

# FOUR CEMETERIES

# AND A WAR

JULY – SEPTEMBER 1914

Ever since the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, in Serbia in late June the rumblings of war have swept across Europe.

Governments throughout the area have aligned themselves with their 'friends'. We are aligned with France and Russia being called the Triple Entente



Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie

## Mobilisation

Proclamations read in London

The proclamations for the British mobilisation were read this morning on the Royal Exchange steps in London by the common crier:

1. Calling out Royal Naval Reserve officers
2. Extending time limit of time expired men in the navy for five years
3. Calling out men of the Royal Fleet Reserve and officers and men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
4. Authorising the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to requisition any ships within the British Isles or waters adjacent
5. Bank Holidays August 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the United Kingdom
6. Prohibiting the exportation of war like stories

An immense crowd was present and raised loud cheers as each proclamation was read, hats being waved enthusiastically when the words 'God save the King' were spoken at the end of each proclamation.

(MEN 4.8.14)

About 8pm on Tuesday night (August 4<sup>th</sup>), police officers posted on the ancient Eccles Cross the Proclamations calling up the Army Reservist and requiring the Territorial's to report themselves to headquarters.

Notices were also posted at the Town Hall and other public buildings.

(E&PJ 7.8.14)

The following statement was issued from the Foreign Office at 12:15 Wednesday morning:-

"Owing to the summary rejection, by the German Government, on the request made by His Majesty's Government for assurances that the neutrality of Belgium would be respected.

His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin has received his passports and His Majesty's Government has declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11pm on August 4<sup>th</sup>

(E&PJ 7.8.14)

All military reservists and territorial's to report to their bases.

(E&PJ 7.8.14)

The Defence of the Realm Act was introduced on August 8<sup>th</sup> 1914.

This stated that **NO ONE** is allowed:

1. to talk about naval or military matters in public places
2. to spread rumours about military matters
3. to buy binoculars
4. to trespass on railway lines or bridges
5. to melt down gold or silver
6. to light bonfires or fireworks
7. to give bread to horses or chickens
8. to use invisible ink when writing abroad
9. to buy brandy or whisky in a railway refreshment room
10. to ring church bells.

The government could also

1. take over any factory or workshop
2. take to the courts any civilian breaking these laws
3. take over any land it wanted to
4. censor newspapers

(Government proclamation 8.8.14)

## H.G.Wells

The famous novelist called the conflict 'The War to End All Wars'

(14.8.14)

## Local Territorial's

There were no further departures of the Territorials who are mobilised in Manchester and Salford yesterday.

In quietening the rumours of yesterday the 'Manchester Courier' is able to state definitely that the whole of the East Lancashire Division will go into camp at Turton and Edgeworth between Bolton and Darwin.

(MC 19.8.14)

## Peace Terms Declaration signed by Triple Entente

The Press Bureau issued the following statement from the Foreign Office on Saturday afternoon

## Declaration

The undersigned duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments hereby declare as follows:

The British, French and Russian Governments mutual engage not to concede peace separately during the present war. The three Governments agree that when terms of peace come to be discussed no one of the Allies will demand terms of peace without the previous agreement of each of the Allies.

In faith whereof the undersigned have signed this Declaration and have affixed therein their seals

Done at London, in triplicate the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 1914.

E.Gray

His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Paul Cambon

Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic

Benckendorff  
Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of His  
Majesty the Emperor of Russia  
(R 12.9.14)

### King's message to his troops

The following is the text of the King's message to his troops,  
delivered before their departure to France:

'You are leaving home to fight for the safety and honour of my  
Empire. Belgium, whose country we are pledged to defend,  
has been attacked. France is about to be invaded by the  
same powerful foe.

I have implicit confidence in you, my soldiers. Duty is your  
watchword.

And I your duty will be nobly done. I shall follow your every  
movement with the deepest of interest and mark with eager  
satisfaction your daily progress.

Indeed, your welfare will never be absent from my thoughts.  
I pray God to bless and guard you and bring you back  
victorious.

(E&PJ 21.8.14)



### The Great War

(First time the war was this called this Ed.)

Salford Corporation Employees Join the Army  
First List of Names

The following is a list of the employees of the Salford  
Corporation who have joined the Army as Reservists or  
Territorial's –

#### Town Clerks Department

G.Evans, secretarial clerk, Private  
F.Townson, clerk, Lieutenant

#### Borough Treasure's Department

J. Gee, book keeper, Trooper  
J.R. Bishop, book keeper, Sergeant  
H.J. Smith, junior clerk, Private  
E. Fernhead, prepayment meter collection, Quarter Master  
Sergeant  
E. Anderson, assistant cashier, Lieutenant  
A. Barlow, prepayment meter collection, Sergeant  
C. Thacker, junior clerk, Private

#### Health Department

W.H. Walker, disinfecter, Private  
G.W. Ong, disinfecter, Sergeant

(R.12.9.1914)

THE REPORTER, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1914.

# SALFORD BATTALION, LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS.

A recruitment poster for the Salford Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. At the top, it reads 'THE REPORTER, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1914.' Below this, the title 'SALFORD BATTALION, LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS.' is printed in large, bold letters. The central illustration shows a woman in a classical-style dress standing on a stage, pointing her right hand towards a sign. The sign reads 'G. O. R. YOUR KING AND COUNTRY NEED YOU JOIN THE ARMY - TODAY -'. In front of the stage, a crowd of men in military uniforms is gathered, looking towards the woman and the sign. The background shows a landscape with a river and buildings.

HON. COLONEL: EARL OF DERBY, K.G. OFFICER COMMANDING: COLONEL MOSS, V.D.  
RECRUITING STATION: PENDLETON TOWN HALL, OPEN 10 A.M. TILL 8 P.M.

### Soldiers Dependants Scale of pay in Salford

The dependants of soldiers in Salford who have not received their allowances owing to the Regimental Paymasters not having supplied the necessary papers, will be paid at the following rates by Salford authorities

Wife only	12/6	(today £50.42)
Wife and one child	14/6	(today £58.49)
Wife and two children	16/6	(today £66.56)
Wife and three children	18/6	(today £74.63)
Wife and four children	20/0	(today £80.67)
Wife and five children	21/0	(today £84.70)
Wife and six children	22/0	(today £88.73)
Wife and seven children	23/0	(today £92.76)
Wife and eight children	24/0	(today £96.79)

(R. 26.9.1914)



### Local Men Wounded

The War Office has issued the following received from General Headquarters of the Expeditionary Force

#### Officer Wounded

Lieut. E.J. Groves  
Cheshire Regiment

#### Wounded

Pte. J. Bichenough (8442)  
Albion St., Kings Own Royal Lancasters

L/Cp Robert E Smith (2577)  
Croft Street, Manchester Regiment

Pte. Edward Chapman (2769)  
Russell Street, Lancashire Fusiliers

Pte. John McFoely (3467)  
Caroline Street Lancashire Fusiliers

Pte. John Barnes (2479)  
Davey Street, Manchester Regiment

Pte. John Colman (9564)  
Hodge Lane, Manchester Regiment

L/Cp John Harwood (1600)  
Barker Street, Manchester Regiment

L/Cp S. Johnson (968)  
Peter Street, Manchester Regiment

Pte. W. Midgley (8488)  
Prescott Street, Manchester Regiment

Pte. J. Hall (8428)  
Anderson Street Kings Own Royal Lancasters

L/Cp William Hall (8637)  
Brewer Street, Kings Own Royal Lancasters

(R.19.9.1914)

### Eccles man wounded

Robert Rheubottom, 15, Paradise Street, Eccles Reservist of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers arrived home Monday evening. He was wounded on 13<sup>th</sup> September whilst following up the retreating Germans after the battle of the Marse and for a fortnight has been at as Glasgow hospital, unable to walk.

The Inniskillings, the Essex Regiment and the Fusiliers were advancing. When the Fusiliers were ordered to advance over hilly ground and it was whilst doing so that Rheubottom received a shrapnel splinter in the calf of his left leg. He crawled for about a mile to the shelter of a wood and was subsequently picked up by the Medical Corps.

All along the line of the advance he states dead and wounded Germans were lying on the ground, proof of the accuracy of British rifle fire and the deadly character of the artillery fire of both sides.

'But don't state' I am keen to go back, Rheubottom frankly told the Journal reporter.

'I will go back when I have to but its no picnic'.

'The havoc and destruction wrought by the retreating' Germans he added 'was awful to see.'

(EPJ 22.9.14)

### Chronology of the War

28<sup>th</sup> June Francis Ferdinand assassinated at **Sarajevo**

5<sup>th</sup> July Kaiser William II promised German support for Austria against Serbia

28<sup>th</sup> July Austria declared war on Serbia

1<sup>st</sup> Aug Germany declared war on Russia

3<sup>rd</sup> Aug Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium.

Germany had to implement the Schlieffen Plan.

4<sup>th</sup> Aug Britain declared war on Germany

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug The BEF started its retreat from **Mons**. Germany invaded France.

26<sup>th</sup> Aug Russian army defeated at **Tannenberg** and **Masurian Lakes**.

6<sup>th</sup> Sept **Battle of the Marne** started

13<sup>th</sup> Sept French troops attack German Army at the River Aisne



This quarter the following are remembered on headstones at Eccles Cemetery (now Peel Green)

Surname	Christian Name	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	Batt /Ship	Address	CWGC	Plot	Grave
<b>Cheetham</b>	Ernest	29	26-Aug-1914	8199	Private	Manchester Regiment	2nd		La Ferte-Sous	J	13525
<b>Sims</b>	William H	31	14-Sep-1914	5095	Rifleman	Kings Royal Rifle Corps	2nd		La Ferte-Sous	H	11534

### Ernest Cheetham



Before the war Ernest worked at Winterbottoms Book Cloth Company in Weaste.

He was on holiday in Blackpool with his family when he was called up.

Being an army reservist he was one of the first batch of men in the area to be called to arms, with the 2nd Battalion of Manchester Regiment.

Ernest was reported wounded and missing after the retreat from Mons.

He played in the second team at Salford Rugby Club.

His brother was due to retire from the Navy, after twelve years service but the outbreak of war halted it.

He is acting as servant to the Commodore on HMS Zealander.

Ernest was killed in action.

He left a wife and young child.

On the family headstone at Peel Green Cemetery remembering him, it states 'Duty nobly done'

### William Henry Sims

William was born in Salford, the son of William Henry and Alice Sims, of 46, John St., Pendleton.

He married Bessie Moore Davies in late 1907 in Barrow.

On the 1911 census the family are living at 9 Wallace Street in the town of Barrow and William is recorded as being ships fitter.

On the CWGC Bessie is recorded as living at 2, Mary St., Pendleton when William died.

William enlisted in November 1892 when aged 18, with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, when the following were recorded:-

Height            5 feet 5 ¾ inches                    (1.67 meters)

Weight            118 pounds                            (53.5 Kg)

He had a fresh complexion with grey eyes and brown hair.

He was called up with the Army Reserves and immediately went to France, serving on the Western Front he fought in the Battle of and retreat from Mons. On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914 he was reported missing

## This quarter the following are remembered on headstones at Weaste Cemetery

Surname	Christian Name	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	Batt /Ship	Address	CWGC	Plot	Grave
Burns	William	28	16-9-1914	9893	L / Corp	Manchester Regiment	2nd		La Ferte-Sous	J	720
Phelan	John	30	22-9-1914	SS 100695	Stoker 1st Class	Royal Navy	HMS Aboukir	Little Hannah Street	Chatham	A3	325

### John Phelan

During the early months of World War 1 the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers, known as Cruiser Force C, in the area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens.

There was opposition to this patrol from many senior officers, including Admiral Jellicoe and Commodores Keyes and Tyrwhitt, on the grounds that the ships were very vulnerable to a raid by modern German surface ships and the patrol was nick named the "live bait squadron".

The Admiralty maintained the patrol on the grounds that destroyers were not able to maintain the patrol in the frequent bad weather and that there were insufficient modern light cruisers available.

In the early hours of September 20th 1914 the cruisers HMS Euryalus, HMS Aboukir, HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy were preparing to go on patrol under Rear Admiral Christian in Euryalus.

Normally the patrol was under command of Rear Admiral Campbell in HMS Bacchantes but he was absent so Christian helped fill the gap although he had other duties. The weather was too bad for destroyers to be at sea and unfortunately Euryalus had to drop out due to lack of coal and weather damage to her wireless, Rear Admiral Christian had to remain with his ship rather than transfer to another ship as the weather was too bad to transfer. He delegated command to Captain Drummond in Aboukir although he did not make it clear that Drummond had the authority to order the destroyers to sea if the weather improved, which it did towards the end of September 21st.

Early on September 22nd 1914 the German submarine U9 under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen sighted the Cressy, Aboukir and Hogue steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging.

Although the patrols were supposed to maintain 12-13 knots and zigzag the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored as there had been no submarines sighted in the area during the war.

U9 manoeuvred to attack and at about 6.25am fired a single torpedo at Aboukir, which stuck her on her port side. Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power.

It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned, although only one boat had survived the attack so most crew had to jump into the sea.

At first Drummond thought that Aboukir had been mined and signalled the other two cruisers to close and assist but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late.

Recorded on the Phelan family memorial at Weaste Cemetery.

Unfortunately very hard see, the relevant section reads

'Also, JOHN dear son of the above  
Killed in Action 1914'

## **William Burns**

William was born in Salford in 1886 and resided in Alderley Street, Salford, although he enlisted in Ashton under Lyne. The 1901 census records that 15 year old William was a Brass Turner apprentice, residing at 19 Croft Street, Salford. His parents were George and Alice Burns. George's occupation was given as fishmonger in 1891, fishmonger hawker in 1901 and fish market porter in 1911.

William joined the 2nd battalion Manchester Regiment which was stationed at Curragh in Ireland in August 1914, as part of the 14th Brigade and 5th Division. On 7th August it was mobilised and landed at Le Havre, France and was in action on the Western Front. The Battalion took part in the Battle of Mons (28th August) and subsequent retreat, the Battle of Le Cateau (commencing 26th August), the Battle of the Marne (6th September), and the Battle of the Aisne (12th September), where William was killed on 16th September.

The first battle of the Aisne (13th to 28th September 1914) marked the end of mobile warfare on the Western Front and the start of a period of static trench warfare that would last until 1918. The German army had been defeated in the First Battle of the Marne and retreated to the River Aisne, where it dug in and fortified high ground north of the river.

William is remembered at La Ferte-sous-Jouarre, a small town 66 kilometres to the east of Paris on the N3. The war memorial is situated in a small park on the south western edge of the town, on the south bank of the River Marne. The memorial commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne, between the end of August and early October 1914 and have no known graves.

On the family headstone at Weaste Cemetery remembering him, it states  
'Peace with Honour'

# CAN

## The Belgians & Salford

On 24th July, the Belgian government had announced that if war came it would remain neutral and mobilised its armed forces on 31st July. The Germans sent an ultimatum demanding passage through their country and when Belgium refused, Britain guaranteed military support. The German government declared war on Belgium on 4th August and troops crossed the border and attacked Liege.

Liege fell on 7th August, followed by fortresses along the River Meuse, which surrendered by 17th August. The government abandoned Brussels that same day and it was occupied by the Germans on 20th. The army withdrew westwards to Antwerp on 19th. The German policy of *schrecklichkeit* (frightfulness) against the Belgian civilians included massacres, executions, hostage taking and burning towns and villages, and became known as the "Rape of Belgium". Many Belgians fled to England, and Salford was one of the first towns to welcome them.

The Salford Reporter of 10th October says "Sympathy for the Belgian people in their sufferings at the hands of Germany has been very marked in this country and the people of Salford have not been slow in helping the refugees. The Mayor Alderman Alfred Worsley, has shown an interest in their welfare, as have many leading citizens.

At Vine Street, Kersal, a retreat has been established for their accommodation.

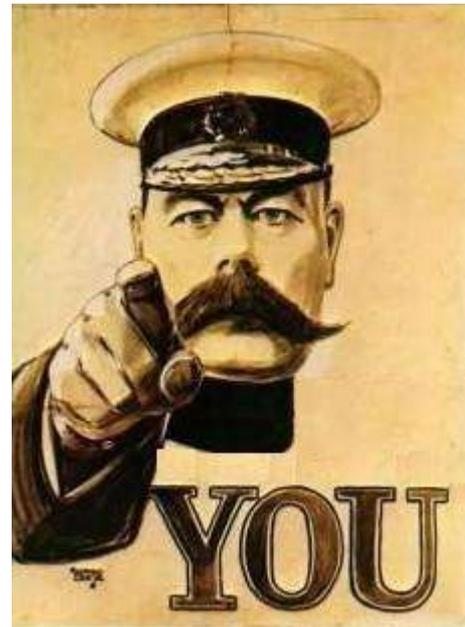
One of Salford's leading citizens was Mrs Elizabeth Higson, wife of Alderman James Higson (who was destined to become Salford's Mayoress in 1916 – 17). In her obituary in the Salford Reporter of 12th July 1919 it said "As soon as Antwerp was invaded and the Belgians began to pour into England, Mrs Higson formed a committee and offered to make provision for a number of refugees.

They approached Sir George Agnew for the use of his untenanted house, Summer Hill, Eccles Old Road, and he gladly agreed.

Later she negotiated the use of Primrose Hill, Pendleton, for use as a school."

After the war, a grateful King Albert of Belgium awarded her the Order of Saint Elisabeth – the highest order for women in Belgium.

King George V honoured her with the MBE.



## Help us?

We are going to produce this quarterly news sheet.....following the Great War but from 100 years later.

So we will be reporting on events of spring 1915 in the spring of 2015.

We got a list of over 1000 people killed in the Great War who are remembered on headstones in **Weaste** Cemetery.

At Peel Green there over 300 of such headstones.

At **Swinton** there about 60 and currently 130 on the **Agecroft** list which is not yet completed.

We want to ask family's to tell us the story of their ancestors who served in the Great War that are remembered on a headstone at one of the four Cemeteries.

This news sheet produced by

'Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust'  
With lots of help from

Duncan McCormick - Salford Local History Museum  
Gary Hemlsey - 'SWARM' (Salford War Memorials)

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