

FOUR CEMETERIES AND A WAR

JANUARY - MARCH 1916

ISSUE 7

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916

Applies to Unmarried Men who, on August 15th, 1915, were 18 years of age or over and who will not be 41 years of age on March 2nd, 1916.

ALL MEN, NOT EXCEPTED OR EXEMPTED, between these ages who on November 2nd, 1915, were unmarried or widowers without any child dependent on them will on

THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1916,

Be deemed to be Enlisted for the Period of the War.

THEY WILL BE PLACED IN THE RESERVE UNTIL CALLED UP IN THEIR CLASS.

MEN EXCEPTED :

SOLDIERS, including Territorials who have volunteered for Foreign Service ;

MEN serving in the **NAVY** or **ROYAL MARINES** ;

MEN DISCHARGED FROM ARMY OR NAVY, disabled or ill, or **TIME-EXPIRED MEN** ;

MEN REJECTED for the Army since August 14th, 1915 ;

CLERGYMEN, PRIESTS and **MINISTERS OF RELIGION** ;

VISITORS from the **DOMINIONS**.

Men who may be exempted by Local Tribunals :

Men more useful to the Nation in their present employments ;

Men in whose case Military Service would cause serious hardship owing to exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position ;

Men who are ill or infirm ;

Men who conscientiously object to combatant service. If the Tribunal thinks fit, men may, on this ground, be (a) exempted from combatant service only (not non-combatant service), or (b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National importance.

Up to March 2nd, a man can apply to his Local Tribunal for a certificate of exemption. There is a Right of Appeal. He will not be called up until his case has been dealt with finally.

Certificates of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary. Such certificates can be renewed, varied or withdrawn.

Men retain their Civil Rights until called up and are amenable to Civil Courts only.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MARCH 2nd.
ENLIST VOLUNTARILY NOW

For fuller particulars of the Act, please apply for Leaflet No. 64 to the nearest Post Office, Police Station, or Recruiting Office.

Printed by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, London. Poster No. 154

The Abbey Press, Westminster, S.W.

After months of argument and consultation, the government issued the Military Services Act. Issued on 27th January 1916, the Act brought conscription into effect for the first time in the war. Along with the Defence of the Realm Act, it was possibly the most important piece of legislation in placing Britain onto a "total war" footing.

Every British male subject who

- on 15 August 1915 was ordinarily resident in Great Britain and who had attained the age of 19 but was not yet 41 and
- on 2 November 1915 was unmarried or a widower without dependent children

Unless he met certain exceptions or had met the age of 41 before the appointed date, was deemed to have enlisted for general service with the colours or in the reserve and was forthwith transferred to the reserve.

He now came under the controls specified in the Army Act.

This was as of Thursday 2 March 1916.

Provision was made under Section 20 of the Reserve Forces Act 1882, for information being obtained from the man with regard to his preference for service in the Navy.

The Admiralty had the first right of call on men who expressed this preference.

Men were encouraged to voluntarily enlist under the Group System (Derby Scheme) before the Act came into place.

Schedule of Exceptions (i.e. categories of men who were not deemed to have enlisted)

- Men ordinarily resident in the Dominions abroad, or resident in Britain only for the purpose of their education or some other special purpose.
- Existing members of the regular or reserve forces or of the Territorial Force who are liable for Foreign Service or who are, in the opinion of the Army Council, not suitable for Foreign Service.
- Men serving in the Navy or Royal Marines or who are recommended for exception by the Admiralty.
- Men in Holy Orders or regular ministers of any religious denomination.
- Men who had served with the military or Navy and been discharged on grounds of ill-health or termination of service.
- Men who hold a certificate of exemption or who have offered themselves for enlistment since 4 August 1914 but been rejected.

Claiming exemption from military service

An application may be made before the appointed date to a Local Tribunal for the issue of a certificate of exemption. There were four grounds for exemption:

- If it is expedient in the national interests that he should be engaged in other work, or, if he is being educated or trained for any other work, that he should continue
- If serious hardship would ensue owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position
- Ill health or infirmity
- Conscientious objection to the undertaking of combatant service.

Certificates of exemption could also be granted by any Government department to men or classes or bodies of men in their employ, where it appears more convenient for this to take place than by individual application to Local Tribunal.

A certificate could be absolute, conditional or temporary.

Exemptions for continued education or training and those on financial hardship grounds could only be temporary.

If the conditions under which an exemption was granted changed, it was the duty of the person to inform the authorities.

A fine of up to £50 could be applied if he did not do so.

False statements or misrepresentation at time of application for exemption could lead to imprisonment with hard labour for up to six months.

A duplicate certificate could be issued on payment of one shilling.
A system of Local, Appeal and Central Tribunals was arranged.
Each registration district as defined in the National Registration Act 1915 would have a Local Tribunal or Tribunals, consisting of between 5 and 25 members each.
A Tribunal could work through a committee that it could appoint.
There would also be Appeal and Central Tribunals with members appointed by the Crown. Any person aggrieved by the decision of a Local Tribunal could make an appeal.

Army Council Instruction 386 (19th February 1916) made it clear that official War Service badges issued to those on War Office, Admiralty or Ministry of Munitions work before 1st March 1916 would count as though they were a certificate of exemption.

Classes

Men were allocated into a Class, which was connected with the year of their birth, and were notified that they would be called up by Class.

Class 1 was for those born in 1897.

They were 18 years old.

They were told they would not be called up until they were aged 19.

Class 2 was for those born in 1896,

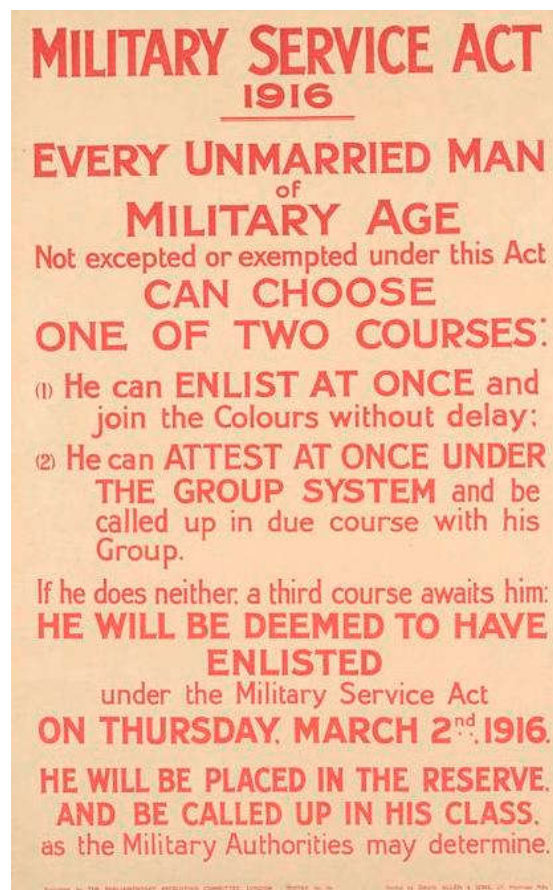
Class 3 for 1895 and so on up to **Class 23** for those born in 1875.

A Public Proclamation was placed in prominent spots, advising the public the date on which a particular Class would begin call up.

This was deemed to be sufficient notice, but in addition generally each man received an individual notice.

It was the individual's responsibility to be alert to such notices and to report himself for duty.

There were penalties for not reporting and for inducing or assisting a reservist to absent himself.



German Prisoner's Funeral

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, at Leigh Cemetery, of Ernst Heinrich Rabbow, aged 21 years. He was a private in the 211th Reserve Infantry Regiment of the German Army. He died on Sunday at the Leigh Interment Camp, after suffering a long time from consumption.

He came to Leigh with one of the contingents of Germany military prisoners from Templemore on 15th January 1915. He was then in delicate health and had been an inmate of the camp hospital ever since. He was the smallest soldier in the camp, being considerably under 5 feet (1.52 metres)

The cortège was headed by a firing party of 14.

Six of the deceased's comrades who acted as bearers walked alongside the hearse. Behind came eight more German soldiers in uniform carrying beautiful wreaths, the rear being brought up by a small contingent of the camp guards with rifles at the slope and fixed bayonets.

The crowd was very respectful.

At the graveside three volleys were fired and the 'Last Post' sounded.

This is the third death from natural causes among the prisoners.

A forth German was shot dead whilst attempting to escape.

All are in the same grave, which has on it an obelisk carved by another prisoner in the camp.

(Leigh Chronicle 17th March 1916)



Crowds line King Street in Leigh town centre in 1915 as captured German prisoners of war are escorted towards the canal bridge heading for the POW camp at Lilford Weaving shed

(Leigh Journal)

Verdun

On the 21st February the Germans started a large offensive at the French front just north of Verdun. It began with a nine hour barrage from 1240 artillery guns firing high explosive and gas shells along the eight mile front.

The attack did not go well until on the 25th February the Germans took the most important fort in the French defence line. 'Fort Douaumont' had been considered impregnable and is sited about four miles from Verdun



From Wereldoorlog1418/Verdun web page

On the same day, the French appointed General Henri Philippe Pétain in charge of the forces at Verdun. He firstly re organised the defence line issuing the slogan 'Ils ne passeront pas' (They shall not pass). He also improved the rate the front line was resupplied and improved the coordination of the French artillery.

A narrow road from Bar –Le-Due into Verdun was created for supplies and reinforcements, this became the main route.

This road became known as La Voie Sacrée (The Sacred Way)



General Pétain

March 2nd

One of the French defenders of Fort Vaux, Captain Charles de Gaulle, is wounded and captured by the Germans. The fort is one of Verdun's key defences.

German machines of War: Zeppelins and U -boats

Big Air Raid

Six or seven Zeppelins visit England

At twenty minutes to two this morning the Press Bureau issued the following announcement received from the War Office:

A Zeppelin raid by six or seven airships took place last night, over the Eastern, North Eastern, and Midland counties.

A number of bombs were dropped, but up to the present no considerable damaged has been reported.

Manchester was in almost complete darkness for rather more than an hour last night.

An alarm that Zeppelins were approaching put to the test the arrangements for plunging the Manchester area into darkness.

The first warning of Zeppelins arrived about 7pm, when the streets were already in the semi-obscurity which the Lighting Order enforces within two hours of sunset.

Word was sent to the managers of theatres and picture houses that they should be prepared for the cutting off of the electric light.

An hour later the Chief Constable gave the orders to the engineers at the electricity works to switch off all current.

The public had known for many months that the lights would be extinguished if there was danger or supposed danger from Zeppelin attacks, and when the streets declined into a deeper gloom, and the cars stopped where they happened to be, the explanation, spontaneous everywhere, was that the approach of enemy air craft must be suspected.

The theatres and music halls there was perfect composure.

At one music hall the first performance was stopped half way and the second half was abandoned

The picture houses being dependant on electricity for their lanterns were obliged to stop.

The gas lighting in the street was reduced and the principle squares were entirely without lights.

At 9pm the Chief Constable decided, in the absence of further warnings that the electric current should be turned back on.

Within 15 minutes the city was back to normal.

Since the war started there have been 29 Zeppelin raids over Britain.

133 men (17 of whom were soldiers), 90 women and 43 children have been killed.



On January 31st the German submarine U-17 was commanded by Hans Walther sank four fishing boats in the North Sea.

FV Arthur William a 56 ton smack built in Brixham.

The vessel was stopped by Walther, the crew were removed and the vessel scuttled 30 miles south east of Lowestoft

FV Radium a 59 ton smack built in Lowestoft

The vessel was stopped by Walther, the crew were removed and the vessel scuttled 25 miles east south east of Lowestoft

FV Hilda a 44 ton smack built in Galmpton

The vessel was stopped by Walther, the crew were removed and the vessel scuttled about 25 miles east south east of Southwold.

Marguerite a 32 ton Belgium fishing vessel was stopped by Wakther, the crew were removed and the vessel sunk near Lowestoft

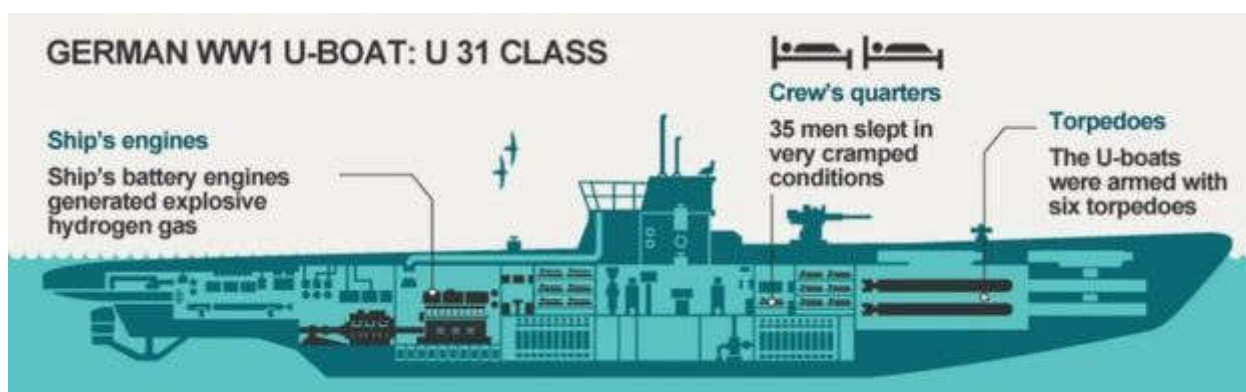
On February 1st **SS Franz Fischer** a 957 steamer, on a voyage from Hartlepool to Cowes with a cargo of coal, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-17 about 2 miles south of Kentish Knock light vessel. 13 persons were lost.

British sources thought the ship was sunk by a Zeppelin, however time and location match agree with sinking claim in U 17's Commander by Ralph Wenninger.

Merchant shipping Losses to U-boats

Period	Mediterranean		Total	
	Ships	Gross Ton	Ships	Gross Ton
Oct – Dec 1915	80	293,423	140	361,326
Jan 1916			25	49,610
Feb 1916			44	95,090
Mar 1916			69	160,536

Source: P. G. Halpern, *A Naval History of World War I*, (London: UCL Press, 1994), p. 308.



During the First World War, shipping from Newhaven was diverted to operate from Folkestone in order to free Newhaven for supplying British troops on the Western Front.

On 24th March 1916, TSS 'Sussex' was on a voyage from Folkestone to Dieppe when she was torpedoed by The German U –boat UB-29.

The ship was severely damaged, with the entire bow forward of the bridge blown off

Some of the lifeboats were launched, but at least two of them capsized and many passengers were drowned.

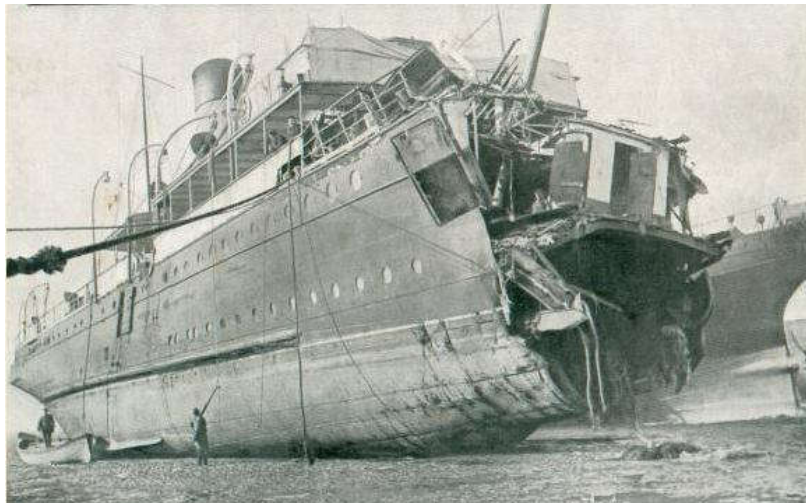
Of the 53 crew and 325 passengers at least 50 were killed, although a figure of between 80 and 100 is also suggested. *Sussex* remained afloat and was eventually towed stern-first into Boulogne harbour

The dead included the celebrated Spanish composer Enrique Granados, his wife Amparo, a Persian prince, Bahram Mirza Sardar Mass'oud, and British tennis player Manliff Goodbody.

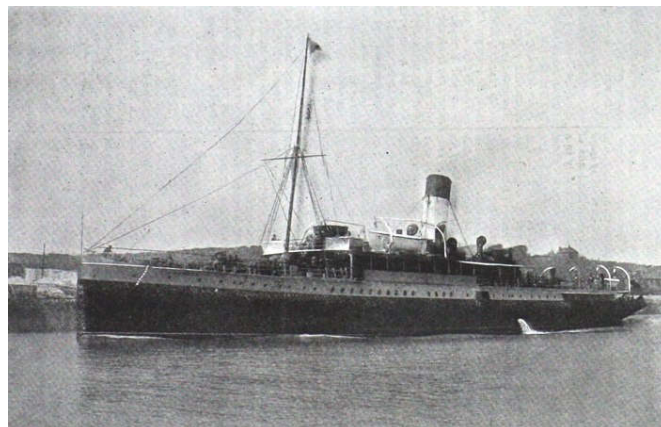
Several Americans were injured.

Although no US citizens were killed, the incident enraged public opinion in the United States, and caused a heated diplomatic exchange between the US and German governments

Sussex was a cross-English Channel passenger ferry, built in 1896 for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR). After the LBSCR came to a co-operation agreement with the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer de l'État Français, she transferred to their fleet under a French flag. *Sussex* became the focus of an international incident when she was severely damaged by a torpedo from a German U-boat UB 29



The 'Sussex' in Boulogne harbour



The 'Sussex' in her pomp

Q boats and first submarine sunk by depth charges

The Royal Navy, faced with increasing losses of merchant ships to U-boats, came up with the idea of using decoy ships to trap German submarines. They were eventually known as Q-ships after Queenstown, now Cobh, in Ireland, where many of them were based.

Early war U-boats carried only around six torpedoes, so their captains preferred to surface and sink smaller merchant ships by gunfire.

A Q-ship would give the impression of being an innocuous tramp steamer.

Her armament would be hidden inside false deck houses or lifeboats or on swivel mountings that could appear when needed. Most of her crew, who were volunteers, would also be concealed, with hidden alleyways and special trap doors allowing them to get to their action stations without being seen.

The majority of the crew of a warship are concerned with fighting rather than sailing her, so Q-Ships had far larger crews than they would have had as merchantmen.

The collier 'Loderer' had a crew of about six officers and 25 men in merchant service and 11 officers and 56 men after being converted to the Q ship HMS Farnborough.

The first Q-ship to see action was HMS Prince Charles, a 373 ton collier that was given an armament of two 6 pounder guns, two 3 pounders and a number of rifles.

Her civilian crew of Captain F. N. Maxwell and Chief Engineer Anderson and nine other men volunteered to remain on board. Lieutenant William Mark-Wardlaw RN was given command, with the crew being completed by Lieutenant J. G. Spencer RNR, two RN petty officers and nine RN ratings.

'Prince Charles' was a civilian ship under charter to the RN and based at Scapa Flow.

On 22nd March the commander of the German U-boat U-68 spotted a Merchant Navy vessel off the coast of SW Ireland near Dunmore Head and decided to attack.

He fired a torpedo which missed its target but, seeing the panic* on board the merchantman, decided to surface in order to sink her with his gun.

Little did he realise he was attacking the 3200 tonne Q-Ship HMS Farnborough.

On board HMS Farnborough, Lieutenant Commander Gordon Campbell ordered 'Panic Stations' upon seeing the torpedo.

The panic party got away in a lifeboat and the remaining crew readied the deck gun.

U-68 surfaced and closed in on Farnborough from astern which duly raised its White Ensign and opened fire hitting U-68 which quickly dived.

Farnborough manoeuvred into position and dropped a depth charge which lifted the bow of U-68 to the surface.

This allowed Farnborough to open fire gaining further hits on the submarine's conning tower which soon disappeared beneath the surface.

Farnborough dropped two further depth charges which sealed the fate of the already sinking U-68 with the loss of all hands.

* The term 'Panic Stations' originates with Q-ships. Once a Q-ship was attacked, the order 'Hands to Panic Stations' would be given. This would result in the crew acting panicked, possibly launching lifeboats to give the impression of abandoning ship, in order to draw attention away from the remaining crew who would be preparing to fire the weaponry.

Landships

The Mark I was a development of Little Willie, the experimental weapon built for the Landships Committee by Lieutenant Walter Wilson and William Tritton between July and September 1915.

It was designed by Wilson in response to problems with tracks and trench-crossing ability discovered during the development of Little Willie.

A gun turret above the hull would have made the centre of gravity too high when climbing a German trench parapet (which was typically four feet high), so the tracks were arranged in a rhomboidal form around the hull and the guns were put in sponsons on the sides of the tank.

The reworked design was also able to meet the Army requirement to be able to cross an 8 ft (2.4 m) wide trench. A mockup of Wilson's idea was shown to the Landships Committee when they viewed the demonstration of Little Willie.

At about this time, the Army's General Staff was persuaded to become involved and supplied representatives to the Committee.

Through these contacts Army requirements for armour and armament made their way into the design.

The prototype Mark I, ready in December 1915, was called "Mother"

(previous names having been "The Wilson Machine", "Big Willie", and "His Majesty's Land Ship Centipede").

Mother was successfully demonstrated to the Landships Committee in early 1916; it was run around a course simulating the front including trenches, parapets, craters and barbed wire obstacles.

There were two types of Mark I tank: 'male' and 'female'.

Male tanks mounted a six-pounder gun in each sponson, plus three light machine guns.

Female tanks had two heavy Vickers machine guns in place of the six-pounders.

The demonstration was repeated on 2 February before the cabinet ministers and senior members of the Army. Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, was sceptical but the rest were impressed. Lloyd George, at the time Minister of Munitions, arranged for his Ministry to be responsible for tank production.

The Landships Committee was re-constituted as the "Tank Supply Committee" under the chairmanship of Albert Stern; Ernest Swinton, who had promoted the idea of the tank from the Army angle, was also a member. General Haig sent a staff officer Hugh Elles to act as his liaison to the Supply Committee.

Swinton would become the head of the new arm, and Elles the commander of the tanks in France.

The first order for tanks was placed on 12th February 1916, and a second on 21st April.

Fosters built 37 (all "male"), and Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon, and Finance Company, of Birmingham, 113 (38 "male" and 75 "female"), a total of 150.

When the news of the first use of the tanks emerged, Lloyd George commented,

"Well, we must not expect too much from them but so far they have done very well, and don't you think that they reflect some credit on those responsible for them?"

It is really to Mr Winston Churchill that the credit is due more than to anyone else.

He took up with enthusiasm the idea of making them a long time ago, and he met with many difficulties. He converted me, and at the Ministry of Munitions he went ahead and made them.

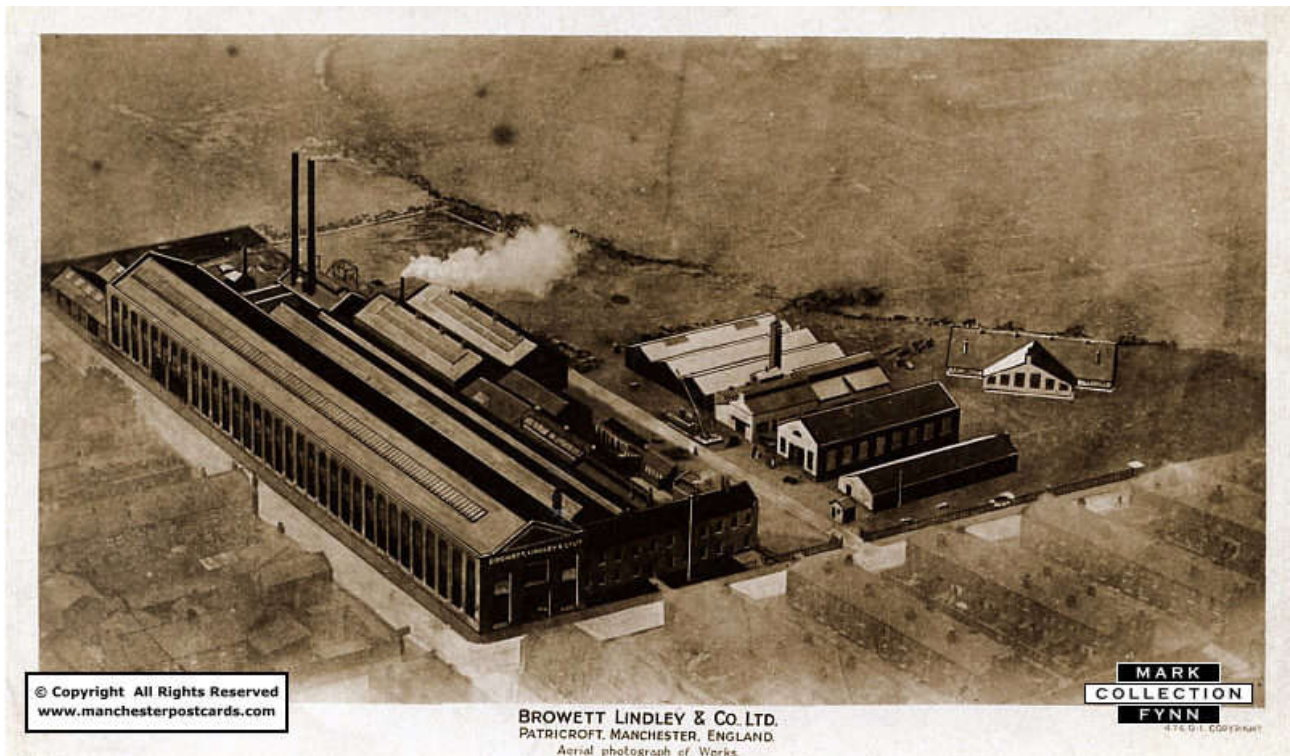
The admiralty experts were invaluable, and gave the greatest possible assistance.

They are, of course, experts in the matter of armour plating. Major Stern, a business man at the Ministry of Munitions had charge of the work of getting them built, and he did the task very well.

Col Swinton and others also did valuable work." David Lloyd George



Photo by permission of Salford Local History Library



Postcard by permission of Mark Flynn

Editor: 2016: In a competition to name two new roads in Eccles the following were chosen:

Lindley Close (due to complete March 2016) named by **Ruby Macdonald** from Godfrey Erman Primary School

Sandon Close (due to complete August 2016) named by **Kyle Barlow** from Godfrey Erman Primary School

Ruby and Kyles' choices of Lindley and Sandon Close are linked to the historical use of the site by an engine company in 1890 called 'Browett, Lindley and Co' who had a factory built on the development site named 'Sandon Works'

Gallipoli

The Allied evacuation of the Gallipoli area was completed on 6th January when the last troops (approximately 17,000 men and 40 artillery guns) were taken off the beaches at Cape Helles.

There were no casualties during this phase of the operation.

However, the whole campaign cost the Allies some 252,000 casualties and the Turks about 250,000 men

Rural Labour shortages

After the outbreak of the war, male agricultural labourers were encouraged to sign up for the army by the rural landowners. Estate owners and parish priests, whose sons became the officers in many regiments, actively recruited those who worked the land or in the great gardens and houses of Britain.

The loss of men from the land produced a labour shortage in the rural economy, and attempts to encourage women to fill the gaps left by men were less successful than in urban areas.

Pre war, women had been discouraged from working on the land both by the sensibilities of the time and by the emerging rural trades unions which argued that female labour reduced the rates that men could be paid. Also, many industrial and service jobs in the towns and cities now available to women paid a far higher rate than agricultural labour, and were much more rewarding and emancipating.

Women's Land Army

The government responded to these problems.

In 1916, Women's War Agricultural Committees were set up as a form of labour exchange, matching women wishing to work in rural areas with farmers who had labour shortages.

The Women's National Land Services Corps - later developed into the Women's Land Army - was created in order to bring urban women, usually educated and middle class, into the countryside in the 'lighter' rural roles.

Chronology of the War

January 6 th	Evacuation of Gallipoli completed
February 14 th	Britain and France confirm there will be no peace with Germany without the restoration and guarantee of Belgium neutrality. Allied military planners agree to launch their 'Somme' offensive on 1 st July
February 21 st	German attack on Verdun in the longest battle of the war, ultimately defended by the French at great cost to both sides
March 6 th	Government forms the Women's National Land Service Corps to boost agricultural production
March 11 th	5 th Battle of Isonzo between Italy and Austria-Hungary
March 9 th	Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus, New Mexico
March 24 th	French passenger ship, <i>Sussex</i> , torpedoed



Cartoon of the period

Local Men

Lucky one

Private William Roughly 15th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, writing to his wife and five children at 278 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton, about the results of a heavy bombardment which the 15th and 18th battalions suffered a fortnight ago:

'Last night (Friday) he wrote, there were about 20 men killed or wounded in a dug out where we had been on the previous Tuesday.

So you can see we have been very lucky again.

It has been awful, the place is blown to smithereens and the more one thinks about it the worse it is.

I have the nose cap of a 'whizz bang' which just missed me.

If ever I come home I will bring it with me.

We are now repairing trenches' (Eccles & Patricroft Journal 24th March 1916)

Swinton swimmers

Cpl. Frank Meerton, a prominent competitor at swimming galas, enlisted in the RAMC soon after the outbreak of the war. He is in Southampton but expected to leave for Salonika soon.

Pte. Fred Hudson enlisted a short time ago with the 6th battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and is training at Chisleton near Swindon. Fred has won many prizes for swimming.

Drv. Stanley Mullineux, who has been in France for several weeks now. He enlisted with the Royal Field Artillery



Frank Meerton



Fred Hudson



Stanley Mullineux



Arthur Williamson



Harry Williamson



Charles Musker

All the following are members of the Swinton & Pendlebury Swimming Club.

Cpl. Arthur Williamson was wounded last July and has been invalided home and stationed at Sutton on Hull.

Cpl. Harry Williamson 20th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers is the brother of the above.

Gunner Charles Musker is moving, with County Palatine Royal Field Artillery, to Egypt.

Remembered this quarter at Agecroft Cemetery

Surname	Forename	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	CWGC Memorial	Agecroft	
								Plot	Grave
PALYN	Alexander	25	07-Feb-1916	12988	Sergeant	9 Batt Royal Welsh Fusiliers	Mervillve	26	
WATSON	William Henry	28	10-Mar-1916	15160	Private	16th Batt Lancashire Fusiliers	Authuille		

Sergeant 12998 Alexandria Palyn 9th battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Alexander was one of five children who were born to Alexander and Margaret Palyn.

Sadly Margaret died in 1900 when she was 38 years of age.

His father married again in 1903 to Maggie Parkinson at St. Clements Church in Broughton.

On the 1911 census shows an 18 year old Alexandria Palin recorded as being a baker and living at a 'Lads Shelter' at 224 Great Clowes Street in Higher Broughton.

Throughout documents found about Alexander his surname changes from Palyn to Palin to Paling.

This was not uncommon with a surname like his.

He was actual named 'Alexander Palin' when his birth was registered in Manchester in the June quarter of 1891.

The 9th battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers was formed at Wrexham on 9th September 1914 as part of K2 and came under orders of 58th Brigade, 19th (Western) Division.

The battalion moved to Tidworth but by December 1914 was in billets in Basingstoke.

The battalion returned to Tidworth in March 1915 for further training.

They were then posted to France, landing at Boulogne 19th July 1915.

Their first action was at Pietre, in a diversionary action supporting the Battle of Loos.

Not sure when Alexander enlisted but he did so in Wrexham

From late January 1916 the battalion War Diary shows at that time it was in reserve in the Les Lauriers area.

During a training exercise using live grenades there was a bad accident.

The Regiment War Diary simply states:

February 7th: 'Severe grenade accident 4 men killed and 1 Officer, 21 men wounded'

Alexander was one of these men.

He was buried with full military honours at the near by Merville Cemetery.

Merville is a town 15 kilometres north of Bethune and about 20 kilometres south-west of Armentieres.

The Cemetery is on the north-east side of the town to the north of the D38 road to Neuf-Berquin.

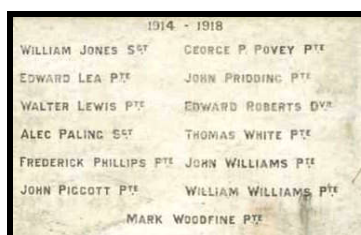
Alexander is remembered on the CWGC memorial at Mellville, the Memorial at Holt, a small town in the Wrexham area and at Agecroft Cemetery

Plot 26 grave reads

Sergeant Alexander, R.W.F.

Was killed at Merville; Feb 7th 1916.

A panel on the Holt Memorial



The Holt Book of Honour reads

Sergeant Alexander PALING (Palyn?) 12988
9th battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Buried at Merville Communal Cemetery France
Son of Alexander & Maggie Paling of 63
Greenhill Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester

Private 15160 William Henry Watson 9th Platoon 'C' Company 16th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers
 William was born in Salford, the only son of William and Sarah Ann Watson, they also had five daughters.
 William married Clara Winstanley on 31st December 1914 at St. George's Church in Pendleton.
 William was recorded as being a 'tramway conductor' of 7 River Street, Salford
 Clara's address is given as 174 Whit Lane, Salford.
 Clara's father, Robert, was recorded as being a 'fireman'

William, who worked as a conductor for Salford tramways, is remembered on the CWGC Memorial at Authuille Military Cemetery, Salford Corporation Memorial and at Agecroft Cemetery on the 'Winstanley' family headstone

The 'Winstanley' headstone reads
 Pte. W.H. Watson
 The beloved husband of
 Clara Watson, killed in action
 March 10th 1916, aged 25 years
 He gave his life for his country.



Salford Corporation Memorial

Remembered this quarter at **Peel Green Cemetery**

Surname	Forename	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	CWG Memorial	Peel Green	
								Plot	Grave
Carty	Matthew	19	04-Jan-1916	19234	Private	1st Batt East Lancashire Regiment	Hamel	C3	7579
Bolas	James S	23	12-Jan-1916		Flight Sub Lieut	Royal Naval Air Service	Helles	G	17483
Prestwich	Joseph		07-Feb-1916		Lieutenant	15th Sqd Royal Flying Corps	Poperinghe	A	2741
Young	Harry J	41	25-Mar-1916	19170	Private	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	Peel Green	A3	3059

Private 19234 Matthew Carty 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

He was born in Patricroft and enlisted in Manchester just over a year ago.

He worked at the starch works in Trafford Park (Nicholls, Nagle & Co – now Cargill) prior to this he worked at the Eccles Bleach works. Matthew was an old Eccles Parish School boy.

His mother, of 35 Bentcliffe Street, Eccles received news from Captain Thomas, officer commanding 'C' company 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

Sadly it was to tell her that her son Matthew had been killed.

Captain Thomas expressed his regret and said that Matthew died like a true East Lancastrian – like a hero.

The splendid example he set on that day of this death had made a marked impression on his comrades, who felt his loss very keenly.

In a later letter, Captain Thomas describes as a very bad time – the worse bombardment he had experienced – the three hours through which the action lasted. Matthew who was a bomb thrower and four other men were holding a portion of the line, which got badly knocked about, and from what could be made out one of the poor fellows was buried and received a large wound in his head. The men, including Matthew, rushed to his aide.

Whilst the men trying to relived the injured chap, they were all killed.

A large shell exploded on the top of the dug out.

When Matthew's body was recovered, he had a first aid dressing in his hand, which suggests that he was in the act of doing his best for his comrade.

Matthew would have had a 20th birthday at the end of this month

He enlisted in Manchester just over a year ago.

He is remembered at CWGC memorial at Hamel and at Peel Green Cemetery



Plot C3 grave 7574 reads.

Matthew, son of the above

Killed in action in France

Jan 4th 1916, aged 19 years

Just pray for him as the night time falls

For one who has answered Duty's call

His home, his country to defend

Thank God he died a Hero's end

Duty called --- Duty done

Flight Sub Lieutenant James Sydney Bolas Royal Navy Air Service
James was born in Eccles in 1893, one of six children of James and Margaret.



He was an Eccles Grammar School old boy and a well known playing member of Monton Lacrosse Club.

James was formerly on the engineering staff at Nasmyth Wilson works in Patricroft, which he left to give himself more time to follow his passion for flying aircraft at AV Roes establishment.

James obtained a commission in the Naval Air service last August and after 3 months at the Flying School in Eastbourne he was sent to the Gallipoli area in early December.

On 12th January, James and his observer, Douglas Branson, were flying over the Cape Helles area.

It was reported that his plane was seen descending behind Turkish lines near Seddul Bahr. The pilot was said to be dead and the observer wounded.

The father of Douglas Branson wrote to James's family saying he had received a letter from his son who is being held in a Turkish hospital and stated that his pilot James Bolas was killed in the action.

It appears that Douglas was thrown of the plane wounded and was taken prisoner.

He remembered nothing until he found himself in a small hospital being treated for his wounds.

James is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Helles and Peel Green Cemetery.

Plot G grave 17483 reads

Flight Sub Lieut.

James Sydney Bolas

Killed in Gallipoli

Jan 12th 1916, aged 23 years

Lieutenant Joseph Prestwich 15th Squadron Royal Flying Corps



Joseph was born in Eccles in 1893, one of ten children of Joseph and Elizabeth Prestwich. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School.

In April 1914 Joseph received a commission in the 42nd East Lancashire Division and went to Egypt with his battalion that September to guard the Suez Canal

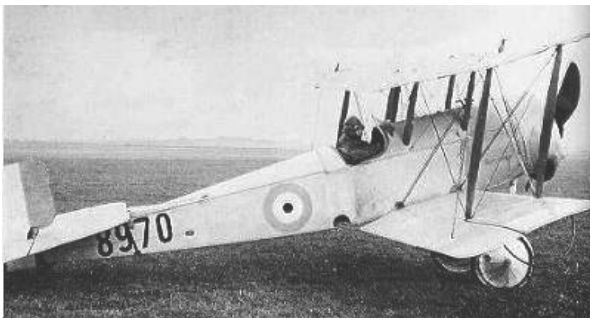
He was on the front line in the Dardanelles from May till August 1915. He landed at cape Helles on 6th May with over 14,000 other men. By mid August the Division had lost over 60% of its men to battle and sickness.

He returned home to take up duties with the 15th Squadron Royal Flying Corps at Farnborough.

On 22nd December he was posted to France, where, as a reconnoitering officer he had almost daily flights over enemy lines probably in a 'Bristol Scout'

Joseph was reported to have 'died from wounds received whilst flying' on 7th February 1916

The only planes the 15th Squadron had at the time were:



The Bristol Scout



The RAF factory BE2

Joseph is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Poperinghe, Manchester Grammar School and Peel Green Cemetery

Plot A grave 2741 reads:

Joseph, son of the above
Lieut. RFC who was killed in action
Feb 7th 1916, aged 23 years
& was interred at the Military
Cemetery Poperinge, Belgium
Thy will be done

Private 19170 Harold James Young 1st battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Harry was born in Fulwood, northern area of Preston, the son of Harry and Ellen Young.

His father served as a Sergeant with 2nd battalion (20th foot) Lancashire Fusiliers and later as drill instructor for the Eccles & Swinton volunteers in the 1890's.

On the 1911 census Harold was recorded as a 'striker' blacksmith working for a 'well borer' (probably Thoms of Patricroft)

Harold enlisted in January 1915 with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and after training joined the 1st battalion in the Loos area where they took part in several battles.

It was during one of these battles that Harold was shot in the chest, injuring his lung badly.

He was treated in a field hospital and then sent back home.

At the 1st Scottish General Hospital in Aberdeen he underwent an operation. Following this he seemed to be recovering and did not appear to be in any danger. All went well until the morning of his death when he collapsed and died.



In a letter to Harry's wife, Annie, the Rev. Canon Cornwall Jones, Chaplain to the forces at the hospital, says that her husband received every possible attention from the doctor, sisters and nurses and expressed his very deep sympathy for her loss. Harry, he states, enjoyed the regard of all who knew him and died sure in his faith.

After a service at the hospital the body was conveyed to the railway station by soldiers, the coffin being covered by the Union Jack, the flag for which he died.

Respect was paid by the military and civilians who witnessed the procession to the train.

Harold had a full military funeral at Peel Green Cemetery on Thursday 30th March

Plot A3 grave 3059 reads

Private Harry Young son of above

Who died of wounds received in France

March 25th 1916. Aged 41 years

His King and Country called him.

Remembered this quarter at Swinton Cemetery

Surname	Forename Name	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	CWGC Memorial	Swinton	
								Plot	Grave
Donnelly	William	40	01-Jan-1916	31555	Pioneer	Royal Engineers Training Depot	CWG Swinton	C	1443

Pioneer 31555 William Donnelly Royal Engineers Training Depot (Aldershot)

William was born in Macclesfield, the fourth son of Martin and Sarah Donnelly.

He had three brothers and four sisters, all born in Macclesfield.

Prior to the start of the war, William had previously been a 'time served' soldier in the 22nd Cheshire Foot Regiment.

In 1911 he was a boarder living with John and Harriet Wolstenholme at 24, Dean Lane, Newton Heath. Oddly he is recorded as being born in 1896 and being 20 years of age.

I know this is the right man because he lists this address in his service records

He enlisted in Edinburgh on 7th September 1914, now being a pipe fitter he was drafted into the Royal Engineers and was sent to the training depot at Aldershot.

All that is recorded is that William died of a 'ruptured blood vessel'

He was buried at Swinton Cemetery where he has a CWGC headstone

Plot C grave 1443 reads

31555 Pioneer

W. Donnelly

Royal Engineers

1st January 1916, aged 40

Remembered this quarter at Weaste Cemetery

Surname	Forename	Age	Date	Service #	Rank	Unit	CWG Memorial	Weaste	
								Plot	Grave
Pearson	George	25	1-Jan-1916	6541	Private	Manchester Regt (25th)	Weaste	L	601
Doleman	John E		3-Jan-1916	5359	Private	Manchester Regt (12th)	Ypres	G	1031
Brack	Samuel	20	16-Jan-1916	14779	Private	South Lancashire Regt (8th)	Rifle House	H	1315
Makinson	Robert	28	29-Jan-1916	10432	Private	Manchester Regt (18th)	Corbie	A11	178
Mercer	Fred	28	29-Jan-1916	12792	L Corporal	Cameronians (12th)	Bethune Town	34	1510
Matthews	Isaac	24	4-Feb-1916	11240	Private	Manchester Regt (18th)	Corbie	A3	4148
Food	Alfred		6-Feb-1916	20254	Private	Border Regt	Exeter (Higher)	G	1915
Morrow	Alfred	20	6-Feb-1916	17706	Private	Manchester Regt (20th)	Fricourt	B17	285
Hall	Bernard R	19	10-Feb-1916	1937	Private	Lancashire Fusiliers (1/7th)	Weaste	G	1948
Lee	Fred	42	10-Feb-1916	3247	Private	King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (2nd)	Aveluy	N	728
Wood	Cecil	25	11-Feb-1916	47046	Gunner	Royal Garrison Artillery (2nd SB)	Bethune Town	A4	4165
Woolley	Jose	21	12-Feb-1916	12248	Private	Manchester Regt (19th)	Carnoy	G	1026
Anderson	Samuel	19	15-Feb-1916	20541	Sergeant	Manchester Regt (22nd)	Fricourt	33	423
Doleman	Arthur		29-Feb-1916	7097	Private	Manchester Regt (16th)	Cerisy-Gailly	G	1031
Fitzpatrick	John	18	29-Feb-1916	8142	Private	Manchester Regt (17th)	Suzanne	F	12
Hudson	Robert	19	29-Feb-1916	20261	Private	King's Liverpool Regt (12th)	Ypres	G	2043
Malpas	William	23	1-Mar-1916	1323	Private	Lancashire Fusiliers (8th)	Weaste	K	760
Fowler	Joseph R	33	2-Mar-1916	31872	Corporal	Royal Field Artillery (34th)	Noeux-les-Mines	M	487
Lomas	William	23	2-Mar-1916	16119	Private	Border Regt (7th)	Ypres	J	225
Whittall	Arthur E	29	6-Mar-1916	367	Sergeant	Lancashire Fusiliers (1/7th)	Weaste	A4	4168
Ireland	William	42	8-Mar-1916	16694	Private	Manchester Regt (1st)	Basra	F	2518
Reynolds	Charles H	33	8-Mar-1916	7495	Sergeant	Manchester Regt (1st)	Basra	F	2528
Greatorrex	William	36	9-Mar-1916	15031	Private	Lancashire Fusiliers (16th)	Weaste	J	1786
Waddington	G		9-Mar-1916	3086	Private	Manchester Regt (1/7th)	Weaste	J	2089
Davenport	William	20	15-Mar-1916	21418	L Corporal	King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt (10th)	Weaste	J	73
Bradshaw	James		23-Mar-1916	19033	Private	King's Liverpool Regt (13th)	Dickebusch	31	1703
Jones	Joseph	29	27-Mar-1916	19580	Private	King's Liverpool Regt (13th)	Ypres	H	3289
Browne	James L	23	29-Mar-1916		2nd Lieutenant	Royal Flying Corps	Weaste	A9	345

Corporal 31872 Joseph Robert Fowler 34th brigade Royal Field Artillery

Joseph was born in Salford the Son of Richard and Catherine Fowler, the family lived in Roy Street, Salford

Joseph married Elizabeth Cross on 27th October 1906 at St Ignatius, Salford

He was listed at working as a tanner and Elizabeth as screw maker on the marriage certificate.

They had a son, James Jarvis in 1908

He enlisted in Halifax.

This was the second time he had seen military service having previously enlisted age 18 years and served through the South African campaign under General Warren

Joseph was badly injured whilst sleeping in a house close by the firing line.

At 11.40 p.m. a German shell burst through the roof, fragments piercing his thigh.

The Doctors gave all possible aid and he was removed to a field ambulance, where he died at 2.30 a.m.

Oliver Gaunt, Captain, R.F.A. writes in a letter to Mrs E Fowler:

"In losing your husband the British Army has lost a quiet, hard working and faithful soldier"

Mrs Fowler also received a letter from one of Joseph's friends:

"He got severely wounded and knowing he would not live long he asked me to write to you and tell you.

We have been pals together, as I come from Manchester

He was so liked by everybody out here."

Joseph is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Noeux les Mines and Weaste Cemetery.

Plot M grave 487 reads

Corp. Joseph R. Fowler FRA

The beloved husband of Elizabeth

Died of wounds received in France

March 2nd 1916, aged 35 years

He nobly did his duty

Private 14779 Samuel Brack 8th battalion South Lancashire Regiment
Samuel was the son of Andrew and Sarah Brack of Sandford Street, Salford

Samuel enlisted in Manchester on 8th September 1914.
After training Sam, as he was better known arrived in France in September 1915.
He was also trained as a signaller that would involve difficult and precarious duties.

After about a year in France an army Chaplain wrote to Samuel's mother
"I deeply regret that it is my sad duty to inform you of the death of your son Samuel.
He was on duty at the time in the trenches and had retired for a few minutes behind the front trench when he was hit by a stray bullet.
It will be some comfort to you that he was spared acute suffering.
The funeral took place on Sunday (Jan 16th) at 2pm.
His officer and some comrades gathered with me at the grave for the service.
He is buried in a cemetery that is well kept.
I will arrange for a cross to be put at the head of his grave at the earliest possible moment.
I know this letter will cast a deep shadow across your home and fill your hearts with deep sorrow.
We thought of you and prayed for you as we stood around the grave of your soldier boy.
In your great grief I pray that you may be sustained by the comfort of God, who is a very present help in trouble.
It is difficult task to write a letter like this, conveying such sad news.
My heart goes out to you in tenderest sympathy.
May our Heavenly Father console and lead you until the shadows flee away."

Prior to the War he was employed as an iron turner at Cunliffe & Croon's Broughton Iron Works.
Sam attended Gravel Lane Wesleyan Chapel and a keen athlete.
He captained both football and cricket teams of Adelphi Lads Club where he had been a member for over seven years.
His brother Robert is also serving in France in the 12th battalion Manchester Regiment

Sam is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Rifle House and at Weaste Cemetery.

Plot H grave1315 reads
Pte. Samuel Brack
Killed in France
January 16th 1916
Aged 20 years

Lance Corporal 12792 Fred Mercer 12th battalion Cameroons (Scottish Rifles)

Fred was the eldest of six sons and a daughter of William and Rose Mercer

The family lived at Harding Street in Pendleton, all of them being born in Pendleton

Fred enlisted on 4th September 1914 and was sent to Hamilton and then onto camps in Scotland at Nibb and Stob for training.

He first trained as a signaller but after being promoted he became a bomb thrower which he was very good at. His battalion was sent to France in October 1915.

Fred was wounded in action, while throwing bombs, on January 28th by shrapnel shot that caught him in the leg, fracturing the limb.

After receiving first aid in the trench he was sent to the 33rd Casualty Clearing Station at Bethune.

A nurse from this station wrote to his mother saying that her son was in her hospital with a fractured leg and although they had done all they could for him, Fred passed peacefully away on 29th January.

Fred was buried in a little cemetery by a Church of England clergy on 2nd February

Fred was well known all over Salford as footballer of no mean repute.

He was 28 years old and a well built and powerful man who played forward for Seedley Rangers.

Writing to Fred's mother, Ted Dickenson, one of his mates states:

"It is with great sorrow I write this letter touching the death of your son. Will you please accept my deepest sympathy in your sorrow?

I am sure every one in Bridleheath will be greatly shocked and feel as I do in the great loss you have sustained.

Fred was one of the best, and I can hardly make myself believe he has gone."

The Mr. Edwards, secretary of Seedley Rangers Football Club also wrote to Fred's parents, saying:

"I beg to tender on behalf of the Seedley Club our deepest sympathy in your sad trouble.

I can assure you that as a club we were very sorry indeed to hear the news of your son's death.; but at the same time we know Fred was one of the best and that he died as a soldier should do and may I trust that in your hour of trouble your thoughts will go, as many other parents, that he had done his best.

I hope that you and all the family will get a little satisfaction from knowing that he was one of the many who helped to bring to a close this Great War."

Prior to the war Fred was a labourer at the Chloride works in Clifton.

He is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Bethune Town and at Weaste Cemetery.

Plot 34 grave 1510 reads

Fred and Herbert

Their sons

Killed in Action 1916

Lance Corporal 21418 William Davenport 10th battalion Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment

by Tony Flynn Salfordonline

William Davenport had enlisted in December 1915. Just three short months later he would be dead.

Before joining up he lived at Alpha Street, Seedley, was educated at Langworthy Road Council School where he was a well-liked pupil, and worked for the Great Northern Railway Company as a junior clerk.

In his preparations to go to war William sadly fell prey to a horrible accident that cut his life short before it had truly begun. While marking out targets for his fellow soldiers at rifle range practice at Wargret Camp barracks in Wareham, Dorset, William died from a single gunshot wound to his temple.

A stray bullet cannoned into a stone and ricocheted off, striking him full in the side of the head.

He sadly passed away the following day.

As if this wasn't tragic enough it was revealed at inquest that William's parents had received a letter from him saying that he would be home on leave the following day.

A telegram was received the same evening informing them that William had died from a gunshot wound.

Believing that an error had been made Mr Davenport hurriedly sent a telegram back to the camp saying that it must be a mistake because he was on his way home to Pendleton.

He received a terse short note which read, "Accidently shot – come down to camp".

Mr Davenport, no doubt grief-stricken, went to the camp in Wareham to retrieve his son's body and made arrangements for it to be brought back to Salford for burial in Weaste Cemetery

The Salford City Reporter newspaper reported that the soldier's coffin was taken to the nearest railway station one mile away, and the route was lined with soldiers and civilians all paying their last respects.

A Sergeant Roberts was in charge of the body and escorted it back to Pendleton and his loving family.

William's funeral took place the following Monday with the Reverend T. Faulkner Jeffries, Minister at the Seedley Wesleyan Church, officiating at the funeral ceremony.

It is recorded that blinds were drawn in Davenport's home street as a mark of respect and on the route to Weaste Cemetery. William was given a full military cemetery with hundreds of people attending to show their last respects to this young man.

The Davenport family received a letter from William's Commanding Officer at Wareham, Lieutenant N. Bellairs who said:

"As the officer in charge of this firing party last Wednesday and the last to see your son alive I feel it the melancholy privilege to be able to express my very real appreciation of your son's soldier like qualities and cheerful acceptance of duty.

Having seen the whole tragedy I am thankful to be able to say that it was due in no way to negligence or carelessness on the part of your son or any other.

You will have heard that he was superintending the workings of markings from a marker's pit on a miniature range at the time of the tragedy and to me who have lately seen service at the front the flight of this ill-starred bullet – whence and how it found your boy – is an utter mystery.

Thank God he never regained consciousness and suffered no pain before the end.

I can only trust that the knowledge that he died the true and loyal soldier for his country's sake and that he gave his all for England as much as though he had been stricken on the field of battle, may in some measure lighten the load of sorrow which I know you must be bearing."

Hopefully that letter gave the Davenport family some comfort in their hour of need in what was such a tragic waste of a young man's life.

Plot J grave 73 reads

Lanc. Cpl. William Davenport, K.O.R.L.

Eldest and dearly beloved son of

Tom and Sarah A. Davenport,

Accidently killed at Wareham Camp

March 15th 1916, in his 21st year

Through the Cross to the Crown

Private 1937 Bernard Ritson Hall 1st / 7th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

Bernard was born in Salford, the eldest of four sons and a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann Hall, the family lived at Bridson Street, Pendleton.

Later they lived at Stowell Street, Salford.

Being in the Territorial Army prior to the war he was called upon as soon as it started.

Bernard was wounded, by a bullet in the head while in action during the Gallipoli campaign last May.

After two months of careful nursing and the greatest medical skill obtainable, he was sent home to England on a hospital ship. Reaching the home country he was sent to Manchester Infirmary.

He was later moved to Langworthy Road Hospital and then to Fair Hope Hospital where Captain Lund looked after him, getting Bernard moved to Salford Royal Hospital to undergo an operation to remove a bullet.

The operation was very successful but his strength eventually failed him, his spine was also affected.

At the time of his death he was 19 years old and prior to the war lived with his parents at Stowell Street.

His funeral took place at Weaste Cemetery and in the vicinity of his home; all the blinds and curtains were drawn as a token of respect.

The 'Last Post' was sounded by bugle over his grave.

Before the war Bernard worked as an iron turner at Gardener's Works in Peel Green.

He attended St. Luke's Church in Weaste regular and on the Church's Roll of Honour

His brother has been in the trenches in France for the last seven months and was present at the funeral.

Bernard is also remembered at Weaste Cemetery.

Plot G grave 1948 reads

[Pte. Bernard Hall, 7th L.F.](#)

[Died of wounds received at](#)

[Dardanelles Feb 10th 1916. Aged 19 years](#)

[May his reward be as great as his sacrifice.](#)

Gunner 47046 Cecil Errol Wood, 2nd Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery

Cecil was born in Salford, the second eldest son of William and Margaretta Wood.

He had two brothers, Bertie William (b 1888) and James William (b1895)

In 1911 the family lived at Enbridge Street, Salford

Cecil enlisted in October 1914 and was drafted to the Dardanelles

On July 5th 1915 he was wounded in the left foot.

He was shipped home and had several periods in different hospitals before being passed fit and drafted to France in January.

He was wounded again on 10th February but sadly died the next day.

Prior to the war he worked at Regent Road Gas Works.

His brother James William (3898) is serving in the 2nd Life Guards

Cecil is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Bethune Town, Weaste Cemetery

Plot A4 grave 4165 reads

[Gunner Cecil Errol Wood, RGA](#)

[The beloved son of William & Margaretta Wood](#)

[Died of wounds in France](#)

[11th February 1916](#)

[Aged 25 years](#)

Sergeant 367 Arthur Edward Whittall 1st / 7th battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

Arthur was born in the village of Carno, near Newtown in Montgomeryshire, the youngest child of Richard and Mary Whittall.

They had three other children, Sarah (b 1873), Herbert (b 1881) and Clara (b 1883)

They lived in the Post Office at Carno where Richard was the Post Master, being helped by his wife.

On the 1901 census, Arthur is living as a boarder at Aberech Road, Pwllheli where he is working at a railway porter.

Arthur enlisted with the Territorial Army about 1904 and enlisted full time as soon as war broke out and went with the First Expeditionary Force and arrived in late September 1914 at Alexandria in Egypt to guard the Suez Canal.

On the 5th May 1915 the battalion landed at landed at Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

He was seriously wounded on 31st May.

From the first nature of the wounds were so severe that little hope was held out for his recovery.

Arthur underwent three operations in Malta for the extraction of a bullet which entered the lower part of his body. The bullet was finally removed from his hip after lodging in his body for seven months.

Since that time he has been very poorly, septic poisoning setting in, which completely prostrated him.

At the Manchester Infirmary he had seven tubes inserted in different parts of his body and bore up under the terrible strain with great composure, and the Doctor said he never had a patient who bore his pain so bravely.

Writing to Arthur's wife, Annie, Minister A.E.I. Davies states:

"Calling at the Infirmary today I learned that your husband had passed away during the night and I want to assure you of my deep and sincere sympathy.

It is a great loss and I am deeply sorry for you in your trial. You know that I was constantly by your husband's side from the time he was brought here and I learned to love him for his wonderful courage and patience.

He had great faith in his God, and this must give you comfort today.

He is not lost, and one day you will, by God's grace, clasp hands on the eternal shore"

Prior to the war Arthur worked as a joiner for Garrards of Swinton and attended Christ Church where he married Annie Buxton in 1911, they had two children, Muriel Thelma born 20th December 1912 and Lancelot Cecil born April 26th 1914 while they were living at Windsor Terrace.

Arthur had a full military funeral at Weaste Cemetery

Plot A4 grave 4168 reads

Arthur Edward Whittall

Sergt 1/7 Lancashire Fusiliers

Died from wounds received in Gallipoli

6th March 1916

Gods will be done

Private 8142 John Fitzpatrick 17th battalion Manchester Regiment.

John was born in Salford (1898) and enlisted in Salford on 5th September 1914, when he was aged 16.

His parent Edward and Margaret had ten children, three of whom died very young.
They all lived at Hampson Street in Salford.

His initial training was at Heaton Park, then Grantham and finishing at Salisbury.
John was drafted to France on 1st November 1915.

On 29th February 1916, John had just been relieved from duty and was going to the canteen for a drink and some food when the Germans started shelling.
John died during the shelling.

Writing to John's mother, Reverend R.W Bellaine wrote:

"It has been my sad duty to read the burial service over the body of your son John.

I want to tell you that my heart goes out to you in your sorrow. The Germans began suddenly shelling our village this morning, and John who was in the road at the time, took shelter in a thinly covered cellar and shortly afterwards a shell burst through the roof and killed him instantly.

He suffered no pain before he died.

His body, covered with the Union Jack, was carried this afternoon by his comrades to the Military Cemetery. In the presence of officers and several men from his battalion, we laid him to rest besides all the other brave fellows who, like him, made the great sacrifice for his country.

His grave will be marked by a cross and will be carefully looked after.

May God be with you in your grief."

In the letter the Reverend enclosed a button from John's tunic.

Sadly his mother received a 'field card' from John on 5th March, written in the trenches and had been delayed in the post.

Prior to the War, John worked at Tootle Broadhurst Co. Ltd.

John is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Suzanne a village south east of Albert, on the Roll of Honour at Toole Broadhurst and a Weaste Cemetery.

Plot F grave 12 reads:

John the beloved son

Killed in action in France

29th February 1916, aged 18 years

Duty called, duty done.



ROLL OF HONOUR.



TOOTAL BROADHURST LEE COMPANY LTD

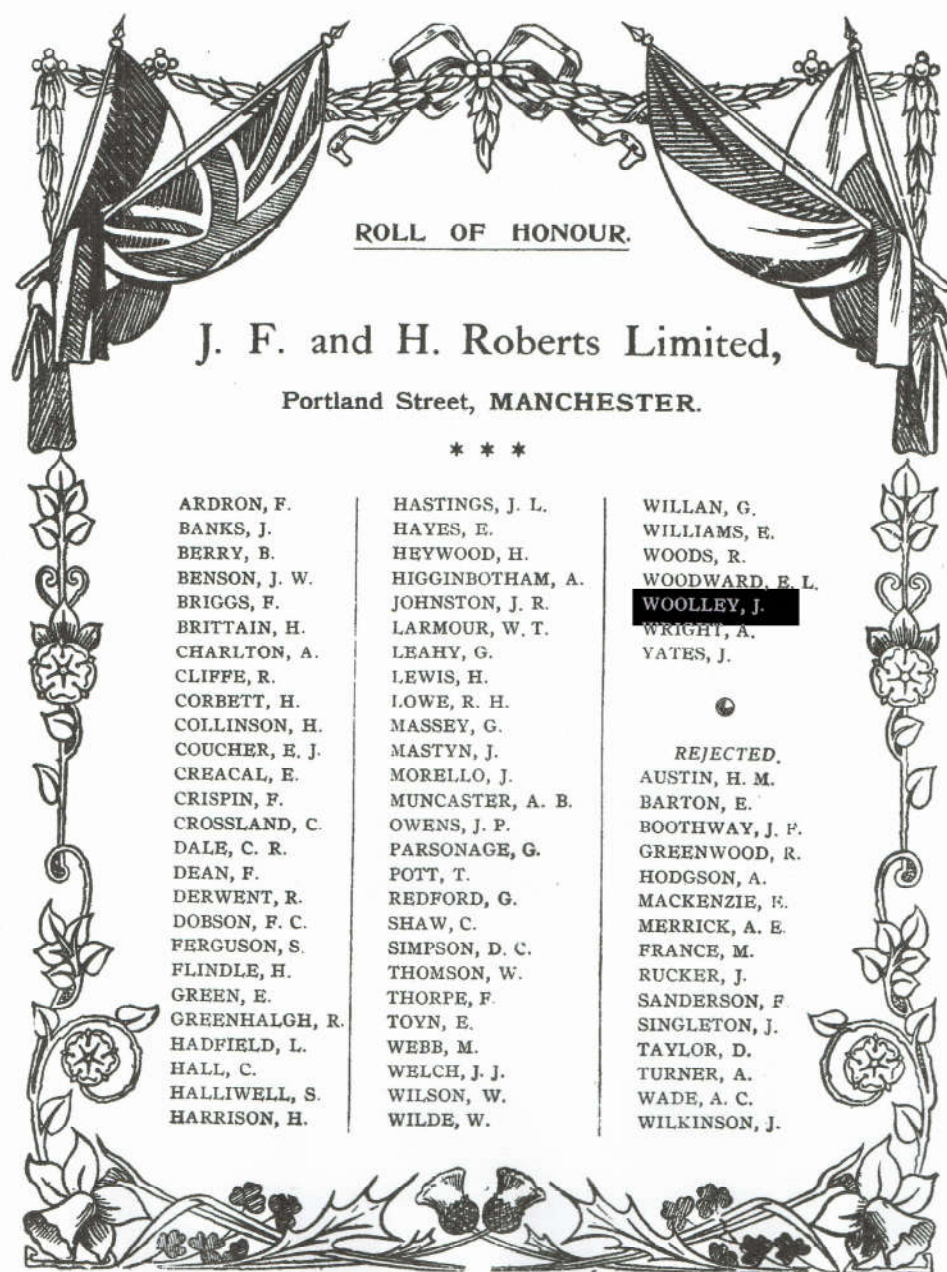
List of Employees who have joined the Colours.



Drummer J. BROWN, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Lieutenant J. P. BRUCE, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private A. J. BUCKLEY, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private T. A. BUTLER, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Or.Mr.-Sergeant H. BURTON, 121st Company Army Service Corps.
 Private T. A. CALVERT, 18th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Corporal A. B. CAMPBELL, Army Service Corps, East Lancs. T.S.C.
 Mr. C. CARTER, Ammunitions.
 Private B. W. CARMICHAEL, 6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private H. W. CASTLE, Royal Naval Division, Medical Unit.
 Private C. CHAMBERS, 6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private J. H. CHAPMAN, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Sapper C. B. CHAPMAN (Nottingham), 17th Divisional Signal Co.
 Private J. W. CHEETHAM, 1/6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private R. CLARKE (Ten Acres Mill), Lancashire Fusiliers.
 Private C. W. CLIFTON (London), 2/15th London Regt., Civil Ser. Rifles.
 Captain S. F. COLLIER, 3/6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Lieut. S. COLLIER, 6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private J. C. COLLINGE, Royal Army Medical Corps, East Lancs. Division.
 Private W. COLLINSON, 3/7th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 2nd Lieut. R. N. COMPTON-SMITH, 6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 (Died of Wounds, 29th May, 1915.)
 Private A. COOK, 13th Batt. Royal Scots.
 2nd Lieut. A. J. B. CORADINE, 6th Batt. Somerset Light Infantry.
 Private H. CORKER, 2/6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private W. CRAIG, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Lieutenant F. CROSSLEY, 6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private A. W. DAVIS, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Sapper W. H. DITCHFIELD, Royal Engineers, East Lancashire Signal Coy.
 Private H. J. DOYLE, Officers' Training Corps.
 Driver R. DUNN, Royal Field Artillery.
 Private G. EDMUNDS, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private R. ELLIS, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private G. B. ELLIOTT, 3rd Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private G. ELSWORTH, 48th Coy. Army Ordnance Corps.
 Private J. F. ENGLISH, Army Service Corps (Transport Section).
 Private W. ETHELLES, 3/7th Batt. Cheshire Regiment.
 Private E. R. EVANS, 25th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private T. EVANS, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private D. FERGUSON, 2/6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 (Died of Fever, October 13th, 1915.)
 Private T. FERGUSON, 7th Batt. Lancashire Fusiliers.
 Private J. FITZPATRICK, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 (Killed in action, February 29th, 1916.)
 Driver C. V. FLETCHER, Cumberland Artillery, 2nd Battery.
 Sergeant W. N. FLETCHER, 26th Reserve Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Sergeant E. FOALE, 17th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private C. FOGG, 2/6th Batt. Manchester Regiment.
 Private W. FOX (Leeds), Army Ordnance Corps.
 Private W. GAFFNEY, 16th Batt. Manchester Regiment.

Private 12248 Jose Woolley 19th battalion Manchester Regiment
Jose was born in 1895 in the village of Butterton in Staffordshire.

He enlisted in Manchester on 4th September 1914 and drafted to France 7th November 1915.
He was on sentry duty with a comrade when a high explosive shell directly in front of the sentry post.
Both soldiers were killed.
Prior to the war he was employed as a clerk at J.F. & H. Roberts of Portland Street in Manchester



Jose is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Carnoy, on the Roll of Honour for J.F. & H. Roberts, and at Weaste Cemetery.

Plot G grave 1026 reads

Jose, beloved son of the above
Who was killed in action in France
Feb. 12th 1916, aged 21 years
Short and sudden was the call
Of him so dearly loved by all
His memory will be forever dear
For him we shed a silent tear

Private 19033 James Bradshaw "A" company 13th battalion King's Liverpool Regiment

James was born in Salford in 1884, a son of Samuel and Matilda Bradshaw.

In 1901 the family were living at Edmund Street in Pendleton and James was recorded as 'an electric bell maker'.

James married Jane Kerr Yorston on 7th September 1910 at United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

They had three children, John (b. 1910), Samuel (B.1912) and James (B.1914)

On the 1911 census they lived at Laburnam Street and James was recorded as been a 'colour mixer'.

He was working at Lightbown's wallpaper works.

James was a keen sports man, he once played for Seedley Hornets Rugby Football Club and attended the 'Friends School' in High Street, Pendleton

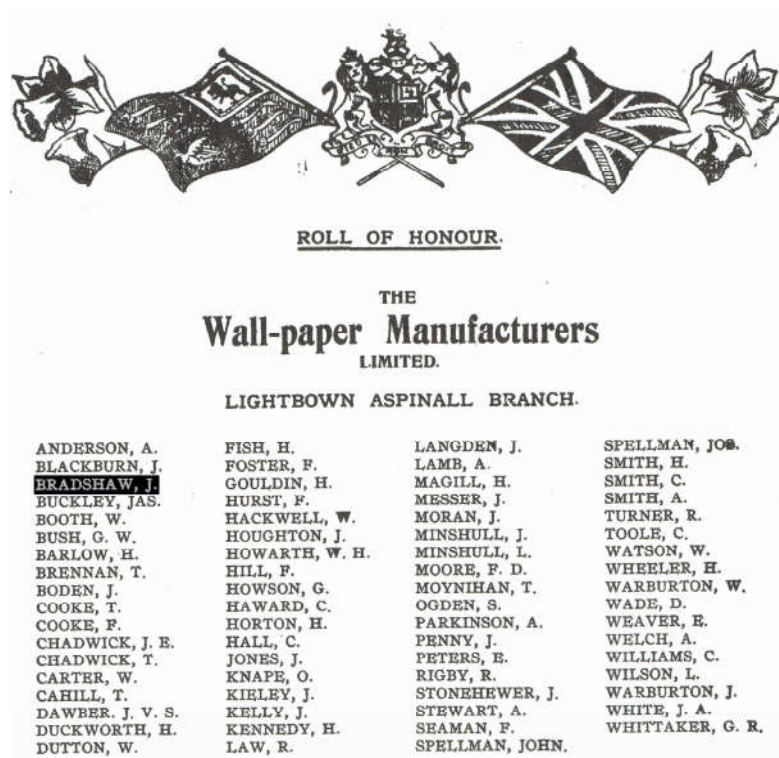
He enlisted in Manchester on 7th September 1914.

He had training periods at Codford near Bournemouth and at Aldershot.

He was drafted to France on 26th September 1915.

There is no record of how he died in action on 23rd March 1916

James is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Dikebusch and at Weaste Cemetery.



Plot 31 grave 1703 reads

Pte. James Bradshaw

19033 King's L'pool Regt.

Killed in action, France

March 23rd 1916

Private 19580 Joseph Jones 13th battalion King's Liverpool Regiment

Joseph enlisted on 7th September 1914 in Manchester and may have known James Bradshaw above.

Joseph married Margaret Pendlebury on 30th October 1909 at Salford Registrar Office.

They had three children,

Annie baptised at St Cyprian's in Ordsall on 26th January 1910

Amy baptised at St Cyprian's in Ordsall on 16th April 1913

Alice baptised at St. Clements on 25th April 1915.

Prior to the war Joseph was employed at the Grain Elevator in Trafford Park

Joseph won several prizes for his boxing and swimming

He had training periods at Codford near Bournemouth and at Aldershot.

He was drafted to France on 26th September 1915.

There is no record of how he died in action on 27th March 1916

James is remembered at the CWGC Memorial at Ypres and at Weaste Cemetery.

Plot H grave 3289 reads

Joseph their son,

Killed in action in France March 217th 1916

Aged 29 years

He died doing his duty

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