

**LITTLEMOSS WAR MEMORIAL is situated in the Memorial Garden on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, Droylsden, Greater Manchester**



**The memorial is an obelisk of polished black granite in a memorial garden**

The inscription reads

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends 1914-1918 R.I.P.

**The fallen of World War I 1914-1918**

**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. Herbert is also commemorated on the memorial in the entrance to Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton.

**\*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.

Stanley Buckley's name is also on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial as well as the one at Christ Church, 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 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 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 Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial as well as the one at Christ Church, Ashton.

**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 Gabbittas.

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

Edwin Collier is also commemorated on the war memorial at Christ Church. His name is entered as Edwin D Collins on the War Memorials Register at the Imperial War Museum.

**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 Christ Church War Memorial.

**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 1918. 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 Christ Church War Memorial.

**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 Christ Church War Memorial.

**John Thomas McKay 1899-1918    Service Number: 1894/ 9 6790**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force    23<sup>rd</sup> Squadron**

John Thomas McKay was born in Ashton on 25 Dec 1898, son of Patrick McKay and his wife Annie Walker. His parents married on 3 June 1898 at St Peter's Ashton-under-Lyne.

In 1901 John Thomas McKay was two years old living with his parents and a baby sister, Annie, at 148-150 Victoria Street, Ashton under Lyne. His father, Patrick, was a coal hewer.

By 1911 the family had moved to Littlemoss. They were living at The Golden Pheasant Inn, on Lumb Lane. Patrick was not the licensee however as he still worked as a collier (coal miner). John Thomas was 12 years old and still at school. His sister Annie was 10 and at school. They had a younger sister, Bertha, aged 2. John Daly was a boarder with the family, and Isaac Walker (Annie's father) was at the same address.

John Thomas McKay enlisted on 1 April 1918, giving his address as 788 Oldham Rd Bardsley, Ashton under Lyne. His service record indicates he was missing presumed dead on 3 July 1918.

Lieutenant John Thomas McKay of RAF 23<sup>rd</sup> Squadron was killed in France on 3 July 1918. He is commemorated at the Arras Flying Services Memorial. He was 19 years old. The record on the CWGC show him as "son of Mr and Mrs P. McKay of 788 Oldham Road, Bardsley, Ashton under Lyne." Patrick and Annie McKay were at that address in the 1921 census. Probate was granted to his father Patrick McKay, a coal miner. Patrick and Annie McKay moved to Blackpool. The 1939 Register shows Patrick McKay living at 128 Albert Road.

The link gives more information about John McKay from his great nephew.

<https://www.hobyanddistricthistory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/John-Thomas-McKay.pdf>



**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 Littlemoss Memorial as well as the one at Christ Church.

**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 Christ Church War Memorial.

**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 also on the Christ Church War 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 lived 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 Christ Church 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, father of James 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. James Walton is commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial as well as the one at Christ Church.

**WRIGHT James E 1887-1918    Service Number: 351599**

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

James Edward Wright was born in Hurst in 1887, son of Alfred and Nancy nee Bennett. His parents married at St Mark's Bredbury in 1872. In 1891 James was three years old living with his parents and six siblings at 30 Water Street, Hurst.

James' father died a few months after this census was taken. Nancy Wright married John Price at St Stephen's Audenshaw in 1896. In 1901, 14-year-old James was working as a hewer in a coal mine and lived at 20 Waterloo Street, Dukinfield.

James Wright married Margaret Leech at Holy Trinity, Dean Street, Ashton in 1909. They had a son, William, born later that year but sadly he died as a baby. By 1911 James and Margaret Wright lived at 21 Mary Street, Taunton. James was still working as a coal miner and Margaret worked in a cotton mill. Their daughter, Elizabeth was born on 21 July 1911. A third child, James Edward, was born on 9 Sept 1914.

We do not know when James enlisted as his service records have not survived. The Ashton Reporter of 10 July 1915 listed the names of the men who had enlisted with 3/9<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment and J. E. Wright of 21 Mary St Taunton is on the list.

James died of wounds at either the County Hospital or the 4<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital, Lincoln on 2 Nov 1918, just a few days before the end of the war. He was 31 years old and left a widow and two children. James was buried in a family grave at Hurst Cemetery. Grave Reference M778, husband of Margaret Wright, 21 Mary Street, Taunton, Ashton under Lyne.

James Wright is commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial as well as Littlemoss.

**The fallen of World War 2 1939-1945**

**DAVIES Frank 1926-1945 (Cryer St Littlemoss) Service Number: 3013649**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 313 Maintenance Unit**

Frank Davies was born in 1926 in Stalybridge, the son of Francis Davies and his wife Florence Craighill. His parents had married in 1925 at Stalybridge Christ Church. Frank had a younger sister, Brenda, born in 1928.

In the 1939 Register Francis and Florence Davies were living at 16 Cryer Street in Littlemoss. There is a redacted record at the same address which is likely to be Frank.

The Davies family were next door neighbours to the family of Joseph Williams, also commemorated on the War Memorial.

Frank Davies was an Aircraft Man Second Class when he died on 14 February 1945 in India. He was aged 18. He was buried in the Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery Plot L Grave 219. The personal tribute to Frank Davies reads: *Years roll by but memories stay, as near and dear as yesterday*. Frank is also commemorated on the Christ Church Memorial. The listing on the War Memorials Register shows his name as Davis.

**GRAY William 1944 Service Number: 3389788**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Tank Regiment R.A.C. 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

William Gray was born in Liverpool on 11 Sept 1915, son of William Gray and Florence Lythgoe. In the 1921 census William was living in Wavertree, a suburb of Liverpool. He was 5 years old and the only child of William and Florence. By 1939 William and his parents had moved to Middleton near Rochdale. William was a soap and fats commercial traveller. William Gray married Margaret Hardy of Littlemoss in 1941. A son, Peter William, was born in 1943.

Trooper William Gray, son of Mr and Mrs W Gray and husband of Margaret Gray, Ashton under Lyne was killed on 31 August 1944 in Italy. He was buried in the Montecchio War Cemetery, Grave Reference II.D.10

**HOWCROFT Fred Batty 1920-1944 Service Number: 549616**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 211 Squadron**

Fred Batty Howcroft was born in 1920. The birth was registered in Audenshaw and his mother's maiden name was Booth.

In the 1921 census Fred was aged 8 months living with his parents John William and Mary Jane and five siblings at 103 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

In the 1939 Register at 214 Lumb Lane Littlemoss were John W Howcroft born 1883 and Mary Jane born 1886 with eight children. Only John William Howcroft Junior born 5 Sept 1914 is named, all the rest of the names are redacted.

Sgt. Fred Batty Howcroft aged 24 died on 21 Sept 1944. Fred had been taken prisoner when Java fell. He died as a Prisoner of War. Fred Batty Howcroft was commemorated on the Singapore Memorial Panel 436 in Kranji War Cemetery, son of John William and Mary Jane Howcroft of Littlemoss, Lancashire. Fred B. Howcroft is also commemorated on the Christ Church War Memorial.

Probate Record: Fred Battye (sp) Howcroft 48 Lumb Lane Littlemoss £315/13/5  
Probate granted to John William Howcroft, engineers' fitter (brother).

**WILLIAMS Joseph 1913-1942 Service Number:553825**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Armoured Corps 8<sup>th</sup> Queen's Royal Lancers**

Joseph Williams was born on 9 March 1913 in Higher Broughton Manchester, son of Reginald Charles Williams and wife Sarah Elizabeth Deighton. He was baptised on 26 March 1913 at St Philip's Manchester. His parents had married on 1 October 1910.

In the 1921 census Joseph aged 8 was living at 18 Cryer Street in Littlemoss with his parents and two siblings: Agnes Nora born 13 Jul 1911 in Clayton and Violet born 8 Feb 1920 in Ashton. Joseph's father worked as a 'car cleaner' on the Manchester trams.

In the 1939 Reginald C Williams and wife Sarah E Williams were living at 18 Cryer Street with their children: Violet born 1920 and Charles A. born 1923. Their married daughter Agnes N(ora) Haughton (nee Williams) was at the same address. (One redacted record- Joseph?).

Joseph Williams married Kathleen Broadley in Leeds in October 1939. Trooper Joseph Williams aged 29 was killed on 28 May 1942, son of Reginald and Elizabeth Williams and husband of Kathleen Williams of Armley, Leeds.

Joseph Williams is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt. Column 17.

Joseph is also commemorated on the memorial at Christ Church, Ashton.

**\*WRIGHT JAMES E. 1914-1944    Service Number: 2989714**

**Regiment and Unit: Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders    2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Edward Wright was born on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914, son of James Edward Wright and Margaret Leech. James' father died in the First World War and is also commemorated on the War Memorial in Christ Church. In 1911 James, senior and his wife, Margaret, were living at 21 Mary Street, off Newmarket Road, Taunton. James Edward Wright born in 1887 died of wounds on 2 November 1918 leaving his widow and two young children.

Margaret Wright with 9-year-old Elizabeth and 6-year-old J. Edward lived at 21 Mary Street in the 1921 census. Margaret remarried in 1922 at Christ Church to John Belfield.

James E Wright junior was living in the household of Robert Leech and his wife Dorothy in 1939 at 244 Newmarket Road. Mr and Mrs Leech are likely to be relatives of his mother. James (25) was working as a cotton spinner.

Sergeant James Edward Wright joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (service number 2989714). He had married a Scot - Margaret Harris of Edinburgh. The 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (2 ASH) fought in Operation "Epsom" on June 26, 1944, as part of the 15th (Scottish) Division and the 227 Brigade. The operation was a major offensive on Caen that began with the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944.

James died on 29 June 1944 aged 29 and he was buried at Banneville-La-Campagne War Cemetery in France. Grave reference II.E.12. His gravestone reads "Love and Esteemed. In All Things shewing thyself, a pattern of good works". James E Wright is also commemorated on the Christ Church Memorial.