

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, a large, vibrant red rose decoration is placed on a wooden surface, likely an altar. Behind it, a wooden plaque with text is visible on the wall. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the church's interior, including what appears to be a altar cloth and some flowers in the distance.

ALL THE KINGSLEY MEN

*'A story of the men of the Parish of
St. Werburgh's Kingsley who fought in
World War One'*

Written and Researched by
Martyn Hordern and Kenneth Unwin

All the Kingsley Men

A Story of The Men (and a woman) of
The Parish of St. Werburgh's Kingsley
Who Fought in World War One
A Tribute to The Sons of Our Parish

"May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory"

Written and Researched by Martyn Hordern and Kenneth Unwin

Edited by Patricia Nutt

www.kingsleyremembers1914.org.uk

Front cover photograph and cover design by Andrew Nixon

<http://seethroughmylens.co.uk>

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

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Printed in the United Kingdom

Second Edition 11th November 2018

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this book a reality and, of course, our thanks, go to all the relatives of the men we have managed to trace and speak to. We are truly grateful for their time, patience and stories of their ancestors.

We are especially grateful to the late Chris Sheldon and John Crosby whose support, encouragement and assistance helped to shape this book. Also, and in no particular order, we would like to thank the following, Andrew Bull, Martin Clewlow, Mike Plant, Pauline King, Peter Capewell and Jeff Wood for their help and support in our research and preparation of this book.

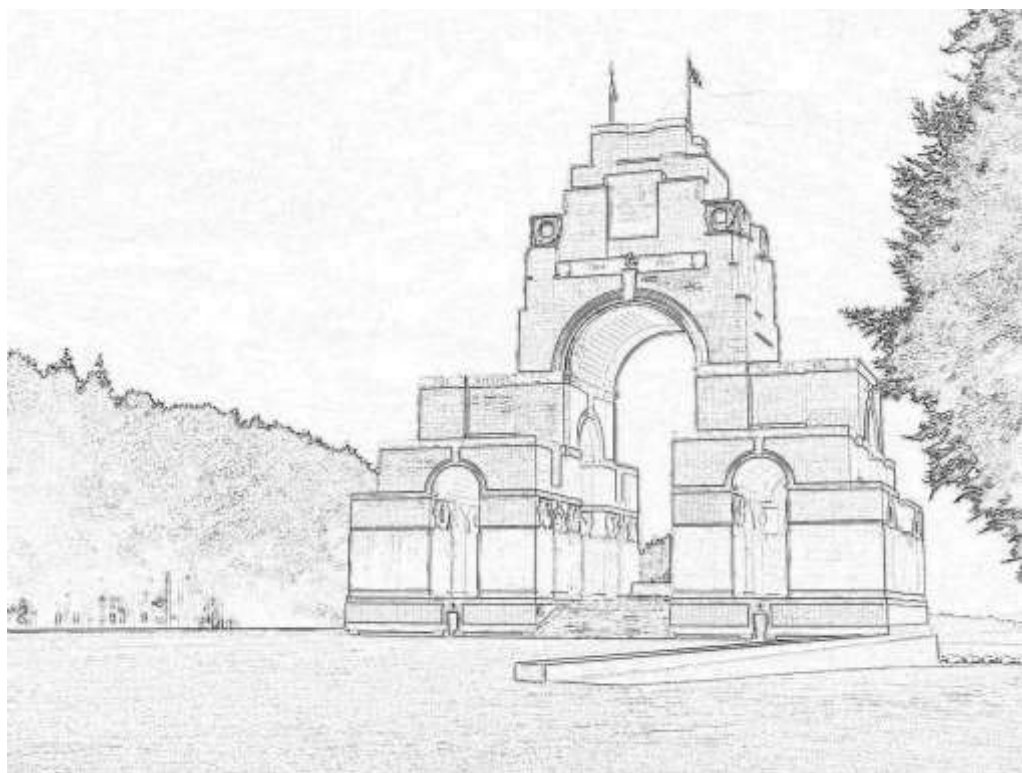
We are also grateful to Ron Carpenter, David and Christine Fowler, Ivor Lucas and Pat Mullington who as members of the project team have given help and support throughout.

Lastly, we are grateful to all those who shared their photographs of the men who served, of the war and the local area, especially, Hilary Corby, Dave Cooper from Antique Armoury, Ron and Ivy Allen and Churnet Valley Books who along with the Imperial War Museum's non-commercial sharing policy have enriched the content of this book

This book and the wider project has also been supported by Kingsley Parish Council.

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The Thiepval Memorial in France

Introduction to the Second Edition

We were never under any illusion that our work was complete or definitive in terms of those men who served. Indeed, at the book launch we were approached by the son of one man who we had known of, but had no firm evidence that he had served, to be told he had. Pictures and further snippets of information have also come to light due to publicity and word of mouth.

A chance conversation on social media led to review of the 1919 Voters Register, which would have been compiled in mid or even early 1918. This showed some men no longer serving but identified a further 22 men who served in the latter stages. Many never got to serve abroad but serve they did and its right we acknowledge that service as we near the centenary of the wars end.

Introduction

The 'War to end all Wars' touched the vast majority of communities and parishes across Great Britain. In fact, the number of communities that did not suffer a death are known as 'Thankful' or 'Blessed Villages', and in 2013 they numbered just 53 throughout the country. Staffordshire had just one such village at Butterson in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Kingsley Parish was no exception, and the wider parish recorded 27 men who died during the war or who died in the following years, as a result of their service. Details of some deaths had not been recorded at the time and it is highly likely that others were simply missed off the listings.

Whilst the 21st century records give access to a wealth of First World War information they do not give us access to the people. The project team have been very lucky as we have met several people who are relatives of those recorded on the village memorials. It is a pity that, whilst we live in an age which allows access to on-line information, we are unfortunately a generation too late to speak to veterans of the conflict themselves. The closest contact we have had during our research was to meet Peter

Capewell whose father and two uncles served in the war and whose uncle, Colin Capewell, died in 1918.

The relatives we have met are justifiably proud of their ancestors and they have introduced us to pictures, medals and other memorabilia as well as stories that enrich the book we have written.

Research for the project has been a very rewarding and at times a hard slog: a snippet of information leading to a surge of activity but often to a dead end.

Whilst the focus has been on those who died there was also an intention to record the names of those who served, thus giving us a rare 'Memorial to the Survivors'. The members of St. John the Baptist Mission Church at Kingsley Moor, (hereafter referred to as St John's Church), erected a tablet to all the men who served, not just to those who died. In total, something like 160 men, (and one woman), from Kingsley Parish served during the war. There is evidence of this as local press reports at the time stated that St. Werburgh's Church had a 'Roll of Honour' naming 150 men. Whilst convinced it was an actual written document the whereabouts of the Roll of Honour was unknown until one day in the spring of 2016, when part of it was found in the St. Werburgh's Vestry. Sadly, half of the document was missing and to date has yet to be found. The part Roll of Honour located includes the names of around 20 men not previously identified.



The two surviving Rolls of Honour – on the left listing the deceased and the right those who served including the deceased up to the letter M.

Research showed that local press reports often gave names of men who were serving. The 1918 Voters Register identified men who were serving at the time the register was compiled. It is a little-known fact that during the war the age for voting was reduced from 21 to 19 for those men serving in the armed forces. This means however, that there will still be young men aged 16 to 18 years old who were not shown on the voter's register yet served in the military.

Lastly, the Parish Registers of St. Werburgh's recorded the marriages of serving members of the armed forces and the baptisms of their children.

As a result of our research around 130 men (and a woman) were identified who served in the war and survived. Due to German bombing in the Second World War around 60% of First World War service records were destroyed making research difficult. Nevertheless, the research has enabled the compilation of a list of those men believed to have served and survived World War One.

The 'War to end all Wars' did not materialise and even to this day we continue to witness conflicts across the globe.

Those of us who have worked on this project now listen to the men's names during Remembrance services with added feelings. It is as though we know them personally. Many of the places where they lived still stand to this day and the Reading Room, (now Village Hall), and St. Werburgh's Church are still focal points in the Community.

One notable success of the project was to unravel the mystery of 'J Tideswell'. His name is on the Dovedale Road Wayside Cross and was seemingly added some time after the memorial was dedicated. Research identified that he was Joseph Tideswell and his story can be read in the pages that follow.

These men should never be forgotten and we hope that by reading this book you too feel you know them just as we do.

'We will remember them.'

Our Research

Firstly, we would like to indicate the basis for our research methodology and make it clear that the men listed and the results of our research are far from definitive.

Despite our exhaustive and wide-ranging research over three years there may well be men who served but who have not come to our notice. We fully recognise that the list is unlikely to be complete. Please accept our apologies if you know of anyone who served during WW1 but who has not come to light during our research.

Those who died as a result of their service are, by and large, easy to identify and record, those who survived less so. A criterion for inclusion was created, because, whilst we had certain source material to work from, some men were identified by research and it was felt important that our records should stand scrutiny. Where possible we have tried to follow the same guidelines originally used almost a hundred years ago when the Roll of Honour was compiled and the Memorials erected.

Those Who Lost Their Lives

The three War Memorials are contemporary records of those men who died in the war with links to the wider parish of St. Werburgh's. It has not been the project's intention to rewrite history and add men to the list of 27 who died, but there are at least two men whom we believe should be added.

The two men are Leonard Edwards, buried in St. Werburgh's Church Yard and commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves site as a victim of the war, and Cecil Rogers, who lived yards from the parish boundary and was the Postman at Froghall. Cecil Rogers is on the Whiston memorial but we believe he is worthy of mention in this book.

Other soldiers made similar cases for consideration. Charles and Frederick Hall, brothers from The Plane, at Whiston, could have been

included and they too are on the Whiston memorial. However, as they were outside the Kingsley Parish we considered they did not fulfil the criteria for inclusion,

The reason why, in 1921, men were originally included or not on a memorial is now lost to the sands of time but we are, nevertheless, grateful to those who lived in our parish almost a hundred years ago, and who took the time to record the names of men who served in the Great War.

Survivors - Role of Honour

Criteria

There is some reliable evidence to indicate that the survivor:

Military Service: Served in one of the armed forces during World War 1 (August 1914 – November 1918),

And

Residence: Lived in Kingsley Parish prior to, during or immediately following the war.

Research

We have conducted research in the following areas

1. St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour surnames A – M (completed by Reverend Mayne during or immediately after the war).
2. Kingsley Parish and surrounding area Electoral Rolls (1918 and 1919)
3. St. John's Church, Kingsley Moor Plaque.
4. Cheadle and Tean Times microfilm records
5. Cheadle Herald microfilm records
6. Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel microfilm records
7. St. Werburgh's Marriage Register
8. St. Werburgh's Baptism Register
9. St. Werburgh's Churchyard / Cemetery Gravestones
10. Anecdotal evidence / Family history

Should you know of anyone who served in the war, and who meets our criteria but does not feature in this book, please contact us by email at martyn_hordern@hotmail.com.

Martyn Hordern and Kenneth Unwin



St. Werburgh's Church as it would have looked during the war.

The War in 1914

The First World War had been smouldering for some years, but the spark that ignited the war happened in Eastern Europe, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo (Bosnia) by a Serbian nationalist. Sarajevo was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The reason why this unrest resulted in a war was because a mixture of different countries attempted to take advantage of international conflict. Other countries, such as Britain, honoured treaties which were in place and when the unrest occurred they were obliged to assist. When Germany invaded Belgium, (with whom we had alliance), Britain declared war on Germany.

Germany was already at war with Russia and France and Austro-Hungary were at war with Serbia. Austro-Hungary followed up by declaring war on Russia and Belgium. Japan declared war on Germany and on the Austro-Hungarians and fought on the allied side. The American's remained neutral until 1917.

The entry of Britain into the War saw the mobilization of its land and sea forces and the activation of thousands of reservists. Men like George Harris Smith, Frederick Cope, Charles Allen, Isaac Hammond and Cecil Rogers all previous reservists, returned to military service.

Locally, Lord Kitchener, who felt that the war would not be over by Christmas, appealed for all able-bodied men to enlist and they did so in droves. The Cheadle and Tean Times newspaper dated 11th September 1914, stated that Staffordshire had recruited 10,000 men in three weeks with North Staffordshire contributing 6,000.



This poster from 1914 and others with the same image of Lord Kitchener appeared across the country. There is no evidence that it appeared in the Cheadle and Tean Times during 1914. It is not known whether the poster was designed to be printed in all newspapers, or, as there was a sufficient number of volunteers locally, it was not required.



Clearly many men wanted to do 'their bit' but the pressure to join up must have been immense. A report in the Cheadle & Tean Times newspaper on 2nd October 1914, reported an extract from the Kingsley Parish Magazine. It lists those men who had joined up including among others Colin Capewell, his brother Frederick, James Poyser and Ernest Upton. The report added, *'There are many younger unmarried men who ought to have joined the Regular Army or Territorials. Every young man who is free to do so ought to put aside his private hopes and personal plans and enlist in either Home Defence or Active Service Army. He has no right whatsoever to refuse to answer his nation's call and to expect others to defend his home for him. It is cowardly selfishness'*. The report continues to say that men should offer themselves for military service. Whilst the comments were not attributed to any one man it does conclude by saying that the Reverend Mayne, (pictured above), was grateful that three Sunday School teachers and three choir members had joined up, and that these comments did not apply to them.

Stirring stuff indeed and enough to sway many a young man's mind if they were unsure.

The Battle of the Marne in September 1914 saw the British Expeditionary Force having to retreat and, before long, trench warfare that was to be a feature of the war continued as both sides dug in.

September also saw the Parish's first death of the war. George Harris Smith lost his life when his ship was sunk in the North Sea. Another man Cecil Rogers, who does not feature on any memorials in the parish, died in October serving with the Dorsetshire Regiment.

The year's end saw the famous Christmas Truce as British and German soldiers mixed in 'No Man's Land'. Games of football were played for the first and only time. Future Christmas' saw both side's bombarding each other to stop such an event happening again.

As Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary, said on 3rd August 1914, 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'



Cheadle men off to join the army.

George Harris Smith

Seaman Stoker SS/107831. Royal Navy (HMS Hogue)

Died 22nd September 1914

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent.



George Harris Smith was born on 23rd August 1890, in Ipstones, the son of Hugh, (a Copperworks Labourer), and Anne Smith, being the third of their seven children. The family later moved to 7 The Green, Kingsley. Whilst he was a young teenager George was employed locally as a Collier working for his uncle, William Smith.

On 16th October 1908, George Harris Smith (18 yrs) joined the Royal Navy for a period of 5 + 7 years. He completed basic training as a Seaman / Stoker at Chatham, Kent, and at this time was described as being 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a 36-inch chest and brown hair. Over the following years, he served on several Royal Navy ships.

The reason why a young man from landlocked Kingsley would join the Royal Navy is unclear. His family tell the story of an argument with fellow workers regarding George being paid by his Uncle at the same rate as the older men. To settle the argument, he apparently enlisted alongside another local Kingsley man whose name was thought to be 'Bert'.

Between April 1909 and April 1911, George saw service on several ships, including HMS Formidable. We understand that it was whilst on leave

during this posting that he had a portrait picture taken by Lowndes' of High Street, Cheadle, (previous page). He also had a picture taken with his sister Mary and a naval friend, Fred Cope, also from Kingsley, (below). Prior to the war, Fred served on the same ships as George.



The service record of Frederick Cope shows that, like George, he was a Collier who came from Cheadle. The two men joined the navy within a week of each and it is possible that Fred was the friend 'Bert' referred to earlier.

Both George and Fred Cope left the Navy in late 1913, early 1914 and went onto the Naval Reserve. At the outbreak of the war they were amongst the first recalled for service.

We understand that George Harris Smith's family last saw him around the time of the beginning of the war as he left his home at The Green, Kingsley, and was seen walking towards Kingsley Moor.

On 2nd August 1914, George Harris Smith was transferred to HMS Hogue, a 12,000-ton armoured cruiser with a crew of 680. In the early stages of World War 1, HMS Hogue, together with HMS Aboukir and HMS Cressey, formed part the 7th Cruiser Squadron. This Squadron was deployed in the southern North Sea to protect the British merchant fleet which was carrying supplies to Expeditionary Force troops in northern Europe.

At 07.00hrs Tuesday, 22nd September 1914, HMS Hogue was deployed to assist the crew of HMS Aboukir, this ship was sinking having been struck by a torpedo from a German U Boat. During the rescue, HMS Hogue was struck by two torpedoes from the same U Boat and sank within 15 minutes, causing the loss of the majority of its crew, (including George Harris Smith). HMS Cressey was hit a short time later and it also sank. A total of 1459 crew were lost from all three cruisers causing a

public outcry and loss of confidence in the ability of the Royal Navy to protect the merchant fleet.

The Weekly Sentinel newspaper, dated 3rd October 1914, carried an interview with a sailor from HMS Hogue. Signaller Frank Grocott stated he was on the bridge when submarines were sighted and the ship was hit by a torpedo. The flags used to communicate messages between ships were half way to being hoisted when HMS Hogue overturned, throwing many men into the water. HMS Cressy was firing at the submarines and the men in the water were swimming towards her when she too was hit by a torpedo that almost capsized her. A further torpedo strike caused her to sink. Signaller Grocott was in the water for three hours before being picked up. He added that there were six submarines in the area at the time and he believed five were sunk.

Although George Harris Smith was a Naval Stoker, according to contemporary press reports at the time of his death he was in charge of the ship's magazine.

The Service Record of George Harris Smith is concluded, '*Drowned in the North Sea when HMS Hogue was sunk by a German Submarine.*'

One of his brothers, John William Smith, served with the North Staffordshire Regiment.

A gravestone was erected by the family in St. Werbrugh's Church yard, Kingsley, near to the stile adjacent to Church Stile Farm, however, for reasons unknown, it was removed or fell down and is no longer to be seen.

The following picture shows George Harris Smith amongst a group of sailors, (on the right second row, first from the right with a clay pipe.) The ship name on his cap band and the life preserver has the letters TCHEN - this would appear to be HMS Itchen a River Class destroyer launched in 1903 and sunk on 6th July 1917. This ship does not appear on George's service record but clearly, he was on board at some point.



Estelle Cope and her brother George Smith, who reside in the Cheadle area, are niece and nephew of George Harris Smith. They both recall that George's mother kept a collage of his pictures and medals over the mantelpiece of her home. George Smith, (nephew), was born on the anniversary of the death of the uncle he never knew and he was named in remembrance of him.

Cecil Rogers

Lance Corporal 7447 Dorsetshire Regiment (1st Battalion)

Died 12th October 1914

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, France.



Cecil Rogers was born around 1889, the son of John (a Bailiff) and Elizabeth Rogers. In 1901 the family were living in Leicester. The family clearly travelled around, no doubt due to John Rogers occupation, and the children were born in Worcestershire and Leicestershire.

In 1904 Cecil Rogers, (15 or 16 yrs), enlisted in the Dorset Regiment. At the time, he gave his occupation as a Painter and Decorator. In 1911 he was based in Ceylon, (modern day Sri Lanka).

His family appeared to stay in Leicestershire with his then widowed mother who, in 1911, was living in the city of Leicester. His father had passed away the previous year as a result of head injuries caused when, whilst of unsound mind, he shot himself. His mother died in Leicester in 1944.

In a letter written by Cecil in 1912, whilst he was stationed at Poona in India, he refers to coming home the next year. He mentions a friend, George W, who was with him and sent his best wishes. It is believed that Cecil Rogers left the army in 1913, after which he moved to the Cupola, Froghall, (near Froghall Wharf), obtaining employment as the local Postman.

In 1914, Cecil married Annie Leese who came from Burslem. They married in her hometown with Cecil giving his home address as the home of his wife's parents at Lower Hadderidge, Burslem. After their marriage, it

would appear they moved back to the local area and lived at the Cupola, Froghall.

At the outbreak of the First World War, as a reservist, Cecil Rogers was called up into the Dorsetshire Regiment. On 16th August 1914, the regiment entered into France where, almost immediately, it was involved in action, taking part in the Battle of Mons and, towards the end of August, in the retreat from Le Cateau. In the early part of September his regiment was at the Battle of the Marne and later the same month at the Battle of the Aisne. Both the latter two battles were also fought by Arthur Carr, a survivor from Kingsley, who was with the Seaforth Highlanders.

On 12th October 1914, (the date he was killed), the Dorset's were involved in the Battle of La Bassée. The war diary of the regiment is quite detailed and especially so for its entry on the day Cecil died.

The Battalion marched with the 15th Brigade towards Festubert but were halted due to shellfire. They took up position along a canal line. The Germans were seen but made no immediate advance, however, they were fired upon by the British machine guns.

By mid-afternoon two companies of the battalion were positioned either side of the canal itself. 'A' company had the shelter of a bank and being unseen it inflicted severe losses on the Germans.

However, 'D' company were less fortunate and were subject to heavy sniping, during which the Company Commander was killed. The two reserve companies were also involved and progress was described as excellent. However, the battalion withdrew later that night. As a result of the day's fighting 11 men were killed, 50 wounded and 2 men were missing.

As we know, one of the men killed that day was Cecil Rogers. We do not know which company he was in and are, therefore, unable to specify in which part of the attack he was involved. However, research has unearthed a letter written by a friend of Cecil's, named George, who refers to Cecil as 'Simmy'. George states that he was told by stretcher bearers

that Cecil had been shot in the stomach and had died 30 minutes later. George himself was a prisoner of war when he wrote the letter and in it he asked his parents to break the news to Cecil's mother, which would suggest they lived near to each other.

George may have been the George W referred to in the letter written by Cecil from India in 1912 and sent to Cecil's mother. In the 1911 Census, next on the list to Cecil was a George Wilson born in Leicester. Checking Prisoner of War records, Sgt G 7448 Wilson was taken prisoner the day after Cecil's death, thus corresponding with the letter. His service number is the next one after Cecil's and it is likely they were good friends. He survived his time in captivity and upon release served with the Military Police.

Cecil Rogers has no known grave and is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial. The likelihood is that like thousands killed around that time he would have been buried by the Germans in a communal grave.

Cecil Rogers' death was reported in the Cheadle Herald, where it describes him as the Postman at Froghall, who was exceedingly well known in that locality. A similar report is to be found in the Weekly Sentinel and mention of him is made in a local Leicestershire paper, with a photograph.

He is also remembered on the Whiston War Memorial but despite living extremely close to Kingsley Parish and working in Froghall, he is not remembered on any memorials in St. Werburgh's Parish.

Cecil and his wife Annie did not have any children. She is later known as Annie Vaisey of 50 Bennett Street, Derbyshire, suggesting that she had remarried.

Tony Rogers the great, great nephew of Cecil Rogers lives in Kent.



Froghall Post Office, far left. Cecil Rogers undoubtedly worked from here.



British Infantry pictured on 13th October 1914. © IWM (Q 53321)



North Staffordshire Railway Workers – possibly at Froghall circa. WW1

The War in 1915

It had initially been widely believed that the war would be over by Christmas 1914. The advent of 1915 saw a realisation that the war was likely to be much lengthier, and costly, in terms of human sacrifice.

Early in the year the Germans placed a submarine blockade around Britain. As a result, during the year many ships were sunk, including in May, the liner Lusitania with the loss of 1198 lives. The Germans claimed the ship was carrying war supplies but, at the time, this was denied by the British Government. We now know that the ship was carrying munitions and her construction had been subsidised by the government to allow her use in times of war. Some of the passengers on the Lusitania were American and this ultimately led to America joining the war.

The year saw the failed Dardanelles Campaign in modern day Turkey, and the continuing land war in mainland Europe, both on the Western and Eastern Fronts and elsewhere as the war became a truly 'World War'.

From Kingsley Parish, 1915 saw the deaths of Robert Myles Heywood, Rowland Auriol James Beech and Thomas Salt.

The effects of the war were beginning to be felt far and wide. At the annual St. Werburgh's Vestry Meeting it was commented on that very few parishioners were present due to overtime being worked at Bolton's, Froghall, who were the manufacturers of copper bands used on artillery shells as well as munitions.

On 2nd May 1915, during the early days of the Second Battle of Ypres a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed near Ypres when a German artillery shell landed near him. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as a friend, the Canadian military doctor and artillery commander Major John McCrae.

As the brigade doctor, John McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Lt. Helmer because the Regimental Chaplain was unavailable. It is believed that later that evening John McCrae began the draft of his now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Robert Myles Heywood

Lieutenant. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) (3rd Battalion)

Died 15th February 1915

Commemorated at Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium.



Robert Myles Heywood was born on 1st February 1884, in Manchester, the only child of Robert and Annabel Crook Heywood, latterly of Hales Hall, Cheadle, Staffs. In 1891, the family was living in Rusholme, Lancashire. Robert (Snr) was a Cotton Bleacher / Dyer and the family were relatively prosperous having three servants.

In the 1901 Census Robert Myles Heywood is shown to be a boarder at an address in Frodsham Lordship, Cheshire. His father, Robert Heywood, is shown to be residing at The Cottage, Entwhistle, Lancashire, where he employed a husband and wife as general servants.

Annie Heywood, as she is recorded throughout the census returns, was, in 1901, one of several visitors to Moor Court in Oakamoor. This address was the home of Alfred Bolton, JP for Staffordshire and his family.

The Bolton family had connections with the family of Thomas Bolton & Sons, copper manufacturers at Froghall and Oakamoor. In 1861 the Bolton family built Moor Court, Oakamoor, now a listed building.

The 1911 Census shows the family at Hales Hall, Cheadle. Robert (Snr) is described as 'Own Means', (suggesting some wealth), the family have five servants. Robert Myles Heywood (27 yrs) is recorded as resident at The Links Hotel, near Cromer, Norfolk. His occupation detail is recorded as 'None', (suggesting he was living off his own or family wealth).

On 8th August 1914, Robert Heywood applied to join The Buffs, (The East Kent Regiment). His Attestation Form gives his education as being at Charter House and Christ Church College, Oxford. Robert has no occupation shown and gives his address as Hales Hall, Cheadle. He also gives a correspondence address as 13 Mill Field, Folkstone. Robert seems to have few qualifications but states that he can ride a horse. He signs his name as R Myles Heywood.



The above is an extract from 'The Sphere', a contemporary magazine published on 30th January 1915. Robert Heywood is third from the left on the second row from the back.

In September 1914, Robert Heywood was 'Gazetted' as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was initially posted to the 3rd (Reserve Battalion), a training unit supplying troops to the 1st and 2nd Battalions in France. The 3rd Battalion arrived in France in January 1915, and it is assumed that Robert Myles Heywood either travelled with them or joined them shortly after. His medal card indicates he went to France in January 1915. He was promoted to full Lieutenant in the days before his death.

On 8th December 1914, Robert Heywood married Barbara De Hoghton, (daughter of Sir James and Aimee Jean Hoghton), of Hoghton Tower,

Preston, Lancashire. (Barbara's brother Vere was killed in France in October 1915, whilst serving with the Lincolnshire Regiment).

The Battalion War Diary indicates that in February, 1915, the Regiment were in the Ypres area involved in daily fighting and suffering heavy casualties. On 14th February 1915, the unit were in and around the Chateau Rosendal, south of Ypres near St Eloi. In the early afternoon, along with the East Surrey Regiment, an attempt was to be made to retake a trench from the enemy which had been lost the previous day.

The East Surrey's suffered early losses and the Buff's moved up under cover of artillery fire to provide additional support. By 5pm it was going dark and the Buffs came across an East Surrey Officer whose platoon had been 'wiped out'. With the East Surrey Officer as their guide they moved towards the German trench. However, they were soon struggling against barbed wire and in the closing darkness it looked likely that they might miss their objective and rush head on into the main German defences. A decision was made to retire to the canal line and then to the Chateau Rosendal.

During the attack the Buff's suffered one officer killed, two officers wounded with six other ranks killed and 23 other ranks wounded.

The officer killed was Lt. Robert Myles Heywood who, at that time, had been at the front for no more than a month. From army records, we believe that Robert Heywood was wounded in this action and died the following day. His service record gives the cause of his death as a gunshot wound to the head. Robert's place of death is recorded as Number 3 Casualty Clearing Station at Poperinghe on 15th February

1915. Records held by them show he was admitted on the day he died, but, alongside his name is written 'Death'. The Casualty Clearing Station was around 20 miles from the front line.

A newspaper report at the time states that Robert Heywood was leading the attack after the two senior officers had been wounded.

Robert is buried at Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery. Tragically his death occurred just over two months after his marriage. His death was notified in a telegram sent to his wife, (a copy of which remains on his file).

Most of Robert's Service Record has been 'weeded' to leave out matters appertaining to his death and the execution of Robert's 'Soldiers Will'. It would appear that in his will he wrote of matters regarding the military situation at that time of which he was critical. This caused some issue as it may have been in breach of relevant regulations and it was agreed that only non-contentious sections of his will would be published.

Robert Heywood is commemorated at the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Charlton, Dover, Kent, on the Kingsley War Memorial, on the St. Werburgh's Plaque, and at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Robert left an estate valued at £1,444 15s which equates to around £145,000 today.



During the war, both of his parents remained active in public life, Annie Heywood was involved in various events at Hales Hall including fundraising for the Red Cross. In 1917, Robert (Snr) was elected as a local Magistrate.

On 22nd April 1917, a War Shrine (pictured), the gift of Mrs. R. Heywood, was dedicated in the porch at St. Werburgh's by the Reverend Mayne. The shrine was quite substantial being made of Oak with a crucifix beneath, into which slips of paper showing the names, dates and places of the parish's war dead could be inserted. The report of the event stressed that it was not just a shrine to Robert Myles Heywood but to all of Kingsley's fallen. The report then listed those from the village who had died, up until that point.

The wooden shrine, with the space previously for the names of the fallen is now used for flowers, continues to be positioned in the Church Porch and fresh flowers are placed on it at all times.

The gift of the war shrine to St. Werburgh's clearly shows that the Heywood family had an affinity with the village of Kingsley. The Reverend Mayne was very active in various Committees, (including the Reading Room, the present-day Village Hall), and was also a member of the War Tribunals in Cheadle, which enabled men to defer war service through appeal. He may well have come into contact with the Heywood family through his work. Robert Heywood (Snr) served on the Tribunal towards the end of the war.

In February 1921, sometime after the war, a 'Wayside Cross' memorial (Cenotaph) was financed by the Heywood family in honour of their son. This was erected on the edge of the village, (nowadays Dovedale Road). Both Robert Heywood (Snr) and his wife Annie Heywood are buried at the south end of the churchyard, overlooking the memorial to their son.

Why Kingsley was chosen as the site of the memorial to Robert Myles Heywood is unknown.

Following Robert's death, Barbara Heywood, his widow, remarried. One of her children, Flavia Vernon, lives in Wiltshire. Flavia has a good recollection of the long-term effect Robert's death had on her mother. She recalls that her mother received many letters from him. Flavia also revealed that Robert and her mother were married for no more than 24 hours before he had to leave with his battalion and that, in later letters, he told her that he would not be coming back. Prior to the war, Robert was apparently involved in mining in South Africa. Flavia also recalls that Robert's mother, (Annie), still visited her former daughter-in-law, (Flavia's mother).



Poperinghe, Belgium pictured in February 1915

Rowland Auriol James Beech

Lieutenant. 16th (The Queen's) Lancers

Died 21st February 1915

Commemorated at Ypres Town Cemetery, Belgium.



Rowland Auriol James Beech was born on 20th August 1888, in Chelsea, London, the third child of Rowland John Beech and Adelaide Frederica Beech (nee Capel Cure). His siblings being Christabel (Kitty), Irene and younger brother Douglas. The family had a country home at Brandon Hall, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire, where they were living in 1891, with four other relatives and 16 members of the household staff.

Rowland Auriol James Beech was popularly known as 'Jim' by his close friends and family. Jim Beech was educated at Eton where he was awarded several annual book prizes between 1901 - 1906, (aged 13 – 18 years). Jim was an accomplished rower winning various medals in the sport and, in 1906, aged 18 years and weighing only 8 stones 8 pounds, he was the Cox in a trials eight rowing crew. Jim Beech was also a fine horseman who enjoyed participating in the local Atherstone Hunt, show jumping and competing in local horse races.

In 1907, Jim (19 yrs), went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst to undergo Army Officer training.

By 1911, Jim (23 yrs), had joined the 16th (The Queen's) Lancers, and was stationed at the Cavalry Barracks, Barracks Street, Norwich. The Barracks at this time had 11 Commissioned Officers, (including Lt. Jim Beech), and 285 other ranks.

The following is an extract from, 'At the Going Down of the Sun – 365 Soldiers from the Great War':

'Rowland Auriol James Beech was a typical Cavalry Officer of the Regular Army. As well as a London House at No. 5, Eaton Square, Belgravia, the family owned two country estates, Shawe Hall, Kingsley, Staffordshire, which comprised several thousand acres and tenanted farms, and Brandon Hall, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire. Rowland, known to his family and friends as 'Jim', much preferred Brandon, for it was situated in excellent hunting country and he and his brother hunted with the Atherstone Hounds. Jim was a handsome, athletic, intelligent boy, who carried off many prizes at Eton and was the apple of his parent's eye." - "As an officer of the 16th Lancers he went to war with the Cavalry Division in August 1914. They fought at Mons, being rear guard to the infantry on the long retreat to the Marne and back to Flanders and the Salient. When the stalemate set in after the first battle of Ypres, the Cavalrymen dismounted and were sent into the trenches. The 16th Lancers were holding trenches just north of Klien Zillebeke on the edge of a wood they called Shrewsbury Forest, only a matter of 10 metres from the enemy lines.'

The following is an extract from the War Diary of the 16th Lancers, (believed to have been written by the Regimental Adjutant):

'It had been suspected for some days that the enemy was running a sap, (a tunnel), at the bottom of the ditch and a close observation had been kept on it, but no sign of anything of the sort had been discovered. It turned out afterwards that the enemy had really dug a sap halfway down it, but had turned off at a sharp angle and continued the sap underground until it ran under the centre of the trench of D Squadron, and that three mines had been placed at the end of it. It was afterwards ascertained from prisoners that the mines had been laid some days before the 16th Lancers had taken over the trenches, but that the explosion had been delayed with the intention of catching the relief when they were taking over on the 18th. However, the opportunity had been missed.'

At 6.00am on the 21st one mine was fired, followed immediately afterwards by the other two, with the result that the trench was completely destroyed. The enemy followed this up with a strong attack on the trenches on each side of that held by D Squadron. There was of course much confusion and hand to hand combat, in which the enemy was finally driven back by A Squadron and the reserve troop of D, with the help of a machine gun. A counter attack was made by the three reserve troops. They were unable to regain the lost trench, and a request was sent to two companies of the French Infantry which were in support of the left section of the trench, but these men refused to move without orders from their own commanding officer, and when he came up he was unfortunately killed whilst giving the order to advance.

No further attack was made until 9.00am when the line was reinforced by a Squadron of the 20th Hussars and another company of French Infantry from the supporting line. The French were stopped at once by the heavy fire they were met with, all their officers and half their men being shot down in a few minutes. The 20th got a little further when they were caught up by enfilading fire and the attack was broken off. No further attempt was made to regain the lost trench, but a new one was dug in rear of it. This was the worst day the 16th had during the whole war. When the roll was called it was found that Major Neave, Capt Nash, Lt's Beech, King and Cross and seven men were killed and Lt Patrick and 29 men wounded. In addition Lt. Ryan and 11 men were missing. In all seven officers and 47 other ranks were killed, wounded or missing."

The following is an account given by a Private in the Troop commanded by Lt Jim Beech;

'I cannot tell you where the engagement took place, we have been in the vicinity before, and to get to it, the troops are subject to three fires from front, from left and right flanks, so curiously does the firing line bend in this district. Before actually arriving at the above place we were held in reserve. After this we proceed to the trenches, and nothing very exciting happened until Monday morning. I should tell you that some of the trenches were as near as 12 to 15 yards from the Germans.

I was just finishing my three hours sentry looking over the top of the trench. I suppose the time must have been about six in the morning, for it was almost

dark when the explosion took place. My chum and I and of course with the other chaps in reserve immediately manned our loop holes, and, I think, were mostly under the impression that we were being shelled. But we were soon to know. They had mined the trenches of D Squadron and were making an attack, fellows were dropping everywhere and being dark it was damned hard to sift things out until our officers saw what was required.

Lt Beech, of A Squadron, claimed all the men near him and he himself gave a push up out of the knee-deep mud and we scrambled out into another trench, closer up to where the Germans were pouring through. Here we let them have it, and incidentally, covered the fire of our maxim gun behind us, which played the devil with the square heads. Mr. Beech did not get into the trench with us, but crouched behind observing fire, etc, and I happened to turn around and saw him drop onto his face."

The following is an extract from a letter written by a General Officer to Jim Beech's parents; 'You know Jim was hit rushing forward gallantly at the head of his troop and that his action together with three other officers saved the situation and prevented the Germans gaining anything of consequence.' - 'It seems impossible to believe that he, the brightest and most cheerful of all, has gone. He died splendidly, helping to save what looked like a very critical situation for some minutes.' (Unnamed Regimental Captain – British Roll of Honour).

Rowland Auriol James Beech (26 yrs) died on 21st February 1915. In 1914 he was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' for his bravery in the face of the enemy.

Jim Beech appears to have been the 'quintessential' English gentleman of the Edwardian era with a great love of horses. Whilst in the army he took part in equestrian events of all sorts including appearing at the Olympia Horse Show in 1913.



Jim Beech – centre row third from right standing – by February 1915 of those men in this picture 4 including Jim had been killed and 2 wounded.

Whilst in France he took rare opportunities to hunt a pack of hounds, (there is a photo of him with the pack in the early days of the war). Jim was a Cavalry Officer and having had a love of horses it is ironic that his death occurred whilst fighting as infantry in the trenches. The cavalry of the British Army was trained for the infantry role and this transformation happened to many mounted units as the nature of the warfare quickly made mounted soldiers obsolete. After his death, Jim Beech was described by a Senior Officer as *'the best horseman in the British, or any, army'*.

Jim Beech kept a daily diary recording his thoughts and the unit's activities from the outbreak of war until the end of November 1914. Sadly, his diary after this date and photos he had taken during that period are lost. His diary to the end of November has been presented to the Regimental Museum as a piece of history that records the early days of the war.

The war was a particular tragedy for the Beech family. Following Jim's death his father who had already re-enlisted, went to France. He saw out the war but died as a result of his active service in 1919. Jim's sister 'Kitty' married Arthur William Macarthur-Onslow who was a Captain in

Jim's Regiment. Arthur Macarthur-Onslow was killed in November 1914.

With regard to the book referred to in the above - 'At the Going Down of the Sun – 365 Soldiers from the Great War'. - Jim Beech was chosen to be mentioned in this book along with other soldiers who died in the war. During 2002 when the last post was played at the Menin Gate in Ypres a soldier was remembered and on 21st February 2002, 87 years to the day since he was killed Jim was remembered. Present at the Ceremony were members of the Beech family and the regiment in which Jim had served.



The following is a comment from the Beech Family Archives: *'The Shawe', (or Shawe Park as it was also called), was the original Beech family home in Kingsley, Staffordshire. When I first saw it in the mid 1950's it looked remarkably as above (pictured), though it was unoccupied. Sadly, eventually it became much*

neglected and later totally ruined, and it has since been demolished. The only thing to remain is the sundial. Douglas (Beech) sold The Shawe and all the tenanted farms soon after he inherited it, preferring Brandon, where hunting with the Atherstone Hounds was more fun." (Mrs Geraldine Dalrymple-Hamilton, formerly Beech, Beech Family Records).

We are extremely grateful to members of the Beech family who kindly gave us access to family archives which have been most helpful in compiling our account of the life of Rowland Auriol James (Jim) Beech.

His personal army service file is held in the National Archives in Kew. There is a copy birth certificate and his application to join the army in 1906. There are also two copy telegrams which were sent to his family. One informing them of his death and another of the location of his burial.



The picture above, was taken in France and shows from the left, Jim's brother-in-law (Capt. Arthur Macarthur-Onslow) who lost his life in November 1914, and their General (Campbell) who he died in 1918. On the right is James Beech himself.

Thomas Salt

Private 16717. North Staffordshire Regiment (7th Battalion)

Died 9th October 1915

Commemorated on The Helles Memorial, Turkey.



Thomas Salt was born around 1884 in the Cheadle area, the son of John and Agnes Salt (nee Willett). In 1891 the family were living at Sweet Hill Farm, Boundary, with older sisters Mary Ann (9 yrs) and Ellen (11 yrs). John Salt's occupation is given as Farmer.

By 1901 the family were living at Hatchley, believed to be Hatchley Farm, Bate Lane, near Dilhorne, where John Salt was farming, Mary Ann had by then married and Ellen has moved out. Thomas (17yrs) had no occupation recorded.

On 10th October 1909, Thomas Salt (25 yrs) married Florence May Carr at Fenton. Their home address was given as 30 Alfred Street, Fenton. The Marriage Certificate records the occupation of both Thomas and his father as 'Butcher'.

The 1911 census, records the family living at Dilhorne Lane, Forsbrook, with two children, Florence May, (2 yrs) and Agnes (6 months). Thomas's occupation is recorded as a General Farm Labourer.

Thomas Salt joined the army at an early stage in the war and was posted to the 7th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.

This battalion was formed in 1914 and based initially in Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain. By January 1915 the unit was at Basingstoke and then Aldershot, prior to sailing from Avonmouth in June 1915, bound for Gallipoli, (Turkey).

Thomas Salt died on 9th October 1915. On this date, he was the only man killed from the North Staffordshire Regiment. The Battalion War Diary shows that at the time the regiment were on the front line in Gallipoli, occupying fire trenches known as B65, B66 and B67, having relieved battalions of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Regiments on 3rd October 1915.



Painting of the allied forces landing at Sulva Bay on the Gallipoli peninsular. This is from the collection of pictures supplied by the family of James Flanagan (a survivor) who actually saw the artist painting it. The unknown artist sent this to James after the war.

On the night of 3rd October, a covering party escorted a digging party to a point called Gloster Post, some 50 yards in front of the allied trenches. Gloster Post had, to that point, been used as a listening post for six men each night. The digging work carried out allowed for better communications and occupation of the trench both day and night.

On each of the nights of 7th, 8th and 9th October, a small party of men went out into 'No man's land', dangerously near to the Turkish trenches in an effort to gain intelligence and sketch out enemy positions.

On 8th October, the Stafford's were subjected to what was described as asphyxiating bombing by the enemy in the area of C Companies trenches. This is assumed to be a reference to the use of gas shells. There are no entries for 9th October 1915, other than a reference to the forays into no man's land, but on 10th October the unit was joined by 120 reinforcements from Madras in India.

The Battalion War Diary makes no direct reference to any action that could be attributed to Thomas Salt's death. On the day, he died there was only one casualty mentioned who was wounded and to that point there had been relatively few casualties. Over the whole month of October casualties were 5 men killed and 13 wounded.

There is no reliable evidence as to how Thomas Salt died. He may have been killed on the reconnaissance party that went towards the enemy trenches on the night of either 8th or 9th October, or he could have been killed in other circumstances. Sadly, we will probably never know how he died.

Thomas Salt is commemorated at the Helles Memorial in Western Turkey.

Footnote 1: The eight-month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, also to relieve the deadlock on the Western Front in France and Belgium and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25th – 26th April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the West Coast, an area later known as Anzac. On 6th August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac. The climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further significant action was fought and the lines remained largely unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916. With the benefit of hindsight, the Gallipoli campaign was later judged to have been an ill-considered disaster.

Footnote 2: The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth War Memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial lists over 20,000 names.

Footnote 3: The 7th Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in January 1916, going to Port Said in Egypt. They remained in the Middle East for the duration and at the end of the war the battalion was in Baku, (Azerbaijan).

Footnote 4: Sadly, further tragedy was to befall the family. Only a few weeks after Thomas Salt was killed, it was reported in the Cheadle and Tean Times, (3rd November 1915), that Mary Ellen Carr, his 14-year-old sister-in-law had died, her clothes having caught alight whilst cooking at her sister's (Thomas's) home. She was taken to Cheadle Hospital but later died.



British Graves Gallipoli 1915. © IWM (Q 44414)



Allied soldiers in the trenches at Gallipoli. © IWM (Q 13325)

The War in 1916

The year was noted for three massive battles, the Battles of Verdun and The Somme in northern France and the Battle of Jutland in the North Sea.

The Battle of Verdun lasted from February to December and involved mainly French forces who lost around 160,000 killed, with the Germans losing around 140,000. The battle was one of the largest of the war in which a million men were injured or killed as the warfare reached an industrial scale.

The Battle of Jutland took place in the North Sea between 31st May and 1st June, in what was the only full scale naval battle of the war. Almost 250 ships took part from both sides. During the battle the British Royal Navy lost 14 warships, with Germany losing 11 warships. Over 6,000 British and Commonwealth sailors lost their lives. At least one man from landlocked Kingsley was at the battle. William Johnson, who ultimately survived the war, was serving aboard HMS Superb at the time.

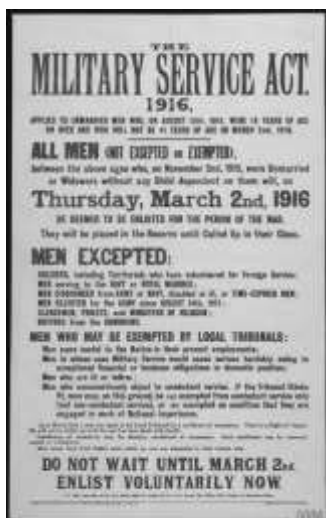
The main battle for British forces was The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme Offensive. The battle took place between 1st July and 18th November 1916, on both sides of the River Somme in northern France. The battle saw more than a million men wounded or killed.

British and Commonwealth casualties who have no known grave are commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial. This records the names of 72,246 men who still lie on the battlefield.

On 1st July 1916, 13 Divisions of Commonwealth Forces, supported by a French attack to the south, launched a major offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment, lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the initial attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic, (19,240 deaths on the first day alone), with only minimal advances on the southern flank. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously with repeated attacks and counter attacks, resulting in fierce fighting for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, the village

of Thiepval, (an initial objective), was finally captured. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18th November, at the onset of winter.

In the Spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.



The year is also noted for the introduction of conscription in Britain as the numbers volunteering for service became insufficient. From 2nd March, large numbers of men were conscripted into the armed forces with some appealing to local tribunals for exemption.

The year of 1916 saw six men from the parish lose their lives. James Poyser died in the spring with five other men, Charles Allen, Isaac Hammond, George Price Bevans, Arthur Keene and Thomas Clowes all losing their lives on the Somme. With the exception of Thomas Clowes,

all are mentioned on the Thiepval Memorial, as they have no known grave.



Women munitions workers at Thomas Bolton's Froghall during the war. 1916 saw large scale works at the factory to enable it to produce munitions for the war effort.



Froghall Gas Works from the air in 1938. During the war, Bolton's factory (top of picture) requested additional gas supplies including to the works canteen.

© Historic England

James Poyser

Private 11115. Leicester Regiment (6th Battalion)

Died 18th March 1916

**Commemorated at Humbercamps Communal Cemetery Extension,
France.**



James Poyser was born on 19th August 1892, the son of Isaac and Sarah Ann Poyser, the second of their eight children. The family lived at 27 Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley, later living at Kingsley Cross. As a teenager, James was employed as an Ironstone Labourer. Later he was employed by Podmore's Mill at Consall Forge, and prior to enlistment at Hartley's Minerals in Kingsley.

On 27th August 1914, James Poyser, (22 yrs), joined the British Army as a volunteer to become part of 'Kitchener's First New Army'. Local newspaper reports at the time of his death described him as being the first man from Kingsley to sign up at the outbreak of the war. On enlistment, he was 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 10 stone 2 pounds. He was described as 'Fit for Service' and was posted to the Leicester Regiment, 6th Battalion, undergoing his initial training at Aldershot Barracks.

On 29th July 1915, James was posted to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force, forming part of the 110th Brigade, 37th Division. The Division was deployed in the Nord Pas De Calais Region in Northern France, the scene of heavy trench warfare on the Western Front.

In December 1915, army records show that James Poyser had chilblains.

James Poyser was killed on 18th March 1916. Army records indicate that he 'Died from wounds received in action'.

Leicester Regiment War Diary for this period does not shed any light on James Poyser's death. The fact that he died as the result of wounds received, suggests that he was initially wounded and died sometime later as a result. This view is supported by his army record which states his death was reported by the 48th Field Ambulance who were attached to the Leicestershire Regiment.

During the relevant period the battalion was in the front line, later spending time recuperating in the reserve area. There appears to have been little offensive actions, with both sides resorting to the shelling of each other with both small and large calibre shells, as well as grenades. This gives some indication of how close the two sides were. Additionally, several injuries and deaths were caused by rifle and sniper fire. It is likely that James Poyser was wounded whilst in the trenches, either by rifle fire, or from shrapnel from an exploding shell.

News of his death was reported to the family by his commanding officer, 2nd Lieutenant G M Gillett, who commented that James Poyser had been with him since the commencement of the war, and that he was a trusted soldier. Also, a letter was received from the Army Chaplain, who had conducted his funeral service.

The Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel dated 22nd April 1916, reported details of a memorial service held at St. Werburgh's Church. The report stated that James Poyser was the first man from the village to enlist in August 1914, and noted that prior to the war he had worked for Hartley's Minerals. His death was also reported in the Cheadle Herald on 28th April 1916, and his photograph appeared in the Cheadle and Tean Times newspaper dated 6th June 1916.

James Poyser is commemorated at the Humbercamps Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, Northern France.

Footnote 1: Sadly 2nd Lieutenant George Maurice Gerald Gillett, (who wrote to the Poyser family advising them of James' loss), was also not to see out the war. He was killed by a shell on 26th September 1916, during

the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



Footnote 2: The late Margaret Harvey from The Cottage, Hazles Cross, Kingsley, was the last surviving relative of James Poyser, being the daughter of James' younger brother, John William Poyser. Her home was where James lived prior to joining the army. Margaret supplied a picture of James, his 'Death Penny' (pictured

here) and scroll.

Footnote 3: In the Cheadle and Tean Times dated 4th September 1914, James was named as one of 76 men who marched to Cheadle Train station destined for Stoke on Trent and army life. They were given a meal at the station and gifts collected locally. With James were George Chandler, George Coates, George Finney and Joseph Chell.

Local historians Ron and Ivy Allen from Cheadle have a large amount of information on the local men who served in the First World War. This was prompted by Ron's desire to learn about his father's experiences. Some 40 years ago, Ron befriended George Chandler who also put him in touch with several local veterans. George told Ron that once at Stoke it was realised there were too many men for the North Staffordshire Regiment. Men were then split up and some went to Wrexham where they joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and others including George, James and the others went to Leicester and the Leicestershire Regiment.

Such was the desire to serve that some 14-year-old boys who were in the band that led the men to the station ended up in Wrexham before their parents retrieved them. George Chandler rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the DSM for bravery. He told Ron how the other men referred to, died in the war with all except Joseph Chell being shot by snipers in the trenches. George stated that James and George Finney (who James worked with at Hartley's) were good friends and after his death

James wrote a letter to Mrs Finney explaining how George had died. Days later James too was dead.



Cheadle Railway Station – volunteers being fed and celebrated prior to departure to Stoke on Trent. It's unknown if this is the occasion referred to in the newspaper dated 4th September 1914.



Opposite, a photograph of a Hartley's Minerals delivery wagon and horses. The man sitting on the wagon is Mr. Hartley and the man holding the horse is Fredrick Poyser, (James' brother).

Charles Allen

Private 7524. North Staffordshire Regiment (1st Battalion)

Died 12th August 1916

Commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial, France.



Charles Allen was born around 1892/93 to Mary J. Allen. Little more is known of the family at this time.

In 1901, the family had seemingly fallen on hard times and were living in the Workhouse in Cheadle. At this stage, Charles (8 yrs) had a younger sister Mary (4 yrs). By 1911, Mary (Jnr.), aged 14 years, was working as a Domestic Servant at Fole. At that time, there is no information on mother Mary Allen or her son Charles Allen.

The workhouse subsequently became the old Cheadle Hospital building.

Charles Allen joined the Army at a fairly early stage in the war, and he was posted to the North Staffordshire Regiment. Newspaper reports at the time of his death describe him as a 'Reservist', this would indicate that he served as such before the war. This is confirmed as he is shown on the roll of soldiers in the North Staffordshire Regiment at the outbreak of the war.

On 5th February 1915, the Cheadle and Tean Times reported that a Whist Drive had been held, (believed at Kingsley Reading Room), in aid of those at the front. From the proceeds, it was decided to purchase socks with half a dozen pairs being kept back to send to Charles Allen who was a member of the Reading Room.

Initially Charles served in the 4th Battalion, (a Reserve Battalion). On 23rd March 1915, Charles Allen was transferred to the 1st Battalion who were in action on the Western Front in Northern France. Prior to November 1915, Charles was apparently wounded in action and had to undergo a period of convalescence in the Channel Islands. He made a recovery sufficient to allow his continued active service.

On 6th May 1916, Charles Allen (25 yrs) married Mary Ellen Thomas, (25 yrs), at St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley. At that stage, Charles was a serving soldier in the North Staffs Regiment. The Marriage Certificate provides no details of his father, (he may well have been born outside of marriage), but indicates he lived in Kingsley at the time.

Mary Ellen Thomas was the daughter of Edward and Mary Allen who had previously lived in Cotton. In 1911 Mary and her mother were living in Back Lane, Kingsley.

The 1st Battalion, North Staffs Regiment was involved in the Battle of the Somme, (1st July – 18th November 1916). They were involved fairly early on in the battle moving to the front in late July or early August. At the end of August, the battalion historian records that rotting corpses littered the area they were in.

The War Diary 1st Battalion 12th and 13th August 1916, reads: *"Fine clear day. Total daily casualties to 12 noon, 1 killed, 5 wounded. Orders received at 11am that Battalion will relieve R W Kents during evening of 12th inst. Relief begun at about 4.30pm almost simultaneously with allied attack on our immediate right of which we had not been warned. Relief complete 9.30pm (approx) a few casualties in joining up. Enemy bombardment on front line — and Hollow Road 9.30pm to 10.30pm. 11pm to midnight, 1am to 2am[illegible] bombardment of Hollow Road and supporting lines from 3.45am to 5.30am [illegible] shelling in between bombardments. Casualties to 12 noon 7 OR (Other Ranks) killed and 20 wounded"*

Charles Allen was killed on 12th August 1916. There is no reliable evidence as to the specific circumstances of his death. The previous day saw the battalion moving into forward trenches as an attack was due to take place

later that evening. There is little detail but the casualties were fairly light. The following day, (12th August), from around midday the battalion moved forward to relieve the Royal West Kent Regiment, during this period casualties were sustained. It is highly likely that Charles Allen was killed in this period during the bombardment of the British trenches.

A total of 10 men from the Battalion were killed on 12th August 1916. Charles Allen and six other men killed that day have no known grave.

Charles Allen was killed a little over 3 months after his wedding in Kingsley. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial Cemetery, Northern France.

A local press report at the time of his death refers to him as an intelligent and interesting man who, on returning to the village on leave, had descriptive stories of his experiences to tell. The report adds that at the time of his death his widowed mother and sisters were living in Stone.

Isaac Hammond

Private 7716. North Staffordshire Regiment (1st Battalion)

Died 21st or 31st August 1916

Commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial, France.



Isaac Hammond was born in 1889, in Kingsley, the son of William (Coal Miner) and Maria Hammond, the youngest of their four children. In 1891 the family comprised of William, Maria, John (15yrs), Susan (9yrs), Sarah (5yrs) and Isaac (2 yrs).

In 1901, the family was living in Kingsley Green, only Sarah, (15 yrs) and Isaac (12 yrs) remained living at home. Sarah was employed locally as a Pin Winder at a Tape Factory.

On 30th October 1910, Isaac Hammond, (21 yrs), married Bertha Fowell, (19 yrs), at St. Werburgh's, Kingsley. At that time, Isaac was employed as a Miner.

In 1911, Isaac and Bertha were living with Isaac's older brother John, along with John's wife, Edith, and their five children in a terraced house at 3 Oak Street, Cheadle, Staffs.

Isaac Hammond was a 'Reservist' prior to the war as he is recorded on the 1914 Nominal Role for the North Staffs Regiment.

At a very early stage of the war Isaac Hammond was called up for active service and was posted to the North Staffordshire Regiment (1st Battalion). The Cheadle Herald, (7th August 1914), named him as one of several 'Reservists' who had joined up and were making their way to join up with their units.

On 28th January 1916, Isaac Hammond was mentioned in the Cheadle Herald newspaper. It reported that he had returned on leave. The report said he had left Hooge, (near Ypres), on the Friday evening and arrived in Cheadle on Sunday afternoon. He had been involved in several engagements with the fiercest being at Hooge.

Isaac re-entered France in May 1916, three months prior to being killed.

Isaac's Army Medal Card reveals that he was a Lance Corporal at some stage, possibly as an acting rank.

The 1st Battalion, North Staffs Regiment were involved in the Battle of the Somme, (1st July – 18th November 1916). It is highly likely that Charles Allen (died on 12th August 1916), whilst serving with the Battalion, would have known Isaac Hammond.

Isaac Hammond was killed on 21st or 31st August 1916. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission date is given as 21st August 1916, as is the Ancestry website index of soldiers killed in the war. Isaac's Army Medal Card and the tablet in St. Werburgh's Church give the date as 31st August 1916. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (10th November 1916), reported the date of his death as 30th September 1916.

Isaac Hammond has no known grave and is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial, Northern France.

Footnote 1: The North Staffs Regiment (1st Battalion) War Diary shows that on 21st – 22nd August the Battalion relieved the 8th Queens (Royal West Surrey Regt.) in an area called the Quarry Line. They were subject to shelling and suffered casualties.

Footnote 2: The battalion was ordered to take up a position in Delville Wood in late August 1916. In preparation, an advanced party visited and described the trenches as in poor condition and communications non-existent. Visits by junior officers were also made over the coming days and it would appear that the men spent some time in barracks. The barracks were described as 'Inadequate', but giving shelter from the rain and cold.

The 30th August 1916, saw the Battalion relieving 9th Rifle Brigade as they moved into Delville Wood. Almost immediately they were subjected to heavy shelling and the South Staffordshire Regiment to their left were attacked. The North Staffs had sent a Lewis gun and some bombs (grenades) to the South Staffs, to assist them, but they retreated through the North Staffs lines. It seems that only desperate and brave fighting prevented the Germans getting through, and the attack was halted, albeit a section of trench had been lost to the Germans. The Battalion historian describes the area as full of rotting corpses, with the smell penetrating the atmosphere.

Footnote 3: The main action appears to have taken place on 31st August, when, having moved into the Delville Wood area (pictured overleaf), the Battalion was attacked. Of the Battalion's 16 officers, two were killed, one was wounded and missing and three were wounded during this attack. The War Diary outlines uncertainty of how many men of other ranks were killed on that day, at least 26 were killed, 45 wounded and 6 were recorded as 'Buried', (suggesting an explosion had caused the collapse of a trench or similar). The fighting on this day was clearly very tough and a letter was later sent from the Divisional General to congratulate the soldiers for their efforts.

Footnote 4: Just as the first edition was due to be printed we were contacted by Liz Tilley who is the great granddaughter of Isaac Hammond. She had located a medal of Isacs's and on searching the internet found the project's website.



Delville Wood on the Somme 1916.

George Price Bevans

Private S/12225. Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) (9th Battalion)

Died 8th September 1916

Commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial, France.



George Price Bevans was born in April 1894, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Mary Bevans, (nee Price), of The Wharf, Froghall, Staffs. The photograph is of Froghall Wharf, circa 1920, close to his home.

Elizabeth Mary Price (22yrs), was born in Shropshire, and by 1891 was working as a servant at Woodland View, Froghall. Elizabeth Price and Thomas Bevan married in the Cheadle area, (possibly St. Werburgh's, Kingsley), in the summer of 1891.

In 1901, their family comprised of George, (6yrs), and his sister Sarah Elizabeth Bevans (3yrs). At that stage the family was living with Elizabeth's parents at Norton Farm, Condover, Shropshire. Thomas's occupation being given as a Shepherd. By 1911, the family were back in Froghall living at the Wharf with a third child, John Thomas, (5yrs). At that stage, George Price Bevans, (17 yrs), was a Labourer on the North Staffordshire Railway, his father a Wagoner with the same company.

On a date, as yet to be established, George joined the army enlisting in Stoke-on-Trent and was posted to the Black Watch Regiment. His Army Medal Card indicates that he saw active service after 1915.

At some stage in 1916, George was posted to France, and by September he was on the Somme with his battalion, in reserve at Albert, (roughly

between Arras and Amiens). By 6th September, the battalion was as the war diary phrases it in the 'Firing line' relieving the Cameron's.

The 9th Battalion, The Black Watch and another four battalions of the regiment were involved in the Battle of the Somme.

Their position on the front line was between High Wood and Bazentin Le Petit and was described as very difficult to hold. On 7th September, they were shelled by the Germans which seriously wounded one officer and killed one other rank and wounded three others.

On 8th September, the battalion was under machine gun fire and shelling which caused some casualties. At 6.30pm that day two companies attacked the German trenches, killing 70 enemy and capturing 30 men, along with two machine guns, and capturing the trench. After initially consolidating their gain, the Black Watch came under a strong enemy attack and they were forced to withdraw.

Casualties were, one officer missing believed wounded, 2 officers wounded with 24 other ranks killed, 14 other ranks missing and 59 wounded.

The following day, whilst still at the front, seems to have passed with little incident, despite shelling and machine gun fire. There was a further attack by a unit to the battalion's flank that was described as causing serious casualties to the enemy.

The Battalion was then withdrawn from the front line on 10th September, with the War Diary recording total casualties as 6 officers and 119 other ranks (killed, missing, or wounded). The war diary records in the coming weeks that 5 soldiers were awarded the Military Medal and one the Distinguished Conduct Medal for their bravery on 8th September.

Given the action on that day was by two companies of less than 500 men these awards indicate the circumstances of the fighting on that day.

George Price Bevans was one of the men killed on 8th September 1916. It is assumed he died taking part in the attack on the enemy trenches, however, the precise nature of his death is not known and his body was never recovered.

George Bevans is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial for the 72,246 men who lost their lives during the Battle of Somme and have no known grave. He is also commemorated on the war memorials at Kingsley and Foxt.

Footnote 1: George Bevans is featured in a book written by John Crosby called 'Path of Duty' featuring the men of Foxt and Ipstones who died in the war. The Kingsley project team are extremely grateful to John for his assistance in research and encouragement throughout our project.



Men from the Black Watch on the Somme August 1916. © IWM (Q 4089)

Arthur Keene

Private 37105. Lancashire Fusiliers (2nd Battalion)

Died 12th October 1916

Commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial, France.

Arthur Keene was born in 1888 in Kingsley. He was the youngest child of Samuel Keene, (Blacksmith) and Jemima Keene (nee Harris). Arthur had three older brothers and an older sister. By 1891 the family were living in Whiston where they remained for some years.



In 1911 Arthur, (23 yrs), was described as being employed in Farming. His brothers Walter and James were employed as Blacksmiths, brother Joseph was a Wheelwright and Joiner and sister Elizabeth was a Grocer. The family were living at The Dovecote, Whiston.

The above photograph is believed to be from circa 1896 and is thought to have been taken outside St Mildred's Primary School, Whiston. Arthur Keene is seated front right; brother Joseph is seated front left with older siblings standing at the rear.

Arthur Keene joined the Army on a date yet to be established and was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion. His Army Medal Card indicates he entered into active service in 1916 in Northern France.

Between July and November 1916, the Lancashire Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion, were involved in the Battle of the Somme, on the Western Front. On 1st July 1916, the first day of the Somme offensive, the battalion's casualties were 368 men killed, wounded or missing.

On 12th October 1916, the Battalion was still in the Somme area and were involved in a major offensive between Lesbœufs and Le Transloy. An

attack involving several battalions was planned to commence at 2.05pm, (Zero Hour). Shortly beforehand an enemy aircraft flew overhead and would have seen the allied troops assembling in the trenches.

The following are extracts from a report in the Regimental War Diary compiled by Lieutenant Hawkins *"12.30pm. 12 Huns came into our line and surrendered."* - *"1.30pm. Zero Hour 2.05pm. The Dukes, (abbreviation for Duke of Cornwall's Regiment), to attack the length of trench occupied by the Hun....and then at 2.25pm the rest of the Division to attack."* - *"2.00pm. Bombardment heavy. Bayonets fixed."* - *"2.03pm. Hun plane flew straight down our line about 300 feet up, must have seen the trenches crowded with men. None of our planes in sight"* - *"Fiendish row. Zero hour. Heavy enemy barrage. The Dukes attacking on our right but can't see much"* - *"Enemy machine gun barrage pretty unhealthy"* - *"2.50pm. 50% Company down"*. - Later entries; *"Only about 12 men left out of 100"* - *"Attack an absolute failure"*.

Arthur Keene was killed on 12th October 1916. The circumstances of his death are unknown other than he is likely to have been one of the men killed in the fighting described above.



The War Diary states that, on 12th October, four officers and 62 other ranks were killed, six officers and 162 other ranks were wounded and one officer and 100 other ranks were missing. The sketch to the left is from the day after Arthur's death when the roll call was being taken.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show that 144 men from the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers died on that day. A full-strength battalion numbered just over 1000 officers and men giving an indication of the scale of the losses on 12th October 1916.

Arthur Keene is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial, Northern France, as 'having no known grave'.

Footnote 1: Family descendants of Arthur Keene still live locally. His brother Joseph was successful in business and owned many farms and houses around Whiston. His nephew Samuel Keene owned Whiston Filling Station / Garage for many years up to circa 1975. Arthur is the Great Uncle of Malcolm Keene, (who lived at Cottage Farm, Whiston, until recently), and Joyce Worthy, (nee Keene) who lives in Leek.

Footnote 2: Arthur's brother Joseph also served. Whilst Arthur is on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour Joseph is not for reasons that are unknown. He joined the Staffordshire Regiment in June 1916, then transferred to the Leicestershire Regiment within a day and ultimately finished up in the Labour Corps possibly through illness of injury and suffered a degree of disability as a result. He was demobbed in 1919. He never married and built up a successful business in Whiston as a wheelwright and joiner. He died in 1968 and is buried in the family grave in St Mildred's churchyard at Whiston. Arthur is also commemorated on the gravestone.

Thomas Clowes

Private 28199. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (6th Battalion)

Died 19th October 1916

Commemorated at The Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery, France.



Thomas Clowes was born during the period April - June 1893, the son of Robert and Lavina Clowes, the youngest of their three children.

In 1901, the family was living at Homefield Farm, Kingsley. Robert Clowes, (Father), was employed as a General Estate Labourer, the children being Annie (16 yrs), Ada (10 yrs) and Thomas (7 yrs).

By 1911, the family had moved to The Dams, Kingsley. Robert Clowes, (Father), was employed as a Wood Manager / Timber Feller and Thomas, (17 yrs), was recorded as being an 'Estate Labourer'.

In the summer of 1914 Thomas Clowes married Ethel Annie Potts, from the Cheadle area.

Thomas Clowes joined the Army in late 1915, enlisting at Cheadle, and was posted to the Royal Field Artillery. At some stage, he was transferred to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 6th Battalion.

The 6th Battalion was posted to France in May 1916. It is likely that Thomas Clowes was posted with the battalion. His Army Medal Card indicates he entered active service in Northern France in 1916.

In October 1916, the battalion was in the Arras area taking part in the Battle of the Somme. The Battalion War Diary reveals periods of action in the trenches and then rest and refit in the rear. Unusually there is rarely any mention of the numbers of casualties.

The war diary indicates that, on 15th October, the unit were back in the front-line trenches and over the next few days it records trench mortar and artillery fire from both sides, with little actual fighting and no reference to any casualties. It would seem likely that soldiers were killed or wounded during this period of heavy fighting. There is also reference to allied airplanes flying behind enemy lines and barrage balloons being hastily pulled down by the Germans.

The war diary entry for 19th October, is brief. It records that the Germans were shelling and mortaring the Cornwall's front line and communication trenches, and that the town of Arras was shelled. It adds that machine gun fire was kept up during the night.

There is no mention of casualties in the war diary on this date. The Army records that Thomas Clowes was killed on 19th October 1916. It is likely that he was killed by enemy shelling, being one of two men from the battalion killed that day.

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (11th October 1916), carried news of Thomas Clowes death.

Thomas Clowes is buried in the Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery, Arras, Northern France.

Ethel Clowes, the widow of Thomas Clowes, later remarried and went to live in the Abbots Bromley area.

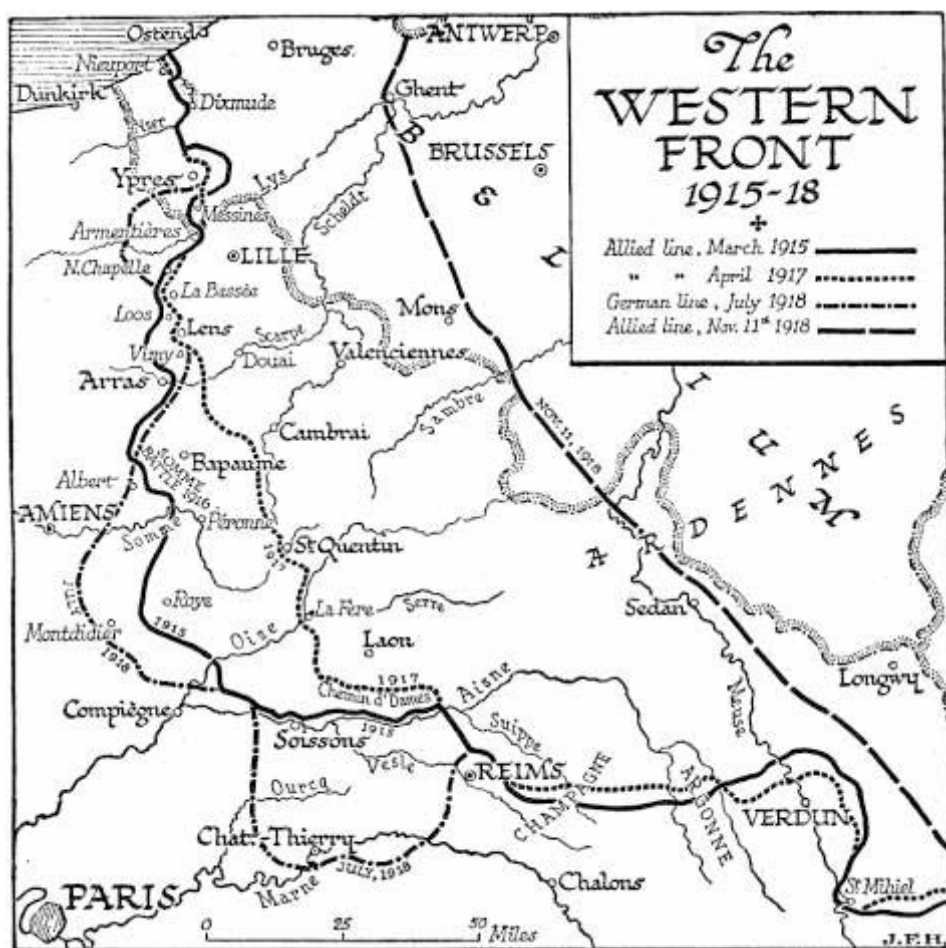
Footnote 1. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 6th (Service) Battalion was raised at Bodmin in August, 1914, as part of Kitchener's First New Army and joined 43rd Brigade, 14th (Light) Division. They trained at Aldershot and spent the winter at Witley, returning to Aldershot in

February 1915. They proceeded to France, landing at Boulogne on the 22nd May 1915.

Footnote 2: During October 1916, the 6th Battalion lost eight men, all of whom are buried in Commonwealth War Graves. A ninth man died in the United Kingdom.



British Troops on the Somme October 1916. © IWM (Q 1582)



The Western Front as the battlefields of Belgium and France were known as, stretched from Nieuport on the North Sea coast to the Alps. However, from 1915 the lines between the Allies and Germans were quite fixed and as the map above shows moved relatively little over a period of some three years. It was only in 1918 that allied gains were substantial when compared to the previous three years.

A good proportion of the Kingsley men who lost their lives did so in the area around Amiens, Arras and Cambrai.

The War in 1917

After the massive losses of 1916, the following year saw a further large-scale loss of life which, although on an unimaginable scale, was less than Verdun and The Somme

The major event of the early part of the year was in April when the United States of America entered the war on the allied side.

The first of two main offensives launched by the British was on 31st July, when, after meticulous planning, the Third Battle of Ypres commenced. This battle, also known as Passchendaele, saw British initial successes, although not on the scale that had been expected. These gains were at the cost of over 200,000 killed, wounded and missing. German losses were believed to be even higher.



In November, there was a major British offensive across the whole Western Front where the first mass use of tanks saw initial gains at the Battle of Cambrai, all subsequently lost to German counter attacks. Pictured are British tanks on route to the battle.

© IWM (Q 46941)

Meanwhile in Russia, the Tsar was overthrown in a revolution which led to Russia signing an armistice with Germany later in the year.

In Britain, the country, perhaps like the armed forces, was becoming war weary. The Rev. Mayne from St. Werburgh's, Kingsley, was now Chair of the Tribunal in Cheadle which dealt with appeals to conscription.

Also, serving alongside him was Robert Heywood father of Robert Myles Heywood. The age for conscription was reduced from 18 years and 7 months to 18 years to meet the pressing need for more recruits for the recruits.

At the annual Vestry Meeting of St. Werburgh's, the Reverend Mayne stated that 88 men were on the Kingsley 'Roll of Honour', nine men had been killed and 14 wounded. At that stage 50 men from the parish were at the front. Rev. Mayne reflected on the war work being done in the parish which had subsequently reduced the numbers of men who had joined up. Present at that meeting was James Henry Wildgoose who was to lose his life the following year.

In April 1917, Mrs Annie Heywood, (mother of Robert Myles Heywood), made a gift of a shrine to St. Werburgh's Church in honour of her son, (referred to in the 1915 chapter).

The newspapers carried mostly news of the death of local men. Little of the news from the front was positive and reports appeared alongside stories about notable weddings, the police court reports and fundraising events through whist drives, and the like, which were often held at the Reading Room, (Village Hall).

The year 1917, saw the following men die as a result of their war service; Ernest Upton, George Fallows, Edward Bradshaw, George Wheawell, Thomas Barker and Roland Burston.

Thomas Barker died of drowning whilst carrying supplies across a temporary bridge, and Roland Burston, who was serving in Salonika, (Greece), died of illness. Non-combat related illness led to significant losses of men during the war especially in certain theatres.

Ernest Upton

Private 12267. North Staffordshire Regiment (9th Battalion)

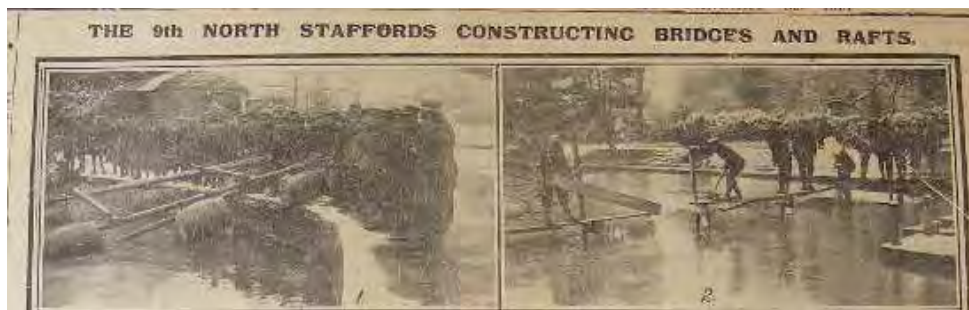
Died 9th April 1917

Commemorated at Tilloy British Cemetery, France.

Ernest Upton was born in the period January - March 1888, in Greendale, near Oakamoor, son of Thomas, (a Wire Drawer), and Mary Upton, the fourth of their five children.

In 1901, the family were living in Battlesteads, Alton. By 1911 they had moved to 75 Queen Street, Cheadle. Curiously Ernest, then aged 23 years, was not indicated as being in employment.

Ernest Upton enlisted in the Army at a relatively early stage in the war. He was posted to the North Staffordshire Regiment, 9th Battalion, and on 28th July 1915 Ernest arrived in France on active service.



The 9th Battalion in training in January 1915. Ernest may well have been present.

The 9th North Staffordshire Regiment was designated a Pioneer Battalion, involved in repairs and light engineering work. Following its deployment to France they saw action in a number of campaigns.

On 9th April 1917, the Battalion was involved in engineering support work near to Arras in northern France when they came under enemy artillery fire. During this shelling two men from the unit were killed.

The following is an extract from the War Diary of the 9th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment:

Place: Warlus Arras. Date: Monday 9th April 1917. Zero Day. Zero hour 5:30 A.M. Battalion left Warlus for Arras at 5:15 A.M. Saw and heard Bombardment of Zero hour from high road. Passed through Dainville and had long halt at Faubourg D'amiens. Hot meal was served at this point. Very heavy rain fell. Battalion, less part of HQ, moved forward through Arras at 10:30 for Iceland Trench. Part of HQ under 2nd. Lieut. Coleman returned to Transport Lines at Dainville. Battalion reached Iceland Trench at about 12:30pm. Lt. Nash went forward with a party to reconnoitre work on Cambrai Road. Reported at 2:00pm much to be done. Battalion, less 2 platoons in Co. (employed laying water mains), started work on road at 3:45 assisting and then relieving 20 RRRC filling in trenches or Tank Trap and other holes and clearing debris. Work was carried on until midnight 9th/10th and then Battalion returned to Manchester and London Caves. Battalion HQ remaining in Iceland Trench. Battalion was relieved at work by 179 Co. Royal Engineers. & New Zealand Engineers. Point reached when relieved was Estaminet Corner Tilloy. Enemy shelled the roads while work was proceeding. Two men were killed and seven wounded. 2nd. Lt. Coleman was wounded on Cambrai Road near Station while moving up with Transport from Dainville to field above Blangy between two roads leading to that village, guide having led Transport across Railway by mistake. Snow fell at night.

Ernest Upton was 'Killed in Action' on 9th April 1917. It is likely that he was one of the two men killed, as outlined in the war diary. He is buried at the Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-Les-Moffaines, France.

During the research for this book a series of letters written by Ernest Upton were located and have been transcribed. Some of the letters appear later in the book. They give a vivid insight into what life was like on the Western Front during the period of Ernest's time there.

Footnote 1. The 9th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment was raised at Lichfield on the 20th September 1914, as part of Kitchener's Third New Army. They trained on the South Downs and from December spent the winter in billets in Hastings. On 20th April 1915, it became a Pioneer

Battalion and transferred to the newly forming 37th Division at Cholderton on Salisbury Plain. The battalion proceeded to France; landing at Le Havre on 29th July 1915.

Footnote 2. The Battle of Arras (also known as the Second Battle of Arras) was an offensive from 9th April to 16th May 1917. British, Canadian, South African, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and Australian troops attacked German defences near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. There were major gains on the first day, followed by stalemate. The battle cost nearly 160,000 British casualties and about 125,000 German casualties. Arras is South West of Lille in Northern France.



British Army Labour Battalion pictured in 1917. © IWM (Q 2693)

George Fallows

Private 40347. South Staffordshire Regiment (2nd Battalion)

Died 19th April 1917

Commemorated at Cambrai East Military Cemetery, France.

George Fallows, born in the period April to June 1896, the son of Richard and Annie Fallows, the fifth of their six children. Richard Fallows, (George's father), originated from Above Park Farm, Dilhorne. The Birth Register entry for George Fallows indicates that the family was living in the Cheadle District, possibly at Above Park Farm.

By 1901, the family, comprising of parents Richard and Annie and the children, Richard (Jnr) 12 yrs, Emmie (9 yrs), Olive (9 yrs), Lizzie (8 yrs), and George (4 yrs), were living at The Lodge Farm, Basford, Cheddleton.

In 1911, Richard and Annie were still living at Lodge Park Farm, Basford, but only their youngest child, Arthur (6 yrs), remained living at home. George Fallows (14 yrs), is not mentioned; his whereabouts at that stage are unknown.

On a date, as yet to be established, George Fallows joined the army and was posted to the South Staffordshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion. There is no evidence of any posting to active service before 1916.

The War Diary of 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment contains details of a major offensive on 17th February 1917, against nearby enemy trenches in the area of Pys, Picardy, Northern France. The Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Bates, gives a detailed and graphic account of the weight of enemy fire directed against his men and of the heavy losses sustained. The Major General (2nd Division Commander), later comments in response:

"I have read your account of the attack made by the 2nd South Staffords on 17th February, and I attribute the failure of the attack entirely to the fact that a

deserter had given the enemy several hours warning of our intended attack, this enabled him to bring heavy artillery barrages on the troops assembled in the open and to increase the garrison of DESIRE and support trenches and to have machine guns trained to meet the attack at Zero. I very much regret the heavy losses the 2nd South Staffords incurred and I know if it had not been for the warning the enemy obtained, we should have captured the objective with comparative ease”.

On 17th February 1917, George Fallows was captured by the enemy and died in captivity, in April 1917, at a POW Camp at Cambrai (Northern France). The circumstances of his capture and his subsequent death are unknown.



Cambrai East Military Cemetery pictured in 2016.

The following is an extract from the Cheadle Herald on Friday 26th September 1917, *“A service in memory of the late Private George Fallows of Above Park was held at St. John the Baptist Church, Kingsley Moor, on Sunday last. A large congregation being present to pay a last tribute of respect to a fallen hero”. - “The Preacher referred to the deceased soldier being taken prisoner in February (1917), and his supposed death in April, though his parents received no definite news until a month ago, (August). Sympathetic reference was also made to the sad occurrence of his mother’s death a week after the news arrived.”*

①

FAL.

Fallows G.

71c. 2. J. Staff.

Ref. — Home Park Farm,
Blyth Bridge,
Stoke-on-Trent.
Staffs.

R. 1805 - Fels de Abbe
Communiqué Famille
10. 8. 17

PA. 1848²² 9. 17. F. George. Pa.
Goss. 2. Staff. 2. Norm. 18. 6.
16. Chénille. 1. Taken 12. 2. 17.
Courcellette. 2. ed in 1. 17.
Laga. Cambrai. Richard m.



70

Edward Edwards Bradshaw

Private 41001. Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (1st Battalion)

Died 21st May 1917

Commemorated at Bucquoy Road Cemetery at Ficheux, France.



Edward Edwards Bradshaw was born on 24th February 1891, the son of Richard and Hannah Bradshaw, being the youngest of their eight children. Richard Bradshaw's occupation is recorded as a 'Butcher'. Hannah Bradshaw died in 1894 when Edward was still a young child. Richard Bradshaw remarried Elizabeth Berrisford Fletcher the following year. By 1901, the family had moved to Church Farm, Kingsley, where Richard ran a butchery business.

The 1911 Census, shows the family living at Haste Hill Cottage, Kingsley. Edward (20 yrs) was, by then, working as a Grocer's Assistant, whether as part of his father's butchery business or not is unknown.

Edward Bradshaw enlisted in the spring of 1916, initially in the North Staffordshire Regiment. Letters retained by the family confirm that sometime after the 9th December 1916, following training, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), via the 2/6th Scottish Rifles.

In April 1917, a month prior to his own death, Edward was involved in an act of bravery by helping to save the life of an officer. It would appear that during an attack on enemy lines, an Officer, Lieutenant Sloan, received serious wounds to both legs. For a whole day, whilst under enemy fire, Edward Bradshaw, dressed the wounds and stemmed the bleeding. Once darkness fell he carried the officer back to his own

lines. One of Edward Bradshaw's letters home refers, in part, to the officer and the events described.

On 14th April 1917, the 1st Battalion Cameronians moved up from Henin, (near Arras), in France, to the Hindenburg Line, where they were to attack the German trenches. Four Companies were involved in the attack which was held up by enemy barricades in their path. The Cameronians were then subjected to machine gun fire. The battalion war diary records: *Ground gained was around 100 – 150 yards. Casualties, 2 officers killed and three wounded.* The act of bravery involving Edward Bradshaw, (referred to above), occurred during this attack on enemy lines.

On 20th May 1917, the battalion were in the Sensee Valley to the east of Arras, when they once again moved up to attack the Hindenburg Line. The attack appears to have not gone smoothly as was often the case, but ultimately, they succeeded in getting to their objective and took 50 prisoners. It seems their location was unclear as they could not be found for resupply.

Throughout the following day, 21st May 1917, the Company remained dug in some 50 yards from the enemy trenches. Whilst the day was described as '*fairly quiet*' they were subjected to persistent sniping and machine gun fire. At 23.30hrs that day the company were ordered to withdraw.

As a result of the action over the previous two days, the battalion's casualties were recorded as 2 officers killed, 2 officers wounded, 14 other ranks killed and 100 other ranks wounded with 16 missing.

Edward Edwards Bradshaw is recorded as having being killed on the 21st May 1917, as a result of gunshot wounds to his back.

His body is buried in the Bucquoy Road Cemetery at Ficheux to the south of Arras.

Edward Bradshaw's family have possession of some of his letters sent home and they are reproduced later in this book, giving an insight into what life at the front was like at that time.

Footnote 1: The Battalion War Diary referring to events on 14th April, mentions Lieutenant Sloan (the officer who Edward had carried back to his own lines) and against his name, is recorded, '*Died of wounds*'. The latter words appear to have been written at a different time. Lieutenant Wilfred Scott Sloan died some two weeks later on 28th April 1917, in France.

Footnote 2: An article in the Weekly Sentinel, (16th June 1917), suggests that Edward Bradshaw was being considered for a bravery award for his actions in relation to Lt Sloan. There is no record of any bravery award being subsequently made to Edward Bradshaw. The reason for this not known. Bravery awards needed to be validated by an officer. It may be that the only officer who could validate the award had died.

Footnote 3. Three living relatives of Edward Edwards Bradshaw still live in the area. Janet Walton of Cheadle, Jane Childs, from the Potteries and Margaret Haywood. Janet's husband Philip has compiled an extensive family history with emphasis on Edward Edwards Bradshaw. We are grateful to Janet and Philip for their assistance in our research especially in providing Edward's letters from the front.

George Samuel Harrison Wheawall

Private 43193. Lincolnshire Regiment (7th Battalion)

Died 8th August 1917

Commemorated at Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, France.



George Wheawall was born on 12th May 1885, the son George (Snr) and Emma Wheawall, of Kingsley, the oldest of their four children. George (Snr) was employed locally as a Miner and the family lived at Brookgate Cottage, Kingsley.

The 1901 Census, records the family living at Kingsley Green, possibly the same address as Brookgate Cottage. As well as George (Jnr), who was then 15 years old, there was also Mary (13 yrs), John Thomas (9 yrs) and Clement (6 yrs). George

Wheawall (Jnr) is described as a 'Coal Miner - Pony Driver, Underground'.

By 1911, George (Snr) had died and his widow Emma was head of the household. George (Jnr), then aged 25 years and his two brothers remain living at home. George (Jnr) is recorded as being Single and employed as a 'Colliery Wagon Loader - Below Ground'.

On 14th May 1911, George Wheawall (26 yrs) married Mary Ellen Handley at St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley. They subsequently had two sons, John (b.1912) and Clement George (b.1913). Initially the family lived locally in Kingsley.

It is believed that George Wheawall joined the army in 1914/15, being posted to the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment, records indicate he entered active service in November 1915, in Egypt. He may have been involved in the Gallipoli Campaign with the regiment at some stage.

On a date, unknown he was transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment, (7th Battalion), who saw active service on the Western front in Northern France most notably in the Battle of Albert (July 1916), and the First and Second Battles of the Scarpe (April and May 1917), and the Battle of Arras, (August 1917).

The Battalion War Diary indicates that at 3.35am 8th August 1917, during the Battle of Arras, the Germans fired a barrage of artillery shells on the 7th Battalion's position and this increased in intensity until 4.30am. The British artillery replied in kind. The Germans then attacked with infantry, getting into the British trenches before being 'ejected', leaving some of their dead behind. The Germans brought explosives with them but never had time to use them.

As a result of the attack the following British casualties were sustained, mainly from the artillery bombardment; 10 other ranks killed, 31 wounded and 2 men missing in action.

It is likely that George Wheawall was one of the 10 men killed in the action on 8th August 1917. A note on the rear of his photograph retained by the family states, *'He was shot and killed by a sniper whilst on stretcher duty on the 8th August 1917, aged 32 years'*. This information suggests George may have been killed following the main attack.

George Harrison Samuel Wheawall is buried in Brown's Copse Commonwealth War Cemetery at Roeux. His widow, Mary Ellen Wheawall, died in the great flu epidemic in November 1918, leaving their two young children without either parent.

George's younger sister, Mary, married James Flanagan and after the war they settled in Kingsley. James Flanagan was a professional soldier

who served throughout the War. Mary and James looked after George's sons after their mother died.

A letter written by a friend of George is transcribed later in this book.

Two descendants of George whom we have traced are Mandy Jones and her father Robert Wheawall. We are grateful to them for the background information and photographs relating to George.



The picture above is of George (centre rear) and his comrades.

Thomas Barker

Private 305892.

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (1/7th Battalion)

Died 5th or 8th August 1917

Commemorated at Coxyde Military Cemetery, Nr Nieuport, Belgium.

Thomas Barker was born in 1885 in Seaham Harbour, County Durham, the son of Thomas (Snr) and Sarah Ann Barker, being the fifth of their five children. His siblings were John (b.1876), Mary Ann (b.1878), Ellen (b.1881) and Clement (b.1882).

Thomas's father, Thomas Barker (Snr), originated from Manchester but by 1861 was living in Kingsley with his Grandparents, he remained in the area later living with an aunt. Thomas's mother, Sarah Ann, (nee Worthington), was born in Wetley Rocks. His parents married at St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley, in late 1875.

In 1881, Thomas (Snr) and Sarah Ann were living in Cheadle with their oldest three children. In the early 1880's, for reasons which are as yet unknown, the family moved to Seaham Harbour, County Durham, where Thomas was born in 1885. It would appear that his mother Sarah Ann died in 1887 when Thomas was only a young child, and, as a result of this, the family subsequently returned to live in Kingsley.

In 1889, Thomas (Snr) remarried Anne Carr who was from the Kingsley area. By 1901, the family were living at Cupola, Froghall, and had a further three children. The two youngest children from Thomas (Snr's) first marriage, including Thomas (Jnr), were still living with the family. At this stage, Thomas (Jnr) was aged 15 years and was employed as a General Labourer.

By 1911, Thomas Barker (Jnr), then aged 25 years, had married Mary Barker. The couple had a young child, Annie Barker, and were living at Little Bunting, Kingsley. Thomas was employed as a Colliery Labourer.

Thomas Barker joined the Army at a relatively early stage in the war and was posted to the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, 1/7th Battalion. He was posted to France on 15th April 1915. The Regiment saw active service on Western Front in Northern France.

In August 1917, the Regiment was deployed in the area of Nieupoort, Belgium, where the Western Front met the Belgian coastline. The Yser River flows through Nieupoort and at that point is 100 - 200 yards wide.

Allied forces had built a number of temporary bridges across the river to which they attributed English names. One such bridge, called the Vauxhall Bridge, was one of three temporary bridges in Nieupoort. The whole area is also low lying, with large tracts of land surrounding the town frequently flooded. The front-line positions confronting the enemy lines were just to the east of the town, the scene of heavy fighting in 1917. Pictured is a pontoon bridge over a narrower section of the river in September 1917.



© IWM (Q 2884)

Thomas Barker was killed on either 5th August 1917, (*Battalion War Diary* / CWGC) or 8th August 1917, (*St. Werburgh's Plaque*). It seems most likely that Thomas died on 5th August 1917, when he was accidentally drowned whilst on a ration party crossing the Vauxhall Bridge over the Yser river at Neuport.

The Battalion war diary has the following entries around the time of Thomas Barker's death.

5th August - Man drowned on ration party crossing the canal. Casualties 2

6th August - Fairly quiet day supplied 100 OR (other ranks) carrying parties. Casualties 11 OR gassed, 1 OR wounded, 1 OR drowned (fell off Vauxhall Bridge while on ration party).

7th August - Fairly quiet day. 7.45 – 9.0PM very heavy shelling of Batt HQ with 5.9's. RSM Holmes injured. All HQ NCO's of 5 WRR (West Riding Regiment) killed in dugout. Casualties 7 OR's wounded.

8th August – Raid by 6 WRR (West Riding Regiment), 5 prisoners. Casualties 7 OR (other ranks) wounded.

It seems likely that the entry 6th August refers to the drowning incident the previous day, being a duplicate entry made in error. Only one man from the regiment died between the 5th and 8th August, (Thomas Barker). The temporary bridges were unsafe and the resupply work was often carried out under artillery or gas shell attack, (several men were affected by gas).

Thomas Barker is commemorated at the Coxyde Military Cemetery, Nr Nieuport, Belgium. His half brother Norman Barker served as well and is in the survivor's section of this book

Sharon Emery and Julie Dono, (both nee Barker), are related to Thomas Barker. Their grandfather Bertram Barker was Thomas Barker's half-brother. Both sisters still live in Kingsley.

Rowland John Burston

Private 65135. Royal Army Medical Corps (68th Field Ambulance)

Died 12th December 1917

Commemorated at Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Northern Greece.



Rowland John Burston was born at Ipstones in August 1887, the son of Rowland John and Elizabeth Burston, being the second of their seven children. During his early life, the family lived at various locations with sibling children being born at Consall, Kingsley, Holsley (Worcs) and Bockleton (Worcs). In 1901 the family was living at Swimley Cottage, Bockleton, Nr. Bewdley, Worcestershire. Later, in 1915, his parents were living at Foxtwood, Foxt, Staffs.

In April 1912, Rowland, (24 yrs), married Fanny Everall. The couple initially lived at The Vineyard, Rowley Lane, Bodenham, Herefordshire. By this stage, Rowland was employed as a Gamekeeper and this may have resulted in him travelling extensively. In June 1912, the couple were living at Mildenhall, Suffolk. Later the couple returned to Herefordshire, living at Pea Green, Bodenham. There were no children from the marriage.

On 29th July 1915, Rowland Burston, (28 yrs), enlisted in Newmarket, Cambridge, joining the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). At that time, he was 5 feet 6 inches tall weighing a little under 9 stone. Following his initial examination, the Medical Officer described him as *'Bow Legged, Flat Footed, with the tip of his right index finger missing: Fit for action'*.

In September 1915, following initial training, Rowland was posted to Northern France. In November 1915, he was redeployed to Salonika, (now called Thessalonika), Northern Greece, and allocated to the 68th Field Ambulance, dealing with war casualties.



A dressing station in Salonika 1917. © IWM (Q 31801)

In early December 1917, Rowland Burston contracted Pneumonia. On 9th December, he was admitted to the 31st Casualty Clearing Station at Sarigol, Greece. He failed to respond to treatment and died on Wednesday 12th December 1917. Capt. E Davies (RAMC) Medical Officer commented, *"His illness was contracted subsequently to enlistment and entirely due, in my opinion, to exposure whilst on active service."*

Rowland Burston is commemorated at the Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Northern Greece. As well as being commemorated on the War Memorials in Kingsley he is also commemorated on a memorial in Eriswell, Suffolk, some 10 miles from Mildenhall where he lived for some time before the war.

After the war Rowland's sister Frances married Thomas Gibson (a survivor). Relatives of Frances and Thomas still reside locally. We are grateful to members of the Gibson family who have supplied a picture of Rowland whilst in the army.

Rowland John Burston was the uncle of Christine Fowler, (nee Burston), now living in Church Street, Kingsley.

Footnote 1: In 1914 the Ottoman empire joined the Austro - German alliance against the Allied powers in return for a promise that Macedonia would be returned to Turkish rule. Early Turkish offensives were unsuccessful; an attack against Russia was repelled and ended with Russia seizing Armenia. Turkish efforts against other western allies fared better. The landing by British Empire forces at Gallipoli in April 1915 was repelled after 9 months; a combined Anglo-French force stationed at Salonica in October 1915 was bottled up there until 1918.



Rowland Burston pictured prior to the war.

The War in 1918

1918, saw the war entering its fourth and ultimately final year as the death toll in Kingsley Parish rose from 16 men at the end of 1917 to 24 by the end of 1918.

At the annual St. Werburgh's Church Vestry meeting in April, the Reverend Mayne stated that so far 88 men were presently on the various battle fronts, 147 were on the 'Roll of Honour', 16 men had died, and 20 men were under treatment for wounds or illness. One man was a prisoner of war and one man had died whilst a prisoner. These figures alone showed the scale of service and sacrifice by the men of Kingsley Parish and that was to continue as the war drew to a close over the following months.

The prisoner of war referred to was George Fallows, who died in 1917. Another prisoner of war, Kenneth Lovatt, died soon after the war as did John William Salt who died of influenza, one of at least 20 million worldwide that would succumb to a pandemic that killed more than the war itself.

The year saw Russia and Germany sign a peace treaty that allowed Germany to concentrate its resources on the western front.

During early 1918, Germany launched their Spring Offensive making some gains. Later they launched a follow up offensive known as The Second Battle of the Marne. The allies counter attacked, (the French had by far the greatest involvement), and ultimately won the battle which played a significant part in convincing the Germans that they could not win the war.

In November, the war's end was greeted in a rather muted fashion in the local papers but clearly the relief it brought echoed throughout the parish. The works blower was sounded at Thomas Bolton's at Froghall

and the whistle sounded at Bowers and Thorley's lime kilns nearby. The Union Flag was hoisted over Bolton's and workers left early as the excitement reached fever pitch. At Froghall station, whilst the staff had to remain at their posts, they were said to be singing and whistling patriotic tunes as the clocks struck 11am and the armistice came into effect.

St. Werburgh's Church bells rang out a merry peal as did those at Ipstones where the villagers made effigies of the Kaiser and Crown Prince which were unceremoniously burnt.



Crowds gathering outside Buckingham Palace – Armistice 1918. © IWM (Q 56642)

It would be some time before those serving in the armed forces started to return home and many would bring with them physical and mental injuries that would affect them for the rest of their lives.

Soon after the armistice Colonel Rowland Beech unveiled two plaques in St. Werburgh's Church commemorating his son Rowland James (Jim) Beech, who died in January 1915, and also his mother. The organist at the service was Moses Ferriday, local school master and father of two survivors.



Froghall showing the lime kilns and canal basin.

James Meakin

Gunner 89347. Royal Garrison Artillery (154th Siege Battery)

Died 20th January 1918

**Commemorated at Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension,
Bailleul, France.**

James Meakin was born in the period October - December 1895. His mother, Annie Meakin, was single and employed as a Charwoman. His father is unknown. In 1901, James and his mother were living with his Grandmother Emma Meakin at Kingsley Moor. James had no brothers or sisters, he never married and had no children.

In 1911, James, (16 yrs), was living at Booths Farm, Kingsley, where he was employed by the Farmer, John Fallows, as a 'Farm Servant'. Army records described his pre-service employment as a 'Cowman'.

Army records indicate that in 1915 his next of kin were his Uncle, James Thompson, and Aunt, May Thompson, of Laburnum House, Kingsley, later living at 12 Church Street, Kingsley. It is not known what happened to James' mother Annie Meakin or his Grandmother Emma Meakin.

James Meakin, aged 20 years, joined the Army on 10th December 1915, on a 'Short Term' enlistment. During his initial medical he was described as being 5 feet 9 inches tall with a 39-inch chest. James was considered 'Fit for general service' and was posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Following basic training he joined the 193rd Siege Battery and was mobilised on 30th May 1916, travelling from Folkestone to Boulogne, prior to deployment in Northern France on the Western Front.

On 4th May 1917, James Meakin was wounded in unknown circumstances. He was returned from the front line to a hospital near Boulogne where he is described as having a 'Severe chest wound'. Some

days later he was apparently considered fit enough for duties and on 25th May, he was reallocated to the 154th Siege Battery near the front line.

Some months later, in October 1917, James had a one week break in a rest camp and was allowed on home leave over Christmas 1917, returning to his unit on 5th January 1918.

On 19th January, James was ill and was taken to the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station. At 10.50am on Sunday, 20th January 1918, James died of 'Septicaemia - Sickness', (possibly relating to his earlier chest injury).

On 8th February 1918, the Cheadle and Tean Times reported that he was very ill, perhaps an indication how the news could be delayed at those times.

James Meakin is buried at the Military Cemetery at Outersteene, Near Baillieu, Northern France.

Footnote 1: One of James's cousins, John Thompson, son of James and May Thompson also served and is shown in the survivor's section. Following the publication of the first edition we were contacted by Cathy Thompson whose father is the son of Leonard Thompson, brother of John and a cousin also to James.

Footnote 2. Siege Batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in a high trajectory, plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway or road mounted 12 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying, or neutralizing, the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on key facilities behind enemy lines.

Footnote 3: In January 1918, the 154th Siege Battery was deployed at a location known as Manor Farm, which is some 25 kilometres from the location of the casualty clearing station where James died. Marc Coene resides at the farm and has researched 154th Battery's time there. His

website at <https://sites.google.com/site/154siegebattery/> is a fascinating resource and we are grateful for his assistance.

Footnote 4: The following is an extract from the Battery War History and describes the day they took up their positions.

154th Siege Battery, 11th of January 1918 (Captain M.C. Walker): By 12 hours we had taken over our new battery position at Zillebeke, from 117 Siege Battery. There were 3 guns in action here. All guns, B.C. post, telephone exchange, dugouts etc., were immediately manned by us. Our exact location was at a point known as Manor Halt, where the Ypres-Comines railway crossed the road. A deep mined dugout under the road with two entrances formed accommodation for all the gunners. The remains of Manor Farm, strengthened with concrete and iron, served as a B.C. post and officers' quarters combined. This building was rather unique as it contained no less than nine dugouts, all of which were connected up with each other. The dugout we used as an officers' mess was only nine feet long by twelve feet broad and it was quite impossible to stand upright in it. A moat in which all the rubbish of the locality was thrown, encircled the farm. This lent a mediaeval air to the fortress.



Pictured on the previous page are members of the 154th Siege Battery with a gun called 'Dora'. Some of these men may have known James. Courtesy of Firepower Museum formerly of Woolwich and Marc Coene of Manor Farm, Ypres, Belgium.



Another picture courtesy of Firepower and Marc Coene. Again of 154th Siege Battery.



9.2 Howitzer being transported by the Army Service Corps. © IWM (Q 72840)

James Henry Wildgoose

Private 305952. Royal Tank Corps (6th Battalion)

Died 8/9th May 1918

Commemorated at St Amand British Cemetery, France.



James Henry Wildgoose was born on 26th July 1887, at Matlock, Derbyshire. He was the son of Francis Henry Wildgoose, (a Plumber), and his wife Jemima. James Henry was the eldest of their six children, his siblings being Bertha (b.1890), Eva (b.1893), Francis (b.1896), Charles (b.1898) and Harriet (b.1900). In 1891, the family were living at 18 Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, and later at Industrial Road, Matlock.

In 1911, James Henry Wildgoose, (23 yrs) married Annie Cooke, (25 yrs), initially living at 6 Hopewell Terrace, Matlock Bath. At that time, James was employed as a Plumber.

Between 1911 and 1915, James Wildgoose and Annie had three sons: John Francis (who was known as Jack), (b.1911), Harry Cedric (who was known as Cedric), (b.1914), and Ronald (b.1915). All of the children were born in the Bakewell area, however the youngest child, Ronald, died aged under 12 months.

At some stage in 1915, or 1916, James Wildgoose and his family came to live in Kingsley, for reasons which at this stage remain unknown. It is believed the family lived at Hall Croft, Hazels Cross Road, Kingsley.

On 5th November 1915, a press report in the Cheadle Herald reported that Mrs. Wildgoose was named as a winner at the Reading Room Whist Drive.

The Cheadle and Tean Times reported that on 11th September 1916, at the Swan public house, Kingsley, a presentation was made to Mr. James Moreton, a local man, by a Mr J. Wildgoose, (described as a friend from Matlock), who had helped facilitate some medical treatment for Mr. Moreton in Matlock. In later newspaper articles a Mr. J. Wildgoose was named as a speaker at R. Ash's party, held to mark Mr. Ash joining the army. The newspaper also comments on his position as an Honorary Secretary at the Royal Oak Vegetable Show. These reports indicate that James Wildgoose was living in the Kingsley area at that time and was an active and respected member of the community.

In February and March 1917, monthly Whist Drives were held at the Kingsley Reading Rooms in aid of the 'Kingsley Soldiers and Sailors Comfort Fund'. Press reports indicate that a Mr. J. Wildgoose acted as the MC for the event and his wife Annie won one of the prizes. James Wildgoose was also recorded as being at a Church Vestry meeting in April 1917.

© IWM (Q 338)



On a date, as yet unknown, between March 1917 and May 1918, James Henry Wildgoose enlisted in the Army, he may well have been a conscript. Records indicate he initially joined the Royal Engineers and at a later stage transferred to the 6th Battalion,

Royal Tank Corps. It is also recorded that he was in the Machine Gun Corps, a forerunner to the Tank Corps.

The 6th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps War Diary, indicates that on 6th May 1918, orders were received for tanks to move forward in the Baileulval area to counter enemy tanks and break up infantry attacks. On 7th May, a

total of 12 tanks were in various positions. It would seem James Wildgoose was driving a tender tank when he was killed. Tender tanks were unarmed tanks that were used to carry supplies and often pulled a sledge behind them. On the occasion when James was killed two tenders were resupplying crews with ammunition. His death occurred as they were getting into position, however, there is no further detail. A Private Atley was also seriously injured in the incident and died later of his wounds, (his date of death is given as 8th May 1918).

There is conflicting information as to whether the incident which led to the death of James Wildgoose occurred on 7th May, (Regimental War Diary), 8th May, (St. Werburgh's Plaque), or 9th May (CWGC). Records indicate he was 'Killed in action'.

James Wildgoose is commemorated at the St. Amand British Cemetery, Nord Pas De Calais, Northern France.

Footnote 1: It remains unclear why James Wildgoose, his wife and family moved from Derbyshire to live in Kingsley. He was clearly known to James Moreton, a local Kingsley man, but this provides no grounds for a to move to the village.

Footnote 2: James Wildgoose's stay was short but he obviously made an impact on the village and community life. Local people recollect the family and he is also recorded on the war memorials constructed after the war. The Wildgoose children were all born in Bakewell and, therefore, their time in Kingsley would have been between 1915 and 1917.

Footnote 3: The Wildgoose family had a link with the Churnet Valley Gas Works at Froghall, which produced gas from coal. The Company's head office was in Matlock and on at least two occasions James Wildgoose's father attended Company meetings. However, there is no evidence from the surviving minute books that James Wildgoose was involved with the company.

Footnote 4: Following the war, James' widow Annie Wildgoose and the children, returned to Derbyshire. Some years later in the late summer of 1924, she married a man named Harry Brown at Bakewell.

Footnote 5: James Henry Wildgoose is commemorated on the Matlock Cenotaph alongside his brother Charles who, on 18th March 1918, died as a result of war wounds. Both are also recorded on their parent's headstone in Matlock Cemetery.

Footnote 6: Descendants of James Wildgoose have been traced in Sheffield and California, USA. We are delighted to have located Stephen and Michael Wildgoose the grandchildren of James Henry Wildgoose and are grateful for their assistance.

Footnote 7: Anecdotal family history indicates that James was shot by a sniper. It is suggested that it was dawn and as he stuck his head out of his tank to light his cigarette he was shot.

Footnote 8: Michael Wildgoose, (Grandson), has provided a possible reason why James was in Kingsley. James was described in the Census returns as a Plumber. However, he was part of a successful building company called JWW which, whilst primarily a Plumbing and Heating Company, was also a building contractor. Whilst purely conjecture, it is possible that James was involved in construction work with his family company at Boltons, Froghall, where new machinery was being installed for war work during 1916 and onwards.

Colin Capewell

Corporal 14806. North Staffordshire Regiment (9th Battalion)

Died 26th May 1918

Commemorated at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.



Colin Capewell was born on 6th September 1888, the son of Colin (Snr.) and Emma Capewell of Tollgate Cottage, Blakeley Lane, Kingsley Moor, (near East View). Colin (Jnr.) was the seventh of their ten children.

In 1911, Colin (22 yrs), was living at the Royal Oak, Dilhorne, where he was employed by the Licensee as a Servant / Farm Worker. His parents and younger siblings remained living at the family home in Blakeley Lane. Prior to enlisting Colin was employed as a Collier at

Foxfield Colliery, Dilhorne.

Colin Capewell, (26 yrs), joined the Army on 7th September 1914, within weeks of the outbreak of the war. At the time of enlisting he was 5 feet 3¾ inches tall, weighing 9 stone 11 lbs. Colin was posted to the North Staffordshire Regiment, 9th (Pioneers) Battalion. On 28th July 1915, following initial training and several UK based postings, he was posted to France as part of the 'British Expeditionary Force'.

Private Colin Capewell was trained as a Lewis Machine Gunner. He remained on active service in Northern France from 1915 until 1918, during which time, he twice returned home on leave.

On 14th October 1917, he was temporarily promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. This was confirmed three months later. At a later stage, Colin Capewell was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

During the war the North Staffordshire Regiment, 9th Battalion, was involved in action and numerous battles on the Western Front in Northern France. In May 1918, the regiment was in the Fonquevillers area, north east of Amiens, forming part of the allied defences attempting to repel the German Spring Offensive.

The 9th Battalion War Diary indicates that during the evening of Saturday, 11th May 1918, the battalion was involved in construction work, (it is likely that they were repairing roads which had been damaged in shelling the previous day). The enemy started to shell the area at around 5pm and this continued until midnight. For some time, the British troops were unaware that some of the shells were gas shells. In total over 2000 gas shells were fired in five hours of enemy shelling. Great difficulty was experienced by the troops as they were forced to wear the box respirator, their main protection from the effects of gas.

The War Diary makes no mention of any casualties but the following day it was noted that Colin had suffered, '*A gas shell injury*'. During May 1918, the battalion's loss was great. 61 men were killed of which 59 deaths were due to the effects of gas, and additionally a further 131 men were injured. The total killed and wounded in May 1918, was 211 men. Given the battalion's strength at that time was around 800 men, it would mean that one man in every four was killed or injured in that month alone.

At some stage after the attack Colin Capewell was taken to the No. 9 General Hospital, forming part of GHQ, (3rd Echelon), in the area of Rouen. On Sunday, 26th May 1918, some two weeks after the gas attack, Colin Capewell, (30 yrs), died as a result of Pneumonia brought on by the effects of poisonous gas. Following his death, a special memorial service took place at St. Johns Church, Kingsley Moor, which was well attended.

Colin Capewell is commemorated in the St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Northern France.

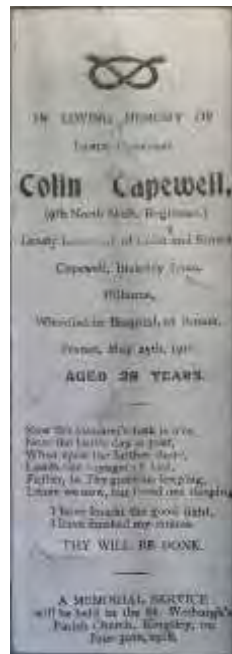
Colin had two younger brothers Frederick Capewell, (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), and Ernest Capewell, (North Staffs. Regiment), who both saw active service during the WW1. At the time of Colin's memorial service Frederick was a prisoner of war and Ernest was in hospital in Blackburn receiving treatment for war wounds.

Peter Capewell, the son of Ernest and nephew of Colin Capewell, lives locally in Gorsty Hill, Tean. Peter Capewell was instrumental in the St. John's Church Plaque being refurbished and re-sited in St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley.

Yvonne Eady is the granddaughter of Frederick Capewell. She lives in Northampton and came to our notice when she visited the war memorial to remember Colin Capewell. We are grateful to both Peter and Yvonne who have provided a wealth of information on Colin, Ernest and Frederick Capewell to assist with our research.

Footnote 1: The North Staffordshire Regiment, 9th (Pioneers) Battalion were formed in September 1914, at Lichfield as part of Kitchener's Third New Army. Following initial training in the UK, in July 1915, the Regiment was deployed to the Western Front in North Western France. The Regiment was involved in a number of notable battles throughout the war.

Footnote 2: Rouen Military Hospitals. During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. A great majority of the dead from these hospitals were taken to the St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension where the last burial took place in April 1920.



Commemorative silk from Colin Capewell's memorial service.



8th North Staffordshire Regiment earlier in the war.

George Ramsell

Private 200736. Royal Tank Corps (4th Battalion)

Died 8th August 1918

Commemorated at Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, France.



George Ramsell was born in the period January - March 1896, the son of Benjamin, (a Copper worker), and Dency Ramsell. He was the second of their seven children, his siblings being Charles (b.1895), John (b.1899), Florence (b.1902), Gladys (b.1904) Wilfred (b.1909) and Violet (b 1911) the seventh child of a seventh child. In 1901, when George was 5 years old the family were living at Froghall House, Froghall, adjacent to the former

George Botham's Farm.

In 1911, the family was living at Froghall Cottage. At this time, George Ramsell, (15 yrs), was employed as a 'Copperworks Labourer', at the local Thomas Bolton & Sons Copperworks.

On a date, not yet established George Ramsell joined the army and was allocated to the Tank Corps, forming part of the 4th Battalion. He was deployed to France in October 1915.

On Thursday, 8th August 1918, the 4th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment was deployed in support of the Canadian Infantry on an early morning offensive in the area of the Amiens Defence Line, northern France. The objective was captured and secured. The advance continued during the day in the area of Cancelette, Le Marie Wood and Ignacourt.

Tank warfare made its debut in 1916 at the Somme and by 1918 the quality of the tanks had improved. In addition, the tactics for their use were developing.



A tank from George's battalion in August 1918 at the battle of Amiens. © IWM (Q 7302)

On 8th August 1918, the 4th Tank Battalion had 42 tanks involved in this attack in three waves. It seems the attack was a great success and many German positions were abandoned as the tanks appeared out of the morning dense fog.

Whilst these machines were of the latest technology, they were supplied by horse transport and each tank was provided with two pigeons to carry messages. However, on this day the pigeons were ineffective due to the foggy conditions which prevented them getting their messages back to headquarters. Runners were also used but they too got lost in the fog.

At the end of the action nine tanks had been damaged by enemy action and required recovery, as did two tanks which had suffered mechanical problems.

Casualties on 8th August, were one officer killed and five officers wounded, along with nine other ranks killed and 38 other ranks wounded, (these figures were recorded after a record of tanks damaged).

Each tank had a crew of 8 men so on that day around 316 men went into action. Around 1400 shells were fired from the tanks and some 30,000 rounds of ammunition expended in the day's action. Field artillery fire caused the damage to the tanks and is most likely the cause of casualties.

George Ramsell died on 8th August 1918. We have been unable to establish the circumstances in which he died but we do know his Army service record is briefly endorsed, '*K in A 8/8/18*'. He is buried at the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, Northern France. George Ramsell is the only member of 4th Battalion buried there, along with the Canadians who died that day.

George Ramsell was the uncle of sisters Joan Johnson from Kingsley Holt, and Pat Mullington, now living in Cheadle.

Footnote 1: At the end of March 1918, Hangard was at the junction of the French and Commonwealth forces defending Amiens. From 4th to 25th April, the village and Hangard Wood were the scene of incessant fighting in which the line was held and the 18th Division were particularly heavily engaged. On 8th August, the village was cleared by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Rifles. The Battle of Amiens saw over 280 Mark V tanks involved in the battle, along with smaller Whippet tanks (pictured); their use was considered a complete success



© IWM (Q 8811)

Footnote 2: During his time in the Army George's home address was Beech Tree Cottage, Froghall.



George Ramsell pictured with a Vickers Machine Gun.



George Ramsell's 'Death Penny' that was given to the families of those who lost their lives.

Moses Holland

Private 44545. Lincolnshire Regiment (6th Battalion)

Died 5th October 1918

Commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas De Calais, France.



Moses Holland was born on 8th January 1899, in Wolverhampton, the son of Henry, (a General Hawker / Pedlar) and Mary Holland, the fourth of their five children, his siblings being Rose Ann (b.1881), John Henry (b.1888), Caroline (b.1897) and Lydia Mary (b.1902). By 1901, the family were living in Kingsley Holt before moving to Whiston Bank, Froghall and later Thornby House, Consall.

Prior to enlisting Moses Holland worked at Thomas Bolton & Sons at Froghall.

In 1917, Moses Holland, (18 yrs), was called up to join the army and initially served in the Leicestershire Regiment, 51st Graduated Battalion, a training unit ultimately linked in late 1917 to the Leicestershire Regiment. Moses later transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment, 6th Battalion, and following training, was posted on active service to Northern France. Moses Holland was deployed as a Lewis Machine Gunner within his platoon.

The Battalion War Diary indicates that in October 1918, the battalion was near the front line north east of the village of Epinoy, some 8 kilometres north west of Cambrai, Northern France. The battalion moved forward to relieve the 11th Manchester Regiment. On Saturday 5th October, there was no record of any engagements with the enemy or casualties. The Battalion was in action on the following night, (Sunday, 6th October),

when a platoon was involved in fighting that claimed 10 enemy dead. There is no mention of any casualties from the Lincolnshire Regiment. However, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, five men from the battalion, including Moses Holland, died on 5th October, (four men having no known grave).

Moses Holland died on 5th October 1918, about 6 weeks before the war came to an end. He is commemorated at the Vis En Artois Memorial Cemetery, Northern France. He has no known grave.



Men of the Lincolnshire Regiment pictured at the Battle of Ephey September 1918.

© IWM (Q 11327)

The letter to notify his death was sent to a Mrs. E Holland at Whiston Bank, Froghall. Who this was is not known as his parents were still living at Consall. The 1918 Voters Register shows his parents and Moses Holland living at Consall.

On 15th February 1919, details of Moses Holland's death were reported in the *Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel*, "*Pte Moses Holland, 6th Lincolnshire Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs H Holland, Rock Cottage, Consall Forge, was*

killed in action at Cambrai on October 5th, 1918. He was called up in 1917 prior to which he was in the employ of Messrs. Bolton & Sons, Froghall, where he was very much liked. His Sergeant has written saying he was popular in his platoon and would be greatly missed, for he was always cheering up the others."

Footnote 1. 6th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment was raised in August 1914, as part of Kitchener's First New Army and joined 33rd Brigade in 11th (Northern) Division. They trained within the United Kingdom. before being deployed, in April 1915, to southern Europe where they saw action at Gallipoli before being redeployed to Egypt. In June 1916, the Division was ordered to France to reinforce 3rd Army and by July 1916, they were on the front line on the Somme taking part in several notable campaigns. In 1917, the regiment was in action at Ancre before returning north to Flanders for several other confrontations with the enemy. In 1918, the regiment were at Arras for the 1918 Battle of the Scarpe and The Battle of the Drocourt-Quant Line. They fought in the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and The Battle of the Sambre including the passage of the Grand Honelle. At the Armistice, the Division was on high ground east of Havay.

Footnote 2. Research indicates that Moses Holland may have initially joined the Staffordshire Regiment. This was not unusual as many enlisting men joined their county regiment but were later moved to other regiments to make up shortfalls in personnel.

Footnote 3. Moses Holland had a younger sister called Lydia, who as far as we are aware, was his closest surviving relative. Later in life, Lydia lived at Brookhouse Cottage, Brookhouse Lane, Cheddleton, surviving to the age of 94 years, (she died around 1994).

Footnote 4: To date we have been unable to locate any living relatives of Moses Holland. However, a photograph and some other documents are currently in the safekeeping of Elizabeth Winterton, of Brookhouse Farm, Cheddleton. She rented the cottage to Lydia and in 1994, following Lydia's death, the items passed into Elizabeth's care. Amongst the items is a postcard sent by Moses whilst serving in the Leicestershire Regiment, addressed from Bury St. Edmonds, suggesting he was

undergoing training in that area. Another possession is an inert .303 round, (these were fired from the standard Lee Enfield rifle and also from the machine guns used at the time). The round has had a piece of wood inserted into it which has been shaped to look like an actual bullet and was used during training.

Footnote 5: In 1917, Moses Holland was featured in the Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel under a section showing those who had recently joined up. In the accompanying photograph, (Page 102), the cap badge depicted is that of the Leicestershire Regiment, suggesting it was taken soon after he enlisted.

Footnote 6: The photograph also depicts badges worn on Moses' sleeve. Martin Clewlow who has a deep interest in World War One states that the lower larger one is possibly a Lewis Gunner's badge consisting of a Laurel Leaf around the letters 'L G'. The smaller higher badge would have been either red or blue - the latter denoting a Trench Mortar trained soldier the other a 'bomber' or hand grenade thrower. Given he was a soldier with no artillery connections the likelihood is he was a bomber.

William Brindley

Private 55087. Lancashire Fusiliers, (15th Battalion)

Died 2nd November 1918

Commemorated at Landrecies British Cemetery, France.



William Brindley was born in 1896 at Old Furnace Farm, Greendale, Nr. Oakamoor, Staffs. It is likely that his mother was Gertrude Blanche Brindley, who was aged 17 years at the time of his birth; his father is unknown. William and his mother lived with his Grandmother, Catherine Brindley.

In 1911, the family were living at Quarry Cottage, Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent. Gertrude was employed locally as a Domestic Servant, living with her employers. William was listed at his grandmother's address and was working locally as a Stone Carter. At some later stage, William and his Grandmother, Catherine Brindley, moved to live at 6 The Green, Kingsley.

The 1918 Voters Register was compiled in late 1917. William and his grandmother are shown as registered voters at 6 The Green, Kingsley. The register did not record William as being in the army. This would suggest that William joined the army after late 1917 or early 1918. He may well have been conscripted, initially joining the Lincolnshire Regiment before transferring to the Lancashire Fusiliers. The enlistment place is given as Froghall which may indicate he was working at the Thomas Bolton copperworks prior to signing on / conscription.

In early November 1918, the 15th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers were at or near the front line at Happegarbe, (also known as Happegarbes), in

North East France, near to the Belgium border. The battalion was holding the line prior to a planned attack. On 2nd November, the battalion attacked, supported by three tanks, taking ground and prisoners with many enemy killed. However, the Germans counter attacked with heavy machine gun fire and many casualties were sustained by the Lancashire Fusiliers. The fighting carried on until 4th November, when the battalion was withdrawn from the front line. It is a cruel irony that this was the battalion's last action of the war.

William Brindley, (22 yrs), died on 2nd November 1918, only nine days before the end of the war. He is commemorated at the Landrecies British Cemetery, Nr. Valenciennes, Northern France.

Footnote 1. In November 1918, Allied Forces were making a final push to break through the long established German defences. During the period 1st - 11th November the 15th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers were involved in the 'Battle of Sambre', named after the Sambre River / Canal which formed a natural line of defence, and was the scene of heavy fighting, being located in the Nord De Pas Calais area of Northern France.

Footnote 2. The circumstances as to how William Brindley died are unknown although it is likely he sustained fatal injuries as a result of heavy machine gun fire during the German counter attack. Casualties were high on that particular day with 45 men killed from the battalion.

John William Salt

Private 48206. Leicestershire Regiment (7th Battalion)

Died 18th November 1918

Commemorated at Caudry British Cemetery, France.



John William Salt was born in January 1885 in Caverswall, the son of Henry and Emma Salt being the oldest of their three children. John's siblings being Annie, (b. 1890) and Clifford, (b.1893). In 1891 the family was living at 17 Belle Vue, Leek, Staffs. In 1901, John William Salt, (17 yrs), was working for Elizabeth Brindley (Farmer) as a 'Cattle Farm Stockman' at Mill Hill Farm, Bosley, Nr. Macclesfield.

On 19th January 1908, John William Salt, (23yrs), married Mary Hannah Mitchell at St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley. The couple went on to have five children, Lois (b.1908), Edith (b.1909), Nancy (b.1911), Mary Hannah (b.1913), and Enoch (b.1917).



The 1911 Census records indicate that John William Salt, (26 yrs), was living with his parents at Greenhead Cottage, Kingsley Moor, near Cheadle (pictured opposite, the cottage is behind the main house), and he was employed locally as a Blast Furnace man.

A separate 1911 Census, indicates he was living with his wife and two eldest children at 22 Foundry Street, Norton Green, Stoke-on-Trent, the

home of his widowed Mother-in-Law. We conclude that the census may have been conducted some days apart in different areas, or, it is possible that John William Salt spent part of the week living with his parents as he was employed at a local colliery, and part of the time living with his wife and children some miles away at Norton Green, Stoke-on-Trent.

It would appear from the available information that John William Salt had three separate stages of army service. Army records indicate that:

In January 1905, John William Salt, (aged 20 yrs), enlisted in the 4th North Staffordshire Regiment as a Reservist. At that time, he was living in Peel Street, Leek, (with his parents) and was working as a Groom. The Reserve was made up of part time soldiers who were required to attend annual camps, which he did, from 1905 through to 1908. He was ultimately discharged from the Reserve in January 1911.

On 11th September 1914, John Salt, then aged 29 years 8 months, enlisted in the British Army for a 3-year Short Service Term Service, being posted to the Royal Regiment of Artillery (RRA). In a pre-enlistment, medical at Leek, he was described as 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 9 stone 11 lbs, with a 35-inch chest. He was *'Profusely tattooed back and front of both forearms'*. The middle finger of his left hand was missing. Records indicate he was discharged on 11th November 1914, after 55 days, as *'Not being likely to become a good and efficient soldier'*.

At some later stage, John Salt rejoined the army, (he may have been conscripted), and he was allocated to the Leicestershire Regiment, 7th Battalion. Unfortunately, all army records relating to this period of his military service have been lost.

In the latter stages of the war the Leicestershire 7th Battalion were on the front line, near to Cambrai, in warfare described as *'ferocious and intense'*, as part of the final push to defeat the enemy. During this campaign the Battalion suffered heavy casualties and losses. In September, 34 men were killed, 231 were wounded and 18 listed as missing. In October over 100 casualties were sustained, with 26 other ranks killed plus a number

of officers wounded and killed. In November two men were killed and 38 men were wounded in action. There is no mention of men dying through illness.

Records indicate John William Salt died of Influenza on 18th November 1918, one week after the war had ended. He died in the 19th Casualty Clearing Station situated at Caudry, near Cambrai.

As an indication of the 1918/19 post war confusion the Army wrote to John Salt's family asking if they were aware of his whereabouts. His father replied that he was last seen, *'Over on home leave in September 1918'* and that he *'Died in France on the 18th November 1918 (illegible)..... Leicester Regiment'*.

John William Salt is buried in the Caudry British Cemetery in France. The cemetery is situated south east of Cambrai and Arras.

Footnote 1: The period of 1918/19 saw the great flu pandemic that killed up to 1 in 20 of the world's population. John William Salt appears to have been one such victim. It seems a particularly cruel irony that he survived the duration of the war only to die of Influenza one week after the German surrender.

Kenneth Roy Lovatt

Fusilier 65586. Northumberland Fusiliers (14th Battalion)

Died 5th December 1918

Commemorated at the Berlin South-Western Cemetery, Germany.



Kenneth Roy Lovatt was born in the period April - June 1899, the son of Frederick, (a Copper Wire Drawer), and Hannah Lovatt, the eldest of their two children. In 1901 the family was living at 106 Harewood Road, Cheadle. By 1911 the family had moved to 52 Ashbourne Road, Cheadle. By the time of his death in 1918 his father and mother were living on Clamgoose Lane, between Kingsley Moor and Cheadle.

Prior to enlistment Kenneth Lovatt was employed as a Coal Miner at Parkhall Colliery, Cheadle.

On a date, as yet to be established, Kenneth Lovatt enlisted in the army as a teenager. He was originally posted to the West Riding Regiment, later he was transferred to the Northumberland Fusiliers, 14th Battalion. Kenneth Lovatt saw active service in France and Flanders.

A personal diary kept by Kenneth Lovatt indicates that in May 1918, his regiment was deployed in the area of Cormicy, (north of Reims), in trench defences on the Western Front. Given this location it is highly likely the regiment was involved in the 'Aisne Offensive'. This began in the early hours of 27th May 1918, when the German forces launched the third phase of their 'Spring Offensive', a determined attempt to break through the allied defensive lines in the area around Reims. The diary indicates that Kenneth Lovatt was captured by German forces on 27th May 1918 and became a 'Prisoner of war'.

The Battalion War Diary is unhelpful for the date of his capture referring only to an enemy bombardment commencing at 1am and the headquarters moving location. There is no mention of any casualties or any men being captured by the enemy.

In October 1918, after five months in transit, Kenneth Lovatt was transferred to the Lamsdorf Prisoner of War Camp, in German occupied Poland. He was cruelly treated whilst a prisoner of war being given only minimal starvation rations and poor health care in circumstances which he understandably found very hard to bear.

Kenneth Lovatt, (19 yrs), died on 5th December 1918, less than three weeks after the German surrender. He died at the Lamsdorf Prisoner of War Camp and is buried in the Berlin South Western Cemetery.

A local newspaper report shortly afterwards comments, "We are sorry to give particulars of the death of one of our brave lads, Pte. Kenneth R Lovatt. The bereaved father and mother have been anxiously waiting for some definite news of their son and they have been convinced that he died at Lamsdorf Camp on the above date. (5th December 1918). It has been a great blow to them and we feel sure they have the deepest sympathy of everyone in their great sorrow. We give a few details, which have reached his mother, these being taken from his diary by one of his chums"

"Kenneth was captured at Cormicy on 27th May 1918. Issued with blanket, pants and shirt and went to baths; had a haircut and shave: lived mostly on elderberries, snails, potato peelings, frogs and hedgehogs. Sept. 19th - moved from Bazancourt to an awful place; awful conditions; up to the neck in mud, and sleeping in huts not fit for pig styes; no letters or parcels been heard of: fell down in a faint through weakness.

Sept 27th – Boots are worn out and no chance of getting them mended; dinners no thicker than water and bread ration down to about 250 grams and more work to do; 21 men went to hospital in 3 days, all sick men who could walk had to march 6 kilos in pouring rain to see the doctor who looks at your tongue and marks you MD (medicine and duty). Fainted 3 times in one day and went to hospital at Givet and was very well treated - 6 slices of bread and 3 soups a

day. Left hospital about 16th October and had 6 days' journey to Lamsdorf, in German Poland. 400 grams of bread, 3 soups a day, and received half a parcel one week and 2 kilos of biscuits and next week 1½ kilos and an emergency."

Doreen Hawkins, a niece of Kenneth Lovatt, still lives in Cheadle.



Kenneth Lovatt is commemorated on War Memorials at Kingsley, Cheadle and Parkhall Colliery which is pictured opposite, now sited outside the entrance to the old Foxfield Colliery at Dilhorne.

Footnote 1: The Battle of Aisne commenced during darkness in the early hours of 27th May 1918, when a massive German artillery barrage was unleashed on allied positions, including the use of gas shells. After two hours of heavy artillery fire German troops advanced, facing little resistance, and attacked the beleaguered allies inflicting heavy casualties. The allied defences crumbled amid great confusion in the darkness and gas clouds.

Footnote 2: Lamsdorf Prisoner of War Camp was situated in German occupied south west Poland, near the German border. It had previously been used as a Prison of War Camp in the Franco Prussian war. The camp was reactivated during World War 1 housing some 90,000 internees, mostly from the United Kingdom, Russia, Italy and Serbia. Due to poor conditions, roughly 7000 men died in captivity.



British prisoners of war captured in April 1918. © IWM (Q 23672)



Private Finch Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Captured on 27th May 1918 and worked by the Germans until no longer fit to do so. © IWM (Q 31278)

The Post War Years



Whilst an Armistice was signed on 11th November 1918, the War did not officially end until 28th June 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles was ratified.

Slowly men started to be demobbed and returned home, many carrying physical and physiological scars that would affect them for years to come.



In Kingsley, Commemorative Mugs were produced for an event on 19th June 1919, (a surviving example is pictured here). However, the date on the mugs may be an error as nationally Peace Day was on 19th July 1919.

Whilst previous wars had seen little in the way of War Memorials to honour the dead. The First World War saw death on such a scale that it clearly affected so many people. Soon after the war, memorials were suggested and committees were set up to raise funds and collate names. Locally the congregation at the former St. John's Church at Kingsley Moor were the first to act. They had kept a 'Roll of Honour' during the war recording all the men who came from the Kingsley Moor area who had served, as well as the men who had lost their lives. Rather than have a memorial to the four men who died they erected a plaque, made of marble, to 29 men, (including the four men who died and the 25 men who survived).

The tablet was unveiled on 29th February 1920, by the local MP Brigadier General Sir Hill Child. Many years later, following the closure of the Chapel, the plaque was relocated on the wall within St. Werburgh's Church.

St. Werburgh's and the wider Parish also looked to commemorate those who had lost their lives and on Sunday, 20th February 1921, not one but two memorials were unveiled.

Firstly, in St. Werburgh's Church, a plaque was unveiled to 24 men who had died. Their names were recorded in full as were their dates of death.

Across Church Street, at what is now the junction with Dovedale Road but, in 1921, was a bend in the road, a sandstone Wayside Cross was unveiled on a prominent raised verge.

The sandstone cross, (cenotaph), was paid for by the parents of Robert Myles Heywood. In addition to the name of their son it also commemorated the other 23 men from the parish who had died. The men's names were recorded by initial and surname.

On the section dedicated to Robert Myles Heywood are the Latin words 'In Domino Confido', (In the Lord we trust).

Following the end of the war a further four men died as a result of their war service, three of which are recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as war graves. As a consequence, this technically makes St. Werburgh's Churchyard a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, albeit they do not maintain the graves.

The four men who died following the war were Rowland Beech (1919), Leonard Edwards (1920), who for some reason is not recorded on any memorial, George William Hood (1921), and Joseph Tideswell (1924), who was outside of the timescales for inclusion in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records.

Following the Second World War and the Korean War further names were added to the Memorial on Dovedale Road and an additional plaque was erected in St. Werburgh's recording the same names.

Many men will have had their lives shortened as a result of their war service and died in the following years. Many of the survivors died

whilst aged in their 50's and in some cases aged in their 40's or younger. It is only right that their war service receives due recognition.

The bonds formed between men serving in the most hostile of conditions lasted for many years after the war. Ron Allen (referred to in James Poyser's story earlier) tells of a story passed to him by a Cheadle veteran in the 1970's.

The man recounted a story of a Kingsley veteran who each year received a visit from his former officer. The officer took him out for the day, buying him a meal and beer. He did this for many years after the war. The reason? Well the Kingsley man had saved his life and he never forgot what he did for him.

The Cheadle veteran, some 50 years later could not recall the name of the Kingsley man and asked Ron to locate him. Sadly, to date the name of the man has not been ascertained. You may read of him in the survivor's section but we will probably never know for sure who he was.

Rowland John Beech

Lieutenant Colonel. Warwickshire Yeomanry

Died 30th August 1919

Commemorated in the Beech Family Crypt at St. Werburgh's Church,
Kingsley.



Rowland John Beech (pictured second left) was born on 15th November 1853, in Brandon, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire. Rowland John was the son of James and Emily Beech, the second of their five children. In 1861 the family were living at Brandon Lodge supported by 17 members of household staff.

Rowland attended Harrow School and later Christ Church College, Oxford.

Rowland Beech was to become a commissioned career soldier. In 1875, aged 22 years, he enlisted in the 16th Lancers and in 1878 transferred to the 2nd Life Guards. In 1881, he was a Lieutenant in the Household Cavalry attending the 'School of Musketry', Hythe, Kent, most probably undergoing some form of military training.

Around 1886, Rowland (32 yrs), married Adelaide Frederica Capel Cure, and continued to live at Brandon Hall, Warwickshire, where Rowland is described as 'Living on his own means'. The couple had four children, Christabel, Irene, Rowland Auriol James (Jim) and Douglas.

Rowland Beech continued with his military service and during the period 1884 - 1885, he saw active service with the Warwickshire

Yeomanry in the Sudan Campaign, (primarily intended to relieve Major General Charles Gordon who was besieged by Mahdi rebels at Khartoum). During this campaign, Rowland was wounded. He was promoted Captain in 1886, to Major in 1901 and to Lieutenant Colonel in 1902.

During the whole of this period the family remained living at Brandon Hall, Warwickshire. In the 1911 Census, Rowland (57 yrs), was described as being a Lieutenant Colonel in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. He was also a Justice of the Peace in the Counties of Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Later, in 1911, Rowland Beech retired from his army career.

On 19th September 1914, immediately following the outbreak of the World War 1, Rowland Beech applied for a commission in the Warwickshire Yeomanry - Territorial Force.

On 21st February 1915, Rowland's oldest son, Rowland Auriol James (Jim) Beech, a Lieutenant in the 16th (The Queen's) Lancers, was killed whilst on active service in northern France.

As the heavy burden of war losses grew, territorial forces were called into action. On 22nd February 1917, Rowland Beech, then aged 63 years, was posted to France. He saw active service throughout 1917 and early 1918 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. Rowland was granted home leave in April 1918, and finally retired from his long army career in August 1918. Rowland's return home from active service in northern France and his premature retirement prior to the end of the war, may well be attributed to poor health.

Rowland Beech died on 30th August 1919, aged 65 years, almost 10 months after the end of the war. His cause of death was heart related problems. At that time, he was recorded as having the following addresses:

Brandon Hall, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire.
The Shawe, Kingsley, Staffordshire.

71 Cadogan Square, Chelsea, Middlesex.
7 Turlingham Gardens, Folkestone, Kent.

The death certificate for Rowland Beech records his cause of death as being the result of arterio sclerosis, cerebral softening and cardiac failures. None of these health issues would appear directly attributable to his war service. However, taking into consideration the fact that his death occurred shortly after the war, he was, nonetheless, considered as a casualty of war.



Rowland is buried in the family crypt within St. Werburgh's Church. There is a plaque erected on the wall of the Church dedicated to him (pictured). This is sited near to the plaque erected in memory of his son.

Rowland Beech's army records are held at the National Archives. The file discloses that, following his death, attempts were made to have his death classed as a 'War death'. Whilst his death was within the relevant timescales there was a debate over whether it was linked to his war service. This was eventually accepted and as a result the family paid no death duties. (War casualties were exempt from death duties by an Act of Parliament dated 1914).

Probate records indicate Rowland Beech left an estate valued at £206,931. 15s 8d. This was a very significant estate roughly worth £8 million by present day comparison.

Leonard Edwards

**Company Sergeant Major B/461227
Royal Army Service Corps (Canteens)**

Died 16th September 1920

Commemorated in St. Werburgh's Church Yard, Kingsley.



Leonard Edwards was born in 1893 the son of Abraham, (Bronze Wire Drawer), and Sarah Lizzie Edwards, of Economic Cottage, Hazels Cross Road, Kingsley. Leonard was the second of their five children, his siblings being Edward (b.1888), Maude (b.1897), Annie (b.1899) and Fanny (b.1907). As a teenager, Leonard was employed locally as an Accounts Clerk.

On 9th June 1915, Leonard Edwards, aged 22 years, enlisted in the British Army initially joining the Royal Field Artillery as a Driver. On 27th December 1919, shortly following the end of the war, Leonard was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps (Canteens). This may indicate that he sustained an injury which necessitated his transfer to a non-front line role. However, we have been unable to establish that he was wounded. During his military service, Leonard attained the rank of Company Sergeant Major. The B prefix on his service number indicates he worked in the accounts section of the Army Service Corps.

Leonard Edwards was discharged from the Army on 25th August 1920. He died on 16th September 1920, aged 27 years, just 20 days after leaving the Army. His death was due to: 1. Excision of suppurating cysts of the neck, and 2. Cellulitis - Septicaemia. His occupation on his death certificate was given as 'Clerk in a Chartered Accountants'.

Leonard Edwards is buried in St. Werburgh's Churchyard, Kingsley. His

grave is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a 'War Grave'.

Leonard Edwards left an estate valued at £85 - 19s - 17p. This money was passed to his father Abraham who was still residing at Economic Cottage, Hazles Cross Roads, Kingsley.



Men of the Army Service Corp's drawing forage for their horses in 1917.
© IWM (Q 54290)

Given that the grave of Leonard Edwards is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a 'War grave', it is presumed that at least one of the conditions which led to his death was attributed to his previous war service.

Curiously, Leonard Edwards' name is not recorded on Kingsley Cenotaph or the St. Werburgh's Church Commemoration Plaque. The reasons for this omission are unknown.

Footnote 1: As a consequence of the omission outlined above, since the second Remembrance Day in 1920 until 2014, Leonard's name was not remembered or observed during Remembrance Day Services.

Following our research, in November 2014, his name was read out in St. Werburgh's Church and at Kingsley Cenotaph and it will be read out annually hereafter.

Footnote 2: Leonard Edwards was the uncle of Sheila Pegg, (nee Fenton), now living in Church Terrace, Kingsley.



A variety of Army Service Corps vehicles pictured in London.

George William Hood

Petty Officer (Stoker) 285777. Royal Navy (HMS Lookout)

Died 21st June 1921

Commemorated in St. Werburgh's Church Yard, Kingsley.



George William Hood was born on 9th February 1878, in Kingsley the son of William, (Coal Miner) and Mary Ann Hood. George was the fourth of their eight children, his siblings being Sarah (b.1870), John (b.1871), Joseph (b.1875), Bertha (b.1881), Mary (b.1884), Martha (b.1887) and Ethel (b.1891). In 1891 George, then aged 13 years, was living with his family in Kingsley and was employed locally as a Labourer. Later he was employed as a Coal Miner.

On 13th August 1897, George William Hood, (19 yrs), joined the Royal Navy for an initial period of 12 years.

In 1901, George Hood (23 yrs), was based at HMS Pembroke, a shore based Royal Naval Barracks, at Chatham, Kent. During the Boer War, (1899 - 1902), he served on HMS Monarch. This saw Navy personnel and guns supporting the land forces by being transferred from the ships to fight alongside the army.

In 1909, after 12 years' service, George re-enlisted. During his lengthy naval service, George Hood served on a number of Royal Navy warships.

From 1916 to July 1918, George Hood served on HMS Erebus. This ship was in action outside Ostend and Zeebrugge.



On 28th October 1917, HMS Erebus (pictured) was attacked by a German remote-controlled boat which was filled with explosives. The German boat was literally driven at HMS Erebus and on impact there was extensive damage, killing two men and wounding fifteen. (This may well be the incident that is referred to in a later press report of his death which indicates that George spent 12 hours in the water before being rescued).

In 1918, during the period of his time on HMS Erebus, the ship was used in the blockade of Zeebrugge.

On 17th September 1918, The London Gazette Newspaper reported that, for the period 1st January to 30th June 1918, George Hood was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' for his Services in 'Monitors and Destroyers of the Dover Patrol'.

According to Naval Records, George Hood served on HMS Lookout (pictured on next page), after the issue of his 'Mention in Dispatches'. Despite this for some reason HMS Lookout is mentioned on his gravestone.



A later press report indicates that at some stage of his service he, *'suffered greatly from the effects of being gassed'*.

In 1919, George William Hood left the Royal Navy after 22 years' service, having attained

the rank of Petty Officer (Stoker). His Service Record indicates that his discharge was due to a 'War Wound'.

George William Hood died on 21st June 1921, aged 43 years, almost 3 years after the war had ended. A press report on his funeral comments, *"Crowds of sympathising onlookers lined the way to his place of interment in Kingsley Churchyard."* His grave is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a 'War grave'.

George William Hood was the great uncle of Joan Barrow still living in the local area.

Footnote 1: HMS Erebus saw service in World War 2 and assisted in the Normandy landings in June 1944.

Joseph Tideswell

Petty Officer (Stoker) K17369. Royal Navy (HMS Glorious)

Died 2nd January 1924

Commemorated in St. Werburgh's Church Yard, Kingsley.



Joseph Tideswell, born on 16th March 1891, in Foxt, the son of Thomas, (Ironstone Miner / Engine Driver), and Sarah Tideswell, the seventh of their eight children. The family comprised of Rosa (b.1875), John (b.1876), Isaac (b.1879), Annie (b.1881), Mary (b.1884), Henry (b.1886), Joseph (b.1891) and Lottie (b.1901). In 1891 the family were living at Park Nook, Foxt. By 1901 the family had moved to Hazles Cross, Kingsley.

On 31st August 1909, Joseph Tideswell (18 yrs), enlisted in the Royal Navy for an initial period of 3 years and was assigned duties as a trainee Stoker. During his initial medical examination, Joseph was described as being 5 feet 8 inches tall, with blue eyes and fair hair. In 1912 he extended his naval service by signing on for a further 9 years.

Joseph Tideswell served on a variety of ships during his naval service attaining the rank of SPO (Stoker Petty Officer).

Joseph spent most of the war serving on HMS Glorious, a lightly armed cruiser which was part of the Courageous Class of ships built for the Baltic Project and spent the war patrolling the North Sea.

In November 1917, the ship was at the Second Battle of Heligoland Bite a largely inconclusive naval engagement. In 1918 HMS Glorious was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet.

Joseph Tideswell was subsequently awarded the Victory Medal, Star and British War Medal.



Following the war Joseph remained on HMS Glorious (left) until the spring of 1919. He spent time at shore bases in Davenport and Dublin before spells on HMS Colossus and Glorious, prior to a

spell at a shore base in Bermuda.

Joseph Tideswell was retired from the Royal Navy on 6th December 1922, after 13 years' service. His Naval record is finalised as, 'Invalided - Tuberculosis.'

Joseph died on 2nd January 1924, aged 31yrs, some 13 months after his discharge from the Royal Navy. The Death Certificate confirms his cause of death as 'Pulmonary Tuberculosis'. At the time of his death Joseph was living with his brother Harry (Henry), at No. 1 Newhall Street, Kingsley. The death certificate confirms that he was 'Ex Petty Officer Stoker K 17369, formerly of HMS Collingwood', (a shore based establishment in Hampshire).

Joseph Tideswell is buried in Kingsley Churchyard. The inscription on his grave reads, *"In the prime of years I was cut down. No longer could I stay; because it was my saviours will to call me hence away."* His grave is not recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a 'War Grave', as his death was outside of the dates set for inclusion, (4th August 1914 to 31st August 1921)

Footnote 1: Elsa Bloxham who lives in Barnfields Lane, Kingsley, is a relative of Joseph Tideswell. Elsa's Grandfather, Isaac Tideswell, was Joseph's older brother. Her father Joseph Henry Tideswell was named in memory of his Uncle Joe.

Footnote 2: Following the launch of the first edition a photo of Joseph was given to us by Ron Wood a local resident. The backdrop for the photograph suggests it was done by Lowndes of Cheadle.

Footnote 3: Following the war HMS Glorious was converted into an aircraft carrier and served in World War 2. She was sunk on 8th June 1940 by the German battleship Scharnhorst. Out of a crew in excess of 1200 only 40 or so survived.



British ships awaiting the arrival of the German High Seas fleet for the surrender on 21st November 1918. © IWM (Q 19668)



HMS Glorious pictured with other ships of 1st and 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron in April 1917. © IWM (Q 74274)



Stokers shovelling coal into the boilers of a British Battleship WW1. © IWM (Q 18593)

Letters from the Front

The men of Kingsley were exactly the same as men elsewhere, with letters frequently written and delivered to and from the battlefield. Men like Edward Edwards Bradshaw and Ernest Upton were frequent letter writers and samples of their letters are reproduced in this chapter.

The letters convey, first-hand, what life was like at the front and why the letters they received from home meant so much to them.

Another letter included, was written by a comrade of George Wheawall to George's mother. The letter gives details of George's death and burial. It mentions that he was buried well behind the lines. This, perhaps, is a curious comment but it is understandable when appreciating that a burial close to the lines could run the risk of being in ground subsequently lost to the enemy, or destroyed by shell fire. Whilst this letter is very sad, it is even made sadder when we discover that the writer himself was to die towards the end of the war.

The last letter we include is one from a friend of Cecil Rogers. It describes how Cecil died and it actually gives a greater context to that already depicted by the Regimental War Diary. The friend wrote within a week of Cecil's death and, despite being a prisoner of war, he was able to write home asking that they inform Mrs. Rogers of her son's death.

How did these letters get to and from the battlefield? The answer is a logistical masterpiece that saw post from the Western Front arriving home in as short a period as two days. The following paragraphs explain how letters from the front reached Kingsley, and elsewhere, plus what the men with links to the parish wrote home:

Since 1840, with the introduction of the Penny Post, the sending of letters had become as regular as the sending of emails and text messages are today. Everyday post was moved quickly around the country, with rural areas and towns having up to 12 deliveries each day.

During the Boar War of 1899 – 1902, troops could expect their letters to be fairly promptly delivered home and letters from home would be quickly received by the troops. Clearly this efficiency was helped by the use of steam driven ships, as previously sail ships would take weeks to complete a voyage.

At the start of WW1, the Post Office employed around 250,000 people, making it Britain's largest single employer. As a result of the war, deliveries dropped to one or two each day and, by the end of the war, the Penny Post had completely disappeared; the cost of a stamp having risen to one and half pence.

The war presented the Post Office with its first problem when many of the employees joined the forces. Men like Cecil Rogers and Charles Bridgett were called up and, 12,000 Post Office men alone, joined the Post Office Rifles Brigade.

This void was filled mainly by women who, after the war, would be replaced by returning veterans. In total over 35,000 women joined the Post Office during the war.

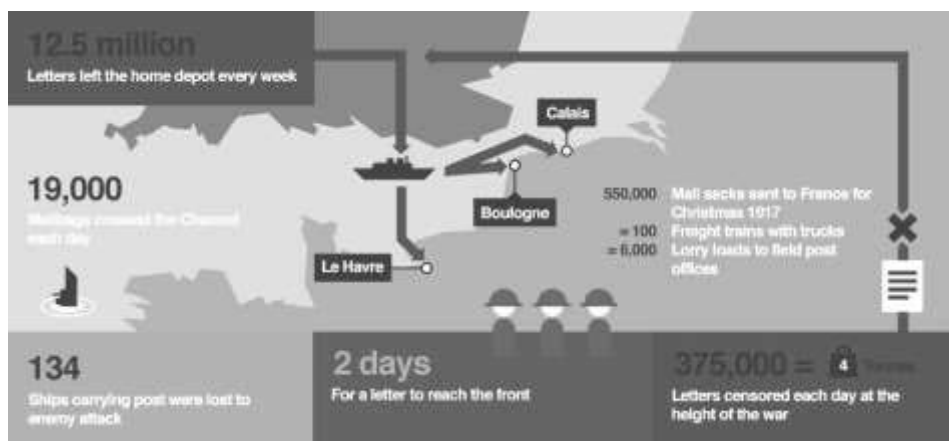
The war dramatically increased the quantities of letters and parcels delivered. At the start of the war thousands of items a week were delivered. By the end of the war 12 million letters a week and hundreds of thousands of parcels were being delivered.

To help facilitate this increase the Post Office set up a huge wooden warehouse in Regents Park, London. At that time, it was the largest wooden structure in the world. Around 2,500 people, mainly women, were employed there to sort out the post.



Regents Park War Post Office. © IWM (Q 28722)

Outgoing mail would be delivered to the port of Southampton where postal ships would cross the channel to Le Harvre, Boulogne and Calais.



How the Post was delivered.

From the ports in France the post was sorted and then transported by train, at night, across France to Royal Engineers - Postal Section (REPS) Depots. Here the mail was sorted and passed on to the relevant regiments.

To ensure post reached the right unit in the right location, up to date information regarding the location of regiments was passed to the Post Office. Once sorted out into the relevant units the post was delivered by hand carts to the front lines and then onto the men.

The REPS were Post Office employees who, pre-war, were part time reservists. They were called up at the start of the war and incorporated into the army but they were, in effect, controlled by the Post Office.

To get his post back home, a soldier would write a letter and send it back via the Field Post Offices. These provided similar services to the small rural post offices, and they were situated near the front lines.



Field Post Office in Salonika 1917. © IWM (Q 32717)

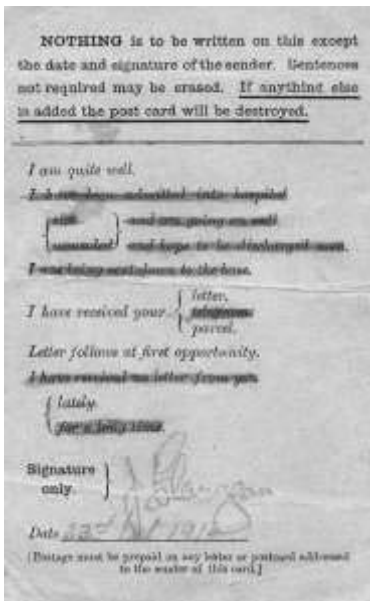
Initially every letter was read by a Junior Officer, his job being to ensure no information likely to aid the enemy was contained in the letter. The letters sent often refer to the soldier being unable to say where they were positioned or what they were doing.

The letters home would then follow the reverse route taken by the letters going out, all the way back to the Home Depot in London. The letters would then be censored again, prior to being delivered home to a loved one or friend.

Later in the war an 'Honour System' was implemented where only the Home Depot Censor read the letter.

Despite this procedure, letters to and from France took just two days for delivery. Similar processes existed to get post out to soldiers in the East and to sailors on vessels but, obviously, such deliveries took longer.

One startling fact around the delivery of post was that a staggering 30,000 letters a day remained undelivered at the front, as the recipients had been killed. At Gallipoli, more letters went undelivered than were received by soldiers.



All undelivered post was, whenever possible, returned to the sender but with a delay to ensure the official telegram had first arrived.

Another quick way a soldier could get a letter home was the field post card (left, sent by James Flanagan in 1914). This was a pre-completed card where the soldier deleted the words that did not apply and added the odd word.

At the end of the war many men got jobs in the Post Office with a large percentage having a service background. This saw many military terms being adopted by the

Post Office. However, these men gained employment at the expense of the thousands of women who had ensured that the post got through during the war.

The following pages detail a series of letters from or relating to men from Kingsley. Sadly, all referred to lost their lives. The letters are transcribed as faithfully as possible from the originals.

Edward Edwards Bradshaw

Letter dated 9th December 1916

Pte. E.E.Bradshaw 4183
2/6th Scottish Rifles,
20th Infantry Base Depot,

S17 Army Post Office,
B E F,
France.

Dear Annie,

Dec. 9th 1916.

Just a note to say that I am going on well out here.

For we are not doing any more work than we did in England.

I had a very good voyage across the sea and I quite enjoyed it; of course, there were a few seasick.

We are having a lot better food than we had in England – always roast meat for dinner, and bacon for breakfast, and jam and bread for tea, but not quite enough to make you feel full.

It is washing day today and we have to wash all our own clothes, and they lay them in a place on purpose for drying clothes.

I think I shall wear the socks until they are worn out for I don't think I shall mend socks, they can send me some socks from home. I don't want good socks, and socks will do if they are very near worn out.

I have not been up to the fighting line yet, and may be a while before we go up.

I have plenty of friends out with me, a lot of Decent fellows.

We can get any sort of food at such places as the YMCA, it is very dear.

I don't think the war will last much longer with Asquith giving up his job, and the sooner it is over the better, but we must trust in God and try to do all the good we can and leave the rest to Him.

The men out here are more religious than the people in England, I think.

The money out here is a bit funny to get into for the English shilling is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ in France, and for 10 pence you get a piece of paper.

I think this is all this time.

Trusting you are all keeping well, as it leaves me very well.

With Love To You All,

From your brother, Ted.

Letter written 22nd January 1917

France.

Jan. 22nd

I enjoyed the mince pie, if they were crusted.

Dear Annie,

Just a line to say I received your letter dated Jan 12th. I had been thinking, the same day that I received it, about you, and that I should receive a letter any time.

You would see by the letter I sent to George I had a quiet Christmas, but still I thought of being at your house last year and about Carol singing. I only heard one Christmas Carol sung this time, but we must trust in God and hope for a good one next time.

I often think when I hear the Church bells ringing here that I should like to hear them at Kingsley.

I have a lot of good friends in this battalion.

We can buy very near anything to eat, where we are at now, and I have plenty of money, so am taking no harm.

We are billeted in empty houses – very good billets they are.

I sent Annie a silk card last week – did she receive it alright? I don't think the war will last much longer, for I think Germany is about finished, and will not fight this summer. If they did, I think they will be beaten. The men are tired of war, but all confident of beating the Germans.

It is a shame that I cannot receive more parcels from home, but think I shall get them alright. I have received 2 up to now – I received one today, dated Jan 11th.

Trusting you are all keeping well as it leaves me alright, and I shall be home in ...? Sea soon.

With Fondest Love To You All,
Ted.

Letter dated 1st May 1917

France.
May 1st 1917.

Dear Annie,
Just a line to say I am going on alright. I have not received any letters or parcels for about three weeks.

I have been down to the base with Lieut. Sloan, and that has taken almost a fortnight of the time.

My address is:
Pte. E.E.Bradshaw 41001,
9 Platoon, C Company
1st Cameronian Scottish Rifles,
BEF Army Post Office,
France.

You will see that it is 9 Platoon that I am in now.

We are having grand weather out here at the present time. I am sorry to tell you that Lieut. Sloan has had to have his left leg taken off. I have heard that he has gone very near his own home in Glasgow.

I don't think the war will go on much longer for we seem to be beating the Germans all round now and I think everybody is tired of being at war.

I received Gladys' letter which was dated April 2nd and that is the last I received from anybody.

With going down to the base, and receiving no parcel, it has taken more of my money than I have spent of a usual thing and I shall have to send home for money soon.

I think this is all the news this time. Hoping you will like the silk card. Trusting these few lines find you all in the best of health as it leaves me quite well.

With fondest love to all,

Ted.

(Note Lt Sloan in fact died in France on 28th April 1917 and Edward Bradshaw was to lose his life on 21st May 1917)

Ernest Upton

Towards the end of 1916 the letters Ernest had been sending covered a span of 12 months and the effects of life at the front were beginning to show. His writing had become less legible and neat with poor grammar. He had spent time in the hospital and had no envelopes to send his letters in, had run out of cigarettes and due to constant moves could not post his letters if he had envelopes.

The changes Ernest experienced were perhaps symptomatic of how the country and the armed forces had been worn down by over 2 years of war.

His last letter is written just before Christmas 1916. He clearly would have written more – did they get sent? We will never know but what we do know was that on 9th April 1917 Ernest was killed by a shell whilst repairing a road.

Letter dated 9th August 1915

Private E Upton
No. 12267 B Coy
9th North Staffs Pioneers 37th Division
BEF France
9th August 1915

Dear Brother,

just a few lines hoping this will find you all in good health as it leaves me. I am going on very well at present. I am sorry I have not written before, but on this job it's all moving about and it does not give as much time for writing. I wrote two letters to you not long ago but got no answer perhaps you did not receive them. I am addressing this to the works so this will come alright. We have gone a long way up the country

since we landed on this side in fact we are close to the firing line now and can hear the big guns quite plain, they light the sky up at nights. I don't think we shall go into the trenches for a week or so yet of course I cannot tell you the names of any places I have been to or where I am now. All our letters are read before posting. I get on very well with the French people. We make one another understand some how. There us very few French men round here I expect they are all fighting. Women seem to do all the work in corn fields and with horses. I cannot write about things as I should like to do, it would get crossed out if I tried or maybe the letter would not come at all. I shall be glad when the war is over, soldiering over here is quite a different thing to soldiering in England in a great many ways. Remember me to Belle and the children. Tell them I hope to see them again some time. I would give some think to in England now with a good pint of beer. Remember me to Will Mould when you see him. I must close now so no more this time with love to you all.

Letter dated 16th August 1915

E Upton

The address given will find me anywhere this side.
Aug 16 1915

Dear Brother and Sister,

Just a few lines hoping this will find you all in good health, as it leaves me. I am going on very well at present, I was pleased to get your letter and parcel of bacca today Monday and am pleased to hear that you are going on all right. It bucks a fellow up a bit out here to get a letter from relatives and friends. There are some poor fellows here waiting at every post and no letter for them it seems hard. I expect they have no one to write to them. We are still at the same place just behind the firing line making and repairing trenches, we are safe enough that is if a stray shell

does not blow us and the trenches up, there a fine noise day and night with the big guns, more so at night time. They do most of the fighting at nights. I was very pleased with the bacca. I was about to run out and was wondering how I should go on. But when you write again don't send any bacca I think I shall be able to go across to my mates in the A.S.C this week and I know if I can get there I can have a pound of bacca. You see our kit gets knocked about a lot and I carry all my bacca with me. It would not do to get a big stock in. Thank you all the same but don't forget to write. There's one thing that troubles me here that is the shortage of water. We get a few drops in a tin and about three hundred wash in it, what with soap and dirt it's a treat you could cut it with a knife. It is very hot over here it goes cold at night. We have no blankets only a waterproof kit and our coats to cover us. We have had a few hours heavy rain today Tuesday of course that does not stop work the weather does not count in this job. You must ignore the date on the letter, this is the third go I have had at it. I think I shall about bring it in for tonight's post Wednesday. Remember me to the children tell them I shall be popping round some of these next days. I think Luton Lilcocks as had a very good run. I quite thought he would have been caught a long time ago. I should have a drink I think if I had been at home. By jove Jack's up to date with the address on envelopes I wondered what Laura was writing to me, I must close now so no more this time with love to you all

E Upton

I cannot write as I should like to do we are not allowed to name places or tell any particulars so you see I hardly know what to write about

Letter written 26th September 1916

Sept 26th 1916

Dear Freda,

Just a few lines hoping this will find you all in the best of health as it leaves me at present. I am sorry I have not wrote to you before but the reason is I thought I should get a letter from you any day. I expect it has been held up at the Batt. I have been down here at a nice sea side place now for two weeks, and had a good enough time of it, plenty of food and nothing to do only enjoy myself on the sands. Our doctor sent a few of us out of the Batt for a rest we were a little run down. When the sea is clear we can see the coast of old England quite plain, it looks as if one could cross it. I think we are leaving for the Batt again tomorrow Wednesday 27th. I shall not be sorry in one sense because I believe the passes have started and there is only one to go before me on the roll, so that looks alright for me. I should very much like to see you all again. Remember me to your Mother and Dad also to Reg and the children, tell them I may be strolling round their way soon. There are plenty of fish here of all kinds I wish I could send over a few samples with this letter. There is a fishing village here too it's very interesting to watch the old

fishermen with their boats, also the women young and old stooping under great baskets of fish. We have had some grand weather while we have been here. I bet when the boys see us again at the Batt they will think we are recruits for we look so well and getting fed up. It's surprising what it will do for you when in a quiet spot out of the noise of the guns. I bet we shall jump a bit when we hear the first she'll or two after this. I must close now so no more this time with love to you all

From E Upton

Hoping to see you soon.

Undated letter but written on 13th December 1916

Dear Freda,

Just a few lines hoping this will find you all in the best of health as it leaves me at present. I received your letter today the 13th (*December 1916*) and was very pleased to hear from you. I have been in the hospital now for three days but I hope to be out again soon. Don't be alarmed its nothing serious in fact I believe I shall be out again in a few days and quite well again. Remember me to your Mother and Dad also to the children. We have had some very hot weather out here lately, we are getting as brown as bricks. I hope to see you soon my turn for the leave is very close now, I am glad you like Green Dale it's a very nice place. I wish I was there now. I am glad your Brothers are not old enough for soldiers for this war is a little bit off, it is no picnic I am tell you. We get some very hot times of it. I have not written home since I have been in this hospital I don't think I shall tell them at all, for I shall be out in a few days and it's no use upsetting my Mother over a trifle like this. Please address letters as usual, I shall get them if I do stay here for a day or two. I must close now so no more this time with love to you all, from E Upton
XXXXXXXXXXXX Excuse paper this is all I have got

Undated – last letter, from text was written 17th December 1916

Dear Freda

Just a few lines hoping this will find you all in the best of health as it leaves me at present, I am going on fine again now and have been out of the hospital for some days now with my Batt, you must excuse me being late in writing to you, but we been in the March now for some seven days and are still on the move, we cannot post any letters till we get settled down, that may be a day or two yet, but I am writing this ready to post when we do get to the end of our march, this is Sunday 17th December. I have several letters in my pocket that I wrote a week ago

and could not post them, remember me to your Mother Dad Reg and the children tell them I am going on very well at present, also to all my friends thank Miss Austin for her letters tell her I will drop her a line as soon as I get the chance, the weather over here is very cold, but it's better than rain, I got your letter dated Dec 8th alright and was very pleased to hear from from you, I am sorry to hear E Fairbanks [*May have been Sgt 906 Earle Ernest Fairbanks – he was wounded in 1915 and may well have been wounded again*] getting wounded, I must close now so no more this time with love to you all from E Upton

George Wheawall – Letter written by a comrade

Harry Woodhead joined the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment like George – their service numbers were within 400 of each other. Harry joined a few weeks before George as in September 1915 he saw action in Gallipoli. It was two months later that George arrived in Egypt, more than likely as a replacement following losses.

They transferred at some point to the 7th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Their service numbers were very close to each other which suggests they moved at the same time.

His letter speaks highly of George and the plans they had both made for times after the war.

When transcribing the letter, it was wondered what had become of Harry Woodhead. Well, as often during the First World War there was a sad end to the story, as Harry Woodhead died of wounds weeks before the end of the war on 21st August 1918.

No 43186 A Company
7th Lincoln Regiment
BEF 9/8/1917

Dear Mrs Wheawall

It is with sad regret that I write these lines to inform you of the death of your son George who was killed on the morning of the [illegible – but might say by sniper] might I [illegible] consolation to you to know that his death was instantaneous & he suffered no pain & and he is buried a good way behind the line along with another comrade who was killed same morning.

I have known George for over two years & a better chum I never had he had promised to bring me to Kingsley after the war & he was coming to have a week with me down in Derbyshire & I can tell you he was practically like a brother to me & to all the boys in the platoon.

After he came back off leave his greatest wish was that the war would soon be over so that he could come home to his little lads & make men of them.

If there is anything that I can do to help you heal? This sad burden I will only be too willing to do it for you hoping you will allow me & all the boys of the platoon to express our deepest sympathy in the great burden you have to bear & I sincerely hope that you will not take it too much to heart & I trust the Lord will give you strength to bear this sad loss.

[illegible line]

All his personal belongings which have been handed over to our Guard Room.

Hoping you will allow me to be yours sincerely
[initial illegible] Woodhead No 43186
A Company 7th Lincoln Regt
BEF France

Cecil Rogers – Letter written by a comrade

This letter is another one written by one of his friends. It was written from a prisoner of war camp to the writer's mother. It asks her to break the news to his mother – that suggests she lived in Leicester where Cecil's widowed mum lived.

The writer signed off as 'George', believed to be Sgt George Wilson.
(Please see page 16 which covers Cecil Rogers)

Prisoner of War
Province of Hannover
Germany
20/10/14

Dear Dad and Mother

No doubt it will be a surprise to you to hear I am a prisoner. We were captured on the 13th, of this month, after a good stiff fight which lasted all day. We moved into trenches at 5am, and the enemy shelled us from then until we were taken. Very little damage was done because we were well entrenched. I think my luck was in that day, I didn't get surprised by anything, although some were unpleasantly close. I don't know whether you have heard the news about poor Simmy (seemingly a nickname for Cecil). He was shot on the 12th, as we were advancing to take up another position. He was shot in the stomach, and died about half an hour later. I did not see him myself, but one of the stretcher bearers told me all about it. If the news has not reached home, break it gently to Mrs Rogers. I am allowed to receive letters, but on no account I am allowed to receive papers, and, by the way, it costs 2 1/2d to send a letter full stop. We are living fairly well, coffee and bread for breakfast, good soup for dinner, and coffee and bread for tea. I happen to have a few pence, so bought butter etc. I don't know how we shall go when the

money runs out. I am in the best of health at present, and sincerely hope all at home are the same. Have nothing more to write about at present, so shall have to close with love to all.

Your loving son

George

Footnote 1: The history of how the post was delivered from home to the front and back again was drawn from a number of sources including the Britain at War Magazine (September 2016), the BBC - World at War website and an article by Alan Johnson, (the former Home Secretary).



The Army Post Office on the Home Front 1914-18 ©IWM (Q28721)

Our War Memorials

Memorials to War are not a new concept, they have been around for many hundreds of years.

Historically memorials commemorated great Generals or Battles; (Trafalgar Square – a massive monument to the defeat of the French Navy, and, Nelson’s Column - commemorating a great Admiral of the Fleet). These famous memorials were never to the ordinary soldier who was often buried in a mass grave with no marker or monument.

The end of the nineteenth century saw a change in attitude. This came about because of the seeds sewn after the Boer War of 1899 – 1902. Monuments continued to be erected but on a more local basis, these monuments recorded the names of local men who had fallen in battle.

The First World War saw the greatest change in how losses in war were marked. This was probably due to the sheer scale of losses and suffering, as over 700,000 British dead meant that few communities were left untouched.

As most men died abroad relatives had no grave to focus upon. Indeed, some placed their relative’s names on family gravestones. Kingsley Church Yard has at least two gravestones referring to men who died and are buried abroad, (George Fallows and Edward Edwards Bradshaw).

Many families in small communities, like Kingsley, were affected by the war. The church and other groups came together to form committees to raise money with a view to the building of memorials.

Locally, Kingsley Moor residents erected a tablet to the men of their area quite soon after the end of the war. The plaque was unveiled at St. John’s Church on 29th February 1920, and was unusual as it listed those who had served and survived, as well as those who had died.

The unveiling was so well attended that many could not gain access to the Church to witness Brigadier General Sir Hill Child, (the local Member of Parliament as well as a professional soldier), unveil the tablet. He made a short speech and then removed the Union flag that was draped over the tablet. There were newspaper reports but, as far as it is known, there are no photographs of the event.

The Rector, Reverend Mayne, asked the two Wardens, Mr. Capewell and Mr. Harrison to take charge of the plaque. Mr. Capewell was the father of Colin Capewell, named on the tablet and also on Kingsley's memorials, who lost his life in 1918, due to the effects of gas. The Warden, Mr Capewell, (also called Colin), was described as being very emotional.

The Kingsley Moor plaque is made of marble and framed in oak. Adjoining it was a wreath of laurel leaves. The cost of the Plaque was funded by the local residents and the congregation at the church. It was made locally, albeit the report does not name the masons.

Many years later the building at Kingsley Moor was sold, by the church authorities, for use as a private residence. The whereabouts of the plaque was unknown and Peter Capewell, the son of Ernest and nephew to Frederick, (both survivors and on the tablet), and Colin Capewell, attempted to locate the plaque.

At this time, Peter Capewell was working for Keates Undertakers and, consequently, he was often in Kingsley and the surrounding villages. One-day Peter attended at a funeral in St. Werburgh's Church and, low and behold, the plaque was there propped up against a wall. No one knew why it was at Kingsley Church. As a result of Peter's persistence, the plaque is now on display on the inside wall of the Church, alongside a larger plaque which records the men who died from the wider parish.

Kingsley's War Memorial was unveiled on Sunday, 20th February 1921, (the photograph below depicts the occasion). In fact, there are two memorials, a plaque in St. Werburgh's Church and a Wayside Cross on

Dovedale Road, at its junction with Church Street. (Dovedale Road was a field in 1921).

The cost of Kingsley's plaque was met by parishioners and friends of the men who had died. The Wayside Cross was paid for by the parents of Robert Myles-Heywood, in honour of their son's memory and in memory of the men from the parish who also died in the war.

It is not clear why the Heywood's chose this spot for their son's memorial. However, they had close links with St. Werburgh's Church for a number of years and they were friends of the Bolton family whose factory was at Froghall.



The dedication ceremony in February 1921 of the Wayside Cross in Dovedale Road, Kingsley.

A comprehensive report of the event was recorded in either the Cheadle and Tean Times or the Cheadle Herald and it is reproduced here. The newspapers in which the report appeared are no longer available.

'Impressive service took place in Kingsley afternoon, when the memorial tablet erected on the west wall of the church, and the wayside cross were unveiled' The former has been erected by the parishioners and others, and is a handsome tribute, in white marble on a grey marble slab, to the memory of those from this parish who made the great sacrifice in the late war. The wayside cross erected by the roadside leading from the church on to Froghall, is also a handsome monument standing some 17ft. high from a stone base. It is made of Hollington stone, and has been erected by Mr and Mrs H. Heywood, of Hales Hall, Cheadle, to the memory of their only child, Robert Myles Heywood, who died of wounds on February 15th 1915. This also bears the names of the Kingsley men who fell in action.

The proceedings commenced soon after two o'clock, when 50 or 60 of the ex-service men were marshalled on the Oak Bank by Lieut. T. Alcock, and, accompanied by the schoolchildren, tradespeople and others.

Meanwhile a large congregation was assembling in the church, and by the time that the ex Servicemen were seated the church was filled to overflowing. There must have been two or three hundred people unable to find accommodation, but these remained in the precincts of the church. Amongst the congregation were Mr. and Mrs. R. Heywood, Colonel Crooke (cousin of Mrs. Heywood), Dr. and Mrs. Bearblock, and Mr. E.J. and Mrs. Bolton, Oakamoor, and many other prominent local residents.

The service was most impressive, and the hymns were well sung by the vast congregation. The clergy present were the Rector (the Rev. W. G. Mayne), and the Rev. J.H.J. Daggar (Foxt with Whiston), and the Rev. S.H. Hoare (Hanley), formerly chaplain to the Overseas Forces, who preached a sermon most appropriate to the occasion. He particularly laid stress on the great sacrifices made by the mothers and wives in the loss of their loved ones.

Previous to the sermon the memorial tablet erected by the public was handed over to the care of the church by Mrs. Jas Bradshaw, sen., on behalf of the subscribers and from the rectory.

As the clergy and choir left the church to proceed to the wayside cross, the recessional hymn, "For All the Saints," was sung. Mr. Holbrook was the organist. The collection for St. Dunstan's Hostel was £14.

Rarely, if ever, has a larger concourse of people assembled in Kingsley than that which attended the simple but beautiful service by the wayside. The roadway was lined and the banks too, albeit a more orderly or reverent crowd never were together. Every word of the Rector's dedication was listened to eagerly, and as Mrs. Bearblock unfurled the Union Jack from the base of the Cross the silence was most impressive. Then the whole congregation joined in the singing of the hymn O God Our Help In Ages Past, the band accompanying.

Dr. Bearbrook added a few words to the excellent sermon heard in the church, and said, could he have his way, he would have erected throughout England these wayside crosses as a reminder for the great sacrifices made by these heroes.

Still another impressive part was seen when the whole of the ex-servicemen filed singly past the cross, and each one saluted to the memory of his comrades.

Wreaths were then deposited at the foot of the Cross, these including the following: -

"In grateful memory, from the subscribers to the tablet";

"In loving memory of our dear son Gunner G. Ramsell";

"In memory of the members of the Kingsley Reading Room";

"In sacred remembrance of G.H. Smith, from his father, mother, brothers and sisters";

"In loving memory of our dear brother, Geo. Ramsell";

"Kingsley United Service Club, in memory of our fallen comrades, also Lieut. Heywood, of Hales Hall, from ex-servicemen of the parish";

"In loving memory of Pte. Brindley, from mother and family";

"In fond remembrance of Pte. Geo. Wheatwall";

"In remembrance of Jas. Poyser";

"In memory of fallen heroes, from the Kingsley Red Cross Society."

Both during the service in the church and at the Cross, the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr Ralph Hall.

The tablet in the church, which is the work of Messrs. Mellor, of Burslem, bears the following inscription: "To the Glory of God and grateful memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War, 4th August 1914 -11th November 1918.

*Geo.H.Smith, Sept 22nd 1914;
Robert M.Heywood, Feb 15th 1915;
Rowland A.I.Beech, Feb 21st, 1915;
Thomas Salt, Oct 9th 1915;
James Poyser, March 16th, 1916;
Charles Allen Aug. 12th, 1916;
Isaac Hammond, Aug 31st, 1916;
Arthur Keene, Oct. 12th, 1916;
Thomas Clowes, Oct. 19th, 1916;
Ernest Upton, April 9th, 1917;
George Fallows, April 19th, 1917;
Edward E. Bradshaw, May 21st, 1917;
George Wheawall, Aug.8th, 1917;
Thomas Barker, Aug.8th, 1917;
Rowland J. Burston Dec.12th, 1917;
James Meakin, Jan. 20th, 1918;
Jas.H.Wildgoose, May 8th, 1918;
Colin Capewell, May 26th, 1918;
George Ramsell, Aug. 8th, 1918;
Moses Holland, Oct 5th, 1918;
Wm. Brindley, Nov 2nd, 1918;
John W. Salt, Nov 18th, 1918;
Kenneth R Lovatt, Dec 5th, 1918;
Rowland J Beech, Aug 30th, 1919;*

Erected by the parishioners and other friends.

The inscription at the base of the cross is as follows: "Robert Myles Heywood, of Hales Hall, Cheadle, Lieut., 2nd Batt. The Buffs, born Feb. 1st, 1884, died Feb.

15th 1915, of wounds received in action near Ypres, Feb.14th, 'In Domino Confido.' Erected by his parents in cherished remembrance of their only child. Also in honoured memory of the men of Kingsley who laid down their lives for their country in the Great War 1914-1918. 'They died that we might live.'

Interestingly, George Price-Bevans is listed on the Wayside Cross but for reasons unknown is not recorded on the St. Werburgh's Plaque. His listing on the Wayside Cross seems to have been a later addition as it is listed after Rowland Beech (Snr) yet he died before him.

Two other names who feature on the Wayside Cross, (G. W. Hood and J. Tideswell) appear to be later additions. They are inscribed under the names of men lost in WW2.

Each year Kingsley Parish holds two acts of Remembrance. On Armistice Day, (11th November), a service is held at the Wayside Cross in Dovedale Road. On Remembrance Sunday, a service is held in St. Werburgh's Church.

The Survivors

Whilst the main aim of this book is to focus on the 29 men who died and had links to the Parish of Kingsley it should not be forgotten that many men served and survived their experiences to return home.

Many of these men came back with both physical and mental injuries from their service that would affect their day to day lives. They deserve to be remembered along with those men who lost their lives in the war or afterwards as a result of their service.

We know from the St. Werburgh's Vestry meeting on 4th April 1918, that the Roll of Honour numbered some 147 names. The Reverend Mayne stated that 88 men were on the battle fronts, 20 were under treatment having been wounded, one was a prisoner of war and 26 men were in training. He added that 16 men had died at that point plus one had died as a prisoner of war.

Sadly, only half of the Roll of Honour survives and there will be men and possibly women who are at this time not known to ourselves as having served.

We cannot of course, recreate the circumstances which existed at the time that the Reverend Mayne kept his records. Our research has identified men who are not on the Roll of Honour for reasons unknown. We have however, as you will have read set criteria to try and be consistent in our approach.

As we have said previously, this is not a definitive list of those who served and survived. We feel it is close to that but fully expect further names to be added to it as this book is read and our work becomes known to an even wider audience.

William Adams



William Adams is recorded on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter'. In 1911, he was living at Temperance Cottage, Kingsley, with his wife and two children (Now number 69 High Street). Following the publication of the first edition William's grandson James Faulkner contacted the project team with information.

Aged 41 in 1914 he enlisted into the Royal Engineers and served mainly its believed on Cannock Chase at Brocton camp, although there is mention of Richborough Camp in Kent which was the location of a major port in the war. The whole of the Chase was one massive training area for the army. Documents in the family's possession indicate he was involved in training engineers prior to their embarkation to France and elsewhere.

During his time in the army he received crush injuries from a train which affected his ability to work in later life. A letter in the family's possession gives his service number and the abbreviation TWRD which is believed to stand for Trench Warfare Research Department. This may indicate he was not only involved in training men but in devising trench construction techniques and the like.

William never served abroad as far as can be told, he was never awarded any medals as a result but clearly did his bit in the war. By the time of the 1919 Voters Register he had been demobbed and was back at home.

Post war he carried on working as a cycle and motorcycle suppliers and repairer and also as a florist and funeral undertaker. He died in 1958.

His daughter Mary was somewhat adventuress and is pictured below on a motorbike in the 1920's in the garden of their house (she rode to Buxton on it once) she married Richard Faulkner from Dilhorne who himself had

served. Her sister Edna never married and was a long-time teacher at St Werburgh's school and is remembered to this day.



William Ainsworth

William Ainsworth appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Research indicates that at least three men by that name were living in the area who could quite feasibly be this man. No service record has been located and we have been unable to identify who he was.

Charlie Alcock

Charlie was one of three brothers who served and is shown on the 1918 Voter's Register as, an 'absentee military voter'. Charles was born in 1900 to Rupert and Edith Alcock, of Ross Cottage, The Ross, Froghall. No Service Records have been found for him.



Bridge over the River Churnet below Froghall 1914.

J A Alcock

J.A. Alcock is a different man to Joseph Alcock, (shown below), as both are shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. We have been unable to trace anything of this man.

Joseph Alcock

Joseph Alcock was the second of the Alcock brothers; born in 1895, in Kingsley. He joined the Royal Fusiliers in September 1914. Joseph was wounded on 7th July 1916, when he was shot in the foot losing a toe and suffering other injuries. He was discharged on 9th October 1916, as unfit for further service.

Rupert Alcock

Rupert Alcock was the third Alcock brother; he was born in 1898, at Froghall. In September 1917, he joined the Royal Navy and was initially based at HMS President II a shore establishment at Crystal Palace. He is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register. He died locally in 1977.

R Ash

R. Ash. Nothing is known of this man, other than on 15th September 1916, the Cheadle Herald reported that a farewell concert had been held for him at the Royal Oak as he was 'off to join the army'. (James Henry Wildgoose, who was to lose his life in 1918, in the army, was as a speaker at the event).

William Baker

William Baker was born in 1899, and lived at 13 Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley, along with his parents Joseph and Alice. Nothing is known about his service in the war. He is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register. He died locally in 1950.

John William Barker

John William Barker appears on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'. He was born in the summer of 1898 to John and Hannah of 22 The Green, Kingsley. He joined the Reserve in late 1915, aged 17 yrs, (giving his age as 18 yrs). Prior to enlisting he was employed as a 'Vane Strip Cleaner' (more than likely at Boltons). In September 1918 he enlisted in the Machine Gun Corps. He trained in Chepstow but never served abroad and was demobbed in February 1919.

Joseph Barker



Joseph Barker was born in 1892, to Thomas and Annie Barker of Back View, Kingsley. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (2nd October 1914), referred to him as being one of the first men who had enlisted, joining the North Staffordshire Regiment, 9th Battalion. His army number indicates he joined just before the Capewell brothers, who also served in the same battalion.

At some stage, Joseph was transferred to the 1st Battalion to make up losses. He went to France in July 1915, serving with the battalion during most of the war. On 21st March 1918, near Maisseny, he was taken prisoner and served

out the remaining months of the war in three POW camps. He is shown as an, 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register. After the war, he married and is believed to have died locally in 1934.

Norman Barker

Another one of those discovered after the first edition was published, he appears in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'. Born in the autumn of 1895 to Thomas and Annie Barker he was a half-brother to Thomas Barker who was killed in 1917.

The family lived at the Cupola Froghall and the Little Bunting Kingsley. In 1918 Norman was living at 2 Back View Kingsley and working at Kingsley Moor Colliery owned by Bowers and Co. In August 1918 he enlisted into the 3rd South Staffs Regiment and underwent training at Ripon, another large army training area but was never sent abroad and went to the reserve in December 1918.

He never married but remained in the local area dying in 1951.

James Henry Beardmore

James was born in 1897, in Ipstones, the son of James Henry (Snr), and Henrietta Beardmore. The family later settled at Blakeley Lane Farm, Kingsley Moor. In 1918, James is shown as an, 'absentee voter', (but not as serving in the military). Details of his army service are unknown. He appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, (Roll of Honour). A J Beardmore also appears on All Saints Church Dilhorne Roll of Honour. That man was shown as serving in the Royal Engineers. He may or may not be the same man as our James Beardmore.

In 1921, James emigrated to Canada under a scheme designed solely for former servicemen, (indicating previous military service), but it did not work out and 18 months later he returned to the Kingsley area. James married Mary Hewitt in 1926. He died in 1967, aged 70 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery

Rowland Beardmore

Rowland's name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour completed by the Rev. Mayne at the end of the war. To date we have been unable to identify with any certainty who he was.

Douglas Charles M Beech



Douglas was born in 1889, the son of Rowland John and Adelaide Frederica Beech of Brandon Hall, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire. Douglas was the younger brother of Jim Beech who was killed in February 1915. The family also owned Shawe Hall, Kingsley, where they frequently visited. He joined the army prior to the war and served in the 20th Hussars.

Douglas rose to the rank of Captain, serving on the General Staff and was awarded the Military Cross for his service. He remained in the army until around 1922. Douglas inherited the Beech family estate, after the death of his father in 1919. Douglas led a colourful life travelling widely and marrying three times. He is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. He died in 1944.

Wilfred Harrison Bentley

Wilfred was born in 1889, the son of Thomas and Sarah Bentley, of 27, The Green, Kingsley. On 18th July 1916, he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Reserve). In the summer of 1916 he married Elizabeth Boyd and was, at that time, described as working in his father's shop. He was called up in 1917 and served in France until 1919. He is shown as an 'absentee military voter' in the 1918 Voters Register. He died locally in 1971.

Frederick Bettany

Frederick was born in 1899, the son of Henry and Frances Bettany, of Cross Street, Kingsley, later 12 Hazles Cross Road. Nothing more is known about his military service. He is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on

the 1918 Voters Register. He married Hannah Hood in 1951 and is believed to have died locally in 1984. Relatives live in Cheadle.

Gordon Billings

Gordon was born in 1894, the son of Thomas and Fanny Billings, of 6 The Wharf, Froghall. Prior to the war, he was a Railway Clerk. On 19th November 1915, Gordon enlisted in the Royal Engineers (Reserve) and was mobilised in 1917. He served in France in a Signal Company where he was described as a Field Linesman, (laying and maintaining field telephones). Gordon is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. He died in Stoke on Trent in 1978.

Jonathan Billings

Jonathan was born in 1876, the son Jonathan and Anne Billings of Kingsley. As a teenager, he moved away to work and eventually emigrated to Canada, with his wife Bertha and family, just before the start of the war.

In 1916, whilst living in Toronto Jonathan joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and travelled to France, where he saw active service in the Motor Transport Company. In 1919, on being demobbed he returned to Canada. He appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

Horace William Birch

Horace was born in 1890, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Birch, of Froghall. In 1911 Horace's family were living in Kingsley Holt, at which time his father was a Licensed Lay Preacher.

At some stage, Horace emigrated to New Zealand where he was a Fruit Farmer. On 11th June 1915, Horace enlisted in the New Zealand Army with the Otago Infantry. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1916), reports him joining up, serving at Gallipoli and later in France where he was wounded.

During his service, Horace rose to Company Sergeant Major. His next of kin was recorded as his mother Elizabeth Birch, of Kingsley Holt and later Little Hayes, Woodhead, Cheadle.

Horace remained a British Citizen and, in 1918 is shown as 'absentee military voter' and resident with his mother in Kingsley Holt. (It is likely that whilst recovering from his wounds or on leave he visited his mother and provided his details for the Voter's Register).

Following the end of the war Horace returned to New Zealand. He returned home to England on at least one occasion prior to his death in 1933.

Horace Birks

Horace was born at Whiston Bridge on 12th February 1897, the son of Thomas and Prudence Birks. He was a Farm Labourer and a Porter, prior to joining up.

On 29th August 1914, Horace enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment giving his age as 19 years, (he was actually aged 17 years), as an initial phase volunteer. Following training he was posted to the 7th Battalion in Egypt. The Battalion served at Gallipoli during late 1915. In November 1915, Horace was in a convalescent hospital in Epsom, Surrey, with an eye injury. Following his recovery, he was posted to the 8th Battalion and went to France. In August 1916, he was on a daily casualty report, (injury unknown). Later that year he was transferred to the 2nd South Staffordshire Regiment and, in April 1917, to the Royal Engineers, where he was promoted to Lance Corporal. He left the army 1920.

Horace appears on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour. He died locally in 1970.

Robert Blacker

Robert appears on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' He was the son of Farnham and Clara Blacker who kept the Railway Hotel at Froghall. He born in the last quarter of 1896 in the local area.

Nothing is known of his service history and no records survive. In the 1911 census he was a 'inmate' of a school for destitute children at Chertsey in Surrey.

The family had an interesting history. Farnham was born in Somerset and in 1901 was Head Game Keeper possibly at Shawe Hall with the family living at Kingsley Holt albeit Robert was not listed. By 1911 they were at the Railway Inn. Little is known of Robert after this but a man of the same name and a brass worker emigrated to New Zealand in 1921.

Joseph Bloor

Joseph lived on the Green, Kingsley. On the 1918 Voters Register he was listed as, an 'absentee military voter'. We have been unable to ascertain any more information about him at this time.

Samuel Bold

Around 1918, Samuel lived at 22 The Green, Kingsley. He was also shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter'. We have no further information on this man.

Harry Booth

Harry was born in Kingsley in 1896 to William and Mary Booth. In 1911 the family was living at The Rindle, Cheadle.

On 29th August 1914, Harry enlisted initially in the 4th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment. Following training, in May 1915, he was transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment and was deployed to France.

In October 1915, the regiment sailed from Marseille arriving in Egypt, prior to moving to Salonika (Greece). Along with many others in that theatre of war, Harry suffered from illness and was treated and admitted to hospital for Pyrexia, (a fever), and Malaria on several occasions between August and December 1916.

By September 1917, he was back in Britain at a War Hospital in Newcastle, Staffs, where he was treated for Pyrexia.

By the spring of 1918, Harry was back in Salonika with his regiment and in July that year he was compulsorily transferred to the Labour Corps,

remaining in Salonika until January 1919, when he sailed back to Britain and left the army. He died locally in 1952 aged 56 years

James Frederick Booth



James was the son of John and Elizabeth Booth of 9 Cheadle Road, Kingsley. James lived for most of his early life in Cauldon Lowe before moving back to Kingsley at around the time he enlisted.

James joined the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1917 and went to France in 1918. During his time in the army he also served with the Labour Corps and the West Riding Regiment. At some point, he received a bullet wound to the left wrist and a shrapnel injury to his right leg. These injuries led to his discharge from the army in early 1919, when he was assessed to be 30% disabled, (Army Pension Assessment). Pictures taken shortly after the war show him concealing his left hand / wrist area with a hat or by putting it in his pocket. He is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

In 1923 James married Mary Bevans. Many years later when she passed away in 1988, he went to live with his granddaughter Lorna Ashmore who was, by a strange twist of fate, living at 9 Cheadle Road, Kingsley. Jim remarked to her that he had come home. He is still remembered by long time neighbours who recall his love of horse racing.

Jim died in 1992, aged 93 years. We are grateful to his granddaughter Lorna Ashmore for supplying photos of Jim to us.

Samuel Bould

Samuel was born in 1883, in Hanley, to Samuel (Snr) and Elizabeth Bould and lived his early life in Stoke on Trent.

In 1910 he married Agnes Edwards in St. Werburgh's Church. (One of the witnesses was Francis Hordern, great grandfather of Martyn Hordern, one of the authors of this book).

In 1911, Samuel and Agnes were living in Kingsley Holt, he was employed working on the roads, having previously been a Blacksmith.

On 2nd September 1914, Samuel enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment, 8th Battalion as an initial phase volunteer. His occupation at this time was given as a Motor Driver. His home address was given as Kingsley Moor, yet despite this, he does not appear on the St. John's Church plaque. Despite having no previous army experience, he was apparently promoted to Corporal on 15th September 1914.

On 24th January 1915, his son Sidney Clifford was Baptised in St. Werburgh's Church, with Samuel being recorded as a Corporal in the 8th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment, (he had an older son Samuel Thomas Bould born in 1910).

On 2nd March 1915, just a month later, he was discharged from the army due to poor eyesight and being unable to march. Samuel appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. He died locally in 1956, aged 73 years.

R A Bowers

This name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. It is barely legible and the entry may be Bowen or something similar. Despite extensive research, to date, we have been unable to identify who this man was.

James Edward Bradshaw

James is another man who was found after the first edition. He is listed on the 1919 Voters register as an 'absentee military voter'. He was the son of James and Lucy Bradshaw of 27 Hazles Cross Road Kingsley.

He joined up in July 1918 being attached to the 3rd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. The battalion were a reserve unit and formed part of the Tyne Garrison in the north east. He spent over 2 weeks in hospital at Lincoln in August and September 1918. James did not see active service; however, he was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1919 before being demobilised in November 1919.

James married Florence Bennett in 1927 at Chapel en le Frith and died in Swadlincote in 1975.

Thomas William Bradshaw

Thomas was born in 1887, the son of James and Elizabeth Bradshaw, who ran the Swan Public House, High Street, Kingsley. In 1911 he was living at Hazlewall Cottage, Kingsley Moor, and was a copper worker, more than likely at Thomas Bolton's.



Thomas enlisted at an early stage of the war. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (2nd October 1914), refers to him as being '*one of those who had signed up already*'. A similar report and photograph was published in the Weekly Sentinel in July 1918, (incorrectly naming him as F W Bradshaw). It states he was the first recruit to join up at the outbreak of the war and that he was in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

We have no further details of Thomas' war service. In 1918 both Thomas and his mother were listed in the Voters Register as living at Canada House, High Street, Kingsley. He appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

In 1927 he married Elizabeth Pattinson at St Werburgh's. Thomas is believed to have died in the East Staffordshire in 1984 aged 97 years.

William James Bradshaw



William was born in 1897, to William and Alice and lived on the Harewood Hall estate near Cheadle.

William is named on the St. John's Church Plaque and, as an 'absentee voter' on the 1918 Voters Register. In addition, his sister Mary Elizabeth, married Ernest Capewell, (another survivor), after the war.

On 11th December 1915, aged a little over 18 years, he volunteered for service and joined the Royal Artillery. His address at this time was Hazlewall Cottage, Kingsley Moor, his prior occupation as a Cow Farmer.

In May 1917, William went to France with 466th Howitzer Battery of the Royal Field Artillery. He was a driver, probably driving the horses tasked with pulling the guns and timbers.

In August 1918, he was suffering from Pyrexia (fever) that required hospital treatment. He was demobbed in 1919.

After the war, William was believed to have returned to farming and he was also employed at some stage by John Smith, (the father of Reg Smith - Kingsley Moor Garage). He worked hauling bricks to building sites, by horse and cart.

William died in March 1983, aged 86 years. His daughter Helen Doody lives in the Denstone area.

Charles Bridgett

Charles was born in 1883 or 1884, in Kingsley Holt the son of Thomas and Jane Bridgett. Prior to joining up he was a Servant / General Farm Labourer at Church Farm, Kingsley. He enlisted in 1904, (aged 20 yrs), and at this time he was a Professional Soldier. Whilst in the army he spent a lot of time in India with the Royal Field Artillery.



Before the start of the war he left the army and worked as a Postman in Cheadle. When the war broke out he was called up and served in the Royal Artillery as a reservist.

Charles was assigned as a Trainer to a Territorial Unit. In 1915, with the training finished, he was offered the chance to return to his own unit. However, he had developed a strong bond with the men and opted to stay with them.

He was attached to the 156th Brigade Royal Field Artillery who served alongside the 'Pals' battalions. He was awarded the Military Medal in 1919, 'For courage in resupplying the guns with ammunition whilst under a heavy barrage'.

Charles grandson Victor Bridgett resides in Mayfield, Nr. Ashbourne, and he has a wealth of stories, related to him by his grandfather. Victor also retains several items of his grandfather's including his army trunk, photographs of his time in India, military clothing, his greatcoat and metal helmet. He also has a paper from the army deducting pay from Charles to cover the non-return of his greatcoat.

Charles Bridgett recalled that, as the Regiment left to go to war, they received horses that came from farms and families across the country. One particular horse had a note on it, from two little girls whose family owned the horse, asking that it be looked after. (Sadly, the horse was unlikely to have survived let alone returned to this country).

Victor remembers Charles telling him that he actually won the Military Medal for moving the guns over a stretch of road that was under enemy fire. From their position at the top of a hill he was able to time the gap between enemy artillery salvo's, allowing the allied guns to cross over the road before the next batch of shells came over. He was able to do this with all the guns and sustained no casualties. However, he was not best pleased when his officer, who was several miles away and unaware of what was

happening, got the Military Cross, which, unlike the Military Medal, carried a pension.

The German surrender came after a period of intense fighting and rapid gains of ground by the allies. It had been a long war and Charles fell asleep in a barn. When he awoke, his watch had stopped and he was initially puzzled, but quickly realized that he had, in fact, slept for over 24 hours.

When Charles Bridgett was demobilised he returned to the Post Office. He died in 1969, aged 85 years.

George Shaw Bridgett

George was born in 1888, in Cheadle, to Isaiah and Annie Bridgett. By 1891, the family was living in Kingsley Holt.

It seems likely that he married Elizabeth Jones in 1916, (a Lizzie Bridgett, is shown on the 1918 Voter's Register alongside a George who was serving in the forces).

George Shaw Bridgett joined the Staffordshire Yeomanry. At some stage, he served in Palestine. Nothing else is known of his army service. George is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. He died in Stoke-on-Trent in 1949, aged 61 years.



Men of the Staffordshire Yeomanry in training in England during World War 1.
(Picture Courtesy of Dave Cooper of Antique Armoury)

Edward Bromley

Edward was born in Birmingham in 1892, the son Edwin and Ada Bromley. At some stage the family was living in Ipstones but, by 1918, they were living in Kingsley Holt. As his father was a metal worker, it is likely the family came to work in this area at Thomas Bolton's, at Froghall or Oakamoor.

It is not known when Edward enlisted, however, prior to the war he was a full time soldier and, in 1911, was serving as a member of the War Office staff. During the war, he served in the Lancashire Fusiliers in the Gallipoli campaign, where he was twice wounded. Local newspapers from 1915, refer to Edward being from wounded in Gallipoli and that he was initially missing, believed killed. However, his parents had received a letter from him whilst he was in a hospital.

Percy Bromley

Percy was the brother of Edward Bromley and was also born in Birmingham in 1894. Percy served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, his service number and research suggests he joined at the outset of the war and served throughout.

In 1916, he transferred to the Royal Hampshire Regiment and ultimately ended his service in the Labour Corps, (more than likely as a result of being wounded or through illness). After the war in 1919 he married Ethel Whittock in Aston, Birmingham. He died in Warwickshire in 1981, aged 87 years.

Both Percy and Edward Bromley were listed as, 'absentee military voters' on the 1918 Voters Register, their address being shown as Kingsley Holt.

George Buckett

George was born in 1898, the son of George and Emma Buckett of Hazles Farm, Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley.

Prior to his war service he worked at Bolton's as a Labourer. He joined the Royal Marines in February 1918, initially as a Private, later becoming a Gunner with the Howitzer Brigade and then the Royal Marine Artillery. It seems he saw active service but the details are unknown. He is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

George was demobbed in February 1919, after just less than 12 months' service. He died locally in 1971, aged 73 years. Family of George still reside in the area.



High Street Kingsley near to the Swan in 1906 – man on the left is named as George Bucket from Hazles Cross (likely the father of George referred to above) and Harry Poyser a brother of James who died in 1916.

George Burgess

George came to notice via an entry in the St. Werburgh's Baptism's Register on 20th January 1919, when his twin boys, born on Boxing Day 1918, were baptized. The boys were George and Aubrey, their mother was Annie Elizabeth Burgess, and the family was living in Kingsley. In the register, George is described as a Private, 1st North Staffordshire Regiment. No other details have been found to date of his army service or pre-war life. Curiously George is not mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour or the 1918 Voters Register.

George Burnett

George was born in 1884, the son George and Elizabeth Burnett from Kingsley Moor. The family lived at Greenhead and then Young's Green. George is listed as serviceman on the 1918 Voters Register. We have been unable to trace his army record. George features on the St John's Church Plaque. He died locally in 1956, aged 72 years.

Ernest Burston

Ernest was born in 1893 at Wolsley in Staffordshire, to Roland John and Elizabeth Burston. Ernest was the younger brother of Roland Burston, (who died in Salonika in 1917), and the older brother of Herbert who also served.

Due to his father's occupation as a gamekeeper the family moved around, living at various addresses in Staffordshire and Worcestershire. By 1911, the family was living in Kingsley on the Beech estate at Shawe Hall, however Ernest was not living there at that time and his whereabouts are unknown. The family later lived at Consall and Foxt.

Details of Ernest's army service have not been verified at this time. Like his two brothers he appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Ernest died in London in 1930, aged 37 years.

Ernest and Herbert's sister Frances married Thomas Gibson (a survivor).

Herbert Burston

Herbert was born in 1898, at Brockleton, Worcestershire, the fourth of eight children born to Elizabeth and Roland John. He was the younger brother of both Roland and Ernest Burston. As mentioned previously, the family travelled quite extensively across the Midlands due to their father's occupation as a Gamekeeper.

Herbert served with the Royal Artillery. Little else is known of his army service, although he served abroad.

He married just after the war and settled in the Oldham area. In 1939 he was living in Chadderton with his wife Emma. He died in the Oldham area in 1960, aged 61 years.

Christine Fowler, (nee Burston), from Kingsley, is the niece of Herbert and recalls, as a young girl, visiting him in the 1950's in Manchester, where he then lived. He was somewhat bedridden as a result of his army service but it is unknown if that was as a result of service in WW1 or WW2.



Recruits to 5th North Staffordshire Regiment. (Picture courtesy of Dave Cooper Antique Armoury)

Arthur Elijah Campbell



Arthur was born in Cheadle in about 1885, the son of Elijah and Hannah Campbell. His family later moved to Foxt and as an adult Arthur lived in Kingsley.

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914) referred to him as, '*one of the first from Kingsley*' to join up. In July 1915, the Weekly Sentinel referred to Arthur being a former member of the Reading Room who had joined the Royal Field Artillery and was undergoing training at Preston, alongside George Hall, another Kingsley man.

Arthur was posted to France on 9th March 1915. We have been unable to trace his army record and have no other details of his war service. He is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.



The Reading Room, now Village Hall. Note the gas lamp.

Ernest Capewell



Ernest was born in 1896, at Kingsley Moor, to Colin (Snr) and Emma Capewell, the brother of Colin and Frederick Capewell. By 1911, he had left home and was a farm labourer living with the Leese family at Harewood Hall, Cheadle.

In September 1914, Ernest and his brother Colin enlisted in the 9th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. In fact, they had sequential service numbers and were amongst the first men from the area to enlist.

The 9th Battalion went to France in July 1915, as a pioneer battalion engaged in building defensive works and tramways, as well as being expected to fight. It was not an easy life and men were exposed to danger from enemy action. During 1917, the battalion had been involved in action at Neuve Chappelle, Loos, Arras, Messines Ridge and Ypres. At the end of the year the Commanding Officer's report outlined that seven officers and 54 other ranks had been killed during the year, one officer and 25 other ranks were missing, and over 300 had been wounded. He added that 500 men had been sent to the infantry during the year, being replaced by Scottish Royal Engineers. The C.O. concluded that the battalion was no longer representative of the area it came from, (North Staffs).

At some point, Ernest transferred to the 1st Battalion and then back to the 9th Battalion. He served throughout the war and in December 1917 was injured when he sustained a shrapnel wound to the leg. At the time of Colin's memorial service in June 1918, (6 months later), Ernest was still in hospital at Blackburn and was unable to attend, indicating the serious nature of the injury he had sustained.

After the war, Ernest returned to Kingsley Moor and built his own wooden bungalow, adjacent to the A52, which still stands to this day. In 1920, he married Mary Bradshaw, (sister of William Bradshaw another survivor). Following the war, he worked as a miner, at Foxfield, New Haden and finally Florence Colliery, where he suffered a badly broken

arm and could not return to work. Latterly he worked at Britain's Paper Mill, Cheddleton. Earnest died in 1973, aged 77 years.

Peter Capewell, (Ernest's son), relates that his father never talked about the war, his army service or his injury. Peter still has the piece of shrapnel that was removed from Ernest's leg. We are very grateful to Peter Capewell for his help in providing information about the Capewell family and other families from the Kingsley Moor area.

Fredrick Capewell



Fredrick (standing in picture) was born at Kingsley Moor in 1894, the brother of Colin and Ernest Capewell. By 1911, he was working as a cow man at Leighton Hall Farm, Crewe. Prior to enlistment he was working in Britain's Paper Mill at Cheddleton.

Whilst his service record does not exist it is known from the Cheadle and Tean Times that he joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in April 1916.

The war diary for the 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, not only lists the numbers killed, wounded and missing, it actually names them and dates the entries. The diary records that Frederick Capewell was wounded on 15th December 1916, during a German attack.

On 30th November 1917, the Duke of Cornwall's were subject to a fierce German counter-attack whilst in trenches at Gouzeacourt, south-west of Cambrai. The battalion was positioned on either side of a valley and after a barrage further along the front it was noted that troops in front of them were withdrawing. This suggests that the unit had been part of a secondary line of defence. The Germans then attacked in strength.

The battalion commander was killed whilst leading a party of men to reinforce one of the companies. A, B and C companies held their front with the Germans around 50 yards away but, as they were in danger of being outflanked and cut off, they were forced to withdraw. The battalion reformed and there was some enemy movement but no direct attacks. As

evening drew in the Germans attacked via a connecting trench which they held. They bombed the Cornwall's but were driven off by counter bombing.

Prior to this engagement, the casualty returns for November numbered around 100. From this one action alone, the casualties were two officers and 13 other ranks killed, four officers and 50 other ranks missing, believed killed, and three officers and 90 other ranks wounded.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that on 30th November 1917, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry lost 41 men that day. Except for two men, all are commemorated at the Cambrai Memorial at Louverval. The other two men, having died of wounds, are buried in cemeteries near to Casualty Clearing Stations where they died.

Fredrick Capewell was taken prisoner that day. (It is assumed that as the battalion withdrew he could not get away and was captured).

Frederick was held as a POW for the remainder of the war. In 1919, he eventually returned home to Kingsley Moor. He purchased a former army war hut which he and Ernest collected from Cheddleton Railway Station and transported back by horse and cart. The hut was erected on Blakely Lane standing for many years. In its place now stands a recently built brick bungalow.

Frederick served in the Home Guard during WW2. He died in 1954, aged 60 years, after an accident with a chainsaw.

All three Capewell brothers appear on the St. John's Church, Kingsley Moor, plaque.

Footnote: Between June and September 1917, a man named Henry Patch served alongside Frederick in the 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Henry Patch rose to fame in his later years when he was dubbed the 'Last Fighting Tommy' as he was the last soldier to have fought in the WW1 who was still alive. Henry died in 2009, aged 111 years and was the subject of books and TV programs. He and Frederick would have surely rubbed shoulders together.

Frederick Carnwell

Frederick was born in 1896, the son of Edward and Susan Carnwell, of 1 Church Street, Kingsley. The Sentinel in 1915 stated he was the second recruit to join from the village, serving initially with the Leicestershire Regiment and then the Labour Corps. It is likely that Frederick joined the North Staffordshire Regiment initially but at an early stage was transferred to the Leicestershire Regiment. (It was common practice for men to be transferred to make up shortfalls in other regiments).



Frederick was wounded in the summer of 1915, whilst serving with the Leicestershire Regiment, and only weeks after he went to France. A Cheadle & Tean Times newspaper article at the time refers to his injury, and to Frederick sending best wishes to his friends at Kingsley Reading Room. It would appear that he made a recovery from his wounds and was transferred to the Labour Corps. (This often occurred when men who had recovered from injury were not considered fit for service on the front line).

Frederick appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and is shown as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

After the war, Frederick married Elsie Carr. He died in the Stockport area in 1974, aged 78 years.



Froghall Station.

Arthur Carr



Arthur Carr was born on 20th February 1889, in Kingsley, the son of Mary Jane Carr, a Domestic Servant. His father is unknown. Arthur was raised by his grandparents. In 1891 the family was living in High Street, Kingsley, near the Swan Inn.

By 1901 Arthur, then aged 12 years, was at 'The County of Stafford Certified Industrial Boys School' at Caverswall, where he is described as a 'Scholar and Shoemaker Certified'. Industrial Schools were provided for vagrant, pauper or orphaned children to provide a basic education and some occupational skills.

On 6th February 1905, Arthur, then aged 15 years and 11 months, enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders for a period of 12 years. There is no record of a parent or guardian being required to agree to his enlistment.

Arthur was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, based at Fort George, near Inverness, Scotland. It would appear that he spent his early army service at various barracks in the United Kingdom.

In August 1914, the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders were deployed to France / Belgium as part of the British Expeditionary Force and saw action during a number of early campaigns. Arthur Carr saw active service during the 1914 battles of Marne and Aisne.

An undated 1915 article in the Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel, titled 'Men from Kingsley Serving', states: *'Bandsman (Private) Arthur Carr of the Seaforth Highlanders has a long service to his record. His letters home have always been of the cheeriest disposition and only a short time ago he said he would not be surprised if one of his chums, Fred Cope, arrived in the trenches*

with the British Fleet as at that time there was enough water to float the ships. He has been in several engagements and fortunately he came through them alright'. It is believed Arthur had requested to become a Private rather than remain as a Bandsman. Bandsmen tended to be stretcher bearers and the like and he clearly wanted to be on the front line.

On 24th May 1915, the regiment were in front line action at Ypres when Arthur Carr was shot in the left knee causing him a serious injury. He was returned to the UK, as a war casualty, three days later. Prior to this there is mention of him being gassed in an earlier engagement and having only returned from hospital two or three days before being shot.

Following treatment Arthur was discharged from the army on 17th November 1915, aged 26 years.

During December 1915, a charity football match and other fund-raising events were held in Kingsley to raise funds for Arthur, a total of £10 was collected for his benefit.

It is believed Arthur Carr was fitted with some sort of footwear / apparatus to assist him when walking, he walked with a limp and used a stick. It is believed he remained in the area for some time, possibly at 11 Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley. Arthur was eventually awarded a 25% Disability Pension by the Army.

In 1922, Arthur Carr married Elsie Annie Mills from Kingsley at St. Werburgh's Church, at that time he was working at Thomas Boltons at Froghall. Later the family moved to Manchester where Arthur found work in engineering. He died in 1964, aged 75 years.

A number of treasured possessions once belonging to Arthur are still retained by the Carr family, these include a Princess Mary 1914 Christmas Tin complete with contents, his pipe, (the bowl of which is engraved with reference to the Battles of the Marne and Aisne), and a silver gilt capped walking cane.

Henry (Harry) Carr

Harry, as he was known, was born in Kingsley in 1880, the son of Thomas and Hannah Carr, and brother of Richard. In 1901 Harry was in boarding accommodation in Derbyshire and working as a Railway Clerk. He cannot be found in the 1911 Census, (he may have been serving in the army or working abroad on the railways).

There is some indication that Harry spent time living and working in West Africa, and that at some stage he underwent military service there.

In February 1916, aged 35 years, he enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles and was allocated to the Rhodesian Platoon. This would indicate that he had previously been working in what is now modern-day Zimbabwe. His prior occupation was given as a Railway Auditor. The regiment was posted on active service in Northern France.

Within three months Harry was transferred to the 6th then the 2nd Battalion. On the 3rd July 1916, whilst his unit was holding the line north west of the Somme battlefield, he received gunshot wounds to the leg, hand and right shoulder. Whilst convalescing back in Kingsley he was 'Best Man' at his brother's wedding.

His wounds were clearly worse than initially thought and in February 1917 he was discharged from the army. His record states that he had a compound fracture of the clavicle, fractured little finger and a fractured ankle, all clearly caused by the gunshot wounds.

His discharge address was given as Holt Lane Farm, Kingsley, and the Rhodesian Railways, (indicating that he intended to return to his former work in Africa).

It seems Harry never have made that journey to Africa. In 1918, he is shown in the Voters Register as living at 14 The Green, Kingsley, with Sarah Ann Carr, (believed to be his wife). In later years, he ran a shop situated at the top of Newhall Street, Kingsley.

Richard Carr

Richard, or Dickie as he was better known, was born in 1882 in Kingsley and was the brother of Harry Carr. Prior to the war his occupation is shown as a Butcher. It is not known when he enlisted.

Richard served as a Bombardier with the Royal Field Artillery. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (27th October 1916), reported on the Battle of the Somme and stated that Richard had suffered a crushed foot caused when he was run over by the wheel of a heavy gun.

On Christmas Day 1916, he married Constance Blacker at St. Werburgh's. His brother Harry was best man and it was termed a 'Khaki Wedding'.

Dickie appears on the 1918 Voters Register but not as an absent voter. This would suggest that his foot injury may have led to his discharge from the Army prior to 1918. After the war, he remained in the village and is remembered as running one of three Butcher's shops situated on The Green, Kingsley. Both Harry and Richard Carr appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

William Bernard Carr

William was born on 14th February 1898 the son of William and Hannah Carr. In 1919 he was listed in the Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' who's home address was 29 Hazles Cross Road Kingsley.

On 3rd July 1918 he enlisted as a Private in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment. He was demobbed in January 1919 and appears not to have served abroad. Prior to him being called up he was a copper worker presumably at Bolton's.

In April 1924 he married Louise Rogers and died in the local area in June 1980.

A Chaney

This name appears, (barely legible), on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Despite fairly extensive research, we have been unable to identify who this man was.

Lewis Chell

Lewis was born in October 1881. In 1914 (aged 33 yrs), he was living at 13 Sunnyside, Kingsley, with his wife and young son Joseph.

Lewis should be commended for his persistence. He first joined in the Staffordshire Regiment in September 1914, as an initial phase volunteer. However, after just 45 days he was discharged due to having a severe case of Psoriasis, (a skin condition). He attempted to re-enlist in November 1914, but the Psoriasis occurred again. He made a further attempt in January 1915, when he enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment via the Staffordshire Regiment. However, once again he was discharged as being unlikely to make an effective soldier due to his skin condition.

In June 1915, Lewis and his wife Sarah had their son John Lewis French Chell, baptised at St. Werburgh's Church. At that stage, Lewis was described as a Private North Staffs Regiment. (No army records have been found to confirm his service at that time)

Lewis appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

William Anderson Clowes

William was born on 21st April 1888, in Glasgow the son of Simeon and Elizabeth Clowes. Simeon originated from Kingsley but left to find work in the shipyards on the Clyde.

Sometime between 1891 and 1901 the family moved to Kingsley, to live at the family farm with Simeon's family. Simeon had died before 1901.



After doing an apprenticeship in Leek, William married in 1915. At some point he joined the Army Service Corps serving as a Storeman / Clerk. He was sent to India where he caught Dysentery and was invalided back to the UK weighing just 6 stones.

In 1918, his mother and brother Robert were living on farms in the area. William's name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour,

In 1951, William was President of the National Federation of Ironmongers. He died in 1973, aged 85 years.

The Clowes family at Church Stile Farm, Kingsley, are related to William. We are grateful to William's daughter Anne Holroyd for helping us with his story and supplying his photograph.

Harold Lewis Coates



Harold was born in Oakamoor in 1890, the son of William and Mary Coates. He remained in Oakamoor for a number of years working at Thomas Bolton's as a clerk in charge of costs and statistics and here he met his future wife Ellen.

Harold enlisted in the Army Service Corps in 1915 as a Reserve, prior to being called up in the summer of 1917. By early 1918 he was recommended for a commission to the rank of Lieutenant and served in the same corps.

In the summer of 1918, Harold went to Italy where he remained until returning to the UK in November the same year. He seems to have suffered ill health during this period and ultimately resigned his commission in October 1919. The 1918 Voters Register shows him as an 'absentee military voter' living in Kingsley Holt.

After the war, he moved to the London area and ultimately to Stratford-upon-Avon where he died in 1963, aged 73 years.

Frederick Cope



Fred Cope (right) with George Smith and his sister.

Fred was born on the 1st May 1889, the son of Thomas and Alice Cope of Cheadle. By 1891 the family were living at Kingsley Brook, now known as The Green.

In 1908, Fred, aged 19 years, joined the navy for 5 years. He was a good friend of George Harris Smith, (who died in September 1914), and there are pictures of them together on home leave. One picture of them in front of a house in Hazels Cross Road was used in a series of picture post cards of the village.

Towards the end of 1913, or early 1914, Fred left the Navy but, as a reservist, he was called up when the war broke out during the summer of 1914.

Fred saw active service on several ships during the war including HMS Sapphire serving in home waters, the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf.

The Weekly Sentinel, (early 1915), reports that his friend Arthur Carr wrote home saying it was so wet in Flanders that he expected to see Fred Cope come sailing up to the trenches. Fred is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and, as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

Fred Cope left the Navy for a second time in 1919 and remained in the Kingsley area. He died in June 1942, aged 53 years. His gravestone in St. Werburgh's churchyard states he was a member of the Local Defence

Force which later became the Home Guard during WW2. He was buried with full military honours.

Thomas Cope

Thomas was the brother of the aforementioned Frederick Cope. In the 1919 Voters Register he was as an 'absentee military voter'. At that time his home address was 40 The Green Kingsley. His service records do not survive.

Walter Cope



Walter was identified from a Weekly Sentinel report in 1918, which refers to him serving with the RAF.

He was born in 1895, to William and Mary Cope, one of their ten children. The family lived at Kingsley Banks, then Perkins Lane, Kingsley Moor, before, in 1918, moving to Glebe Road, Kingsley.

Prior to joining up Walter worked as an apprentice Butcher at Thomas Bolton's. However, on joining he was described as a Turner.

Walter joined the Navy in March 1918 but transferred within a fortnight to the newly formed Royal Air Force, (amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service).

Walter served at two bases in the UK before being discharged to the reserve in 1919. In 1921 he married Gladys Buckett. He died locally in 1972, aged 77 years.

William Henry Coulton

William was born in Middlesex in 1900 but there is no information as to his parents. By 1911 he was resident at a school / institution for the poor at Hampton Wick, Middlesex.

He moved north, possibly as a result of family ties, and in 1918 married Cornelia May Bridgett at St Werburgh's, Kingsley. At the time, he was shown as a Private in the Royal Field Artillery. Research indicates that he was a Driver and saw active service after 1915. This entry in the St. Werburgh's Marriage Register is the only reference to his military service.

Following the war, William remained in the Kingsley area up until his death in 1986, aged 86 years.

Francis William Critchlow

Francis was born in 1897 in Kingsley. In 1911 the family was living in Canada House, High Street, Kingsley. Francis was still living there in 1918.

We have been unable to locate his Army records. At some point in the war he enlisted and joined the Royal Engineers and rose to the rank of Acting Corporal, before being demobbed at the war's end.

Francis is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and the 1918 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'. He died in the Macclesfield area in 1974, aged 77 years. He was brother to George who follows.



Royal Engineers in 1918 © IWM (Q 10332)

George Ernest Critchlow

Born on 10th September 1899 to Philip and Sarah, he was the brother to Francis. He was living at the family home in 1919 in the Voters Register where he was shown as an 'absentee military voter'.

Research shows that on 23rd July 1918 he enlisted in the fledging RAF, his former occupation being given as an Insurance Agent and Clerk.

He was posted after training to 143 Squadron which was a newly formed fighter unit. He later served at RAF Andover on the south coast and in 1919 was reclassified from a Private to a Telephone Operator. In between times he served with 6th Brigade RAF which was a home defence unit.

He was transferred to the reserve on 6th April 1920. He died in Harrogate North Yorkshire in 1995.



High Street Kingsley looking towards the Old Smithy and Hazles Cross Road.

Albert E. Donaldson.

The St. Werburgh's Baptism Register records his son Stanley being baptised in January 1917. The register shows Albert as a soldier in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His service record survives and shows he enlisted in early 1916, whilst he and his wife were living in London.

Albert served in France until mid-1917 when he returned to the UK. He was discharged in 1919 due to 'Trench Foot'.

Quite why the family were in Kingsley in January 1917, is a mystery. Their stay in Kingsley was relatively short lived as on discharge in 1919 he gave his address as Barnsbury in North London.

Albert appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

Alfred Dykes

The St. Werburgh's Marriage Register shows that Alfred married Henrietta Hall in early 1915. (Henrietta was the sister of the three Hall brothers from Kingsley Moor who served in the war). They had a daughter Joan who was born in 1921.

We have been unable to locate any military records for this man. No details are known of his war service. He appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Alfred died in Stoke on Trent in 1960, aged 69 years.

John Abraham Edwards

John was born in 1896, the son of John and Sarah Ellen Edwards of Kingsley, the fourth of their nine children.

We have been unable to locate the military records for this man and have no details of his war service. He is shown on the 1918 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter', living in Newhall Street, Kingsley.

John died in 1935, aged 38 years.

(Note: Do not confuse this man with John Edward (Ted) Abraham Edwards, who lived in the village over the same period, but was not in the army, - brother of Leonard Edwards)

Charles Eyre



Charles was born in 1899, to Henry and Francis Eyre, the fourth of their 13 children. The family initially lived in Kingsley Holt but moved to Cheadle prior to 1911.

In 1917, Charles (18 yrs), joined the North Staffordshire Regiment before being transferred to the Durham Light Infantry and then to the Labour Corps. As a former Coal Miner (New Haden Colliery) he would have been seen as ideal for such work.

During the summer of 1918 Charles was gassed, although there is no indication he was hospitalised as a result. At the end of the war he was deemed to be suffering a disability as a result of the effects of gas, but as his physical condition was poor on enlistment his disability pension was halved. In later years Charles complained of a shrapnel injury to his shoulder.

Charles appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

His grandson Richard Eyre still resides locally as does one of Charles children. We are grateful to Richard for the photograph he has allowed us to use.

Basil Ferriday

Basil was born in 1898, he was the son of Moses and Elizabeth Ferriday living at Woodgarth, Holt Lane, Kingsley, later moving to Hillcrest, Kingsley Holt.

His father was a long-time teacher at St. Werburgh's School and played the organ at St. Werburgh's Church.



Basil was conscripted in early 1916, but his call up was delayed when he badly broke his leg whilst out with the local scout troop which he led.

Just prior to his call up in 1917 his father wrote to the army asking that he be considered for a commission, (like his brother Thomas). However, possibly due to his physical condition,

he was posted to the Army Service Corps where he was employed as a Lorry Driver and Clerk. He posted abroad from 1917 onwards and towards the end of his service was promoted to Temporary Corporal.

Basil is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

After the war, Basil returned to his job at the Manchester and Liverpool Bank, (which later became the District Bank and eventually Nat West Bank). He married Clara Evelyn Smith in 1927, at St. Werburgh's, and he became the Bank Branch Manager, in a career that saw him working across the north Staffordshire area. He died in 1975, aged 77 years.

We are grateful to Graham and Nancy Clarke and Graham's cousin Catherine Reading, relatives of Basil and Thomas Ferriday, for supplying photos of the brothers and background information.

Thomas Bennett Ferriday

Thomas, elder brother of Basil, he was born in 1894. He enlisted in the army at the outset of war in 1914, initially joining the Royal Engineers and attending training colleges at Woolwich and Chatham. At some point he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in a Signal Company.

From the autumn of 1916, he saw active service in Mesopotamia, (Iraq). Family history suggests that he served as part of the Indian Army. Later he transferred to the recently formed Royal Air Force as a Lieutenant,



before returning to the army prior to being demobbed. Thomas is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

In the autumn of 1921 he married Violet Slay in Oxfordshire and settled in that area. Thomas died in Oxfordshire in 1974, aged 80 years.



Staff at St. Werburgh's School, pictured after WW1.

James Flanagan

James was very much a last-minute addition to the list of first edition survivors, having come to light as a result of information from his family.

He was born in Leek on 4th December 1887, the son of George and Charlotte Flanagan, his mother died when he was ten years old. In 1900 James, aged 13 years, started to work in his father's silk mill in Leek.



As a teenager, James served as a reserve in the 4th North Staffordshire Regiment, a territorial unit. Prior to joining up he met Mary Wheawall who was in service in Leek. (She was the sister of George Wheawall who was to lose his life in the war).

In 1906 James, aged 19 years, joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Lichfield, along with a friend called Peter Harrison, because he knew he would get 'a suit of clothes, pair of boots and three meals a day'. James' pre-war service was confined to the United Kingdom including

spells in Ireland.

In August 1914, his battalion was sent to France. James kept a diary of his service for the first few years of the war and his family have written a book around his life and service.

The battalion was soon in action and James describes his appearance as filthy, with long hair, and a beard. He had lost his helmet and was wearing the trousers of a dead Frenchman as his own had been torn. Later he wore lady's calico underwear as lice couldn't live in them!

James was involved in a bayonet charge and graphically describes life in the front line. In early 1915, months of living in the trenches took their toll when he was admitted to hospital with bronchitis and rheumatism. His condition was such that he was evacuated back to UK. In April 1915, whilst on home leave, he and Mary were married in Leek.

In September 1915, James was sufficiently recovered to return to his unit as they landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, in the face of fierce Turkish opposition. Later the Battalion was redeployed to Salonika (Greece), where the allies were fighting Bulgarian forces.

James was once again stricken by bronchitis and at some stage was hospitalised. After recovering he was involved in more fighting.

In May 1916, he joined the Machine Gun Corps quickly rising to the rank of Sergeant. He remained in Salonika until the end of the 1917 when he went to Egypt, latter serving in Gaza and Palestine. (On one occasion T E Lawrence – ‘Lawrence of Arabia’ entered the camp where James was based). There he had further spells in hospital with Enteric fever.

Whilst in Salonika he caught malaria, which plagued him with frequent recurring bouts throughout his life. In February 1919, he was demobbed from the army at which stage his home address was given as 7 Cheadle Road, Kingsley.

At some time, he lived with his mother-in-law and helped look after George Wheawall’s orphaned children, (their mother had also died and their grandmother was bringing them up).

James was found a job by one of the managers at Thomas Bolton’s who had been appalled that a former soldier was struggling to find work.

It is clear James’ post war life and that of his family was difficult. However, he seems to have borne it with stoicism.

James served with the Whiston Home Guard during World War Two where his previous service and experience was invaluable.

One of his children, George Flanagan (Jnr), joined the Royal Navy in World War Two and lost his life in the raid on Dieppe. It was not initially known where he was buried. He was eventually located having been mistakenly buried under his girlfriend’s name, (as he wore a bracelet with her name on). James and his wife visited the grave and also that of George Wheawall, (Mary’s brother).

The family lived in Sidney Drive, Kingsley Holt, for many years. In 1957 Jim, aged 69 years, died following a short illness.

We are grateful to Joan Lomas who made initial contact with us and also to Catherine Lomas and Peter Thompson, (her sister in law and brother), who have written a fascinating life story of James.

Arthur Forrester

This man is recorded on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour. To date we have been unable to confirm who he was. Research suggests he may have been born in 1879, the son of Rhoda Forrester, living in Church Street, Kingsley, later in Leek Road, Cheadle. However, we cannot be certain this is the same man.

Joseph Forrester

Joseph was born in 1883, the son of Joseph and Mary Forrester of Rose Cottage, Kingsley.

In 1911, he was living in Llandudno and working as a Bank Clerk. In 1915 he married Louie Salt, in the Cheadle area. We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service.

He appears on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour and the 1918 Voters Register indicates he was serving in the armed forces, (no address shown).

Frederick Fowler

His name appears on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour. We have been unable to trace any details of this man.

E W Furmaston

This name appears on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour but is barely legible. In 1918, four families by this name were living in the Kingsley area. Unfortunately, we have been unable to trace any details of this man.

Albert Henry Gibson

Albert was the son of Vernon and Harriet being born at Oakamoor in December 1899. The family lived at Whiston Eaves in the early 20th century and by 1918 were living on Hazles Cross Kingsley. The 1918 and 1919 Voters Register show him as an 'absentee military voter'.

He joined the army on 19th January 1918 but by April of that year transferred to newly formed Royal Air Force. His occupation on enlistment was said to be a haulage contractor. Initially he was employed in aircraft acceptance and later based with a training squadron. His record indicates that he was ground crew. He was demobbed in July 1920 having served in France from late 1919 to early 1920. In 1939 he was working at Boltons and living with his widowed father in Hazles Cross Road. A man of the same age and name died locally in 1965.



RAF ground crew in 1918 © IWM (Q 12072)

Edmund Gibson

Edmund was born in 1886, the son of George and Caroline Gibson of The Dams, Kingsley, the sixth of their seven children. As a young man, he left the village to seek work and, in 1911, he was employed as a Land Agents Clerk in Lincolnshire.

By 1911, his father had passed away and the remaining family were living at Ivy Cottage, Kingsley.

We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service. He is shown on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour.

A man of the same name and age died in the Lincolnshire area in 1966.

Ernest Gibson



Ernest was born in 1893 at Kingsley Moor. By 1911, he was working and living at Heath House Farm, Cheddleton.

On 1st January 1912, aged 18 years, he joined the Royal Horse Artillery for a period of 6 years. As he was serving on the outbreak of war he entered France, with his regiment, on 15th August 1914.

In July 1915, he featured in an article in the Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel which stated he had written to his parent's and was in good health and had seen many engagements.

His name appears on the St. Werburgh's Role of Honour and as an 'absentee military voter' in the 1918 Voters Register. His address at that time was in Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley.

Ernest returned to Kingsley after the war, where he married Annie Gibson. He died in 1940, aged 48 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery.

George Gibson

George was born in 1896, the son of William and Elina Gibson of New Hall Farm, Kingsley, the fifth of their seven children. (Brother of William Hine Gibson mentioned later).

In December 1915, he enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery and saw active service in France during 1916-18.

During his service, he suffered from a hernia and also dysentery which caused him to be returned to the UK for treatment at a hospital in Liverpool.



George is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters List.

Following the war, George returned to The Woodlands, Kingsley Moor, where he lived

out the rest of his life. In 1922 he married Evelyn Sarah Harrison

George died in 1960, aged 64 years, and is buried in Kingsley cemetery.

Family of George and William still live in the area and we are grateful to Vicky and Wendy Gibson for assisting us in our research.

Thomas William Gibson



Thomas was born in 1898, the son of Thomas and Sarah Gibson. In 1911 the family was living at Woodside, Kingsley. He appears on the St. John's Church Plaque. The 1918 Voters Register shows him as an 'absentee military voter' with a home address of Moorside Farm, Kingsley Moor.

Thomas joined the 8th East Yorkshire Regiment on an unknown date, possibly in 1915 if not earlier as his family say he was 15 and lied about his age. What is known however is he was transferred to 6th Dorset Regiment on 5th April 1918 via an entrenching battalion after the 8th East Yorks was

disbanded.

At some point he was hospitalised with a shrapnel wound to his face / head which troubled him in later life. He was a trained Lewis Gunner and

also a Dispatch Rider. He was demobbed in 1919 having seen active service in France.

He married Frances Ethel Burston (sister of Ernest, Herbert and Roland) in 1921 at St. Werburgh's with his occupation given as a Joiner. In 1939 the family were living at Moorside Farm and Thomas was a Joiner and Wheelwright. He died in 1975.

His eldest daughter and other family members still live locally.

William Hine Gibson



William Hine Gibson was born in 1885, he was the brother of George Gibson mentioned above.

In 1912 he married Annie Elizabeth Wibberley, in Uttoxeter. In September 1918, William and Elizabeth had their daughter Mary Baptised at St. Werburgh's Church, at which stage their address is given as The Dams, Kingsley.

William was at this time recorded as being a Private in the 3rd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. He is shown on the 1918 Voters Register as living at Dams Farm, but curiously is not shown as an 'absentee military voter'. However, a William Gibson of Hazles Cross is shown as a military voter, and these are believed to be one and the same person.

Few details exist of William's army service. He apparently enlisted after 1915 and saw service with both the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. The 3rd Battalion was a training unit based in Cork in 1918. (the rear of the photograph states it was taken in Cork). The 2nd Battalion saw service in France throughout the war.

William died locally in 1943, aged 58 years.

Frederick Arthur Goodwin

Born in October 1890 the son of Frederick and Emily Goodwin of Hackwood Lodge, Hollins Lane, Kingsley.

Frederick joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in January 1916, and served in an Anti-Aircraft Company, He served until February 1919, when he was discharged with a knee injury caused during gun drill. Research shows he served in Ireland manning large guns.

He was the brother of William Allen Goodwin and both were shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, 'absentee military voter'. Curiously neither of the brothers is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

Frederick married Olive Burton in 1923 and they lived in the Kingsley Holt area. He died in 1956, aged 65 years, and is buried in Kingsley cemetery.

G Goodwin

This man is shown on the St. John's Church Plaque. To date we have been unable to identify this man.

Granville Johnson Goodwin

Granville is unlikely to be G Goodwin featured above. He had no links to Kingsley Moor nor to the St John's Church. He was born in the latter part of 1897 to David and Bertha. His older brother Sidney Goodwin was a Parish Councillor and whom Sidney Drive in Kingsley Holt is named after.

Prior to the war the family were living at the Temperance Hall in Kingsley and in 1919 he was shown as an 'absentee military voter' residing at 20 The Green, Kingsley. He joined the Royal Engineers as a Pioneer either in late 1917 or early 1918 but in sufficient time to see active service in France. On his demob he returned to the local area marrying Gwendoline Lovatt in 1922. He died in 1959 whilst living in Oakamoor.

J Goodwin / John Thomas Matthew Goodwin

The name 'J Goodwin' appears on the St. John's Church Plaque. The 1918 Voter Register shows a John Thomas Matthew Goodwin living at Tom Fields Cottage, Kingsley Moor, a worker on the adjacent farm. It is likely that this is the man named on the plaque.

We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service.

William Allen Goodwin

William was born in 1895, he was the brother of Frederick Arthur both of Hackwood Lodge, Hollins Lane, Kingsley.

In 1911, William was working as a Copper Worker, presumably at Thomas Bolton's.



In December 1915, he enlisted in Sherwood Foresters giving his address as Milwich, near Stone, and his prior occupation as a Horseman / Farmhand. Following training he went to France between July and September 1916, before returning home due to illness. He was considered as unfit for further service at the end of 1916, and was discharged.

William is shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter', (it is not clear why, given he had been discharged from the army two years earlier).

He met his wife Ivy whilst serving in Henley on Thames and settled there after the war. Family member of both brothers still live locally and also in Henley-on-Thames.

Percy Greenhill

Percy appears in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' residing at the Railway Hotel at Froghall. Our research has not uncovered any other connection to the Kingsley area either before or after that time.

Whilst speculation, he may have been in late 1918 intending to settle locally after the war and the hotel was a 'care of' address? There is a Percy Greenhill shown as serving with the 48th Brigade of Royal Field Artillery from 1916 to August 1919, however, we cannot say for sure this is one and the same man.

James Gratton

James appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour compiled by the Reverend Mayne at the completion of the war. He is not shown on the 1918 Voters Register. Local research reveals that there was a father and son called James Gratton, in the area, many years ago. The father would have been old enough to have served in the war.

James Snr, was a bargee at one point and also worked at Podmores Mill. His son worked at Bolton's and lived in Kingsley and a daughter kept the Black Lion, with her husband.

Willie Roy Joseph Griffiths

Willie was born in 1895 in Weymouth and lost his mother when he was quite young. He apparently came to this area in 1911, (aged 16 years), to take an apprenticeship at Thomas Boltons, which he completed in 1914.

Records indicate he joined the Royal Engineers in 1914 and served until 1919, rising to the rank of Corporal.

In 1918, aged 23 years, he is shown on the Voters Register living at 2 Railway Cottages, Froghall, although there is some doubt as to whether he returned to this address after being demobbed.

Willie is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

According to an entry in a professional engineering publication, Willie seems not to have served abroad. The report indicates that, after the war, he worked in the Coventry area where he lived with his family. At a later stage, Willie became the Works Engineer at GEC Coventry.



View from the bottom of Kingsley bank at the junction with The Stakes leading to Kingsley Holt. More than likely prior to WW1.



Froghall looking towards the Post Office, Railway Terrace and the Railway public house. Properties in the mid and foreground long since demolished.

Charles Hall

Charles was born in about 1895, the son of George and Frances Hall, of The Green, Kingsley, one of ten and the brother of George and Thomas Hall (below).

We have been unable to locate his army record. The Cheadle and Tean Times (May 1918), reports that he had received a shrapnel wound, whilst bringing in a wounded man and was recovering in a hospital in Edinburgh. The report states that he had been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. There is no record of this award being made.

Charles is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and, as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

(Note: Not to be confused with Charles Hall, from Froghall, who was killed during the war and who is commemorated on the memorial at St Mildred's Church, Whiston).

James Hall

James appears in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' living in Hazles Cross Kingsley. Unhelpfully he may be one of two men. James born 1889 brother of Charles, George and Thomas all of whom served or born 1895 son of William and Hannah.

George Hall

Born in 1894, in Kingsley, by 1911 he was employed as a Bricklayer's Labourer. Prior to enlisting he was employed at Thomas Bolton's.

It was reported in the Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914), that George was one of the first men to enlist, and from August 1915, he saw active service in France.



The Weekly Sentinel of July 1915, reported that George was a Drill Instructor in the artillery and it also made reference to three of his brothers working in munitions, (presumably at Thomas Bolton's).

George initially joined the Royal Artillery before moving to the Seaforth Highlanders. He saw service in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and in Cairo, (Egypt).

In January 1916, he received a gunshot wound to the shoulder, from a Turkish Machine Gunner, which led to him being removed to garrison duty and transferred to the Army Pay Corps. (It is likely this was due to his injury which made him unfit for front line duties).

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (7th April 1916), reported that Lance Corporal George Hall from Kingsley had been wounded in Mesopotamia and was in hospital in Bombay, India.

It seems the injury troubled George for the rest of his service. He was discharged in 1919, at which stage he gave his home address as 2 The Green, Kingsley.

Curiously George is not listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour, although he is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

Thomas Hall

Thomas is the brother of Charles and George Hall above and was born in the summer of 1898. In the 1919 Voters Register he is shown as an 'absentee military voter' residing at 2 The Green Kingsley.

Prior to his enlistment he may have been working at Bolton's as there are newspaper reports of three of George's brothers working in munitions.

His service records do not survive and we have no more information as to his war service or indeed with any certainty as to his life after.

George William Hammond (1)

Born in 1900, in Kingsley, the son of George and Sarah Hammond from The Brook, Kingsley. The 1918 Voters Register shows him as, an 'absentee military voter' living at 35 The Green, Kingsley. (Servicemen had to be at least 19 years old to vote, suggesting George may have been born before 1900).



The Green Kingsley pictured in quieter times.

A man by this name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. It is not known to which George William Hammond this refers.

George William Hammond (2)

The 1918, Voters Register shows this man as, an 'absentee military voter', from 15 Cheadle Road, Kingsley, along with a Thomas Hammond, (Father or Brother).

We have been unable to find any military records of this man and have no details of his war service.

A man by this name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. It is not known to which George William Hammond this refers.

James Hammond

Born in 1899, the son of James and Emma Hammond of Bank View, Froghall, the third of their five children. James was the brother of John Hammond. Both are shown on the 1918 Voters Register as 'absentee military voters'.

James joined the Duke of Wellington's, West Riding Regiment, in April 1918, and he may well have gone to France at some point. After the war ended he was demobbed in January 1919. His army record indicates that he was demobbed early to enable his prompt return to work at Thomas Boltons.

James died locally in 1978, aged 79 years.

John Hammond

Born in 1897, he was the older brother of James Hammond, the family living at Bank View, Froghall. In 1911 John was employed at the Thomas Bolton's copper works.

John enlisted in the Army, (Reserve), in December 1915, but was not called up until April 1918. He clearly had some specialist skills as he was allocated to the Royal Engineers, 76th Field Company. In December 1918, he went to France where he served for some months, being promoted to Lance Corporal prior to his demob in 1919.

Curiously neither John nor James Hammond appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. John married Mildred Alice Lovatt in the Spring of 1920 at St. Werburgh's Church. He died locally in 1975, aged 78 years.

Ralph Beardmore Hammond

Born in Kingsley in 1894 the son of William and Sarah Hammond. In 1911, the family was living at Victoria Cottages, Kingsley Moor. At this time, Ralph was working as a Bank Clerk.

In early September 1914, Ralph enlisted as an initial phase volunteer. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914), reports he was one of several local men who had volunteered for the army, in response to Lord Kitchener's appeal.

Ralph enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment but was discharged within a month, due to mental health problems which saw him committed to Cheddleton Hospital, known at that time as a Lunatic Asylum. Unlike his two brothers, Ralph is not listed on the St. Johns Church Plaque, (Roll of Honour).

Ralph died locally in 1917, aged 23 years.

Reginald Hammond

Reginald was born in 1890, the son of William and Sarah Hammond of Victoria Cottages, Kingsley Moor, the older brother of Ralph. Prior to the war, Reginald was employed as a Law Clerk.

He enlisted in December 1915, joining the South Staffordshire Regiment. The Cheadle and Tean Times, (April 1916), refers to him as being in training with the 2/5th South Staffordshire Regiment at St Albans.

Reginald appears to have served in England during the war, and not in an active service role. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant prior to his discharge at the end of the war in 1919.

The 1918 Voters Register shows him as, an 'absentee military voter' living at Booths Farm, Kingsley. Reginald appears on the St. John's Church Plaque.

In the summer of 1919, he married Lizzie Fallows at St. Giles Church in Cheadle. Reginald died in the Cheadle area in 1972, aged 82 years.

Thomas Hammond

Thomas was born in Kingsley in 1886, the son of William, (Colliery Clerk), and Sarah Hammond, of Victoria Cottages, Kingsley Moor, the oldest of their five children, (older brother of Reginald and Ralph Hammond).

In 1911, Thomas was employed as a Clerk. We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service.

The 1918 Voters Register shows him as, an 'absentee military voter' resident at Kingsley Moor. Thomas Hammond appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, (Roll of Honour), as does his brother Reginald.

Thomas later married a woman called Harriet, (maiden name unknown), and settled locally. He died on 11th September 1930, aged 45years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery.

William Hammonds

Little is known of this man other than on 3rd January 1918, his daughter Felicity was baptised at St. Werburgh's Church. His wife was Lizzie Hammonds and he was described as a Private in the Royal Garrison Military Police. The family was recorded as living in Kingsley.

We have been unable to trace any army record for this man and have no details of his war service.

He does not appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and is not shown in the 1918 Voters Register.



St. Werburgh's Church gates more than likely prior to the war.

William Hamon

This man's name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Despite fairly extensive research we have been unable to identify who he was.

Charles Bertram Harrison



Charles was born 1900, the son of Adam and Elizabeth Harrison of Holly Grove Farm, Kingsley Moor. He was the younger brother of William, who also served, and both appear on the St. John's Church Plaque.

In 1911, Charles was living with relatives at Tibshelf, near Alfreton, Derbyshire, and was attending school there. His parents were living at Kingsley Moor along with six of their other children.

In October 1918, Charles was conscripted into the army joining with the Durham Light Infantry. At that stage the family was living at Holly Grove Farm, Kingsley Moor. He was demobbed in March 1920.

Charles died locally in 1974, aged 74 years.

William Henry Harrison

Born in 1896, the older brother of Charles (above). By 1911, William was working at Grove Farm, Kingsley Moor, which was owned by his grandfather, also called Adam.

The 1918 Voters Register shows him as, an 'absentee military voter'. We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service.

William and his brother Charles are recorded on the St. John's Church Plaque. William died locally in 1939, aged 43 years.

Albert Abraham Hathaway

Born in 1897, the son of George and Sarah Hathaway of Church Terrace, Kingsley. In 1911, the family was living at Sunnyside, Kingsley, and at this time Albert, aged 14 years, was working as a Pit Bank Boy.

In November 1917, he joined the Royal Navy, initially shore based, and he was then posted to HMS Andes, a passenger liner taken over by the navy and converted into an armed cruiser. The ship sailed to America in late 1918, when several crew members caught influenza and a number died.

Albert does not appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour but is shown as, 'an absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register.

He left the Royal Navy in 1919, and married Mary Alice Smith in August 1921. He remained living locally until his death in 1955, aged 58 years.

Footnote: In the Second World War HMS Andes was once again taken into military service as a hospital ship and was involved in evacuating men from the Normandy beaches in 1944.

Frank Heath

Frank was born in 1877, the son of William and Sarah Ann Heath. In 1881, the family was living at Whiston Leys. By 1891, Frank was in a Reformatory School in Warwickshire, (indicating that he had fallen foul of the law in some way).

In 1896, he joined the 4th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment, which was then a local militia, in effect a forerunner of the Territorial Force. Following initial training he attended yearly training camps until 1899. However, in 1900 he was reported as a deserter. In the 1919 Voters Register he was listed as residing at Sharkley Meadows in Kingsley Holt. We have been unable to trace any later army records and have no details of his war service. Frank appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

Edwin Holland

Edwin was born in 1883, in Wolverhampton. His first known link to the parish was in 1901, when he was a 'General Farm Labourer' at Lockwood Hall, Kingsley Holt.

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914), reports that Edwin was one of several men from the parish to volunteer for army service soon after the outbreak of war. We have been unable to trace any military record for this man and have no details of his war service.

Edwin Holland features on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

John Holland

Little is known of this man, he is listed in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' living at 24 High Street Kingsley. Also resident at the time was an Abel Carr a widower in his 60's. Maybe John was a lodger? We have no further information or service records for him.

Ernest Arthur Hood

Born on 8th January 1898 to John and Harriet in 1919 he was shown as living at 25 The Green (more than likely the family home) and listed as an 'absentee military voter' in that years Voters Register. His father John was more than likely the brother of G W Hood who served throughout the war and died in 1921 as a result of his service. We have not located any service records relating to Ernest's service in the war.

Ernest married Winifred Stubbs in 1918 and remained living locally before his death in 1974. He is buried in Kingsley Cemetery.

Charles Hulland

Born in 1895, in Ashbourne, to Hamlett and Sarah Hulland, one of their seven children, (the older brother of Hamlett Hulland).

During the period 1911 to 1916, the family moved to Banks Farm, Kingsley, where Charles was employed on the farm.

In June 1916, Charles joined the North Staffordshire Regiment, before being transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment. He went to France in September 1916, three months after enlistment. At the end of 1917 he was transferred to a Labour Battalion serving with the 490th Agricultural Company.

In early 1918, during the war, he married Mabel Smith at St. Werburgh's Church. Charles and his brother Hamlett are listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Charles died locally in the summer of 1953, aged 58 years.

A relative of Charles and his brother is Lindsay Whitehurst who contacted the project after the first edition. She was able to say that Charles suffered terribly with trench foot which may have accounted for his transfer to a Labour Battalion. Whilst the family have no photos of either man they do have in their possession a pouch that was Charles' during the war. In it were a 1917 George V penny and an American 1 cent piece of the same

year. It would be nice to think they were coins he possessed whilst in France. (Pouch is pictured below)



Hamlett Hulland

Hamlett was born in Ashbourne in 1899, the younger brother of Charles Hulland. Prior to joining the army, he was a Colliery Labourer.

Hamlett enlisted in July 1916, telling the army he was aged 19 years and 8 months despite only being 17 years of age at that time. He expressed the wish to join the Army Service Corps, (a support unit), but was posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery and saw active service with the 291st Siege Battery.

During his army service, he suffered fractured toes, scabies and other ailments. About a year after he enlisted his father wrote to the army advising them that his son had joined underage, (he was still only 17 years old). As a result, Hamlett was then transferred away from the front line. He spent a few further months in France and he was then sent back to a garrison camp at Bexhill, Surrey. He deserted in December 1917 and was still a deserter in 1922.

Hamlet married Phyllis and went to the United States in 1948 with his wife and daughter (named Marion) but returned in 1954.

Hamlett died locally in 1973, aged 74 years. (It is unclear whether his desertion from the army was ever resolved).

Frederick Johnson

Frederick appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour and he is also mentioned in the Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914), as one of the first phase volunteers.

We have identified a man who is possibly the Frederick Johnson in question. Born in autumn 1898, at Whiston, the son of John William and Emma Charlotte Johnson. In 1911, the family was living at Whiston Leys and later moved to Kingsley Holt.

In September 1914, (the date mentioned in the Cheadle and Tean Times article), Frederick would be just 16 years old. Many men joined up at the age of 16 years and some even younger. We have been unable to trace the military records of this man who may or may not be the subject listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

George Charles Johnson

Born in 1890, the son of Adam and Mary of Whiston Leys. George's father died soon after he was born and his mother died in 1895. In 1901, by the age of 11, he was living with an aunt and uncle at Froghall Plain, Whiston.

By 1914, he was living at the Railway Terrace, Froghall, and working at Thomas Bolton's as a 'Brass worker'.

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (October 1914), lists him as one of the first to join up, enlisting in the North Staffordshire Regiment on 1st September 1914. However, just ten weeks later, for reasons unknown, he was discharged as '*Not likely to make an efficient soldier*'.

George is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

He died locally in 1952, aged 62 years.

Stephen Johnson

Born in 1898, to Stephen and Anna Matilda Johnson. The family moved from Oakamoor to Lockwood Farm, Kingsley Holt, sometime prior to 1911.

In May 1918, Stephen joined the newly formed Royal Air Force as a Private. He did his initial training and was then demobbed after 6 months as the war came to a close.

The 1918 Voters Register shows Stephen as, an 'absentee military voter'. The family remained living at Lockwood Farm for some years.

William Johnson



Born in 1883, in Whiston, he was the older brother of George Charles Johnson. In 1905, he was working at Thomas Bolton's copper works when he made the decision to sign up in the Royal Navy for 12 years.

Over the following years, he saw service on several ships, including almost three years on HMS King Alfred in the South China Sea, and later with HMS Irvine in the Mediterranean.

In 1915 at the onset of war, he was posted to HMS Superb on which he served during the Battle of Jutland in May to June 1916.

HMS Superb was in action as part of the Fourth Battle Squadron returning fire on two German ships, the second of which was seen retreating heavily on fire. After the battle, William transferred to another ship and served until he was demobbed in 1919, following 14 years of service.

In 1913, William married a Miss Standing from Sussex. William Johnson is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

He died locally in 1958, aged 75 years.

Footnote: The battle of Jutland saw the British Grand Fleet lose 14 ships and 6,000 men whilst the German High Seas Fleet lost 11 ships and 2,000 men. The British losses were in the main due to unsafe munitions handling practice which saw ships practically blowing up with total loss of life.



Source: Imperial War Museum – The inscription on rear suggests it was taken on the morning of the Battle of Jutland (William front right).

Mabel Elsie Keene

Mable's name appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour which is the only source recording her war service.



Born in 1896, in Whiston the daughter of Andrew and Clare Keene. By 1911, the family were living on The Green, Kingsley. Sometime after 1916, Mabel joined Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps on its formation, and served in France.

Army Auxiliary Corps learning drill in 1917.

The Auxiliary role was intended to take over the work of male cooks and such like, to free up men for fighting. Auxiliaries were based to the rear but relatively close to the front lines and would have been near enough to

the fighting to hear the gun fire. Indeed, some auxiliaries were even killed in air raids.

Mabel never married and died in Penzance, Cornwall, in 1957, aged 61 years.

Leonard Lee



Born in Nottingham in 1895, the son of William and Sarah Lee.

Leonard enlisted in late 1915, joining the Royal Regiment of Artillery. At some point he transferred to the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Leonard Lee (sitting), note the banana trees.

In December 1916, he married Sarah Ellen Lythall at St. Werburgh's Church.

Leonard saw service in India and Mesopotamia, (Iraq). During his army service, he caught hepatitis. He was demobbed in 1919, with a pension for 12 months. He appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

Leonard and Sarah made their home at 57 High Street, Kingsley, where members of his family still live to this day. He is remembered for driving a 1930's Austin 7 in later years. He died locally in 1953, aged 58 years.

We are grateful to Graham Fowell, (Grandson), for supplying the above photograph and providing other information.

Leonard Selwyn Leese

This man is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. We have been unable to find any information about him. There are several possibilities but we cannot be sure who he was.

Bennett Malkin

Born in 1892, in Kingsley, the son of John and Sarah Malkin. In 1901, the family was living on Perkins Lane, Kingsley Moor. By 1918, Bennett's parents were living at Glebe Road, Kingsley.

We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service. Bennett Malkin is shown on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

There is no trace of him living in the village in 1918, but he returned at some stage to marry Rosina Hood, the couple making their home on Hazels Cross Road, Kingsley. Bennett died in 1963, aged 71 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery. He was related to Joe, Bill and Florrie Malkin who were well known residents in the village.

Harry Mellor

The name H. Mellor appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, Kingsley Moor. It is unclear if Harry Mellor is this man.

The following information refers to Harry Mellor, who may be the man in question: Born in 1889, in Kingsley the son of George and Annie Mellor. In 1911, as a young man Harry was working as a Joiner at Thomas Bolton's and was lodging in Whiston.

In 1911, he married Amy Brindley at St. Werburgh's, the couple remained in the area. Harry died in 1965, aged 76 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery.

We cannot locate the military record of Harry Mellor and have no details of his war service. There is no established link with Kingsley Moor.

Charles Mills

Charles was born in 1894, the son of James and Eliza Mills of Church Street, Kingsley, being one of their ten children. By 1911, aged 17 years, he was working in a local coal mine as a Waggoner.

At some stage, Charles joined the army and was posted to the 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment, who were in France for the duration of the war. Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate his army records and have

no further information on his war service. Curiously his name does not appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

At some stage, he married Minnie and he lived in Kingsley throughout his life. Charles died in 1958, aged 64 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery. Family members including his grandson still live locally.

William Mills

Born in 1896, the son of James and Eliza Mills of Chapel Street, Kingsley, and the younger brother of Charles Mills. William married Mary Elizabeth Carnwell at St. Werburgh's, Kingsley, in the Spring of 1918.

The Registers at St. Werburgh's Church contain much local history. William Mills is mentioned in February 1919, when he and his wife Mary had their son Horace christened at the church.

At the time, William was serving as a Private in the 1/6th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment. We have been unable to locate his army records and have no details of his war service.

William is not mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

He died locally in 1950, aged 54 years.

Alfred Millward

Alfred was born in 1899, in Dilhorne, to James and Elizabeth Millward, being one of their ten children. The family moved from Dilhorne to Kingsley Moor early in Alfred's life. He was one of three brothers who served during the war.

Prior to the war, he was a miner at the Foxfield Colliery and his parents ran the Wagon and Horses public house on Kingsley Moor.

Alfred's name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, (as do the names of his two brothers who served). He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and served until late 1918. Unfortunately, his service record is incomplete, but seems to indicate he served for almost 3 years and finished in the 346 Brigade Royal Field Artillery. He may not have seen active service.

His name also appears on the Dilhorne Roll of Honour displayed in All Saints Church, Dilhorne. Alfred ran the Conservative Club in Cheadle for many years. He died locally in December 1970, aged 81 years.



Millward family gathering, believed circa 1937, at the Wagon and Horses, Kingsley Moor. Alfred is standing first left, Bertie third left and James fifth left.

Bertram (Bertie) Millward

Bertie was born in 1896, the brother of Alfred and James Millward. Prior to the war, he was employed as a Pony Driver at a local coal mine, (probably Foxfield Colliery, Dilhorne).

We have been unable to locate his military record and have no details of his war service. Bertie's name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, (as do the names of his two brothers who also served).

In 1925, he married Jessie Shaw from Cheadle. For many years, he ran the Red Lion Public House at Boundary. Bertie died in 1971, aged 75 years.

James Millward



James was born in 1891, the older brother of Alfred and Bertie. Prior to the war, James was employed as a coal miner, (probably at Foxfield Colliery, Dilhorne).

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (2nd October 1914), reports that James was one of the first men from the area to volunteer for war service. His family recount the story that he went to enlist with his friend Clifford Salt, (the brother of John William Salt who died in 1918). James enlisted first but Clifford changed his mind. However, their

friendship seems to have endured.

James joined the North Staffordshire Regiment but was transferred, at an early stage, to make up for losses in the East Yorkshire Regiment.

In May 1915, he saw action in France, prior to going to Salonika (Greece), in early 1916, to confront pro German Bulgarian forces. Disease and illness was rife resulting in greater losses than enemy action.

James rose to the rank of Sergeant and was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' from Salonika, in early 1917.

In 1919, after being demobbed, he returned home and married Violet Harrison. (Violet's father, Adam, was one of the Church Wardens at St. John's Church, Kingsley Moor. Violet's brothers Charles and William Harrison also served in the war).

James took up the publican's licence at the Wagon and Horses Public House, as did his father before him. Later he set up home at Victoria Cottages, Kingsley Moor, and he cycled to Foxfield Colliery, where he worked as a Collier.

James and Violet had ten children. He was killed in 1954, aged 63 years, in an accident whilst cycling to work.

Footnote: James has many family descendants still in the area. He is the grandfather of Martin Clewlow of Tean, Martin has a keen interest in the

history of WW1 and has been of great assistance to us in conducting our research.

William Millward

William is listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour, (incorrectly spelt as Milward). The name also appears on the 1918 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter', at which stage he was living at 43 The Green, Kingsley.

We have been unable to trace the military records and have no details of his war service.

William is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour.

George Mosley (Also spelt Moseley)

This man appears on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' albeit there is no 'a' against his name indicating he was in the military although not necessarily away from home. He is a different man to George Sydney Mosley.

George was born in the early summer of 1898 and was the son of George and Sarah Mosley. George senior was a grocer by trade and from the families address of the Green would have ran the shop pictured on the next page which is now a private residence – George may be one of the children pictured. In the 1919 Voters George senior's name is spelt Mosley and son's Moseley.

George was one of at least four children and in 1911 the family were sufficiently well off to have a 'general domestic servant' living with them.

We have no detail of George's service in the war. In 1939 he was living locally and was a Corn Merchant.



Mosley's Shop on The Green, now a private dwelling.

George Sydney Mosley

George was born in 1894, in Kingsley, the son of George and Hannah Mosley. In 1901, the family lived on The Green, Kingsley. In 1911, George was working as a Clerk at Thomas Bolton's copper works. However, the following year he left the village and went to Manchester to seek work.

In 1915, George joined the Manchester Regiment and was allocated to the 1/7th Battalion. In 1917, at St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley, he married Ethel Stott, who was from Manchester.



George was posted to the front line sometime in 1916. The battalion was initially in Egypt prior to 1917, when they were redeployed on the Western Front. In early 1918 George was seriously injured by a shell explosion that took off his leg.

In May 1918, the Cheadle and Tean Times reported that George was seriously ill and that it looked likely that his other leg would have to be amputated. Thankfully his remaining leg was saved and he recovered, prior to his discharge from the Army in 1919.

George is mentioned on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. He returned to live with his family in the Manchester area. He died in 1959, aged 65 years. His grandson Geoffrey Moseley lives in the Manchester area.

Footnote: The surname is spelt differently by grandfather and grandson. This arose when George changed the spelling of his name in the 1930's to disassociate himself with fascist Oswald Mosley and his 'Black Shirts'.



Tollgate Cottage Kingsley Moor, now demolished.

John William Mosley

John was born in 1885, the son Isaac and Hannah Mosley from The Green, Kingsley.

In 1910, John, aged 25 years, then a Coal Miner, married Emily Elkin, initially living with his parents in the village. In 1914, they named their son Joffre, (assumed to be after the French Field Marshall).

In 1915, John enlisted in the Royal Welch Fusiliers but only served just over two months before a mining injury led to his discharge.

In 1918, his son Edward was baptised at St. Werburgh's, John being recorded as Private in a Labour Battalion, (indicating he had re-enlisted). Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate his army records and have no details of his war service.

John is not listed on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour but is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register, then living at 27 Sunnyside, Kingsley.

He died in 1972, aged 87 years, and is buried in Kingsley Cemetery with his wife and son Joffre.

James Moss

James Moss appears on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour. Despite extensive research we have failed to find anyone of this name with a link to Kingsley Parish or any relevant military records.



Kingsley Wakes pre-WW1, the man in the straw boater is William Adams who served. The child alongside him in the white hat is his daughter Mary Elizabeth. In addition to William, there may well be men who feature in this book present in this picture.

Lewis Nicklin

Lewis was born Tean in 1882, the son of Lewis and Mary Nicklin. In 1911, Lewis (29 yrs), was living in Kingsley Holt and working as a Gardener/ Groom.

The Cheadle and Tean Times, (2nd October 1914), reports that Lewis had joined up, an initial phase volunteer. In July 1915, following training he was deployed to France. Lewis served throughout the war with the 9th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment until his demobilisation in March 1919.

Lewis does not appear on the St. Werburgh's Roll of Honour or the 1918 Voters Register.

After leaving the army he remained in the local area and in 1937, (aged 55 yrs), he married Florence Smith. He died in 1940, aged 58 years.

Frederick Owen

Frederick was born in 1899, the son of Herbert and Emily Owen of Kingsley Moor. His father and at least two of his brothers worked at a local coal mine, probably either Foxfield Colliery, Dilhorne or Parkhall, Cheadle.

Due to his age Frederick, would have served in the latter stages of the war, probably as a conscript. We have been unable to locate his army record and have no details of his war service.

Along with the names of his two brothers, Frederick's name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque (Kingsley Moor), however, the names of the brothers do not appear on the 1918 Voters Register.

He died in the local area in 1961, aged 62 years.

Herbert Owen

Herbert was born in 1895, the older brother of Frederick. By 1911, he was working as a Colliery Clerk, more than likely alongside his father. His mother, Alice, died just weeks after his birth and his father remarried two years later.



We have very little information regarding his war service but the photograph alongside does offer some answers. He was a Corporal, and, on his shoulder, are initials similar to RE (Royal Engineer), RA (Royal Artillery) or RFA (Royal Field Artillery) – however, to date this has not assisted us further in our research.

He died in 1995, aged 100 years. We are grateful to David Richman, a relative, who supplied the photograph.

William Arthur Owen

William was born in 1889, the eldest of the three serving Owen brothers. Little is known of him except for the details already related about his family.

We have not been able to locate his army record and have no details of his war service.



Boltons Factory at Froghall, many men who worked here joined up

William Ernest Pawson

William Pawson is a really interesting subject. Quite how he came to be living in Kingsley Holt is unclear. He was born in Woolwich, London, in 1879. His father was William John Pawson, living in Clapham.

In 1896, William, then aged almost 17 years (but giving his age as almost 19), joined the 14th Hussars, giving his occupation as a 'Washer' of some kind, (possibly something to do with the tinning process).

Between June 1900 and January 1903, he served with the Hussars in South Africa, in the 2nd Boer War. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, with clasps, for service in several of the states.

In 1903, he bought himself out of the army at a cost of £18. The following year he married his wife Lilly Rose Walton in South Africa, their son Ronald was born there in 1905.

In 1906, William travelled back to this country but was not joined by his wife and son until 1909. At some point, he served an apprenticeship in Edinburgh, later giving his occupation as an Engineer. In 1911, the family was living in Pentonville, London, where William was a Motor Engineer.

In August 1914, at the outbreak of the war, William re-enlisted, giving his occupation as a Motor Mechanic and Driver, at this time he was living in Kingsley Holt. He joined the Army Service Corps - Motorised Transport Section and saw action in France. By the end of the war he was a Tank Driver.

William appears on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter'.

He was demobbed in 1919. We have no record of his life after 1919, but a William E. Pawson died in 1945 at Newcastle, Staffs. His family is still believed to be living in the Stoke on Trent area.



The Cock Inn, Kingsley Holt pictured just after war.

Charles Ernest Pegg



Ernest, as he was known, was born in 1892, to George and Sarah Pegg, the second of their four children. The family lived at Booth Hall Farm, Kingsley Moor. In 1911, Ernest was working on the family farm along with two of his brothers.

He joined the army fairly early on in the war as, by late 1915, he was serving in Egypt with the Staffordshire Yeomanry. He served throughout the war in the Middle East, mainly in Palestine fighting the Turkish army. (The Turkish Ottoman Empire was part of the Central Powers)

He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in November 1917. A summary of the action for which he won it reads:

Sgt. Albert Harold Burt was killed in action. In a letter to his family from Major R.A. Ratcliffe it stated, *"The Squadron (thirty strong), had taken over part of an outpost line from another regiment in the early dawn. They were on foot, as it was impossible to use horses in these rough hills, when the sentry shouted that about 200 Turks had stolen up and were rushing the ridge. Our men had no time to gain the ridge before the Turks did, so fell back under a very heavy fire, fighting as they went over the open to the next ridge a half mile to the rear, where they took up a strong position and held off the Turks until reinforced. As they fell back your son, (Sgt Burt), was hit in the neck, and died instantly, while gallantly doing his duty and retiring slowly as ordered."*

"Corporal Pegg, who was with Sgt. Burt at the time, wrote, "He told the troop to retire, and he and I stopped till the last, firing at the Turks, then he said "Come on", and started to run back with me to the next bit of cover. As he ran he fell in front of us. I lay down beside him and found that he was hit through the throat. He tried to speak, and made an attempt to shake hands, but could not, so I stayed by him a bit and made quite sure he was dead, otherwise I would have brought him in." (www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com Forums 1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry)

Ernest Pegg rose to the rank of Acting Sergeant. He was demobbed in April 1919, having been wounded at some point. His name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque and is shown on the 1918 Voters List as, an 'absentee military voter' resident at Booth Hall Farm.

Later that summer he married Ada Tudor. Ernest died locally in 1977, aged 85 years.



B Squadron of the Staffordshire Yeomanry pictured in Palestine in 1918. Perhaps Ernest Pegg is amongst these men? If not, he would have known them. (Courtesy of Churnet Valley Books)

Percy Potto



Percy the son of the local Police Constable was born 26th April 1899 in Rocester where his father George was serving. His mother Edith gave birth to 6 children but by 1911 just George and his younger sister Mabel had survived. Between 1901 and 1911 the family moved to Kingsley where his father was stationed in the High Street Police House / Station.

By 1918 / 19 the family were living at 37 Sunnyside, the assumption being that George had retired. In the 1919 Voters Register Percy is shown as an 'absentee military voter'. Research shows that Percy initially joined the North Staffordshire Regiment more than likely in the latter stages of the war and then at some stage he transferred to the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment (more commonly known as the Sherwood Forrester's'). His medal record shows he served abroad at some stage and was part of a batch of transfers from the North Staffordshire Regiment.

He returned to the local area and in 1939 was living in Chapel Street Cheadle with his wife Elizabeth and daughter. He was working at Boltons. He died locally in 1970.

The picture above is more than likely Percy and his family outside Kingsley Police house.

William Robinson

William (he was actually John William) was born in May 1894 to Walter and Harriet with the family living in the Farley area. In 1911 William's father had died and his mother had married John Carnwell moving to Kingsley in the process.

In the 1919 Voters Register William is shown as an 'absentee military voter' although details of his service are not known. He married Dora after the war and in 1939 was living near to Leek and working at a quarry.

Frederick John Rowley

Frederick was born in 1895, in Lichfield, the son of Thomas and Emily Rowley. His father was a Police Officer, living in Cheddleton and Longsdon, before arriving in Kingsley sometime after 1911, when George Potto had retired.

Frederick was working as a Printer in Derby Street, Leek, when he enlisted in 1915. He joined the Royal Field Artillery, and following training was deployed to France in the autumn of 1916.

In October 1916, the Cheadle and Tean Times reported that Fredrick had been wounded in both legs and an arm and was giving cause for concern. Quite how this happened is unknown but it was apparently suspected that the injuries were potentially self-inflicted. This seems curious given the nature of his injuries which included a shrapnel wound. The matter went to a Court Martial where he was found not guilty. His army record states the injuries were, *'Self-inflicted, but found not guilty'*.

The injuries meant that Fredrick was unfit for front line service, having lost fingers from one hand. He was then transferred to the Labour Corps. He is shown on the 1918 Voters List as, an 'absentee military voter' residing at the Police Station.

Frederick was demobbed in 1919, with a 20% disability, and he gained employment at Thomas Bolton's. He died locally in 1978, aged 83 years. He is buried with his parents in Kingsley Church Yard. We understand he was related to the late Laurence Rowley a former active member of St. Werburgh's Church.

George Edmund Salmon



George, above centre front

Whilst many people at the time of WW1 were born and lived in the same area, our research has shown that despite the limited transport available people did travel quite widely. George is one such example. He was born in Suffolk in 1891, and by the age of 20 he was living in London and working as a Barman. In 1913, he was in Northamptonshire, and later that year, he married Florence Hartley at St Werburgh's, Kingsley.

Florence was from the Hartley family who ran the Cold Lea Springs business on Sprink Lane. In later years, George and Florence ran the mineral water / lemonade business.

After their marriage, George, who was then a Gardener, and his new wife lived in Leicestershire. In May 1915, at Melton Mowbray, he joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry, before being compulsory transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and, seeing active service in France during 1918. Just before the war's end he suffered Trench Fever and was evacuated to the Norfolk War Hospital. He was demobbed in 1919.

During the war, George and Florence moved to Hazels Cross Road, Kingsley. The 1918 Voters Register shows him as, an 'absentee military voter'. He returned to the village after the war and died, locally in 1938, aged 47 years. We are grateful to Peter Salmon, (Grandson), from Ipstones, for his help with our research.

Frederick George Salt

Fredrick George Salt appears in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' living on Hazels Cross Kingsley. He was born in Kingsley in January 1898 the son of George and Kate Salt. In 1911 he was a Domestic Servant / Garden Boy. Regrettably nothing is known of his war

service. In 1939 he was resident at Blakeley Lane, Kingsley Moor with his wife Hilda and was employed as a Metal Inspector (Bronze & Copper) at the Rolling Mill at Thomas Boltons Ltd, Froghall. He is believed to have died locally in 1971.

James William Shaw

James William Shaw was born on Christmas Eve 1899 the son of William and Sarah Shaw of Railway Terrace, Froghall. He enlisted in March 1916 (aged 16yrs) and went to the Reserve. At that time he was employed as a Student / Temporary Postman.

James was called up in October 1918 as the war drew to a close, being posted to the Machine Gun Corps and went for initial training at Brocton Camp on Cannock Chase. James did not see active service and was demobbed in February 1919. He is shown on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'.

In 1939 James was living in Cheadle with his wife Alice and was employed as an Invoice Clerk / Buyer at Thomas Boltons, Froghall. He is believed to have died locally in 1971.

Frank Shaw



Frank was born at the end of 1898, the son of the William and Sarah Shaw of Railway Terrace, Froghall, and older brother of James Shaw (above). Prior to the war he was employed as a Railway Clerk.

In December 1917, aged almost 18 years, he enlisted, probably as a conscript, in the West Yorkshire Regiment. Following training he was transferred to the 4th Battalion, pending embarkation in late 1918. The end of the war in November 1918, made this unnecessary and he appears not to have seen active service.

Frank was demobbed in 1919, and later lived with his wife Dorothy at Ivy Cottage, Church Street, Kingsley. He died in 1933, aged 34 years, and is buried in St. Werburgh's Churchyard.

Arthur Smith

Arthur was born in 1894, the son of Joseph and Annie Smith, of 2 Glebe Road, Kingsley. As a young man, he worked at Thomas Bolton's. He is shown as an 'absentee military voter' on the 1918 Voters Register living at Glebe Road.

We have been unable to locate his army records and have no details of his war service. Arthur remained living locally and in the 1930s and 1940s he was the Chairman of Kingsley Parish Council. Arthur died in 1982, aged 88 years.

John William Smith



William, or Bill as he was known, was born in 1897, the son of Hugh and Annie Smith, of 7 The Green, Kingsley. Bill was the fifth of their seven children and he was a younger brother of George Harris Smith, (the first man from Kingsley Parish to lose his life in September 1914).

At the outbreak of the war Bill joined the 2/5th North Staffordshire Regiment, just prior to the death of his older brother. He is mentioned in articles in the Cheadle and Tean Times, (1914), as being an initial phase recruit answering Lord Kitchener's appeal for volunteers.

A Sentinel article in July 1915, refers to him as a L/Cpl (Lance Corporal). We have been unable to trace his army record and have no details of his war service, although it is believed he saw active service with the 2/5th and 4th North Staffordshire Regiment. He is shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter' residing at 5 Newhall Street, Kingsley.

Before and after the war he worked at Thomas Bolton's, Froghall. He married Cecilia Hall in 1925 in Cheadle and lived in the town until his death in 1989, aged 92 years.

Thomas Reginald Smith



Reg Smith ran a well-known car dealership at Kingsley Moor Garage for many years, the business was later continued by his sons.

Reg was born in 1898, the son of John and Minnie Smith of Hazelwall Cottage, Kingsley Moor. As a young boy, Reg was known as Reggie and when he left school he worked at Thomas Bolton's.

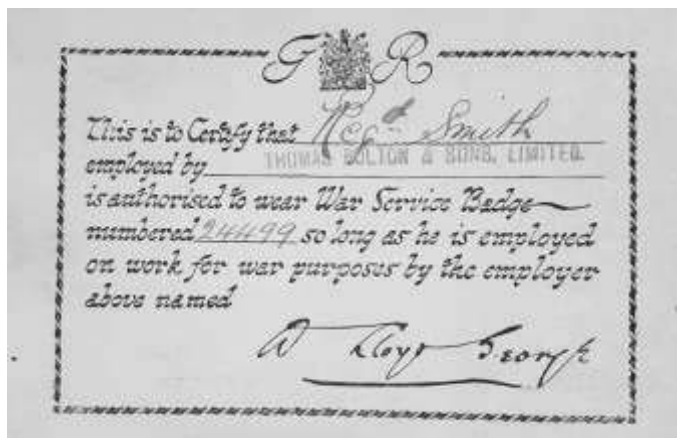
During the early part of the war, Reg was exempt from military service as Bolton's factory was engaged in war work, making copper bands for a variety of artillery shells. At this time a young man seen not to have joined up would generally be viewed with contempt, but Reg was issued with a 'war badge' which he wore to indicate that he was working on vital war work. However, in May 1916, as part of conscription, he was enlisted and then transferred to the Reserve.

In May 1918, he was called up and allocated to the Royal Army Service Corps in the Motor Transport section. Not long after he joined up he became ill and was hospitalised in the Croydon War Hospital.

As a result of his illness, in September 1918, he was discharged as '*No longer physically fit to serve, due to illness*'. His name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque as T Smith which made research difficult as he was known since birth as Reggie. He does not appear in the 1918 Voters List.

He married Mary Whitehurst in 1921. Post war he built a successful garage business at Kingsley Moor which was continued by his sons until the 1980's. The site is now owned by Jones & Shuffs.

Reg died locally in 1975, aged 77 years. His grandchildren, Liz Clowes and Helen Jones still live locally.



Reg Smith War Service Badge Certificate.

William Smith

William Smith appears on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter' living at 2 Glebe Road, Kingsley. He was born in around 1898, the son of Joseph and Annie Smith and the younger brother of Arthur Smith (above). Nothing further is known of his service.

Ernest Stoddard



Ernest was born in 1891, the son of Charles and Annie Stoddard of Tomfields Farm, Kingsley Moor, the younger brother of Thomas Henry Stoddard. In 1911, Ernest was living at home and working on his parent's farm. The following year he married Minnie Clarkson at Wetley Rocks. Sadly, she died just two years later.

In May 1913, Ernest joined the Stoke-on-Trent City Police and was stationed at Birches Head. In April 1915, he volunteered to join the army serving with the Machine Gun Section. He later served in the Tank Corps. He returned to the

Police Force in 1919. He re-married at some point and had a son named Jim who died some years ago.

Ernest is shown on the St. Johns Church Plaque. Along with his brother Thomas, both men are shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, 'absentee military voters' residence Tom Fields Farm. He died locally in 1980, aged 89 years.

Thomas Stoddard

Thomas was born in 1884, the older brother of Ernest Stoddard. Little is known of his army service. He may have served in the Royal Engineers as a driver. Like his brother, he is shown on the St. Johns Church Plaque.

It is believed he was involved with horses during the war and on his return worked as a coal man, delivering coal from the mine on Kingsley Moor. His nephew Percy took on the business at some point and also went on to form the Stoddard's business at Butlers Hill in Cheadle.

Thomas died locally in 1953, aged 69 years.

We are grateful to Ernest Stoddard from Victoria Cottages, Kingsley Moor, for supplying background information on both Ernest and Thomas, and to Ron and Ivy Allen for the photograph of Ernest.

J Thompson

This man's name appears on the St. John's Church Plaque, Kingsley Moor. We have been unable to positively identify who he was and have no details of his war service.

John Thompson

John Thompson was born on 21st March 1898 the son of James and Mary Thompson of 12 Church Street, Kingsley, (one of their nine sons and five daughters). He was a cousin of James Meakin who died in 1918.

He appears on the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'.

No record of his service has been traced. In 1939 John was single and living at No. 1 Church Street, Kingsley, along with his unmarried

brothers Frederick, Andrew, George and sister Elizabeth. At that time he was working at Thomas Boltons Ltd, Froghall. He is believed to have died locally in 1979.

Cathy Thomson who is the granddaughter of John's brother Leonard lives in Scotland.

John Thompson has no known links with Kingsley Moor. There is no evidence to link him with the aforementioned J Thompson (above) listed on the St John's Plaque.

William James Thorley

William was born in 1895, the son of Mary Ellen Thorley who was unmarried. In 1900 Mary married a James Baker but she died later that same year. From this time, William was brought up by his grandfather, George, and other family members, living in Shepherds Row, Kingsley. *(believed to be the row of houses on The Green opposite Cheadle Road).*

In 1911, the family was living at Parliament Row, (Hazles Cross Road), Kingsley, at which time William was working at Thomas Bolton's.

At some point, William joined the armed forces but no further details are known. In 1918, he was living at 4 Glebe Road, Kingsley, where he is shown as, an 'absentee military voter' in that years Voters Register.

He died locally in 1971, aged 76 years.

William Henry Unsworth

William Unsworth was born in August 1898 the son of George and Elizabeth who lived on The Green, Kingsley, and later at 8 Glebe Road. On an unknown date he joined the North Staffordshire Regiment and served with the 4th Battalion in France. He appears in the 1919 Voters Register as an 'absentee military voter'.

In 1920 he married Elsie Russell and they subsequently had two daughters. In 1939 he and his wife were living near to Oakamoor where he worked at Thomas Bolton's. He is believed to have died locally in 1981.

John Welford



John was born in 1872, in Yorkshire, to farmers John (Snr) and Mary Welford. Later as an adult John became a groom. At some point, he came to Staffordshire working as a Coachman at Calwich Hall, near Ellastone.

Around 1900, he married Gertrude and in 1908 they had a son, John Alexander. By 1911, he was farming on his own account at Kingsley Brook.

Later the family lived and farmed at Woodside Farm on Clamgoose Lane, Kingsley Moor. By the time of the war John was a relatively middle aged man in his early 40's. However, in late 1915, he sold his farm stock and voluntarily joined the army. The farm sale was advertised in the Staffordshire Advertiser newspaper.

Research based around the photograph of him suggests he joined the Army Service Corps. Precisely what he did is unknown but he quite obviously felt the need to, 'do his bit'.

The 1918 Voters Register shows John as, an 'absentee military voter' living with his wife at 49 The Green, Kingsley.

He died locally in 1943, aged 71 years. We are grateful to Paul Taylor (Great Grandson) from Newcastle, Staffs, for his help with our research.

Jesse Weston

Shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, an 'absentee military voter'. We have been unable to identify this man or obtain any details of his army or war service.

Charles Richard Whieldon

Richard (Dick) was born in 1890, in Kingsley the son of Charles and Priscilla Whieldon. In 1918 the family was living at 17 Hazles Cross Road



where his father Charles ran a butcher's business. Prior to enlistment he was a Butcher's Assistant and Slaughterman in the family business. Dick was called up in March 1916, but due to having a limited disability, (Hammer Toes), he was posted to the Labour Corps (Agricultural Division), based at Derby and later Ripon.

Richard does not appear to have seen service outside of the UK, it is likely that he was working at the various army training centres. He was discharged in early 1919. In the 1918 Voters Register, he is shown as, an 'absentee military voter'.



On returning from his army service Dick ran the family's butcher's shop in Hazles Cross Road, Kingsley, where the painted sign on the wall is still visible to this day. Retirement saw him living at Ferry Boat Cottage, Kingsley, (he also kept the nearby Diglake Farm). He died in 1982, aged 91 years. His son Jesse still lives in Kingsley Holt.

George Ernest Whitehurst

The name 'E Whitehurst' appears on the St. John's Church Plaque. This refers to George Ernest Whitehurst, known as Ernest. He was born in the summer of 1892, to George and Elizabeth Whitehurst, living at Dairy House Farm, between Kingsley Moor and Dilhorne.

Ernest enlisted in December 1915, and was mobilised in April 1917, joining the Royal West Kent Infantry via the Cavalry and the Royal Fusiliers. On enlistment, he gave his occupation as a Cowman, which was on the family farm.



Following his training he went to France in the autumn of 1917 and was immediately in action. His army record reports that he was missing at the beginning of November and then in December he was admitted to hospital suffering from shell shock. The following is a brief extract from his army record, *"Wounded (Shell Shock)"* - *"He was buried by a shell on the front line on Oct 25th"* - *"His main company was exposed to heavy shell fire, but owing to casualties no further information can be obtained"*.

He subsequently re-joined his unit but was still unwell, being readmitted to hospital with the symptoms of Shell Shock as well as Pyrexia, (a fever). At some point he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

His name also appears on the Dilhorne Roll of Honour at All Saints Church, Dilhorne, which indicates he served with 15th Hussars. He is shown on the 1918 Voters Register as, an' absentee military voter' resident at Whitehurst Farm, Dilhorne.

Ernest was demobbed in 1919 and returned home. He died locally in 1961, aged 69 years.

Information from the family indicates that Ernest suffered from the effects of shell shock after he returned home, often suffering nightmares. He talked little of his experiences but did say he had a horse shot from under him and he had seen a comrade shot in the head, whilst on horseback. His family have photographs of him in uniform, his medals, 15th Hussars and Royal West Kent's badges and his cavalry spurs.

His son Frank Whitehurst lives in Alton and a grandson Kevin Eaton lives in Alsager. We are grateful to them for helping with our research.

Caleb Wilson

Caleb was born in 1891, in Oakamoor, the son of Richard and Emma Wilson. In 1915, he married Hilda Wood and around that time moved to 4 Back View, Kingsley. The Marriage Certificate shows him as an Electrician.

Prior to enlistment he was a Fitter at Thomas Bolton's. In May 1918, he joined the Royal Navy and served for 12 months.

Jeff Wood, a former local resident and former Parish Council Clerk is related to Caleb and states that during his service on HMS Superb he sailed through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to the Black Sea. They then sailed back to Marseille where they were put on a train to a channel port to be demobbed and returned home. Caleb does not appear in the 1918 Voters Register for reasons that are unknown.

After the war, Caleb became a Foreman Electrician at Thomas Bolton's, Froghall. He died locally in 1981, aged 90 years.

Footnote: In May and June 1916, HMS Superb was involved at the Battle of Jutland and was crewed by William Johnson (another survivor).

Enoch Richard Wood



Enoch Richard Wood, known as Dick, was born in Kingsley in 1897, the son of Enoch and Susan Wood. In 1911, the family lived in Cross Street, Kingsley, later living at 2 The Bunting. Prior to enlistment he worked at Thomas Boltons as a Wire Drawer.

Dick Wood volunteered to join the Royal Navy in August 1915. Following his training he served on various depot ships in Ireland and also on HMS Fox, whilst involved on active service as part of the British intervention in the Russian Civil War, supporting the White Army.

This intervention began in 1918 and lasted until 1920. Enoch was involved from May to September 1919. His ship was based at Archangel in northern Russian.

The 1918 Voters Register, shows him as an 'absentee military voter' living at 2 The Bunting, Kingsley.



Enoch pictured on the right, in a corn field in Russia.



HMS Fox pictured in Archangel Harbour in 1919.

In 1920 after 5 years' service he was transferred to the Naval Reserve and returned home. He never married and lived at The Bunting until his death in 1984, aged 88 years.

William Wood



William Wood was born around 1895, the son of Enoch and Susan Wood, and older brother of Enoch Richard Wood, (above). In 1911, the family lived in Cross Street, Kingsley, later living at 2 The Bunting. He enlisted in 1915 but remained in the Reserve working at Thomas Bolton's until 1918.

In June 1918 he was called up into the 23rd Tank Battalion and served in the United Kingdom prior to demob in 1919. The 1919 Voters Register shows William as an 'absentee military voter'.

Post war William married Nellie Cope who came from the Foxt / Ipstones area in 1920. He worked at Thomas Bolton's for the whole of his working life after the war until his retirement.

William died locally in 1967 on his 72nd birthday.

William is the father of Ronald Wood from Kingsley. Ron relates that his father was a Tank Driver and was present on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, when King George V reviewed the regiment.

Thomas Wright

A man called 'T Wright' is recorded on the St. John's Church Plaque, (Roll of Honour). The 1918 (Cheadle) Voters Register lists a Thomas Wright at Hazlewall Farm, Kingsley Moor, as, an 'absentee military voter'. Whilst this is likely to be the subject we have no other information on this man.



A view towards Bolton's Factory and the Colour Works from the weir.



The altar at the old Wesleyan Methodist Chapel High Street Kingsley.

The Kingsley World War One Project

Whilst this book is concerned with those men, and a single woman, who served in the War and had links to the parish, it is also part of a wider project to commemorate the Centenary of World War One and its impact on the ordinary men and women who had links to the parish of Kingsley.

This short chapter aims to give the reader a brief overview of the voluntary work, undertaken by a group of parishioners between 2014 and 2017.

In the autumn of 2013, Martyn Hordern, one of the authors of this book, approached Kingsley Parish Council and asked if any plans had been made to commemorate the Centenary of World War One.

Martyn suggested a project to refurbish the War Memorial and to research and record the lives of those men who died in the war, the names of whom are recorded on the two memorials in the village.

A representative group of parishioners was formed, under the auspices of the Parish Council, and a successful bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £6,400.



On 20th September 2014, a Service of Commemoration was held at St. Werburgh's Parish Church and, in addition, an exhibition of the research conducted to that stage was held in the local village hall. Kingsley Village Hall was, in 1914, known as the Reading Room and many of the men who served in the war, including many of the men who died, were members. This was in effect the official launch of the project to the public.

The Parish Churchyard is a 'Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery', being the place of burial of Roland Beech (Snr), George William Hood, Leonard Edwards and Joseph Tideswell. Joseph Tideswell was not strictly a war death as he died outside the relevant time scale and is not, therefore, recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. As a consequence of the project an application for Commonwealth War Grave signage has been submitted to the Commission.



The date of 20th September was chosen for the Service of Commemoration as this was the closest date to the death of the first man from the parish, George Harris Smith, who died when his ship HMS Hogue was sunk in the North Sea on 21st September 1914.

The Commemoration Service was followed by visits to the Staffordshire Regiment Museum at Whittington Barracks, the place where many of the men started their military careers, and also visits to the archives at Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent and the National Archives at Kew. Cheadle Library gave us access to copies of the Cheadle Herald and a chance conversation with another keen enthusiast gave us access to the Cheadle and Tean Times for the period.

One of the most tangible parts of the project was the work around the Wayside Cross on Dovedale Road. The Staffordshire Way footpath passes alongside the memorial on what had become a furrowed track. Access to the adjoining field was via a stile and the fencing to the rear had all but fallen down. An old outdated concrete bench backed onto the memorial.

Plans were drawn up to construct a paved path in place of the furrow and to pave a border around the memorial. The pavement would have the dual function of protecting the ground around it from erosion and making it easier to access the memorial and the Staffordshire Way.

A kissing gate was supplied by the County Council and installed by the Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership. This made the access to the memorial easier and, along with a new fence, improved the visual aspect of the memorial.

A new modern bench was installed and sited to look towards the memorial and over the fields towards Kingsley Holt and the Churnet Valley. The surrounding hedges were cut back and lastly an interpretation panel was installed to inform visitors and passers-by of the history of the village and the village's war memorials.

This work was completed in time for the 2015 Armistice Day commemoration at the Wayside Cross.

Pictured below are the before (below left), and after, pictures of the work at the memorial.



In November 2015, the project was invited to display a selection of its work at the Cheadle Remembers event at the Guild Hall, in Cheadle.

During this period research continued and a decision to extend the remit of the project was taken. That decision saw the inclusion of around 130 additional men, (and a woman), who were known to have served in the First World War and who lived in or had connections to the Parish. These men were identified from the Voters Register, local newspapers and local knowledge.

At the time of publication, a total of 160 men (and a woman), including 29 who lost their lives, have been recorded as having 'served in the war'.

The spring of 2016 saw one of the most exciting discoveries during the project when a portion of the Roll of Honour was located. In reports made during the war regarding the number of men serving at a particular time, reference was made to the 'Roll of Honour'. Efforts to locate what was believed to be a 'Roll of Honour' of some description led to two A3 sized frames being found at St. Werburgh's Church. These documents recorded names of the 23 men who died, along with around 80 men on a separate framed list. These 'survivors' were in alphabetical order from A - M and included 20 men who were not previously known to the project. A long-term aim is to restore the frames for public display. Sadly, to date the missing frame listing men with surnames N - Z has not been located.



On 1st July 2016, the authors were fortunate enough to be awarded, by ballot, two tickets for the commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme held at the Thiepval Memorial in France. They attended the most moving of events that was broadcast live across the world and was

particularly relevant to Kingsley given the fact that five men from the Parish lost their lives in the battle. After the service two wreaths were laid – one for the men lost in the battle and one for all the men (and at least one woman) of Kingsley who served throughout the war.

Following this, over the course of two days, the graves and memorials to the following men were visited; Cecil Rogers, James Henry Wildgoose, James Poyser, Thomas Clowes, Ernest Upton, William Brindley, John William Salt, Moses Holland and George Wheawall. In addition, a visit was made to the grave of William Aubrey Bowers who was an influential businessman in the parish, (although from Caverswall), and was one of

the first three Trustees of the Reading Room now known as Kingsley Village Hall.

A few weeks later a further visit to France saw visits to the graves of Edward Edwards Bradshaw and George Ramsall. In the summer of 2018 the graves of Robert Myles Heywood, James 'Jim' Beech and James Meakin were visited and a Poppy Cross was left in their memory at each.

The project has supplied the stories, and pictures where we have them, of the four men killed at the Battle of the Somme and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, database. This database seeks to compile a record of those men who have no known grave. The database is at present only available in the visitor centre at Thiepval.

This book is the final part of the project and it is a testament to those men from our parish who served in the First World and suffered privations, illness and death in the service of their country. That service should never be forgotten.

The project website is found at www.kingsleyremembers1914.org.uk. The intention is to maintain it for as long as possible after the project concludes.

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

Laurence Binyon,

First published in The Times newspaper 21st September 1914.

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16th (The Queens) Lancers on manoeuvres just before the outbreak of war.
Courtesy of Mark Crame.

At least 29 men with connections
with the Parish of St Werburgh's
Kingsley and Kingsley Moor died in
the Great War.

Over 150 more men (and a woman)
served in the armed forces during
that same conflict.

Many of these survivors carried
both physical and mental scars from
their service which affected some
for the rest of their lives.



This book sets out to record for history and future generations, who
these men were, where they lived and what is known of their service.

www.kingsleyremembers1914.org.uk

“ We Will Remember Them ”