellor of Ashton Under Lyne. Source CWGC

The inscription chosen for his grave reads

*ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE LOVED AND LOST REALISE THE MEANING "GONE"*

Albert's father, James Mellor also died in 1918 after discharge from the army for being medically unfit. In 1921 Charlotte Mellor was a widow with three children living at 56 Alexandra Rd which was the address on the pension records of her husband.

**Benjamin Miller 1900-1918 Service Number: 210551 buried in the churchyard**

**Regiment and Unit: West Yorkshire Regiment 51<sup>st</sup> Graduated Battalion**

Benjamin Miller was born in the July Quarter of 1900 in Ashton Under Lyne, son of Benjamin Miller and his wife Sarah nee Fieldsend. His parents had married in 1880 in Ashton.

In the 1901 census, Benjamin was a baby aged 9 months. He was living with his parents and older siblings, Sarah, Herbert, Edith, May, and Elsie at 17 Hill Street, Waterloo. His father was a retired farmer. Benjamin's mother died in 1902, and his father remarried the following year to Hannah Phillis Ratcliffe of Marple at All Saints, Marple.

In the 1911 census, Benjamin, a 10-year-old schoolboy, was living at 6 Church Lane, Marple with his father and step-mother and his three sisters: Sarah aged 29, May aged 15 and Elsie aged 13. His father was now an agent for a company selling farming implements.

Private Benjamin Miller died on 29 Nov 1918 at Clipstone, Nottinghamshire of an illness. Clipstone Camp had become the largest training facility in the country between 1915-1921, housing between 20,000 and 30,000 soldiers at a time.

Private B. Miller was buried in the Churchyard at Christ Church. He was just 18 years old.

**\*James Millin 1900-1919 Service Number: M401332 Buried in the churchyard**

**Regiment & Unit: Royal Army Service Corps 700th Mechanical/ Motor Transport Company**

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

In the 1901 and 1911 census, the family were living at 25 Mary Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne. James Millin senior worked as a railway carrier or drayman. James junior was still a schoolboy in 1911. His older siblings were working. James joined the army in April 1918; he may have volunteered or been conscripted after his 18th birthday. James was in the 700th Mechanical or Motor Transport Company of the Royal Army Service Corps. Service number M/401332. He was stationed at the Hyde Road Depot in Manchester repairing army motors.

He died of influenza and pneumonia on 26 Feb 1919, aged 19, at the 2nd Western General Hospital which had opened in the Central High School for Boys, Whitworth Street, Manchester in 1914. He was buried on 3 March 1919 at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne. Grave reference 42.19. His father chose the inscription 'Gone from our midst but not from our memory'.

## **\*Vernon Millward 1887-1918 Service Number 205682**

### **Regiment & Unit: Wiltshire Regiment 1st Battalion**

Vernon Millward was born on 17 April 1887 and baptised on 22 May 1887, son of John Millward and his wife Julia Ann Buttrey. They were married at St John's Church in Dukinfield in 1880. Vernon was one of at least ten children born to John and Julia. When Vernon was 3 years old, his father was a farmer at Lower Fold Farm in Alt, a hamlet to the north of Ashton under Lyne. He had four older siblings at the time of the 1891 census.

Vernon's father, John Millward, died in 1897 when he was only 36, leaving Julia with eight young children. She would have had to leave the farm where they were tenants. Julia Ann Millward aged 40 was living at 3 Hill Street, Waterloo (now Vale Street) in 1901. At the same address were her children: Mary Elizabeth (19), Eliza Ann (17), John (16), James (15), Vernon (13), Ellen (12), Edwin (10), Allen (9) and Arthur (6). Another child, Harold Millward born 1893, had died as an infant. Vernon was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. Julia Ann Millward died in 1908, aged 46, leaving her children without parents. In 1911 Vernon Millward and three of his siblings, Ellen (recorded as Helen), Edwin and Allen were living with their married sister, Mary Elizabeth Evans, nee Millward at 45 Oldham Road. Vernon aged 23 was employed as a cotton piecer.

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

An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter, 14 November 1914, shows that Vernon enlisted that week. Vernon initially joined the 2/9th Manchester Regiment. He was later transferred to the 2/7th Manchester Regiment and then the 1st Wiltshire Regiment. Vernon had 3 different service numbers 2993, 205682, 351242. Vernon's brother Allen enlisted in October the same year. Vernon would have initially undergone a period of training in England when he was on active service. Vernon's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Vernon Millward died of wounds aged 31 on 20 July 1918 in France. He was buried in Acheux British Cemetery (Plot 1, Row E, Grave 45). His headstone reads "Be ye faithful unto Death and I will give you a crown of life". His widow Annie Millward of 79 Newmarket Road was recorded in the Graves Register for that cemetery. Vernon's death record notes he was the son of John and Julia Millward of Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne.

**\*Edward K. Moore 1895-1918 Service Number 352126**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 8th Battalion**

Edward Kerruish Moore was born in January 1895 in Salford, son of John Kerruish Moore and Margaret (Maggie) Ann Christian. Edward was the eldest of four sons. His siblings were Ernest John born 1897 in Walthamstow, Essex, William Henry born 1904 Manchester and Arthur born 1907 in Ashton under Lyne. Edward's parents were both born on the Isle of Man, but they married in Swindon, Wiltshire on 26 December 1893. In the 1901 census Edward aged 6 was living with his aunt and uncle at 6 Nicholls Street in Salford. His father was a schoolteacher living alone in Longsight, South Manchester. His mother, Maggie, was at her parents' home in Bride, Isle of Man, with 4-year-old Ernest John.

By 1911 the family were living at 79 Newmarket Road, Waterloo, Ashton. Edward was 16 and described as a student. His brothers, Ernest John, William Henry and Arthur were at the same address.

Edward's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know when he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Edward may have volunteered, or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916. Edward joined the 2/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment as a sergeant but was commissioned to rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

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

**Ernest Morris 1896-1917 Service Number: 53308**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Garrison Artillery**

Ernest Morris was born on 31 July 1896 in Ashton. He was baptised at St James' church on 9 September 1896, son of Charles W Morris and his wife Martha Elizabeth Hibbert.

In the 1901 census Ernest was four years old living with his parents and four siblings at 25 Turner Street, off Turner Lane, Ashton. His father, Charles was a colliery worker, underground. By 1911 Ernest aged 14 was working in an iron foundry. He was one of ten children. A sister, Edith, had died as a young child.

Ernest attested on 16 November 1914 in Ashton. He was aged 19. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery. Gunner Ernest Morris died of wounds on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1917 aged 21. He was buried in the British Cemetery at Sainte Catherine, Calais, France. Ernest is commemorated on the headstone of his parents' grave which is in Christ Church graveyard.

**\*Thomas E. Murray 1891-1916 Service Number: 109320**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps/ Later Royal Navy**

Thomas Ernest Murray was born in Douglas, Isle of Man on 31 July 1891, son of John Murray (1851-1905) and Emily Kewley (1859-1895). Thomas Ernest Murray married Ethel Lee, daughter of George and Jane Lee at Dukinfield St Mark's on 26 Dec 1909. He had joined the Royal Navy on 5 Oct 1909, and his first ship was HMS Vivid II.

In the 1911 census Ethel Murray, aged 21, was living with her mother Jane Lee (61) at 98 Railway Street, Dukinfield. Both women state they are married but their husbands are not with them at that address. It is probable that Thomas was at sea. By the time of his death on 31 May 1916 Leading Stoker Thomas Ernest Murray was serving in the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Defence. He died on the first day of the Battle of Jutland. The battle was the only full-scale naval battle of the First World War and took place off the Jutland peninsula, Denmark. HMS Defence was escorting the main body of the Grand Fleet when she was fired upon by one German battlecruiser and four dreadnoughts as she attempted to engage a disabled German light cruiser. The fire from the German ships was heavy and Defence was hit by two salvos from the German ships that caused the aft 9.2-inch magazine to explode. The resulting fire spread to the adjacent 7.5-inch magazines which detonated in turn. The ship exploded with the loss of all hands between 893 and 903 men were killed. Thomas is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 15 as well as on the Waterloo and Taunton memorial and the Christ Church Memorial. The WW1 Pension Ledgers give Thomas's service number as 109320 and his widow Ethel Murray received gratuities. Two children are named on the ledger: Emily Murray born 12 Feb 1912 and George W. Murray born 30 Jun 1913. By the time of the 1921 census, Ethel Murray nee Lee had remarried. She married James Heywood in 1920 at Christ Church, Oldham Road Waterloo. The couple were living at 32 Gordon Street, Waterloo with six children including Emily Murray born 1912 and George W Murray born 1913.

**Albert Mutter 1894-1915 Service Number: 26884**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Albert Mutter was born in the last quarter of 1894, son of James Mutter and Sally Aspinall. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1890. There were nine children born to James and Sally Mutter but four of them had died by 1911. In the 1901 census, Albert was aged 6 living with his parents and two siblings at 235 King Street, Hurst. His father, James, was working as a labourer in a cotton mill. By 1911 Albert aged 16 was working as a moulder in an ironworks and living with his parents and four siblings at 83 Minto Street, Ashton.

Albert enlisted in Ashton under Lyne and joined the 2nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 3 October 1915. His burial place is unknown, but he is commemorated at the Loos Memorial.

**Richard Newsam 1891-1918 Service Number: 47498**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Richard Newsam was born on 1 June 1891 and baptised on 5 July 1891 at Christ Church, son of Richard Newsam and his wife Alice Buckley. His parents had married on 16 January 1870 at Stalybridge. Richard was one of thirteen children, seven of whom had died in childhood. His father, Richard, died in 1900 leaving his widow Alice (50) with seven children living at home. Richard junior was aged 9 with six older siblings living at 53 Oldham Road, Waterloo in the 1901 census.

By 1911 Richard was aged 19 and working as a butcher. He lived with his mother, Alice, and three older siblings at 15 Store Street, Waterloo.

Private Richard Newsam was killed in action on 27 September 1918. He was buried in the Quarry Cemetery, Marquion, France. Grave reference A15.

**\*Boaz Newton 1896-1916 Service Number: 56825**

**Regiment and Unit: 13th Hussars/Machine Gun Corps 7th Squadron**

Boaz Newton was born 3 May 1896 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Boaz Newton and Lucy Bedford. His parents married in Barnsley in 1872. Boaz was baptised on 24 May 1896 at Stamford Street Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Ashton. Boaz was one of 12 children. Between 1890 and 1892 the family moved to Ashton. Boaz was four years old at the time of the census in 1901. He lived with his parents and seven siblings at 36 Mount Street in Ashton. His father worked as a Railway Signalman. His older siblings worked in the cotton mill. Lucy Newton, mother of Boaz, died in 1909 aged 53.

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

Boaz enlisted sometime before October 1915. He joined the 13th Hussars with service number 11259. Boaz landed in France on 18th October 1915. Sometime later he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (cavalry) 7th squadron and given the new service number 56825. Boaz was killed in action on 18th December 1916 aged 20 in Basra, present day Iraq. A letter from the commanding officer states that Private Boaz Newton had been under his command for some time and was one of his most valued men. He led the ammunition pack into action behind the machine gun with skill. He regretted his death very much indeed. They had one consolation that he died as a soldier should do, with his face to the enemy, carrying out most valued work. He was buried close to the walls of Kut-El-Amara, on the banks of the Shatt-al-Hai. His grave was not found after the war. Boaz is commemorated on the Basra Memorial Panel 41.

**\*George Newton 1884-1916 Service Number: 7915**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion**

George was the son of Jonathan Newton of Stalybridge and his second wife, Elizabeth Harndon of Hadfield near Glossop. George's mother, Elizabeth died the same year that George was born. Jonathan Newton already had four children by his first wife Ann Mellor who he married in 1860 in Ashton.

George Newton first appears in the census in 1891 when he was seven years old. His father was a self-acting minder in a cotton mill. He had married Sarah Bradbury, his third wife in 1885 in Altrincham Cheshire. They were living in Stalybridge with five children: Tom (22) was a piecer in a cotton mill, Sarah Ann (20) was a cotton weaver, and Joseph Webb Bradbury (Sarah's son) who was 19 and a cotton card room hand. George had a younger half-sister called Bertha who was five years old in 1891. George's father, Jonathan Newton, died in 1899. In 1901 census George was 17 and living his widowed stepmother Sarah, his younger half-sister Bertha and his older half-brother Joseph and Joseph's wife, Harriet at 74 Wakefield Road Stalybridge. He was working in the carding room of a cotton mill.

George married Annie Lees on 25 Aug 1909 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne. In the 1911 census George and Annie were living on Brierley Street in Stalybridge with a seven-month-old baby, Frank. In August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton under Lyne Reporter names all those men who were members of the Battalion at the outbreak of war. G Newton is listed as a member of H Company (this may have been George). George Newton died of his wounds on 9 July 1916 aged 32, at the start of Somme Offensive. He was buried in Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension I.D.3 France. At the time of his death, Frank Newton, the son of George and Annie, was just 6 years old.

**\*John Nickeas 1884-1915 Service Number: 2485**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1st Battalion**

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

In 1891 John was a seven-year-old living with his parents, three older brothers: Abraham (15), Albert (12) and Thomas (10) and a younger sister, Mary Ann aged 5. The family were living at 11 Lloyds Sidings in Birkdale. John's father was a bricklayer's labourer. By 1901 the family were living at 33 Bedford Road, Birkdale. John was 17 and working as a carter for the Corporation (the local authority). Albert, his older brother, was still in the family home as was Mary Ann, his sister. Henry Wright was a boarder. Henry would later marry Mary Ann Nickeas.

John Nickeas, junior married Jane Griffiths Owens, daughter of Joseph Owens, at Birkdale St Peter's Church on 13 June 1903 when he was only 19 and she was 18. His occupation was labourer. In 1911 census John (28) a brick setter's labourer was in hospital in Southport. His wife Jane and their three children cannot be traced in this census. John's parents were still alive, living at 135 Kew Road, Birkdale. John joined the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in August 1914. After training at Cleethorpes, he was drafted out to France at the end of January 1915. John was most likely wounded at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres which took place between 22 April and 25 May of that year. The battle started with a surprise attack by the German army and saw the first use of a new German weapon, poisonous chlorine gas. An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says, "His brother, Thomas Nickeas, who is also serving, was gassed recently, but has recovered from the effects of the noxious fumes." We don't know what injuries John received but he would have been taken to one of the clearing stations based at Hazebrouck where he died on 28 April 1915 aged 32. He is buried in Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery Grave reference II H9.

**Harry Oldfield 1895-1917 Service Number: 56382**

**Regiment and Unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harry Oldfield was born on 19 October 1895 in Ashton. He was baptised at St Peter's on 10 November 1895, the eldest son of Joseph Oldfield and Emma Jackson. His parents married on 15 April 1895 at St Peter's.

In the 1901 census Harry was aged 5, living with his parents and three siblings at 7 Zetland Street, Ashton. Harry's father, Joseph Oldfield was working as a postman.

By 1911 Harry (15) was working in a cotton mill as a little piecer. His father was now a Post Office pensioner. Harry's three younger siblings were still living at home. They all lived at 5 Old Road, Dukinfield.

Harry's service records have not survived. He was killed on 20 November 1917 just after his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. He is recorded as the eldest son of Joseph and Emma Oldfield of 6 Yorkshire Street, Ashton Under Lyne. Harry Oldfield is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**\*Frank/ Francis O'Rourke 1892-1917 Service Number: 36929**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Welch Fusiliers 8th Battalion**

Francis was born in 1892 in Ashton, son of Henry Rourke, a plasterer from Hanley, Staffordshire and his second wife Ellen Byrne from Harbury, Warwickshire. Henry had married Ellen in 1886 in Wolstanton, Staffs, two years after his first wife, Annie Devine, had died. Henry, father of Francis, died in 1897 so Ellen Rourke was a widow when her son, Francis was only 5 years old. Francis had three siblings: William born 1887 in Burslem, Martin born 1889 in Ashton, and Mary Annie born 1894 in Ashton. Mary Annie died in the first year of life.

In 1911 Ellen (O'Rourke), aged 45 was living with three sons, William, Martin and Frank (Francis) at 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo. All three sons were working as piecers in a cotton mill. There were two cotton mills near to their home- the Atlas and the Rock. Before the war Francis was a member of St Mary's Catholic Church and Sunday School. He also played football for Charlestown Mission Football Club in the Hooley Hill and District League. An obituary in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says, "he was of a cheery disposition, and was very much esteemed in the district."

Francis attested on 19 Nov 1915 in Ashton. He joined the 8th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 24 Nov 1915 at Wrexham. His address was 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. He was 23 years old and worked as a tram conductor. Before entering the war, Francis was stationed at the Litherland Training Camp, Liverpool, where he won the crossed rifles badge for marksmanship. Francis was posted 7 June 1916; his battalion embarked at Devonport, Plymouth. They disembarked 5 July to take part in the Mesopotamia campaign which was fought between the Allies, represented by British Empire troops, and the Central Powers, mostly from the Ottoman Empire.

Francis was admitted to hospital in October 1916 in Amara, in present day Iraq. He was suffering with jaundice, but he re-joined his regiment on 5th November. Francis was punished later that month, on 23 November 1916, for having a dirty rifle. In December the unit, along with others, began operations against Kut, with skirmishes which saw six men killed, missing or died of wounds, ten wounded, and 102 sick that month. The rainy season now intervened, until on 9 January 1917, the Battle of Kut formally began. They were in reserve during operations to clear the Khudhaira Bend 9-11 January, but the next objective was to cut off the Hai Salient, a series of trenches across the River Tigris from the town of Kut. The 8th RWF took over trenches opposite the Salient on 12 January 1917 and strengthened these, digging in the rain and mainly at night to advance their position ready for an attack. Their Brigade (the 40th) advanced the trenches by 650 yards before 25 January when the attack began at about 9.35am. Attacking in three waves, despite an artillery bombardment, they suffered losses crossing No Man's Land and entered the enemy trenches where bombers (grenade-throwers) were used to push forward. The Turkish bombers counter-attacked, but, by

dusk, the battalion had captured two lines of trenches on a 1200-yard front. The 40th Brigade lost 14 officers and 282 Other Ranks.

Francis O'Rourke was killed on 16 February 1917. The Battle of Kut ended on 24 February 1917. Francis was aged 24, son of Mrs Ellen Rourke of 145 Taunton Road, Waterloo. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial in Iraq, Panel 15 as well as the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial and the Christ Church Memorial.

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

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 17th Battalion**

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

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

Edward O'Sullivan married Elsie Carr in 1913 in Ashton under Lyne. They had two daughters Kathleen Elsie O'Sullivan born 9 Jan 1917 and Elizabeth born 16 July 1919. Elsie O' Sullivan must have been just pregnant when her husband was killed.

In 1921 Elsie O'Sullivan and her two young daughters were living at 106 Union Rd. Hurst along with Elsie's 19-year-old sister, Violet. Elsie Sullivan (sic) of 91 Oldham Road Waterloo was remarried in 1922 in Ashton to James Scott.

Edward initially joined the Manchester Regiment 17th Battalion and was given service number 2944. He was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers 17th Battalion and given the new number of 235999. The Ashton under Lyne Reporter on 14 November 1914 included a list of men who had enlisted that week, Edward W Sullivan was included in the list. With his regiment, Edward is likely to have been deployed in Gallipoli and later moved to the Western Front. Edward O'Sullivan was killed in action in either France or Belgium on 9 Oct 1918. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial panels 54-60

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

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps**

Patrick Sarsfield Sullivan (O'Sullivan) was born in the March Quarter of 1890 in Hendon, North London. Patrick was the son of Michael O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Olive Hourigan. In 1891 Patrick was just one year old and living with his parents and two siblings, Mary and Michael, at 36 Denmark Road, Willesden. By 1901 the family had moved to Waterloo and lived at 12 Gordon Street. Michael, father of Patrick, was a tailor. Patrick was 11 and had two older siblings, Mary (16) and Michael (14). He had a brother named Edward who was just a year younger. There were three younger children who had all been born in Ireland: William (8), Ellen (4) and Katherine (1).

Patrick Sarsfield Sullivan married Alice Player in 1910 in Ashton under Lyne. Patrick (21) and Alice (19) were boarding with Patrick's parents at 10 Dunkerley Street in the 1911 census. They had a daughter, Elizabeth born in 1912. Patrick's parents died within a year of each other- Michael O'Sullivan died in 1914 and his wife Elizabeth died in 1915.

Patrick's Service Record no longer exists but his Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914 1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered, or he may have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Patrick joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. "Medical care throughout the First World War was largely the responsibility of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). The RAMC's job was both to maintain the health and fighting strength of the forces in the field and ensure that in the event of sickness or wounding they were treated and evacuated as quickly as possible. Every battalion had a medical officer, assisted by at least 16 stretcher-bearers. The medical officer was tasked with establishing a Regimental Aid Post near the front line. From here, the wounded were evacuated and cared for by men of a Field Ambulance in an Advanced Dressing Station." (Imperial War Museum).

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

**James H Otter 1898-1918 Service Number: 75283**

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

James Hubert Otter was born in 1898 in Staveley, Derbyshire, son of James Otter and his wife Harriet Dixon. His parents married in 1895 in East Retford, Nottinghamshire.

James was aged 3 at the time of the 1901 census. He lived in Rusholme, South Manchester with his parents and an older brother, William Henry. By 1911 the family had moved to Ashton and lived at 10 Kenyon Street. James' father was a railway porter. James Hubert, 13, was at school but also working as a grocer's errand boy.

James Hubert Otter enlisted in Ashton under Lyne. He joined the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment and saw action in France. He died of wounds on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1918 aged 20. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery. Grave reference LXXI.F.17 son of James and Harriet Otter of 40 Cranbrook Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Charles Edmund Park 1875-1916 Service Number: 6086**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Charles Edmund Park was born in Ashton in 1875, son of Charles Henry Park, a brush maker and his wife Martha Hunt. His parents married on 23 Aug 1869 at St Michael's Ashton. Martha had been married before; her maiden name was Ufton sometimes written as Houghton. Charles Edmund is written as Charles Hy. in 1881 and 1891 census, but the rest of the family details are correct. In 1881 Charles was aged 6 living with his parents and two siblings at 31 Blandford Street, Ashton. His father was working as a brush maker. In 1901 the family had moved to 59 Blandford Street. Charles (16) was working as a brush maker like his father. He had four younger siblings.

Charles Edmund Park married Clara Taylor at St Mark's Dukinfield on 25 December 1901. By 1921 Clara Park was a widow living at 7 Wig Street, Dukinfield with four grown-up children: Charlie (20), Doris (18), Walter (16) and Mabel (12).

Private Charles Edmund Park aged 41 died of his wounds on 17 May 1916. He was buried in the Aubigny Communal Cemetery. Grave reference I.C.37. Husband of Clara Park of 7 Wig Street, Dukinfield.

**Robert Parker 1893-1915 Service Number: 3235**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Robert Parker was born 1893 in Ashton, son of William Parker and Mary Ann Newton. His parents married in 1873 at St Michael's Parish Church. He was the younger brother of Samuel Parker. In the 1901 census Robert was aged 7 living with his parents at 3 Worald Place, Hurst. Robert was one of 13 children: he had six siblings living at the same address in 1901.

In 1911 Robert (17) was working as a coal miner and living with his parents and two siblings at 14 Robinson Street off Turner Lane.

Robert Parker joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He enlisted in Ashton. Private Robert Parker was killed on 10 August 1915 at Gallipoli. He is commemorated at the Helles Memorial.

**Samuel Parker 1883-1916 Service Number: 22209**

**Regiment and Unit: Loyal North Lancs Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Samuel Parker was born in 1883 in Ashton, son of William Parker and his wife Mary Ann Newton. His parents had married in 1873 at St Michael's Parish Church. In 1891 Samuel, aged 8 was living with his parents and six siblings on Broadoak Road, Smallshaw.

In the 1901 census Samuel was aged 18 working as a piecer at a cotton mill. He was living at home with his parents and six siblings at 3 Worald Place, Hurst.

By 1911 Samuel (28) was married to Sarah Jane Taylor. They had married the previous year. They had a six-year-old daughter, Mary born 13 September 1904 living with them. However, Mary was the child of Samuel's first marriage to Mary Greenhough in 1902 at Christ Church. Mary Parker nee Greenhough died in 1904 aged 22, probably due to childbirth.

Samuel, Sarah Jane and Mary (6) were living at 102 Moss Street, Ashton in 1911. Samuel was a minder in a cotton mill and Sarah Jane was working as a reeler.

Samuel originally joined the Manchester regiment with service number 4417, but he transferred to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and was given a new service number of 22209.

Private Samuel Parker was killed in action on 26 September 1916. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. Samuel was the older brother of Robert.

Sarah Jane Parker nee Taylor married Matthias Ramsden in 1918 at Hurst St John's. In the 1921 census, they were living at 163 Hope Street with a one-year-old daughter, Bertha. Mary Parker (21), daughter of Samuel Parker, married at Hurst St John's in 1925, and her address was also 163 Hope Street, Hurst.

**\*Stephen Peate 1897-1916 Service Number: 23930**

**Regiment & Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 13th Battalion**

Stephen Peate was born between July and September 1897 in Bardsley which was still part of Ashton Under Lyne. His surname was registered as Peat, without the 'e', as were his siblings. Their parents were Thomas Allen Peate and Sarah Ellen Slater. Thomas and Sarah were married at Holy Trinity, Bardsley in 1889. Their early married life was tinged with sadness. Their first daughter Ellen was born in 1893 but died three years later. Their second daughter Marian was born in 1895 but died within a month of her birth. Their three sons: Allen born in 1891, Stephen born in 1897 and Joseph who was born in 1903 all survived childhood. In 1901 Stephen was just three years old, living with his parents at 270 Oldham Road in Bardsley. His brother Allen was aged 10.

Thomas Peate, Stephen's father, ran a beer-house. His occupation was recorded as a beer seller. They employed a young woman, Mary, as a general servant. By 1911 Thomas Peate had retired, and the family were living at 16 Langham Street in Waterloo. Allen and Stephen both worked at a local cotton mill, Allen as a piecer and Stephen as a scavenger. A scavenger was one of the lowliest occupations in a cotton mill. It involved collecting cotton waste from the floor, often by crawling under moving machinery. There were two cotton mills very close by- the Atlas and the Rock Mill.

Stephen enlisted in Llandudno, North Wales on 1 May 1915 'for the duration of the war', with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Stephen gave his age as 19 years however he would have been only 17 years old. His service record shows that Stephen was 5 feet 3 and a half inches tall and had a chest measurement of 34 inches and weighed 105 lbs. He was given the service number 23930. Stephen embarked for France with the 13th Battalion, sailing from Southampton on 1 Dec. 1915. Stephen was badly injured during the Somme Offensive and taken to No 9 Red Cross Hospital where he died on 22 April 1916. Stephen's mother received a letter from a nurse on his ward "You will have had the sad news of your son's death by now from the War Office. I am sister of the ward he was in, and I thought you would like what news I can give you. Stephen Peate was in a very bad way when he arrived here. He had a bad wound in the upper part of his right leg, with the bone also broken. That might have healed up well enough, if it had not been for gas gangrene. He was unconscious to the end almost and then fell asleep and just quietly stopped breathing about 4 p.m. without any pain, which is a great deal to be thankful for. The surgeon told him his only chance was to have the leg off, but the boy asked that it should be given one more day's chance, as he did not want to lose it. It was taken off but all to no good, as the gas had spread, so nothing could have saved him. I feel awfully sorry for you but think how many mothers lose sons who are in pain till the end, but yours was not." Stephen is buried at Calais Southern Cemetery Plot C. Row 3. Grave 6. Stephen Peate was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914 15 Star.

**\*Fred Pennington 1895-1914 Service Number: 1602**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion**

Lord Frederick Pennington was born in 1895 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Thomas Pennington, secretary to a brush making company, and his wife Emma nee Morton. His parents Thomas Pennington and Emma Morton were married on 26 December 1888 at St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist, Swinton, Lancashire. The 1901 census records him as Lord F. Pennington aged 6. He lived with his parents and four brothers, George, Tom, John M. and Harry at 94 Welbeck Street in Ashton. John's father worked as Secretary for a brush works. He was the older brother of John M Pennington.

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

Lord Frederick Pennington married Violet Jones between April and June 1914 in Ashton under Lyne. Frederick Pennington joined the F Company of the Ashton Territorials but when the company left Bury for Egypt, Frederick stayed behind with the home services section. They were based at the Mossborough Camp, Rainsford. Later Frederick was drafted to the Transport section. He was taken ill with appendicitis and was operated on in a Liverpool hospital. He was recovering when he had a relapse. Fred Pennington died in a military hospital in Liverpool on 2 Oct 1914 after an attack of appendicitis. His pension records mention his widow, Violet. He was aged 19. A service at Liverpool Crematorium was attended by his father Thomas Pennington and two of his brothers: Robert and Tom. Lord Frederick Pennington was buried in the Manchester Crematorium in a family grave. His widow Violet married Jack Oscar Stanley Watts in 1916 at Welbeck Street Baptist church. In 1921 the couple were living at 4 Stanley Place in Dukinfield.

**\*John M Pennington 1896-1917 Service Number: 352110**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup>**

Sir John Morton Pennington was born in Ashton on 29 August 1896. His parents Thomas Pennington and Emma Morton were married on 26 December 1888 at St Paul's Wesleyan Methodist, Swinton. The 1901 census suggests he was known as John, rather than his rather grand birth name of Sir John Morton. John was 4 years old and lived with his parents and four brothers, George, Tom, Lord Frederick\* and Harry at 94 Welbeck Street in Ashton. John's father worked as Secretary for a brush works. By the time of the census in 1911 the family were living at 59 Newmarket Road in Waterloo. The family were moderately well off and lived in six-roomed house rather than usual more modest two up, two down. John was 14 years old and worked as a messenger for the same brush company his father worked for. His father Thomas born about 1866 in Swinton, Lancashire and was Company Secretary (brush making).

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

An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says "For several days his parents had been held in anxious suspense owing to a letter they had sent to their son, Pte. 352110 John Pennington in France, having been returned. Enquiries were made at both the Home Office and Preston, but nothing definite could be learned. On Tuesday a letter was received from France from Major E.H. Scott as follows: - "Dear Mr Pennington, I am writing to tell you how much we all regret the death of your son. He was Company Clerk and was of the greatest assistance to the Company Sergt. Major and myself. He was very popular with all ranks, and was always willing to help, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. His death was instantaneous, as he was hit by a shell when leaving Company headquarters". John was known for his kindly and straightforward manner. He is buried at Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais France, grave VII.B.3

**\*James William Penney/Penny 1875-1916 Service Number: 17661**

**Regiment & Unit: Prince of Wales Volunteers (South Lancs Regiment) 2nd Battalion**

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

At the time of the 1881 census James was five years old and lived with his parents on Oldham Road in Waterloo. His father worked as an Engine Tenter and his mother was a weaver. James was 12 years old when his mother died in 1888 at the age of 39.

In 1891 James and his younger sister Betty were boarding with the Bailey family at 6 Swan Street in Waterloo. James was 15 years old and worked as a Piecer in a cotton mill. By the time of the next census in 1901, James and his sister were living with their aunt and uncle at 36 Oldham Road in Waterloo. James was 25 years old and still worked as a Cotton Piecer. James and Betty's father John Elijah Penney died in 1910 and was buried at Christ Church on Oldham Road on 14 April 1910. In 1911 James was aged 35, single, and boarded with the Vaughan family at 49 Oldham Rd. He was a cotton piecer. (The Vaughan's son, Frank is also remembered on the Waterloo Memorial.) James' Service Record shows he enlisted at Ashton on 4 September 1914. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and was given service number 6848. He was transferred to the South Lancashire Regiment (the Prince of Wales Volunteers) on 6 March 1915 and given service number 17661. James' first posting was to France on 1 May 1915. He was severely injured with shrapnel wounds in both legs in October of that year. He may have received his injuries during the Battle of Loos which was the British first large-scale offensive and was referred to as 'The Big Push.' Following surgery he was sent to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich for further treatment. James returned to France on 1 February 1916 and was sent back to the front at the Somme 3 months later. He was injured with a gunshot wound to the hand in July 1916 and taken to hospital in Rouen for treatment before returning to action a week later. James was again seriously wounded in action on 21 October with gunshot wounds to his left arm and leg. The Matron of the Scottish Red Cross Hospital at Rouen wrote to his sister "I am deeply grieved to inform you that your brother passed away on November 1st at 10 o'clock in the morning. He never rallied from the time he was brought in. His leg was badly injured, also his arm. He was cared for and nursed during his time of suffering."

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

**Ross Perry 1884-1918 Service Number: 49003**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Ross Perry was born in Ashton in 1884, son of Francis (Frank) Perry and his wife, Charlotte Broadhurst. His parents married at St Mark's Dukinfield in 1870. In the 1891 census, Ross aged 6 was living with his parents and three siblings at 31 Tatton Street, Ashton. His father was working as a brickmaker. By 1901 the family had moved to 128 Cotton Street. Ross was aged 16 and working as an 'errand lad' in a cotton factory.

Ross Perry married Amelia Hodson in 1907 at Christ Church. In the 1911 census Ross and Amelia were living at 5 Victoria Street, Dukinfield. Ross was working as a warehouseman in a cotton factory. They had a four-year-old son, Ross Hodson Perry, born 1907. Another son, Frank Perry, was born in 1912.

Ross had enlisted in Stalybridge and was originally in the Cheshire Regiment, service number 61997. Ross Perry of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers was killed on 27 Sept 1918. He was buried in the Ribecourt Road Cemetery, Trescault, France. Grave Reference IV.A.1. He is commemorated on the Dukinfield Memorial as well as at Christ Church.

**Thomas Pickford 1882-1917 Service Number: 380177**

**Regiment and Unit: Kings (Liverpool) Regiment 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Thomas Pickford was born on 25 July 1882 in Audenshaw. He was baptised on 16 March 1884, son of Matthew Pickford and his wife Martha Ann Greenwood.

In the 1891 census Thomas aged 8 was living with his parents and three younger siblings at 7 Dean Street, West, Ashton. His father, Matthew was a brewer's drayman. The family were still at the same address in 1901. Thomas (18) was the eldest of five children.

Thomas' mother died the following year aged only 40. His father with his two younger siblings, John and Francis were boarders in Hurst.

Thomas married Ada Ann Clough in 1908 in Ashton. Ada already had two children: William and Betsy. She had four more children after her marriage to Thomas: Ada Ann b 1913, Bertha b. 1911, Joseph b 1914 and Martha Ann born 1917. In the 1921 census Ada A. Pickford, widow aged 36 was living at 69 Old St Ashton under Lyne with all six children and her mother, Sarah Jane Clough.

Rifleman Thomas Pickford aged 42 was killed on or around 31 July 1917 at Ypres. He was wounded, then pronounced missing, presumed dead. Thomas Pickford is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres as well as on the Christ Church War Memorial.

**Richard Pitt** is the one name we have been unable to trace. We know he existed as his name was included in a list of 'the fallen' in the January 1918 edition of Christ Church newsletter. There is a Richard Pitt listed on the CWGC site who died 15 Oct 1918 but he was born in Willenhall. He and his family lived there. There is no obvious connection to Ashton.

**Herbert Potter 1896-1917 Service Number: 350298**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert was born in 1896 in Ashton, the son of William Frederick Potter and his wife Mary Alcock. His parents married at Christ Church in 1881.

In the 1901 census Herbert was four years old, living with his parents and seven siblings at Turner Fold, off Turner Lane. By 1911 his mother had died, and his father was living with Herbert, his older sister Mary and his younger brother James at 122 Wellington Street. Herbert was 14 and was working as a piecer in a cotton mill.

On the day that Private Herbert Potter was killed, the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion were working on trenches at Havrincourt Wood. Lieutenant P.S. Marsden and three Privates were fired on. Marsden and one of the men were both hit in the stomach. Marsden died an hour after he was brought in by the other two men and the Private some hours later. I believe this to be Herbert Potter although the war diary does not name him.

Private Herbert Potter of the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Manchester Regiment was killed in action on 29 May 1917 aged 21. He was buried in the Bourjonval British Cemetery in France. Grave reference A3, son of F.W. Potter of 122 Wellington Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**\*G. Harry Potts 1899-1918 Service Number:153921**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps Infantry 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

George Harry Potts was born in Ashton under Lyne in July 1899, son of Thomas Potts and Annie Chadwick. Thomas Potts, a cotton mill worker had married Annie Chadwick in 1883 at Holy Trinity Church, Ashton. In the 1891 census the couple were living at 103 Bentinck Street Ashton, with two children, Lily (6) and Willie Miles (4). Their eldest child, Joshua, was living with his paternal grandmother in Dukinfield.

In 1901 the family were still at 103 Bentinck Street. George Harry was aged 1.

In 1911 the family, including 11-year-old George Harry, were living at 58 Oldham Rd Waterloo. Thomas Potts was employed as a cotton grinder. Willie (24) was a butcher, Thomas (20) was a motor driver, Sarah Elizabeth (17) was a shop assistant, and George Harry was a schoolboy. It is not known exactly when George Harry Potts joined the Army. The 46th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps were involved in the Hundred Days Offensive and saw action at the battle of the St Quentin Canal in September/October 1918. George Harry Potts died on 3 Oct 1918 in France and Flanders. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 10

**Frederick Powell 1888 - 1915 Service Number: 8980**

**Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Frederick Powell was born about 1888 in Dudley, Staffs. His parents were William Powell and his wife Myra nee Banfield who married at St Paul's Tipton on 1 March 1886. In 1891 Frederick was aged 3 living with his parents and two siblings, William and Nellie at 26 Price Street, Dudley.

Frederick joined the Army in Chester in March 1908 at the age of 20. He gave his mother's name as Myra and his brother William and two sisters, Annie and Ellen. Frederick served in India from Feb 1910 until November 1914 and then in France from 16 Jan 1915 until he was killed in action on 18 Feb 1915 at the age of 27. Frederick does not have a known grave. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, son of Mrs Myra Powell of 26 Pitt Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**Frank Pritchard 1892-1918 Service Number: 28949**

**Regiment and Unit: East Surrey Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frank Pritchard was born in 1892 in Oldham, son of Alfred Pritchard and his wife Emma. In the 1911 census, Frank was aged 19 and living with his married sister, Mary Ann and her husband, Gilbert Gregory, at 24 Winton Street, Ashton. He was aged 19 and working as a cotton piecer.

In the 1901 census Frank, aged 9, was living at 37 Catherine Street, Stalybridge with his widowed father, Alfred, a steeplejack, and his siblings, Mary Ann and Jane.

Frank Pritchard married Susannah Wrigley in 1914 in Ashton. They had two daughters: Ivy born 1914 and Frances born 1915.

Frank first joined the Loyal North Lancs Regiment. Service Number: 13573 but later transferred to the East Surrey Regiment.

Private Frank Pritchard died of wounds on 23 Sept 1918. He was buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France. Grave Reference VI.H.37.

**Charles Ramsden 1891-1917 Service Number: 8004**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Charles Ramsden was born early in 1891 in Ashton under Lyne, the youngest child of Joseph Ramsden, a labourer in a cotton mill and his wife Catherine (Kate) Lees. His parents married in 1871 at New St George, Stalybridge. Charles' mother died in 1896 so, by the time of the 1901 census, Joseph was a widower aged 52 with four children: Titus (28), Matthias (17), Hannah (13) and Charles aged 10. They were living at 10 Sun Alley, Hurst.

In the 1911 census, Charles was aged 19 and working in an iron mill. He was living with his widowed father and three older siblings at 5 Wellington Street, Hurst Nook.

Charles married later that year at St John's Dukinfield to Ethel Rogers. Their daughter, Emma Ramsden, was born in 1911.

Charles enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in 1914 aged 23.

Private Charles Ramsden was killed in action on 3 December 1917. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

His widow, Ethel and their daughter, Emma were living at 103 Minto Street in 1921.

**Thomas Ratcliffe 1895- 1918 Service Number: 482236**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 49<sup>th</sup> Division Signal Company**

Thomas Ratcliffe was born 28 Sept 1895 in Ashton under Lyne, and baptised on 20 Oct 1895, son of Alfred and Mary Ann nee Mellor. His parents married in 1892 at Christ Church. Thomas was aged 5 in 1901 and living with his parents and two siblings: Annie (6) and Sarah (2) at 68 Blandford Street, Ashton. By 1911 the family had grown; Thomas was now 15 and working as an electrician's apprentice. He lived at 39 Blandford Street with his parents and siblings: Annie (17), Sarah (12), Frank (8), James Charles (4) and Sydney (2).

Thomas enlisted in the West Riding Regiment in Mossley. He later transferred to the Royal Engineers. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

By 1921 all the family (but not Thomas) were living at 2 Wood Bank Terrace, Mossley.

Acting Second Corporal Thomas Ratcliffe was killed in action on 17 April 1918. He was buried at Mont Noir Military Cemetery, Bailleul, Pas de Calais Grave Reference I.F.8

**\*Wilfred Ratcliffe 1889-1918 Service Number: 351321**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9th Battalion**

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

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

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

Wilfred's Service Record no longer exists so we do not know exactly when he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered, or he could have been conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. Wilfred joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 351321. On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched its spring offensive with Operation Michael. It was the first German offensive against the British Army in France and Belgium since 1915 and saw a series of German attacks along the Western Front. The offensive lasted only 16 days. Both sides suffered terrible losses. German casualties numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured. Wilfred was killed on the first day of this action. He was aged 29. Wilfred's final resting place is not known. A special cross was erected at the Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme in France with the words "Believed to be buried in this cemetery."

**Henry Rathmill 1879-1916 Service Number: 3/29940**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Henry Rathmill was born in 1879 in Manchester, the son of Edward Rathmill, a glass blower and his wife Elizabeth Grundy. His parents had married in 1862 at Manchester St Mary and St Denys (later the Cathedral). In 1881 Henry was aged two, the youngest of seven children of Edward and Elizabeth. The family were living at 7 Lloyd St Manchester.

Henry Rathmill married Sarah Jane Marsden on 11 July 1903 at St Philip's church in Manchester. They had four children: Florrie born 1905 died 1907, Henry born 1906, Arthur born 1908 and Samuel born 1914 in Audenshaw. By 1921 Sarah Rathmill, widow of Henry, had remarried to William Walsh, a coal miner. Her three sons were living with her at 18 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

Private Henry Rathmill died on 15 February 1916 in Flanders. He was buried in Spoilbank Cemetery, Zillebeke, West Flanders. Grave reference I.A.7

Harry Rathmill's name is on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**\*Harry Redfern 1886-1918 Service Number: 45264**

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

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

By 1901 the family had moved from Dukinfield to Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Harry (14) was employed as an apprentice to a letterpress printer. By 1911 Harry's father had died and Rachel Redfern and her adult children were living on Huddersfield Road in Oldham. Harry (24) was working as a clerk.

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

Harry joined the Army in November 1916. He joined the Manchester Regiment.

Ida Harry Redfern was killed on 22 March 1918 aged 32. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Panels 64-67. An obituary in the Ashton Reporter described Harry as a popular and well-known Ashton soldier, husband of Mildred of 24 Green Lane, Garden Suburbs, Oldham.

**John J. Reeves 1873- 1915 Service Number: 3743**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

“John” Joseph Reeves was born in Bardsley in 1873. He was baptised as Joseph Reeves on 5 March 1873 in Bardsley, son of Robert Reeves and Mary Ann Taylor. His parents married in 1867 at St Michael’s Parish Church in Ashton. John Joseph Reeves, aged 7, appears in the 1881 census with his parents, older brother Samuel, and younger brother George William living in Lees Square, Bardsley. His father, Robert, was a coal miner, born in Oldham. John Joseph’s maternal grandmother, Mercy Taylor, and his uncle, Samuel Taylor, were living at the same address.

In 1891, the family had moved to 209 Oldham Road, Bardsley. John Joseph, now 17, was working as a coal miner.

By 1901 John Joseph Reeves was married. He appears in the census at 6 Newman Street, Ashton living with his wife Jane nee Stewart in the household of his father-in-law, Robert Stewart. John Joseph Reeves married Jane Stewart in Ormskirk, Lancashire in 1901. In 1911 John Joseph and Jane Reeves were living at 10 Lees Square, Bardsley. They state they have two children, but I can find no trace of any children born to them.

John Joseph Reeves enlisted in Ashton as a Private in the Manchester Regiment, 11th Battalion. He was killed at Gallipoli on 7 August 1915 and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

**George Richardson 1892- 1918 Service Number 401099**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

George Richardson was born in 1892, son of Thomas Richardson and his wife Emma Burgess. His parents married at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne in 1891. In 1901 George aged 9 was living with his parents and three younger siblings at Higher Fold, Stalybridge. By 1911 the family lived at 10 Kinder Street, Stalybridge. George, aged 18, was working as an apprentice coach painter.

When George enlisted in Ashton under Lyne on 30 July 1915, he gave his address as 37 Mount Street, Stalybridge and his age as 22 years and 10 months. His occupation was a 'coach painter'.

We know that George Richardson married Annie Tetlow, daughter of Lot and Sarah Jane Tetlow of Waterloo. Annie had a son, Roland Tetlow in 1910 before she married George Richardson in 1916 in Ashton. She is shown in the 1911 census as Annie Tetlow aged 21 with a four-month-old child, Roland, living with Lot and Sarah Jane Tetlow at 96 Brook Street, Ashton, George Richardson's widow Annie of 17 Duncan Street, Ashton under Lyne is named on the notice of his death. Annie's son, Roland Tetlow is also named. By 1921 Annie Richardson aged 32 with a ten-year-old son, Roland Tetlow Richardson are living at 48 Cross Leech Street Stalybridge. Annie is a widow and Roland's father is recorded as dead.

George Richardson was reported missing, presumed dead, on 21 March 1918. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial Panels 64-67. George is also commemorated on the Ashton Civic Memorial.

**\*Frank Ridyard 1875-1918 Service Number: 29827**

**Regiment and Unit: East Lancashire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

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

Frank was aged 5 at the time of the 1881 census. He lived with his parents and sisters Ellen and Anne at 41 Clarendon Road, Pendleton in Salford. His father worked as a joiner at a Paper Mill.

In 1886 Frank and his family were living at 28 Jackson Street in Ashton. By 1891 they had moved to 55 Turner Street off \Turner Lane, Ashton. Frank was now aged 15 and was training to be a joiner like his father.

Frank Ridyard married Emma Hay Jones at St Peter's Church, Ashton on 10 Oct 1896. Frank and his wife Emma and two children were living at 31 Lord St off Alexandra Road Ashton in 1901. Their children were Annie born 1898 and James born 1900. Annie and James were baptised together on 7 Mar 1901 at the Methodist New Connexion Church in Hurst. Frank was working as builders' hire-man at the time.

By 1911 Frank and Emma had moved to Fulwood near Preston. They were living with five children at Ainley Road. They had a further three children: Ethel born 1906 in Ashton, Edith born 1908 Stockport and Frank born 1910 Newton Heath. Hilda born in 1903 had died at the age of 3 in 1906. Frank was aged 35 and worked as a joiner.

Frank's Service Record no longer exists so we do not know the exact date he joined the army. His Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-1915 Star. This tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. Frank may have enlisted or most likely he was conscripted after this was extended to include married men in May 1916. He originally joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 47765. He was later transferred to the East Lancashire Regiment.

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

numbered 240,000 killed, wounded and captured while combined British and French casualties were 250,000 killed, wounded and captured.

Frank Ridyard died 24 March 1918 and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial.

The National Probate calendar shows his address as 33 Oldham Rd Ashton. His widow Emma was granted administration.

**Frank Roberts 1898-1918 Service Number: 308699**

**Regiment and Unit: Tank Corps 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frank Roberts was born in 1898 in Alt, Lancashire. He was the son of John Roberts, a forge engineer, and his wife Martha Clarke. In the 1901 census Frank aged 3 was living with his parents and two older brothers, John and Arthur at Mill Terrace, Alt. In 1911 Frank was working as a labourer and living with his family at Dean Terrace, Alt. Frank enlisted at Ashton under Lyne. He joined the Manchester Regiment and was given service number 3257. He later joined the Tank Corps 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion as a Gunner. Frank was reported missing presumed dead on 10 Aug 1918. He was commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 11. The Register of Soldier's effects names his father as John Roberts.

**S. Ernest Robinson 1895-1915 Service Number: 1382**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Sam Ernest Robinson was born on 7 January 1895. He was baptised at Christ Church on 6 August 1897, son of John William Robinson and Sarah Pamela Woodcock.

In the 1901 census Sam is listed as Samuel E. Robinson with his parents and seven siblings at 47 Cavendish Street. His father, John, was employed as a slater and plasterer. By 1911 Sam Ernest was aged 16 and working as an apprentice to a brass finisher. The family were living at 142 Cavendish Street. Sam was one of ten children, two of whom had died before 1911.

Private Ernest Robinson was killed at Gallipoli. The 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment were almost wiped out during the disastrous campaign. He died on or around 7 June 1915 aged 21. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey Panels 159-171. Son of John W and Sarah P. Robinson of 71 Hill Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**\*Frank Robinson 1882-1918 Service Number: 96558**

**Regiment and Unit: King's Liverpool Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



Frank Robinson was born in Ashton under Lyne on 25 Nov 1882. He was baptised on 11 March 1883, son of Tom and Mary Robinson. Mary's maiden name was Houghton, sometimes transcribed as Oulton. His parents had married on 9 November 1882 at St Michael's Parish Church in Ashton.

Frank was eight years old at the time of the census in 1891. He lived with his widowed grandmother Maria Robinson at 43 Bradgate Street in Ashton. In the same household were Frank's parents: Tom, a cotton minder and Mary, a card room hand. Three of Frank's siblings were also in the same house: Tom born 1886, Alice born 1887 and Maria born 1890. Several of Frank's aunts, uncles and cousins were also living at the same address.

By 1901 Tom and Mary Robinson were living at 17 Stanley Street in the parish of St Peter's, Ashton but Frank is not with his parents. In 1911 Tom and Mary Robinson were still living at 17 Stanley Street. Tom states he has been married for 28 years and has had 11 children, three of whom have died. Frank is not living with his family and cannot be traced in the census.

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

France on 2 April 1918. The article goes on to say that he was reported missing a few weeks later, on 16 April 1918. Frank's address was given as 96 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Mrs J Green of the same address was asking for any information on his whereabouts.

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

**Tom Robinson 1897-1917 Service Number: 352451**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Tom Robinson was born on 24 June 1897, son of John William Robinson and his wife Sarah Pamela Woodcock. He was baptised at Christ Church on 6 Aug 1897.

In 1901 Tom, aged 3, was living at 47 Cavendish Street with his parents and seven siblings. Tom's father was employed as a slater and plasterer. In 1911 the family had moved to 147 Cavendish Street, Ashton. Tom, aged 13, was still a school boy.

Tom joined the Manchester Regiment and was assigned to the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Private Tom Robinson was wounded and died on 22 November, 1917. He was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium. Grave Reference XXVII. B. 20A. Son of John William and Sarah P. Robinson of 71 Hill Street, Ashton under Lyne.

**John M. Robson 1892-1915 Service Number: Officer (not assigned a number)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John Matley Robson was born on 16 February 1892 and baptised at Christ Church on 29 March 1892, son of George Robson, a school master from Durham and his wife Mary Dewhurst Matley. His parents had married on 29 March 1891 at Christ Church. His father was headmaster of Gatefield School.

In the 1901 census John was aged 9 and living with his parents and a younger brother, Frederick Josiah at 88 Blandford St. Ashton. He was still at 88 Blandford Street in 1911. He was 19 and working as a clerk.

John was educated at Christ Church (Gatefield) school and Manchester Grammar. After school he joined Messrs Bryce and Sons, Importers of chemicals in Manchester. He was a member of Ashton Golf Club.

Second Lieutenant John Matley Robson was commissioned into the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 1914. He joined the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion training in Southport. He volunteered for active service with the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He joined the battalion in Egypt in April 1915.

John Matley Robson died of enteric fever in the 15<sup>th</sup> General Hospital on 17 July 1915 aged 23. He had left the Gallipoli peninsula on July 7<sup>th</sup>. He was buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, son of George and Mary D. Robson of Blandford House, Ashton under Lyne. Grave reference Q483.

John Robson is commemorated on the Manchester Grammar School Roll of Honour as well as the Ashton Civic Memorial.

**Percy Rothwell 1882-1914 Service Number: 9594**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Percy Rothwell was born in Ashton in 1882, son of George Harry Rothwell, a woodturner and his wife Nancy Lawler. His parents married in Ashton in 1880. Percy first appears in the census of 1891 when he was nine years old, living with his parents and four siblings at 101 Portland Street, Ashton.

In the 1901 census, Percy aged 19 was living with his uncle, Joseph Rothwell at 22 Dean Street. Percy was working as a wood bobbin painter.

Percy Rothwell married Emma Parker in 1907 in Ashton. Emma Parker was the sister of Robert and Samuel Parker who were both killed in WW1 and are commemorated on the Christ Church Memorial.

In the 1911 census Percy and Emma were living at 172 Portland Street, Ashton. They had two young daughters: Alice (3) and Emma 10 months. At the time of Percy Rothwell's death, they had another daughter born on Robinson Street, Dora Elizabeth Rothwell born 1914. Probate was granted to Emma Rothwell, widow of Percy Rothwell, of Robinson Street, Ashton.

Serjeant Percy Rothwell of the Manchester Regiment died of wounds in France on 16 September 1914. He is commemorated on La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial.

**William Roylance 1874-1916 Service Number: 2605**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Roylance was born in about 1874 in Manchester, the son of William and Mary Roylance. In 1881 he was aged 7, living at 370 Deansgate, Manchester. His father was a waterman from Runcorn, Cheshire.

William Roylance joined the Manchester regiment when he was aged 20 on 20 February 1895.

By 1911 William was a widower aged 37 living with two small sons, Harry and William, at 29 Peel Street, Ashton. He was working as a toolfitter's labourer. His wife Mary Hannah Roylance nee Garside had died aged 29 in Ashton in 1909. His sons were shown in the 1921 census at 19 Peel Street, adopted by John Thomas Parry and his wife Jenny.

Lance-Corporal William Roylance died on 25 September 1916 aged 41. He has no known burial place but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He is also listed on the main Ashton Memorial on Crickets Lane.

**James Rudd 1893-1918 Service Number: 351610**

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

James Edmund Rudd was born in 1893, the son of Rachel Rudd. His mother married Aaron Adshead in 1896 St Michael's Parish Church. In 1901 James Rudd, stepson, aged 7 was living at 9 Dean Street, Ashton with his mother Rachel Adshead and her husband Aaron, a coal miner. Aaron and Rachel had a daughter, Mary Alice born in 1898, but she died as an infant.

By 1911 James Rudd Adshead was aged 17 and living with his mother and step-father at 9 Dean Street. He was working as a piecer in a cotton mill.

Private James Edmund Rudd died on 11 November 1918 (Armistice Day) in Manchester. He was buried in Dukinfield Cemetery. His mother, Rachel Adshead, is shown on the pension ledger living at 3 Cotton Street, Ashton Under Lyne.

**Hugh D. Ryding 1894-1915 Service Number: 2061**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Hugh Davenport Ryding was born in 1894 in Horwich, Bolton, Lancashire. He was the son of William Ryding of Horwich and his wife Louisa Moore from Swaffham, Norfolk.

In 1901 Hugh was aged 6 and living with his parents and two younger brothers at 32 Winton Street, Ashton Under Lyne. By 1911 the family had moved to Hurst and were living at 15 Carr Street. Hugh was aged 16 and working as a moulder in an iron foundry.

Private Hugh Davenport Ryding was killed in action on 7 June 1915 at Gallipoli. He has no known burial place. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey.

His mother Louisa was living at 19 Turner Lane in the 1921 census. She was a widow. Her son Edward and his wife Nellie were living at the same address.

**\*Samuel Schofield 1897- 1917 Service Number: 57989**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 227th Company**

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

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

By 1911 the family were still living at 15 Downing Street. Samuel, aged 13, was working as a piecer in a cotton mill. This was hazardous work as it involved leaning over moving machinery to tie together broken threads. His father James was a roller turner in a textile factory. The family had grown, and Samuel now had four younger siblings: Joseph (10), Thomas (6), Florence (2) and Eva (7 months). Mrs and Mrs Schofield state they have been married for 14 years and have had seven children, two of whom have died. James and Sarah had another son, Sydney, born 11 June 1913.

Samuel's father died in 1915, so his mother was left with a young family to look after. An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter states that Samuel joined the army in July 1916. He could have volunteered, or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in January of that year. Samuel was formerly in the Liverpool Regiment service number 5608. Later he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. Samuel died on 6 Oct 1917 at the 12th Casualty Clearing Station, Mendinghem, France. Official records describe his cause of death as a result of wounds. However, the matron and chaplain of the hospital wrote to Samuel's parents stating he died as a result of gas poisoning. He was most likely gassed during the Third Battles of Ypres, possibly The Battle of Broodseinde which took place on 4 October 1917. The battle resulted in a total of 20,000 British, Australian and New Zealand casualties. Before enlistment, Samuel had been a devout member and teacher at Taunton Sunday School. The hospital chaplain wrote to Mrs Schofield that he had been with Samuel the morning he died, and they had prayed together. The death of her eldest son, Samuel in 1917, at the age of 20, must have been devastating, having lost her husband just two years earlier. Samuel is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery. He was 20 years old. Grave reference VII.B.47



**Albert Shawcross 1890-1916 Service Number: 2392**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/10<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Albert Shawcross was born on 26 November 1890 in Ashton. He was baptised at Hurst St John's on 4 Jan 1891, son of Alfred Shawcross and Elizabeth Mace. The address given at the time of Albert's baptism was 179 Hope Street and the family would continue to live there for some years. In 1891, Albert was only five months old. He was living with his parents and siblings. Albert's father was a cotton tape sizer in a cotton mill. Albert was one of ten children born to Alfred and Elizabeth Shawcross. By 1901 Albert was a ten-year-old schoolboy. In the 1911 census Albert was still living with his parents. He was 20 years old and working in a cotton mill.

Albert Shawcross married Annie Wragg, daughter of Tom Wragg of Robinson Street in 1915 at Christ Church.

Albert enlisted in Oldham and joined the Manchester Regiment. He was given service number 2392. Private Albert Shawcross was killed in action on 6 November 1916 in Egypt. He was buried in the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery. Grave reference A.91. Albert left a widow, Annie and a son, Stanley, born 1918 in Ashton.

**Herbert Smart 1891-1918 Service Number:351027**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Smart was born Bertie Smart in 1891 in Ashton, son of Joseph Smart and his wife Sarah Hall. His parents were from Halesowen in Worcestershire and married in Stourbridge in 1881. By 1891 they lived in Ashton, on Turner Lane. Bertie was one month old. His father was a bricklayer. He had four older siblings.

In the 1901 census, the family were living at 45 Turner Lane. Bert was aged 10 and he now had four younger siblings too.

Joseph Smart, Herbert's father died in 1906 aged 44.

In 1911 Herbert Smart was a boarder in the household of John Crabtree of 25 Diamond Street, Hurst. John Crabtree was a witness at the marriage of Herbert Smart and Sarah Elizabeth Robinson two years later, on 22 March 1913, at St James' church in Ashton. Herbert, 22, was a labourer in the gas works and his address was 16 Melville Street, Ashton.

Herbert and Sarah Smart had a son, Joseph, born in 1914.

Sergeant Herbert Smart was killed on 21 March 1918 aged 27. Husband of Mrs S.E. Robinson, formerly Smart of 1 Manor Street, Ashton. Herbert has no known grave, and he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in France.

Herbert's widow married Tom Robinson in 1919 and in the 1921 census they are living at 1, Manor Street with two children, Joseph Smart (7) and Mary Robinson (1).

**James Smith 1887-1918 Service Number: 57893**

**Regiment and Unit: Machine Gun Corps 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

James Smith is a common name and there were at least two men who died in WW1 called James Smith. Both are listed on the main Ashton memorial. I have decided on this particular James Smith, purely because his last address before his death was on Yorkshire Street which is close to Christ Church.

James Smith, born 27 November 1887, was baptised on 26 Oct 1887 at St Peter's, Ashton, son of Franklin Smith and his wife Margaret Alice Hughes. His parents married at St Peter's on 21 November 1886.

James first appears in the 1891 census living with his parents at 61 Uxbridge Street, Ashton. He was three years old. His father was a sugar confectioner. Ten years later Franklin, Margaret, James and daughter Sarah, born in 1892, were living at the same address. James (13) was working as a sugar boiler's assistant, probably working for his father who was still a confectioner.

In 1911 the family lived at 54 Yorkshire Street, Ashton. James (23) was a commercial traveller for a chocolate manufacturer.

James Smith joined the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps and became a Corporal. He was killed on 12 April 1918 aged 30. James had no known resting place, but he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium.

**\*Thomas Smith 1896-1916 Service Number: 2327 (Ney Street)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1/9th Battalion**

Thomas Smith was the son of Thomas Smith and Jane Brierley. He was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne in September quarter of 1896. Thomas, senior, was born in Birmingham and his wife Jane was born in Manchester. By 1881 the couple had two children: Thomas Charles born 1878 and Sarah Ann born 1880. They were living at 25 Steele Street in Manchester. Thomas Charles died in 1882 aged 4. By 1891 Thomas and Jane had moved to Waterloo and were living with five children at 8 Langham Street off Oldham Road. Their children were: Sarah Ann (11), Mary A (9), Joseph (7), Emma (or Emmy) aged 5 and three-year-old May. The last two children had been born in Waterloo. By 1901 Thomas a telegraphic workman, was aged 50 and married to Jane (48). They were living in a two-up-two down house at 24 Ney Street. Mary A (19) was employed as a bottler in a jam works (probably at Robertson's jam works in Droylsden), Joseph (17) was a roller turner for textile machinery, Emma (15) was a bristle cutter in a brush works, May was 13 and Thomas was aged 4. Thomas Smith senior died in 1910 aged 56. By 1911 Jane Smith was a 54 year old widow. She records that she had been married for 30 years and four of her ten children had died before 1911. Emma (25) a cop reeler in a cotton mill and Thomas (15) an iron moulder were living with her at 24 Ney Street, Waterloo. Jane Smith, a 65 year old widow was living alone at 24 Ney Street in 1921 when the next census was taken. Before enlisting Thomas lived with his mother at 24, Ney Street, Waterloo. He was an apprentice moulder at Messrs. Urmsom's Works in Wellington Road, Ashton and attended the United Methodist School on Worthington Street, Waterloo. Thomas Smith was drafted out to the Dardanelles in July 1915, but escaped unscathed from the perils of Gallipoli although his Regiment suffered heavy losses. By early 1916 he was in Egypt in the neighbourhood of the Suez. Thomas was accidentally killed on 26 April 1916. A letter to his mother from an officer present at the time described the accident. Thomas was with a group practising bomb throwing when one of the bombs, which had a defect, suddenly exploded. Thomas was hit in the neck and died almost straight away. The two killed were Private 3244 E. Chadderton and Private 2327 Thomas Smith. Nine others were wounded, two seriously. "He was buried the following morning with full military honours, the whole of his company going with him to his last resting place." In the letter he was described as being "very popular amongst his mates, and always did his duty well - in fact, he was one of my favourite men in the platoon. We all mourn the loss of a big hearted lad." Thomas was just 19 years old when he was killed. He is buried in the Suez War Memorial Cemetery grave C71.

**\*Thomas Smith 1894-1915 Service Number: 1137 (Lordsfield)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment, 1/9th Regiment**

Thomas or Tom Smith was born 28 April 1894 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 18 August 1894 at St Michael's Parish Church, son of Thomas Smith and his wife Maggie or Margaret Armstrong. In 1901 Thomas and Maggie Smith were living on Lordsfield off Turner Lane, Ashton. Thomas, senior, was a railway carter, transporting parcels and items sent by rail to Charlestown Station. They had six children living with them: Henry (13) who was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill (Henry may have been the child of an earlier marriage), Thomas aged 6, Martha Jane (5), Robert (3), Mary Elizabeth (2) and six-month-old Eliza. By 1911 the family were still living on Lordsfield. Thomas Smith, senior was 58 years old and working as a horse-keeper for the London and North West Railway. His wife, more formally named as Margaret, was aged 40. They had seven children living with them: Thomas aged 16 was a piecer in a cotton mill, Robert (13) was a part-timer, meaning that he attended school for half the day and worked the other half in a cotton mill, Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) was 12 years old and she and her younger sister, Eliza (10) attended school, Samuel (8), Ethel (7) and Willie (2) made up the rest of the family. Thomas Smith recorded that he had been married for 18 years and had 10 children, two of whom had died before 1911. Thomas Smith joined the 1/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 1137. Thomas landed at Gallipoli with his unit on the 9 May 1915. 'Turkish shells fell all round the battalion as they disembarked, but no casualties were recorded. The first night was passed on the top of the cliff, at Cape Helles, and the second day the battalion went further inland, and moved from one place to another for several days' (ashtonpals.webs.com). Thomas was killed in action on 19 June 1915 just over a month after landing at Gallipoli. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Panels 159-171, son of Mrs Margaret Smith of Lordsfield, Turner Lane, Ashton under Lyne.

**William A. Smith 1894-1916 Service Number: 14542**

**Regiment and Unit: Highland Light Infantry 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

William Atkins Smith was born about 1894 in Glasgow. He first appears in the Scottish census of 1901 with his parents, John Dempster Smith and his wife Janet, at 5 Wheatfield St Glasgow. William was aged 7 and had three younger siblings. By 1911 the family had moved to Dukinfield and lived at 30 Parliament Street. William, aged 17, was working as a piecer in a cotton mill. His father was a weighing machine maker.

William Atkins Smith died on 1 July 1916. He has no known burial place, but he commemorated on the main Ashton Memorial on Crickets Lane as well as the Thiepval Memorial in France.

**William Granville Spiby 1895-1918 Service Number: 47363**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion “C” Company (Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry)** (listed on IWM site as W. Grenville Smith)

William Granville Spiby was born in the last quarter of 1895, son of William Spiby, a drysalter, and his wife Martha Ann Taylor. His parents had married in 1884 at Godley, St John's. William was one of eleven children. However, five of those had died before 1911. William first appears in the census in 1901 when he was aged 5, living with his parents and seven siblings at Set View, Turner Lane, Ashton. He is listed as William G. Spiby.

In 1911 Granville Spiby was 15 and “learning cotton spinning”. He was living with his parents and four siblings at 154 Turner Lane.

William Granville Spiby joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He was presumed dead on 25 August 1918 when he was 23 years old. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial.

**Joseph Stephenson 1890-1918 Service Number: 23173**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Joseph Stephenson was born on 8 June 1890 and baptised at St Michael's Church, Ashton on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1891, son of Joseph Stephenson, a cotton spinner and his wife Sarah Ellen Leech.

In the 1891 census Joseph was just 10 months old with an older brother, Thomas (2). They are with their parents, maternal grandmother, and uncle at 15 Jermyn Street, Ashton.

In 1901 the family were still at the same address. The family had grown, with five Stephenson children in the household.

Joseph married Ada Hague on 15 June 1908 at the Registry Office in Ashton.

In the 1911 census Joseph and Ada were living at 14 Duke Street, Ashton with two children: Bertha born August 1908 and Sarah Ellen, a baby of 4 months. Mary Hague, Joseph's mother-in-law, was living at the same address.

Sarah Ellen born in 1910 died in 1911 in Ashton.

Joseph attested at the Recruitment Office on Warrington Street, Ashton on 8 June 1915. By then, he and Ada had another child, Brenda Mary born 21 May 1915. Another child was added to Joseph's service record at a later date. Annie Stephenson was born 25 August 1918. Joseph gave his address as 81 Mossley Road, Ashton. Annie, their baby daughter died in 1919.

Joseph joined the Royal Scots (Lothian regiment). He died of wounds in France on 8 June 1918, his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ada, his widow and their eldest daughter, Bertha were living at 19 Tatton Street, Ashton in 1921. Their other daughter, Brenda May, was living with relatives.

**John Stott 1879 -1918 Service Number: 56620**

**Regiment and Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Garrison Battalion**

John Stott was born in Ashton under Lyne on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1879. He was baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1879, son of John Stott and Margaret Ann France who had married in 1872 in Ashton Under Lyne.

In the 1881 census at 74 Moss Street lived John Stott (39) Margaret A Stott (30) John Stott (2) and Sarah France, sister of Margaret (33). John Stott senior worked in a foundry as a blast tenter. In 1891 John and Margaret A. Stott with son John aged 12 lived at Nelson St Dukinfield. John Stott junior was working as a piecer in a cotton mill.

John Stott married Betsy Wright in 1899.

In 1901 John and Betsy were living at 49 North Street, Ashton under Lyne. John was a foundry labourer and Betsy was a cotton reeler. Their first child, Richard, born in 1900 was living at 29 Burlington Street with his paternal grandparents.

In 1911 John Stott aged 32 and his wife Betsy (transcribed as Betty) aged 29 were living at 37 Wrigley Street, Ashton. John was employed as a refuse destructor stoker. They had four sons: Richard born in 1900, William Edward born in 1902, John born 1903, and Alfred born in 1906.

John Stott enlisted in Ashton under Lyne. As his service records no longer exist, we cannot be sure of the date of attestation.

Private John Stott was originally in the Welsh Regiment but later transferred to the Northumberland Fusiliers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Garrison Regiment. John Stott died on 24 July 1918 in Mesopotamia. His address in Ashton was given as 104 Turner Lane, Ashton under Lyne. Private Stott was buried in the Basra War Cemetery in Iraq. His age was given as 45 but he was actually only 39.

On his Pension record, his widow Betsy was living at 16 Winton Street. She was at that address in the 1921 census, but she had remarried and was living with her second husband, William Henry Doran and her sons by John Stott: William Edward Stott b 1902, John Stott b 1903, Alfred b 1906 and Harold Joseph b 1919. Betsy Stott married William Henry Doran in 1921 at Christ Church.

**Richard Stott 1900-1915 Service Number: 1652**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Richard Stott was the eldest son of John Stott (1879-1918) and Betsy Wright. He was born in Ashton in 1900. He attested in Ashton on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1914, giving his age as 17. He was actually only 14 years old. He was just 5' 2" tall. Richard gave his address as 35 Wrigley Street, Ashton and his father's name as John Stott.

Richard was living with his paternal grandparents in 1901 at 29 Burlington Street. By 1911 he was living with his parents and brothers at 37 Wrigley Street.

Private Richard Stott was killed at Gallipoli on 13 June 1915. He has no known grave but he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. His mother was recorded as Mrs B. Doran of 104 Turner Lane. (His mother Betsy Stott nee Wright, widow of John Stott married William Henry Doran in 1921).

**Albert Taylor 1898-1918 Service Number: 88020****Regiment and Unit: King's Liverpool Regiment "D" Company 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Albert Taylor was born on 11 July 1898 and baptised on 17 August 1898 at St James Church, Ashton. He was the eldest child of Arthur Taylor, a carter and horseman and his wife Anna Carthy. His parents had married in 1897 at St James.

In the 1901 census Arthur and Anna and two young children, Albert (2) and Charles (1) were living at 17 Whitworth Street, Hurst. By 1911 the family were living at 99 Hillgate Street, Hurst Brook. Arthur states he has been married for 14 years and has three surviving children. Charles, born the year after Albert, died as an infant. There were more Taylor children: James (6), and Mary (3).

Private Albert Taylor was only 19 when he was killed on 10 May 1918. He was buried on the Pernes British Cemetery. Grave reference II.B.19.

**James Taylor 1893-1915 Service Number: 1271****Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion**



James Taylor was born 23 August 1893 in Audenshaw. He was baptised at Christ Church on 31 January 1896, son of John Taylor and his wife Elizabeth Ann Ashcroft.

His parents had married at St Stephen's Audenshaw on 23 November 1878. James had at least eight siblings. He first appears in the 1901 census when his sister, Edith (22) was head of the household. James was aged 7 with five older siblings and a younger sister, Alice aged 5. They were living at 18 Cryer Street, Littlemoss. Their parents were not at the same address. John and Eliza Taylor do appear in the 1891 census at 15 Downing Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne with six children.

Edith Taylor, James' older sister married John Hampton in 1903 at Christ Church. In the 1911 census James Taylor aged 17 is boarding with his married sister alongwith his brother, Walter aged 20. Both Walter and James were working as cotton spinners.

An article in the Stalybridge Reporter of August 14, 1915, was headed 'Sweetheart Killed. Fighting with the 1/19th Territorials"

James Taylor's fiancé Miss Ada Higginbottom of Wakefield Road, Stalybridge had received the sad news of his death. A letter signed by some of his colleagues praised his bravery. Sgt James Taylor of 39 Layard Street had worked at Kershaw's Mill as a cotton twiner. He was a Sunday School teacher at Gatefield Sunday School and a member of the Gatefield Male Voice Choir. His three brothers and sister were mentioned. One brother, Drummer William Taylor was in France with the 1<sup>st</sup> Kings' Own Regiment, another, Lance Corporal Walter Taylor was in India with the Prince of Wales Yorkshire Regiment. His brother-in-law Dr J Hampton was in France with the Army Service Corps.

Sergeant James Taylor was with the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment at Gallipoli. He died of wounds there on 12 July 1915 when he was 22 years old. James

was buried at Skew Bridge Cemetery. Grave reference II.E.5, son of John Taylor and the late Eliza Taylor of Ashton under Lyne.

\*William Taylor 1890-1915 Service Number: 5335 (Taunton Road)

Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



J. LLOYD.

Everything that was  
im, but he died the same  
here in a soldiers' came-  
his grave, which bore his  
umber. Our minister was  
ess how I feel the loss of  
I at the Snipe Pit for a  
years, but was working at  
prior to enlisting. He  
children.  
ill be held on Sunday at  
Audenshaw.

—

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Cream are most effective  
dandruff and itching with  
Then shampoo with Cuticura  
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Sample each free by post  
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ARTILLERY v. I

Further Correspondence

A "Private in the Infantry" by the  
Editor of the "Reporter" from "Trumpeter" :—

My Dear Trumpeter.—Just a few lines to your letter of the 28th in your letter about your son

An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says William was a long-time scholar at Taunton Sunday School and a member of the P.S.A (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) Society. William enlisted with the 4th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on 2 September 1914. After a period of training at Barrow in Furness, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion. William was posted to Gallipoli on 25 September 1915. He died from exposure on 28 November just two months after his arrival. He was 24 years old. William has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial Panel 59 to 73 or 218 to 219.

An article in the Stalybridge Reporter 15 January 1916 reported the death of Private William Taylor. The headline was 'Waterloo Soldier Died of Exposure in the Dardanelles'

Private William Taylor aged 24 of Waterloo is reported to have died of exposure on 28 November 1915. He enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers on 2 Sept 1914. On 2 August 1915 he transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and went on active service to the Dardanelles.

William attended the Blue Coat School in Oldham until he was 14, when he went to work for Mr Ruttenau of Bentinck Street and stayed there until the war broke out. For some years he lived with Mrs Stout at 128 Taunton Road. He was for a long time a scholar at Taunton Sunday School and was afterwards a member of the P.S.A. Society.

Later that year, on 2 December 1916, there was a piece in the Stalybridge Reporter. "In loving memory of William Taylor who died at the Dardanelles November 28<sup>th</sup> 1915. From earthly cares to heavenly rest. 128 Taunton Road.

Also "In loving memory of William Taylor, died in the Dardanelles 28 November 1915.

From Aunties and Sam and Lily, 9 Hill Street, Southport. (Sam and Lily were Stout siblings) In the 1921 census they were living at 9 Hill Street with their aunt, Mrs Lucy Knott, who was the sister of their mother, Mary Jane Stout nee Knott.

Private Taylor is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

**William Taylor 1897-1917 Service Number: 303364 (Canning Street)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Taylor was born William McGarry, son of Ellen (Nelly) McGarry in 1897 in Ashton Under Lyne. He had a sister Maria born 1900. His mother, Ellen, married William Taylor (senior) in 1900 in Ashton. William had a number of half siblings born after 1900.

In 1901 census William Taylor aged 22, working as a coal miner, was living with "Nelly" McGarry and two children: William Taylor aged 3 and Maria Taylor aged 7 months with William's mother, Sarah Taylor nee Grime, a 57-year-old widow at 34A Jermyn Street, Ashton. Ellen "Nell" is recorded under her maiden name even though she had married William Taylor, senior the previous year.

Ten years later in 1911 William and Ellen Taylor were living at 18 Duncan Street, Ashton with William (13), Maria (10), Sarah (7), John (11 months) and Maria McGarry, Ellen's mother. The two eldest children were recorded with the name Taylor even though their real name was McGarry.

William McGarry Taylor married Emily Gilbert in 1915 in Ashton. They had a daughter, Ellen Taylor born in 1916 in Ashton.

William McGarry Taylor joined the Army in January/February 1917 when he would have been 19-20 years of age. He enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> (Ardwick) Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He was later assigned to the 2/8<sup>th</sup> battalion and trained at Colchester, Essex before he went to France with his Battalion on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1917. He served around Givenchy and La Bassee until late June. The Battalion then moved north to Nieuwpoort on the North Sea coast of Belgium. When the Battle of Passchendaele began on 31 July 1917 the Battalion were directed to guard the coast. However, they were heavily shelled, and it was difficult to dig trenches in the sand. Private William McGarry Taylor was killed in action on 10 August 1917. He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery. Grave Reference II.G.3.

His mother and father were living at 1 Canning Street in 1921. His widow, Emily, was living at 9 Hill Street, Waterloo with two daughter, Ellen and Emily.

William was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. These medals were donated to the Museum of the Manchesters.

**\*Robert Allen Lewis Thomas 1896-1917 Service Number: 350379**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



Robert was the only son of Robert Edward Thomas and Martha Thomas Lewis. He was born on 2 December 1896 in Scotforth, Lancashire and was baptised at St Paul's church in Scotforth on 7 February 1897. His parents were married on 2 December 1894 at Woodfordbridge in Essex.

We don't know when Robert moved to Ashton under Lyne but at the time of the census in 1901, he and his mother Martha were living at 35 Oldham Road, Waterloo with his mother's sister Mary. Robert was four years old. On the census his mother Martha says she is married although her husband does not appear to be living with the family. Martha was working as a cleaner and her sister Mary was a chemistry assistant.

By the time of the next census in 1911, Robert and his mother were living at 143 Taunton Road, Waterloo. Robert was 14 years old and worked as a Piecer at a cotton mill. A Piecer would repair the broken threads on spinning machines. This was often a job done by children because they needed nimble fingers, but it was also very hazardous because it involved leaning across moving machinery. Robert's mother says she was a widow and worked as a cleaner.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the Ashton Territorials were mobilised and 91 recruits joined the battalion in the first week. The Ashton *Reporter* names all those men who were members of the Battalion. Robert is listed as a member of 'A Company'. We don't know if he was already with the Territorials before the war or whether he enlisted during the first week.

Robert's Medal Index Card shows he was initially given the service number 1727 and that he was later given the new service number 350379. The Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the 1915 Star as well as the British War Medal and the Allied

Victory Medal. The 1915 Star was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 1915.

Robert landed at Gallipoli with his unit on 9 May 1915. He was one of the first to be wounded after being shot through the left hand by a sniper. He was sent to Alexandria for hospital treatment.

Gallipoli was one of the worst fronts of the war. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet. In the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. Robert was one of those who was ill with dysentery. In September 1915 Robert was again injured, this time in the right foot.

By Spring of 1917 Robert and his Company had been transferred to France and proceeded to the Western Front. Conditions in the trenches were very different to those Robert had been accustomed to and must have come as a great shock.

On 15 May 1917 Robert was on sentry duty in the trenches when he was shot by a sniper. He died instantly. Robert was 20 years old. Robert's death was reported in the Manchester Evening News 6 June 1917. "Killed by a sniper whilst on sentry duty on May 15<sup>th</sup> Private Robert A.L. Thomas of the Manchester Regiment #1727, only child of the late Robert Edward and Martha Thomas of 143 Taunton Road, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne.

Robert was originally buried in a small cemetery alongside some of his comrades who had fallen in battle the previous week. They were later reinterred at Templeux Le Guerard British Cemetery. Robert's grave reference is II.E.39.

**\*Harold Thornley 1881- 1917   Service Number: 23504**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**



Harold was born in Openshaw in 1881, son of Thomas Thornley and Phoebe Cooper. His parents married at St John's Church Manchester in 1866. Harold's siblings were Frederick James baptised on 10 Apr 1867 at Christ Church Bradford, Manchester, Alice born 1877 Newton, Manchester, and Minnie born 1878 Newton, Manchester.

In 1881 Harold's parents and siblings were living on Kay Street, Bradford, a suburb of east Manchester. Thomas Thornley was a Turner at Iron works born 1844, Frederick Thornley, the eldest child was age 14 and worked on the railway.

Harold was aged 9 at the time of the 1891 census. His mother was a widow aged 45 and living with her four children at 33 Taylor Street, Bradford. Frederick Thornley (aged 24) worked as machine hand, Alice (14) was a shop assistant and Minnie (13) was a fustian cutter. Harold was still at school.

The family were still living at 33 Taylor Street in 1901. Harold (19) was working as an iron driller. His sister Alice was a confectioner's assistant and Minnie was working, sewing blouses.

Harold married Margaret Ellen Rushton at Chorlton on Medlock in 1903. The Thornley family - Harold, Margaret and three daughters, Edith, Phyllis and Florence were living at 16 Fairhaven St in West Gorton in 1911 census. Harold (29) was a general fitter.

Harold enlisted in Manchester on 1 February 1914. He joined the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment, service number 23504. Harold entered active duty in France on 16 July 1915. Whilst in France, Harold was seriously injured with barbed wire and

received hospital treatment for about 12 months. Approximately six weeks before his death, Harold was awarded the Military Medal.

Harold was killed in action on 4 October 1917, possibly at the Battle of Broodseinde. An account in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says he was '*sniped while in a shell hole before going over.*' He was 36 years old.

Harold's final resting place is not known but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium Panel 120 to 124, as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial. Harold's wife, Margaret Ellen nee Rushton was born in Waterloo which explains his inclusion on the Christ Church and the Waterloo and Taunton Memorials.

**James Thornley 1877-1917 Service Number: 731393 (buried in the churchyard)**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Field Artillery 342<sup>nd</sup> Brigade**

James Thornley was born on 22 Nov 1877 in Droylsden, the son of John Thornley and his wife Mary nee Howard. His parents married at Christ Church in 1876. In the 1881 census James aged 3 is living with his parents and two siblings: a brother Albert and a sister Hannah at Cinderland Terrace, Littlemoss. His father, John was a stonemason. In 1891 James aged 13 is employed along with his brother Albert as a piecer in a cotton mill. The family were living at 78 Lumb Lane and they were still at that address in 1901. James aged 23 was working as a stonemason like his father.

James married Ellen (Nellie) Eastwood on 30 April 1902 at St James, Ashton under Lyne. By 1911 they had five children: John (8), Dorothy (6), Mary Annis (5), Elsie (3) and Florrie (2). James was working as a stonemason and the family were living at 82 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

Gunner James Thornley died on 18 June 1917 at Wangford, Suffolk. He was 39 years of age. James Thornley was buried in the churchyard at Christ Church on 23 June 1917.

\*Regiments of the Royal Field Artillery were stationed at Wangford in World War 1.

**Percy Tilbury 1892-1915 Service Number: 1393**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Percy Tilbury was born on 12 April 1892 in Hooley Hill (the old name for Audenshaw). He was baptised on 28 December 1893 at St Stephen's church, Audenshaw. His parents were Alfred Henry Tilbury born in Bath and Annie Battersby born in Lancaster. He was one of seven children, two of whom had died before 1911.

In the 1901 census, Percy aged 8 was living with his parents and siblings at 8 Shepley Road, Audenshaw. By 1911 the family had moved to Ashton. Percy was aged 18 and working as a piecer in a cotton mill. He was living with his parents at 180 Katherine Street.

Percy joined the Manchester Regiment and fought in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign. He was killed on 12 July 1915 and was buried in the Redoubt Cemetery, Helles. Percy was 23 years old. Grave reference Sp. Mem.B70. His father, Alfred H. Tilbury was mentioned in the Register of Soldier's Effects.

Percy Tilbury is also commemorated on the Ashton Under Lyne war memorial on Crickets Lane.

**James Travis 1890-1914 Service Number: 9410**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Travis was born in 1890 in Ashton, son of Samuel Travis and his wife Ann Woodcock. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1877.

In the 1891 census, James was just one year old, with his parents and two older sisters, Clara and Alice, living at the Royal Oak public house at 38 Delamere Street North. Samuel Travis, aged 36, was a beer seller.

By 1901 Samuel Travis had died and Ann, his widow, was selling beer at the same address. James was 11 years old with two older sisters Alice (22), Clara (16) and two younger siblings: John (7) and Jane Ann (6).

James Travis, son of Samuel Travis (deceased) married Eliza Ann Tetlow at the Albion Congregational Church on 17 September 1910.

In the 1911 census, the couple were living at 123 Hope Street, Hurst. They had a baby son, John, who was born in 1911. James was a machine hand on a turret lathe.

James Travis died on 26 August 1914. He is commemorated on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial in France.

His widow and son were still living at 123 Hope Street in the 1921 census. James' mother Ann was still alive and living at 60 Warrington Street, Ashton.

**\*Frank Vaughan 1895-1917 Service Number: 35411**

**Regiment & Unit: Manchester Regiment 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frank Vaughan was born in Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne on 25 September 1895. He was baptised at Christ Church, Waterloo on 1 November 1895. Frank's parents were Harry Vaughan and Elizabeth Ryan. They were married at Christ Church in 1894. Elizabeth was a British Subject born in Philadelphia U.S.A. Frank had one younger brother John Ryan Vaughan who was born on 24 September 1900.

Frank was six years old when the census was taken in 1901. His family lived at 42 Oldham Road in Waterloo. His mother's siblings: Fanny, Robert, Mary, William and Samuel Ryan were boarding with them. It must have been very cramped as the house only had four rooms, a traditional two up-two down. Frank's father worked as a coal miner.

By the time of the next census in 1911 the family had moved to a larger house at 49 Oldham Road in Waterloo. Frank was 15 years old and worked as a Cotton Piecer. A Piecer would repair the broken threads on spinning machines. This was often a job done by children because they needed nimble fingers. Frank's father still worked as a coal miner. His mother's siblings continued to board with them, and the family also took in an extra boarder. This was James W Penney who was also killed during the First World War. He died in 1916 and is also commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial

We don't know when Frank joined the army. Frank's Medal Index Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914-15 Star; this tells us that he did not serve in a theatre of war outside the UK before 31 December 1915. He may have volunteered or he may have been conscripted after this was introduced in 1916. Frank joined the 18th Battalion, Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 35411.

At the end of July 1917, the 18th Battalion took part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days. During that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Frank was most likely wounded at some point during the first few days of Passchendaele. He died from his wounds on 4 August 1917, probably at one of the casualty clearing stations that had been set up in readiness for the forthcoming offensive. Frank was 21 years old.

Frank is buried at the Mendinghem Military Cemetery in Belgium grave III.E.47.

His family chose the inscription on his headstone '*Our thoughts are ever of you*'.

**Thomas Venables 1890-1915 Service Number: 7746**

**Regiment and Unit: Rifle Brigade 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Thomas Venables was born in Mottram, Cheshire in 1890. He was baptised in 1890 at the Unitarian church in Mottram, son of George Venables, a carter and his wife Mary Alice Wild. His parents married in 1887 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton. Thomas was one of six children.

In the 1901 census, the family lived in Hollingworth. Thomas was aged 10. In 1911 Thomas (20) worked as a piecer in a cotton mill. The family were living at 30 Jackson Street, Ashton.

Thomas joined the Rifle Brigade. He enlisted on 31 December 1914 in Ashton when he was 24 years old. His address was 10 Yorkshire Street, Ashton.

Private Thomas Venables was posted as missing, presumed dead on 25 September 1915. He was 25 years old. Thomas is commemorated at the Menin Gate Memorial.

**Isaac Walker 1895-1915 Service Number:1557**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Isaac Walker was born in 1895 in Audenshaw, son of William Walker and his wife Emily A. Machin. His parents married in 1890 in Ashton. Isaac had two older siblings, Alice and William. In the 1901 census the family were living at 23 Mary Street, Taunton. They were next door neighbours to James Millin who also lost his life in WW1. Across the street at 8 Mary Street was Andrew Chalmers also commemorated on the memorial.

By 1911 Emily Walker, Isaac's mother had died, and his father was a 40-year-old widower. Isaac (16) was working as a cotton piecer. Isaac's paternal grandmother, Ann Walker was at the same address on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

Private Isaac Walker was killed on 22 July 1915 aged 20 during the disastrous Gallipoli campaign. He was buried in the Redoubt Cemetery, Helles, Turkey. Grave reference XI.A.17.

Article in the Reporter:

***Littlemoss soldier killed***

Much sympathy has been extended to the relatives of Private Isaac Walker of Lumb Lane who has been killed in the Dardanelles. He was a well-respected youth in the village and was associated with Christ Church school.

Isaac Walker is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial.

**\*James Walton 1899-1918 Service Number: 65382**

**Regiment and Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

James Wignall Walton was born on 5 Feb 1899, Longridge, Preston, Lancashire, son of William Walton and his wife Alice Isabel Parker. He was baptised in Longridge on 12 March 1899. His parents married on 9 Jan 1897 at Marsh Lane Chapel, Preston. Both James and his older brother, George, were born in Longridge but, by the time their sister Mary was born in 1900, they lived in Bardsley at 9 Lucie Street. William, James' father was working as a shoemaker.

In 1911 the family had moved to Ashton and lived at 120 Cavendish Street. William was now recorded as a 'comedian'. He says he has been married for 15 years and has had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. James W. Walton was aged 12 and a schoolboy. His parents and siblings were living at 229 Cavendish Street in 1921.

Private James Wignall Walton died of wounds on 6 May 1918 and was buried at Sandpits British Cemetery, France. His father, William was the recipient of James' effects after his death.

**William Warhurst 1893-1918 Service Number: 235727 (name incorrectly spelled on memorial)**

**Regiment and Unit: East Lancashire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

William Warhurst was born on 10 Sept 1893 in Ashton. He was baptised on 13 Oct 1893 at Christ Church, son of William Warhurst, a worker in an iron foundry and his wife Elizabeth Davenport. His parents married on 21 May 1880 at St Michael's Parish Church. William Warhurst died the year after his son was born in 1894.

There is no trace of William junior in 1901 but in 1911 he was aged 17 living with his married sister Sarah Elizabeth Sewell nee Warhurst at 50 Winton Street, Ashton. William was employed in a cotton mill as a piecer.

William enlisted in the Army and was initially in the Manchester Regiment with service number 4260. He later transferred into the East Lancs Regiment.

Lance-Corporal William Warhurst was killed on 23 Sept 1918 and was buried in the Roclincourt Military Cemetery, France. Grave reference V.E.15.

He is commemorated on Ashton's war memorial in the Memorial Gardens as well as on the Christ Church memorial.

**\*Thomas Henry Watkin 1885-1915 Service Number: 8756**

**Regiment & Unit: Sergeant 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheshire Regiment**

Thomas Henry Watkins was born in Sheffield in the last quarter of 1885 to John Watkins and his wife Mary Ann Reid. (The spelling of the surname seems to vary across records-sometimes Watkin and sometimes Watkins.)

In the 1891 census Thomas was aged 5 and living with his parents at 6 Bishop Street in Waterloo. He had an older brother William John aged 8, also born in Sheffield and a younger sister Mary Alice aged 1, born in Ashton.

John Watkin, father of Thomas Henry died in 1891 aged just 34. By 1901 Thomas' widowed mother was living on Clive Street Waterloo with three children: John W aged 18, Thomas Henry (16) and Mary A (11). Thomas Henry was working as a cotton spinner's apprentice. This was a hazardous job as it involved tying broken threads as the machinery was still moving.

In the 1921 census Thomas' widowed mother, Mary Ann Watkins (sic) was living with her unmarried daughter, Mary Alice (30) at 18 Clive Street, Waterloo.

Thomas was educated at the Christ Church schools, Waterloo and had also worked at Hannah Lees and Sons, Iron works in Park Bridge. He had hoped to gain a commission in the regular Army. He was a bugler in the Ashton Volunteers. He was in India with the Army when war broke out. He was shot in action and was taken captive on Hill 60. In a letter home, he wrote "I was picked up on the field wounded by one of the Germans who gave me a nice hot drink of coffee."

He was nursed for gunshot wounds to the left thigh and lower leg in a German Military Hospital. There he contacted tetanus and died on 27 May 1915 aged 29 years. News of his death did not reach his family until July of that year. He is buried at Cologne Southern Cemetery grave XV.B.34. Thomas is also remembered on a family headstone at Hurst Cemetery, Ashton under Lyne.

**Norman White 1899-1918 Service Number: 65764**

**Regiment and Unit: Welsh Regiment 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Norman White was born in Ashton on 11 Sept 1899, son of George White, a police constable and his wife Alice Maud Garlick. Norman was baptised at St Michael's Parish Church on 17 December 1899. His parents married in 1898 in Tideswell, Derbyshire.

In the 1901 census Norman was just one and lived with his parents on Kenyon Street, Ashton.

By 1911 the family had moved to 16 Suffolk Street, conveniently situated for Norman's father working as a police constable for Ashton Corporation. Norman had an older sister, Edith, and two younger sisters, Constance and Alice.

Private Norman White was killed in action on 28 August 1918, whilst serving in France with the Welsh Regiment. He was 18 years old. Norman was buried in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval. Grave reference XXII.B.5.

**Leonard Wild 1895-1917 Service Number: 352144**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Leonard White was born in 1895 in Ashton, son of John Wild and his wife Alice Ann Margerison. His parents married at Christ Church in 1892.

Leonard was aged 5 when the 1901 census was taken. He lived with his parents and three siblings at 9 Robinson Street, Ashton.

By 1911 Leonard, aged 15, was working in a cotton mill as a cotton twiner. He was living at home with his parents and three siblings at 53 Turner Street, off Turner Lane.

Leonard's service records no longer exist. He joined the Manchester Regiment and was killed in action on 9 October 1917 aged 22.

Private Leonard Wild has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial Panels 120-124, son of Mrs Wild and the late Mr J. Wild of 53 Turner Street. Ashton under Lyne.

**\*John Joseph Wilde 1880-1918 Service Number: 61391**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 12th Battalion**

John Joseph Wilde was born in 1880 in Ashton under Lyne, one of nine children. His parents Joseph Wilde and Mary Jane Andrew were married at St James' church, Cowhill Lane in Ashton on 9 November 1872. In 1881 he was aged 1 living on Oldham Road, Waterloo with his parents and three older siblings. Joseph Wilde, father of John Joseph, was employed as a blacksmith.

By 1891 the family had grown. There were now eight children: John Joseph was aged 11 and already working as a spinner's piecer. John's younger brother Joseph, who served in the Army until his death in 1915, was born the year after the census in 1892.

In 1901 the family were still living at 44 Oldham Road. Joseph, the head of the family, was still employed as a blacksmith, but this census is a little more specific about where he worked, "in a roller works". John Joseph was 21 and working as a cotton twiner.

The family had moved a little further up Oldham Road by 1911 to number 68. Joseph senior was employed as blacksmith. He records that he had been married for 39 years and there were nine children. All were still alive in 1911. John Joseph was the second eldest, aged 31, and was employed as a cotton twiner.

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

John Joseph Wilde joined the South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales Volunteers) Service number 42221. At some point after September 1917, he transferred to the 12th battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 61391. John Joseph Wilde was killed in action aged 39 on 25 August 1918 in France. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial Panel 9. John J. Wilde is commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memoria. His brother Joseph Wilde and Uncle Joseph Wilde are also named on the memorial.

**\*Joseph Wilde 1897-1917 Service Number: 350351 (Langham Street)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion**

Joseph Wilde was born on 17 July 1897 in Dukinfield. He was baptised on 29 June 1898 at St James Church, Ashton under Lyne, son of Walter Andrew Wilde and Mary Hallam or Allen. In the 1901 census Joseph aged 4 was living with his parents, Walter and Mary and a younger brother Ernest aged 2 at 10 Langham Street, Waterloo. Walter Wilde was employed at a colliery as a banksman.

By 1911 the family had grown. Walter and Mary were still living at 10 Langham Street with five children: Joseph (13) was a cotton operative, and his siblings were Ernest (12), Ann (9), Ethel (8) and Walter (2). A sixth child named after his father; Walter Andrew, had died as a baby in 1906.

Joseph enlisted into the 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on 14 Feb 1914 in Ashton under Lyne. He was aged 17 and gave his address as 10 Langham Street Waterloo. He was employed as a cotton spinner at the Rock Mill which was literally just across the road. His father was named as next of kin. His service number was 1669. He later became a Corporal with service number 350351. Joseph served in Gallipoli and France.

Joseph Wilde is recorded as being killed in action in France on 3 June 1917 aged 19 years. He is buried at Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery Grave reference F.14.

An article in the Ashton under Lyne Reporter says 'This young soldier, who would have been 20 years of age on the 17th of this month, was killed on 2nd June, according to the official news received at the latter end of last week, and yet, though so young, he was spoken about by his officers as one of the bravest and best non-commissioned officers.'

Joseph Wilde is recorded on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial as Joseph Wilde, Junior, to differentiate him from his uncle, also Joseph Wilde, who was killed at Gallipoli in June 1915.

**\*Joseph Wilde 1892-1915 Service Number: 1215 (Oldham Road)**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9th Battalion**

Joseph Wilde was the youngest of nine children, offspring of Joseph Wilde, a blacksmith and his wife Mary Jane Andrew. In the 1901 census Joseph was aged 8 living at 44 Oldham Road Waterloo with his parents and six older siblings: Susannah (23), John Joseph (21), Harry (18), James (16), Tom (14), and Mary Jane (11).

By 1911 Joseph was aged 19 and was employed as a cotton piecer. This was a dangerous occupation; it involved tying broken threads together, whilst the spinning machinery was in motion. His six older siblings who appeared in the 1901 census were still living in the family home. Two other siblings were already married by 1901: Sarah born 1873 and Walter Andrew born 1875. Walter Andrew Wilde was the father of Joseph Wilde (junior) commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial.)

Joseph joined 1/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment towards the start of the war. He was a Private - service number 1215. Joseph and his battalion landed at Gallipoli on 9 May 1915. Gallipoli was considered to be one of the worst fronts of the war. Gallipoli had extremes of weather. During the summer months, it was blisteringly hot, which helped the spread of disease and flies and made the men's tiny water rations feel even more inadequate. But the temperature could also plummet, and in the autumn and winter of 1915, the troops were shivering in their light uniforms; large numbers suffered from trench foot and frostbite. A particularly debilitating aspect of service at Gallipoli was the widespread presence of illness and disease, especially dysentery. Brought on by the unhygienic living conditions, rotting corpses and huge numbers of flies, there was hardly anyone who had not been affected by it by the end of the campaign. It sapped men of their strength, made them and their clothing filthy and resulted in thousands who suffered from it being evacuated off the peninsula. Joseph was originally reported as missing on 7 June 1915 before being confirmed as having been killed in action. He was aged 22 years. There was a bayonet attack that day in which at least eighteen of Joseph's comrades lost their lives. Joseph has no known grave but is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Panel 159 to 171. His name on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial records him as Joseph Wilde, senior, to differentiate him from his nephew, also Joseph Wilde, 1897 -1917. The two men were killed almost exactly two years apart.

**Edward Williams 1874-1915 Service Number: 11945**

### **Regiment and Unit: Cheshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Edward Williams was born in 1874 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Daniel Williams and Mary Jones. His parents married in Hyde in 1872.

In the 1881 census Edward was living with his parents at 2 Ratcliffe Yard, Ashton. He was seven years old and had three sisters: Ann, Phoebe and Leah. Daniel Williams was a bricklayer. In 1891 Mary Williams, Edward's mother, was a widow living at 186 Church Street, Ashton with two teenage children: Edward (16) and Phoebe (15). They were both cotton spinners.

Edward Williams married on 22 July 1899 at St John's Dukinfield to Martha Ellen Hawley. In the 1911 census Edward (36) and Martha Ellen (35) were living at 1 Cheethams Yard, Dukinfield. They had three children: Annie (11), Sarah (9) and Edward (2). Edward was working as a general labourer.

Private Edward Williams of the Cheshire Regiment was killed in action on 25 May 1915. He was 39 years old. His pension ledger lists his widow Martha E. Williams and his children: Sarah born 6 Sept 1901, Edward born 10 July 1909 and Frank born 26 July 1913. Martha Ellen Williams and her four children: Annie, Sarah, Edward and Frank were living at 6 Cottrell's buildings in Dukinfield in 1921.

Edward Williams was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery, France. Grave Reference I.F.90 husband of M.E.Williams, 6 Cottrell's buildings, Oxford Road, Dukinfield.

## **William N. Williams 1888-1916 Service Number: 9567**

### **Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh Fusiliers**

William Northall Williams was born in 1888 in Rhosymedre, Denbighshire, Wales, son of Joseph Williams, a collier and his wife Hannah Northall. In the 1891 census William was aged 3 with a younger sister Gwen born in Denton in 1890. They were living with their parents at 68 Tib Street, Haughton (Denton).

By 1901 the family were back in Wales. Joseph was still working as a coal miner. He and Hannah now had two more children, Sarah aged 6 and Robert aged 3. They were living at 30 High Street, Cefn, Denbighshire. William was 13 years old.

In 1911 Joseph and Hannah Williams lived at 114 High Street Cefn Mawr with three children: Robert, 13, Maggie, 7 and Fannie (4). Joseph records he has had 7 children, two of whom had died before 1911. William is not with his parents. William Williams aged 19, attested in Wrexham on 12 August 1907. He was aged 19 years and 8 months, occupation Collier. He was 5' 5" of sallow complexion with brown eyes and brown hair. He gave his next of kin as Joseph (father), Hannah (mother) and siblings: Arthur, Robert, Sarah, Maggie and Fanny of 114 High Street, Cefn. However, William was discharged on 23 August 1907 'having been convicted of felony before enlistment.'

At a future date William must have joined up again. He was in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Service number 9567. The Stalybridge Reporter of October 21, 1916 has a notice of the death of Private William N. Williams aged 27 of 43 Jermyn Street Ashton under Lyne. William was killed in action. There is no record of his death on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website but he is recorded on the Civic Memorial in Ashton.

William's parents and three siblings: Robert, Margaret, and Fanny were living in Ashton in 1921 at 43 Jermyn Street. William Northall Williams is commemorated on the Ashton War Memorial on Crickets Lane as well as at Christ Church.

**Frank Williamson 1885-1918 Service Number: 207989**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 6<sup>th</sup> Siege Company**

Frank Williamson was born on 16 March 1885 in Ashton. He was baptised on 12 May 1885 Trafalgar Square Methodist, son of John and Ellen Williamson nee Hilton. His parents married in 1884. Frank had a sister Nora (h) born 1886.

In the 1891 census Frank was aged 6 living at 19 Albert St Ashton under Lyne. By 1901 Frank aged 16 was working as an Apprentice bricklayer and living at 74 Grosvenor Street Ashton with his parents John and "Nelly" and sister Nora. Frank (26) was still living at 74 Grosvenor Street with his parents in 1911. His occupation is difficult to decipher but could be "stoker at Whitworth Gun Works". His sister Nora and her husband Henry Osbaldeston and their son, Lincoln were also living at the same address.

Frank Williamson married Mary McCarthy in 1912 in Ashton.

In the 1921 census Mary Williamson, nee McCarthy was a widow with one daughter Nora, born 1914, living with her parents at 16 Blandford Street, Ashton. Mary was 36 years old working as a weaver at Whittaker's cotton mill in Hurst. Nora, granddaughter of James and Lucy McCarthy is stated to be four years old; in fact, she would have been seven.

Sapper Frank Williamson was killed on 26 Aug 1918 aged 32. Buried Bagneux British Cemetery Gezaincourt IV.E.8 Husband of Mrs Williamson of 16 Blandford St Ashton see above) Source CWGC

**Frederick Wilshaw 1878-1916 Service Number: 25476**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frederick Wilshaw was born on 21 March 1878 in Ashton under Lyne. He was baptised on 18 August that year, the son of George Wilshaw, a brickmaker and his wife Eliza Jane Simpson.

In the 1881 census Frederick was aged 3. He had a twin brother, Alfred. They had six older siblings and a baby sister, Eliza Ellen. The family were living at 13 Delamere Street North, Ashton. By 1891 Eliza Jane Wilshaw was a widow with eight children living at home. Frederick was aged 13. They lived at 60, Church Street, Ashton.

Frederick (24) was still living at home in the 1901 census. He was working as a bricklayer's labourer. His older brother, Edward (26) was still at home as were his two younger siblings: Eliza and John Thomas. They lived with their widowed mother, Eliza Jane at 9 Chapel St Ashton.

Frederick Wilshaw married Eunice Clara Ryder in Ashton in 1906. In the 1911 census, they lived at 13 Canning Street. They had a five-year-old son, Albert. They had another child, Nellie born in 1907 who was with her maternal grandfather, Thomas Ryder in Waterloo on the night the 1911 census was taken.

Frederick first joined the Middlesex Regiment and had the service number G/21608 but he later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers, 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Private Frederick Wilshaw was killed in action on 30 July 1916. He has no known burial place, but he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France.

**\*Edward Wilson 1895–1917 Service Number: 203428**

**Regiment & Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



Edward Wilson was born in the autumn of 1895 in Ashton under Lyne. He was the second child of Frank Wilson and Charlotte Rodgers who were married at the parish church of St Michael, Ashton under Lyne on 14 March 1891.

Edward had an older brother, Frank born 1892 and three younger sisters, Beatrice born 1899, Annie 1902 and May born 1907.

In 1901 Edward was aged 5 years. He and his family lived at 6 Lamb Street, Dukinfield. His father worked at the Gas Works in Ashton.

The family were still living at Lamb Street in 1911. Edward was aged 14 and worked as a Piecer in a local cotton mill. This was hazardous work, often employing youngsters as deft hands were needed. It involved tying broken cotton threads whilst the spinning machines were in operation. His father worked making nails. By 1917 Edward and his family had moved to 2 John Street in Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Edward's Service Record no longer exists so we don't know the exact date he enlisted but an article in the Ashton under Lyne *Reporter* says he had been in the army just over a year when he died. Edward may have volunteered, or he could have been conscripted after this was introduced in January 1916.

Edward originally joined the Manchester Regiment and was given the service number 4358. He was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers and given the new service number of 203428.

Edward would have seen action at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres also known as the Battle of Passchendaele which took place from July to November 1917. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud. The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil

into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. The battle lasted over 100 days, and in that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles with over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Edward died at a hospital clearing station on 6 Sep 1917 from the effects of shrapnel wounds to his abdomen and left arm. He was 21 years old. Edward is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery Belgium, Grave XVIII. H. 3A. The inscription on his headstone reads '*Ever remembered by Father*'

**Cecil Wolstencroft 1893-1918 Service Number: 440540**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 2<sup>nd</sup> Army HQ Signal Company**

Cecil Barrow or Barron Wolstencroft was born on 10 May 1893 in Ashton, son of Thomas Ebenezer Wolstencroft, a school master, and his wife Eliza Jane Worthington. He was baptised at St James' church, Ashton on 7 Jun 1893.

In the 1901 census Cecil was aged 7 living with his parents at 16 Albemarle Street. He had two older sisters, Eliza (12) and Anna (11). Cecil's father died in 1908. In the 1911 census, Cecil (17) was working as a clerk. His mother was a 44-year-old widow. His two sisters were living at home: Eliza was a schoolteacher and Anna was a dressmaker. They were living at 32 Beauchamp Street off Henrietta Street.

Cecil B. Wolstencroft was killed on 15 June 1918 in Flanders. He was buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery. Grave Reference XV.G.5. His mother, Eliza Jane was his next of kin, living at 2 Cranbourne Terrace.

**Joseph Wrigley 1899-1919 Service Number: 69495**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Defence Corps 308<sup>th</sup> Protection Company**

Joseph Wrigley was born in Ashton in 1899, son of Joseph Wrigley and Hannah Jones. His parents had married in 1897 in Ashton. His father died in 1900 leaving Hannah with two very young children. In the 1901 census Hannah Wrigley, a widow aged 27, was living with James (3) and Joseph (1) at 11 Cobden Street, Ashton. John Mason was a boarder at the same address.

Hannah married John Mason later in 1901. In the 1911 census John Mason and Hannah Mason with three Mason children all under 9 years plus James Wrigley (13) and Joseph Wrigley (11) were living at 27 Turner Street. Joseph was a schoolboy.

Private Joseph Wrigley died on 9 June 1919, aged 20. He is buried in Dukinfield Cemetery. Grave reference Ch.A.I.765.

**John Wroe 1877-1915 Service Number: 7064**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

John Wroe was born on 9 December 1877 in Stalybridge.

He married Emma Brooke in 1910 in Ashton, and they had two daughters: Edith Mary born 20 March 1911 and Ethel born 9 April 1913.

In the 1911 census John and Emma and baby daughter, Edith were living with Emma's parents at 102 Minto Street. John Wroe was working as a postman. His Post Office records show that he began work on 10 February 1907.

Corporal John Wroe died of wounds on 10 July 1915 aged 36. He is buried in the Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, Belgium. Grave Reference 1.J.6. Son of the late Henry and Mary Wroe of Stalybridge and husband of Emma Wroe of Hurst.

**Abel Yates 1893-1916 Service Number: 4948****Regiment and Unit: Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Abel Yates was born on 28 Jan 1893 in Miles Platting, Manchester, son of Thomas Yates and his wife Jessie Cunliffe. He was baptised on 1 March 1893 at St Luke's, Miles Platting.

In the 1901 census Abel was eight years old, living with his parents and three brothers at 24 Sycamore Street, Miles Platting. His father was an iron fitter in a cotton mill. The family had moved to Ashton by 1911; they were living at 36 Duncan Street. Abel was now 18 and working as a coal miner.

Abel joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1914 and was awarded the British Medal, the Victory Medal as well as the 1914 Star.

Abel Yates was killed in action on 1 September 1916 in West Flanders. He was buried in La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Flanders.

**Joseph Young 1879-1915 Service Number: 9403****Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

John Joseph Young was born in 1879 in Dukinfield, Cheshire, son of Hannah Young, a cotton operative. John J. Young is first recorded in the census in 1881 aged two, living with his unmarried mother at 2 St Mark's Yard, Dukinfield. In later census (1891 and 1901) he is recorded as Joseph.

In 1891 he was 12 years old living at 19 Peel Street Dukinfield with his mother, Hannah aged 50 and two younger sisters: Sarah Ellen born 1885 and Amelia born 1888.

In 1901 his mother is recorded as a 'pauper' living in the workhouse. Joseph, aged 22, was working as a waggoner below ground in a coal mine. He was lodging at an address on Crickets Lane, Ashton.

Joseph Young married Elizabeth Clarke at Christ Church, Ashton in 1914.

Private Joseph Young was killed on 4 June 1915 at Gallipoli. He has no known burial place. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial as well as the Ashton Civic Memorial.