



Lest WE Forget

Oldham's forgotten now remembered



Lest WE Forget

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◆ *Prologue* ◆

Each year on Remembrance Day, we observe a moment of silence and reflect on the sacrifice of those who have fallen in the line of duty. Donning our poppies and bowing our heads, we proudly acknowledge the brave servicemen and women of Oldham inscribed on our cenotaph.

Lest WE Forget remembers the Oldham soldiers whom a town forgot.

Many soldiers who left Oldham were young and eager but while all who returned were changed by the experience, some came home physically disabled or mentally scarred. Much of the burden was placed on the families of injured soldiers to care for them, as the establishment was reluctant to pay out pensions and rehabilitate them. Many of the graves of these servicemen now lie neglected and untended; their name may be absent from our cenotaph. Sadly, Oldham forgot the contribution they made and the hardships inflicted upon them. Lest WE Forget honours each of its forgotten WWI soldiers and promises that...

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

◆ *Things to Note* ◆

We have used numerous abbreviations and acronyms in this book, particularly when referring to military terms. These are explained below.

Dates

Q1 - January, February and March

Q3 - July, August and September

Q2 - April, May and June

Q4 - October, November and December

Unit

Bn - Battalion

Mcr - Manchester

RGA - Royal Garrison Artillery

Coy - Company

Lancs. - Lancashire

RHA - Royal Horse Artillery

Regt - Regiment

RE - Royal Engineers

RFA - Royal Field Artillery

Bty - Battery

RDC - Royal Defence Corps

RAMC - Royal Army Medical Corps

PoW's - Prince of Wales'

MGC - Machine Gun Corps

RASC - Royal Army Service Corps

DoW's - Duke of Wellington's

LC - Labour Corps

Rank

Pte - Private

Gnr - Gunner

Spr - Sapper

Dvr - Driver

Str - Stoker

LCpl - Lance Corporal

Cpl - Corporal

LSgt - Lance Sergeant

Sgt - Sergeant

Bdr - Bombardier

LBdr - Lance Bombardier

Miscellaneous Information

- i. The acronym 'LKA' represents 'Last Known Address'.
- ii. All addresses with a street name, but no town or area stated are in Oldham (i.e. 18 Suffolk St' would be '18 Suffolk St, Oldham').
- iii. The acronym 'WG', used when referring to a man's cemetery, indicates that he has a war grave.
- iv. The acronym 'NE', used when referring to a man's cemetery, indicates that he is not eligible for a war grave as he died after the 31st August 1921.
- v. The terms 'discharged' and 'demobilised' both result in the soldier no longer actively serving. For the sake of simplicity, we have used 'discharged' to refer to both.
- vi. When discussing the enlistment date, we are referring to the date when the soldier was called up or volunteered for service in the First World War, not necessarily when they first joined the armed forces.
- vii. If a man is stated to have a cenotaph listing, then in most cases it simply means that a man of that name is listed, not that that specific man is listed.

◆ *Wounds of War* ◆

The poor sanitation, shelter and rations in the trenches combined to precipitate an environment where men possessed weakened immune systems and disease could spread rapidly. Of course, there was also the danger of being struck by a shell or bullet, coming into contact with poisonous gas or suffering psychological trauma. As such, there was an array of injuries and illnesses that the soldiers could suffer from.

Fighting on such a large scale inevitably took its toll on the men in the trenches and for some the result was 'shell-shock'. While initially, the predominant theory for the cause of this condition was physical in nature, which suggested that it was due to the shock-wave from artillery explosions, it later came to be viewed as a more psychological affliction. Treatment was varied, ranging from electric shock treatment to hypnosis. The attitude towards men who suffered with shell-shock was typically one of disdain: Sufferers of the condition were seen as cowardly, in some cases being court-martialled rather than treated. Harry Moxon Kennard is one of our men who was afflicted with this psychological condition.

A combination of the cold, damp conditions and the use of poisonous gases meant that respiratory issues were a common ailment of the First World War. Influenza, tuberculosis and pneumonia, to name a few, were frequent complaints among the men in the trenches. Joseph Holderness and Harry Murdoch are examples of servicemen who suffered with such illnesses.

Contrary to popular belief, many of the cases involving poisonous gas did not result in death; mustard gas, arguably the most horrific gas used in the war, would only be fatal in very high concentrations. At lower doses it would irritate the skin, eyes and respiratory system, resulting in painful blisters and potentially even temporary blindness. The effects of mustard agent persisted long after exposure, with it being common to develop enduring conditions, including various cancers. Frank Seel and Herbert Readhead experienced respiratory issues due to being gassed.

The horrendous situation in the trenches also introduced several afflictions that bore the word 'trench' in their name. Perhaps the most well-known of these conditions was trench foot. Pain and swelling of the foot, along with blisters and open sores would accompany this condition and if left

untreated, gangrene and necrosis could set in, necessitating amputation.

Trench fever was transmitted via the excretions of lice that infested the trenches coming into contact with irritated skin. Symptoms included a fever, inflammation of the eyes and headaches, plus back and leg pain (particularly in the shins). The relapsing nature of the disease meant that sufferers would frequently endure instances of fever that persisted for around five days at a time.

Like trench fever, trench nephritis was a disease whose sufferers were prone to relapse, placing a great strain on medical resources (It was responsible for more than 10% of military hospital bed occupancy). Breathlessness, swelling of the face or legs, headaches and a sore throat were all symptoms of trench nephritis. Despite significant research since 1915, the cause of the illness remained elusive throughout the war, meaning that no preventative measures or treatments could be put in place. Both Harry Bairstow and James Slater were sick with nephritis.

Vaccinations were uncommon in the 20th Century, meaning that there was a wide range of diseases that troops could contract: cholera, dysentery, typhus, hepatitis, malaria, sandfly fever and various venereal diseases. Samuel Tyson Farrow was stricken with Hepatitis, whilst Robert Smith was a sufferer of malaria and dysentery.

As is to be expected during warfare, there were of course a variety of gunshot, shrapnel, shell and hand-to-hand combat wounds. The likelihood of infection was high in such an unsanitary setting, with amputation often being resorted to at a time that predated antibiotics. Edwin Wolstenholme became an amputee, losing the lower part of his left leg after being shot.

◆ *Coming Home Injured* ◆

Alongside the expected consequences of being injured - physical and emotional trauma - there were many other repercussions from being injured and sent home.

During the first part of the war, military service was purely voluntary, conscription not being implemented until January 1916. Patriotic sentiment meant that there was an immense pressure for young men to enlist. A particularly horrible method of coercion was to shame men not in uniform by offering them a white feather.

The practice however, inevitably targeted men who were unfit or unable to serve. Men in reserved occupations (civil servants, miners, etc.), those who did not meet the age or physical requirements and veterans with no obvious sign of infirmity were all persecuted.

Various measures had to be implemented by the government to reduce the strain on some of these men: badges marked 'King and Country' for those in essential occupations; the Silver War Badge and King's Certificate for discharged soldiers. Yet this recognition did not address those who were underage or who had never been fit for duty. In fact, it drew more attention to a section of society

that was unsuitable for enlistment, despite appearances to the contrary.

Even soldiers on home leave were not safe from the women wielding white feathers; Seaman George Samson, a recipient of the Victoria Cross, was presented with a white feather while on his way to a public reception in his honour.

Propaganda and public opinion created a situation where one didn't necessarily have to be willing or able in order to volunteer, which pushed unfit men who were more prone to injury and illness into the armed forces. Meanwhile, disabled veterans could have to justify their lack of uniform by recounting their traumatic experiences.

Diseased ex-servicemen, particularly those suffering from shell-shock, received less sympathy than those who were maimed, as their disablement was less obvious. However, those with apparent injuries could be conscious of their appearance and therefore reluctant to go out in public. Great strides were made in the field of cosmetic surgery but treatment could take years and still resulted in noticeable disfigurement.

In 1915 the government started to provide pensions and set up the Ministry of Pensions two years later. Before this, injured veterans were reliant on charity. Pensions were, originally, awarded based on loss of income. Therefore, disabled ex-servicemen were reluctant to rehabilitate as they feared that if they took up work again they would lose their pension. This was changed with the introduction of the Ministry of Pensions who instead looked at the degree of disablement. Unsurprisingly, they were keen to avoid paying out where possible, making it difficult for men who had conditions aggravated by, rather than caused by, war service to get a decent pension. Saying that, it was difficult in general for wounded soldiers to get adequate pensions, as they were often 'calculated only to keep a man from destitution'.

The state provided ample hospital care for injured veterans before they were discharged in order to minimise the pension they had to allocate. Those who lost limbs through service were also entitled to artificial replacements, paid for by the government, something that was not available for the civilian disabled.

The prevailing attitude among the general public towards the war wounded was that they should be supported to become independent and self-reliant. As well as being responsible for overseeing pensions, the ministry also dealt with training and employment. However, training was only

provided where men were unable to resume their pre-war occupation due to their disability. In September 1919 the government implemented the King's National Roll Scheme, encouraging employers to have at least five percent of their workforce comprised of disabled veterans. In return, businesses could expect preferential consideration when it came to government contracts.

It can be said that for injured veterans the First World War did not truly end on the 11th November 1918; they returned home but continued to face what they saw, did and had done to them. The continuing physical and psychological pain took its toll on not just the men themselves, but their loved ones. Some former soldiers could become burdens to their families when they required care, were incapable of returning to work or even unable to go out in public.

◆ *Oldham's Battalions* ◆

The Territorial Force was formed in 1908 and served as the volunteer reserve component of the British Army until 1920, when it was reformed as the Territorial Army. At the outbreak of the First World War, units of the Territorial Force were given the option to serve overseas. More than 70 Battalions of the Territorial Force had opted for overseas service by the 25th August 1914.

This prompted the creation of 'lines' within the battalions of the Territorial Force. The first line was the Foreign Service line which consisted of men who volunteered for overseas service while the second line (Home Service) was for those who had not. After the 1st line battalions had been sent overseas, many third line battalions were created for Home Service, with the second line units then preparing for Foreign Service.

The Oldham Territorial Force (the 10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment) was split up into the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions. In addition to these battalions, Oldham also raised the 24th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Throughout this book we will be following the fates of the 1/10th Battalion.



The 10th Battalion's Drill Hall on Rifle St



1914



◆ 1/10th War Diary ◆

Having been mobilised on 5th August 1914, the Oldham Terriers spent a month in Britain completing their preparations before embarking for Alexandria aboard RMS Avon. In the middle of the Mediterranean their convoy came across another that was transporting units of the regular army who, up until the outbreak of war, had been garrisoned in India. Each convoy's escort switched places as they passed and the Territorials sailed on for a further three days before docking in Alexandria.

Upon its arrival the battalion travelled by train to Cairo and camped at the Heliopolis racecourse. It was here that a gruelling training regimen was implemented. The men drilled under scorching sun from six in the morning until three or four in the afternoon and regularly went on marches through the desert.

There were plenty of ways a Tommy could enjoy his time outside of training though. The Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, the bars and bazaars of Cairo, and even an ostrich farm captivated men who had probably never ventured further from home than Blackpool.

However, in spite of all its pleasures, Egypt could also be a dangerous place for a British soldier. Nationalist sentiment was strong in the country and servicemen were instructed to be armed when leaving their camp. On 18th December the United Kingdom deposed the ruler of Egypt, Abbas II, and installed his pro-British uncle, Hussein Kamel, as Sultan. The group of soldiers that lined the coronation route consisted of men from each battalion in the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division.

Born - 1888 in Werneth

Parents - John H and Elizabeth
Anne Smith (née Duckett)

Siblings - Fred, Maggie, Harry
and Frank

Occupation - Cotton mule piecer

Unit - 2nd Battalion, Manchester
Regiment

Rank - Private

Service No. - 9181

Enlisted - 5th August 1914

Discharged - Unknown

Died - 31st December 1914

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 19 Norfolk Street,
Werneth

William Smith

William was a regular in the 2nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment who had enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne. Judging by his service number, he would have joined the armed forces sometime between January 1903 and May 1904, most likely in the latter half of 1903.

The 2nd Battalion was garrisoned in Ireland at the outbreak of the war but was immediately ordered to France, landing at Le Havre on the 17th August 1914. William was wounded within the space of a few months in France and was shipped back home, dying of his wounds on the New Year's Eve 1914. He was the first of our men to die.



1915



◆ *1/10th War Diary* ◆

The 1/10th swapped places with the 1/9th Battalion in January 1915, moving off the Heliopolis racecourse and into the Abbassia barracks. It was whilst in these barracks that the battalion adopted Umpy, a pet monkey with a mischievous streak. If left alone in the men's rooms, Umpy would shuffle articles of kit from one bed to another, leading to accusations of kit-pinching when the soldiers returned.

In mid-April the battalion entrained to Kantara in response to reports of a Turkish force preparing to attack the Suez Canal. A 27-mile stretch of the canal was assigned to the 1/10th with 100 men manning an armoured train that ran alongside. However, the Turkish attack was directed at another point of the canal, so the battalion only saw (but did not fight) a small number of enemies moving across their front.

Rumours circulated towards the end of April that the battalion would soon leave Egypt for Gallipoli and the first few days of May were spent in preparation for such a move. It was the early hours of 6th May when the two ships carrying the men of the 1/10th slipped their moors and drifted off into the Mediterranean.

On the third day of the voyage, the men of A and B Companies aboard the Haverford started to hear the sounds of battle on the Peninsula. They lined the decks of the ship and watched in awe the scene unfolding before them: the roaring guns of the British battleships punctuated a cacophony of exploding shells, while countless streaks of machine gun fire lit up the darkening sky. It was their first glimpse of a modern war being waged on a grand scale.

For the next few months, the 1/10th was in and out of trenches overlooked by the Turkish positions on the slopes of Achi Baba. The Gallipoli Campaign had so far been unsuccessful against the well dug-in Turkish forces; the belief that the offensive was consuming resources that would be better spent on other fronts was becoming more prevalent.

One of the objectives for the first day of the landings was the village of Krithia. Previous attempts at taking the village had failed, but a third attempt was planned for 4th June. The 1/10th were informed that they would be reinforcing the 29th Division and take part in what would later be known as the Third Battle of Krithia. Zero hour was set for noon, with the Turkish trenches being bombarded for an hour beforehand.

However, the artillery barrage was largely ineffective and the allied attacks on the flanks were repulsed, with only the centre of the offensive being successful. The initial Allied attack on the 4th was followed by Turkish counter-attacks on the 5th and 6th, intent on reversing the territorial gains of the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division in the centre. The roll was called at the end of the fighting and out of approximately 800 men, less than 400 answered.

At the end of June, a two-week rest on the island of Imbros was granted to the men of the 1/10th. They were able to bathe in the sea and simply enjoy themselves, only being compelled to keep their kit clean and maintain their fitness.

A much needed draft of reinforcements from the 2/10th Battalion, numbering 240 men, arrived in mid-July. Shortly afterwards, the battalion was moved to the Eski line in preparation of a diversionary attack on 6th August, planned to distract the Ottomans from a landing at Sulva Bay.

September entailed relocation to the Border Barricade Sector, where the Tommies were within shouting distance of the Turks. During this time British soldiers became fed up with their almost daily issue of apricot jam, dubbed 'parapet jam' due to the tendency for it to be thrown over the parapet.

Torrential rain in November transformed the trenches of the peninsula into rivers of mud which the British forces were ill-prepared to deal with. The soldiers wouldn't have to endure such conditions for long though, as soon the abortive Gallipoli campaign was to be abandoned. On 28th December the battalion marched down to the coast and in the early hours of the 29th boarded the SS Robin Redbreast, headed for Mudros. No doubt during their departure, the men of the 1/10th, as well as the multitude of other Allied contingents who fought in the campaign, thought bitterly of conceding the land they had so resolutely fought for.

Born - Q3 1870 in Kirkham

Parents - John and Eliza
Townsend (née Hayer)

Siblings - George, John, James,
Mary, Ellen and Margaret

Occupation - Cardroom jobber

Units - 2nd Battalion, Lancashire
Fusiliers; 1st (Garrison) Battalion,
King's (Liverpool) Regiment

Rank - Private

Service Nos. - 9372 & 32051

Enlisted - Unknown

Discharged - Not discharged

Died - 18th September 1915

Cemetery – Hollinwood (WG)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 19 Camden St, Hollinwood

David Townsend

David married Harriet Rawding in the third quarter of 1907 at Christ Church, Chadderton. He fathered two children: John William and Ellen.

He signed up in Bury, joining the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers and was posted to the Western Front. There is a little uncertainty around David's age: some sources say he was born around 1877, while others suggest 1870. If the earlier date is correct (and he had not served previously in the military), then he would have been too old to enlist at the start of the war. As well as large numbers of underage boys signing up, there were also significant numbers of men above the upper age limit who did so. It is possible he misled the army about his age so that he could enlist.

At one point during the war, he was invalided to hospital in Manchester after injuring his knee and getting frostbite when rescuing a wounded comrade. By 1st March 1915, following an operation on his knee and recuperation at home, he was back on duty. He was granted four days leave in September and passed away while at home.

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
James Henry Rothwell	1879	Pte	6 th Bn, Mcr Regt	121	-
Arthur Royds	1880	Pte	King's (Liverpool Regt); LC	68974 & 42958	-
William Clare	Q3 1873	Pte	8 th Bn, East Lancs. Regt; Mcr Regt	16634 & 13094	-
Herbert Edward Fielding	1885	Sgt	10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	51	-
Harry Hopkinson	1894	Pte	15 th Bn, Royal Scots (Lothian Regt)	17525	-
Charles William Gibson	1892	Cpl	1/9 th Bn, Mcr Regt	2049	-
Reuben Burrows	3 rd Oct 1875	Pte	1/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	452	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
1 st Jan 1915	Injuries of war	Warrington (WG)	Yes	-
18 th Feb 1915	Injuries of war	-	Yes	440 Rochdale Rd, Crompton
9 th Mar 1915	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	Yes	18 Suffolk St
10 th Apr 1915	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	164 Waterloo St
26 th May 1915	Injuries of war	Kilkerran, Campbeltown (WG)	Yes	35 Gainsborough Ave
15 th Sep 1915	Injuries of war	St Paul's Church, Stalybridge (WG)	Yes	342 Mossley Rd, Ashton- under-Lyne
11 th Dec 1915	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	Yes	14 Tweedale St



1916



◆ 1/10th War Diary ◆

The 1/10th Manchesters embarked for Alexandria aboard HMT Arcadian on 14th January, arriving four days later. The men camped near the Pyramids and once again were able to see all the sights they enjoyed before their fateful expedition to Gallipoli.

On 2nd April the battalion began a march to Suez. After some hard training there they were moved up the canal to El Ferdan, in much the same place they were stationed before heading off to Gallipoli. Reports surfaced in July that a strong joint Turkish and German force was advancing on the canal from El Arish. British forces moved to counter this threat and in early August the battalion was posted on the railway at 'Hill 70', 12 miles from Romani. Just before midnight on 3rd August the Battle of Romani began but the 1/10th did not arrive until most of the fighting was over.

In the months following the battle, the battalion found themselves guarding the construction of the water pipe and railway line that was snaking its way across the desert towards El Arish. Although the men were accompanying a water pipe, very little water was available to them; often the men had as little as a pint per day to suffice all uses. Their situation was exacerbated by the blazing desert sun and

difficult terrain that made marching an even more strenuous effort. In contrast, nights in the desert were bitterly cold and a number of men were afflicted with influenza and a strange disease with similar symptoms to cholera.

An attack on El Arish was launched a few days before Christmas but the Turkish garrison had fled before the British forces arrived. Christmas day was spent in the town of Mazar and there was nothing vaguely Christmassy in the way of food or drink: bully beef and biscuits washed down with a 'pathetically small' quantity of beer.

Born - Q1 1899 in Oldham

Parent - Thomas and Mary Ellen Hardy (née Harvey)

Siblings - Nancy, Thomas and James

Occupation - Cotton operative

Units - 11th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment); 2/10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment

Rank - Private

Service Nos. - 20755 & 4732

Enlisted - 6th September 1915

Discharged - 13th September 1915 (from the Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Died - 9th March 1916

Cemetery - Chadderton (WG)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 26 Portland St, Ashton-under-Lyne

Herbert Hardy

When World War One was declared in August 1914, a huge number of men wanted to enlist. Therefore, recruitment offices had to handle tens of thousands of men and youths who wanted to fight for King and country. With birth certificates being uncommon in the early twentieth century and with recruitment officers being paid two shillings and sixpence (about £6 today) per recruit, it was easy for willing, physically fit, but underage boys to be enlisted. It is thought that as many of 250,000 'Boy Soldiers' were recruited for the British Army to fight in World War One.

Herbert was too young to sign up when war broke out and, being eager to fight, he was still too young when he actually enlisted. Claiming he was 19 (when in fact he was 16), he enlisted in Ashton-under-Lyne and joined the 11th Battalion of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment).

Being only five-foot tall, the battalion to which Herbert was posted was called a 'Bantam' battalion, derived from a term for small breeds of domestic fowl. The army had a minimum height requirement of 5ft 3in and would reject

perfectly healthy men who were under this height. This was until MP Alfred Bigland petitioned the war office to form units composed of men between 5ft and 5ft 3in. Although height was not an issue, Herbert was quickly discovered as being underage, and discharged under *clause (via), para 352* of the King's Regulations - 'Having made a mis-statement as to age on enlistment' with 'Soldier under 17 years of age at date of application for discharge'. His discharge was just a week after his enlistment.

We know that he later served in the 2/10th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. It is likely that after his discharge he reenlisted at a different recruitment centre with the Manchester Regiment, concealing his previous service and lying again about his age. Sadly, he died at home on 9th March 1916, aged 17, making him our youngest fallen soldier.

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates
Service towards limited engagement reckons from				6. 9. 15.
Joined at	Lancaster	on		7. 9. 15.
King's Own Sep	Posted		Ru	6. 9. 15.
Runes	11	Posted	PR.	9. 9. 15.
"	"	Forfeits pay for absence from	etc	17. 9. 15.
"	"	Discharged		24. 9. 15.
		Para 392 VI a RR		
		W.O. Letter No 9	etc	13. 9. 15.
		Gen'l No 5388 D		
		(A.G. 213) d/6/9/15		

This image, taken from Herbert's Royal Lancaster Regiment service record, shows his short period of service and states the reason for his discharge.

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Eli Helliwell	21 st Mar 1887	LCpl	3/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	3943	-
Abraham Booth	1891	Pte	Mcr Regt; King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt)	1284 & 10581	-
William Newton	Q2 1894	Pte	24 th Bn, Mcr Regt	14005	-
Fred Taylor	1897	Pte	22 nd Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	47025	-
Fred Bamford Joy	1885	Pte	24 th Bn, Mcr Regt	15121	4 th Jun 1916

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
3 rd Apr 1916	Bronchitis	Greenacres (WG)	Yes	23 Norbury St, Glodwick
22 nd Jun 1916	Injuries of war	-	No	-
29 th Jul 1916	Shell wounds	St Matthew's Church, Chadderton (WG)	Yes	25 Caroline St
18 th Aug 1916	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	207 Horsedge St
Q4 1916	Injuries of war	-	No	1 Back Bolt St

Born - Q4 1876 in Shaw

Parents - Henry and Ann Porter

Siblings - Jane Ann, Laurence, Mary, Betty, Sarah Ann, James and Bertha

Occupation - Labourer

Unit - B Battery, 186th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Rank - Gunner

Service No. - 41268

Enlisted - 14th August 1915

Discharged - Not discharged

Died - 1st March 1916

Cemetery - Crompton (WG)

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 36 Cheetham St, Shaw

Robert Henry Porter

Robert Henry Porter enlisted in the Royal Horse Artillery at the age of 38, which would have been the upper age limit for service had it not been raised to 40 in May 1915. While on furlough, he was found to have died in bed, the cause being noted as Asphyxia. Robert was unmarried but cohabiting with Alice Ann Schofield, the mother of his children. His family could not afford to pay for his funeral and so the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association had to advance them £14 to cover the expenses.

The above man died in Oldham about the 3rd instant whilst on furlough, leaving an unmarried wife and seven children, of whom several are of working age. The family were however destitute of means to bury the man and to provide funeral expenses, and we have had to advance about £14 from the funds of the S.&S.F.A., some of which however we hope to recover.

An extract from a letter sent to the commanding officer of the 186th Brigade by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association



1917

◆ *1/10th War Diary* ◆

A few weeks of the new year were spent in El Arish but January had not yet ended when the order came to redeploy to France. A 97-mile march to Moascar entailed, where the battalion were re-equipped for the Western Front.

Landing in Marseille at the beginning of March, the 1/10th undertook a three-day journey by train to Pont Remy. The bad weather, compounded by the draughty French box cars, made the journey very uncomfortable. The train journey was followed by a seven-mile march, in snow a foot deep, to the village of Huppy. It was here that they prepared for trench warfare and began selling souvenirs they picked up in Egypt, from coinage to bits of stone belonging to the Pyramids.

The battalion went in and out of the line over the next few months, including a one-month spell at Havrincourt Wood, where they were bombarded regularly by enemy artillery. A six-week rest period at Courcelles-le-Comte allowed the battalion to recuperate in the summer weather and had the added benefit of familiarising the men with an area that would once again see combat come March 1918.

After this period of rest, the 1/10th was thrown into the nightmare that was Ypres. On the way to the front line they

marched down the Menin Road and witnessed the devastation that years of fighting had inflicted on the landscape. Although they did not man the front-line trenches, instead working to prepare for the coming offensive, the soldiers of the 1/10th were nonetheless subjected to the incessant onslaught of the German guns and many of the other horrors of the Salient.

It is unsurprising that after 16 days the men counted themselves lucky as they were to be posted to a quieter sector. Late in September the battalion arrived at Nieuport and discovered that they were relieving their own second-line unit, the 2/10th Battalion. A brief period of exchanges between the friends and family among the two battalions was possible before the 2/10th marched away.

The 1/10th experienced the Nieuport sector in much the same way the 2/10th had done: no fighting but plenty of work to be done. The struggle of the work parties to operate in the water-logged terrain was noted by a military chaplain, Padre Raymond. He refurbished an old army mobile canteen that provided hot drinks and soup to the men of the night-time work parties. This service was temporarily interrupted when, on what must have been a very dark night, the driver

reversed the canteen into a canal. Although it was recovered, the canteen was later permanently put out of action when it was hit by a shell.

After more than a month in Nieuport, the battalion moved off to the La Basse front. All was quiet until the morning of 10th December. The battalion had only been in the front line trenches for a couple of hours when the Germans sent over a dose of poison gas that was followed up with a charge at the British lines. Despite being gassed and knowing that exerting themselves would only worsen its effects, the soldiers of the 1/10th heroically repelled the German troops.

Born - 16th May 1896 in
Oldham

Parents - John Edward and
Alice Halliwell (née Gartside)

Sibling - Fred

Occupation - Bank worker

Units - One of the Public
Schools Battalions, Royal
Fusiliers; Machine Gun Corps

Rank - Private

Service No. - 13598

Enlisted - 16th August 1915

Discharged - 25th June 1917

Died - 27th June 1917

Cemetery - Chadderton (WG)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 32 Rochdale Rd, Royton

George Halliwell

George Halliwell was the elder of two sons born to John Edward Halliwell, an accounts clerk, and Alice Gartside. He attended Hulme Grammar school and went on to work in a local bank before the outbreak of war.

Initially, George signed up for one of the Public Schools Battalions, but these were soon depleted as Kitchener encouraged the 'Young Gentlemen' of such battalions to become officers. George was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on 28th February 1916 and served on the Western Front from 25th April. Fighting, including in the infamous Battle of the Somme, took its toll on George and he was invalided home on 19th May 1917, suffering from deafness and bronchitis.

He was employed for a time on the staff of the Headquarters Tracing Office before being sent to the discharge centre at Ripon on 25th June. A few hours after arriving home on 27th June 1917, George passed away.



Born - Q4 1871 in Oldham

Parents - John and Sarah
Lees (née Lees)

Siblings - Samuel, Mary Ann
and Sarah Hannah

Occupation - Cotton
spinner

Unit - 1st Battalion,
Manchester Regiment

Rank - Private

ID No. - 3421

Enlisted - 3rd October 1914

Discharged - 26th July 1916

Died - 5th March 1917

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 12 Buckley St, Lees

Joseph Lees

Joseph had served in the army prior to the outbreak of the First World War. On 5th March 1892 he enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), beginning seven years of service in the colours and five in the reserve. In the years following his service he became a cotton spinner and married Annie Gaynon on 15th July 1905, with whom he had five children (Joseph, Edith, Alice, Agnes and Wilfred).

When war came in 1914 he enlisted in the Manchester Regiment, landing in France on 25th March 1915. Had Joseph not been a former regular army soldier, his age would have prevented him from enlisting (the upper limit was 45 for ex-servicemen).

However, after just six days in France he was sent home. He was deemed unfit for service because he had varicose veins in both legs that were aggravated by military service and as such was discharged. Joseph was to die less than a year later.

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
William Prince	1883	Pte	2/5 th Bn, West Yorkshire Regiment	6541	-
John Williams (1)	-	Pte	Mcr Regt; 321 st Protection Coy, RDC	961 & 19991	-
Charles Ernest Jackson	1887	Gnr	RGA	71689	-
Edward Whitehead	1894	Pte	12 th Bn, Mcr Regt	3952	25 th Jan 1917
Herbert Porter	1880	Pte	2 nd Bn, Mcr Regt	41513	-
George Arthur Mayall	Q4 1896	Pte	2/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	4557	4 th Jul 1916

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
26 th Jan 1917	Injuries of war	Heaton, Bolton (WG)	No	-
30 th Jan 1917	Injuries of war	St Joseph's, Moston (WG)	Yes	-
15 th Mar 1917	Injuries of war	St Matthew's Church, Chadderton (WG)	No	63 Queens Rd, Chadderton
Q1 1917	Tuberculosis, respiratory problems due to gassing and gunshot wound to knee	-	Yes	343 Shaw Rd, Royton
10 th Apr 1917	Injuries of war	Greenacres (WG)	Yes	-
8 th May 1917	Injuries of war	St John the Baptist Church, Lees (WG)	Yes	30 Seville St, Royton

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
John Dyson	1891	Gnr	128 th Siege Bty, RGA	60238	-
Herbert Holt	1896	Pte	Mcr Regt; 1 st Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	4694 & 52628	-
Joseph Stafford	1874	Pte	10 th Bn, Mcr Regt; 23 rd Bn, Rifle Brigade	613 & 205844	9 th Apr 1917
Harry Murdoch	Q2 1890	Dvr	RE	53542	24 th Mar 1917
Harry Buckley	1895	Pte	27 th Bn, Mcr Regt	3/32996	-
Harry Taylor Simpson	1888	Pte	PoW's Volunteers (South Lancs. Regt); 2 nd Bn, Monmouthshire Regt	266402 & 4973	-
George Ledger Cannon	5 th Feb 1879	Pte	Royal Scots (Lothian Regt); LC	26304 & 520747	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
17 th May 1917	Gunshot wound to arm and broken back	Royton (WG)	Yes	379 Rochdale Rd, Royton
24 th May 1917	Injuries of war	Royton (WG)	Yes	King St, Royton
15 th Jun 1917	Bronchitis and tuberculosis	-	No	51 Boardman St
Q2 1917	Tuberculosis	-	No	-
3 rd Jul 1917	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	Yes	52 Hereford St, Werneth
30 th Jul 1917	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	19 Quebec St
28 th Sep 1917	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	No	40 Lees Rd

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Sidney Dawson	19 th Mar 1893	Pte	2/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	377936	-
Joseph Sowden	1891	Pte	Mcr Regt	2033	8 th Sep 1916
William Lloyd	24 th Jul 1878	Str 1 st Class	Royal Navy	295728	9 th Mar 1917

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
14 th Dec 1917	Injuries of war	Holy Trinity Graveyard, Waterhead (WG)	Yes	1 Kent St
17 th Dec 1917	Injuries of war	-	No	125 Edward St
29 th Dec 1917	Aneurysm	Royton (WG)	Yes	3 Hoghton Place, Southport

Born - 1891 in Godley, Hyde

Parents - George and Annie Birch (née Clarkson)

Sibling - Annie

Occupation - Grinder labourer at Platt Brothers

Unit - 1/10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment

Rank - Private

ID Nos. - 1821

Enlisted - 5th August 1914

Discharged - 19th November 1915

Died - 13th March 1917

Cemetery - Lees

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 28 Grange St, Oldham

Thomas Birch

Thomas Birch was a territorial soldier before the war started, enlisting in the 10th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on 12th March 1914. Interestingly, when asked if he had served previously, he stated he had served from August to November 1913 in the Manchester Regiment. It appears that he requested to be discharged from this unit and was made free under *Article 1058(a), Pay Warrant 1912*. A soldier was required to purchase this type of discharge, except in cases where the soldier was leaving the forces to support destitute relatives.

At the onset of war, Thomas volunteered for Foreign Service and so was put in the first line of the 10th Battalion. His service in Egypt reckoned from 10th September 1914 to 3rd June 1915, when he was sent to Malta, ‘The nurse of the Mediterranean’, suffering from tuberculosis. A month later he was admitted to, and spent the next two months in, the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

Private Birch’s sickness precluded him from rejoining the 1/10th and he was discharged on 19th November 1915. A medical board at the hospital noted that he had a ‘total inability to earn a livelihood’ in addition to being ‘permanently unfit for War and Home Service’.

Annie Dickinson married Thomas on the 6th March 1916 at All Saints' Church, Northmoor. The couple had one son, Harold, who was born in November 1914, shortly after Thomas left for Egypt. Sadly, they were only married for a year before tuberculosis took Thomas' life.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment	
1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Thomas Birch</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	2. In the Parish of <u>Grodby</u> in or near the Town of <u>Stoke</u> in the County of <u>Cheshire</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age?	4. <u>22</u> Years <u>11</u> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Grinder Lat</u>
6. In whose employ are you?	6. <u>Plat. Bn. New Works</u>
7. Where do you now reside?	7. <u>22 Grove St. O.</u>
8. Are you now an Apprentice? if so, please state particulars.....	8. <u>No -</u>
9. Are you married?	9. <u>No -</u>
10. Do you now belong to the Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Royal Navy, the Army Reserve (Regular or Special), or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Corps?	10. <u>No</u>
*11. Have you ever served in the Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Territorial Force, the Royal Navy, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve (Regular or Special), or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, please state Corps and cause of discharge	11. <u>Yes</u> <u>Marine Regt 13th 12th To 13th 12th</u> <u>Free Article 105 & 106 1912</u>
12. Do you belong, or have you belonged, to any Cadet Unit?	12. <u>No -</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? ...	13. <u>No -</u>

An excerpt from Thomas' enlistment papers, showing his declaration of previous service



1918



◆ *1/10th War Diary* ◆

With the withdrawal of Russia from the war at the start of March, large numbers of German soldiers who fought on the Eastern Front could be sent westwards. Intelligence suggested that a major German offensive was coming that could decide the fate of the war.

The weeks of relative peace the 1/10th had enjoyed behind the front line came to an abrupt end on 23rd March, when the men were bundled onto a convoy of buses. In a final, all or nothing offensive, German troops had crashed into the British lines near Saint-Quentin in the early hours of the 21st and were quickly capturing ground.

During the night of the 24th/25th March, the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division joined the fray to relieve the 40th Division, with Oldham's battalion taking over the Ervilles Sector. There was no support from artillery, as it had been left behind in the rush to stream infantry to the front. Even though units were falling back all around them, the 1/10th held firm. They repelled eight attacks in a single day, for which they were mentioned in the Commander-in-Chief's Despatch on the German Spring Offensive.

Although thus far they had managed to contain the German onslaught, at about 8:00 PM the battalion was informed that their neighbours on the left flank had been ordered to fall back, forcing the 1/10th to conduct a fighting withdrawal. The battalion halted when they reached Bucquoy, turned, and dug in, again fending off several attacks.

A few days later they were moved to Essarts, where they were obliged to contend with the weather as well as the Germans; torrential rain flooded the trenches, leaving their occupiers knee-deep in water and mud. Just as 1/10th was about to move out of this sector, a six-hour salvo launched an estimated 5,000 gas and high-explosive shells, causing over 70 casualties.

The majority of the next couple of months was spent in Pas, deep within Allied territory. The battalion camped in the woods and after morning training, if not in work parties, the men could play football or cricket. Concerts were held under the trees using a piano Lieutenant Colonel Peel, the commanding officer of the battalion, had requested from the Mayor of Oldham. Nightly entertainment was found in the local estaminets (small bars/restaurants), which were packed

with Tommies. The 1/10th even had the pleasure of hosting a battalion of Americans during this time.

Eventually the rest period had to end and it did so on the evening of 7th June, a day after the departure of the American battalion. The 1/10th made its way to La Signy and a few hours after settling into the trenches, their new counterparts welcomed them with a heavy shelling, one of many they would endure in this sector. In addition to the losses inflicted by the enemy, the strength of the battalion was sapped by an outburst of influenza: in a nine-day period, 120 men were admitted to hospital.

It was the beginning of the end for the German army. The Spring Offensive was unsuccessful in breaking the British and forcing the French to come to terms. Now, the Allies were launching their counter-offensive (the Hundred Days Offensive): towards the end of August the 1/10th was involved in the attacks on Miraumont and Reincourt; as September drew to a close they assaulted the infamous Hindenburg Line near Havrincourt, pushing two miles beyond their objective and capturing Welsh Ridge, a deed which netted them much praise from senior commanders; October saw them defeat the elite German 25th Division at the River Selle in a bitterly fought night battle.

The men of the 1/10th Battalion found themselves in the village of Hautmont when hostilities ceased. Upon their

arrival three days prior, they were greeted in a most extraordinary manner by the French inhabitants. Eager to rid the village of its German presence, they rushed from their houses to the banks of the River Sambre, throwing in doors, mattresses and beds to form a bridge about 50 yards wide. After a quick crossing the battalion pushed into the village and, in its last fight of the war, drove away its occupiers.

The villagers of Hautmont hosted the 1/10th for the next six weeks. A fête was held on 16th November with the battalion and representatives from other units in the 42nd Division parading in the square. The mayor presented the Tommies with a bouquet of flowers, in return receiving a captured German howitzer and field gun. In mid-December the 1/10th left Hautmont and marched to Gilly in Belgium, where each man waited impatiently to be told he was going home.

Born - 17th April 1884 in Waterhead

Parents - James and Sarah Eliza Crowder (née Andrew)

Siblings - Sarah Elizabeth

Occupation - Blacksmith and farrier

Unit - King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Rank - Private

Service No. - 25912

Enlisted - Unknown

Discharged - Unknown

Died - 26th August 1918

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 507 Huddersfield Rd,
Waterhead

James Henry Crowder

Before fighting for King and Country, James worked as a blacksmith and a farrier. He wed Clara Wood on 26th March 1910 and in the final weeks of the year the couple had a son, William.

While on the Western Front, Private Crowder was chosen to embark across no man's land, tasked with cutting the barbed wire fences that would impede the advance of his comrades. Opposing troops were trained to listen and look for those working on the barbed wire fences, meaning their searchlights and flares could expose him at any minute. During his mission, he was exposed to poisonous gas, causing him to become very ill.

James was sent home and died on 26th August 1918 owing to respiratory issues. His death certificate states that he died from tuberculosis.



Born - Q1 1886 in Heywood

Parents - Unknown

Siblings - Unknown

Occupation - Carman (delivery driver)

Unit - 1st and 3rd Battalions of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Rank - Lance Sergeant

Service No. - 8251

Enlisted - 5th August 1914

Discharged - Not discharged

Died - 1st November 1918

Cemetery - Heywood (WG)

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 60 Agincourt St,
Heywood

Arthur Edwin Kay

Arthur served in the army before the First World War. He enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) in June 1904, his initial period of service being three years in the colours and nine in the reserve. Two years later, whilst serving in India, Arthur opted to extend his service in the colours to six years. In October 1910, after four and a half years in India, he returned home and was transferred to the army reserve.

He married Alexandrina Elizabeth Sleigh on 3rd June 1914 at Bethel Chapel in Heywood. The couple had one child, Gerald Edwin, who unfortunately died in June 1917, at just under two months old.

Being a reservist, Arthur was drafted into the armed forces the day after war broke out. He returned to his old unit and was in France before the end of the month. In May 1915 he received a gunshot wound to the head and was hospitalised. A week later he was discharged from hospital, deemed fit enough to perform duties away from the frontline. Shortly afterwards Arthur found himself in hospital again, this time suffering from dyspepsia (stomach discomfort). His health issues meant that on 7th July he was sent back to the UK and posted to the 3rd Battalion.

Following the expiration of his service with the colours in 1910, Arthur worked as a carman (delivery driver). Keen to utilise his pre-war experience, he requested a transfer to a mechanical transport unit of the Royal Army Service Corps in August 1915. However, the attempt was unsuccessful and he remained with the 3rd Battalion until his death.

Arthur had been repeatedly promoted throughout his whole military career (as well as being demoted twice for misconduct) and on the last day of September 1916 he attained the rank of Lance Sergeant.

He was taken ill again in late 1918, this time with pneumonia. On 1st November 1918 he passed away, with his wife by his side, at the military hospital in Aylesbury.

Employed as Driver of 4 Ton 40 H.P. Heyland
for 3 years, did all own repairs fitted all renewals
Employer's address. Edward Scott. Cotton Manufacturer Heywood
Lancs.
At outbreak of war employed by the British
Automobile Traction Co. of London. Drove 40 H.P. Daimler
Situation open on return to civil life. For reference
write, R. Fenton Esq. Manager B. & F. Co. King Edward St
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

An
excerpt
from
Arthur's
letter to
the
RASC

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Samuel Tyson Farrow	1885	Pte	LC	74064	15 th Dec 1917
John William Skellorn	Q2 1882	LCpl	16 th Bn, King's Royal Rifle Corps	R/36149	-
William Mannion	1887	Pte	6 th Bn, Coldstream Guards	27005	-
Fred Dickson	1885	Pte	1/5 th Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	90183	-
John Greenwood	1891	Pte	RAMC	142081	-
Robert Bottoms	1883	Cpl	RAMC	37419	-
James William Gartside (1)	1885	Pte	RDC; LC	76880 & 545813	-
William Thomas Gartside	Q1 1875	Pte	Mcr Regt; 321 st Protection Coy, RDC	20998 & 19918	-
John Coop	1873	Pte	27 th Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	109988	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
Q1 1918	Hepatitis	-	Yes	47 Orme St
21 st Apr 1918	Respiratory issues due to gassing	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	34 Abson St, Chadderton
27 th May 1918	Injuries of war	Royton (WG)	Yes	2 Union St, Royton
9 th Jun 1918	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	Yes	111 Limeside Rd, Hollinwood
25 th Jun 1918	Injuries of war	Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne (WG)	Yes	31 Ryecroft St, Ashton-under-Lyne
1 st Jul 1918	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	43 Wellington St, Chadderton
9 th Jul 1918	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	No	14 West End St
18 th Aug 1918	Injuries of war	Greenacres (WG)	No	-
25 th Aug 1918	Injuries of war	Lees (WG)	Yes	48 Plymouth St

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
William Cordwell	1897	Pte	LC	427941	15 th Apr 1918
James Samuel Stott	1892	Pte	MGC	34865	19 th Sep 1916
Albert Taylor	1887	Cpl	25 th Bn, East Lancs. Regt	242603	8 th Feb 1918
William Hadfield	1890	Pte	King's (Liverpool) Regt; LC	192594	-
James William Gartside (2)	17 th Aug 1885	Pte	10 th Bn, Lancs. Fusiliers	45671	-
John Hilton	1893	Pte	1/7 th Bn, Mcr Regt	375418	-
Guy Brierley	1885	Pte	Mcr Regt; Channel Islands Militia (Royal Jersey Garrison)	32125 & 892	-
Fred Cocker	1888	Pte	3 rd Bn, Mcr Regt; LC	48215 & 482440	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
28 th Aug 1918	Injuries of war	-	No	191 Oldham Rd, Springhead
Q3 1918	Injuries of war	-	Yes	57 Orchard St, Royton
2 nd Oct 1918	Mastoid infection	Greenacres (WG)	Yes	74 Cromford St
20 th Oct 1918	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	Yes	-
22 nd Oct 1918	Injuries of war	Crompton (WG)	Yes	230 Grains Rd, Shaw
26 th Oct 1918	Injuries of war	Greenacres (WG)	Yes	189 West St
31 st Oct 1918	Injuries of war	Almorah, St Helier, Jersey (WG)	Yes	33 Church St, Lees
1 st Nov 1918	Injuries of war	Hollinwood (WG)	No	3 Ryeburne St

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Thomas Dunkerley	1896	Pte	LC	19959	29 th Jun 1918
John Williams (2)	1897	Pte	1/4 th Bn, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt)	37940	-
George Burgess	1883	Dvr	181 st Brigade, RFA	L/34551	-
Samuel Holt Shaw	1893	Pte	RAMC	105625	1 st Nov 1917
Leonard Foster	1897	Pte	RASC; 11 th Bn, Essex Regt	T4/186474 & 38194	-
Frank Brassington	1890	Pte	3 rd Bn, Royal Irish Fusiliers	5907	31 st May 1916
William Henry Wild	1880	Pte	King's (Liverpool) Regt; Mcr Regt	48001 & 28750	-
John Lees	1886	Pte	24 th Bn, Mcr Regt	28076	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
2 nd Nov 1918	Malaria	-	No	608 Huddersfield Rd, Waterhead
5 th Nov 1918	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	16 Hopwood St, Chadderton
6 th Nov 1918	Injuries of war	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	179 Oldham Rd
7 th Nov 1918	Heart problem due to active service	-	No	34 Dunkerley St
11 th Nov 1918	Injuries of war	Southern, Manchester (WG)	Yes	Middleton Junction, Manchester
12 th Nov 1918	Pulmonary embolism	-	No	-
28 th Nov 1918	Injuries of war	-	Yes	227 Manchester St
Q4 1918	Injuries of war	-	Yes	997 Huddersfield Rd, Waterhead

Born - 12th July 1896 in Oldham

Parents - Robert Edwin and Jane Ann Wolstenholme (née Axon)

Siblings - Violet and Ada

Occupation - Shop assistant at J.Wild and Co. Jewellers

Unit - 19th Battalion,
Manchester Regiment

Rank - Private

Service No. - 25072

Enlisted - 9th December 1915

Discharged - 28th August 1917

Died - 28th June 1918

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 62 Nugget St, Oldham

Edwin Wolstenholme

By the end of 1915, Edwin had signed up to one of the Pals Battalions in the Manchester Regiment. The Pals battalions were created at the start of the war by Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War. Kitchener believed that winning the war would be achieved through sheer manpower and that allowing men to serve along their friends and colleagues would make them more inclined to enlist. However, this policy meant that in one attack half a town or village's young men could be killed or wounded. When news reached home of such disastrous losses, whole communities mourned and often families learnt that more than one of their relatives had been killed or injured.

Private Wolstenholme arrived in France on 25th May 1916 and after being abroad for only one month, he was shot in the left leg and hospitalised. His mother was notified of the incident and that her son's left leg was to be amputated below the knee via a letter dated 5th July.

Edwin was discharged from the army on 28th August 1917, being noted as 'A very steady man'. He expressed a desire to learn the clerical trade upon leaving the army, but he passed away less than a year after his discharge.

Born - 5th March 1888 in Birkdale,
Southport

Parents - Alfred and Jane Sawyer (née
Simmonds)

Siblings - Alfred, John, Margaret, Jane,
James, Rebecca, Ethel and Floree

Occupation - Firebeater at Lion Mill

Ships - HMS Europa and HMT Aragon

Rank - Stoker 1st Class

Service No. - SS104467

Enlisted - 2nd August 1914

Discharged - Not discharged

Died - 29th October 1918

Cemetery - Greenacres (WG)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - HMS Commonwealth,
Devonport

Walter Sawyer

By age 13, Walter Sawyer was an inmate at North Lancashire Reformatory for Boys. On 4th January 1907, Walter enlisted in the Royal Navy for a period of five years of active service and seven in the reserve. During his first stint in the navy, he sailed on HMS Empress of India, HMS Commonwealth and HMS Leviathan.

After fulfilling his active service obligation, he moved to Oldham and at the St Stephen and All Martyrs Church in Oldham, on 28th September 1912, he wed Eliza Woolfenden. Walter named his first child Eric, while the second bore his own name.

As a naval reservist, Walter was called up when naval mobilisation was ordered on 1st August 1914, three days before Britain declared war on Germany. Although Walter survived to see the end of the war, during which he served as part of the naval force in the Gallipoli Campaign, he was to die shortly after its conclusion. Five days after being granted leave, on 29th October 1918, he died at home due to pneumonia following influenza.



1919



Born - Q4 1894 in St Mary's
Parish, Oldham

Parents - Henry and Kate
Kennard (née Moxon)

Siblings - Henrietta and Minnie

Occupation - Cotton mill
piecer

Unit - 12th Battalion,
Manchester Regiment

Rank - Private

Service No. - 13962

Enlisted - 16th November 1914

Discharged - 24th April 1916

Died - Q2 1919

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 12 Fir St, Oldham

Harry Moxon Kennard

After enlisting on 16th November 1914, Harry was assigned to D Company of the 12th Battalion, Manchester Regiment. He was sent to France in July 1915 but by October had been hospitalised for nervousness (what we would now know as post-traumatic stress disorder) and severe gastritis. On 24th April 1916 he was discharged as being no longer fit for war service.

Harry married Susannah Fennel on 26th August 1916 at St Mary's Church, just a few months after returning to civilian life. Perhaps being a young man at home in the midst of the infamous Somme Offensive prompted him to send a letter to the army, dated 29th September 1916, asking for one of the new Silver War Badges. A month later, he received badge number 7267.

In December 1918 he again wrote to the army, this time asking for a King's Certificate; as a soldier who was discharged due to disabilities sustained in a theatre of war he was entitled to this. Four months after sending his letter, his King's Certificate was delivered.



Silver War Badge

13962

Mr. H. Kennard
No. 12, Fir Street,
Off. Emmott St.
Oldham.

Thursday Nov 21
P. O. Sent 2/12/18

Dear Sir

I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines on behalf of the Kings Certificate which I think I am fully entitled to, as I have served overseas in France in 1915 and was discharged with Gastritis, also Nervousness and I think I am entitled to a Certificate as this was caused through having to rough the hardships also through drinking bad water. I belonged to the old 12th Manchester Regt. D. Company. 13 Platoon Regt No 13962. I joined the colours in November 1914

and was discharged from Hospital in 1916. So I hope you will kindly oblige me by sending me a Certificate as soon as possible as I think I am fully entitled to one. So will close now hoping to hear from you in return. I remain
Yours Sincerely.

Lt. Pte. H. Kennard.
No. 13962. 12th Batt Man Regt.

D. Comp 13 Platoon

Home address Mr. H. Kennard
No. 12, Fir Street
Off. Emmott St.
Oldham
Lane

Harry's letter
to the army
enquiring
about his
King's
Certificate

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Harold Burnett	Q1 1896	Dvr	RASC	M/299867	-
Edwin Hanson	1881	Pte	LC	452015	-
George Robert Cooper	5 th Oct 1897	LBdr	301 st Siege Bty, RGA	114715	-
Peter Yates	1891	Pte	1/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	376444	-
Joseph Holderness	Q3 1885	Pte	1 st Bn, Mcr Regt; LC	4623 & 403646	-
James Murphy	Q3 1878	Pte	5 th Bn, Lancs. Fusiliers; 3 rd (Garrison) Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	7448 & 33969	31 st Jul 1917

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
4 th Feb 1919	Pneumonia	Chadderton (WG)	Yes	121 Gainsborough Ave
13 th Feb 1919	Injuries of war	St Matthew's Church, Bradford	Yes	Larkhill Farm, Dobcross
16 th Mar 1919	Gunshot wound to right eye, cerebral abscess and recurrent epileptic fits	Royton (WG)	Yes	-
16 th Mar 1919	Injuries of war	Greenacres (WG)	No	12 Princess St
21 st Mar 1919	Influenza and pneumonia	-	Yes	37 Whiteley St, Chadderton
Q1 1919	Tuberculosis and gunshot wounds to left and right legs	-	Yes	2 Rivington St, Royton

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
William Sutcliffe	29 th Dec 1986	Pte	4 th Bn, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt); RAMC	36480 & 134579	-
Fred Turner	1899	Pte	3/7 th Bn, DoW's (West Riding Regt); MGC	306133 & 42021	18 th May 1918
Thomas Barton	24 th Apr 1875	Pte	27 th Bn, Mcr Regt	28223	26 th May 1916
George Henry Buckley	Q3 1872	Pte	RASC; LC	300367 & 19437	-
James William Shaw	Q2 1899	Pte	19 th Coy, RAMC	117562	11 th Oct 1917
Thomas Smith	1892	Pte	3 rd Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	20978	1 st Oct 1917
James Arthur Bocking	1884	Pte	1/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt	2342 & 375597	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
Q1 1919	Injuries of war	-	Yes	20 Ouchan Ave
Q1 1919	Gunshot wound to head	-	Yes	29 Freeman St
Q2 1919	Injuries of war	-	No	31 Roundthorn Rd, Glodwick
Q2 1919	Injuries of war	-	Yes	14 Harold St
Q2 1919	Injuries of war	-	No	39 Derker St
3 rd Sep 1919	Heart problem due to active service	Hollinwood	Yes	646 Chamber Rd, Hollinwood
11 th Sep 1919	Injuries of war	-	No	85 Egerton St

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Ernest Christopher Higgins	1894	Pte	13 th Bn, Mcr Regt; 2/6 th Bn, Mcr Regt; 2/10 th Bn, Mcr Regt; 13 th Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt	9733, 252687 & 94429	-
James Albert Houseman	28 th Jul 1887	Pte	ASC	T/368519	6 th Mar 1918
Herbert Readhead	1881	Spr	RE	107942	29 th Jan 1919
Thomas Wilde	Q2 1888	Dvr	9 th Bty, RFA	243648	10 th Apr 1918
Clifford Tattersall	1886	Spr	10 th Bn, Lancs. Fusiliers; 138 th Army Troops Coy, RE; 12 th Field Coy, RE	207203	5 th Mar 1919
Harry Bairstow	Q3 1876	Pte	Hampshire Regt; LC	37292 & 188052	24 th Apr 1918

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
Q3 1919	Injuries of war	-	No	829 Hollins Rd
Q3 1919	Ulceration of stomach	-	No	4 Top O' Th' Meadows, Waterhead
Q3 1919	Respiratory problems due to gassing	-	No	9 Railway View, Mumps
Q3 1919	Injuries of war	-	No	22 Acre St, Chadderton
6 th Oct 1919	Bronchitis	Royton (WG)	Yes	26 Windsor St
Q4 1919	Chronic nephritis and kidney failure	-	No	Waterloo St

Born - Q1 1886 in Bradford

Parents - Patrick and Margaret Duffy (née Connor)

Siblings - John, Margaret Ann, Catherine and Mary Jane

Occupation - Army regular

Unit - 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment

Rank - Company Quartermaster Sergeant

ID No. - 899

Enlisted - 5th August 1914

Discharged - Unknown

Died - Q3 1919

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 17 John St, Oldham

Thomas Duffy

Thomas was born in Bradford in the first quarter of 1886, with his family moving to Oldham sometime before his second birthday. When he became old enough to work he got a job as a cotton mule piecer.

His low service number indicates that he was a regular in the army, enlisting in the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in 1906. This would have meant he fulfilled his active service obligation (seven years in the colours) in 1913. No more than two years later, as a military reservist when war was declared, Thomas would have been among the first to be called up. He comments on how little time he has spent at home in a letter dated 8th October 1918: 'It won't be long now before everybody is going back. Then you will probably see enough of me to make up for the twelve years I have been away'.

Several times throughout the war Thomas was recognised for his bravery and earned the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant (equivalent to a Colour Sergeant); he was a recipient of both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Bar as well as the third class of the Cross of the Order of Saint George (a medal presented by the Russian State to Russian and Allied servicemen, nurses and Red Cross members).



**Distinguished
Conduct Medal**



**Third class of the
Cross of the Order
of Saint George**

Distinguished Conduct Medal Citations

‘for conspicuous gallantry near
Neuve Chapelle on 27th
November 1914, in the attack on
the enemy’s sap-heads, and
subsequently for great courage in
leaving his trench under very
heavy machine gun fire, and
bringing three wounded men into
cover’ - *First citation for the medal,
published on 1st April 1915*

‘for conspicuous gallantry during
an attack. Sjt. Duffy and his
officer were the first men in a
redoubt, and when the latter was
wounded he led the men forward
with great coolness and bravery’ -
*Second citation for the bar, published on
20th October 1916*



**Thomas Duffy, pictured
standing**



1920 & 1921



Born - Q3 1898

Parents - Fred and Betty Seed
(née Clegg)

Siblings - Ann, Emma, George
Brierley, Sam, Lizzie Ann and
Harry

Occupation - Cotton mule piecer

Unit - 1/5th Battalion, King's
(Liverpool) Regiment

Rank - Private

ID No. - 51238

Enlisted - Unknown

Discharged - Unknown

Died - Q3 1921

Cemetery - Unknown (NE)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 226 Laneside, Shaw

Frank Seed

Frank's mother passed away in 1909 and it appears that by 1911, the twelve-year-old was in the care of his elder siblings at 226 Laneside, Shaw.

In the course of fighting for his country, Frank Seed was exposed to poisonous gas and wounded by shrapnel. Although he survived the war and returned home, he was not to escape his injuries.

Frank wed Annie Glossop in the third quarter of 1919 and the following year they had a son, Ernest. However, in 1921 he became very ill and eventually died at home in the third quarter of that year.



Born - 5th June 1889 in Blackburn

Parents - Unknown

Siblings - Unknown

Occupation - Labourer

Unit - 4th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers; Royal Army Medical Corps

Rank - Private

Service Nos. - 4/30539 & 134664

Enlisted - 7th December 1915

Discharged - 21st March 1919

Died - 12th February 1920

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 19 Hardman St,
Chadderton

James Slater

James Slater and Ethel Flint were married on Christmas Day, 1911 at the Northmoor Methodist Church, Oldham. The couple had no children together.

Initially, James served in the 4th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers, which was an Extra Reserve Battalion that remained in the UK throughout the war. However, in the latter half of 1917 he was transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps.

He was later discharged as 40% disabled under *clause (xvi), para 392* of the King's Regulations - 'No longer physically fit for war service'. On his discharge papers, dated 21st March 1919, it was stated that he had contracted nephritis. Considering his death was in February 1920, less than a year after his discharge, it is highly likely that it was related.

In early November 1920 James' widow received some of his personal effects from the RAMC. The collection, which was found on the body of an unidentified soldier, consisted of several photographs and postcards bearing James' name, a pair of scissors and a small silk handkerchief. Perhaps more perplexing is the letter the RAMC sent two months later, asking her for his address so they could forward his medals.

SUBJECT. MEDALS. R.A.M.C. Records Office
 C.R. 9/515/F. Woking
 E. 35/542. 25/1/22.

Madam,
 With reference to Army Form W. 5132 (address for medals), addressed to Mr. J. Slater, and returned by you, will you kindly furnish me with the address of Mr. Slater, to enable me to forward his medals.

Yours faithfully

To:-
 Mrs. F. Slater,
 90 Wrigley Head,
 Failsworth,
 Manchester.

for Officer in Charge

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The image on the left is of the letter sent to Ethel Slater from the RAMC Records Office regarding James' medals.

To:-
 Officer in Charge,
 R.A.M.C. Records,
 WOKING.

29 SEP 1920
 Ef/Misc/273/1672.
 No. _____
 80, LANCASTER GATE, W.2.

134664 Pte SLATER. J., R.A.M.C.

The enclosed effects which appear to be the property of the above named man have been received here on account of a soldier whose identity has not been established. According to records Pte Slater has been discharged. Will you therefore cause him to be interrogated with a view to ascertaining if they are his property and if so, how and when they came to be out of his possession. In addition can he suggest from whose body they were likely to have been recovered.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Effects Branch,
 (B.E.F. Section),
 80 Lancaster Gate
 LONDON. W.2.

copy of this letter

Lieut.,
 Staff Lieut.,
 for D.A.A.G.,
 att'd D.G.G.R & E.,

29883 of 54280

The image on the right is of a letter sent to the RAMC Records Office from the British Expeditionary Force Section of the Effects Branch regarding James' possessions.

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
William Lord	1886	Dvr	RASC	T4/036552	-
John Sharkey	1888	Dvr	RFA	67352	23 rd Mar 1920
Benjamin Taylor	1879	Pte	MGC; King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt)	26990 & 21239	23 rd Jan 1917
Fred Scholes	1882	Gnr	108 th Heavy Bty, RGA	72068	4 th Dec 1919
Samuel Hilton	14 th Aug 1883	Pte	P Coy, RAMC	121990	31 st Mar 1920
Joseph Stott	1879	LCpl	2 nd Bn, Lancs. Fusiliers	19002	16 th Jan 1918

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
28 th Apr 1920	Injuries of war	-	Yes	774 Oldham Rd, Failsworth
Q2 1920	Influenza	-	No	97 Kirkbank St
2 nd Dec 1920	Injuries of war	-	Yes	7 Clegg St, Heyside, Royton
18 th Dec 1920	Injuries of war	St Matthew's Church, Chadderton	Yes	4 Queen St, Royton
29 th Sep 1921	Malaria and pneumonia	(NE)	No	5 Cambridge St, Royton
Q4 1921	Shrapnel wounds	(NE)	Yes	15 Wallshaw St

Born - 12th August 1876 in Greenacres

Parents - William and Sarah Anne Wrigley (née Lees)

Siblings - Susannah, Mary Ellen and Arthur

Occupation - Cotton piecer

Units - 2/10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment; 1st Battalion, King's (Liverpool) Regiment; Royal Army Service Corps

Rank - Private

Service Nos. - 2560, 52788 & M/404437

Enlisted - 23rd September 1914

Discharged - 12th February 1919

Died - 16th January 1921

Cemetery - Unknown

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 336 Greenacres Rd, Waterhead

Edward Wrigley

It was 12th October 1902 when Edward Wrigley married Mary Elizabeth Feber. The couple had four children together: Ellen, Amos, William and Clara.

Enlisting shortly after hostilities commenced, he remained in England with the 2/10th Battalion until midway through 1916. In July of that year, Edward was one of 350 men from the 2/10th sent to the 1st Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, which was suffering heavy losses in the Somme Offensive.

Ill-health spelt the end of Private Wrigley's service as a front-line soldier; he was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps in November 1917 and became a driver in a mechanical transport unit.

On 12th February 1919, he was discharged under *clause (xvii), para 392* of the King's Regulations - 'Surplus to military requirements (having suffered impairment since entry into the service)'. His discharge papers state that his disabilities were an injured left knee and a septic hand, classifying him as 20% disabled.

Almost two years after his discharge, on 16th January 1921, Private Wrigley succumbed to nephritis and bronchitis, illnesses almost certainly attributable to his time on the Western Front.

Certificate of Commanding Officer.

(This certificate will be completed only in cases of trivial injury where the soldier claims to have been injured while on duty.)

I certify that the injury to the above-named soldier † occurred
while he was in the performance of military duty.

† On the 13th Sept 1917 while the above
named was at Physical Training, "In the
field" he was jumping over another man's
back ^{when} he fell & complained that he had
hurt his knee. He was not to blame.

The soldier has been so informed.

Station Infantry 1/15th Regt

Date 20.9.17 Commanding 1/15th Regt

This Army Form will be attached to the Medical History Sheet, on which it will be recorded whether the soldier was on duty, and whether he was to blame.



Edward Wrigley
in 1914/1915

The account of how Edward injured his knee: 'On the 13th Sept 1917, while the above named was at Physical Training . . . he was jumping over another man's back when he fell and complained that he had hurt his knee. He was not to blame.'



1922 & 1923



Born - 31st January 1881

Parents - Edward Livesey and Rachel Darlington (née Crockbon)

Siblings - Sarah Ellen, Clara Maud, Amy, Thomas Isherwood, Florence, Sarah Evelyn, Harry, Percy and Edward

Occupation - Cotton twister

Unit - 10th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

Rank - Private

Service No. - 5743

Enlisted - 4th September 1914

Discharged - 27th June 1917

Died - April 1923

Cemetery - Unknown (NE)

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 133a Castleton Rd, Royton

Charles Frederick Darlington

On Christmas Day at Glodwick Parish Church, Charles married Mary Anna Stow. Nine children resulted from the marriage: Edward, Arnold, Walter, Thomas Isherwood, Fred Stow, Amy, Edith, Frank and Mary Elizabeth.

Less than a month after war was declared, Charles enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He disembarked in France on 15th July 1915. Sometime in the first half of 1917 his left arm was amputated and he was discharged on 27th June that year.

He struggled to deal with the loss of his arm and was impacted psychologically by his wartime experiences. In April 1923 he committed suicide by drinking an irritant poison, dying in Boundary Park Hospital.

Born - Q2 1879

Parents - Samuel and Mary Smith
(née Taylor)

Siblings - Unknown

Occupation - Cotton spinner

Units - 2/5th and 1/10th Battalions
of the Manchester Regiment; Royal
Army Service Corps

Rank - Private

ID No. - 5796, 202593 & T/445282

Enlisted - 10th December 1915

Discharged - 25th April 1919

Died - 17th June 1922

Cemetery - Unknown (NE)

Cenotaph - Yes

LKA - 134 Roundthorn Rd,
Oldham

Albert Smith

Effey Pogson and Albert Smith were married at St James' Church on 17th May 1902. Five children were born to the pair: Albert Emmett, Ronald, Leonard, Edgar Whiteley and Annie.

Albert enlisted on 10th December 1915 under the Derby Scheme. The initial influx of volunteers was dwindling by the spring of 1915, making it clear that voluntary recruitment would not be able to provide the number of soldiers required. To this end, Lord Derby, Director-General of Recruiting, implemented the Group Scheme (unofficially known as the Derby Scheme) in October 1915. Local canvassers were appointed and eligible men would have to declare whether or not they would enlist. Through the scheme, men could choose to serve immediately or defer until their group (based on age and marital status) was mobilised. As such, Albert was not mobilised until late September 1916.

Originally a member of the 2/5th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, Private Smith was dispatched to France in July of 1917 and joined the 1/10th Battalion of the same regiment. He served alongside fellow Oldhamers until 5th April 1918, when he was wounded in a gas attack. A few days later he was back in Blighty and admitted to the 2nd

Western General Hospital, Manchester. It became clear to the army that he could not return to front-line service and so he was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps on the last day of October 1918.

Straight after joining the RASC (technically at the time only the ASC, as it wasn't given the 'Royal' prefix until later on in 1918), Albert was tested for his proficiency as a clerk. He was judged to have no knowledge of shorthand or typewriting and was 'not a clerk'.

Transfer from... *W. C. T. C. Oswestry*.....

TRADE PROFICIENCY

CLERK

No. *202593*

I CERTIFY that... *Pte. Smith, A.*.....

has been tested and ~~proves himself a~~ *"Fails"*..... Clerk

1/4/18 Knowledge of Shorthand... *Nil*.....

Knowledge of Typewriting... *Nil*.....

Pte. Smith, A.

Pte. Heath 18.

Lieut. O i/c Clerks' Test
R.S.P.D. A.S.C.

The results of Albert's clerk proficiency test

Albert served with the RASC for half a year before he was discharged in late April 1919. According to his discharge papers, he was suffering with bronchitis and heart trouble, both of which were attributable to his service. On 17th June 1922, Albert Smith passed away at home. The cause of death was recorded in his army papers as empyema (pockets of pus collected inside a body cavity) following pneumonia.

Name	Born	Rank	Unit(s)	Service No(s).	Discharged
Robert Smith	1888	Pte	3 rd Bn, Mcr Regt; 66 th Coy, MGC	38093 & 64697	-
Alfred Shaw	1880	Pte	10 th Bn, DoW's (West Riding Regt)	29273	20 th Mar 1919
Frank Seel	1888	Pte	16 th Bn, Mcr Regt; LC	31252 & 473285	-

Died	Injuries/Illnesses	Cemetery	Cenotaph	Last Known Address
Q1 1922	Malaria & dysentery	(NE)	Yes	806 Rochdale Rd, Royton
Q4 1922	Injuries of war	(NE)	No	Central View, Stoneswood, Delph
7 th Feb 1923	Respiratory problems due to gassing	Newton Heath (NE)	No	15 Clay St, Newton Heath

Born - 11th April 1895 in Dobcross

Parents - Eli and Mary Roseblade (née Hawkins)

Siblings - William Henry, Stanley, Ethel, George Arthur, Albert, Alice, Eli and Florence

Occupation - School Teacher

Units - 3/6th and 14th Battalions of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment); 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment

Rank - Sergeant

Service Nos. - 8080, 268740 & 220690

Enlisted - 2nd August 1915

Discharged - 19th February 1919

Died - 3rd December 1923

Cemetery - Unknown (NE)

Cenotaph - No

LKA - 14 Dobcross Rd, Saddleworth

Herbert Roseblade

Upon enlisting, Herbert joined the West Riding Regiment, ending up in what became the 3/6th Battalion. After just eight months of service he was promoted to Sergeant. In August 1918, he transferred to the recently formed 14th Battalion at Clacton-on-Sea. However, his presence in this unit was short-lived, as by September he was on the Western Front with the East Yorkshire Regiment.

On 23rd October 1918, he received a gunshot or shrapnel wound to the left eye, leaving him with a damaged cornea. He was rushed back to England and admitted to the 1st Eastern General Hospital in Cambridge. The armistice was signed on the 11th day of his 18-day stay in hospital.

Herbert was discharged under *clause (xvii), para 392* of the King's Regulations - 'Surplus to military requirements (having suffered impairment since entry into the service)'. He died a little over five years after his traumatic injury.



♦ Recognition ♦

No. of men who have:

- neither a war grave nor a cenotaph listing
- a cenotaph listing but no war grave
- a war grave but no cenotaph listing
- both a war grave and a cenotaph listing

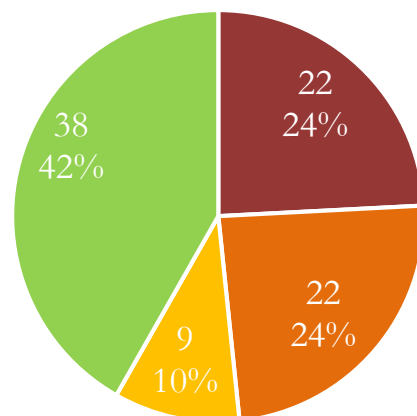


Figure 1

No. of men who have:

- no local cenotaph listing
- a local cenotaph listing

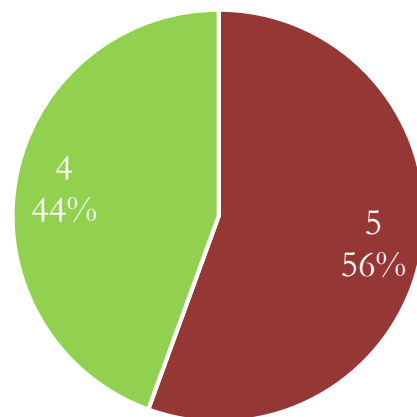


Figure 2

Eligible for both a war grave and a cenotaph listing

Nine of our 100 men were not eligible for a war grave, as they died after the 31st August 1921. As a result, 91 of our men should have a war grave.

Figure 1 shows the number of men with varying degrees of recognition. We can see that 56 of these 91 men (62%) are missing some form of recognition.

Eligible only for a cenotaph listing

As previously stated, nine of our men were not eligible for a war grave. They were however, entitled to their name being placed on a local cenotaph.

Figure 2 shows the number of men in this category who received a cenotaph listing, and those who did not. We can see that five of these nine men (56%) do not have a cenotaph listing.

Missing Recognition

Fifty-eight of our 100 men are missing some form of recognition to which they are entitled.

[POEM]

◆ *Epilogue* ◆

Our work doesn't end with this book. Each man deserves recognition for his sacrifice.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission honours the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars. Cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations in 154 countries are maintained by the organisation, which believes that each of the dead is deserving of commemoration by having their name on a headstone or memorial. To this end, we will be working with the CWGC to acquire war graves for as many of our men as possible.

In addition, we will collaborate with Oldham Council and the Oldham branch of the Royal British Legion to produce a commemorative plaque that will be placed on Oldham's War Memorial. It will honour the 100 men in this book and create awareness surrounding our past and present injured servicemen.

We will partner with schools in Oldham, enabling them to learn about the First World War and those who returned home injured. Local schools will be linked with some of the graves of our fallen servicemen, so that on Remembrance Day they can be properly remembered.

Our hope is that this book has inspired you to learn more about those who fought. This book only scratches the surface when it comes to Oldham's forgotten soldiers. Every soldier had a story and lived a life that was tragically cut short; it is our responsibility to uncover their story, honour their sacrifice and ensure their memory lives on.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

– Laurence Binyon

