

MILITARY CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR I



buried and remembered
in St. Mark's Churchyard,
Worsley

SERVICEMEN IN GRAVES

ROBERT AMBLER 2nd Lieutenant King's (Liverpool Regt.) 13th Bn. d. 24 November 1918 aged 34

Baptised at St. Mary, Eccles, on 7 December 1884, he was the eldest child of John and Sarah (née Walters) Ambler. John was a photographer, though at the time of his marriage in January 1884 he was listed as an artist. Robert's address in the parish burial records was 44 Wellington Road, Eccles, the family abode. Certainly he was living there in 1901, aged 16, and he was a bank clerk. Then, in 1911, he was living as a boarder at an address in Clifton, Bristol, now aged 26, and still a bank clerk.



It was announced in the newspapers that *'On Wednesday afternoon the interment took place at Worsley Churchyard of Mr. Robert Ambler, of Eccles. He contracted illness whilst on active service as a second-lieutenant in the Liverpool Regiment, and died on Sunday last.'*

The south porch of Eccles Parish Church has become a memorial to all those who died for their country in World War 1. It was rebuilt under a faculty dated 16 December 1920 and the names of those who died were inscribed on tablets. The porch was opened and dedicated as a memorial to those who died during the Great War by the Revd. Canon John C. Hill, Rector of Bury, on Saturday, 1 October 1921. The name of Robert Ambler is amongst them.

ROSS BARNES Rifleman Rifle Brigade 9th Bn. d. 13 October 1916 aged 20 S/7858



Ross Barnes was the son of Frederick William and Sarah Ellen (née Hall) Barnes, of 7 Brampton Street, Atherton. In 1911, he was living with his family at 70 Chaddock Lane, Boothstown. His father was a miner and Ross was the seventh born of nine children. Ross Barnes attested on the 7 January 1915 at Atherton that he was aged 19 and was living at the Volunteer Inn, High Street, Atherton. He was working as a collier. Indeed, in 1911 he was a colliery labourer working underground.

He was posted to France on 6 July 1915. He was seriously wounded on 15 September 1916 with gunshot wounds to the chest and head. He was sent to the 1st Canadian General Hospital, Etaples, and from there he was transferred to England on 27 September 1916. He died at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton, on 13 October 1916 of wounds received and his death was registered at South Stoneham, Hampshire. 472 servicemen died that same day in various locations. A War Gratuity of £8 was paid three years later to his mother. This was money owed to 872,395 soldiers who died while serving in the

First World War as well as the latter stages of the Boer War. It was usually paid to their mothers, though wives were also listed.

Rifleman Ross Barnes, of the Lewis Gun Section, who before the war lived at the Volunteer Inn, died in Netley Hospital last week, and was accorded a military funeral last Wednesday. He was wounded first in the breast, the bullet penetrating his body and coming out at his back. He dropped to the ground, and was unable to move, as he was very weak owing to loss of blood. Whilst in this condition he was again wounded very severely in the head. he endeavoured to move, but had to stay where he was. Later he was found by two men, who took him to the base. From here, he was sent to Netley Hospital, Southampton, where he was operated on three times. Rifleman Barnes was 19 years of age. Before the war he worked at the Pretoria Pit.

The remains of Pte. Barnes were interred in Worsley Parish Churchyard on Wednesday afternoon, with full military honours. A detachment of the guard at the Leigh Prisoners of War Camp, under Sgt. J. Glover, and accompanied by Corpl. Baker, Corpl. Jobson and Lance-Corpls. Wilding and Slack, paraded at the deceased's residence, along with the Royal Defence Corps, Leigh, who attended by permission of Capt. Tilly, various Volunteer Defence Corps, and local soldiers. The soldiers and volunteers marched with the cortege to Tyldesley New Road, and afterwards continued the procession at Mosley Common, where they were joined by the Boothstown Boy Scouts,, under Scoutmaster W. H. Barnes, and members of the Boothstown Wesleyan Girls' Society. The blinds at all the residences at Boothstown, where deceased was well known, were drawn as a tribute of respect, and a large number of friends and sympathisers gathered at Worsley Parish Church, amongst those present at the graveside being Messrs. W. M. Edge, J. Hurst (Swinton), T. Wallwork, C. Atkinson (Little Hulton), D. C. Potter, S. Hall, J. Hall, A. Mann, J. Edge and Mr. Greenall, junr. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was borne to the grave by six soldiers on leave, and after the service which was conducted by the Rev. P. Burnett of Boothstown, three volleys were fired, and the 'Last Post' sounded. Wreaths were placed on the grave from - Father, mother and family, his uncle and aunts, Saunders, Potter and Barber, Mr. and Mrs. T. Barnes, Ted and Polly, neighbours of High Street, and Bolton Old Road, members of the Volunteer Inn Club, officers and teachers of the Atherton Wesleyan Sunday School; a few friends of the kitchen; Mrs. Dugdale and family; Fred and Martha; Sam and Dan; Mr. and Mrs. Harris and family; Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and Bessie; Mr. and Mrs. Greenhalgh and family; his nephew Freddy, Mr. and Mrs. E. Morris // and family, Mr. and Mrs. F. 450 Grundy, Mr. and Mrs. Barker, Walter and Eunas, Mrs. Liptrot and family, Boothstown Senior Girls' Club, Mrs. E. Barnes and family. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Seager of Atherton.

(Local newspaper)

WILLIAM GOODALL Private Training Reserve d. 7 July 1917 aged 29 TR/3/30329

William Goodall was attached to the Manchester Regiment, in the 26th reserve Battalion. He died at the Military Hospital, Studley Roger, and the parish burial records show that he was buried here on 12 July 1917.

He was the son of Ruth Goodall (later a widow) and Henry Goodall and was born in early 1888. In 1901, he lived at 213 Whit Lane, Pendleton. William worked in a bleach works. By 1911, he was working as a jewellery shop assistant and lived at 2 George Street, Pendleton. The National Probate Calendar for William Eastham Goodall, dated 16 October 1917, states that he lived at 15 Blantyre Street, Worsley Road, Winton, and that he died at the Military Hospital Ripon Administration. He was a Private in H. M. Army.

William had married Margaret Jane Calderbank Hoyle at St. Mark's on 1 June 1914. Eventually, she remarried, (in late 1924) to William Haywood Drinkwater of Pendleton. She died on 5 April 1935 and he in turn died in March 1951.



BENJAMIN GRATRIX Private The Loyal N. Lancashire Regt. 6th Bn. d. 12 June 1920 aged 38 13775

Benjamin Gratrix was the son of George and Alice Gratrix. In 1891, he was aged 9 and living with his parents at 15 Edge Fold as a scholar. In 1901, he was aged 19 and still living with his parents, now at 10 Edge Fold. His occupation was waggoner in a coal mine. Benjamin was baptised at St. Mark's on 31 August 1882 by William H. Baynes. His parents were married also at St. Mark's on 31 December 1870 by St. Vincent Beechey. In 1911, he was a boarder at the home of Elizabeth Pickup at 74 Harriett Street, Walkden, and was 28 years of age.

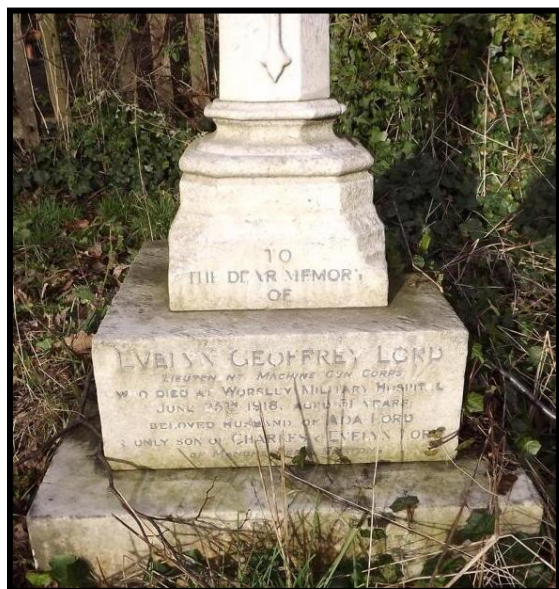
It is known that Benjamin served in the Balkans and that he was entitled to the 1915 trio.



(1915 Trio of medals: the 1914-15 Star; the British War Medal; the Victory Medal. Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals. By convention all three medals are worn together and in the same order from left to right when viewed from the front)



EVELYN GEOFFREY LORD 2nd Lieutenant Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 37th Bn. d. 25 June 1918



Evelyn Geoffrey Lord was born in 1886 in Audenshaw. He was the son of Charles Lord, solicitor, and Evelyn (née Lord). By 1891, he was living at Oak Lawn, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, aged 4, with his parents and sister, Dorothy, aged 2. Ten years later, in 1901, he was a boarder at Uppingham School, (admitted in September 1900), where he stayed until April 1905. At that time, his parents were at 10 Wilbraham Road, south Manchester. In 1911, he was a solicitor's articled clerk and was living at 1 Brighton Grove, Rusholme, a boarder at the home of Harry Whittaker.

He married Marietta Adelaide Augusta Godbey in the first quarter of 1915 in Holborn. According to the National Probate Calendar, he lived at 14 Jubilee Place, Chelsea. He died at Worsley Hall Red Cross Hospital following an operation and was buried at St. Mark's on 28 June 1918, aged 34. This was probably because it was the most convenient place for burial following his treatment at The New Hall. Probate was granted on 16 September to Marietta Adelaide Augusta Lord (his widow).



In reporting his death on the 29 June 1918 *The Buxton Advertiser* gave Geoffrey's parents' address as "Wood Edge, Buxton". By 1919, his sister, Dorothy, had also moved in with them following the death in 1917 of her husband, Lt. Col. Cyril Benton Johnson.

Mrs. E. G. Lord applied for husband's medals on 3/11/21. Evelyn Geoffrey was mentioned in Despatches on 24 December 1917.

Geoffrey was Gazetted on 25 October 1916 from Cadet to 2nd Lieutenant in The Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (London Gazette, 21 November 1916). His Medal Index Card states that he entered into War service on 17th March 1917. The 37th Battalion was part of the 12th (Eastern) Division by the 4 February 1916, and Geoffrey would have joined the Battalion in time to take part in the Battle of Arras in April 1917.

Geoffrey's 37th Battalion moved into No 12 Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, on the 1 March 1918. Whether or not he was still with them or what happened after that is not known, nor when he returned to the U.K. or for what reason. However, a number of his comrades in the 37th were killed in action on dates coinciding with The Battle of the Avre, 4 April 1918, and The Battle of the Ancre, 5 April 1918 - the end of the 'Michael offensive'. It is possible he was wounded then - but at the moment this is only speculation.



(The main World War 1 Memorial in St John the Baptist's Church, Buxton, is a stained glass window, dating from 1926, depicting St George, Christ and Mary, in the Chapel of St Michael and St George [also known as 'The Lady Chapel.' On stone panels either side of the window, and with an inscription at the bottom, are the 98 names of the war dead, on gold leaf engraved in black)
(by courtesy of www.buxtonwarmemorials.co.uk)

Herbert Moores attested (ie. declared himself willing to serve) on 4th September 1914, aged 30, just five weeks after the outbreak of war. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 5th November 1914 and Corporal on 5th June 1915. Posted to France on 8th August 1915, he was later promoted to Lance Sergeant on 3rd December 1915 and Sergeant on 8 March 1916. He was wounded on 10th July 1916 and was transported back to England three days later on the S. S. Asturias. He died from a gunshot wound to his back at the 1st Western General Hospital, Liverpool.

Sergeant Herbert Moores, age 31, died yesterday in hospital at Fazakerley, Liverpool, from wounds. Before enlisting he was employed in the Town Clerk's office, Manchester, and lived with his parents at Hazlehurst, Worsley. He was a member of Holy Rood choir and cricket club.

His effects were recorded as

- 2 one pound notes
- 2 fifty franc notes
- 2 twenty franc notes
- 3 five franc notes
- 1 note book
- 6 photos
- 1 steel mirror in case
- 4 communion cards
- private papers and
- 1 note case.



Hospital ship S. S. Asturias

Herbert was born in Swinton to James and Jane Moores on 5 April 1884 and was baptised at Holy Rood on 1 June by G. F. Dearden. In 1911, he was living as a single man, aged 26, with his parents at Hazlehurst Cottage, Worsley. His occupation was listed as Municipal Clerk at Manchester Council. Ten years earlier, in 1901, he was 16 and was a Corporation Clerk, living then at 2 Hazlehurst Road with his family. His father James had married Jane Cordwell, 25, a Mill Hand, of King St., Irlams o'th Height on 17 June 1880 at St. John the Evangelist, Pendlebury.

Sergeant Herbert Moores, of Hazlehurst Cottage, Moorside, and one of the City "Pals", has died in hospital at Fazakerley, near Liverpool, from wounds he received during the second part of the great advance. The actual day on which he was wounded is not yet known, but it was between the 7th and 12th inst. He arrived at Liverpool on Saturday evening and the members of his family have been to see him. One of his brothers was present when he died on Tuesday evening. Sergeant Moores was in the desperate struggle for Tropes Wood, and was hit, it is thought, by a sniper. One of this deadly class of shots had killed four of their men, and Sgt. Moores had moved to the flank to try and locate him, but he was immediately hit and fell into a shell hole. On another occasion he informed his relatives, he was with an officer and 20 men entrenching in the wood when shells fell like snowflakes and only eight of the party came through safely. Before being brought to England he underwent an operation in one of the field hospitals. He had several wounds and a second operation would have been performed at Fazakerley, but he was too weak. Sgt. Moores enlisted in the 3rd City Pals Battalion (Manchester Regiment) in August



1914, and went out to France last November. He was very well-known in Moorside. He was a prominent member of the Holy Rood Church choir, and also a member of the Conservative Club. A popular member of the Holy Rood Cricket club, he had for several seasons done good service as a fast bowler. Before enlisting, he was on the Town Clerk's staff at the Manchester Town Hall. His body will be brought home for interment. The funeral, which is expected to be of a military character, will take place on Saturday afternoon at Worsley Church, after a special service at Holy Rood Church.

(Local newspaper)

WILLIAM PARKER Gunner Royal Marine Artillery 8th Bn d. 14th May 1921 aged 24
RMA/14560

In March 2016, the church received an enquiry from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (C.W.G.C.), asking for confirmation and verification of the burial of William Parker in the churchyard. This we were happy to provide and therefore his name has been added to their roll of casualties. His grave number is NP 40. Prior to this, his name was remembered at the Brookwood Memorial.

THE BROOKWOOD 1914-1918 MEMORIAL is a memorial to the missing and commemorates casualties with no known grave. The majority of the casualties commemorated by this memorial are servicemen and women from the land forces of the United Kingdom, who subsequently died in the care of their families. They were not commemorated by the Commission at the time but, through the efforts of relatives and research groups, including the "In From The Cold" Project, these casualties have since been found. There are still many cases to be resolved and the memorial therefore allows for further names to be added.

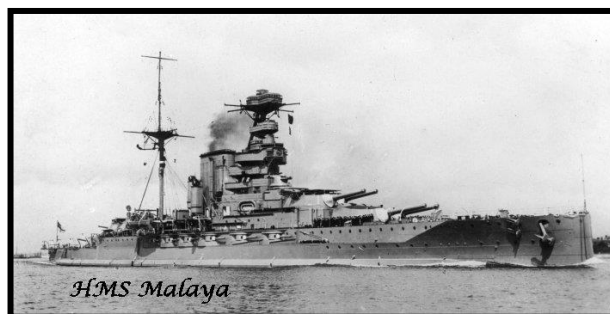
Unusually and because of the varied circumstances surrounding many of these casualties, investigative work continues and this may lead to the identification of their burial locations. Whenever a casualty's grave is located and verified, commemoration will move to the burial site and thus some of the entries on the memorial will no longer be required. As a result and when memorial panels are replaced, these entries will be removed. In addition, the Brookwood 1914-18 Memorial commemorates some land and air forces casualties who were lost at sea. These casualties would normally be commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton, but the memorial panels there are now full and so their commemoration has been added to this memorial.

[by courtesy of www.cwgc.org]

William Parker was born on 17 January 1897. In the 1911 census, William Parker (aged 13) was living with his parents, William and Alice, and siblings Mary (17), Alice (14) and Richard (6), at 185 Worsley Road, Winton. William was a student at school and his father was a cashier on a steam ship. They had been at the same address ten years earlier, in the 1901 census.

A timeline of his service record shows:

- 1915 Mar 8. Enlisted
- 1915 Sep 13. To Gunner 2nd Class
- 1915 Sep 14. To Gunner
- 1916 Jan 28 To HMS Malaya
- 1920 Mar 12. Back to Base
- 1920 Jun 2. Post to 8 RM for service in Ireland
- 1921 May 14 died. 2 Royal marine artillery gunners abducted, shot dead and dumped in a local quarry.



His father was William Parker of Mulquack Terrace, 285 Worsley Rd, Swinton, Manchester

HMS Malaya was a Queen Elizabeth class battleship of the British Royal Navy, built by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Company at High Walker and launched in March

1915. She was named in honour of the Federated Malay States in British Malaya, whose government paid for her construction.

In World War I, she served in Admiral Hugh Evan-Thomas's 5th Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet. She took part in the Battle of Jutland, 31 May 1916, where she was hit eight times and took major damage and heavy crew casualties. A total of 65 men died, in the battle or later, of their injuries. Uniquely among the ships at the battle, HMS Malaya flew the red-white-black-yellow ensign of the Federated Malay States.

[by courtesy of www.cairogang.com]

Two gunners in the R. Marine Artillery, stationed at Eastferry, about 3 miles from Queenstown, were shot dead at 8 o'clock on Saturday night near Ballincurra. The circumstances connected with the shooting are not known.
Freemans, May 16, 1921

In May 1921, five men of the Royal Marines were killed by 'Irish rebels' in Ireland. It may surprise some to learn that all five of these men are entitled to be commemorated by the CWGC. Any man who died in military service from 4/8/1914 until 31/8/1921 qualifies for commemoration, as the final closure date for WW1 casualties was not until 31 August 1921 (the date the war was officially deemed to be ended by the signing of the peace treaties after the Armistice of 11 November 1918).



THE MIDLETON MURDERS

On May 14, at 8pm, two marines named Bernard Francis and William Parker were shot dead in the same neighbourhood while walking between Ballymaccura and East ferry.

[Northern Whig, Antrim- 26 May 1921: in Midleton, County Cork]

MURDER OF MEN FROM EASTNEY

Two gunners in the Royal Marines Artillery stationed at East Ferry, near Midleton, Cork, were shot dead on Saturday night near Ballymakerry. This is believed to be their first attack against members of the RMA.

The deceased men are 14710 Gunner Bernard Francis (B. Coy.) and 14560 Gunner William

Parker (H. Coy.). They belonged to a battalion which was sent from Portsmouth to Ireland in June last for protective purposes.

[Portsmouth Evening News: 16 May 1921]

His name was inscribed on a memorial tablet in St. Michael and All Angels, Deal, Kent (a former church, once the garrison church to the Royal Marines Barracks), together with the names of 13 others who died on service in Northern Ireland between 1920 and 1922.

HARRY SHELDON Corporal Army Service Corps, 1st Army Anti-Aircraft Workshops
d. 17 October 1918 age 30 M2/019643

Harry Sheldon was born on the 11th February 1888 and was baptised at St. Stephen's, Hulme, on the 4 March 1888, the son of John James Sheldon (a shipwright) and his wife, Lucy (née Kelly). They were living at 6 Park View, Hulme. By the time he was 13, in 1901, the family had moved to 9 Catherine Street, Winton. Harry had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. By 1911, he and the family were living at 3 Catherine Street, Winton. He was a blacksmith. He married Gertrude Lomax in the fourth quarter of 1918.

A TRAGIC HOMECOMING



The Winton soldier who died last week within a week of his wedding was Corpl. Harry Sheldon, and not Pte. J. Sheldon, as reported in our last issue. Deceased, who enlisted

in the M. T. Section of the A. S. C. in November 1914, had been in France for 3 years and 9 months, and on October 6th came to his home, 3 Catherine Street, Winton. He was married on October 12th, and died on the 17th from pneumonia. The funeral took place on Tuesday of last week in the churchyard at Worsley, in which village he was born and lived for many years, attending the Church Schools as a boy. Deceased was 30 years of age, and before enlisting worked for the Manchester Ship Canal Company at Mode Wheel. His brother, Pte. J. Sheldon, also enlisted in the early days of the war, and has been invalided and discharged. The family are well-known in Worsley and the Eccles district, and deep sympathy is felt for them and for Sheldon's young widow, whose father died on the day her husband was buried.

[Local newspaper]

Harry Sheldon was buried in the churchyard on 22 October 1918. His grave number is A 335. His abode at the time of his death was Alfred Street Military Hospital, Harpurhey. The officiating minister was Frank Summers, Curate at St. James's, Hr. Broughton. The cause of death is not known but may have been because of illness or war related wounds in the UK.

FRED WILBY SLINGER Pte. Machine Gun Corps (Heavy Branch), formerly (6511) Highland Light Infantry
d. 5 July 1917 aged 30 76748



BURIED AT WORSLEY

Gunner F. W. Slinger, who was buried at Worsley on July 9th with full military honours, was well known in the Winton and Worsley Districts. He was 30 years of age, lived for some time in Catherine Street, attended St. Mark's School, and later became telegraph boy at Worsley. From here he was transferred to the Parcels Department at the Manchester Port Office, where he was employed when war broke out. He was a member of the 5th

Manchester Territorials, but did not proceed with the Division to Egypt, and shortly after transferred to the Royal Scots. With the infantry he saw active service on the Western Front, taking part in the Somme battle last year, and in the offensive of this summer. Early in the present year he was transferred Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps, and became one of the crew of Tank no.2. On June 7th, after the battle of Messines, Slinger was at work outside his tank in the zone of shell fire, when he was struck by a portion of a German shell. He was brought to Leicester Hospital, where he received every possible attention, but his wounds proved fatal, and he died on July 5th. Slinger was married but had no children, his widow's home being with Mrs. Goring at 7 Cleaveley Street, Worsley Road, Winton.

[Local newspaper]

This is how the death of Fred Wilby Slinger was reported in a local newspaper. He was married to Elizabeth (née Goring) on 22 May 1915 at St. Mark's. His father was Thomas, a shop assistant. Fred's address was Railway View, K. William Street, and he was 28 years old. His wife, Elizabeth, was 24 and her father was Erasmus Goring, an engineer, of Patricroft. Fred was awarded the Victory Medal in 1919. He was buried by Campbell Blethyn Hulton on 8 July 1918, having died of wounds at the Fifth Northern Military Hospital, Leicester.

HERBERT TOFT Lt. 7th East Lancs. Regiment 16906; 3rd Royal Warwicks. Regiment; 821 Sq. RAF
12 October 1918 aged 22

Much of what is known about Herbert Toft comes from three newspaper reports about him published before and after his death.

MONTON OFFICER ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

The death has taken place at Lincoln, as the result of a flying accident, of Lieut. Herbert Toft, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, attached to the Royal Air Force, and second son of Mr. and Mrs. William Toft, 16 Pine Grove, Monton. Lieut. Toft, who was a flying instructor was in the air as pilot with a pupil on Saturday, when something went wrong with the plane, and the machine nose-dived to earth. He was killed instantly, although his companion escaped almost uninjured. The sad end has created deep regret among a large circle of friends. Lieut. Toft was only 22 years of age, having joined the army in November 1914, before he had reached the military age. He enlisted in the East Lancashire Regiment as a private, and in May of the following year crossed to France. He was given his commission abroad in November 1916, being gazetted to the Royal Warwicks. He took part in much of the fighting last year, and on May 4th was wounded at Bullecourt, his services on that day being recognised by mention in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches. On recovering in this country from the wounds he became attached to the Royal Air Force, and in June last year was given his wings. His progress in the new branch of warfare he had entered upon gained for him the appointment of instructor, which, as stated, has ended in his untimely death. He was educated at the Monton Day School, under Mr. Tyson, and before the war was an engineering apprentice at Messrs. Nasmyth, Wilson and Co., Patricroft. He was a playing member of Monton Lacrosse Club, and a patrol leader in the 2nd Worsley troop of Boy Scouts. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at Worsley Church, a service having previously been held at the Baptist Church, Parrin lane. Several of his fellow officers from Lincoln were present, and a firing party from Heaton Park attended and paid the last military salute. The Boy Scouts were also represented. Lieut. Toft's elder brother, Lieut. Walter Toft is in the Manchester regiment. He enlisted as a private in the Royal Scots in 1914.

[Local newspaper]

A second article speaks with pride of the commissions given to the two local brothers.

MONTON BROTHER OFFICERS

Two Monton brothers who enlisted in the Army as privates have recently been granted commissions. They are Walter and Herbert Toft, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. Toft, 16 Pine Grove, Monton. Both enlisted in November 1914. Walter joined the Royal Scots, and after six month's training in Edinburgh, he went with his regiment to the Dardanelles. He landed in Gallipoli in June 1915, and then took part in several stiff engagements with the Turks. After the evacuation of Gallipoli he went to Egypt and returned to England in August 1916, and after passing through the Cadet School at Newmarket, was gazetted second-lieutenant in the Manchester Territorial Reserve Battalion, and is now with that regiment somewhere in France. Herbert enlisted in the East Lancashire Regiment early in November 1914, and after six months' training on Salisbury Plain, went out to France. Like his brother, he has seen much fighting in different parts of the line. He had not been in France very long before he was raised to the rank of sergeant, though at the time only 19 years of age. He received his commission in November 1916, and was gazetted scnd-lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and is now in France. Both are members of the Monton Lacrosse Club, and were keen on the Boy Scout movement in their boyhood.

[Local newspaper]

In the 1901 census, Herbert (aged 3) was living at 90 Parrin Lane, Monton, with his family. His father was William (37), a Tobacconist and Fancy Goods Importer. His wife was Annie (40) and they had two other sons, Walter (6) and William Jnr. (3). By 1911, the family had moved to 16 Pine Grove, Monton. His father was now 48 and his mother 54. The eldest son, Walter, was 16 and at school, and Herbert was 14, an office boy in a Shipping House. William and Annie married in the last quarter of 1893, her maiden name being Dowler.

In his will, Herbert was of 16 Pine Grove, Monton. He officially died at Scampton, Lincs., on 12 October 1918 - a 1st Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force. He left his effects of just over £167 to his father William, a commercial traveller. Probate was granted on 6 November. On 13 April 1918, he had been transferred to the newly formed (on 1 April 1918) Royal Air Force, 821st Squadron, 23rd Wing.

He may have been born on 22 May 1896 in the Barton District. Although his family had been non-conformist, he was buried in St.Mark's Churchyard. The funeral service had been held at Winton Baptist Church, on Parrin Lane, at 2.30pm. The official church entry reads:



Burial: 16 Oct 1918 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, England

Herbert Toft -

Age: 22 years

Abode: Northern General Hospital, Lincoln

Grave: 22 N.P.

Notes: Under Burial Laws Amendment Act

Buried by: S.J. Wilson

To summarise the information above, Herbert first joined the 7th East Lancashire Regiment with the number 16906. After training, he was posted to France with his regiment, landing there on 18th July 1915. He quickly rose to the rank of acting Sergeant before being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant to the 3rd Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 11 November 1916. On 13 April 1918, he was transferred to the newly formed Royal Air Force, but sadly died on 12 October 1918 as a result of a flying accident whilst flying with a pupil.

THOMAS YATES Gunner Royal Field Artillery 'A' Battery, 64th Brigade
d. 23 January 1919 25058 aged 26

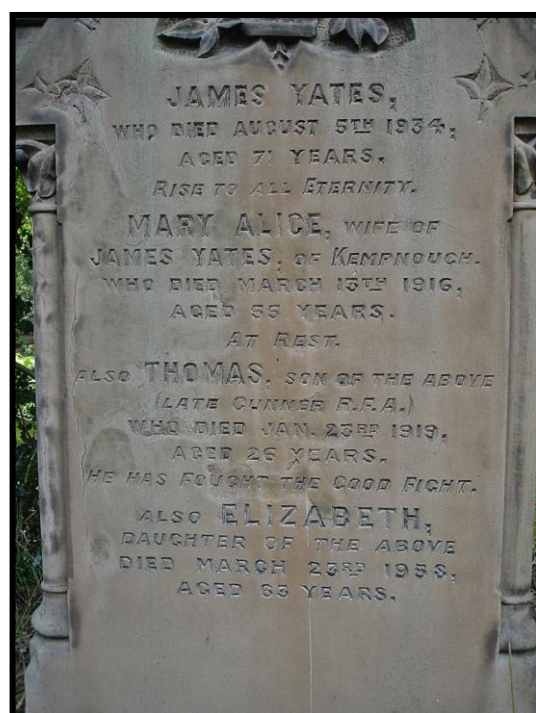
Thomas was the son of James and Mary Alice Yates, born on 15 November 1892 and baptised at St. Mark's by A. W. McLaren on 15 December 1892. His father was a blacksmith and their abode was Berry Fields. In the 1911 census, they lived quite simply at 237 Kempnough. James was still a blacksmith and Thomas, now 18, was a gardener. He had 2 sisters and 1 brother.

Thomas was buried in the churchyard on 27 January 1919 by the Rev. H. W. Thorne. His address was 249 Kempnough. He had fought somewhere in France and was granted the 1915 Trio of medals.

WORSLEY GUNNER'S DEATH

The funeral took place at the Worsley Parish Church, on Monday, of ex-Gunner Thomas Yates, who, after serving three years and eight months with the R.F.A. died at his home yesterday week. Deceased was the youngest son of Mr. James Yates, 249 Kempnough, Worsley, and enlisted on Sept. 3rd 1914. For over two years he was on active service in France, and prior to receiving his discharge in May of last year, was in hospital for 11 months, having been badly wounded in the left leg. Since leaving the Army he had worked for the London and North Western Railway Co. On various occasions he had been under medical treatment, and since last October had been an outpatient at the Manchester Infirmary. He was taken ill last Monday week, and on the Wednesday morning was removed by ambulance to the Infirmary. He returned home at night and it was seen that his condition was worse. He lost consciousness on the Thursday morning and died in the afternoon. Ex-Gunner Yates was 26 years of age and well known in Worsley. He was associated with the Sunday School, a former member of the church choir, and a bellringer at the church. Numerous letters of sympathy have been received by the family and many wreaths were sent by friends. His elder brother, William Yates, has been in Salonika for two years with the R.A.M.C. and is expected home shortly. The two brothers last met in November, 1914.

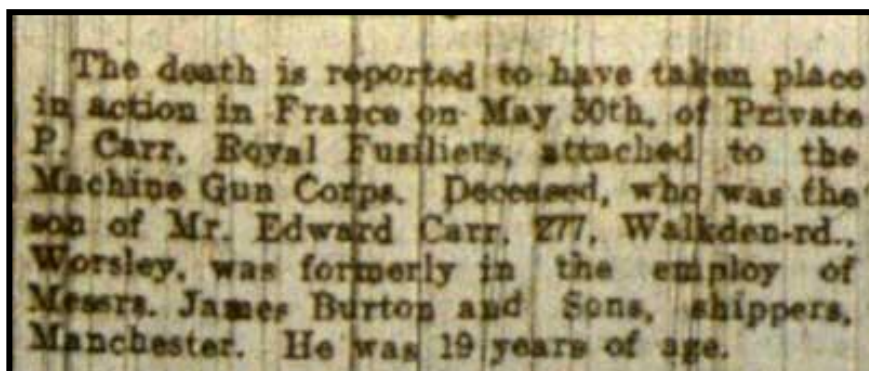
[Local newspaper]



Beneath his name on the family headstone is the inscription *HE HAS FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.*

IN MEMORIAM

PERCY CARR Private Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) d. 30 May 1918 age 19 137312



Percy Carr was baptised at St. Mark's on 21 June 1899 by F. K. Hodgkinson. The son of Edward and Sarah (née Ditchfield) Carr, he was born on 27 May 1899 and they all lived at 275 Walkden Road. In the census of 1901, he was their only son and his father was a shipping clerk, born in Tyldesley. By 1911, Sarah had died and Edward did employ a housekeeper, Jane Ray, a widow. Percy was now at school and Edward's employer was a cotton merchant. Edward (50) remarried at St. Mark's on 27 December 1917, to Emma Grundy (40), a spinster, of 277 Walkden Road. Edward died on 27 May 1927 and left his estate to his widow, Emma, probate being ranted on 10 August. He was buried at St. Mark's on 31 May 1927.

A WELL-KNOWN WORSLEY YOUTH

Pte. Percy Carr, whose death was briefly announced last week, was the only son of Mr. E. Carr, of 277 Walkden Road, Worsley. He was 19 years of age on May 27th, and three days later was killed in action in France. He had only been in France since 5th May. He joined the Royal Fusiliers on June 29th last year, but was later attached to the Machine Gun Corps. He was born at Worsley and educated at St. Mark's Day Schools and the Manchester Grammar School. For five years he was a member of the Parish Church Choir. He was also a member of the 1st Earl of Ellesmere Boy Scouts (Worsley Troop), a playing member of the Cricket Club, and on the gymnasium team of the Manchester Grammar School, for which he held the medal. Pte. Carr wrote home a very cheerful letter the day before his death, which was notified on June 4th by the chaplain, who stated that he was killed with three of his gun mates by a shell. Although a comparatively new-comer, the Chaplain added, Pte. Carr was loved by his comrades, all of whom sent deep sympathy. A letter has also been received from his officer, who wrote in terms of sympathy and appreciation.

[Local newspaper]

Percy was buried at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER CEMETERY and the grave reference is II. N. 2. He enlisted at Eccles.

CLIFFORD THOMAS BRITAIN Private London regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) 1st/15th Bn. d. 23 March 1918 age 19 535177

Clifford Thomas Britain attested on 27 December 1916 at the age of 18. His date of birth was given as 30 December 1898. His occupation was recorded as a Clerk, and his address was given as Holly Bank Cottage, Station Bridge, Eccles. He qualified as a Lewis Gunner. He was posted to France on 1st February

1918, and was then reported as missing in action on the 23 March 1918, which is accepted as the date Clifford died. He was entitled to the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

His parents, Walter and Marion (née McAdam) were married in the first quarter of 1893. By 1901, they were living at 8 Irwell Terrace, Eccles. Walter (39) was of Manchester, but Marion (32) was from Scotland. Clifford was 2 and had an older brother Kenneth Robert (3). Their father was a joiner/carpenter. By 1911, there was a third child, James Wallace (3). The family was now living at 1a Church Road, Eccles, and Walter was at school. The surname, curiously, was spelt with a double -tt. All three children were born in Eccles. At the death of Walter (21 February 1952), the estate passed to his son, Kenneth Robert (builder) and James (a civil servant). His final address was 8 Abbey Grove, Eccles.

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du Général de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras. The cemetery is near the Citadel, approximately 2 kms. due west of the railway station. The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918, which began on 21 March.

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission]



His physical description on his service record shows that he was 5ft 7ins tall, with blue eyes, fair hair and a fresh complexion. The girth of his chest was 38½ins and the range of expansion was 4ins. His weight was 140lbs. He had no distinguishing marks. His reckonable service dated from 22 February 1917. After attesting on 27 December 1916, he was posted to the Army Reserve the day after. He was mobilised on 22 February 1917 to the 15th. Bn. London Regt. Civil Service Rifles. He embarked at Southampton on 31 January 1918 and landed at Le Havre in France on 1 February. It is officially recorded that he spent 51 days in France.

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD Pte. 1st Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers d.16
April 1917 aged 18 41826

As the memorial stone shows, William Whitehead was the son of Thomas and Rose Ann (nee).

In loving memory of THOMAS WHITEHEAD wd October 2nd 1940 aged 83 yrs. Also ANN his wife who died November 15th 1939 aged 77 yrs. ANNIE daughter of THOMAS & ROSE WHITEHEAD of Worsley who died December 20th 1895 aged 1 yr & 9 mths. Also WILLIAM their son killed in action April 16th 1917 aged 18 yrs. Duty nobly done. Also ANNIE UNDERWOOD sister to above ROSE ANN wd May 26th 1933 aged 69 yrs.

In 1911, the family was living at Heaps Cottage, Outwood, Stoneclough. The father Thomas (51) was a gamekeeper on Lord Derby's estate at Bury. All the family bar the last born were from Yorkshire, William being born in Pontefract. William at his time was at school. The family was certainly well travelled. In 1901, they had been near Blackpool and in 1891 they



were living on Barton Moss. At the time of the 1911 census, William had 4 brothers - Denis (20), Albert (19), Wilfred (13) and Fred (7). The only girl of the family had died at a very young age. The tribute beneath William's name reads:

DUTY NOBLY DONE.

His name is inscribed at the ARRAS MEMORIAL in Bay 5, course 'A', stone no. 9. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. F657

WILFRED WOOD Capt. Royal Garrison Artillery d. 15 March 1919 aged 27 63044

In the 1911 census, Wilfred was living at Park Cottage, Swinton, aged 19. His occupation was a Railway Clerk and his place of birth was Swinton. He was the eldest of 6 children - Frank (17), Malcolm (14), Annie (11), Harry (9) and Tom (6). All children were born Swinton, though his father, Frederick (49), was born in Doncaster. He was a general carrier. In 1891, Frederick was with his wife Lillie May (née Warburton) and he was the club manager of the Blue Ribbon Army Hall in Pendlebury. They had married in the fourth quarter of 1888, in the Manchester area.

When Wilfred enlisted, he gained the rank of Corporal, but was commissioned on 26 July 1917 as a Second Lieutenant in the 140th Siege Battery, and later became Captain in the RTO. In 1915, Wilfred married Gertrude Hands at St Marks, Worsley. The entry states:

Marriage: 27 Nov 1915 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, England
Wilfred Wood - 24, Gunner R.G.A, Bachelor, Lily Street, Eccles (NB Philyis St. - Ed.)
Gertrude Hands - 26, Spinster, Parrin Lane, Worsley
Groom's Father: Frederic Wood, Hotel Keeper
Bride's Father: William Neale Hands, Store Keeper (NB Arthur Neale - Ed.)
Witness: Frank Wood; Eveline Hands
Married by Banns by: Campbell B. Hulton

Captain Wilfred Wood, 118th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery had been gassed on the 21 March 1918 (St Quentin) and died at the Manchester Military Hospital on the 15 March 1919 aged 27.

His will was proved on 3 October 1919 and showed that he had died at Whitworth Street Military Hospital, Manchester, on 15 March 1919. His effects of over £300 were left to Frederick, a licensed victualler. Wilfred's address was given as 1 Orange Hill Road, Heaton Park.

The hospital was possibly the Western General, a Territorial Force General Hospital in Manchester. This was probably the Central High School for Girls on Whitworth Street in the city, but these hospitals were also located at more than 20 other sites in Manchester and Stockport, most being school buildings. The inscription on a plaque in Edale (Holy Trinity) Church reads:

IN HONOURED AND LOVING MEMORY OF WILFRED WOOD, CAPTAIN
118TH. SIEGE BATTERY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY. ELDEST SON OF
FREDERICK & LILLIE M. WOOD, (OF EDALE). HE WAS GASSED AT ST.
QUENTIN, MARCH 21ST., 1918, AND DIED AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL,
MANCHESTER, MARCH 15TH., 1919, AGED 27 YEARS. "ONE OF GOD'S
GENTLEMEN."



NB. Gertrude's father was Arthur Neale Hands. He was buried at St. Mark's on 19 February 1943, aged 88. His address was 17 Gordon Rd., Eccles. Gertrude herself was buried at St. Mark's on 1 March 1919, aged 29. Her address was 106 Parrin Lane, Winton. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. NP372.

FRANK AND WALTER RAMSBOTTOM

FRANK	Pte.	Manchester Regiment 19 th Bn.	d.9 July 1916	aged 25	11644
WALTER	L.Cpl.	Manchester Regiment 19 th Bn.	d.23 July 1916	aged 24	11643

In the 1911 census, Fred (47) and Sarah Lavinia (45) Ramsbottom were living at 56 Dean Street, Hardman Lane, Failsworth. Fred, born Whitefield, was a Hydraulic Packer in the shipping trade. Frank (20) was a Clerk in cotton spinning and Walter (18) was a Clerk in a bleachers. Their younger brother Fred (13) was at school. Ten years earlier, in 1901, they were at 5 Ash Street, Failsworth, with Frank in the same kind of work. However, in 1891, they were at 16 Lancaster Street, Pendleton, Fred being a hydraulic packer. Frank was just 6 months old.

Fred was baptised at St. Mary's, Prestwich, on 3 January 1864, the son of Francis and Sarah. Walter, the second born, was baptised at Christ Church, Salford, on 3 July 1892. Fred, the youngest son, was baptised at Christ Church, Salford, on 13 February 1898. However, Frank, the eldest, was baptised at St. Paul's, Paddington, Lancashire, (a chapelry partly in Pendleton and partly in Christ Church) on 30 October 1890.



Fred married Sarah Lavinia Jarvis in the third quarter of 1890 in the district of Salford. At the time of the death of his two sons, he was living at 44 Dean Street, Failsworth.

Frank was a clerk in civilian life before attesting on the 9 September 1914 aged 23. At the time of his enlistment (8 September 1914), his age was 23 years 11 months. He qualified as a machine gunner. In June 1915, he embarked on the S. S. Queen Alexandra at Southampton, bound for France. He was Killed in Action at Bois des Trônes, an action during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. His Victory Medal was dispatched to his father 6 July 1921. He had spent 1 year and 59 days at home in the UK initially, then 245 days in France - a total of 1 year and 304 days in service. Frank was 5ft 8½ins, with blue eyes and a fresh complexion. His hair was fair and his weight was 114lbs. His religious denomination was said to be Theist. He died unmarried. He had been admitted to the 2nd Western General Hospital on 21 March 1915 with Oedema of the neck and chest and spent 6 days in the hospital. The cause was not diagnosed. Whilst at Larkhill, he had one offence against his name for Slackness in the Hut. This was on 13 October 1915 and he was given 3 days punishment for the offence - Confined to Barracks.



Walter was a clerk in civilian life before attesting on the 9 September 1914 aged 22. At the time of his enlistment (8 September 1914), his age was 22 years 3 months. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 18 June 1916., just over one month before his death. Walter was reported missing on the 23rd July 1916, and this was later

assumed to be the date of his death. Walter was 5ft 8ins, with brown eyes and a dark complexion. His hair was black and his weight was 138lbs. His religious denomination was said to be Wesleyan. He died unmarried. On 7 November 1915, he too embarked on the S. S. Queen Alexandra at Southampton. His Victory Medal was dispatched to his father 6 July 1921. Walter had spent 1 year and 318 days in service, of which 259 days were in France. He also died unmarried. At Heaton Park on 15 July 1915, he was charged with not making his bed by 7am. For this, he was Confined to Barracks for 2 days. It is believed he was Killed in Action at Guillemont - just a few miles from where his brother had died two weeks earlier.

The two brothers are commemorated at the THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme is a war memorial to 72,246 missing British Empire servicemen who died in the Battles of the Somme of the First World War between 1915 and 1918, with no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. Their names are on Pier and Face 13 A and 14 C. The grave to their father is in St. Mark's Churchyard, and bears a tribute to his two sons. It reads *DUTY NOBLY DONE*. Fred died on 27 January 1937, aged 73, and Sarah Lavinia seven years later. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. NP628.

RICHARD BROWN Pte. 2nd Bn. South Lancashire Regiment
d.3 October 1916 aged 24 27944

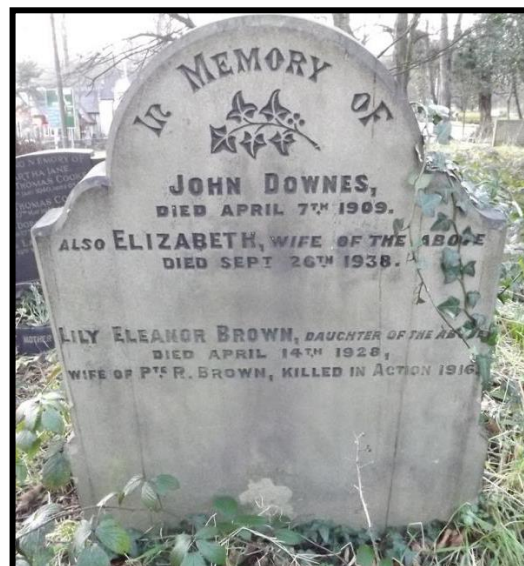
The headstone on which the name of Pte. R. Brown is etched was initially dedicated to John Downes (d.1909) and his wife Elizabeth (d.1938). Beneath their names is that of their daughter Lily Eleanor who was married to Richard Brown.

John Downes was buried at St. Mark's on 10 April 1909, aged 70. Elizabeth, his wife, was buried here on 29 September 1938, aged 83. On both occasions, their address was 96 Parrin Lane, Monton. Lily Eleanor herself was buried in the Churchyard on 18 April 1928, aged 42. Her address was also at Parrin Lane.

Lily Eleanor had married Richard Brown in the first quarter of 1915 in the district of Glossop. She originated from Swinton and in 1911 was working as a housemaid in Hadfield, Derbys., the home of Walter Fred Sargentson. She was born on 1 January 1886 and baptised at St. Peter's, Swinton, on 21 February 1886. In 1901, she was with the family (the sixth of nine children) at 1 Pendlebury Road, Swinton. Her father was a collier, born in Bilston, Staffs.

Richard Brown was born in Market Weighton, Yorks. and attested at Glossop on 6 December 1915. His address was 108 Platt Street, Hadfield, and he was a gardener. On 10 April 1916, he was appointed to the 10th South Lancs. Regiment from the Army Reserve. His age at the time of enlistment was 22 years 8 months. His height was 5ft 7ins, he weighed 118lbs, and his chest was 38ins. Richard was a Roman Catholic and he married Lily Eleanor at St. Charles Church, Hadfield on 4 February 1915. They lived at Hadfield and had one daughter, Agnes Mary, born on 23 January 1916. He was posted to France on 16 July 1916 and moved to the front on 28 July. He was Killed in Action on 3 October. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He served for 303 days and was officially buried 4 miles north-east of Albert.

His name is commemorated on the THIEPVAL MEMORIAL on Pier and Face 7A and 7B.. At the time of his death, he was serving between 30th September and mid-October on Front Line duty to the East of Thiepval (*Hessian Trench, Zollern Redoubt*). The family grave in the churchyard is ref. V2527.



CHARLES NORTH RIDYARD Pioneer Royal Engineers d.7 June 1918 aged 19 259347

CHARLES NORTH RIDYARD died in Italy on June 7 1918 aged 19 yrs. He was the second son of Joseph and Celia Ridyard, of West Lodge, at Worsley Hall, in the employ of the Earl of Ellesmere. His father was Foreman Gardener to the Earl. Charles was born on 30 August to Joseph and Celia and baptised at St. Mark's on 3 October 1888.

Joseph died on 26 March 1918, aged 47, and was buried in the Churchyard on . His wife, Celia, died on 5 March 1940, aged 69. Charles himself died in Italy and was buried in the MONTECCHIO PRECALCINO COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Italy. The Clearing Station was located in various places in Italy - at Cittadella 23/11/17 to 2/12/17, Istrana 7/12/17 to 25/3/18, and Montecchio Precalcino 24/3/18 to 28/2/19. The Station had earlier been based in Aubigny March 1917 to June 1917; then at Oosthoek July 1917 to November 1917, before being relocated to Italy. His grave is at Plot 2, Row A, Grave 4.



The Casualty Clearing Station was part of the casualty evacuation chain, further back from the front line than the Aid Posts and Field Ambulances. It was manned by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with attached Royal Engineers and men of the Army Service Corps. The job of the CCS was to treat a man sufficiently for his return to duty or, in most cases, to enable him to be evacuated to a Base Hospital. It was not a place for a long-term stay. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. F566.

WORSLEY LODGE-KEEPER'S SON

The death took place in the 24th Casual Clearing Station, Italy, on the 7th June, from pneumonia, of Pioneer Charles North Ridyard, of the Royal Engineers. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ridyard, West Lodge, Worsley Hall, and was only 19 years of age. He was formerly in the employ of the Earl of Ellesmere, in the Electricity Generating Station, Worsley Hall, and belongs to a family very well-known and highly respected in the village.

[Local newspaper]

There is a memorial in the bell tower which does not have the names of the Bell Ringers lost due to the war, but a newspaper article tells us they were:

William Grunwell

Thomas Yates

Charles North Ridyard

WILLIAM GRUNWELL Sgt. Royal Engineers 201st Field Coy. d.19 January 1916 aged 42 81414

William was buried at BOIS-GUILLAUME COMMUNAL CEMETERY, grave Ref. I. D. 10. He was the son of Charles and Mary Grunwell of Little Ouseburn, York, and father of Charles A. Grunwell of 10 Barton Road, Worsley. He disembarked in France on 9 November 1915 and he died at No. 8 G Hospital, Rouen. He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal, and the 1914-1915 Star.

In the 1911 census, at the age of 35, he was living at 10 Barton Road with his wife of 13 years, Sarah Ellen. They had three sons - William James (12), Charles Arthur (11) and John Unwin (8). All three were baptised at St. Mark's and William's occupation was Carter.

William and Sarah Ellen were also married at the church. The entry reads:



Marriage: 2 Oct 1897 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, England
William Grunwell - 22, Carter, Bachelor, Worsley
Sarah Ellen Tonge - 23, Spinster, Worsley
Groom's Father: Charles Grunwell, Carter
Bride's Father: James Tonge, Carter
Witness: John Thomas Tonge; Ellen Ann Tonge
Married by Banns by: F.K. Hodgkinson, Incumbent

William was the son of Charles and Mary Grunwell of Little Ouseburn. Sarah Ellen was buried at St. Mark's on 5 March 1940, aged 67. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. I542.

WORSLEY SOLDIER DIES IN FRANCE

Mrs. Grunwell, of the Dispensary, Barton Road, Worsley, received news last weekend of the death of her husband, Sgt. William Grunwell, whilst serving in France. He was 42 years of age, and his death took place, after a short illness, from pneumonia. The deceased soldier, who had been employed on Lord Ellesmere's estate for 20 years, enlisted in the County Palatine Royal Engineers 12 months ago, and after training at Morecambe and Salisbury went out to France a short time ago as Mounted Sergeant to Headquarters Staff. He was for several years a bellringer at Worsley Church, where a memorial service was held on Sunday evening, conducted by the Rev. C. B. Hulton (Vicar). Appropriate hymns were sung, and the 'Dead March' was played by Mr. R. F. Coules, F. R. C. O., organist.

[Local Newspaper]

Born on 18 August 1891, John was baptised at St. Mark's on 4 October 1891. He was the son of Walter Thomas Rounce (a Labourer) and Jane Elizabeth (née Peart), living at the time of John's death at 252 Walkden Road, Worsley. Between 1887 and 1907, they had 6 daughters and just the one son, John.



In the 1891 census, taken a few years after their marriage, they were living at 7 Edgefold, with two daughters - Edith (4) and Blanche (2). Both Walter (27) and Jane (26) came from Norfolk, where they were married on 2 August 1886, at Blickling. In 1911, John, now 19, was a Postman. Of the 6 daughters, one had by now died - Frances, who had been born in 1907.

Although it has been difficult to obtain any definitive materials relating to John Rounce, it is known that servicemen with the numbers 21553 to 21775 joined between 10 February 1917 and 2 March 1917. His name appears on Panel 1 at Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, and it is said he was Killed in Action. According to the C.W.G.C., he died on 13 April 1918. However, the headstone on the family grave at St. Mark's

says he died on 11 April 1918.

The PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.



In August 1914 the three Coldstream Battalions deployed to France, saw action at Mons, the Marne, and the Aisne before being committed to the defence of Ypres where the 1st Battalion almost ceased to exist at the Battle of Gheluvelt. The Regiment maintained four Battalions on active service on the Western Front during the War, fighting in many battles including Loos (1915), the Somme (1916) where the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions attacked in line together for the only time in their existence, at Passchendaele and Cambrai in 1917, at Arras in 1918 and in the great 1918 Advance.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. I819.

WALKDEN GUARDSMAN KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. Rounce, of 252 Walkden Road, Worsley, received official information on September 24th that their son, Pte. John Rounce of the Coldstream Guards, was killed in action on April 13th after having been reported missing on that date. Aged 27, he joined the Army in February 1917, and went out to France in December. He was a stoker at the Berryfield Colliery of the Earl of Ellesmere and attended St. Marks Church, Worsley, and Edge Fold Sunday School, and is on their Rolls of Honour.

[Local Newspaper]

WALTER HIGGINBOTTOM L. Cpl. Manchester Regt. 2nd/5th Bn. d. 7 October 1918 200224

Born on 9 August 1893, to Joseph and Lilla Higginbottom, of the Crescent, Worsley, Walter was baptised at St. Mark's on 9 October. His father was an Estate Foreman. In the 1911 census, the family was living at 12 Mill Brow, Worsley. Joseph was 57 and Lilla was 60. Walter, then 17, had a sister Gladys (22). Ten years earlier, in 1901, they were also in Mill Brow, but there was another son, Joseph, aged 19.

The parents, Joseph and Lilla (née Rawlinson) were themselves married at St. Mark's on 31 December 1885. Joseph's occupation was Carpenter, aged 31, of Walkden, and Lilla was a spinster, aged 35, of Worsley. Three of their children, Gladys (1888), Beatrice (1890) and Walter, were baptised at St. Mark's.



The National Probatary Calendar states that he died on 7 October 1918 at the Hospital Lyceum, Strasburg, Germany. He was a Lance Corporal in the 2/5th Manchester Regiment and his address in the UK was 12 Mill Brow. His effects were left to Joseph Higginbottom, an Estate Foreman. Walter was buried at the Cronenbourg French National Cemetery, Bas-Rhin, Alsace. In the cemetery, there are 15 UK burials from the First World War. It is understood that the hospital where he died was for prisoners of war. The family grave in the churchyard is ref. N1678.

DIED IN STRASBURG

Pte. Walter Higginbottom, who has died whilst a prisoner of war, prior to joining the Eccles Territorials in August, 1914, resided with his parents at Mill Brow, Worsley, and went to France in March, 1917. He was on leave from the 7th March, 1918, and was captured at St. Quentin a fortnight afterwards. He had been stationed at Sprottan. He died in the Imperial Fortress Hospital, Strasbourg, from infectious influenza, on the 7th October last, after 4 days' illness, and was buried in the Garrison Cemetery, Strasburg. Official news of his decease was received on the 27th November, followed by a letter two days later from the German Hospital Chaplain. Before the war, Private Higginbottom was employed as a clerk at the Earl of Ellesmere's Bridgewater Offices, Walkden, and his name is on the Roll of Honour at St. Mark's Church, Worsley.

[Local Newspaper]



Back: F. C. Walker - F. P. Hart - W. E. J. Hodge

Front: M. A. Kerly - T. Skirrow - **W. Higginbottom** - G. Miller - W. E. Horne - D. Hutchinson

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory medal in 1920.

EDWIN GODLEY Cpl. RAMC 54th Cas. Clg. Sta. d.13 August 1915 aged 27 Service no. 64

In 1891, the family was at 107 Roe Green, Worsley. William Henry (30) was a House Carpenter and Agnes (30) was then his wife. Edwin was aged 2. He was actually born on 10 July 1888 to William Henry and Agnes, and baptised at St. Mark's on 2 September 1888. They were then living next door to the family of Walter Higginbottom.

William Henry Godley, 26, Joiner and Bachelor, of Kempnough, Worsley, married Agnes Derbyshire, 26, Spinster, of Worsley, at St. Mark's on 29 September 1887. William's father was Henry Edwin Faulkner Godley, House Carpenter, and Agnes's father was Samuel Derbyshire, Master Mason. Edwin, brother Francis (born 10/11/1891) and sister Agnes (born 13/9/1896) were all baptised at St. Mark's. Mother Agnes died on 24 December 1896, presumably shortly after the birth of daughter Agnes.

By the census of 1901, Edwin (aged 12) was at 223 Lumber Lane with his father, William Henry (40) and his stepmother Emily (née Collins, 40), together with his brother Francis (9) and sister Agnes (4). His father was Clerk of Works on an estate and was born in Chester. His mother came from Odiham, Hants.

In the 1911 census, Edwin was living (22) as a boarder at the home of Arthur Mayhew, a carpenter on the private estate of Easton Park. He was a Clerk in the Estate Office. This was the family estate of the Dukes of Hamilton. At the outbreak of war, the Mansion, with its 27 bedrooms, was converted into a Red Cross Hospital to receive the wounded, who were placed under the care of Mary's mother.

The enlistment paper for Edwin gives no name or address of either parent. A brother, Francis, was named and he lived at 246 Kempnough. A sister, Agnes Haddock, was also listed at the same address. The name Emily Godley countersigned a later communication and she was shown to be his step mother - also of number 246. William Henry Godley died at Worsley on 14 August 1915, the day after the announcement of his son's death. The family headstone is at grave ref. B189.

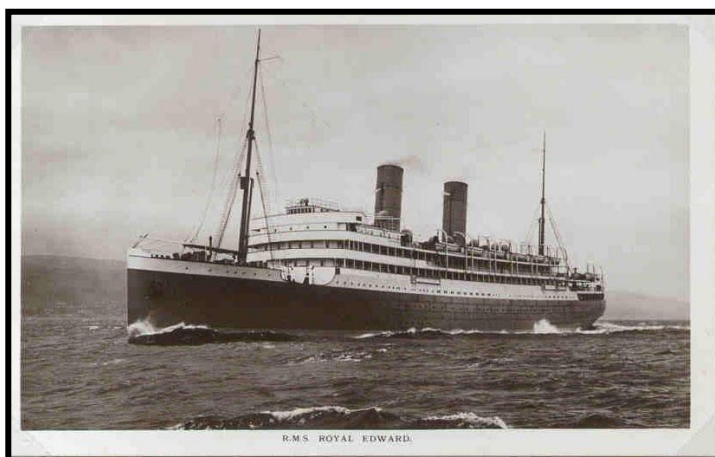
Edwin officially served from 23 January 1915 to 13 August 1915. He was promoted to Corporal on 10 February, and received a further substantive promotion to Sergeant on 30 July 1915. A letter was sent from RAMC Records asking for details of the deceased soldier's relatives and this was sent to Mr. Wm. Hy. Godley at Ivy Bank, (Lumber Lane), Worsley. This letter would not have been read by William Henry, who had died at an earlier date.

***RMS** (later **HMT** - His Majesty's Troopship) **Royal Edward** was a passenger ship belonging to the Canadian Northern Steamship Company that was sunk during the First World War with a large loss of life while transporting Commonwealth troops. She was launched in 1907 as **RMS Cairo** for a British mail service to Egypt.*

*On 28 July 1915, **Royal Edward** embarked 1,367 officers and men at Avonmouth. The majority were reinforcements for the British 29th Infantry Division at Gallipoli, but also included were members of the Royal Army Medical Corps. All of the men were destined for Gallipoli. **Royal Edward** was reported off the Lizard on the evening of the 28th, and had arrived at Alexandria on 10 August, a day after sister ship **Royal George** which had departed from Devonport. **Royal Edward** departed Alexandria for the harbour of Moudros on the island of Lemnos, a staging point for the ships in the Dardanelles.*

*On the morning of 13 August, **Royal Edward** passed the British hospital ship **Soudan**, which was headed in the opposite direction. Oberleutnant zur See Heino von Heimburg on the German submarine **UB-14** was off the island of Kandeloussa and saw both ships. Von Heimburg, seeing the properly identified hospital ship, allowed **Soudan** to pass unmolested, but soon focused his attention on the unescorted **Royal Edward** some 6 nautical miles (11 km) off Kandeloussa. Von Heimburg launched one of **UB-14**'s two torpedoes from a about a mile (2 km) away and hit **Royal Edward** in the stern. The ship sank by the stern within six minutes at about 9.30am.*

*Royal Edward's crew was able to get off an SOS before losing power. Soudan, after making a 180° turn, arrived on the scene at 10:00 and was able to rescue 440 men over the next six hours. Two French destroyers and some trawlers that responded were able to rescue another 221. According to authors James Wise and Scott Baron, **Royal Edward's** death toll was 935 and was as high as it was, they contend, because **Royal Edward** had just completed a boat drill and the majority of the men were belowdecks re-stowing their equipment. Three quarters of those who died were from the Hampshire and Essex Regiments, the Army Service Corps (ASC) and the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). The RAMC units had been trained for up to six months prior to their postings to Gallipoli.*



Edwin Godley's name is commemorated on the Helles Memorial Part XII, Turkey. The Memorial stands on the tip of the Peninsula and is in the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles. Part XII is for sailors and soldiers lost at sea.

In his will, Edwin, of Easton Park, Wickham Market, Suffolk, Sergeant in the East Anglian RAMC, who died 13 August 1915 at sea on active service, left his effects of over £300 to Henry Godley, house carpenter. Probate was granted at London on 10 February 1916. The 14-15 Star Medal was received by Francis Godley on 14 March 1921. Shortly afterwards, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal were awarded.

WORSLEY FAMILY'S DOUBLE LOSS

Official notification has also been received that lance Sergeant Edwin Godley, eldest son of Mrs. Godley and the late Mr. William H. Godley, of Ivy Bank, Lumber Lane, Worsley, lost his life through the sinking of the Royal Edward. He enlisted soon after the war broke out, and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps being connected with the East Anglian Clearing Station. After being in training at the Red Cross Hospital at Easton Manor, he was transferred to Ipswich, and from there left with a draft of the corps to proceed to the Dardanelles. He wrote home from Malta. For the last few years, the deceased soldier had lived at Easton, in Suffolk, where he held the post of private secretary to the Marquess Graham, Easton Manor. He was 27 years of age and unmarried. His younger brother, Francis, is on active service with the Sherwood Foresters and has been wounded on two occasions. A pathetic circumstance is that the family has sustained a double loss, the death of Mr Godley occurring about the same time that the Royal Edward was sunk. [Local Newspaper]



THOMAS WOOD Bombardier Royal Field Artillery d. 15 May 1917 aged 24 L/24123

Thomas Wood was the son of Harry and Elizabeth Wood and was killed in France on 15 May 1917. The 1911 census shows that Thomas Wood (17) was with his parents Harry (45) and Elizabeth (46) at 321 Worsley Road, Winton. He was born in Worsley, as were his father, sister Dorothy (13, bp. 25/7/1897 at SM), and Harry's sisters Elizabeth (47) and Letitia (38). Elizabeth, the mother, was born in Cheshire. Thomas was a Clerk for the Ld. N. W. Railway, and Harry was a butcher.

Ten years earlier, in 1901, Harry was 35 and the family was at 339a Worsley Road, Winton, Eccles. In the census of 1891, Harry was unmarried, living with his widowed mother, Letitia (58), herself a butcher from Llanrwst, Denbigh. He had his sister Elizabeth (27), a brother John (20) and another sister Letitia (18). Their address was 321 & 323 Worsley Road, a combined house and shop. According to the census of 1871, Harry's father (also named Thomas) was also a Butcher.

Thomas enlisted at St. Anne's on Sea and first served in Egypt. He entered that theatre of war on 22 December 1915. He died of his wounds in France and is commemorated at the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. He was later awarded the Trio of Medals.

KILLED AFTER WARNING COMRADES

Bombardier Tom Wood, of the County Palatine R. F. A., who was killed in action on May 15th, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Wood of 321 Worsley Road, Winton, and was 24 years of age. Prior to enlisting about two years ago, he was employed as traffic clerk at the Patricroft Station of the L. and N. W. Railway Company, and was an old scholar of Worsley School and the Salford Technical Institute. He a member of the Winton C. C. and a very popular young man, and his parents have received very many expressions of sympathy in their sad loss. The manner of Wood's death is recorded in a letter from his company officer conveying the sympathy of officers and men to the parents. On May 15th the British position was being heavily shelled, and he went to warn others of the possibility of gas shells coming over. That duty he had accomplished, and had just returned to his gunpit when a shell burst in a doorway. The officer adds that Wood was very brave about his ill-luck and did not complain. He died doing his duty bravely, and was buried in the military cemetery at Bailleul. A comrade, who stated that Wood was really loved by all who knew him, informed his parents that the Officer Commanding, the Captain and 30 men attended the funeral. Wood went to Egypt in December 1915 and from there was transferred to France in March 1916. He was home on a ten days' furlough in January.

[Local Newspaper]



BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War; 11 of the graves made in April 1918 were destroyed by shell fire and are represented by special memorials. There are also 17 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War and 154 German burials from both wars. He was buried at Plot 3, Row B, Grave 146. On the headstone is inscribed UNTIL THE DAY DAWNS, together with his full name and address.

The family headstone at St. Mark's is at grave ref. N1745.

Headstones

C.W.G.C.

Robert Ambler	King's (L'pool Regt.) 13 th Bn	34 yrs.	d. 24/11/1918	
Ross Barnes	Rifle Brigade 9 th Bn.	20 yrs.	d. 13/10/1916	S/7858
Benjamin Gratrix	The Loyal N. Lancs. Regt. 6 th Bn.	38 yrs.	d. 12/06/1920	13775
Harry Sheldon	A. S. C., 1st Army A-A Workshops	30 yrs.	d. 17/10/1918	M2/109643

(4)

FAMILY GRAVES

William Goodall	Training Reserve	29 yrs.	d. 7/07/1917	TR/3/30329
Evelyn G. Lord	M. G. C. (Infantry) 37th Bn.	34 yrs.	d. 25/06/1918	
Herbert Moores	Manchester Regt. 18 th Bn.	32 yrs.	d. 18/07/1916	9895
William Parker	R. M. A. 8 th Bn.	24 yrs.	d. 14/05/1921	RMA/14560
Fred Wilby Slinger	M. G. C. (Heavy Branch), formerly (6511) Highland Light Infantry	30 yrs.	d. 5/07/1917	76748
Herbert Toft	7th East Lancs. Regt./ 3rd Royal Warwicks. Regiment/ 821 Sq. RAF	22 yrs.	d.12/10.1918	16906
Thomas Yates	R. F. A. 'A' Battery, 64th Brigade	26 yrs.	d. 23/01/1919	25058

(7) = CWGC supported graves

IN MEMORIAM

Percy Carr	M. G. C. (Infantry)	19 yrs.	d.30 July 1918	137312
Clifford T. Britain	London Regt. (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) 1st/15th Bn.	19 yrs.	d. 23/03/1918	535177
William Whitehead	1st Bn. Lancs. Fusiliers	18 yrs.	d. 16/04/1917	41826
Wilfred Wood	Royal Garrison Artillery	27 yrs.	d. 15/03/1919	63044
Frank Ramsbottom	Manchester Regt. 19 th Bn.	25 yrs.	d. 9/07/1916	11644
Walter Ramsbottom	Manchester Regt. 19 th Bn.	24 yrs.	d. 23/07/1916	11643
Richard Brown	South Lancs. Regiment 2 nd Bn.	24 yrs.	d. 3/10/1916	27944
Charles N. Ridyard	Royal Engineers	19 yrs.	d.7/06/1918	259347
William Grunwell	Royal Engineers 201st Field Coy.	42 yrs.	d.19/01/ 1916	81414
John Rounce	3 rd Bn. Coldstream Guards	27 yrs.	d.13/04/1918	21756
Walter Higginbottom	Manchester Regt. 2nd/5th Bn.	25 yrs.	d. 7/10/1918	200224
Edwin Godley	RAMC 54th Cas. Clg. Sta.	27 yrs.	d.13/08/1915	no. 64
Thomas Wood	Royal Field Artillery	24 yrs.	d. 15 May 1917	L/24123

There is a total of 11 graves in the churchyard, each of which holds the body of a serviceman who died during World War I. Of these, 4 have the traditional headstone of the Commonwealth Graves Commission. The other 7 servicemen were buried in the family graves and the inscription on each gravestone bears the name of those men. The parish receives a small amount from the CWGC each year for the maintenance of their supported graves. The CWGC makes an annual visit to the churchyard to inspect the condition of the headstones and, if required, it would carry out repairs.

Those servicemen who were killed in action overseas, and were either buried there or posted as missing, are commemorated on the family gravestones IN MEMORIAM.