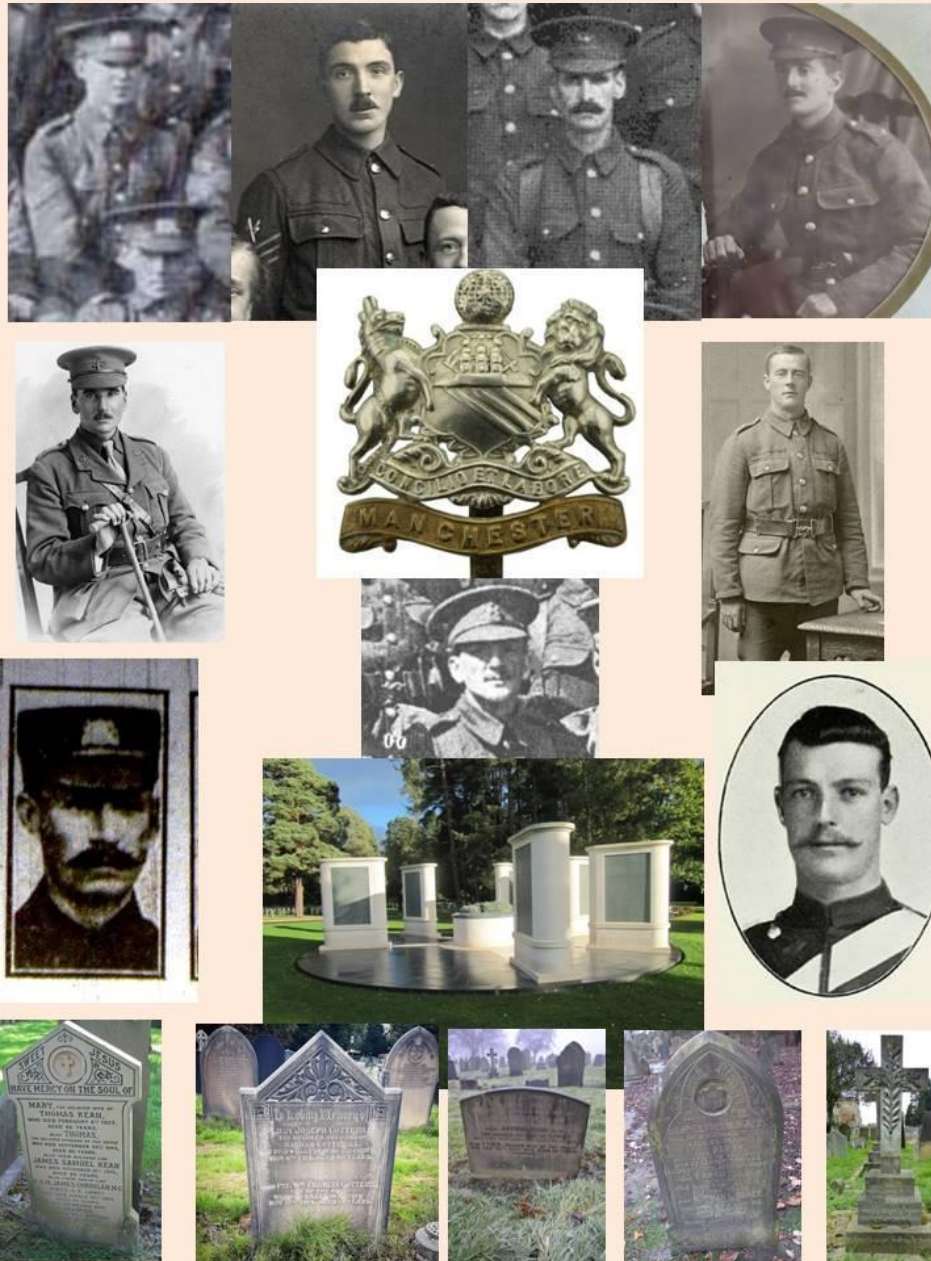


The Forgotten Battalion of the Manchester Regiment



Battlefield Sleuth Series – December 2020

Research by Tim Bell, Bernard Mcilwaine and Paul
Charlesworth

New War Grave Commemorations 100 Years after the Great War

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorates 832,116 casualties of the Great War who served with United Kingdom forces (April 2020). Ten years ago, this figure was considerably lower than 800,000. The Centenary of the First World War has now passed so why are further deaths still being recognised one hundred years later? How many other commemorations remain outstanding? This is the Manchester Regiment perspective.

FOREWORD

The First World War was an event which had tremendous impact on the lives of the people of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and, indeed, of the whole world. Countless lives were lost or changed forever. The sacrifice of so many should be remembered and the names of those who died must be properly commemorated as is their due.

In this work, Tim Bell and Bernard Mcilwaine have produced a record of those men who died whilst serving in the Manchester Regiment in an attempt to illustrate the sacrifices of men not yet in receipt of their official commemoration by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The names contained herein have been submitted to the Commission for potential recognition. There is every expectation that the majority will be accepted in due course and their names will join their comrades in the official Roll of Honour.

When the *In From the Cold Project* was approached to assist with getting these men accepted for commemoration, we readily agreed. Our aim is to get such recognition for all missing service men and women from the Commonwealth forces and the high quality of the Manchester Regiment research and the authors' understanding of the qualifications required made our task much more straightforward than it could have been. It was a pleasure to be associated with such worthwhile work.

Tim and Bernard have done a superb job of undertaking the necessary research, along with their colleagues on the *Manchester Regiment Forum*, and their efforts are to be commended. No doubt, this work will be updated as the names of the missing men are processed by the official system.

Terry Denham
In From the Cold Project
(IFCP)

Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial. It bears names of those believed buried in the UK or Ireland, buried somewhere without a suitable memorial or army men at sea without a specific memorial. IFCP has been integral with the research to identify these commemorations and confirm burials when these have been found

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WHO WERE THE FORGOTTEN BATTALION?

Recent work has identified numerous soldiers of the Manchester Regiment who died in the period of the Great War but their burials received no recognition as them having served as soldiers. A Manchester Regiment battalion establishment was approximately 1,000 men and this is a broad estimate of the total number of individuals who were excluded

from CWGC's roll of honour. This eBook reports some progress in recognising these men and rectifying the records where appropriate. We have the objective to see some soldiers of this *Forgotten Battalion of the Manchester Regiment* accepted for commemoration. They will (have) become *Unforgotten Casualties* in future.

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DCM Citation. London Gazette 17

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The pension card confirms Samuel Barnes DCM MM had heart disease attributable to 15 August 1921 and he lies in an unmarked grave at Chadderton Cemetery. Ap
commemorated by CWGC This is one example of men in the *Forgo*
(Samuel's commemoration was accepted on 17 December 2022 and his burial w

RESEARCH FOR COMMEMORATION

CWGC cemeteries and memorials have iconic status with visitors and they were places of pilgrimage for previous generations. This is a wonderful organisation with a complex [heritage](#) from committed individuals in the Red Cross, Grave Registration Units and Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC). CWGC objectives developed through advice to bereaved relatives, to the registration of burials and it now embraces the stewardship of burials, memorials and extensive records.

The genesis of CWGC and records available at the time inevitably produced some omissions and inaccuracies. The database of CWGC honouring casualties has always been fluid. Burials for men commemorated on Memorials to the Missing were located in the 1920s and continue to be found today. Individuals who had no commemoration were also identified from records and added to CWGC records and commemorations. These additional overseas casualties are generally added to addenda panels of the Memorials to the Missing.

The depth, accessibility and extent of records available on today's laptop are vastly superior to the [data provided to the Commission](#) in the aftermath of the Great War. Interest in the Centenary led to digital publication of new record sets and the matrix of data led to new opportunities to find examples of men who may be entitled to commemoration. The principal records used in finding outstanding commemorations are provided in Appendix A.

A group of dedicated researchers formed the [In From The Cold Project](#) (IFCP) in 2006. The group has introduced more than 6,100 new commemorations to CWGC records, with another 1,200 (2020) awaiting adjudication, often resulting from the painstaking review of different official records and rolls.

Many other additional non-commemorations have been found from a range of researchers. This includes members of the [Manchester Regiment Forum](#) who have produced the records for the current research, gratefully assisted by IFCP.

At least 46 First World War members of the Manchester Regiment appear to have been added to CWGC records from 2000 to 2019. The current project is increasing the Great War casualty list for the Manchesters.

The burial of 17th Bn's, Pte 8688 John Knight, in Manchester Phillips Park Cemetery. Added to the CWGC records in 2011 after research by IFCP (TB)

[John Willott](#) was commemorated in 2016 after research by the Manchesters Forum. The headstone was erected in 2024. Photo CWGC

The core principles, articulated in CWGC's Royal Charter, are as relevant today as they were 100 years ago:

- Each of the Commonwealth dead should be commemorated by name on a headstone or memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform

- There should be equality of treatment for the war dead irrespective of rank, race or religion.

In the context of the Great War, CWGC are responsible for the commemoration of personnel who died between **4 August 1914** and **31 August 1921** inclusive whilst serving in a Commonwealth military force or specified auxiliary organisation. The organisation also provides commemoration for personnel who died in this period after they were discharged from a Commonwealth military force if their death was a consequence of their wartime service.

More than seven hundred and fifty Manchester Regiment men have been identified who died in the qualifying period of the Great War and who are not commemorated by CWGC. Almost 150 of these individuals have evidence that they qualify for War Grave status.

Records have been presented to IFCP which has provided files for adjudication on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. If accepted, the data will then be added to CWGC records and steps will be taken ensure that there is suitable commemoration. These men will be referred

to as the *Unforgotten Casualties* while awaiting their adjudication.

We have approximately 600 of the Regiment's men who died in the qualifying period but they have not been put forward for War Grave status and we acknowledge there will be many more individuals where records have not yet been identified. This group will currently remain *Forgotten Casualties* on War Grave records but commemorated by the Manchester Regiment Forum.

Local communities constructed numerous war memorials in towns and villages. The organisers regularly used wide criteria for commemoration. We have adopted a similar approach in creating an extended Roll of Honour.

As time passes, this journal will be updated to keep pace with progress with the commemoration of the *Unforgotten Casualties*. New commemorations will be accepted and others may be referred back for further records. We will also see changes on the CWGC records and some tangible new memorials and burial inscriptions.

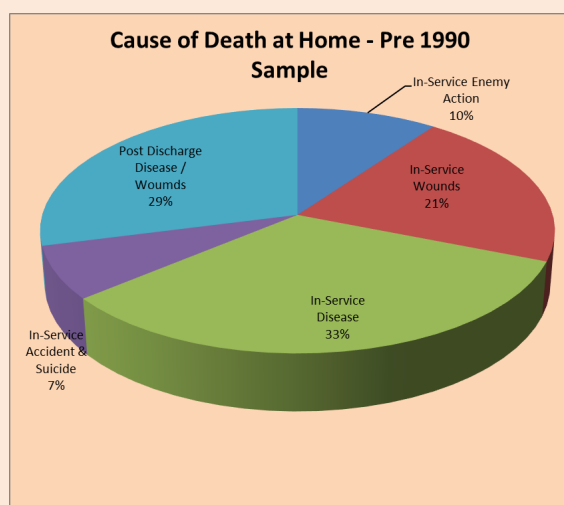
WHO WERE THE UNFORGOTTEN CASUALTIES?

Most of the Unforgotten Casualties of the Manchester Regiment will be commemorated in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Pte 1860 Frank Reid's death was presumed in Flanders after he transferred to the 12th Royal Fusiliers. He should be commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres. (TB)

All but four of the *Unforgotten Casualties* died in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Some analysis of current CWGC commemorations for the Regiment at home provides an insight to the possible explanation for omissions. As at 1 April 2020, there were 952 Manchester Regiment men commemorated in the UK and Ireland in the Great War qualifying period.

The 2020 figure includes many additions since 1990, predominately credited to the work of IFCP or the Manchesters Forum. Based on 9 additions and more than 100 further applications for commemoration, there will be an increase of more than 10% of home based casualty records for the Regiment. If such an increase was extrapolated to other corps and regiments, we can see something of the extent of outstanding commemorations across the whole Army. IFCP had 1,000 outstanding applications in June 2022.

Representatives of the casualties at home were men killed or wounded by enemy action; died of wounds after being evacuated from overseas; died in accidents or of disease in-service; or died after discharge as a consequence of their service. We have reviewed a sample of the first 100 alphabetical CWGC pre-1990 commemorations in the British Isles and found the proportion of known causes of deaths arising as follows:-



Few of the *Unforgotten Casualties* relate to in-service deaths compared with 71% of the

pre-1990 sample of established commemorations. It is understandable that CWGC obtained more complete records for men who were still serving.

If the adjudication accepts all of the current applications, then there will be many more further commemorations in the post-discharge group, increasing this proportion within the sample from 28% to more than 40%. This analysis also indicates one third of commemorations were omitted for men who died from disease or wounds after discharge.

Qualification criteria for post-discharge deaths required the casualty to have died as a consequence of their service. The interpretation of the CWGC Charter required evidence that a man died from a condition that was due to their service or an existing condition that was aggravated by service. Strict adherence to these criteria sometimes produced some unsatisfactory results.

For example, 8th Battalion's Private James Whelan died from TB he had contracted while serving with the Royal Field Artillery, prior to joining 8th Battalion. There are extensive records for Private Whelan yet no evidence shows the TB was attributed to hardship in the army or aggravated by service. There was no merit in seeking commemoration; even though the circumstances indicate James wouldn't have died so young if he hadn't served in the army.

In August 2020, CWGC reviewed the spirit of their Charter and determined three criteria for qualification – the third allowing James Whelan to be commemorated. Men who died after discharge must now be shown to have met one of the following criteria:-

- 1) Died due to cause attributable to service
- 2) Died due to condition aggravated by service
- 3) Died of a condition contracted whilst in service.

Conditions arising for all three criteria must occur in the qualifying period. The third criterion produced some other new cases where application for commemoration is justified. Many men died from conditions contracted or commencing in embodied service. There are also a number of cases where the revised approach to adjudication justifies further consideration for qualification.

Six of the *Unforgotten Casualties* died from pneumonia when they were still serving in the army. Five of the group died after the Armistice, possibly victims of the Spanish flu epidemic.

Most In-Service deaths have been identified in the latter years of the Great War period. Surviving published records for 1914-17 are not quite so comprehensive. Lieutenant Joseph Cotterill died from pneumonia on 6 November 1914 while he was on sick leave. It is anticipated that there are further casualties that have not yet been found as published pension records are more limited for the early years of hostilities; then organised on a regional, rather than national basis.

Grieving families had a significant role to play in the prospect of War Grave status for their husbands, sons or fathers. All of the identified United Kingdom *Unforgotten Casualties* have private burials. Families would all have been ultimately entitled to see War Grave status but they may not have known this at the time and records were not cross-referenced in various Government Departments. Equally, the current portland stone headstones were only introduced in the 1920s and families will have preferred a more permanent private memorial, where they could afford it, in preference to the original standard wooden crosses.

Family members may have chosen not to have any connection between the burial, the army and IWGC's Register. While these sentiments are respected, it is recognised that the family members could not have anticipated the merits of CWGC's current online database of

war dead and this would not intrude on the retrospective wishes of the family.

A Special Memorial (See Commemoration Section) may be placed in Cemeteries if the burial cannot be identified, or it is inappropriate to erect a new headstone on the plot; but no physical changes are made to burial plots unless cemetery authorities consent and efforts are made to consult current heirs. This alleviates any dilemma of dealing with the perceived sentiments of the families at the time of death. The perpetual commemoration on the CWGC roll does not appear controversial, even if families chose private burials.

Anecdotally, there may be a pattern that some Roman Catholic families were less likely to see IWGC recognition for their burials. The research indicates that 1/12th of commemorations at Moston were in the Great War roll with CWGC. This compares with less than 1/40th of omitted commemorations for burials at Southern Cemetery.

This discrepancy may be related to the controversy of the Irish independence movement. The Catholic tradition of making inscriptions on public graves, removed the need for screen walls or additional CWGC headstones. There was therefore less reason for names to be added to the IWGC roll.

The community certainly acknowledged many of their war dead, including a magnificent screen wall at Moston, where the men buried in the Soldiers Plots for St Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery are commemorated; in keeping with the families' wishes and the CWGC Charter.

The absence of commemoration is slightly less surprising for post-discharge deaths of men who died at home. Prior to the formation of the IWGC in 1917, there was little consistency on War Grave commemoration, especially for burials at home. Prior to the Armistice, developments of policy took place, yet these were not necessarily widely known in public

and records do not appear to have been cross-referenced on a consistent basis.

Some may suggest that men who died of wounds or due to enemy action have a more deserving case for commemoration. This directly conflicts with the Charter of IWGC/CWGC; that all casualties require equal treatment. Ultimately, the rules of commemoration are paramount and valid proven cases must be properly attributed to the records, irrespective of the cause of death.

The *Unforgotten Casualties* often lived for a significant period after they were discharged from the army or transferred to the reserve. Their average period between leaving the army and death is a little less than two years. Former Grenadier Guard, John Johnson, died on the day after discharge and George Caslin survived only four days.

On the other extreme is Richard Longsdon, who died from tuberculosis (TB) almost five years after discharge. Francis Patchett died from heart disease on the last Great War qualification date – 31 August 1921 – having been discharged with a heart condition on 21 August 1917. While there was significant passage of time between discharge and death, both men died as a result of their service and deserve recognition on the War Graves Roll.

On the face of it, a long period between discharge and death could be a sensible explanation for casualties being omitted from official records. Most of these cases have been identified from dependents' pension records so the hypothesis holds less weight, although the pensions department had no duty to report deaths to IWGC. Bereaved families may have expected the appropriate organisations to be advised of casualties, so the absence of communication between pension authorities and IWGC would seem to be the principal explanation for the volume of post-discharge cases.

The equality of commemoration is asserted for all men who died during service, or after

discharge in qualifying circumstances. All of these *Unforgotten Casualties* died from conditions resulting from service. Henry Osborne may be seen to represent an extreme case for commemoration. The records show Private Osborne had contracted TB prior to the army and his condition was aggravated by just 35 days service in 22nd Battalion. He was discharged in February 1915 and died in November 1919.

The average period of service for the *Unforgotten Casualties* is a little over three years, with the longest being Private 6340 Walter Shawcross who was a Boer War veteran and Old Contemptible who served from August 1900 to May 1915.

There are many cases where the stringent criteria for adjudication (even as revised) produce less satisfactory results. These will be reviewed as further evidence may come to light.

Death Certificates have been obtained for all of the *Unforgotten Casualties*. These are needed to verify other records, especially the cause of death. Analysis isn't straightforward as there are often multiple causes of death.

For example, Private Thomas Moran's death certificate confirms he died from chest wounds and TB. Thomas Moran had been with 19th Battalion at Montauban when he was wounded in the chest on 1 July 1916 – the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. He was discharged with a pension for the gun shot wound and TB in December 1918 and died on 23 January 1920. Thomas is one of a small group of *Unforgotten Casualties* who died from wounds although their deaths are also attributed to disease.

More than 60 *Unforgotten Casualties* died from TB connected with service in the army. Statistics show TB to have been a major cause of death in 1913 and it is not surprising so many deaths in the Army related to the disease. The records show that exposure to the cold and wet was the principle contributory factor for men contracting TB or

having their pre-war condition aggravated. There are also a number of examples of men who died from TB after having been gassed at the front. Gas poisoning would clearly make men susceptible to contracting TB or having the disease aggravated.

The second most prevalent cause of death for the *Unforgotten Casualties* related to heart conditions. Many men had received pensions for heart complaints. Once again, the physical rigours of army life will have caused these problems, particularly for older recruits, which will be considered later. There are a number of instances where heart failure (and other conditions) is noted on death certificates, yet this was not the cause of death that related to army service. This was often the case for men suffering bronchitis, influenza or pneumonia.

We have an outstanding case for commemoration for Oliver Rickards of 2/7th Battalion. Private Rickards had been discharged with valvular heart disease and died from pneumonia, influenza and cardiac failure. It is open to debate whether Oliver died from his heart condition or weakened by it.

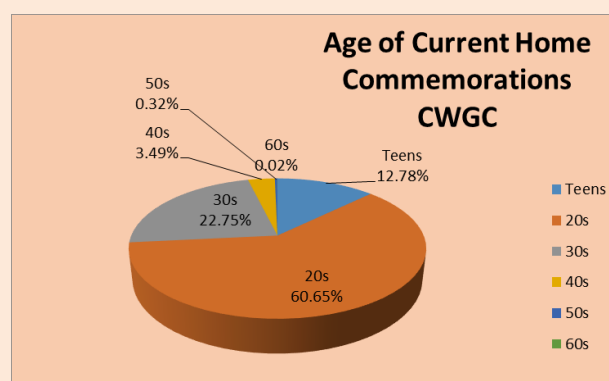
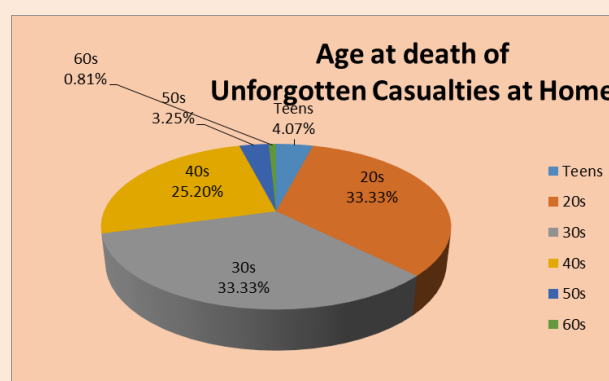
A number *Unforgotten Casualties* died from diseases directly arising from their service overseas. Two men contracted malaria in India and Greece and others died from trench fever (Brights disease), also known as Nephritis. Thomas Fitzpatrick is a slightly anomalous case, having died from bilharzia that was aggravated by service. Private Fitzpatrick had actually contracted the disease during previous army service in South Africa. Remaining casualties relate a variety of conditions, including rheumatism, cancer and diabetes.

The average age of the *Unforgotten Casualties* was 34. The eldest was Colour Sergeant John Begley who was 66 years old when he died. He had previously served 20 years in the army and trained men of 3rd Battalion in the Manchesters. If the adjudication is successful John Begley will be the second oldest known Regimental Casualty of the Great War.

Comparison can be made with all established CWGC commemorations for the Regiment, with a slight reservation that many ages are not known.

The average known age for established commemorations at Home is slightly in excess of 26 years; almost ten years younger than the *Unforgotten Casualties*. Almost three quarters of established commemorations were men below 30, whereas this age group provides less than 40% of the *Unforgotten Casualties*.

While some adjustment must be made for the period between discharge and death, it is clear that the current applications concern older men than most casualties in the Regiment. The maximum age for enlisting was generally 41 years, for the majority of hostilities. It is perhaps unsurprising that the older group of men had health issues during service and many succumbed to their illness after discharge.



The *Unforgotten Casualties* served in most battalions of the Manchester Regiment. 63% of the men served overseas from the Western

Front to Gallipoli, Egypt, Iraq and India. 37% of the group solely served at home.

If CWGC recognition is accepted, most of the Home group will be commemorated as serving in one of the Reserve of Home Service Battalions. At the time records were compiled, family members had an opportunity to see previous service recognised, such as Boer War or previous unit. Current CWGC policy generally recognises a casualty's final Unit. In some ways, this disregards a soldier's previous service and may not fully represent a casualty's role in the Great War.

The men who solely served in home based reserve battalions undoubtedly did their duty and full recognition is appropriate; especially as many of this group met an early death as a result of army service.

The historic record could be more fulfilled if men returning to duty in reserve units could also be recognised for their overseas service. For this reason, this research includes men who served in the Manchester Regiment but completed their service with other units.

Perhaps the least appropriate unit allocation will be Samuel Barnes DCM MM (See page 3). Samuel was discharged from 3rd Battalion which will be indicated on his commemoration. This disregards the record that Private Barnes received his Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal serving with 2/10th Battalion. One may reflect that

the war record of 2/10th Battalion history is incomplete without recognition of the bravery awards of its soldiers being noted on casualty records.

We also have Old Contemptibles; including Private Fred Bell who will be identified as 3rd Battalion, despite serving in the original BEF with 2nd Battalion from September 1914. Thomas Matthewman transferred from 10th Battalion from King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with which he joined the BEF on 5 November 1914. Private Matthewman will be commemorated as 45th Battalion, which was a Home Service territorial unit.

The prospective commemorations of the *Unforgotten Casualties* clearly show most men were interred near the Regiment's home city. A great exception is Fred Bell. Private Bell was a pre-war member of 4th Battalion and served overseas with 2nd Battalion. He is buried in Rathcooney Cemetery, near Cork in Ireland. This was close to his widow, Lizzie's, address where he died in July 1916.

The first major exceptions are the five men who died on the Western Front, who will be commemorated on Memorials to the Missing. There are also men buried in Ireland and Grimsby, close to their barracks.

Many of the other burials outside Greater Manchester concern men who had transferred to the Regiment from other Corps / Regiments. By strange coincidence two

Distribution of known burial locations of the Unforgotten Casualties of the Manchester Regiment.

Known burial locations of the Unforgotten Casualties of the Manchester Regiment in Gre

members of the Manchester Regiment are buried in the same cemetery at Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. It is anticipated both Frederick Lilleyman and Arthur Cole were transferred to the Manchesters after training with the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Some of the other burials outside the northwest are men who died after discharge with family members who lived further afield. For example, John Pickford was buried near his sister's home in Dorset and Wilfred Dickinson's grave in Wrexham is near his stepmother's address.

The *Unforgotten Casualties* buried in Greater Manchester predominately served in the Manchester Regiment. Exceptions include James Kean and James Harrison who originally enlisted in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and Lancashire Fusiliers. They were both discharged on health grounds and re-enlisted in the Manchesters.

There are many more burials in the northeast area of Manchester. The Regimental Headquarters was in Ashton under Lyne and this acted as a focus for recruitment. In areas to the north and west more men joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and, further south, the Cheshire Regiment attracted recruits.

Other research shows a vast predominance of City Battalion men living immediately south of the City centre. This partly explains seventeen burials in Southern Cemetery. It may also be the case that this part of Manchesters had less poverty and longer life-expectancy, so soldiers may have been more likely to survive post-war health conditions.

A concentration of thirteen *Unforgotten Casualties* is noted at Greenacres Cemetery with many others in the Oldham area. 10th (Territorial) Battalion was based in Oldham and it created Second and Third Line Battalions. Equally 24th Battalion was the Oldham Comrades. These four Battalions gained most recruits from the local area. One may also anticipate that the socio-economic

circumstances of mill town residents may have impacted the health for soldiers returning from the front. There will have been clear disparities in the life expectancy of people living in a cotton town, or Salford, compared with the newer suburbs south of the city.

The geographic pattern is somewhat skewed in the northeast of Manchester due to the location of eighteen *Unforgotten Casualties* located at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Moston. This was used by bereaved families from a much wider area, including *Unforgotten Casualties* from Hulme, Patricroft, Reddish and Salford.

Most burials of the *Unforgotten Casualties* have been identified with great assistance from many people, particularly the late Chris Harley of IFCP. A small group of burials remain elusive and, if grave registers are not found, these casualties will be commemorated on the Brookwood 1914-18 Memorial in Surrey.

The proposed commemorations have been plotted on a map to see the range of locations and concentrations of burials. The icons (see Key) also show the progress that has been made in commemoration, from Applications to Commemoration to acceptances and adopted burials. The poppy symbol denotes a conclusion to the case.

The Soldiers
the CWGC A

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&mid=1IQjOi_I43B6GogjsOglcxCISeCsCUUJ8&ll=53.47287251445028%2C-2.1843774085117915&z=7

COMMEMORATION

CWGC has clear protocols for new War Grave commemorations in the United Kingdom. These are robust, yet flexible to account for new information becoming available. The recent changing commemoration of Corporal 8937 Joseph Locker is used as an example.

New British army cases are approved by the Ministry of Defence. CWGC initially record the new casualty record in the United Kingdom Book of Remembrance (UKBoR). This formerly records the man as a casualty of the Great War.

Cpl Joseph Locker - UKBR

Where a burial remains unidentified, an inscription is made to commemorate the casualty on the Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial. This was constructed in 2016 and summarised by CWGC as:-

“THE BROOKWOOD 1914-1918 MEMORIAL was designed to commemorate Commonwealth casualties who died in the UK and Ireland who have no known grave. The majority of the casualties 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.”

Clearly researchers and the volunteers from IFCP would prefer to see the casualty’s specific burial acknowledged as a War Grave and their efforts are acknowledged below. The team have extensive research methods and contacts that assist with the process.

Progress is maintained with the continuing digitisation of cemetery records, including Salford City Council’s burials which provided many ‘new’ grave finds for the *Unforgotten Casualties* in March 2020.

When a burial is confirmed, then this War Grave status is recorded in the updated CWGC Roll. Previous entries in the UKBoR or listing on the Brookwood Memorials are also superseded.

The images of Corporal 8937 Joseph Locker’s commemorations are shown in the sequence of images. Seeing the acknowledgment of Joseph’s grave was a privilege and source of great satisfaction for the team involved with the research.

It can be seen that there is no physical change in Corporal Locker’s commemoration in Salford. This is because the inscription on his private head stone is clearly legible and the burial is easily identified by visitors.

When plots fall into the stewardship of CWGC, some will be tidied up, such as trimming the vegetation to make an inscription visible.

Unmarked Grave Plots including Arthur Cole and
Frederick Lilleyman at Wellingborough

In instances where a private headstone inscription has become illegible, there are two options. These also determine commemorations for unmarked burials.

If cemetery authorities and any consultation with current family members is positive, a CWGC headstone may be erected on the burial plot. This may be the upright standard headstone or a lower-level Gallipoli style plinth. We have provisional family consent for new headstones, including George Warburton at Crompton Cemetery and Thomas Moran at St Joseph's Moston.

If consent cannot be gained to erect a headstone for illegible memorials or plots are unidentified, then a separate commemoration will be made. George Nichols should receive an individual Special Memorial at Delph Independent Chapelyard, with the superscript "BURIED ELSEWHERE IN THIS CHAPELYARD".

In many large cemeteries there is often a Screen Wall or Special Memorial, providing inscriptions for men who are buried there with no identified grave. In many instances, the 'new' names can be added.

Soldiers Plot screen wall at Moston St Joseph's RC Cemetery

Screen Wall at Manchester Southern Cemetery.

Screen Wall at Manchester (Philips Park) Cemetery.

It appears the Special Memorial at Weaste has insufficient space to add the seven men that have known grave plots. Some of these commemorations will gain for consent for a new headstone on their specific burial. Otherwise it appears it will be necessary to erect an Addenda Panel for the Special Memorial, especially where burials are unidentified in a Common Grave.

Special Memorial panels may also be used in instances where a cemetery is closed, or it does not have its own Special Memorial. Manchester Southern Cemetery has a large Screen Wall as alternative commemorations for men who were originally buried in eleven closed cemeteries in the area. Some of the *Unforgotten Casualties* will be commemorated on this Special Memorial, including Private William Lewis Lloyd who was buried in Manchester Ardwick Cemetery. This Cemetery is now playing field and it is not included on the current Special Memorial list. As such a new Addenda Panel is likely to be required.

It is sad when cemeteries are closed, generally due to maintenance costs or pressures for development. St Peter's Churchyard in Blackley is now closed to the public as it is unsafe for visitors due to subsidence. Private 4101 David Herbert Wood's name will be inscribed on the Alternative Commemoration Memorial at Southern Cemetery.

CWGC maintain all burial plots and commemorations. In private, religious, or municipal locations responsibility for

Credit CWGC. Special Memorial at Salford (Weaste)
Cemetery

Credit Chris McLean CWGC. Addenda Panels for Cologne
Southern Cemetery

Alternative Commemoration Screen Wall for St Peter's at
Southern Cemetery

maintenance of the plots is arranged with the cemetery owners.

CWGC Headstone on the private grave of Dutch-born Pte Louis Hillenbrand Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn.

Travel limitations have restricted capacity to review all of the prospective commemorations of the *Unforgotten Casualties*. Most burial plots should have been visited by the time adjudication takes place. There is uncertainty on how CWGC will commemorate some men in unmarked plots and cemeteries that seem to be out of use.

Alternative commemorations for Gorton Brookfield Unitarian Churchyard at Manchester Gorton Cemetery.

As progress takes place, further editions of the publication will provide completed records and images of the final commemorations of the *Unforgotten Casualties* of the Manchester Regiment

Cross of Sacrifice and Screen Wall at Manchester Gorton Cemetery.

FORGOTTEN BATTALION OF THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

The Manchester Regiment Forum has a schedule of almost 500 men who served in the Manchester Regiment and died in the qualifying period of the Great War without being commemorated by CWGC. The full records are too extensive to cover in this publication and we encourage readers to join the Forum if they would like to learn more. Some individuals definitely don't qualify for War Grave status and there is a large group where evidence is missing or inconclusive. All the men did their bit and the Manchester's Forum provides the only commemoration in many instances. The *Forgotten Casualties* have been addressed in the following groups:-

- Contracted in Embodied Service? – Appendix B
- Still Serving? – Appendix C
- Unknown Cause of Death – Appendix D
- A Result of Service? – Appendix E
- Did they die? – Appendix F
- Related Conditions? – Appendix G
- Was condition on discharge result of service? Unknown cause of death – Appendix H
- Unknown cause of discharge and death – Appendix I
- Unrelated Death? – Appendix J

Contracted in Embodied Service?

The revision to criteria in August 2020 provided for commemoration for a further group of cases. The key element to contracted in service cases is that the condition leading to death must have commenced during embodied service in the qualifying period, rather than while posted to reserve, disembodied or pre-War.

The principal data for these cases is the WFA pension record cards. There are many Manchester Regiment cases where the cards state that cause of death was commencing or contracted on active service.

These statements have been found to apply reserve service and unreliable in other respects. Therefore, current *Unforgotten Casualties* applications solely relate to cases where service or pension records substantiate that the condition commenced in the relevant period.

The rigorous approach to commemoration realises some significant omissions, where further evidence is required. Private 454 **Thomas Abbott** and Private 263 **Daniel Hicks** were pre-War members of 5th and 10th Battalions respectively. They both served in Egypt and died from TB after returning home. Their pension records both state the TB commenced on active service but it hasn't yet

Tom Abbott-Wigan Observer 29/5/1915. © British Library

Tom Abbott's grave in Wigan Cemetery

Evidential requirements may be reviewed again when further adjudication has been provided on the validity of the WFA cards. This will be important for some cases of pre-War soldiers who served overseas. There are instances where WFA cards indicate a death due to a condition contracted on active service and if the condition pre-dates mobilised service, then it is reasonably certain the condition would have been aggravated by service. Ideally, further evidence will be obtained to verify when the condition commenced.

Still Serving?

Cowsill S Liverpool Daily Post 06 August 1917

There is a group of four men who may qualify for commemoration but records have been lost to determine whether they were in-service deaths.

Private 25026 Samuel Cowsill died in an accident at Vickers Munitions Factory, on 3 August 1917, when posted to the Army Reserve. Samuel's service or pension records are needed to identify whether he was still embodied.

Cpl Joseph Keane MM and his family

been possible to corroborate the statements.

Another example is Private 3906 / 376517 **Richard Henry Galley**, who was working in a munitions factory when he contracted cancer. He could not qualify for commemoration as he must have been posted to reserve.

Corporal 277184 Joseph Keane died from pneumonia on 13 February 1919. There is no

evidence that Joseph had been discharged, but we cannot prove that he was still in-service and there is no evidence of the disease being attributable or aggravated by service. Corporal Keane's Military Medal award was published after his death on 17 June 1919.

Two other men died from disease while possibly still serving. They could also be commemorated, if they had been discharged and their conditions were proven as a result of service.

Unknown Cause of Death?

There are numerous examples of men who were discharged with life threatening conditions and subsequently died from unknown causes. These are provided in Appendix D. This group are confirmed as having conditions resulting from service. If death certificates were obtained, it is certain the ranks of *Unforgotten Casualties* could be extended where the condition on discharge is the same as the cause of death and this is proven to be resulting from service.

In some instances death certificates have been obtained for men who died soon after discharge and most of these now justify commemoration. A number of death certificates show cause of death being different to the condition on discharge.

Where men died after a long period since discharge it is less likely these were *Unforgotten Casualties*. A more remote case for commemoration would be an Old Contemptible, Private 9373 **James Archer** of 2nd Battalion. James was discharged with wounds in June 1916 and received a pension for dysentery attributed to service. He died in 2nd Quarter 1921. While it is possible he succumbed to dysentery five years after discharge, this seems a small prospect.

As an amateur researcher, I cannot justify extending the considerable investment that has been already made in ordering death certificates for the *Unforgotten Casualties*.

There is a shortlist of the most pressing cases for further death certificates. If anyone reading this research would like to make a financial contribution to the project, please see the final page of this document for contact details.

A Result of Service?

There are instances where evidence shows cause of death resulted from service, yet other records do not adequately corroborate the case to justify commemoration.

National Army Museum (NAM) correctly adopts strict criteria to assessment that post-discharge cases resulted from service. The review of pensions in 1917 seems to have led to some successful appeals for dependent's pensions and anecdotally there may be some instances where cases could have been reviewed but family members didn't apply.

The dependents and casualty pension cards are inconsistent in the information that is provided, with some clerks providing a comprehensive response to the fields on the record and others missing some elements and writing limited narrative to complete the record for pension purposes. Outstanding evidence is required for numerous cases at

Manchester Evening News 03/04/1915

21/10/1916

Appendix E. Next-of-kin generally received a pension award. Further pension records are in the process of being digitised. It is possible these may realise further evidence to support applications for commemoration.

Did they die?

The three young soldiers who disappeared in County Cork in 1920 are generally acknowledged to have been killed by the IRA. The NAM insists on receiving Death Certificates on all cases. There is a possibility the men absconded and possibly changed their names. Further records may arise and we are pleased to record Privates George Henry Caen, Albert Mason and B Pincher in our research. Appendix F.

Related conditions?

There are some cases where the reason for discharge is not the same as the cause of death. Many men died from conditions affected by, contracted or commencing in service, dependents received pensions suggesting that cause of death resulted from service. This group are summarised in Appendix G.

There are a number of men discharged with chest conditions who later died from pneumonia or TB. Some of the *Unforgotten Casualties* have similar circumstances, although in those instances, the authorities accepted that cause of death was a result of service.

Was condition on Discharge result of service? Unknown cause of death.

There are many post-discharge deaths where the cause is unknown and there is conflicting, inadequate or no evidence that the condition leading to discharge resulted from service. These cases are provided in Appendix H. Once again, further publication of pension records may change the status of some of this group. For example, 24th Battalion's Private 14122 Thomas Heys was discharged with diabetes in March 1917. He died from disease twelve

days later. We don't know the cause of death, or whether his diabetes commenced, or was attributed to service or aggravated by life in the army.

Unknown cause of discharge and death

There are a group of cases where the cause of discharge and death are unknown. Comprehensive searches have been undertaken on all of these men, yet the loss of service and pension records in the Blitz means little information is available. It is hoped that further pension records may identify causes of

Pte W H Nelson's medals awarded for overseas service aged 15. Courtesy Stephen Burke

discharge and death. The full list of these men is included at Appendix I.

One pressing case is Company Quartermaster Sergeant 899 Thomas Duffy MM DCM and Bar, from Oldham. CQMS Duffy gained his British gallantry awards with 1st Battalion and also received Order of Saint George 3rd Class from the Czar of Russia. Thomas Duffy was discharged with a pension at the end of March 1919 and died on 14 July 1919. We do not know if CQMS's cause of death was related to service.

Unrelated Death?

We also have a schedule of men at Appendix I who served the Crown prior to discharge and there is no clear evidence they died from

conditions that were related to service. Dependents pensions were provided in some instances. Pensions were reviewed in 1917 and it possible that further records may be found to prove a connection between service and cause of death. There are some cases where this could not be the case, such as deaths by accidents, minor conditions on discharge, or wholly unrelated conditions for death and discharge. Some of the causes of death are confirmed as being contracted after discharge.

One example of these unrelated deaths is Private 31040 William Henry Nelson. William was underage when he enlisted and served on the Somme with 19th Battalion, aged 15. He was discharged due to his age in May 1916. William died from TB in May 1917, aged 16. Records are quite extensive and we have no indication William was suffering from TB during service. We are pleased to commemorate him here.

MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNFORGOTTEN

CASUALTIES

In order to introduce the *Unforgotten Casualties*, we have followed the extensive establishment of the Manchester Regiment and the service of each man. The most relevant service is addressed, rather than the final Battalion (Bn) that is generally adopted by CWGC. Individuals are introduced in chronological order of their date of disembarking overseas or posting for training for men who solely served at home.

Regular Army Service

At the outbreak of hostilities, the British Army was relatively small and stationed across the globe as an integral part of the Empire's infrastructure. In August 1914, the army was called back for war service and quickly embarked for Belgium and France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF); ultimately defending Paris and preventing the German Army cutting off the supply route to the Channel.

The 1st Bn Manchester Regiment had been stationed in India and arrived at Marseille on 26th September 1914. They moved to Ypres and served alongside the 2nd Bn at Festubert in late October 1914. 1st Bn later served in the Middle East.

Three Privates of 1st Bn have been identified as casualties in the British assault on German positions at Givenchy on 20-21 December 1914. They were pre-war Regular soldiers who had embarked from India on 27 August 1914.

Privates 856 [James Nolan](#) and 823 [William Perry](#) had been recorded in the Casualty List of 20 February 1915. **Both approved 23/02/2024. W Perry moved to Le Touret Memorial 17/10/2024, J Nolan 09/11/2024.** Private [James Williams](#) had been recorded as

wounded and missing and the Casualty List of 4 October 1915 records him as being assumed to have been killed in action. **Approved 01/12/2023. Le Touret Memorial 17/10/2024**

With no known grave, the three new commemorations will be inscribed on the Addenda Panels of the Le Touret Memorial to the missing.

James Nolan was aged 27 and appears to have had family in London. William Perry was the son of Margaret Ann Perry of 17 Tebbutt Street, Rochdale Road and aged 26. James Williams was aged 24/25 and the son of Joseph and Ellen Nolan of Clifford Street, Openshaw.

Corporal 476 [Joseph Wolstencroft](#) had been serving in 5th VB when he enlisted in May 1915. Having recently returned from duty with 1st Bn in India, Joseph joined the BEF with 2nd Bn on 15 August 1914. Transferred to the Machine Gun Corps '34873' in July 1916, he was evacuated home and discharged sick on 28 February 1917.

Joseph died from TB on 18 December 1920. He is buried in an unidentified plot at St Peter's Churchyard, Blackley. The son of Joseph (Deceased) and Sarah Wolstencroft of 62 Crab Lane, Higher Blackley. **Approved 03/02/2024.**

The Regular Bns were also reinforced by fully trained members of the Special Reserve – see below. This included Private 906 [Michael Flanagan](#), who embarked for France on 9 November 1914 with 1st Bn. Michael was posted as wounded at Neuve Chapelle on 11 March 1915 and later reported as having died of wounds on this date.

Michael will also be commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial. He was the husband of Agnes Flanagan of 10 Bentley Street, Oldham Road. The couple had three children and

Agnes later remarried Arthur Gee. **Approved 23/02/2024. Le Touret 22/03/2025**

The 2nd Bn had been garrisoned in Ireland before arriving at Le Havre on 16th August 1914. The Bn remained on the Western Front throughout hostilities.

Private 1881 [Norman Sladen](#) of 3rd Bn, who was a cotton piecer in civilian life and served with the Special Reserve since April 1912. Norman embarked for Le Havre with the newly mobilised 2nd Bn on 15 August 1914. He was wounded in the spine on 26 August and captured in the first major battle at Le Cateau. Norman spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war. Repatriated on 18 August 1918, he was discharged due to sickness a month later.

Norman Sladen died from tuberculosis (TB) of the spine attributable to service, TB of lung and infection of abscess at Grangethorpe Hospital, Rusholme on 8 August 1921, aged 27. The son of Sarah Allen of 88 Bantleman

Norman Sladen's burial at Greenacres. © Andrew Spence

Street, Oldham. He is buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. The weathered headstone inscription is just legible.

Approved 17/12/2022. Burial and Private Memorial adopted 31/10/2023*

Soldiers from the Regiment who had previously completed their contracted period in the army were liable to be called up for duty for a fixed period after their service.

These reservists were a major source of reinforcements for the regular Bns, often replacing significant casualties in the first few months of hostilities.

Private 8500 [Joseph Bland](#) had been a miner when he enlisted in 4th Bn in 1903. He had previously served in the 6th Volunteer Bn. Joseph was transferred to Reserve in 1906 and mobilised to serve with 2nd Bn on 5 August 1914. He joined the BEF with the Bn on 15 August and was wounded in the thigh at Le Cateau. Joseph was posted to 3rd Bn at Cleethorpes and discharged on 25 December 1914.

Joseph Bland died from sub-acute nephritis due to active service on 3 March 1919, aged 33. His widow, Sarah Alice Bland buried her late husband at Christ Church Ashton under Lyme. She lived at 32 Tatton Street, Ashton.
Approved 01/12/2023.

J Bland. Ashton Reporter 19/09/1914

Private 7945 **John Buckley** was also a Reservist who was mobilised on 5 August and disembarked with 2nd Bn on 15th of that month. Private Buckley had enlisted in 5th Volunteer Bn in 1901 and held the Queen's South Africa Medal, with three Clasps, for service in the Boer War. He subsequently re-enlisted in 2nd Bn and served until 1905. John then served in the Army Reserve with which he had re-engaged in 1914. He was wounded at St Nazaire on 30 August 1914, evacuated home. John was discharged unfit from 3rd Bn on Christmas Day 1914.

John Buckley died at Oldham Workhouse Infirmary, from TB commencing in service, on

23 September 1916, aged 32. He is buried at Chadderton (St Matthew) Churchyard. The husband of Jane Alice Buckley of 24 Nutter Street, Oldham. **Rejected 24/10/2024.**

Private 632 **Thomas Traynor** had enlisted in 1905, having previously served in the 5th Volunteer Bn. His occupation is noted as a Tramcar Driver which indicates Thomas was a Reservist in 1914. He joined the BEF as an Old Contemptible on 18 August 1914 when 2nd Bn arrived in France. Thomas also served with 1st Bn and was discharged in September 1918.

Thomas Traynor died at home from TB attributed to service and syncope on 6 May 1921, aged 33. He was buried in a common grave at [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#). His widow, Nellie, lived at 11 Douglas Street, Pendleton. Thomas' parents were John Joseph (Deceased) and Louisa Traynor. Thomas is omitted from the Salford Corporation Transport Roll of Honour because he died after the Memorial was created in 1919. Nellie's first husband, Private 25059 Arthur Pilkington died in 1916 serving with 19th Lancashire Fusiliers. Nellie (proper name Ellen) and Thomas had married at Paddington Chapelry, Eccles on 16 March 1918. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Pte 9373 **James Archer** was another mobilised reservist. He had enlisted in 1903 and joined the BEF with 2nd Bn on 11 September 1914. James was hospitalised with dysentery and discharged with the condition on 6 June 1916.

James Archer died of dysentery attributed to service on 10 May 1921, aged 34. The son of James and Elizabeth Archer of 33 Hoyle Street, Warrington. No burial has been identified.

Private 995 **George Marsden** was a bricklayer prior to the Great War. His Regimental number and date of disembarkation indicate George was another mobilised reservist. He joined 1st Bn with the BEF on 25 January 1915.

George was evacuated home and transferred to 3rd Bn, prior to his discharge in October 1915.

George Marsden died at home from broncho pneumonia aggravated by service on 9 March 1916, aged 29. He was buried at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). George was the husband of Hannah and father of John Thomas Marsden of 21 Bedford Street, Chorlton on Medlock. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Members of the 3rd (Special Reserve) and 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalions were mobilised in August 1914. These were part time soldiers who had undergone six months initial military training; subsequently maintaining their skills with 3-4 weeks training each year. The Special Reserve was intended to provide reinforcements to the regular army battalions.

Private 6926 **Fred Bell** was a mechanic and serving member of 4th (Extra Reserve) Bn prior to hostilities. He was mobilised with 3rd Bn and drafted to the BEF with 2nd Bn on 19 September 1914. Fred had previously served with a volunteer Bn in the Regiment. He returned to England in January of the New Year and was discharged in December 1915.

Fred Bell died at his home in Ireland from asthma aggravated by his service and pneumonia on 27 July 1916, aged 33. He is buried in [Rathcooney Cemetery](#), County Cork. He was the husband of Lizzie Bell who lived near the Barracks at 2 Blackwell Lane, Old Youghal Road, Cork. Fred's father was Arthur Bell of 39 Clough Street, Birch Lane, Bradford, Yorks. **Approved UKBOR 23/02/2023.**

Private 2696 **Edward Townsend** had previously served with the Regiment from 1904-08. He re-enlisted in November 1913 and served overseas with 2nd Bn in 1914/15. He was later transferred to the Labour Corps '330232' and discharged on 25 June 1919.

Edward died from TB, that was aggravated by service, on 5 May 1921, aged 40. He is buried at Cleethorpes Cemetery. The husband of Susannah Maria Townsend of 34 Montague Street, Cleethorpes. **Rejected 19/12/2024.**

As a pre-War member of the Special Reserve, Private 2017 **James Hogan** had enlisted in 4th Bn on 20 March 1914. He was posted to the BEF as a reinforcement to 2nd Bn on 5 October 1914. Returning home with pneumonia in January 1915, James re-joined 2nd Bn on 4 May 1915. James was admitted to hospital with TB in May 1916 and returned home on 8 June 1916, when he was admitted to Hospital at Denmark Hill. James was discharged with TB resulting from service on 9 January 1918.

James died from TB and haemorrhage in the Union Infirmary Workhouse at Clitheroe. He was buried at Clitheroe (St Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. James was the husband of Maria Hogan of 21 Eccles Row, Blackburn. **Approved 23/11/2022**

Prior to hostilities, Private 6340 **Walter Shawcross** was a Tape Sizer in a Cotton Mill and serving in 3rd Bn. Having enlisted in 1900, Walter had fought in the Boer War and previously served with the Loyal North Lancs Regiment. Walter was mobilised on 5 August 1914 and drafted to the BEF with 2nd Bn on 27th October 1914. He was evacuated back to England in January 1915 and discharged in May that year.

Walter Shawcross died at Home from TB due to service on 17 December 1916, aged 37. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Manchester \(Gorton\) Cemetery](#). He was the husband of Elizabeth Shawcross of 5 Gloucester Street, Gorton. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Lance Corporal 1860 **Charles Ferns** was a casual labourer / errand boy when he enlisted in the 4th (Special Reserve) Bn on 23 October 1912. Charles was mobilised for overseas

duty on 8 August 1914 and appointed Lance Corporal on 20 November 1914. He embarked for France with the BEF and joined 2nd Bn for duty on 5 December 1914. Charles was wounded at Le Cateau on 22 December 1914 and apparently returned home where he was posted to 3rd Bn on 2 March 1915. Charles rejoined the BEF with 1st Bn on 06 July 1915 and went on to join 1st Bn in Mesopotamia (Iraq) from 11 December 1915 to April 1918. Charles had been promoted to Corporal in March 1916 and then served in Egypt from April 1918 until returning home on 19 February 1919. Charles was demobilised on 18 March 1919. He received a pension for pulmonary TB attributable service.

Charles Ferns died of TB at Baguley Sanatorium on 22 December 1920, aged 26. He was the son of Ernest and Mary Ferns of 4 Mill Street, Ancoats and father of Frederick L. Whitehead, born 23 December 1915. Charles has a clear inscription on a common grave in St Patrick's section at Moston (St Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. **Approved 23/11/2022. Burial 01/11/2025.**

3rd and 4th Battalions continued to recruit and train replacement drafts for the Regular Army. Men joined the Special Reserve in the early months of the War and embarked overseas in 1915, principally with the Regulars, although posting became much wider during later years of hostilities. Many had previous army service.

Private 2362 **Ernest Codd** enlisted in 3rd Bn on 10 August 1914 and transferred to the BEF, joining 1st Bn on 26 January 1915. He had previously served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps 1902-1905. Ernest received a bayonet wound at Ypres on 26 April 1915. He later disembarked with 1st Bn in Mesopotamia [Iraq] on 8 January 1916. Ernest was wounded on a second occasion and returned home in September 1916, prior to discharge on 9 October.

Ernest Codd died from TB attributed to service on 10 April 1919, aged 40. He is buried in **Barnsley Cemetery**. Ernest was the son of Benjamin and Annie Codd of 9 Wall Street, Barnsley. Ernest's brother, John, was killed in action on 22 August 1918 serving with 2nd Bn Durham Light Infantry. Prior to his service, Ernest has been a pit sinker at a Colliery. **Approved 23/11/2022. Burial 14/09/2024.**

Former Grenadier Guard and veteran of Sudan and the Boer War, Corporal 2468 **John Johnson** re-enlisted in 3rd Bn on 12 August 1914. He was posted for training with 11th Bn and joined the BEF with 2nd Bn on 23 February 1915. John was wounded in April 1915 and served with the Bn in France and Belgium, until he returned home in March 1918. He was discharged as a corporal on 18 June and died the next day.

John Johnson died from trench fever and nephritis due to service on 19 June 1918, aged 39. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Royton Cemetery. In civilian life John had been a Cotton Mule Minder. He was the husband of Elizabeth Ellen Johnson and had three step-children who lived at 11 Garbutt Street, Oldham. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial adopted 26/10/2024. Headstone 29/10/2025***

A veteran of 12 years with the Royal

John Johnson's new HS at Royton. CR Andrew Spence

Lancasters, Private 2412 **James Standring** had been a cotton mule minder when he reenlisted in 3rd Bn on 12 August 1914. James was posted to the BEF with 2nd Bn on 19 January 1915. He returned Home on 15 September 1915, suffering growths in the

mouth. James was discharged unfit on 17 January 1916.

James Standring died of epithelioma of the tongue, commencing in service, at his parents' home 15 July 1916, aged 44. The son of Mary Ann and William Standring of 6 Hey Farm, Longfield, Oldham. James is buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham Greenacres Cemetery. **Rejected 31/10/2023.**

Private [Joseph Briggs](#) was a veteran of the Royal Garrison Artillery when he re-enlisted in 4th Bn on 18 August 1914. Serving overseas with 2nd Bn from 9 November 1914, Joseph was discharged unfit on 5 February 1916.

Joseph Briggs died from cardiac disease, due to service, at Oldham Workhouse on 13 February 1916, aged 45. The brother John and Edward Briggs of 15 Orchard Street, Stockport. He is buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. **Accepted 12/12/2024.**

Oliver Hinchliffe died from TB attributed to service on 12 October 1916, aged 35. He was buried in Stretford Cemetery. Oliver's parents were Isaac and Annie Hinchliffe of Mardale, Park Road, Stretford. In civilian life Oliver had been a director of his father's printing company, Hinchliffe & Co. Oliver is the first of the current group of men who died from tuberculosis at Baguley Sanatorium in Cheshire. Four other *Unforgotten Casualties* also died receiving treatment there.

Wythenshawe Hospital is built on the site of the Sanatorium. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 22/06/2024.**

Private 2884 [Peter Owen](#) enlisted in 3rd Bn in late August 1914. Peter joined 2nd Bn on 20 March 1915 and received shrapnel wound to the left arm soon after arrival at the Front. He was evacuated home on 30 April 1915 and discharged on 8 September 1916.

Peter Owen died from TB aggravated by service on 9 April 1920, aged 46. He was

Oliver Hinchliffe's broken headstone at Stretford Cemetery. Patients at Baguley Sanatorium. Four non-commemorated members of the Manchester Regiment died here in 1916-18. © Baguley and Wythenshawe Hospitals by Robert Price Davies MD. FRCS

Private 3608 [Oliver Gelder Hinchliffe](#) attested in 3rd Bn in November 1914. With previous service in the Mounted Infantry Company of 4th Volunteer Bn, Oliver was drafted to the BEF with 2nd Bn on 1st March 1915. He returned Home on 7th June and was discharged on 29th June 1916.

buried in Manchester (Phillips Park) Cemetery. Peter's widow, Sarah Jane and daughter, Violet, lived at 24 Caroline Street, Ancoats. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 10/08/2024.**

Private 3100 **Henry Edward Holt** had been a stoker when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 19 September 1914. Henry had 16 years

previous service with the 1st Leicesters, including the Boer War. He was promoted corporal on 19 September 1914 and served overseas with 2nd Bn, joining the BEF on 18 April 1915. He was later promoted to acting sergeant on 14 May 1915 and Henry was wounded in the head and right eye at Ypres on 19 June 1915. He was evacuated home on 17 July 1915 and discharged unfit on 4 June 1916, receiving a pension for the wounds and loss of his eye.

Henry Holt died at the District Infirmary on 18 March 1917, aged 42. The cause of death was shrapnel wounds to his eye and meningitis commencing on Active Service. Henry is buried at [Denton \(Christ Church\) Churchyard](#). His widow, Sarah Jane, lived at 94 Seymour Street, Denton. **Approved 01/12/2023.**

Private 2854 [Edward Christian](#) had been a painter / packer when he enlisted in 3rd Bn on 27 August 1914. He had previously served 3 years in the Regiment. Edward was posted to the BEF with 2nd Bn on 14 April 1915 and admitted to Hospital in Rouen with TB originating at Cleethorpes on 16 April 1915. Edward was evacuated home on 23 April 1915 and discharged unfit on 17 June.

Edward died from TB commencing in and aggravated by service on 4 August 1916, aged 32. He was buried in [Manchester \(Phillips Park\) Cemetery](#). His mother, Jane Hoyle, lived at 10 Dixon Street, Ancoats. **Approved 05/11/2021. Phillips Park 10/08/2022***



Edward Christian's family headstone at Phillips Park.

Private 3184 [Thomas Fitzpatrick](#) joined 4th Bn on 27 October 1914. He had previously served in the Leinster Regiment from 1898-1907. Thomas was posted to 2nd Bn with the BEF on 21 April 1915. Succumbing to bilharzia that had originally been contracted serving in South Africa; he was evacuated home on 20 June 1915. Thomas was discharged due to sickness in July 1916.

T Fitzpatrick's new CWGC headstone

Thomas Fitzpatrick died in Central Manchester Royal Infirmary on 23 January 1920, aged 40. He died from bilharzia, originating in 1906 and aggravated by active service. Thomas was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified. Widow, Beatrice, and their son, Thomas, lived at 130 Pearson Street, Miles Platting. Thomas Snr. was the son of Michael and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick of Queen's County, Ireland. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial adopted 14/11/2023. Headstone 14/09/2024***

Private 4104 **John Devine** had been a bricklayer's labourer when he enlisted in 13th Bn on 27 August 1914. He disembarked in France posted to 2nd Bn on 22 June 1915. Evacuated home on 3 July 1916, Private Devine was discharged on 26 July. John Devine died from TB resulting from service on 26 January 1917, aged 39. He died at Westhulme Hospital and was buried in an unmarked plot at [Oldham \(Greenacres\) Cemetery](#). John's brother, Martin Devine, lived at Grosvenor Street, Oldham. **Approved 05/11/2021. Burial accepted 20/07/2022. Headstone prior to 19/10/2024***

Pte 4623 [Joseph Holderness](#) had been a labourer when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 8 September 1914. He embarked for France to join 1st Bn on 30 June 1915. Following sickness transferred to 2nd Bn in December 1915. Joseph was transferred to the Labour Corps '403646' on 8 October 1917. . Joseph was posted to Demobilisation Furlough at Prees Heath for the period 21 March – 10 April 1919.

Joseph died in service at home from influenza and pneumonia on 21 March 1919, aged 33. He was buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery RC D2.124. The husband of Clara Holderness of 57 Whitely Street, Oldham. The couple had four living children. The son of John Holderness of 25 Portland Street, Oldham. **Approved 10/09/2024.**

Headstone with no inscription on Joseph Holderness' plot at Greenacres. Credit findagrave.com

Private 3353 **William Patrick Farrell** had been a slater when he enlisted in 3rd Bn on 26 September 1914. He was posted to 2nd Bn in France on 20 July 1915 and later transferred to 1st Bn. Private Farrell was evacuated home sick on 1 March 1916 and discharged on 29 June 1916.

William Farrell's recent headstone at Greenacres.
Credit Andrew Spence

William Farrell died from bowel cancer commencing on active service on 13 August 1916. He was buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. William's widow, Mary Jane, lived at 15 Malby Street, Oldham. **Approved 05/11/2021. Grave adopted 24/06/2022. Headstone prior to 10/2024***

Private 16810 [Joseph Vincent Gallagher](#) had been a brass dresser when he enlisted at the Depot on 21 January 1915 and trained with 4th Bn. Twice Court Martialled for going Absent, Joseph was posted to the BEF with 1st Bn on 26 November 1915. He embarked for Mesopotamia with 1st Bn, arriving in January 1916. Joseph was wounded in March 1916 and evacuated to India, where he was also diagnosed with Malaria. Returning to England in May 1917, Joseph was hospitalised with TB due to service and discharged with a pension on 24 August 1917.

J V Gallagher's CWGC headstone Sept 2024

Joseph Gallagher died from TB at the Macclesfield County Lunatic Asylum on 4 July 1918, aged 25. The husband of Mary Ellen Gallagher of 56 Oakshott Street, Harpurhey. The couple had one son and a daughter who was born one week after her father's death. Joseph is buried in an unmarked plot at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. Credit to Steve Gallagher for identifying and finding evidence for his relative's case. **Approved 23/11/2022. Grave 23/11/2023. HS 14/09/2024***

Private 27600 **John Thomas Kirby** had been a spindle fly maker when he enlisted on 20 July 1915 and then trained with 3rd Bn from 30th July. He joined the BEF posted to 2nd Bn from 19 April 1916. Posted sick with bronchitis and later TB, John returned home on 22 June 1916. He was discharged with a pension on 15 August 1916.

John Kirby died from TB attributed to service on 8 November 1918. He is buried in Phillips Park Cemetery. His widow was Mary Elizabeth Kirby of 93 Jersey Street Dwellings, Oldham Road, Ancoats. The couple had four children.
Approved 23/11/2022. Cemetery Sp Mem 25/04/2025

Bandsman 24566 **Joseph Dykes** had been a Warehouseman for Stretford Council when he enlisted for home service as a Bandsman in the depot of 1st Bn at Ashton on 10 May 1915. He had previously served 16 years in the Queen's Lancers. Joseph served in the depot band and was discharged unfit on 20 January 1917.

Joseph Dykes' grave with his son in law's CWGC headstone

Joseph Dykes died from fibroid pneumonia on 12 January 1920, aged 51. His condition had commenced and been aggravated in service. Joseph was buried at Stretford Cemetery. Widow, Jessie, and daughter, May, lived at 1 Dewhurst Cottages, Stretford. **Approved 05/11/2021. Burial 22/06/2024.**

Private 20046 **Henry James Winrow** enlisted on 05/07/1915. He transferred to the Royal

Defence Corps and was discharged sick 28/06/1917.

Henry died of hemiplegia attributable to service on 20/04/1918, aged 51. The husband of Minnie Ethel Murton of 60 Linney Street, Wigan. Henry is buried in an unmarked plot at Wigan Cemetery.

Private **William Robert Kirkland** had been a railway clerk resident in Peterborough when he enlisted on 20 November 1915. He served overseas with 2nd Bn and returned home due to ill-health. William was discharged on 13 September 1918, with a pension for valvular disease of the heart attributable to service.

William Kirkland died from endocarditis at his parents' home on 12 March 1921, aged 25. The son of Samuel Kirkland of 184 Palmerton Road, Woodstone, Peterborough. William is buried at Woodston Cemetery, Hunts..
Approved 01/12/2023.

William Kirkland's Private Memorial © A Turner

Private 46684 **William Blayney** was a rubber manager when he attested in November 1915. Mobilised with 7th Bn, William served overseas with 2nd Bn and was discharged unfit on September 1917.

William died from TB due to or aggravated by service on 19 March 1921, aged 37. He is buried at Salford (Agecroft) Cemetery. The son of Mary and William Blayney of 20 Tenby St, Withington. **Approved 01/02/2025. Burial 04/10/2025.**

3rd and 4th Battalions recruitment was reduced after September 1916 as the national

organisation for conscription created a more consistent basis for training with the [Training Reserve](#). This was reorganised again in 1917, with the creation of [Graduated and Young Soldier Battalions](#) as training units. The Special Reserve Battalions maintained their depots and home defence role on the South Bank of the Humber Estuary. Men determined as being unfit for overseas service formed the permanent staff. The remainder of the garrison was manned by officers and other ranks returning to fitness after recovering from sickness or wounds overseas and some new recruits. This was not a popular posting as the Western Front veterans were uncomfortable with the leadership from the home-based permanent staff.

During hostilities numerous men joined the Manchester Regiment from other corps and regiments. Some were transferred before, or after, initial arrival overseas and others were posted to the Manchesters after returning to the Front, following recovery from wounds or illness. Later in the War, many new recruits were posted to the Regiment from the Training Reserve or the Reserve of other regiments.

A much later reinforcement to 2nd Bn was 76306 **William Hedley Miller**. There is evidence from similar service numbers that

William had been conscripted to 3rd Bn Leicestershire Regiment in May 1918. He was transferred to the 3rd Manchesters in June 1918, prior to his posting to 2nd Bn in October 1918. William was part of an inexperienced draft joining the regular soldiers of the 2nd Bn in the Advance to Victory, including the fateful attack over the [Sambre-Oise Canal](#), in which Lieutenant Wilfred Owen MC was killed in action and 2nd Lieutenant James Kirk gained a posthumous Victoria Cross.

William died from acute pneumonia at home in Bottesford Belvoir on 5 February 1919, aged 21. He had returned to his parents' home just four days earlier on Furlough prior to discharge. He was the younger son of Hedley and Sarah Worthington Miller of Acacia House, Bottesford, Leicestershire. William's occupation was described as a farmer's son. His Funeral was held at [St Mary's, Bottesford](#), where William was buried on 8th February 1919. William's elder brother, Horace, also died from pneumonia a few days later.

Approved 05/11/2022.

Many members of 3rd and 4th Battalions have been seen to have been mobilised or enlisted or served overseas. Other men were unfit for overseas duty and served at home, in the Humber Garrison, training other recruits for the Western Front. This includes a number of *Unforgotten Casualties*.

Private 2775 **Charles Lucas** enlisted in 4th Bn on 25 August 1914. He had previously served six years in 5th (Territorial) Bn. Charles is later identified as serving in 3rd Bn and he was discharged on 20 February 1916.

Charles died from bronchitis and cardiac disease aggravated by service in Salford Union

Grantham Journal 15.02.1919 & Headstone Photo, Bottesford (St Mary) Churchyard

Infirmery on 20 September 1916, aged 38. He was buried in a common grave at Salford (Weaste) Cemetery. His widow, Mary Ann, and four children lived at 27 Peabody Street, Pendleton, later 10 Dickens Street, Salford.

Refused 09/01/2024

Private **Thomas Connor** (alias James Connolly) enlisted in 4th Bn on 27 August 1914. Suffering rheumatism, Thomas was unfit to join the BEF and he was discharged in July 1915.

Thomas Connor died from rheumatism aggravated by service and mobius cordia on 30 April 1917, aged 44. He was buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. Thomas' widow, Mary Anne, and son, John, lived at 26 Bow Street, Oldham.

Private 4759 **James Taylor** had been a groom when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 04/09/1914. Solely having served at home, James was discharged sick from 4th Bn at Riby on 12/02/1916.

James Taylor died of Phthisis aggravated by service at Crumpsall Workhouse Infirmary on 27/10/1917, aged 50. He is buried at Salford (Agecroft) Cemetery. Next of kin has not been verified for James.

Colour Sergeant 3414 **John Begley** may be the second eldest Manchester Regiment casualty of the Great War, born on 25 January 1852. John enlisted on 3 October 1914 and served at home with 3rd Bn. He had previously retired as a colour sergeant from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, after 20 years' service. John was discharged on 5 July 1916.

John Begley died at his home on 17 January 1918 with valvular disease of the heart (VDH) and lipoma / syncope aggravated by service. John was buried at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. His widow, Elizabeth Begley, lived at 138 Oldfield Road, Salford. The couple had fifteen children. Their

son, Stephen, was killed on 20 December 1914, serving with 1st Bn. No headstone could be identified on John Begley's grave. Refused 09/01/2024

Lance Corporal 3020 **David Lenahan** (alias Leonard) had been a labourer for Manchester Ship Canal Company when he enlisted in 4th in the Bn on 9 September 1914. David had a been serving in the Volunteers when had previously enlisted in the 101st Royal Bengal Fusiliers as in 1872, aged 18. He later transferred to Reserve from the Royal Muster Fusiliers in 1878, where he served in Manchester District until discharge in 1884.

David served with the Manchesters in the Humber defences and was appointed Lance Corporal in January 1916. He was discharged sick from

4th Bn at Tetney on 6 June 1916.

David Lenahan Credit John Ogden

David Lenahan died from heart disease

and bronchitis, aggravated by service, on 21/09/1918, aged 65. The husband of Priscilla Lenahan of 25 Sunnyside Street, Salford. The couple had eleven children. David's son, Patrick Lennard, was killed in action at Gallipoli, serving with the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Accepted 07/07/2024.

Private 3189 **Michael Dunn** had been a bricklayer's labourer when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 29 October 1914. He was discharged with debility on 4 August 1916.

Michael Dunn died in the Oldham Union Workhouse, from epilepsy commencing in service, on 6 February 1917, aged 41. He is buried in Hollinwood Cemetery. The husband

of Annie Dunn of 8 Mill Street, Royton.
Rejected 10/09/2024.

Private 16602 **Joseph Atkinson** had been a fishmonger when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 14 January 1915. Joseph was discharged unfit on 8 October 1915. He had TB originating at Killingholme in July 1915.

Joseph Atkinson died in the Infirmary of Crumpsall Workhouse on 13 June 1917. The cause of death was TB, commencing on active service. He was buried in [Manchester \(Phillips Park\) Cemetery](#). The plot is unmarked. His widow, Mary, and three children lived at 5 Lewis Street, 5 Dewhurst Street, Rochdale Road. **Approved 08/11/2021. Burial 26/04/2025. Sp Mem.**

Private 16429 **William Lockett** had been a brickmaker's carter for Higgins of Cheetham when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 11 January 1915 and solely served at home. He had previously served 6 years with 6th VB. William was discharged sick on 10 April 1918.

William Lockett died in Adelphi Street Hospital, Salford, on 19 July 1918 from pulmonary TB aggravated by service and haemolysis, aged 47. He was buried in a common grave at [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#). His widow, Susannah, and sons, Thomas and John, lived at 26 Springfield Terrace, Springfield Lane, Salford. **Approved 23/02/2023. Weaste 03/11/2024.**

Private 27705 **James Isaac Harrison** (served as Isaac) had previously served for two years in the 5th Volunteer Bn and worked as a barman. He re-enlisted in 11th Lancashire Fusiliers on 5 September 1914 and was discharged soon after on 6 October. Committed to serve, Isaac joined 8th Bn on 13 October 1914 and was again discharged unfit on 8 May 1915. Re-enlisting on a third occasion, he was posted for home service with 3rd Bn on 10

November 1915. Isaac was discharged on 25 February 1916.

Isaac Harrison died from TB aggravated by service and exhaustion, at Baguley Sanatorium on 6 April 1918, aged 29. He was buried at [Stockport \(Willow Grove\) Cemetery](#). Isaac's widow, Annie, and step-daughter, Beatrice Waring, lived at 10 Provident Ave, Levenshulme. **Approved 27/04/2023.**

Private 56000 **James Herbert Blinkhorn** was a Boer War veteran of the Royal Lancs and former Regular with the Manchesters when he reenlisted in the ASC on 28 November 1914. Following service at Gallipoli James was transferred to 3rd Bn until he was discharged unfit in 1917.

James died from VDH aggravated by and / or due to service on 15 April 1921. He is buried at Anfield Cemetery. The son of Mary Eliz Whittaker of 46a William Henry Street, Liverpool. **Accepted 12/12/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.**

Private 16412 **James Chapman** was a veteran of 5th VB and had been an iron turner when he enlisted in 4th Bn on 11 January 1915. Attached to work on munitions with Henry Wallwork & Co, James was discharged unfit on 1 January 1919.

James died from Chronic Bronchitis attributed to service & broncho pneumonia on 15 February 1919, aged 48. His wife, Ellen was present at their home at 27 Ridgeway, Ancoats. She buried James at Manchester (Phillips Park) Cemetery. **Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 10/08/2024**

Private 24524 **Edward Tyson Housby Hughes** had previously served 13 years in 5th Volunteer Bn, when he re-enlisted on 3rd Bn on 3 May 1915. Unfit for training, Edward was posted to work at Frank Pearn & Co,

Engineers. He was discharged unfit on 25 December 1916.

Edward Hughes died at home from stomach

Edward's headstone at Gorton Credit Christine Ridewood

cancer, commencing in service, on 8 January 1917, aged 42. He is buried at Manchester (Gorton) Cemetery. The husband of Eliza Anne Hughes of 45 Nell Street, Gorton.

Private 32475 **William Leaver** had been a chauffeur when he enlisted on 26/01/1916. He trained with 3rd Bn and transferred to the Loyal North Lancashires and subsequently in India the Royal Flying Corps (87700). He was posted to Reserve and 2nd Air Mechanic on 10/10/1919.

William Lever died of dysentery commencing in service on 08/02/1921, aged 26. The son of Elizabeth Alice Lever of 4 Mellins Fold, Preston. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Preston (New Hall) Cemetery.

Territorial Battalions

Manchester had a proud tradition of militia, volunteer and territorial force service. At the outbreak of the war, most men from the six territorial battalions of the Manchester Regiment embodied for overseas service. A number of other men joined their local companies in August and September 1914. The men had commonly enlisted to join school friends or colleagues in the 'Terriers', sharing the experience of training and camps in their spare time. It is notable that many of the Manchester Territorials were white collar workers; a forerunner of the profile that will be found for the Pals in the City Battalions.

The Manchester Territorials formed part of the 42nd East Lancashire Division, providing fifteen thousand troops for the war effort in the first month of hostilities. The battalions were mobilised in August 1914 and moved to camps by the end of that month. They embarked at Southampton in September 1914 and arrived in Alexandria for further training and garrison duties towards the end of the month. They then served at Gallipoli and later on the Western Front.

Private 267 **Daniel Hicks** had enlisted in 6th Volunteer Bn on 12 June 1893 and was still serving when he attested in 10th Bn in April 1908. Attending every Annual Camp from 1908-14, he had received the TFEM in 1909. Daniel embodied on 5 August 1914 and embarked for Egypt with 10th Bn on 10 September 1914, returning Home in April 1915. He was discharged unfit 20 May 1915.

Daniel Hicks died at home from Phthisis commencing on active service on 24 May 1917, aged 48. The husband of Mary Ann Hicks of 16 Bow Street, Oldham. He is buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. **Rejected 10/09/2024.**

Corporal 113 / 350012 **Frank Shaw** was a long serving member of 3rd VB when he enlisted in 9th Bn in April 1908. Embarking for Egypt in September 1914, Frank was wounded at Gallipoli and later served in France until his discharge on January 1918.

Manchester Evening News 5/2/1919

Frank Shaw died from TB due to service at Bull Hill Sanatorium, Darwen on 29 September 1918, aged 42. The husband of Martha Jane Shaw of 74 North Street, Ashton u Lyne. Frank is buried at Dukinfield Cemetery. **Approved 01/02/2025**

Private 1969/300229 **Peter Coleman** is another example of the group of men who died from sickness, on leave awaiting demobilisation, in early 1919. This is particularly poignant for a man that had served from the outset of hostilities. He served with 1/8th Bn in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) from 25 September 1914. Peter is reported as serving in Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine and France. Peter had been a rubber worker in civilian life and pre-war member of the Regiment's territorials.

Peter Coleman died while serving, from lobar pneumonia on 3 February 1919, aged 31. He was buried in [St Joseph's Roman Catholic \(RC\) Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified on Peter's grave. **Approved 23/11/2022** His parents were Peter Joseph (Deceased) and Mary Ann Coleman of 41 Renshaw Street, Stretford Road, Hulme.

It is noted that the author's great aunt, Mary Ann Foulkes, lived at 48 Renshaw Street. Her son, Frederick Foulkes also served in 8th Bn and will have known Peter Coleman. His brother, Lewis, served in 2/10th Bn.

Private 141 **William Joseph Toole** enlisted in 4th Volunteer Bn in 1907 and reenlisted in the newly formed 7th Bn on 1 April 1908. He embarked for Egypt on 10 September 1914 and returned home in March 1915. William was discharged unfit on 17 March 1915.

William Toole died at home from TB commencing in service on 9 March 1916, aged 26. The husband of Annie Toole of 69 Robert Street, West Gorton. He has an inscription on a common grave at [St Joseph's Roman Catholic \(RC\) Cemetery](#). Prior to hostilities William worked at Charles Mackintosh & Co. **Rejected 31/01/2025.**

Private 1759 **Samuel Halkyard** had enlisted in 9th Bn on 14 February 1914 and embarked for Egypt on 10 September 1914. Samuel served on Gallipoli from 9 May 1915, until he was evacuated home via Mudros on 9 September. He was discharged with TB that was aggravated by service on 30 November 1915.

Samuel Halkyard died from TB on 5 July 1918. He was the son of the late James and Emily Halkyard. Samuel had lived with his sister, Alice Artingstall, at 24 Earnshaw Street, Waterloo, Ashton. Burial confirmed at Dukinfield Cemetery. **Accepted 12/12/2024.**

Private 1821 **Thomas Birch** had been a grinder labourer for Platt Brothers when he enlisted in

10th (Oldham) Bn on 12 March 1914. Thomas Embodied for overseas service on 5 August and embarked for Egypt with the Bn on 10 September 1914. Thomas was evacuated home, arriving on 23 June 1915. He was discharged on 19 October 1916 and received a pension for pulmonary TB originating in Egypt and caused service.

Thomas Birch died from TB on 30 March 1917, aged 26. He was the husband of Annie Birch of 28 Grange Street, Oldham. Thomas was buried at Lees Cemetery and has no headstone. **Approved 23/11/2022**

Lance Corporal 2267 / 200508 [Alfred McCartan](#) had been an engineer's draughtsman when he enlisted and embodied in 5th Bn on 31 August 1914. Despite limited training, Alfred embarked for Egypt on 10 September 1914. He served with the Bn through the Gallipoli campaign and transferred to the Royal Engineers on 21 May 1917. Alfred returned home on 21 December 1918, prior to discharge on 5 February 1919.

Alfred McCartan died from TB attributable to service on 25 July 1919, aged 23. Alfred is buried in an unidentified grave plot at Wigan Cemetery. His parents were Joseph and Mary Ann McCartan of 25 Hooze Street, Wigan. **Approved 06/11/2021.**

Recruitment continued in the territorial battalions after the outbreak of hostilities. New recruits, those who hadn't embodied for overseas duty and men who were unfit did not embark in September 1914. Remaining at home, they formed the 2nd Line Reserve for each battalion, for example 2/5th in Wigan, or 2/10th in Oldham. These continued to train men as reinforcements for the MEF, with drafts being sent overseas on a regular basis.

The first line battalions (1/5th, 1/6th etc) disembarked at Gallipoli in May 1915. Following the failed campaign, they were withdrawn to Egypt and subsequently served on the Western Front from March 1917. By this time, the 2nd Line battalions had reached establishment strength and they had

disembarked for the Front in France during February 1917.

A C Cayton's burial.

Private 2355 / 250457 **Albert Charles Cayton** had been a cotton yarn agent when he embodied in 6th Bn in September 1914. He landed at Gallipoli on 5 May 1915 and was subsequently transferred to the West Yorks and Dorsets before returning to 6th Bn. Albert was disembodied with a pension in March 1919.

Albert Cayton died from VDH attributed to service & neurosis at Southport Hydro on 6 September 1920, aged 27. The son of Albert Thomas and Ellen Cayton of 79 Gill Street, Moston Lane. They buried Albert at Southern Cemetery. **Rejected 23/02/2024**

Private 2152 **Richard Longsdon** embodied in 9th Bn on 1st September 1914 and trained with 2/9th Bn. He was posted to 1/9th Bn at Gallipoli on 9 May 1915. Private Longsdon returned home on and he was discharged in May 1916.

Richard Longsdon died from TB attributable to service and bronchitis on 27 March 1921, aged 44. Richard is buried at [Dukinfield Cemetery](#). Richard and his wife, Mary Agnes, had four children. Their guardian, Mrs. Rosella Walton, received the pension and she was present at Richard's death at 18 Palmer Street, Dukinfield. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Captain [Herbert Henry Nidd MC](#) had been a Mantle buyer at Sparrow, Hardwick & Co when he enlisted in 16th Bn prior to his commission in 7th Bn. Captain Nidd landed at Gallipoli on 3 July 1915 and subsequently served in France, where he was awarded a Military Cross.

Herbert Nidd died from acute endocarditis commencing in service and epileptiform convulsions on 4 March 1919. He is buried at Stockport (Willow Grove) Cemetery. The son of George Nidd of Queen's Gate, Manchester Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire. **Approved 29/02/2024.**

Capt H H Nidd MC © IWM & Headstone at Willow Grove © Wayne McDonald

MC Citation LG 26/7/1918

Private 2342 / 375597 [James Arthur Bocking](#) had been a labourer when he enlisted in 10th Bn on 23 September 1914. He trained with 2/10th Bn and joined 1/10th Bn on Gallipoli on 16 August 1915. Arthur was evacuated with the Bn to Egypt and subsequently moved to France. Private Bocking received a gun shot wound to the left shoulder in the opening day of the German Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918. He was evacuated to England and disembodied on 19 April 1919.

James Bocking died from TB attributable to service on 30 August 1919, aged 37. James died in Westhulme Hospital, Oldham and was buried with his parents at [Oldham \(Chadderton\) Cemetery](#). James' widow, Martha Jane, lived at 65 Durham Street, Oldham. **Approved 05/11/2021 & Chadderton 22/03/2022.**

Headstone at Chadderton, including a clear inscription on the War Grave of James Bocking. Credit CWGC

Private 3486 / 351600 **Harry Eddlestone** enlisted on 10 April 1915 and joined the Egyptian Expeditionary Force with 1/9th Bn from 3 June to November 1916. Harry was evacuated home and discharged sick from 3/9th Bn on 30 August 1917.

Harry Eddlestone died of chronic bronchitis attributed to service on 12 March 1919, aged 31. The son of Hannah and husband of Maria Eddlestone of 6 Brook Street, Newton Cheshire. Harry is buried at Newton (St. Mary) Churchyard, Hyde, Cheshire. **Approved 16/12/2025.**

Private 2019 [Edward Bostock](#) enlisted in 7th Bn in January 1914, aged 17. He disembarked in France on 27 July 1916 and was posted to 19th KLR in September 1916. Evacuated home due to sickness, Edward was later transferred to 3rd KLR, 3rd South Wales Borderers and 539 Employment Company, Labour Corps. He was discharged unfit on 21 January 1918.

Edward Bostock died from heart disease, aggravated by service, on 8 July 1918. The son of Emma Bostock of 92 Bedford Street, Hulme. Burial at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. **Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 30/12/2024.**

Private 3058 **Walter Taylor** had previously served four years with the Battalion when he reenlisted in 9th Bn on 12 November 1914. He was discharged unfit on 9 March 1915.

Walter died from TB contracted in service on 12 May 1915, aged 30. He is buried at Audenshaw (St Stephen's) Churchyard. The husband of Alice Taylor of 3 Pitt Street, Audenshaw. **Rejected 19/12/2024.**

Private 21355 **Robert Foster** was a veteran of Egypt and Sudan employed as a blacksmith striker. He reenlisted in 8th Bn on 1 April 1915 and served in No 4 Supplementary Company. Hospitalised at Lewisham, Robert was discharged on 24 March 1916. He received a pension for bronchitis aggravated by service.

Robert Foster died of bronchitis on 17 July 1920, aged 63. The father of Robert Foster of 40 Brownhill Street, Salford. We have not yet identified a burial. **Accepted 16/12/2025.**

Private 3949 **John Smith** had been an engineer iron erector when he enlisted in 9th Bn on 30 August 1915. He disembarked in Egypt on 24 May 1916 and was transferred to 19th Bn Rifle Brigade '1261' on 8 November 1916, later '201981'. John and was evacuated home to 25th (Reserve) Bn Rifle Brigade on 1 January 1919 until he was discharged on 27 February 1919.

John Smith's Common Headstone at Gorton Cemetery.
Credit Findagrave

John Smith died at his home from valvular heart disease attributable to service on 8 May 1920, aged 37. The husband of Martha Smith of 46 St Clements Street, Openshaw. He was buried in Manchester Gorton Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 03/08/2024.**

Private 395013 **John Edward Cross** enlisted in 5th Bn on 30th October 1916 and served overseas with 2/10th Bn from 6 February 1917. He was wounded on 8 and 24 August 1918, evacuated to King George's Hospital, London and discharged on 30 October 1918.

John Cross died from GSW to spine, causing paraplegia. He was being treated at Park Lane Home for Retired Soldiers and aged 38. The son of Hannah and Joseph. 8 Piercy Street, Broughton. They buried John at Agecroft Cemetery. **Approved 01/12/2023.**

Private 400846 **Thomas Matthewman** was a pre-war member of 3rd (Special Reserve) Bn of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI) having enlisted on 15 May 1913. He had previous service with KOYLI, including the Boer War. Thomas had joined the BEF with 2nd KOYLI on 8 November 1914 and received a gun shot wound to the shoulder on 28 November. Following evacuation to England and recovery, Thomas was posted to the EEF. He joined 1/10th Bn in Egypt and numbered 5000, on 11 September 1916. Thomas was renumbered 400846 in 1917 and returned home on 22 February. He subsequently served with 3/10th Bn and was later posted to 45th Provisional Bn. This was subsequently redesignated 28th Bn, prior to Thomas' discharge on 22 February 1917.

Thomas Matthewman died from TB resulting from service on 30 May 1919, aged 41. He is buried in [Rotherham \(Masbrough\) Cemetery](#). Thomas is included on Rotherham War Memorial and his name is noted on the Roll of Honour for Masbrough Independent Chapel, Rotherham. He had married Miriam Annie Smith on 11 April 1914. She lived at 4 Tusmore Street, Rotherham with her daughter, Elsie May Smith. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial adopted 12/04/2025.**

Private 276976 **Daniel McHenry** transferred to 1/7th Bn after arrival in Egypt on 17 February 1917. He had previously enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment (KLR) on 28 August 1914 and joined the BEF with the 1st KLR on 1 May

1915. Wounded twice, Daniel had returned to England in September 1915 and then recovered prior to returning to duty with the MEF. 1/7th Manchesters moved to France in May 1917 and Daniel returned home again in July 1917. Subsequently posted to 3/5th Bn, Daniel was discharged on 28 November 1917.

Daniel McHenry died from aortic regurgitation at Royal Southern Hospital, Toxteth Park on 13 September 1918. He was 34 years old. Daniel is buried in an unmarked plot at [Liverpool \(Allerton\) Cemetery](#). Daniel's widow, Louise, also died and their three sons were cared for by a governess, with army pension funding. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial 14/06/2025.**

Many 1915 recruits in the reserve battalions enlisted under the Group Scheme. Lord Derby had been instrumental in the formation of the City Battalions (see below) and similar units throughout the country. He was appointed Director-General of Recruiting in October 1915 and introduced a recruitment programme, commonly known as the [Derby Scheme](#) although its official title was the Group Scheme. Many men attested in their choice of regiment or corps during late 1915 with an obligation to be mobilised at a future date that was determined by their age and marital status.

Derby Scheme recruits are generally identified with a late 1915, or early 1916, date for attesting, with subsequent mobilisation in 1916 and overseas service from the summer of 1916.

The Derby Scheme was not a resounding success and conscription was introduced for most men to serve, aged 18 to 41. These men had no choice where they were posted.

It is remarkable that Private 376870 [Samuel Barnes DCM MM](#) was omitted from War Grave records. His Distinguished Conduct Medal award was published in April 1918 and

Samuel had been awarded the Military Medal in January 1918. Samuel Barnes attested under the Derby Scheme on 11 December 1915 and is estimated to have been mobilised with 2/10th Bn in February 1916 with the initial number 4840. 2/10th Bn joined the BEF in February 1917 when Samuel had been renumbered 376870. Both gallantry awards related to service with 2/10th Bn and he later served with 1/10th Bn. Samuel was posted home and served with 8th Reserve Bn and Royal Defence Corps, 88299, before returning to 3rd Manchesters, prior to discharge on 31 July 1919.

DCM citation. London Gazette 17 April 1918.

Samuel Barnes died from VDH attributable to service on 15 August 1921, aged 32. He is buried in [Oldham \(Chadderton\) Cemetery](#). His parents were Mary Ellen and Samuel James Barnes of 17 Ripon Street, Oldham. Samuel Jnr had been a cotton mule spinner. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 22/06/2024.**

Private 1551/376738 George Warburton had been identified by Paul Charlesworth as a non-commemoration prior to this research. George was probably a Derby Scheme recruit when he enlisted on 10th Bn on 11 December 1915. He served overseas with 2/10th and A Company, 1/7th Bn after 1915. George was gassed in 1918 and contracted TB in April 1919. He was hospitalised in England and discharged on 15 July 1919.

G Warburton Credit PaulC

George Warburton died from TB attributable to service on 9 July 1921. He was buried in [Crompton Cemetery](#) and has no headstone. George had previously been employed as a piecer in Shaw Spinning Company's cotton mill. His mother, Sarah Ann, and father, Ellis lived, at 27 Grains Road, Shaw. **Approved 04/02/2021. Grave adopted 29/06/2022. CWGC headstone May 2023.**

Private 42331 [Frederick Jasper Lilleyman](#) served overseas with 2/7th Bn. He had enlisted on 8 December 1915. There is evidence Frederick had enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment under the Derby Scheme and transferred to the Manchesters, having disembarked in France in February 1917. Frederick was discharged on 22 January 1918.

Frederick Lilleyman died from TB attributed to service on 24 July 1921, aged 39. He is buried in an unmarked grave at [Wellingborough \(Doddington Road\) Cemetery](#). His widow was Kerenhappuch Lilleyman of 79 Great Park Street, Wellingborough, Northants. A pension was refused as they had married after discharge. Frederick was the son of Frederick and Mary Ann Lilleyman. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial 12/07/2024.**

Private 410038 **James Brennan** was employed as a wool warehouseman at the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board when he attested in the army at Liverpool on 27 September 1916. James was mobilised for duty with 28th Bn at Southend on 23 February 1917. Disembarked in France posted to 2/7th Bn on 4 January 1918, James was transferred to 11th Bn on 6 January. James was invalided home on 'Princess Elizabeth' and posted to 197 Depot, on 15 February 1918. He was discharged unfit on 1 May 1918. James received a pension for TB originating in France and attributed to active service.

James Brennan died pulmonary TB and toxæmia at his parents' home on 6 May 1919, aged 20. He was buried in Liverpool Ford Cemetery. James was the son of James and Margaret Brennan of 15c, 14 Dryden Street, Liverpool. **Approved 23/11/2022**

Many serving members of the Territorial Battalions were proved unfit for overseas duty and others had solely volunteered for home service, prior to compulsory mobilisation introduced with conscription in 1916. Men only qualify for commemoration if their cause of death was a consequence of mobilised service. Therefore casualties who contracted diseases prior to mobilisation or during reserve duty, are not entitled to War Grave status.

Private 1580 [George Disley](#) was a Coal Miner when he enlisted in 5th Bn on 15 March 1913. He embodied for overseas service on 5 August 1914. Discharged unfit from 2/5th Bn on 31 March 1915, George received a Pension for TB of Lung, determined as aggravated by service.

George Disley died from Pulmonary TB at Pemberton Cottage Hospital, Wigan, aged 22. His mother, Alice Ann Collier lived at 133 Woodhouse Lane, Wigan. George's unmarked burial plot was identified in Dec 2024. **Approved 23/11/2022. Brookwood 1914-18 Memorial awaiting inscription 07/12/2024.**

Courtesy Debbie Abbott. Albert (Back Left) with his mother and brothers. 16 year old Albert – Message Boy Widow Elizabeth.

As a pre-war member of 6th Bn, Sergeant 1785 [Albert Edward Hall](#) was determined to be unfit for overseas service. Previously employed as a warehouseman of cotton goods, he was posted to 2/6th Bn and discharged as a sergeant on 8 November 1915.

[Albert Hall](#) died of TB aggravated by service on 17 April 1920, aged 32. He is buried in [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified on the burial. Albert was the husband of Rebecca Hall who was resident at 78 Radnor Street, Hulme, with three children. The couple had married in 1916 and Rebecca was not entitled to a widows pension. **Approved 29/10/2022. Burial 06/04/2024.**

Private 1462 [William Burton Johnson](#) enlisted in 5th Bn at Wigan on 5 November 1912. William did not serve overseas and was discharged unfit on 27 June 1916.

William Johnson died from endocarditis and pericarditis aggravated by service in Central Hospital, Liscard on 26 May 1920, aged 26.

W B Johnson headstone © Paul Charlesworth

Buried at Wallasey (Rake Lane) Cemetery, William had been a bookkeeper at a condensed milk factory. The husband of Lily Johnson of 118 Seaview Road, Liscard. Lily received no pension because they were married after discharge. The couple had two children. **Approved 10/09/2024. Burial 05/01/2024.**

Private 539 **James Edward Duckworth** was a Boer War veteran, a pre-war Territorial, and a labourer in an iron works. He served in 6th Bn.

Edward died from bronchitis, contracted in service, on 10 February 1915, asmithged 45. He is buried at Accrington Cemetery. The husband of Elizabeth Duckworth of 7 Oxford Street, Accrington. **Rejected 24/04/2024.**

Private 20874 [James Dalglish Crewe](#) was a veteran of the Boer War and employed as a painter when he enlisted in the Royal Engineers in December 1914. He was discharged inefficient after three weeks and re-enlisted in the Manchesters on 19 January 1915. James was discharged unfit from 2/8th Bn on 7 January 1916. He received a pension for bronchitis that was later reviewed to include TB.

James Crewe died from TB commencing in service on 5 May 1916, aged 45. He is buried at Manchester Southern Cemetery. The husband of Lilian Crewe of 126 Higher Cambridge Street, Chorlton on Medlock. **Accepted 07/07/2024. Burial 13/10/2024. New HS ordered.**

Private 856 **Arthur Pixton** had been a labourer at a rubber works when he enlisted in 8th Bn on 22 January 1915. He had previously served for 12 years in the King's Own Lancs. Arthur was discharged unfit on 4 June 1915.

Arthur Pixton's clear inscription at Phillips Park Cemetery. Credit Christine Ridewood

Arthur Pixton died from chronic bright's disease commencing in service on 11 Mach 1916, aged 46. He is buried at Manchester (Phillip's Park) Cemetery. The husband of Sarah Pixon of 10 Mart Street, Ardwick. **Rejected 10/09/2024.**

Private 262 [George Andrews](#) was discharged with a pension on 13 April 1915. He died from TB contracted in service on 18 May 1915, aged 47. The husband of Emily Andrews of 7 Plymouth Avenue, Longsight. George is buried at Manchester Southern Cemetery. **Accepted 12/12/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.**

Private 21668 [Walter Brindley](#) had been a tram brakesman for Manchester Corporation when he enlisted on 19 October 1914. Walter served at home in 8th Bn, later attached to 317 Prison Company of the Royal Defence Corps. He had previously served in the Regiment from 1894-1906, including the Boer War 1899-1900, where he was present in the Defence of Ladysmith. Walter was discharged on 22 August 1916.

Walter Brindley died from TB aggravated by service at Baguley Sanatorium on 10 January 1917, aged 41. He was buried in [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). His widow, Jennie, lived at 8 Corporation Street, Ardwick, later 53 Stanley Grove, Longsight. Walter was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Brindley. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial 06/04/2024.**

Private 3189 **Harry Hughes** had served in the Boer War with 5th Volunteer Bn and subsequently in the Regular Army with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). Mobilised in August 1914, Harry was discharged unfit in December 1914. Employed as a tram driver, Harry re-enlisted in 9th Bn on 4 January 1915. He was discharged unfit from 3/9th Bn at Southport on 8 October 1915.

Harry Hughes died from pulmonary TB commencing in service on 7 April 1917, aged 31. He is buried at Dukinfield Cemetery. The husband of Esther Ann Hughes of 98 Moss Street, Ashton under Lyne. **Rejected 24/04/2024.**

Private 4745 [James Devereux Checkley](#) attested under the Derby Scheme on 2 December 1915 and trained with 3/7th Bn from 25 January 1916. Transferred to the 7th Reserve Bn of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment '52983', James disembarked in France with their 1st Bn on 4 August 1916. Suffering from sickness he was evacuated home on 22 October 1916 and discharged on 19 January 1917.

James Checkley's clear inscription at Southern Cemetery. Credit Paul Charlesworth

James Checkley died on 4 May 1918, aged 22. His cause of death was pulmonary & laryngeal TB originating in France and as a result of active service. James has a legible private memorial on his burial at Manchester Southern Cemetery. He was the son of William Deveraux and Mary Ann Checkley, of 28 Shaftesbury Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. **Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.***

Private 411 [George Askham](#) enlisted in 8th Bn on 22 May 1915 and served in Egypt from 13 July 1916. Transferred to the 1st Garrison Bn King's (Liverpool) Regiment '60135' George was evacuated home and discharged due to sickness on 15 October 1917.

George Askham died from TB resulting from service on 23 October 1919, aged 29. The son of Horace Oswald and Sarah Askham of 124 Field Street, Islington, Liverpool. George was buried at Liverpool (Walton Park) Cemetery. **Approved 23/11/2022.**

In the fervour for service, older territorials or later recruits served at home in the 3rd Line Territorial Battalions, determined as unfit for

overseas duty. All of the territorial battalions had equivalent Third Line Battalions that served exclusively at Home Defence. 3/7th and 3/8th Battalions were merged into 3/6th Battalion in September 1916, when 3/9th Battalion also absorbed 3/10th and 3/11th Battalions. A 45th Provisional Battalion was subsequently formed for territorial home service in January 1917. This was later re-designated as 28th Battalion.

In the later years of hostilities, many members of the 3rd Line Territorials were transferred to Reserve for employment on war work, including munitions and aircraft factories. Other men were posted to supernumerary companies which had responsibility for guarding Docks and other security sensitive locations.

Private 1462 **William Burton Johnson** had enlisted in 5th Bn at Wigan in 1912. He Embodied for overseas service on 5 August 1914 but remained in home service. William was discharged unfit on 27 June 1916.

William Johnson died from endocarditis aggravated by service on 26 May 1920, aged 26. He is buried at Wallasey (Rake Lane) Cemetery. The husband of Lily Johnson of 118 Seaview Road, Liscard.

Private 1178 **Martin Dooley** had been an excavator when he enlisted and embodied in the 8th Bn National Reserve on 25 January 1915. Martin had previously served in the

The headstone on Martin Dooley's public grave has been damaged by tree growth

Lancs Artillery Militia. Discharged unfit from

No 5 Supernumerary Company of 8th Bn at Roa Island, Cavendish Dock, Barrow in Furness, on 15 May 1915, Martin had chronic pulmonary TB.

Martin Dooley died from phthisis aggravated by active service on 2 November 1915, aged 52. He died in the Withington Workhouse Infirmary and was buried in a public grave at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. His widow, Julia Dooley, had lived at 56 Cawdor Street, Hulme and received a pension at 17 East Avenue, Oxford, Warrington. The main part of the common headstone has been broken off and Martin's inscription is not visible. As he shared a common grave, a secondary memorial would probably be inappropriate and a Special Memorial may be required. **Commemoration accepted 13/10/2023. Burial 13/12/2025.**

Private 20721 **George Oldland** enlisted in 22nd Bn on 14 April 1915. He had worked as a gas stoker at Manchester Corporation's Bradford Road Station and had previously served with the 6th Lancashire Fusiliers in the Boer War. George was transferred to 6th Bn and posted to No 2 Supernumerary Company. He was discharged on 19 November 1915.

National Roll of the Great War

George Oldland died from TB aggravated by service on 20 March 1919, aged 40. He was buried in Manchester (Phillips Park) Cemetery. George's widow, Temperance, and daughter, Hilda, lived at 114 Thomas St, Miles Platting. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Private 3405 **Charles Melia** had been a piecer in a Cotton Mill when he enlisted on 22 April 1915. Charles had previously enlisted in and

been discharged from the Lancashire Fusiliers and West Riding Regiment, where he had enlisted aged 16. He trained with 3/10th Bn and later transferred to 45th Provisional Bn. Solely serving at home, Charles with discharged sick at Margate on 20 May 1916.

Charles Melia died at his parents' home from valvular heart disease aggravated by service on 28 December 1918, aged 20. He was buried in a public grave at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. The son of Julia & Charles Melia of 11 Caley Street, Royton. **Approved 17/12/2022 Burial adopted 08/12/2023. Headstone 18/10/2024.**

Charles Melia's new headstone at Greenacres.
Credit CWGC

Private 3885 **Herbert Massey** enlisted in 8th Bn at Ardwick on 29 April 1915. He was discharged on 20 October 1915, suffering TB commencing on a route march at Southport with 3/8th Bn and aggravated by service.

Herbert Massey died from pulmonary TB and meningitis on 15 December 1918, aged 25. He was buried in [Manchester \(Phillips Park\) Cemetery](#). The son of Maria Massey of 108 Blackfriars Road, Salford. **Approved 23/11/2022. Cemetery Sp Mem 25/04/2025**

Private 4101 **David Herbert Wood** had been an assurance clerk when he enlisted in 6th Bn on 5 November 1915. David was transferred to 45th Provisional Bn and discharged on 7 August 1916.

David Wood died from TB aggravated by service on 16 April 1920, aged 28. He is

buried at Blackley (St Peter) Churchyard, which is now closed to the public. His name will be inscribed on the screen wall at Manchester (Southern) Cemetery. David's widow Lilian lived at 8 Valentine Road, Blackley. He was the son of Margaret Ann Wood of 25 Crow Hill, Alkington, Middleton. **Approved 05/11/2022.**

Private 4375 **Frank Hewitt** was an insurance agent, resident Colwyn Bay, when he attested in the East Lancashire Regiment on 18 November 1915. He was re-enlisted for home service with the 6th Manchesters on the same day and mobilised on 1 December 1915. Frank was discharged on 4 May 1916 and worked as a clerk in an oil company. Frank Hewitt died at his home, from TB aggravated by service, on 14 November 1916, aged 25. He was buried at Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery, where commemorations are now made on an Alternative Memorial at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). Widow Carrie lived at Manchester Road, Chapel en Le Frith. **Rejected 31/10/2023.**

Lance Corporal 251240 **William Parsons** had been a stonemason before he enlisted. He served at Home in 3/6th Reserve Bn.

William Parsons died from pneumonia and cardiac failure aggravated by service on 26 July 1917, aged 42. William was buried at [Pendleton \(St Thomas\) Churchyard](#) where all Great War casualties are inscribed on a Special Memorial. He is commemorated on Walsall Roll of Honour and Walsall Town Hall Memorial Plaques. William Parsons' wife had

Pendleton St Thomas 1914-18 Special Memorial, where William Parsons' name would be inscribed © CWGC

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headst

died and their three children were looked after by a guardian with the help of an army pension.

Private 1134 **William Lewis Lloyd** was a long serving veteran of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He had been wounded in Zululand and served in the Boer War. William re-enlisted in 8th Bn on 25 January 1915 and will have served with 2/8th or 3/8th Bns. He was discharged on 21 July 1916.

William Lloyd died from TB aggravated by service on 19 February 1920, aged 51. He was buried at Manchester Ardwick Cemetery. The site was turned into playing fields in 1966 and William will probably be the first Ardwick

© Manchester Libraries – Ardwick Cemetery.
The headstones were all removed in 1959 and the site is now a sports field

burial to have alternative CWGC commemoration at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). William's widow, Julia Ellen, and daughter, Lillian, lived at 33 Milton Street, West Gorton. He was the son of John Rogers and Jane Lloyd. **Commemoration approved in UKBOR 05/11/2022.**

Private 3730 **George Henry White** enlisted in 8th Bn on 7 April 1915. In civilian life, George had been a music hall artist known as Samuel George White. George was discharged from 3/8th Bn on 26 November 1915.

George White died from TB in Crumpsall Hospital on 20 October 1919, aged 32. He was buried [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#). George's widow, Emma, and son, Cyril, lived at 19 Fenn Street, Pendleton. Cyril's

granddaughter has consented to George's commemoration on the family grave.

Rejected 09/01/2024

Private 3579 **Herbert Mitchell** enlisted on 17 April 1915 and served overseas with 1/7th Bn. He was discharged sick from 3/9th Bn on 18

Herbert Mitchell's family headstone with legible inscription at Dukinfield © Findagrave.com

July 1916 and received a pension for TB due to service.

Herbert Mitchell died from TB on 21 December 1920, aged 29. He is buried in Dukinfield Cemetery, with a legible inscription, alongside his parents William and Margaret Mitchell of 52 Egerton Street, Ashton. Their younger son, Harold was killed in October 1918, serving with 2nd Bn. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial accepted 25/10/2023.**

Private 4330 **James Whelan** enlisted for the first time with 1st Salford (15th) Bn of Lancashire Fusiliers on 1 October 1914. He was discharged inefficient due to bronchitis on 26 June 1915.

James enlisted again in 149th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, 10194, on 22 March 1915. He was discharged inefficient on 17 June 1915 due to "phthisis pulmonary acquired in service". James re-enlisted in 8th Manchesters on 29 June 1915 and was discharged due to sickness with a pension on 1 March 1916.

James Whelan died from TB on 12 October 1920, aged 23. As his disease was contracted during embodied service, the 2020 criteria now permit commemoration. James was

buried at [Stoke-on-Trent \(Longton\) Cemetery](#). His widow, Mary Elizabeth Whelan, lived at 17 Spring Street, Stoke. His mother was Elizabeth Whelan. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Communal headstone with Bernard Wooley at St Joseph's

Private 4340 **Bernard Wooley** had been a housepainter when he enlisted in 8th Bn on 30 June 1915. Too old for overseas duty, Bernard served in 3/8th Bn to prior his transfer to 3rd Bn and discharge due to sickness on 18 November 1915.

Bernard Wooley died from TB aggravated by service and exhaustion on 26 April 1919, aged 45. His widow, Martha Eliza Wooley, was resident at 61 Abbott Street, Rochdale Road, Manchester. He was buried in a public grave, with a clear inscription, at [St Joseph's Roman Catholic \(RC\) Cemetery](#). The couple had one daughter and Bernard had two adult daughters from an earlier marriage. **Approved 05/11/2022.**

Private 4752 **James Samuel Kean** initially enlisted in 7th KORL on 6 January 1915, to be discharged inefficient for military service twenty days later. Clearly committed to the war effort; James re-enlisted in 3/8th Bn on 6 October 1915. He was later transferred to 52nd Graduated Bn and discharged unfit on 16 February 1916.

James Kean shares a grave with his parents and sister Frances. Also CWGC commemoration of RSM James Corrigan MC of KORL, who died 14/03/1920.

James Kean died from pulmonary TB aggravated by service and broncho pneumonia on 16 November 1918, aged 28. He was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). James was the husband of Barbara Gentilla Kean and father of Thomas Frances Kean born 7 August 1914. The family lived at 19 Henry Street, Patricroft. His parents were Mary and Thomas and James had been a licensed broker prior to army service.

Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 23/11/2023*

Private 3929 **William Middleton** had been a Cotton Spinner when he enlisted in 3/9th Bn on 3 August 1915. Serving at home, William was discharged on 12 July 1916.

William Middleton died from TB resulting from service on 13 September 1916, aged 19. He was buried in an unmarked grave at Tintwistle (Christ Church) Churchyard and the Hollingworth Band played at his funeral. William was the son of James Victor and stepson of Sarah Annie Middleton of 1 Moorfield Street, Hollingworth, Cheshire.

Approved 23/02/2023.

Private 2944 **Martin Lavelle** had been a cotton spinner when he enlisted and embodied in 10th Reserve Bn on 28 September 1914. Discharged unfit from D Coy of 2/10th Bn at Southport on 21 June 1915, Martin had pulmonary TB originating during service at Blackpool in January 1915.

Martin Lavelle died from pulmonary TB contracted on active service on 16 September 1915, aged 33. He died at his home at 60 Eaton Place and is buried in an unmarked plot at [Oldham \(Hollinwood\) Cemetery](#). Widow, Ethel, and two children later lived at 2 Duke Street, Oldham. **Rejected 09/02/2024**

John Thomas Coleman's headstone at St John's Churchyard. © Paul Charlesworth

Private 3135 [John Thomas Coleman](#) enlisted in 2/5th Bn on 16 December 1914. He was posted to 45th Provisional Bn on 18 June 1915 and discharged sick on 16 July 1916.

John Coleman died of TB resulting from service on 30 October 1916, aged 18. He is buried in a family plot at [Pemberton \(St John\) Churchyard](#). He was the son of Henry Coleman and nephew of Mary Dean of 178 City Road, Kitts Green, Wigan. Credit to research by Paul Charlesworth. **Approved 01/12/2023.**

Private 3906 /376517 **Richard Henry Galley** had been an iron dresser when he enlisted in 10th Bn on 20 September 1915. He was diagnosed with a cancer to the jaw when he arrived in Alloa for munitions work and discharged unfit from 3/10th Bn on 27 July 1917.

Richard Galley died from Epithelioma of the jaw commencing in service on 16 October 1917, aged 46. He was buried a Manchester (Phillips Park) Cemetery. The husband of Mary Ellen Galley of 31 Falcon Street, Oldham,

Private 4684 / 276766 **Edgar Yeardye** had been a bank clerk when he attested under the Derby Scheme in December 1915. Mobilised in the following month, Edgar was posted to France with 2/7th Bn in March 1917 and transferred to 2nd Bn after recovery from

The Yeardye headstone at Southern Cemetery does not include an inscription for Edgar

wounds in August 1917. Edgar was discharged unfit in October 1918.

Edgar Yeardye died from diabetes Meletus due to service on 17 December 1919, aged 24. He was buried at Manchester (Southern) Cemetery. Son of the late Charles & Ann Yeardye of 4 Belgrave Ave, Rusholme. **Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.**

Private 1860 **Frank Reid**/Read enlisted in 5th Batt on 6 April 1914 and served at home. Frank was posted to 45th Provisional Bn in Margate when he was discharged and conscripted for general service. Mobilised as Private 46707 in the Royal Fusiliers, Frank joined their 12th Bn in France on 5 September 1916.

Private Reid was posted missing and later presumed dead on 15 June 1917, aged 22. His Mother, Kate, lived at 22 Poolstock Lane, Wigan. Frank was a miner and had previously been employed by the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway. He is commemorated on the Wigan Wallgate Memorial and St James' Poolstock Memorial Roll. If commemoration is accepted, Frank Reid's name will be added to the addenda panels of the Menin Gate.

Approved 27/04/2023. Menin Gate 03/11/2024. Inscription 2025*.

Frank Read Wigan Observer 31.07.1917 © Wigan Archives

Private 5863 / 202625 [Harry Wilson](#) attested in May 1916 and mobilised with 5th Bn on 24 October 1916. Following home service, Harry was discharged with TB that had been aggravated by service on 25 May 1917.

Harry Wilson died from TB at his mother's home on 25 June 1918, aged 20. He is buried in Failsworth Cemetery. The son of Alice Wilson of 46 Acre Street, Chadderton.

Approved 23/11/2022. Burial 29/07/2024.

Private 4528/301535 **Ernest Manifold** served at home in 3/8th Bn. He was discharged unfit in May 1917.

Ernest died from TB due to service, at his home at 11 Dark Lane, Bredbury, on 6 December 1917, aged 45. He is buried at Bredbury (St Mark) Churchyard. The son of Samuel and Louisa Manifold. Approved 23/02/2024.

Private 3516379 **James Seary** had served from 1910 to 1919 in the Army Service Corps and Labour Corps. Having re-enlisted in 5th Bn, James was driving horses on a Field Kitchen to the railway station, prior to the annual camp in Caernarvon.

The horses bolted and James died from his injuries from falling off the field cooker on 27 July 1921, aged 27. He is buried at Wigan Cemetery. The husband of Mary Seary of 37 Lime Street, Wigan. Approved 25/10/2024.

Private 303529 [Edward Percy Smith](#) was mobilised with 8th Reserve Bn on 2 March 1917. Transferred to the Labour Corps (276797), he was discharged unfit in September 1917.

Edward Smith died from general paralysis of the insane at Prestwich Asylum on 28 September 1918, aged 33. The son of Edward Pearce and Annie Louisa Smith of 2 Lorne Road, Fallowfield. He is buried in the family plot at Southern Cemetery with no inscription on the headstone. Accepted 12/12/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.

1914 Recruitment Poster IWM (Art.IWM PST 2734)

Kitchener's Service Battalions

Lord Kitchener of Khartoum didn't accept the view expressed by the press that the war would be over by Christmas. His quest for further men developed and the Minister for War's strident image drew many volunteers into recruitment offices. The first one hundred thousand soldiers came to be known as K1 – Kitchener's 1st New Army. The recruitment continued with two more groups of ten thousand volunteers known as K2 and K3.

In the Manchester Regiment, the 11th Service Bn was formed as part of K1 in August 1914 with 12th, 13th and 14th Service Battalions following as K2 and K3 by October 1914. 14th Bn became a Reserve for the Kitchener Battalions in April 1915 and it was redesignated as 14th Training Reserve in September 1916.

Kitchener's continued call to arms led to a relaxation in recruiting requirements in late August 1914. The upper-age limit was increased to thirty five for new recruits, forty five for former soldiers and fifty for some returning non-commissioned officers. It will be seen that many of the men identified in the current research fell into these categories, especially former soldiers who returned to duty. Many other recruits serving in the Kitchener Battalions came from the labouring classes.

11th Battalion

As the first of Kitchener's Battalions, 11th Bn was formed in August 1914. They trained in Manchester and Witley Camp in Surrey, prior to embarking for Gallipoli in June 1915. Evacuated to Egypt in December 1915, the Bn moved to France in July 1916 and served on the Western Front until the Armistice.

Some men who trained with the special reserve were also posted to the service battalions for overseas duty. Private 2351 [Thomas Arrowsmith](#) had been a lamp lighter for Manchester Corporation when he enlisted in 3rd Bn on 10 August 1914. He joined 11th Bn with the MEF in July 1915 and disembarked at Gallipoli soon after. Thomas was posted home in February 1916 and discharged on 8 September 1916.

Thomas Arrowsmith died from VDH due to service and exhaustion on 25 March 1919, aged 44. He was buried in [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). No headstone is evident. Thomas was the husband of Kayia Arrowsmith deceased. Their orphaned daughter, Florrie, lived with her extended family at 152 Clowes Street, Gorton. [Approved 23/11/2022. Burial 09/04/2024.](#)

Pte 13317 **John Thomas Siderfin** had been a labourer when he enlisted at Ashton on 26 October 1914. He was posted to 11th Bn on 4

November 1914 and discharged inefficient on 17 April 1915. John received a pension for early pulmonary TB "Caused by Service".

John Siderfin died at Withington Workhouse on 6 September 1915, aged 33. Cause of death was Phthisis accelerated by injuries due to fall. He was the son of the late Joseph and Mary Siderfin of 6 Walter Street, Ancoats. He is buried in a public grave, with no inscription, at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. [Approved 23/11/2022](#)

Private 24560 **Edward Price** had been a coal hewer when he enlisted on 12 May 1915. He trained with 14th Bn and joined the MEF with 11th Bn on 4 November 1915 and BEF from 9 July 1916. Suffering the effects of gas shelling Edward was evacuated home on 8 June 1918 and admitted to hospital care. He was discharged on 15 October 1918.

Edward Price died from gas poisoning on the Western Front and heart disease on 26 December 1918. He was 32 years old. The husband of Martha Price of 33 Roberts Street, Atherton. 4 children. Martha remarried Samuel Herrod in 1919. The son of Prudence and the late David Price of Leigh. They buried Edward at Leigh Cemetery as reported in the Wigan Observer. [Approved 17/12/2022. Burial adopted 31/10/2023. Headstone 10/10/2024.](#)

Edward Price's new headstone at Leigh

12th Battalion

12th Battalion Memorial at Contalmaison, Somme

12th Bn was formed in September 1914 as part of K2 and trained in Manchester, Wimborne, Dorset and Hursley Park, Hampshire. The Bn landed in France with the BEF on 16 July 1915 and remained on the Western Front throughout hostilities.

Private 3952 **Edward Whitehead** had been a railway goods labourer when enlisted on 26 August 1914. He trained with 12th Bn and disembarked in France on 16 July 1915. Edward was gassed at Ypres in December 1915 and later returned to the Front, until he was evacuated due to sickness on 6 July 1916. Private Whitehead was discharged on 25 January 1917.

Edward Whitehead died from TB aggravated by service on 2 March 1917. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Crompton Cemetery](#). Edward's mother, Florence, lived at 38 Library Lane, Oldham. **Approved 05/11/2021. Burial accepted 16/09/2022. Headstone erected 05/07/2023***

Edward Whitehead's new headstone © CWGC

Private 4130 [Sydney Walter Morbey](#) enlisted on the same day as Edward Whitehead, having previously been employed as a carter. He was posted to 12th Bn on 15 September and discharged inefficient on 20 October 1914. Sydney re-enlisted in the Army Service Corps 'R/359289' on 24 June 1916 and served at home. He was discharged on 31 August 1917.

Sydney died at his home from aortic regurgitation aggravated by service on 30 March 1921, aged 39. The husband of Emma Ann Morbey of 64 Potts Street, Ancoats. The son of Thomas and Helen Esther Morbey. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Manchester Phillips Park Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 10/08/2024.**

Private 8039 **Thomas Harrison** enlisted on 28 September 1914 and disembarked with 12th Bn in July 1915. He had previous service with 6th Volunteer Bn and worked as a Mason prior to enlisting. Thomas was posted home in September 1916 and discharged on 31 January 1917.

Thomas Harrison died from bronchitis due to service and cardiac asthenia on 31 January 1920, aged 41. He is buried in [Oldham \(Greenacres\) Cemetery](#). Thomas' widow, Kate, lived at 21 Yates Street, Oldham, with daughters, Edith and Ethel. **Approved 28/09/2022. Burial adopted 08/11/2022**

Thomas Harrison's displaced but legible headstone at Greenacres Cemetery © Andrew Spence

Private 16217 [Frederick Cooper](#) was a bakery journeyman prior to service. He also disembarked with 12th Bn on 16 July 1915. Frederick was appointed lance corporal and was wounded in 1917. He had returned home and was posted to 4th Bn in late 1918.

Frederick Cooper died in-service from pneumonia in the Military Hospital, Grimsby on 2 December 1918, aged 25. He was buried in [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#) by his parents, Henry and Louisa Cooper, of 5 Leak Street, Collyhurst. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 06/04/2024.**

Frederick Cooper's family headstone at Southern Cemetery. The inscription is damaged.

Private 23453 [Edward Loughman](#) enlisted on 19 January 1915 and disembarked with 12th Bn in July 1915. Edward had lied about his age in order to enlist, claiming to be 35 when he was ten years older. He was wounded by shrapnel in October 1915 and posted home in December 1915. Edward was discharged on 4 February 1916 and then admitted to Prestwich Asylum due to insanity. Edward Loughman died from multiple carbuncles and TB resulting from service at Prestwich Asylum on 15 May 1916, aged 46. He is buried in [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified. Edward's family lived at 59 Woodlands Road, Gorton. His widow, Annie, and four children emigrated to Jersey City in the United States. Three of Edward's sons served in the War. He had been a machinist in

a crane works prior to the army. **Approved 27/04/2023. Burial 19/12/2023.**

Private 24900 **Ernest Sharpley** had previous short term re-war service in the 2nd Bn and had been discharged unfit from 13th Bn in November 1914. He had been a chauffeur when he re-enlisted on 5 July 1915 and trained with 3rd Bn. Ernest joined the BEF with 12th Bn on 22 December 1915 and returned home due to sickness on 30 April 1916. Ernest was discharged from 14th Bn on 16 June 1916.

Ernest Sharpley died from TB that was aggravated by service on 13 August 1919, aged 36. The husband of Blanche Sharpley of 38 Pickering St, Harpurhey. She buried Ernest at Phillips Park Cemetery. **Approved 01/12/2023. Burial 04/10/2025.**

Private 3071 **Arthur Wharmby** was an early recruit to 12th Bn and had been a carter prior to enlistment. Unfit for service, Arthur only served a few months, prior to discharge on 20 October 1914.

Arthur Wharmby died from chronic bronchitis and VDH on 8 October 1917, aged 38. He passed away in Crumpsall Workhouse Infirmary and was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). The inscription on the communal headstone remains legible. Arthur was the Husband of Catherine Wharmby of 2 Clifford Street, Openshaw, later 25 Barrett Street, Oldham Road. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Arthur Wharmby's inscription on the public grave at St Joseph's Moston

Private 44552 **John Robert Wilcock** was a plumber when he attested under the Derby Scheme on 11 December 1915. He was mobilised and joined 3rd Bn East Lancs '24774' on 2 March 1916. John joined the BEF and was initially attached to 12th Bn on 18 July 1916, prior to his transfer on 4 November. John returned home on 2 January 1917 where he was posted to Depot and then 3rd Bn. John was discharged unfit on 10 July 1917. He received a pension for TB of the Lung, originating in France and resulting from service..

John Wilcock died from TB on 28 March 1920, aged 34. He was buried at Rawtenstall and was the son of the late John and Elizabeth Wilcock. His sisters lived at 18 Daisy Hill, Rawtenstall. **Approved 17/12/2022**

Private 34531 **Jacob Lewis** enlisted on 15 February 1916 and trained with 14th Bn. He joined the BEF in 1916, where he was attached to 6th Bn Loyal North Lancs. Returning home after a short period Jacob was discharged due to sickness on 11 November 1916.

Jacob Lewis died at his home from pulmonary TB aggravated by service on 16 January 1921, aged 25. A mackintosh maker and son of Hannah Lewis of 11 Granton Street, Hightown. Jacob is buried at Blackley Jewish Cemetery. **Approved 2301/12/2023. Burial 25/05/2024***

Jacob Lewis' legible headstone at Blackley.

Private 3794 / 201272 **Robert Henry Smith** had been a carter when he embodied with 5th Bn on 8 July 1915. Robert served overseas with 12th Bn from 14 March to 21 December 1917. He was discharged from 3rd Bn on 30 January 1918 suffering from TB that was aggravated by service.

Robert died from TB at 13 Manchester Road, Westhoughton. This was the home of his Foster Mother, Jane Arbuthnot. We have not yet identified Robert's burial. **Approved 23/11/2022. Brookwood 1914-18 Memorial awaiting inscription 07/12/2024.**

John Greenwood's unseated headstone at Greenacres. © Andrew Spence

Sergeant 38695 **John William Greenwood** was an insurance agent when he attested under the Derby Scheme. Was mobilised to train with 3rd Bn in August 1916 and joined the BEF with 12th Bn in October 1917. Suffering sickness, John was posted to a Prisoner of War Company and transferred to the Labour Corps '566334' in July 1918. He was demobilised in November 1919 and received a pension for Valvular Disease of the Heart.

John Greenwood died from aortic stenosis attributable his service on 25 March 1921, aged 30. He is buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. John was the husband of Mary Greenwood of 47 Mortimer Street, Oldham and son of John William and Mary Greenwood. **Rejected 25/01/2024.**

13th Battalion

Formed in September 1914, 13th Bn was part of K3. Initially serving in France in July 1915, they moved to the MEF in Salonika from July 1915 and returned to France in July 1918.

Lieutenant **Joseph Cotterill** had enlisted as a Private, 3048 in 14th Bn on 12 September 1914. He had previously served from 1886-1908 in the Regiment, attaining the rank of colour sergeant. His experience was fully recognised and Joseph was promoted through the ranks and commissioned lieutenant quartermaster in 13th Bn. This promotion coincided with sick leave and Joseph was unable to take up his duties.

[Joseph Cotterill](#) died in-service from broncho pneumonia on 6th November 1914, aged 40. Joseph is the only officer confirmed in the current group of non-commemorations and the sole casualty of 1914. He was buried in [Peel Green Cemetery](#) and commemorated with his son, William, on St Mary's Church Memorial in Eccles. **Approved 29/10/2022**

Private 13494 **James Arthur Davenport** had been a packer when he enlisted in 13th Bn on 3

November 1914. He disembarked in France on 7 May 1915 and later served in Salonika. Evacuated home, James was posted to Depot in May 1916. He was transferred to home postings with 3rd Bn in June 1916, 2nd Garrison Bn Lincs Regiment '27935' in August 1916 and RAMC '133266' on 6 October 1917. James was discharged unfit on 19 December 1918.

James Davenport died from TB due to service on 4 June 1921. The husband on Sarah Ann Davenport of 36 Wenlock Street, Hulme. The couple had eight living children. James was buried at Manchester (Southern) Cemetery.

Approved 25/10/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.

Private 4381 [Joseph Higginson](#) enlisted in 11th Bn on 5 November 1914. He joined the MEF with the Bn and landed at Gallipoli on 6 August 1915. He contracted bronchitis at Suvla Bay and was evacuated home on 17 October, then discharged on 14 January 1916.

Joseph Higginson died from bronchitis and congestion due to service on 11 April 1918, aged 42. He was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#) and he has a displaced headstone with a legible inscription. Joseph and his widow, Emma, had three daughters and lived at 21 Prenton View, Reddish, Stockport. He had been a munitions works labourer. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial adopted 14/11/2023. New Headstone 16/09/2024***

Private 1173 **Peter Naughton** was a long term member of 4th Bn, having enlisted in 1909. He had been employed as wood packing case maker prior to hostilities. Peter was transferred to 11th Bn as a reinforcement at Gallipoli on 24 August 1915. He was posted home in January 1916 and discharged on 5 May 1916.

Peter Naughton died from bronchitis aggravated by service and heart failure on 2 January 1920, aged 33. Peter's widow, Agnes, and sons, Peter and Robert, lived at 2 Grove Place, Ancoats.

Peter Naughton's inscription on the communal headstone is becoming illegible. As it would appear inappropriate to erect a secondary headstone on a common grave, a Special Memorial may be needed if the headstone cannot be cleaned. **Rejected by 25/09/2025**

Peter Naughton's inscription is unclear on the public grave at St Joseph's, Moston

Private 16053 / 295058 **John Atherton** had been a collier when he enlisted in 11th Bn on 1st January 1915. He joined the MEF at Gallipoli in September 1915. John was later transferred to 1/7th Bn (re-numbered in 1917) and attached to the Brigade Trench Mortar Battery. He was discharged on 11 December 1917.

John Atherton died from valvular disease of the heart (VDH) aggravated by service on 12 December 1920, aged 40. He was buried in [Failsworth Cemetery](#). John was the husband of Annie Atherton of 10 Spreadbury Street,

Lightbowne, Moston. **Approved 05/11/2022.**
Burial 29/07/2024.

Private 2945 **John Pickford** was a foreman in a brewery bottling department when he enlisted for General Service in 11th Bn at Ashton on 11 August 1914. John was discharged at Grantham on 14 April 1915. John Pickford died from pulmonary TB due to service on 14 January 1919, aged 27. He is buried Tarrant Crawford Churchyard in Dorset. John was the son of Matthew and Martha (deceased) Pickford of 79 Hope Street, Hurst. John's elder brother, Thomas, was awarded the DCM with 8th Bn at Gallipoli. He was later killed in Flanders with 1/5th KLR. **Rejected 23/05/2025.**

Private 5511 **William Thomas Price** was a salt hawker when he enlisted in 13th Bn on 12/09/1914. Discharged unfit on 21/10/1914, he was re-called to the Remounts R/369359 of the ASC on 22/10/1917. He was discharged with TB commencing in service on 29/11/1917.

William died of TB commencing at Seaford with 13th Bn on 15/04/1918, aged 38. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Wigan Cemetery. The husband of Mary Price of 2 Ironmonger Lane, Queen Street, Wigan.

As an original member of 13th Bn, Private 3182 **Martin Lyons** had enlisted on 16 September 1914. Martin was a veteran of the Boer War, having served 16 years in the 2nd Bn. He joined the BEF on 7 September 1915 and disembarked in Salonika on 28 October 1915. Martin was invalided home in November 1917 and transferred to 4th Bn. He was discharged on 2 April 1918, with the rank of sergeant.

Martin Lyons died from VDH aggravated by service on 12 December 1919, aged 43. He was buried at St Paul's Churchyard after his funeral at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Stalybridge. Martin and his widow, Rose Ann, had married in April 1914. She lived at 4 Forester's Court, Foresters' Street, Stalybridge.

No headstones remain at St Paul's and Martin will be commemorated on the Special Memorial at the Church.

Approved 05/11/2022.

Private 5920 **James Murphy** had been a carter when he enlisted in 13th Bn on 21 September 1914. Serving with the BEF from September 1915, James moved to Salonika with the Bn in the next month. He returned home in June 1916 and was discharged on 8 August 1916, receiving a pension for epithelioma of his tongue.

James Murphy died from cancer of the tongue, commencing in service, on 3 July 1918, aged 48. He is buried at Manchester (Phillips Park) Cemetery. The husband of Elizabeth Murphy of Bradshaw Street, Hulme.

Approved 23/02/2024. Cemetery Sp Mem 25/04/2025

Another early recruit to 13th Bn was Private 5823 **Edward Vincent Duggan**. Edward had been a musician in civilian life with extensive prior service in the Royal Artillery and Marines. Private Duggan served in the BEF and MEF with corresponding dates to Martin Lyons. He was invalided home on 21 May 1918, suffering from stomach cancer and discharged on 17 July 1918.

Edward Duggan died from cancer aggravated by service on 25 January 1919. He is buried in an unmarked plot in Rochdale Cemetery. His widow, Jane, and two children lived at 13 Laurie Place, Rochdale. This case has been assisted by members of GWF and IFCP.

Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.

Private 6080 **Edward Seddon** 30663 had been an iron turner when he enlisted in 13th Bn on 15 September 1914. Also joining the BEF and MEF on the same dates as Martin Lyons, Edward was posted home in August 1916. He was discharged on 13 November 1917.

Edward Seddon died from chronic bronchitis and malaria aggravated by service with sarcoma of the humerus on 20 November

1919, aged 43. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#). Edward's widow was Jane Seddon of 9 Castle Street, Salford. The couple had four children.

Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 22/06/2024.

Enlisting on 10 February 1915, Private 35889 **William Leigh** was a paver for Manchester Corporation. He was posted to the 13th Bn as a reinforcement with the MEF at Salonika on 28 October 1915. Edward returned home in June 1917 and he was discharged on 24 July 1917.

William Leigh died from pulmonary TB due to service with TB of the larynx and bowels on 10 January 1919, aged 28. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Manchester \(Gorton\) Cemetery](#). William was the son of Elizabeth Helsby and husband of Francis Leigh of 7 Gore Street, Gorton. Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 03/08/2024.

14th Battalion

As the reserve for Kitchener's Service Battalions, men posted to 14th Bn exclusively served at home, training to be replacements for the Service Battalions. The Bn was formed at Lichfield in October 1914 and relocated to Brocton Camp on Cannock Chase prior to being redesignated as 14th Training Reserve Bn on 1 September 1916.

Private 12117 **Cornelius Lilley** enlisted on 26 November 1914 and served in 14th Bn. Cornelius had previously served with the King's Own Royal Lancs in the Boer War, when he had been shot in the knee near Ladysmith. He was re-designated as part 14th Training Reserve (TR/6/12117) in September 1916 and discharged on 1 January 1917.

Cornelius Lilley died from VDH aggravated by service on 9 December 1917, aged 45. He was buried in [Manchester \(Phillips Park\) Cemetery](#). His widow, Susannah Lilley, and four children lived at 26 Springfield Street, later 71

Charlotte Street, Hightown. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Approved 27/04/2023. Burial 10/08/2024.**

Private 13336 **Samual Greenall** was a collier when he enlisted at Wigan on 26/10/1914. Discharged unfit on 12/11/1914, Samuel re-enlisted in the RFA 1745 /28338 and transferred to KLR. HE served overseas with the Welsh Regiment 43406 and was wounded in the head at Delville Wood in July 1916. Discharged due to wounds on 16/05/1917.

Samuel died due the fractured skull on 24/02/1918. He is buried at Pemberton (St. John) Churchyard. The husband of Elizabeth Abb Greenall of 17 Horsfield Street, Wigan.

Private 24992 **William George Wharton** had been a brass driller prior to enlistment. It is not known which Bn William joined, although the number sequence suggests he joined one of Kitchener's Service Battalions and there is no evidence he served overseas prior to discharge.

William died from a rupture of dissecting aneurism of aorta aggravated by service on 9 November 1916, aged 44. We have been unable to identify William's burial and suspect this may be St Aidan's, Bradford where his children had been christened. He was the husband of Mary Frances Wharton of 21 Martha Street, Bradford. The couple had nine children and their son, George William, also died on 9 May 1918 without commemoration, having served in the 2/3rd Monmouths.

Rejected 09/01/2024

Private 16795 **Charles McKernon** was a labourer at Bradford gas work when he enlisted in 14th Bn on 21 January 1915. Charles was discharged unfit on 21 January 1916.

Charles McKernon died from TB originating in service on 28 November 1916, aged 22. The

son of Fergus & Elizabeth Matilda McKernon of 93 Glendon Street, Bradford Road. He was buried at Manchester (Philips Park) Cemetery. **Rejected 19/03/2024.**

Private 37639 **George Caslin** had been born on 9 September 1897 and was an apprentice hairdresser prior to enlisting. He attested at Wigan, under the [Derby / Group Scheme](#), on 9 December 1915, aged 18. There is evidence George may have previously enlisted under-age in 10th South Lancs and absconded. He was mobilised with 14th Bn on 28 July 1916. George served at Brockton Camp, Staffordshire and he was redesignated as 14th Training Reserve Bn (TR/6/12970) in September 1916. George was admitted to the Cannock Chase Military Hospital on 9 March 1917, suffering from TB and he was discharged on 22 June 1917.

George died from pulmonary TB aggravated by service on 18 July 1917, less than a month after his discharge, aged 21. He is buried in [Wigan Cemetery](#) and commemorated on Wigan Cenotaph. George's father, William, lived at 64 Boyswell Lane, Wigan. **Approved 05/11/2022.**

Private 32475 **William Leaver** was a chauffeur when he attested on 26 January 1916. Probably training in a Reserve Battalion he was posted to 3rd Loyal North Lancs 23344 and Royal Flying Corps 87700 on 28 July 1917. William was hospitalised in November 1917 and treated for colitis and dysentery. Evacuated to India and later returning home, William was admitted to Military Hospital Bethnal Green in May 1919. He was discharged on 10 October 1919.

William Leaver died from dysentery commencing in service on 8 February 1921, aged 26. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Preston (New Hall) Cemetery. The son of Elizabeth Alice Leaver of 4 Mellins Fold,

Preston. Husband of Elizabeth Leaver.

Accepted 04/01/2025.

City or Pals Battalions

On 31 August 1914, the Mayor of Manchester invited clerks and warehousemen to enlist in a City Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Within days, the first brigade, comprising more than four thousand men, had been formed, including the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th City (or Pals) Battalions.

The City Battalions were known as Pals because the Mayor had committed that the volunteer soldiers would enlist, train and fight together. Manchester's white collar workers had not previously felt compelled to enlist. The recruitment process of the 11th (K1) Service Bn had been reported in a very poor light and the middle class volunteers had not been attracted by the perception that they would serve with men who were unknown to them or the labouring class. The Pals Battalions provided an ideal solution.

City Battalions cap and badge. Courtesy Prof Peter Doyle
and his book – Kitchener's Mob

Fervour for service continued into the first few months of 1915 and the Regiment filled nine City Battalions. The War Office took over control in the spring of 1915 and the City Battalions were redesignated as the 16th – 24th Service Battalions with a large reserve of 25th, 26th and 27th Battalions.

1st City Brigade – 16th -19th Battalions

The 1st City Brigade of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Manchester Pals trained at Heaton Park, Manchester; Belton Park, near Grantham and Larkhill Camp on Salisbury Plain. The Brigade embarked for France in November 1915 as 90th Brigade and remained on the Western Front. 19th Bn was moved to 21st Brigade in December 1915, remaining alongside 90th Brigade as part of 30th Division.

Private 6288 **William Ormson** had been a Warehouseman with J & N Phillips & CO when enlisted became one of the first to enlist in 1st City / 16th Bn on 28 August 1914. William trained with II Pln of A Coy and was posted to 25th Reserve Bn on 30 August 1915. He returned to 16th Bn with BEF on 10 March 1916. William returned Home due sick influenza on 6 July 1916. William was Discharged from Depot on 15 July 1917.

William Ormson died at home in Blackley from valvular heart disease resulting from service on 26 September 1919, aged 35. He is buried at Weaverham, Cheshire. The son of Oliver and Jane Hannah Ormson of 111 Slack St, Blackley. **Approved 01/12/2023.**

Private 6594 **Sydney Cohen** had been a shipping clerk when he enlisted in 1st City / 16th Bn on 2 September 1914. He had attended Manchester Grammar School. Sydney joined the BEF with the Bn on 8 November 1915 until he was wounded and posted home on 27 January 1916. Later transferred to 25th (Reserve) Bn, Sydney was discharged due sickness on 18 June 1916.

Sydney Cohen died from thoracic lympho sarcoma commencing in service on 13 March 1917, aged 19. The son of Max and Rebecca Cohen of Ashlea, High St, Chorlton. He is buried at Phillips Park. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 13/10/2024.**

Private 8837 **Thomas Riding** was a cotton warehouseman at Tootall Broadhurst Lee when he enlisted in the 2nd City / 17th Bn on 3 September 1914. He trained with X Platoon of C Company. Thomas disembarked with 17th Bn on 8 November 1915 and served with them until disbandment in July 1918. He had a period of leave in England and was subsequently transferred with many of the remaining men to 1st Bn Border Regiment as Private 29740 on 24 September 1918. Thomas returned home on 5 April and he was demobilised on 30 April 1919. A pension was awarded for TB.

Thomas Riding died from TB attributable to service on 2 April 1921, aged 30. Thomas was buried in Darwen Cemetery on 6 April 1921. He was the son of Thomas and Annie Riding of 100 Regent Road, Blackpool. **Rejected 10/10/2023.**

Private 8996 **James King** had been a clerk when he also enlisted in 2nd City / 17th Bn on 3 September 1914. His training with VIII Platoon was cut short, when James was discharged sick on 5 November 1915.

James King died from endocarditis aggravated by service on 14 June 1921. He is buried at Manchester (Gorton) Cemetery. The husband of Lily King of 22 Brunswick Street, West Gorton. The couple had two children. **Rejected 24/10/2024.**

Private 10710 **John Sutton** had been a ship's winch driver at the Ship Canal docks when he enlisted in 3rd City (18th) Bn on the day of its formation of 4 September 1914. John was appointed lance corporal in XVI Platoon during

training at Heaton Park and later reverted to private. He joined the Bn when it disembarked in France 8 November 1915. Serving in the Somme trenches near Maricourt, John was taken ill at Vaux and evacuated home on 14 May 1916. He was discharged sick on 24 October 1916.

John Sutton died from trench Bright's disease on 7 August 1917. He is buried at [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#). He was the son of John Thomas and Rachel Sutton. John's widow, Ellen Sutton, and son, John, lived at 63 Liverpool Street, Salford. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 22/06/2024.**

Private 9849 **William Bates** had been a motor wagon driver at an oil storage works when he enlisted in 3rd City / 18th Bn on 4 September 1914. He disembarked with the Bn on 8 November 1915. Returning to England, William was attached to 69th Training Reserve on 2 September 1916. He was posted to 14th Bn King's (Liverpool) Regiment, as Private 56357 and returned to France. William received a shrapnel wound to the chest and was evacuated home prior to discharged on 27 November 1918.

Eccles. The family buried William at Peel Green Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022.**

Enlisting in 19th Bn on 7 September 1914, Private 12153 [Thomas Moran](#) also disembarked on 8 November 1915 and served in the Western Front trenches near Maricourt. Prior to enlisting Thomas had been a painter's assistant and he had previously served in the Volunteers. Thomas was wounded in the chest in the assault on Montauban on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916. Evacuated home on 8th July, Thomas was transferred to 3rd Bn and discharged unfit on 12 December 1918.

Thomas Moran died from the gunshot wound to his chest and TB on 23 January 1920. He was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). Thomas was the son of

T Moran's new headstone with an inscription chosen by his family.

Thomas Moran © Pat Bamford. Thomas & Elizabeth with daughters and Ellen Whelan.

19th Bn Bugle Band, including Thomas

William Bates died in Salford Royal Hospital on 25/03/1921, aged 25. The Coroner's verdict shows cause of death as 'Septic poisoning of prolonged period due to a retaining piece of shell behind his liver.' He was the son of John and Elizabeth Bates of 26 Corporation Road,

Francis and Mary Moran and husband of Sarah Elizabeth Moran of 5 Clapton Street, Hulme. The couple had two surviving daughters. Sarah died from TB a few years later after contracting the disease from Thomas. Her sister Ellen subsequently died under the same circumstances, having nursed her sister. Thomas Moran has no headstone

on his burial at Moston. We have provisional approval for a CWGC headstone to be erected. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 23/11/2023. Headstone 14/09/2023***

Lance Sergeant 10283 **Ernest Jones** enlisted in 3rd City / 18th Bn on 8 September 1914. He disembarked with the BEF on 08/11/1915. Ernest was discharged with a growth on a Kidney on 19 March 1917. Ernest Jones died from a Sarcoma Kidney aggravated by service at 17 Hanbury Street, Miles Platting on 30 March 1920, aged 36. A Municipal clerk. The son of Robert & Sarah Jones. The burial is unidentified. **Approved 17/12/2022.**

Private 9384 **Job Leach** enlisted in 17th Bn in February 1915. He trained with XX & XV Platoons and the Bugle Band. Job embarked for France on 8 November 1915 and transferred to the Labour Corps '571313' in the later years of hostilities. He was demobilised with a pension on 2 March 1919.

Job Leach died from TB commencing in service on 7 February 1920, aged 42. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham (Hollinwood) Cemetery. The husband of Clara Leach of 110 Hawksley Street, Oldham. **Case on Hold**

Private 44131 **David Clarke** had been a hatter when he attested under the Derby Scheme on 11 December 1915. Mobilised on 20 January 1916 Private Clarke received the number, 5187 and trained with 2/9th Bn. Disembarking in France on 27 July David was posted to 18th Bn on 20 September 1916. Receiving a gun shot wound to the spine in the assault from Heninel, on 24 April 1917, David was evacuated home and the bullet was extracted. He remained paralysed and David was treated in the East Lancashire Home for Disabled Soldiers.

David Clarke died at the Home, from the gun shot wound and paraplegia, on 28 January

1918, aged 18. He was buried at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#) where his headstone has a legible inscription. David was the son of George and Ellen Clarke of 59 Taylor Street, Gorton. **Approved 05/11/2021. Southern Cemetery 23/02/2022***

David Clarke's headstone at Southern Cemetery is now a War Grave. Credit family members and IFCP*

Private 34005 **Norman Lawson Usher** was a Derby Scheme recruit, attesting on 7 February 1916. He had been employed as a clerk for a bassinette makers when he was mobilised to 25th (Reserve) Bn on 9 March. Norman completed his training and joined the BEF as a replacement draft with 16th Bn in the Battle of the Somme on 27 July 1916. He suffered gas poisoning and returned home in January 1918, prior to discharge on 17 May 1918.

Norman Lawson Usher's Family Headstone ©
Findagrave.com & MEN 30/07/1918

Norman Usher died from TB due to service at Baguley Sanatorium on 24 July 1918, aged 23. He was buried a Manchester General Cemetery. Norman was the son of Mary Jane and James Lawson Usher (Deceased) of 6 William Street, Harpurhey. His brother, James, was killed on 20 October 1918 with 1/5th East

Lancashire Regiment. **Approved 29/10/2022.**
Burial 29/07/2024.

Private 26534 [Thomas McIlroy](#) is anticipated to have enlisted in 19th Bn in the summer of 1915 and probably trained in 25th Bn. Prior to enlisting he had been a railway goods labourer. The Medal Roll indicates overseas service with 19th and 22nd Bns. He is also recorded as being posted to 26th, 27th and 3rd Bns in England.

Thomas McIlroy's new CWGC headstone

Thomas McIlroy died in service after returning home on demobilisation furlough. He succumbed to influenza and broncho pneumonia on 3 March 1919, aged 27. Thomas was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified. He was the son of Thomas (deceased Feb 1919) and Margaret Ann, 6 Whittaker Street, Chorlton on Medlock. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial adopted 14/11/2023***

Originally enlisting and numbered as '3776' in East Lancashire Regiment on 28 May 1915, Private 41600 **Christopher Baldwin** was transferred to 18th Bn after arriving in France and 30th Infantry Brigade Depot on 1 October 1916. He joined 18th Bn in the field during the Battle of the Somme on 24 October. Christopher was diagnosed with TB in December 1916 and returned home on 7 January 1917. He was discharged with TB aggravated by service in 7 June 1917.

Christopher Baldwin died from TB on 11 February 1919. He was buried at Pleasington Priory Roman Catholic Churchyard. In civilian

life Christopher was a weaver. His mother, Annie, lived at 6 Bowers Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn. **Approved 23/11/2022**

2nd City Brigade – 20th – 22nd Battalions

20th, 21st and 22nd Manchesters trained in Morecambe, Belton Park and Larkhill Camp. They formed 91st Brigade of 30th Division when they also disembarked in France in November 1915. In common with the other Pals Battalions, they were reorganised in December 1915 when 91st Brigade was moved to 7th Division. 20th Bn was also transferred to 22nd Brigade, within 7th Division.

Private 19623 [Valentine Rowe](#) enlisted in 21st Bn and trained in XV of D Company. He joined the BEF with the Bn in France on 10 November 1915. He had previously worked for Manchester Corporation's electricity department. Fighting though the Battle of the Somme, 21st Bn moved to the Italian Front in November 1917, returning to France in September 1918.

Returning to England in 1919, [Valentine](#) was on demobilisation furlough when he passed away on 4 February 1919. Valentine died from pneumonia, aged 37. He was buried in [Manchester \(Phillips Park\) Cemetery](#).

Valentine's widow, Margaret Ann, and two sons lived at 177 Prince St, Ardwick. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial 10/08/2024.**

Private 18326 [Wilfred Harper Dickinson](#) had been a motor driver when he enlisted in 20th Bn on 21 January 1915. He disembarked in France on 9 November 1915. William was posted home to Depot on 1 March 1916. Wilfred was discharged unfit from 26th Bn at Altcar Camp on 20 May 1916.

Wilfred died from TB aggravated by service on 9 July 1918, aged 21. He is buried in Wrexham Cemetery. The Step-son of Catherine

Dickinson of 14 Durham Street, Harpurhey, later 10 Vernon Street, Wrexham. **Approved 19/03/2024.**

Originally enlisting on 14 August 1915, Private 25609 **Frederick Graham** (aka Dawson) trained with 27th Reserve Bn. Presumably having previous military experience, Frederick was quickly prepared for front line duty and he had transferred to 22nd Bn when it arrived in France on 11 November 1915. Frederick was wounded at Mametz on 1st July 1916 and evacuated home on 5th July. Frederick deserted from January 1917 to February 1918. He returned to the army and was discharged in June 1918.

Frederick Graham died from TB attributed to service in Salford Union Infirmary on 8 March 1919, aged 24. He was buried in a common grave at [Salford \(Weaste\) Cemetery](#).

Frederick's widow, Ethel, lived at 104 Princes Road, Liverpool. His father, Frederick Dawson, had died in 1901. Frederick Junior's mother, Margaret, had re-married a Mr Graham and her children adopted his family name.

Approved 23/02/2023. Weaste 03/11/2024.

Private 55044 **Arthur Cole** had enlisted in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry on 16 November 1914. Disembarking with the BEF on 12 November 1917, Arthur was transferred to 21st Bn four days later and moved to Italy soon

Pension Card and Award indicating Arthur Cole's TB was attributable to service © WFA & TNA

after. Appointed lance corporal, Arthur was posted to 22nd Bn in September 1918. He was wounded in October 1918 and returned home in February 1919. Arthur was discharged on 28 February 1919.

Arthur died from TB attributed to service and meningitis on 19 January 1920, aged 24. He

passed away at his Uncle James' home at 18 Regent Street, Wellingborough. His parents, Priscilla and John Ambrose Cole, lived at 30 Winstanley Street, Wellingborough. Their younger son, [Frank](#), had been killed in 1918 serving with 5th Northants. Arthur is buried in an unmarked plot in [Wellingborough \(Doddington Road\) Cemetery](#). **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Private 75099 **Tom Bowerbank** served overseas with 20th Bn after 1915. He was discharged on 1 March 1919 with a pension for disorderly action of the heart that was aggravated by service.

Tom Bowerbank died from tachycardia and epithelium of the groin. He was the husband of Charlotte Bowerbank of 428 Rochdale Road, Oldham. In civilian life Tom was a cotton mule spinner. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham Chadderton Cemetery.

Rejected 19/12/2024.

Private 19656 **James Wotherspoon**

Portrait image with James in Lancers uniform

enlisted in 21st Bn on 5th January 1915 and trained with XI Platoon. Prior to hostilities he worked in the packing department of William Graham &

Co and he had previously served twelve years with the 9th Lancers, including the Boer War. It is anticipated James may have been transferred to 26th (Reserve) Bn before 21st Bn embarked for France. He was discharged on 7 January 1916.

James died from aortic incompetence aggravated by service on 18 May 1917, aged 47. He was buried at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified on the burial. James' widow, Mary Ann,

daughter and four surviving children from his previous marriage lived at 88 Morton Street, West Gorton. He was the son of James and Margaret Wotherspoon. His brother, Edwin, died on 21 November 1918 serving with the Army Service Corps. **Rejected 09/01/2024.**

Private 21278 **Henry Osborne** had been a fruit hawker when he enlisted in 22nd Bn on 11 January 1915. Serving in E Company for a little longer than a month, Henry was discharged at Morecambe on 15 February 1915.

Henry died from TB on 14 November 1919, aged 38. Henry was buried at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). No headstone could be identified on the burial. His widow, Edith, and two children lived at 15 Holgate Street, Medlock Street, Hulme. Thirty five days is a very limited period of service and Henry's death four and half years later would seem somewhat remote. However, as pension records confirm Henry's TB had been aggravated by service and as TB was his cause of death, he meets the criteria for commemoration. **Rejected by 25/07/2025.**

Private 49236 [John Joseph Conroy](#) had been an Architects Draughtsman when he attested under the Derby Scheme on 5 December 1915. He was mobilised 8 December 1916 and served overseas with 22nd Bn from 5 February 1917 to 10 October 1917. John was discharged from Depot at Preston on 30 August 1918. He had been treated for shell shock after being blown up and buried at Bullecourt. John received a pension for Neurasthenia.

John Conroy died from pneumonia and shell shock on 6 June 1919, aged 21. He is buried Liverpool (Yew Tree) Roman Catholic Cemetery. He was the son of the late John Conroy and Monica Conroy of 61 Hall Lane, Liverpool. **Approved 23/02/2024.**

23rd (Bantams) Battalion

8th City or 23rd (Bantams) Bn trained in Manchester, Morecambe, Masham and Salisbury Plain, prior to embarking for France in January 1916. Originally recruiting men who were below the minimum military height requirement, this limitation was removed in early 1917. They remained on the Western Front until the Bn was disbanded in February 1918.

Private 22082

[Francis Alfred Patchett](#) had been

Lance Corporal Francis Patchett
in 1915

a moulder's labourer when he enlisted in 23rd Bn on 30 November 1914. During training, Francis was appointed lance corporal, but later reverted to private. Francis returned home prior to his discharge on 21 August 1917.

Francis died from mitral VDH due to service on 31 August 1921. This was the last date for qualification as a War Grave and Francis will be the Regiment's final casualty of the Great War, if his adjudication is accepted. Francis was the husband of Mary Jane Patchett of 95 Osborne St, Oldham Road, Manchester. He had two sons from a previous marriage. Their mother had been Winifred Patchett. He died at Ancoats Hospital Convalescent Home, Great Warford, Cheshire. Francis was buried at Moston (St Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022**

Private 22799 **Arthur McLay** had been a fitter when he enlisted in 23rd Bn on 5 January 1915. He joined the BEF with the Bantams on 29 January 1916. as part of the Machine Gun Section. Arthur was partially buried at

Guillemont on 23 July and evacuated home on HS St Denis on 27 July 1916. He was treated at King George Hospital, London and discharged unfit on 21 October 1916.

Arthur McLay died on 8 April 1917, aged 21. He is buried at Clayton (St Cross) Churchyard. The son of John Thompson & Jane McLay of 689 Ashton New Road, Clayton. He received a SWB and pension. CWGC accepted this commemoration today. We don't have the DC but assume Arthur died from nephritis. Research credit to Stanley Laing. **Approved 15/12/2022**

Ernest Royle's family headstone at Southern Cemetery. Credit Paul Charlesworth

Sergeant 22896 **Ernest Royle** had been a Master shoe maker when he enlisted in the Bantams on 22 May 1915 and promoted to Sergeant on the same day. He disembarked in France with 23rd Bn on 29 January 1916 and served overseas until he was evacuated due to sickness on 7 February 1917. Ernest was discharged due to VDH on 26 February 1917.

Ernest Royle died from Valvular Heart Disease aggravated by service and pleurisy on 2 September 1919, aged 40. He was the husband of Florence Ethel Royle of 4 Narbuth Street, Halliwell Lane, Cheetham Hill. The couple had four children. Ernest has a legible headstone at Manchester Southern Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial 06/04/2024***

Private 4066 **Tom Roland Kent** had been a shipping clerk when he enlisted in 7th Bn on 9

June 1915. Discharged with TB, Roland re-enlisted in 8th Bn and served overseas '47482' with 23rd Bn in 1917. He was re-diagnosed with TB and evacuated home after two months with the BEF. Roland was discharged on 11 April 1917.

T. Roland Kent died from TB due to service on 26 April 1918, aged 30. He was cremated at Manchester Crematorium where he has a commemorative headstone. The son of Emily and Thomas Kent of 293 Moss Lane East. Moss Side. **Approved 23/11/2022. Crem 01/11/2024**

T R Kent's commemorative headstone at Manchester Crematorium. Credit Paul Charlesworth

Private 38697 **John Ashworth** was probably another Derby Scheme man when he enlisted in 23rd Bn on 12 December 1915. He has previously been a mule piecer in a cotton mill and was posted overseas with 23rd Bn, but later transferred to 2nd Bn. John was discharged unfit on 31 July 1918.

John Ashworth died from TB attributed to service on 30 May 1920, aged 30. He is buried in an unmarked plot at **Oldham (Chadderton) Cemetery**. John was the son of Robert and Mary Ashworth of 47 Featherstall Lane, Oldham. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 22/06/2024**

24th (Oldham Comrades) Battalion

24th Bn trained at Llanfairfechan, Belton Park and Larkhill. They formed part of 91st Brigade with 20th – 22nd Battalions when they disembarked in France in November 1915. A

month later 24th Bn was transferred to 22nd Brigade and redesignated as a pioneer Bn with 7th Division on May 1916 with which they moved to Italy in November 1917.

Lance Corporal 14142 [George Ernest Taylor](#) enlisted in 24th Bn on 10 November 1914 and trained in III Platoon of A Company when he was promoted to corporal. Also serving throughout hostilities in France and Italy, George returned to England in January 1919 and he was transferred to reserve as lance corporal on 22 February 1919.

Cpl G E Taylor is one of the corporals at either end of this image of III Platoon. Probably the left side, as this man seems younger.

George Taylor died from TB attributed to service on 20 October 1920, aged 23. He is buried at [Barton Upon Irwell \(St Catherine\) Churchyard](#). The minimum age for overseas service was 19, although George was still 18 years old when he joined the BEF. He had enlisted at the age of 17 and was one of the youngest soldiers who served overseas in our current group of *unforgotten casualties*. George was the son of Samuel and Catherine Taylor of 46 Crystal Road, Blackpool. Prior to hostilities, George had worked as a fitter and lived at 83 Manchester Street, Oldham.
Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 29/07/2024.

Sergeant 14116 [John Moss Cowley](#) had been a paviour prior to enlisting in 24th Bn on 9 November 1914. He had previously served in the Lancs Fusils. John was posted to 27th Bn in August 1915 and joined the BEF as Sergeant with 2nd Bn on 12 November 1916. He was posted to Depot in 1917 and returned to 2nd Bn in April 1918. John was posted to Depot later that month and discharged with Pension in September 1919.

John Cowley died from VDH due to service on 23 February 1920, aged 45. He was buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery. The husband of Mary Cowley of 3 Prince Street, Rhodes Bank, Oldham. **Approved 23/02/2024. Burial 22/06/2024**

Private 14176 **Charles Smith** was a beef butcher when he enlisted in 24th Bn on 12 November 1914. He trained with 4 Pln. and was appointed paid Acting Lance Corporal on 01/02/1915. Charles disembarked in France on 8 November 1915 and was granted two weeks Home leave from Italy in April 1917. Charles returned to England in February 1919 and he was demobilised on 22/03/1919. He re-enlisted in the Royal Navy 'SS/124290' on 07/08/1919 served as a Stoker 1st Class on board HMS Columbine and Wryneck.

Charles Smith's family headstone with no first names ©
Andrew Spence

Charles Smith was admitted to Edinburgh Fever Hospital and died from septicaemia on 16 April 1921. Charles was buried in an unmarked plot at Oldham (Chadderton) Cemetery. He was the son of Adam and the late Elizabeth Smith of 26 Manchester Road, Werneth, Oldham. Credit to IFCP research.
Rejected due to contradictory & illogical 'non War Grave notation'

Lance Corporal 14730 **Thomas Kelly** had been a steel spindle maker when he enlisted in 24th Bn on 15 December 1914. He trained with XI Platoon of C Company. Thomas disembarked with the Bn in November and served with the Oldham Comrades until he was transferred to reserve in March 1919. Lance Corporal Kelly received an army pension for TB attributable to his service.

Thomas Kelly died from TB at his home on 17 February 1920, aged 23. He was buried at Moston (St. Joseph's) Roman Catholic Cemetery. His widow, Elizabeth Kelly, lived at 204 Radcliffe Road, Oldham. **Rejected 10/10/2023.**

Private 14988 **Edward Hulme** also joined the BEF with 24th Bn, having enlisted on 11 January 1915. Edward trained in XVI Platoon of D Company and he was subsequently transferred to 22nd and 11th Bns before returning Home in March 1918. Edward deserted for more than twelve months from January 1917 and he was discharged unfit on 18 June 1918.

Edward Hulme's headstone at Greenacres. © Andrew Spence

Edward Hulme died from TB on 16 April 1921. He was buried in an unmarked plot at [Oldham \(Greenacres\) Cemetery](#). Edward was the husband of Martha Ann and father of Elizabeth Hulme of 5 Brunswick Street, Oldham. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial and Private Memorial adopted 31/10/2023.**

Lance Corporal 15114 **Harold Hobson** had been a spinner in a cotton mill when he enlisted in 24th Bn on 16 January 1915 and trained in XVI Pln of D Coy. He disembarked in France with 24th Bn in November and was appointed unpaid Lance Corporal in February 1916. He was wounded and posted home to Depot on March 1916 and 27th (Reserve) Bn that April, after Furlough. Harold returned to France posted to 19th Bn in August 1916 and awarded the Military Medal for throwing an ignited bomb out of a sap on 4 December 1916. He was evacuated home with wounds, with treatment at the Welsh Metropolitan

War Hosp, Cardiff. Posted to Command Depot in August 1917 after 4 weeks furlough, Harold was transferred to 3rd Bn on 19 September 1917. Transferred to reserve with a Pension on 19 February 1919, he became manager of the Coffee Hall, Bull Ring, Grimsby.

Harold Hobson died from Ulcerative Endocarditis due to service at 24 Bull Ring, on 28/11/1920, aged 24. His Widow Mrs E Hobson lived at Bull Ring. Harold was the son of William & Elizabeth Hobson of 57 Chadderton Road, Oldham. **Rejected 23/02/2024**

25th-27th (Reserve) & Training Battalions

In the first few months of 1915, the City Bns recruited a fifth "E Company" as a reserve for future reinforcements. In contrast to original recruitment of clerks and warehousemen, E Company men arrived from all walks of life, including labourers, miners and policeman. The existing City Bn men found these additions to be very useful constituents in their units. By September 1915, the City Bns moved to Lark Hill. At this stage, men who were unprepared for the rigours of the final overseas training or service were transferred to newly formed Reserve Bns. Recent and subsequent recruits then joined the Reserve Bns from the Depot.

25th and 26th Bn was formed from 1st and 2nd City Brigades and 27th Bn was formed from 22nd, 23rd and 24th Bns. All three Bns moved from their depots to Prees Heath and subsequently Altcar.

Private 10268 **Frederick Charles Wilson** had been a butcher when he enlisted in 18th Bn on 5 September 1914. He trained with VIII Platoon of B Company and was employed as a camp butcher at Heaton Park. Frederick was transferred to 25th Bn on 30 August and discharged from Press Heath on 26 November 1915.

Frederick Wilson died from TB aggravated by service on 5 July 1919, aged 25. He is buried at [Stoke-on-Trent \(Hanley\) Cemetery](#). His parents were Edward William Worth and Sarah Jane Wilson of 4 Whitmore Street, Hanley, Staffs. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial & PM 22/09/2024**

Frederick Charles Wilson-Stoke on Trent, Hanley ©
Robert Carter

Private 14888 [Joseph William Haigh](#) had been a greengrocer hawker when he enlisted in 24th (Oldham Comrades) Bn on 2 January 1915. He was transferred to 27th Reserve Bn on 12 August 1915 and solely served at home. Joseph was discharged unfit at Prees Heath with a pension on 7 December 1915.

Joseph Haigh died from pulmonary TB due to service on 1 May 1916, aged 36. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Royton Cemetery](#). Joseph's widow, Clara, had six surviving children and lived at 32 Cromwell Street, Oldham. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial adopted. Headstone 03/11/2024***

Joseph Haigh's new headstone © Andrew Spence

Private 20046 **Henry James Winrow** enlisted on 05/07/1915 and later transferred to the RDC 17737. Discharged sick on 28/06/1917 due to hemiplegia originating Dec 1916 at Wigan.

Henry died of hemiplegia commencing in service on 20/04/1918, aged 51. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Wigan Cemetery. The husband of Minnie Ethel Winrow of 60 Linney Street, Wigan.

Private 28132 **William Robert Clegg** had worked in a cotton mill blowing room when he enlisted in 24th Bn on 21 August 1915. William was a Boer War veteran, having previously served for twelve years in 6th Volunteer Bn. He was transferred to 27th Bn and discharged on 7 April 1916.

William Clegg died from mitral heart disease aggravated by service on 25 October 1917, aged 36. He is buried in an unmarked plot at [Oldham \(Chadderton\) Cemetery](#). His widow, Sarah, lived at 11 Carthage Street, Oldham. The couple had seven children and Sarah re-married a Jonathan Tatterson. **Rejected 09/01/2024**

Private 25691 **Charles Bridge** had been a labourer when he enlisted in 22nd Bn on 15 September 1915. He was posted to serve at home in 27th Reserve Bn and discharged after 32 days on 16 October 1915.

Charles Bridge died on 2 July 1917 from acute pulmonary TB and exhaustion aggravated by active service, aged 30. He was buried in [Phillips Park](#). His widow, Mary Ellen, and two of their four children lived at 13 Holbeck Street, Oldham Road. **Rejected**

Private 20153 [Patrick Dolan](#) was a veteran of the Inniskilling Fusiliers when he re-enlisted on 29 September 1915. He was discharged unfit from the Depot on 2 August 1917.

Patrick Dolan died from bronchitis, due to service, on 13 December 1919, aged 62. The unmarried husband of Catherine Welby of 119 Tame Street, Ancoats. He is buried at Phillips Park. **Accepted 12/12/2024. Burial 04/10/2025.**

Private 33217 **George Thomas Nichols** had been a builder's labourer when he joined 27th Bn at Ashton on 14 February 1916. He was discharged on 20 June 1916.

George Nichols died from TB aggravated by service and laryngeal exhaustion on 3 June 1920. He is buried in an unmarked grave at [Delph Independent Chapelyard](#). His widow, Mary, lived at Bell Yard, Delph, Saddleworth. The couple had five children. **Rejected 31/10/2023.**

The Reserve Bns were re-designated as 69th – 71st Training Reserve at the beginning of September 1916. The Training Reserve was no longer part of the Manchesters; so many men from these Bns received postings to other regiments when they had completed their training.

In October 1917 training for newly conscripted men developed again, returning to training with specific regiments and the creation of 51st and 52nd (Graduated) Bns and 53rd (Young Soldier) Bn. These were located in East Anglia with permanent staff who had generally returned from front line duty – see Samuel Keen above. These Bns served overseas in Germany after the Armistice.

Private 10150 [James Garnett](#) was a time expired veteran of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers when he re-enlisted in the 3rd Bn Loyal North Lancs Regiment on 25/11/1914. He joined the 1st Loyals in France on 04/01/1915. Receiving a splinter in the right eye, James was evacuated home on 13/05/1915. Following recovery, James returned to France on 15/03/1916 and posted to 10th Bn Cheshire Regiment. Following a head wound on 28/07/1916, James was evacuated home again. He was subsequently transferred to 51st Graduated Bn, near Great Yarmouth. James contracted pulmonary TB in July 1918

and was discharged with a pension on 17/02/1919.

James died at his sister, Nancy's, home, of TB attributable to service, on 03/10/1919, aged 38. He is buried in an unmarked plot at Tonge Cemetery, Bolton. Credit [James Garnett Foundation](#). **Approved 01/02/2025.**

Private 95659 **George William Jones** evidently enlisted with 3rd Bn on 16 April 1918. He also served at home with 52nd Graduated Bn prior to his discharge on 29 January 1919.

George Jones died on 12 March 1920, from pulmonary TB attributable to service, at 61 Haughton Road, Audenshaw, aged 19. A domestic motor car driver. The son of Mary Ann Jones who buried her son at Audenshaw Cemetery. **Approved 17/12/2022. Burial adopted 30/10/2023.**

It has not been possible to identify which Bn Private **George Robert Banks** trained with. He was discharged with a pension on 6 January 1919.

George Banks died from TB attributed to service on 6 April 1920, aged 20. He is buried at Salford (Agecroft) Cemetery. The son of Peter and Susannah Banks of 12 Clegg Street, Pendleton. **Rejected 25/04/2024.**

Garrison Battalions

Men determined as unfit for front line service but accepted for military duties began to be posted to the 1st Garrison Bn (GB) when it was formed at Knowsley Park in September 1915. The Battalion embarked for India in February 1916 and 2nd GB was formed at Knowsley Park for further home service men.

Private 26530 [George Conduit](#) had been a gardener labourer when he enlisted in 19th Bn on 5 June 1915. George had previously served six years in 8th Bn. He was posted to 26th (Reserve) Bn and 1st GB thereafter. George

arrived in India with the Bn on 25 February 1916 and later served in Singapore. George returned home in April 1919 and he was transferred to reserve on 3 May 1919.

George Conduit died from TB due to service on 12 December 1920, aged 43. He was buried at [Manchester Southern Cemetery](#). George's widow, Edith, resided at 16 Garden Walk, Ardwick. The couple had two children. No headstone could be identified on the burial. **Approved 29/10/2022. Burial 06/04/2024.**

Company Sergeant Major 18387 [Thomas Clark](#) must have been a welcome addition to 22nd Bn when he transferred from 4th Grenadier Guards in December 1914, previously enlisting as a guardsman on 9 September 1914. Having been discharged from the Grenadiers as a Company Sergeant Major (CSM) in 1913, Thomas had extensive service and he had been wounded in the Boer War. Recognising his experience, Thomas was promoted to CSM with E Company of 20th Bn, as a mainstay for training the Pals for future overseas service.

It must have been determined that Thomas was unfit for duty on the Western Front. He was transferred to 1st GB on 6 September 1915 and embarked for India, where he served from 25 February 1916 until 24 February 1918. Thomas was discharged on 29 May 1918.

Thomas Clark died from TB due to service on 25 April 1919, aged 39. He was buried at [Nottingham Church Cemetery](#). His widow, Kate Clark, and two children lived at 20 Tealby Terrace, Glebe Street, Nottingham. **Approved 05/11/2022. Burial 10/08/2024**

CSM T Clark – 22nd Bn
1915

Private 30641 **Samuel Jones** was a coal miner when he enlisted in the South Lancs on 31/05/1915. He transferred to 1st Garrison Bn of the Manchesters via the KLR and embarked for India on 25/02/1916. Samuel was posted to the 1st GB Lincs Regiment 32516 on 21/07/1918 and embarked for home on 22/02/1919. Joining the Reserve on 25/04/1919. Samuel received a pension of Malaria attributable and commencing in service.

Samuel Jones died from malaria at St Helens Hospital on 11/04/1920, aged 41. He is buried in a common grave at St Helens Cemetery. The husband of Mary Agnes Jones of 8 Railway View, Thatto Heath, St Helens. **Approved 16/12/2025.**

Private 30663 [John Thompson](#) served in India, arriving as a reinforcement for 1st GB on 17 March 1916. John had enlisted in 11th South Lancashires and was posted to 21st (Reserve) Bn of the King's Liverpool Regiment, prior to his transfer to the Manchesters. John contracted malaria and returned home in June 1917. Posted to 3rd Bn, John was discharged on 25 October 1917.

The family headstone omits
John Thompson at St Helens
© Paul Charlesworth

John Thompson died from malaria attributed to service and broncho pneumonia on 24 January 1921, aged 51. He is buried at [St Helens Cemetery](#). In civilian life, John had been

employed at Pilkingtons Glass factory. He was the husband of Jane Elizabeth, 6 Glover St, St Helens. The couple had four children. **Approved 23/02/2023. Burial 22/06/1014.**

Lance Sergeant 30511 [Thomas Edward Clarke](#) had previously served in the Liverpool Scottish when he enlisted in the 19th King's Liverpool Regiment, 21747, on 13 November 1914. He had been a ship's purser prior to enlistment and served at home before transfer to 1st GB, Manchester on 28 August 1915. Thomas was promoted corporal on 3 September and appointed lance sergeant 18 September 1915. He was attached to an aeroplane factory in Peterborough and posted to 2nd GB in January 1916 and Depot on 5 February 1916. Thomas was discharged on 11 July 1917.

Thomas died from pulmonary TB due to service and TB meningitis on 3 February 1918. He is buried in an unmarked grave at [Liverpool \(Anfield\) Cemetery](#). His parents were Thomas and Emma Clarke of 176 Queens Road, Anfield, Liverpool.

Approved
23/02/2023.
Burial
16/09/2024.

Thomas Clarke's new
headstone 2025 © Paul
Charlesworth

Private 18495
[Joseph Patrick Courtney](#) had

worked as a coach trimmer when he enlisted in 20th Bn. He had previously served in the 3rd Militia Bn of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Joseph was posted to 26th Bn, later transferred to 1st and subsequently 2nd GBs. He was discharged at Prescott on 14 April 1916.

Joseph Courtney died at Salford Union Infirmary from bronchitis, emphysema and pulmonary congestion aggravated by service with cardiac muscle failure on 6 June 1916, aged 31. Joseph was buried at [Moston \(St. Joseph's\) Roman Catholic Cemetery](#). Joseph's widow, Elizabeth, with four children lived at 5 Fildes Street, Broughton. No headstone could

be identified on Joseph's grave. Approved
23/02/2023. Burial 25/11/2023.

Pte 79233 George Robert Banks had been a waggoner in a coal mine prior been conscripted into the Regiment. Records do not identify which Bn he served with and George did not qualify for the Great War service medals. He may have served in the British Army of Occupation in Germany, prior to his discharge with pulmonary TB attributable to service on 6 January 1919.

George Banks died at home from TB on 6 April 1920, aged 20. The son of Peter & Susannah Banks, 12 Clegg Street, Pendleton. Records indicate he is buried in a Salford City cemetery.

As a general reservation, the actual commemorations may be found to be different than anticipated. CWGC will decide the most appropriate steps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the Manchester Regiment Forum have been instrumental in this research, particularly Bernard McIlwaine and Paul

Charlesworth. Other Forum members have previous experience of establishing new commemorations for soldiers from the Regiment.

<http://themanchesters.org/forum/index.php>

Terry Denham at In From The Cold Project (IFCP) has provided excellent assistance in establishing criteria for commemoration and suitable records that are needed. Terry reviewed the publication to ensure accuracy on policy and editorial improvement. He has also taken a number of in-service cases forward himself. The project's relationship with MoD / CWGC has also enabled records to be efficiently packaged for applications to be put forward. The late Chris Harley was another key figure at IFCP. Chris had a wide array of data sources and contacts that identified numerous burials that were otherwise hidden.

<http://www.infromthecold.org/>

British Library National Newspaper Archive is acknowledged for all press reports including in this document. Some of these led to finding burials and others provide helpful information on the men concerned.

A wide acknowledgment needs to be provided to all the helpful people in positions to assist with other grave finds. These are generally acknowledged on photos. If anyone is missed, we will add you when you let us know.

Finally, thanks to family members who have provided anecdotes and images of their relatives. These records bring the stories of these dead soldiers alive and help to commemorate men who may otherwise be forgotten. The contribution of family members to the future new commemorations will be a privilege to be part of.

APPENDIX A – RESEARCH DATA

Numerous data sets are available to a researcher in 2020. These permit cross-checking with the CWGC roll to establish

possible missing commemorations. The following list is not exhaustive for resources available for the Manchester Regiment project:-

General Records Office - British Nationals Deaths Overseas

IFCP volunteers identified numerous personnel who died in service, leading to a large number of new commemorations on Memorials to the Missing.

Eleven Manchester Regiment casualties are identified on the Addenda Panels of the Thiepval Memorial. Some of these relate to much earlier additions but eight of the new inscriptions relate to recent Manchester Regiment men identified from CWGC records. An example is Private 9052 John Bull of 17th Battalion who was posted missing, assumed dead on 1st July 1916. John left a widow and three children, residents of Stockport.

Soldiers Died in the Great War

The records of United Kingdom Soldiers Died in the Great War (SDGW) were published soon after hostilities and have been available on-line for many years. It is renowned for some inaccuracies and omissions, notably missing John Bull, above.

A comparison of the roll with CWGC records identified a number of new commemorations. It is thought Bernard had been reviewing SDGW when he identified 1/7th Battalion Privates Gamble, Gibbon, Goulden and Gregory as missing from the CWGC roll in 2006. The common initial G suggests a block of names had been omitted from records passed to the Commission. These have been added to records, along with two other members of the Regiment, including Acting Company Sergeant Major 637 [Thomas Roughton Worthington](#). All these men were casualties of the Gallipoli campaign.

Army Register of Soldier's Effects 1901-1929.

These records identify the sums due to next of kin, names of beneficiary, war gratuity and often cause of death. Soldiers Effects' rolls enable a sequential review with CWGC records and many non- commemorations have been found with this data, especially helpful for the period after the Armistice, when overseas losses were reduced. The location of death is sometimes provided, for some review of casualties at home.

Published Casualty Lists

Bernard reviewed a published list of 2nd Manchesters casualties at Hillah in July 1920 and found a number of omissions from CWGC records. Three further Hillah casualties from the Regiment are now recorded for the Addenda Panel of the [Basra Memorial](#) in 2009. A 1/6th Battalion soldier and fifth member of the Regiment is also a recent addition at Basra. Private 78610 Charles Henry Brown drowned in the River Tigris in May 1920.

There are apparent recent Manchester Regiment additions to other overseas Memorials to the Missing, including Arras (2), Le Touret (1), Menin Gate (1), Pozieres (2), Tyne Cot (1), Vis-en-Artois (2) – April 2020.

Service and Pension Records

The War Office records were bombed by the Luftwaffe in the Blitz. Many records were lost and the remainder, known as Burnt Records, have pages missing or illegible text. These are a great resource for clarifying details service details for an individual. The records are invaluable for identifying health conditions for men who died after discharge and any indication of whether this cause was related to service. Cause of death after discharge is not generally specified.

Pension Record Ledger and Cards

The Western Front Association secured these records and they are still in the process of being digitised, indexed and published. All of the cards for casualties have recently been published and these form the backbone of

data for the current project. The data is not always consistent and may include date and cause of discharge and death. Dependents details may also be available and record of any pension award. The key asset of the cards would be the response to the question on whether the disability pension was attributable to or aggravated by service. This response was generally omitted, presumably because officials were principally determining a pension award. The missing data often means a commemoration cannot be justified, even though other data and dependent's pension award may have been agreed.

Medal Index Cards and Rolls

These records seldom assist in identifying non-commemorations. They are principally used to verify battalion detail, date of entry to a theatre of war or dates of enlistment and discharge.

War Memorials and Rolls of Honour

General curiosity and the Centenary produced further interest in the commemorations in the local community and extensive records online. Research was undertaken on the Co-operative Wholesale Society War Memorial in Manchester. This identified Cpl 8937 Joseph Locker as having died from tuberculosis after being discharged from 2nd Manchesters. Pension records show that Joseph's condition had been aggravated by his service on the Western Front and he was accepted for commemoration in 2016. Joseph was initially included in the United Kingdom Book of Remembrance and subsequently inscribed on the Brookwood 1914-18 Memorial. The honour and satisfaction of this case was underlined when Joseph's grave was found at Agecroft Cemetery in Salford.

Grave Inscriptions

Enthusiasts for local heritage, genealogy and military history regularly post photographs of interesting headstones on social media. This sometimes precipitates research and these circumstances led to the current application

for commemoration of Lieutenant Joseph Cotterill. He had died from broncho pneumonia at home in Monton, Eccles on 6th November 1914, aged 46. Joseph is buried in Peel Green Cemetery, Eccles. The headstone also commemorates Joseph's son, William, who died in Belgium eleven days after his father. The inscription for Joseph states "Who Died Whilst Serving His Country". This statement provided the initial impetus for his research.

The principal reservation about this project is the outstanding cases where cause of death is unconfirmed. If the death certificates were free of charge throughout the United Kingdom, many more new commemorations might be identified.

Appendices are being updated

Officers' Service Files

Free access is available to read the hard copies of Officers Service Files held in the National Archives at Kew. The index system is unlikely to assist in the identification of further non-commemorations. Nevertheless, the file for [Joseph Cotterill](#) has proved invaluable to provide evidence to prove that he was still serving when he died with the resulting justification for an application for War Grave status.

Death Certificates

The General Register Office records all deaths in England and Wales as well as those occurring overseas. This provides accurate and key data to assess new cases for commemoration, principally cause of death. Occupation, age, relatives and addresses are also found, helping to build a profile of men for new commemorations.

Scottish death certificates are available online through Scotland's People for a small charge and they provide similar information but with additional details relating to the casualty's next-of-kin.

Similar data has been reviewed in Ireland, where access is free (excluding for deaths occurring in Northern Ireland post 1922 which are available for a charge through the Northern Ireland GRO).

APPENDIX B – ROLL OF HONOUR – DEATH IN-SERVICE?

Deaths that occurred that may have been during embodied service.

APPENDIX C – ROLL OF HONOUR – DISABILITY DUE TO SERVICE. UNKNOWN CAUSE OF DEATH

APPENDIX D – ROLL OF HONOUR – WAS DEATH A CONSEQUENCE OF SERVICE?

Cases where cause of death is known but records do not identify if this was a consequence of service.
Cases where men were discharged with serious conditions that was a consequence of service, but cause of death is not known.

APPENDIX E – ROLL OF HONOUR –DISABILITY MAY RELATE TO SERVICE. UNKNOWN CAUSE OF DEATH

Men were discharged with serious medical conditions that is unconfirmed as being consequence of service. Cause of death is unknown.

APPENDIX F – ROLL OF HONOUR – UNKNOWN CAUSE OF DEATH AND DISCHARGE

Unknown condition on discharge and cause of death

APPENDIX G – ROLL OF HONOUR – UNRELATED DEATHS?

Deaths appear unrelated to service.

Deaths appear unrelated to service. Part 2.

Deaths appear unrelated to service

[17th Battalion Manchester Regiment on the Somme](#)

A website about my grandad's service in the Battle of the Somme with the 2nd Manchester Pals.

<https://17thmanchesters.wordpress.com/>

[The Steel Helmet Film - Montauban 1st July 1916](#)

A film with contemporary drone footage, archive photos and original interviews recounting the Manchester Pals on First Day of the Battle of the Somme.

<https://vimeo.com/140211157>

[Manchester Co-op's Battle of the Somme](#)

Recruitment and Losses in the Battle of the Somme, using the Case Study of Co-Operative Wholesale Society Head Office in Manchester.

https://issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/cws_manchester_and_1914_recruitment

[Machine Gun Corps at Montauban supporting 17th Manchesters](#)
issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/machine_gun_corps_at_montauban

[Two Men in the 2nd Battle of Ypres. King's Own Lancasters and Hampshire Regiment](#)

A search for lost relatives commemorated on the Menin Gate.

https://issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/two_men_at_the_2nd_battle_of_ypres

[Military Biography of Captain R Mansergh MC - 2nd Manchester Pals](#)

issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/captain_robert_forbes_mansergh_mc

[Military Biography of Captain John Edward](#)

[Brown](#) Served in Victorian Rifle Volunteers, East Yorkshire Regiment and Army Cyclist Corps.

https://issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/john_edward_brown

[Military Biography of the Marillier-Miller Family](#)

Three brothers who served in the Great War with the Manchester Regiment, Seaforth Highlanders, Machine Gun Corps and Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

https://issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/marillier_miller

[Lieutenant Joseph Cotterill](#). New

commemoration of Army officer who died in 1914.

https://issuu.com/battlefieldsleuth/docs/lieutenant_joseph_cotterill

[GUEST BOOK | 17th Battalion Manchester Regiment on the Somme](#)

Comments, corrections or further thoughts are welcome via the Blog.

<https://17thmanchesters.wordpress.com/guest-book/>

Or Twitter @TigersTimBell

